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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

301 S. PARK
P.O. BOX 4369
HELENA, MT 59604
Phone 406/449-5303

ISSUE: 89-25 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: DECEMBER 28, 1989

HIGHLIGHTS:

Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
featuring...Cascade County

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NOVEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in November 1989. This production is up 5 percent from last month, but down 7 percent from November 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, is the same as last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 942 pounds, down 63 pounds from last November.

Hog slaughter, at 2,200 head, is down 500 head from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered, at 230 pounds, was down 1 pound from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in November 1989 totaled 3.41 billion pounds, slightly above November 1988. January-November red meat production, at 36.2 billion pounds, was nearly the same as last year. The percentage changes for 1989 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, down 10; pork, up 2; lamb and mutton, up 4. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

STATISTICAL REPORTS BENEFIT PRODUCERS

Dear Reporters:

Recently, we've heard concerns about comments an Iowa State economist made to the Northern Plains Resource Council regarding statistical reports--saying they benefit large companies more than producers. Nearly all economists who have studied this issue say the opposite. They say producers would be hurt most by elimination of statistical information because big businesses collect information for themselves.

Furthermore, buyers also fill out our reports providing marketing data that's vital to farmers and ranchers. For example, we collect and publish statistics on grain stocks, grain movement, cold storage stocks, crop sales, livestock slaughter, and commodity prices. This information helps producers make better marketing decisions. Mike Sands (Western Livestock Information Project) said, "Eliminating NASS (National Agricultural Statistics Service) reports would likely increase volatility and lower general price levels."

To continue providing unbiased, accurate data, we need your help and would appreciate your continued voluntary cooperation. About 1500 Montana livestock producers will be contacted between January 2 and 11 to provide data on 1990 cattle and sheep numbers.

If we have not answered your concerns about survey participation, we urge you to talk with Montana farm and ranch organizations. Most have resolutions on their books supporting our surveys. Also, talk to our Montana State University economists. They, too, believe that farmers and ranchers benefit from statistical reports. They're at 994-3701. Above all, talk with us--let us know how you feel, your comments and suggestions are important--call 449-5303 collect.

Best of luck in the New Year!

Lyle Pratt

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician

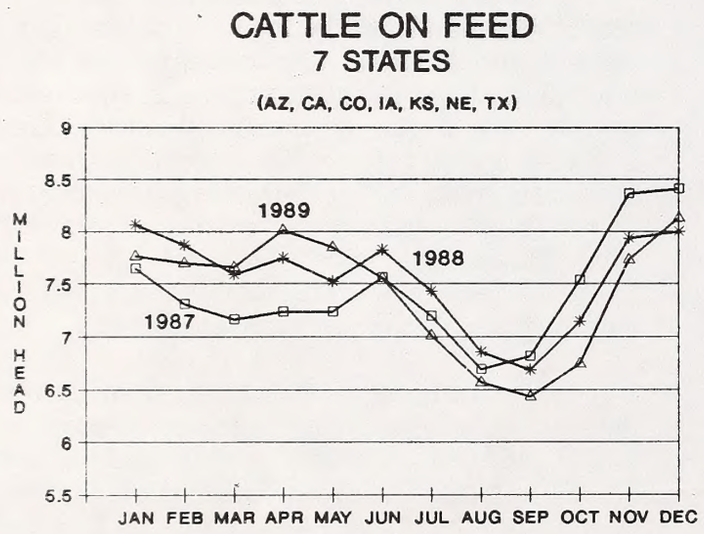
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed December 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.13 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago but 3 percent below December 1, 1987.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.50 million, fractionally below last year but 1 percent above two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during November totaled 1.99 million, up 18 percent from last year and 22 percent above November 1987. This is the largest November placement total since 1977, and the result of cattle moving into feedlots rather than going onto wheat pastures. Net placements of 1.90 million for November is 20 percent above last year and 24 percent above 1987.

Other disappearance totaled 91.0 thousand head compared to 107 thousand in November 1988 and 103 thousand in November 1987.



U.S. NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during November totaled 9.69 billion pounds, 1 percent below production in these same states in November 1988. October revised production, at 9.92 billion pounds, was 2 percent below October 1988. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,138 pounds for November, 2 pounds less than November 1988.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.51 million head, 76 thousand head less than November 1988 but 21 thousand head more than October 1989.

During the July-September period, the 21 major States produced 30.2 billion pounds of milk, 84.9 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 11.4 billion pounds for November 1989.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION UP

Montana laying flocks produced 45 million eggs in the September through November quarter, 5 percent more than the previous year's final quarter. Layers for the 1989 quarter averaged 690,000 compared with 725,000 for the same quarter in 1988.

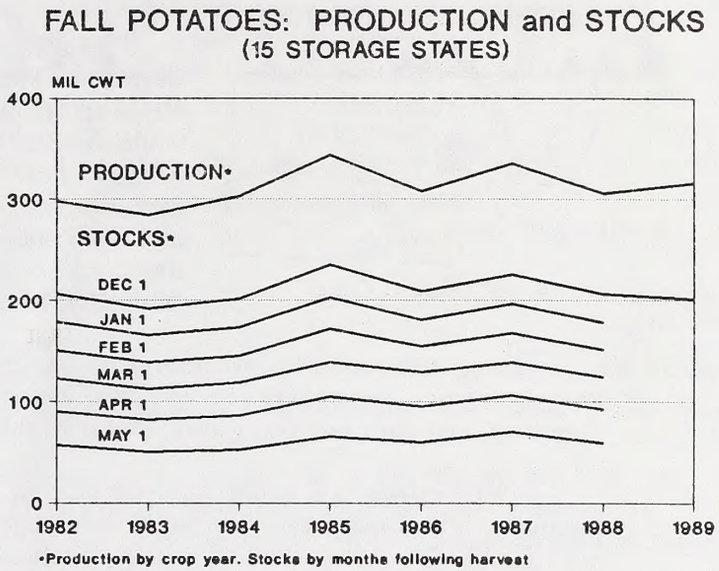
The rate of lay in the 1989 quarter was 72 eggs per 100 layers compared with 64.9 eggs per 100 layers in the 1988 quarter.

The nation's laying flocks produced 16.6 billion eggs during the September through November quarter, down 3 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.5 billion for table eggs and 2.12 billion for hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 268 million, down 3 percent from the 275 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 19[illegible] totaled 269 million, compared with 275 million a year ago. The 269 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs and 39.1 million layers producing hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1989 averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.8 for December 1, 1988 and 67.6 on November 1, 1989.

A big "THANK YOU" to all who participated in our December end of year crop survey. Survey results including final acreage, yield, and production for 1989 crops, December 1 grain stocks and 1990 winter wheat seedings will be published on January 11, 1990.

DECEMBER 1 POTATO STOCKS



Montana producers have 2,100,000 cwt of potatoes in storage as of December 1, compared with 2,020,000 cwt on hand a year ago. The December 1 stocks represents 94 percent of the 2,228,000 cwt produced during 1989.

Fall potato stocks in the **15 major States** were set at 201 million cwt on December 1, 1989. That's a drop of 2 percent from last year and 11 percent below two years ago. Stocks accounted for 64 percent of fall production this year compared with 68 percent a year ago, indicating heavier movement this year. By type, reds were 3 percent of December stocks, whites were 16 percent, and russets 81 percent.

Six western States stored a total of 141 million cwt of potatoes this year, 4 percent below a year ago and 6 percent below 1987. Oregon dropped 10 percent from 1988; while Washington was off 6 percent and Idaho dropped 5 percent. Colorado was up 6 percent; California and Montana gained 3 and 4 percent, respectively.

Disappearance from harvest time to December 1 was a record 115 million cwt up 16 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss at 14.5 million cwt so far was down 4 percent from last year's 15.1 million cwt and 10 percent below 1987.

Processing claimed a record 54.2 million cwt of fall potatoes this season to date, up 19 percent from last year and 13 percent above two years ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1988 AND DECEMBER 1, 1989

STATE	CROP OF 1988			CROP OF 1989		
	PROD	STOCKS DEC 1, 1988	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS DEC 1, 1989	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,105	3,900	64	6,600	4,000	61
COLO	19,040	14,700	77	20,603	15,650	76
IDAHO	102,610	74,000	72	102,475	70,500	69
MAINE	22,000	15,800	72	22,000	16,000	73
MICH	7,820	4,600	59	6,900	4,000	58
MINN	12,075	8,900	74	13,860	8,900	64
MONT	2,156	2,020	94	2,228	2,100	94
NEBR	2,128	1,550	73	2,528	1,450	57
N Y -LI	1,992	850	43	1,898	800	42
N Y -UPST	4,800	2,800	58	4,730	2,700	57
N DAK	15,525	10,500	68	15,070	11,000	73
OHIO	1,697	500	29	1,462	300	21
OREG	20,735	15,300	74	23,308	13,800	59
PA	3,690	2,700	73	4,715	2,700	57
WASH	63,250	36,700	58	64,310	34,500	54
WIS	20,000	11,600	58	23,460	13,000	55
15 STATES	305,623	206,420	68	316,147	201,400	64

featuring...*CASCADE COUNTY*

Cascade County was created in December of 1887 and lies in central Montana. The county is criss-crossed by numerous rivers and streams. The Missouri River enters along the western border and flows northeasterly through the county, while the Smith River enters along the southern boundary and flows north to join the Missouri near Ulm, Montana. The Sun River enters along the northwestern border and joins the Missouri near Great Falls. The terrain is characterized by rolling plains and river valley, except for the extreme southeastern corner that is mountainous and timbered. A section of the Lewis & Clark National Forest is nestled there, and the Little Belt Mountains lie along the southern border. Great Falls is the county seat.

Being well suited to agricultural production, Cascade County supports a variety of agricultural interests. In 1988 crop production, the county ranked 5th in winter wheat, 10th in barley, 22nd in durum wheat, and 18th in spring wheat. Hay, oats, and corn are also grown. Most of the cropland is not irrigated.

Cattle raising is a major livestock interest as Cascade County came in 12th in the state in the January 1, 1988 inventory. The sheep inventory on the same date showed the county in 16th place, and the December 1 1987 hog count put Cascade 6th among the hog raising counties.

Cash receipts from the sale of crops added to $19,318,000 in 1987. Livestock receipts were $43,591,000, while government payments came to $11,035,000. Cash receipts total for 1987 amounted to $73,944,000, 3rd highest in the state.

Cacade County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,727,232	Total Cropland	Acres	484,820
Land in Farms	Acres	1,461,224	Harvested Cropland	Acres	266,410
Number of Farms		805	Irrigated Land	Acres	31,550
Average size Farms	Acres	1,815			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	65,647	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	125,042	Calves	No. Head	77,877
Barley	Acres	72,211	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	13,534
Oats	Acres	2,413	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	7,769

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Hogs & Pigs
Dairy Products
Grain Stocks
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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ISSUE: 89-24 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: DECEMBER 19, 1989

The 1980s are rapidly winding down and the 1990s are nearly upon us. Looking back on the '80s we saw high volatility in Montana agriculture. We saw records set for wheat and barley production along with economic adversity for many and sparse production in 1985 and '88 due to drought. Looking ahead, we're optimistic for a growing demand for food and improved returns for producers.

A big "Thank You" to our many Montana producers who voluntarily take time to answer our requests for survey information. In turn, our staff is dedicated to providing you with the best information available to help you make those difficult decisions. We look forward to serving you in the 1990s.

PLEASE RETURN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our Office Staff!

First Row (L to R): Linda McCauley Wendy Bruski Carol Carlson
Second Row (L to R): Curtis Lund Violet Smith Billye Vincent Kayla Sherburn
Ann Bossell Third Row (L to R): Elma St. Clair Vicki McCall Ron Schumacher
Lyle Pratt Bonnie Heller Steve Susemihl Ray Stack Fourth Row (L to R):
Sid Lebahn Perry Game

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OCTOBER U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Butter production was 92.7 million pounds, virtually unchanged from October 1988 but 13 percent above September 1989. American type cheese production totaled 207 million pounds, 6 percent below October 1988 but 3 percent above September 1989. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 453 million pounds, 4 percent below October 1988 but 1 percent above September 1989.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 45.3 million pounds, 10 percent below October 1988 and 2 percent below September 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 24.0 million pounds, 3 percent above October 1988 but 2 percent below September 1989.

Canned evaporated and condensed whole milk, 37.3 million pounds, 13 percent below October 1988 and 1 percent below September 1989.

Frozen desserts: (comparisons with October 1988) Ice cream (hard)--60.2 million gallons, virtually unchanged. Ice milk-- 26.9 million gallons, up 3 percent. Sherbet (hard)--3.17 million gallons, down 6 percent.

1989 BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE

The 1989 Centennial Issue of Montana Agricultural Statistics is now available for distribution. It contains a statistical record of Montana's agriculture. The primary purpose of the bulletin is to provide those interested in Montana's agriculture industry with a single publication that covers state and county crop and livestock production.

It also features farm income, numbers of farms and weather data, along with production statistics for the past ten years. The demand for accurate, reliable statistical data continues to grow.

Farm programs and the marketing system depend on information for fair prices and equitable programs. Agri-businesses want to know about Motnana agriculture before investing in our state!

For more information about obtaining a copy of this year's bulletin, call or write to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service at (406) 449-5303, P.O. Box 4369, Helena, MT 59604. The bulletin is free to those who report information to us, but costs $5.00 for all others. Make checks payable to the Montana Department of Agriculture at the above address.

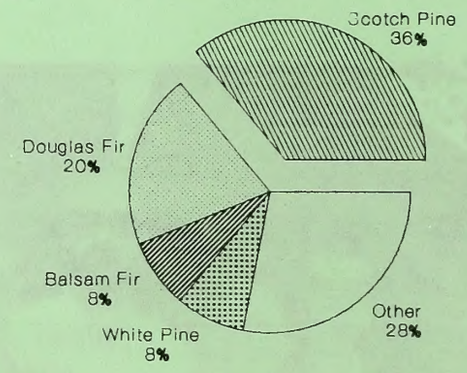
'TIS THE SEASON

This year, Americans are expected to buy over 35 million Christmas trees. The nation's 15,000 commercial Christmas tree producers have more than 87 million trees of all ages planted on 1 million acres.

Last year's tree sales came to $680 million (wholesale value), putting Christmas trees ahead of several traditional ag commodities in total cash receipts. Growers received an estimated $12/tree while wholesalers got about $20.

Most trees are planted as seedlings on farms while about 10% come from natural stands. The top states in production are Oregon, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TREES
Percent of Christmas trees sold in 1988



NOVEMBER WARMER THAN NORMAL

The crop-weather situation for November held both good news and bad news depending on where you live. Precipitation amounts in southwestern and south central Montana were mostly below average in November. Most other areas of the state were above average.

Most of the moisture came in the form of rain. In fact, the worst flooding since 1975 hit the Flathead Valley. Kalispell, Thompson Falls, and Libby had over 3 inches of rain. Other stations with over double the normal precipitation were Cut Bank, Havre, Chester, Stanford, and Ingomar. November temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees above normal for the month. The winter wheat crop looks quite good--with just light wind damage, but we need more snow to protect the crop.

A look at the livestock situation shows most livestock were still grazing at lower elevations in November. This has helped conserve the hay supply as only about one-third of the livestock were receiving supplemental feed. We're hoping good snow cover is forthcoming to provide soil moisture and protect the winter wheat crop.

NOVEMBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

Prices received by Montana farmers for wheat and barley increased slightly during November, while most hay and livestock prices were lower. Montana's mid-November all wheat price, at $3.74 per bushel, compares with $3.71 in October and $3.98 a year ago. Hay prices in November dropped to $66.00 per ton compared with $69.00 a month ago and $89.00 a year ago. Steer and heifer prices received, at $82.60 per hundredweight, were $1.10 below October but $3.50 above last year. Calf prices, at $87.50, were down $1.50 from a month ago and down $3.60 from a year ago.

The November index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products at 173 (1977=100) was down 9 points from October and down 7 points from November 1988. The all crops index, at 153, was up 1 point from October but down 20 points from last year. The livestock and products index at 193 was 18 points under October but 6 points above last year.

For the U.S., the November all farm products index of prices received decreased 2 points from October to 147 percent of its January-December 1977 average. The index was 3 points above a year ago. Prices for milk, hogs, cattle, and eggs were the major contributors to the increase over a year earlier, but lower prices for soybeans, corn, and broilers were partially offsetting.

Feed grain prices, except oats, increased slightly from October. Wheat, rice, and soybeans also showed small gains. Hog prices decreased from October, steers and heifers were up, but prices for cows and calves were down.

Merry Christmas!
and
Happy New Year!

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1988	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1989	MONTANA Nov. 15, 1989	U.S. Nov. 15, 1989
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.83	3.76	3.80	3.89
Durum	Bu.	5.66	3.34	3.25	3.26
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.04	3.68	3.70	3.61
All Wheat	Bu.	3.98	3.71	3.74	3.76
Barley, All	Bu.	3.03	2.06	2.10	2.35
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.06
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.73
Oats	Bu.	2.19	1.56	1.40	1.39
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	70.00	67.00	91.80
All Other Hay	Ton	80.00	62.00	58.00	63.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	89.00	69.00	66.00	83.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	79.10	83.70	82.60	74.80
Cows	Cwt.	42.50	46.20	41.50	45.80
Beef Cattle [1]	Cwt.	62.60	74.90	66.20	69.40
Calves	Cwt.	91.10	89.00	87.50	87.30
Sheep	Cwt.	25.40	17.40	17.90	26.20
Lambs	Cwt.	70.00	63.70	58.80	56.40
Hogs	Cwt.	31.30	42.20	39.00	44.30
All Milk	Cwt.	13.32	14.50	15.05	15.20
Eggs	Doz.	.67	.70	.83	.79
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.37	1.20	n.a.	1.00
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	180	182	173	147
All Crops	Pct.	173	152	153	129
Livestock & Products	Pct.	187	211	193	163

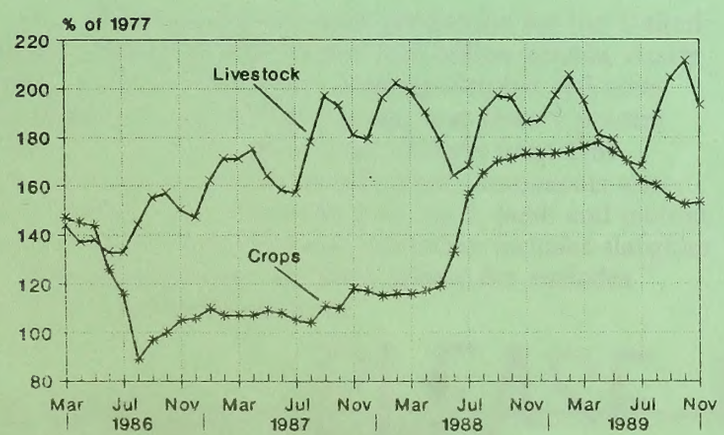
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

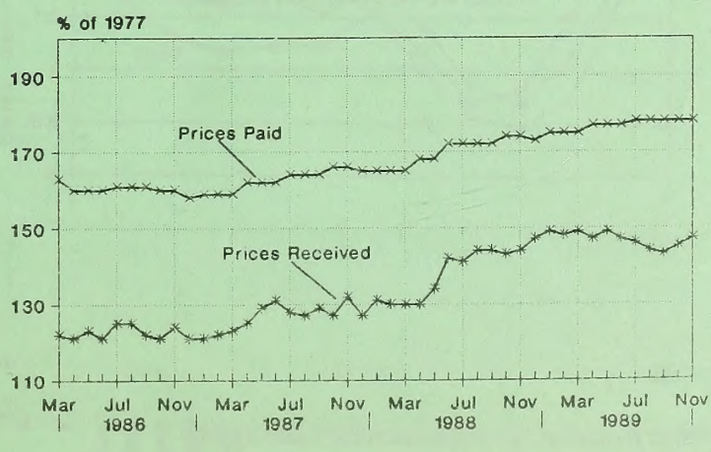
INDEX 1977=100	Oct. 1988	Nov. 1988	Oct. 1989	Nov. 1989
Prices Received	143	144	145	147
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	173	2/173	178	3/178
Ratio 1/	83	83	81	83

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1988 prices paid index. 3/ October 1989 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring...*CARTER COUNTY*

Carter County is situated in the extreme southeastern corner of the state, bordered on the east by South Dakota and to the south by Wyoming. The landscape is characterized largely by rolling prairie with the exception of some territory in the northwest and north central area of the county that is occupied by sections of the Custer National Forest. The Little Missouri River meanders through the southeastern corner of the county.

In 1988, Carter County was the number one sheep raising county in the state. In number of cattle for 1988, the county was in 14th place. Some hogs are also raised--Carter County stood 36th in the December 1, 1987 hog inventory.

Principal crops raised include wheat, hay, barley, and oats. In the 1988 crop production figures, the county stood in 43rd, 49th, 51st, and 52nd place respectively for these crops.

Livestock returned $16,975,000 in cash receipts to the county in 1987, while crops added $3,060,000. Government payments amounted to $3,823,000 for a total return of $23,858,000 in 1987 cash receipts.

Carter County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	2,139,155	Total Cropland	Acres	203,121
Land in Farms	Acres	1,629,533	Harvested Cropland	Acres	104,358
Number of Farms		353	Irrigated Land	Acres	8,583
Average size Farms	Acres	4,616			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	56,923	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	38,734	Calves	No. Head	54,703
Barley	Acres	4,171	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	88,682
Oats	Acres	2,405	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,709

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farm Labor
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter
featuring...Broadwater County

OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in October 1989. This production is up 10 percent from last month, but down 16 percent from October 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, is down 200 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,014 pounds, up 4 percent from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head, is down 600 head from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 232 pounds, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in October 1989 totaled 3.52 billion pounds, nearly the same as October 1988. January-October red meat production, at 32.8 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1989 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, down 10; pork, up 2; lamb and mutton, up 3. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

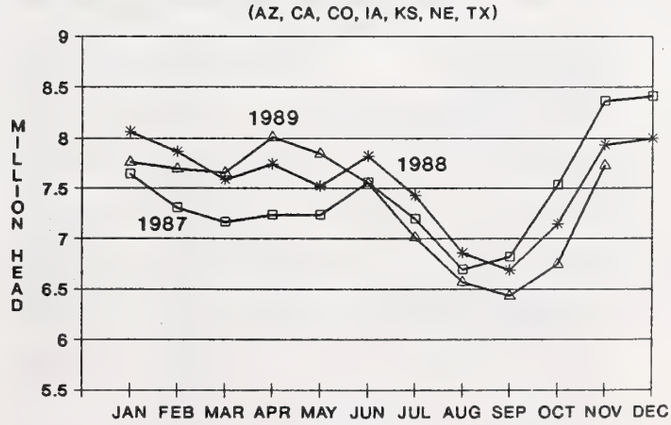
Cattle and calves on feed November 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.73 Million head, down 3 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below November 1, 1987.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.63 million, up 2 percent from last year but 4 percent below two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during October totaled 2.68 Million, up 8 percent from last year and 3 percent above October 1987. Net placements of 2.61 million for October is 9 percent above last year and 3 percent above 1987.

Other disappearance totaled 71 thousand head compared to 84 thousand in October 1988 and 85 thousand in October 1987.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



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U.S. OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during October totaled 9.93 billion pounds, 2 percent below production in these same states in October 1988. September revised production, at 9.74 billion pounds, was 2 percent below September 1988. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,169 pounds for October, 10 pounds below October 1988.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.49 million head, 99 thousand head below October 1988 but 18 thousand head above September 1989.

During the July-September period, the 21 major States produced 30.2 billion pounds of milk, 85 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 11.7 billion pounds for October 1989.

FARM WAGES AVERAGED $5.42 FOR OCTOBER

A total of 3.38 million persons worked on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 1989. This number compares with 3.19 million workers during the comparable week in 1988. The workforce was comprised of 1.54 million self-employed farm operators, 549,000 unpaid workers, and 983,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Rounding out the total were 308,000 agricultural service employees doing work on farms and ranches during the survey week.

The all hired farm worker wage rate for the October 1989 survey week averaged $5.42 per hour, up 24 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.23 per hour compared with $4.94 last October. Wage rates for field and livestock workers were $5.22 and $4.76, respectively. During October 1988, field workers made $4.95 while livestock workers averaged $4.70 per hour.

During the current survey week, self-employed persons worked an average of 42.5 hours, 1.9 fewer hours than in the comparable week in 1988. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, put in 40.2 hours compared with 36.8 hours a year earlier. Hired workers spent an average of 42.3 hours doing agricultural work, up 0.4 hour from October of last year.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 42 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. Last year 44 percent of the workforce received benefits in addition to cash wages. Housing was furnished to 20 percent of the workers, compared with 23 percent a year ago.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, OCTOBER 8-14, 1989 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	5.90	4.39	5.26	7.51	6.86	5.76	5.39	4.90
NORTHEAST II	5.10	4.04	4.75	7.60	5.64	5.37	6.50	4.28
APPALACHIAN I	4.45	4.57	4.49	7.05	3/	4.58	3/	4.86
APPALACHIAN II	4.21	4.33	4.26	7.13	3/	4.42	3/	4.85
SOUTHEAST	4.07	4.20	4.09	6.55	5.97	4.23	3/	4.32
FLORIDA	4.92	5.45	4.97	10.38	7.21	4.93	5.41	8.38
LAKE	5.24	4.12	4.82	7.46	5.83	5.12	6.01	4.50
CORNBELT I	4.93	4.81	4.91	6.31	3/	5.15	4.35	4.95
CORNBELT II	4.91	4.82	4.89	8.23	3/	4.96	3/	5.76
DELTA	4.06	3.83	4.01	6.10	3/	3.96	3/	4.40
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.63	4.63	5.46	7.07	3/	5.88	3/	4.71
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.74	4.75	4.75	9.00	5.15	4.79	3/	5.48
MOUNTAIN I	4.69	4.21	4.59	5.93	4.29	4.77	4.96	4.56
MOUNTAIN II	4.21	4.50	4.36	7.04	3/	4.38	3/	5.07
MOUNTAIN III	4.82	4.54	4.70	8.88	7.52	4.80	3/	5.99
PACIFIC	6.09	6.08	6.09	8.61	3/	5.55	7.53	6.68
CALIFORNIA	5.76	6.44	5.86	10.50	8.85	5.89	7.10	8.71
HAWAII	7.77	3/	7.73	13.60	8.95	7.84	7.75	11.68
U. S.	5.22	4.76	5.11	8.44	7.05	5.23	6.68	5.[illegible]

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA

U.S. OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.65 billion during October 1989, down 3 percent from the 5.83 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.93 billion for table eggs and 719 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during October averaged 269 million, down 2 percent from the 276 million a year ago. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,102 eggs, compared with 2,117 in October 1988.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1989 totaled 270 million, compared with 276 million a year ago. The 270 million layers consisted of 232 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs and 38.7 million layers producing hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1989 averaged 67.6 eggs per 100 layers, down 2 percent from last year's 68.7 eggs per 100 layers.

U.S. TURKEY POULTS PLACED UP 26 PERCENT

Turkey eggs in incubators on November 1, 1989, totaled 27.2 million, 14 percent above the 23.8 million a year earlier. The 20.1 million poults placed during October 1989 in the United States were 20 percent above placements during the same month a year ago.

POTATO CROP UP FROM LAST YEAR

Montana's 1989 potato crop was a good one. The overall yield of 300 sacks per acre was matched by only one other year--1987. Of course, potato acreage in Montana is relatively small (only 7,800 acres harvested this past year). Still, it is a very important crop in that almost the entire production is used for seed.

No major crop in Montana grosses more per acre than potatoes which has been over $2,000 the last few years. Sugar beets, the second highest gross per acre, has been under $1,000.

The most important aspect of Montana potatoes is that they are used to seed between 40-45,000 acres--mostly in Washington and Idaho (about 20% of the total acreage in those two states.) And, because Montana seed potatoes are practically disease free, the production in those two states is significantly boosted.

Potatoes in Montana are raised in the mountain valleys of western Montana with the largest acreage in the Flathead, Mission, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Beaverhead, and Madison valleys.

For the **Nation**, production of fall potatoes is forecast at 323 million hundredweight, which is up 3 percent from last year, but 6 percent below 2 years ago.

PLANTINGS FOR 1990: A TICKLISH DECISION

A few years ago, U.S. grain surpluses were so big that much effort went into devising new ways to store them. Now, instead of surpluses being parked in abandoned silica sand mines and in barges along the Mississippi, some analysts are concerned about adequate food reserves.

The 1988 drought, coupled with government acreage reduction requirements, cut U.S. grain production substantially in 1988-89. Higher prices and lower acreage reduction requirements encouraged farmers to increase plantings for this year, the 1989-90 season.

But unfavorable weather in some regions is holding production down from its potential. While both U.S. and world production of most crops is rising in 1989-90, demand is strong and stocks are expected to continue falling.

Consequently, food grain prices are continuing up. These higher prices are signals to farmers to increase production. And USDA has again loosened wheat acreage reduction requirements for 1990-91, making it easier for farmers to continue expanding.

NEED BIG IMPROVEMENTS TO FEED A HUNGRY WORLD

The world we live in is ever changing and those changes are more likely to impact us! With supersonic airplanes and satellite communications the world is in our backyard. That's why we must be concerned about the world's hunger problem.

The world now has over 5 billion people. Projections call for an additional 3 billion people in 35 years. That means that we must increase agricultural production by 60 percent just to stay even with current worldwide consumption and we know that many who can't afford food are starving right now, so even more food is needed. We'll be challenged to meet our nation's needs plus continue to sell at least the current 1/3 of our production overseas.

That means emphasis on ways to improve productivity of high quality food with safeguards for our environment. This will require investment in research and technology. Those working on bio-tech and other research have the potential to make big improvements, to provide the tools to help our farmers feed a hungry world.

featuring...*CARBON COUNTY*

Carbon County, situated in the South Central portion of Montana, was established in March of 1895. It's northern boundary is marked by the Yellowstone River while the southwestern corner of the county is covered with part of the Custer National Forest and the Beartooth Mountain Range. Several unnamed mountain peaks in this range within Carbon County's boundaries boast elevations above 13,000 feet.

Coal mining was the chief industry in Carbon County early on, but today agriculture is the prominent business. With a land area of 1,315,801 acres, Carbon County ranked 7th for hay production and 4th for oat production in Montana for 1988. Other principal crops include barley, wheat, corn, and sugar beets. On January 1, 1988, the county ranked 11th in sheep numbers and 16th for cattle numbers in Montana.

Carbon County returned $38,802,000 in cash receipts from marketings and government payments for the 1987 crop year. Crops contributed $13,422,000 to that total; livestock and livestock product sales added $22,719,000; and government payments made up the remaining $2,661,000. In 1987 Carbon County ranked 14th in Montana for all products cash receipts, livestock and products receipts ranked 11th and crops, 16th.

Red Lodge, the largest town in the county, is the county seat. The main agricultural areas are the Clark Fork and the Rock Creek Valleys, with important ranching activity in surrounding areas.

Carbon County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,315,801	Total Cropland	Acres	180,438
Land in Farms	Acres	536,553	Harvested Cropland	Acres	97,858
Number of Farms		635	Irrigated Land	Acres	78,797
Average size Farms	Acres	845			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	48,828	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	16,078	Calves	No. Head	60,079
Barley	Acres	17,082	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	18,335
Oats	Acres	2,369	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	3,339

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Monthly Ag Prices
Dairy Products

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Manufactured Dairy Products
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Monthly Ag Prices Received
featuring...Broadwater County

MONTANA'S PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION ON NOVEMBER 1

Montana's pasture and range feed condition rating of 84 is 47 points higher than a year ago at this time. The eastern counties of Montana are suffering from the effects of drought although conditions are much improved over a year ago. Pastures and ranges were still providing grazing on November 1, and movement of livestock from summer ranges was behind average.

MONTANA, November 1, 1989
Pasture and Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1987	1988	1989
Northwest	68	57	92
North Central	77	34	90
Northeast	82	22	62
Central	75	44	95
Southwest	82	46	77
South Central	75	41	90
Southeast	84	22	78
STATE	78	37	84

SEPTEMBER U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Butter production was 82.1 million pounds in September, 1 percent below September 1988 but 3 percent above August 1989. American type cheese production totaled 200 million pounds, 4 percent below September 1988 and 6 percent below August 1989. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 447 million pounds, 1 percent below September 1988 and 3 percent below August 1989.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 46.4 million pounds, 11 percent below both September 1988 and August 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 24.5 million pounds, 2 percent below September 1988 and 10 percent below August 1989. Canned evaporated and condensed whole milk, 37.8 million pounds, 23 percent below September 1988 and 10 percent below August 1989.

Frozen desserts: (comparisons with September 1988) ice cream (hard)--66.3 million gallons, down 7 percent. Ice milk--30.9 million gallons, down 2 percent. Sherbet (hard)--4.00 million gallons, down slightly.

AG RESEARCH NEEDS A BOOST

Not long ago the United States was the dominant force in the world economy. We were richer and more productive than the rest of the world. After World War II we had over 50% of the world's gross national product. Not so today! We now have about 22% and we have become a debtor nation. In agriculture, along with other high tech industries, other nations have become much more competitive.

What can we do to re-establish superiority in the agricultural industry? According to a National Research Council board, more basic research is urgently needed to meet competition, to regain the leading edge in agricultural technology. USDA research funds have remained at a virtual standstill since 1955! They say about a half billion new dollars will be needed annually to boost innovation in science and technology. That's a lot of money--about the cost of one stealth bomber. In the past, return on ag research dollars have exceeded 45% per year--that's an investment return that we can't afford to pass up!

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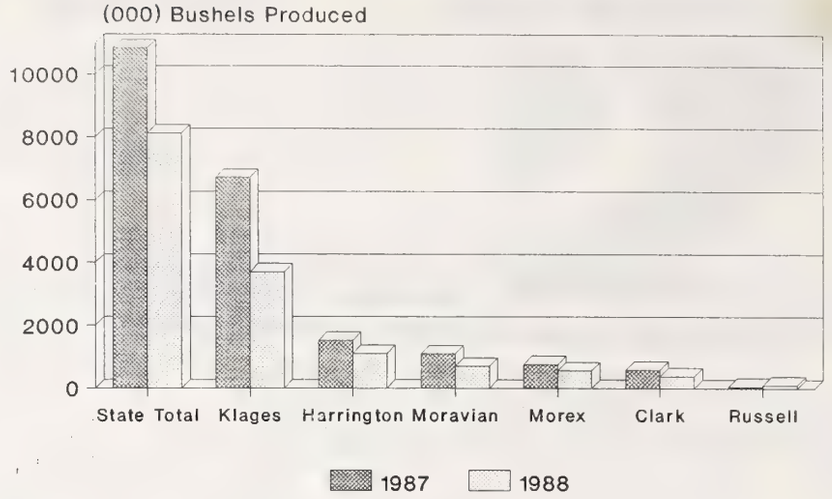
MONTANA MALTING BARLEY--1988 CROP

Maltsters and brewers purchased 8.1 million bushels of Montana's 1988 barley crop to make malt. This was 25 percent less than 1987 and 33 percent less than 1986. However, the 1988 barley utilization represented 27 percent of the total 1988 barley crop compared with 12 percent in 1987 and 14 percent in 1986.

Montana growers planted 1.8 million acres of barley in 1988. Of the total, about 370 thousand acres were planted to approved malting varieties. Because of extreme droughty conditions in 1988 it is assumed mainly irrigated production, with lower protein, would have qualified for malting grade. Malting utilization would, therefore, represent nearly 64 percent of the 12.7 million bushel total irrigated barley produced in 1988. However, part of the 8.1 million bushels used for malt could have come from stored old-crop barley.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES USED TO PRODUCE MALT



This survey was requested and funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

A special thanks to the maltsters, brewers, and grain firms who cooperated in furnishing data.

MONTANA BARLEY USED TO PRODUCE MALT - 1987-1988

VARIETY	CROP YEAR [1]	DISTRICTS N.CENTRAL [2]	CENTRAL	S.WEST	S. CENTRAL	S.EAST	STATE BUSHELS	PROTEIN
	1987	5,283,964	746,612	238,785	289,547	155,028	6,713,936	12.4
Klages	1988	3,338,612	293,123	20,000	40,000		3,691,735	13.2
	1987	1,308,000	197,000	16,000			1,521,000	12.6
Harrington	1988	1,063,278	35,000	8,000			1,106,278	13.6
	1987	100,000			1,000,000		1,100,000	12.4
Moravian	1988	186,000			514,000		700,000	13.1
	1987	525,000	52,000	188,000			765,000	12.9
Morex	1988	356,000		208,000			564,000	13.8
	1987	40,000	555,000				595,000	13.0
Clark	1988	214,500	166,680				381,180	13.8
	1987	50,000					50,000	12.0
Russell	1988	96,000	8,000				104,000	13.0
	1987							
Lewis	1988	20,000		35,000			55,000	13.0
	1988							
Piroline	1988	350,000					350,000	14.0
	1987	93,317					93,317	N.A.
Other	1988	1,049,493	114,956				1,164,449	12.3
	1987	7,400,281	1,550,612	442,785	1,289,547	155,028	10,838,253	12.5
TOTAL	1988	6,673,883	617,759	271,000	554,000		8,116,642	13.2

[1] Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30. [2] Includes Northwest.

OCTOBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

The October 1989 index of prices received by **Montana** farmers and ranchers was down 2 points from last month and 6 points below October last year. The all farm products index at 179 percent of the 1977=100 base was pulled down by a 3-point decline in the livestock and products index. The all crops index remained unchanged.

Spring wheat, down 2 cents, and hay, down $1.00, were the only crops showing lower prices compared with the previous month. In the livestock commodities only hogs and milk were up from September. Mid-October average prices for cows were down $2.80; calves were off $1.80; sheep were down $5.30; and lambs were down $4.40 per cwt.

The October all farm products index of prices received by **U.S.** farmers increased 1 point from September to 144 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of hogs, milk, lettuce, and tomatoes were partially offset by lower prices for broilers, soybeans, cattle, and corn. The index was also 1 point above a year ago. Prices for hogs, milk, and oranges were major contributors to the increase over a year ago, but lower prices for soybeans, corn, and broilers were partially offsetting.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for October was 178 percent of its 1977 average. The index was unchanged from July but 5 points above last year. Compared to July, prices were up for feeder livestock but down for feed and gasoline. Since last surveyed in April, prices generally rose for building and fencing materials and machinery but declined for fertilizer.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1988	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept 1989	MONTANA Oct. 15, 1989	U.S. Oct. 15, 1989
			--Dollars--		
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.79	3.81	3.82	3.90
Durum	Bu.	5.41	3.22	3.25	3.33
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.10	3.77	3.75	3.66
All Wheat	Bu.	3.96	3.78	3.78	3.79
Barley, All	Bu.	2.90	2.20	2.25	2.32
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.00
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.87
Oats	Bu.	2.04	1.44	1.55	1.40
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	70.00	70.00	92.20
All Other Hay	Ton	80.00	65.00	62.00	64.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	89.00	70.00	69.00	85.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	81.80	77.20	77.00	71.80
Cows	Cwt.	44.30	48.90	46.10	47.80
Beef Cattle [1]	Cwt.	68.70	72.20	70.80	67.40
Calves	Cwt.	90.20	87.80	86.00	90.20
Sheep	Cwt.	22.00	20.30	15.00	22.50
Lambs	Cwt.	67.60	68.30	63.90	63.10
Hogs	Cwt.	34.00	39.30	41.80	46.80
All Milk	Cwt.	12.66	13.60	14.55	14.50
Eggs	Doz.	.60	.70	.70	.71
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.44	1.20	1.20	1.00
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	185	181	179	144
All Crops	Pct.	171	155	155	127
Livestock & Products	Pct.	196	204	201	160

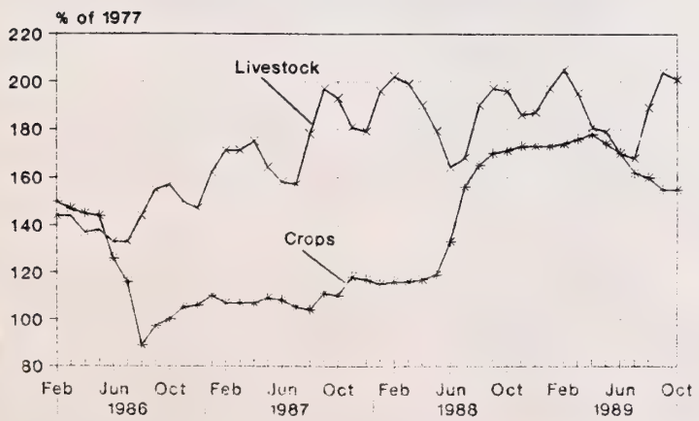
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

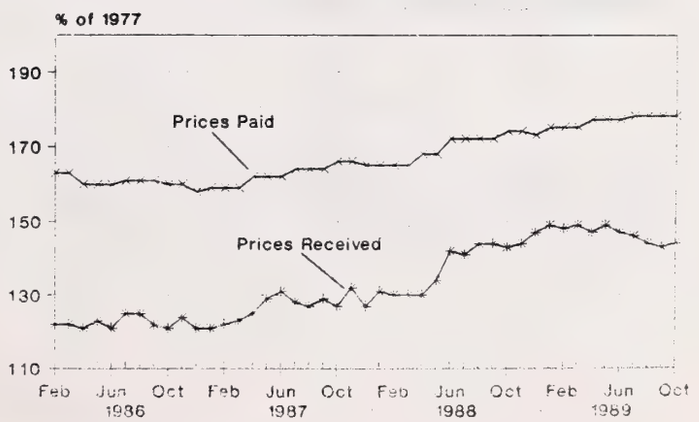
INDEX 1977=100	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1988	Sept. 1989	Oct. 1989
Prices Received	144	143	143	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/ 172	173	3/ 178	178
Ratio 1/	84	83	80	81

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1988 prices paid index. 3/ July 1989 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



*featuring...*BROADWATER COUNTY

Broadwater County lies in central Montana. The Big Belt Mountains and the Helena National Forest run along the eastern border, and another part of the Helena National Forest lies along the western boundary. The Missouri River and Canyon Ferry Lake reach from the southern to the northern borders of the county. Aside from the mountainous landscape, the terrain is chiefly rolling foothills.

Cropland in Broadwater County includes both irrigated and non-irrigated acres, and a variety of crops abound. Barley, winter and spring wheat, oats, hay, and potatoes are all produced in the county. Cash receipts from the sale of crops totaled $7,002,000 in 1987 with a rank of 28.

Sheep, hogs, and cattle operations can all be found in the county. In the January 1, 1989 sheep and cattle inventories, Broadwater County ranked 28 and 40 respectively. In the December 1, 1987 hog inventory the county came in at 44. Livestock and livestock products contributed $7,546,000 in cash receipts in 1987 with a rank of 41. Government payments added $4,335,000 for a cash receipt total of $18,883,000 for Broadwater County in 1987.

Broadwater County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	760,652	Total Cropland	Acres	139,623
Land in Farms	Acres	458,807	Harvested Cropland	Acres	69,965
Number of Farms		213	Irrigated Land	Acres	45,545
Average size Farms	Acres	2,154			
			LIVESTOCK		
CROPS			All Cattle &		
All Hay	Acres	23,609	Calves	No. Head	24,381
All Wheat	Acres	31,142	Stock Sheep &		
Barley	Acres	13,982	Lambs	No. Head	3,430
Oats	Acres	896	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	772

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
- Farm Labor
- Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Egg Production
- Slaughter

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Quarterly Milk Production
Egg Production
featuring...Blaine County

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 6 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed October 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly States totaled 8.06 million head, down 6 percent from October 1, 1988, and down 10 percent from 1987.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.12 million steers and steer calves, 8 percent below last year and 13 percent below 1987. This group represented 63 percent of the total October number on feed, compared with 65 percent last year and 66 percent in 1987. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 2.91 million, 3 percent below a year ago and 5 percent below 1987.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the July-September 1989 quarter totaled 5.69 million, down 5 percent from 1988 and 14 percent below 1987. **Other disappearance** of 227 thousand head leaves **net placements** at 5.46 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during July-September totaled 5.86 million, 5 percent below 1988 and 3 percent below the same period in 1987.

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.37 million head during the October-December quarter of 1989. This would be down 2 percent from the fourth quarter marketings in 1988 and 4 percent below 1987.

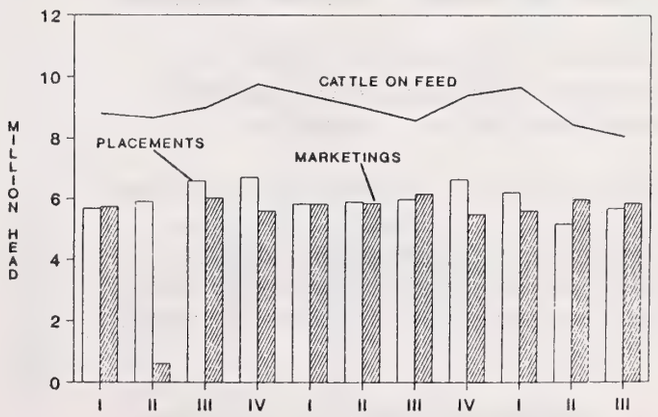
SEPTEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds of red meat in September 1989. Production was down 35 percent from last month, and down 22 percent from September 1988.

There were 1,200 head of cattle slaughtered, down 400 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered, at 988 pounds, compares with 1,010 pounds last September. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head, is down 400 head from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 226 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in September 1989 totaled 3.32 billion pounds, down 4 percent from September 1988. January-September red meat production, at 29.3 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from September 1988. The percentage changes from 1988 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 3; Veal, down 10, Pork up 3; Lamb and Mutton, up 2. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



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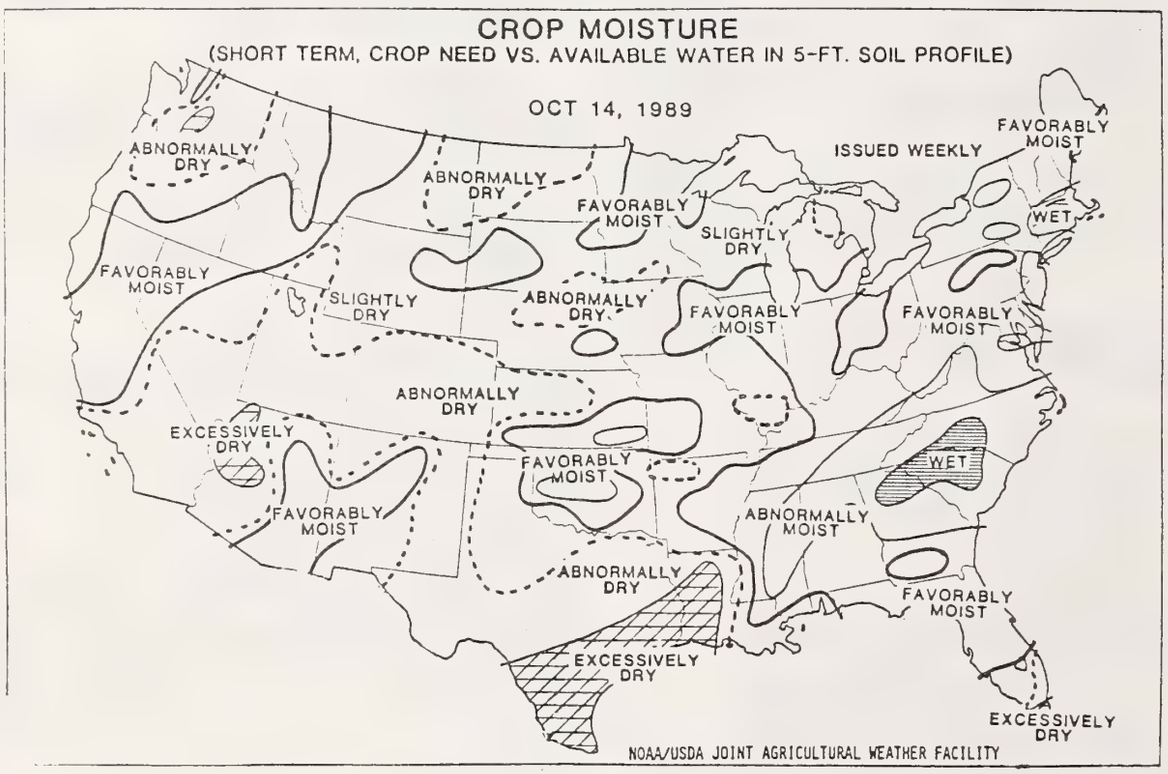
DRY WEATHER CONDITIONS CONTINUE--RAIN OR SNOW NEEDED

The October 24 crop-weather report shows a continuation of the dry fall weather. The conditions allowed Montana farmers to virtually complete winter wheat seeding and make good progress on potato and sugar beet harvest. The winter wheat crop looks very good with 3/4 of the crop emerged--ahead of the normal 60%. Condition at this early date is mostly good to excellent.

The only serious problem seems to be the abnormally dry soil situation in the eastern portion of the state. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture are critically short in many eastern areas. This means a good amount of fall rain or snow will be needed to recharge supplies.

Nationally, winter wheat seeding was 81% complete by mid-October, 9% ahead of normal. Fifty-seven percent had emerged--6% ahead of normal. Rain is needed to insure good crop development in Washington, Oregon, Texas, and the Great Plains.

A look at the A look at the **Montana** livestock situation shows that pasture and range conditions are still mostly good to excellent. Grass has done well this year and ranchers have kept stock on summer ranges a bit longer than normal. So far, about 2/3 of the cattle and 3/4 of the sheep and lambs have been moved from summer ranges.



COMPUTERS NOT WIDELY USED BY FARMERS

Less than 3 percent of U.S. farmers use computers for financial recordkeeping while 56 percent use general ledgers or notebooks.

Nearly 16 percent use some form of financial records workbook. That leaves 25 percent using "other methods" of recordkeeping, including 14 percent who use the proverbial "shoebox" or some similar informal system of keeping receipts, invoices, and bills of sale.

This information was gathered in the annual Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS) covering operations of calendar year 1987.

The survey is conducted each year by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and its state offices.

Another finding in the survey was that less than 12 percent of farmers subscribe to farm financial recordkeeping services. The participants in the survey indicated about two-thirds of such services are provided by accountants.

Computer usage is not uniform throughout the farm sector. Nearly 15 percent of the operators of "large" farms (those with annual commodity sales of at least $250,000) used computers in 1987--and nearly 40 percent of that category used recordkeeping services.

QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION

July-September milk production for Montana was estimated at 89 million pounds, 2 percent less than produced during the same quarter last year. Milk cow numbers remained steady at 25,000 head.

Grain and other concentrates fed daily per cow averaged 14.6 pounds on October 1 compared with 15.5 a year earlier. The average value per 100 pounds of concentrate rations fed to milk cows was $6.80 down from $7.70 on October 1, 1988.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 35.5 billion pounds, 1 percent below July-September 1988.

The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 10.1 million head, virtually unchanged from April-June 1989 but 1 percent less than July-September 1988.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1989, averaged 16.9 pounds, no change from October 1, 1988.

The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on October 1, 1989, averaged $8.08 per hundredweight, $0.24 per hundredweight less than the October 1, 1988 value.

OCTOBER U.S. EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.43 billion during September 1989, down 3 percent from the 5.58 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.74 billion for table and 696 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during September averaged 267 million, down 2 percent from the 274 million a year ago. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,036 eggs, compared with 2,039 in September 1988.

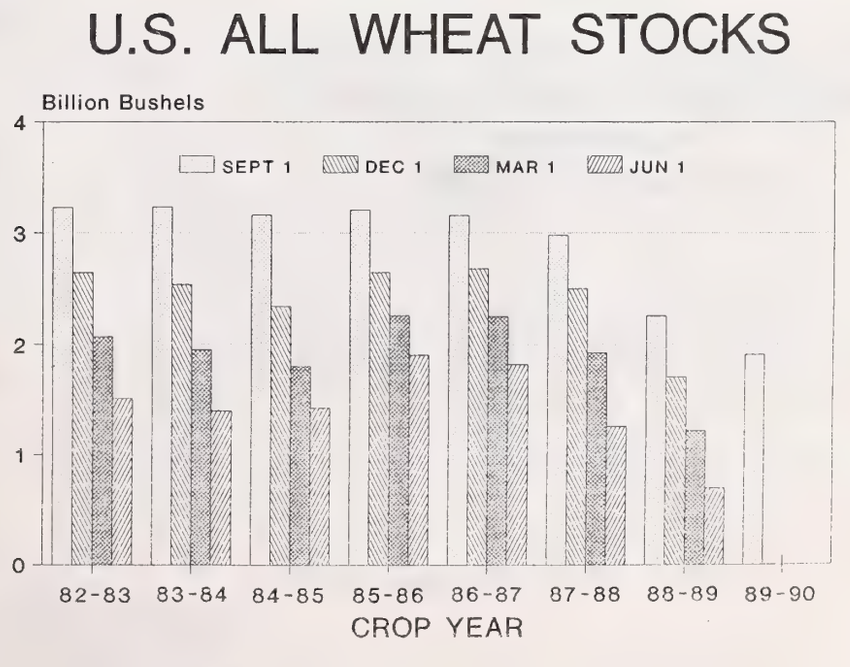
All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1989 totaled 267 million, compared with 275 million a year ago. The 267 million layers consisted of 229 million for table or commercial-type eggs and 38.0 million for hatching-type eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1989 averaged 68.0 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from a year ago and up 1 percent from the 67.6 on September 1, 1989.

U.S. TURKEY POULTS PLACED UP 26 PERCENT

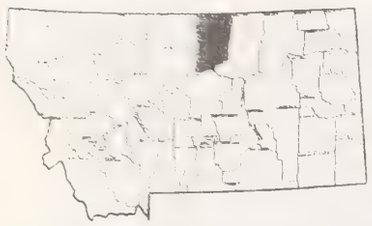
The turkey eggs in incubators on October 1, 1989, totaled 27.6 million, 26 percent above the 22.0 million a year earlier. The 19.9 million poults placed during September 1989 in the United States were 26 percent above the placements during the same month a year earlier.

U.S. ALL WHEAT STOCKS

U.S. all wheat in all storage positions September 1, 1989, is estimated at 1.91 billion bushels, down 15 percent from September 1, 1988. Of the total stocks, 822 million bushels were stored on-farms. This is up 3 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks total 1.09 billion bushels, 25 percent less than last September 1. The indicated disappearance from all positions for the quarter ending September 1, 1989, is 851 million bushels, up 4 percent from the comparable period in 1988.



*featuring...*BLAINE COUNTY



Blaine County was created in March of 1912 and occupies 2,724,736 acres in the North Central region of Montana. Its northern boundary comprises a portion of the Montana-Canada border. Half of its southern boundary is marked by the Missouri River, and the Milk River meanders the entire width of the county. The land in Blaine County is generally level, being broken in the Western and Southern regions by the Bear Paw Mountains. The Fort Belknap Indian Reservation occupies the southeastern corner of the county.

Primary crops raised in the county include wheat, oats, and barley. Blaine County ranked 10th in 1988 for all wheat production (12th for winter wheat production and 7th in spring wheat production), also 3rd in oats production and 18th in barley production. In 1988 livestock numbers, Blaine County ranked 10th in the cattle inventory, 26th for sheep, and 8th in the hog inventory.

Livestock and livestock products brought in $15,708,000 in cash receipts in 1987 with a rank of 21st. Crops contributed $12,451,000 for a place of 20th in the county rankings. Government payments totaled $12,028,000 for a cash receipt total of $40,187,000 in 1987.

Blaine County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	2,724,736			
Land in Farms	Acres	2,433,747	Irrigated Land	Acres	47,733
Number of Farms		529	Cropland	Acres	589,125
Average-size Farms	Acres	4,601			
			LIVESTOCK		
CROPS			All Cattle &		
All Hay	Acres	57,666	Calves	No. Head	70,492
All Wheat	Acres	170,300	Stock Sheep &		
Barley	Acres	56,889	Lambs	No. Head	5,704
Oats	Acres	3,345	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	6,413

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Monthly Ag Prices Received
Manufactured Dairy Products
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Grain Stocks
Ag Prices
Hogs & Pigs
MFG Dairy Products
Oct. 1 Crop Production

OCTOBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's 1989 all wheat crop was forecast on October 1 at 149.1 million bushels, 2.1 million bushels less than the September 1 estimate. The reduction is due to 200 thousand fewer winter wheat acres harvested, which was partially offset by a higher winter wheat yield. Total winter wheat production is estimated at 54.0 million bushels, durum at 6.7 million, and hard spring wheat at 88.4 millon.

Barley production, at 68.8 million, is up 3.2 million from the September estimate due to an increase in per acre yield. Oats production, at 6.82 million bushels, is up 290 thousand bushels as yields were 2 bushels above September 1 reports. Montana's hay production estimate fell slightly during September due to a slightly smaller yield forecast for hay other than alfalfa.

For the **nation**, All wheat production for 1989 is estimated at 2.04 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the September 1 forecast but up 13 percent from 1988. Corn for grain production as of October 1, is forecast at 7.45 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 51 percent above the drought-reduced crop of 1988. Production of all hay is forecast at 150 million tons. This is 4 percent more than expected August 1 and 19 percent above the quantity produced in 1988.

U.S. HOG INVENTORIES UP SLIGHTLY

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the U.S. on September 1, 1989 is estimated at 58.4 million head. This is slightly above September 1, 1988.

-- **Breeding inventory** at 7.02 million head is down 3 percent from September 1, 1988.

-- **Market hog inventory** at 51.4 million head is 1 percent above September 1, 1988.

The June-August 1989 **U.S. pig crop** was 23.8 million head, 1 percent above 1988. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.04 million head, 1 percent below a year earlier. Pigs saved per litter was 7.80 compared to 7.62 during the same period in 1988.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the September-November quarter, 1 percent less than the actual farrowings during the same period last year but 1 percent above 1987.

U.S. farrowing intentions for the December 1989-February 1990 quarter, at 2.68 million sows, is virtually unchanged from 1989 and 2 percent below the 1988 period.

The Montana crop production, grain stocks, and hog estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,600 Montana farmers and ranchers during September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. For those operators that were called and responded to the questionnaire a SPECIAL THANKS. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

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MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, OCTOBER 1, 1989 [1]

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1988	1989 [2]	Chg.	1988	1989 [2]	Chg.	1988	1989 [2]	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
Northwest	987	600	- 39	530	2,008	+279	2,355	3,800	+ 61
North Central	18,857	25,300	+ 34	9,128	55,314	+506	14,646	35,400	+142
Northeast	3,233	4,000	+ 24	7,229	26,617	+268	1,930	6,300	+226
Central	9,840	12,000	+ 22	1,288	5,670	+340	4,956	12,000	+142
Southwest	1,630	2,000	+ 23	934	830	- 11	2,861	4,500	+ 57
South Central	4,059	8,000	+ 97	469	1,107	+136	2,894	5,200	+ 80
Southeast	1,294	2,100	+ 62	492	3,554	+622	358	1,600	+347
STATE	39,900	54,000	+ 35	20,070	95,100	+374	30,000	68,800	+129

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

ALL WHEAT and BARLEY--SELECTED STATES

STATE	ALL WHEAT YIELD		ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION		BARLEY YIELD		BARLEY PRODUCTION	
	1988 [1]	1989	1988 [1]	1989	1988 [1]	1989	1988 [1]	1989
	Bushels		1,000 Bushels		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
COLO	33.8	27.4	79,540	62,100	67.0	76.0	11,725	12,160
IDAHO	65.7	68.4	75,520	93,660	60.0	70.0	51,000	59,500
KANS	34.0	24.0	323,000	213,600	35.0	32.0	2,975	576
MINN	23.0	38.0	51,730	102,504	32.0	55.0	27,200	44,000
MONT	15.7	28.5	59,970	149,100	24.0	43.0	30,000	68,800
NEBR	36.0	27.0	72,000	55,350	32.0	26.0	1,920	650
N.DAK	14.3	23.5	103,390	242,320	21.0	37.0	45,150	98,050
OKLA	36.0	27.0	172,800	153,900	48.0	45.0	768	900
OREG	68.6	58.5	51,800	52,935	74.0	67.0	14,800	12,060
S.DAK	14.4	23.6	38,006	83,080	18.0	35.0	8,100	19,250
TEX	28.0	20.0	89,600	60,000	30.0	32.0	540	480
WASH	60.5	50.2	124,620	113,850	62.0	58.0	34,720	28,420
U.S.	34.1	32.9	1,811,436	2,041,884	38.2	48.6	293,524	404,569

[1] Revised.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- OCTOBER 1, 1989

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1988	1989 [1]	1988	1989 [1]	1988	1989 [1]	1988	1989 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,450	2,500	2,100	1,500	19.0	36.0	39,900	54,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	340	230	335	9.0	20.0	2,070	6,700
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,000	3,500	1,500	3,400	12.0	26.0	18,000	88,400
All Wheat	Bu.	4,730	6,340	3,830	5,235	15.7	28.5	59,970	149,100
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	90	80	20	15	110.0	110.0	2,200	1,650
Oats	Bu.	210	250	90	145	31.0	47.0	2,790	6,815
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,700	1,250	1,600	24.0	43.0	30,000	68,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	4.4	6.0	4.0	5.9	19.0	22.0	76	130
Sugarbeets	Ton	49.6	52.3	48.9	52.1	21.1	21.0	1,032	1,094
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	280.0	--	2,156	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,300	1.90	2.20	2,090	2,860
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	700	1,000	1.00	1.40	700	1,400
All Hay	Ton	--	--	1,800	2,300	1.55	1.85	2,790	4,260
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,800	55,026	39,785	41,401	39.2	35.1	1,561,145	1,451,746
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,336	3,791	2,847	3,673	15.7	25.3	44,831	92,899
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,393	17,733	10,542	17,007	19.5	29.2	205,460	497,239
All Wheat	Bu.	65,529	76,550	53,174	62,081	34.1	32.9	1,811,436	2,041,884
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	67,619	72,320	58,164	65,109	84.6	114.4	4,921,191	7,448,875
Oats	Bu.	13,927	12,082	5,590	6,827	39.2	54.3	218,853	370,693
Barley	Bu.	9,871	9,203	7,680	8,322	38.2	48.6	293,524	404,569
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,498.4	1,842.8	1,366.0	1,730.7	14.08	14.28	19,230	24,719
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,327.2	1,344.1	1,300.7	1,323.0	19.1	20.1	24,810	26,596
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,094.9	1,086.4	1,075.4	1,063.5	292.0	--	313,558	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	26,695	25,542	2.60	3.13	69,282	79,883
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	38,864	37,201	1.48	1.90	57,535	70,614
All Hay	Ton	--	--	65,559	62,743	1.93	2.40	126,817	150,497

Preliminary. - Revised. For all purposes.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sep. 1, 1988	Jun. 1, 1989*	Sep. 1, 1989	Sep. 1, 1988	Jun. 1, 1989*	Sep. 1, 1989
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	1.2	0.2	4.5	1.9	0.6	1.6
North Central	51.0	23.1	81.9	20.2	5.8	31.2
Northeast	31.9	13.2	36.0	7.4	2.7	12.8
Central	17.8	4.3	22.3	9.5	1.8	7.9
Southwest	3.3	1.0	4.7	2.2	1.2	4.2
South Central	8.2	3.5	11.0	2.2	2.5	7.6
Southeast	5.8	1.8	7.6	1.0	0.3	2.7
STATE	119.2	47.1	168.0	44.4	14.9	68.0

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1988	June 1, 1989*	Sept. 1, 1989	% Chg. '89/'88	Sept. 1, 1988	June 1, 1989*	Sept. 1, 1989
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	87,000	35,000	140,000	+61	798,000	285,000	822,000
Off Farms 1/	32,183	12,095	28,000	-13	1,455,522	412,596	1,088,852
T O T A L	119,183	47,095	168,000	+41	2,253,552	697,596	1,910,852
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	50,000	18,500	50,000	---	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	18,393	6,578	15,000	-18	--	--	--
T O T A L	68,393	25,078	65,000	- 5	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	37,000	16,500	90,000	+143	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,790	5,517	13,000	- 6	--	--	--
T O T A L	50,790	22,017	103,000	+103	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	56,040	34,201	79,150
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	50,630	25,738	42,350
T O T A L	5,263	3,234	9,000	+71	106,670	59,939	121,500
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,002,800	2,022,000	967,500
Off Farms 1/	1,450	432	350	-76	2,256,286	1,397,262	962,865
T O T A L 4/	--	--	--	--	4,259,086	3,419,262	1,930,365
OATS							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
BARLEY							
On Farms	33,000	10,000	60,000	+82	239,250	84,599	253,350
Off Farms 1/	11,364	4,856	8,000	-30	211,468	111,877	164,159
T O T A L	44,364	14,856	68,000	+53	450,718	196,476	417,509
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	69,420	85,200	47,800
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	593,231	473,309	390,205
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	662,651	558,509	438,005

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

AUGUST U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Butter production was 80.1 million pounds in August, 8 percent above August 1988 and 11 percent above July 1989. American-type cheese production totaled 214 million pounds, 2 percent above August 1988 but 6 percent below July 1989. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 460 million pounds, 4 percent above August 1988 but 1 percent below July 1989. Creamed cottage cheese production was 52.4 million pounds, 10 percent below August 1988 but 11 percent above July 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 27.1 million pounds, 1 percent above August 1988 and 7 percent above July 1989.

Canned evaporated and condensed whole milk, at 42.0 million pounds, 15 percent below August 1988 and 1 percent below July 1989. Frozen desserts (comparisons with August 1988) were: Ice cream (hard)--79.0 million gallons, down 8 percent. Ice milk--38.4 million gallons, down 6 percent. Sherbet (hard)--4.71 million gallons, down 13 percent.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept 1988	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1989	MONTANA Sept 15, 1989	U.S. Sept 15, 1989
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.82	3.80	3.89
Durum	Bu.	5.80	3.65	3.35	3.32
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.11	3.81	3.75	3.62
All Wheat	Bu.	3.95	3.81	3.77	3.78
Barley, All	Bu.	2.81	2.61	2.54	2.38
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.97
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.96
Oats	Bu.	2.49	1.24	1.20	1.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	88.00	70.00	70.00	90.50
All Other Hay	Ton	78.00	65.00	65.00	65.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	87.00	70.00	70.00	85.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	76.20	76.40	76.10	71.40
Cows	Cwt.	45.70	48.50	49.10	49.00
Beef Cattle [1]	Cwt.	69.00	63.80	69.40	67.50
Calves	Cwt.	91.30	92.40	89.70	91.40
Sheep	Cwt.	19.20	18.20	17.90	23.40
Lambs	Cwt.	63.60	67.60	67.30	66.70
Hogs	Cwt.	35.40	40.80	36.50	42.60
All Milk	Cwt.	12.40	12.95	13.50	13.70
Eggs	Doz.	.59	.65	.70	.71
Wool [2]	Lb.	1.32	1.30	1.20	.98
INDEXES (1977=100) [3]					
All Farm Products	Pct.	185	176	180	143
All Crops	Pct.	170	160	159	127
Livestock & Products	Pct.	197	189	199	158

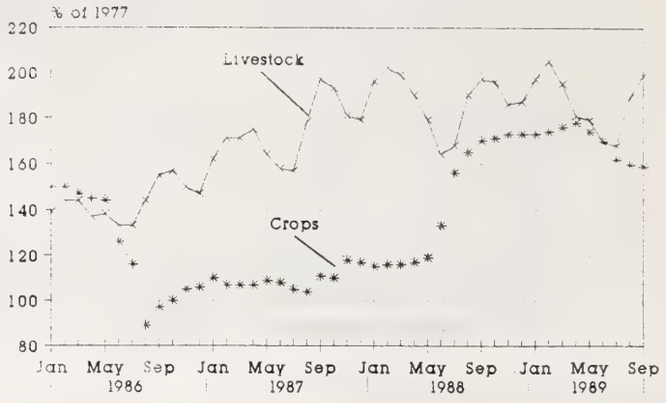
[1] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. [2] Does not include incentive payment. [3] Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

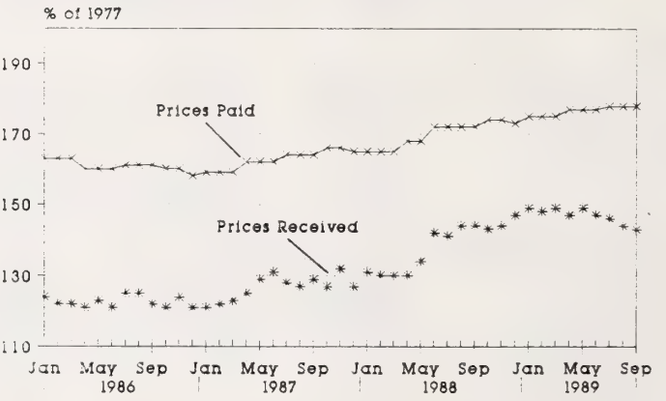
INDEX 1977=100	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1988	Aug. 1989	Sept. 1989
Prices Received	144	144	144	143
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	172	2/ 172	3/ 178	3/ 178
Ratio [1]	84	84	81	80

[1] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2] July 1988 prices paid index. [3] July 1989 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN

CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.

WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Potato Disposition

AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat in August 1989. This production is up 54 percent from last month, but down 1 percent from August 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,800 head, is down 200 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered, at 1,051, is up 9 percent from last year. Hog slaughter, at 3,100 head, is down 100 head from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 230 pounds, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in August 1989 totaled 3.48 billion pounds, down 1 percent from August 1988. January-August red meat production, at 26.0 billions pounds, was nearly the same as last year. The percentage changes from 1988 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 2; Veal, down 9; Pork up 3; Lamb and Mutton, up 2. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

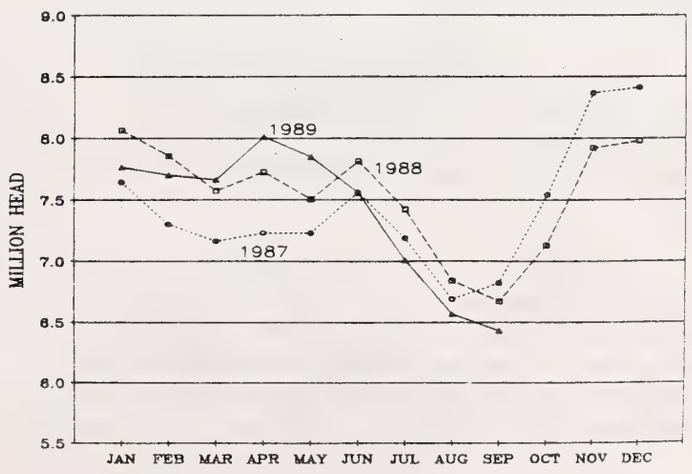
Cattle and calves on feed September 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates (AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX) totaled 6.43 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below September 1, 1987.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.68 million, down 5 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August totaled 1.62 million, down 3 percent from last year and 16 percent below August 1987. Net placements of 1.54 million for August is 3 percent below last year and 17 percent below 1987.

Other disappearance totaled 76 thousand head compared to 66 thousand in August 1988 and 68 thousand in August 1987.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



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MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 4 PERCENT

Montana poultry flocks produced 47 million eggs in the June-August quarter of 1989. This is down 4 percent from the same 3-month period in 1988.

There were 710,000 layers in the state during the third quarter of 1989, compared with 780,000 the previous year. Daily rate of lay per 100 laying hens was 71.3, up from 68.2 last year.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 16.7 billion eggs during the June through August quarter, down 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.5 billion for table eggs and 2.19 billion for hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 266 million, down 2 percent from the 271 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1989 totaled 267 million, compared with 272 million a year ago. The 267 million layers consisted of 228 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs and 38.3 million layers producing hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1989 averaged 67.6 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.1 for September 1, 1988 and 68.1 on August 1, 1989.

1988 PRODUCTION DOWN 8 PERCENT, VALUE UP 27 PERCENT

Production of potatoes across the U.S. in 1988 totaled 356 million cwt, down 8 percent from the previous year and 1 percent below 1986. The crop was harvested from 1.26 million acres, down 3 percent from 1987 but 3 percent above 1986. Drought in the North Central states dropped the national average yield to 283 cwt per acre compared with a record high 301 cwt in 1987 and 296 cwt in 1986.

Value of production was a record high $2.14 billion, up 27 percent from 1987 and 5 percent above the previous high in 1984. The average price was $6.02 per cwt compared with $4.38 in 1987 and $5.03 in 1986.

Sales covered 91.3 percent of the crop, or 326 million cwt. Farmers kept back 4.85 million cwt for seed and nearly a million cwt for home use and livestock feed. Shrinkage and loss was a minimal 25.1 million cwt, 21 percent below 1987 and the lowest since 1983.

Montana's potato production for 1988 was 2.2 million cwt of which 1.9 million was sold for a season average price of $7.75 per cwt. The 1988 price compares with $5.65 per cwt received last season. The majority of Montana's potatoes are sold for certified seed.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during August totaled 10.1 billion pounds, 2 percent below production in these same States in August 1988. July revised production, at 10.3 billion pounds, was 2 percent below July 1988.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,190 pounds for August, 6 pounds below August 1988.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.49 million head, 103 thousand head below August 1988 and 4 thousand head below July 1989.

During the April-June period the 21 major States produced 32.3 billion pounds of milk, 85.1 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 11.9 billion pounds for August 1989.

FARMERS ARE OPTING FOR BIGGER TRACTORS

Look for U.S. farm machinery sales to increase for the 3rd straight year, reaching anywhere from $6.2-$6.7 billion this year. Spurring sales are higher net cash incomes, lower real interest rates, better farmland values, and lower farm debt. Many farmers held off buying new farm machinery in the early and mid-1980's, oftentimes purchasing used machinery. The result is an aging of farm machinery stock and that's fueled demand, too.

This year is shaping us as a good year for tractor sales, especially the more powerful units. Ag economists expect sales of 140+ horsepower 2-wheel drive tractors to be up 23% while 4-wheel drive tractors in that category will shoot up a whopping 65%.

This suggests that farmers find large-scale production more effective. Greater use of larger tractors represents an upgrading of equipment (it encourages use of larger tillage machinery and other equipment) and an increase in the scale of farm operations.

STUDY SAYS ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE CAN WORK

A committee of the National Research Council recently issued a report on "Alternative Agriculture." The committee did an extensive study of 11 U.S. farms that use organic farming methods rather than fertilizer and pesticides to maintain and increase productivity.

They say it's possible to have high productivity using alternative farming methods, but more know-how and management skills are required to make it work. Practices such as crop rotations, biological pest control, and new tillage methods need study to determine the best procedures.

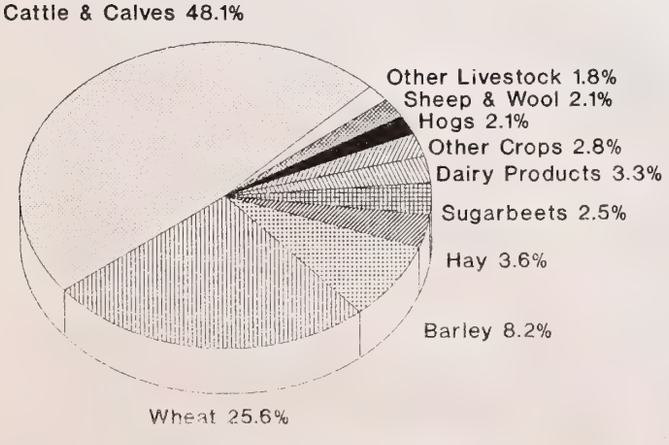
The report criticized current farm programs for discouraging crop rotation practices by allowing a loss of program benefits when rotations are used. They also said it takes too long to register newer and safer pesticides, including genetically engineered products, to replace more hazardous materials.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, 1984-1988 [1]

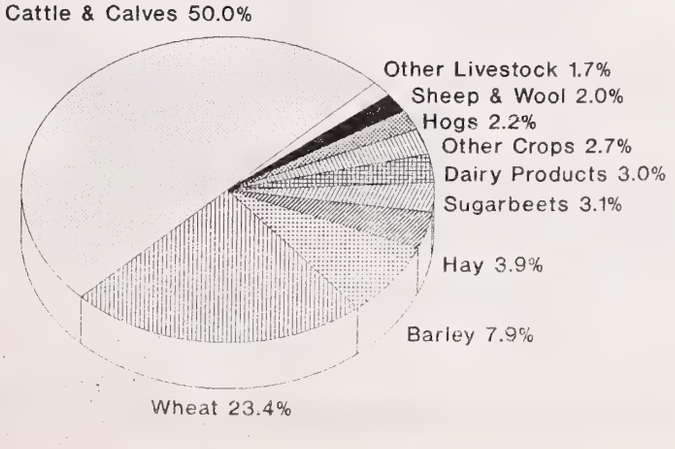
ITEM	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
			--Thousand Dollars--		
LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	597,832	689,332	537,562	622,071	693,345
Dairy products	44,375	43,852	41,338	40,878	41,254
Sheep and lambs	19,302	24,584	19,865	23,326	19,302
Wool	4,740	3,743	3,867	5,268	8,288
Hogs and pigs	26,855	21,954	24,503	31,257	30,633
Eggs	10,293	8,585	9,380	8,542	7,760
Chickens	186	168	189	149	174
Other [2]	12,980	11,322	15,395	15,824	15,444
TOTAL	716,563	803,540	652,099	747,315	816,200
CROPS					
Wheat	436,280	257,413	266,649	346,086	325,024
Barley	129,732	60,799	86,528	139,325	109,208
Sugarbeets	14,768	28,791	39,726	42,463	43,550
Hay	47,476	49,187	45,721	38,940	54,437
Potatoes	14,460	15,844	9,367	12,311	11,297
Oats	2,252	1,247	888	1,583	2,075
Dry beans	1,302	2,011	1,570	1,473	1,752
Corn	1,637	1,538	1,283	1,442	2,218
Cherries	932	2,255	480	2,280	1,042
All Other [3]	14,130	8,768	19,557	22,160	19,250
TOTAL	662,969	427,853	471,769	608,063	569,853
ALL COMMODITIES	1,379,532	1,231,393	1,123,868	1,355,378	1,386,053

[1] Revised [2] Includes honey, beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others [3] Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse, nursery and forest products.

Cash Receipts 1984-87 Average



Cash Receipts 1988

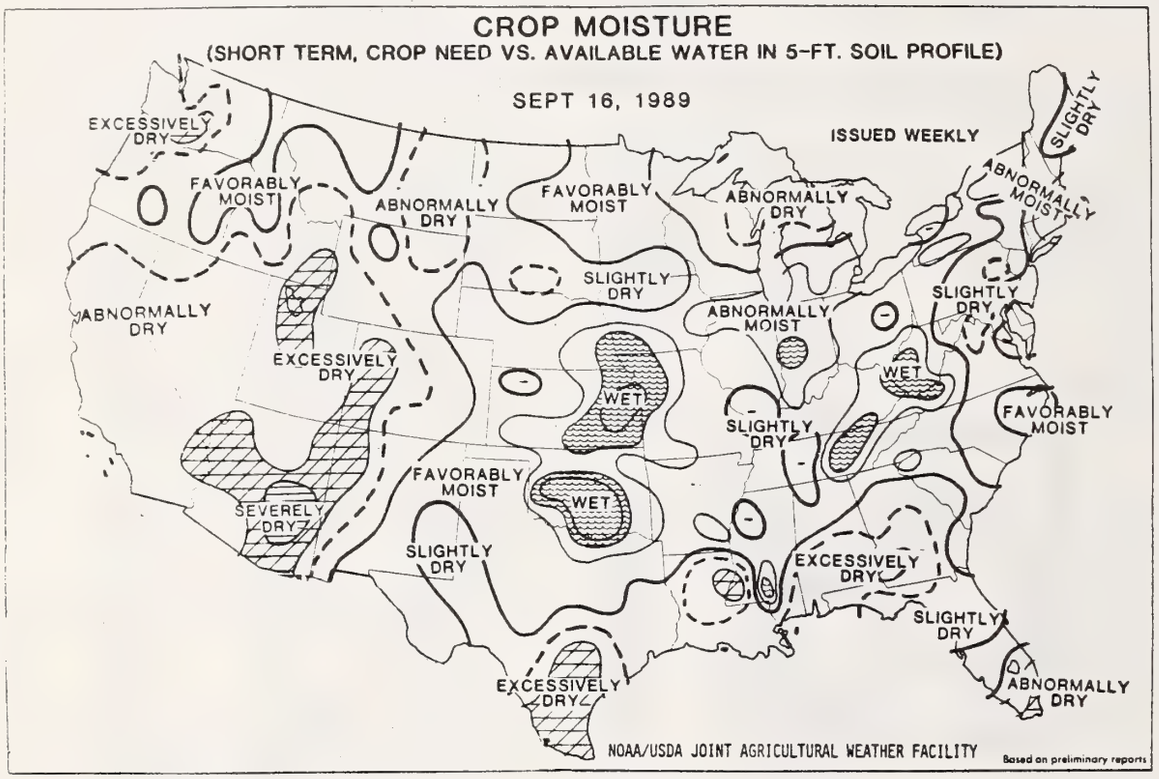


WINTER WHEAT SEEDING AHEAD OF NORMAL

The weather has been excellent for harvesting and good progress was made last week. About 90 percent or more of the grain has been harvested. That's still behind normal, but most are thankful to finish up before more damage can be done.

Winter wheat seeding is going well--in fact, we're ahead of normal. Nearly half is planted compared with 46% normally seeded by now. The moisture situation is variable, but mostly adequate in the primary winter wheat areas. The eastern portions of the state are still short of moisture. Some rain fell early last week with over an inch in Polson, Helena, Butte, and Fort Benton.

Farmers have been busy trying to finish up on grain and hay harvest and they're about 2/3 done harvesting corn silage and dry beans. A few more days of good weather and all remaining crops except for sugar beets and potatoes will be safely in the bin.



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Grain Stocks
- Ag Prices
- Hogs & Pigs
- Dairy Products
- Crop Production
  - Grains & Hay
  - Pasture & Range

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Ag Prices Received
U.S. Manufactured Dairy Products
Wheat & Barley Movement
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

UNITED STATES MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Butter production was 72.2 million pounds in July, down 5 percent from July 1988 and 24 percent below June 1989.

American type cheese production totaled 227 million pounds, 2 percent below July 1988 and 5 percent below June 1989. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 465 million pounds, 2 percent above July 1988 but 4 percent below June 1989. Creamed cottage cheese production was 47.4 million pounds, 15 percent below July 1988 and 6 percent below June 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 25.3 million pounds, virtually unchanged from July 1988 but 4 percent below June 1989.

Frozen desserts: (Comparisons with July 1988) Ice cream (Hard)--80.3 million gallons, down 15 percent; Ice milk--36.9 million gallons, up 1 percent; Sherbet (Hard)--5.31 million gallons, down 5 percent.

MONTANA, September 1, 1989
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1987	1988	1989
Northwest	89	53	88
N.Central	83	21	91
Northeast	88	21	61
Central	79	32	92
Southwest	95	43	80
S.Central	79	31	92
Southeast	86	15	86
STATE	85	29	89

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's 1989 wheat crop was forecast on September 1 to be 151.2 million bushels, unchanged from the August 1 forecast. Winter wheat production is expected to be 56.1 million bushels, hard spring wheat 88.4 million, and durum 6.7 million. The state's all wheat crop is 2.5 times greater than last year, and almost the same as the 1987 crop. Harvesting became difficult during late August because of rain and some sprout damage occurred to the spring wheat crop.

Barley, in Montana, is forecast to be 65.6 million bushels, also the same as the August estimate and 2.2 times more than last year. Considerable malting barley was damaged by the late August rains. Other crop estimates for Montana are: Oats, 6.5 million bushels, 2.3 times more than last year; all hay at 4.36 million tons, 1.5 times 1988; and sugarbeets at 1.1 million tons, up 6 percent.

For the nation, all wheat production is forecast at 2.06 billion bushels, up 1 percent from August 1 and 14 percent more than the 1988 production. Average yield is forecast at 32.9 bushels per acre, 1.2 bushels per acre less than last year. Harvested area is still expected to total 62.7 million acres, up 18 percent from 1988. Durum wheat production is now forecast at 93.6 million bushels, up 3 percent from last month and up 109 percent from the drought reduced crop of 1988. Other spring wheat production for 1989 is now forecast at 505 million bushels, 4 percent more than the August 1 forecast and 146 percent more than the 1988 production.

Barley production is forecast at 401 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 38 percent above 1988. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 46.9 bushels.

SEPTEMBER 1 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition rating of 89 percent is 60 points higher than a year ago at this time. The high condition rating reflects good rainfall early in the season as well as August rains. Pastures and ranges have been providing ample feed in most locations during the 1989 grazing season, and prospects for fall and early winter grazing are very good.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1989

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED 1988	ACRES PLANTED 1989 [1]	ACRES HARVESTED 1988	ACRES HARVESTED 1989 [1]	YIELD 1988	YIELD 1989 [1]	PRODUCTION 1988	PRODUCTION 1989 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,450	2,500	2,100	1,700	19.0	33.0	39,900	56,100
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	340	230	335	9.0	20.0	2,070	6,700
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,000	3,500	1,500	3,400	12.0	26.0	18,000	88,400
All Wheat	Bu.	4,730	6,340	3,830	5,435	15.7	27.8	59,970	151,200
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	90	80	20	15	110.0	110.0	2,200	1,650
Oats	Bu.	210	250	90	145	31.0	45.0	2,790	6,525
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,700	1,250	1,600	24.0	41.0	30,000	65,600
Dry Beans	Cwt.	4.4	6.0	4.0	5.9	19.0	22.0	76	130
Sugarbeets	Ton	49.6	52.3	48.9	52.1	21.1	21.0	1,032	1,094
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	280.0	--	2,156	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,300	1.90	2.20	2,090	2,860
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	700	1,000	1.00	1.50	700	1,500
All Hay	Ton	--	--	1,800	2,300	1.55	1.90	2,790	4,360
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,800	55,233	39,785	41,890	39.2	35.0	1,560,970	1,466,049
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,336	3,691	2,847	3,573	15.7	26.2	44,831	93,599
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,393	17,833	10,542	17,214	19.5	29.3	205,460	504,759
All Wheat	Bu.	65,529	76,757	53,174	62,677	34.1	32.9	1,811,261	2,064,407
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	67,619	72,320	58,164	65,154	84.6	112.4	4,921,191	7,321,005
Oats	Bu.	13,927	12,142	5,590	7,280	39.1	52.3	218,773	380,690
Barley	Bu.	9,676	9,283	7,535	8,562	38.6	46.9	290,505	401,147
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,498.4	1,842.8	1,366.0	1,770.7	14.08	14.23	19,230	25,200
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,327.2	1,344.1	1,300.7	1,322.0	19.1	20.0	24,810	26,495
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,094.9	1,086.4	1,075.4	1,063.5	292.0	--	313,558	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	26,695	25,542	2.60	3.04	69,282	77,633
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	38,864	37,376	1.48	1.81	57,535	67,539
All Hay	Ton	--	--	65,559	62,918	1.93	2.31	126,817	145,172

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes.

ALL WHEAT--SELECTED STATES

STATE	AREA HARVESTED 1988	AREA HARVESTED IND 1989	YIELD 1988	YIELD IND 1989	PRODUCTION 1987	PRODUCTION 1988	PRODUCTION IND 1989
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
COLO [1]	2,352	2,170	33.8	28.5	97,380	79,540	61,810
IDAHO	1,150	1,370	65.7	68.8	85,500	75,520	94,280
KANS [1]	9,500	9,100	34.0	23.0	366,300	323,000	209,300
MINN	2,250	2,699	23.0	38.0	102,588	51,730	102,504
MONT	3,830	5,435	15.7	27.8	151,220	59,970	151,200
NEBR [1]	2,000	2,050	36.0	26.0	85,800	72,000	53,300
N.DAK	7,230	10,380	14.3	23.8	269,120	103,390	246,540
OKLA [1]	4,800	5,700	36.0	27.0	129,600	172,800	153,900
OREG [1]	755	905	68.6	60.3	52,920	51,800	54,535
S.DAK	2,638	3,520	14.4	23.5	106,704	38,006	82,880
TEX [1]	3,200	3,000	28.0	20.0	100,800	89,600	60,000
WASH	2,060	2,270	60.5	50.7	114,285	124,620	115,150
U.S.	53,174	62,677	34.1	32.9	2,107,480	1,811,261	2,064,407

[1] Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1989 [1]

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT 1988	WINTER WHEAT 1989 [2]	WINTER WHEAT Chg.	ALL SPRING WHEAT 1988	ALL SPRING WHEAT 1989 [2]	ALL SPRING WHEAT Chg.	BARLEY 1988	BARLEY 1989 [2]	BARLEY Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
Northwest	987.0	645.0	- 35	530.0	1,106.0	+109	2,355.0	3,500.0	+ 49
North Central	18,857.0	28,785.0	+ 53	9,128.0	56,714.0	+521	14,646.0	34,500.0	+136
Northeast	3,233.0	3,450.0	+ 7	7,229.0	26,610.0	+268	1,930.0	7,000.0	+263
Central	9,840.0	12,920.0	+ 31	1,288.0	5,015.0	+289	4,956.0	10,100.0	+104
Southwest	1,630.0	1,100.0	- 32	934.0	900.0	- 4	2,861.0	4,300.0	+ 50
South Central	4,059.0	6,600.0	+ 63	469.0	1,104.0	+135	2,894.0	4,300.0	+ 49
Southeast	1,294.0	2,600.0	+101	492.0	3,651.0	+642	358.0	1,900.0	+431
STATE	39,900.0	56,100.0	+ 41	20,070.0	95,100.0	+374	30,000.0	65,600.0	+119

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

AUGUST PRICES RECEIVED

Montana grain prices went down in August while livestock prices were mostly up. The all wheat price at $3.87 per bushel was down 13 cents from July, but was 1 cent above August 1988. Barley, at $2.00 per bushel, was down 15 cents from July and 76 cents under last year. Steers and heifers jumped $2.30 per cwt. to $71.50, calves were up $5.60 to $89.50, and cows rose $1.50 to $49.50. Hogs, at $37.50, were up 10 cents and lambs at $69.00, were up $3.50. The all hay price at $70.00 per ton was up $3.00.

The Montana all farm products prices received index for August at 172 is up 7 points from July but 7 points under last year. The all crops index at 156 was down 6 points from July and down 9 points from August 1988.

The August livestock and products index at 186 is 18 points above July but 4 points under last year.

Nationally, the August all farm products index of prices received decreased 2 points from July to 144 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of soybeans, corn, lettuce, and potatoes were partially offset by higher prices for cattle, apples, eggs, and grapefruit. The all farm products index was the same as last year. Compared with a year ago, oilseeds and feed grain prices showed the greatest decreases while meat animals and milk had the largest increases.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1988	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1989	MONTANA Aug. 15, 1989	U.S. Aug. 15, 1989
			--Dollars--		
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.31	3.98	3.85	3.88
Durum	Bu.	5.48	3.79	3.65	3.55
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.94	4.04	3.90	3.74
All Wheat	Bu.	3.86	4.00	3.87	3.83
Barley, All	Bu.	2.76	2.15	2.00	2.30
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.01
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.07
Oats	Bu.	2.24	1.85	1.65	1.38
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	83.00	68.00	70.00	88.00
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	60.00	65.00	67.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	82.00	67.00	70.00	82.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	75.50	69.20	71.50	73.50
Cows	Cwt.	45.50	48.00	49.50	49.50
Beef Cattle [1]	Cwt.	63.50	55.20	62.70	69.60
Calves	Cwt.	97.00	83.90	89.50	94.50
Sheep	Cwt.	22.80	19.40	17.00	21.80
Lambs	Cwt.	61.90	65.50	69.00	67.40
Hogs	Cwt.	40.40	37.40	37.50	46.10
All Milk	Cwt.	11.87	12.40	12.90	12.90
Eggs	Doz.	.54	.70	.65	.71
Wool [2]	Lb.	1.29	1.30	1.30	1.05
INDEXES (1977=100) [3]					
All Farm Products	Pct.	179	165	172	144
All Crops	Pct.	165	162	156	128
Livestock & Products	Pct.	190	168	186	160

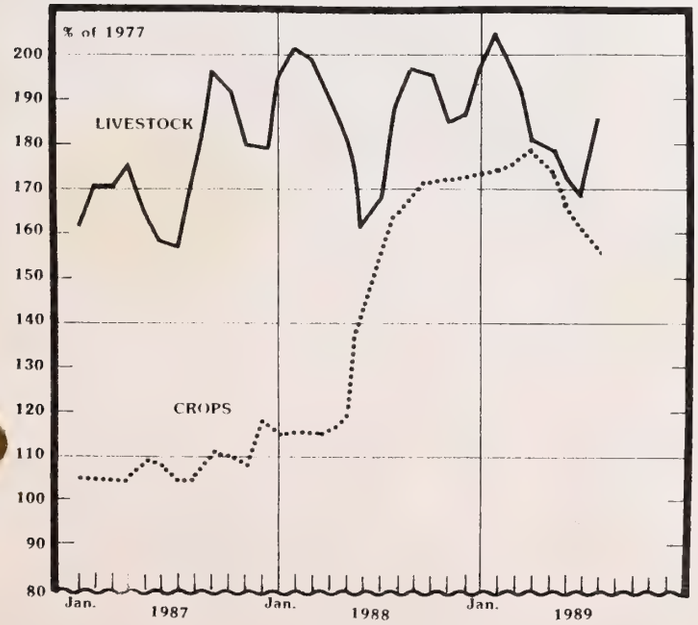
[1] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. [2] Does not include incentive payment. [3] Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

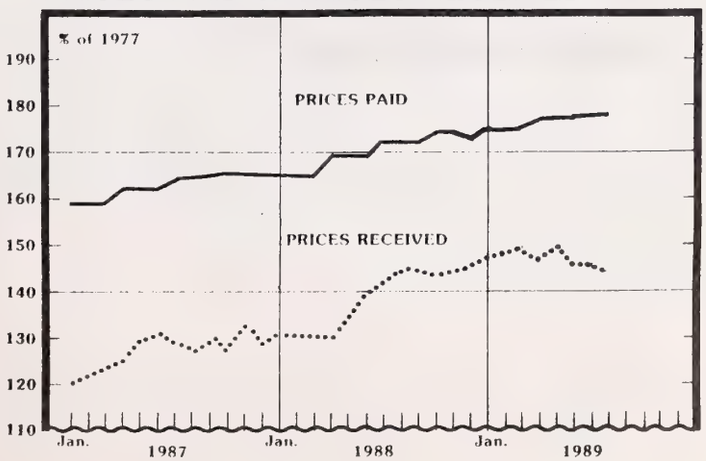
INDEX 1977=100	July 1988	Aug. 1988	July 1989	Aug. 1989
Prices Received	142	144	146	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	172	[2] 172	178	[3] 178
Ratio [1]	83	84	82	81

[1] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2] July 1988 prices paid index. [3] July 1989 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



WHEAT AND BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1988-May 1989 at 40.4 million bushels was 48 percent below the same period last year. Shipments to eastern destinations totaled .3 million bushels, down 75 percent from last year. Movement to the west was down 48 percent at 39.5 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, received .5 million bushels, down 53 percent from last year. Rail movement amounted to 34.6 million bushels--86 percent of total shipments compared with 90 percent in the 1987-88 period.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1988-May 1989, was 17.2 million bushels, down 14 percent from the same period last year. Shipments to western destinations were down 37 percent and eastern destinations were up 55 percent. Barley hauled by rail was 90 percent of total movement, the same portion as in the 1987-88 period.

WHEAT SHIPPED OUT OF STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE, AND DESTINATION [1]

Agricultural Statistics District	Dec. 1987 -May 1988 All Wheat	December 1988-May 1989 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2]	All Wheat	Dec. 1987 -May 1988 Barley	Dec. 1988 -May 1989 Barley
	--(000) bushels--					
West [3]	2,791	494	1,021	1,515	6,328	4,393
North Central	38,339	13,219	8,615	21,834	8,998	9,244
Northeast	13,982	990	4,739	5,729	1,700	384
Central	14,475	6,928	1,502	8,430	2,911	3,136
South Central	5,326	1,897	262	2,159	83	8
Southeast	2,873	505	203	708	34	51
Trucked East	242	130	43	173	189	403
Trucked West	7,153	3,481	1,704	5,185	1,348	1,053
Trucked Other [4]	444	305	158	463	501	240
Total By Truck	7,839	3,916	1,905	5,821	2,038	1,696
Rail East	1,164	0	175	175	4,067	6,190
Rail West	68,191	20,117	14,237	34,354	13,498	8,352
Rail Other [4]	592	0	25	25	452	978
Total By Rail	69,947	20,117	14,437	34,554	18,017	15,520
Total Wheat Shipped	77,786	24,033	16,342	40,375	20,055	17,216

[1] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2] Includes durum. [3] Northwest and Southwest combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4] Other and unknown.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Potato Disposition

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
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HIGHLIGHTS:

All Hay County Estimates
Farm Labor
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter

JULY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds of red meat in July 1989. This production is down 15 percent from last month, and down 12 percent from July 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,300 head is down 100 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 938 pounds, down 10 percent from last July. Hog slaughter, at 2,200 head is down 200 head from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered at 233 pounds, was down 3 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in July 1989 totaled 3.05 billion pounds, down 4 percent from July 1988. January-July red meat production, at 22.5 billion pounds was nearly the same as last year. The percentage changes from 1988 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, down 8; pork, up 3; lamb and mutton, up 2. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed August 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.57 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below August 1, 1987.

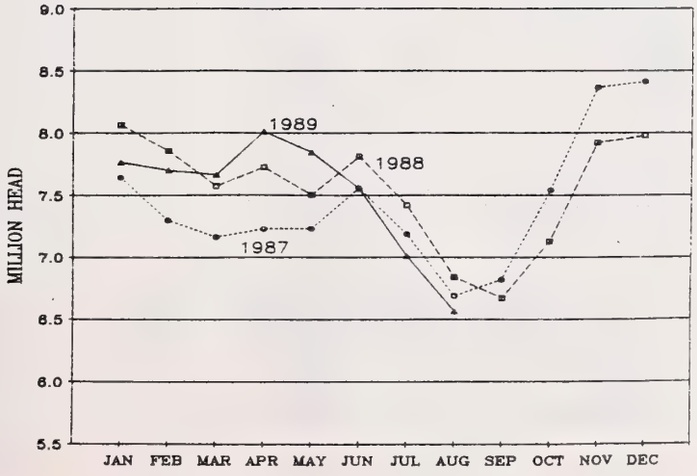
Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.69 million, down 4 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during July totaled 1.31 million, up 5 percent from last year and 3 percent above July 1987. Net Placements of 1.25 million for July is 5 percent above last year and 4 percent above 1987.

Other disappearance totaled 63.0 thousand head compared to 62.0 thousand in July 1988 and 71.0 thousand in July 1987.

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1988

COUNTY & DISTRICT	TOTAL			IRRIGATED		NOT IRRIGATED	
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre
		-----Tons-----			-Tons-		-Tons-
Deerlodge	9,000	1.9	17,000	9,000	1.9	0	0.0
Flathead	31,000	2.1	64,500	18,000	2.6	13,000	1.3
Granite	30,000	1.6	48,500	29,000	1.6	1,000	1.0
Lake	61,000	2.3	140,200	50,000	2.5	11,000	1.5
Lincoln	12,000	1.8	22,000	8,500	2.2	3,500	0.9
Mineral	3,500	1.2	4,300	1,500	1.9	2,000	0.8
Missoula	21,500	2.2	47,500	20,000	2.3	1,500	1.0
Powell	48,000	1.5	74,000	44,000	1.6	4,000	0.6
Ravalli	42,000	2.4	101,500	40,000	2.5	2,000	1.3
Sanders	32,000	1.5	48,000	20,000	2.1	12,000	0.6
NORTHWEST	**290,000**	**2.0**	**567,500**	**240,000**	**2.1**	**50,000**	**1.1**
Blaine	24,000	1.3	31,000	16,000	1.8	8,000	0.4
Chouteau	19,500	1.0	19,500	10,500	1.6	9,000	0.3
Glacier	19,000	1.1	20,500	10,000	1.6	9,000	0.5
Hill	12,000	1.0	11,500	5,500	1.7	6,500	0.3
Liberty	3,500	1.1	3,700	1,300	1.8	2,200	0.6
Phillips	48,000	1.2	57,500	29,000	1.8	19,000	0.3
Pondera	18,000	1.9	33,600	13,000	2.4	5,000	0.6
Teton	34,000	1.8	61,900	27,500	2.2	6,500	0.3
Toole	7,000	0.8	5,800	2,200	2.0	4,800	0.3
NORTH CENTRAL	**185,000**	**1.3**	**245,000**	**115,000**	**1.9**	**70,000**	**0.4**
Daniels	16,000	0.5	8,000	1,500	2.0	14,500	0.3
Dawson	25,000	0.9	22,500	7,500	2.0	17,500	0.4
Garfield	16,500	0.8	13,000	6,000	1.6	10,500	0.3
McCone	26,500	0.7	19,000	6,000	1.7	20,500	0.4
Richland	28,000	1.1	31,000	11,500	2.2	16,500	0.4
Roosevelt	33,000	0.8	25,000	8,500	1.9	24,500	0.4
Sheridan	27,000	0.7	19,000	4,000	2.1	23,000	0.5
Valley	53,000	1.3	71,500	35,000	1.8	18,000	0.5
NORTHEAST	**225,000**	**0.9**	**209,000**	**80,000**	**1.9**	**145,000**	**0.4**
Broadwater	22,000	2.3	51,600	20,900	2.4	1,100	1.0
Cascade	42,000	0.9	39,500	11,000	2.2	31,000	0.5
Fergus	91,000	0.9	81,000	17,500	1.9	73,500	0.6
Golden Valley	10,000	1.5	14,800	6,000	2.0	4,000	0.7
Judith Basin	42,000	0.8	34,000	6,000	1.8	36,000	0.6
Lewis & Clark	33,000	1.7	56,000	23,000	2.1	10,000	0.8
Meagher	35,000	1.4	48,500	28,000	1.6	7,000	0.6
Musselshell	16,000	1.3	21,000	8,000	2.0	8,000	0.6
Petroleum	11,000	1.6	17,500	6,700	2.2	4,300	0.6
Wheatland	13,000	2.0	26,100	11,900	2.1	1,100	1.0
CENTRAL	**315,000**	**1.2**	**390,000**	**139,000**	**2.0**	**176,000**	**0.6**
Beaverhead	145,000	2.0	287,000	142,000	2.0	3,000	0.7
Gallatin	72,000	2.4	173,500	58,000	2.8	14,000	1.0
Jefferson	27,000	2.1	58,000	26,000	2.2	1,000	1.0
Madison	99,000	2.2	221,000	96,000	2.3	3,000	0.7
Silver Bow	7,000	2.0	14,000	7,000	2.0	0	0.0
SOUTHWEST	**350,000**	**2.2**	**753,500**	**329,000**	**2.2**	**21,000**	**0.9**
Big Horn	56,000	1.4	77,300	18,500	2.6	37,500	0.8
Carbon	50,000	1.8	89,100	35,600	2.3	14,400	0.6
Park	57,000	1.7	99,200	51,000	1.9	6,000	0.5
Stillwater	49,000	1.1	55,000	20,000	2.1	29,000	0.5
Sweet Grass	44,000	1.6	70,500	35,000	1.9	9,000	0.5
Treasure	11,000	2.0	22,100	7,900	2.5	3,100	0.7
Yellowstone	43,000	1.7	73,800	23,000	2.7	20,000	0.6
SOUTH CENTRAL	**310,000**	**1.6**	**487,000**	**191,000**	**2.2**	**119,000**	**0.6**
Carter	19,000	0.6	11,900	4,500	1.6	14,500	0.3
Custer	19,000	1.6	31,000	12,000	2.4	7,000	0.3
Fallon	16,000	0.7	10,900	3,500	2.1	12,500	0.3
Powder River	17,000	1.0	17,000	7,500	1.9	9,500	0.3
Prairie	13,000	1.2	15,600	6,000	2.3	7,000	0.2
Rosebud	33,000	1.4	47,600	21,000	1.9	12,000	0.6
Wibaux	8,000	0.5	4,000	1,500	1.8	6,500	0.2
SOUTHEAST	**125,000**	**1.1**	**138,000**	**56,000**	**2.1**	**69,000**	**0.3**
MONTANA	**1,800,000**	**1.6**	**2,790,000**	**1,150,000**	**2.1**	**650,000**	**0.6**

NUMBER OF WORKERS UP, WAGE RATES INCREASE

There were 3.80 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9 - 15, 1989. This number was up 8 percent from the 3.52 million workers during the comparable week in 1988. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.63 million of the total, along with 623,000 unpaid workers, and 1.20 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees made up the remaining 351,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average rate of $5.23 per hour during the July 1989 survey week. This rate was up 33 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.08 per hour compared with $4.72 last July. Field workers received an average of $4.96 per hour, up 33 cents from the July 1988 week. Livestock workers earned $4.79 compared with $4.50 per hour a year earlier.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 41.7 hours, 2.7 hours less than the comparable week in 1988. Unpaid workers averaged 38.4 hours, 1.1 hours above last year. Hired employees worked 39.6 hours compared with 37.4 hours last July.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 45 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. This compares with 44 percent during the July 1988 survey week. Data from the farm costs and returns survey showed that the value of benefits including insurance and retirement, FICA and other compensation, taxes, housing, and non-cash perquisites represented 17 percent of the total farm and ranch expenditures for farm labor in 1988. This percent compares with 15 percent in 1987.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS BY STATES AND REGIONS, JULY 9-15, 1989 1/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	Field	Live-stock	Field & Livetock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--							
NORTHEAST I	5.19	4.33	4.82	7.16	3/	5.35	4.71	4.71
NORTHEAST II	5.00	4.46	4.93	8.26	6.75	5.20	3/	5.55
APPALACHIAN I	4.03	4.58	4.15	6.40	3/	4.08	3/	5.07
APPALACHIAN II	4.43	4.69	4.54	6.68	3/	4.65	3/	4.84
SOUTHEAST	4.24	4.50	4.29	7.81	3/	4.07	6.69	4.92
FLORIDA	4.88	5.21	4.93	9.42	7.59	4.89	5.73	7.55
LAKE	4.37	4.21	4.31	7.01	3/	4.77	3/	4.08
CORN BELT	4.53	5.17	4.68	6.80	3/	4.58	3/	5.52
CORN BELT II	5.20	4.85	5.12	6.42	5.12	4.99	3/	5.50
DELTA	4.14	4.10	4.13	6.21	3/	4.02	4.66	4.98
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.10	4.53	5.03	7.14	3/	4.89	8.48	4.66
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.47	4.88	4.65	8.55	3/	4.79	3/	5.18
MOUNTAIN I	4.67	4.28	4.57	5.60	3/	4.70	6.39	4.41
MOUNTAIN II	4.03	4.81	4.38	4.85	3/	4.91	3.25	4.11
MOUNTAIN III	4.13	4.63	4.29	8.40	6.87	4.52	3/	5.69
PACIFIC	4.71	6.02	4.86	8.19	8.48	5.04	4.59	6.26
CALIFORNIA	5.90	6.58	5.96	10.80	9.07	5.95	7.65	9.19
HAWAII	8.02	3/	7.94	12.69	8.51	7.98	3/	11.52
U.S.	4.96	4.79	4.92	7.98	7.53	5.08	6.08	5.49

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT; NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA; APPALACHAIN I: NC, VA; APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV; SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC; LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORN BELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORN BELT II: IA, MO; DELTA: AR, LA, MS; NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD; SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX; MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY; MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT; MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM; PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data.

JULY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during July totaled 10.3 billion pounds, 2 percent below production in these same states in July 1988. June revised production, at 10.4 billion pounds, was 1 percent below June 1988.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,213 pounds for July, 9 pounds below July 1988.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.50 million head, 104 thousand head below July 1988 and 4 thousand head below June 1989.

During the April-June period the 21 major states produced 32.3 billion pounds of milk, 85.1 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.1 billion pounds for July 1989.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Dairy Products
Wheat & Barley Movement
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

JULY EGG PRODUCTION AND LAYER NUMBERS DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.63 billion during July 1989, down 2 percent from the 5.72 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.89 billion for table eggs and 738 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during July averaged 265 million, down 2 percent from the 270 million a year ago. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,123 eggs, compared with 2,120 in July 1988.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 1989 totaled 264 million, compared with 270 million a year ago. The 264 million layers consisted of 226 million for table or commercial type eggs and 37.9 million for hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 1989 averaged 68.1 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from a year ago, and from the 68.7 on July 1, 1989.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.65 billion eggs during July, down 2 percent from the 4.75 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during July averaged 220 million, down 2 percent from the 225 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly States were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 States making monthly surveys. These monthly States accounted for about 83 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, March 1989 through May 1989.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat & Barley Varieties
Cattle Inventory
Ag Prices Received
Dairy Products
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

WHEAT and BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat and barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the **Montana Wheat & Barley Committee** and the American Malting Barley Improvement Association, Inc. A more detailed varietal report may be obtained from our office upon request.

MONTANA, August 1, 1989
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1987	1988	1989
Northwest	84	69	86
N.Central	76	23	90
Northeast	86	23	71
Central	84	41	95
Southwest	94	47	78
S.Central	80	39	95
Southeast	79	18	90
STATE	83	36	88

JUNE U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

U. S. dairy plants produced 50.6 million pounds of creamed cottage cheese in June, down 1 percent from last month and down 11 percent from June 1988. Lowfat cottage cheese output, at 26.4 million pounds, was 3 percent below last month, but 2 percent above last year.

June ice cream production was 83.5 million gallons, down 7 percent from last year. Sherbet production at 5.59 million gallons, was down 2 percent from a year ago.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES: 1984-89 1/ & BARLEY 1985-89

VARIETY	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1984	1986	1987	1988	1989
WINTER WHEAT					
Neeley	1.3	9.0	13.7	25.5	23.8
Redwin	34.6	25.9	21.5	19.6	19.5
Rocky	11.1	9.0	8.7	9.0	12.2
Winalta	13.4	13.8	11.2	9.8	9.0
Norstar	11.7	12.7	11.3	8.7	7.7
Cree	--	2.6	4.2	2.9	3.3
Centurk	6.6	7.2	6.1	3.3	3.1
Tiber	--	--	--	0.3	1.9
Weston	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.7
Roughrider	4.0	2.6	4.5	4.1	1.6
Cheyenne	5.1	2.4	3.4	1.7	1.4
Hawk	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6	1.3
Norwin	--	--	0.8	2.2	1.2
Agassiz	--	0.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
Other & Unknown	11.6	13.5	12.4	9.6	11.3
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
SPRING WHEAT					
Newana	21.8	22.9	21.0	16.2	19.7
Len	12.4	11.9	11.3	15.1	15.2
Fortuna	12.0	18.2	19.7	11.8	14.6
Lew	10.0	11.5	10.4	10.4	10.2
Rambo	--	--	0.4	6.6	9.0
Stoa	--	4.4	4.2	10.3	7.9
Olaf	9.5	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.8
Pondera	2.3	1.9	3.0	1.8	2.4
Glenman	--	0.3	1.7	1.1	2.4
Tioga	2.9	1.5	3.8	3.1	1.1
Leader	0.1	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.1
Other & Unknown	29.0	20.9	17.3	16.8	10.6
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
DURUM WHEAT					
Vic	36.9	29.6	52.1	29.7	28.1
Ward	22.0	19.5	12.3	17.0	19.1
Westbred Laker	--	0.3	3.0	4.0	14.4
Monroe	--	--	0.3	6.1	8.2
Medora	--	--	1.4	8.6	8.1
Cando	3.7	1.9	3.4	1.8	6.5
Crosby	9.8	8.3	9.9	14.7	6.4
Lloyd	2.1	16.6	4.1	6.6	4.6
Other & Unknown	25.5	23.8	13.5	11.5	4.6
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

1/ 1985 data not available.

BARLEY	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Hector	32.9	33.9	31.9	31.8	30.4
Harrington	--	1.9	9.4	10.5	15.6
Klages	8.6	11.5	14.6	11.0	9.9
Piroline	20.1	18.7	13.0	11.3	7.3
Clark	15.8	16.7	10.9	6.7	6.8
Gallatin	--	--	0.1	2.6	5.6
Bowman	--	1.7	2.9	5.1	3.1
Lewis	--	0.6	1.8	3.2	2.5
Kimberly	3.0	1.1	2.7	2.5	2.5
Morex	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.9	2.2
Horsford	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.6
AB 2601	--	--	--	--	1.4
AB 1202	--	--	--	0.3	1.2
Moravian III	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.2
Menuet	1.8	1.8	2.2	1.7	1.1
Other & Unknown	14.9	10.2	8.0	9.7	7.6
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

PLEASE RETURN

AUGUST 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's wheat crop was forecast on August 1 to be 151.2 million bushels, down 5 percent from the July 1 estimate. Heat and scanty rainfall, especially in the eastern part of the state, reduced hard spring wheat to 88.4 million bushels, down 7 percent from July, while durum at 6.7 million is down 20 percent. Winter wheat, however, remains unchanged at 56.1 million bushels. The state's all wheat crop is 2.5 times greater than last year. Yield prospects on August 1 were 33 bushels per acre for winter wheat, 26 bushels for hard spring wheat and 20 bushels for durum.

Barley is forecast to be 65.6 million bushels, down 9 percent from the July 1 forecast. Barley yield is estimated to be 41 bushels per acre. Oats production is forecast at 6.5 million bushels, down 10 percent. Hay production in Montana, at 4.36 million tons is over 1.5 times larger than last year and the highest production since 1982. Alfalfa is forecast at 2.86 million tons, while other hay is estimated to be 1.5 million tons.

Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at 2.04 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 1988, but 3 percent below July 1. Average yield at 32.6 bushels per acre is 0.8 bushel less than July 1 and 1.5 bushels below last year. Barley production is forecast at 392 million bushels, down 12 percent from last month, but 35 percent above the drought reduced crop of 1988. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 45.8 bushels compared with last season's average of 38.6 bushels. All hay production for 1989 is forecast at 145 million tons, an increase of 14 percent from last year's drought reduced output. Higher yields are only partially offset by lower acreage.

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1988	1989[1]	1988	1989[1]	1988	1989[1]	1988	1989[1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,450	2,500	2,100	1,700	19.0	33.0	39,900	56,100
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	340	230	335	9.0	20.0	2,070	6,700
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,000	3,500	1,500	3,400	12.0	26.0	18,000	88,400
All Wheat	Bu.	4,730	6,340	3,830	5,435	15.7	27.8	59,970	151,200
Corn for Grain[2]	Bu.	90	80	20	15	110.0	110.0	2,200	1,650
Oats	Bu.	210	250	90	145	31.0	45.0	2,790	6,525
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,700	1,250	1,600	24.0	41.0	30,000	65,600
Dry Beans	Cwt.	4.4	6.0	4.0	5.9	19.0	22.0	76	130
Sugarbeets	Ton	49.6	52.3	48.9	52.2	21.1	21.5	1,032	1,122
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	280.0	--	2,156	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,300	1.90	2.20	2,090	2,860
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	700	1,000	1.00	1.50	700	1,500
All Hay	Ton	--	--	1,800	2,300	1.55	1.90	2,790	4,360
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,800	55,233	39,785	41,890	39.2	35.0	1,560,970	1,466,049
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,336	3,691	2,847	3,573	15.7	25.4	44,831	90,670
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,393	17,833	10,542	17,214	19.5	28.3	205,460	487,409
All Wheat	Bu.	65,529	76,757	53,174	62,677	34.1	32.6	1,811,261	2,044,128
Corn for Grain[2]	Bu.	67,619	72,320	58,164	65,154	84.6	112.8	4,921,191	7,348,155
Oats	Bu.	13,927	12,142	5,590	7,280	39.1	52.3	218,773	380,690
Barley	Bu.	9,676	9,283	7,535	8,562	38.6	45.8	290,505	392,141
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,498.4	1,842.8	1,366.0	1,790.7	14.08	13.89	19,230	24,873
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,327.2	1,344.1	1,300.7	1,322.1	19.1	20.1	24,810	26,615
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,078.9	1,086.4	1,059.5	1,063.5	290.0	--	307,181	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	26,695	25,542	2.60	3.04	69,282	77,633
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	38,864	37,376	1.48	1.81	57,535	67,539
All Hay	Ton	--	--	65,559	62,918	1.93	2.31	126,817	145,172

[1] Preliminary [2] Planted for all purposes

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1989[1]

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1988	1989[2]	Chg.	1988	1989[2]	Chg.	1988	1989[2]	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
Northwest	987.0	645.0	- 35	530.0	1,100.0	+108	2,355.0	3,500.0	+ 49
North Central	18,857.0	28,785.0	+ 53	9,128.0	56,574.0	+520	14,646.0	35,000.0	+139
Northeast	3,233.0	3,450.0	+ 7	7,229.0	26,482.0	+266	1,930.0	7,000.0	+263
Central	9,840.0	12,920.0	+ 31	1,288.0	4,974.0	+286	4,956.0	10,400.0	+110
Southwest	1,630.0	1,100.0	- 32	934.0	966.0	+ 3	2,861.0	4,000.0	+ 40
South Central	4,059.0	6,600.0	+ 63	469.0	1,036.0	+121	2,894.0	3,800.0	+ 31
Southeast	1,294.0	2,600.0	+101	492.0	3,968.0	+707	358.0	1,900.0	+431
STATE	39,900.0	56,100.0	+ 41	20,070.0	95,100.0	+374	30,000.0	65,600.0	+119

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS SLIGHTLY LOWER

Montana crop prices dipped during July while livestock prices mostly went up. Harvest pressure lowered the all wheat price to $3.89 per bushel, 21 cents under June, but 21 cents above a year ago in July. Hay prices sagged $18.00 during July to $67.00 per ton. Barley prices decreased only 6 cents to $2.35 per bushel. Steers and heifers were off $1.60 per cwt to $69.70, but cows went up $1.60 to $48.00. Calves went up $1.10 to $88.80. Hogs gained 90 cents to $37.70 per cwt.

The all farm products index of prices received by Montana farmers for July at 165 (1977=100) is 5 points under June but 2 points above a year ago. The all crops index at 160 is 10 points under June, but is 4 points above July 1988.

The livestock and products index at 170 is unchanged from June and 1 point above a year ago.

Nationally, the all farm products index of prices received by farmers for July decreased 1 point from the previous month to 146 percent of its 1977 average. Compared with a year earlier, the index was up 4 points. The July all crops index was 134, down 2.9 percent from last month and 2.2 percent from last year. The July livestock and poultry index, at 156, was down 0.6 percent from June, but 6.1 percent above July a year ago.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1988	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1989	MONTANA July 15, 1989	U.S. July 15, 1989
		----------	Dollars	----------	
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.30	4.09	3.85	3.77
Durum	Bu.	5.07	4.11	3.80	3.71
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.74	4.12	3.95	3.84
All Wheat	Bu.	3.68	4.10	3.89	3.78
Barley, All	Bu.	2.67	2.41	2.35	2.21
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.10
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.50
Oats	Bu.	2.42	1.90	1.70	1.65
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	86.00	68.00	91.40
All Other Hay	Ton	61.00	73.00	60.00	65.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	85.00	67.00	85.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	69.50	71.30	69.70	71.50
Cows	Cwt.	46.30	46.40	48.00	49.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	53.30	55.10	54.50	67.60
Calves	Cwt.	92.90	87.70	88.80	95.00
Sheep	Cwt.	24.40	23.40	24.60	21.90
Lambs	Cwt.	61.30	68.50	67.60	69.20
Hogs	Cwt.	38.20	36.80	37.70	46.00
All Milk	Cwt.	11.35	12.35	12.45	12.40
Eggs	Doz.	.56	.64	.70	.64
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.67	1.30	1.30	1.20
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	163	170	165	146
All Crops	Pct.	156	170	160	134
Livestock & Products	Pct.	169	170	170	156

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	June 1988	July 1988	June 1989	July 1989
Prices Received	139	142	147	146
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/168	172	3/177	178
Ratio 1/	83	83	83	82

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.
2/ April 1988 prices paid index.
3/ April 1989 prices paid index.

FARM NUMBERS SHOW UPWARD TREND

The number of farms in Montana, at 24,700, continues the trend--started in 1975--of slightly increased numbers. Revision to numbers from 1983-1988 were necessary after the 1987 Census of Agriculture showed an increase in farm numbers. Two major factors that contributed to increased farm numbers are: 1) small units created by splitting up large operations as more part-time operators get into farming and ranching and 2) restructuring to meet eligibility requirements of the farm program.

There are 60.6 million acres in farms and ranches in Montana in 1989, down from 60.7 in 1988. The average size of operation, at 2,453 acres, declined slightly from 2,467 acres in 1988.

	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
Year	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms
	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres
1982	24.0	61.5	2,563	2406.6	1027.8	427
1983	24.1	61.3	2,544	2378.6	1023.4	430
1984	24.2	61.1	2,525	2333.8	1017.8	436
1985	24.3	61.0	2,510	2292.5	1012.1	441
1986	24.4	60.9	2,496	2249.8	1005.3	447
1987	24.5	60.8	2,482	2213.0	998.9	451
1988	24.6	60.7	2,467	2197.1	994.5	453
1989	24.7	60.6	2,453	2172.9	991.5	456

U.S. CATTLE NUMBERS UNCHANGED

All **cattle and calves** in the United States as of July 1, 1989, totaled 108.6 million head, virtually unchanged from July 1, 1988, but 1 percent below the 109.5 million two years ago. This stops the seven year trend of a declining cattle inventory.

All **cows and heifers** that have calved, at 44.3 million, were unchanged from a year ago but down fractionally from 44.4 million two years ago.

-- Beef cows, at 34.2 million, were up slightly from July 1, 1988 and 1 percent above July 1, 1987.

-- Milk cows, at 10.1 million, were 1 percent below July 1, 1988, and 3 percent below two years ago.

The 1989 calf crop is expected to be 40.7 million, down fractionally from 1988 but up 2 percent from 1987. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 29.3 million, down slightly from a year ago but up 2 percent from 1987.

CATTLE & CALVES: Number by Class & Calf Crop, United States, July 1, 1987-89

Class	1987	1988	1989	1989 as % 1988
		1,000 Head		Percent
Cattle and calves	109,500	108,500	108,600	100
Cows and heifers that have calved:	44,400	44,300	44,300	100
Beef cows	34,000	34,050	34,200	100
Milk cows	10,400	10,250	10,100	99
Heifers 500 pounds and over	17,000	16,500	16,700	101
For beef cow replacement	4,800	4,800	5,000	104
For milk cow replacement	4,600	4,400	4,500	102
Other heifers	7,600	7,300	7,200	99
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,800	14,500	14,500	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,200	2,200	2,200	100
Calves under 500 pounds	31,100	31,000	30,900	100
Calf crop 1/	40,086	40,872	40,700	100

1/ for the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
All Hay County Estimates
Farm Labor
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Quarterly Milk Production
Mink
Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Featuring Big Horn County

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 6 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed July 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly States totaled 8.46 million head, down 6 percent from July 1, 1988, and down 2 percent from 1987.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.31 million steers and steer calves, 8 percent below last year and 5 percent below 1987. This group represented 63 percent of the total July number on feed, compared to 64 percent last year and 65 percent in 1987. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.10 million, 3 percent below a year ago but up 2 percent from 1987.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June 1989 quarter totaled 5.18 million, down 12 percent from the comparable period in both 1988 and 1987. This is the smallest second quarter placements since 1975. Other disappearance of 415 thousand head leaves net placements at 4.76 million, compared with 5.48 In 1988.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 5.99 million, 2 percent above 1988 and 7 percent above the same period in 1987. Cattle feeders expect to market 6.04 million head during the July-September quarter of 1989. This would be down 2 percent from the third quarter marketings in 1988 and fractionally above 1987.

CROP CONDITIONS IMPROVE

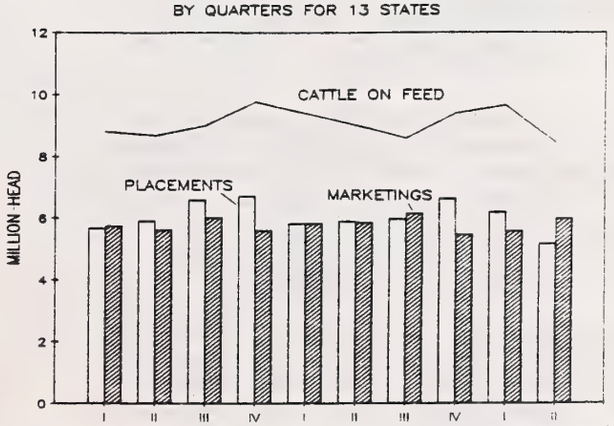
Most of Montana received some rain again last week and as a result, crop conditions improved. Showers throughout the week helped push crop prospects higher. Winter wheat was rated 74% good to excellent while spring wheat, oats, and barley were 2/3 to 3/4 good to excellent.

Grain crops are rapidly turning color indicating a change from active growth to ripening and maturity. Farmers will soon start harvesting winter wheat. About 11% of the winter wheat is ripe while about 2/3 is turning color. Last year, nearly 60% of the winter wheat was already harvested. The spring planted grains are still mostly green, but about 1/4 are turning color. Due to the cool, wet spring, crops are about two weeks behind normal in maturity.

About 90% of the first cutting alfalfa hay has been harvested. Haying is running behind normal along with the growth and harvest of grain crops.

Livestock are doing well and pastures are mostly in good shape. We're thankful for the good weather and sufficient moisture so far this year, and we're optimistic about yield prospects. The forecast calls for above normal temperatures through July with normal to below normal precipitation. The next crop production report will be released on August 10.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



PLEASE RETURN

MINK PELT PRODUCTION UP 8 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the **United States** in 1988 totaled 4.45 million pelts, up 8 percent from 1987. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 1.12 million pelts. Estimates for Montana are not published separately.

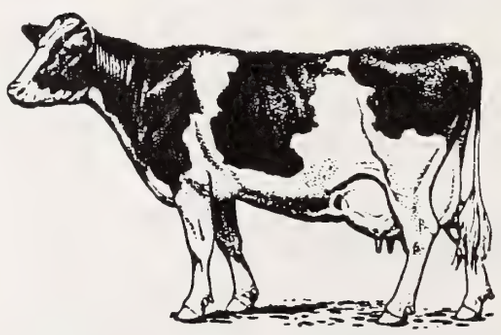
By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: Standard - 43.8 percent; Demi-buff -11.7 percent; Mahogany - 11.6 percent; Ranch Wild - 11.0 percent; Gunmetal - 6.7 percent; Pastel - 4.2 percent and White - 2.2 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.8 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1988 crop year were valued at $143.8 million dollars, down 19 percent from the $177.2 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1988 crop year was $32.30, compared with $43.00 in 1987 and $41.30 in 1986.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1989 totaled 1.12 million, up fractionally from 1988. Females bred for the three major color classes are: Standard - 585 thousand; Ranch Wild - 132 and Demi-Buff - 113 thousand. Females bred in the leading States are: Wisconsin - 304 thousand; Utah - 225 thousand and Minnesota - 132 thousand.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1989 by color class are: Standard - 48.7 percent; Ranch Wild - 11.0 percent; Demi-Buff - 9.4 percent; Mahogany - 8.2 percent; Gunmetal - 7.4 percent; Pastel 3.5 percent; and Violet-Type 3.1 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.7 percent.

There were 1,027 mink farms producing pelts in 1988 unchanged from a year ago. Leading States were Wisconsin with 209 farms, Utah with 175 farms and Minnesota with 142.



NATION'S JUNE EGG PRODUCTION AND LAYER NUMBERS DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.48 billion during June 1989, down 2 percent from the 5.57 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.76 billion for table eggs and 723 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during June averaged 266 million, down 2 percent from the 271 million a year ago. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,060 eggs, compared with 2,053 in June 1988.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1989 totaled 266 million, compared with 269 million a year ago. The 266 million layers consisted of 227 million for table or commercial type eggs and 38.3 million for hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1989 averaged 68.7 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 68.3 for July 1, 1988, and 68.6 on June 1, 1989.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.53 billion eggs during June, down 2 percent from the 4.63 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during June averaged 221 million, down 2 percent from the 226 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly States were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states making monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 83 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, March through May 1989.

QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION

Montana's milk production during the April-June quarter of 1989 was 88 million pounds, down 2 percent from the same period last year, but up 5 percent from the first quarter of 1989. Milk cow numbers held steady with 25,000 head.

Grain and other concentrates fed daily per cow averaged 14.5 pounds compared with 15.5 pounds on July 1, 1988. The average value per 100 pounds of concentrate ration fed to milk cows was $7.40 on July 1, 1989, compared with $6.90 last July.

The quarterly production of milk for the **U.S.** was 38.0 billion pounds, up slightly from April-June 1988.

The average number of cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 10.1 million head, 1 percent below April -June 1988 and was down slightly from January-March 1989.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1989 averaged 17.1 pounds, 0.3 pounds more than on July 1, 1988.

Value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on July 1, 1989 averaged $8.22 per hundredweight, $0.24 per hundredweight more than July 1, 1988.

NATIONAL SMALL GRAIN SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 17-23, 1989

Winter wheat harvest was 80% complete, 3 points behind normal. Harvest advanced 40 points in Ohio, 29 points in Colorado, 21 points in Indiana, and 20 points in Nebraska. In Kansas, harvest reached 99% complete. Early harvest activities continued in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. Montana's winter wheat harvest had not begun.

Spring wheat condition was mostly fair. Dry conditions in North Dakota further stressed spring wheat fields. Harvest had begun in three of the five major producing States, as 2% of the crop has been harvested which is 4 points behind normal.

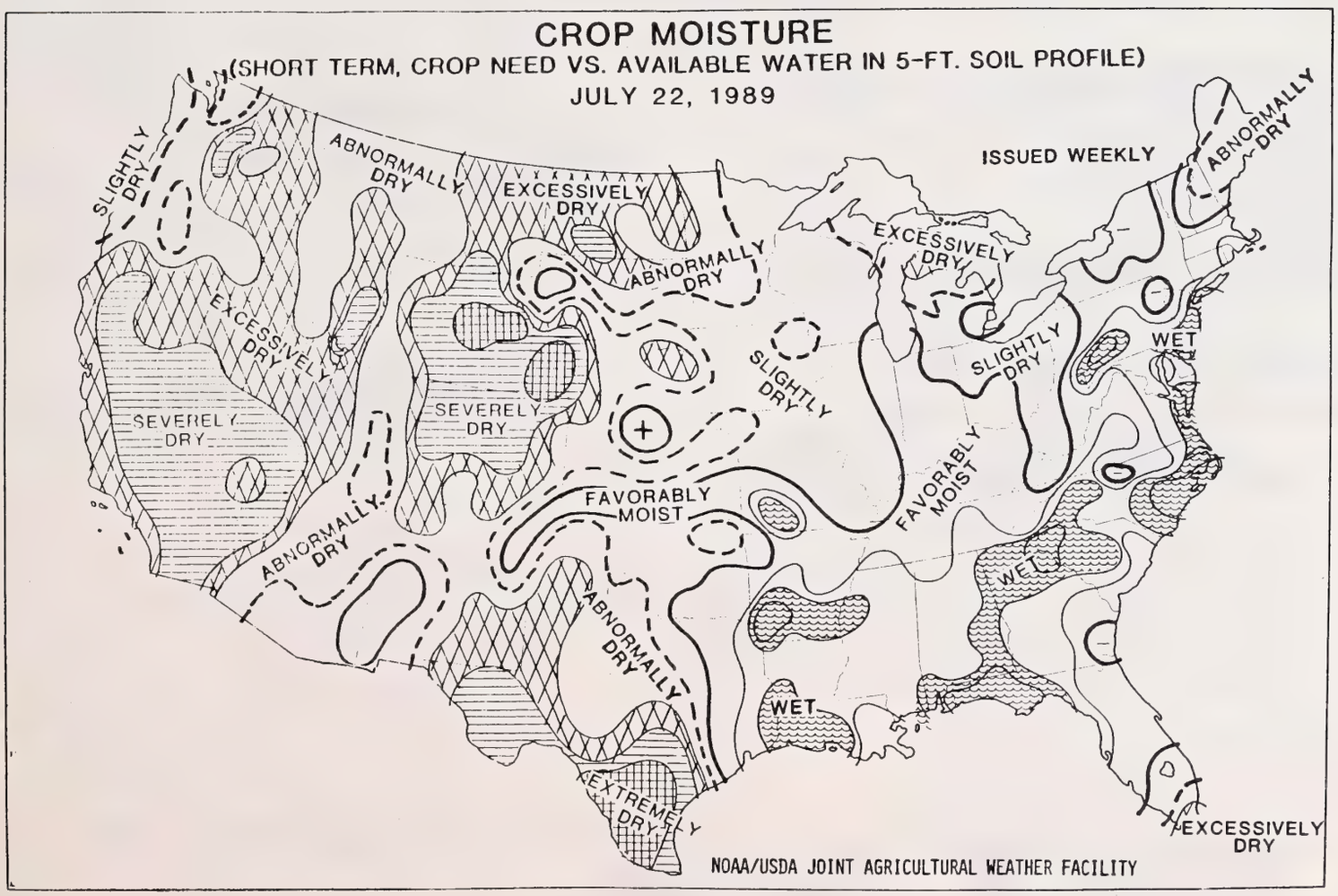
SOURCE: WEEKLY WEATHER & CROP BULLETIN.

JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

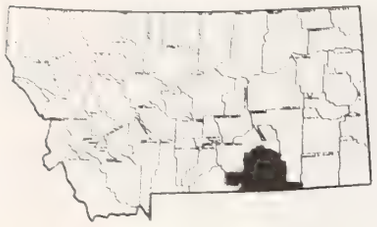
Montana slaughter plants produced 1.28 million pounds of red meat in June 1989. This production is up 15 percent from last month, but down 11 percent from June 1988. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, was down 100 head from last year.

The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,075 pounds, unchanged from last year. June hog slaughter at 2,200 head, unchanged from a year ago. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered, at 233 pounds, was down 2 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in June 1989 totaled 3.34 billion pounds, up 1 percent from June 1988. January-June red meat production, at 19.5 billion pounds was up 1 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1988 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 2; Veal, down 7; Pork, up 4; Lamb and Mutton, up 2. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.



*featuring . . .*BIG HORN COUNTY



Big Horn County was created in January 1913 and occupies approximately 3,188,812 acres of land along the Montana/Wyoming border in south central Montana. The Crow Indian Reservation is almost entirely contained within the boundaries of Big Horn County, as well as half of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Big Horn Lake makes up a section of the western border of the county, and the Big Horn River flows from the north end of the lake at the Yellowtail Dam. The river continues north, is joined by the Little Big Horn River in north central Big Horn County, and eventually empties into the Yellowstone River just outside the county's northern boundary. The Rosebud Mountain range occupies a portion of the eastern half of the county, while the Big Horn Mountains lie in the southwestern corner.

Big Horn County was the second largest cattle raising county in the state in 1987. It came in 25th for hog numbers in 1986 and 25th in the sheep inventory on January 1, 1987.

Major crops grown in the area include hay, winter wheat, and barley. The county ranked 9th, 8th, and 21st, respectively, for these crops in the 1987 crop production rankings. Big Horn County also came in 24th for spring wheat, and 35th for oats.

The large number of cattle raised, along with the other livestock and livestock products, returned $36,405,000 to the county in 1987. Crop production contributed $19,231,000 and government payments added $5,218,000. This made for a total of $60,854,000 in all cash receipts for Big Horn County in 1987.

BIG HORN COUNTY, MONTANA 1/

Land Area (1982)	Acres	3,188,812			
Land in Farms	Acres	2,759,309	Irrigated Land	Acres	57,638
Number of Farms		501	Cropland	Acres	386,472
Average-size Farms	Acres	5,508			
			LIVESTOCK		
CROPS					
			All Cattle &		
All Hay	Acres	74,593	Calves	No. Head	135,820
All Wheat	Acres	102,913	Stock Sheep &		
Barley	Acres	26,410	Lambs	No. Head	3,899
			Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	5,962

1/ Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture unless stated otherwise.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Wheat & Barley Varieties
- Cattle Inventory
- Ag Prices Received
- Dairy Products
- Crop Production
  - Grains & Hay
  - Pasture & Range
- Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Pasture & Range
Manufactured Dairy
Hog & Pig Inventory
Crop Production
Small Grains
Ag Prices Received
Grain Stocks

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

- Montana's all wheat at 159.7 million is 166% more than last year and the fourth highest production on record.

- The forecasted wheat production, if realized, will put Montana at number three for the Nation, behind Kansas and North Dakota.

- Montana lost 800,000 acres of winter wheat to winterkill but gained 1,500,000 more acres of spring wheat than a year ago. Total wheat acres for harvest are 42% more than a year ago.

- Barley production at 72 million bushels is up 140% from last year but 24% under the record set in 1987.

- Total expected harvested acres of small grains at 7.2 million is 39 percent more than last year.

- Acres of hay for harvest, at 2.3 million, are up 28 percent from 1988. Expected alfalfa hay for harvest is up 18 percent. First forecast of production will be made August 10th.

MAY MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 112,000 gallons of ice cream in May, up 9 percent from April but down 14 percent from May 1988. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 428,000 pounds, was up 81 percent from last month, and up 50 percent from last year. There were 67,000 pounds of lowfat cottage cheese produced, down 64 percent from last month, and down 69 percent from last year.

U.S. HOG & PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1989 was estimated at 55.5 million head. This was 1 percent below a year ago but 6 percent above June 1, 1987.

- Breeding inventory, at 7.33 million head, was 3 percent below last year but 4 percent above two years ago.

- Market hog inventory, at 48.2 million head, was 1 percent below a year ago but 7 percent above two years ago.

U.S. hog producers intend to farrow 6.03 million sows during the June-November period, a slight increase from the actual sows farrowed during 1988 and 4 percent above two years ago.

PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION IS RATED EXCELLENT

Montana's pasture and range feed condition is rated excellent. Moisture during the spring and early summer months was generally adequate, but cool temperatures held back growth early in the season. Overgrazing during last summer's drought created a weed problem on some ranges, but grazing should provide adequate feed for this season.

MONTANA, July 1, 1989
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1987	1988	1989
Northwest	86	83	93
N.Central	78	24	96
Northeast	89	24	84
Central	80	49	96
Southwest	90	71	86
S.Central	83	53	97
Southeast	82	23	93
STATE	83	45	94

PLEASE RETURN

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- JULY 1, 1989

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1988	1989 1/	1988	1989 1/	1988	1989 1/	1988	1989 1/
		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
MONTANA									
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,450	2,500	2,100	1,700	19.0	33.0	39,900	56,100
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	340	230	335	9.0	25.0	2,070	8,375
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,000	3,500	1,500	3,400	12.0	28.0	18,000	95,200
All Wheat	Bu.	4,730	6,340	3,830	5,435	15.7	29.4	59,970	159,675
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	90	80	20	15	110.0	--	2,200	--
Oats	Bu.	210	250	90	145	31.0	50.0	2,790	7,250
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,700	1,250	1,600	24.0	45.0	30,000	72,000
Dry Beans	Cwt.	4.4	6.0	4.0	5.9	19.0	--	76	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	49.6	52.3	48.9	52.9	21.1	--	1,032	--
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	280.0	--	2,156	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,300	1.90	--	2,090	--
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	700	1,000	1.00	--	700	--
All Hay	Ton	--	--	1,800	2,300	1.55	--	2,790	--
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,800	55,233	39,785	42,490	39.2	34.4	1,560,970	1,461,924
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,336	3,691	2,847	3,623	15.7	30.7	44,831	111,290
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,393	17,833	10,542	17,364	19.5	31.3	205,460	544,094
All Wheat	Bu.	65,529	76,757	53,174	63,477	34.1	33.4	1,811,261	2,117,308
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	67,619	72,790	58,164	65,844	84.6	--	4,921,191	--
Oats	Bu.	13,927	12,142	5,590	7,374	39.1	52.6	218,773	387,593
Barley	Bu.	9,676	9,283	7,535	8,662	38.6	51.3	290,505	444,702
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,498.4	1,765.8	1,366.0	1,711.7	14.08	--	19,230	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,327.2	1,330.2	1,300.7	1,314.0	19.1	--	24,794	--
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,078.9	1,086.4	1,059.5	1,063.5	290.0	--	307,181	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	26,695	25,542	2.60	--	69,282	--
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	38,864	37,376	1.48	--	57,535	--
All Hay	Ton	--	--	65,559	62,918	1.93	--	126,817	--

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1989

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1988	Ind. 1989	Chg.	1988	Ind. 1989	Chg.	1988	Ind. 1989	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	987.0	645.0	- 35	530.0	1,200.0	+126	2,355.0	3,960.0	+ 68
N CENT.	18,857.0	27,365.0	+ 45	9,128.0	54,735.0	+500	14,646.0	36,096.0	+146
N EAST	3,233.0	4,200.0	+ 30	7,229.0	36,234.0	+401	1,930.0	10,115.0	+424
CENTRAL	9,840.0	12,540.0	+ 27	1,288.0	5,128.0	+298	4,956.0	10,373.0	+109
S WEST	1,630.0	1,170.0	- 28	934.0	1,073.0	+ 15	2,861.0	4,880.0	+ 71
S CENT.	4,059.0	7,480.0	+ 84	469.0	1,067.0	+128	2,894.0	4,350.0	+ 50
S EAST	1,294.0	2,700.0	+109	492.0	4,138.0	+741	358.0	2,226.0	+522
STATE	39,900.0	56,100.0	+ 41	20,070.0	103,575.0	+416	30,000.0	72,000.0	+140

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jun. 1, 1988	Mar. 1, 1989*	Jun. 1, 1989	Jun. 1, 1988	Mar. 1, 1989*	Jun. 1, 1989
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.8	0.4	0.2	1.8	1.1	0.6
North Central	39.3	32.5	23.0	17.3	11.1	5.8
Northeast	29.1	18.2	12.2	6.3	3.2	2.7
Central	8.5	7.4	4.3	7.9	3.6	1.8
Southwest	1.5	1.9	1.0	1.9	2.0	1.4
South Central	5.8	4.5	2.5	1.8	2.1	2.5
Southeast	4.0	2.5	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.4
STATE	89.0	67.4	45.1	37.9	23.9	15.2

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

JUNE PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 7 POINTS

The June 1989 index of prices received by **Montana** farmers and ranchers declined 7 points from May. The index is still 20 points above last year.

The all crops index and livestock index were both down 7 points from the previous month. Compared with last year, the crops index was still 34 points higher and the livestock index was up 8 points. All crop items and all livestock items except steers, heifers, and hogs were down from last month.

Barley at $2.50 per bu. dropped 22 cents from the May average. Oats, at $2.00, were off 23 cents; spring wheat (other than durum) fell 15 cents; durum dropped 44 cents, winter wheat was down 4 cents. Alfalfa hay was down $17.00 at $86.00 per ton.

In the livestock items, steers and heifers were up 80 cents per cwt. from May, at $73.90 for June and hogs moved up $5.30 to $40.90 per cwt. Cows declined 40 cents, averaging $45.60 per cwt. Calves fell off 80 cents to $85.50. Lambs at $61.50 for June were down $3.60 per cwt. Sheep were off 20 cents per cwt. Milk was down 13 cents per cwt. Eggs and wool were unchanged.

Nationally, the June all farm products index of prices received by farmers decreased 3 points from May to 146 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of tomatoes, cattle, wheat, and corn were partially offset by higher prices for lettuce, hogs, lemons, and strawberries. The index was 7 points above a year ago.

The June hog price was at the highest level since August last year. Most of the increase over last month was caused by strong barrow and gilt prices. Cattle and calf prices were mixed. All feed grain and oil seed prices decreased from May. Wheat prices were down while the rice price increased slightly. Lower broiler prices more than offset slight increases for eggs and turkeys.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1988	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1989	MONTANA June 15, 1989	U.S. June 15, 1989
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.01	3.99	3.95	3.77
Durum	Bu.	4.01	4.44	4.00	3.69
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.26	4.15	4.00	3.91
All Wheat	Bu.	3.25	4.06	3.97	3.78
Barley, All	Bu.	1.84	2.72	2.50	2.22
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.97
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.45
Oats	Bu.	1.99	2.23	2.00	1.84
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	61.00	103.00	86.00	101.00
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	85.00	73.00	68.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	60.00	101.00	85.00	94.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	70.20	73.10	73.90	72.90
Cows	Cwt.	45.10	46.00	45.60	47.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	54.60	60.90	56.90	67.60
Calves	Cwt.	81.80	86.30	85.50	92.70
Sheep	Cwt.	17.30	17.20	17.00	22.50
Lambs	Cwt.	62.50	65.10	61.50	69.80
Hogs	Cwt.	40.50	35.60	40.90	44.20
All Milk	Cwt.	11.20	12.23	12.10	12.10
Eggs	Doz.	.36	.64	.64	.63
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.47	1.30	1.30	1.39
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	150	177	170	146
All Crops	Pct.	133	174	167	137
Livestock & Products	Pct.	164	179	172	155

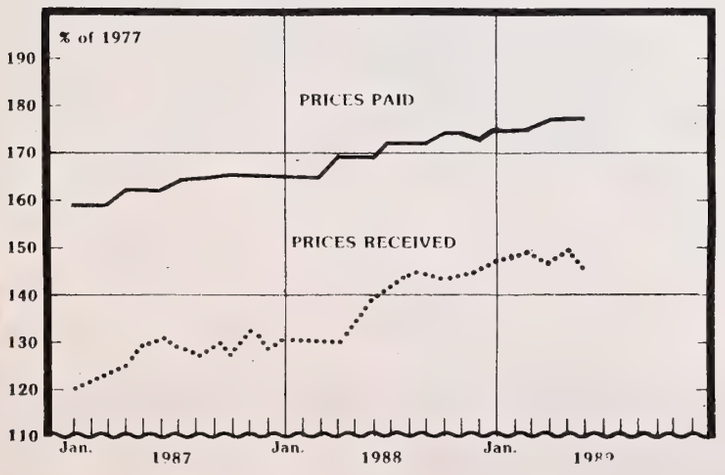
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

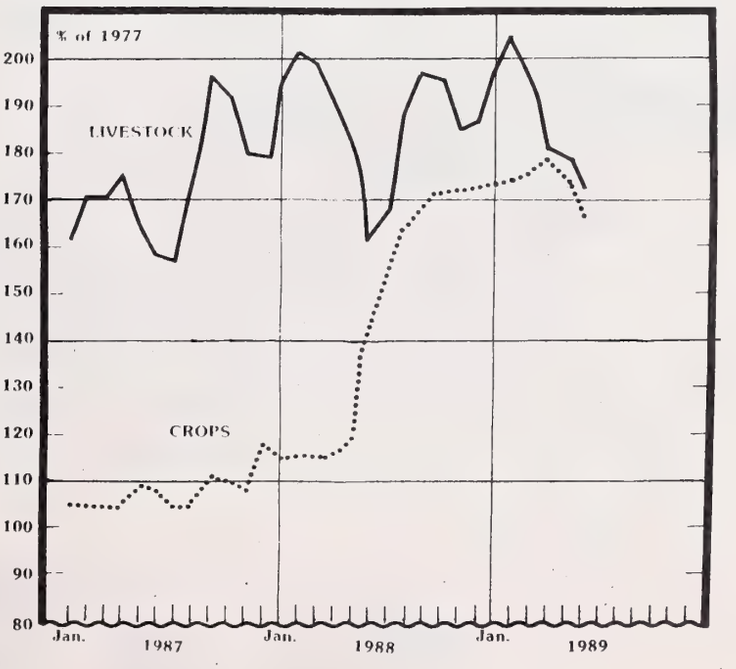
INDEX 1977=100	May 1988	June 1988	May 1989	June 1989
Prices Received	135	139	149	146
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/ 168	2/ 168	3/ 177	3/ 177
Ratio 1/	80	83	84	82

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.
2/ April 1988 prices paid index.
3/ April 1989 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1988	Mar. 1, 1989*	June 1, 1989	% Chg. '89/'88	June 1, 1988	Mar. 1, 1989*	June 1, 1989
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	64,000	45,000	35,000	-45	525,000	457,000	283,000
Off Farms 1/	24,997	22,448	10,100	-60	735,844	764,711	410,601
T O T A L	88,997	67,448	45,100	-49	1,260,844	1,221,711	693,601
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	31,000	22,500	18,500	-40	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,151	13,191	5,300	-60	--	--	--
T O T A L	44,151	35,691	23,800	-46	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	33,000	22,500	16,500	-50	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	11,846	9,257	4,800	-59	--	--	--
T O T A L	43,846	31,757	21,300	-51	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	53,331	43,635	34,201
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	29,429	34,808	25,604
T O T A L	4,067	3,322	3,100	-24	82,760	78,443	59,805
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,241,000	3,021,000	2,022,000
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	2,594,542	2,182,926	1,397,030
T O T A L 4/	--	--	--	--	5,835,542	5,203,926	3,419,030
OATS							
On Farms	2,500	--	1,400	-44	76,900	--	59,930
Off Farms 1/	145	--	150	+ 3	35,129	--	38,404
T O T A L	2,645	--	1,550	-41	112,029	--	98,334
BARLEY							
On Farms	30,000	17,000	10,000	-67	193,103	123,435	84,599
Off Farms 1/	7,931	6,924	5,200	-34	128,107	157,334	112,221
T O T A L	37,931	23,924	15,200	-60	321,210	280,769	196,820
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	105,900	--	85,200
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	701,945	--	473,309
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	807,845	--	558,509

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Mink
Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Milk Production
Quarterly Egg Production
Featuring Beaverhead County

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 3 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed June 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.56 million head, down 3 percent from a year ago and slightly lower than June 1, 1987.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.75 million, up 1 percent from last year and up 15 percent from two years ago. This is the largest number of May marketings since 1972.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during May totaled 1.62 million, down 25 percent from last year and down 18 percent from May 1987. This is the lowest May placement total since 1981. Net placements of 1.46 million for May is 28 percent below last year and 21 percent below 1987.

Other disappearance totaled 164 thousand head compared with 141 thousand in May 1988 and 143 thousand in May 1987.

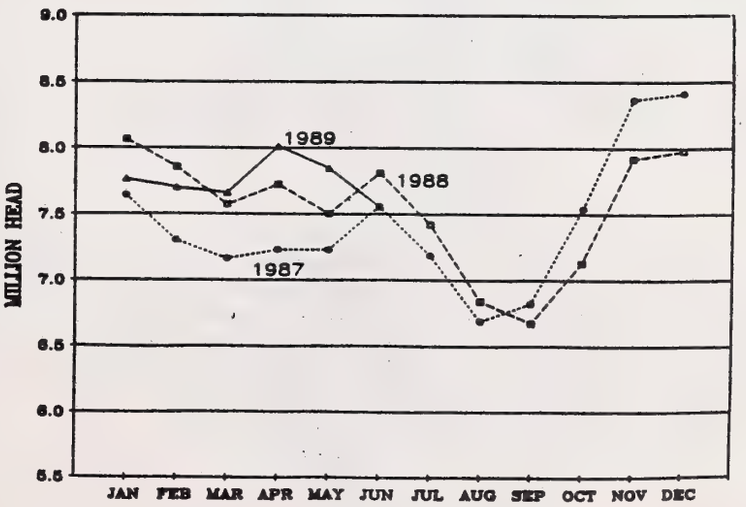
MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.11 million pounds of red meat during May 1989. This production is up 1 percent from last month, but down 15 percent from May 1988. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,300 head, was down 200 head from last year. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,059 pounds, up 4 percent from last year. May hog slaughter at 2,400 head, was up 100 head from a year ago. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered, at 237 pounds, was down 1 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in May 1989 totaled 3.40 billion pounds, up 6 percent from May 1988. January-May red meat production, at 16.1 billion pounds was up 1 percent from the same period last year. The percentage changes from 1988 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, down 5; pork, up 4; lamb and mutton, up 2.

Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



PLEASE RETURN

MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 selected States totaled 11.1 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from production in these same states for May 1988.

Production per cow in the 21 states averaged 1,304 pounds, 22 pounds more than May 1988.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 States was 8.52 million head, 19 thousand less than April 1989 and 115 thousand less than May 1988.

During the January-March period the 21 selected States produced 85.1 percent of the U.S. production. If the producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed on June 1 followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 13.0 billion pounds for May 1989.

QUARTERLY EGG PRODUCTION

There were 46.0 million eggs produced in **Montana** during the March through May production period. This compares with 53.0 million eggs produced during the same quarter last year. The average number of layers on hand during the March-May quarter was 710,000 layers, down from 800,000 in 1988. The average rate of lay per 100 layers was 64.8 eggs, down from 66.3 during the March-May quarter in 1988.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.0 billion eggs during the March through May quarter, down 3 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.8 billion for table eggs and 2.21 billion for hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 268 million, down 3 percent from the 277 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 1989 totaled 266 million, compared with 273 million a year ago. The 266 million layers consisted of 227 million table or commercial type eggs and 39.0 million hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1989 averaged 68.6 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.5 for June 1, 1988 and 68.6 on May 1, 1989.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.70 billion eggs during May, down 3 percent from the 4.85 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during May averaged 221 million, down 3 percent from a year ago.

1988 YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE

The USDA publishes a yearbook of agriculture that addresses different ag issues each year. The 1988 yearbook is titled "Marketing U.S. Agriculture." It covers the marketing system for agricultural products. It covers specific marketing strategies where readers can shop for ideas to solve their own problems.

The book has a section where marketers tell their own success stories focusing on four key aspects of the marketing process:

-- Discovering what buyers want
-- Developing new and better products to meet consumer demand
-- Delivering quality goods
-- Promoting agricultural products

The book emphasizes that the food production processing and retailing chain is undergoing rapid change. Consumers are demanding more fast preparation products containing less fat, salt, and cholesterol. The pressure is also on to produce higher quality, safe foods.

The book provides a current look at where we are and some insight on future trends. You may order the book from the U.S. Government Printing Office or write to your Congressman--he has a number of complimentary copies available.

MEDICAL CARE COSTS EXPECTED TO EXCEED FOOD COSTS IN 1989

We often hear complaints from consumers about the cost of food. Here's some information that's downright shocking. This year we'll likely see consumer expenditures on medical care exceed the amount spent on food.

According to government figures, U.S. consumers spent $404 billion on medical care and $410 billion on food in 1988. Medical care costs have been racing upward--faster than any other major commodity. Back in 1965, medical care took only 5.3% of disposable income. In 1988, the average family spent 11.6 percent--more than a 100% increase!

How about food? In 1965, consumers spent 15.3 percent of their income on food compared with 11.8 percent last year--that's down 23 percent. So, food costs have been dropping over the years as a percent of your paycheck while medical costs have taken a much bigger bite.

We always think about the costs of cars and trucks as being very expensive but they now take 6 percent of income while they took 6.1 percent back in 1965. That makes the medical costs even more shocking.

RECORD GRAIN SALES TO USSR

Sales of U.S. grain to the Soviet Union this fiscal year (1989) are already at a record high level in volume and the year doesn't end until September 30. The total as of early May was about 20 million tons. The Fiscal 1988 total was 14.4 million tons and the previous record 18.6 million tons.

The value of the grain, as of early May, was already 60 percent higher than the total for the previous year and was approximately equal to the record of $2.3 billion set in 1985.

JUNE 1989 WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

A small decrease in the world wheat production forecast portends continued tightness in the 1989/90 world wheat situation. During the past month, there has been continued concern about 1989/90 world wheat supplies as U.S. and European crop prospects dimmed slightly.

With world wheat utilization projected to continue strong and projected world wheat ending stocks at their lowest level in more than a decade, wheat prices will be particularly sensitive to growing conditions and import demand.

The combination of a year-to-year improvement in crops in some of the major importing countries and continued strong wheat prices are expected to reduce world wheat import demand in 1989/90 from the level of a year earlier. The major change will be in the USSR where wheat imports are expected to decline by around 20 percent to 12 million tons.

World wheat utilization in 1989/90 is expected to exceed production for the third year in a row although not as dramatically as in 1987/88 or 1988/89. World wheat stocks, currently projected to decline to around 109 million tons by the end of the 1989/90 marketing year, would be at their lowest level since 1977/78. The United States, normally the world's largest holder of wheat stockpiles, will hold only around 13 percent of 1989/90's ending world wheat stocks.

FRENCH FRY SALES RISE

One of the big success stories in ag exports has been the phenomenal growth of U.S. frozen potato sales. Overseas sales of the popular french fry have more than doubled since 1980. But it doesn't end there. Exports of other frozen potato products have performed even better--rising 140% through the end of 1988.

Exports of fries in 1988 ran almost 20% above the trend set in the past 10 years. The key year was 1986, when exports rose 35% from the previous year.

Several factors account for the increase:

1. A decline in the real trade-weighted dollar exchange rate began in mid-1985, making potatoes (and other products) more affordable;

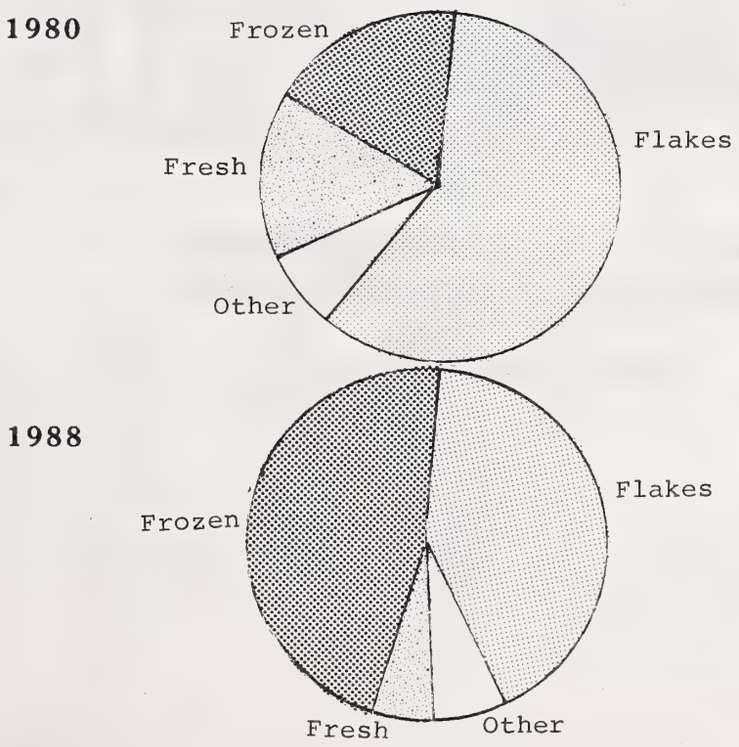
2. Diets have changed and incomes have risen in Asian countries, boosting demand for convenience foods, especially in Japan.

3. Japan imports an increasingly larger amount of frozen potato products since the varieties needed to make quality fries don't grow easily in their climate.

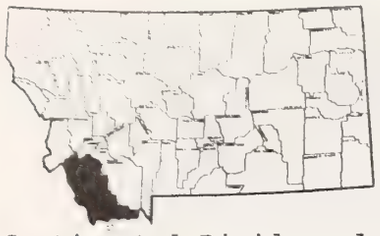
4. USDA's Targeted Export Assistance (TEA) program has been helpful in the Japanese market and potato promotion has continued.

5. The potato industry itself has worked hard to promote both quality production and sales.

U.S. POTATO EXPORTS BY PRODUCT



featuring . . . BEAVERHEAD COUNTY



Located in the extreme southwestern corner of Montana, Beaverhead County abounds in spots of historical interest. Lewis & Clark traversed the county and named it after Beaverhead Rock. The ghost town of Bannack was the scene of the state's first great gold discoveries and was Montana's first territorial capital. The Big Hole Battlefield National Monument, commemorating the Battle of the Big Hole, is located in the northwestern corner of the county near Wisdom. The county is bordered on three sides by the Continental Divide and is made up of several broad, rich valleys. The greater portion of the Beaverhead National forest lies within its boundaries and is a popular hunting and fishing area. The county was created in February of 1865 and the county seat is Dillon. This area has an annual average precipitation of 9.53 inches and an average of 99 frost-free days.

Cattle, sheep, and hay are the county's main agricultural products. It ranked first in cattle numbers and fifth in sheep numbers in the January 1, 1987 inventory. The county also ranked first in all hay production for the 1987 crop year. Other crops and their respective ranks in 1987 include barley (28th) and all wheat (37th).

The large numbers of livestock in the county brought in $40,631,000 in cash receipts for 1987. Crop cash receipts totaled $7,608,000, while government payments added $5,741,000. This brings the total 1987 cash receipts from agricultural sales and government payments to $53,980,000.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA 1/

Land Area (1982)	Acres	3,538,259			
Land in Farms	Acres	1,525,564			
Number of Farms		373	Irrigated Land	Acres	247,743
Average size Farms	Acres	4,090	Cropland	Acres	236,345
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
All Hay	Acres	150,038	All Cattle & Calves	No. Head	163,524
All Wheat	Acres	15,230	Stock Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	21,328
Barley	Acres	9,769			

1/ Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture unless otherwise stated.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Grain Stocks
Hogs & Pigs
Farm Production Expenses
Dairy Products
Crop Production
  Small Grains
  Pasture & Range

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HIGHLIGHTS:

June 1 Crop Production
  Winter Wheat
  Pasture and Range
April Manufactured Dairy
May Ag Prices Received
Crop Moisture Map

1988 CROP COUNTY ESTIMATES

County data for **all wheat** and **barley** were included in recent issues of this publication. Additional data for these crops, wheat by class and cropping practices for both, are now available from this office upon request. Corn county estimate data may also be requested.

These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on our acreage and production survey conducted last fall. Nearly 7,700 questionnaires were summarized including 4,300 completed by telephone to ensure better coverage in each county. Thanks to those who provided information!

JUNE 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's winter wheat crop is forecast at 40.5 million bushels, only slightly above last year's drought reduced crop. Yield is expected to be 27 bushels per acre based on June 1 conditions, up 7 bushels from the May 1 forecast. Acres for harvest at 1.5 million is estimated on the basis of a May 1 survey. A major acreage survey conducted during the first two weeks in June will provide a new reading on acres remaining for harvest.

For the **Nation**, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.41 billion bushels, down 2 percent from last month and 10 percent from 1988. Yields now expected to average 34.5 bushels per acre--down .4 bushels from last month. Yield and production are at the lowest level since 1978.

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT & WHEAT BY CLASSES - Selected States

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1988	IND 1989	1988	IND 1989	1987	1988	IND 1989
	1,000 ACRES		BUSHELS		1,000 BUSHELS		
CALIF	460	570	83.0	81.0	38,760	38,180	46,170
COLO	2,300	2,100	33.0	28.0	93,750	75,900	58,800
IDAHO	770	790	66.0	65.0	60,000	50,820	51,350
ILL	1,250	1,550	54.0	58.0	56,050	67,500	89,900
KANS	9,500	9,200	34.0	22.0	366,300	323,000	202,400
MO	1,550	1,900	50.0	45.0	35,420	77,500	85,500
MONT	2,100	1,500	19.0	27.0	79,200	39,900	40,500
NEBR	2,000	2,050	36.0	26.0	85,800	72,000	53,300
N DAK 1/	130	70	13.0	20.0	5,920	1,690	1,400
OHIO	920	1,200	50.0	50.0	46,400	46,000	60,000
OKLA	4,800	5,400	36.0	27.0	129,600	172,800	145,800
OREG	660	750	75.0	68.0	49,500	46,860	51,000
S DAK	1,270	1,400	17.0	23.0	55,080	21,590	32,200
TEX	3,200	2,800	28.0	21.0	100,800	89,600	58,800
WASH	1,750	1,300	62.0	53.0	104,025	108,500	68,900
WYO 1/	225	217	22.0	24.0	8,370	4,950	5,208
U S	39,785	40,825	39.2	34.5	1,565,176	1,560,970	1,407,898

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

WHEAT PRODUCTION BY CLASSES, UNITED STATES 1/

YEAR	WINTER			SPRING			TOTAL
	HARD RED	SOFT RED	WHITE	HARD RED	DURUM	WHITE	
	1,000 BUSHELS						
1987	1,020,772	347,742	196,662	430,578	92,617	19,109	2,107,480
1988	880,134	473,643	207,193	181,202	44,831	24,258	1,811,261
1989 2/	682,801	540,932	184,165				

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on variety acreage survey data collected at 5-year intervals for all wheat producing states. The 5-year varietal survey data are adjusted as other variety survey information becomes available. 2/ Indicated June 1, 1989.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
By Districts - June 1, 1989 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			
	1987	1988	Ind. 1989	% Chg. 89/88
	----000 Bu.----			Pct.
NORTHWEST	1,219	987	360	-64
N. CENTRAL	32,654	18,857	14,000	-26
NORTHEAST	10,180	3,233	3,750	+16
CENTRAL	16,311	9,840	11,500	+17
SOUTHWEST	2,895	1,630	780	-52
S. CENTRAL	8,501	4,059	7,610	+87
SOUTHEAST	7,440	1,294	2,500	+93
STATE	79,200	39,900	40,500	+2

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

APRIL MANUFACTURED DAIRY DOWN

Montana dairy plants produced 103,000 gallons of ice cream in April, down 31 percent from March and down 33 percent from April 1988. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 236,000 pounds, was down 6 percent from last month and down 17 percent from last year. There were 184,000 pounds of lowfat cottage cheese produced, down 12 percent from last month, and down 5 percent from last year.

Creamed cottage cheese production in the **U.S.** was 48.6 million pounds, 11 percent below April 1988 and 7 percent below March 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 25.6 million pounds, 7 percent above April 1988 but 5 percent below March 1989.

March ice cream production was 68.8 million gallons, down 4 percent from last year. There were 4.30 million gallons of sherbet produced, down 3 percent from April 1988. Butter production was 125 million pounds, 10 percent above April 1988 but 8 percent below March 1989.

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION GOOD TO EXCELLENT

Montana's pastures and ranges have responded to ample spring moisture and are in good to excellent condition. Growth has been slow due to cool weather, and little or no forage from last year is present.

The condition rating on June 1 at 87 percent of normal compares with 73 percent on May 1, 1989 and 58 percent last year on June 1. Southwest Montana ranges have suffered from lack of ample moisture during much of the spring.

Nationally, pasture and range condition on June 1 was 74 percent of normal, 6 percent higher than both last year and last month, but 9 points below the 1978-1987 average.

MONTANA, June 1, 1989
Pasture and Range Feed Condition
By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1986	1987	1988	1989
Northwest	88	81	85	84
N.Central	96	76	28	91
Northeast	83	92	35	85
Central	91	82	70	90
Southwest	88	86	80	81
S.Central	91	74	85	93
Southeast	91	88	26	85
STATE	90	83	58	87

MONTANA FARM PRICES HIGHER

Most **Montana** farm crop prices during May were higher than in April and continued a steady rise that began a year ago. Wheat and hay, by far Montana's most valuable crops, have had above average prices since last summer. However, livestock prices have generally softened since a year ago but are mostly still above years prior to 1988.

All wheat in May at $4.20/bu. compares with $4.13/bu. last month, and $2.95/bu. last May. Hay, at $103/ton is down $2.00/ton from April's prices, but is $61.00/ton above May 1988 prices. All beef cattle at $60.50/cwt compares with $62.60 a month ago and $61.30 a year ago. Hogs, at $32.20, are up from $31.40 last month but down from $40.40 last year. Sheep were $22.00/cwt. in May, $22.60 in April and $25.00 in May 1988.

The May prices received index for all farm products at 178 (1977=100) compares with 180 in April and 151 in May 1988. The crops index at 180 is up 2 points from April and is 61 points above last year. The livestock and products index at 177 is down 4 points from April and down 2 points from last year.

Nationally, the May all farm products index of prices received by farmers increased 4 points from April to 151 percent of its January- December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of hogs, oranges, potatoes, broilers, and tomatoes were partially offset by lower prices for sweet corn, eggs, lettuce, and soybeans. The index was 17 points above 1988. Broilers, potato and tomato prices were at record levels in May. Hogs increased sharply from last month.

May cattle prices continued close to April levels. Wheat and corn prices were up slightly while soybeans were down from a month earlier.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		May 15, 1989	May 15, 1989
		May 1988	Apr. 1989		
PRICES RECEIVED		----------Dollars----------			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.83	4.05	4.15	4.06
Durum	Bu.	3.44	4.33	4.25	4.19
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.98	4.20	4.25	4.06
All Wheat	Bu.	2.95	4.13	4.20	4.07
Barley, All	Bu.	1.60	2.86	2.88	2.67
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.34
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.11
Oats	Bu.	1.57	2.17	2.05	2.11
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	42.00	105.00	103.00	108.00
All Other Hay	Ton	37.00	94.00	85.00	77.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	42.00	104.00	101.00	104.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	73.10	73.80	72.80	75.50
Cows	Cwt.	49.50	45.70	45.40	47.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	61.30	62.60	60.50	70.10
Calves	Cwt.	84.30	85.10	84.10	89.30
Sheep	Cwt.	25.00	22.60	22.00	23.40
Lambs	Cwt.	72.20	61.30	64.00	73.50
Hogs	Cwt.	40.40	31.40	32.20	42.70
All Milk	Cwt.	11.35	12.45	12.05	12.20
Eggs	Doz.	.37	.66	.64	.62
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.44	1.30	1.30	1.39
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	151	180	178	151
All Crops	Pct.	119	178	180	145
Livestock & Products	Pct.	179	181	177	158

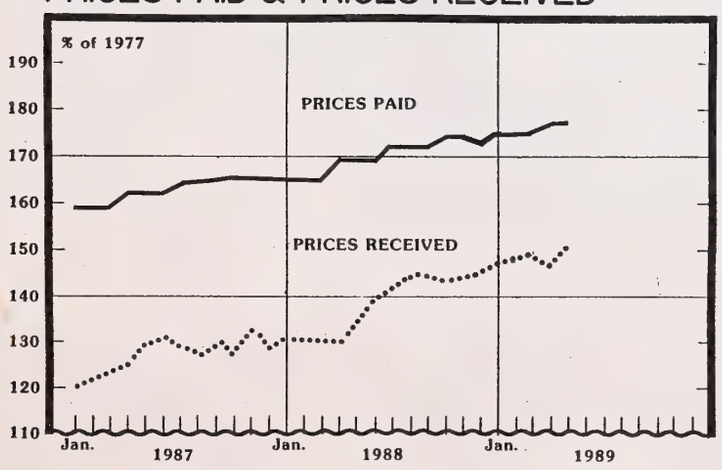
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

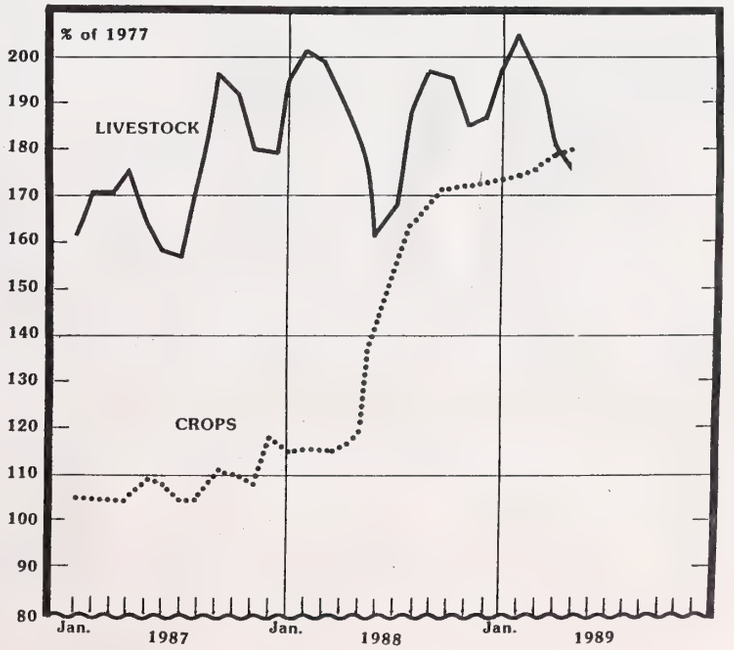
INDEX 1977=100	Apr. 1988	May 1988	Apr. 1989	May 1989
Prices Received	130	134	147	151
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	168	2/ 168	177	3/ 177
Ratio 1/	77	80	83	85

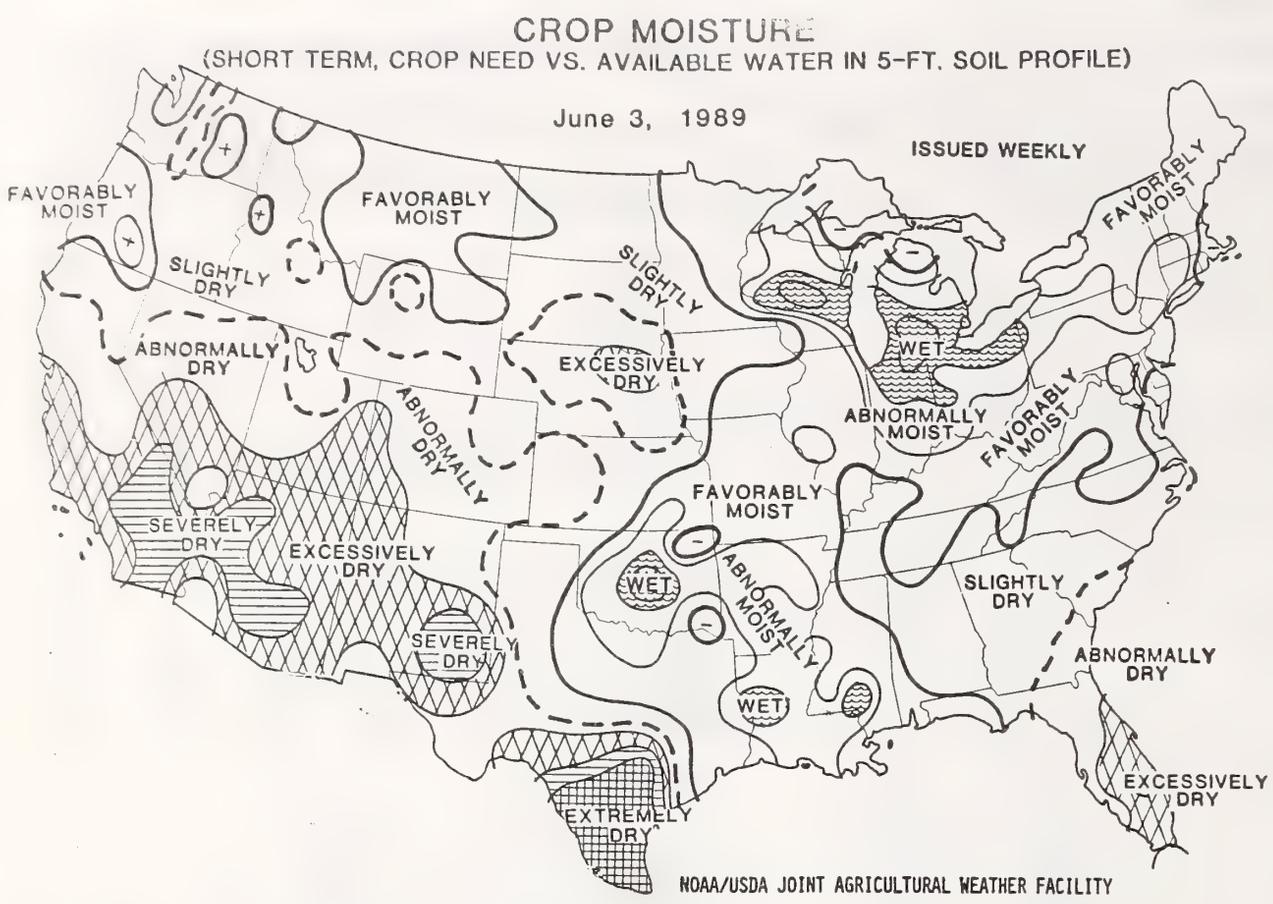
1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.
2/ April 1988 prices paid index.
3/ April 1989 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES





NATION'S WHEAT SITUATION

Spring wheat planting lagged behind normal in four of the five major producing states during the first half of May. By the end of May, planting was nearly complete and emergence was near or ahead of normal except in Montana. Condition of the crop was mostly good to fair.

Winter wheat was mostly fair to poor during May. Inadequate soil moisture stressed winter wheat in the central and southern Great Plains. About midmonth, rain and cool temperatures reduced moisture stress in Oklahoma. Late in May, rain improved crop conditions in Kansas, but wheat was still mostly very poor to poor. At the end of May, harvest was underway in California, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Texas. Heading was 74% complete, 3 points ahead of normal.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Egg Production
Cherry Production
Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Poultry PDI
Barley County Estimates
Farm Labor
Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Egg Production

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 3% --LAYER NUMBERS DOWN 4%

U.S. egg production totaled 5.55 billion during April 1989, down 3 percent from the 5.75 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.83 billion for table and 721 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during April averaged 267 million, down 4 percent from the 277 million a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,074 eggs, compared with 2,072 in April 1988.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1989 totaled 266 million, compared with 276 million a year ago. The 266 million layers consisted of 228 million for table or commercial type eggs and 38.4 million for hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1989 averaged 68.6 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from a year ago, but down from the 69.6 on April 1, 1989.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.62 billion eggs during April, down 4 percent from the 4.80 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during April averaged 223 million, down 4 percent from the 232 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states making monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 84 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, December 1988 through February 1989.

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

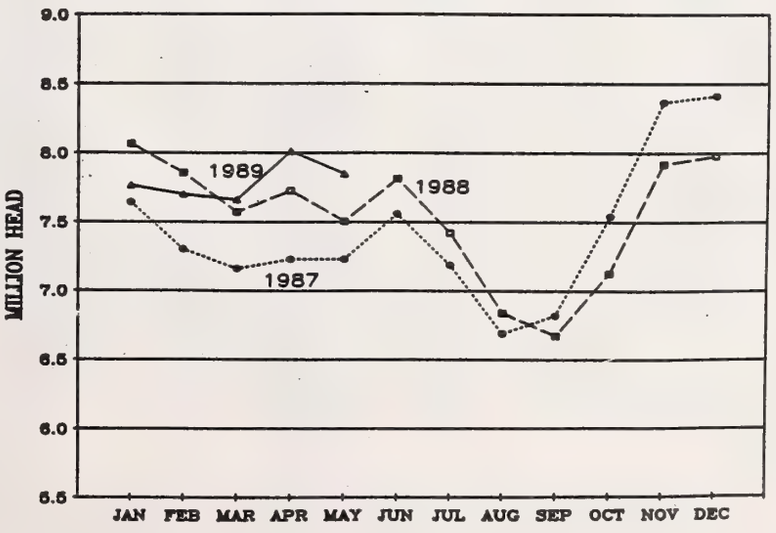
Cattle and calves on feed May 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.85 million head, up 4 percent from a year ago and up 8 percent from May 1, 1987.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during April totaled 1.57 million, down 2 percent from last year but up 2 percent from two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April totaled 1.53 million, up 1 percent from last year but down 9 percent from April 1987. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.41 million for April are 2 percent above last year but down 9 percent below 1987.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 129 thousand head, compared to 139 thousand for the last two years.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



MONTANA BARLEY--1988

COUNTY and DISTRICT	TOTAL SEEDED ACRES	TOTAL HARVESTED ACRES	YIELD PER ACRE	PRODUCTION BU.
Deerlodge	700	500	42	21,000
Flathead	22,500	20,000	58	1,166,000
Granite	400	300	43	13,000
Lake	13,000	12,000	48	575,000
Lincoln	0	0	0	0
Mineral	0	0	0	0
Missoula	2,200	2,000	39	78,000
Powell	4,500	3,000	51	152,000
Ravalli	5,900	5,500	60	329,000
Sanders	800	700	30	21,000
N. WEST	50,000	44,000	54	2,355,000
Blaine	48,000	28,000	20	565,000
Chouteau	229,000	123,000	14	1,720,000
Glacier	75,000	63,000	24	1,540,000
Hill	98,000	73,000	20	1,457,000
Liberty	55,000	42,000	14	597,000
Phillips	41,000	34,000	21	712,000
Pondera	120,000	104,000	26	2,710,000
Teton	99,000	86,000	46	3,980,000
Toole	75,000	62,000	22	1,365,000
N. CENTRAL	840,000	615,000	24	14,646,000
Daniels	32,000	20,000	10	195,000
Dawson	38,000	24,000	9	219,000
Garfield	27,000	16,000	8	123,000
McCone	35,000	22,000	7	148,000
Richland	38,000	20,000	14	278,000
Roosevelt	40,000	21,000	8	173,000
Sheridan	55,000	37,000	10	384,000
Valley	56,000	35,000	12	410,000
N. EAST	321,000	195,000	10	1,930,000
Broadwater	16,000	14,500	32	466,000
Cascade	67,000	47,000	22	1,024,000
Fergus	99,500	85,000	20	1,700,000
Golden Valley	5,000	2,500	22	54,000
Judith Basin	60,000	50,000	19	940,000
Lewis & Clark	10,500	8,500	39	334,000
Meagher	22,000	13,000	17	220,000
Musselshell	8,000	7,000	11	78,000
Petroleum	3,000	2,000	18	36,000
Wheatland	8,000	5,500	19	104,000
CENTRAL	299,000	235,000	21	4,956,000
Beaverhead	12,000	8,000	62	495,000
Gallatin	50,000	44,000	43	1,880,000
Jefferson	4,000	2,000	50	99,000
Madison	8,500	6,500	55	357,000
Silver Bow	500	500	60	30,000
S. WEST	75,000	61,000	47	2,861,000
Big Horn	26,000	19,000	36	676,000
Carbon	11,500	9,000	65	582,000
Park	10,000	7,000	34	241,000
Stillwater	20,000	11,500	15	178,000
Sweet Grass	5,000	2,500	34	85,000
Treasure	2,500	2,000	65	130,000
Yellowstone	30,000	24,000	42	1,002,000
S. CENTRAL	105,000	75,000	39	2,894,000
Carter	13,000	2,000	10	20,000
Custer	17,000	2,500	33	82,000
Fallon	20,000	5,500	8	43,000
Powder River	8,000	2,000	8	15,000
Prairie	16,000	3,000	12	35,000
Rosebud	25,000	8,000	18	146,500
Wibaux	11,000	2,000	8	16,500
S. EAST	110,000	25,000	14	358,000
STATE	1,800,000	1,250,000	24	30,000,000

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION UP 2%

Milk production in the **21 selected States** totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 2 percent above production in these same States for April 1988.

During the January-March period the 21 selected States produced 85.1 percent of the U.S. production. If the producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed on April 1 followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.7 billion pounds for April 1989.

APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 6 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.11 million pounds of red meat during April 1989. This production is up 6 percent from last month, but is down 16 percent from April 1988.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in April 1989 totaled 3.13 billion pounds down 1 percent from April 1988. January-April red meat production, at 12.7 billion pounds was down 1 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1988 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 3; veal, down 6; pork, up 3; lamb and mutton, up 2.

NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWN AND WAGE RATES INCREASE

A total of 2.81 million persons worked on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 1989. This number compares with 2.96 million workers during the comparable week in 1988. The workforce was comprised of 1.35 million self-employed farm operators, 423,000 unpaid workers, and 830,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Rounding out the total were 198,000 agricultural service employees doing work on farms and ranches during the survey week.

The all hired farm worker wage rate for the April 1989 survey week averaged $5.35 per hour, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.06 per hour compared with $4.78 last April. Wage rates for field and livestock workers were $5.14 and $4.71, respectively. During April 1988, field workers made $4.76 while livestock workers averaged $4.51 per hour.

During the current survey week, self-employed persons worked an average of 39.6 hours, 5.9 fewer hours than in the comparable week in 1988. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, put in 34.1 hours compared with 36.4 hours a year earlier. Hired workers spent an average of 40.2 hours doing agricultural work, up 0.7 hour from April of last year.

Benefits in addition to cash wages, such as housing and meals, were provided to 47 percent of the hired workers employed on farms and ranches during the survey week. Last year 45 percent of the workforce received benefits in addition to cash wages. This year, 8 percent of the workers received both housing and meals, and another 14 percent received housing but no meals.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 9-15, 1989 1/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	Field	Live-stock	Field & Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--							
NORTHEAST I	5.62	4.28	4.88	7.84	3/	5.45	3/	4.94
NORTHEAST II	5.37	4.77	5.17	8.01	7.17	5.47	6.12	5.51
APPALACHIAN I	4.25	4.41	4.30	8.35	3/	4.38	4.33	5.37
APPALACHIAN II	4.21	4.76	4.47	8.64	5.99	4.70	3/	4.97
SOUTHEAST	4.10	4.22	4.13	6.90	6.62	4.30	4.47	4.52
FLORIDA	5.30	5.02	5.24	8.82	7.35	5.16	6.16	6.71
LAKE	4.80	4.03	4.26	7.14	3/	4.99	3/	4.07
CORN BELT I	5.05	5.06	5.05	7.99	3/	5.03	3/	5.98
CORN BELT II	4.50	5.38	4.86	7.55	3/	4.67	3/	5.67
DELTA	3.95	3.49	3.85	5.61	3/	3.81	3/	4.44
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.13	4.88	5.02	7.23	3/	5.12	3/	5.51
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.46	4.78	4.62	7.30	3/	4.79	3/	5.07
MOUNTAIN I	4.44	3.74	4.16	5.40	3/	4.64	3/	4.19
MOUNTAIN II	4.60	4.61	4.60	6.40	3/	5.11	3/	4.92
MOUNTAIN III	4.82	5.03	4.90	7.44	7.19	4.63	3/	6.71
PACIFIC	5.15	5.86	5.25	8.47	6.07	5.13	6.24	7.06
CALIFORNIA	5.96	6.40	6.00	10.40	8.50	5.64	7.92	8.62
HAWAII	7.71	3/	7.55	11.84	7.66	7.53	3/	10.81
U.S.	5.14	4.71	5.00	7.99	7.26	5.06	7.31	5.54

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT; NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA; APPALACHAIN I: NC, VA; APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV; SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC; LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORN BELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORN BELT II: IA, MO; DELTA: AR, LA, MS; NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD; SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX; MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY; MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT; MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM; PACIFIC: OR, WA.
3/ Insufficient data.

MAY 1 POTATO STOCKS

There were 65,000 cwt of potatoes in **Montana** storage on May 1, down significantly from the 300,000 cwt on hand May 1, 1988. Storages are nearly empty after having most of 1988 crop moved out as seed.

Potato stocks on hand May 1, 1989, in the **U.S.**, totaled 54.4 million cwt in the 15 storage States, down 22 percent from last year and 9 percent under two years ago. May 1 stocks account for 18 percent of fall production this season compared with 21 percent last year.

EGG RECEIPTS DECLINE

The value of **Montana** eggs produced in 1988, at 7.8 million, declined 9 percent from a year earlier. Egg production was 194 million dozen, down 5 percent from 1987. Eggs averaged 48 cents per dozen in 1988 while the average price in 1987 was 50 cents per dozen.

The **U.S.** combined value of production from broilers, eggs and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens, in 1988 was $12.5 billion, up 12 percent from the $11.2 billion in 1987. Of the combined total, 59 percent was from broilers, 24 percent from eggs, 16 percent from turkeys, and 1 percent from other chickens.

Chicken sold in 1988, excluding broilers, brought producers $174,000. The average price received, mostly for spent laying hens, was 6 cents per pound.

Value of egg production in 1988 was $3.06 billion, down 4 percent from the $3.18 billion in 1987. In 1988 eggs averaged 52.8 cents per dozen, compared with 54.9 cents in 1987.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value--1987-1988 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1987	1988	1987	1988
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	000 Head	110	195	36,479	37,204
Sold	000 Head	620	724	216,487	224,458
Pounds Sold	000 Lbs.	2,480	2,896	1,019,376	1,047,031
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	6.0	6.0	11.0	9.2
Value of Sales	000 Dols.	149	174	112,129	96,346
EGGS					
Produced	Million	205	194	69,351	69,476
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	50.0	48.0	54.9	52.8
Value of Prod.	000 Dols.	8,542	7,760	3,178,185	3,058,998

1/ Estimates cover the 12 month period, December 1, previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12 month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Ag Prices
Dairy Products
Crop Production
Winter Wheat Production
Pasture and Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

April Ag Prices Received
Manufactured Dairy
Milk Prod., Disp., & Inc.
Crop Production
  Winter Wheat
  Hay Stocks
  Pasture & Range
Farmland Values

WINTER WHEAT LOSS HITS 900,000 ACRES

Montana's wheat growers expect to harvest only 63 percent of the winter wheat planted last fall. Based on May 1 conditions, 1.5 million acres remain for harvest, down 29 percent from last year and the lowest winter wheat harvested acres since 1985.

The abandonment rate has been exceeded in only six years since records were started in 1909. However, in terms of total acres abandoned, the largest ever was in 1985 with 1.06 million acres (due to drought) followed by 900,000 acres so far this year, 761,000 acres in 1936, and 750,000 in 1979.

This year's winter wheat yield is forecast at 20 bushels per acre, only 1 bushel higher than last year's drought ravaged crop. However, full yield potential could be realized if moisture conditions remain favorable, while reseeding and above normal tillering thicken thin stands.

Montana's winter wheat production is forecast at 30 million bushels, 25 percent under last year and the lowest since 1985.

For the nation, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.43 billion bushels, down 8 percent from the 1.56 billion bushels produced in 1988 and is the lowest production level since 1978.

WINTER WHEAT: Acres, Yield, & Production--Selected States, 1987-1989

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1988	IND. 1989	1988	IND. 1989	1987	1988	IND. 1989
	1,000 ACRES		BUSHELS		1,000 BUSHELS		
CALIF	460	570	83.0	81.0	38,760	38,180	46,170
COLO	2,300	2,100	33.0	32.0	93,750	75,900	67,200
IDAHO	770	790	66.0	68.0	60,000	50,820	53,720
ILL	1,250	1,550	54.0	55.0	56,050	67,500	85,250
KANS	9,500	9,200	34.0	22.0	366,300	323,000	202,400
MO	1,550	1,900	50.0	47.0	35,420	77,500	89,300
MONT	2,100	1,500	19.0	20.0	79,200	39,900	30,000
NEBR	2,000	2,150	36.0	33.0	85,800	72,000	70,950
N DAK	130	70	13.0	20.0	5,920	1,690	1,400
OHIO	920	1,200	50.0	53.0	46,400	46,000	63,600
OKLA	4,800	5,400	36.0	26.0	129,600	172,800	140,400
OREG	660	750	71.0	68.0	49,500	46,860	51,000
S DAK	1,270	1,400	17.0	23.0	55,080	21,590	32,200
TEX	3,200	2,900	28.0	21.0	100,800	89,600	60,900
WASH	1,750	1,300	62.0	53.0	104,025	108,500	68,900
WYO	225	217	22.0	24.0	8,370	4,950	5,208
U.S.	39,785	41,025	39.2	34.9	1,565,176	1,560,970	1,430,148

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts - MAY 1, 1989

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			
	1987	1988	Ind. 1989	% Chg. 89/88
	----000 Bu.----			Pct.
NORTHWEST	1,219	987	170	- 83
N. CENTRAL	32,654	18,757	10,500	- 44
NORTHEAST	10,180	3,233	3,510	+ 9
CENTRAL	16,311	9,640	7,805	- 19
SOUTHWEST	2,895	1,630	525	- 68
S. CENTRAL	8,501	3,959	5,210	+ 32
SOUTHEAST	7,440	1,694	2,280	+ 35
STATE	79,200	39,900	30,000	- 25

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, & INCOME--1988

Montana's 1988 milk production at 352 million pounds, is up 13 million pounds from last year. The rate per cow, at 14,080 pounds, was up 4 percent from 1987. The annual average number of milk cows is 25,000--unchanged from last year's average.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1988 totaled $41.3 million compared with $40.9 million last year. Producer returns averaged $12.28 per cwt., down 30 cents from the 1987 returns. Returns were $3.51 per pound of milkfat in 1988 and $3.57 per pound in 1987.

U.S. milk production increased 2 percent in 1988 to 146 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 14,213 pounds, was 411 pounds above 1987. The annual average number of cows at 10.2 million head was 1 percent less than the average in 1987.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1988, at $17.7 billion, was virtually unchanged from both 1987 and 1986. Producer returns averaged $12.33 per hundredweight, 29 cents below the 1987 average. Marketings totaled 143 billion pounds, 2 percent above 1987. Marketings include whole milk and producer-separated cream sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 2.24 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1 percent below 1987. Calves were fed 72 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households as milk, cream, and butter.

MARCH MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 149,000 gallons of ice cream in March, up 46 percent from February, but down 4 percent from March 1988. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 251,000 pounds was up 4 percent from last month, but down 13 percent from last year. There were 208,000 pounds of lowfat cottage cheese produced, up 14 percent from last month, but down 2 percent from last year.

Butter production in March was 175,000 pounds, up 54 percent from February, and up 34 percent from March 1988.

U.S. butter production was 136 million pounds, 18 percent above March 1988 and 9 percent above February 1989.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 52.0 million pounds, 13 percent below March 1988 and 11 percent above February 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 26.8 million pounds, 3 percent above March 1988 and 11 percent above February 1989.

March ice cream production was 72.4 million gallons, down 5 percent from last year. There were 4.54 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 2 percent from February 1988.

PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pastures and ranges were slow to start this spring because of cool weather and dry soils. The condition on 73% is described as poor to fair, and is well above a year ago, but below the 85% rating in 1987. Ample rains and snow during late April have boosted range and pasture prospects significantly.

MONTANA, May 1, 1989
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION
By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1987	1988	1989
Northwest	86	83	77
N.Central	91	48	73
Northeast	86	55	61
Central	85	74	72
Southwest	83	90	74
S.Central	82	75	80
Southeast	81	52	54
STATE	85	67	73

APRIL PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers and ranchers received higher and lower prices for crops in April compared with March, but all livestock prices sagged during that time.

Hay led the monthly price advance--going up $5/ton. Alfalfa hay is now a record $105/ton while all other hay is $94. Winter wheat prices decreased 2 cents/bu. to $4.00, and spring wheat went down 5 cents/bu. to $4.15. Durum, the highest priced of Montana wheat went up 16 cents/bu. to $4.65. Barley prices went up 5 cents/bu., to $2.81.

Beef cows dropped $.60/cwt to $46.30, and steers and heifers sagged $.90/cwt to $75.00.

The Montana prices received index in April for all farm products at 180 (1977=100) is 6 points lower than the March index. The all crops index at 176 is unchanged, while the livestock and products index at 185 is down 10 points from March.

The April all farm products index of prices received by **U.S.** farmers decreased 3 points from March to 146 percent of its January-December 1977 average, decreases in the prices of cattle, eggs, hogs, soybeans, and lettuce were partially offset by higher prices for tomatoes, oranges, and potatoes. The index was 16 points above a year ago.

The April index of prices paid for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates was 177 (1977=100), 2 points above January 1989 and 9 points above April 1988. Higher prices for fuels, fertilizers, seeds, autos and trucks, tractors, and other machinery contributed most to the increase in the index since January. Lower prices for feed and feeder cattle and calves were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Apr. 15,	Apr. 15,
		Apr. 1988	Mar. 1989	1989	1989
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.82	4.02	4.00	4.03
Durum	Bu.	3.38	4.49	4.65	4.30
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.87	4.20	4.15	3.99
All Wheat	Bu.	2.87	4.08	4.06	4.03
Barley, All	Bu.	1.64	2.76	2.81	2.74
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.32
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.35
Oats	Bu.	1.54	2.24	2.20	2.13
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	41.00	100.00	105.00	110.00
All Other Hay	Ton	37.00	90.00	94.00	77.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	41.00	99.00	104.00	104.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	75.00	75.90	75.00	75.20
Cows	Cwt.	50.70	46.90	46.30	47.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	66.50	67.20	63.50	70.10
Calves	Cwt.	86.70	88.60	87.50	90.70
Sheep	Cwt.	20.30	28.70	28.50	29.90
Lambs	Cwt.	68.70	67.50	65.00	71.10
Hogs	Cwt.	34.80	34.50	31.30	36.30
All Milk	Cwt.	11.65	13.70	13.00	12.40
Eggs	Doz.	.42	.82	.66	.65
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.53	1.40	1.30	1.35
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	155	186	180	146
All Crops	Pct.	117	176	176	138
Livestock & Products	Pct.	190	195	185	154

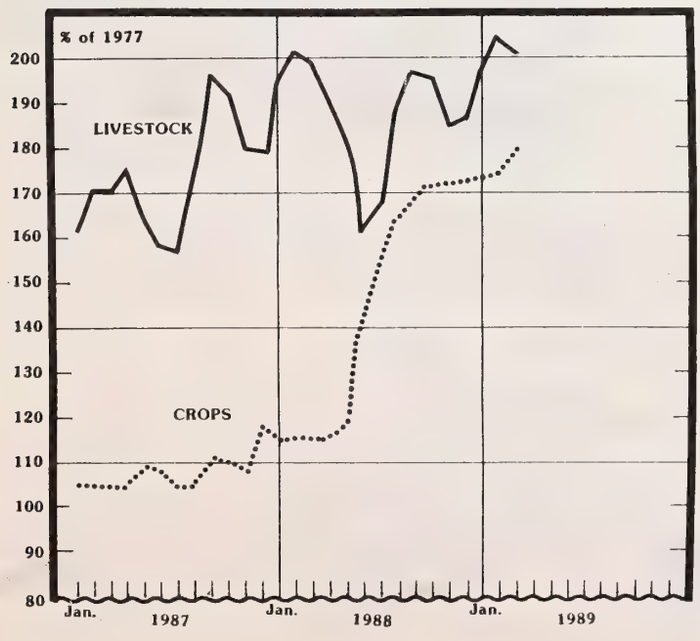
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

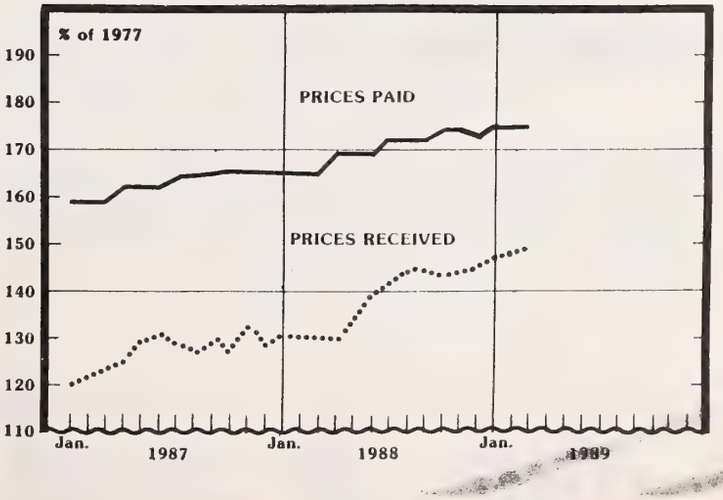
INDEX 1977=100	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1989	Apr. 1989
Prices Received	130	130	149	146
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/165	168	3/175	177
Ratio 1/	79	77	85	82

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1988 prices paid index. 3/ January 1989 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

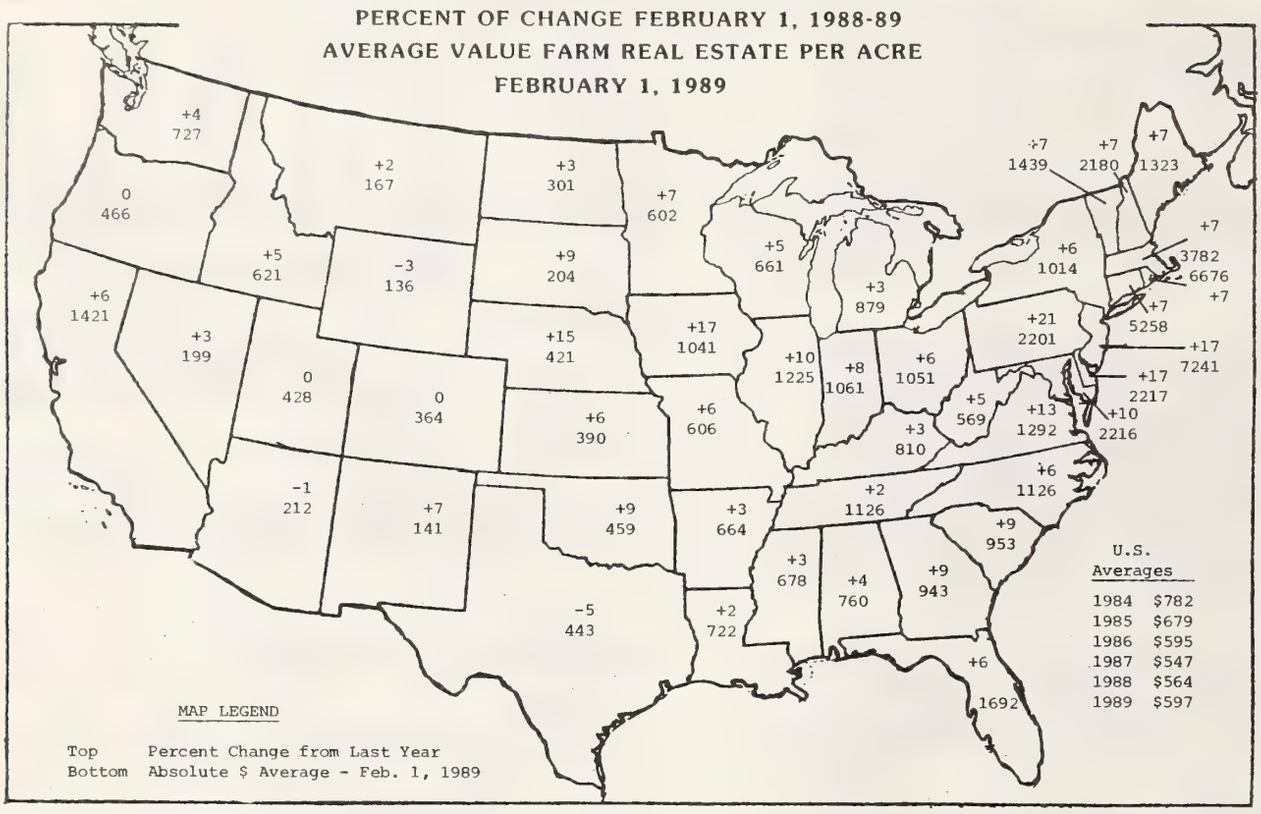


SECOND CONSECUTIVE INCREASE IN U.S. FARMLAND VALUES

The latest farmland values figures are now available from USDA and they are mostly good news for farmers and ranchers. **U.S.** farmland values rose an average of 6 percent from February 1988 to February 1989. That's on top of a three percent increase a year ago, but follows 5 consecutive years of declining values. Although it appears that farmland values are clearly on their way up, they are still 27% below the 1982 peak.

The biggest increases again were recorded in the Northeast (up 13%), followed by the Corn Belt (up 10%), and the Northern Plains (up 9%). A look at the Mountain States shows the region's farmland values increased for the first time in 5 years. The Mountain Region was up 1% in 1989 following a 3 percent decline a year ago.

A look at **Montana's** farmland shows values of land and buildings averaged $167/acre in 1989, up 2% and the first increase since 1984. Higher land values reflect the higher prices producers are receiving for most crops and livestock and a more optimistic outlook for the health of the agricultural industry.



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Poultry PDI
Barley County Estimates
Farm Labor
Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
MT Sheep & Lamb Losses
MT All Wheat County Estimates
Quarterly Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
Meat Animal PDI

CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed April 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly States totaled 9.68 million head, up 3 percent from April 1, 1988, and 10 percent above 1987.

The cattle on feed inventory included 6.19 million steers and steer calves, 1 percent above last year and 8 percent above 1987. This group represented 64 percent of the total April number on feed, compared to 65 percent for both last year and 1987. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.45 million, 6 percent above a year ago and up 13 percent from 1987.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during the January-March 1989 quarter totaled 6.21 million, up 7 percent from last year and 9 percent above the comparable period in 1987. This is the largest first quarter placements in the last 18 years. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE of 344 thousand head leaves NET PLACEMENTS at 5.87 million.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle for slaughter during January-March totaled 5.60 million, 4 percent below 1988 and 3 percent below the same period in 1987.

EXPECTED MARKETINGS FOR APRIL-JUNE UP 4%

Cattle feeders expect to market 6.09 million head during the April-June quarter of 1989. This would be up 4 percent from the second quarter marketings in 1988 and up 8 percent from 1987.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 MONTHLY STATES UP 3%

Cattle on feed April 1, 1989, in the 7 monthly States totaled 8.01 million, 3 percent more than the previous year and 11 percent more than two years ago. This is the largest April 1 number on feed since 1978. Placements in feedlots during March totaled a record 1.98 million, 7 percent more than last year and 15 percent above 1987. Marketings during March totaled 1.55 million, down 2 percent from March 1988 and 1 percent below March 1987. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE during March was 75 thousand head, 29 percent below last year and 16 percent below 1987.

MONTANA SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES--1988

Montana sheepmen lost 150,000 sheep and lambs to weather, predators, disease and other causes in 1988. Total loss was 9 percent higher than 1987 and represented a value of $9.0 million. The 1988 dollar loss was 7 percent higher than the previous year.

Predators caused a $2.5 million loss, non-predator factors caused $5.1 million and unknown causes claimed $1.4 million.

Coyote predation remained the single largest cause of death with a $1.8 million loss. This is 20 percent of total value of death losses.

Lambs killed by all predators amounted to 33,600, up 10 percent from last year. Sheep killed by predators totaled 9,500, up 48 percent.

Lambs lost to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes totaled 50,800, up 5 percent from 1987. Sheep losses to non-predator factors totaled 33,900, 8 percent more than last year.

Lambs lost to unknown causes were 15,600, up 20 percent, and sheep were 6,600, down 10 percent from last year.

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA ALL WHEAT 1988

COUNTY and DISTRICT	TOTAL SEEDED ACRES	NET SEEDED ACRES	TOTAL HARVESTED ACRES	YIELD PER ACRE BU.	PRODUCTION BU.
Deerlodge	1,100	1,100	1,000	41.5	41,500
Flathead	9,500	9,500	9,100	62.5	569,000
Granite	300	300	300	48.3	14,500
Lake	12,000	11,700	11,100	44.2	491,000
Lincoln	0	0	0	0.0	0
Mineral	300	300	300	36.7	11,000
Missoula	2,100	2,100	2,000	56.5	113,000
Powell	2,700	2,700	2,600	49.2	128,000
Ravalli	2,000	2,000	1,700	49.4	84,000
Sanders	2,000	2,000	1,900	34.2	65,000
N. WEST	32,000	31,700	30,000	50.6	1,517,000
Blaine	170,000	168,100	133,000	14.7	1,949,700
Chouteau	420,000	418,600	355,000	17.2	6,121,000
Glacier	116,000	116,000	100,000	20.4	2,042,500
Hill	420,000	419,200	359,000	14.0	5,037,500
Liberty	200,000	200,000	174,000	12.6	2,196,800
Phillips	120,000	120,000	100,000	12.6	1,257,000
Pondera	168,000	167,900	151,000	23.6	3,559,000
Teton	144,000	144,000	130,000	27.8	3,617,000
Toole	205,000	202,900	170,000	13.0	2,204,500
N. CENTRAL	1,963,000	1,956,700	1,672,000	16.7	27,985,000
Daniels	186,000	186,000	135,000	7.7	1,035,000
Dawson	141,000	140,000	105,000	11.6	1,217,000
Garfield	112,000	112,000	80,000	8.2	652,000
McCone	188,500	188,500	149,000	10.2	1,522,300
Richland	156,000	156,000	116,000	9.4	1,094,000
Roosevelt	276,000	276,000	197,000	7.7	1,526,300
Sheridan	255,500	255,500	209,000	8.1	1,702,400
Valley	274,000	272,200	217,000	7.9	1,713,000
N. EAST	1,589,000	1,586,200	1,208,000	8.7	10,462,000
Broadwater	40,000	39,900	35,000	29.2	1,022,200
Cascade	135,000	134,900	118,000	25.6	3,020,900
Fergus	142,000	141,900	124,000	28.3	3,508,700
Golden Valley	30,000	30,000	25,000	17.8	446,000
Judith Basin	65,000	65,000	56,000	24.0	1,346,400
Lewis & Clark	14,000	14,000	13,000	29.5	383,800
Meagher	11,500	11,500	10,000	15.1	151,000
Musselshell	36,000	36,000	31,000	17.3	537,000
Petroleum	11,500	11,500	10,000	18.0	180,000
Wheatland	34,000	34,000	28,000	19.0	532,000
CENTRAL	519,000	518,700	450,000	24.7	11,128,000
Beaverhead	12,500	12,500	11,000	42.5	467,000
Gallatin	40,000	39,600	36,500	47.2	1,721,000
Jefferson	6,000	5,900	4,500	25.3	114,000
Madison	8,000	8,000	7,500	33.3	250,000
Silver Bow	500	500	500	24.0	12,000
S. WEST	67,000	66,500	60,000	42.7	2,564,000
Big Horn	93,900	93,900	80,000	22.1	1,767,000
Carbon	16,600	16,500	15,000	20.7	311,000
Park	12,000	12,000	10,000	23.4	234,000
Stillwater	46,000	45,000	38,000	19.4	738,000
Sweet Grass	6,000	6,000	5,000	14.0	70,000
Treasure	5,500	5,500	4,000	26.3	105,000
Yellowstone	80,000	80,000	70,000	18.6	1,303,000
S. CENTRAL	260,000	258,900	222,000	20.4	4,528,000
Carter	40,000	36,000	21,000	8.2	172,000
Custer	40,000	38,900	28,000	8.7	244,000
Fallon	50,000	50,000	26,000	7.5	196,000
Powder River	25,000	20,500	17,000	10.8	183,000
Prairie	39,000	36,900	19,000	9.3	177,000
Rosebud	56,000	56,000	42,000	13.3	557,000
Wibaux	50,000	50,000	35,000	7.3	257,000
S. EAST	300,000	288,300	188,000	9.5	1,786,000
STATE	4,730,000	4,707,000	3,830,000	15.7	59,970,000

MARCH EGG PRODUCTION and LAYER NUMBERS DOWN 4 PERCENT

U.S. Egg production totaled 5.77 billion during March 1989, down 4 percent from the 6.03 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.04 billion for table and 739 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during March averaged 270 million, down 4 percent from the 280 million a year ago. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,139 eggs, compared with 2,151 in March 1988.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1989 totaled 269 million, compared with 278 million a year ago. The 269 million layers consisted of 230 million for table or commercial type eggs and 38.9 million for hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1989 averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, the same as a year ago, but up from the 68.3 on March 1, 1989.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.81 billion eggs during March, down 5 percent from the 5.06 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during March averaged 225 million, down 4 percent from the 235 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states making monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 84 percent of the U.S. Egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, December 1988 through February 1989.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 14 PERCENT

There were 1.2 million cwt. of potatoes stored in **Montana** on April 1, compared with 1.4 million a year earlier. The April 1 stocks represent 56 percent of the 1988 crop while 59 percent of the crop was in storage on April 1, 1988.

April 1, 1989 potato stocks in the **U.S.** are set at 86.7 million cwt, a drop of 18 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below two years ago. Current stocks account for 29 percent of fall potato production compared with 32 percent a year ago.

WESTERN STATES stored a total of 67.8 million cwt on April 1, 1989, a drop of 14 percent from last year and 6 percent under two years ago. Idaho, down 9 percent, and Washington, down 7 percent, dominate the Western storage total. California is down nearly one-half, Oregon, one-third below a year ago stocks, and Colorado stocks are off 20 percent.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production during the January-March quarter in **Montana** was estimated at 84 million pounds, unchanged from the same period last year. Average production per cow, at 3,350 pounds, and the number of milk cows, at 25,000 head, were the same as last year. Montana's dairymen fed milk cows an average of 15.0 pounds of grain and concentrates per head per day, down 0.5 pounds from 1988. The cost per hundredweight of feed was $7.35 compared with $6.40 in 1988.

The quarterly production of milk for the **U.S.** was 36.6 billion pounds, 1 percent above January-March 1988. The average number of cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 10.2 million head, 1 percent below January-March 1988, and was down slightly from October-December 1, 1988.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1989, averaged 17.7 pounds, 0.2 pounds more than April 1, 1988. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1, 1989, averaged $8.36 per hundredweight, $1.24 per hundredweight more than the April 1, 1988 value.

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.04 million pounds of red meat during March 1989. This production is up 19 percent from last month, but down 23 percent from March 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered at 1,200 head, was down 200 head from a year earlier. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,023 pounds compared with 1,095 in March 1988. Hog slaughter at 2,100 head, was down 400 head from last year. Average for hogs slaughtered was 236 pounds, up 2 pounds per head from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in March 1989 totaled 3.33 billion pounds down 1 percent from March 1988. January-March red meat production, at 9.60 billion pounds was down 1 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1988 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 3; veal, down 6; pork up 3; lamb and mutton, up 2.

Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

1988 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, and INCOME

Montana's total marketings of meat animals in 1988 was 1,126 million pounds, 4 percent more than the 1,086 million pounds marketed during 1987. Cash receipts from these marketings, at $743.3 million, increased 10 percent from a year earlier.

The increase in cash receipts were led by cattle receipts of $693.3 million, up 11 percent from last year. Total hog receipts of $30.6 million declined 2 percent from 1987 while cash receipts from sheep at $19.3 million declined 17 percent.

Total U.S. marketings of meat animals increased 2 percent during 1988 as decreased cattle marketings were offset by larger hog and sheep marketings. With higher prices received for cattle and lower prices for hogs and sheep, the resulting total cash receipts was $46.0 billion, up 4 percent from 1987.

The percentage breakdown of contributions to total U.S. cash receipts from marketings of meat animals by species in 1988 were: cattle and calves, 79 percent; hogs and pigs, 20 percent; sheep and lambs, 1 percent.

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS--1987-88

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1987	1988	1987	1988
CATTLE & CALVES					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	981.0	1,009.8	54,449.5	53,897.5
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	61.10	65.70	61.10	66.60
Calves	Dols./Cwt	80.70	90.60	78.50	89.20
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	622.1	693.3	33,433.7	36,285.5
HOGS & PIGS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	67.7	83.1	19,943.1	21,642.6
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	45.80	36.60	51.20	42.30
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	31.3	30.6	10,288.5	9,213.6
SHEEP & LAMBS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	37.1	33.4	799.1	805.9
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	27.40	22.20	29.50	25.60
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	80.50	66.30	77.60	69.10
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	23.3	19.3	546.1	473.4
Total Marketings	Mil. Dols.	1,085.8	1,126.3	75,192	76,346
Total Receipts	Mil. Dols.	676.7	743.2	44,278	45,973

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Ag Prices
Dairy Products & Annual
Milk PDI
Crop Production
  Winter Wheat
  Hay Stocks
  Pasture & Range

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Manufactured Dairy
Prospective Plantings
Grain Stocks
Monthly Prices Received
U.S. Hog Inventory
Wheat & Barley Movement

FEBRUARY MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 102,000 gallons of ice cream in February, up 9 percent from February 1988. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 241,000 pounds was down 2 percent from last month and down 15 percent from last year. There were 182,000 pounds of lowfat cottage cheese produced, up 2 percent from last month and up 6 percent from last year.

Butter production in February was 114,000 pounds, down 8 percent from January, and down 13 percent from February 1988.

U.S. butter production was 125 million pounds, 7 percent above February 1988 but 3 percent below January 1989. Creamed cottage cheese production was 46.9 million pounds, 13 percent below February 1988 and 1 percent below January 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 24.1 million pounds, 11 percent above February 1988 and virtually unchanged from January 1989.

February ice cream production, at 59.0 million gallons, was down 7 percent from last year. There were 3.46 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 9 percent from February 1988.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Montana farmers, facing the prospects of good spring soil moisture, intend to plant 7 percent more acres this year than last. Relaxation of government acreage controls is also impacting planting intentions.

The state's all wheat crop is expected to be 5.25 million acres, 11 percent more than a year ago. By class, winter wheat which is already planted is down 2 percent, hard spring wheat at 2.5 million acres will be up 25 percent, and durum will be up 25 percent with 350 thousand acres planted.

Barley plantings at 1.7 million acres would be down 6 percent from a year ago. Oats intended plantings at 300 thousand acres are up 43 percent, sugarbeets at 53 thousand acres are up 7 percent, dry beans at 7500 acres are up 70 percent, while corn at 85 thousand acres are down 6 percent. The expected harvest of all hay at 2.2 million acres would be up 22 percent.

Nationally, hard spring wheat growers plan to seed 15.7 million acres, up 17 percent; the largest area since 1982. Durum wheat acreage is expected to total 3.86 million acres, up 16 percent and the highest level since 1982. Winter wheat seeded acres are estimated at 54.7 million acres, up 12 percent. Barley intended plantings at 9.62 million acres are down 1 percent. Oats at 13.2 million acres would be down 5 percent.

Corn growers intend to plant 73.3 million acres in 1989, up 8 percent from last year. Hay harvest at 63.1 million acres is 4 percent less than last year but 4 percent more than 2 years ago. Dry edible bean intentions call for 1.67 million planted acres in 1989, up 11 percent from last year but 7 percent below two years ago.

(See table on next page)

PLEASE RETURN

PLANTED ACREAGE - 1985-1989, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

MONTANA:	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	89/88
Winter Wheat	2,460.0	2,150.0	2,300.0	2,450.0	2,400.0	98%
Durum	200.0	160.0	195.0	280.0	350.0	125%
Hard Spring Wheat	3,000.0	2,700.0	2,400.0	2,000.0	2,500.0	125%
Barley	2,350.0	2,400.0	2,300.0	1,800.0	1,700.0	94%
Oats	225.0	200.0	235.0	210.0	300.0	143%
Corn	84.0	80.0	80.0	90.0	85.0	94%
Sugarbeets	43.5	47.2	49.2	49.6	53.0	107%
Dry Beans	3.4	4.8	5.8	4.4	7.5	170%
All Hay (Harvested)	1,950.0	2,250.0	2,200.0	1,800.0	2,200.0	122%

UNITED STATES:	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	89/88
Winter Wheat	57,752.0	53,965.0	48,811.0	48,800.0	54,731.0	112%
Durum	3,207.0	2,994.0	3,341.0	3,336.0	3,855.0	116%
Hard Spring Wheat	14,616.0	15,109.0	13,682.0	13,393.0	15,699.0	117%
Barley	13,156.0	13,059.0	11,046.0	9,676.0	9,620.0	99%
Oats	13,255.0	14,691.0	17,959.0	13,927.0	13,217.0	95%
Corn	83,448.0	76,674.0	65,704.0	67,619.0	73,253.0	108%
Sugarbeets	1,124.5	1,231.5	1,266.7	1,326.8	1,326.2	100%
Dry Beans	1,569.9	1,673.8	1,800.6	1,498.4	1,669.5	111%
All Hay (Harvested)	60,423.0	62,419.0	60,748.0	65,559.0	63,061.0	96%

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1, 1988	Dec. 1, 1988*	Mar. 1, 1989	Mar. 1, 1988	Dec. 1, 1988*	Mar. 1, 1989
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	2.2	1.0	0.4	2.0	1.4	1.1
North Central	52.7	42.8	32.0	24.3	17.9	10.8
Northeast	38.1	23.2	17.9	9.0	5.1	3.1
Central	13.6	14.0	7.2	7.5	7.9	3.7
Southwest	4.3	2.4	2.0	3.9	2.6	1.7
South Central	9.4	4.7	3.8	3.8	2.2	2.0
Southeast	7.2	4.9	2.7	1.1	0.6	0.9
STATE	127.5	93.0	66.0	51.6	37.7	23.3

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1988	Dec. 1, 1988*	Mar. 1, 1989	% Chg. '89/'88	Mar. 1, 1988	Dec. 1, 1988*	Mar. 1, 1989
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	92,000	65,000	45,000	-51	748,000	614,000	457,000
Off Farms 1/	35,495	28,035	21,000	-41	1,175,536	1,095,902	763,263
T O T A L	127,495	93,035	66,000	-48	1,923,536	1,709,902	1,220,263
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	45,000	36,000	22,500	-50	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	20,338	16,777	12,000	-41	--	--	--
T O T A L	65,338	52,777	34,500	-47	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	47,000	29,000	22,500	-52	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	15,157	11,258	9,000	-41	--	--	--
T O T A L	62,157	40,258	31,500	-49	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	64,024	49,615	43,635
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	40,657	40,928	34,586
T O T A L	6,368	4,103	3,250	-49	104,681	90,543	78,221
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,421,000	4,280,200	3,021,000
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	3,214,590	2,791,367	2,183,605
T O T A L 4/	4/	4/	4/	--	7,635,590	7,071,567	5,204,605
BARLEY							
On Farms	42,000	26,000	17,000	-60	--	182,800	123,435
Off Farms 1/	9,607	11,739	6,300	-34	--	189,648	156,710
T O T A L	51,607	37,739	23,300	-55	--	372,448	280,145

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MARCH PRICES RECEIVED HIGHER

Montana farmers and ranchers received higher prices for most crops in March compared with February, but all livestock prices except sheep sagged during that time.

Hay led the monthly price advance going up $7/ton. Alfalfa hay is now a record $100/ton while all other hay is $90. Winter wheat prices increased 17 cents/bushel to $4.10, and spring wheat went up 14 cents/bu. to $4.25. Durum, the highest priced of Montana wheat went down 18 cents/bu. to $4.85. Barley prices remained steady at $2.98/bu.

Beef cows dropped $1.20/cwt. to $46.60, and steers and heifers sagged $1.30/cwt. to $78.50.

The Montana prices received index in March for all farm products at 191 (1977=100) is 1 point higher than the February index. The all crops index at 180 is up 6 points, while the livestock and products index at 202 is down 3 points from February.

Nationally, the March all farm products index of prices received by farmers increased 1 point from February to 149 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the price of eggs, broilers, wheat, and potatoes were partially offset by lower prices for tomatoes, oranges, milk, and strawberries. The index was 19 points above a year ago.

Market egg prices were at their highest level since April of 1984 while the average broiler price increased moderately from February. Feed grain and soybean prices also increased from a month earlier, and the all wheat price was at the highest level since February of 1981. Most fruit and vegetable prices were lower than a month earlier. Cattle and hog prices were down slightly from February.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Mar. 15,	Mar. 15,
		Mar. 1988	Feb. 1989	1989	1989
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.80	3.93	4.10	4.17
Durum	Bu.	3.22	5.03	4.85	4.57
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.87	4.11	4.25	4.06
All Wheat	Bu.	2.85	4.02	4.17	4.16
Barley, All	Bu.	1.65	2.98	2.98	2.71
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.29
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.30
Oats	Bu.	1.64	2.41	2.45	2.30
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	41.00	93.00	100.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	36.00	83.00	90.00	75.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	41.00	92.00	99.00	98.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	77.80	79.80	78.50	75.80
Cows	Cwt.	49.80	47.80	46.60	48.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	69.40	71.50	70.50	71.20
Calves	Cwt.	91.70	92.20	89.20	96.40
Sheep	Cwt.	27.00	26.30	27.00	33.10
Lambs	Cwt.	72.80	68.40	74.00	72.60
Hogs	Cwt.	35.90	38.20	39.20	39.80
All Milk	Cwt.	12.00	13.90	13.60	12.80
Eggs	Doz.	.47	.66	.82	.80
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.46	1.20	1.40	1.30
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	160	190	191	149
All Crops	Pct.	116	174	180	137
Livestock & Products	Pct.	199	205	202	160

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1989	Mar. 1989
Prices Received	130	130	148	149
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/165	2/165	3/175	3/175
Ratio 1/	79	79	85	85

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1988 prices paid index. 3/ January 1989 prices paid index.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY SLIGHTLY HIGHER

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs was estimated at 52.5 million head on March 1, 1989, compared with 52.3 million on hand a year earlier.

-- Breeding hog inventory, at 7.01 million, was 2 percent below last year.
-- Market hog inventory, at 45.5 million, was 1 percent above a year ago.

The U.S. pig crop for December 1988-February 1989 totaled 20.8 million head, 1 percent below 1988 but 7 percent above the 1987 pig crop. A total of 2.67 million sows farrowed during December 1988-February 1989, 2 percent below a year earlier but 6 percent above the same period two years ago. The litter size during this period averaged 7.78, a new record high, compared to the last two years of 7.73.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.19 million sows farrow during the March-May 1989 period, 3 percent below the actual farrowings a year ago. Farrowing intentions for the June-August 1989 period of 2.94 million sows, is 4 percent below the actual farrowings a year earlier.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during June-November 1988 was 45 percent below the same period last year. Rail movement amounted to 26.6 million bushels, down from 51.7 million in 1987. Trucks carried 6.8 million bushels compared with 8.9 million the previous June-November period.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 45 percent below the previous period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was down 53 percent. Shipments to other destinations were down 58 percent.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during June-November 1988 was 16.4 million bushels, 10 percent above the same period last year.

Movement to eastern destinations was nearly 11 times as much as the June-November 1987 volume. Movement west was down 63 percent and other destinations were 25 percent below the previous year.

WHEAT AND BARLEY SHIPPED OUT OF STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE and DESTINATION 1/

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICT	JUN-NOV 1987	JUNE-NOVEMBER 1988			JUNE-NOVEMBER 1987	JUNE-NOVEMBER 1988
	All Wheat	Winter Wheat 2/	Spring Wheat	All Wheat	Barley	Barley
	(000) Bushels				(000) Bushels	
Northwest	246	139	97	236	361	541
North Central	28,108	6,422	7,660	14,082	7,352	10,869
Northeast	11,171	1,231	5,602	6,833	1,125	417
Central	10,825	4,000	2,082	6,082	2,821	3,871
Southwest	1,740	419	255	674	2,771	594
South Central	5,739	3,640	440	4,080	381	60
Southeast	2,795	880	497	1,377	91	2
Trucked East	424	124	79	203	100	140
Trucked West	8,080	3,842	2,505	6,347	2,048	1,153
Trucked Other 3/	404	145	76	221	531	666
TOTAL BY TRUCK	8,908	4,111	2,660	6,771	2,679	1,959
Rail East	971	0	454	454	889	10,620
Rail West	49,988	12,546	13,323	25,869	10,752	3,609
Rail Other 3/	757	74	197	271	582	166
TOTAL BY RAIL	51,716	12,620	13,974	26,594	12,223	14,395
TOTAL WHEAT SHIPPED	60,624	16,731	16,634	33,365	14,902	16,354

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown.

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Meat Animals - PDI
All Wheat County Estimates
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Egg Production
Sheep & Lamb Losses

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Quarterly Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Annual Slaughter
Milk Production
Egg Production
Monthly Slaughter
Wool & Mohair Production

DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 14 PERCENT

Montana poultry men produced 42 million eggs during the quarter ending February 28, 1989, 14 percent less than during the same quarter of 1988. The average number of **layers** on hand in the December through February period was 700,000 layers, down from 780,000 layers on hand during the same period last year. **Rate of lay** during the quarter averaged 60.0 eggs per 100 layers compared with 62.4 eggs per 100 layers during this quarter in 1988.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 16.7 billion eggs during the December through February quarter, down 6 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.7 billion for table eggs and 2.05 billion for hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 272 million, down 4 percent from the 285 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1989 totaled 271 million, compared with 282 million a year ago. The 271 million layers consisted of 232 million table or commercial type eggs and 38.9 million hatching type eggs. **Rate of lay** per day on March 1, 1989 averaged 68.3 eggs per 100 layers compared with 69.2 for March 1, 1988 and 67.2 on February 1, 1989.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.31 billion eggs during February, down 9 percent from the 4.74 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during February averaged 227 million, down 5 percent from a year ago.

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed March 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.66 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago and up 7 percent from March 1, 1987.

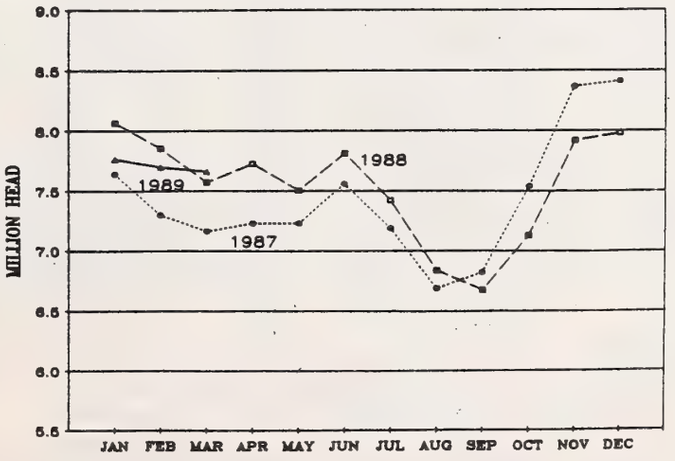
MARKETINGS of fed cattle during February totaled 1.51 million, down 2 percent from last year but up 2 percent from two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during February totaled 1.59 million, up 15 percent from last year and up 10 percent from February 1987. This is the largest number of February placements since 1972, when the 7-State series began.

NET PLACEMENTS of 1.47 million for February are 17 percent above last year and 10 percent above 1987.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 115 thousand head, compared to 126 thousand during February 1988 and 105 thousand during February 1987.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



PLEASE RETURN

1988 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana's 1988 red meat production totaled 16.2 million pounds, down 11 percent from 1987. There were 18,200 head of cattle slaughtered, down 18 percent from a year earlier. Hog slaughter for 1988 totaled 30,300 head, up 11 percent from last year. There were 2,600 head of sheep and lambs slaughtered, down 10 percent from 1987.

Red meat production for the United States during 1988 totaled 40.0 billion pounds up 3 percent from 1987. Production included beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton slaughter in commercial establishments and on farms.

Beef production was 23.6 billion pounds virtually unchanged from 1987. Veal production was 395 million pounds down 8 percent from 1987. Pork production was 15.7 billion pounds up 9 percent from 1987. Lamb and mutton production totaled 335 million pounds, up 6 percent from 1987. Lard production, at 938 million pounds, was up 9 percent.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER BY SPECIES, NUMBER OF HEAD AND TOTAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION, BY MONTHS, MONTANA, 1988 1/

Month	Cattle	Pork 3/	Sheep & Lambs	Total Red Meat 2/
		Head		Thous. Lbs.
Jan	1,400	2,400	100	1,294
Feb	1,200	2,100	100	1,147
Mar	1,400	2,500	100	1,362
Apr	1,300	2,300	100	1,319
May	1,500	2,300	100	1,306
Jun	1,700	2,200	200	1,441
Jul	1,400	2,400	200	1,237
Aug	2,000	3,200	700	1,689
Sep	1,600	2,800	400	1,406
Oct	1,600	3,000	300	1,441
Nov	1,600	2,700	200	1,347
Dec	1,400	2,400	200	1,219
Total	18,200	30,300	2,600	16,206

1/ Includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. 2/ Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton, excludes farm slaughter. 3/ Months may not add to totals due to rounding.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1988 totaled 35.1 million head, down 2 percent from 1987, with federal inspection comprising 97.1 percent of the total. Calf slaughter, at 2.51 million head, down 11 percent from the previous year with 96.2 percent under federal inspection. Hog kill totaled 87.8 million head, up 8 percent from 1987, with federal inspection comprising 97.4 percent. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 5.29 million head, was up 2 percent from 1987 with federal comprising 96.8 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered commercially in 1988 was 1,120 pounds, up 15 pounds from 1987. The calf average live weight was 258 pounds for 1987, an increase of 9 pounds from the previous year. Average live weight for hogs increased 2 pounds to 249. Sheep and lambs averaged 124 pounds live weight, up 5 pounds from 1987.

FEDERALLY INSPECTED AND COMMERCIAL MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION, BY MONTHS, FARM MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION ANNUAL, UNITED STATES, 1988 1/

MONTH	BEEF		VEAL		PORK 3/		LAMB & MUTTON		TOTAL RED MEAT 3/		LARD 4/ TOTAL
	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	
COM'L 2\	MILLION POUNDS										
JAN	1,895	1,946	29	32	1,214	1,244	23	24	3,162	3,245	73
FEB	1,784	1,829	30	32	1,156	1,184	26	26	2,997	3,071	73
MAR	1,878	1,925	31	33	1,332	1,362	35	35	3,275	3,356	83
APR	1,798	1,841	26	28	1,236	1,263	25	26	3,086	3,158	76
MAY	1,874	1,918	28	30	1,203	1,231	26	27	3,131	3,206	74
JUN	1,976	2,025	32	34	1,203	1,233	26	27	3,237	3,318	74
JUL	1,934	1,982	29	31	1,105	1,133	23	24	3,093	3,171	69
AUG	2,111	2,162	33	35	1,251	1,282	27	28	3,422	3,507	79
SEP	1,993	2,041	31	33	1,330	1,360	27	28	3,382	3,462	81
OCT	1,954	2,007	31	34	1,409	1,443	27	28	3,421	3,511	84
NOV	1,818	1,876	30	33	1,425	1,463	26	27	3,300	3,399	85
DEC	1,822	1,872	30	32	1,385	1,425	28	29	3,266	3,358	82
TOTAL COM'L		23,425		386		15,623		329		39,763	933
FARM		165		9		61		6		241	5
TOTAL	22,837	23,590	362	395	15,250	15,684	320	335	38,770	40,004	938

1\ Months may not add to totals due to rounding. 2/ Based on packers dress weight and excludes farm slaughter. 3/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat. 4\ Includes rendered pork fat.

FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 875,000 pounds of red meat during February 1989. This production is down 22 percent from last month, and down 24 percent from February 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,000 head, was down 200 head from a year earlier. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 998 pounds compared with 1,098 pounds in February 1988. Hog slaughter, at 1,900 head, was down 200 head from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was up 4 pounds per head from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in February 1989 totaled 3.00 billion pounds, down 2 percent from February 1988. January-February red meat production, at 6.27 billion pounds was down 1 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1988 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 4; veal, down 6; pork, up 3; lamb and mutton, up 8. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

1988 MONTANA WOOL PRODUCTION UP 8 PERCENT

Montana wool growers produced 5.6 million pounds of wool in 1988, 8 percent more than in 1987. The number of sheep and lambs shorn was up 4 percent at 533,000 head. The average fleece weight of 10.5 pounds was up .4 of a pound.

The increased wool production reflects a turn around in sheep inventory and wool production. The 1988 wool crop ended a 5-year decline in production. It also reflects the larger inventory that first became evident in January 1987.

U.S. wool production was up 5 percent at 89.2 million pounds in 1988 compared with 1987. The number of sheep and lambs shorn was also up 5 percent of 11.5 million head. Average fleece weight was 7.78 pounds per head, up .03 pounds from 1987.

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 selected States during February totaled 9.83 billion pounds, virtually the same as February 1988.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1,148 pounds for February, 13 pounds more than February 1988.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 selected States was 8.56 million head, 15 thousand less than January 1989 and 95 thousand head below February 1988.

During the October-December 1988 period the 21 selected States produced 85.1 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed March 1 followed the same production pattern as the 21 States, then the U.S. production would be 11.5 billion pounds for February.

AG EXPORT VALUE MAY RISE $1 BILLION

U.S. agricultural export value should continue rising in fiscal 1989. Value is expected to grow $1 billion to $36.5 billion. World prices for wheat, corn, and soybeans are expected to be the highest since 1985. A $2.5 billion increase expected for grain and feed exports will more than offset prospective declines for cotton and oilseeds.

The volume of exports is expected to fall 8 percent to 136 million tons. Export volume is forecast smaller as the U.S. share of world trade shrinks for drought-affected products.

Exports of high-value products are expected to remain close to fiscal 1988's record $16.4 billion, sustained by favorable exchange rates and relatively strong world economic growth. This is especially true for horticultural products. In fact, U.S. exports of horticultural products are forecast at a record $4.1 billion, up $400 million from last year.

U.S. agricultural imports are expected to match 1988's record $21 billion. Imports of competitive products likely will fall for the first time since 1982. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus is expected to rise to $15.5 billion in 1989, a $1.7 billion increase.

For U.S. agriculture, the challenge in the coming year will be to sustain the export momentum that has been regained over the past few years. This will require competitive prices, aggressive market development, persistent trade policy efforts, and market-oriented trade.

U.S. CROPS LIKELY TO REBOUND

Three developments point to expanded U.S. acreage for grains and oilseeds and higher yields in 1989:

- lower acreage reduction requirements for Government program participation,
- higher crop prices, and
- the historical pattern of yields increasing following a drought year.

In 1988, the United States set aside from production 78 million acres. Of this total, 54 million were under annual programs and can be brought back into production rather quickly.

Because of drought-reduced supplies, acreage reduction requirements for participation in the farm program have been lowered for most 1989 crops. For wheat, the requirement has been lowered from 27.5 percent to 10. For corn, the requirement has been lowered from 20 percent to 10, and the paid land diversion has been reduced from 10 percent to zero. However, the acreage reduction for cotton has been increased from 12.5 percent to 25 percent.

Some 43 million acres were removed from wheat and feed grain production in 1988 under annual programs. Perhaps half this total will come back into production in 1989. Soybean area could be up 1-3 million acres.

If yields are weighted together for major crops (wheat, rice, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, and soybeans), data show that yields usually rebound from severely reduced levels caused by bad weather.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wheat & Barley Movement
Ag Prices
Prospective Plantings
Grain Stocks
Hogs & Pigs
Dairy Products
Farmland Values

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The normal trend increase is about 1.5 percent per year, and the trend projection for 1989 shows yields increasing almost 30 percent from 1988. The United States will have adequate crop supplies until new crops become available in 1989. Given average weather, these new crops could be up around 50 percent in response to expanded acreage and higher yields. Even so, with strong domestic and export use, stock rebuilding will be modest.

SPECIALTY CROPS GAIN IMPORTANCE

The National Agricultural Statistics Service program calls for state estimates of major crops and livestock. One area that's rapidly expanding in importance is specialty crops. We're seeing an expanded interest in sunflower seed, safflower, and canola. Grass seed production has also become more popular.

Consumers are also developing a taste for exotic fruits and vegetables. Chili pepper production has boomed--Boston and Romaine lettuce, bok choy, casaba melon, kiwifruit, and mangos have found ready markets. Another crop that can be found growing wild in the Pacific Northwest that we used to find in Wisconsin is morel mushrooms. We found this spongy-looking mushroom in the woods near dead elm trees. Morels are delicious sauteed as a side dish.

As demand for these many new and different foods expands, more demand is generated for statistics on how much is produced and where. Perhaps more of these specialty items could be profitably produced in Montana.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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RELEASED: MARCH 16, 1989

HIGHLIGHTS:

Manufactured Dairy
Potato Stocks
February Prices Received
Montana's Rank

PLEASE RETURN

JANUARY MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 30,000 gallons of ice cream in January, down 74 percent from December, and down 69 percent from January 1988. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 247,000 pounds was up 4 percent from December, but down 9 percent from last year. There were 178,000 pounds of lowfat cottage cheese produced, up 9 percent from last month. Butter production in January was 124,000 pounds, down 10 percent from December, but up 10 percent from January 1988.

U.S. butter production was 129 million pounds, 3 percent above January 1988 and 16 percent above December 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 47.6 million pounds, 7 percent below January 1988 but 2 percent above December 1988. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 24.1 million pounds, 15 percent above January 1988 and 17 percent above December 1988.

January ice cream production, at 56.0 million gallons was up 3 percent from last year. There were 3.19 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 19 percent from January 1988.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Potato stocks on hand March 1 in **Montana** totaled 1.8 million cwt., 9 percent less than a year earlier. Stocks in storage represent 85 percent of the 1988 production.

For the Nation, March 1 potato stocks are set at 119 million cwt, down 14 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. The percentage drop continues to widen compared with last year as the season progresses. January was 12 percent below a year earlier and february was down 13 percent. The 15 Major Stocks States are now holding 40 percent of fall production compared with 42 percent last year.

Potato stocks in the six Western States totaled 90.3 million cwt on March 1, 1989, down 8 percent from last year and 3 percent below 1987. This is the lowest March 1 level in the west for the past four years. Idaho and Washington, with 77 percent of the western stocks, are down 4 and 1 percent, respectively. Oregon stocks are down 26 percent and California is down 35 percent. Colorado potato storage, going mostly to fresh market, is down 16 percent.

Disappearance of fall potatoes from 1988 harvest to March 1, 1989, totaled 180 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year but 1 percent above the 1986 season. Shrinkage and loss of 20.8 million cwt this season is running 6 percent below last year's 22.2 million cwt and 2 percent below the 21.3 million cwt lost two years ago. February disappearance was 25.7 million cwt, 9 percent less than last year's 29 day total of 28.3 million cwt and slightly below 1987.

Processing has taken 80.8 million cwt of potatoes (not including chips) so far this season. This is 5 percent below last year but 5 percent above two years ago. February processing used 12.2 million cwt, down 8 percent from a year ago.

(See table on next page.)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION and STOCKS, MARCH 1, 1988-89

STATE	CROP OF 1987			CROP OF 1988		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1988	MAR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1989	MAR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		%	1,000 CWT		%
CALIF	7,869	2,600	33	6,105	1,700	28
COLO	19,500	10,200	52	18,445	8,600	47
IDAHO	99,710	49,000	49	99,320	47,000	47
MAINE	23,240	10,100	43	22,000	8,100	37
MICH	8,910	2,300	26	6,900	1,200	17
MINN	16,330	7,100	43	12,075	6,000	50
MONT	2,370	1,970	83	2,156	1,800	83
NEBR	2,175	1,050	48	2,128	670	31
N Y -LI	2,225	320 1/		1,920	100 1/	
-UPSTATE	5,875	1,400	24	4,500	1,040	23
N DAK	23,125	10,000	43	14,375	4,600	32
OHIO	2,254	1/		1,697	1/	
OREG	25,924	11,800	46	20,735	8,700	42
PA	4,730	1,340	28	3,690	950	26
WASH	66,960	22,800	34	63,250	22,500	36
WIS	21,908	6,400	29	20,000	6,000	30
15 STATES	333,105	138,380	42	299,296	118,960	40

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

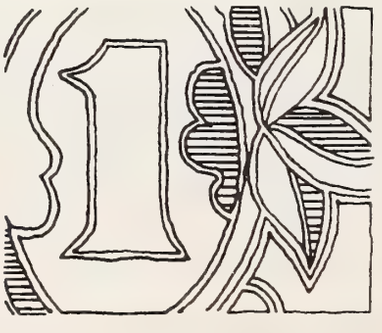
MONTANA 7th IN DISASTER PAYMENTS

USDA has provided about $2.73 bil. in 1988 disaster assistance to 558,483 farmers as of the end of last week. Of that amount, $2.47 bil. is in Crop Loss Program payments to 490,877 producers. These are primarily farmers in drought designated counties who had losses of 35% or more in crop production last year.

Additional disaster payments of $242 mil. have been paid to 82,119 farmers in Emergency Feed Program aid. The CCC paid up to half the cost of abnormal feed purchases by farmers who suffered a loss in normal feed production in drought counties. Another $12.0 mil. in Emergency Feed Assistance has been provided to 7,204 farmers in net gain benefits for reduced-price CCC grain these farmers bought to hold their foundation herds together. Forage Assistance payments of $241,788 have been paid to 173 farmers, and $32,814 in Tree Assistance to 17 producers.

Average disaster assistance for Crop Loss program losses comes to $5,037 per farmer; for Emergency Feed, $2,942; for Emergency Feed Assistance, $1,663; for Forage Assistance, $1,398; and for Tree Assistance, $1,930. Average assistance per farmer overall is $4,882. Here are the top 10 States in totaled disaster assistance:

STATE	CROP LOSS	FEED	TOTAL
	$Mil.	$Mil.	$Mil.
N Dakota	359.1	6.99	366.1
Illinois	307.8	5.53	313.4
Minnesota	249.2	13.04	262.2
Iowa	246.4	6.98	253.4
Wisconsin	201.8	19.27	221.1
S Dakota	167.8	10.45	178.3
Montana	149.3	23.17	172.5
Texas	114.9	23.61	138.5
Indiana	86.8	1.94	88.7
Missouri	51.1	25.84	77.0



Farmers may apply for disaster assistance on 1988 losses until the 31st of March. USDA budgeted $3.9 bil. for the disaster program that became effective last August 26. Livestock feed payments, which USDA was already making before the Emergency Disaster legislation was passed, became a part of this program on August 26. The crop loss portion of the program kicked off in mid-October.

FEBRUARY PRICES RECEIVED

The February 1989 index of prices received by **Montana** farmers and ranchers increased 2 points from January. The index, at 188 percent of the 1977 average, was 27 points above the February 1988 index.

The crops index moved up 1 point from the previous month. Increases for wheat and barley were partially offset by decreases for oats and hay.

The livestock index moved up 4 points in spite of declines for calves, steers and heifers, lambs, sheep, and eggs. Cows were up $1.80 per cwt. and as marketings shifted seasonally toward steers and heifers the meat animal index moved up 3 points.

Compared with last year most Montana agricultural commodities were up, except for lower cow, calf, hog, sheep and lamb prices.

The February all farm products index of prices received by **U.S.** farmers decreased 1 point from January to 148 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for soybeans, lettuce, milk, and corn were partially offset by higher prices for tomatoes, strawberries, potatoes, and hay. The index was 18 points above a year ago.

Prices of food grains increased from January to February while feed grains and oilseed prices decreased. The all wheat price moved to the highest level since April of 1981, but the average corn and soybean price dropped from January to February. Tomato prices moved up sharply from a month earlier. The February average prices for all cattle and all calves under 500 pounds were at their highest levels since May of 1979.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Feb. 15,	Feb. 15,
		Feb. 1988	Jan. 1989	1989	1989
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.77	3.93	3.95	4.03
Durum	Bu.	3.64	4.96	5.15	4.43
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.83	4.16	4.15	3.94
All Wheat	Bu.	2.81	4.01	4.04	4.03
Barley, All	Bu.	1.77	2.95	2.98	2.62
Feed	Bu.	--			2.23
Malt	Bu.	--			3.26
Oats	Bu.	1.61	2.31	2.25	2.33
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	44.00	94.00	93.00	101.00
All Other Hay	Ton	38.00	86.00	83.00	74.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	43.00	93.00	92.00	93.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	78.70	81.20	80.00	75.80
Cows	Cwt.	51.60	45.20	47.00	49.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	70.60	68.20	70.10	70.70
Calves	Cwt.	90.50	90.20	89.30	93.90
Sheep	Cwt.	33.60	28.00	28.00	32.50
Lambs	Cwt.	80.20	69.00	68.00	66.40
Hogs	Cwt.	40.10	36.60	35.30	40.00
All Milk	Cwt.	12.36	13.75	13.75	13.10
Eggs	Doz.	.42	.69	.66	.62
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.23
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	161	186	188	148
All Crops	Pct.	116	173	174	138
Livestock & Products	Pct.	202	197	201	157

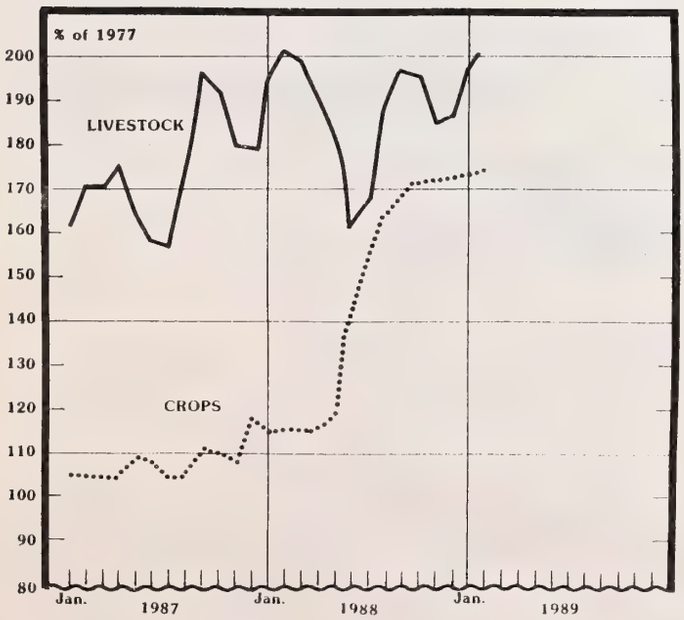
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

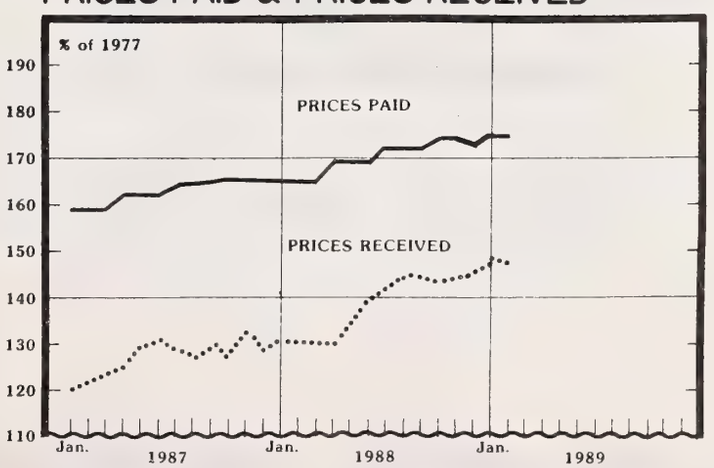
INDEX 1977=100	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1989
Prices Received	131	130	149	148
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	165	2/165	175	3/175
Ratio 1/	79	79	85	85

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1988 prices paid index. 3/ January 1989 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM		UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Land in farms and ranches		60,700,000	acres	1988	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
	Total	1,347,409,000	dollars	1987	33
	Crops	587,140,000	dollars	1987	--
	Livestock	760,269,000	dollars	1987	--
LIVESTOCK and LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS					
All Cattle & Calves		2,350,000	head	Jan. 1, 1989	13
	All Cows	1,349,000	head	Jan. 1, 1989	10
	Beef Cows	1,324,000	head	Jan. 1, 1989	7
	Milk Cows	25,000	head	Jan. 1, 1989	43
	Cattle on Feed	90,000	head	Jan. 1, 1989	22
Hogs and Pigs		245,000	head	Dec. 1, 1988	23
Sheep and Lambs		568,000	head	Jan. 1, 1989	6
Wool Production		5,193,000	pounds	1987	6
All Chickens		910,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1988	41
CROPS (Production)					
All Wheat		59,970,000	bushels	1988	11
	Winter Wheat	39,900,000	bushels	1988	13
	Durum Wheat	2,070,000	bushels	1988	4
	Spring Wheat Other than Durum	18,000,000	bushels	1988	4
Barley		30,000,000	bushels	1988	4
Oats		2,790,000	bushels	1988	24
All Hay		2,790,000	tons	1988	20
	Alfalfa Hay	2,090,000	tons	1988	15
Dry Beans		76,000	cwt	1988	13
Potatoes--fall		2,156,000	cwt	1988	14
Sugarbeets		1,032,000	tons	1988	8
Corn					
	Grain	2,200,000	bushels	1988	41
	Silage	1,273,000	tons	1988	19

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Annual Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Quarterly Egg Production
Wool & Mohair
Slaughter

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montana crop and livestock REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Potato Stocks
Honey
Quarterly Milk Production
Farm Labor
Egg Production

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed February 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.70 million head, down 2 percent from a year ago but up 5 percent from February 1, 1987.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during January totaled 1.67 million, down 5 percent from last year and down 7 percent from two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during January totaled 1.71 million, up 3 percent from last year and up 8 percent from January 1987. This is the largest number of January placements since 1974.

NET PLACEMENTS of 1.61 million for January are 3 percent above last year and 10 percent above 1987.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 104 thousand head, compared to the 106 thousand during January 1988 and 127 thousand during January 1987.

JANUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds of red meat during January 1989. This production is down 8 percent from last month, and down 13 percent from January 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,200 head, was down 200 head from a year earlier. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 984 pounds, compared with 1,187 pounds in January 1988. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head, was unchanged from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered, at 235 pounds, was only slightly lower than a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in January 1989 totaled 3.27 billion pounds--up 1 percent from January 1988. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Beef production, at 1.90 billion pounds, was down 3 percent. Head kill totaled 2.79 million, down 5 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 28 pounds to 1,147. Veal production, at 32.0 million pounds, was unchanged from last year. Calf slaughter totaled 203 thousand head, down 5 percent, and the average live weight increased 17 pounds to 264.

Pork production, at 1.31 billion pounds was up 5 percent. Hog kill totaled 7.33 million head, up 5 percent. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 249. Lamb and mutton production, at 27.0 million pounds, was up 13 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 429 thousand head, up 10 percent. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 126.

PLEASE RETURN

FARM WAGES AVERAGED $5.51 FOR JANUARY

There were 2.47 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 1989. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.28 million of the total, along with 337,000 unpaid workers, and 701,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees doing work on farms and ranches during the survey week made up the remaining 152,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.51 per hour during the January 1989 survey week. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.14 per hour. Field workers received an average of $5.33 per hour, while livestock workers earned $4.83. Supervisors were paid $8.49 per hour and other workers earned $6.47.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 32.8 hours during the week. Unpaid workers averaged 32.8 hours and hired employees worked 37.9 hours.

Benefits in addition to cash wages, such as housing and meals, were provided to 53 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. Seven percent of the workers received both housing and meals, and another 16 percent received housing but no meals.

...NUARY EGG PRODUCTION & LAYER NUMBERS DOWN 5% FROM 1988

U.S. egg production totaled 5.72 billion during January 1989, down 5 percent from the 6.03 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.02 billion for table eggs and 703 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during January averaged 272 million, down 5 percent from the 285 million a year ago. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,107 eggs, compared with 2,113 in January 1988.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 1989 totaled 272 million, down 5 percent from a year ago. The 272 million layers consisted of 234 million for table or commercial type eggs and 37.8 million for hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1989 averaged 67.2 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.1 on February 1, 1988 and 68.7 on January 1, 1989.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.79 billion eggs during January, down 5 percent from the 5.06 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers averaged 227 million, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states making monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 84 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers in 1988.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES & REGIONS, JANUARY 8-14, 1989 1/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	Field	Live-stock	Field & Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--							
NORTHEAST I	5.75	4.52	4.92	6.68	5.81	5.22	3/	5.02
NORTHEAST II	5.12	4.13	4.55	7.14	6.59	5.32	3/	5.05
APPALACHIAN I	4.59	4.92	4.80	8.45	6.25	4.52	3/	6.14
APPALACHIAN II	4.33	4.71	4.55	7.53	6.06	4.50	5.59	5.07
SOUTHEAST	4.41	5.19	4.82	8.31	5.09	5.11	5.20	5.30
FLORIDA	5.66	4.77	5.47	9.83	7.08	4.86	7.21	7.27
LAKE	4.49	4.21	4.28	8.97	5.93	4.94	3\	4.31
CORNBELT I	5.12	4.79	4.92	8.49	5.38	4.90	3\	6.30
CORNBELT II	5.62	5.30	5.43	7.95	3/	5.03	3\	6.59
DELTA	4.48	4.03	4.27	7.39	3/	4.05	3\	5.40
NORTHERN PLAINS	6.21	4.94	5.20	7.31	6.16	5.39	3\	5.52
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.15	4.85	4.55	7.92	5.21	4.45	3\	5.38
MOUNTAIN I	5.82	4.43	4.70	5.33	3/	4.86	3\	4.87
MOUNTAIN II	4.64	4.92	4.82	6.84	5.98	5.01	3\	5.33
MOUNTAIN III	4.68	4.57	4.64	6.47	6.78	4.77	3\	5.42
PACIFIC	5.50	6.04	5.68	8.72	6.56	5.43	6.97	7.20
CALIFORNIA	5.70	5.80	5.72	11.50	8.28	5.64	6.65	7.49
HAWAII	7.57	3/	7.51	11.94	7.52	7.58	3/	10.27
U.S.	5.33	4.83	5.09	8.49	6.47	5.14	6.76	5.84

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT; NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA; APPALACHAIN I: NC, VA; APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV; SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC; LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORN BELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORN BELT II: IA, MO; DELTA: AR, LA, MS; NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD; SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX; MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY; MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT; MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM; PACIFIC: OR, WA.
3/ Insufficient data.

MONTANA
POTATO STOCKS DOWN 5 PERCENT

Potato stocks on hand February 1 in **Montana** totaled 1.9 million cwt., 5 percent less than a year earlier. Stocks in storage represent 88 percent of the 1988 production.

Fall potato stocks totaled 145 million cwt on February 1, 1989, down 13 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. Storage operators in the 15 major States reported 48 percent of fall production on hand this year compared with 50 percent last year. February 1 stocks are 84 percent russet, 14 percent white, and 2 percent red.

The six **Western States** stored 107 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1989, down 8 percent from last year and 1 percent below 1987. California stocks were down 36 percent from last year; Oregon, down 22 percent. Idaho and Montana were each off 5 percent from last year. Colorado stocks were down 12 percent and Washington was down 2 percent.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to February 1 totaled 155 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was 19.2 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year's 20.5 million cwt and 2 percent below the 19.6 million cwt lost from the 1986 crop. January disappearance of 26.9 million cwt was 7 percent below a year ago.

JANUARY
MILK PRODUCTION - 21 STATES

Milk production in the 21 selected States totaled 10.5 billion pounds, 3 percent above production in these same States in January 1988. Production per cow averaged 1,220 pounds for January, 43 pounds more than January 1988. The number of cows on farms was 8.58 million head, 5 thousand head above December 1988 but 90 thousand head below January 1988.

1988 HONEY PRODUCTION

Montana honey production for 1988 (for producers with 5 or more hives) was 5.04 million pounds, down 48 percent from 1987. The State's beekeepers had 105,000 producing colonies, up 11 percent from 1987. Average **yield** was 48 pounds compared with 102 pounds the year before. **Stocks** on hand December 15 were 151,000 pounds or 3.0 percent of production. The price received for the 1988 honey crop averaged 47 cents per pound.

U.S. honey production in 1988 totaled 212 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1987. There were 3.2 million colonies producing honey, down slightly from 1987. **Yield** per colony averaged 66.4 pounds, down from 71.1 pounds in 1987. Colonies that produced in more than one State were counted in each State, and yields may be understated. Producer honey **stocks** were 31.2 million pounds on December 15. Some States had excellent production while production in other States suffered from drought and disease.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION and STOCKS, FEBRUARY 1, 1988-89

STATE	CROP OF 1987			CROP OF 1988		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS FEB 1, 1988	FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS FEB 1, 1989	FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		%	1,000 CWT		%
CALIF	7,869	3,200	41	6,105	2,050	34
COLO	19,500	11,800	61	18,445	10,350	56
IDAHO	99,710	57,000	57	99,320	54,000	54
MAINE	23,240	12,400	53	22,000	10,700	49
MICH	8,910	3,200	36	6,900	1,700	25
MINN	16,330	8,700	53	12,075	6,900	57
MONT	2,370	2,000	84	2,156	1,900	88
NEBR	2,175	1,350	62	2,128	850	40
NY -LI	2,225	340	15	1,920	150	8
-UPSTATE	5,875	2,000	34	4,500	1,600	36
N DAK	23,125	12,500	54	14,375	6,800	47
OHIO	2,254	300	13	1,697	125	7
OREG	25,924	14,200	55	20,735	11,100	54
PA	4,730	1,800	38	3,690	1,500	41
WASH	66,960	28,300	42	63,250	27,700	44
WIS	21,908	7,600	35	20,000	7,200	36
15 STATE TOTAL	333,105	166,690	20	299,296	144,625	48

SUPPLY and DEMAND

I often hear the comment, "We really don't need your statistics, why not let supply and demand determine the market?" Most people want free markets and believe in supply and demand.

When supply and demand is working properly, most would agree that the producer is receiving a fair price. When there is a surplus on the market, lower prices are called for to reduce production, when there is a shortage, higher prices signal producers to increase production. But, how are supplies measured? Who determines when there is a shortage or a surplus?

The person with the best information would have an advantage because he would have a good idea if there was a shortage or a surplus. That's why accurate statistics are important--especially to the producers. He normally doesn't have the resources to compile his own information as many buyers do--so he depends on others to provide the information he needs--statistical information that's vital for supply and demand to work properly and to return a fair price.

FORWARD CONTRACTING--KNOW THE LANGUAGE

Forward contract: An agreement between two parties (e.g., a farmer and an elevator) to deliver and make payment for a commodity at a future date. The quantity, price, grade, and place of delivery are set by the contract.

Renegotiation: A change from the original contract specifications on the quantity, price, grade, time, or place of delivery.

Hedging: Forward buying or selling in the futures market to protect against fluctuations of position held in the cash market. For example, at planting time a farmer can sell corn on the futures market to lock in a price. At harvest time, the corn can be sold for cash and the futures contract can be bought back. Losses or gains in one market are about offset by gains or losses in the other.

Margin call: A request from a brokerage firm to a customer for additional margin (funds set aside to ensure performance of the contract) when the customer's equity is diminished by a falling value of the contract.

CONSUMER DEMAND FOR MEAT CONTINUES STRONG

Because of strong consumer demand during the second half of last year, record quantities of meat and dairy products were marketed at generally higher prices. Continued growth in the economy will likely mean that prices will stay strong despite large supplies.

Pork production during the second half of 1988 was well above the previous year, pulling down hog prices. But prices for other livestock and dairy products are up despite large supplies.

U.S. livestock producers closed out 1988 with 1% less red meat produced in December versus the previous year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Montana's Rank
Monthly Ag Prices
Dairy Products
Potato Stocks

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
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HIGHLIGHTS:

December Manufactured Dairy
13 State Cattle on Feed
January Monthly Prices
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price
January 1 Cattle Inventory
January 1 Sheep Inventory

PLEASE RETURN

DECEMBER MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 115,000 gallons of ice cream in December, up 21 percent from November and up 62 percent from December 1987. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 237,000 pounds was unchanged from last month, but was down 13 percent from last year. There were 163,000 pounds of lowfat cottage cheese produced, down 5 percent from last month. Butter production in December was 138,000 pounds, down 19 percent from November and down 12 percent from December 1987.

U.S. butter production was 111 million pounds, 2 percent above December 1987 and 21 percent above November 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 46.8 million pounds, 5 percent below both December 1987 and November 1988. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 20.5 million pounds, 10 percent above December 1987 but 7 percent below November 1988.

December ice cream production, at 54.9 million gallons was down 1 percent from last year. There were 2.99 million gallons of sherbet produced, down 6 percent from December 1987.

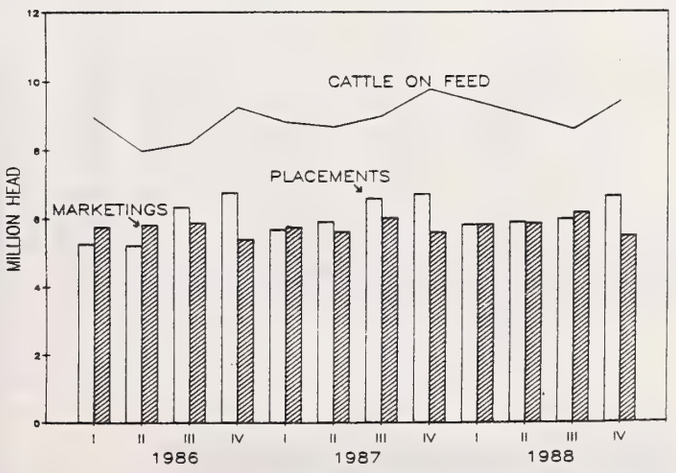
CATTLE ON FEED-13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed January 1, 1989, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly States totaled 9.41 million head, down 4 percent from January 1, 1988 but 2 percent above 1987.

The cattle on feed inventory included 6.03 million steers and steer calves, 6 percent below last year but 1 percent above 1987. This group represented 64 percent of the total January number on feed, compared to 65 percent for both last year and 1987. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.33 million, nearly the same as a year ago but up 3 percent from 1987.

Cattle on feed January 1, 1989, in the 7 monthly States totaled 7.77 million, 4 percent less than the previous year but 2 percent more than two years ago. Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.40 million, 5 percent more than last year but 2 percent below 1986. Marketings during December totaled 1.52 million, down 3 percent from December 1987 but up fractionally from 1986. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE during December was 115 thousand head, 3 percent below last year but 11 percent above 1986.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



JANUARY PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers received mostly higher prices for the products they sold in January compared with a month earlier. Winter wheat and hay prices went up while durum, hard spring wheat, and barley prices declined. All livestock items except sheep and eggs increased in price.

The Montana prices received index in January for all farm products at 188 (1977=100) is 8 points above the December index. The all crops index at 176 is up 3 points, while the livestock and products index at 199 is up 12 points.

Nationally, the January all farm products index of prices received by farmers increased 2 points from December to 147 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for cattle, hogs, tomatoes, and wheat were partially offset by lower prices for strawberries, grapefruit, peanuts, and oranges. The index was 16 points above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for January was 175 percent of its 1977 average. The index rose 2 points from October and 10 points from last year. Higher feeder pig and feeder cattle and calf prices accounted for most of the index increase since October.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1988	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1988	MONTANA Jan. 15, 1989	U.S. Jan. 15, 1989
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.73	3.89	4.00	4.09
Durum	Bu.	3.39	5.53	5.50	4.68
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.78	4.07	4.05	3.92
All Wheat	Bu.	2.78	4.04	4.09	4.08
Barley, All	Bu.	1.68	2.92	2.86	2.65
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.31
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.17
Oats	Bu.	1.48	2.23	2.25	2.43
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	46.00	90.00	94.00	98.30
All Other Hay	Ton	41.00	80.00	86.00	74.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	46.00	89.00	93.00	91.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	80.30	79.10	81.50	75.10
Cows	Cwt.	48.30	44.30	45.20	46.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	68.10	63.40	68.80	69.30
Calves	Cwt.	90.10	89.00	90.40	92.60
Sheep	Cwt.	22.60	25.60	23.40	29.00
Lambs	Cwt.	90.60	71.20	73.50	68.40
Hogs	Cwt.	33.60	33.90	40.70	41.70
All Milk	Cwt.	12.45	13.55	14.10	13.40
Eggs	Doz.	.41	.71	.69	.64
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.07
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	156	180	188	147
All Crops	Pct.	115	173	176	137
Livestock & Products	Pct.	195	187	199	157

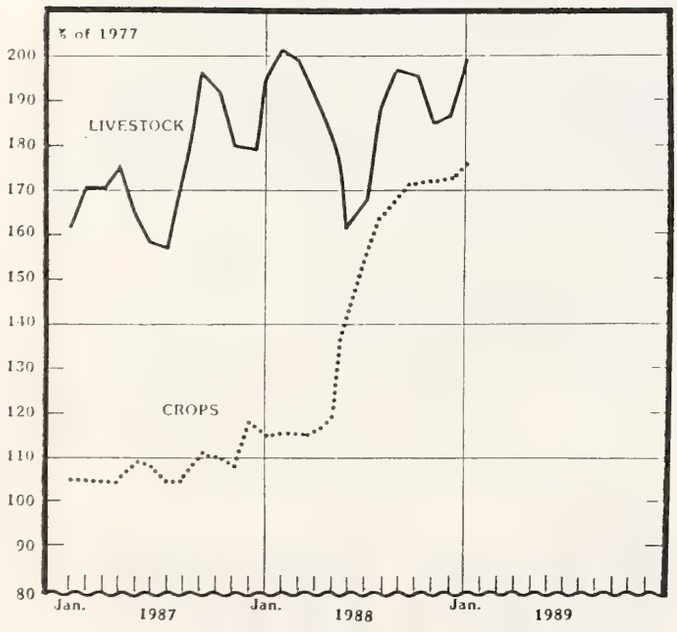
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

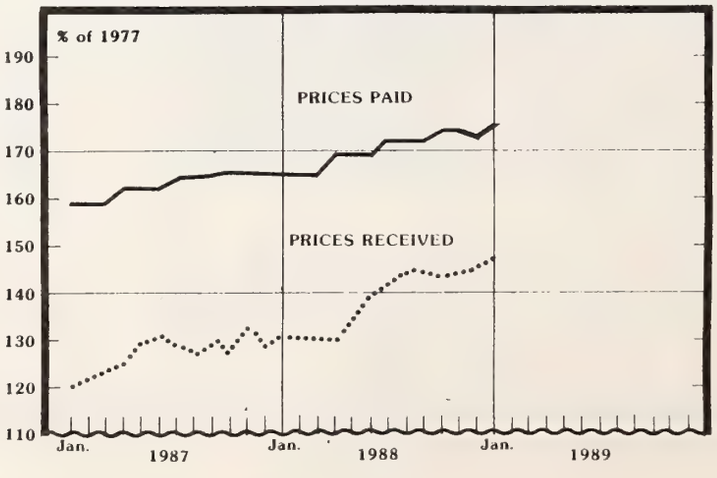
INDEX 1977=100	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1988	Dec. 1988	Jan. 1989
Prices Received	127	131	145	147
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/164	165	3/173	175
Ratio 1/	77	79	84	84

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1987 prices paid index. 3/ October 1988 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



JANUARY 1 INVENTORY OF CATTLE & CALVES

MONTANA'S January 1, 1989 inventory of **Cattle and Calves**, at 2350 thousand head was unchanged from the previous year. Highlights of this year's report were:

-- This year's inventory was the lowest since 1963 and was 25 percent below the 1984 count.
-- Beef cow numbers on January 1 at 1.3 million were up 4 percent while beef cow replacement heifers at 296 thousand were up 16 percent. Incentive for expansion was supported by calf prices in excess of $90 for 8 of 12 months in 1988.
-- Carryover calves at 242 thousand head were down a sharp 21 percent as a result of strong prices and a shortage of feed.
-- The 1988 calf crop totaled 1350 thousand head, up 5 percent from 1987 but 2 percent below 1986.

UNITED STATES cattle and calf numbers totaled 99.5 million head as of January 1, 1989, down slightly from a year earlier, but 2 percent below two years ago. Highlights of this year's report were:

-- The 1989 inventory count marked the seventh consecutive year of lower cattle and calf numbers and has reached the lowest level since 1961.
-- This year's inventory was a sharp 25 percent below the record high inventory of 132 million head reported in 1975.
-- Beef cows at 33.7 million head were up 2 percent while beef cow replacement heifers totaled 5.5 million, up 5 percent.
-- The U.S. calf crop at 40.9 million head born during 1988 was up 2 percent from 1987.

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1988-89

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1988	1989	% Change 89/88	1988	1989	% Change 89/88
	- 1,000 Head -			-- 1,000 Head --		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,350	2,350	0	99,524	99,484	0
Cows & Heifers that have calved						
Beef Cows	1,275	1,324	+ 4	33,112	33,669	+ 2
Milk Cows	25	25	0	10,298	10,217	- 1
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	255	296	+ 16	5,227	5,505	+ 5
For milk cow replacement	7	7	0	4,116	4,199	+ 2
Other heifers	156	148	- 5	7,805	7,627	- 2
Steers 500 pounds and over	254	233	- 8	15,732	15,798	0
Bulls 500 pounds and over	72	75	+ 4	2,163	2,221	+ 3
Calves less than 500 pounds	306	242	- 21	21,070	20,248	- 4
All cattle value ($1,000)	1,398,250	1,527,500	+ 9	52,045,643	60,394,509	+ 16
Value per head (Dollars)	595	650	+ 9	523	607	+ 16

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS -- 1987 and 1988

ITEM	1987	1988	% Change 88/87	1987	1988	% Change 88/87
Calves born during year (1,000 Head)	1,280	1,350	+ 5	40,086	40,872	+ 2
Number cattle farms	15,700	15,700	0	1,408,070	1,370,640	- 3

WHEAT: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1972-1988

Year Beginning June	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending stocks May 31	Season Average Price
					Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Food	Seed	Feed 3/	Total				
	----- Million Bushels -----				----- Million Bushels -----							$
1972.....	983	1,546	1	2,530	532	67	200	799	1,135	1,934	597	1.76
1973.....	3/ 597	1,711	3	2,311	544	84	126	754	1,217	1,971	340	3.95
1974.....	340	1,782	3	2,125	545	92	35	672	1,018	1,690	435	4.09
1975.....	435	2,127	2	2,564	589	99	38	726	1,173	1,899	666	3.55
1976.....	666	2,149	2	2,817	588	92	74	754	950	1,704	1,113	2.73
1977.....	1,113	2,046	2	3,161	586	80	193	859	1,124	1,983	1,178	2.33
1978.....	1,178	1,776	2	2,955	592	87	158	837	1,194	2,061	924	2.97
1979.....	924	2,134	2	3,060	596	101	86	783	1,375	2,158	902	3.78
1980.....	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.91
1981.....	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.66
1982.....	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.55
1983.....	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	642	100	369	111	1,429	2,540	1,399	3.53
1984.....	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	405	1,154	1,424	2,578	1,425	3.38
1985.....	1,425	2,425	15	3,865	678	93	274	1,045	915	1,960	1,905	3.15
1986.....	1,905	2,092	21	4,018	696	84	413	1,193	1,004	2,197	1,821	2.42
1987.....	1,821	2,107	17	3,945	719	85	288	1,092	1,592	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988..4/.	1,261	1,811	22	3,094	730	100	230	1,060	1,500	2,560	534	3.70
1989.....	(534)											

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent.
2/ Residual, approximates feed use includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits.
3/ Excludes an abnormally large volume of grain in transit. 4/ Preliminary.
SOURCE: ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

JANUARY 1 SHEEP & LAMB INVENTORY

There were 568,000 **sheep and lambs** on hand in **Montana** on January 1, 1989, 7 percent more than last year. Montana highlights are:

--Largest sheep and lamb inventory since the 600 thousand in 1983.
--Lamb crop up 5 percent from last year.
--Average value declined to $89 per head, down $10 from last year's record high value.
--Ewes 1 year old and older are up 8 percent from 1987 to 410 thousand head--largest inventory since 1984.
--Ewe lambs, at 105 thousand, are down 1 percent from 1988 and 1987 but are well above number held from 1983 to 1986.

All sheep and lambs in the **U.S.** inventory totaled 10.8 million head, just slightly more than 1988's inventory and the third straight increase since the smallest inventory of record in 1986. Other U.S. highlights are:

--The nation's lamb crop, at 7.12 million head, is down 1 percent from 1987 and is the smallest on record.
--The national value of sheep and lambs on hand was $890 million, down 8 percent from 1987.
--The average value per head in the U.S. was $82.40, down 8 percent from last year's record high value of $90.00.

SHEEP and LAMBS ON FARMS and RANCHES -- JANUARY 1, 1988-89

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1988	1989	% Change 89/88	1988	1989	% Change 89/88
	1,000 Head			-- 1,000 Head --		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	530	568	+ 7	10,784.4	10,802.1	0
On feed	27	30	+ 11	1,644.0	1,631.0	- 2
Stock sheep	503	538	+ 7	9,140.4	9,189.1	+ 1
Lambs						
Ewes	106	105	- 1	1,282.0	1,337.6	+ 4
Wethers and rams	5	9	+ 80	331.7	345.1	+ 4
One year old & older						
Ewes	380	410	+ 8	7,191.7	7,173.4	0
Wethers and rams	12	14	+ 17	335.0	333.0	- 1
All sheep value ($000)	52,470	50,552	- 4	970,484	889,765	- 8
Value per head (Dollars)	99.00	89.00	- 10	90.00	82.40	- 8

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS -- 1987 and 1988

ITEM	1987	1988	% Change 88/87	1987	1988	% Change 88/87
Lamb crop (1,000 Head)	440	460	+ 5	7,189.7	7,123.1	- 1
Number of sheep farms	2,900	3,100	+ 7	114,840	115,490	+ 1

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Quarterly Milk Production
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Egg Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Oct-Dec Milk Production
December Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
December 1 Grain Stocks
Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks
1989 Winter Wheat Acreage
Winter Wheat Seedings
Annual Egg Production
1988 Annual Crop Summary

PLEASE RETURN

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

Montana's October-December milk production at 87 million pounds, was 4 percent higher than last year. Average milk production per cow, increased nearly 4 percent to 3480 pounds. The number of milk cows held steady at 25,000 head. Montana's dairymen fed an average of 15.0 pounds of grain and concentrates per head per day, down 0.5 pound from last year. The cost per hundredweight of this feed was $7.50, up $1.30 from a year ago.

The quarterly production of milk **for the U.S.** was 35.4 billion pounds, 2 percent above October-December 1987. The average number of cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 10.2 million head, 1 percent below October-December 1987.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows averaged 17.1 pounds, 0.1 pound less than last year. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows averaged $8.40 per hundredweight, $1.47 per hundredweight more than the January 1, 1988 value.

DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in December 1988. This production is down 10 percent from last month, and down 20 percent from the December 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, was down 400 head from a year earlier. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,038 pounds compared with 1,075 pounds in December 1987. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head was down 200 head from last year. The average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 238 pounds, virtually unchanged from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in December 1988 totaled 3.36 billion pounds down 1 percent from December 1987. January-December red meat production, at 39.8 billion pounds was up 3 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, unchanged; Veal, down 7; Pork, up 9; Lamb and Mutton, up 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 7 PERCENT

Montana potato growers had 1.95 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1989 or 90 percent of last year's production. The January 1 stocks level is 7 percent less than a year ago.

For all the fall producing states, there were 171.56 million cwt on hand on January 1, 57 percent of production and 12 percent under a year ago.

CROP SEASON REVIEW

Montana's growing season was dominated by a severe statewide drought. The dry season started early in the spring and although rains from 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches fell during June they were not enough to override the effects of a very dry July and August. Small grains matured ahead of schedule on very short straw and mostly thin stands.

Ranges and pastures made little or no growth during the entire season in most of Montana. Many herds were culled or relocated early in the season and hay prices soared. Calves were weaned and marketed ahead of schedule. Rains in September started grass and weed growth in grain stubble, and softened range grasses.

The lack of mountain snowpack resulted in far below normal streamflow. Forests were very dry and the fire season was one of the worst in the history of the State.

Soils were still dry for winter wheat seeding but many farmers went ahead anyway. Rain at the end of September germinated much of the crop and pushed seeding ahead for those who were waiting. The winter wheat crop entered dormancy in fair to good condition. Wind damage to the crop during the early winter months has been light.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1987	Sep. 1, 1988*	Dec. 1, 1988	% Chg. '88/'87	Dec. 1, 1987	Sep. 1, 1988*	Dec. 1, 1988
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	129,000	87,000	65,000	-50	966,000	798,000	614,000
Off Farms 1/	43,624	32,183	26,000	-40	1,534,568	1,455,552	1,096,986
T O T A L	172,624	119,183	91,000	-47	2,500,568	2,253,552	1,710,986
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	65,000	50,000	36,000	-45	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	24,964	18,393	15,500	-38	--	--	--
T O T A L	89,964	68,393	51,500	-43	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	64,000	37,000	29,000	-55	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	18,660	13,790	10,500	-44	--	--	--
T O T A L	82,660	50,790	39,500	-52	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	76,850	56,040	49,615
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	43,639	50,630	43,039
T O T A L	8,644	5,263	4,000	-54	120,489	106,670	92,654
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	6,100,000	2,002,800	4,280,200
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	3,671,005	2,256,286	2,790,684
T O T A L 4/	--	--	--	--	9,771,005	4,259,086	7,070,884
BARLEY							
On Farms	65,000	33,000	26,000	-60	--	239,250	182,800
Off Farms 1/	9,891	11,364	12,000	+21	--	211,468	192,875
T O T A L	74,891	44,364	38,000	-49	--	450,718	375,675

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS In All Positions by Districts

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Dec. 1, 1987	Sep. 1, 1988*	Dec. 1, 1988	Dec. 1, 1987	Sep. 1, 1988	Dec. 1, 1988
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	1.3	1.2	1.0	3.2	1.9	1.5
North Central	77.4	51.0	42.3	35.5	20.2	17.9
Northeast	47.4	31.9	23.0	12.3	7.4	5.1
Central	22.9	17.8	13.6	11.6	9.5	7.8
Southwest	5.1	3.3	2.6	6.0	2.2	2.8
South Central	10.2	8.2	3.5	4.6	2.2	1.8
Southeast	8.3	5.8	5.0	1.7	1.0	1.1
STATE	172.6	119.2	91.0	74.9	44.4	38.0

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

1989 WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE DOWN 2 PERCENT

Montana farmers planted 2.4 million acres of winter wheat last fall for harvest in 1989. This is 2 percent less than last year, and 5 percent less than the 10 year average. Winter wheat plantings have been on a slow, but erratic, decline in Montana for several years.

Planting conditions last fall started out very dry, but fall rains established fair to good stands. Although soil moisture is still short, the crop is mostly under good snow cover protection.

The U.S. winter wheat seeded area for 1989 is placed at 54.5 million acres, up 12 percent from 1988. All states increased acreage from 1988 except Arizona, the Dakotas, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, and Wyoming. New Mexico and Tennessee are unchanged.

Seeding of this year's crop kicked off in August in several states. Nearly 2 percent of the crop was seeded by September 1. Progress moved along by varying degrees, reaching about 97 percent as of December 1. By Mid-December, seeding was finished except for parts of the Southeast, Arizona, and California.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS

SELECTED STATES	AREA SEEDED 1/ CROP OF 1988	1989	1989 1988
	--000 Acres--		Pct.
ARK	1,120	1,300	116
CALIF	500	625	125
COLO	2,500	2,700	108
GA	575	700	122
IDAHO	820	880	107
ILL	1,300	1,600	123
IND	840	920	110
KANS	10,200	12,400	122
KY	550	590	107
MICH	650	660	102
MISS	500	460	92
MO	1,650	2,050	124
MONT	2,450	2,400	98
NEBR	2,300	2,500	109
N MEX	520	520	100
N C	510	680	133
N DAK	250	100	40
OHIO	1,000	1,230	123
OKLA	7,000	7,300	104
OREG	700	800	114
S DAK	1,700	1,600	94
TENN	530	530	100
TEX	6,300	6,800	108
WASH	1,850	2,100	114
U.S.	48,800	54,456	112

UNITED STATES ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 1987-1988

CROP		ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
CROP	UNIT	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988
		- 000 Acres -		- 000 Acres -		- Unit -		- 000 Units -	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,811	48,800	39,347	39,785	39.8	39.2	1,565,176	1,560,970
Durum	Bu.	3,341	3,336	3,279	2,847	28.2	15.7	92,617	44,831
Other Spring	Bu.	13,682	13,393	13,334	10,542	33.7	19.5	449,687	205,460
All Wheat	Bu.	65,834	65,529	55,960	53,174	37.7	34.1	2,107,480	1,811,261
Barley	Bu.	11,046	9,676	10,057	7,535	52.7	38.6	529,530	290,505
Oats	Bu.	17,959	13,927	6,925	5,590	54.0	39.1	374,000	218,773
Corn for Grain	Bu.	65,704*	67,619*	59,208	58,164	119.4	84.6	7,072,073	4,921,191
Corn Silage	Ton	--	--	5,829	8,295	14.5	9.5	84,468	78,925
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,266.7	1,326.8	1,252.4	1,300.6	22.4	19.1	28,072	24,794
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	1,104.2	1,078.9	1,086.5	1,059.5	315.0	290.0	342,471	307,181
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,800.6	1,498.4	1,688.4	1,366.0	15.35	14.08	25,909	19,230
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,535	26,695	3.32	2.60	84,794	69,282
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,748	65,559	2.46	1.93	149,302	126,817
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	214,800	186,200

* Planted All Purposes.

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT

There were 194 million eggs produced in Montana during the year ending November 30, 1988. Layer numbers during 1988 averaged 773,000 compared with 789,000 a year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1988 was 251 eggs, down from 260 eggs per layer in 1987.

There were 910,000 chickens on Montana farms December 1, 1988 compared with 990,000 chickens on hand a year earlier. The inventory value was $2,093,000, down from $2,426,000 on December 1, 1987.

U.S. egg production during 1988 totaled 69.5 billion eggs, unchanged from a year earlier. Layer numbers during 1988 averaged 277 million, down 1 percent from 1987. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1988 was 251 eggs, up from 248 eggs in 1987.

The inventory number of all chickens on December 1, 1988 (excluding broilers) totaled 355 million, down 6 percent from a year ago. The total value was $725.0 million, up from $706.1 million on December 1, 1987

1988 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA ACREAGE Planted (Thousands)	MONTANA ACREAGE Harv. (Thousands)	MONTANA Production Unit	Yield Per Acre	Total (Thous.)	% Chg. From Prev. Year	Season Avg. Price Per Unit ($)	Value of Prod. (Thous.$)	U.S. PRODUCTION (Thous.)
Winter Wheat	1985	2,460	1,400	Bu.	16.0	22,400	- 67	3.28	73,472	1,827,615
	1986	2,150	2,000		32.0	64,000	+186	2.39	152,960	1,521,499
	1987	2,300	2,200		36.0	79,200	+ 24	2.66	210,672	1,565,176
	1988	2,450	2,100		19.0	39,900	- 50	3.75	149,625	1,560,670
Durum Wheat	1985	200	160	Bu.	9.0	1,440	- 60	3.18	4,579	112,510
	1986	165	160		27.0	4,320	+200	2.75	11,880	97,907
	1987	195	190		28.0	5,320	+ 23	3.40	18,088	92,617
	1988	280	230		9.0	2,070	- 61	5.50	11,385	44,831
Other Spring Wheat	1985	3,000	2,400	Bu.	11.0	26,400	- 23	3.64	96,096	484,980
	1986	2,700	2,600		27.0	70,200	+166	2.62	183,924	472,230
	1987	2,400	2,300		29.0	66,700	- 5	2.78	185,426	449,687
	1988	2,000	1,500		12.0	18,000	- 73	4.05	72,900	205,460
All Wheat	1985	5,660	3,960	Bu.	12.7	50,240	- 52	3.47	174,147	2,425,105
	1986	5,015	4,760		29.1	138,520	+176	2.52	348,764	2,091,635
	1987	4,895	4,690		32.2	151,220	+ 9	2.74	414,186	2,107,480
	1988	4,730	3,830		15.7	59,970	- 60	3.90	233,910	1,811,261
Barley	1985	2,350	1,500	Bu.	20.0	30,000	- 49	2.03	60,900	591,383
	1986	2,400	2,180		39.0	85,020	+183	1.60	136,032	610,522
	1987	2,300	2,100		45.0	94,500	+ 11	1.82	171,990	529,530
	1988	1,800	1,250		24.0	30,000	- 68	2.85	85,500	290,505
Oats	1985	225	70	Bu.	33.0	2,310	- 41	1.50	3,465	520,800
	1986	200	90		46.0	4,140	+ 79	1.37	5,672	386,356
	1987	235	110		55.0	6,050	+ 46	1.49	9,015	374,000
	1988	210	90		31.0	2,790	- 54	2.35	6,557	218,773
Corn for Grain 2/	1985	84	11	Bu.	95.0	1,045	- 24	2.80	2,926	8,876,706
	1986	80	13		115.0	1,495	+ 43	2.10	3,140	8,249,864
	1987	80	15		105.0	1,575	+ 5	2.20	3,465	7,072,073
	1988	90	20		110.0	2,200	+ 40	3.15	6,930	4,921,191
Corn for Silage	1985	--	69	Tons	19.0	1,311	+ 6	--	--	102,752
	1986	--	63		19.0	1,197	- 9	--	--	88,660
	1987	--	64		18.0	1,152	- 4	--	--	84,468
	1988	--	67		19.0	1,273	+ 11	--	--	78,925
Potatoes (Fall)	1985	7.9	7.0	Cwt.	270.0	1,890	- 2	8.75	16,538	342,774
	1986	7.8	7.7		290.0	2,233	+ 18	6.65	14,849	317,771
	1987	8.0	7.9		300.0	2,370	+ 6	5.65	13,391	342,471
	1988	7.8	7.7		280.0	2,156	- 9	7.75	16,709	307,181
Dry Beans	1985	3.4	3.0	Cwt.	19.0	57	- 62	17.00	969	22,175
	1986	4.8	4.5		21.6	97	+ 70	15.00	1,455	22,886
	1987	5.8	5.7		21.9	125	+ 29	12.00	1,500	25,909
	1988	4.4	4.0		19.0	76	- 39	28.00	2,128	19,230
Sugarbeets	1985	43.5	42.7	Tons	19.0	811	+ 95	35.10	28,466	22,529
	1986	47.2	46.8		21.7	1,016	+ 25	39.10	39,726	25,162
	1987	49.2	48.9		22.2	1,086	+ 7	42.20	45,829	28,072
	1988	49.6	48.9		21.1	1,032	- 5	--	--	24,794
Alfalfa Hay	1985	--	950	Tons	1.80	1,710	- 29	--	--	85,048
	1986	--	1,300		2.30	2,990	+ 75	--	--	91,552
	1987	--	1,300		2.20	2,860	- 4	--	--	84,794
	1988	--	1,100		1.90	2,090	- 27	--	--	69,282
All Hay 3/	1985	--	1,950	Tons	1.42	2,760	- 27	84.50	233,220	148,601
	1986	--	2,250		1.92	4,320	+ 57	51.00	220,320	155,529
	1987	--	2,200		1.91	4,210	- 3	45.00	189,450	149,302
	1988	--	1,800		1.55	2,790	- 34	86.50	241,335	126,817
Sweet Cherries 4/	1985	--	--	Tons	--	4,600	+100	644.00	2,255	132,500
	1986	--	--		--	1,600	- 65	480.00	480	137,710
	1987	--	--		--	3,800	+138	877.00	2,280	214,800
	1988	--	--		--	3,300	- 13	548.00	1,042	186,200
All Main Crops	1985	--	--		--	--		--	494,420 5/	--
	1986	--	--		--	--		--	730,712 5/	--
	1987	--	--		--	--		--	805,277 5/	
	1988	--	--		--	--		--	594,111 5/	

1/ All estimates for 1988 are preliminary. 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Production in actual tons. 5/ Excludes sugarbeets value for comparability with 1988.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

QUARTERLY EGG PRODUCTION
NOVEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION
MONTHLY PRICES
HOG & PIG INVENTORY
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS
HAY STOCKS

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NOVEMBER MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 95,000 gallons of ice cream in November, up 13 percent from October and up 27 percent from November 1987. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 236,000 pounds was down 5 percent from last month and down 15 percent from last year. There were 171,000 pounds of lowfat cottage cheese produced in November, down 6 percent from last month. Butter production in November was 170,000 pounds, up 33 percent from October and up 21 percent from November 1987.

U.S. butter production was 92.2 million pounds, 5 percent above November 1987 but the same as October 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 49.1 million pounds, 4 percent below November 1987, but 1 percent below October 1988. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 22.0 million pounds, 12 percent above November 1987 but 1 percent below October 1988.

November ice cream production, at 57.8 million gallons was up 1 percent from last year. There were 2.80 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 6 percent from November 1987.

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 12 PERCENT

There were 43 million eggs produced by **Montana** laying flocks during the September-November quarter, 12 percent less than produced during the same quarter in 1987. The average number of **layers** on hand during the quarter was 725,000 layers compared with 783,000 layers on hand a year earlier. **Rate of lay** during the September-November quarter averaged 59.3 eggs per hundred layers, down from 62.6 during this quarter in 1987.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.0 billion eggs during the September through November quarter, down 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 15.0 billion for table eggs and 2.03 billion for hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 274 million, down 3 percent from the 283 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1988 totaled 275 million, compared with 286 million a year ago. The 275 million layers consisted of 237 million table or commercial type eggs and 38.1 million hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1988 averaged 68.8 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.5 for December 1, 1987 and 68.9 on November 1, 1988.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.76 billion eggs during November, down 2 percent from the 4.87 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during November averaged 230 million, down 3 percent from a year ago.

DECEMBER HOG & PIG INVENTORY UP 7 PERCENT

The inventory of hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 1988, was estimated at 245,000 head, up 7 percent from a year ago. The December inventory is the largest since 250,000 were on hand in 1980. Market hogs, estimated at 213,000 head, and breeding hogs at 32,000 head are both up 7 percent from last year.

There were 24,000 sows that farrowed from December 1987 through May 1988, producing a pig crop of 184,000 head. Sows farrowing from June through November 1988 at 31,000 head, produced a pig crop of 217,000 head. The total pig crop for the year, at 401,000 head is 12 percent above last year. There are approximately 2,000 farms with hogs in Montana. The value of Montana's hog inventory is estimated at $17.6 million compared with $16.8 million a year earlier.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs was estimated at 55.3 million head on December 1, 1988. This was 1 percent above a year ago and 9 percent above December 1, 1986.

-- Breeding hog inventory, at 7.04 million, was 2 percent below last year but 6 percent above two years ago.

-- Market hog inventory, at 48.3 million, was 2 percent above a year ago and 9 percent above two years ago.

NOVEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in November 1988. This production is down 7 percent from last month, and down 13 percent from the November 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, was down 200 head from a year earlier. The average liveweight slaughtered was 1005 pounds compared with 1,063 pounds in November 1987. Hog slaughter, at 2,700 head was up 200 head from last year. The average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 231 pounds, down 10 pounds from November 1987.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in November 1988 totaled 3.40 billion pounds, up 6 percent from last year. January-November red meat production, at 36.4 billion pounds was up 4 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, unchanged; Veal, down 7; Pork, up 10; Lamb and Mutton, up 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

The 10 Quarterly States, with 43.0 million head on December 1, 1988, were up slightly from a year earlier and up 8 percent from December 1, 1986. These 10 States account for approximately 78 percent of the total U.S. hog and pig inventory.

1988 Pig Crop: The U.S. pig crop for 1988 totaled 92.6 million head, 5 percent above 1987 and 12 percent above the 1986 pig crop.

-- December 1987-May 1988 pig crop, estimated at 46.8 million head, was up 8 percent from a year earlier and 16 percent above the comparable period in 1986.

-- June-November 1988 pig crop, estimated at 45.7 million head, was 2 percent above last year, and 9 percent above the June-November 1986 pig crop.

A total of 6.00 million sows farrowed during June-November 1988, 3 percent above a year earlier and 11 percent above the June-November 1986 period. The litter size during this period averaged 7.62, compared to the record 7.74 in both 1987 and 1986.

In the 10 Quarterly States, the June-August 1988 pig crop totaled 18.0 million head, 2 percent above the same quarter a year earlier. For the September-November period, the pig crop of 17.2 million head was 2 percent below the same period in 1987.

December 1 U.S. Market Hogs Compared With Last Year

180 POUNDS & OVER	120 - 179 POUNDS	60 - 119 POUNDS	UNDER 60 POUNDS
7.97 Mil., DOWN 1%	10.02 Mil., UP 3%	12.40 Mil., UP 4%	17.88 Mil., UP 1%
	-----Will Go To Market In-----		
DECEMBER TO EARLY FEBRUARY	EARLY FEBRUARY THRU MARCH	APRIL TO MID-MAY	MID-MAY THRU JUNE

DECEMBER AG PRICES

Montana farmers and ranchers received slightly lower prices for most of the products they sold in December compared with a month earlier. Lower prices were noted for wheat, barley, steers and heifers, cows and calves. Prices increased for oats, sheep, lambs, hogs, milk and eggs.

The December index of all farm products at 174 (1977=100) was down 6 points from November but still 24 points above a year ago. The all crops index at 169 is down 4 points from November, while the livestock and products index at 179 is down 7 points.

For the nation, the December all farm products index of prices received by farmers increased 1 point from November to 145 percent of its January-December average. Higher prices for hogs, lettuce, oranges, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for tomatoes, turkeys, sweet corn, and strawberries. The index was 18 points above a year ago.

Hog prices increased substantially from last month's relatively low levels while cattle, milk, broiler, and egg prices each increased slightly. The all wheat price was at the highest level since May of 1981. Soybean and corn prices increased slightly since November. Tomato and turkey prices decreased sharply from last month.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1988	MONTANA Dec. 15, 1988	U.S. Dec. 15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.68	3.83	3.80	3.89
Durum	Bu.	3.54	5.66	4.75	4.39
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.74	4.04	4.00	3.81
All Wheat	Bu.	2.74	3.98	3.92	3.89
Barley, All	Bu.	2.07	3.03	2.90	2.67
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.35
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.13
Oats	Bu.	1.53	2.19	2.25	2.30
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	90.00	90.00	96.60
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	80.00	80.00	73.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	89.00	89.00	89.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	74.10	79.10	77.80	73.50
Cows	Cwt.	44.80	42.50	41.10	45.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	60.30	62.60	59.50	67.30
Calves	Cwt.	85.90	91.10	89.10	88.50
Sheep	Cwt.	29.50	25.40	25.90	27.10
Lambs	Cwt.	82.70	70.00	71.10	68.30
Hogs	Cwt.	33.20	31.30	32.70	40.50
All Milk	Cwt.	12.74	13.32	13.60	13.50
Eggs	Doz.	.41	.67	.71	.60
Wool 2/	Lb.	.94	1.20	1.20	1.01
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	150	180	174	145
All Crops	Pct.	117	173	169	136
Livestock & Products	Pct.	179	186	179	154

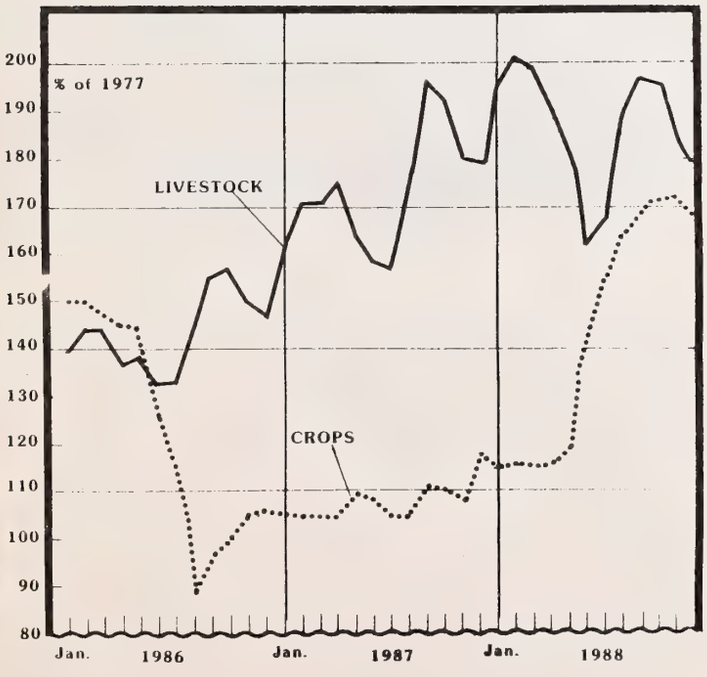
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

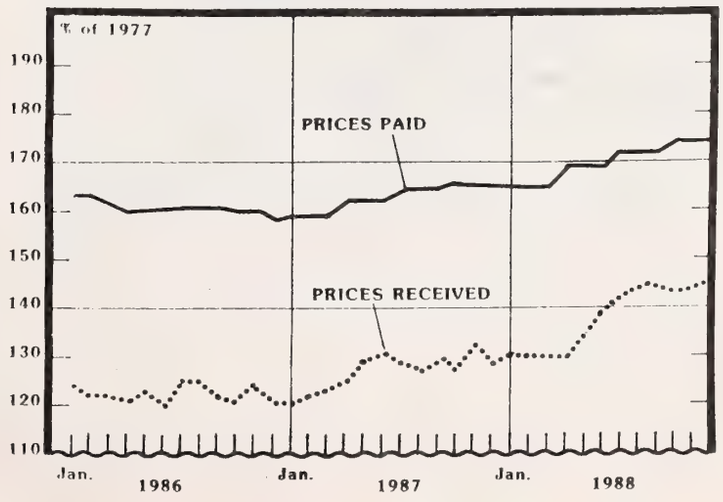
INDEX 1977=100	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1988
Prices Received	132	127	144	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/165	2/165	3/174	3/174
Ratio 1/	80	77	83	83

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1987 prices paid index. 3/ October 1988 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



HAY STOCKS DOWN 56 PERCENT

Stocks of hay on hand in **Montana** on December 1, 1988, totaled 2.71 million tons, 56 percent less than last year. The low hay stocks level is a combination of low production and above normal feed requirement brought on by drought. Although this year's stocks are drastically below the levels of 1986 and 1987, they are still 27 percent more than the December 1, 1985 hay stocks on hand.

Livestock were able to graze crop residue and hay fields during most of the fall. However, supplemental feeding of hay was also widely practiced during that period.

U.S. hay stocks on farms totaled 90.9 million tons on December 1, 1988. This was 24 percent less than on hand a year earlier and 25 percent below the holdings on December 1, 1986. The lower stocks this year reflect the effect of drought last summer.

1989 WINTER WHEAT CONDITION

Lack of moisture stressed winter wheat in the Central and Southern Plains during December. At mid-month, some reseeding occurred in Texas.

Greenbug infestation was a continuing problem. By the end of the month, greenbugs were a problem as far north as Nebraska. Moisture improved conditions in eastern Kansas and the Texas Blacklands late in December.

Early in the month, producers were concerned about lack of snow cover in the Norther Plains and the Corn Belt. By month's end, snow cover was improved but still limited in some areas. Despite limited snow cover in Colorado and Montana, wind damage was light.

Russian wheat aphids were a problem in Oregon and Washington during most of the month. Storms slowed seeding in California during the latter half of December. Winter wheat was mostly good to fair in the Southeast. Seeding was nearly complete by month's end.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Crop Production
Winter Wheat Seeding
Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Potato Stocks

INTEREST HIGH IN CATTLE NUMBERS

Will Montana cattle numbers decline in 1989 for the fifth consecutive year? That's a question asked by many involved in Montana's cattle business. The January 1, 1988 figures pegged Montana's herd at 2,350 thousand head -- the lowest count since 1963. Heifers kept for beef cow replacement were up 9% last year indicating intentions to rebuild herds that had been liquidated due to financial stress and a shortage of hay and pasture.

Many experts expect a further decline in numbers. A look at Montana auction market data shows sales of cattle through November 1988 were up 15 percent from the same period a year ago. Although auction market sales only represent about half of total Montana marketings, indications point toward a possible further shrinkage of the herd size.

During the first two weeks in January, about 1,500 ranchers will be contacted by mail, phone, or personal interview to determine Montana cattle numbers as of January 1, 1989. The cooperation of those selected will be sincerely appreciated. Results will be published on February 8th. Most analysts agree that prices should remain strong during 1989, signaling producers to expand. But, expansion in Montana will depend on moisture supplies.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 5 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed December 1, 1988, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.98 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago but up 2 percent from December 1, 1986.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during November totaled 1.51 million, up 3 percent from last year and up 4 percent from two years ago. This is the largest number of marketings during November since 1978.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during November totaled 1.68 million, up 4 percent from last year but down 8 percent from November 1986. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.57 million for November are 4 percent above last year but 9 percent below 1986.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 107 thousand head, compared to 103 thousand during November 1987 and 87 thousand during November 1986.

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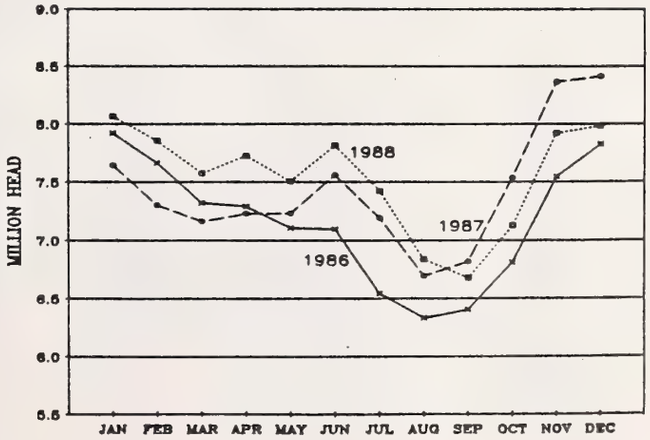
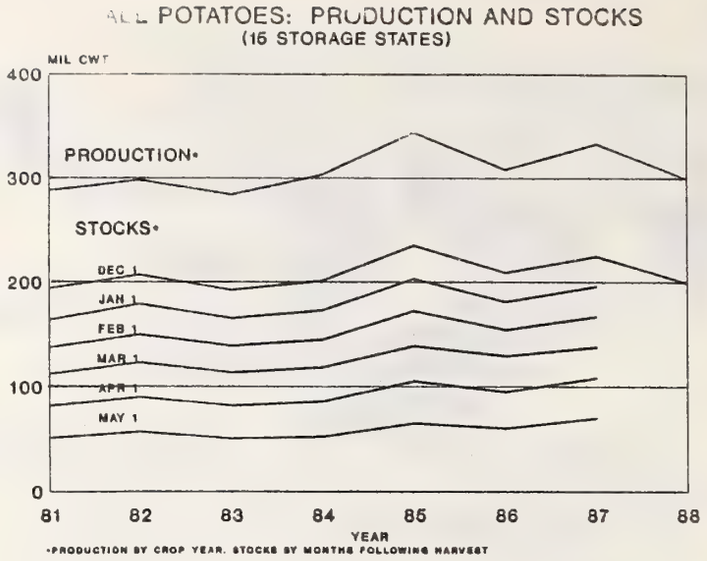
CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



POTATO STOCKS DOWN 12 PERCENT



Montana potato producers have 2,020,000 cwt of potatoes in storage as of December 1, compared with 2,200,000 cwt on hand December 1, 1987. The December 1 stocks represent 94% of the 2,156,000 cwt produced this year, while last year's stocks represented 93% of 1987 production. Nearly all of Montana's potatoes in storage will be sold for seed next spring.

Fall potato stocks in the **15 major storage states** were estimated at 199 million cwt on December 1, 1988. This is a drop of 12 percent from last year and 5 percent below 1986 storage. Farmers and storage operators accounted for 66 percent of fall production under cover this year, compared with 67 percent last year. Potato stocks by type were 2 percent **red**, 16 percent **white**, and 82 percent **russet**.

Fall potato production is estimated at 307 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year and 3 percent below 1986. Area harvested is set at 1.06 million acres, down 2 percent from last year but 2 percent above 1986. The average yield was finalized at 290 cwt per acre, 8 percent short of a year ago and 6 percent below 1986. The December 1 estimate of production is nearly 1 percent below the November 1 forecast, based on an adjustment in acreage and a downward change in yield per acre.

Nine western states produced 215 million cwt of potatoes in 1986, down 6 percent from last year but 3 percent above 1986. Acreage harvested is set at 607 thousand acres, a dip of 2 percent from last year but 5 percent above 1986. The average yield of 353 cwt was 4 percent below last year. Idaho production is down fractionally from last year as increased acreage nearly offset lower average yields.

The Colorado crop turned out 5 percent smaller than last year and smaller than forecast on November 1. A water shortage in Malheur County and spring frost in Klamath Falls coupled with an 18 percent drop in acres to reduce Oregon production 20 percent from last year. Washington production dipped 6 percent; while California output dropped 22 percent.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION & STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1987 & DECEMBER 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1987			CROP OF 1988		
	Production	Total Stocks Dec. 1, 1987	Dec. 1 Stocks as % of Production	Production	Total Stocks Dec. 1, 1988	Dec. 1 Stocks as % of Production
	1,000 CWT		Percent	1,000 CWT		Percent
CALIF	7,869	5,000	64	6,105	3,400	56
COLO	19,500	15,600	80	18,445	13,950	76
IDAHO	99,710	72,500	73	99,320	70,500	71
MAINE	23,240	17,600	76	22,000	15,800	72
MICH	8,910	5,500	62	6,900	3,600	52
MINN	16,330	11,400	70	12,075	8,900	74
MONT	2,370	2,200	93	2,156	2,020	94
NEBR	2,175	1,800	83	2,128	1,550	73
NY-L.I.	2,225	840	38	1,920	550	29
UPSTATE	5,875	3,300	56	4,500	2,100	47
N DAK	23,125	17,500	76	14,375	10,500	73
OHIO	2,254	700	31	1,697	450	27
OREG	25,924	17,900	69	20,735	15,300	74
PA	4,730	3,070	65	3,690	2,700	73
WASH	66,960	36,600	55	63,250	36,700	58
WISC	21,908	13,100	60	20,000	10,500	53
15 STATE TOTAL	333,105	224,610	67	299,296	198,520	66

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

GRAIN STOCKS SHARPLY LOWER

The 1988 drought brought about the steepest one-year decline in world grain stocks ever recorded. Just 2 years ago, global stocks of grain were record high. In the U.S. alone, grains stocks totaled 204 million tons, enough to satisfy our domestic needs for almost a full year. Stocks will be drawn down by a staggering 100 million tons this marketing year -- and by 135 million tons in a two-year period, with stocks in other countries declining an estimated 53 million tons.

* The specter of global food scarcity has reared its head once again, but history does not support this pessimistic view. During the past 30 years, U.S. grain yields have increased steadily -- averaging 2 bushels per acre per year for corn; a half-bushel for wheat; and about one-third of a bushel for soybeans.

* Many countries have yet to adopt existing technology. Only one-third of the corn area in developing countries is planted to hybrid corn varieties, yet those countries account for fully one-half of the world's corn area.

* There is little reason to believe that the pace of technological improvement in agriculture will slow. If anything, dramatic breakthroughs are on the horizon. Within the next few years, biotechnology will move from the laboratory into commercial use, potentially offering new plant varieties resistant to insects, heat, drought, frost, and disease.

* Since 1950 whenever crop yields have dropped more than 15% for whatever reason, production rebounded the following year. Corn rebounded an average of 42%, soybean production, 17%; and wheat 20%. Data for the past 20 years show that corn, soybean, and wheat yields recovered to within 10% of trend --either higher or lower--in the years following a drought. Fundamentals may have been masked by the 1988 drought, but they have not changed. The drought has altered the immediate outlook, but in a world of subsidized agriculture, the long-term tendency to overproduce lurks only slightly below the surface. USDA Assistant Secretary Ewen M. Wilson.

CONSUMERS ARE CHANGING

In 1960 two-income families represented 26% of all families; but today, 44%. Between 1976 and 1987 the traditional family with children where only the husband is employed dropped 25% and now make up about 28% of all families in which the wife is 18 to 44 years old. Dual income families with no kids increased 31% between 1976 and 1987. Dual income families with children increased 61% between 1976 and 1987. It is estimated that by the year 2000 more than 60% of the workforce will be female.

* For many consumers, time is viewed as a more limiting resource than money. About 66% of all households have microwaves, and 43 million servings of food and beverages are heated in microwaves daily. Several years ago, research revealed that 30 minutes appeared to be the maximum time many "active lifestyle" consumers were willing to spend preparing a weekday meal at home. Recently, consumer watchers believe this magic number has diminished to 20 or even 10 minutes.

* Consumers generally desire higher quality foods. Among society-at-large, skills, understanding and experience with cooking and the creation of high quality foods is diminishing. This suggests that future sources of high quality foods will increasingly be food marketers rather than consumers' kitchens.

* Value-driven consumers typically will pay more for products and services that deliver on the promise of better quality. Since quality is such a broad concept with many interpretations among consumers, it follows that food marketers, from farmers to retailers, must respond.

* Growing numbers of people consider foods, diets, and lifestyles more seriously in terms of preventing health problems and prolonging healthful and active lives. -- John W. Allen and Thomas R. Pierson, professors of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University.

28 MILLION ACRES EXPECTED IN CRP

The Food Security Act of 1985 has been called the most significant conservation legislation since the 1930's. After the 6th signup last spring, more than 25,5 million acres were enrolled under 10-year contracts.

When bids accepted for the 7th signup are announced in mid-December, we expect to have about 28 million acres enrolled in the program. Placing the 25.5 million acres in permanent cover will mean an estimated soil savings of more than 530 million tons annually as average rates of erosion decline from 22.4 tons per acre per year to 1.6 tons.

Producers are devoting nearly 22 million acres to grasses and more than 1.5 million acres to trees. Participants are also encouraged to install needed diversion, windbreaks, waterways, wildlife plantings, and other conservation practices.

NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION - 21 STATES

Milk production in the 21 selected States totaled 9.79 billion pounds. This was 2 percent above production for November 1987 in these same States.

During the July-September period, the 21 selected States produced 85.1 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed for December 1, followed the trend shown by the reporting States, the U.S. milk production would total about 11.5 billion pounds for November.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1,142 pounds during November, 35 pounds above November 1987. Total milk cows in the 21 States averaged 8.57 million head, 1 percent less than November 1987 and 11,000 head less than October 1988.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Ag Prices
Hogs & Pigs
Quarterly Egg Production
Slaughter
Hay Stocks
Dairy Products

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Seasons Greetings

The Holiday Season is upon us. It's time to pause, reflect and evaluate our objectives. It brings to mind words from our NASS administrator, Charles Caudill. He said, "Keep your priorities straight! Those priorities should be: God, family, and job -- in that order." This message was a bit unexpected from a man whose agency is facing increased responsibilities with a very tight budget, but in the overall scheme of things it makes sense.

A lifetime is often too short for most of us to leave a mark for future generations, except through our deeds. If we conduct our lives with a commitment to God, our families and set high standards both on and off our jobs, we can make a difference!

During this holiday season we should remember that many are struggling to survive and need encouragement and help. We are indeed fortunate that even during this year of extensive drought, we still have an abundance of food. We salute our farmers and ranchers who struggled to produce in the face of adversity.

On behalf of our office staff, we want to thank you for your support throughout the year and wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lyle H. Pratt
Lyle H. Pratt
State Statistician

Wendy Brueske
Elma St. Clair
Charlotte Hagen
Linda McCauley
Gail Lebahn
Vicki McCall
Ron Schumacher
Ray Stack
Perry Jame
Curt Lund
Billye Vincent

DEMAND UP FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Fresh fruits and vegetables are becoming more important to consumers. That's why more space is being allocated to fresh produce in America's supermarkets.

An expanded variety of products is available with rapid increases in lettuce and other greens, melons, and chili peppers. In addition, demand has rapidly increased for organically grown produce. What do we mean by organic? Those are fruits and vegetables grown without commercial fertilizer or pesticides. They demand a price premium because of the additional work and care required to grow organic products, and, of course, the additional marketing costs.

The biggest challenge that supermarkets face is keeping organic produce separate and promoting the organic product without implying that the regular, cheaper produce is any less desirable.

U.S. HAS HUGE CROPLAND RESERVE

The United States has the best cropland resource of any country in the world - a little over 400 million fertile acres.

Cropland is one of the major forces that give American farmers their great power to produce. And, of course, overproduction is still the major underlying cause of much of agriculture's problems. In an effort to control overproduction, a lot of land has been idled the last couple of years.

In 1981, just 7 years ago, almost 90% of all cropland was actually harvested. In 1988 only 70% of our 406 million cropland acres was used. Crop failure was partly responsible but the main cause was land idled under government programs. This was nearly 20% of our total cropland. It would be a lot more if it wasn't for exports. In 1987, the last year figures were available, 36% of all harvested acres in the United States were producing for export.

So, in order to provide enough food for just our nation, less than half of our total cropland would be necessary. No wonder American agriculture contributes so much to our national prosperity.

OCTOBER MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 84,000 gallons of ice cream in October, down 18 percent from September and down 13 percent from October 1987. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 249,000 pounds was down 2 percent from last month and down 10 percent from last year. There were 181,000 pounds of lowfat cottage cheese produced, down 11 percent from last month. Butter production in October was 128,000 pounds, up 22 percent from September, but down 6 percent from October 1987.

U.S. butter production was 92.2 million pounds, 1 percent above October 1987 and 11 percent above September 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 50.5 million pounds, 7 percent below October 1987 and 4 percent below September 1988. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 22.3 million pounds, virtually unchanged from October 1987, but 7 percent below September 1988.

October ice cream production, at 62.6 million gallons was down 1 percent from last year. There were 3.47 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 19 percent from October 1987.

1988 BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE

The 1988 Montana Agricultural Statistics bulletin is now available for distribution. It contains a statistical record of Montana's agriculture. The primary purpose of the bulletin is to provide those interested in Montana's agricultural industry with a single publication that covers state and county crop and livestock production.

It also features farm income, numbers of farms and weather data, along with production statistics for the past ten years. The demand for accurate, reliable statistical data continues to grow.

Farm programs and the marketing system depend on information for fair prices and equitable programs. Agri-businesses want to know about Montana agriculture before investing in our state!

For more information about obtaining a copy of this year's bulletin call or write to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service at (406) 449-5303, P.O. Box 4369, Helena, MT 59604. The bulletin is free to those who report information to us, but costs $5.00 for others, payable to the Montana Department of Agriculture at the above address.

NOVEMBER PRICES RECEIVED

The November 1988 Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers at 181 percent of the 1977 average, declined 4 points from October but was still 30 points above November last year.

The crops index edged up 1 point, while livestock dropped off 7 points. Compared with last year, the crops index is up 54 points and the livestock index is up 8 points.

Individual commodity price changes between October and November were mixed, with declines for durum wheat, barley, steers, heifers, cows, and calves. Hay and wool were unchanged, other items were up.

Compared with last year, most items were up except for cows, sheep, lambs, and hogs.

The November all farm products index of prices received by U.S. farmers decreased 1 point from October to 142 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for hogs, corn, grapefruit, and soybeans were partially offset by higher prices for tomatoes, potatoes, milk, and sweet corn. The index was 10 points above a year ago.

All feed grain prices declined from the previous month. Wheat prices averaged the highest since May 1981 and dry bean prices were the highest since July 1981. Beef cattle prices held steady compared to October. Hog prices were at the lowest level since June 1980.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1988	MONTANA Nov. 15, 1988	U.S. Nov. 15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.68	3.79	3.85	3.87
Durum	Bu.	3.56	5.41	5.40	4.87
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.80	4.10	4.15	3.84
All Wheat	Bu.	2.78	3.96	4.01	3.90
Barley, All	Bu.	2.06	2.90	2.88	2.74
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.38
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.27
Oats	Bu.	1.44	2.04	2.10	2.40
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	47.00	90.00	90.00	93.00
All Other Hay	Ton	42.00	80.00	80.00	70.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	47.00	89.00	89.00	87.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	75.00	81.80	80.70	72.60
Cows	Cwt.	42.70	44.30	42.40	43.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	62.00	68.70	65.40	67.10
Calves	Cwt.	84.00	90.20	88.00	88.10
Sheep	Cwt.	29.80	22.00	22.20	25.20
Lambs	Cwt.	76.90	67.60	68.40	65.10
Hogs	Cwt.	33.60	34.00	30.70	36.00
All Milk	Cwt.	12.90	12.66	13.05	13.20
Eggs	Doz.	.53	.60	.67	.59
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.15	1.20	1.20	1.16
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	151	185	181	142
All Crops	Pct.	118	171	172	133
Livestock & Products	Pct.	181	196	189	151

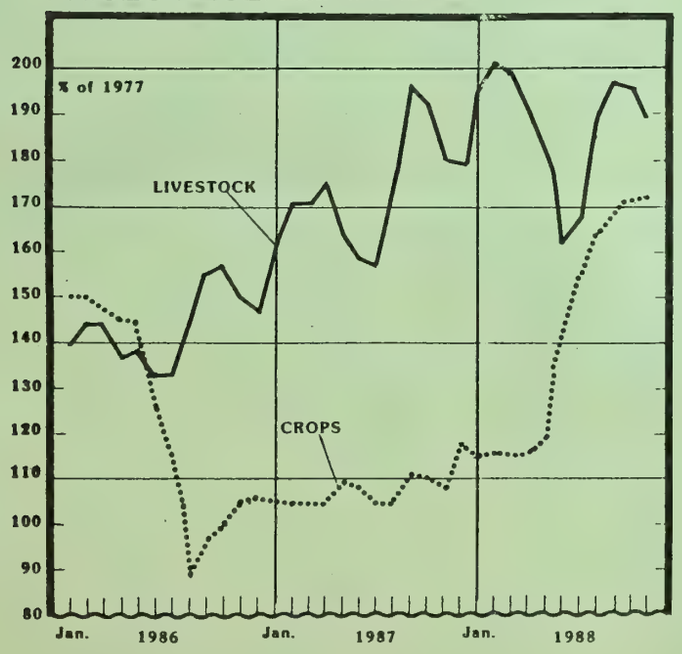
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

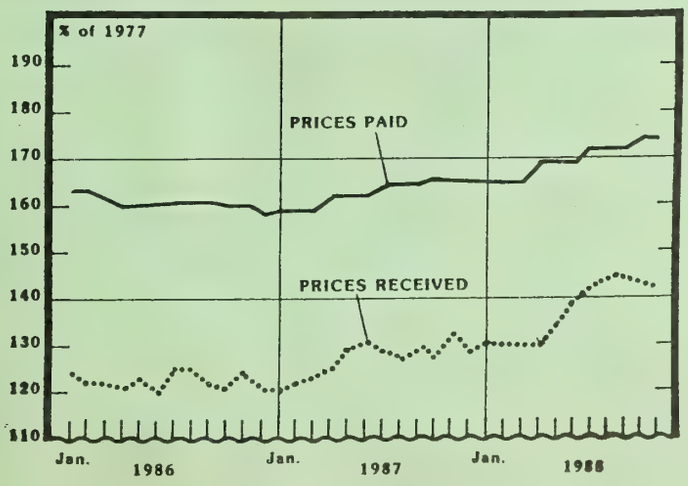
INDEX 1977=100	Oct. 1987	Nov. 1987	Oct. 1988	Nov. 1988
Prices Received	127	132	143	142
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	165	2/165	174	3/174
Ratio 1/	77	80	82	82

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1987 prices paid index. 3/ October 1988 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



CASH INCOME UP DESPITE DROUGHT

Despite the drought, net cash income for the farm sector in 1988 will be near or slightly above last year's record $57.1 billion. Reasons include higher prices, inventory drawdowns, and only moderate decreases in Government payments. However, the fortunes of individual farmers have changed sharply, some gaining from higher prices received and others losing from heavy crop losses or higher feed costs.

Production of red meat and poultry is setting a record this year, helped by greater slaughter in response to higher feed costs. Production is led by a 9-percent increase in pork. Turkeys, broilers, and milk are up moderately; beef and eggs are down. Next year, with reduced breeding stock and downward pressure on producer returns, production of red meat and poultry will be down about 1 percent.

U.S. crop production is off 18 percent this year. Most of the drop is in feed grains, which are down one-third. One measure of the drought's impact is the severe drawdown of U.S. grain and oil-seed inventories. Despite acreage and yield increases likely next year, most production for 1989/90 will be consumed directly in the U.S. and abroad, not put into stocks.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Egg Production
December 1 Hog Inventory
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed

U.S. EXPORTS RISE

U.S. farm exports likely grew $6 billion in value to $34 billion in the fiscal year ending September 30. Volume grew 17 million tons to 146 million, as the United States captured a larger share of growing world markets. In fiscal 1989, export volume may decline because of increased competition and stronger prices. However, with higher prices and with continued growth anticipated in high-value products, next year;s export value likely will rise further.

OUTLOOK FOR 1989 OPTIMISTIC

The annual agricultural outlook conference was held by USDA on November 29. This was a meeting of the experts who evaluated the supply and demand for agricultural products for 1989. The outlook predicted smaller crop supplies, firm demand and continued higher prices.

The 1988 drought cut supplies of U.S. grains by about one-third. If weather conditions improve next year, U.S. production should recover. Grain stocks at the end of May will represent less than 3 months of use. This is the lowest supply level since the mid-1970's.

The livestock outlook calls for a reduction in total meat production -- mostly from less beef. Cattle numbers are expected to be down again in 1989 and prices are expected to continue strong. Overall, not a bad outlook for Montana producers -- providing we receive sufficient moisture next year.

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

October Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed in 7 States
Farm Labor
Milk Production
Egg Production
Malting Barley Survey Results
U.S. Food & Fiber System

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 5 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed November 1 1988 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.92 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago but up 5 percent from November 1, 1986.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during October totaled 1.60 million, down 5 percent from last year but up 1 percent from two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during October totaled 2.48 million, down 5 percent from last year but up 3 percent from October 1986. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 2.39 million for October are 5 percent below last year but 3 percent above 1986.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 84 thousand head, compared to 85 thousand during October 1987 and 81 thousand during October 1986.

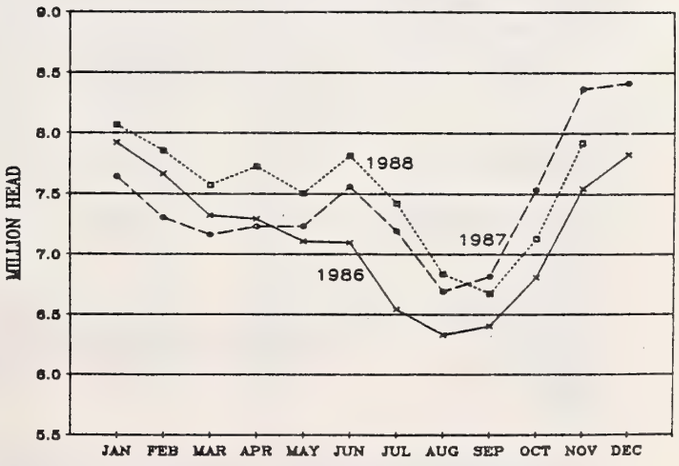
OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in October 1988. This production is up 2 percent from last month, but down 13 percent from the October 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, was down 500 head from a year earlier. The average liveweight slaughtered was 971 pounds compared with 1,056 pounds in October 1987. Hog slaughter, at 3,000 head was up 600 head from last year. The average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 243 pounds, up 10 pounds from October 1987.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in October 1988 totaled 3.51 billion pounds, nearly the same as last year. January-October red meat production, at 33.0 billion pounds was up 4 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, unchanged; Veal, down 7; Pork, up 10; Lamb and Mutton, up 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 selected States totaled 10.1 billion pounds. This was 2 percent more than production in these same States for October 1987.

During the July-September period, the 21 selected States produced 85.1 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed for November 1, followed the trend shown by the reporting States, the U.S. milk production would total about 11.9 billion pounds for October.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1,179 pounds during October, 31 pounds above October 1987.

Total milk cows in the 21 States averaged 8.58 million head, 1 percent less than October 1987 and 3,000 head below September 1988.

NUMBER OF WORKERS and WAGE RATES INCREASE

A total of 3.19 million persons worked on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 1988. This number compares with 3.07 million workers during the comparable week in 1987. The work force was comprised of 1.41 million self-employed farm operators, 532,000 unpaid workers, and 976,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Rounding out the total were 274,000 agricultural service employees doing work on farms and ranches during the survey week.

The all hired farm worker wage rate for the October 1988 survey week averaged $5.18 per hour, up 26 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $4.94 per hour compared with $4.72 last October. Wage rates for field and livestock workers were $4.95 and $4.70, respectively. During October 1987, field workers made $4.80 while livestock workers earned $4.27.

During the current survey week, self-employed persons worked an average of 44.4 hours, 2.2 fewer hours than in the comparable week in 1987. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, put in 36.8 hours compared with 37.3 hours a year earlier. Hired workers spent an average of 41.9 hours doing agricultural work, up 1.4 hours from October of last year.

Perquisites, such as housing and meals, were provided to 44 percent of the hired workers. Housing was furnished to 16 percent of the workers, compared with 13 percent a year ago.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, by STATES and REGIONS, OCTOBER 9-15, 1988 1/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	Field	Live-stock	Field & Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--							
NORTHEAST I	5.64	4.18	5.00	6.80	5.53	5.43	7.10	4.58
NORTHEAST II	5.17	4.14	4.94	7.52	5.59	5.08	6.04	4.87
APPALACHIAN I	4.34	4.74	4.43	7.50	3/	4.37	4.57	5.40
APPALACHIAN II	4.31	4.35	4.32	7.62	3/	4.46	3/	4.79
SOUTHEAST	3.94	4.68	4.21	7.86	3/	4.37	3/	4.55
FLORIDA	4.63	4.81	4.67	9.93	7.52	4.74	5.83	7.73
LAKE	5.10	3.92	4.55	7.18	3/	4.81	6.33	4.73
CORN BELT I	4.74	4.82	4.76	6.60	4.64	4.82	3/	5.21
CORN BELT II	4.33	4.88	4.46	6.51	3/	4.54	3/	4.53
DELTA	3.85	4.57	3.96	6.14	3/	3.97	3/	4.23
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.94	4.82	4.91	6.22	3/	5.05	3/	4.94
SOUTHERN PLAINS	3.99	4.78	4.38	8.76	6.81	4.35	3/	5.06
MOUNTAIN I	4.46	4.13	4.35	5.74	3/	4.51	3/	4.49
MOUNTAIN II	4.09	4.25	4.15	8.65	3/	5.21	5.75	4.43
MOUNTAIN III	4.76	4.78	4.77	7.39	3/	4.90	3/	5.62
PACIFIC	5.81	5.63	5.78	7.97	3/	5.19	6.74	6.53
CALIFORNIA	5.56	6.21	5.66	9.86	3/	5.45	7.30	7.79
HAWAII	7.35	3/	7.31	11.11	7.45	7.45	5.52	10.40
U.S.	4.95	4.70	4.88	8.01	6.39	4.94	6.67	5.36

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT; NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA; APPALACHAIN I: NC, VA; APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV; SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC; LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORN BELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORN BELT II: IA, MO; DELTA: AR, LA, MS; NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD; SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX; MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY; MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT; MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM; PACIFIC: OR, WA.
3/ Insufficient data.

NATION'S EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.83 billion during October 1988, down 2 percent from the 5.93 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.15 billion for table eggs and 684 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during October averaged 275 million, down 3 percent from the 283 million a year ago. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,118 eggs, compared with 2,098 in October 1987.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1988, totaled 276 million, compared with 283 million a year ago. The 276 million layers consisted of 240 million for table or commercial type eggs and 36.2 million for hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1988 averaged 68.9 eggs per 100 layers compared with 67.6 on November 1, 1987 and 67.7 on October 1, 1988.

MONTANA MALTING BARLEY - 1987 CROP

Maltsters and brewers purchased 10.8 million bushels of Montana's 1987 barley crop to make malt. This was 10 percent less than 1986 and represented almost 11.5 percent of Montana total barley production.

Montana growers planted 2.3 million acres of barley in 1987. About 38 percent was seeded to varieties purchased by the malting and brewing industry. If the yield for malting varieties equaled the 45 bushels state average for all barley then nearly 36 million bushels of malting type barley were produced. Since only 10.8 million bushels were used for malt the remaining 25 million bushels either did not make the malting grade or exceeded the demand for malting barley. However, some of the stored 1987 production could have been purchased and utilized as malt in 1988 because of the severe drought.

MONTANA BARLEY USED TO PRODUCE MALT - 1986-1987

VARIETY	CROP 1/ YEAR	DISTRICTS N.CENTRAL	CENTRAL	S.WEST	S.CENTRAL	S.EAST	STATE BUSHELS	PROTEIN
Klages	1986	5,517,376	235,847	570,637	741,846	186,282	7,251,988	11.9
	1987	5,283,964	746,612	238,785	289,547	155,028	6,713,936	12.4
Harrington	1986	553,826	158,078				711,904	12.8
	1987	1,308,000	197,000	16,000			1,521,000	12.6
Morex	1986	394,715					394,715	N.A.
	1987	525,000	52,000	188,000			765,000	12.9
Clark	1986	947,804	683,091				1,630,895	12.4
	1987	40,000	555,000				595,000	13.0
Other	1986	2/			2/		2,055,425 3/	N.A.
	1987	2/			2/		1,243,317 4/	N.A.
Total	1986	8,769,146	1,077,016	570,637	1,441,846	186,282	12,044,927	12.3
	1987	7,400,281	1,550,612	442,785	1,289,547	155,028	10,838,253	12.5

1/ Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30. 2/ District data not published to avoid disclosure of individual information. 3/ Includes Premier, Moravian, Lewis. 4/ Includes Premier, Moravian, Russell.

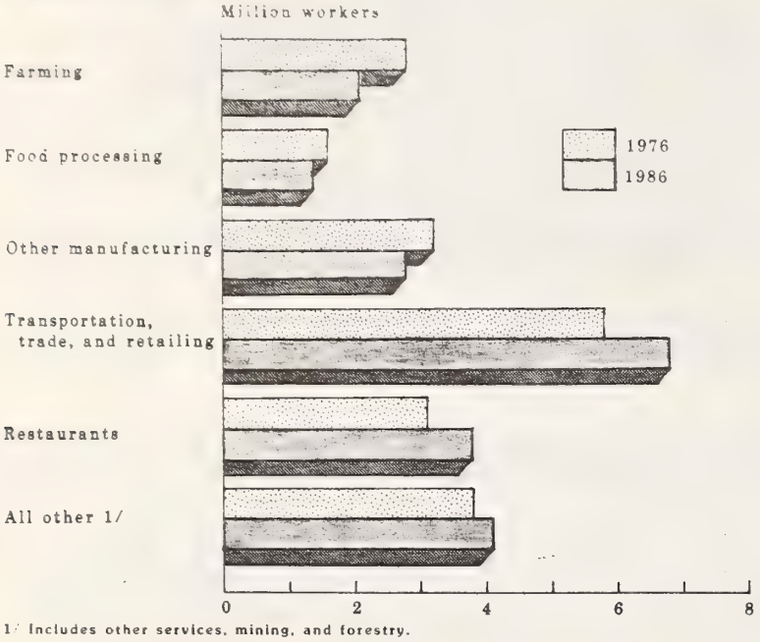
OTHER SURVEY RESULTS

The following table is included to provide some historical perspective. The Malting Barley Survey was done in 1975-78 and then discontinued until 1986.

MONTANA BARLEY USED TO PRODUCE MALT 1975-1978 (Figures in Bushels)

YEAR	VARIETIES Piroline	Klages	Firlbeck III	Karl	Shabet	Other	TOTAL
1975	2,491,607	140,680	877,896	209,100	1,671,673	1,335,245	6,726,201
1976	2,886,000	1,265,000	1,094,000	375,000	1,981,000	792,000	8,393,000
1977	700,000	2,385,000	835,000	485,000	415,000	795,000	5,615,000
1978	1,295,000	3,625,000	--	235,000	1,220,000	425,000	6,800,000

The Food & Fiber System Provided Employment to 21 Million Workers in 1986

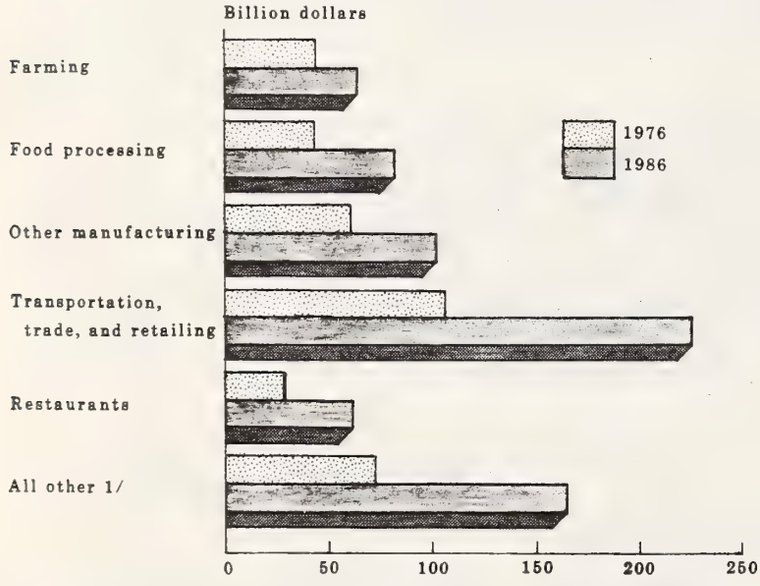


1/ Includes other services, mining, and forestry.

THE U.S. FOOD & FIBER SYSTEM

In 1986, the food and fiber system employed 21 million workers, up from 20.2 million in 1976. However, the system's share of total domestic employment dropped from 21.0 percent to 17.9 percent during the period, reflecting faster growth in the general economy. Transportation, trade, and retailing accounted for the largest number of food and fiber workers in both 1976 and 1986 -- 5.8 million and 6.8 million, respectively. Restaurant employment, spurred by the boom in fast-food outlets, was the fastest growing category, increasing 23 percent during the decade. The number of people employed in farming dropped 25 percent to 2.1 million in 1986. As agriculture has become more mechanized and the number of farms continues to decrease, workers have sought jobs in other sectors of the economy.

The System Also Generated Over $700 Billion Worth of Output



1/ Includes other services, mining, and forestry.
SOURCE: Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector, Farm Sector Review 1986, ECIFS 6-3, ERS, USDA, January 1988

The food and fiber system generated $701.5 billion worth of output in 1986, 16.6 percent of total GNP (Gross National Product). In 1976, the system accounted for $354.6 billion in output, or 19.9 percent of GNP. Because demand for farm products tends to be relatively stable, activities such as producing, assembling, processing, and distributing these products to consumers are also relatively stable. Therefore, as the economy grew during the decade, demand for other products increased at a faster rate, and the food and fiber system's share of output and employment dropped.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

PLEASE RETURN

Range & Pasture Feed Condition
Manufactured Dairy
Crop Production
Monthly Prices
Drought Severity Map
Hard Red Spring Wheat Exports

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SEPTEMBER MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 103,000 gallons of ice cream in September, down 39 percent from August, and down 27 percent from September 1987. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 254,000 pounds was down 16 percent from last month, and down 19 percent from last year. There were 203,000 pounds of low fat cottage cheese produced compared with 211,000 pounds last month. Butter production was 105,000 pounds, up 17 percent from August, but down 9 percent from September 1987.

U.S. butter production was 83 million pounds, 7 percent above September 1987 and 12 percent above August 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 52.6 million pounds, 6 percent below September 1987 and 11 percent below August 1988. Low fat cottage cheese production was 24.0 million pounds, 3 percent above September 1987, but 6 percent above last month.

September ice cream production, at 74.6 million gallons, was down 1 percent from last year. There were 4.18 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 9 percent from September 1987.

RANGE AND PASTURE FEED CONDITION

The state's pasture and range feed condition on November 1 was 37 percent of normal, down 41 points from last year and the lowest November 1 condition on record. Ranges and pastures have been suffering from drought during the entire grazing season. The limited moisture received in September and October aided palatability of the grasses and sustained livestock at the end of the season.

MONTANA, NOVEMBER 1, 1988
PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION
BY DISTRICT AS A PERCENT OF NORMAL

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987	1988
Northwest	75	95	68	57
N.Central	63	93	77	34
Northeast	32	79	82	22
Central	59	93	75	44
Southwest	65	98	82	46
S.Central	50	84	75	41
Southeast	42	74	84	22
STATE	54	88	78	37

AGRICULTURE PROVIDES JOBS

I'm often asked questions about the importance of agriculture to the state's and the nation's economy. There is no doubt that agriculture is tremendously important. About one out of every 5 jobs is directly related to agriculture.

That job count includes production agriculture (farming and ranching) plus transportation, processing and sales of farm products. So when you think of agriculture, don't just think about our farmers and ranchers. They are only a part of the vast food and fiber distribution chain of the agriculture industry.

In fact, about 25 percent of all jobs in Montana's cities and towns are involved in one way or another with agriculture! That's surprising, but it does help to explain why a depressed or prosperous agriculture has such an impact on both rural areas and cities in the state.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	1,219.0	1,272.0	+ 4	506.0	400.0	-21	4,400.0	2,695.0	-39
N CENT.	32,654.0	17,637.0	-46	30,247.0	10,417.0	-66	47,283.0	14,036.0	-70
N EAST	10,180.0	3,047.0	-70	31,853.0	7,409.5	-77	12,188.0	2,200.0	-82
CENTRAL	16,311.0	10,500.0	-36	2,936.0	717.0	-76	16,470.0	4,599.0	-72
S WEST	2,895.0	1,440.0	-50	1,794.0	480.0	-73	5,700.0	1,640.0	-71
S CENT.	8,501.0	4,704.0	-45	1,569.0	570.0	-64	5,805.0	3,360.0	-42
S EAST	7,440.0	1,300.0	-83	3,115.0	306.5	-90	2,654.0	220.0	-92
STATE	79,200.0	39,900.0	-50	72,020.0	20,300.0	-72	94,500.0	28,750.0	-70

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

ALL WHEAT and BARLEY - SELECTED STATES

STATE	All Wheat				Barley			
	Yield		Production		Yield		Production	
	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988
	--- Bu. ---		--- 000 ---		--- Bu. ---		--- 000 ---	
Colo	38.1	33.7	97,380	79,190	66.0	64.0	14,520	11,200
Idaho	75.0	65.7	85,500	75,520	75.0	60.0	61,500	51,000
Kansas	37.0	34.0	366,300	323,000	40.0	35.0	4,800	2,975
Minn	40.7	23.0	102,588	50,580	57.0	32.0	49,590	22,720
Mont	32.2	15.7	151,220	60,200	45.0	23.0	94,500	28,750
Nebr	44.0	36.0	85,800	72,000	36.0	32.0	2,700	1,920
N. Dak	29.5	14.3	269,120	105,440	48.0	21.0	139,200	42,000
Okla	27.0	36.0	129,600	172,800	30.0	48.0	750	960
Oreg	65.3	68.6	52,920	51,800	70.0	74.0	15,400	14,800
S. Dak	30.2	14.4	106,704	38,006	40.0	18.0	34,000	8,100
Tex	28.0	28.0	100,800	89,600	40.0	30.0	1,200	540
Wash	56.7	60.5	114,285	124,620	55.0	60.0	35,475	33,600
U.S.	37.7	34.0	2,107,480	1,812,095	52.7	38.2	529,530	282,600

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - NOVEMBER 1, 1988

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1987	1988*	1987	1988*	1987	1988*
		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
MONTANA							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,200	2,100	36.0	19.0	79,200	39,900
Durum Wheat	Bu.	190	230	28.0	10.0	5,320	2,300
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,300	1,500	29.0	12.0	66,700	18,000
All Wheat	Bu.	4,690	3,830	32.2	15.7	151,220	60,200
Corn for Grain	Bu.	15	17	105.0	110.0	1,575	1,870
Oats	Bu.	110	90	55.0	30.0	6,050	2,700
Barley	Bu.	2,100	1,250	45.0	23.0	94,500	28,750
Dry Beans	Cwt.	5.7	6.0	21.9	20.0	125	120
Sugarbeets	Ton	48.9	49.0	22.2	21.3	1,086	1,044
Potatoes	Cwt.	7,900	7,500	300.0	260.0	2,370	1,950
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	950	2.20	1.90	2,860	1,805
All Other Hay	Ton	900	950	1.50	1.00	1,350	950
All Hay	Ton	2,200	1,900	1.91	1.45	4,210	2,755
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	39,347	39,785	39.8	39.2	1,565,176	1,560,970
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,279	2,947	28.2	15.7	92,617	46,361
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,334	10,538	33.7	19.4	449,687	204,764
All Wheat	Bu.	55,960	53,270	37.7	34.0	2,107,480	1,812,095
Corn for Grain	Bu.	59,167	56,733	119.4	82.3	7,064,143	4,671,235
Oats	Bu.	6,925	5,389	54.0	39.1	374,000	210,766
Barley	Bu.	10,057	7,395	52.7	38.2	529,530	282,600
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,708.4	1,460.0	15.4	13.8	26,309	20,011
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,251.4	1,300.8	22.3	19.3	27,937	25,120
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,086.5	1,060.4	315.0	292.0	342,471	309,886
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,485	25,955	3.32	2.68	84,554	69,581
All Other Hay	Ton	35,263	40,828	1.83	1.49	64,588	60,621
All Hay	Ton	60,748	66,783	2.46	1.95	149,142	130,202

*1988 preliminary estimates.

OCTOBER PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farm prices during October were higher for most grains and hay, but lower for most livestock items than in September. Higher prices for winter and hard spring wheat were partly offset by a lower price for durum. Hay prices increased for the sixth consecutive month and are at a record high for October. Slightly higher prices for steers and heifers were offset by lower prices for cows and calves. Lamb prices increased September to October.

All farm prices are above a year ago in October except sheep, lambs, wool, hogs, cows and milk. The index of prices received for all farm products at 185 (1977=100) is unchanged from September, but 32 points above last year. The all crops index at 174 compares with 170 last month and 110 last October. The livestock and products index at 195 compares with 197 in September and 193 in October 1987.

Nationally, the October all farm products index of prices received by farmers was unchanged from September at 144 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for oranges, milk, lettuce, and corn were offset by lower prices for tomatoes, apples, eggs, and soybeans. The index was 17 points (13 percent) above October 1987.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for October was 174 percent of its 1977 average. The index rose 2 points (1.2 percent) from July and 9 points (5.5 percent) from last year. Compared to July, prices were higher for feeder cattle and calves while lower for feed and fuels. Since last surveyed in April, prices have also risen for farm machinery, fertilizer, and farm and motor supplies.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

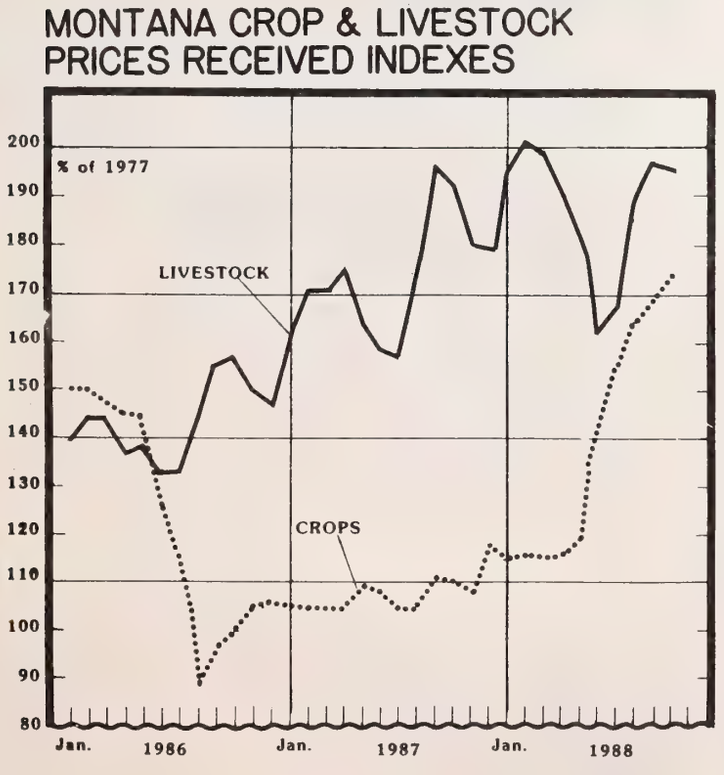
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Oct. 15,	Oct. 15,
		Oct. 1987	Sept. 1988	1988	1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.50	3.55	3.75	3.84
Durum	Bu.	3.36	5.80	5.40	4.96
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.66	4.11	4.20	3.90
All Wheat	Bu.	2.66	3.95	4.06	3.89
Barley, All	Bu.	1.62	2.81	2.88	2.64
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.33
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.23
Oats	Bu.	1.37	2.49	2.45	2.44
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	47.00	88.00	90.00	91.80
All Other Hay	Ton	42.00	78.00	80.00	70.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	47.00	87.00	89.00	86.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	74.00	76.20	76.50	72.80
Cows	Cwt.	44.30	45.70	43.40	45.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	67.80	69.00	68.20	67.90
Calves	Cwt.	83.50	91.30	89.70	90.60
Sheep	Cwt.	28.40	19.20	18.40	25.70
Lambs	Cwt.	82.60	63.60	67.00	66.60
Hogs	Cwt.	43.00	35.40	33.80	39.40
All Milk	Cwt.	13.02	12.40	12.85	12.80
Eggs	Doz.	.48	.59	.60	.59
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.17	1.20	1.20	1.35
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	153	185	185	144
All Crops	Pct.	110	170	174	135
Livestock & Products	Pct.	193	197	195	153

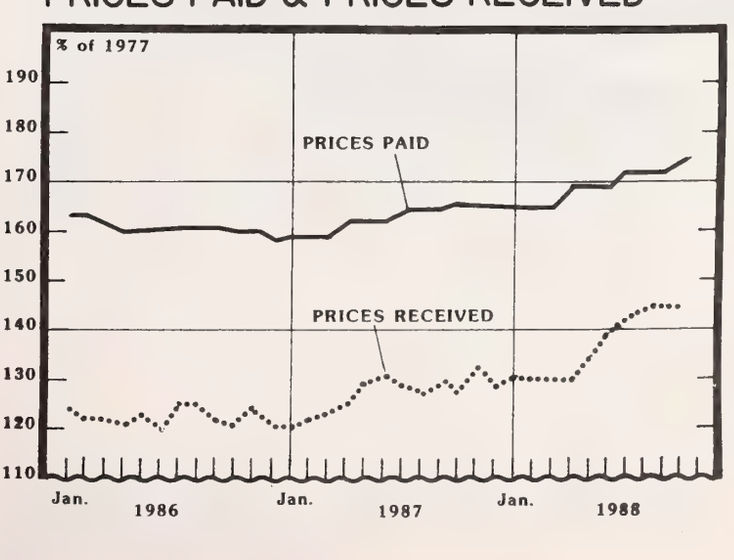
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

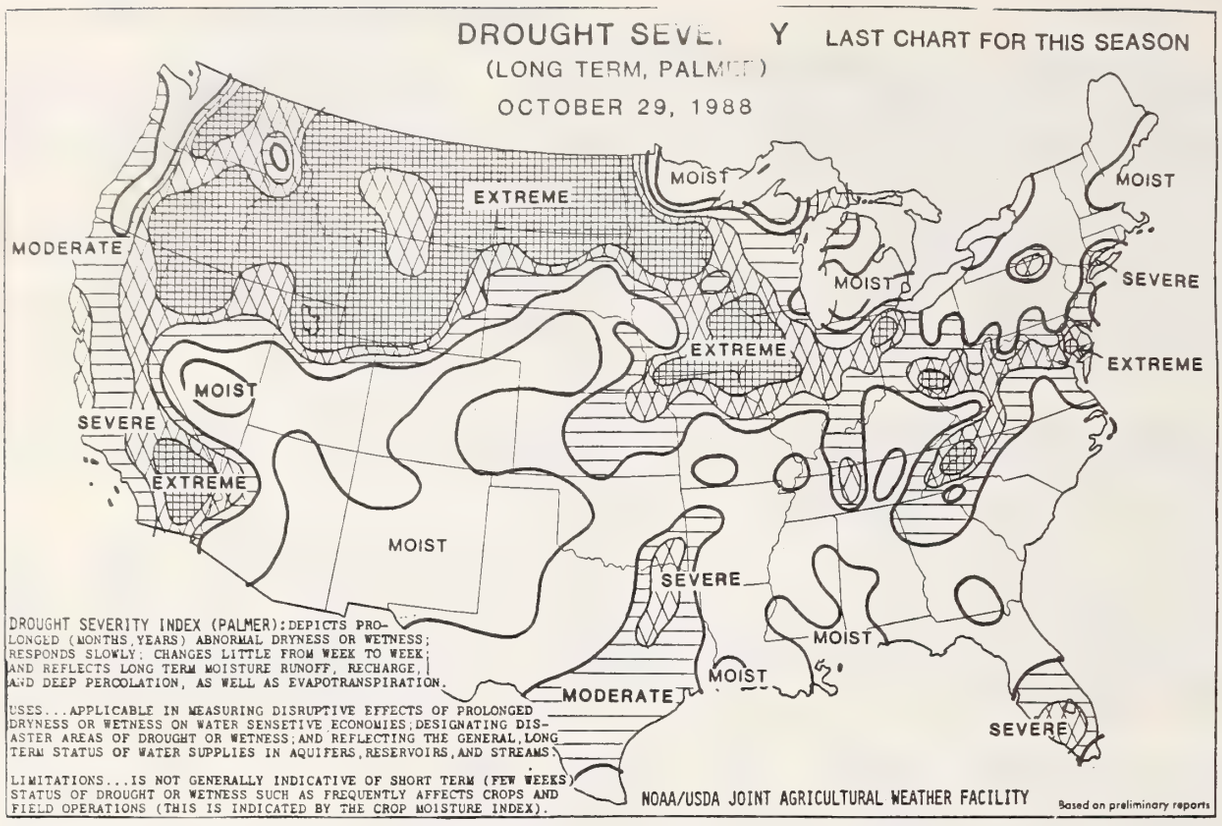
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Sept. 1987	Oct. 1987	Sept. 1988	Oct. 1988
Prices Received	129	127	144	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/164	165	3/172	174
Ratio 1/	79	77	84	83

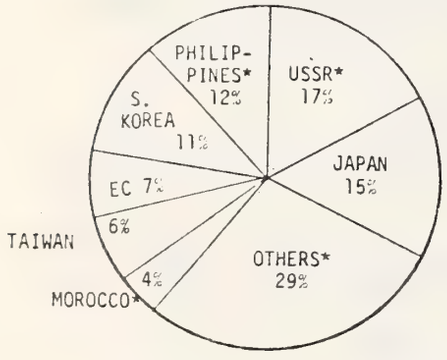
1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1987 prices paid index. 3/ July 1988 prices paid index.






DROUGHT SEVE Y
LAST CHART FOR THIS SEASON
(LONG TERM, PALMER)
OCTOBER 29, 1988
EXTREME
MOIST
MOIST
MODERATE
MOIST
SEVERE
EXTREME
EXTREME
MOIST
SEVERE
EXTREME
MOIST
SEVERE
MOIST
MOIST
MODERATE
SEVERE
DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX (PALMER): DEPICTS PROLONGED (MONTHS, YEARS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS; RESPONDS SLOWLY; CHANGES LITTLE FROM WEEK TO WEEK; AND REFLECTS LONG TERM MOISTURE RUNOFF, RECHARGE, AND DEEP PERCOLATION, AS WELL AS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION.
USES...APPLICABLE IN MEASURING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED DRYNESS OR WETNESS ON WATER SENSETIVE ECONOMIES; DESIGNATING DISASTER AREAS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS; AND REFLECTING THE GENERAL, LONG TERM STATUS OF WATER SUPPLIES IN AQUIFERS, RESERVOIRS, AND STREAMS.
LIMITATIONS...IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF SHORT TERM (FEW WEEKS) STATUS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS SUCH AS FREQUENTLY AFFECTS CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS (THIS IS INDICATED BY THE CROP MOISTURE INDEX).
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary reports

U.S. HARD RED SPRING WHEAT EXPORTS BY DESTINATIONS, 1987-88 (JUNE - MAY)



* Export Enhancement Program

SOVIETS LARGEST IMPORTER OF U.S. SPRING WHEAT

Last year, the Soviet Union was the largest purchaser of U.S. spring wheat. The 1987/88 marketing season also marked the first time that the Soviets bought U.S. Hard Red Spring (HRS) wheat since 1975/76. Previously, the Soviet Union had bought spring wheat from Canada and relied on the U.S. for the lower protein Hard Red Winter Wheat.

Japan and the Philippines were also large importers of HRS.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farmland Value Update
September Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Harvest Update
Turkeys
Trade Surplus
Exports
Crop-Weather Map

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

This has been a busy year for those of us involved in agricultural information. Questions and concerns about moisture supplies, crop yields, and pasture conditions came from throughout the nation. We provided input that helped push through disaster legislation. We also helped farmers and ranchers by providing factual information on yields and price.

We're now gearing up to finalize 1988 acreage and production of Montana crops by county. We recently mailed a questionnaire to about half of the farmers and ranchers in the state. The drought situation has resulted in big differences in yields; so more reports are needed to measure those differences. We'll telephone those who don't respond by mail starting about November 1st. We appreciate the input.

Lyle H. Pratt

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician

FARMLAND VALUE UPDATE

A possible slowdown in the rise in U.S. farmland values is being shaped by the drought's impact on farm incomes, uncertainty about interest and inflation rates, and the performance of other investment opportunities. The increase in farmland values reported by the Economic Research Service last April -- the first increase since 1982 -- appears to have moderated, according to quarterly surveys taken since then.

In August, an ERS survey of rural appraisers reported a 1.2 percent increase in farmland values nationwide during May-July. This is slightly lower than the 1.8 percent growth reported for the preceding 3 months. Looking ahead to August-October, the appraisers expected values to average only 0.9 percent higher.

The surveys tend to show quarter-to-quarter variability reflecting not only short-term changes in markets, but also longer term changes in expectations. The surveys are barometers of potential longer term market directions.

Only 38 percent of the appraisers in the August survey reported that farmland values rose during the preceding 3 months, compared with 51 percent in the May survey. Fifty-eight percent felt that values had remained the same, up from only 40 percent a quarter earlier.

Appraisers were more bullish, however, for the year ahead. They anticipated a 4.6 percent rise in the coming year, well above the 3.6 percent expected last May and the 2.3 percent expected in November 1987.

Appraisers in the 11 States of the Western region reported a 3 percent increase in land values from the first of May to the end of July, up substantially from the 0.8 percent increase during February-April.

PLEASE RETURN

HARVEST ABOUT OVER

This week's crop-weather report shows harvesting of all crops and seeding of **winter wheat** for harvest in 1989 are virtually complete. This is somewhat ahead of normal due to the beautiful fall weather. Three-fourths of the crop has germinated and emerged compared with a 62% average.

Everyone is concerned about the **moisture situation** with **topsoil** now rated 53% short, 45% adequate and 2% surplus. A lot of precipitation will be needed to bring **subsoil** moisture supplies up to anywhere near normal and replenish water in our lakes and rivers.

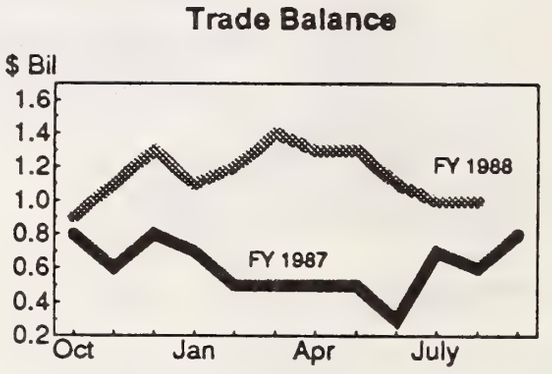
The **livestock situation** shows 90% of the cattle and calves have now been moved from summer pastures to graze on hay meadows and crop stubble. This compares with only 74% in a normal year. Sheep and lambs moved were 95% compared with a normal average of 79%. Most are trying to stretch their hay supplies and avoid buying at $80+ per ton.

TURKEYS

There will be plenty of turkey for Thanksgiving, but retail bargain-basement prices won't be as noticeable as in 1987. Wholesale turkey prices have been rising since late May, with hen turkey prices in the East currently averaging 75 cents per pound, compared with 56 cents a year ago. Third-quarter prices could average 72-73 cents with production below last year's level. Poult placements since March fell 5 percent from a year ago, but total placements for 1988 slaughter are up 2 percent. Production during January-July was up 13 percent from last year but probably will increase only 4 percent for the year.

TRADE SURPLUS

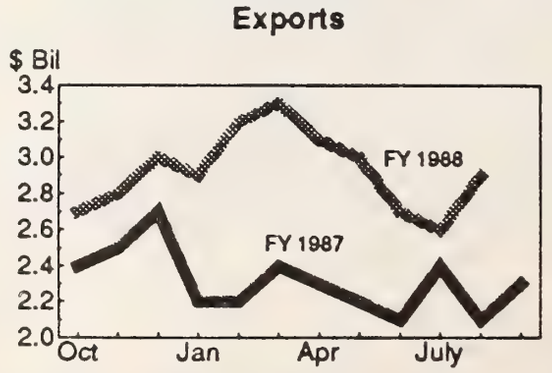
The U.S. agricultural trade surplus remained near $1 billion for the third consecutive month in August, virtually unchanged from June and July. Exports and imports both grew substantially in August, by $254 million and $303 million, respectively. According to Census Bureau data, August's surplus of $979 million exceeded August 1987 by more than 60 percent. Cumulatively, FY 1988's surplus is nearly twice the value of the same 11 months of FY 1987.



EXPORTS

U.S. agricultural exports increased $254 million to nearly $2.9 billion in August, ending a 4-month decline. Corn exports jumped $137 million, helping offset declines for vegetable oils, fruits and vegetables, cotton, and rice. Meat products, wheat, and soybean values also gained during August.

Higher export prices for **wheat** offset a decline in volume from July, and wheat exports rose $26 million. Reduced shipments to China and Egypt offset increased exports to India and Pakistan. Export prices rose in lagged response to drought-induced market price gains, and Export Enhancement Program bonuses shrank.



SEPTEMBER SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in September 1988. This production is down 17 percent from last month, and down 5 percent from the September 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, was down 200 head from last year, and total liveweight was down 15 percent from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,800 head was up 400 head from last year, and total liveweight was up 19 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in September 1988 totaled 3.46 billion pounds, up 4 percent from September 1987. January - September red meat production, at 29.5 billion pounds was up 4 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, up 1; veal, down 7; pork, up 10; lamb and mutton, up 7. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed October 1, 1988, for slaughter in the 13 Quarterly States totaled 8.58 million head, down 5 percent from October 1, 1987, but 5 percent above 1986.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.54 million steers and steer calves, 6 percent below last year but 7 percent above 1986. This group represented 65 percent of the total October number on feed, compared to 66 percent last year and 63 percent in 1986. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.01 million, down 2 percent from a year ago but up 1 percent from 1986.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during the July-September quarter totaled 5.96 million, down 10 percent from last year and 6 percent below the comparable period in 1986. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE of 223 thousand head leaves NET PLACEMENTS at 5.74 million.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle for slaughter during July-September totaled 6.15 million, 2 percent more than 1987 and 5 percent above the same period in 1986.

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana's milk production during the third quarter of 1988 was 91 million pounds. This production reflects a 6 percent increase from the July-September period for 1987. Milk cow numbers held steady from last year at 25,000.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1 averaged 15.5 pounds per head, the same as last year. The cost per hundredweight of these feeds increased $1.50 to average $7.70/cwt.

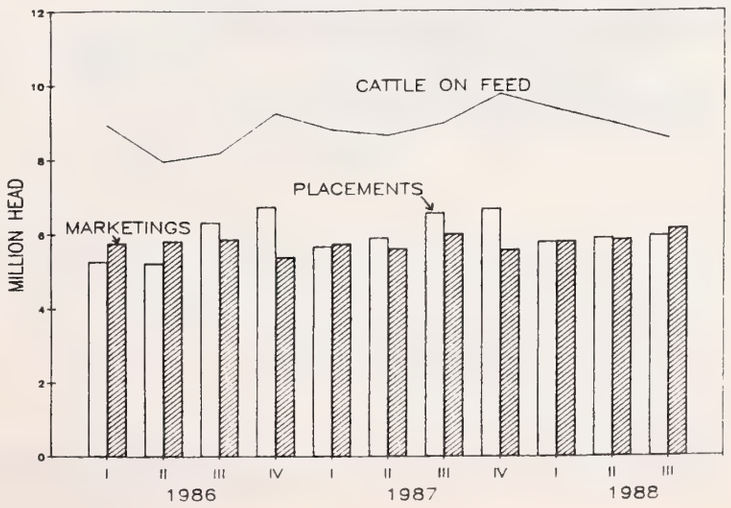
Nationally, milk production was up slightly at 36.0 billion pounds, compared with 35.5 in the period of July-September 1987. The average number of cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 10.2 million head, 0.6 percent below July-September last year.

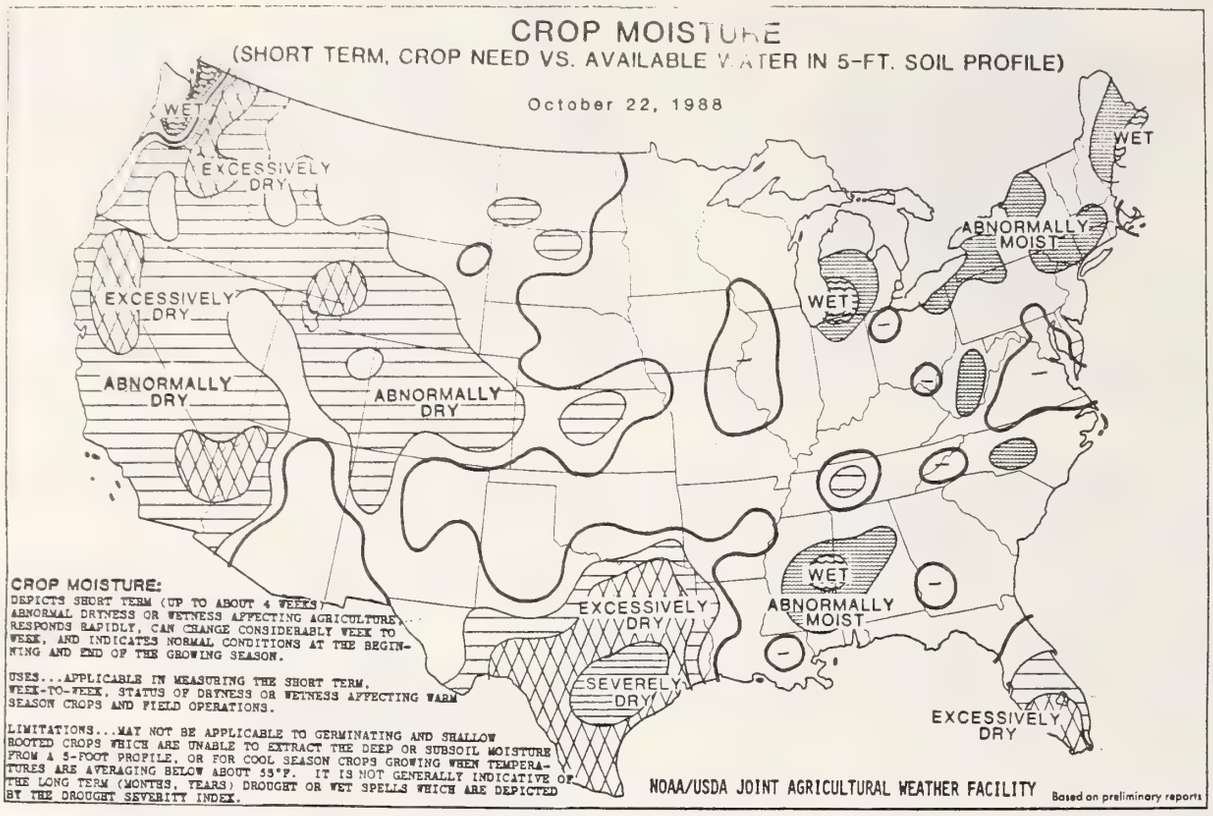
FEWER CATTLE IN MONTANA

There have been a lot of questions and concerns recently about Montana's shrinking cattle herd. We survey farmers and ranchers during January each year measuring the number on hand as of January 1. Every 5 years the Census of Agriculture contacts all producers for a detailed count. The inventory count as of January 1, 1988 pegged all cattle and calves in Montana at 2,350,000 head -- the lowest number since 1963 (25 years ago). The record high cattle herd was set in 1974 when over a million more cattle and calves called Montana 'home'.

Why have numbers dropped so drastically? Part of it is the normal cattle cycle and part of it is the drought. Nationally, numbers are also down, dropping below 100 million for the first time since 1961. Even though prices during the past couple of years have been good, continued drought has reduced feed supplies and prevented herd expansion.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES




CROP MOISTURE
(SHORT TERM, CROP NEED VS. AVAILABLE WATER IN 5-FT. SOIL PROFILE)
October 22, 1988
WET
EXCESSIVELY DRY
EXCESSIVELY DRY
ABNORMALLY DRY
ABNORMALLY DRY
WET
WET
ABNORMALLY MOIST
WET
ABNORMALLY MOIST
EXCESSIVELY DRY
SEVERELY DRY
EXCESSIVELY DRY
CROP MOISTURE:
DEPICTS SHORT TERM (UP TO ABOUT 4 WEEKS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE. RESPONDS RAPIDLY, CAN CHANGE CONSIDERABLY WEEK TO WEEK, AND INDICATES NORMAL CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE GROWING SEASON.
USES...APPLICABLE IN MEASURING THE SHORT TERM, WEEK-TO-WEEK, STATUS OF DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING WARM SEASON CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS.
LIMITATIONS...MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO GERMINATING AND SHALLOW ROOTED CROPS WHICH ARE UNABLE TO EXTRACT THE DEEP OR SUBSOIL MOISTURE FROM A 5-FOOT PROFILE, OR FOR COOL SEASON CROPS GROWING WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE AVERAGING BELOW ABOUT 55°F. IT IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF THE LONG TERM (MONTHS, YEARS) DROUGHT OR WET SPELLS WHICH ARE DEPICTED BY THE DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX.
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary reports

MOISTURE RESERVES LACKING

The rains that fell during mid-September helped put a lot of green back in Montana, but failed to replenish subsoil moisture. The state's winter wheat crop has mostly emerged and is in fair to good condition. Stubble fields and ranges are providing some grazing for the first time this season.

The limited rainfall leaves the state's agriculture in about the same condition that existed a year ago -- highly subject to wind damage and drought damage unless a lot more rainfall occurs.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Pasture & Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Manufactured Dairy
Hogs & Pigs
Crop Production
Small Grains
Grain Stocks
Monthly Prices

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OCTOBER CROP REPORT

Montana's **wheat** crop estimate on October 1, at 60.2 million bushels was unchanged from a month earlier. This latest forecast is based on more complete farmers' reports of harvested acreage and production which is down 60% from last year. By class, **winter wheat** production is 39.9 million bushels with a per acre yield of 19 bushels; **hard spring wheat** production is 18 million bushels, with an average yield of 12 bushels; and **durum** is 2.3 million bushels with an average yield of 10 bushels.

Barley production in Montana, at 28.75 million bushels, is up 5 percent from the September estimate but is 70 percent under last year's output. Barley producers averaged 23 bushels per acre. **Oats** production, at 2.7 million bushels, is down 55 percent from a year ago. The oats average yield per acre was 30 bushels. **Alfalfa** hay production, at 1.8 million tons, is up 5 percent from the August forecast, but 37 percent under last year. All other hay production, at 950 thousand tons, is down 9 percent from the August forecast and 30 percent under last year.

Nationally, winter wheat production is estimated at 1.56 billion bushels virtually unchanged from both 1987 and the August 1 forecast. **Other spring wheat** production, at 205 million bushels, is the lowest since 1969 and is down a whopping 54 percent from 1987. **Durum wheat** production is estimated at 46.4 million bushels, the lowest level since 1961, and is down 50 percent from 1987. **Barley** production in 1988 is estimated at 283 million bushels, 47 percent below last year's crop of 530 million bushels and the lowest since the 1953 crop.

AUGUST MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 170,000 gallons of ice cream in August 1988, down 6 percent from July, but up 21 percent from August 1987. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 303,000 pounds was down 2 percent from July, and down 3 percent from last year. Butter production was 90,000 pounds, 50 percent greater than July, but 2 percent less than August 1987.

U.S. butter production was 74.2 million pounds in August, 12 percent above August 1987, but 2 percent below July 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 59.3 million pounds, 4 percent above August 1987, and 6 percent above July 1988. June ice cream production, at 87.7 million gallons, was up 4 percent from last year. There were 5.21 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 13 percent from August 1987.

HOG NUMBERS UP 4 PERCENT

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the **U.S.** on September 1, 1988 is estimated at 58.3 million head. This is the first September 1 U.S. estimate and is 4 percent above June 1, 1988.

---**Breeding inventory** at 7.30 million head is down 3 percent from June 1, 1988.

---**Market hog inventory** at 51.0 million head is 5 percent above June 1, 1988.

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1988, in the **10 quarterly** estimating states is estimated at 45.1 million head, 5 percent above last year. This is 14 percent larger than September 1, 1986 and the highest September 1 inventory since 1983.

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	1,219.0	1,272.0	+ 4	506.0	400.0	-21	4,400.0	2,695.0	-39
N CENT.	32,654.0	17,637.0	-46	30,247.0	10,417.0	-66	47,283.0	14,036.0	-70
N EAST	10,180.0	3,047.0	-70	31,853.0	7,409.5	-77	12,188.0	2,200.0	-82
CENTRAL	16,311.0	10,500.0	-36	2,936.0	717.0	-76	16,470.0	4,599.0	-72
S WEST	2,895.0	1,440.0	-50	1,794.0	480.0	-73	5,700.0	1,640.0	-71
S CENT.	8,501.0	4,704.0	-45	1,569.0	570.0	-64	5,805.0	3,360.0	-42
S EAST	7,440.0	1,300.0	-83	3,115.0	306.5	-90	2,654.0	220.0	-92
STATE	79,200.0	39,900.0	-50	72,020.0	20,300.0	-72	94,500.0	28,750.0	-70

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

ALL WHEAT and BARLEY - SELECTED STATES

STATE	All Wheat				Barley			
	Yield		Production		Yield		Production	
	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988
	--- Bu. ---		--- 000 ---		--- Bu. ---		--- 000 ---	
Colo	38.1	33.7	97,380	79,190	66.0	64.0	14,520	11,200
Idaho	75.0	65.7	85,500	75,520	75.0	60.0	61,500	51,000
Kansas	37.0	34.0	366,300	323,000	40.0	35.0	4,800	2,975
Minn	40.7	23.0	102,588	50,580	57.0	32.0	49,590	22,720
Mont	32.2	15.7	151,220	60,200	45.0	23.0	94,500	28,750
Nebr	44.0	36.0	85,800	72,000	36.0	32.0	2,700	1,920
N. Dak	29.5	14.3	269,120	105,440	48.0	21.0	139,200	42,000
Okla	27.0	36.0	129,600	172,800	30.0	48.0	750	960
Oreg	65.3	68.6	52,920	51,800	70.0	74.0	15,400	14,800
S. Dak	30.2	14.4	106,704	38,006	40.0	18.0	34,000	8,100
Tex	28.0	28.0	100,800	89,600	40.0	30.0	1,200	540
Wash	56.7	60.5	114,285	124,620	55.0	60.0	35,475	33,600
U.S.	37.7	34.0	2,107,480	1,812,095	52.7	38.2	529,530	282,600

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - OCTOBER 1, 1988

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1987	1988*	1987	1988*	1987	1988*
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,200	2,100	36.0	19.0	79,200	39,900
Durum Wheat	Bu.	190	230	28.0	10.0	5,320	2,300
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,300	1,500	29.0	12.0	66,700	18,000
All Wheat	Bu.	4,690	3,830	32.2	15.7	151,220	60,200
Corn for Grain	Bu.	15	17	105.0	110.0	1,575	1,870
Oats	Bu.	110	90	55.0	30.0	6,050	2,700
Barley	Bu.	2,100	1,250	45.0	23.0	94,500	28,750
Dry Beans	Cwt.	5.7	6.0	21.9	20.0	125	120
Sugarbeets	Ton	48.9	49.0	22.2	21.5	1,086	1,054
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	950	2.20	1.90	2,860	1,805
All Other Hay	Ton	900	950	1.50	1.00	1,350	950
All Hay	Ton	2,200	1,900	1.91	1.45	4,210	2,755
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	39,347	39,785	39.8	39.2	1,565,176	1,560,970
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,279	2,947	28.2	15.7	92,617	46,361
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,334	10,538	33.7	19.4	449,687	204,764
All Wheat	Bu.	55,960	53,270	37.7	34.0	2,107,480	1,812,095
Corn for Grain	Bu.	59,167	56,733	119.4	80.2	7,064,143	4,552,735
Oats	Bu.	6,925	5,389	54.0	39.1	374,000	210,766
Barley	Bu.	10,057	7,395	52.7	38.2	529,530	282,600
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,708.4	1,442.0	15.4	13.8	26,309	19,914
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,251.4	1,297.8	22.3	19.5	27,937	25,349
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,485	25,955	3.32	2.68	84,554	69,581
All Other Hay	Ton	35,263	40,828	1.83	1.48	64,588	60,621
All Hay	Ton	60,748	66,783	2.46	1.95	149,142	130,202

*1988 preliminary estimates.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS In All Positions By Districts

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sept. 1, 1987	June 1, 1988*	Sept. 1, 1988	Sept. 1, 1987	June 1, 1988	Sept. 1, 1988
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	2.7	0.8	1.2	3.9	1.8	1.9
North Central	96.0	35.5	46.7	44.6	17.3	20.1
Northeast	53.9	28.4	33.2	10.9	6.3	7.4
Central	36.2	8.3	16.3	20.3	7.9	9.7
Southwest	9.2	1.3	2.9	5.3	1.9	2.2
South Central	17.1	5.7	6.4	6.5	1.8	4.3
Southeast	14.5	4.0	4.9	2.7	0.9	1.1
STATE	229.6	84.0	111.5	94.2	37.9	46.7

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

- All wheat in storage was 111.5 million bushels, down 51% from last September and the lowest September stocks since 1974.
- Barley stocks, at 46.7 million bushels are down 50% from last September.
- U.S. wheat stocks, at 2.24 billion bushels, are down 25%.
- U.S. durum wheat stocks at, 107 million bushels, are off 27 percent from September 1, 1987.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1987	June 1, 1988*	Sept. 1, 1988	% Chg. '88/'87	Sept. 1, 1987	June 1, 1988*	Sept. 1, 1988
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	177,000	59,000	82,000	-54	1,168,000	520,000	793,000
Off Farms 1/	52,608	24,997	29,500	-44	1,820,462	735,726	1,446,582
T O T A L	229,608	83,997	111,500	-51	2,988,462	1,255,726	2,239,582
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	92,000	27,000	47,000	-49	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	31,590	13,151	15,500	-51	--	--	--
T O T A L	123,590	40,151	62,500	-49	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	85,000	32,000	35,000	-59	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	21,018	11,846	14,000	-33	--	--	--
T O T A L	106,018	43,846	49,000	-54	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	94,100	53,331	56,040
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	52,452	29,429	50,655
T O T A L	10,374	4,067	5,275	-49	146,552	82,760	106,695
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,284,500	3,241,000	2,002,800
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	2,597,193	2,594,542	2,256,820
T O T A L 4/	--	--	--	--	4,881,693	5,835,542	4,259,620
BARLEY							
On Farms	84,000	30,000	33,000	-61	--	193,103	229,250
Off Farms 1/	10,175	7,931	13,700	+34	--	128,107	211,538
T O T A L	94,175	37,931	46,700	-50	--	321,210	440,788
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	103,200	105,900	69,420
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	640,133	701,945	593,231
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	743,333	807,845	662,651

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1988	MONTANA Sept 15, 1988	U.S. Sept 15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.36	3.31	3.50	3.74
Durum	Bu.	3.34	5.48	5.50	5.29
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.61	3.94	3.95	3.86
All Wheat	Bu.	2.57	3.86	3.96	3.82
Barley, All	Bu.	1.84	2.67	2.68	2.62
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.32
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.28
Oats	Bu.	1.33	2.25	2.30	2.51
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	46.00	83.00	88.00	89.90
All Other Hay	Ton	41.00	72.00	78.00	70.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	46.00	82.00	87.00	85.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	71.60	75.50	77.90	70.30
Cows	Cwt.	45.90	45.50	45.70	45.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	67.90	63.50	71.50	66.00
Calves	Cwt.	88.30	97.00	97.00	89.10
Sheep	Cwt.	26.50	22.80	20.00	24.10
Lambs	Cwt.	81.30	61.90	67.00	65.20
Hogs	Cwt.	48.50	40.40	38.90	40.30
All Milk	Cwt.	12.77	11.87	12.16	12.20
Eggs	Doz.	.60	.54	.59	.63
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.17	1.30	1.20	1.11
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	156	179	187	145
All Crops	Pct.	111	165	168	139
Livestock & Products	Pct.	197	190	205	151

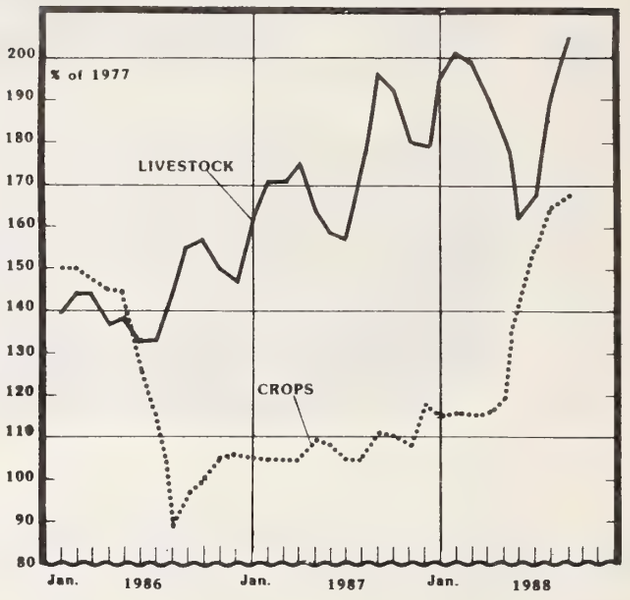
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

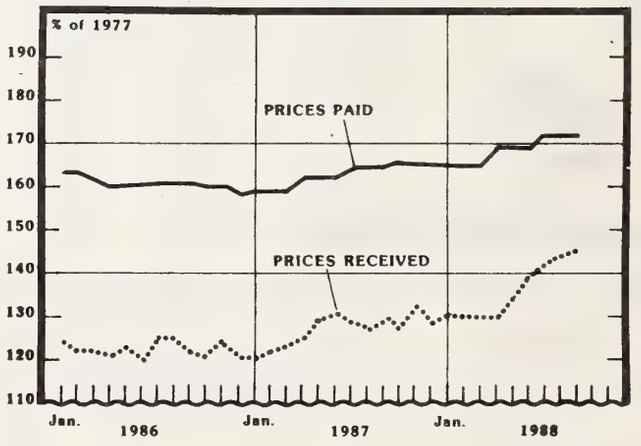
INDEX 1977=100	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1987	Aug. 1988	Sept. 1988
Prices Received	127	129	144	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/164	2/164	3/172	3/172
Ratio 1/	77	79	84	84

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1987 prices paid index. 3/ July 1988 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



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HIGHLIGHTS:

Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Potato Disposition
Milk Production
Egg Production
Weather Report & Map

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AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat in August 1988. This production is up 37 percent from last month, and up 4 percent from the August 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 2,000 head, was up 100 head from last year, while total liveweight was down 4 percent from last year. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 966 pounds -- 6 percent lighter than last year's average liveweight. Hog slaughter, at 3,200 head, was up 600 head from last year, and total liveweight was 24 percent above last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in August 1988 totaled 3.51 billion pounds, up 12 percent from August 1987. January-August red meat production, at 26.0 billion pounds was up 4 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, up 1; Veal, down 8; Pork up 10; Lamb and Mutton, up 9. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed September 1, 1988, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.67 million head, down 2 percent from a year ago but up 4 percent from September 1, 1986.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.72 million, unchanged from last year but up 4 percent from two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August totaled 1.62 million, down 16 percent from last year and down 10 percent from August 1986. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.55 million for August are 16 percent below last year and 10 percent below 1986.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 64 thousand head, compared to 68 thousand during August 1987 and 70 thousand during August 1986.

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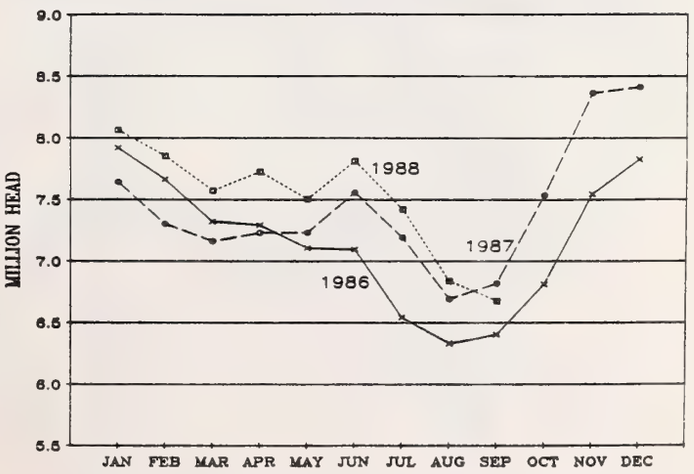
CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



U.S. WHEAT SUPPLY DOWN OVER 20 PERCENT

U.S. wheat production was estimated in September at 1.81 billion bushels for 1988/89, down 14 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since 1978/79.

Wheat stocks on June 1, 1988, were 1,266 million bushels, 555 million below a year earlier. A large portion of those stocks (520 million) remain on farms, mostly in the Farmer Owned Reserve (FOR). Additional stocks are under the regular 9-month loan program or in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stocks. Free stocks excluding 9-month loans were 301 million bushels, sharply higher than in previous years but still small compared to projected total use of 2.6 billion bushels.

U.S. wheat supplies in 1988/89 are forecast at 3.1 billion bushels. This would be more than enough to cover the record use of 2.7 billion in 1987/88, or the 2.6 billion forecast use in 1988/89, or even enough to fulfill last year's record domestic use and record exports of 1981/82. However, the ratio between supply and forecast demand is the tightest since 1973/74.

Drought in the United States and Canada, together with dry conditions in Argentina, has cut forecast 1988/89 production, tightened exportable wheat supplies, and pushed world wheat export prices up. Foreign consumption is forecast to exceed foreign production by more than 10 percent, requiring a further global stock drawdown. Trade is expected to decline because of higher export prices, an expected drop in Soviet imports, and reduced exportable supplies.

THE WHEAT SITUATION AT A GLANCE

ALL WHEAT: SUPPLY AND DISAPPEARANCE 1/

Year beginning June 1	1985	1986	1987 Forecast	1988 Projected
		Million Bushels		
Beginning Stocks	1,425	1,905	1,821	1,266
Production	2,425	2.092	2,105	1,810
Imports	16	21	15	15
Supply, total	3,866	4,018	3,941	3,091
Domestic				
Food	674	696	719	735
Seed	93	84	85	100
Feed 2/	279	413	280	270
Domestic, total	1,046	1,193	1,084	1,105
Exports	915	1,004	1,592	1,450
Disappearance, total	1,961	2,197	2,676	2,555
Ending stocks	1,905	1,821	1,266	536

U.S. WHEAT BY CLASSES: SUPPLY AND DISAPPEARANCE

Year beginning June 1	Hard Winter	Hard Spring	Soft Red	White	Durum	Total
1987/88 (Estimated)			Million Bushels			
Beginning Stocks	973	490	77	185	95	1,821
Production	1,019	431	348	216	93	2,105
Supply, total 3/	1,991	927	425	404	195	3,942
Domestic use	507	278	190	59	50	1,084
Exports	905	255	160	210	62	1,592
Use, total	1,412	533	350	269	112	2,676
Ending stocks, total	579	394	75	135	83	1,266
1988/89 (Projected)						
Beginning stocks	579	394	75	135	83	1,266
Production	894	182	462	223	49	1,810
Supply, total 3/	1,473	583	537	360	137	3,091
Domestic use	523	186	258	82	56	1,105
Exports	710	240	260	200	40	1,450
Use, total	1,233	426	518	282	96	2,555
Ending stocks Sept.	240	157	19	78	41	536

1/ Includes flour and products in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual approximates feed use. 3/ Includes imports.

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 6 PERCENT

Montana poultrymen produced 49 million eggs during the quarter ending August 31, 1988, 6 percent less than during the same period last year. The average number of **layers** on hand in the June through August period was 780,000 layers, down 1 percent from the same period last year. **Rate of lay** during the quarter averaged 62.8 eggs per 100 layers compared with 66.0 eggs per 100 layers during this quarter in 1987.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 16.9 billion eggs during the June through August quarter, down 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.8 billion for table eggs and 2.10 billion for hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 269 million, down 3 percent from the 277 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1988 totaled 270 million, compared with 279 million a year ago. The 270 million layers consisted of 233 million for production of table or commercial type eggs and 36.6 million for hatching type eggs. **Rate of lay** per day on September 1, 1988 averages 68.0 eggs per 100 layers compared with 67.3 for September 1, 1987 and 68.4 on August 1, 1988. Egg production during August 1988 is estimated at 5.70 billion compared to 5.79 billion last year.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.74 billion eggs during August, down 1 percent from the 4.80 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during August averaged 224 million, down 3 percent from a year ago.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 selected States totaled 10.3 billion pounds. This was 1 percent more than production in these same States for August 1987.

During the April-June period the 21 selected States produced 84.9 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed for September 1, followed the trend shown by the reporting States, the U.S. milk production would total about 12.1 billion pounds for August.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1,199 pounds during August, 26 pounds above August 1987.

Milk cows in the 21 selected States averaged 8.58 million head, 1 percent less than August last year and were virtually unchanged from the previous month.

1988 POTATO DISPOSITION

The **Nation's potato** farmers produced 385 million cwt of potatoes in 1987. The value of that production reached $1.66 billion, which was 8 percent below 1986 mainly because of a lower price.

Of the total production, 348 million cwt were sold, a record high. Processors bought 197 million cwt, a gain of 2 percent. Table stock accounted for 126 million cwt, up 16 percent, while seed and livestock feed sales claimed 24.6 million, up 1 percent. Non-sales were 37.3 million which included a 12 percent increase in shrinkage.

Frozen french fries were the major processed item using a record 103 million cwt. Chip usage was 40.5 million, dehydration claimed 30.8 million and other frozen products was 16.5 million.

In **Montana**, total production was 2.4 million cwt of which 2.0 million were sold. The largest sales use was for certified seed.

WHY DON'T CASH RECEIPTS FALL IN A DROUGHT?

Since droughts have a severe impact on current production, why don't cash receipts fall? Cash receipts grew nearly $8 billion in the 1980 drought and are forecast to rise $5-$9 billion this year.

One reason is that the prices of drought-affected commodities tend to increase by more than production falls, raising the total value of the crop. Another reason is that marketing does not drop as much as production because stocks are sold to make up the harvest shortfall.

Economists say that the demand for farm commodities is inelastic, meaning that a 1-percent drop in production leads to greater than a 1-percent increase in price. For example, of the elasticity of demand for corn were -0.3, a 30-percent decline in corn production would double the price.

Some farmers may benefit from the higher prices -- those in areas with adequate rainfall, those who irrigate, and those with large unsold stocks of previous years' crops.

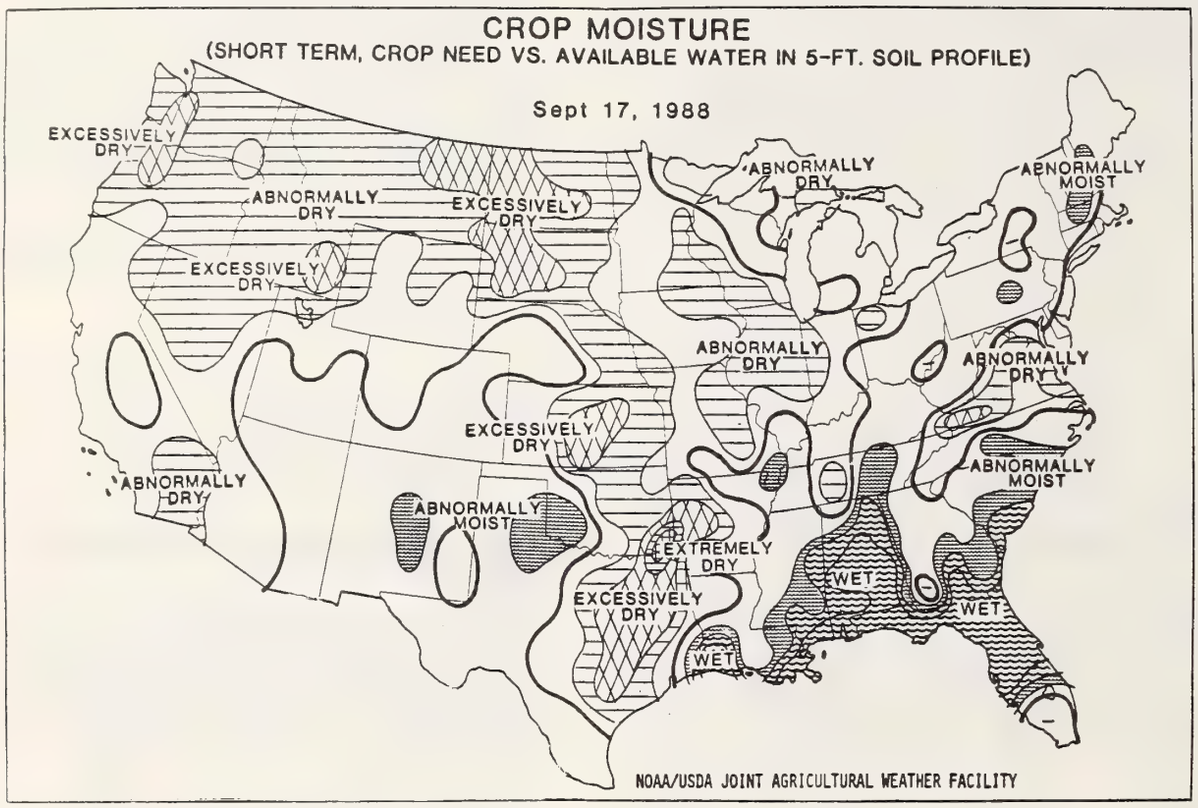
However, higher cash receipts for the sector do not imply that all farmers are better off because of the drought. Many farmers will suffer large declines in cash receipts if their individual production falls by much more than prices rise. Farmers in drought-stricken areas without large stocks of unsold crops from previous years have little to fall back on.

GOOD NEWS, RAIN AND SNOW!

At last -- some good news! Rains early last week greatly helped soil moisture. Topsoil was rated only 35% short and 62% adequate. On the other hand, subsoil moisture is still 80% short.

Winter wheat seeding will now proceed rapidly, but up to now is only 15% complete compared with an average of 35%. Harvesting of corn silage, dry beans and potatoes is progressing very well. About 3/4 of the corn silage and dry beans have been harvested -- about normal for this date. Potato harvest is 15% done, also normal for this date, but behind last year's pace.

The livestock situation shows an improvement in pasture and range conditions, but feed is still critically short. About 3/4 of the cattle, sheep and lambs have been moved from summer range -- well ahead of normal for this date. We're still looking for more moisture to push germination and growth of winter wheat before cold weather sets in.



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HIGHLIGHTS:

Manufactured Dairy Products
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
September 1 Crop Production
All Wheat - Selected States
Wheat and Barley Movement

JULY MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 181,000 gallons of ice cream in July 1988, 5 percent more than last month, and 11 percent more than July 1987. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 309,000 pounds was 9 percent greater than last month's production, and 6 percent less than July last year. Butter production was 60,000 pounds in July 1988, 8 percent lower than June, and 39 percent lower than June 1987.

U.S. butter production was 75.9 million pounds in July, 1 percent above July 1987, but 17 percent below June 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 56.0 million pounds, 5 percent below July 1987 and 2 percent below June 1988. June ice cream production, at 88.8 million gallons, was down 4 percent from last year. There were 5.76 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 9 percent from July 1987.

PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's September 1 pasture and range feed condition at 29% is the lowest since 1936. Ranges and pastures have been suffering from drouth during the entire growing season. Only in the western section did grasses make any growth earlier in the season. Livestock producers will be further adjusting herd sizes to existing hay supplies as fall and winter grazing will be limited.

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's wheat crop is expected to total 60.2 million bushels, down 60 percent from last year. The September 1 forecast is based on farmers' reports of yield and is largely unchanged from the August 1 estimate. By class, **winter wheat** production is forecast at 39.9 million bushels with a per acre yield of 19 bushels; **hard spring wheat** at 18 million with a yield of 12 bushels; and **durum** at 2.3 million with a yield of 10 bushels.

Barley in Montana, at 27.5 million bushels, is down 71 percent from a year ago. Barley is expected to yield 22 bushels per acre.

The state's **sugarbeet** crop at 1,054 thousand tons is 3 percent under last year.

Nationally, corn for grain production is forecast at 4.46 billion bushels, down slightly from last month and 37 percent below last year's crop. **Sorghum** grain production is forecast at 540 million bushels, down 27 percent from 1987. **Soybean** production is forecast at 1.47 billion bushels, 23 percent below 1987 and the smallest crop since 1976. **All wheat** production is forecast at 1.81 billion bushels, down 14 percent from last season.

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA, September 1, 1988
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987	1988
Northwest	59	77	89	53
N.Central	38	82	83	21
Northeast	25	70	88	21
Central	45	83	79	32
Southwest	52	90	95	43
S.Central	42	73	79	31
Southeast	41	59	86	15
STATE	43	76	85	29

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1987	1988*	1987	1988*	1987	1988*
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,200	2,100	36.0	19.0	79,200	39,900
Durum Wheat	Bu.	190	230	28.0	10.0	5,320	2,300
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,300	1,500	29.0	12.0	66,700	18,000
All Wheat	Bu.	4,690	3,830	32.2	15.7	151,220	60,200
Corn for Grain	Bu.	15	17	105.0	110.0	1,575	1,870
Oats	Bu.	110	90	55.0	30.0	6,050	2,700
Barley	Bu.	2,100	1,250	45.0	22.0	94,500	27,500
Dry Beans	Cwt.	5.7	6.0	21.9	20.0	125	120
Sugarbeets	Ton	48.9	49.0	22.2	21.5	1,086	1,054
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	950	2.20	1.80	2,860	1,710
All Other Hay	Ton	900	950	1.50	1.10	1,350	1.045
All Hay	Ton	2,200	1,900	1.91	1.45	4,210	2,755
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	39,317	39,693	39.8	39.2	1,562,896	1,554,812
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,279	2,948	28.2	16.7	92,617	49,200
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,334	10,300	33.7	20.0	449,687	205,626
All Wheat	Bu.	55,930	52,941	37.6	34.2	2,105,200	1,809,638
Corn for Grain	Bu.	59,167	56,833	119.4	78.5	7,064,143	4,462,475
Oats	Bu.	6,925	5,367	54.0	38.4	373,765	206,330
Barley	Bu.	10,027	7,401	52.6	38.8	527,010	286,908
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,708.4	1,452.0	15.4	13.6	26,309	19,805
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,251.4	1,295.8	22.3	19.5	27,937	25,229
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,485	25,655	3.32	2.71	84,554	69,487
All Other Hay	Ton	35,263	40,498	1.83	1.51	64,588	61,022
All Hay	Ton	60,748	66,153	2.46	1.97	149,142	130,509

*1988 preliminary estimates.

ALL WHEAT - SELECTED STATES

SELECTED	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
	1987	Indv. 1988	1987	Indv. 1988	1987	Indv. 1988
	--000 Acres--		-- Bushels --		--000 Bushels--	
COLO	2,555	2,401	38.1	34.8	97,380	83,470
IDAHO	1,140	1,170	75.0	67.0	85,500	78,420
KANS	9,900	9,400	37.0	34.0	366,300	319,600
MINN	2,519	2,085	40.7	21.9	102,588	45,703
MONT	4,690	3,830	32.2	15.7	151,220	60,200
NEBR	1,950	2,000	44.0	39.0	85,800	78,000
N DAK	9,135	7,240	29.5	15.3	269,120	110,980
OKLA	4,800	4,800	27.0	36.0	129,600	172,800
OREG	810	755	65.3	68.7	52,920	51,900
S DAK	3,528	2,718	30.2	14.0	106,704	38,016
TEX	3,600	3,100	28.0	28.0	100,800	86,800
WASH	2,015	2,060	56.7	61.2	114,285	126,170
U.S.	55,930	52,941	37.6	34.2	2,105,200	1,809,638

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS- SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	1,219.0	1,272.0	+ 4	506.0	440.0	-13	4,400.0	2,548.0	-42
N CENT.	32,654.0	17,633.0	-46	30,247.0	9,542.0	-68	47,283.0	12,787.0	-73
N EAST	10,180.0	2,805.0	-72	31,853.0	7,872.7	-75	12,188.0	2,343.0	-81
CENTRAL	16,311.0	10,000.0	-39	2,936.0	764.0	-74	16,470.0	4,222.0	-74
S WEST	2,895.0	1,612.0	-44	1,794.0	569.5	-68	5,700.0	1,640.0	-71
S CENT.	8,501.0	4,928.0	-42	1,569.0	750.0	-52	5,805.0	3,696.0	-36
S EAST	7,440.0	1,650.0	-78	3,115.0	361.8	-88	2,654.0	264.0	-90
STATE	79,200.0	39,900.0	-50	72,020.0	20,300.0	-72	94,500.0	27,500.0	-71

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

AUGUST PRICES RECEIVED

Montana's all wheat price the middle of August was $3.82 a bushel -- the highest since June 1984, but well under the record of $5.45 set in February 1974. Barley prices at $2.68 per bushel were 29 cents below the record set in 1981. All hay, at $82.00 per ton, is still $8.00 per ton under the record last set in April 1986.

The index of prices received by Montana farmers for all products reached 174 (1977=100), 12 points above July and 31 points above August 1987. The index was pushed by an 8 point increase in the crops index, and a 17 point jump in the livestock index. Price increases from July were noted for all items except sheep, lambs, hogs, eggs and wool.

The August all farm products index of prices received by **U.S.** farmers increased 3 points from July to 144 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices during August for cattle, apples, tomatoes, and lettuce were partially offset by lower prices for cotton, corn, onions, and soybeans. The index was 17 points above a year ago.

All feed grain and soybean prices declined from July but rough rice and all wheat prices increased slightly. Average prices of beef cattle and calves increased sharply from July but were below the high levels recorded during February through May of this year.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Aug.15,	Aug.15,
		Aug. 1987	July 1988	1988	1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.31	3.30	3.35	3.44
Durum	Bu.	2.73	5.07	5.20	5.10
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.46	3.74	4.00	3.78
All Wheat	Bu.	2.39	3.68	3.82	3.56
Barley, All	Bu.	1.84	2.67	2.68	2.79
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.05
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.20
Oats	Bu.	1.26	2.42	2.55	2.58
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	47.00	71.00	83.00	87.30
All Other Hay	Ton	42.00	61.00	72.00	70.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	47.00	70.00	82.00	83.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	68.50	69.50	71.40	70.80
Cows	Cwt.	44.70	46.30	46.80	47.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	59.00	53.30	61.60	66.40
Calves	Cwt.	85.70	92.90	95.00	90.30
Sheep	Cwt.	28.70	24.40	24.40	26.20
Lambs	Cwt.	79.30	61.30	57.40	57.90
Hogs	Cwt.	47.70	38.20	37.70	45.40
All Milk	Cwt.	12.17	11.35	11.65	11.60
Eggs	Doz.	.44	.56	.54	.58
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.19	1.30	1.30	1.28
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	143	162	174	144
All Crops	Pct.	104	156	164	136
Livestock & Products	Pct.	178	168	185	152

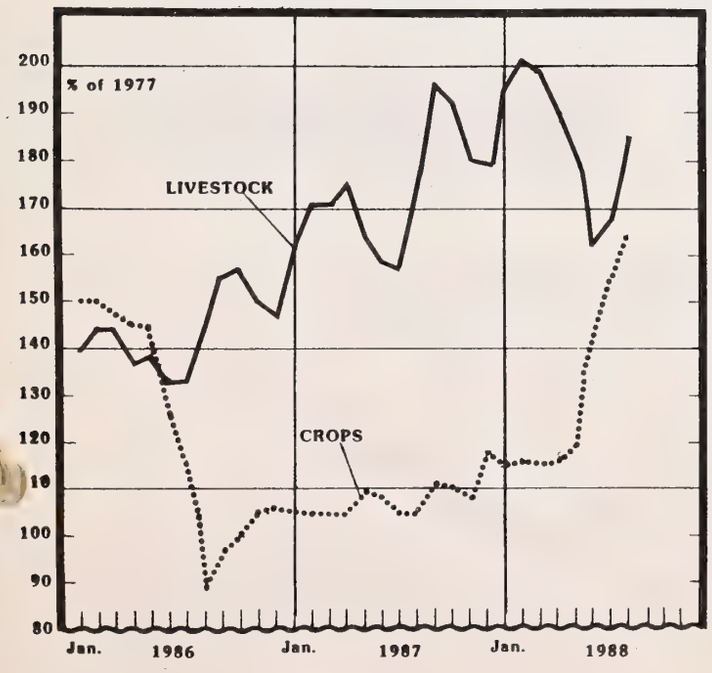
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

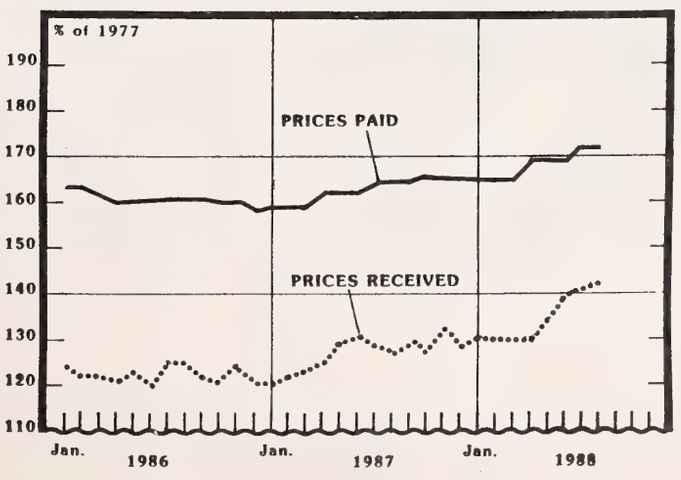
INDEX 1977=100	July 1987	Aug. 1987	July 1988	Aug. 1988
Prices Received	129	127	141	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	164	2/164	172	3/172
Ratio 1/	79	77	82	84

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1987 prices paid index. 3/ July 1988 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1987 - May 1988 at 67.5 million bushels was 14 percent above the same period last year. Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 1.1 million bushels, down 32 percent from last year. Movement to the west was up 16 percent at 65.4 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, received 1.0 million bushel, down 14 percent from last year. Rail movement amounted to 60.1 million bushels - 89 percent of total shipments compared with 83 percent in the 1986-87 period.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1987 - May 1988, was 15.7 million bushels, about half the record movement in the same period last year. Shipments to western destinations were down 59 percent and eastern destinations were down 11 percent. Barley hauled by rail was 88 percent of total movement, compared with 93 percent in the 1986-87 period.

WHEAT & BARLEY SHIPPED OUT OF STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE & DESTINATION 1/

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICT	DEC '86-MAY '87	DECEMBER 1987 - MAY 1988			DEC '86-MAY '87	DEC '87-MAY '88
	All Wheat	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Barley
			----(000) Bushels----			
Northwest	101	106	97	203	622	747
North Central	28,935	15,130	16,019	31,149	20,569	8,102
Northeast	13,270	1,992	9,627	11,619	3,500	1,680
Central	8,589	11,255	3,220	14,475	5,299	2,911
Southwest	719	1,118	744	1,862	879	2,131
South Central	5,504	4,927	420	5,347	262	80
Southeast	1,919	2,137	663	2,800	221	34
Trucked East	759	71	160	231	146	188
Trucked West	8,970	4,552	2,129	6,681	1,717	1,245
Trucked Other 3/	305	286	149	435	250	482
TOTAL BY TRUCK	10,034	4,909	2,438	7,347	2,113	1,915
Rail East	869	330	545	875	4,289	3,742
Rail West	47,330	31,317	27,393	58,710	24,588	9,580
Rail Other 3/	804	109	414	523	362	448
TOTAL BY RAIL	49,003	31,756	28,352	60,108	29,239	13,770
TOTAL SHIPPED	59,037	36,665	30,790	67,455	31,352	15,685

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Potato Disposition

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
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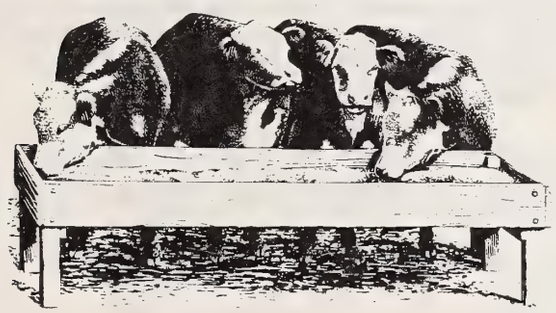
HIGHLIGHTS:

July Red Meat Production
Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Egg Production
Cash Receipts 1986-87
Crop Moisture Conditions



JULY MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in July 1988. This production is down 14 percent from the previous month, and down 25 percent from the July 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, was down 700 head from last year, and total liveweight was down 36 percent. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head, was up 200 head from last year, and total liveweight was 11 percent above last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in July 1988 totaled 3.17 billion pounds, nearly the same as July 1987. January-July red meat production, at 22.5 billion pounds was up 3 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, nearly the same; Veal, down 11; Pork, up 9; Lamb and Mutton, up 7. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

7 STATE CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed August 1, 1988, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.84 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago and up 8 percent from August 1, 1986.

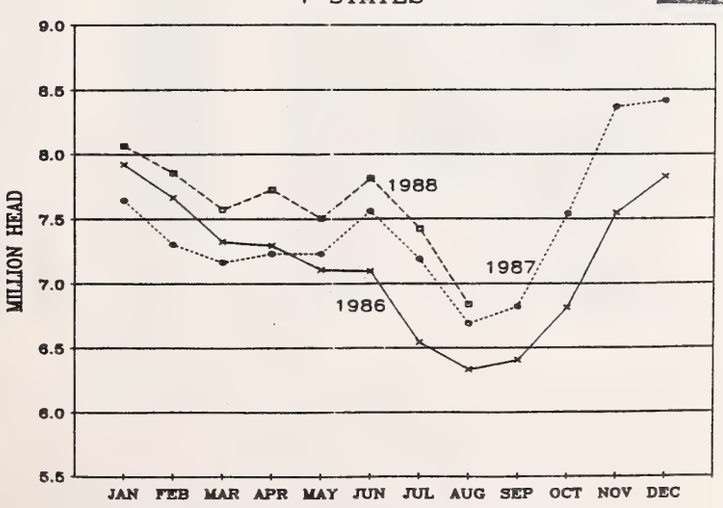
MARKETINGS of fed cattle during July totaled 1.77 million, up 4 percent from both last year and 1986. This is the largest number of fed marketings in July since 7 State estimates began in 1972.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during July totaled 1.25 million, down 2 percent from last year and down 19 percent from July 1986. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.18 million for July are 2 percent below last year and 20 percent below 1986.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 62 thousand head, compared to 71 thousand during July 1987 and 64 thousand during July 1986.

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



NUMBER of WORKERS & WAGE RATES INCREASE

There were 3.52 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 1988. This number was up 1.5 percent from the 3.47 million workers during the comparable week in 1987. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.43 million of the total, along with 591,000 unpaid workers, and 1.20 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural Service employees made up the remaining 303,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average rate of $4.90 per hour during the July 1988 survey week. This rate was up 12 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $4.72 per hour compared with $4.59 last July. Field workers received an average of $4.63 per hour, up 3 cents from the July 1987 week. Livestock workers earned $4.50 compared with $4.29 per hour a year earlier.

JULY MILK PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

Milk production during July 1988 in the 21 selected States totaled 10.5 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same States for July 1987.

During the April-June period the 21 selected States produced 84.9 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed for August 1, followed the trend shown by the reporting States, the U.S. milk production would total about 12.4 billion pounds for July.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1225 pounds during July, 25 pounds above July 1987.

The average number of milk cows during July 1988 in the 21 selected States was 8.58 million head, 9 thousand head less than a month earlier and 84 thousand head fewer than July 1987.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 44.4 hours, 2.7 hours less than the comparable week in 1987. Unpaid workers averaged 37.3 hours, 1.7 hours less than last year. Hired employees worked 37.4 hours compared with 37.9 hours last July.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 44 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. This compares with 45 percent during the July 1987 survey week. Data from the Farm Cost and Returns Survey showed that the value of benefits including insurance and retirement, FICA and other compensation taxes, housing, and other non-cash perquisites represented 15 percent of the total farm and ranch expenditures for farm labor in 1987. This percent was unchanged from 1986.

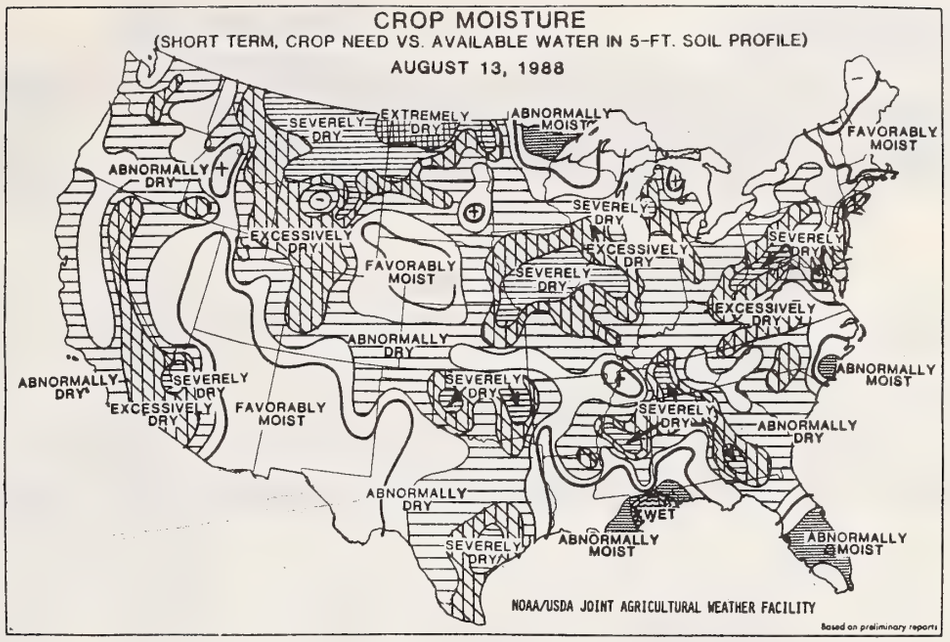
WAGE RATES For HIRED WORKERS, By STATES & REGIONS, July 10-16, 1988 1/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	Field	Live-stock	Field & Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--							
NORTHEAST I	4.88	4.26	4.60	7.37	6.84	4.99	3/	4.83
NORTHEAST II	4.70	4.46	4.65	7.41	7.08	4.83	4.72	5.57
APPALACHIAN I	3.95	4.52	4.02	3/	3/	3.99	3.93	4.52
APPALACHIAN II	4.07	4.45	4.27	7.65	3/	4.40	3/	5.31
SOUTHEAST	3.90	4.56	4.08	6.27	3/	4.39	3.95	4.13
FLORIDA	4.82	5.08	4.89	8.81	8.10	4.83	3/	7.82
LAKE	4.38	3.48	4.00	5.90	3/	4.29	4.46	4.05
CORN BELT I	4.63	4.73	4.67	6.03	3/	4.70	3/	5.17
CORN BELT II	4.49	4.59	4.52	8.58	3/	4.47	3/	5.75
DELTA	3.85	3.68	3.79	6.31	3/	4.07	3/	3.82
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.71	4.48	4.66	6.50	5.67	4.74	5.20	4.73
SOUTHERN PLAINS	3.95	4.73	4.26	8.28	7.20	4.15	4.11	5.39
MOUNTAIN I	3.91	3.83	3.88	6.23	3/	4.54	3.38	3.92
MOUNTAIN II	4.33	5.05	4.75	6.62	3/	5.00	3/	4.74
MOUNTAIN III	4.18	4.63	4.33	7.07	6.33	4.48	3/	5.31
PACIFIC	4.60	5.32	4.68	6.76	3/	4.67	4.67	5.90
CALIFORNIA	5.45	6.17	5.52	10.77	8.39	5.30	6.77	8.84
HAWAII	7.45	3/	7.41	10.83	7.44	7.46	3/	9.60
U.S.	4.63	4.50	4.60	7.70	7.06	4.72	4.87	5.32

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT; NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA; APPALACHAIN I: NC, VA; APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV; SOUTHEAST I: AL, GA, SC; LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORN BELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORN BELT II: IA, MO; DELTA: AR, LA, MS; NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD; SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX; MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY; MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT; MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM; PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data.

DRY WEATHER CONTINUES

This week's crop-weather report shows conditions virtually the same as a week ago. A few scattered showers did little more than settle the dust. The dry weather allowed farmers to make good progress toward finishing up small grain harvest which is now 80% complete, compared with only 30 to 40% a year ago. If there is anything good about this weather, it's the fact that it's allowed farmers to harvest without moisture damage like we had back in 1985. Topsoil and subsoil moisture remain over 90% short.



Livestock are being moved to wherever there's a spare blade of grass and some stockwater. About 30% of the livestock have already been moved from summer pasture, compared with about 8% in a normal year. Range and pasture feed is rated 78% poor to very poor compared with a normal year.

Rain is needed prior to seeding winter wheat and so far there is none in the forecast - so think rain folks!

GRAZING FEE RATES FOR CATTLE BY SELECTED STATES & REGIONS

STATE	SURVEY AVERAGE RATES 1988 1/		
	ANIMAL UNIT 2/	COW-CALF	PER HEAD
	DOLLARS PER MONTH		
ARIZONA	4.47*	3/	9.18
CALIFORNIA	9.43*	12.50	10.50*
COLORADO	8.43	10.20	7.91
IDAHO	6.99	8.56	8.02
KANSAS	9.42	11.00	8.48
MONTANA	9.79	11.30	8.79*
NEBRASKA	10.40	12.50	10.40
NEVADA	3/	3/	3/
NEW MEXICO	5.46*	3/	7.80*
NORTH DAKOTA	7.67	9.11*	8.88*
OKLAHOMA	6.09	6.85*	5.61
OREGON	7.03*	8.56*	6.80*
SOUTH DAKOTA	9.98	11.70	11.00*
TEXAS	8.06	8.58*	6.84
UTAH	8.70	10.60*	9.07*
WASHINGTON	7.28*	9.25*	9.00
WYOMING	8.93	10.60	11.20*
16 STATE AVG.(EXCLUDES TX)	8.98	10.80	8.65
11 STATE AVG.(EXCLUDES KS, NE, ND, OK, SD, TX)	8.49	10.30	8.75
9 STATE AVG. (EXCLUDES AZ, CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA)	9.12	11.00	8.19

1/ Based on the July 1988 Agricultural Survey. 2/ Includes animal unit plus cow/calf rates. Cow/calf rate converted to animal unit (AUM) using (1 AUM=Cow/calf - 1.2). 3/ Insufficient number of reports.
* Coefficient of variation, greater than 25 percent.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES: MONTANA 1986-87

ITEM	1986 1/	1987 2/	1986 1/	1987 2/
	--Thousand Dollars--		--Percent--	
Livestock and Products				
Cattle and Calves	537,562	631,847	47.9	46.9
Dairy Products	41,338	39,753	3.7	3.0
Sheep and Lambs	19,865	23,326	1.8	1.7
Wool	3,867	5,297	0.3	0.4
Hogs and Pigs	24,503	35,338	2.2	2.6
Eggs	9,380	8,542	0.8	0.6
Chickens	189	149	0.0	0.0
Other	15,395	16,017	1.4	1.2
TOTAL	652,099	760,269	58.1	56.4
Crops				
Wheat	265,653	331,810	23.7	24.6
Barley	86,866	137,136	7.7	10.2
Sugarbeets	39,726	39,726	3.5	2.9
Hay	44,006	38,644	3.9	2.9
Potatoes	9,367	12,369	0.8	0.9
Oats	863	1,206	0.1	0.1
Dry Beans	1,570	1,473	0.1	0.1
Corn	1,227	1,336	0.1	0.1
Cherries	480	2,280	0.0	0.2
Other Fruit	25	25	0.0	0.0
Greenhouse and Nursery	2,000	2,500	0.2	0.2
All Other	17,532	18,635	1.6	1.4
TOTAL	469,315	587,140	41.9	43.6
All Commodities	1,121,414	1,347,409	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary Totals may not add due to rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Manufacturing
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
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HELENA, MONTANA

HIGHLIGHTS:

Range & Pasture Feed Condition
Manufactured Dairy Products
August 1 Crop Production
July Prices Received
Cattle Inventory

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA, August 1, 1988
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987	1988
Northwest	43	93	84	69
N.Central	26	91	76	23
Northeast	20	80	86	23
Central	27	93	84	41
Southwest	50	92	94	47
S.Central	32	83	80	39
Southeast	29	72	79	18
STATE	32	86	83	36

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 173,000 gallons of ice cream in June 1988, 33 percent more than last month, but 28 percent less than June last year. Creamed cottage cheese output, at 284,000 pounds, was only slightly less than last month, but 14 percent lower than a year ago. Butter production was 65,000 pounds in June 1988, 39 percent lower than May, but 2 percent higher than June 1987.

U.S. butter production was 91.7 million pounds in June, up 13 percent from June 1987, but 15 percent below May 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 57 million pounds, 6 percent below last year and 1 percent below May 1988. June ice cream production, at 94.1 million gallons was up 2 percent from last year. There were 5.84 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 7 percent from June 1987.

AUGUST 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's wheat crop, shrunk by drouth, is estimated to be only 40 percent of last year's production. Total winter, spring and durum wheat, at 60.4 million bushels, was smaller only 5 times during the last 50 years - in 1939, 1940, 1945, 1961, and 1985. **Winter wheat** production, impacted least by the drouth, is estimated at 39.9 million, about half last year's crop. Winter wheat yield is expected to average 19 bushels per acre, well below the ten year average of nearly 31 bushels. **Spring wheat** other than durum production, at 18 million, is only 27 percent of last year and the lowest since 1961. Spring wheat yield per acre is forecast at 12 bushels, and harvested acres is estimated to be 1.5 million. **Durum** production, at 2.53 million, is 48 percent of last year. Yield is estimated at 11 bushels per acre.

Montana's **barley** crop, at 27.5 million, is only 29 percent of last year's record and is the lowest in 27 years. Barley yield is forecast to be 22 bushels per acre. **All hay** production in Montana, at 2,755 thousand tons is 35 percent under last year and the lowest since 1961. **Sugarbeet** production is estimated to be 1,054 thousand tons, 3 percent under a year ago. Corn for grain, at 1,870 thousand bushels, is 19 percent more than a year ago, while dry beans, at 120 thousand cwt, are 4 percent less.

Nationally, all wheat total production is forecast at 1.82 billion bushels, off 13 percent from 1987 and the lowest since 1978. All wheat yield is expected to average 34.4 bushels per acre, 3.2 bushels less than 1987.

Barley total production is forecast at 288 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month and a 45 percent reduction form last year's output. This is the smallest crop since 1953. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 38.9 bushels compared with last season's average of 52.6 bushels.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1988

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1987	1988*	1987	1988*	1987	1988*
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,200	2,100	36.0	19.0	79,200	39,900
Durum Wheat	Bu.	190	230	28.0	11.0	5,320	2,530
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,300	1,500	29.0	12.0	66,700	18,000
All Wheat	Bu.	4,690	3,830	32.2	15.8	151,220	60,430
Corn for Grain	Bu.	15	17	105.0	110.0	1,575	1,870
Oats	Bu.	110	90	55.0	30.0	6,050	2,700
Barley	Bu.	2,100	1,250	45.0	22.0	94,500	27,500
Dry Beans	Cwt.	5.7	6.0	21.9	20.0	125	120
Sugarbeets	Ton	48.9	49.0	22.2	21.5	1,086	1,054
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	950	2.20	1.80	2,860	1,710
All Other Hay	Ton	900	950	1.50	1.10	1,350	1.045
All Hay	Ton	2,200	1,900	1.91	1.45	4,210	2,755
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	39,317	39,693	39.8	39.2	1,562,896	1,554,812
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,279	2,948	28.2	18.5	92,617	54,580
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,334	10,300	33.7	20.6	449,687	211,686
All Wheat	Bu.	55,930	52,941	37.6	34.4	2,105,200	1,821,078
Corn for Grain	Bu.	59,167	57,083	119.4	78.5	7,064,143	4,479,385
Oats	Bu.	6,925	5,367	54.0	38.4	373,765	206,330
Barley	Bu.	10,027	7,401	52.6	38.9	527,010	287,702
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,708.4	1,492.0	15.4	14.1	26,309	21,035
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,251.4	1,295.6	22.3	19.9	27,937	25,723
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,485	25,655	3.32	2.71	84,554	69,487
All Other Hay	Ton	35,263	40,498	1.83	1.51	64,588	61,022
All Hay	Ton	60,748	66,153	2.46	1.97	149,142	130,509

*1988 preliminary estimates.

ALL WHEAT - SELECTED STATES

SELECTED	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
	1987	Indv. 1988	1987	Indv. 1988	1987	Indv. 1988
	--000 Acres--		-- Bushels --		--000 Bushels--	
COLO	2,555	2,401	38.1	34.8	97,380	83,470
IDAHO	1,140	1,170	75.0	66.1	85,500	77,280
KANS	9,900	9,400	37.0	34.0	366,300	319,600
MINN	2,519	2,085	40.7	22.0	102,588	45,785
MONT	4,690	3,830	32.2	15.8	151,220	60,430
NEBR	1,950	2,000	44.0	39.0	85,800	78,000
N DAK	9,135	7,240	29.5	16.7	269,120	120,580
OKLA	4,800	4,800	27.0	36.0	129,600	172,800
OREG	810	755	65.3	68.7	52,920	51,900
S DAK	3,528	2,718	30.2	15.0	106,704	40,684
TEX	3,600	3,100	28.0	28.0	100,800	86,800
WASH	2,015	2,060	56.7	61.2	114,285	126,170
U.S.	55,930	52,941	37.6	34.4	2,105,200	1,821,078

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS - AUGUST 1, 1988

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.	1987	Ind. 1988	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	1,219.0	1,272.0	+ 4	506.0	480.0	- 5	4,400.0	2,695.0	-29
N CENT.	32,654.0	17,633.0	-46	30,247.0	8,890.0	-71	47,283.0	12,796.0	-73
N EAST	10,180.0	2,805.0	-72	31,853.0	8,369.0	-74	12,188.0	2,343.0	-81
CENTRAL	16,311.0	10,000.0	-39	2,936.0	1,007.0	-66	16,470.0	4,242.0	-74
S WEST	2,895.0	1,612.0	-44	1,794.0	597.5	-67	5,700.0	1,600.0	-72
S CENT.	8,501.0	4,928.0	-42	1,569.0	870.0	-45	5,805.0	3,584.0	-38
S EAST	7,440.0	1,650.0	-78	3,115.0	316.5	-90	2,654.0	240.0	-91
STATE	79,200.0	39,900.0	-50	72,020.0	20,530.0	-71	94,500.0	27,500.0	-71

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

JULY PRICE INDEX UP 13 POINTS FROM JUNE

The July index of prices received by **Montana** farmers and ranchers moved up 13 points from June. The all farm products index, at 163 percent of its 1977 average, was pushed higher by a 32 point increase in the all crops index. The livestock and livestock products index declined 2 points, partially offsetting the jump from the drought shorted crops.

The July 15th prices for Winter wheat at $3.35, Durum wheat at $6.25 and Spring wheat (other than Durum), at $4.05, were up $.34, $2.23 and $.79, respectively, from June. Barley, at $2.33, was up $.49; while Oats, at $2.30, was up $.31 from June. Alfalfa hay, at $71.00, was up $10.00 per ton and All Other Hay, at $61.00 per ton, was up $6.00. Cattle prices were off from the June average as follows: Cows $45.20, down $.10; Steers and Heifers $69.20, down $1.00; and Calves $79.00, down $2.80. Sheep, at $15.00, declined from $17.30 in June, while lambs sold for $63.00 compared with $62.50 in June. Hogs, at $38.10, were down $2.40.

The all farm products index is 30 points higher than July 1, 1987. All commodities were above last July's level except for sheep, lambs, hogs and milk.

The **U.S.** July all farm products index of prices received by farmers increased 5 points (3.6 percent) from June to 142 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, and eggs were partially offset by lower prices for oranges, cattle, and hogs. The index was 13 points (10 percent) above a year ago.

The July index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates was 172 percent of its 1977 average. The index was 4 points (2.4 percent) above April 1988 and 8 points (4.9 percent) above a year ago. Compared to last quarter, higher prices for feed and gasoline were only partially offset by lower feeder livestock prices.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1988	MONTANA Jul 15, 1988	U.S. Jul 15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.29	3.01	3.35	3.39
Durum	Bu.	2.99	4.02	6.25	5.24
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.31	3.26	4.05	3.70
All Wheat	Bu.	2.34	3.25	4.03	3.46
Barley, All	Bu.	2.13	1.84	2.33	2.72
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.32
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.41
Oats	Bu.	1.22	1.99	2.30	2.79
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	61.00	71.00	88.10
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	55.00	61.00	68.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	60.00	70.00	83.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	65.70	70.20	69.20	68.40
Cows	Cwt.	44.40	45.10	45.20	43.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	51.90	54.60	53.60	63.60
Calves	Cwt.	72.50	81.80	79.00	85.00
Sheep	Cwt.	28.40	17.30	15.00	22.10
Lambs	Cwt.	78.50	62.50	63.00	60.20
Hogs	Cwt.	53.90	40.50	38.10	44.10
All Milk	Cwt.	12.13	11.20	11.45	11.40
Eggs	Doz.	.42	.36	.56	.58
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.02	1.30	1.30	1.33
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	133	150	163	142
All Crops	Pct.	105	133	165	136
Livestock & Products	Pct.	157	164	162	147

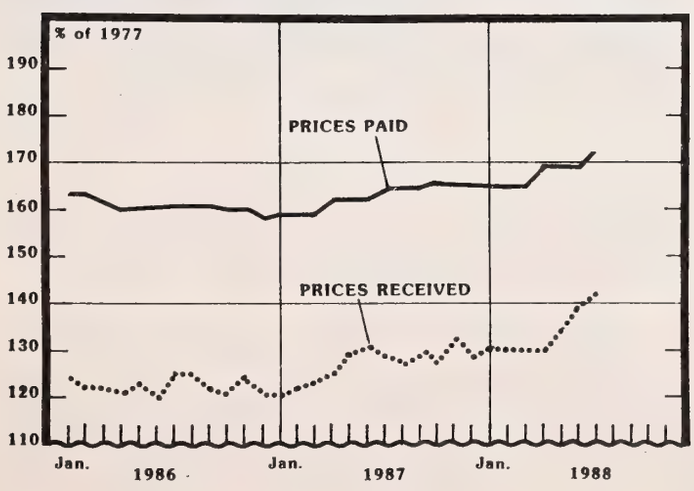
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

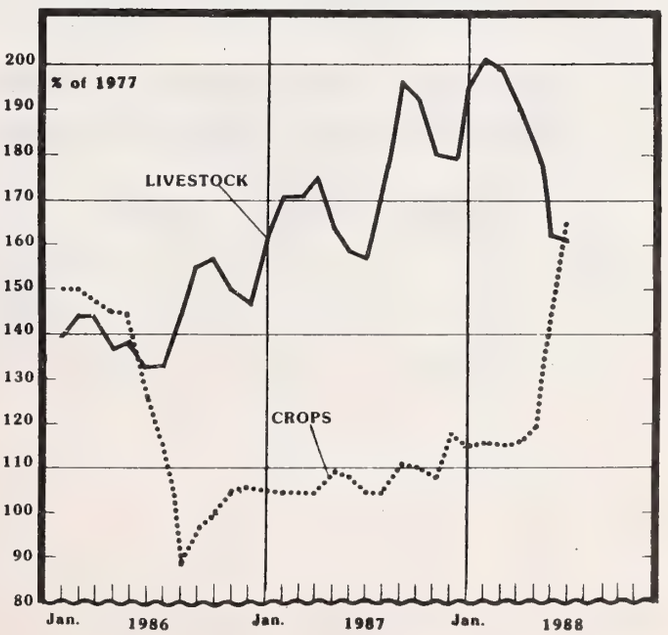
INDEX 1977=100	May 1987	June 1987	May 1988	June 1988
Prices Received	130	129	137	142
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/162	164	3/168	172
Ratio 1/	80	79	82	83

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1987 prices paid index. 3/ April 1988 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



U. S. CATTLE NUMBERS DOWN

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1988, totaled 108 million head, down 1 percent from the 110 million on July 1, 1987, and 4 percent below the 112 million two years ago, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board. The downward trend in cattle inventories began six years ago, and the current July 1 number is the lowest mid-year inventory since mid-year estimates were begun in 1973.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 44.0 million, were down 1 percent from 44.4 million a year ago and down 2 percent from 45.0 million two years ago.

-- Beef cows, at 33.8 million, were 1 percent below both July 1, 1987 and 1986.
-- Milk cows, at 10.3 million, were 1 percent below July 1, 1987, and 6 percent below two years ago.

CATTLE & CALVES: Number by Class & Calf Crop, United States, July 1, 1986-88

Class	1986	1987	1988	1988 as % 1987
	1,000 head			Percent
Cattle and calves	112,200	109,500	107,900	99
Cows and heifers that have calved:	45,000	44,400	44,000	99
Beef cows	34,150	34,000	33,750	99
Milk cows	10,850	10,400	10,250	99
Heifers 500 pounds and over	17,500	17,000	16,500	97
For beef cow replacement	4,800	4,800	4,800	100
For milk cow replacement	4,700	4,600	4,400	96
Other heifers	8,000	7,600	7,300	96
Steers 500 pounds and over	15,300	14,800	14,500	98
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,200	2,200	2,200	100
Calves under 500 pounds	32,200	31,100	30,700	99
Calf crop 1/	41,141	40,026	40,200	100

1/ for the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Mink
Farm Production Expenditures
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat Varieties
Barley Varieties
Milk Production
Slaughter
Mink
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

WHEAT VARIETIES

Neeley jumped into the top spot among **winter wheat** varieties replacing Redwin as the most widely planted variety. Neeley was planted on 623,700 acres or 25.5 percent of the 1988 acreage. This is almost double the 1987 Neeley acres. Although **Redwin** dropped to second position, its acreage decreased only 2,000 from last year to 491,000 acres in 1988. **Winalta** acreage fell by 18,800, but moved up to third position. **Rocky** gained 11,000 acres and moved into fourth. **Norstar** lost 57,900 acres and dropped into fifth.

Newana remains the top **spring wheat** variety even though its acreage is down by one-third from 1987. Newana covers 336,100 acres or 16.8 percent of Montana's spring wheat acres in 1988. **Len** moved into second position with a small increase to 288,000 acres. **Fortuna** dropped to third position with a cut in acreage of almost one-half to 245,300 in 1988. **Lew** retained fourth position, but also saw a drop in acreage to 215,300 this year.

Once again **Vic** holds the top spot among **durum** varieties despite being the only variety of the top nine to decrease in acreage. Vic dropped 18,300 acres to 83,200 or 29.7 percent of the total acreage in 1988. The acreage of **Ward**, second position, doubled to 47,800 this year. In third position, **Crosby** acreage more than doubled from last year to 41,200 acres in 1988.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES: 1982-1988

VARIETY	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE					
	1982	1983	1984	1986	1987	1988
	- - - - - - - - - PERCENT - - - - - - - - -					
WINTER WHEAT						
Neeley	--	--	1.3	9.0	13.7	25.5
Redwin	8.3	24.2	34.6	25.9	21.5	20.1
Winalta	22.2	14.3	13.4	13.8	11.2	9.8
Rocky	8.0	8.0	11.1	9.0	8.7	8.6
Norstar	11.8	10.4	11.7	12.7	11.3	8.2
Roughrider	5.0	6.4	4.0	2.6	4.5	4.1
Centurk	15.4	8.9	6.6	7.2	6.1	3.8
Cree	--	--	--	2.6	4.2	2.9
Norwin	--	--	--	--	0.8	2.2
Cheyenne	15.6	8.3	5.1	2.4	3.4	1.7
Weston	0.2	--	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.2
Sage	--	--	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.1
Agassiz	--	--	--	0.1	1.0	1.0
Winridge	--	--	0.9	0.9	0.4	1.0
Warrior	3.6	3.1	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.9
Hawk	--	--	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6
Other & Unknown	9.9	16.4	9.1	11.6	10.8	7.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT						
Newana	12.7	19.8	21.8	22.9	21.0	16.8
Len	4.0	11.9	12.4	11.9	11.3	14.4
Fortuna	11.9	10.7	12.0	18.2	19.7	12.3
Lew	11.5	9.4	10.0	11.5	10.4	10.8
Stoa	--	--	--	4.4	4.2	9.9
Rambo	--	--	--	--	0.4	6.9
Olaf	17.8	11.3	9.5	5.7	5.7	5.8
Tioga	5.6	2.3	2.9	1.5	3.8	3.0
Success	--	--	--	--	1.4	2.4
Pondera	0.6	3.5	2.3	1.9	3.0	1.8
Glenman	--	--	--	0.3	1.7	1.2
Cutlass	--	--	--	--	0.2	1.1
Leader	--	--	0.1	0.8	1.5	0.9
Northrup K. 751	2.7	3.7	1.5	3.3	1.8	0.9
Alex	--	0.6	0.4	0.7	1.3	0.8
Butte	5.1	2.7	4.0	2.5	1.9	0.8
Other & Unknown	28.1	24.1	23.1	14.4	10.7	10.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM WHEAT						
Vic	7.8	25.3	36.9	29.6	52.1	29.7
Ward	40.9	33.1	22.0	19.5	12.3	17.1
Crosby	9.3	2.6	9.8	8.3	9.9	14.7
Medora	--	--	--	--	1.4	8.6
Lloyd	--	--	2.1	16.6	4.1	6.7
Monroe	--	--	--	--	0.3	6.2
Westbred Laker	--	--	--	0.3	3.0	4.2
Wells	3.5	2.2	3.7	3.5	1.2	2.7
Rolette	9.7	8.9	10.7	1.6	3.6	2.5
Cando	9.2	7.6	3.7	1.9	3.4	1.8
Wascana	1.0	--	--	0.4	--	1.7
Other & Unknown	18.6	20.3	11.1	18.3	8.7	4.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

This report was made possible with funds provided by the **Montana Wheat & Barley Committee** and the **American Malting Barley Improvement Association, Inc.**

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES SEEDED ACREAGE 1987 1/ & 1988 2/

VARIETY	SEEDED ACRES 1987 1/	SEEDED ACRES 1988 2/	VARIETY	SEEDED ACRES 1987 1/	SEEDED ACRES 1988 2/	VARIETY	SEEDED ACRES 1987 1/	SEEDED ACRES 1988 2/
	- - - (000) - - -			- - - (000) - - -			- - - (000) - - -	
WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			DURUM WHEAT		
Neeley	315,000	623,700	Newana	503,700	336,100	Vic	101,500	83,200
Redwin	493,700	491,700	Len	271,400	288,000	Ward	23,900	47,800
Winalta	257,800	239,000	Fortuna	472,400	245,300	Crosby	19,400	41,200
Rocky	200,400	211,400	Lew	250,100	215,300	Medora	2,800	24,200
Norstar	259,900	202,000	Stoa	101,200	197,900	Lloyd	8,000	18,700
Roughrider	104,400	101,500	Rambo	8,900	137,900	Monroe	600	17,300
Centurk	139,400	93,000	Olaf	135,800	115,700	Westbred Laker	5,900	11,700
Cree	97,000	70,500	Tioga	91,700	60,700	Wells	2,300	7,500
Norwin	18,900	52,800	Success	32,800	48,500	Rolette	7,100	7,100
Cheyenne	77,500	41,000	Pondera	72,100	36,900	Cando	6,600	5,000
Weston	23,900	29,000	Glenman	41,700	24,600	Wascana	--	4,800
Sage	14,000	26,400	Cutlass	5,100	21,000	Other & Unknown	16,900	11,500
Agassiz	22,000	25,700	Leader	35,500	18,600			
Winridge	10,000	25,200	Northrup K. 751	43,000	18,500			
Warrior	12,900	22,200	Alex	32,100	16,900			
Hawk	5,400	15,100	Butte	46,800	15,000			
Other & Unknown	247,800	179,800	Other & Unknown	255,700	203,100			
STATE TOTAL	2,300,000	2,450,000	STATE TOTAL	2,400,000	2,000,000	STATE TOTAL	195,000	280,000

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES

The 1988 planted acreage of **barley** in Montana at 1.8 million acres, is down nearly 22 percent from 1987. The top five varieties all saw substantial cuts in acreage. **Hector,** with 573,100 acres, remains the most widely planted variety. **Piroline** moved back into second position this year with 253,200 acres. **Klages** dropped to third position overall but remained the top malting variety. With 198,500 acres, **Klages** covers over one-half of the acres planted to malting varieties. **Harrington** moved into fourth position overall with 189,200 acres. **Clark,** a malting variety, decreased by more than one-half of its 1987 acreage to 120,400 this year.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES:

PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1981-88 & SEEDED ACREAGE 1987-88

VARIETY		PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	SEEDED ACRES 1987 1/	1988 2/
		- - - - - - - - - - - -Percent- - - - - - - - - - - -								- - - (000) - - -	
Hector		28.1	27.3	35.1	32.4	32.9	33.9	31.9	31.8	734.7	573.1
Piroline		31.1	24.8	25.6	19.3	20.1	18.7	13.0	11.3	298.7	203.2
Klages	M	10.2	12.6	10.6	13.1	8.6	11.5	14.6	11.0	334.9	198.5
Harrington		--	--	--	0.1	--	1.9	9.4	10.5	216.4	189.2
Clark	M	--	2.5	7.4	15.6	15.8	16.7	10.9	6.7	251.5	120.4
Bowman		--	--	--	--	--	1.7	2.9	5.1	66.2	92.3
Lewis		--	--	--	--	--	0.6	1.8	3.2	41.7	57.7
Gallatin		--	--	--	--	--	--	0.1	2.6	1.4	46.4
Kimberly		--	--	0.6	0.9	3.0	1.1	2.7	2.5	61.4	44.2
Morex	M	2.5	8.5	2.8	1.9	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.9	28.4	33.8
Menuet		--	0.4	0.7	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.2	1.7	50.2	30.9
Summit		1.4	5.5	2.1	3.5	2.5	1.0	0.7	1.1	15.4	19.8
Compana		3.5	2.0	1.5	0.6	2.6	0.6	0.9	1.1	20.1	19.1
Moravian III	M	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.0	12.4	17.1
Horsford		1.1	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	18.2	12.0
Unitan		2.8	3.9	2.5	2.8	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.6	12.6	10.3
Larker		2.3	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	5.3	8.1
AB 1202		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3	--	5.6
Westbred 501		--	--	--	--	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	4.2	5.5
Ingrid		2.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.7	--	0.3	0.3	6.5	4.5
AB 1201		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3	--	4.5
Steptoe		1.5	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	7.9	4.4
Columbus		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.2	--	3.1
Russell		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.2	--	2.7
Betzes		0.7	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	6.2	2.2
Other & Unknown		11.9	7.2	6.3	3.5	5.9	7.0	4.6	5.1	105.7	91.4
STATE TOTAL		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2,300.0	1,800.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. M - American Malting Barley Improvement Association, Inc. recommended malting varieties for Montana.

PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 4 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1987 totaled 3.95 million pelts, down 3 percent from 1986. Wisconsin, the major mink State, produced 1.09 million pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: Standard - 41.6 percent; Demi-buff - 12.8 percent; Mahogany - 10.8 percent; Ranch Wild - 9.5 percent; Gunmetal - 6.1 percent; Pastel - 5.6 percent and White - 3.2 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.4 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1987 crop year were valued at $170.00 million dollars, up fractionally form the 169.2 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1987 crop year was $43.00, compared with $41.30 in 1986 and $28.00 in 1985.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1988 totaled 1.15 million, up 6 percent from 1987. Females bred for the three major color classes are: Standard - 540 thousand; Demi-buff - 124 and Ranch Wild - 118 thousand. Females bred in the leading states are: Wisconsin - 311 thousand; Utah - 161 thousand and Minnesota - 143 thousand.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1988 by color class are: Standard - 47.1 percent; Demi-buff - 10.8 percent; Ranch Wild - 10.3 percent; Gunmetal - 7.2 percent; Mahogany - 6.8 percent; Pastel - 4.9 percent; and Violet-type - 3.1 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 9.8 percent.

There were 970 mink farms producing pelts in 1987 compared with 989 the previous year. Leading States were Wisconsin with 213 farms, Minnesota with 143 and Utah with 126 farms.

MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana dairymen produced 90 million pounds of milk in the second quarter of 1988. This production was 6 percent more than the production for the April-June period of 1987. Milk cow numbers held steady from a year ago this time at 25,000 head. Production per cow was up 6 percent from last year.

On July 1, grain and other concentrates fed averaged 15.5 pounds per milk cow, up one pound per day per head from last year. The average cost of these concentrates was up from $6.20 in 1987 to $6.90/cwt. this year.

Nationally, the quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.8 billion pounds, 1 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 10.3 million head, down 1 percent from the same period in 1987.

U.S. JUNE EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.52 billion during June 1988, down 2 percent from the 5.62 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.82 billion for table eggs and 703 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during June averaged 269 million, down 3 percent from the 276 million a year ago. June egg production per 100 layers was 2054 eggs, compared with 2033 in June 1987.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1988 totaled 267 million, compared with 275 million a year ago. The 267 million layers consisted of 230 million for table or commercial type eggs and 36.9 million for hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1988 averaged 68.3 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.2 on July 1, 1987 and 68.5 on June 1, 1988.

JUNE MEAT PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in June 1988. This production is up 10 percent from the previous month, but down 11 percent from the June 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,700 head, was down 200 head from last year, and total liveweight was down 22 percent. Hog slaughter, at 2,200 head, was up 200 head from last year, and total liveweight was 14 percent above last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in June 1988 totaled 3.32 billion pounds, up 7 percent from June 1987. January-June red meat production, at 19.3 billion pounds was up 3 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, unchanged; Veal, down 11; Pork, up 9; Lamb and Mutton, up 9. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION 1987-88

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1987	1988	1987	1988
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	995	1,015	4,612	4,851
IDAHO	158	163	606	657
MINN	823	800	2,812	2,744
MONT	25	25	85	90
N DAK	93	91	308	282
ORE	92	94	389	402
S DAK	149	148	475	485
WASH	209	214	975	998
WISC	1,795	1,766	6,588	6,588
WYO	9.6	10.0	30.5	32.4
U.S.	10,339	10,252	37,399	37,840

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 4 PERCENT

Cattle and calves **on feed** July 1, 1988 for slaughter in the **13 Quarterly States** totaled 8.99 million head, up 4 percent from July 1, 1987 and 13 percent above 1986.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.77 million **steers and steer calves,** 3 percent above last year and 17 percent above 1986. This group represented 64 percent of the total July number on feed, compared with 65 percent last year and 62 percent in 1986. **Heifers and heifer calves** accounted for 3.18 million, up 5 percent from a year ago and up 6 percent from 1986.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June quarter totaled 5.90 million, virtually unchanged from last year but 13 percent above the comparable period in 1986. **Other Disappearance** of 418 thousand head leaves **Net Placements** at 5.48 million.

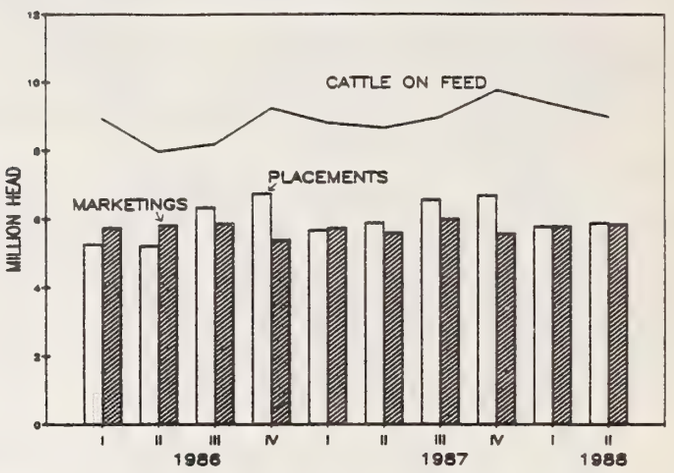
Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 5.85 million, 4 percent more than 1987 and 1 percent above the same period in 1986. This is the largest second quarter marketings since 1987.

Cattle feeders **expect to market** 6.22 million head during the July-September quarter of 1988. This would be 3 percent more than the third quarter marketings in 1987 and 6 percent above 1986.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range
Cattle Inventory

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



Cattle on Feed July 1, 1988 in the **7 Monthly States** totaled 7.42 million, 3 percent more than the previous year and 13 percent more than two years ago. **Placements** in feedlots during June totaled 1.37 million, 4 percent below last year but 18 percent above 1986. **Marketings** during June totaled 1.69 million, down 1 percent from June 1987 but up 3 percent from 1986. **Other Disappearance** during June was 68 thousand head, 22 percent below last year but 1 percent above 1986.

The **April-June Quarterly Marketings** for the 7 states, at 5.03 million were 6 percent higher than 1987 and 2 percent above 1986. This is also the largest second quarter marketings for the 7 states since 1978. Marketings for the 7 states during the April-June quarter accounted for 86 percent of the 13-state total. **Expected 7-state marketings** for the July-September 1988 quarter are estimated at 5.22 million, up 3 percent from 1987 and up 5 percent from 1986.

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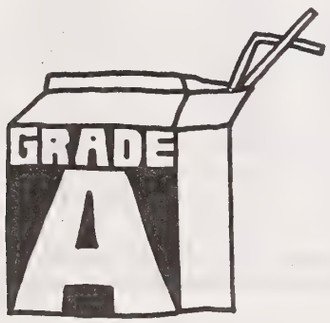
HIGHLIGHTS:

Manufactured Dairy
Hogs & Pigs
Crop Production
Small Grains
Grain Stocks
Monthly Prices



MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 130,000 gallons of ice cream in May 1988, 15 percent less than April, but 9 percent more than May a year ago.

Creamed cottage cheese output at 285,000 pounds was nearly the same as last month, but 10 percent less than a year ago. Butter production was 107,000 pounds in May 1988, 4 percent below April and 6 percent below May 1987.

PLEASE RETURN

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Mink
Farm Production Expenditures
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

HOG INVENTORY UP 8 PERCENT

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the U.S. on June 1, 1988 is estimated at 56.2 million head. This is 8 percent above a year ago and 15 percent above June 1, 1986. This is the highest June 1 inventory since 1983.

- Breeding inventory, at 7.53 million head, is 7 percent above last year and 17 percent above two years ago.

- Market hog inventory, at 48.7 million head, is 8 percent above a year ago and 15 percent above two years ago.

The 10 quarterly states, with 44.0 million head on June 1, 1988, are up 8 percent from last year and up 16 percent from two years ago. The December 1987-May 1988 U.S. pig crop was 46.6 million head, 8 percent above last year and 15 percent above two years ago.

Sows farrowing during this 6 month period, at 6.0 million, were 8 percent more than the previous year and 14 percent above two years ago. Pigs saved per litter was 7.77 compared with 7.79 record litter rate last year and 7.70 two years ago.

In the 10 quarterly states, the December-May pig crop was 36.3 million head, 9 percent above last year and 16 percent above two years ago. The December 1987-February 1988 pig crops, at 16.3 million head, was up 10 percent from a year ago and 15 percent above two years ago. The March-May pig crop of 20.0 million head was 7 percent above last year and 18 percent above two years ago.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts - July 1, 1988

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1987	Ind. 1988	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	1,219	1,200	- 2
N. CENTRAL	32,654	18,603	- 43
NORTHEAST	10,180	3,000	- 71
CENTRAL	16,311	9,840	- 40
SOUTHWEST	2,895	1,802	- 38
S. CENTRAL	8,501	5,175	- 39
SOUTHEAST	7,440	2,380	- 68
STATE	79,200	42,000	- 47

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

BARLEY PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts - July 1, 1988

DISTRICT	BARLEY		
	1987	Ind. 1988	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	4,400	3,127	- 29
N. CENTRAL	47,283	14,748	- 69
NORTHEAST	12,188	3,096	- 75
CENTRAL	16,470	6,120	- 63
SOUTHWEST	5,700	2,236	- 61
S. CENTRAL	5,805	4,940	- 15
SOUTHEAST	2,654	533	- 80
STATE	94,500	34,800	- 63

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

CROP PRODUCTION - SELECTED STATES

STATE	Winter Wheat				Barley			
	Yield		Production		Yield		Production	
	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988
	--- Bu. ---		--- 000 ---		--- Bu. ---		--- 000 ---	
Colo	37.5	35.0	93,750	82,250	66.0	66.0	14,520	12,540
Idaho	75.0	68.0	60,000	53,720	75.0	65.0	61,500	55,250
Kansas	37.0	35.0	366,300	329,000	40.0	32.0	4,800	2,720
Minn	33.0	21.0	2,970	924	57.0	25.0	49,590	17,750
Mont	36.0	20.0	79,200	42,000	45.0	24.0	94,500	34,800
Nebr	44.0	40.0	85,800	80,000	36.0	34.0	2,700	2,040
N. Dak	32.0	17.0	5,920	2,380	48.0	23.0	139,200	40,250
Okla	27.0	36.0	129,600	172,800	30.0	41.0	750	820
Oreg	66.0	68.0	49,500	44,880	70.0	70.0	15,400	14,000
S. Dak	34.0	22.0	55,080	29,700	40.0	22.0	34,000	11,000
Tex	28.0	28.0	100,800	86,800	40.0	30.0	1,200	540
Wash	57.0	59.0	104,025	103,250	55.0	56.0	35,475	31,360
U.S.	39.8	39.5	1,562,896	1,568,052	52.6	39.0	527,010	290,700

CROP ACRES JUNE 1, 1988

CROP	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED	
	1987	1988	1987	Ind. 1988	1987	1988	1987	Ind. 1988
	----------000----------				----------000----------			
Winter Wheat	2,300	2,450	2,200	2,100	48,781	48,980	39,317	39,693
Durum	195	280	190	220	3,341	3,536	3,279	2,600
Hard Spring Wheat	2,400	2,000	2,300	1,500	13,682	13,401	13,334	10,000
All Wheat	4,895	4,730	4,690	3,820	65,804	65,917	55,930	52,293
Corn (Grain)	80	90	15	17	65,706	67,519	59,167	59,689
Oats	235	210	110	120	17,959	13,976	6,925	5,680
Barley	2,300	1,800	2,100	1,450	11,046	9,691	10,027	7,451
Sorghum	--	--	--	--	11,804	10,353	10,604	9,001
Soybeans	--	--	--	--	57,415	58,520	56,437	57,064
Dry Beans	5.8	6.3	5.7	6.0	1,800.6	1,568.4	1,708.4	1,505.0
Sugarbeets	49.2	49.6	48.9	49.0	1,265.7	1,320.0	1,251.4	1,296.0
Fall Potatoes	8.0	7.8	7.9	7.7	1,108.0	1,083.5	1,090.3	1,058.6
Alfalfa Hay	--	--	1,300	1,050	--	--	25,485	24,475
All Other Hay	--	--	900	900	--	--	35,263	38,921

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS In All Positions By Districts

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1987	Mar. 1, 1988*	June 1, 1988	June 1, 1987	Mar 1, 1988	June 1, 1988
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.7	2.2	0.8	1.1	2.0	1.8
North Central	45.9	52.8	39.7	7.8	24.3	17.4
Northeast	25.2	38.1	30.4	3.5	9.0	6.4
Central	15.7	13.6	10.2	4.4	7.5	8.1
Southwest	3.1	4.3	2.4	1.5	3.9	1.2
South Central	6.8	9.4	6.7	1.3	3.8	2.2
Southeast	3.9	7.2	4.2	0.4	1.1	1.0
STATE	101.2	127.5	94.5	20.0	51.6	38.0

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1987	Mar. 1, 1988*	June 1, 1988	% Chg. '88/'87	June 1, 1987	Mar. 1, 1988*	June 1, 1988
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	60,000	92,000	59,000	- 2	560,000	748,000	520,000
Off Farms 1/	41,210	35,495	35,500	-14	1,260,904	1,175,388	746,229
T O T A L	101,210	127,495	94,500	- 7	1,820,904	1,923,388	1,266,229
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	31,000	45,000	27,000	-13	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	24,446	20,338	20,300	-17	--	--	--
T O T A L	55,466	65,338	47,300	-15	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	29,000	47,000	32,000	+10	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	16,744	15,157	15,200	- 9	--	--	--
T O T A L	45,744	62,157	47,200	+ 3	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	49,305	64,024	53,331
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	45,259	40,657	29,662
T O T A L	4,748	6,368	4,300	- 9	94,564	104,681	82,993
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,491,800	4,421,000	3,240,600
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	2,840,441	3,214,190	2,592,417
T O T A L 4/	--	--	--	--	6,332,241	7,635,190	5,833,017
OATS							
On Farms	1,200	--	2,500	+108	103,300	--	76,800
Off Farms 1/	160	--	145	+ 6	29,446	--	35,129
T O T A L	1,360	--	2,645	+98	132,746	--	111,929
BARLEY							
On Farms	14,000	42,000	30,000	+114	193,945	--	193,103
Off Farms 1/	5,200	9,607	8,000	+54	141,673	--	128,176
T O T A L	19,200	51,607	38,000	+98	335,618	--	321,279
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	149,100	--	105,900
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	685,871	--	708,597
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	834,971	--	814,497

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1988	MONTANA Jun 15, 1988	U.S. Jun 15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.52	2.83	3.30	3.35
Durum	Bu.	3.22	3.44	5.85	4.92
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.56	2.98	4.00	3.75
All Wheat	Bu.	2.57	2.95	3.83	3.50
Barley, All	Bu.	1.63	1.60	1.98	2.61
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.05
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	3.29
Oats	Bu.	1.59	1.57	1.65	2.22
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	42.00	61.00	82.00
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	37.00	55.00	60.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	42.00	60.00	76.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	65.30	73.10	72.20	70.10
Cows	Cwt.	44.60	49.50	44.00	43.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	51.80	61.30	53.90	65.20
Calves	Cwt.	74.50	84.30	80.50	86.70
Sheep	Cwt.	28.50	25.00	23.00	21.40
Lambs	Cwt.	81.60	72.20	60.00	62.10
Hogs	Cwt.	52.90	40.40	38.40	47.40
All Milk	Cwt.	11.79	11.35	11.15	11.30
Eggs	Doz.	.48	.37	.36	.457
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.02	1.30	1.30	1.61
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	135	151	159	139
All Crops	Pct.	108	119	154	129
Livestock & Products	Pct.	158	179	162	147

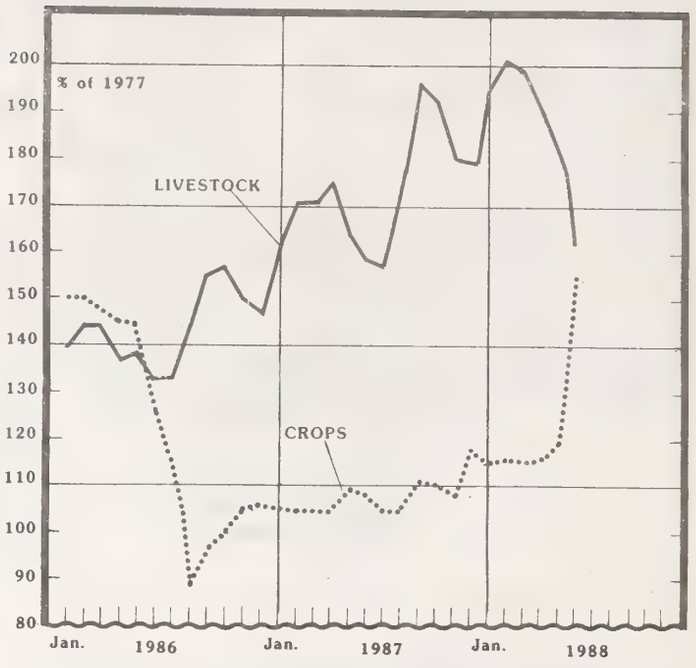
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

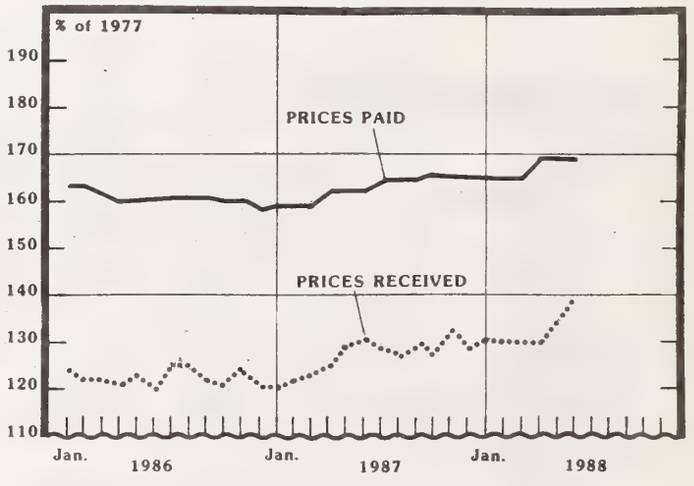
INDEX 1977=100	May 1987	June 1987	May 1988	June 1988
Prices Received	129	130	134	139
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	162	2/162	168	3/168
Ratio 1/	80	80	80	83

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1987 prices paid index. 3/ April 1988 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN

CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.

WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Slaughter
Egg Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Production Expenses
Cherry Production Forecast
125 Years: First Crop Report

SEVERE DROUTH IMPACTS NATION

The big news around Montana continues to be the drouth. The June 27 weekly crop-weather report shows crop and livestock conditions continue to deteriorate. Temperatures of 10 to 20 degrees above normal sucked available moisture from the soil and put crops and pastures under extreme stress.

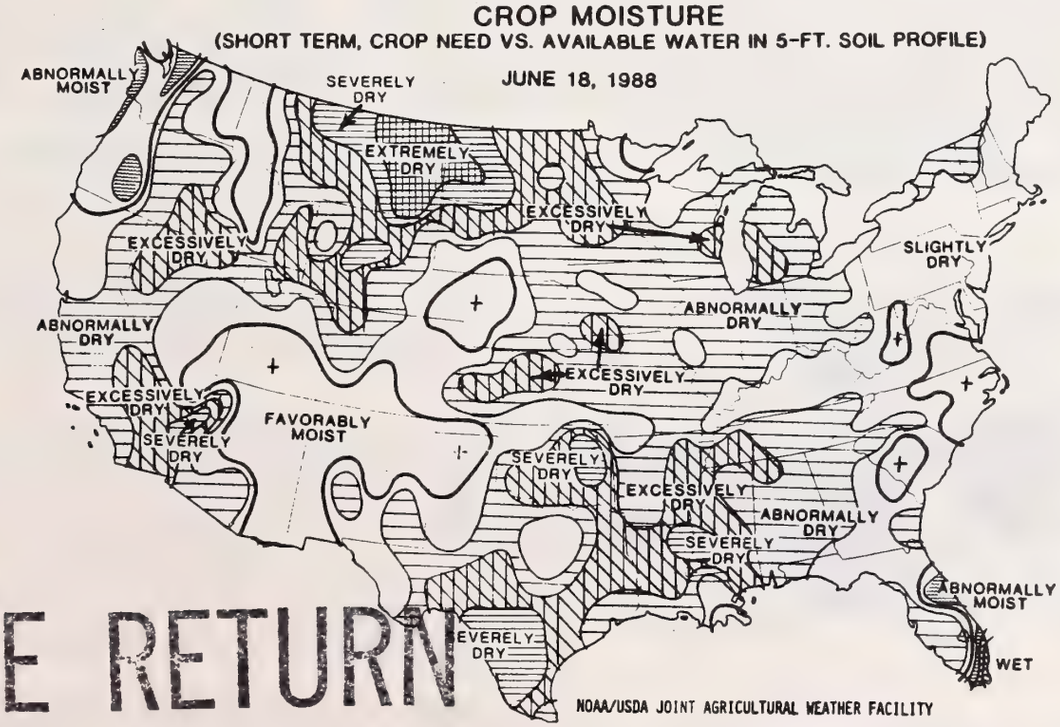
Montana's forty-four weather stations recorded high temperatures ranging from 91 to 109 degrees last week. Precipitation was a half inch or less in the western two-thirds while the eastern third received little more than a few sprinkles. Grain crops and pastures are now rated 60 to 75 percent poor or very poor. This is in contrast to the same week a year ago when 85 percent of the crops were good to excellent.

We're getting a lot of calls asking about acreage losses. We're collecting survey information to assess the situation and will publish results on July 12. Unlike the '85 drouth, which was limited to mostly Montana, this year's extremely dry conditions are impacting farmers and ranchers nationwide.

We appreciate the excellent input from our voluntary crop and livestock reporters on the drouth situation. Their input helps us provide accurate, reliable information -- information that's vital to making decisions based on facts, not speculation.

CROP MOISTURE

(SHORT TERM, CROP NEED VS. AVAILABLE WATER IN 5-FT. SOIL PROFILE)



PLEASE RETURN

FARM EXPENDITURES UP 3.9 PERCENT

Farm production expenditures totaled $110.1 billion in 1987, up 3.9 percent from $106.0 billion in 1986. Expenditures were higher for all major categories except feed which decreased 0.5 percent, interest which dropped 15 percent, and fuels & lubricants which decreased 7.3 percent.

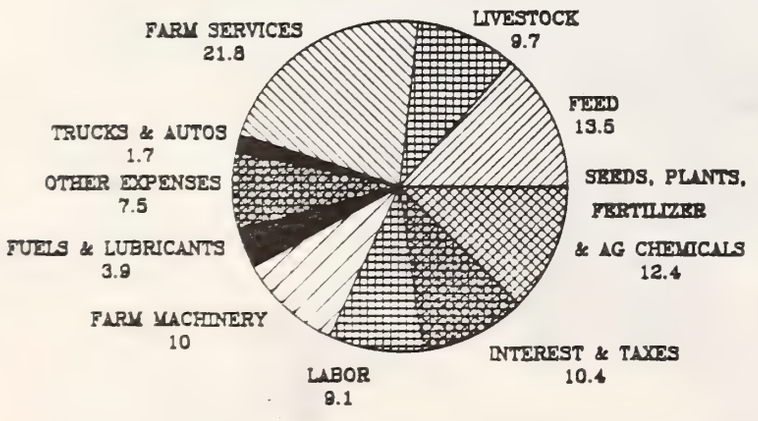
Farm services including rent, the largest 1987 expenditures by farmers at $24.0 billion, accounted for 22 percent of the nation's production expenses. This level was 2.9 percent above 1986. Feed expenses totaled $14.9 billion and accounted for 13 percent of the U.S. total. Average expenditures per farm were $50,791, an increase of $2,815 from 1986.

Expenditures for **large farms** (sales over $100,000) averaged $258,711 and accounted for over 67 percent of the U.S. total. Purchases of farm services, feed, labor, and livestock & poultry were major expenses (nearly 60 percent of the total) for operations with sales over $100,000. The large farms accounted for more than one-half of the U.S. expenses for farm services, feed, labor, livestock & poultry, farm machinery, interest, and fertilizer.

Expenses for **medium-sized** farms (sales of $40,000 - $100,000) averaged $70,943 for 1987 and contributed 17 percent of the U.S. total. Leading expenditures for medium sized farms were farms services, feed, and farm machinery.

Expenditures for **small** farms (sales less than $40,000) averaged $15,887 and accounted for 16 percent of the nation's production expenses. The three leading expenditure categories for small farms were farm services, farm machinery, and feed.

1987 EXPENDITURES
(PERCENT OF TOTAL FARM OUTLAY)



1863-1988

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Fact Finding for Agriculture

125th ANNIVERSARY OF AG STATISTICS :

FIRST CROP REPORT SHOWED DRY CONDITIONS, TOO

The **July Crop Report** is slated for release on **July 12th** and we'll include a summary in the next Reporter. The first crop report appeared 125 years ago, on July 10, 1863. Back then, the country was in the middle of the Civil War and they could not account for all states.

The report states... "The replies... were not as numerous in some of the States as was desirable. But the answers from the great grain-producing States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa were full and satisfactory. It is due, too, that the promptness of the new and distant States of Minnesota and Kansas should be kindly acknowledged, and their example commended to States much nearer the capital."

Below are some excerpts from that first report showing crop conditions in 1863.

"Thus we see in Kansas... the entire returns represent an abundance of rain. So, too, but not quite to the same extent, are the reports from Missouri, of which, however, there are few on account of the war. But Iowa is the reverse of Missouri, reporting fifty-one counties very dry; Wisconsin has fourteen very dry, eleven dry against twelve favorable, and the entire returns from Minnesota exhibit every county as very dry.

"Why this remarkable difference between Kansas and Minnesota? Again: all the States lying east of the great lakes have had much more rain than those south of them during the first three weeks of June. Whence have these rains come? Were they produced by the cold west winds condensing the evaporation from the lakes?

"And why do Kansas and Missouri receive so liberally from the evaporations of the equator, whilst the States north of them have so little, and Minnesota none? The answer to these questions, to be understood, must be preceded by an explanation of that wonderful atmospherical machinery which the Creator has designed for the diffusion of heat and the distribution of moisture."

(Excerpts from "Monthly Report of the Condition of the Crops," U.S. Department of Agriculture, July 10, 1863.)

MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in May 1988. This production is down 1 percent from last month, and down 11 percent from May 1987.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,500 head, was down 300 head from last year, and total liveweight was down 20 percent. Hog slaughter, at 2,300 head was up 500 head or 31 percent from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in May 1988 totaled 3.21 billion pounds, up 8 percent from May 1987. January-May red meat production, at 16.0 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from last year.

The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 1; Veal down 12; Pork, up 9; Lamb and Mutton, up 9. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

SWEET CHERRY PROSPECTS DOWN

Montana's 1988 sweet cherry production is forecast to be 3 million tons, 21% less than a year ago. The production forecast is 88 percent larger than 1986.

For the **U.S.**, sweet cherry production is forecast to be 175.4 million tons, down 17% from last year, but 27 percent above 2 years ago.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 3 PERCENT FROM 1987

Cattle and calves **on feed** June 1, 1988, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.81 million head, up 3 percent from a year ago and up 10 percent from June 1, 1986. This is the highest June total since 1978.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.72 million, up 14 percent from last year and 5 percent above May two years ago. This is the highest number of fed marketings in May since 1972.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during May totaled 2.17 million, up 9 percent from last year and up 24 percent from May 1986. This is the largest number of placements during the month since the seven state series began in 1972. **Net placements** of 2.03 million for May are 10 percent above last year and 25 percent above 1986.

Other disappearance totaled 141 thousand head, compared to 143 thousand during May 1987 and 132 thousand during May 1986.

EGG PRODUCTION REMAINS STEADY

Montana poultrymen produced 53 million eggs in the quarter ending May 31, 1988. The average number of layers on hand in the March through May period was up more than 1 percent from last year but a lower rate of lay kept production the same as in the 1987 quarter.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.4 billion eggs during the March through May quarter, down 1 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Layers for the quarter averaged 275 million, down 2 percent from the 280 million a year earlier.

All layers on June 1, 1988, totaled 270 million, down more than 2 percent from a year ago. Layers on June 1 consisted of 233 million for table eggs and 37.5 million layers for hatching eggs. **Rate of lay** on June 1, for all layers, averaged 68.5 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 67.5 a year earlier.

MAY MILK PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

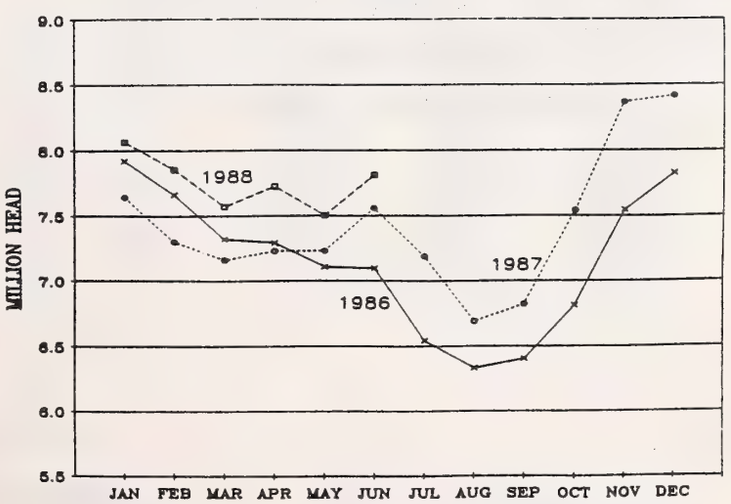
Milk production in the 21 selected States totaled 11.0 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same states for May 1987.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1,280 pounds, 21 pounds more than May a year ago.

The **number of cows on farms** in the 21 selected States was 8.63 million head, 9 thousand more than April 1988 but 70 thousand less than May 1987.

During the January-March period, the 21 selected States produced 84.7 percent of the U.S. production. If the producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed on June 1 followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 13.0 billion pounds for May 1988.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



JUNE PRICE INDEX SHARPLY HIGHER

The June 1988 index of prices received by **Montana** farmers and ranchers moved up 8 points from May.

The all products index at 159 percent of its 1977 average was pushed up by a 35 point increase in the all crops index. The livestock and livestock products index fell 17 points partly offsetting the strong gain shown by drought plagued crops.

Individual commodity prices are as follows: Winter Wheat at $3.30/bu. was up $.47; Durum at $5.85/bu. was up $2.41; Other Spring Wheat at $4.00/bu. was up $1.02 from May; Barley at $1.98/bu. was up $.35; Oats at $1.65/bu. was up $.08; All Hay at $60/ton was up $18.00. Livestock prices were all lower with Cows at $44.00/cwt, down $5.50; Steers and heifers at $72.20 were off $.90; Calves at $80.50 were down $3.80. Sheep moved down $2.00 to $23.00/cwt; Lambs dropped $12.20 to average $60.00. Hogs were down $2.00 at $38.40; Wholesale milk at $11.15/cwt. was down $.20; and Eggs were off 1 cent/doz. at $.36. Wool at $1.30/lb. was unchanged. Compared with last year, prices were higher except for cows, sheep, lambs, hogs, milk and eggs.

The June all farm products index of prices received by **U.S.** farmers increased 5 points from May to 139 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for soybeans at $8.56, corn at $2.43, and wheat at $3.50 were partially offset by lower prices for cattle and peaches. The index was 9 points above a year ago.

Most grain prices moved up sharply in June, reflecting the widespread drought. The average soybean price was at the highest level since May of 1977 and the fifth highest on record. Corn and wheat also moved up sharply to the highest levels since August of 1985 and May of 1984, respectively.

CALL FOR HAY & PASTURE INFORMATION

Keith Kelly, Director of the Montana Department of Agriculture has announced that drought stricken farmers and ranchers who need hay or pasture, and those with hay for sale or pasture to rent, can make use of a central clearinghouse set up by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers with a personal computer and telephone modem can place listings or inquiries on the Agricultural Marketing Bulletin Board (444-5411). Others can telephone the Agriculture Department's marketing program at 1-800-722-FARM.

Those with hay for sale should provide a listing that includes the quantity, location and type of hay, as well as the name of a person to contact and a telephone number. Listings for available pasture to rent should include the location and estimated animal unit months available for grazing. Those interested in buying hay or renting pasture can place an inquiry.

Wheat and Barley County Estimates for 1987 will be published soon. You may receive your copy by contacting:

Montana Ag Statistics Service
P.O. Box 4369
Helena, MT 59604

(406) 449-5303

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

June 1 Crop Production
1987 All Wheat County Estimates
May Prices Received
Winter Wheat Production
Manufactured Dairy
Pasture & Range

1987 COUNTY WHEAT ESTIMATES

The 1987 wheat county estimates will soon be available for distribution. We're publishing the "all wheat" figures in this publication, but estimates by class and cropping practice are available from the office upon request.

These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on an acreage and production survey conducted last fall. Nearly 5,800 questionnaires were tabulated including 3,900 completed by telephone to ensure better coverage in each county. Thanks to those who provided information!

JUNE 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's winter wheat crop, hard hit by prolonged dryness, is expected to total 52.8 million bushels -- a third less than 1987. The forecast is based on June 1 conditions and is down 8 percent from May 1. The expected yield of 24 bushels per acre is 12 bushels less than last year, but still 8 bushels above the drouth plagued yield in 1985. Acres for harvest at 2.2 million is unchanged from a year ago.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.57 billion bushels as of June 1, 1988. This is slightly higher than the 1987 production, but down 3 percent from the May 1 forecast. Harvested area remains at 39.8 million acres, up 1 percent from last season. Yield prospects have declined to 39.4 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushels from 1987 and 1.3 bushels per acre less than the May 1 forecast.

The next forecast of winter wheat production will be released on July 12 and will reflect conditions since June 1, which so far, have been mostly unfavorable. Barley production will also be included in the July 1 forecast.

WINTER WHEAT: Acres, Yield & Production - Selected States, 1986-1988

SELECTED	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1987	Ind. 6/1/88	1987	Ind. 6/1/88	1986	1987	Ind. 6/1/88
	--000 Acres--		-- Bushels --		--000 Bushels--		
CALIF	480	440	76.0	81.0	45,000	36,480	35,640
COLO	2,500	2,350	37.5	37.0	92,800	93,750	86,950
IDAHO	800	790	75.0	72.0	51,850	60,000	56,880
ILL	950	1,120	59.0	55.0	36,080	56,050	61,600
KANS	9,900	9,400	37.0	35.0	336,600	366,300	329,000
MO	770	1,400	46.0	47.0	18,810	35,420	65,800
MONT	2,200	2,200	36.0	24.0	64,000	79,200	52,800
NEBR	1,950	2,050	44.0	42.0	76,000	85,800	86,100
N DAK	185	190	32.0	28.0	13,920	5,920	5,320
OHIO	800	1,040	58.0	48.0	48,300	46,400	49,920
OKLA	4,800	4,900	27.0	36.0	150,800	129,600	176,400
OREG	750	650	66.0	66.0	53,940	49,500	42,900
S DAK	1,620	1,550	34.0	30.0	57,600	55,080	46,500
TEX	3,600	3,200	28.0	29.0	120,000	100,800	92,800
WASH	1,825	1,650	57.0	54.0	102,900	104,025	89,100
WYO	270	225	31.0	30.0	7,500	8,370	6,750
U.S.	39,317	39,826	39.8	39.4	1,521,498	1,562,896	1,570,417

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MONTANA ALL WHEAT 1987

COUNTY and DISTRICT	TOTAL SEEDED ACRES	NET SEEDED ACRES	TOTAL HARVESTED ACRES	YIELD PER ACRE BU.	PRODUCTION BU.
Deerlodge	400	400	300	66.7	20,000
Flathead	11,400	11,400	11,200	55.5	622,000
Granite	700	700	700	42.9	30,000
Lake	14,200	14,200	12,700	52.0	660,000
Lincoln	0	0	0	0.0	0
Mineral	100	100	100	40.0	4,000
Missoula	3,300	3,300	3,300	40.3	133,000
Powell	2,600	2,600	2,500	31.2	78,000
Ravalli	2,900	2,900	2,800	45.7	128,000
Sanders	1,400	1,400	1,400	35.7	50,000
NORTHWEST	37,000	37,000	35,000	49.3	1,725,000
Blaine	145,100	143,500	139,100	31.7	4,414,000
Chouteau	421,300	415,600	407,200	33.0	13,447,000
Glacier	112,400	112,300	108,000	32.8	3,547,000
Hill	433,300	428,900	419,300	31.8	13,341,000
Liberty	227,800	227,200	222,100	30.9	6,862,000
Phillips	140,600	140,600	135,600	27.9	3,784,000
Pondera	165,600	165,600	161,500	39.0	6,293,000
Teton	148,800	148,200	144,700	40.4	5,852,000
Toole	200,600	200,500	190,500	28.1	5,361,000
NORTH CENTRAL	1,995,500	1,982,400	1,928,000	32.6	62,901,000
Daniels	199,900	199,700	191,600	23.6	4,524,000
Dawson	154,900	154,400	147,700	31.7	4,677,000
Garfield	94,000	93,900	89,000	30.4	2,709,000
McCone	191,800	191,800	183,800	31.6	5,800,000
Richland	144,800	144,800	137,800	31.8	4,383,000
Roosevelt	276,700	276,700	265,500	27.8	7,386,000
Sheridan	229,800	229,800	221,000	26.2	5,782,000
Valley	274,600	274,400	263,600	25.7	6,772,000
NORTHEAST	1,566,500	1,565,500	1,500,000	28.0	42,033,000
Broadwater	38,600	38,400	37,600	43.6	1,638,000
Cascade	154,300	153,500	148,300	34.2	5,073,000
Fergus	146,800	146,400	140,100	40.4	5,665,000
Golden Valley	30,000	30,000	29,000	31.3	908,000
Judith Basin	67,100	67,100	65,000	40.7	2,644,000
Lewis & Clark	14,000	14,000	13,500	35.3	476,000
Meagher	9,800	9,800	9,200	35.4	326,000
Musselshell	45,000	45,000	43,900	24.7	1,083,000
Petroleum	15,400	15,400	14,900	24.4	363,000
Wheatland	31,000	31,000	29,500	36.3	1,071,000
CENTRAL	552,000	550,600	531,000	36.2	19,247,000
Beaverhead	14,500	14,300	13,500	57.5	776,000
Gallatin	53,100	53,000	50,100	55.3	2,771,000
Jefferson	11,800	11,600	11,200	46.3	518,000
Madison	11,800	11,800	11,400	54.1	617,000
Silver Bow	100	100	100	70.0	7,000
SOUTHWEST	91,300	90,800	86,300	54.3	4,689,000
Big Horn	103,900	103,900	100,000	35.3	3,526,000
Carbon	23,900	23,900	23,000	35.7	820,000
Park	15,900	14,700	14,000	39.2	549,000
Stillwater	55,100	55,100	45,000	32.0	1,438,000
Sweet Grass	6,700	6,700	6,500	36.6	238,000
Treasure	7,000	7,000	6,500	42.0	273,000
Yellowstone	91,500	91,500	89,000	36.2	3,226,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	304,000	302,800	284,000	35.5	10,070,000
Carter	57,300	56,100	54,000	32.4	1,749,000
Custer	48,200	48,200	44,000	33.1	1,456,000
Fallon	63,000	63,000	58,000	29.2	1,695,000
Powder River	34,700	34,700	31,000	35.5	1,102,000
Prairie	36,900	36,800	34,500	34.1	1,176,000
Rosebud	57,300	57,300	54,500	36.2	1,971,000
Wibaux	51,300	51,300	49,700	28.3	1,406,000
SOUTHEAST	348,700	347,400	325,700	32.4	10,555,000
STATE	4,895,000	4,876,500	4,690,000	32.2	151,220,000

MAY PRICES RECEIVED SLIGHTLY LOWER

The May 1988 index of prices received by **Montana** farmers and ranchers declined 3 points from April. The index at 152 percent of its January-December 1977 average is still 14 points above last year's level. The **all crops index** moved up 2 points from April, but the **livestock index** was down 9 points.

Individual commodity prices changed from April to May as follows: All Wheat advanced 6 cents per bushel as durum moved up 17 cents; other spring wheat increased 13 cents but winter wheat declined 2 cents; barley was up 6 cents; oats retreated 4 cents; alfalfa hay was up $1.00 per ton. The beef cattle composite average was down $2.50 per cwt. as steers and heifers fell off $1.60 and cows $.70; calves dropped $3.30 per cwt. Sheep were down $1.90 but lambs moved up $9.30 per cwt.

Hogs declined $.80 per cwt.; wholesale milk was off $.40 per cwt.; eggs were down 5 cents per dozen and wool was unchanged from the previous month.

Compared with last year most items were higher. Notable exceptions were: Oats, off 24 cents per bushel; Hay, down $3.00 per ton; Sheep, down $5.00 per cwt.; Hogs down $13.60 per cwt.; Milk, off 80 cents per cwt., and Eggs, down 3 cents per dozen.

The May all farm products index of **prices received by U.S. farmers** increased 4 points from April to 134 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for hogs, soybeans, oranges, and broilers were partially offset by lower prices for tomatoes, onions, milk and upland cotton. The index was 6 points above a year ago.

A sharp increase in the price of barrows and gilts pushed the all hog price to the highest level since October last year. The May all cattle price increased to the highest level since May of 1979 but the calf price dropped from last month.

APRIL MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 153,000 gallons of ice cream during April 1988 -- a 35 percent increase from April 1987. Butter output totaled 112,000 pounds, down 17 percent from a year ago. Creamed cottage cheese production, at 286,000 pounds, was down 6 percent from last year.

U.S. butter production was 112 million pounds, 9 percent above April 1987, but 4 percent below March 1988. Creamed cottage cheese production was 54.9 million pounds, 6 percent below both April last year and last month. March ice cream production at 73.6 million gallons was down 6 percent from last year. There were 4.63 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 5 percent from April 1987.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1988	MONTANA May 15, 1988	U.S. May 15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.51	2.82	2.80	2.76
Durum	Bu.	3.10	3.38	3.55	3.37
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.77	2.87	3.00	2.88
All Wheat	Bu.	2.64	2.87	2.93	2.83
Barley, All	Bu.	1.68	1.64	1.70	1.76
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.78
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	1.72
Oats	Bu.	1.74	1.54	1.50	1.72
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	41.00	42.00	85.90
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	37.00	37.00	55.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	41.00	42.00	80.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	67.90	75.00	73.40	74.70
Cows	Cwt.	44.20	50.70	50.20	48.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	56.10	66.50	63.00	70.00
Calves	Cwt.	72.30	86.70	83.40	91.90
Sheep	Cwt.	23.40	20.30	18.40	25.50
Lambs	Cwt.	66.50	68.70	78.00	77.00
Hogs	Cwt.	47.60	34.80	34.00	46.90
All Milk	Cwt.	12.05	11.65	11.25	11.40
Eggs	Doz.	.40	.42	.37	.43
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.07	1.30	1.30	1.65
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	138	155	152	134
All Crops	Pct.	109	117	119	116
Livestock & Products	Pct.	164	190	181	152

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

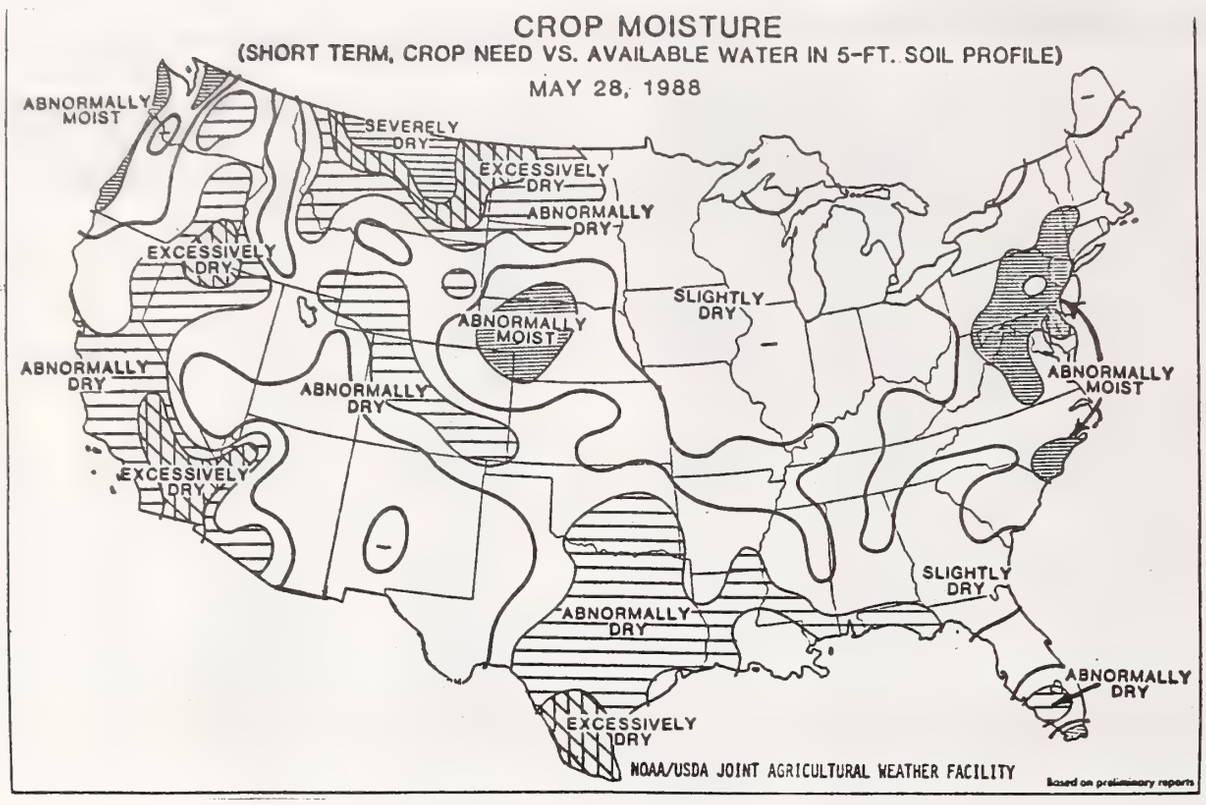
INDEX 1977=100	Apr. 1987	May 1987	Apr. 1988	May 1988
Prices Received	125	128	130	134
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	162	2/162	168	3/168
Ratio 1/	77	79	77	80

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1987 prices paid index. 3/ April 1988 prices paid index.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST by Districts - JUNE 1, 1988

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT 1987	WINTER WHEAT Ind. 1988	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	1,219	1,100	- 10
N. CENTRAL	32,654	21,500	- 34
NORTHEAST	10,180	5,700	- 44
CENTRAL	16,311	12,500	- 23
SOUTHWEST	2,895	2,000	- 31
S. CENTRAL	8,501	6,400	- 25
SOUTHEAST	7,440	3,600	- 52
STATE	79,200	52,800	- 33

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.



RANGE & PASTURE CONDITION VERY POOR

Montana range and pasture feed condition was rated very poor on June 1, the lowest since the severe drouth of 1985. Rangelands in the northern third as well as the eastern third of the state went through the winter with little or no snowfall. With spring moisture very short, ranges and pastures in those areas are rated to be in severe drouth. By contrast, the west and southwest portions have good to excellent conditions while the central and south central is rated poor to fair. Grasshoppers also are hatching rapidly in some areas to put further stress on diminishing resources.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Production Expenditures
Cherry Production

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MONTANA, JUNE 1, 1988
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION
by Districts as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987	1988
Northwest	70	88	81	85
N.Central	42	96	76	28
Northeast	39	83	92	35
Central	44	91	82	70
Southwest	63	88	86	80
S.Central	52	91	74	85
Southeast	52	91	88	26
STATE	51	90	83	58

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montana crop and livestock REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production, Disposition & Income
April Milk Production
April Egg Production & Layers
May 1 Potato Stocks
Workers & Wages Up
April Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed

APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in April 1988. This production is down 3 percent from last month, and down 9 percent from the April 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,300 head, was down 500 head from last year, and total liveweight was down 11 percent. Hog slaughter, at 2,300 head was up 100 head from a year ago, and total liveweight was up 12 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in April 1988 totaled 3.16 billion pounds, nearly the same as April 1987. January-April red meat production, at 12.8 billion pounds was up 1 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 2; Veal, down 14; Pork up 7; Lamb and Mutton, up 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM 1987

Cattle and calves **on feed** May 1, 1988, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.50 million head, up 4 percent from a year ago and up 6 percent from May 1, 1986.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.61 million, up 5 percent from last year but 1 percent below April two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April totaled 1.53 million, down 9 percent from last year and down 2 percent from April 1, 1986. **Net Placements** of 1.39 million for April are 10 percent below last year and 4 percent below 1986.

Other Disappearance totaled 139 thousand head, compared to 139 thousand during April 1987 and 120 thousand during April 1986.

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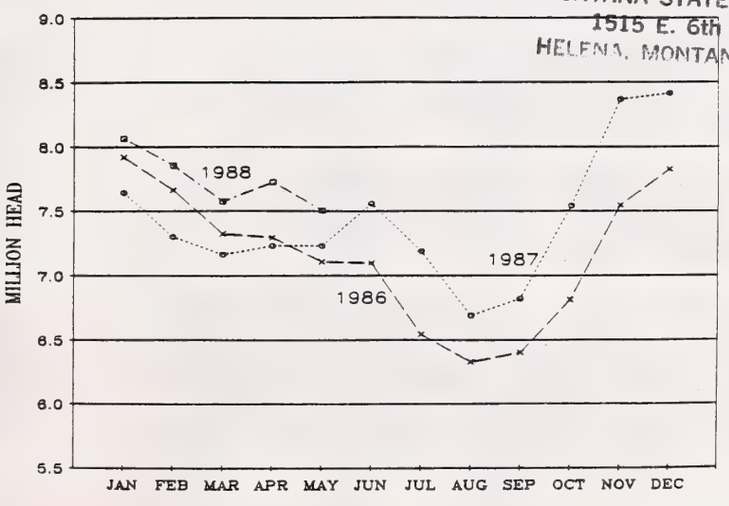
CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION and INCOME, 1987

Montana's dairymen produced 331 million pounds of milk in 1987, down 2 percent from 1986. The rate per cow, at 13,240 pounds, was 721 pounds above 1986. The annual average number of cows milked was 25,000 head, down 2,000 from a year earlier.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1987, at $39.8 million, declined 4% from last year. The average return per cwt was $12.58, down 22 cents from the 1986 average. Marketings totaled 316 million pounds, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

Milk production for the **U.S.** decreased 1 percent in 1987 to 142 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 13,786 pounds, was 526 pounds above 1986. The annual average number of cows at 10.3 million head was 4 percent less than the average in 1986.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1987, at $17.7 billion showed no change in 1986 but was 2 percent below 1985. Producer returns averaged $12.64 per cwt, 5 cents above the 1986 average. Marketings totaled 140 billion pounds milk equivalent, 1 percent below 1986. Marketings include whole milk and producer-separated cream sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 2.20 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 9 percent less than during 1986. Calves were fed 69 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households as milk, cream and butter.

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 selected States totaled 10.6 billion pounds, 2 percent above production in these same States for April 1987.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1229 pounds, 38 pounds more than April a year ago.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 selected States was 8.62 million head, 12 thousand less than March 1988 and 95 thousand less than April 1987.

During the January-March period the 21 selected States produced 84.7 percent of the U.S. production. If the producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed on April 1 followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.5 billion pounds for April 1988.

AG SCIENTISTS NEEDED

Freshman college students this fall will be our agriculture scientists in the next century, and there won't be enough of them, says Kenneth Reisch, Associate Dean at Ohio State University College of Agriculture. He says it takes about 10 years for a college freshman to get a Ph.D. and a few more years to become an established scientist. That puts this fall's class beyond 2000 before they are productive scientists.

What's so disturbing is demonstrated in the enrollment at Ohio State, a typical good Land Grant University. In 1977 Ohio State had 3,174 undergraduates in agriculture; in 1987, just 1,675 -- a drop of 47%. That spells trouble for agricultural sciences, processing, and agribusiness, says Reisch.

What's the problem? A struggling farm economy, poor image, and a shift in population from rural to urban areas, says Reisch. Vocational Agriculture gives colleges a pipeline to rural areas, but there's no pipeline to urban areas -- and little understanding there of professional opportunities in agriculture. The Ohio State College of Agriculture mounted a campaign in 1984 to attract high-ability students who hadn't taken Voc Ag (non-traditional Ag enrollees), but so far only 5% of its non-traditional Ag students come from urban backgrounds.

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION and LAYER NUMBERS DOWN

U.S. egg production totaled 5.66 billion during April 1988, down 2 percent from the 5.79 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.96 billion for table and 693 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during April averaged 274 million, down 2 percent from the 280 million a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,065 eggs, compared with 2,069 a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1988 totaled 273 million, down 2 percent from the 279 a year ago. The 273 million layers consisted of 235 million for table or commercial type eggs and 37.1 million for hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1988, averaged 68.1 per 100 layers, compared with 68.4 on May 1, 1987 and 69.5 on April 1, 1988.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.75 billion eggs during April, down 2 percent from the 4.84 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers averaged 229 million, down 2 percent from a year ago.

The 30 quarterly states estimates are based on month-to-month percent change in the 20 states making monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 84 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, December 1987 through February 1988.

MAY 1 POTATO STOCKS UP 20 PERCENT

Potato stocks on May 1, 1988, totaled 71.6 million cwt., up 20 percent from last year and 10 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 21 percent of fall production in the 15 storage States compared with 19 percent a year ago. Storage is heaviest in the West where much of the crop is committed to processors. Several States are either finished or winding down shipping operations for the season.

The six **Western States** stored 55.5 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, up 17 percent from last year and 23 percent above two years ago. Idaho at 27.5 million cwt and California at 1.10 million cwt are the same as they were last year. **Montana** is winding down its seed deal with 300 thousand cwt left. Colorado stocks of 6.5 million cwt represents one-third of its production and were 53 percent above last year. Washington with 12.6 million cwt and Oregon with 7.50 million cwt, mostly for processing, are up 45 and 29 percent, respectively.

Disappearance from harvest to May 1 totaled 262 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year, but 6 percent below the 1985 crop. Shrinkage and loss accounted for 26.9 million cwt of this total, up 7 percent from last year's 25.1 million cwt, but 41 percent below two years ago when 45.6 million cwt were lost.

Processing plants used 111 million cwt of potatoes this year to date, up 5 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. April processing took 12.5 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year and is the second consecutive month processing has fallen below year ago levels.

NUMBER OF WORKERS and WAGES UP

During the week of April 10-16, 1988, there were 2.98 million people working on farms and ranches in the United states. This number was up 5 percent from the 2.82 million workers during the comparable survey week in 1987. Included in the workforce were 1.32 million self-employed farm operators, 476,000 unpaid workers, and 958,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural Service employees accounted for the remaining 224,000 workers. All categories of workers were up from the April 1987 survey week.

Hired farm workers received an average of $5.00 per hour during the April 1988 survey week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid an hourly wage earned $4.78 per hour compared with $4.67 last April. Field and livestock workers earned $4.76 and $4.51, respectively. Last year they averaged $4.70 and $4.32.

Self-employed persons worked an average of 45.5 hours during the April 1988 survey week, up 1.9 hours from the comparable week in 1987. Unpaid workers averaged 36.4 hours, 0.3 hours more than last year. Hired workers put in 39.5 hours compared with 40.3 hours in April 1987.

Perquisites and other benefits such as housing and food were provided to 45 percent of the hired workers. Housing was provided to 13 percent of the workers, unchanged from last year.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks on May 1, 1987 and May 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 1987	May 1 Stocks as % of Production	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 1988	May 1 Stocks as % of Production
	1,000 CWT		Percent	1,000 CWT		Percent
CALIF	6,885	1,100	16	7,600	1,100	14
COLO	18,810	4,250	23	19,500	6,500	33
IDAHO	90,220	27,500	30	99,710	27,500	28
MAINE	21,930	3,900	18	24,510	5,600	23
MICH	9,625	600	6	8,910	500	6
MINN	13,650	1,800	13	16,330	3,000	18
MONT	2,233	150	7	2,370	300	13
NEBR	1,794	190	11	2,100	350	17
NY-L.I.	2,537	1/		2,225	1/	
UPSTATE	5,288	100 1/	2	5,875	310 1/	5
N DAK	21,600	3,000	14	23,125	3,400	15
OHIO	2,522	1/		2,254	1/	
OREG	23,172	5,800	25	25,924	7,500	29
PA	5,160	400	8	4,730	380	8
WASH	61,950	8,700	14	66,960	12,600	19
WISC	20,125	2,300	11	21,273	2,600	12
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	59,790	19	333,396	71,640	21

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR WHEAT

The expected **U.S. wheat carryover** on June 1 this year at 1.2 billion bu., is down 35% from the record carryover of 1.9 billion bu. on June 1, 1986. World wheat stocks will also be smaller on June 1, the first decline in 6 years.

U.S. wheat exports in the marketing year ending May 31 this year are expected to total 1.6 billion bu.--up 75% from 2 years ago, and the 2nd highest on record. The **U.S.** share of **world wheat trade** has grown from 29% 2 years ago to 42% this year. The U.S. has captured virtually all the 20-million-ton increase in world trade over the last 2 seasons.

We're also **using more wheat here at home.** Wheat used for food will reach 750 million bu. in this marketing year--a record. Total wheat use--at home and for export--will reach 2.7 billion bu. this marketing year--also a record. This record wheat use will exceed production by more than 600 million bu. this year. That's equivalent to the production of 16 million acres.

What about the **wheat marketing year starting June 1**? We'll likely harvest a winter wheat crop of about 1.62 billion bu. in 1988, with an expected yield of 40.7 bu. per acre -- the second highest on record. Total winter and spring 1988 wheat output could be about 2.17 billion bu., up 3% from 1987. Still, we're expecting to use 2.6 billion bu. of U.S. wheat at home and abroad in the year starting June 1. That's 450 million bu. more than we will likely harvest in 1988. That will cut U.S. carryover on June 1, 1989, to about 796 million bu.

Expected wheat carryover next June 1 is equal to 30% of use--the lowest stocks-to-use ratio since 1974. Good bottom line news for wheat growers: USDA projects 1988-89 prices at $2.80 to $3.20 per bu., compared with $2.55 in this current year ending May 31.

RAINS NEEDED

This week's crop weather report shows spring planting is virtually done -- 10 days to 2 weeks ahead of normal for this date. The big concern on everyone's mind is the moisture situation. Precipitation since April 1 has been below normal for about half of the weather stations.

Soil moisture is rated 57% short but is highly variable, depending upon location. The North Central and Eastern areas are hurting, but the rest of the state is currently in fairly good shape.

Winter wheat is rated over half poor to fair and about 46% good to excellent. Timely rains are needed to germinate and sustain growth of spring planted crops. Prospects deteriorated this last week because rain was too light and spotty to be of much help.

A look at the livestock situation shows about 60% of the cattle and sheep have been moved to summer range. Stockwater supplies are a problem in some areas.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
  Winter Wheat Production
  Pasture & Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

May 1 Winter Wheat Forecast
Pasture & Range Condition
March Manufactured Dairy
Montana Hay Stocks
Egg Receipts Decline
Chicken & Eggs PDI
April Prices Received
Quarterly Ag Survey

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MAY 1 WINTER WHEAT FORECAST

Montana's 1988 winter wheat production is forecast to be 28 percent under last year. Total production at 57.2 million bushels is based on conditions as of May 1. The expected yield of 26 bushels per acre is down 10 bushels from 1987, while acres for harvest at 2.2 million are unchanged from 1987. Recent rains have improved prospects since May 1, but much of the important winter wheat growing areas remain dry or have little moisture in reserve. The crop has been kept mostly in fair to good condition by cool weather in the drier areas.

Winter wheat production for the U.S. is forecast at 1.62 billion bushels, 4 percent more than 1987. Harvested area is placed at 39.8 million acres, up 1 percent. Yields average 40.7 bushels per acre, the second highest on record.

Kansas production at 357.2 million bushels is down almost 3 percent while Oklahoma's production at 181.3 million bushels is up almost 40%. The states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and California will produce 276 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year.

WINTER WHEAT: Acres, Yield & Production - Selected States, 1986-1988

SELECTED	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1987	Ind. 1988	1987	Ind. 1988	1986	1987	Ind. 1988
	--000 Acres--		-- Bushels --		--000 Bushels--		
CALIF	480	440	76.0	76.0	45,000	36,480	33,440
COLO	2,500	2,350	37.5	39.0	92,800	93,750	91,650
IDAHO	800	790	75.0	70.0	51,850	60,000	55,300
ILL	950	1,120	59.0	57.0	36,080	56,050	63,840
KANS	9,900	9,400	37.0	38.0	336,600	366,300	357,200
MO	770	1,400	46.0	47.0	18,810	35,420	65,800
MONT	2,200	2,200	36.0	26.0	64,000	79,200	57,200
NEBR	1,950	2,050	44.0	42.0	76,000	85,800	86,100
N DAK	185	190	32.0	28.0	13,920	5,920	5,320
OHIO	800	1,040	58.0	55.0	48,300	46,400	57,200
OKLA	4,800	4,900	27.0	37.0	150,800	129,600	181,300
OREG	750	650	66.0	63.0	53,940	49,500	40,950
S DAK	1,620	1,550	34.0	30.0	57,600	55,080	46,500
TEX	3,600	3,200	28.0	29.0	120,000	100,800	92,800
WASH	1,825	1,650	57.0	54.0	102,900	104,025	89,100
WYO	270	225	31.0	30.0	7,500	8,370	6,750
U.S.	39,317	39,826	39.8	40.7	1,521,498	1,562,896	1,620,257

MARCH MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 156,000 gallons of **ice cream** during March 1988 -- a decrease of 13 percent from March 1987. **Butter** output totaled 131,000 pounds, down 13 percent from a year ago. **Creamed cottage cheese** production of 288,000 pounds was down 20 percent from last year.

U.S. butter production was 116 million pounds, 10 percent above March 1987, but 1 percent below February 1988. **Creamed cottage cheese** production was 58.6 million pounds, 3 percent below last March but 9 percent above February this year. March **ice cream** production at 76.4 million gallons was down 1 percent from last year. There were 4.49 million gallons of **sherbet** produced, up 19 percent from March 1987.

PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's range and pasture feed condition on May 1 is rated poor to fair and ranks among the lowest ratings on record for this early spring date. Both drouth and cold wether have been hard on pastures and ranges in much of the state. Timely rains are critical to the development of ample grazing for the coming year.

MAY 1, 1988
MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1986	1987	1988
Northwest	86	86	83
North Central	85	91	48
Northeast	67	86	55
Central	79	85	74
Southwest	85	83	90
South Central	83	82	75
Southeast	75	81	52
STATE	80	85	67

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts - MAY 1, 1988

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1987	Ind. 1988	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	1,219	1,000	- 18
N. CENTRAL	32,654	23,500	- 28
NORTHEAST	10,180	7,200	- 29
CENTRAL	16,311	11,600	- 29
SOUTHWEST	2,895	2,100	- 27
S. CENTRAL	8,501	7,000	- 18
SOUTHEAST	7,440	4,800	- 35
STATE	79,200	57,200	- 28

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MONTANA HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on Montana farms as of May 1, were 1.2 million tons, down 9 percent from May 1, 1987. This year's carryover is about 28 percent of last year's production. The 1987-88 feeding season's weather was mild with little snowcover on winter grazing areas.

EGG RECEIPTS DECLINE

The value of Montana eggs produced in 1987, at $8.5 million, declined 9 percent from a year earlier. Egg production was 205 million dozen, up 2 percent from 1986, but reduced prices more than offset the increased output. Eggs averaged 50 cents per dozen in 1987 while the average price in 1986 was 56 cents per dozen.

Chicken sold in 1987, excluding broilers, brought producers $149,000. The average price received, mostly for spent laying hens, was 6 cents per pound.

The combined value of production from eggs, broilers and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens, in 1987 for the U.S. was $11.2 billion, down 10 percent from the $12.4 billion in 1986. Of the combined total, 55 percent was from broilers, 29 percent from eggs, 15 percent from turkeys, and 1 percent from other chickens. Value of egg production in 1987 was $3.18 billion, down 9 percent from the $3.51 billion in 1986. Eggs averaged 54.9 cents per dozen in 1987 compared with 61.6 cents in 1986.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales and Value -- 1986-1987 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		1986	1987	1986	1987
Chickens					
Lost 2/	000 head	120	110	35,820	36,481
Sold	000 head	590	620	216,338	218,212
Pounds Sold	000 lbs.	2360	2480	1,019,446	1,037,512
Average Price	cents/lb.	8.0	6.0	12.5	11.0
Value of Sales	000 dols.	189	149	127,572	113,828
Eggs					
Produced	Mil/doz.	201	205	68,398	69,492
Average Price	cents/doz.	56.0	50.0	61.6	54.9
Value of Prod.	000 dols.	9380	8542	3,510,273	3,177,043

1/ Estimates cover the 12 month period, Dec. 1, previous year through Nov. 30 and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12 month period.

APRIL
PRICES RECEIVED SLIGHTLY HIGHER

Mid-April crop prices were generally above prices received for March. Advances were led by hard spring and durum wheat which were up 18 cents, while winter wheat was up a nickel. The all barley price was down 9 cents, the only crop showing a decline. Alfalfa hay, $41.00 per ton, remains at last months level which was the lowest price since November 1978.

Cattle prices for April 15th were stronger when compared with March, while calves were off 30 cents. Hogs were down 20 cents and the limited sales of sheep and lambs showed a sharper decline. Milk, eggs and wool all were down from last month, but wool at $1.53 is well above the $1.00 received in April 1987.

The April 1988 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers, at 161 percent of its January-December 1977 average, advanced 1 point from March. The index was 18 points above April 1987.

The April all farm products index of prices received by U.S. farmers was unchanged from March at 130 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Prices were higher for soybeans, cattle, hay, and oranges and were lower for lettuce, eggs, milk and strawberries. The index was 5 points (4.0 percent) above a year ago.

The April index of prices paid by U.S. farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates was 168 percent of its 1977 average. The index was 3 points (1.8 percent) above January 1988 and 6 points (3.7 percent) above April a year ago. Higher prices for feeder pigs, fertilizer, ag chemicals, tractors, and other machinery contributed most to the increase from January.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Apr.15,	Apr.15,
		Apr. 1987	Mar. 1988	1988	1988
PRICES RECEIVED		----------Dollars----------			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.43	2.80	2.85	2.77
Durum	Bu.	3.05	3.22	3.40	3.14
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.66	2.87	3.05	2.79
All Wheat	Bu.	2.56	2.85	2.97	2.81
Barley, All	Bu.	1.64	1.65	1.56	1.58
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.57
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	1.60
Oats	Bu.	1.65	1.65	1.70	1.66
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	41.00	41.00	77.40
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	36.00	37.00	53.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	41.00	41.00	72.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	68.80	77.80	78.00	73.10
Cows	Cwt.	44.50	49.80	50.00	49.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	61.40	69.40	70.40	68.90
Calves	Cwt.	74.90	91.70	91.40	95.20
Sheep	Cwt.	17.00	27.00	25.00	26.30
Lambs	Cwt.	70.50	72.80	64.50	74.00
Hogs	Cwt.	43.70	35.90	35.70	41.80
All Milk	Cwt.	12.05	12.00	11.65	11.70
Eggs	Doz.	.54	.47	.42	.46
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.00	1.70	1.30	1.53
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	143	160	161	130
All Crops	Pct.	107	116	119	111
Livestock & Products	Pct.	175	199	199	148

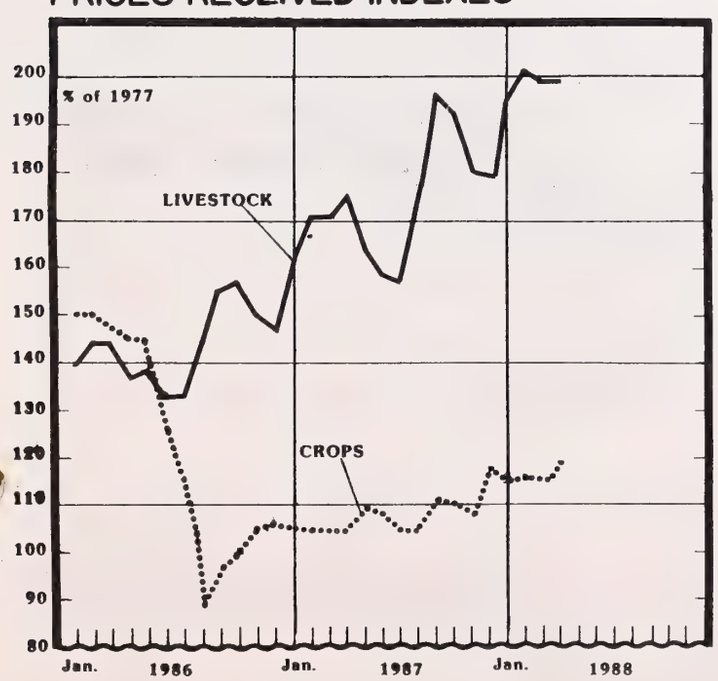
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

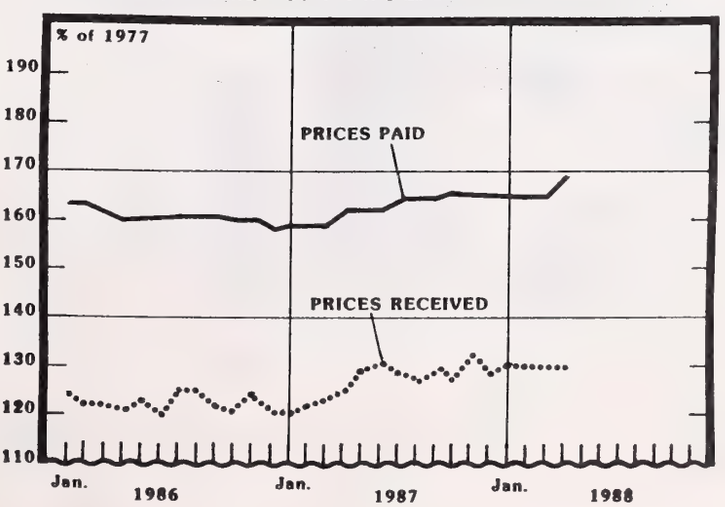
INDEX 1977=100	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1988
Prices Received	121	125	130	130
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/158	162	3/165	168
Ratio 1/	77	77	79	77

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1987 prices paid index. 3/ January 1988 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



QUARTERLY AGRICULTURE SURVEYS

Just another form to fill out or a phone survey to answer after a hard day's work? The answer is an obvious yes, but with that "yes' a farm operator should know that this is the most important survey he could participate in during the coming year.

Over **70,000 farmers** across the country provide basic information that keeps the wheels of agriculture rolling smoothly for everyone from seed dealers to exporters. Decisions in marketing whether it's for wheat, beef cows or seed potatoes will eventually depend on the basic farm level data provided on a **Quarterly Agricultural Survey.** The survey is the **bench mark** that producers and others watch to identify trends in acreage, production, stock levels, farrowing intentions and livestock inventories.

A little **background information** about how the survey is done should help in understanding why it has such an impact. Like many "polls" the survey uses a statistical sample which is designed to make estimates about the general population. In the case of next month's June Agriculture Survey, the sample of farm operators will provide an indication of what crops have been planted and how much grain is stored on farms in Montana and the U.S.

The **survey design** provides accuracy at the state level within 5 percent of the actual value. At the national level the accuracy is within 1 percent. To minimize the sampling error, farms in the state are grouped by size and/or commodities present on the farm. Farms which have large acreage, storage capacity or livestock inventory have a higher probability of being selected. Large operations represent about 10 percent of the total sample. The remaining 90 percent represent the "average farms" in the state.

Continued in next column

The Quarterly Agricultural Survey will **collect data** on crops, grain storage and hogs during June, September, December and March. The cattle surveys are done in January and July. Smaller operations should only be sampled two or three times during the year. Because the largest operations are few in number they may be contacted every quarter. Their contribution to agricultural production cannot be measured by statistical means and must be added to the expanded data from smaller farms. Every effort is made to minimize the number of contacts made asking for survey information.

Normally, farm operators are mailed a letter prior to the survey. The letter explains the purpose of the survey and asks for cooperation. It also points out that all information reported is confidential, protected by federal statutes and will only be used in combination with other reports.

Yes, the Quarterly Agricultural Survey is just another survey, but as the source for the closely watched **"Crop Report"** or **"USDA Hog Report,"** it's importance can't be ignored.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Slaughter
- Potato Stocks
- Egg Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Milk Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Montana Sheep & Lamb Loss
April 1 Potato Stocks
Red Meat Production
Meat Animal PDI
Vote on Beef Referendum
Montana Milk Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed
March Egg Production
Farmland Value

MONTANA SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES – 1987

Montana sheepmen lost 137,000 sheep and lambs to weather, predators, disease and other causes in 1987, 4 percent more than a year earlier. The 1987 losses were valued at $8.4 million, an increase of 32 percent from the previous year.

Predators caused a $2.3 million loss, non-predator factors caused losses of $4.8 million and losses due to unknown causes were $1.3 million. Coyote predation remained the single largest cause of death with a $1.6 million loss, which is 19 percent of the total value of death losses.

There were 30,500 lambs killed by all predators, down 13 percent from last year. Sheep killed by predators totaled 6,400, down 11 percent.

Lambs lost to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes totaled 48,500, up 17 percent from 1986. Sheep losses to non-predator factors totaled 31,300, 3 percent more than last year.

There were 13,000 lambs lost to unknown causes, up 24 percent from 1986, and losses of sheep to unknown causes were 7,300, the same as last year.

If you would like additional published data on predator losses, call or write our office.

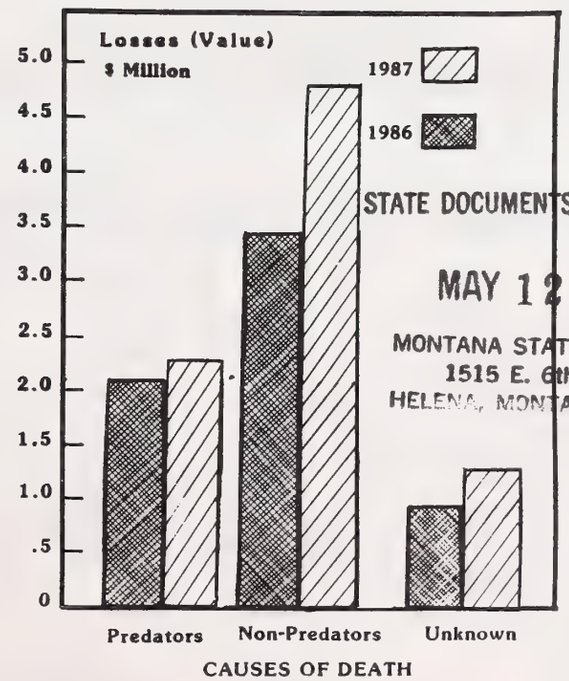
APRIL 1 POTATO STOCKS

Western states potato stocks were set at 78.7 million cwt, 10 percent above last year and 12 percent above two years ago. **Idaho** stocks of 40.0 million cwt were the same as last year. **Washington** and **Oregon** were up 20 and 22 percent, respectively. **Colorado** stocks of 8.60 million cwt were 37 percent above last year. **California** storage was the same as last year and **Montana** gained 4 percent.

Disappearance from harvest to April 1 in the 15 major states totaled 228 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year but 5 percent below the 1985 crop. **Shrinkage and loss** accounted for 24.5 million of this total, up 5 percent from last year's 23.3 million cwt but 40 percent below two years ago when 40.4 million cwt were lost.

Processing claimed 99.0 million cwt of potatoes so far this crop year, up 7 percent from last year and 2 percent above two years ago. March processing used 13.8 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year.

SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES -- 1987



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MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 6 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in March 1988. The current production is up 19 percent from last month, but down 6 percent from March 1987.

There were 1,400 cattle slaughtered compared with 1,700 head slaughtered a year earlier. Total liveweight of the cattle slaughtered was down 14 percent from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,500 head, was up 200 head compared with March 1987; total liveweight was up 7 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in March 1988 totaled 3.35 billion pounds, up 5 percent from March 1987. January-March red meat production, at 9.67 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 1; veal, down 13; pork, up 7; lamb and mutton, up 12. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

1987 MEAT ANIMALS PDI

Montana's total marketings of meat animals decreased slightly during 1987 to 1,111.0 million pounds, 3 percent below the 1,145.1 million pounds marketed in 1986. Cash receipts from these marketings, at $690.4 million, increased nearly 19 percent from a year earlier.

The increase in cash receipts were led by cattle receipts of $631.8 million, up 18% from last year. Total hog cash receipts increased 44% from last year to $35.3 million in 1987 and total sheep receipts were $23.3 million, an increase of 17 percent.

The U.S. total marketings of meat animals increased slightly during 1987 as decreased cattle marketings were offset by larger hog and sheep marketings. With higher prices received for cattle, hogs and sheep, the resulting total cash receipts jumped to $44.7 billion, up 14 percent from 1986.

The percentage breakdown of contributions to total U.S. cash receipts from marketings of meat animals by species in 1987 were: cattle and calves, 76 percent; hogs and pigs, 23 percent; sheep and lambs, 1 percent.

VOTING ON BEEF REFERENDUM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a final rule governing the procedures for conducting the Beef Referendum as authorized by the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985.

Referendum **voting will be conducted in county Extension offices** during normal business hours on **May 10, 1988.**

All cattle producers who owned or acquired cattle and importers of cattle, beef or beef products during the period of October 1, 1986, through March 31, 1988, are eligible to vote. This also includes, 4-H, FFA and other youth who owned cattle during the designated time period.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will count ballots, determine the eligibility of challenged voters and ballots and report Referendum results.

⌂ VOTE ⌂

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS - 1986-87

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1986	MONTANA 1987		UNITED STATES 1986	UNITED STATES 1987	
CATTLE & CALVES							
Marketings	Mil. lbs.	1,052.0	997.0		55,421.5	55,111.1	
Average Price							
Cattle	Dols/cwt	49.30	61.10		52.60	61.10	
Calves	Dols/cwt	62.60	80.70		61.10	78.50	
Cash Receipts	Mil. dols.	537.6	631.8		28,922.5	33,829.1	
HOGS & PIGS							
Marketings	Mil. lbs.	58.0	76.9		19,578.5	20,019.7	
Average Price	Dols/cwt	42.10	45.80		49.30	51.20	
Cash Receipts	Mil. dols.	24.5	35.3		9,716.0	10,326.4	
SHEEP & LAMBS							
Marketings	Mil. lbs.	35.1	37.1		809.6	822.0	
Average Price							
Sheep	Dols/cwt	22.70	27.40		25.60	29.50	
Lambs	Dols/cwt	67.20	80.50		69.00	77.60	
Cash Receipts	Mil. dols.	19.9	23.3		483.8	560.4	
Total Marketings	Mil. lbs.	1,145.1	1,111.0	-3	75,809.6	75,952.8	0
Total Receipts	Mil. dols.	582.0	690.4	+19	39,122.3	44,715.9	+14

MONTANA MILK PRODUCTION, JAN-MAR 1988

Montana dairymen produced 84 million pounds of milk in the first quarter of 1988, an increase of 11 percent from a year earlier, but unchanged from the last quarter of 1987. This is the 3rd consecutive quarter that Montana milk production has exceeded the previous year's output. In those 3 quarters, all milk cows have remained unchanged at 25,000 head while production per cow, now at 3,350 pounds, has moved upward in relation to a year earlier.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows April 1, 1988 were unchanged from January 1 at 15.5 pounds per cow. The cost of that feed moved up 20 cents per cwt. from January, averaging $6.40 per cwt.

The quarterly production of milk **for the U.S.** was 36.1 billion pounds, 4 percent above January-March 1987. The average number of cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 10.3 million head, 1 percent below January-March 1987, and was about the same as October-December 1987.

MARCH EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.96 billion during March 1988, down 1 percent from the 6.02 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.26 billion for table and 707 million for hatching eggs. The total number of layers during March averaged 278 million, down 2 percent from the 282 million a year ago. March egg production per 100 layers was 2147 eggs, compared with 2132 in March 1987.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1988 totaled 275 million, compared with 282 million a year ago. The 275 million layers consisted of 238 million for table or commercial type eggs and 36.9 million for hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1988 averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers the same as on April 1, 1987 and 69.1 on March 1, 1988.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 5.00 billion eggs during March, down 1 percent from the 5.05 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during March averaged 232 million, compared with 235 million a year ago.

The 30 quarterly states estimates are based on month-to-month percent change in the 20 states making monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 84 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, December 1987 through February 1988.

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed April 1, 1988 for slaughter in the **13 quarterly states** totaled 9.37 million head, up 6 percent from April 1, 1987 and 5 percent above 1986.

The cattle on feed inventory included 6.08 million **steers** and **steer calves**, 7 percent above last year and 9 percent above 1986. This group represented 65 percent of the total April number on feed, unchanged from last year but up 2 percentage points from 1986. **Heifers** and **heifer calves** accounted for 3.25 million, up 6 percent from a year ago and down 2 percent from 1986.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the January-March quarter totaled 5.80 million, up 2 percent from last year and 10 percent above the comparable period in 1986. Other disappearance of 390 thousand head leaves net placements at 5.41 million.

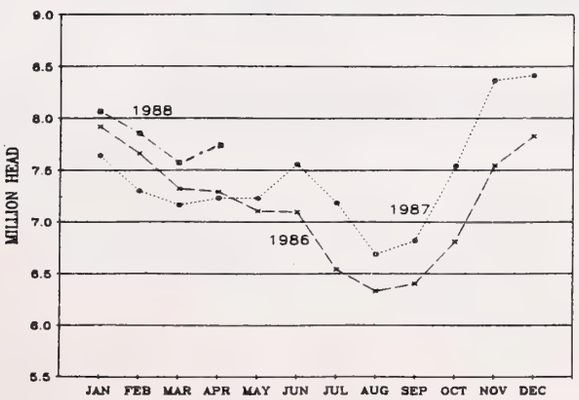
Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during January-March totaled 5.81 million, 1 percent more than both 1987 and 1986.

Cattle feeders **expect to market** 5.93 million head during the April-June quarter of 1988. This would be **6 percent** more than the second quarter marketings in 1987 and **2 percent** above 1986.

Cattle on feed April 1, 1988 in the **7 monthly states** totaled 7.73 million, 7 percent more than the previous year and 6 percent more than two years ago. **Placements** in feedlots during March totaled 1.83 million, 7 percent above last year and 11 percent above 1986. **Marketings** during March totaled 1.57 million, up 1 percent from March 1987 and down 1 percent from 1986. **Other disappearance** during March was 106 thousand head, 19 percent above last year and 23 percent above 1986.

The **January-March quarterly marketings** for the 7 states, at 4.86 million were fractionally higher than 1987 and 1 percent above 1986. Expected 7-state marketings for the April-June 1988 quarter are estimated at 5.05 million, up 6 percent from 1987 and up 3 percent from 1986.

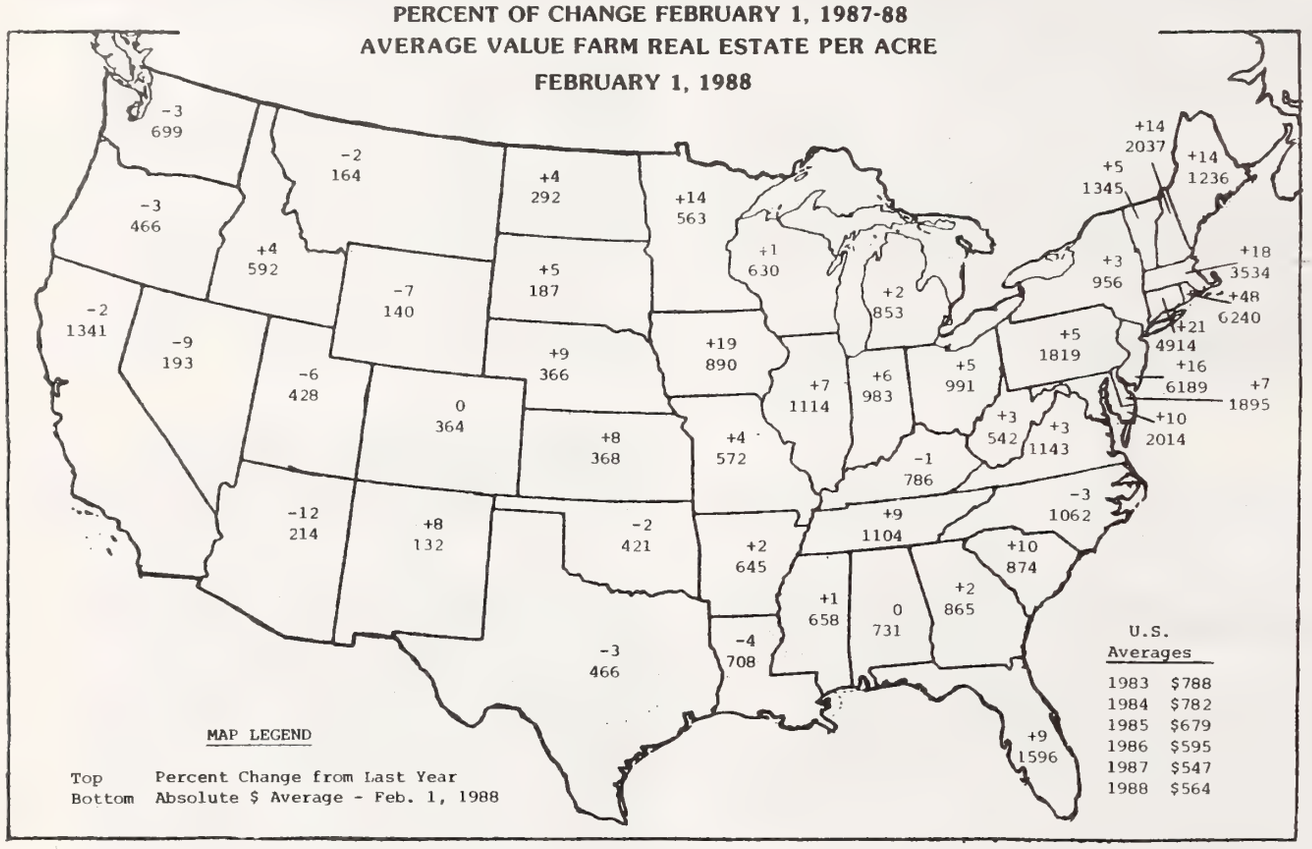
CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



VALUE OF U.S. FARMLAND REBOUNDS

This year's report on farmland values was recently released by USDA. It held mostly good news for farmers and ranchers. Montana's farmland value averaged $164 per acre as of February 1, 1988, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Even though any decline may be discouraging to producers, most are optimistic that recovery is on the way. Just a year ago, values were down a whopping 18 percent in Montana, so this year's 2 percent decline shows values have definitely leveled off.

U.S. farmland values are also encouraging. Results of the 1988 survey peg U.S. prices at $564 per acre, up 3 percent from a year ago. This is a turnaround from last year when U.S. values were down 8 percent. A look at values by state shows recovery has moved from the East Coast westward. Land values in most Eastern states through the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas were above year earlier levels. However, recovery has not yet reached the Western states. We're optimistic the a turnaround will be forthcoming.



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Ag Prices
- Dairy Products Mfg.
- Crop Production
  - Winter Wheat Production
  - Hay Stocks
  - Pasture & Range
- Poultry PDI

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HIGHLIGHTS:

February Slaughter
1987 Wool Production
February Manufactured Dairy
1988 Planting Intentions
1984-88 Planted Acreage
Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks
March 1 Grain Stocks
March Ag Prices

FEBRUARY SLAUGHTER DOWN 11 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds of red meat in February 1988. This production is down 11 percent from the previous month and is down 11 percent from February last year.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,200 head, was down 400 head from last year, and total liveweight down 23 percent. Hog slaughter, at 2,100 head, was up 200 head compared with one year ago; total liveweight was up 13 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in February 1988 totaled 3.07 billion pounds, up 7 percent from February 1987. January-February red meat production, at 6.31 billion pounds, was nearly the same as last year. The percentage changes from 1987 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, down 14; pork, up 5; lamb and mutton, up 2. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Meat Animals -PDI

1987 WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY

Montana wool growers produced 5,193,000 pounds of wool in 1987, down less than 1 percent from 1986. Number of sheep and lambs shorn, at 525,000 head, was up 5 percent.

Average fleece weight was 9.9 pounds compared with 10.5 pounds the previous year.

The 1987 output represents the 5th consecutive year in which production fell below the previous year. It is a mere 14 percent of the peak production of 38.2 million pounds shorn in 1931. Since 1931, it has been mostly down hill for wool output as the number of sheep and lambs shorn fell from 3.9 million to slightly more than one-half million.

In the last 56 years, average fleece weight has not changed much, ranging from a low of 9.1 pounds in 1947 to a high of 10.6 in 1985.

FEBRUARY MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 94,000 gallons of **ice cream** during February 1988 -- a decrease of 17% from February 1987. **Butter** output totalled 131,000 pounds, down 5% from a year ago. **Creamed cottage** cheese production of 282,000 pounds was up 5% from last year.

U.S. butter production in February was 117 million pounds, 20 percent above February 1987 but 6 percent below January 1988.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 53.7 million pounds, 2 percent above February 1987 and 5 percent above January 1988.

February ice cream production at 63.2 million gallons, was down 4 percent from last year. There were 3.17 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 8 percent from February 1987.

1988 PLANTING INTENTIONS

Montana farmers intend to plant 4,575,000 acres of **spring grains** in 1988 - a decline of 12 percent from last year. All grain crops, including the 2.3 million acres of **winter wheat** seeded last fall which equals the plantings for last year's crop, shows a total decrease in grain acreage of 8 percent.

Producers intend to seed 2.0 million acres of **hard red spring wheat**, and 200,000 acres of **durum**, compared with 2.4 million acres of hard red spring wheat planted in 1987 and 195,000 acres of durum.

Barley growers intend to plant 2.05 million acres in 1988, down 11 percent from last year's acreage of 2.3 million. **Oats** seeded are expected to increase 6 percent to 250,000 acres, while **corn** plantings are expected to decline 6 percent to 75,000 acres. **Dry bean** acreage is expected to be down 14 percent. **Hay** producers expect to harvest 2.3 million acres or 5 percent more than in 1987.

For the nation, **winter wheat** planted acres are estimated at 48.6 million acres, down slightly from 1987. Durum wheat farmers expect to seed 3.73 million acres, up 12 percent. **Other spring** wheat acreage is expected to total 12.8 million acres, off 7 percent from a year ago.

Barley producers intend to plant 10.3 million acres in 1988, down 7 percent from last year. **Oat** producers intend to plant 16.3 million acres in 1988, down 9 percent from 1987.

Dry edible bean intentions call for 1.38 million planted acres in 1988, down 23 percent from last year and 18 percent below two years ago. **Corn** growers intend to plant 66.9 million acres in 1988, up 2 percent from last year.

PLANTED ACREAGE - 1984 - 1988, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

(thousand acres)

MONTANA:	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	88/87
Winter Wheat	2700.0	2460.0	2150.0	2300.0	2300.0	100%
Durum Wheat	215.0	200.0	165.0	195.0	200.0	103%
Other Spring Wheat	2100.0	3000.0	2700.0	2400.0	2000.0	83%
Barley	2320.0	2350.0	2400.0	2300.0	2050.0	89%
Oats	220.0	225.0	200.0	235.0	250.0	106%
Corn	90.0	84.0	80.0	80.0	75.0	94%
Sugar Beets	25.2	43.5	47.2	49.2	49.5	101%
Dry Beans	8.5	3.4	4.8	5.8	5.0	86%
All Hay Harvested	2200.0	1950.0	2250.0	2200.0	2300.0	105%
UNITED STATES:						
Winter Wheat	63419.0	57752.0	53965.0	48781.0	48590.0	100%
Durum Wheat	3277.0	3207.0	2994.0	3341.0	3727.0	112%
Other Spring Wheat	12517.0	14616.0	15109.0	13682.0	12756.0	93%
Barley	11957.0	13156.0	13059.0	11046.0	10287.0	93%
Oats	12414.0	13255.0	14691.0	17959.0	16339.0	91%
Corn	80543.0	83448.0	76674.0	65706.0	66926.0	102%
Sugar Beets	1123.6	1124.5	1231.5	1269.7	1290.6	102%
Dry Beans	1501.0	1569.9	1673.8	1800.6	1379.0	77%
All Hay Harvested	61445.0	60423.0	62419.0	60748.0	61115.0	101%

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS
In All Positions By Districts

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY	
	Mar.1, 1987	Dec.1, 1987	Mar.1, 1988	Dec.1, 1987	Mar.1, 1988
Northwest	0.7	1.8	1.5	3.2	2.0
N. Central	53.3	78.2	48.8	35.5	24.4
Northeast	34.5	46.2	34.0	12.2	9.1
Central	15.2	23.7	13.0	11.6	7.3
Southwest	3.6	7.2	4.0	6.0	4.1
S. Central	7.5	11.7	7.6	4.6	4.0
Southeast	5.7	8.8	7.2	1.7	1.0
STATE	120.5	177.6	116.0	74.9	52.0

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS - MONTANA & U.S.

Montana wheat stored in all storage positions totaled 116.0 million bushels, down 4 percent from March 1, 1987. March 1 stocks are 35 percent below the December 1 stocks. There were 60.0 million bushels of winter wheat, 4 percent less than last year and 56.0 million bushels of spring wheat, also down 4 percent from March 1, 1987.

Barley stocks in all positions were 52.0 million bushels, down 31 percent from last quarter. Barley stocks were not included in the March 1, 1987 survey.

In the U.S., all wheat stocks in all positions March 1, 1988 is estimated at 1.91 billion bushels, down 15 percent from March 1, 1987. Farm stocks are 737 million bushels, down 7 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks total 1.17 billion bushels, 20 percent less than last March 1. The indicated December-February disappearance from all positions is 597 million bushels, 41 percent higher than the disappearance during the comparable quarter last year.

Durum wheat in all storage positions March 1, 1988 is estimated at 107 million bushels, down 17 percent from March 1, 1987. Farm stocks are placed at 64.0 million bushels, or 60 percent of all durum stocks. The on-farm stocks are 12 percent less than last March 1, while off-farms stocks are down 25 percent. The indicated quarterly disappearance from all positions is 13.8 million bushels, 45 percent less than the disappearance from the comparable period a year ago.

Corn stored in all positions on March 1, 1988 is estimated at 7.63 billion bushels. Of the total stocks, 4.42 billion bushels were stored on the farm and 3.21 billion bushels were stored off the farm. The December 1987-February 1988 indicated disappearance is 2.14 million bushels, 4 percent above the December 1986-February 1987 disappearance of 2.06 billion bushels.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1987	Dec. 1, 1988*	Mar. 1, 1988	% Chg. '88/'87	Mar. 1, 1987	Dec. 1, 1987*	Mar. 1, 1988
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	85,000	134,000	82,000	- 4	794,000	971,000	737,000
Off Farms 1/	35,521	43,624	34,000	- 4	1,456,430	1,534,286	1,171,455
T O T A L	120,521	177,624	116,000	- 4	2,250,430	2,505,286	1,908,455
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	41,000	67,000	40,000	- 2	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	21,242	24,964	20,000	- 6	--	--	--
T O T A L	62,242	91,964	60,000	- 4	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	44,000	67,000	42,000	- 5	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	14,279	18,660	14,000	- 2	--	--	--
T O T A L	58,279	85,660	56,000	- 4	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	72,570	76,850	64,024
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	56,618	43,639	42,641
T O T A L	6,649	8,644	6,400	- 4	129,188	120,489	106,665
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	5,024,000	6,100,000	4,421,000
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	3,224,193	3,668,465	3,210,490
T O T A L 4/	--	--	--	--	8,248,193	9,768,465	7,631,490
BARLEY							
On Farms	--	65,000	42,000	--	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	--	9,891	10,000	--	--	--	--
T O T A L	--	74,891	52,500	--	--	--	--

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MARCH AG PRICES

Montana farm commodity prices generally moved down from February to March. **All wheat** averaged a nickel lower at $2.76, and **beef cattle** were down 20 cents per cwt. at $70.40. **Steers and heifers** slipped 70 cents at $78.00; **calves** were off 10 cents at $90.40. **Cow** prices continued to move up, registering a 90 cent gain at $52.50. This is $5.10 above March 1987, but still $5.90 below the record high price set in May 1979.

Sheep prices, (mostly slaughter ewes) were down $4.00 per cwt. at $29.50. **Lambs** were down $3.20 from last month at $77.00. **Hogs** moved up $2.50 to average $42.60. **Wholesale milk** averaged $12.05 per cwt., down 31 cents from February. **Eggs** and **wool** were higher than last month.

Alfalfa hay averaged $41.00 per ton, down $3.00 and is the lowest since November 1978. **Barley** was the only grain price moving up from February at $1.78.

The March 1988 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers was unchanged from the previous month at 161 percent of its January-December 1977 average. The livestock index held steady with last month, while the crops index was down 1 point. All crop items declined except barley which was up one cent per bushel.

The March all farm products index of prices received by **U.S.** farmers was unchanged from February at 130 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices were received for lettuce, cattle, eggs, and broilers while prices for hogs, milk, wheat, and sweet corn were lower. The index was 9 points above a year ago.

Calf prices dropped slightly from February to March, but were at the second highest level since June 1979. The price of all beef cattle was the highest since May 1979. Hog and wheat prices declined from a month earlier, while corn prices were up slightly.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg Mar. 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg Feb. 1988	MONTANA Mar.15, 1988	U.S. Mar.15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.44	2.77	2.73	2.63
Durum	Bu.	2.98	3.64	3.45	2.91
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.65	2.83	2.77	2.59
All Wheat	Bu.	2.54	2.81	2.76	2.64
Barley, All	Bu.	1.70	1.77	1.78	1.65
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.59
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	1.74
Oats	Bu.	1.39	1.61	1.59	1.73
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	44.00	41.00	71.00
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	38.00	36.00	51.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	43.00	41.00	66.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	67.00	78.70	78.00	72.70
Cows	Cwt.	47.40	51.60	52.50	48.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	60.10	70.60	70.40	68.40
Calves	Cwt.	72.10	90.50	90.40	92.30
Sheep	Cwt.	20.30	33.60	29.50	31.20
Lambs	Cwt.	75.50	80.20	77.00	83.30
Hogs	Cwt.	41.60	40.10	42.60	41.90
All Milk	Cwt.	12.45	12.36	12.05	12.00
Eggs	Doz.	.52	.42	.47	.46
Wool 2/	Lb.	.81	1.10	1.70	1.18
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	141	161	161	130
All Crops	Pct.	107	116	115	110
Livestock & Products	Pct.	171	202	202	148

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1988
Prices Received	122	121	130	130
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/158	2/158	3/165	3/165
Ratio 1/	77	77	79	79

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1987 prices paid index. 3/ January 1988 prices paid index.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Quarterly Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
1987 Red Meat Production
March Potato Stocks
February Milk Production
Wheat Utilization

DECEMBER-FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION DOWN FROM 1987

Montana poultry flocks produced 49 million eggs in the December-February quarter, down 4 percent from the same quarter last year, but up 2 percent from the previous quarter. The average number of layers on hand during the recent quarter was down about 1 percent from a year ago. The average rate of lay per 100 layers was 68.3 eggs, down from 71.5 eggs a year ago.

The nations's laying flocks produced 17.6 billion eggs during the December 1987 through February 1988 quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 15.6 billion for table eggs and 2.05 billion for hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 283 million, up fractionally from the 282 million a year ago. February 1988 consisted of 29 days, compared with 28 days a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1988 totaled 280 million, compared with 282 million a year ago. The 280 million layers consisted of 243 million for table or commercial type eggs and 37.4 million for hatching type eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1988 averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.0 for both March 1, 1987 and February 1, 1988.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.70 billion eggs during February, up 5 percent from the 4.48 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during February averaged 236 million, unchanged from a year ago.

CATTLE ON FEED

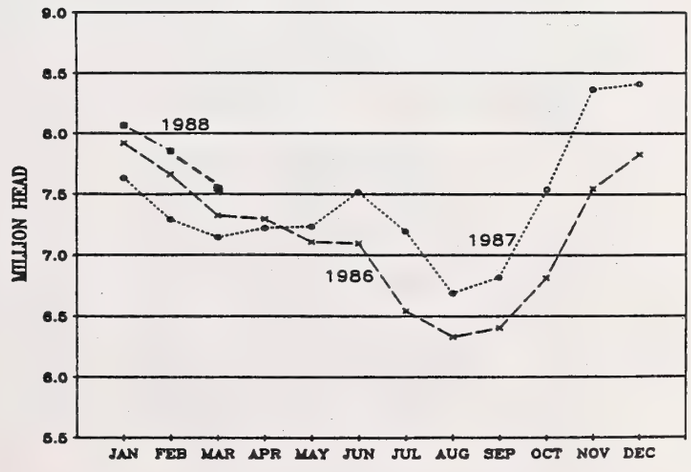
Cattle and calves on feed March 1, 1988 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.57 million head, up 6 percent from a year ago and up 3 percent from March 1, 1986.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.53 million, 3 percent above last year and 4 percent above February two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during February totaled 1.37 million, down 5 percent from last year but up 12 percent from February 1986. Net placements of 1.24 million for February are 7 percent below last year but 10 percent above 1986.

Other disappearance totaled 126 thousand head, compared with 105 thousand during February 1987 and 92 thousand during February 1986.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



1987 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana's 1987 red meat production totaled 18.2 million pounds, down 12 percent from 1986. There were 22,200 head of cattle slaughtered, down 21 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter of 1987 hogs totaled 27,200 head compared with 28,500 in 1986. There were 2,900 head of sheep and lambs slaughtered equalling last year's output.

Red meat production for the United States during 1987 totaled 38.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 1986. Production included beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton slaughter in commercial establishments and on farms.

Beef production was 23.6 billion pounds, down 5 percent from 1986. Veal production was 429 million pounds, down 18 percent from 1986. Pork production was 14.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 1986. Lamb and Mutton production totaled 316 million pounds, a decrease of 6 percent from 1986. Lard production, 862 million pounds, was down 1 percent.

Commercial Slaughter by Species, Number of head and Total Red Meat Production, By Months, Montana, 1987 1/

Month	Cattle	Pork 3/	Sheep and Lambs	Total Red Meat 2/
		Head		1,000 lbs.
Jan	1,900	2,200	100	1,428
Feb	1,600	1,900	100	1,282
Mar	1,700	2,300	100	1,442
Apr	1,800	2,200	200	1,453
May	1,800	1,800	100	1,461
Jun	1,900	2,000	200	1,623
Jul	2,100	2,200	300	1,656
Aug	1,900	2,600	500	1,623
Sep	1,800	2,400	400	1,483
Oct	2,100	2,400	400	1,664
Nov	1,800	2,500	200	1,544
Dec	1,800	2,600	200	1,532
Total 3/	22,200	27,200	2,900	18,192

1/ Includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. 2/ Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton, excludes farm slaughter. 3/ Months may not add to totals due to rounding.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1987 totaled 35.6 million head, down 4 percent from 1986, with Federal inspection comprising 96.7 percent of the total. Calf slaughter, at 2.81 million head, down 17 percent from the previous year with 95.2 percent under federal inspection. Hog kill totaled 81.1 million head, up 2 percent from 1986, with federal inspection comprising 97.3 percent. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter 5.20 million head, down 8 percent from 1986 with federal comprising 97.0 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered commercially in 1987 was 1105 pounds, up 5 pounds from 1986. The calf average live weight was 249 pounds for 1987, a decrease of 2 pounds from the previous year. Average live weight for hogs increased 1 pound to 247. Sheep and lambs averaged 119 pounds live weight, down 2 pounds from 1986.

Federally Inspected and Commercial Meat and Lard Production, By Months, Farm Meat and Lard Production Annual, United States, 1987 1/

Month	Beef		Veal		Pork 3/		Lamb and Mutton		Total Red Meat 3/		Lard 4/
	Fed Insp	Total	Fed Insp	Total	Fed Insp	Total	Fed Insp	Total	Fed Insp	Total	Total
					Million Pounds						
Com'l 2/											
Jan	2,038	2,102	35	39	1,211	1,244	25	25	3,310	3,411	76
Feb	1,693	1,745	32	35	1,042	1,070	23	24	2,790	2,875	66
Mar	1,851	1,907	35	38	1,196	1,226	26	27	3,108	3,197	72
Apr	1,874	1,928	31	34	1,141	1,170	28	29	3,074	3,160	71
May	1,800	1,851	29	32	1,044	1,071	21	22	2,895	2,975	64
Jun	1,908	1,958	32	35	1,058	1,086	23	24	3,021	3,103	65
Jul	1,966	2,017	31	34	1,055	1,082	24	25	3,077	3,158	68
Aug	1,959	2,007	27	30	1,048	1,075	23	24	3,058	3,135	68
Sep	1,988	2,040	32	35	1,199	1,227	28	28	3,248	3,331	71
Oct	2,038	2,098	33	36	1,329	1,359	27	28	3,428	3,521	80
Nov	1,766	1,828	29	32	1,278	1,312	25	25	3,098	3,197	76
Dec	1,865	1,924	34	36	1,352	1,390	27	28	3,277	3,378	80
Total Com'l		23,405		416		14,312		310		38,442	857
Farm		161		13		62		6		240	5
Total	22,746	23,566	382	429	13,954	14,374	302	316	37,384	38,682	862

1/ Months may not add to totals due to rounding. 2/ Based on packers dress weight and excludes farm slaughter. 3/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat. 4/ Includes rendered pork fat.

MARCH POTATO STOCKS

The potato stocks inventory for Montana on March 1, 1988 was 1.9 million cwt., 1 percent above last year's inventory.

Stocks in storage represent 84 percent of the total 1987 production.

Potato stocks in the 15 fall storage states totaled 138 million cwt on March 1, 1988. This is up 7 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Remaining stocks account for 41 percent of fall production this year compared with 42 percent a year ago. Holdings in most states are above a year ago; notable exceptions are Idaho, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, where stocks are below last year.

Western states potato stocks totaled 98.5 million cwt on March 1, up 6 percent from last year and 8 percent above 1986. Idaho stocks at 49.0 million cwt were down 2 percent but each of the other 5 western states were above a year ago. Colorado gained 29 percent; California was up 4 percent. Washington and Oregon were up 12 and 17 percent, respectively.

Disappearance from harvest to March 1 totaled 195 million cwt this year, up 9 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss at 22.2 million cwt was up 4 percent from last year's 21.3 million cwt, but nearly 40 percent below two years ago when losses were 34.6 million cwt. February disappearance of 29.2 million cwt was 13 percent above last year.

Cumulative processing this year totaled 85.2 million cwt in the 8 major states, up 11 percent from the same period a year ago. February processing of 13.3 million cwt was 5 percent above a year ago.

PROTEIN: COSTS VARY BY PRODUCT

You're short of money between paychecks, and you're wondering how to save on food and get the most protein for your money? Well, have an egg sandwich on enriched white bread, spread on a little peanut butter, and have a strip of beef liver. Now you've just eaten four of the cheapest sources of protein around -- ranging from 20 to 29 cents per 20 grams of protein.

That doesn't appeal to you, and you want to move up? Okay, get some ready-to-cook whole chicken, canned tuna, ground beef, or turkey. That's the next cheapest quartet -- ranging from 32 to 35 cents per 20 grams of protein.

Think you can pay a bit more? Okay, the next quartet: Fluid whole milk, ground chuck, chicken breast, or beef chuck roast. Cost -- 35 to 50 cents for 20 grams of protein.

Now your paycheck has come in and money's no object? All right, buy pork sausage, center cut pork chops, sliced bacon, or beef rib roast. You'll get 20 grams of protein for 91 cents to $1.16. How much is 20 grams of protein? That's about one-third of the daily amount recommended for a 20-year-old man.

But let's say you like sausage, chops, bacon, and rib roast better than more economical peanut butter, bread, and liver? Go ahead and buy what you like to eat. Enjoy it! Our food is the best buy around. You can't top it anywhere in the world.

Source: Economic Research Service, National Food Review, Volume 11, Issue 1, January-March 1988.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION and STOCKS on March 1, 1987 and March 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 1987	Mar. 1 Stocks as % of Production	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 1988	Mar. 1 Stocks as % of Production
	1,000 CWT		Percent	1,000 CWT		Percent
CALIF	6,885	2,300	33	7,600	2,400	32
COLO	18,810	8,200	44	19,500	10,550	54
IDAHO	90,220	50,000	55	99,710	49,000	49
MAINE	21,930	9,000	41	24,510	11,400	47
MICH	9,625	3,000	31	8,910	2,100	24
MINN	13,650	6,300	46	16,330	7,100	43
MONT	2,233	1,970	88	2,370	1,995	84
NEBR	1,794	780	43	2,100	1,050	50
NY-L.I.	2,537	200 1/		2,225	215 1/	
UPSTATE	5,288	750	14	5,875	1,000	17
N DAK	21,600	8,900	41	23,125	10,000	43
OHIO	2,522	1/		2,254	1/	
OREG	23,172	10,100	44	25,924	11,800	46
PA	5,160	1,400	27	4,730	1,340	28
WASH	61,950	20,400	33	66,960	22,800	34
WISC	20,125	5,400	27	21,273	5,200	24
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	128,700	42	333,396	137,950	41

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

FEBRUARY

MILK PRODUCTION UP 6 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 selected states totaled 9.74 billion pounds, up 6 percent above production in these states in February 1987. The extra day in February 1988 would account for about a 4 percent increase with the same daily rate.

Production per cow in the 21 selected states averaged 1126 pounds for February, 74 pounds more than February a year ago.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 selected states was 8.65 million head, 18 thousand less than January 1988 and 117 thousand less than February 1987.

During the October-December 1987 period the 21 states accounted for 85.0 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed on March 1 followed the same production pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 11.5 billion pounds for February 1988.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS and UTILIZATION, 1982-1986 MARKETING YEARS *

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
	---------- Million Bushels ----------				
SUPPLY					
Beginning stocks 1/	88.3	113.8	93.6	93.1	81.1
Production	180.3	136.9	104.7	50.2	138.5
Total Supply	268.6	250.7	193.0	143.3	219.6
DISPOSITION					
Recorded movement out of State 2/	138.2	134.3	88.3	56.3	98.2
Milled for flour in Montana	7.7	6.9	6.4	5/	5/
Used for seed in Montana	5.0	5.3	5.6	4.9	4.8
Used for livestock feed 3/	1.9	2.0	2.0	8.4 5/	8.5 5/
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	2.0	8.6	2.9	-7.4	6.9
Total Disposition	154.8	157.1	105.2	62.2	118.4
Ending stocks 1/	113.8	93.6	93.1	81.1	101.2

1/ Farm, commercial--June 1 stocks. 2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers, special survey of truck destinations and barge traffic. 3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills and purchased by other farmers for feed. 4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement. 5/ Milled for flour combined with livestock feed to avoid individual disclosure.

* Funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wool Production
Ag Prices
Dairy Products Manufacturing
Meat Animals - PDI
Prospective Plantings
Grain Stocks
Hogs & Pigs
Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

National Agriculture Day
A New Service at MDA
January Manufactured Dairy
January Milk Production
February Prices Received
January Egg Production

AG HEALTH BEING CHECKED

What are the real and latest facts on the financial health of American agriculture? Currently, the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Economic Research Service are surveying a 1% sample of the Nation's farmers to get the answers. We call it the Farm Costs and Returns Survey.

Trained interviewers are asking farmers about their income, expenses, cost of production, rental arrangements, debtors, interest payments, and their balance sheets. The aim: Find what kinds of farmers and farm sizes are under financial stress and where they are geographically.

Interviewers will ask farmers about seeding rates, fertilizer rates, custom work, and field practices. They'll ask about soil preparation, planting, cultivating, spraying, harvesting, crop losses, and marketing -- to capture the costs of every operation.

What will happen when it's all done in mid-March? Computers will crunch the numbers, and the paper from each survey will be destroyed so it can't be traced to any one farmer. Then the combined results will be published for all to see.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY:

A Salute to Our Nation's Agriculture

Agriculture Day (March 20, 1988) is an annual recognition of the economic activity (**farmers, ranchers,** and **businesses**) that provide the U.S. food supply. We have the **most plentiful** and **dependable** supply of **nutritious** food, in the **greatest variety,** for the lowest average share of people's incomes, of **anywhere in the world.**

o **"Agriculture"** in the broad sense encompasses production inputs made for **farmers, farming itself,** and the **processing, transportation, and retailing** that move food and fiber from the farm to consumers. That economic activity **employs 21 million people** (17.9% of U.S. work force) and accounts for 16.6 percent of the Nation's Gross National Product.

o **2.2 million** American farmers **provide** food and fiber for **251 million** people (203 million in the U.S. and 48 million overseas).

o **One** American farmer provides food and fiber **for 114** people -- 92 in the U.S. and 22 overseas. That figure of 114 is up from 73 in 1970 and 46 in 1960.

o A farmer spends $484 to produce the food for one person.

o People in the U.S. can **purchase** their **food** for an average outlay of **14.4 percent** of their **after-tax income.** That is down from about 20 percent 25 years ago. Eating at home takes 9.7 percent of after-tax income; eating out takes 4.7 percent.

o **Farmers get 25 cents** of the consumers' food dollar spent for food raised on U.S. farms, **down from 32 cents** 20 years ago.

MDA's NEWEST SERVICE: AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BULLETIN BOARD

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service reports are now available on the Montana Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Bulletin Board (AMBB). The reports which are prepared for hard copy distribution will now be loaded on the AMBB for immediate access by the public.

The AMBB carries information regarding current market quotes, both daily and weekly, from markets around the state and in northern Wyoming. These reports cover major farm commodities, cattle, and sheep. With the addition of the statistical information, producers and buyers of agricultural products will be better able to track the trends of the markets and act according to these trends. The AMBB also includes a listing of over 300 agricultural businesses from beef packing plants to processors of huckleberry candy, state agricultural organization annual meetings, a buy/sell section and a message board.

The Agricultural Marketing Bulletin Board has been operating for three months and has attracted over 150 users. It was developed in response to a growing need to find new markets and enhance existing markets for the wide range of agricultural products grown and made in Montana. The market and statistical reports were added at the public's request, and have been enthusiastically received.

To access the AMBB and the new Agricultural Statistics Service reports you need only have a computer with a phone modem. Communication with the system is as simple as making a phone call. To link with the computer dial (406)-444-5411. Your modem should be set to the following protocol: Databits - 8, Parity - None, Stop Bits - 1, Duplex - Full, Emulation - None.

For further information concerning the AMBB call (406) 444-2402 or write:

Marketing Bureau
Agricultural Development Division
Montana Department of Agriculture
Agriculture/Livestock Building

JANUARY MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Montana dairy plants produced 97,000 gallons of **ice cream** during January -- a **13 percent increase** from January 1987. **Butter** output totaled 113,000 pounds, **down 41 percent** from a year ago. **Creamed cottage cheese** production, at 270,000 pounds was **down 6 percent** from last year.

U.S. butter production in January was 125 million pounds, **14 percent above** both January and December 1987. **Creamed cottage cheese** production was 51 million pounds, **8 percent below** January 1987 but **3 percent above** December. **January ice cream** production at 54.5 million gallons, was **down 5 percent** from last year. There were 2.69 million gallons of **sherbet** produced, **down 8 percent** from January 1987.

JANUARY
MILK PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

Dairymen in **Montana** produced 331 million pounds of milk in 1987, down 2 percent from the 338 million pounds produced in 1986. The average number of cows milked during the year decreased from 27,000 head in 1986 to 25,000 cows in 1987. The average rate of production per cow increased to 13,240 pounds from 12,519 pounds per cow in 1986. There were 2,500 farm operations in Montana that had one or more milk cows on hand during the year, excluding cows used to nurse calves. The number of operations in the state were unchanged from the previous year.

Milk production for the **U.S.** during 1987 totaled 142 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 1986. The output per cow, at 13.8 thousand pounds, was 526 pounds above 1986 rate. The annual average number of cows was 10.3 million head, 4 percent below the 1986 average. The number of farm operations in the U.S. with one or more milk cows on hand during the year, excluding cows used to nurse calves, was 233,320 farms, down from 252,910 in 1986.

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

Milk production, during January 1988, in the **21 selected States** totaled 10.2 billion pounds, 3 percent above production in these same States in January 1987.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1177 pounds for January, 54 pounds more than January 1987.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 selected States was 8.67 million head, unchanged from December 1987 but 138 thousand head below January 1987.

During the October-December 1987 period the 21 States produced 85.0 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed on February 1 followed the same production pattern as the 21 States, then the U.S. production would be 12.0 billion pounds for January.

FEBRUARY 1988 PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers and ranchers received a **mix of higher and lower prices** for the month of February. **Winter wheat, durum wheat, spring wheat,** and **oat prices** continued to strengthen for the month, while **barley** prices declined slightly.

Alfalfa hay and **other hay** prices **plunged** to the lowest level in 10 years. For **livestock, steers** and **heifer** prices have climbed to a **record high** of $83.00 per cwt, and **cow, beef cattle,** and **calf** prices are the highest since the spring of 1979. **Lamb** and **hog** prices are down from last month's levels. **Wool** prices moved up a dime and are at a **record high** $1.10 per pound.

The **February index of prices received** by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products, at 160 (1979 = 100), was **2 points higher** than the January index, **and 19 points higher** than February 1987. The **all crops index,** at 116, was **1 point above** last month's level, and **9 points higher** than last year. The **livestock and products index,** at 201, was **5 points higher** than last month and **30 points higher** than one year ago.

In the **U.S.,** the **all farm products index** of prices received by farmers for February **decreased 1 point** from the previous month to 130 percent of its 1977 average. Compared with a year earlier the index was up 8 points.

The **February all crops index** was 110, **down 5 points** from January but **up 11 points** from a year earlier.

The **livestock and products index,** at 150, was **up 3 points** from January and **6 points above** February a year ago. The increase from last month was due to higher prices for cattle, calves, and hogs which more than offset declines in milk, poultry, and egg prices.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1988	MONTANA Feb.15, 1988	U.S. Feb.15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.42	2.73	2.80	2.82
Durum	Bu.	2.80	3.39	3.55	3.21
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.64	2.78	2.85	2.77
All Wheat	Bu.	2.54	2.78	2.85	2.83
Barley	Bu.	1.63	1.68	1.66	1.68
Oats	Bu.	1.44	1.48	1.50	1.81
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	46.00	46.00	44.00	70.60
All Other Hay	Ton	41.00	41.00	38.00	52.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	46.00	46.00	43.00	65.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	66.70	80.30	83.00	72.00
Cows	Cwt.	45.70	48.30	49.60	48.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	59.40	68.10	70.30	67.90
Calves	Cwt.	72.90	90.10	92.20	93.10
Sheep	Cwt.	29.90	22.60	23.70	33.20
Lambs	Cwt.	77.00	90.60	85.20	79.60
Hogs	Cwt.	44.00	37.60	37.00	46.70
All Milk	Cwt.	12.85	12.45	12.35	12.30
Eggs	Doz.	.47	.41	.42	.469
Wool 2/	Lb.	.74	1.00	1.10	.933
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	141	158	160	130
All Crops	Pct.	107	115	116	110
Livestock & Products	Pct.	171	196	201	150

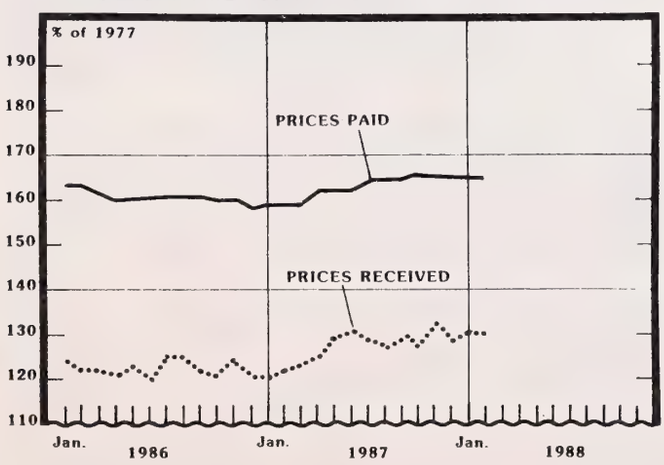
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

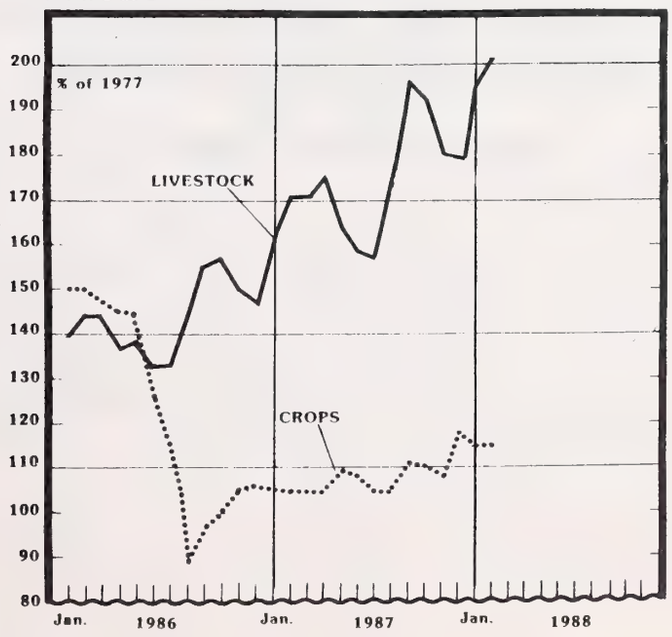
INDEX 1977=100	Jan. 1987	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1988
Prices Received	121	122	131	130
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/158	2/158	3/165	3/165
Ratio 1/	77	77	79	79

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1987 prices paid index. 3/ January 1988 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



JANUARY

EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. Egg production totaled **5.96 billion** during **January 1988, up 1 percent** from the 5.92 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.26 billion for table and 701 million for hatching eggs. The total **number of layers** during **January** averaged 283 million, **unchanged** from a year ago. January egg production per 100 layers was 2109 eggs, compared with 2089 in January 1987.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 1988 totaled **283 million,** compared with 284 million a year ago. The 283 million layers consisted of 244 million for table or commercial type eggs and 38.1 million for hatching type eggs. **Rate of lay** per day on February 1, 1988 averaged **68.0 eggs** per 100 layers compared with 66.9 on February 1, 1987 and 68.1 on January 1, 1988.

Laying flocks in the **20 major egg production States** produced **5.01 billion eggs** during January, **up 1 percent** from the 4.95 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during January averaged 237 million, compared with 236 million a year ago.

The **30 quarterly States** estimates are based on month to month percent change in the 20 States making monthly surveys. These monthly States accounted for about 83 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers in 1987.

LOOKING AHEAD AT AGRICULTURE

A short twelve years from now it will be the year 2000 -- the 21st century! What will agriculture be like then? During this century we've gone from horse and buggy days to air-conditioned cars, trucks and tractors.

There has been a dramatic increase in agricultural productivity. One farmer now produces enough to feed himself and 113 others. The number of U.S. farms has decreased from over 6 million to about 2 million today!

What can we look for in the future? Will changes occur as rapidly as in the past? How fast research develops new techniques and farmers and ranchers adopt new innovations depends on the profitability opportunities in agriculture.

We certainly can see some exciting research breakthroughs as we learn more about biotechnology and particularly the capabilities of genetic engineering. We're likely to see more productive livestock and crops, but what we eat isn't expected to change very much. But, if changes in lifestyles are as dramatic as they have been during the last century we're in for some surprises.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

JANUARY SLAUGHTER
CATTLE ON FEED
POTATO STOCKS
HONEY PRODUCTION
ANNUAL AVG. WAGE RATES

JANUARY SLAUGHTER DOWN 9 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in January 1988. This production is down 16 percent from the previous month and down 9 percent from the January 1987 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head was down 500 head from last year, and total liveweight down 14 percent. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head, was up 200 head compared with one year ago, and total liveweight was up 14 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in January 1988 totaled 3.24 billion pounds, down 5 percent from January 1987. Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was down 8 percent from last year. Pork production, at 1.24 billion pounds, was unchanged from a year earlier. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED

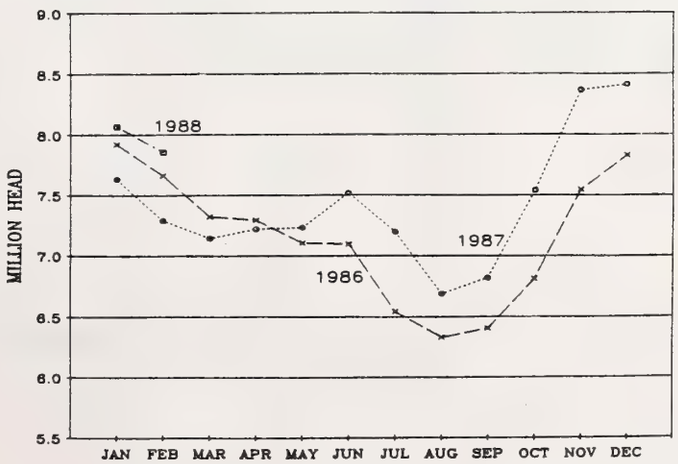
Cattle and calves on feed February 1, 1988 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.86 million head, up 8 percent from a year ago and up 3 percent from February 1, 1986.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.76 million, 2 percent below last year but 1 percent above January two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during January totaled 1.66 million, up 4 percent from last year and up 5 percent from January 1986. Net placements of 1.55 million for January are 6 percent above last year and 4 percent above 1986. This is the largest January placements since 1974.

Other disappearance totaled 111 thousand head, compared with 127 thousand during January 1987 and 87 thousand during January 1986.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES

The U.S. 1987 annual average rate for **all hired workers** was $4.87 compared with $4.70 the previous year. The combined annual rate for **field and livestock workers** averaged $4.57 per hour, 15 cents an hour more than in 1986. In Oregon and Washington (Pacific Region), field and livestock workers averaged $5.26 per hour, up 74 cents from the previous year. Increased wage rates for **hourly and piece rate workers** during the October 1987 survey week accounted for most of this increase.

The average rate for field and livestock workers in Colorado, Nevada, and Utah (Mountain II Region) dropped 90 cents from the previous year to $4.29 per hour in 1987. This drop was due mainly to a lower proportion of salaried (other methods of pay) livestock workers in the 1987 survey sample.

NEW EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Recent news from USDA says more **research and education** will be aimed at low-input, **alternative farming methods.** What does this mean? It means USDA will be examining ways to produce food and fiber in a way that is **harmless to humans** and the **environment** and **sustainable for future generations.** It probably means a reduction in the use of chemical pesticides and commercial fertilizers.

It means going back and **revisiting methods of farming** many of us learned in high school vocational agriculture classes -- using **legume crop rotations** and **animal manure.** Researchers are focusing on **biological methods** to control weeds, diseases, insects and other pests.

State Experiment Stations are expected to take a leadership role along with the **Extension Service** and **USDA agencies.** Dust off those old textbooks folks, maybe they're **not obsolete** after all!

ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, by States & Regions, 1987 1/ 4/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						METHOD OF PAY		
	All Hired	Field	Live-stock	Field & Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--								
NORTHEAST I	4.60	4.64	3.84	4.32	6.79	6.18	4.75	5.76	4.23
NORTHEAST II	5.25	5.19	3.91	4.83	7.72	6.62	5.14	6.92	5.24
APPALACHIAN I	4.45	4.06	4.46	4.17	7.52	3/	4.17	5.15	5.27
APPALACHIAN II	4.03	3.74	4.08	3.90	6.52	3/	3.82	3/	4.84
SOUTHEAST	4.05	3.69	4.32	3.88	6.85	4.86	3.97	4.90	4.18
FLORIDA	5.51	4.92	4.80	4.91	9.09	6.97	4.74	6.25	6.88
LAKE	4.37	4.59	3.74	4.22	6.77	3/	4.43	5.42	4.07
CORN BELT I	4.91	4.69	4.42	4.60	7.95	3/	4.77	3/	5.17
CORN BELT II	4.48	4.20	4.34	4.25	8.18	3/	4.39	3/	4.72
DELTA	4.07	3.84	4.16	3.91	6.33	3/	3.95	3/	4.42
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.50	4.53	4.11	4.35	5.89	5.51	4.42	3/	4.52
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.79	4.42	4.54	4.47	7.76	5.79	4.54	4.65	5.23
MOUNTAIN I	4.05	4.10	3.61	3.95	5.18	3/	4.36	4.79	3.66
MOUNTAIN II	4.43	4.44	3.95	4.29	5.70	3/	4.54	3/	4.30
MOUNTAIN III	4.69	4.32	4.25	4.30	7.16	5.52	4.33	3/	5.36
PACIFIC	5.42	5.24	5.37	5.26	7.01	3/	5.05	6.08	5.90
CALIFORNIA	5.90	5.35	5.81	5.41	10.01	7.66	5.23	6.53	8.30
HAWAII	8.10	7.63	3/	7.53	11.16	8.47	7.70	3/	10.40
U.S.	4.87	4.69	4.29	4.57	7.76	6.45	4.66	5.81	5.14

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT; NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA; APPALACHAIN I: NC, VA; APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV; SOUTHEAST I: AL, GA, SC; LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORN BELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORN BELT II: IA, MO; DELTA: AR, LA, MS; NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD; SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX; MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY; MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT; MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM; PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data. 4/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for California, Florida, Hawaii, The Southern Plains, and Mountain III regions is based on data collected for Jan, Apr, July, and Oct. The annual average for the remaining regions and the U.S. is based on data collected for Apr, Jul, and Oct 1987.

HONEY PRODUCTION UP 38 PERCENT

Montana Honey Production for 1987 (for producers with five or more hives) amounted to **9.69 million pounds**, up 38 percent from 1986. The State's beekeepers had **95,000 producing colonies**, down 14 percent from 1986. **Average yield** was 102 pounds compared with 64 pounds the year before. **Stocks on hand** December 15 were 1,066,000 pounds or 11.0 percent of production. The **price received** for the 1987 honey crop averaged 46 cents per pound.

Nationally, honey production for 1987 amounted to **227 million pounds**, up 13 percent from 1986. The number of **colonies producing** this amount was **3.19 million**, compared with 3.21 million in 1986. The 1987 **average yield** per colony of 71.1 pounds represents a 14 percent increase over 1986. **Stocks** were at 33.1 million pounds or 14.6 percent of production. In 1986 stocks were 27.2 million pounds or 13.6 percent of production. **Prices** for the 1987 honey crop averaged 50.7 cents per pound, down 0.4 cents from the 1986 price of 51.1 cents per pound.

MONTANA
POTATO STOCKS DOWN 2 PERCENT

The total **potato stocks** inventory for Montana on February 1, 1988 was estimated at **2.0 million cwt.**, 2 percent below last year's inventory. Stocks in storage represents 84 percent of the total 1987 production.

February 1, 1988 **potato stocks** for the U.S. are estimated at 167 million cwt, **up 8 percent** from last year but 3 percent below two years ago. Half of fall potato production is still on hand this year, the same proportion as a year ago. **Storage** potatoes are 81 percent **russet** by type, 16 percent **white**, and 3 percent **red.**

Potato stocks in the **6 western states** stand at 117 million cwt, **8 percent more** than last year and 5 percent more than two years ago. **Idaho** stocks of 57.0 million cwt are even with last year and slightly above two years ago. **Washington** at 28.3 million cwt stored and **Oregon** with 14.2 million cwt are up 16 and 12 percent, respectively. **Colorado**, with 12.2 million cwt was up 25 percent. **California** stocks totaling 3.10 million cwt gained 15 percent over a year ago; while **Montana** shed holding 2.00 million cwt were 2 percent below last year. Of the 6 western states, only California had fewer potatoes this year than were on-hand two years ago.

Disappearance in the 15 states from harvest time to the present totaled 166 million cwt, **up 9 percent** from last year, but was 4 percent short of two years ago. **Shrinkage and losses** totaling 20.5 million cwt are **up 4 percent** from the 19.6 million cwt last year but are 30 percent below two years ago when losses were 29.2 million cwt. As a percent of disappearance, losses are running 12.3 percent this season compared with 12.8 percent last year and 16.9 percent for the 1985 crop.

FALL POTATOES: Production & Stocks on February 1, 1987 & February 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	Production	Total Stocks Feb. 1, 1987	Feb. 1 Stocks as % of Production	Production	Total Stocks Feb. 1, 1988	Feb. 1 Stocks as % of Production
	1,000 CWT		Percent	1,000 CWT		Percent
CALIF	6,885	2,700	39	7,600	3,100	41
COLO	18,810	9,750	52	19,500	12,200	63
IDAHO	90,220	57,000	63	99,710	57,000	57
MAINE	21,930	11,200	51	24,510	13,700	56
MICH	9,625	4,100	43	8,910	2,800	31
MINN	13,650	7,700	56	16,330	8,700	53
MONT	2,233	2,040	91	2,370	2,000	84
NEBR	1,794	1,000	56	2,100	1,350	64
NY-L.I.	2,537	350	14	2,225	225	10
UPSTATE	5,288	1,300	25	5,875	1,700	29
N DAK	21,600	11,100	51	23,125	12,500	54
OHIO	2,522	250	10	2,254	235	10
OREG	23,172	12,700	55	25,924	14,200	55
PA	5,160	2,100	41	4,730	1,800	38
WASH	61,950	24,400	39	66,960	28,300	42
WISC	20,125	6,800	34	21,273	7,300	34
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	154,490	50	333,396	167,110	50

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Land in farms and ranches	60,800,000	acres	1987	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:				
Total	1,144,845,000	dollars	1986	33
Crops	493,015,000	dollars	1986	--
Livestock	651,830,000	dollars	1986	--
LIVESTOCK and LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS				
All Cattle & Calves	2,350,000	head	Jan. 1, 1988	13
All Cows	1,327,000	head	Jan. 1, 1988	11
Beef Cows	1,275,000	head	Jan. 1, 1988	7
Milk Cows	25,000	head	Jan. 1, 1988	43
Cattle on Feed	80,000	head	Jan. 1, 1988	21
Hogs and Pigs	230,000	head	Dec. 1, 1987	24
Sheep and Lambs	538,000	head	Jan. 1, 1988	6
Wool Production	5,225,000	pounds	1986	5
All Chickens	990,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1987	41
CROPS (Production)				
All Wheat	151,220,000	bushels	1987	3
Winter Wheat	79,200,000	bushels	1987	7
Durum Wheat	5,320,000	bushels	1987	2
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	66,700,000	bushels	1987	3
Barley	94,500,000	bushels	1987	2
Oats	6,050,000	bushels	1987	15
All Hay	4,210,000	tons	1987	18
Alfalfa Hay	2,860,000	tons	1987	12
Dry Beans	125,000	cwt	1987	13
Potatoes--fall	2,370,000	cwt	1987	14
Sugarbeets	1,086,000	tons	1987	8

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Manufacturing
Milk Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

FARM COSTS & RETURNS SURVEY BEGINS
CATTLE INVENTORY
SHEEP INVENTORY
POTATO STOCKS
CROP VALUES
EGG PRODUCTION
MILK PRODUCTION
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS
SLAUGHTER

JANUARY CATTLE INVENTORY

Montana's January 1, 1988 inventory of **cattle and calves**, at 2,350,000 head, is down 2 percent from January 1, 1987. The annual survey of Montana's ranches and farms shows **total cattle on hand** January 1 down for the fourth consecutive year and the lowest since January 1, 1963. The record high inventory was set in 1974 with 3,380,000 head.

Beef cows that have calved declined 2 percent to 1,275,000, but **replacement heifers** at 255,000 head, increased 9 percent from a year ago. **Milk cow** numbers increased to 25,000 from 24,000 on hand January 1, 1987. **Milk cow replacement heifers** at 7,000 head was unchanged from last year. Other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more increased 10 percent to 156,000 head. There were 254,000 **steers** weighing 500 pounds or more, an increase of 11 percent from 1987. **Calves** weighing less than 500 pounds, at 306,000 head, are down 20 percent from last year. There were 1,280,000 calves born in Montana in 1987, 7 percent fewer than were born during 1986.

All cattle and calves in the **United States**, as of January 1, 1988, totaled 99.0 million head, down 3 percent from the 102 million on January 1, 1987 and 6 percent below the 105 million two years ago. This continued the recent downward trend in cattle inventories begun in 1983 and was the first inventory below 100 million since 1961.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.3 million, were down 2 percent from 44.3 million a year ago, down 3 percent from 44.8 million two years ago and the lowest since 1959.

The **1987 calf crop** was estimated at 40.0 million, down 3 percent from 1986 and 2 percent from 1985.

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE and CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1987-88

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1987	1988	% Change '88/'87	1987	1988	% Change '88/'87
	---000 Head---			---000 Head---		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,400	2,350	- 2	102,000	98,994	- 3
Cows & Heifers that have calved						
Beef Cows	1,303	1,275	- 2	33,779	32,958	- 2
Milk Cows	24	25	+ 4	10,502	10,307	- 2
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	235	255	+ 9	5,164	5,155	--
For milk cow replacement	7	7	--	4,331	4,111	- 5
Other heifers	142	156	+10	7,561	7,812	+ 3
Steers 500 pounds and over	228	254	+11	15,304	15,592	+ 2
Bulls 500 pounds and over	77	72	- 6	2,204	2,163	- 2
Calves less than 500 pounds	384	306	+20	23,154	20,895	-10
All cattle value ($000)	972,000	1,398,250	+44	41,482,765	51,807,580	+25
Value per head (Dollars)	405	595	+47	407	523	+29

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS -- 1986 and 1987

ITEM	1986	1987	% Change '87/'86	1986	1987	% Change '87/'86
Calves born during year (000)	1,375	1,280	- 7	41,141	40,026	- 3
Number cattle farms	16,000	15,700	- 2	1,447,720	1,410,070	- 3

JANUARY SHEEP INVENTORY

There were 538,000 **sheep and lambs** on hand in Montana on January 1, 1988. This was 3 percent above last January's inventory. The **average value** of the sheep increased to $99.50 from $82.00 per head in 1987.

Ewes 1 year old or older increased 3 percent to 380,000 head, while **ewe lambs** over 3 months of age, at 106,000 remained unchanged from a year earlier. **Ram and wether lambs** 3 months plus dropped to 5,000 head compared with 11,000 last year.

Sheep and lambs on feed went up sharply to 35,000 head compared with 23,000 being fed January 1, 1987. This year's **lamb crop** of 440,000 lambs docked or branded is down 2 percent from the 1986 crop.

All sheep and lambs inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 1988 totaled 10.8 million head, up 4 percent from the 10.3 million head of a year earlier. The **value** of sheep and lambs on hand January 1, 1988 totaled $969 million, up 24 percent from a year earlier. The **average value per head** was $89.90, up $14.20 from a year earlier.

Stock sheep inventory increased to 8.99 million head on January 1, 1988, up 2 percent from 8.83 million last year. **Ewes** one year old and older, at 7.08 million head, increased 3 percent from a year earlier. **Ewe lamb** inventory on January 1, 1988 totaled 1.27 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 1987.

The **1987 lamb crop** of 7.23 million head decreased 2 percent from the 1986 lamb crop. The **1987 lambing rate** was 106 per 100 ewes one year old and older, compared with 108 in 1986 and 103 percent in 1985.

DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat in December 1987. This production is down 1 percent from the previous month and down 10 percent from the December 1986 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,800 head, was down 500 head from last year, and total liveweight was down 20 percent. Hog slaughter, at 2,600 head, was up 200 head from last year, and total liveweight was 13 percent higher than a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in December 1987 totaled 3.38 billion pounds, up 4 percent from December 1986. January-December 1987 red meat production, at 38.5 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 3; veal, down 17; pork up 2; lamb and mutton, down 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

DECEMBER MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 71,000 gallons of ice cream during December -- a 49 percent decline from December, 1986. Butter output totaled 157,000 pounds, up 3 percent from one year ago. Creamed cottage cheese production, at 273,000 pounds was down 8 percent from last year.

U.S. butter production in December was 109 million pounds, 8 percent above December 1986 and 24 percent above November 1987. Creamed cottage cheese production was 49.4 million pounds, 4 percent below December 1986 and November 1987. December ice cream production at 60.1 million gallons was up 3 percent from last year. There were 3.06 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 1 percent from December 1986.

SHEEP and LAMBS ON FARMS and RANCHES -- JANUARY 1, 1987-88

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1987	1988	% Change 88/87	1987	1988	% Change 88/87
	--000 Head--			---000 Head---		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	523	538	+ 3	10,334.2	10,774.4	+ 4
On feed	23	35	+52	1,508.0	1,781.0	+18
Stock sheep	500	503	+ 1	8,826.2	8,993.4	+ 2
Lambs						
Ewes	106	106	--	1,295.9	1,266.0	- 2
Wethers and rams	11	5	-55	363.4	323.7	-11
One year old & older						
Ewes	370	380	+ 3	6,846.6	7,076.7	+ 3
Wethers and rams	13	12	- 8	320.3	327.0	+ 2
All sheep value ($000)	42,886	53,531	+25	782,108	968,918	+24
Value per head (Dollars)	82.00	99.50	+21	75.70	89.90	+19

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS -- 1986 and 1987

ITEM	1986	1987	% Change 87/86	1986	1987	% Change 87/86
Lamb crop	450	440	- 2	7,355.8	7,229.7	- 2
Number of sheep farms 1/	2,900	2,900	--	115,250	113,690	- 1

1/ Actual number.

POTATO STOCKS UNCHANGED FROM 1987

The total potato stock inventory for Montana on January 1, 1988 was estimated at 2.1 million cwt., the same as a year earlier. Stocks in storage represents 89 percent of total 1987 production. January 1, 1988 potato stocks for the U.S. are estimated at 196 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year, but 3 percent below 1986. Stocks account for 59 percent of fall production this year - the same percent as last year. Storage is made up of 79 percent russet, 17 percent white, and 4 percent red potatoes.

Six western states stored 134 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1988, up 9 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Each of the western states had more potatoes in storage than last year, except Montana. Idaho stocks of 65.0 million cwt are up 3 percent from last year. Stocks in Washington totaled 32.9 million cwt, up 18 percent; while Colorado storage of 14.1 million cwt was up 20 percent. Oregon, with 16.1 million cwt, was up 8 percent; California was up 11 percent; and Montana was the same as last year.

Disappearance from harvest to January 1 in the 15 stocks states totaled 138 million cwt, 9 percent above last year but 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss totaled 18.1 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year, but 27 percent below the 1985 frost damaged crop.

MAJOR SURVEY ON FARM FINANCIAL CONDITIONS BEGINS THIS WEEK

The fourth annual Farm Costs and Returns Survey, a major nationwide survey on costs of production and financial conditions throughout the farm sector, will begin this week and continue into late March. The 294 Montana farms and ranches selected for interviews have already been notified by letter. Across the nation, 24,000 farmers and ranchers will be contacted for survey interviews.

Interviewers will be collecting data on farm expenses, finances, capital purchases, and costs of production for 1987. The information will be used to determine farm production expenditures, measure farm income, and assess farm sector debts, assets, and cash flow -- key indicators of the economic well-being of farmers.

Survey findings will also be used to estimate costs and returns for Montana barley. USDA will publish the results of the survey in various reports scheduled for release beginning this summer.

CROP VALUES

A look at Montana's final 1987 crop production and value figures shows why farmers are a bit more optimistic this year. The value of all primary Montana crops totaled over $836 million in 1987, up 14 percent from 1986 and a whopping 69 percent above the drouth plagued 1985 crops.

Although the values for the last couple of years are impressive, they are well below 1981, '82 and '83 when crop values exceeded a billion dollars a year. Why the big drop in values for recent years? Production has been good for the last couple of years but prices are down. For example, all wheat averaged $2.69 during 1987 -- over a dollar a bushel below 1982.

Even though prices for most farm products are well below the levels of 1982, they are up from a year ago. Prices for all 1987 crops with the exception of hay, potatoes and dry beans were up. We're competing well on the world market as exports are up and price prospects are looking good. Let's hope things are turning around!

EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

Montana laying flocks produced 205 million eggs in 1987, 2 percent more than 1986 production. The average number of layers in flocks during 1987 was 789,000 birds compared with 790,000 birds a year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1987 was 260 eggs, up from 254 eggs per layer in 1986.

U.S. egg production during the year totaled 69.5 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 1986 production of 68.4 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1987 averaged 280 million, up 2 percent from 1986.

MILK PRODUCTION INCREASED 4 PERCENT

Montana's October-December milk production, at 84 million pounds, was 4 percent higher than the same period last year. Average milk production per cow, at 3,360 pounds, compares with 3,240 pounds per cow a year earlier. The 25,000 cows milked remained the same as the previous year.

Montana dairymen fed an average of 15.5 pounds of grain and concentrates per head per day, up from 14.5 pounds last year. The cost per hundredweight of this feed was $6.20, down 25 cents from a year ago.

The quarterly milk production for the U.S. was 34.9 billion pounds, 3 percent above October-December 1986. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 10.4 million head, 2 percent below a year earlier.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1987	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1987	MONTANA Jan.15, 1988	U.S. Jan.15, 1988
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.49	2.68	2.72	2.76
Durum	Bu.	2.89	3.54	3.50	3.23
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.79	2.74	2.82	2.71
All Wheat	Bu.	2.65	2.74	2.79	2.77
Barley	Bu.	1.62	2.07	1.73	1.74
Oats	Bu.	1.39	1.53	1.65	1.76
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	51.00	45.00	46.00	66.60
All Other Hay	Ton	47.00	40.00	41.00	52.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	45.00	46.00	62.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	63.50	74.10	79.80	69.70
Cows	Cwt.	40.10	44.80	45.60	46.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	55.30	60.30	66.10	65.10
Calves	Cwt.	70.40	85.90	87.50	86.20
Sheep	Cwt.	29.80	29.50	31.90	33.60
Lambs	Cwt.	78.00	82.70	83.00	81.80
Hogs	Cwt.	41.40	33.20	33.80	42.70
All Milk	Cwt.	13.00	12.75	12.65	12.60
Eggs	Doz.	.53	.41	.41	.49
Wool 2/	Lb.	.74	1.05	1.00	.75
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	137	150	155	130
All Crops	Pct.	110	117	116	114
Livestock & Products	Pct.	162	179	190	146

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Jan. 1986	Dec. 1987	Jan. 1988
Prices Received 1/	121	127	130
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	158	165 3/	165
Ratio (1977=100) 4/	77	77	79

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates.
3/ October 1987 Prices Paid Index. 4/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter

JANUARY PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers and ranchers received higher prices for most commodities in January 1988. Lamb prices at $83.00 per cwt have hit an all-time high. Average prices for steers and heifers at $79.80, is the highest since April 1979, and is the second highest price on record. Prices for sheep, hogs, beef cattle, and cows also strengthened. Crop prices, except durum wheat and barley, gained over last month's levels.

The January Index of All Farm Products for Montana, at 155, is 5 points higher than last month, and 18 points higher than last year.

The All Crops Index, at 116 is 1 point lower than last month, but 6 points higher than last year.

Livestock and Products Index, at 190, increased 11 points over last month, and is 28 points higher than one year ago.

Nationally, the All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers for January increased 3 points from the previous month to 130 of its 1977 average. Compared with a year earlier the index was up 9 points.

The Livestock and Products index, at 146, was up 5 points from December and 4 points above January a year ago. The increase from last month was due to higher prices for cattle, calves, hogs, broilers, and eggs. The All Crops Index was 114, up 1 point from December and up 14 points from a year earlier.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

MT & US Annual Crop Production
Montana Hay Stocks
Monthly Prices
Hog Inventory
Wheat & Barley Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Grain Stocks

MONTANA CROP SEASON IN REVIEW

Montana's 1987 crop season started out with little or no precipitation during the winter months, but with good soil moisture carryover. As a result, the winter wheat crop came through the winter in good condition with little freeze or wind damage. The snowpack was only one-third of normal, and warm winds during late April dried soils. The early, dry spring pushed crop planting to an early finish. May was a hot, dry and windy month, prospects looked dim until good rains came the end of the month. However, grasshoppers hatched to plague crops in many areas and irrigation water was in short supply.

Frequent and timely showers during June, July and August provided good crop development. The excessive moisture slowed crop maturity and hindered harvest. Malting barley lost quality because of late rains and the sweet cherry crop was severely damaged.

Dry weather returned in early September which allowed a timely harvest. Winter wheat seeding was also completed early. Dry topsoil during the fall and early winter gave concern over emerged winter wheat but provided good grazing prospects.

Crop yields during 1987 for most crops were some of the best on record.

MONTANA HAY STOCKS HIGHER

Stocks of hay on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, totaled 4.8 million tons, 9 percent more than last December. Production of hay was nearly 3 percent less than a year ago. but a mild, open fall lowered hay feeding requirements prior to December 1.

MONTANA ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 1986-1987

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
		1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987
		-- 000 Acres--		-- 000 Acres --		-- Unit --		-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,150	2,300	2,000	2,200	32.0	36.0	64,000	79,200
Durum Wheat	Bu.	165	195	160	190	27.0	28.0	4,320	5,320
Hard Spring	Bu.	2,700	2,400	2,600	2,300	27.0	29.0	70,200	66,700
All Wheat	Bu.	5,015	4,895	4,760	4,690	29.1	32.2	138,520	151,220
Barley	Bu.	2,400	2,300	2,180	2,100	39.0	45.0	85,020	94,500
Oats	Bu.	200	235	90	110	46.0	55.0	4,140	6,050
Corn for Grain	Bu.	80 1	80 1/	13	15	115.0	105.0	1,495	1,575
Corn Silage	Ton	80 1/	80 1/	63	64	19.0	18.0	1,197	1,152
Sugarbeets	Ton	47.2	49.2	46.8	48.9	21.7	22.2	1,016	1,086
Potatoes	Cwt	7.8	8.0	7.7	7.9	290.0	300.0	2,233	2,370
Dry Beans	Cwt	4.8	5.8	4.5	5.7	21.6	21.9	97	125
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,300	1,300	2.30	2.20	2,990	2,860
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,250	2,200	1.92	1.91	4,320	4,210
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,600	3,800

1/ Planted for all purposes.

UNITED STATES ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 1986-1987

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
		1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987
		-- 000 Acres--		-- 000 Acres --		-- Unit --		-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	53,965	48,781	43,205	39,317	35.2	39.8	1,521,498	1,562,896
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,994	3,341	2,877	3,279	34.0	28.2	97,907	92,617
Other Spring	Bu.	15,109	13,682	14,641	13,334	32.3	33.7	472,230	449,687
All Wheat	Bu.	72,068	65,804	60,723	55,930	34.4	37.6	2,091,635	2,105,200
Barley	Bu.	13,059	11,046	12,007	10,027	50.8	52.6	610,522	527,010
Oats	Bu.	14,691	17,959	6,860	6,925	56.3	54.0	386,356	373,765
Corn for Grain	Bu.	76,674*	65,706*	69,159	59,167	119.3	119.4	8,249,864	7,064,143
Corn Silage	Ton	76,674*	65,706*	6,274	5,872	14.1	14.6	88,660	85,586
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,231.5	1,269.7	1,191.2	1,255.4	21.1	22.3	25,162	27,999
Potatoes	Cwt	1,065.1	1,108.0	1,036.2	1,090.3	307.0	314.0	317,771	342,774
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,673.8	1,775.6	1,495.0	1,708.4	15.3	15.4	22,886	26,309
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	26,793	25,485	3.42	3.32	91,552	84,554
All Hay	Ton	--	--	62,419	60,748	2.49	2.46	155,529	149,142
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	137.7	210.8

* Planted for all purposes.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS DOWN 4 PERCENT

Montana farmers planted 2.2 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1988 -- down 4 percent from last year's 2.3 million acres. During the 5 year period, 1977-81, Montana farmers averaged 2.85 million acres of winter wheat. The next five years, 1982-86, the average was 2.46 million. The downward trend has been influenced by farm programs, several years of drouth, and an increase in spring wheat plantings.

The 1988 crop planting emerged to good stands, but soils have been dry most of the fall and early winter. However, warm temperatures and lack of wind has prevented damage. Presently, the crop is in fair to good condition.

The U.S. winter wheat seedings for 1988 harvest totals 48.3 million acres, off 1 percent from 1987. Acreages are generally down from last year in states west of the Mississippi and up east of the Mississippi. This is the lowest seeded level in 10 years.

NOVEMBER MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 75,000 gallons of ice cream during November -- a 36 percent decline from November 1986. Butter output totaled 141,000 pounds, down 11 percent from one year ago. Creamed cottage cheese production at 277,000 pounds was up 5 percent from last year.

U.S. butter production in November was 88.2 million pounds, 10 percent above November last year but 2 percent below October 1987. Creamed cottage cheese production was 51.2 million pounds, about the same as November 1986 but 7 percent below October 1987.

November ice cream production, at 58 million gallons was unchanged from last year. There were 2.83 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 10 percent from November 1986.

WINTER WHEAT SELECTED STATES & U.S.

SELECTED STATES	AREA SEEDED 1/ CROP OF 1987	AREA SEEDED 1/ CROP OF 1988	1987 as Pct. of 1986
	--000 Acres--		Pct.
ARK	930	1,000	108
CALIF	530	500	94
COLO	3,100	2,600	84
GA	550	550	100
IDAHO	860	820	95
ILL	1,100	1,200	109
IND	750	840	112
KANS	10,700	10,200	95
KY	500	550	110
MICH	450	650	144
MISS	400	500	125
MO	900	1,550	172
MONT	2,300	2,200	96
NEBR	2,200	2,250	102
N MEX	660	450	68
N C	490	510	104
N DAK	200	250	125
OHIO	850	1,150	135
OKLA	7,200	7,100	99
OREG	780	700	90
S C	290	290	100
S DAK	1,700	1,800	106
TENN	440	530	120
TEX	6,800	6,300	93
WASH	1,900	1,750	92
U.S.	48,781	48,349	99

1/ Total seeded for all purposes.

MONTANA

GRAIN STOCKS HIGH

Montana's wheat and barley stocks remained at near record levels on December 1, although disappearance has been heavy since September 1. Wheat stocks in all positions are down 22 percent from September while barley stocks have fallen 20 percent. Nearly 84 percent of the disappearance in wheat stocks since September 1, have been from farm storages.

Wheat stocks are 9 percent more than a year ago. There is no comparable barley stocks estimate for last year.

The higher wheat stocks level should give Montana farmers an advantage this coming year because global stocks are declining and the U.S. should gain a larger share of the export market.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY	
	Dec. 1, 1986	Sept 1, 1987*	Dec. 1, 1987	Sept 1, 1987*	Dec. 1, 1987
	-----Million Bushels-----				
Northwest	1.5	2.7	2.0	3.9	3.3
North Central	73.2	96.0	78.1	44.6	35.7
Northeast	44.2	53.9	46.5	10.9	12.4
Central	22.0	36.2	24.1	20.3	11.5
Southwest	4.7	9.2	8.1	5.3	6.1
South Central	9.3	17.1	11.0	6.5	4.8
Southeast	8.0	14.5	8.5	2.7	1.7
STATE	162.9	229.6	178.3	94.2	75.5

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

Over half of Montana's 23,300 farmers and ranchers were contacted during December and early January to finalize state and county crop figures and to count livestock by classes.

We appreciate the courtesy and excellent cooperation you have provided to our field and telephone interviewers. We hope 1988 is an outstanding year for Montana agriculture!

Thank you!

Lyle Pratt

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician

STOCKS OF GRAIN DECEMBER 1, 1987 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1986	Sept 1, 1987*	Dec. 1, 1987	% Chg. '87/'86	Dec. 1, 1986	Sept 1, 1987*	Dec. 1, 1987
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	124,000	177,000	134,000	+ 8	1,063,000	1,168,000	971,000
Off Farms 1/	38,901	52,608	44,300	+14	1,610,490	1,820,462	1,534,946
T O T A L	162,901	229,608	178,300	+ 9	2,673,490	2,988,462	2,505,946
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	61,000	92,000	67,000	+10	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	23,145	31,590	26,000	+12	--	--	--
T O T A L	84,145	123,590	93,000	+11	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	63,000	85,000	67,000	+ 6	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	15,756	21,018	18,300	+16	--	--	--
T O T A L	78,756	106,018	85,300	+ 8	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	96,910	94,100	76,850
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	57,558	52,452	43,379
T O T A L	7,775	10,374	8,400	+ 8	154,468	146,552	120,229
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	6,795,500	2,284,500	6,100,000
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	3,509,999	2,597,193	3,666,885
T O T A L 4/	--	--	--	--	10,305,499	4,881,693	9,766,885
OATS							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
BARLEY							
On Farms	--	84,000	65,000	--	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	--	10,175	10,500	--	--	--	--
T O T A L	--	94,175	75,500	--	--	--	--

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	Dec. 1986	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1987
Prices Received 1/	120	132	128
Prices Paid (1977 = 100) 2/	158	166	166
Ratio (1977 = 100) 3/	76	80	77

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates.
3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index.

MONTANA HOG INVENTORY UP 21 PERCENT

The inventory of hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 1987 was estimated at 230,000 head, up 21 percent from a year ago. The December inventory is the largest since 250,000 were on hand in 1980. Market hogs, estimated at 200,000 head, are up 18 percent from last year, while breeding hogs at 30,000 are up 43 percent. The total pig crop for 1987 was 394,000 head, up 22 percent from last year.

Nationally, the U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 53.8 million head on December 1, 1987. This is 6 percent above a year ago and 3 percent above December 1, 1985.

-- Breeding hog inventory, at 7.02 million, is 5 percent above last year and 4 percent above two years ago.

-- Market hog inventory, at 46.8 million, is 6 percent above a year ago and 3 percent above two years ago. The U.S. pig crop for 1987 totaled 87.8 million head, 7 percent above 1986 and 2 percent above the 1985 pig crop.

-- December 1986 - May 1987 pig crop, estimated at 43.1 million head, is up 7 percent from the comparable period a year earlier and 1 percent above the comparable 1985 period.

-- June-November 1987 pig crop, estimated at 44.7 million head, is 6 percent above June-November last year and 3 percent above the June-November 1985 crop.

PRICES RECEIVED GENERALLY LOWER IN DECEMBER

The prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers were generally lower in December primarily because of softer grain and hay prices. However, the average price for steers and heifers, at $77.00, is the highest since September 1979. Higher cow marketings reduced the price level for beef cattle. Prices for durum, spring wheat, barley, hay, sheep, lambs and hogs declined, while winter wheat, oats, and calve prices advanced.

The December All Farm Products Index, at 147, is 4 points lower than last month, but 20 points higher than last year.

The Livestock and Products Index, at 174, is 7 points lower than last month, but 27 points higher than last year's level.

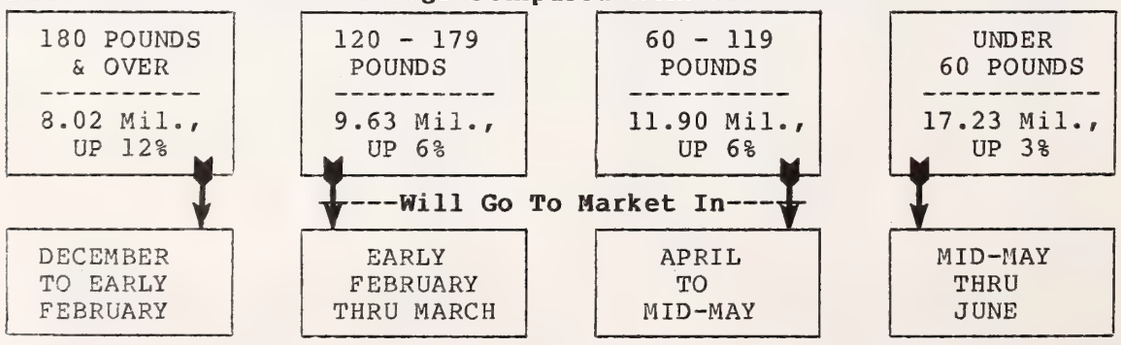
The All Crops Index stands at 117, 1 point lower than last month, but 11 points higher than last year.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1987	MONTANA Dec.15, 1987	U.S. Dec.15, 1987
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.40	2.68	2.75	2.68
Durum	Bu.	2.78	3.56	3.35	3.32
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.67	2.80	2.70	2.62
All Wheat	Bu.	2.56	2.78	2.76	2.71
Barley	Bu.	1.55	2.06	2.01	1.82
Oats	Bu.	1.46	1.44	1.55	1.71
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	51.00	47.00	45.00	68.70
All Other Hay	Ton	47.00	42.00	40.00	54.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	47.00	45.00	65.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	61.20	75.00	77.00	66.80
Cows	Cwt.	35.50	42.70	42.70	44.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	47.60	62.00	58.10	61.90
Calves	Cwt.	66.80	84.00	87.00	83.00
Sheep	Cwt.	28.30	29.80	22.00	31.30
Lambs	Cwt.	76.30	76.90	71.00	71.50
Hogs	Cwt.	45.80	33.60	33.20	40.80
All Milk	Cwt.	13.20	12.85	12.75	12.80
Eggs	Doz.	.63	.53	.41	.49
Wool 2/	Lb.	.86	1.05	1.05	.86
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	127	151	147	128
All Crops	Pct.	106	118	117	114
Livestock & Products	Pct.	147	181	174	142

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

December 1 U.S. Market Hogs Compared With Last Year



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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle & Calves on Feed
Slaughter
November Milk Production
Farm Production Expenses
Sept-Nov Egg Production
Potato Stocks

Happy Holidays

NOVEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat during November. Production was 7 percent less than the October production but about the same as last year during November.

Cattle slaughter was 1800 head, down 14 percent from last year. Total liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1.95 million pounds, down from 2.12 million pounds last year. Hog slaughter was up 25 percent, 2500 head compared with 2000 head last year. Both cattle and hogs showed increases in the average liveweight per head slaughtered.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in November 1987 totaled 3.20 billion pounds, up 7 percent from November 1986. January-November red meat production, at 35.1 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 3; Veal, down 18; Pork, up 1; Lamb and Mutton, down 7. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES

UP 7 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

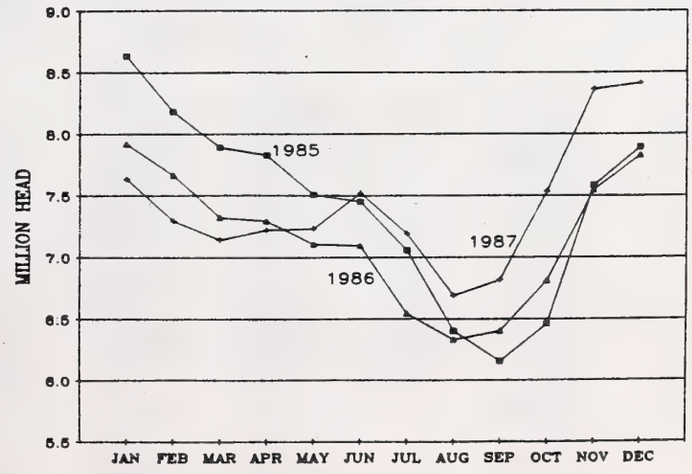
Cattle and calves on feed December 1, 1987, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.41 million head, up 7 percent from both a year ago and December 1, 1985.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.46 million, 1 percent above last year and 6 percent above November two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during November totaled 1.61 million, down 11 percent from last year and down 9 percent from November 1985. Net Placements of 1.51 million for November are 13 percent below last year and 11 percent below 1985.

Other disappearance totaled 103 thousand head, compared with 87 thousand during November 1986 and 76 thousand during November 1985.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



POTATO STOCKS

Montana potato producers have 2,200,000 cwt of potatoes in storage as of December 1, compared with 2,150,000 on hand at this time last year. The December 1 stocks represent 93% of the 2,370,000 cwt. produced this year, while the December 1, 1986, stocks accounted for 96% of that year's production. Most of Montana's potatoes in storage will be sold for seed in many of the major potato production areas of the U.S.

December 1, 1987, potato stocks for the **U.S.** are estimated at 224 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year, but 5 percent below 1985. Stocks account for 67 percent of fall production this year compared with 68 percent last year. Storage is made up of 78 percent **russet**, 18 percent **white**, and 4 percent **red** potatoes.

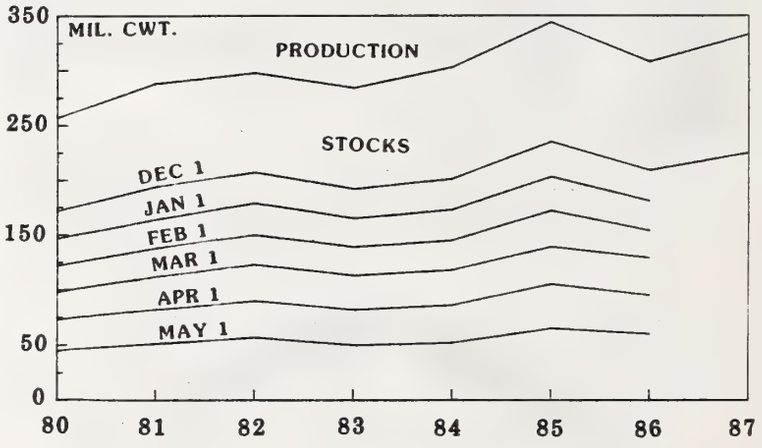
Fall potato production in the U.S. was estimated at 343 million cwt, a gain of 8 percent over last year but 3 percent short of 1985. Area for harvest is set at 1.09 million acres, up 5 percent from last year but 5 percent below 1985. The average yield is a record high 314 cwt per acre, up 7 cwt from last year and 6 cwt above 1985.

The **9 Western States** potato production was estimated at 227 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year and fractionally above the 1985 crop. Harvest acreage is set at 620 thousand acres, up 8 percent from last year but 2 percent below 1985. Average yield per acres swelled to 366 cwt, 4 cwt above last year and 9 cwt above two years ago. Production in **Washington** and **Colorado** hit record highs with 67.0 million cwt and 19.5 million cwt, respectively. **Idaho** growers produced 99.7 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year. **Oregon** production is set at 25.9 million cwt, up 12 percent. **Nevada, Utah,** and **Wyoming** each produced fewer potatoes than last year.

All Potato production for the nation in 1987 (Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall) totaled 386 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year but 5 percent short of the 1985 crop. Harvested area totaled 1.28 million acres, up 5 percent from 1986 but 6 percent below 1985. The average yield climbed to 301 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt from last year and 2 cwt above 1985.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

(For 15 States Estimating Potato Stocks)



*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST.

FALL POTATOES:

Production and Stocks on December 1, 1986 and December 1, 1987

STATE	Crop of 1986			Crop of 1987		
	PRO-DUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1986	DEC 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRO-DUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1987	DEC 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	-- 1,000 CWT --		PERCENT	-- 1,000 CWT --		PERCENT
Calif	6,885	4,700	68	7,600	4,800	63
Colo	18,810	13,600	72	19,500	15,750	81
Idaho	90,220	70,500	78	99,710	72,500	73
Maine	21,930	16,500	75	24,510	18,900	77
Mich	9,625	6,000	62	8,910	4,800	54
Minn	13,650	10,100	74	16,330	11,400	70
Mont	2,233	2,150	96	2,370	2,200	93
Nebr	1,794	1,550	86	2,100	1,800	86
NY - LI	2,537	800	32	2,225	750	34
- Upstate	5,288	2,500	47	5,875	2,800	48
N Dak	21,600	15,500	72	23,125	17,500	76
Ohio	2,522	680	27	2,254	650	29
Oreg	23,172	17,000	73	25,924	17,900	69
PA	5,160	3,400	66	4,730	3,070	65
Wash	61,950	32,300	52	66,960	36,600	55
Wis	20,125	12,000	60	21,273	12,300	58
State Total	307,501	209,280	68	333,396	233,720	67

NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 selected States totaled 9.65 billion pounds. This is 3 percent above production for November 1986 in these same States.

During the July-September period the 21 selected States produced 85.4 percent of the U.S. production. If the producers in the 29 States not surveyed for December 1, followed the trend shown by the reporting States, the U.S. production would be about 11.3 billion pounds for November.

Production per cow in the 21 selected States averaged 1098 pounds during November, 42 pounds above November 1986. Milk cows in the 21 States averaged 8.78 million head, 1 percent less than November 1986 but 1000 head above October 1987.

TURNAROUND IN FARM PRODUCTION EXPENSES

Farmers will have sliced **$60 billion** off their debt in the 1985-88 period. Phenomenal. Granted, some of that has been written off. But note the historical change: Farm debt previously had climbed steadily year after year **since World War II** into the 1980's.

Farmers also spent less on farm production expenses in each of the last 3 years: 1985, 1986, and in 1987. When was the last time that farm production expenditures had decreased? **Not since 1953!**

This year cash farm income and net farm income are both setting **new records.** Where is the boom...the unbridled spending? What we have here is a **major change** in what farmers are doing with their dollars. Let's take a closer look at what happened between 1977 and 1984, and then what happened in the three-year period between 1984 and 1987 (figures are rounded; 1987 estimated):

What we have is a **monumental performance** of belt tightening, corner cutting, bailing wire repairs, living off inventory, paying down debts, and curbing new borrowing. Agriculture, as they would say, is not a **"lean machine".**

Meantime, rural towns and businesses have also suffered the shock. There was no "joy in Mudville" while this cost-cutting was going on; nor is there joy there yet, as farmers in 1987 have continued to cut expenses deeper.

Given today's outlook for increased **farm exports,** the expected decline in **carryover** stocks, and the leaner, stronger base in agriculture, the birds in the old farmyard tree should begin to sing a happier tune--and they might even drop off at the town square to sing a song or two.

Meantime, farmers' biggest market--U.S. **domestic demand**--has been increasing and setting records each year. If the U.S. economy continues to expand, and farm exports grow, there are better days ahead for farmers and rural towns.
USDA Executive Notes, December 18, 1987.

HAVE A

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FARM PRODUCTION EXPENSES

INPUTS	1977 $Bil	1984 $Bil	1977-84 CHANGE %	1987E $Bil	1984-87 CHANGE %
Farm-origin Inputs	23.5	32.8	+ 39	29.7	- 9
Fertilizer	6.5	7.4	+ 14	5.0	-33
Fuels & Oils	4.4	7.1	+ 64	4.5	-37
Electricity	1.1	2.2	+103	2.2	-----
Pesticides	1.9	4.8	+146	3.9	-18
Interest charges	8.5	21.1	+146	14.5	-31
Repair and Maintenance	5.8	6.4	+ 11	6.6	+ 3
Hired Labor	8.0	9.7	+ 22	10.3	+ 6
Machine Hire & Custom Work	1.7	2.2	+ 29	1.7	-22
Marketing, Storage, Transp.	1.4	4.0	+189	3.4	-15
Miscellaneous Oper. Expense	3.6	8.5	+136	7.4	-13
Capital Consumption	15.5	23.1	+ 49	17.5	-24
Taxes	3.7	4.1	+ 11	4.2	+ 3
Rent to Non-Oper. Landlords	3.4	8.6	+153	6.4	-26
Total Production Expenses	88.9	142.7	+ 61	117.6	-18

EXPORT PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Going into the New Year, those in agriculture have good reason to be optimistic, even though most are very cautious. Let's look at some of the good things that we see happening.

First of all, USDA recently hiked the farm export prospects by another 4 million metric tons and $1 billion. That pegs total export value at $32 billion, up 14% from the 1986-87 total. Montana wheat farmers should benefit because wheat and flour are the big gainers. In fact, U.S. producers could capture about 40% of the world wheat market in '87-'88. This strong demand has resulted in a decline in free stocks and improved prices.

Meanwhile, farmers have been busy cutting production costs. Since 1984, they have cut total production expenses by 18%. Biggest reductions were made in interest, fuel and fertilizer where costs were trimmed by about one-third. So it appears both prices and production costs are now moving in the right direction!

DON'T SCOFF AT THOSE RURAL SCHOOLS

"Prairie Center High" just might be a lot better than most people think, says Stuart A. Rosenfeld, Director, Southern Technology Council. Rural schools have **three things** going for them, he says: No. 1, rural schools are small enough in size that students have **quality** relationships, get motivated, and become involved in common goals. Students have greater opportunities to **take part** in activities, share positions of leadership, feel more important, and get more individual attention.

Big schools often turn impersonal and bureaucratic. Once you get beyond a few hundred students, the advantages of school size **disappear quickly**, says Rosenfeld. In his view, "The size at which schools can operate more effectively is closer to the average size of the **rural** school, not the urban school."

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SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UNCHANGED FROM 1986

Montana poultrymen produced 48 million eggs during the September-November quarter equaling production for the same quarter last year, but down 4 million eggs (8 percent) from the previous quarter. The average number of layers on hand was 768,000, down 12,000 birds from the same quarter in 1986. The rate of lay averaged 62.5 eggs per 100 layers compared with 61.5 a year earlier.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17.4 billion eggs during the September-November quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Layers for the quarter averaged 282 million, up 2 percent from the 278 million a year earlier.

All layers on December 1, 1987 totaled 285 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. Layers on December 1 consisted of 248 million for table eggs and 36.3 million layers for hatching eggs. Rate of lay on December 1 for all layers, averaged 68.3 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.6 a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs
Monthly Prices
Manufactured Dairy

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Merry Christmas !

This year held mostly good news for those involved in Montana agriculture. We're thankful for the bountiful harvest of high quality grain, good hay and pasture crops and higher livestock prices. Lower production costs along with higher returns have helped relieve the credit crunch for many -- yet others are still under severe economic pressure with no way out.

This has been a year of change for our office staff. Bud Lies, Randy Van Winkle and Jerry Thorson transferred to other Statistical Offices while Carol Smith, Michelle Sutliff, and Linda Pratt moved on to new positions. We do appreciate their contributions to our service.

We welcome Curt Lund, Steve Susemihl, Perry Game, Vicki McCall, Jane Jimeno, Kayla McOmber, and Wendy Bruski to our staff.

We want to especially thank all of you who have participated in our surveys this year. Response was the best ever! We're dedicated to providing you with the best information available to help you make those difficult decisions.

We look forward to serving you during 1988. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lyle Pratt
State Statistician

Lyle A Pratt

Elma St. Clair

Charlotte Hagen

Wendy Bruski

Sid Letohon

Billye Vincent

Ann Bossell

Vicki McCall

Jane Jimeno

Perry Game

Violet Sniak

Don Schumacher

Curt Lund

Ray Stack

Kayla McOmber

Steve Susemihl

OCTOBER

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 97,000 gallons of ice cream during October -- a 32 percent decline from October 1986. Butter output totaled 136,000 pounds, down 29 percent from one year ago. Creamed cottage cheese production at 277,000 pounds was down 13 percent.

U.S. butter production in October was 90.2 million pounds, 6 percent above October last year and 15 percent above September 1987. Creamed cottage cheese production was 55.2 million pounds, 9 percent below October last year and 1 percent below last month.

October ice cream production, at 65.4 million gallons was down 7 percent from October 1986. Ice milk production was 26.9 million gallons, up 10 percent from last October. There were 2.96 million gallons of sherbet produced, down 6 percent from October 1986.

FOCUS ON PRICES

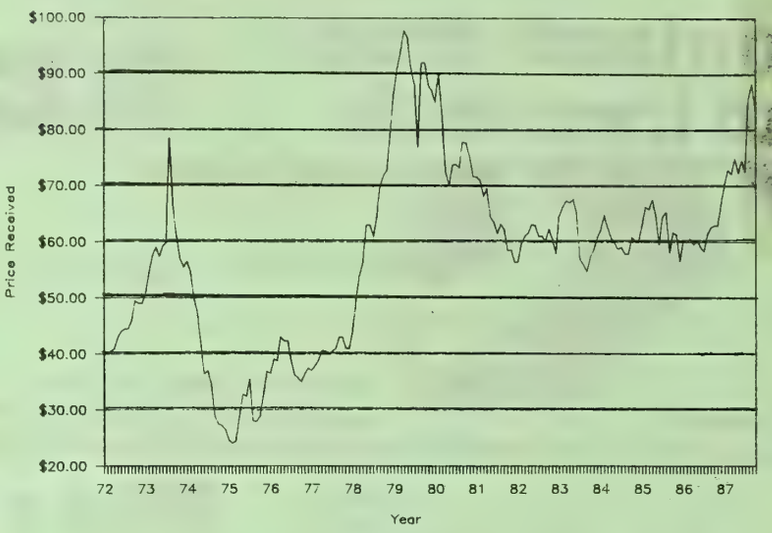
November crop prices for Montana are stronger than October and a year ago at this time. **Winter wheat** at $2.55, is up 5 cents from October. **Durum** is up 4 cents from October to $3.40. **Spring wheat** jumped 9 cents to $2.75, while **barley** edged upward 2 cents from October to close at $1.64. November prices for **hogs** fell sharply, $8.00 from October, to $35.00. In November of last year, hogs were going for $44.60. The Montana prices received index fell to 150, down 3 points from October, due mainly to decline in markets for livestock products. Nationally, producers fared better market-wise, compared with October, as the ratio of prices received index to prices paid index rose 2 points.

Montana livestock producers have enjoyed near record high prices this fall. Food and feed grains producers in Montana received low prices for their commodities compared with past records, but prices received the last few months have strengthened from a year earlier.

As the second half of 1987 progressed, the price received for steers and heifers rose, peaking in October at $74.00 per cwt., $6.40 short of the record set in April 1979. Since that all time high, producers have received a low of $51.70 in October of 1983.

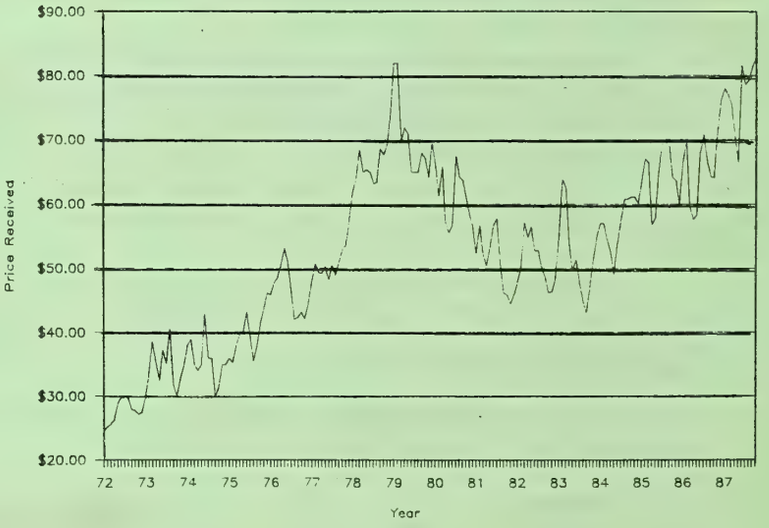
Producers in September were paid $88.30 for **calves**, which represents the peak for 1987 prices so far, but short of the 1979 record of $97.80. Operators received a low of $54.70 in September 1983.

Prices Received For Calves



The October price for **lambs** set a new record at $82.60. The second highest record price, $82.00, came in January and February of 1979 and dropped to a low of $43.00 in September 1983. Sheep producers in February 1987 experienced the second highest price ever, $29.90, to be topped only by $33.70 in December of 1985.

Prices Received For Lambs



Hog prices for 1987 peaked at $53.90 in July, while the 1986 peak came in August at $53.20. After bottoming out at $31.50 in September 1985, prices received for hogs in the summers of 1986 and 1987 approached the $57.40 record set in September 1982.

Producers enjoyed high prices for **alfalfa hay** in the mid 1980's with a record price of $90.00 set in June 1984, February, March, and April 1986. The price received for alfalfa hay in 1987 has basically bottomed out to lows which compare with the lows of the mid-1970's and the early 1980's.

Starting in 1974, small grain producers witnessed **record high prices** with the advent of Soviet grain purchases, fuel shortages, and limited grain supplies. As the 1970's wore on, market prices of **small grains** became more volatile.

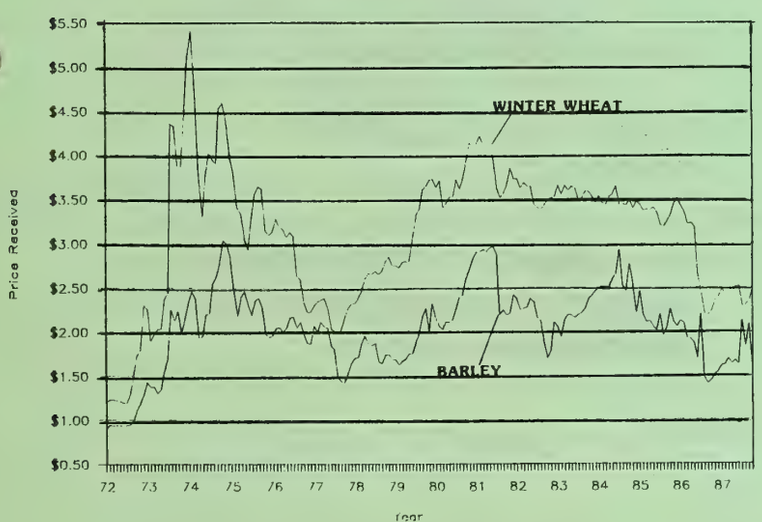
Prices Continued . . .

With large price fluctuations following the record high of $5.40 in February 1974, the price of **winter wheat** bottomed out at $1.99 in August 1977. The price of winter wheat strengthened in the late 1970's and stayed strong until June 1986. September 1986 saw the lowest winter wheat price, $2.19, since August 1977. Prices for winter wheat rose moderately at the close of 1986 and through the first half of 1987. They faltered in late summer and are now starting to rise again.

Spring wheat prices had a record high of $5.33 in February 1974 and a low of $2.19 in August 1977. Prices then rose, staying strong through May 1986, but fell a sharp $1.40 to $2.43 by September of 1986. Prices for spring wheat moved up moderately over the next 8 months, but then fell to $2.31 in July 1987. Spring wheat prices have been on the rise since then.

Montana **barley** producers have been buffeted by a regular, wide range of prices. From a record high of $3.04 in November 1974, the price fell to $1.43 in October 1977. Barley prices then rose to $2.97 in June 1981, but slipped to $1.70 in October 1982. With resiliency, they rose to $2.93 in July 1984, yet slipped in September 1986 to a new low of $1.41.

Prices Received For Small Grains



GORBACHEV'S VISIT PERKS INTEREST IN SOVIET AGRICULTURE

- The Soviet Union has 50,000 large, government operated farms. We have 2 million independent farm businesses or 40 farms to every one Soviet farm.
- About 20-25 percent of the Soviet farm output never reaches consumer because of poor transportation and storage facilities.
- Soviets ration meat - about 2 lbs. per person per month. Their average citizen spends 1/4 of income on food compared to less than 15 percent in the U.S.

FARM INCOME UP IN '86

A look at Montana's farm income situation shows why many have had trouble staying in business, but sharp improvement was seen in 1986. Montana's net farm income rose over $500 million from 1985 to 1986. The $235 million earned in 1986 was the highest since 1975 and follows three consecutive years of net losses. These figures show that each of Montana's 23,600 farms had net income of $9,941 in 1986.

The sharp improvement in 1986 was mostly due to an increase in government payments and a build up in farm product inventories. Cash receipts from marketings were actually down, and at the lowest level since 1977.

Improvement in net income was also made possible by a rollback in production expenses of about 11 percent during the past two years. Costs of feed, fuel, fertilizer and interest were sharply lower while other expenses held steady.

Government payments hit a record high $366 million in 1986, up 65% from 1985. If government payments were subtracted from net income, farmers would have lost about $5,600 per farm instead of netting $9,941.

Total cash receipts from farm marketings totaled $1,144.8 million in 1986, the lowest sales figure in ten years. Lower crop prices nearly offset a big increase in grain marketings while livestock marketings fell following two years of herd liquidations.

GROSS AND NET INCOME FROM FARMING: MONTANA 1982-1986 1/

ITEM	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
			-- Million Dollars --		
Cash Receipts from Marketings	1,552.4	1,487.4	1,368.2	1,226.0	1,144.8
Government Payments	116.9	230.3	239.6	220.9	366.1
Non-money Income	158.5	152.3	161.6	142.7	129.2
Other Farm Income	14.1	11.9	14.0	17.2	13.7
Total Gross Income	1,841.9	1,882.0	1,783.5	1,606.8	1,653.8
Farm Production Expenses	1,817.2	1,847.3	1,737.1	1,542.1	1,545.0
Realized Net Farm Income	24.7	34.7	46.4	64.7	108.8
Net Change in Farm Inventories	24.2	-50.5	-159.7	-336.9	125.8
Total Net Farm Income	48.9	-15.8	-113.3	-272.2	234.6

SOURCE: Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector, State Income and Balance Sheet Statistics, USDA-ERS.

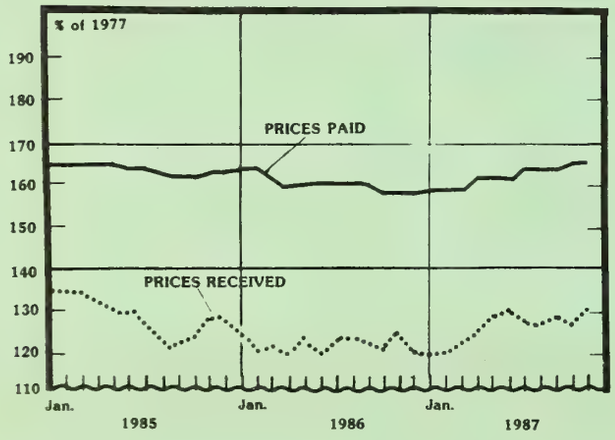
1/ Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

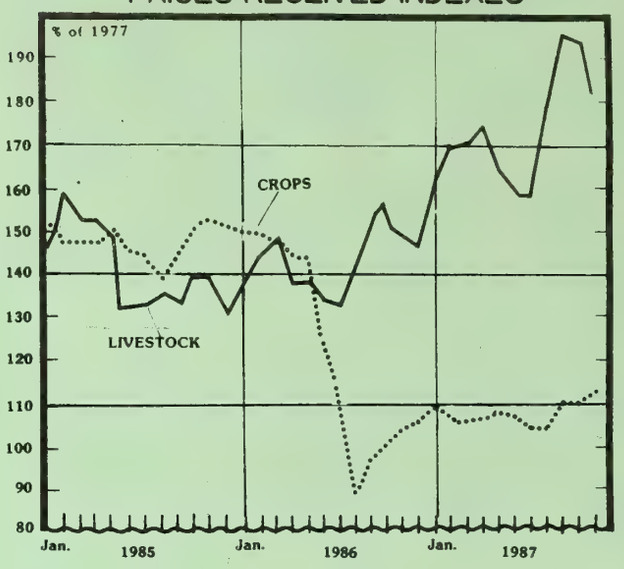
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1987	MONTANA Nov.15, 1987	U.S. Nov.15, 1987
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.36	2.50	2.55	2.48
Durum	Bu.	2.49	3.36	3.40	3.33
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.65	2.66	2.75	2.59
All Wheat	Bu.	2.53	2.66	2.73	2.59
Barley	Bu.	1.51	1.62	1.64	1.75
Oats	Bu.	1.42	1.37	1.35	1.60
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	52.00	47.00	47.00	64.70
All Other Hay	Ton	48.00	42.00	42.00	53.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	52.00	47.00	47.00	62.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	61.10	74.00	73.20	67.00
Cows	Cwt.	35.50	44.30	40.70	42.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	51.20	67.80	61.80	62.30
Calves	Cwt.	62.90	83.50	87.30	81.30
Sheep	Cwt.	22.40	28.40	27.60	31.10
Lambs	Cwt.	71.30	82.60	82.00	72.30
Hogs	Cwt.	44.60	43.00	35.00	40.80
All Milk	Cwt.	13.17	13.15	13.10	13.00
Eggs	Doz.	.63	.48	.53	.55
Wool 2/	Lb.	.75	1.05	1.05	1.05
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	129	153	150	131
All Crops	Pct.	105	110	113	119
Livestock & Products	Pct.	150	193	182	144

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Nov. 1986	Oct. 1987	Nov. 1987
Prices Received 1/	124	127	131
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	158	166	166 3/
Ratio (1977=100) 4/	78	77	79

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ October 1987 Prices Paid Index. 4/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Egg Production
December 1 Hog Inventory
Potato Stocks

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

October Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
CRP Halfway to Goal

OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 18% FROM 1986

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat in October 1987. This production is up 12 percent from the previous month but down 18 percent from the October 1986 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 2,100 head, was down about 600 head from last year, and total liveweight was down about 24 percent. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head, was down about 200 head from last year, and total liveweight was 7 percent below last year.

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. in October 1987 totaled 3.53 billion pounds, up 1 percent from October 1986. January-October red meat production, at 31.9 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 4; veal, down 18; pork, nearly the same; lamb and mutton, down 8. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 11 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

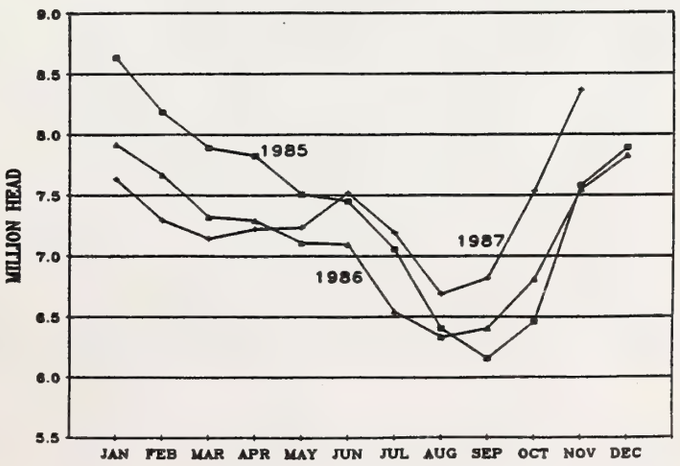
Cattle and calves on feed November 1, 1987 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.36 million head, up 11 percent from a year ago and 10 percent above November 1, 1985. This is the largest November number on feed since 1978.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during October totaled 1.69 million, 6 percent above last year and 7 percent above October two years ago. This is the largest number of October marketings since 1978.

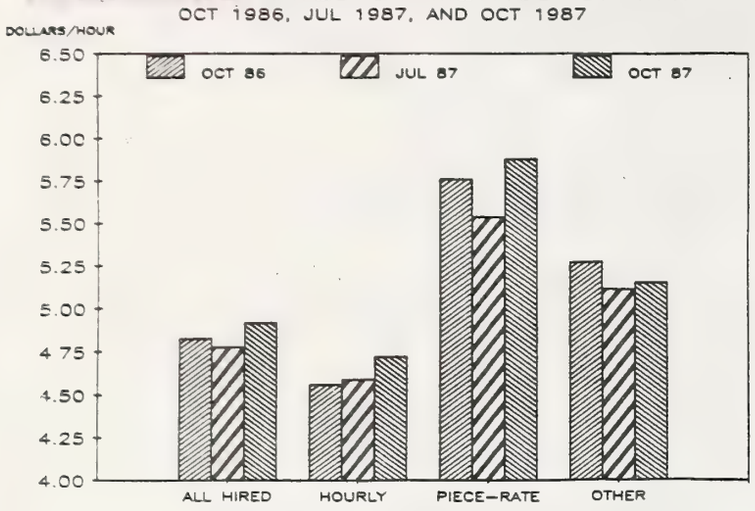
PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during October totaled 2.60 million, up 8 percent from last year but down 6 percent from October 1985. NET PLACEMENTS of 2.52 million for October are 8 percent above last year but 6 percent below 1985.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 85 thousand head, and compares with 81 thousand during October 1986 and is equal to the other disappearance during October 1985.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



U.S. WAGE RATES BY METHOD OF PAY
OCT 1986, JUL 1987, AND OCT 1987



NUMBER OF WORKERS UP - WAGE RATES INCREASE

A total of 3.07 million people worked on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 1987. This number compares with 3.04 million workers during the comparable survey week in 1986. The workforce was made up of 1.32 million self-employed farm operators, 524,000 unpaid workers and 997,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Rounding out the total were 227,000 agricultural service employees. Self-employed and hired worker numbers were both up 3 percent and 2 percent from last year, respectively. Unpaid workers and service workers were down.

The all hired farm worker wage rate in October was $4.92 per hour, up 9 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $4.72 per hour compared with $4.56 last October. Wage rates for field and livestock workers were $4.80 and $4.27, respectively. During October 1986, field workers made $4.61 while livestock workers earned $4.37.

During the October 1987 survey week, self-employeed persons worked an average of 46.6 hours, 2.1 hours less than in the comparable week in 1986. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, put in 37.3 hours compared with 37.0 a year earlier. Hired workers spent an average of 40.5 hours doing agricultural work, up 0.6 hour from October of last year.

Perquisites and other benefits such as housing and food were provided to 44 percent of the hired workers. Housing was furnished to 13 percent of the workers, unchanged from the October survey period a year ago.

FARM ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY WEEK

Corn and soybean harvests were intense during the survey week of October 11-17, 1987, even though rain slowed these activities in a few Corn Belt States.

Seventy-six percent of the Nation's corn corp was harvested compared with a 5-year average of 38 percent. Soybeans were 77 percent harvested compared with a 43 percent average. Winter wheat seeding advanced 8 points during the week to 87 percent completion, 13 points ahead of normal. Cotton was 46 percent harvested, 14 points above average. Slow maturity restricted cotton harvest in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Fall vegetable harvest and winter planting continued on schedule in Florida and fresh fruit harvest was on the increase. California grape and valencia orange harvests were virtually complete while desert grapefruit and fairchild tangerine harvests gained momentum. A hot, dry fall delayed Washington's apple harvest and concentrated picking of the crop into a shorter than normal period which peaked during the survey week.

CRP HALFWAY TO GOAL

The most recent signup period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), in July 1987, brought total signup to over 200,000 contracts covering almost 23 million acres. Contracts have been signed to retire about 2 million acres in fiscal 1986, 13.4 million in fiscal 1987, and 2.3 million in fiscal 1988.

During the July signup, 0.4 million acres for 1987 and 4.9 million for 1988 were accepted by USDA, but as yet they have not been contracted. Typically, about 7 percent of the acres accepted are not contracted.

Rental rates increased steadily from just over $42 per acre in the first signup period to over $51 by the fourth, then dropped to $48 in the most recent period. Much of the increase can be explained by changes in the geographical location of the acreage bid, and by farmers' increasing knowledge of their area's maximum acceptable rental rate, or bid cap.

For instance, following the first three signup periods, enrollment in the Corn Belt - where bid caps are highest - was only about 9 percent of the U.S. total. After the fourth signup, though, the Corn Belt accounted for over 15 percent. Enrollment in the Mountain region, where bid caps are relatively low, was over 27 percent of total U.S. enrollment following the third signup, but dropped to 21 percent after the fourth signup.

480 Million Tons of Soil Saved from Erosion

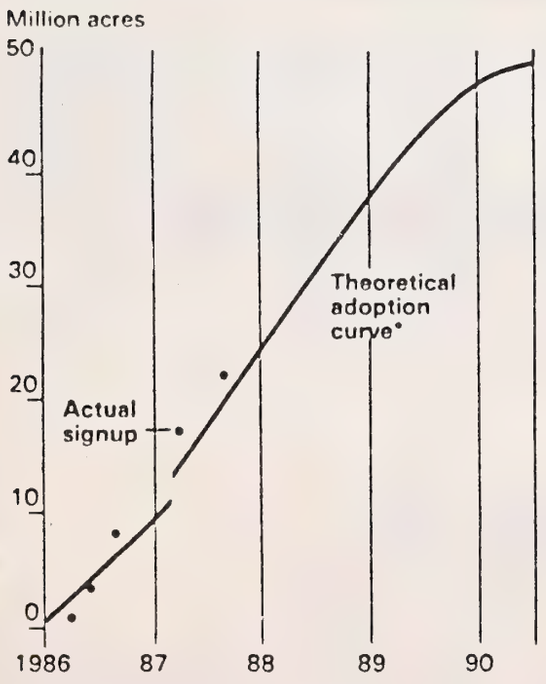
Annual erosion savings continued to decline, from 27 tons per acre in the second signup period to 19 tons in the fourth signup. The average for all acres enrolled to date is just over 21 tons per acre. Thus, the 23 million acres enrolled provide erosion savings of roughly 480 million tons annually.

The erosion savings are obtained by establishing permanent cover or implementing other specific soil conservation practices on the enrolled acreage. About 85 percent of the acres enrolled are to be covered with grass or legumes - about one-third of these native species. A little more than 5 percent will be placed in trees. About 4 percent will be used for wildlife habitat, while the remainder is already in grass or legumes or other conservation practices.

Participation in the CRP continues to be highest in the Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Mountain, and Pacific regions. The Mountain region enrolled over 51 percent of its available acreage (eligible acreage is constrained by the 25-percent per county limit unless an exception has been provided.)

The next highest level of participation occurs in the Pacific region, with over 43 percent of the available acreage enrolled, followed by the Northern and Southern Plains with just over 40 percent. Participants in the Northern Plains enrolled the greatest absolute amount, about 5.2 million acres, followed by the Mountain, Southern Plains, and Corn Belt regions with 4.8, 3.7, and 3.3 million acres, respectively.

CRP Signup Strong But Slowing



*Upward shift in theoretical adoption curve is due to expanded eligibility criteria adopted in February 1987

The percentage of cropland enrolled and the concentration of participation have a greater impact on the local, state, and regional economies than total acreage enrolled or the level of participation. The higher the percentage of cropland enrolled, and the greater the regional concentration, the greater the impact.

Only 576 of the 3,026 counties in the United States enrolled more than 6 percent of their total cropland in the CRP. Of these counties, 49 enrolled more than 25 percent of their total, based on total cropland estmates from the 1982 Census of Agriculture.

However, total cropland includes land used to produce hay, fallowed and idled land, and land where crop production failed. Because economic activity is based upon the volume of crops produced and marketed, the percentage of harvested cropland enrolled may be a better indicator of the magnitude of the impact.

Some 779 counties have enrolled more than 6 percent of harvested cropland, while 170 of these counties have enrolled more than 25 percent. Texas has 37 counties, or about 20 percent of its counties, with more than 25 percent of harvested cropland enrolled.

Other states with a large number of counties enrolling more than 25 percent of harvested cropland inlcude Colorado (15), Mississippi (13), Montana (11), and Kansas (10). Although New Mexico has only 7 counties with more than 25 percent of harvested cropland enrolled, these counties represent half the agricultural cropland in the state. Thus, the states just listed are likely to feel the greatest impact on their economies.

Two factors are primarily responsible for the concentration with states and regions. First, participation is greatest in areas with the greatest amount of eligible (highly erodible) cropland. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions have the most eligible cropland, over 40 percent of the U.S. total. However, the Mountain and Southern Plains regions, which have the third and fourth most eligible cropland, have the highest proportion of eligible to harvested cropland, with 36 and 31 percent, respectively.

Payment-to-Cash Rent Ratio Strongly Influences Participation

The second factor strongly influencing participation is the annual rental payment relative to the average cash rent in the area. The larger the annual rental rate compared with the average cash rent, the greater the participation.

To encourage participation in the program, the annual CRP rental payment must be at least as high as the cash rent a producer currently receives. This annual payment must cover the cash rent lost by enrolling, the cost of establishing and maintaining a permanent cover, and the risk associated with accepting a rental payment that will be less than future earning potential of the land. The average establishment cost is about $40 per acre, with an annual maintenance cost of about $12 per acre.

In general, participation is higher than the national average when the ratio of the annual CRP rental rate to average cash rent is 1.5 or greater. Exceptions to this occur in the Northeast and Pacific regions, as well as Minnesota and North Dakota.

Clearly, the continued increase in cash rents and land values in the Northeast region provides an explanation for that area's failure to follow the rule of thumb. Minnesota's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) conservation program, with state inducements augmenting Federal payments, may explain its heavy participation with lower bid-to-rent ratios.

The next (sixth) signup is scheduled in February 1988.

REGIONAL SIGNUP IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE, 1986 & 1987

Region	Total cropland	Harvested cropland	Available acres*	Area enrolled	Available accepted	Harvested accepted	Av. bid cap	cash rent	CRP rental rate	Bid/ rent	Bid cap/ rent
	Thousand acres				Percent		$/acres			Ratio	
Northeast	17,268	12,899	3.054	99.6	3.3	0.8	60	37	57	1.5	1.6
Appalachian	22,555	17,278	4,870	758.6	15.6	4.4	55	41	54	1.3	1.3
Southeast	18,449	13,387	2,865	989.2	34.5	7.4	45	29	42	1.4	1.6
Delta States	21,909	17,911	2,622	678.3	25.9	3.8	42	39	43	1.1	1.1
Corn Belt	92,421	82,353	16,582	3,269	19.7	4.0	72	83	69	0.8	0.9
Lake States	43,961	37,024	5,580	1,983.3	35.5	5.4	61	54	58	1.1	1.1
Northern Plains	93,633	71,665	12,857	5,194.5	40.4	7.2	49	31	47	1.5	1.6
Southern Plains	44,819	29,687	9,229	3,734.2	40.6	12.6	40	23	40	1.7	1.7
Mountain	43,219	25,704	9,371	4,791.7	51.1	18.6	41	19	41	2.2	2.2
Pacific	22,683	15,788	3,313	1,439.4	43.5	9.1	50	39	49	1.2	1.3
U.S.	420,917	323,697	70,343	22,946.5	32.6	7.1	50	46	49	1.1	1.1

*Eligible acreage constrained at 25 percent of county acreage.

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Dairy Products Mfg.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Pasture & Range Conditions
Pork Shortfall Benefited Beef
November Production by Districts
November All Wheat
November Crop Production
Monthly Prices
September Manufactured Dairy

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range condition on November 1 was rated mostly fair. Drier weather has reduced conditions statewide. Currently, at 78 percent of normal, the pasture and range condition is less than last month's 82 percent, and last year's 88 percent rating. Northwestern counties generally have the poorest conditions, while conditions in the south and east remain good to excellent.

NOVEMBER 1, 1987

Montana Pasture & Range Condition by District as a Percentage of Normal

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987
Northwest	75	95	68
North Central	63	93	77
Northeast	32	79	82
Central	59	93	75
Southwest	65	98	82
South Central	50	84	75
Southeast	42	74	84
STATE	54	88	78

PORK SHORTFALL BENEFITED BEEF

Beef producers benefited from smaller pork production. In the second quarter, beef output was 8 percent below a year earlier because of a 20-percent reduction in cow slaughter and a 2-percent drop in fed cattle marketings.

Beef production would have been even lower, but to make up for reduced pork supplies, packers bid up prices for fed cattle to get feeders to market them ahead of schedule. Fed cattle in the High Plains area were marketed 20 to 40 pounds lighter than a year earlier.

Prices for Choice fed steers at Omaha rose from near $60 per cwt in the winter quarter to over $70 in mid-spring. Fed cattle marketings began to rise in July because of large feeder cattle placements during the first half of 1987. Although prices declined to the middle $60's, cattle feeders continued a brisk marketing pace on the increasing supply of fed cattle.

The market will have to contend with record total meat production this fall and through at least 1988, if not well into 1989. This increase occurs as poultry production continues to expand and pork production continues the expansion begun this summer. Broiler and turkey prices are already well below a year ago, and hog prices declined sharply in late summer.

Beef production is expected to decline seasonally this fall to 4 percent below a year earlier. Fed beef supplies will decline but remain above a year earlier through mid-1988, while nonfed slaughter is expected to decline further. Further reductions in beef production will be very positive for the cattle sector. However, expanding supplies and lower prices of competing meats will intensify competition within the livestock sector.

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NOVEMBER PRODUCTION BY DISTRICTS, MONTANA

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	1,008.0	1,000.0	- 1	597.0	700.0	+17	4,198.0	3,350.0	-20
N CENT.	29,740.6	36,000.0	+21	32,609.4	30,900.0	- 5	43,520.0	47,300.0	+ 9
N EAST	6,723.5	7,500.0	+12	31,527.0	31,620.0	NC	10,517.0	11,880.0	+13
CENTRAL	12,571.0	18,200.0	+45	4,927.1	3,100.0	-37	14,316.5	17,640.0	+23
S WEST	1,773.0	2,800.0	+58	1,097.0	1,400.0	+28	4,634.0	5,520.0	+19
S CENT.	7,536.4	8,300.0	+10	1,233.0	1,200.0	- 3	5,877.0	5,940.0	+ 1
S EAST	4,647.5	5,400.0	+16	2,529.5	3,100.0	+23	1,957.5	2,870.0	+47
STATE	64,000.0	79,200.0	+24	74,520.0	72,020.0	- 3	85,020.0	94,500.0	+11

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

NOVEMBER ALL WHEAT - SELECTED STATES

SELECTED	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
	1986	Indv. 1987	1986	Indv. 1987	1986	Indv. 1987
	--000 Acres--		-- Bushels --		--000 Bushels--	
COLO	2,955	2,555	32.6	38.1	96,430	97,380
IDAHO	1,310	1,140	62.4	73.5	81,750	83,800
KANS	10,200	9,900	33.0	37.0	336,600	366,300
MINN	2,814	2,519	36.8	40.7	103,666	102,588
MONT	4,760	4,690	29.1	32.2	138,520	151,220
NEBR	2,000	1,950	38.0	44.0	76,000	85,800
N DAK	9,380	9,135	31.2	29.8	292,320	271,970
OKLA	5,200	4,800	29.0	27.0	150,800	129,600
OREG	1,025	810	57.0	65.3	58,405	52,920
S DAK	3,840	3,528	28.3	30.2	108,660	106,704
TEX	4,800	3,600	25.0	28.0	120,000	100,800
WASH	2,410	2,015	48.5	56.7	116,850	114,285
U.S.	60,723	55,914	34.4	37.6	2,091,635	2,104,967

NOVEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,000	2,200	32.0	36.0	64,000	79,200*
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	190	27.0	28.0	4,320	5,320*
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,300	27.0	29.0	70,200	66,700*
All Wheat	Bu.	4,760	4,690	29.1	32.2	138,520	151,220*
Corn for Grain	Bu.	13	10	115.0	115.0	1,495	1,150*
Oats	Bu.	90	110	46.0	48.0	4,140	5,280*
Barley	Bu.	2,180	2,100	39.0	45.0	85,020	94,500*
Dry Beans	Cwt.	4.5	5.6	21.6	17.5	97	98
Sugarbeets	Ton	47.0	49.2	21.7	22.0	1,020	1,082
Potatoes	Cwt.	7.7	7.9	290.0	290.0	2,233	2,291
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	1,240	2.30	2.50	2,990	3,100*
All Other Hay	Ton	950	950	1.40	1.30	1,330	1,235*
All Hay	Ton	2,250	2,190	1.92	1.98	4,320	4,335*
UNITED STATES							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,205	39,292	35.2	39.7	1,521,498	1,560,986
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,877	3,279	34.0	29.1	97,907	95,467
Spring Wheat	Bu.	14,641	13,343	32.3	33.6	472,230	448,514
All Wheat	Bu.	60,723	55,914	34.4	37.6	2,091,635	2,104,967
Corn for Grain	Bu.	69,189	59,553	119.3	120.3	8,252,834	7,166,020
Oats	Bu.	6,860	6,921	56.3	53.3	386,356	369,224
Barley	Bu.	12,007	10,022	50.8	51.7	610,522	518,124
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,495.0	1,675.4	15.3	15.4	22,898	25,874
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,191.3	1,248.3	21.2	22.2	25,224	27,666
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,036.2	1,089.6	307.0	315.0	317,771	342,742
All Potatoes	Cwt.	1,219.6	1,279.1	296.0	302.0	361,511	385,726
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,748	25,497	3.42	3.47	91,424	88,367
All Other Hay	Ton	35,526	34,706	1.80	1.88	63,847	65,350
All Hay	Ton	62,274	60,203	2.49	2.55	155,271	153,717

1986 MAY HAVE BEEN THE BOTTOM

The low point in the farm economy may have been fiscal 1986. Farm expenditures by the Government, as measured by net CCC outlays, reached an alltime high of $25.8 billion.

This happened in a year when farm foreclosures were high, the amount of debt at risk was extremely large, land values were dropping, and the export news was mostly bad. Farmers were harvesting near-record crops to sell at lower prices to a shrinking market. Crop receipts in 1986 were down $11 billion from 1985.

This all sounds discouraging for farmers, but farm income was record high last year, partly because income protection was in place. In 1986, net cash income was $52 billion, of which direct Government payments constituted $11.8 billion. Farmers were also helped by lower cash expenses.

The income picture is even better in 1987. Net cash income is forecast to be $54-$58 billion, helped by additional support, lower expenses, strong livestock receipts, and expanding exports. However, $14-$16 billion of this total is direct Government payments.

One feature of the farm act was to freeze target prices at 1985 levels in 1986 and 1987 and allow loan rates to drop. This maintained income protection while stimulating export and domestic sales. Target prices will fall slightly in 1988. Despite a flurry of new farm legislation introduced in 1987 to amend the 1985 act, it seems to be meeting the first of its original goals - income and exports are up.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Oct.15,	Oct.15,
		Oct. 1986	Sept. 1987	1987	1987
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.24	2.36	2.60	2.53
Durum	Bu.	2.38	3.34	3.55	3.32
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.47	2.61	2.70	2.61
All Wheat	Bu.	2.38	2.57	2.72	2.62
Barley	Bu.	1.45	2.09	1.98	1.77
Oats	Bu.	1.28	1.33	1.35	1.54
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	53.00	46.00	47.00	68.60
All Other Hay	Ton	49.00	41.00	42.00	53.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	53.00	46.00	47.00	65.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	60.20	71.60	71.60	67.80
Cows	Cwt.	35.10	45.90	45.90	44.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	54.60	67.90	67.70	63.50
Calves	Cwt.	62.90	88.30	85.20	84.30
Sheep	Cwt.	21.40	26.50	26.20	32.30
Lambs	Cwt.	64.10	81.30	83.50	74.90
Hogs	Cwt.	46.70	48.50	41.50	50.20
All Milk	Cwt.	13.30	12.75	13.15	12.80
Eggs	Doz.	.52	.60	.48	.41
Wool 2/	Lb.	.86	1.05	1.05	.872
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	130	156	156	127
All Crops	Pct.	100	111	115	106
Livestock & Products	Pct.	157	197	194	148

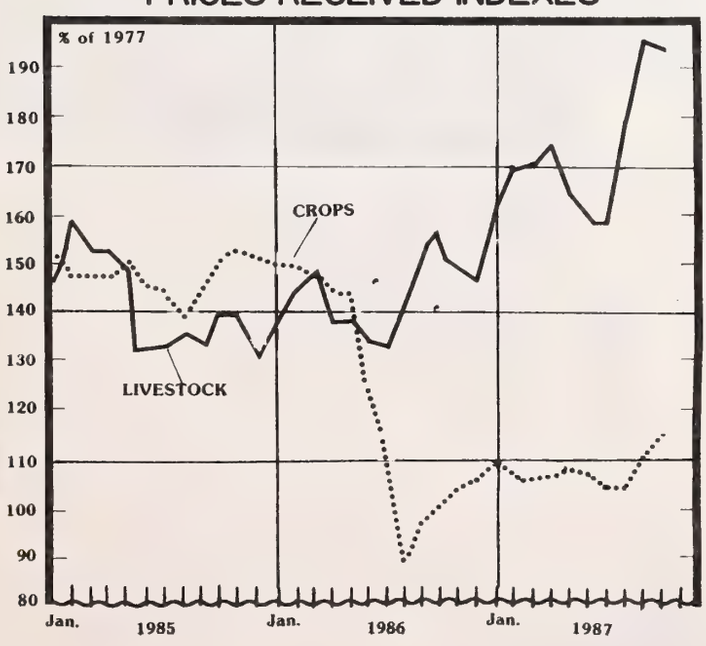
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

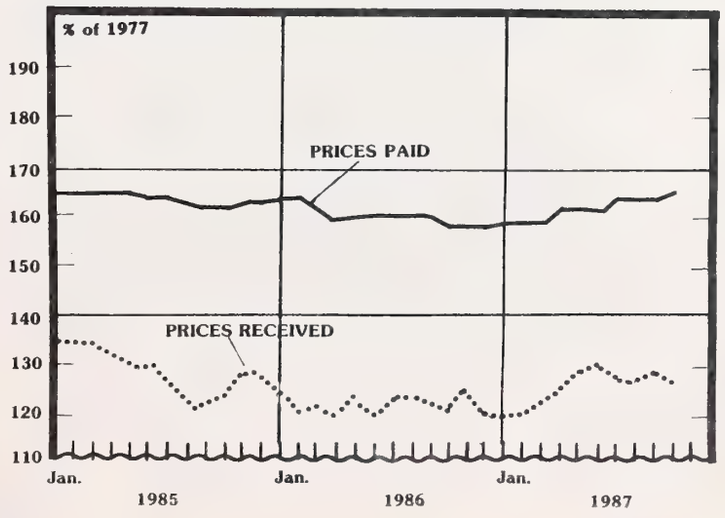
INDEX 1977 = 100	Oct. 1986	Sept. 1987	Oct. 1987
Prices Received 1/	121	129	127
Prices Paid (1977 = 100) 2/	158	164 3/	166
Ratio (1977 = 100) 4/	77	79	77

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ July 1987 Prices Paid Index. 4/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



SEPTEMBER MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 142,000 gallons of ice cream during September - a 4 percent increase from September 1986. Butter output totaled 116,000 pounds which was down 31 percent from one year ago. Creamed cottage cheese production at 315,000 pounds was up 4 percent.

The U.S. butter production in September was 78.1 million pounds, 3 percent below September last year, but 16 percent above August 1987. Creamed cottage cheese production was 55.9 million pounds, 3 percent below last year and last month.

September ice cream production, at 76.8 million gallons was up 3 percent from September 1986. Ice milk production was 28 million gallons, up 7 percent from last September. There was 3.8 million gallons of sherbet produced, up 4 percent from September 1986.

AG PRICES

Montana farm prices remained mostly strong in October, with lamb prices reaching a new record high. Farm prices in the state remain well above last year for most commodities. Compared with the previous month, prices for barley, beef cattle, sheep, calves, and eggs had modest declines while hog prices were reduced sharply. All other commodity prices increased or stayed the same.

The October All Farm Products Index of Prices Received, at 156 points (1977=100) is unchanged from last month's level, but is 26 points higher than last year.

The Livestock and Products Index, at 194, is 3 points lower than last month, but 37 points higher than last year.

The All Crops Index stood at 115 for the month -- 4 points higher than last month and 15 points higher than last year.

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MONTANA BEEF SITUATION POSITIVE

Meat is still the main course when it comes to meals served in this country. That's why consumers watch meat prices closely when filling their shopping carts.

Since last spring, meat supplies have been smaller than expected and prices higher. Pork production fell short of expectations and pork prices went up. That also helped Montana's beef producers. Beef packers bid up prices to move more beef into the marketplace.

Cattle feeders have plenty of low-priced feed available and they are looking for good calves to feed. They are paying the highest prices since 1979 here in Montana.

Beef supplies are expected to remain tight as ranchers rebuild herds. But, beef at the meat counter will continue to receive stiff price competition from pork and poultry.

Broiler and turkey supplies are up, so prices will probably drop lower. In fact, Thanksgiving turkeys should be a bargain this year. At the same time, lean beef is being recognized as important to a balanced, healthful diet. Of course, we knew that all along!

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Farm Labor

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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RELEASED: OCTOBER 30, 1987

HIGHLIGHTS:

September Livestock Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Dry Weather
Exports Rise
Wheat Classes

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER - SEPTEMBER 1987

Montana slaughter plants produced about 1.5 million pounds of red meat in September 1987. This production was down 9 percent from the previous month and was down 34 percent from the September 1986 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,800 head, was down about 1,300 head from last year. Total liveweight was down 39 percent from one year ago. Hog slaughter at 2,400 head, was down 4 percent from last year while total liveweight was down 7 percent.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in September totaled 3.33 billion pounds, up 2 percent from September 1986. January-September red meat production, at 28.3 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 4; Veal, down 18; Pork, down 1; Lamb and Mutton, down 8. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Several times each year we receive a note from a farm or ranch operator telling us they requested the survey results but they never got it. Has this ever happened to you? If so, perhaps this explanation will help.

Lets go back to the beginning. Our office conducts mail and telephone surveys to collect basic data used in estimating crop and livestock production, inventory, and price. When we contact you we usually ask if you would like to receive the survey results. If yes, your name is placed on the list to receive a copy of this publication, the "Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter", containing a story and sometimes a table showing the survey results that includes your data.

The "Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter" is issued twice each month. Some of you have asked to receive every issue, while others only receive an issue when it contains data of interest or survey results that you have requested.

Although survey results are always carried in the "Reporter", we have periodically issued special reports when the volume of information is high. Examples are: quarterly surveys on crop production, grain stocks and farm finance.

We try to provide you with the best possible service within our budget allocation. Please call us if you have questions or comments.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician

WORLD WHEAT CROP DOWN

World wheat production in 1987/88 is forecast to **fall 4 percent from** 1986/87 to 506 million tons, but the crop is still the **third largest on record.** Total foreign production is down 5 percent to 448 million tons. The big crop, combined with large carry-in stocks, will ensure continued strong competition and low export prices.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CATTLE ON FEED UP 10 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed October 1, 1987 for slaughter in the 13 Quarterly States totaled 8.99 million head, up 10 percent from October 1 last year and 13 percent above 1985.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.90 million steers and steer calves, 14 percent above last year and 20 percent above 1985. This group represented 66 percent of the total October number on feed compared with 63 percent in 1986. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.06 million, up 2 percent from both a year ago and 1985.

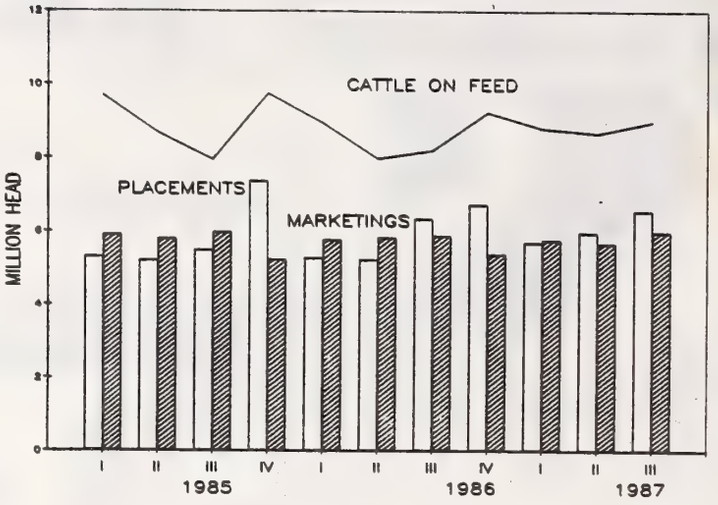
PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during the July-September quarter totaled 6.56 million, up 3 percent from last year and 20 percent above the comparable period in 1985. This is the largest third quarter placements since 1978. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE of 245 thousand head leaves NET PLACEMENT at 6.31 million.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle for slaughter during July-September totaled 5.99 million, 2 percent more than a year ago and slightly above 1985.

EXPECTED MARKETINGS FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 3%

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.51 million head during the October-December quarter of 1987. This would be 3 percent more than the fourth quarter marketings in 1986 and 6 percent more than in 1985.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

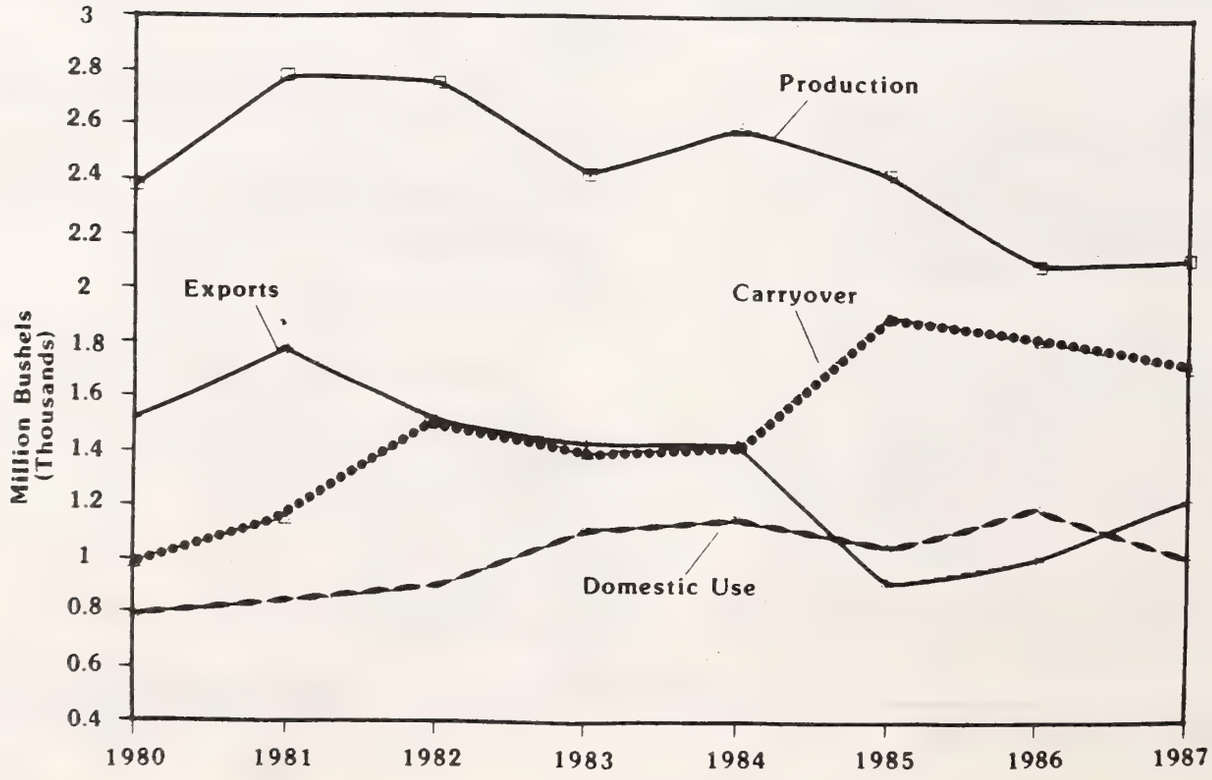


FEEDER DEMAND STRONG

Cattle herd liquidation over the last 5 years has largely ended in 1987, but expansion is not likely until at least 1988. However, a 4-percent reduction in beef production in 1987 has already resulted in fed cattle prices rising to an average of more than **$6 per cwt above a year ago.** These higher prices, plus a 30-percent drop in feed costs, have brought in a strong demand for the reduced supply of feeder cattle. Prices for stocker-feeder cattle in various weight groups at Kansas City show increases of $9 to $13 per cwt over 1985-86 averages.

U.S. WHEAT

Production, Use, and Carryover



MILK PRODUCTION

Montana's milk production during the third quarter of 1987 was 86 million pounds. This production reflects a 1.2 percent increase from the July-September period for 1986. Milk cow numbers declined 1,000 head from last year to 25,000.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1 averaged 15.5 pounds per head, an increase of 2.0 pounds from last year. The cost per hundredweight of these feeds dropped 35 cents to $6.20/cwt.

Nationally, milk production was up slightly at 35.8 billion pounds, compared with 35.6 in the period of July-September 1986. The average number of cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 10.4 million head, 2.7 percent below July-September last year.

MORE FORAGE FOR FEWER CATTLE

Forage conditions this year are good in almost all areas, particularly compared with the poor conditions in many places in 1982-86. Drought hit much of the Southern Great Plains in 1982-84 and the Southeast in the summer of 1986. Drought and poor forage conditions were also troublesome in parts of the West, most notably this past summer in the Pacific Northwest and California.

Pasture and range feed conditions on September 1 were rated 76, 3 points below a year ago but 3 above the 1976-85 average. While conditions are very favorable in most areas, the **drought in the far Western states continues.** Parts of the Southeast have also been dry, but recent rains should provide needed moisture to establish small grain pasture for fall and winter grazing.

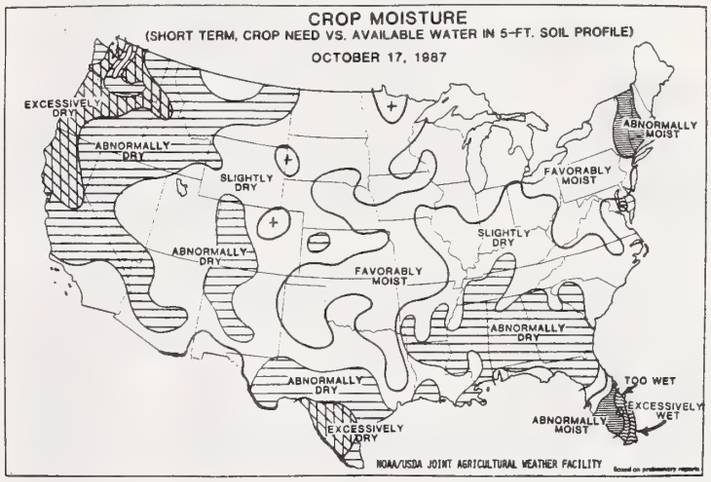
EXPORTS RISE

The forecast for U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1987 is for a value of $28 billion and a volume of 129 million tons. **Volume is up 18 percent** from a year earlier, but with lower prices, **value** is up less, **at 6 percent.** Still, the export trade balance is up about $2 billion. Exports are expected to expand again in 1988, gaining in both value and volume, as world agricultural trade rises and the United States maintains or widens its trade share.

MONTANA IS DRY

Montana's weather has been mostly dry since early September. By the end of October over two-thirds of the state had short topsoil moisture. Subsoil moisture was still mostly adequate. The dryness has not yet damaged winter wheat stands that were rated in late October as 1 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Dryness covers much of the western United States. In Montana, dry weather is good for livestock care, but leaves winter wheat vulnerable to wind and freeze damage.



BANK FAILURES INCREASE

Although net cash income is setting another record in the $54-$58 billion range this year, and the credit crunch appears to have passed its peak, bank failures are not abating. Commercial bank **failures** during the first half of this year **increased 50 percent** from a year earlier. Failures of banks in rural areas during January-June were the highest of any 6-month period in the 1980's. However, the proportion of rural bank failures to total failures is slightly below its 1985 peak.

U.S. WHEAT CLASSES: Marketing year supply and disappearance, 1985-87 1/

Year beginning June 1	Supply			Disappearance			Ending Stocks May 31
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Total 2/	Domestic Use	Exports	Total	
	Million Bushels						
1987/88 3/							
Hard Winter	967	1,026	1,993	460	625	1,085	908
Hard Spring	490	441	938	217	230	447	491
Soft Red	77	345	422	198	160	358	64
White	185	211	399	70	150	220	179
Durum	95	91	191	60	60	120	71
All Classes	1,815	2,114	3,944	1,005	1,225	2,230	1,714
1986/87							
Hard Winter	1,009	1,018	2,027	628	432	1,060	967
Hard Spring	498	451	956	266	200	466	490
Soft Red	79	290	369	177	115	292	77
White	198	232	437	77	175	252	185
Durum	121	95	223	46	82	128	95
All Classes	1,905	2,087	4,013	1,194	1,004	2,198	1,815
1985/86							
Hard Winter	717	1,230	1,947	543	395	938	1,009
Hard Spring	371	460	841	177	166	343	498
Soft Red	64	368	432	204	149	353	79
White	173	254	429	79	152	231	198
Durum	100	113	217	43	53	96	121
All Classes	1,425	2,425	3,866	1,046	915	1,961	1,905

1/ Data, except production, are approximations. Imports and exports include flour and products in wheat equivalent. 2/ Total supply includes imports. 3/ Projected.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Pasture & Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Pasture & Range
Ag Prices
Manufactured Dairy
Monthly Prices
Crop Production by Districts
All Wheat - Selected States
October Crop Production
Wheat & Barley Stocks

PASTURE & RANGE

Montana's pasture and range condition on October 1 was reported to be good to excellent. At 82 percent of normal the pasture and range condition compares with last month's 85 percent and last year's 82 percent. Some variation in pasture and range conditions exist statewide with the Northwest, Central, and Southcentral districts rated poor to fair, while the rest of the state rated good to excellent.

OCTOBER 1, 1987

Montana Pasture & Range Condition

By District as a Percentage of Normal

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987
Northwest	75	97	77
North Central	69	89	82
Northeast	30	74	85
Central	60	89	78
Southwest	61	91	87
South Central	43	78	78
Southeast	48	63	86
STATE	54	82	82

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 141,000 gallons of ice cream during August -- 28 percent less than in August 1986. Butter output for August totaled 92,000 pounds which was down 13 percent from one year ago. Creamed cottage cheese production at 312,000 pounds was down 8 percent.

Nationally, butter production was 67.6 million pounds, 3 percent below August last year and 11 percent below July 1987.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 57.5 million pounds, 6 percent below August last year and 3 percent below July 1987.

Ice cream production, at 85.3 million gallons was down 2 percent from August 1986. Ice milk production was 33.3 million gallons, up 3 percent from last August. There was 4.66 million gallons of sherbet produced, down 2 percent from August 1987.

AG PRICES

Agricultural prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers maintained a 3 month upward trend for most commodities in September. The All Farm Products Index (1977=100) for September at 152 is 10 points higher than the August index, and 25 points higher than last year. Higher livestock prices continue to support much of this general increase.

The Livestock and Products Index at 194, is 17 points above last month and 39 points above last year. Prices received for beef cattle, steers-heifers and calves are the highest since 1980.

The All Crops Index also strengthened to 106 -- 2 points higher than last month, and 9 points higher than last year's level. All crop prices increased from last month except those for barley and hay.

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OCTOBER PRODUCTION BY DISTRICTS, MONTANA

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	1,008.0	1,000.0	- 1	597.0	700.0	+17	4,198.0	3,350.0	-20
N CENT.	29,740.6	36,000.0	+21	32,609.4	30,900.0	- 5	43,520.0	47,300.0	+ 9
N EAST	6,723.5	7,500.0	+12	31,527.0	31,620.0	NC	10,517.0	11,880.0	+13
CENTRAL	12,571.0	18,200.0	+45	4,927.1	3,100.0	-37	14,316.5	17,640.0	+23
S WEST	1,773.0	2,800.0	+58	1,097.0	1,400.0	+28	4,634.0	5,520.0	+19
S CENT.	7,536.4	8,300.0	+10	1,233.0	1,200.0	- 3	5,877.0	5,940.0	+ 1
S EAST	4,647.5	5,400.0	+16	2,529.5	3,100.0	+23	1,957.5	2,870.0	+47
STATE	64,000.0	79,200.0	+24	74,520.0	72,020.0	- 3	85,020.0	94,500.0	+11

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

OCTOBER ALL WHEAT - SELECTED STATES

SELECTED	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
	1986	Indv. 1987	1986	Indv. 1987	1986	Indv. 1987
	--000 Acres--		-- Bushels --		--000 Bushels--	
COLO	2,955	2,555	32.6	38.1	96,430	97,380
IDAHO	1,310	1,140	62.4	73.5	81,750	83,800
KANS	10,200	9,900	33.0	37.0	336,600	366,300
MINN	2,814	2,519	36.8	40.7	103,666	102,588
MONT	4,760	4,690	29.1	32.2	138,520	151,220
NEBR	2,000	1,950	38.0	44.0	76,000	85,800
N DAK	9,380	9,135	31.2	29.8	292,320	271,970
OKLA	5,200	4,800	29.0	27.0	150,800	129,600
OREG	1,025	810	57.0	65.3	58,405	52,920
S DAK	3,840	3,528	28.3	30.2	108,660	106,704
TEX	4,800	3,600	25.0	28.0	120,000	100,800
WASH	2,410	2,015	48.5	56.7	116,850	114,285
U.S.	60,723	55,914	34.4	37.6	2,091,635	2,104,967

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987	
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,000	2,200	32.0	36.0	64,000	79,200	
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	190	27.0	28.0	4,320	5,320	
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,300	27.0	29.0	70,200	66,700	
All Wheat	Bu.	4,760	4,690	29.1	32.2	138,520	151,220	
Corn for Grain	Bu.	13	10	115.0	115.0	1,495	1,150	*
Oats	Bu.	90	110	46.0	48.0	4,140	5,280	
Barley	Bu.	2,180	2,100	39.0	45.0	85,020	94,500	
Dry Beans	Cwt	4.5	5.6	21.6	17.5	97	98	*
Sugarbeets	Ton	47.0	49.2	21.7	22.0	1,020	1,082	
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	1,240	2.30	2.50	2,990	3,100	
All Other Hay	Ton	950	950	1.40	1.30	1,330	1,235	
All Hay	Ton	2,250	2,190	1.92	1.98	4,320	4,335	
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,205	39,292	35.2	39.7	1,521,498	1,560,986	
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,877	3,279	34.0	29.1	97,907	95,467	
Spring Wheat	Bu.	14,641	13,343	32.3	33.6	472,230	448,514	
All Wheat	Bu.	60,723	55,914	34.4	37.6	2,091,635	2,104,967	
Corn for Grain	Bu.	69,189	59,553	119.3	119.9	8,252,834	7,139,255	
Oats	Bu.	6,860	6,921	56.3	53.4	386,356	369,704	
Barley	Bu.	12,007	10,022	50.8	51.7	610,522	518,124	
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,495.0	1,685.4	15.3	14.9	22,898	25,210	
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,191.3	1,248.3	21.2	21.9	25,224	27,343	
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,748	25,497	3.42	3.47	91,424	88,367	
All Other Hay	Ton	35,526	34,706	1.80	1.88	63,847	65,350	
All Hay	Ton	62,274	60,203	2.49	2.55	155,271	153,717	

*Carried forward from previous estimate.

MONTANA RANKS THIRD IN WHEAT PRODUCTION

Montana's 1987 wheat crop was one of the best ever. Only the crops of 1976, 1981 and 1982 were better, but the 1987 crop was good enough to rank third nationally! This year's all wheat yield at 32.2 bushels was second to the record 33.6 bushels produced in 1982.

The October 1 estimate of 2.2 million acres of winter wheat harvested is up 200,000 from both last year and the previous estimate. Changes were based upon results from the September Agricultural Survey. Hard spring wheat harvested acres, at 2.3 million, were unchanged, but were 300,000 acres less than 1986. Durum wheat harvested acreage, at 190,000 was down 10,000 from last month, but up 30,000 from 1986.

WORLD WHEAT TRADE

Total world wheat trade (July-June) is forecast at 94 million tons, 5 percent above 1986/87, but still 13 million tons below the 1984/85 record. Following last season's record crop, Canada had over 12 million tons of wheat in storage at the beginning of the year. These stocks should permit 1987/88 Canadian exports to nearly match 1986/87 shipments of 21 million tons. But Australia's stocks are much smaller than last year, and exports will drop with the smaller crop.

U.S. exports continue to expand with the assistance of Government programs. New U.S. initiatives extended under the Export Enhancement Program between July and the end of August include 1 million tons to China, 500,000 tons each to the Philippines, Poland, Egypt, and Morocco, and 300,000 tons each to Algeria, Brazil, and Colombia. U.S. shipments (July-June) for 1987/88 are expected to gain 18 percent to 33.5 million tons (1.2 billion bushels).

MONTANA'S RECORD BARLEY CROP RANKS SECOND IN U.S.

Barley produced in Montana set a new record. The yield of 45 bushels per acre was surpassed only by 1982's 49 bushels per acre. This year's production was 11 percent above the previous record set last year and, again, pushes Montana to second - behind North Dakota - in barley production.

Barley production is down slightly from the previous estimate because harvested acreage was reduced by 100,000 acres, but this reduction was offset by an increase of 2.0 bushels per acre in yield.

WHEAT STOCKS UP 13 PERCENT

Montana wheat stocks in all storage positions on September 1, 1987, totaled 212 million bushels, up 13 percent from a year ago. The current stocks level is the second highest on record.

Barley stocks in all positions reached 92.6 million bushels. There were no comparable stocks estimate made for barley in September of 1986.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS
In All Positions By District 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY	
	Sept.1, 1986	June 1, 1987*	Sept.1, 1987	June 1, 1987	Sept.1, 1987
	-----Million Bushels-----				
Northwest	1.9	.7	2.6	1.1	3.9
North Central	84.2	45.9	95.2	7.8	44.5
Northeast	46.3	25.2	53.0	3.5	10.6
Central	27.8	15.7	28.0	4.4	20.1
Southwest	5.7	3.1	6.3	1.5	4.4
South Central	10.4	6.8	16.0	1.3	6.4
Southeast	10.5	3.9	10.8	.4	2.7
STATE	186.8	102.2	212.0	20.0	92.6

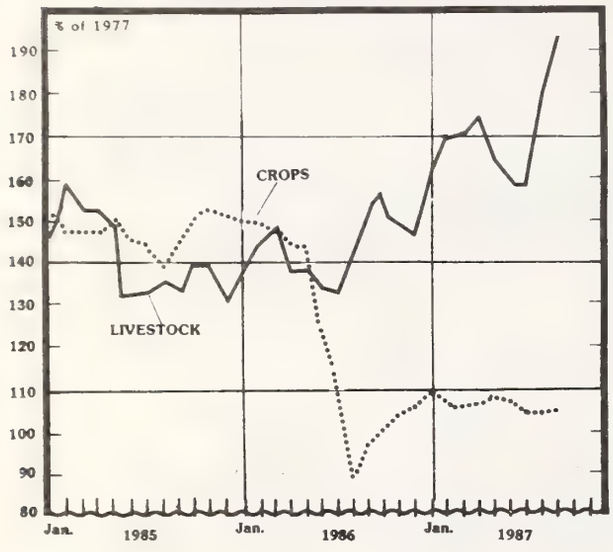
1/ These district estimates of stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

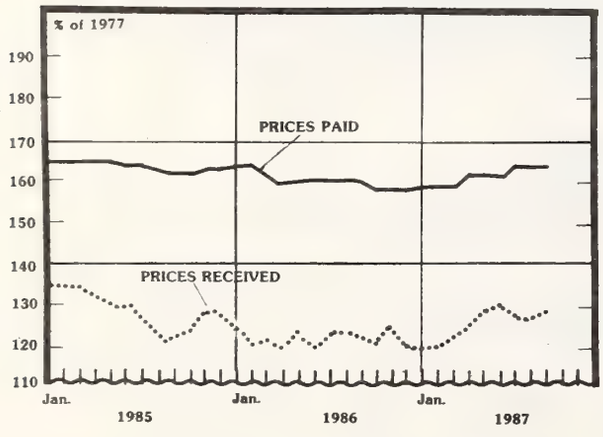
INDEX 1977 = 100	Sept. 1986	Aug. 1987	Sept. 1987
Prices Received 1/	122	127	129
Prices Paid (1977 = 100) 2/	159	164 3/	164
Ratio (1977 = 100) 4/	77	77	79

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates.
3/ July 1987 Prices Paid Index. 4/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1987	MONTANA Sept.15, 1987	U.S. Sept.15, 1987
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.19	2.31	2.42	2.43
Durum	Bu.	2.19	2.73	3.56	3.27
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.43	2.46	2.72	2.51
All Wheat	Bu.	2.32	2.38	2.53	2.52
Barley	Bu.	1.41	1.84	1.65	1.63
Oats	Bu.	1.05	1.26	1.31	1.44
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	51.00	47.00	46.00	68.80
All Other Hay	Ton	48.00	42.00	41.00	51.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	47.00	46.00	65.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	58.30	68.50	71.00	68.00
Cows	Cwt.	36.50	44.70	45.00	44.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	53.60	59.00	65.80	63.60
Calves	Cwt.	62.60	85.70	90.00	86.00
Sheep	Cwt.	21.70	28.70	26.50	29.70
Lambs	Cwt.	64.30	79.30	79.00	75.40
Hogs	Cwt.	49.20	47.70	52.00	53.60
All Milk	Cwt.	13.00	12.20	12.35	12.60
Eggs	Doz.	.57	.44	.60	.597
Wool 2/	Lb.	.83	.40	1.05	.882
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	127	142	152	129
All Crops	Pct.	97	104	106	106
Livestock & Products	Pct.	155	178	194	151

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

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Slaughter
Quarterly Milk Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
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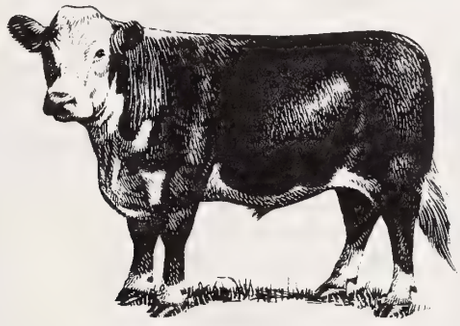
HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle & Calves On Feed
Wheat & Barley Movement
August Milk Production
Wheat & Grain Stocks
Hog Inventory
Quarterly Egg Production



RED MEAT DOWN 2 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced about 1.6 million pounds of red meat in August 1987. This production was down 2 percent from the previous month and is down 17 percent from the August 1986 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, was down about 700 head from last year. Total liveweight was down 27 percent from one year ago. Hog slaughter at 2,600 head, was up 4 percent from last year while total liveweight was up 3 percent.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in August 1987 totaled 3.13 billion pounds, down 1 percent from August 1986. January-August red meat production, at 25.0 billion pounds, was down 4 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 4; veal, down 19; pork, down 2; lamb and mutton, down 8. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED UP

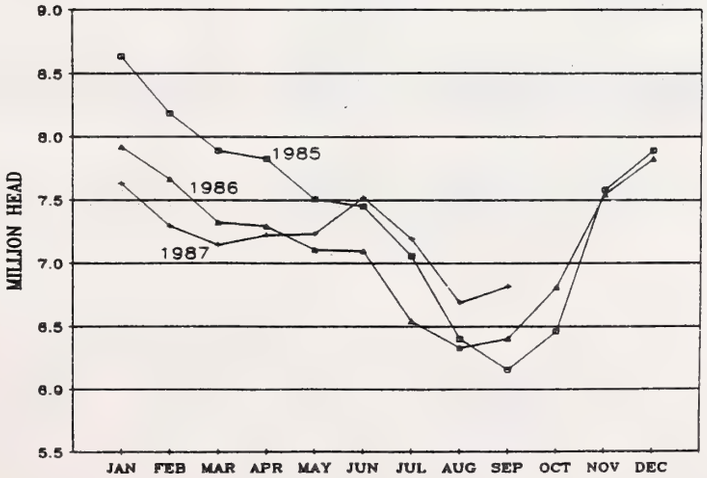
Cattle and calves on feed September 1, 1987 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.82 million head, up 6 percent from a year ago and 11 percent above September 1, 1985.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.70 million, 2 percent above last year and fractionally above August two years ago making this the largest August total since 7 states estimates were begun in 1972.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during August totaled 1.90 million, up 5 percent from last year, 26 percent above August 1985, and the largest number of August placements since 1972. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.83 million for August are 6 percent above last year and 26 percent above August two years ago.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 68 thousand head, compared with 70 thousand during August 1986 and 62 thousand during August 1985.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1986 - May 1987 at 59.0 million bushels was more than double the same period last year. Wheat exports from the state reflected production increases as most areas recovered from the 1985 drought.

Movement into eastern destinations, at 1.6 million bushels, was down 19 percent while shipment of 56.3 million bushels of wheat to western destinations was up 129 percent from a year earlier. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana at 1.1 million bushels, were down 25 percent from last year.

Wheat shipments to western destinations accounted for 95 percent of all out-of-state shipments, which compares with 88 percent in the December 1985 - May 1986 period.

Rail movements amounted to 83 percent of total shipments in the 1986-87 period compared with 73 percent the previous year.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations December 1986 - May 1987 was a record 31.4 million bushels. Rail movement accounted for 93 percent of total shipments, and 84 percent of the rail shipments went to western destinations.

In spite of increased total barley movement, truck shipments were down 24 percent from the comparable six-month period of 1985-86.

WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT	DECEMBER 1986 - MAY 1987				DECEMBER 1985 - MAY 1986	DECEMBER 1986 - MAY 1987
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Chg. from Last Year	Barley	Barley
	--(000 Bu.)--			%	--(000 Bu.)--	
Northwest	63	38	101	+20	67	622
North Central	15,769	13,166	28,925	+112	2,895	20,569
Northeast	2,393	10,877	13,270	+116	10	3,500
Central	6,182	2,407	8,589	+142	1,598	5,299
Southwest	553	166	719	-58	1,200	879
South Central	5,046	458	5,504	+201	249	262
Southeast	1,250	669	1,919	+ 69	6	221
Truck East	464	295	759	+32	221	146
Truck West	5,953	3,017	8,970	+35	2,049	1,717
Truck Other 3/	85	220	305	-26	508	250
TOTAL BY TRUCK	6,502	3,532	10,034	+31	2,778	2,113
Rail East	17	852	869	-40	616	4,289
Rail West	24,547	22,783	47,330	+164	2,619	24,588
Rail Other 3/	190	614	804	-25	12	362
TOTAL BY RAIL	24,754	24,249	49,003	+140	3,247	29,239
TOTAL GRAIN SHIPPED	31,256	27,781	59,037	+110	6,025	31,352

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown.

Grain Movement statistics are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee through the Montana Department of Agriculture.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION - 21 STATES

Milk production in the 21 selected states totaled 10.3 billion pounds. This was 1 percent more than production in these same states for August 1986.

During the April-June period the 21 selected states produced 85.2 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the 29 states not surveyed for September, followed the trend shown by the reporting states, the U.S. milk production would total about 12.0 billion pounds for August.

Production per cow in the 21 selected states averaged 1,171 pounds during August, 38 pounds above August 1986. Milk cows in the 21 states averaged 8.77 million head, 2 percent less than August last year and were virtually unchanged from the previous month.

WHEAT STOCKS UP 13 PERCENT

Montana wheat stocks in all storage positions on September 1, 1987, totaled 212 million bushels, up 13 percent from a year ago. The current stocks level is the second highest on record.

Winter wheat stocks totaled 105.6 million bushels -- up 9 percent from last year, and all spring wheat totaled 106.4 million, up 18 percent from September 1, 1986.

Barley stocks in all positions reached 92.6 million bushels. There were no comparable stocks estimate made for barley in September of 1986.

Nationally, wheat stocks in all positions on September 1, 1987, total 2.96 billion bushels, 6 percent less than stocks on hand September 1, 1986. Off-farm stocks are placed at 1.81 billion bushels, or 61 percent of all stocks. The off-farm level is 3 percent less than a year earlier. Wheat stored on farms is 1.15 billion bushels, down 11 percent from September 1 last year.

Durum wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 1987, is placed at 147 million bushels, down 17 percent from storages on September 1, 1986. Farm stocks total 94.1 million bushels, down 25 percent from last September 1. The indicated June-August 1987 disappearance from all positions is 38.5 million bushels, off one percent from the same period a year ago.

Old crop corn stored in all positions on September 1, 1987, is estimated at 4.88 billion bushels. Of the total stocks, 2.28 billion bushels were stored on the farm and 2.60 billion bushels were stored off the farm. Indicated disappearance from all storage positions during June-August 1987 totaled 1.45 billion bushels, up 53 percent from the comparable period last year.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept.1, 1986	June 1, 1987*	Sept 1, 1987	% Chg. '87/'86	Sept 1, 1986	June 1, 1987*	Sept 1, 1987
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	146,000	60,000	167,000	+14	1,293,000	560,000	1,145,000
Off Farms 1/	40,790	41,210	45,000	+10	1,861,559	1,260,904	1,812,973
T O T A L	186,790	101,210	212,000	+13	3,154,559	1,820,904	2,957,973
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	72,000	31,000	82,000	+14	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	24,602	24,466	23,600	- 4	--	--	--
T O T A L	96,602	55,466	105,600	+ 9	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	74,000	29,000	85,000	+15	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	16,188	16,744	21,400	+32	--	--	--
T O T A L	90,188	45,744	106,400	+18	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	124,800	49,305	94,100
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	52,874	45,259	52,678
T O T A L	9,175	4,748	10,600	+16	177,674	94,564	146,778
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,049,410	3,491,800	2,284,500
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	1,990,112	2,840,441	2,597,471
T O T A L 4/	--	--	--	--	4,039,522	6,332,241	4,881,971
OATS							
On Farms	--	1,200	--	--	--	103,300	--
Off Farms 1/	--	137	--	--	--	29,446	--
T O T A L	--	1,337	--	--	--	132,746	--
BARLEY							
On Farms	--	14,000	84,000	--	--	193,945	--
Off Farms 1/	--	5,964	8,600	--	--	141,673	--
T O T A L	--	19,964	92,600	--	--	355,618	--

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

HOG INVENTORY UP 9 PERCENT

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1987, in the 10 states conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 42.8 million head, 9 percent above last year. This is 2 percent larger than September 1, 1985, and the highest September 1 inventory since 1984.

The June-August 1987 pig crop was 17.5 million head, 11 percent above last year and 3 percent more than two years ago. There were 2.26 million sows that farrowed during June-August, up 11 percent from a year earlier and 3 percent more than the same period two years ago.

Hog producers in the 10 quarterly states intend to farrow 2.31 million sows during September-November of this year. This is up 7 percent from the actual farrowings during the comparable period in 1986, and 2 percent above 1985. Farrowing intentions for the December 1987-February 1988 quarter are 2.11 million head, 8 percent above a year earlier and 13 percent more than two years earlier.

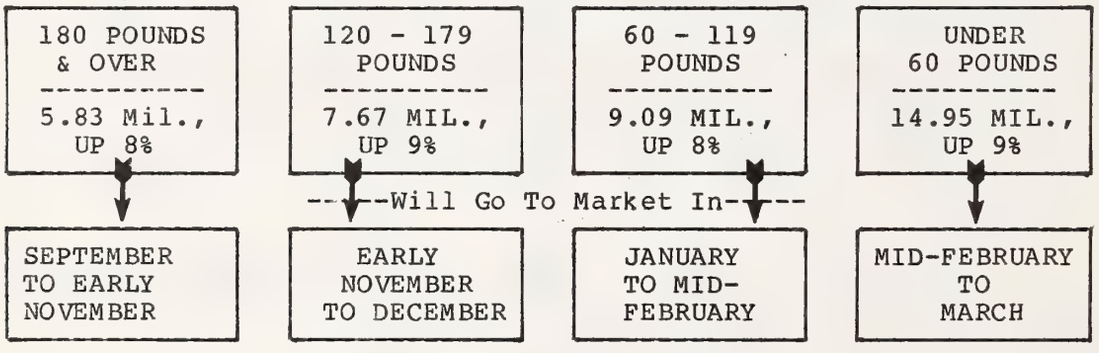
QUARTERLY EGG PRODUCTION UNCHANGED FROM 1986

Montana's poultrymen produced 52 million eggs during the June-August quarter equaling output for the same period last year, but down 2 percent from the previous quarter. The average number of layers on hand, at 788,000, is down about 1 percent from 1986. The rate of lay on September 1 averaged 66.0 eggs per 100 layers compared with 65.6 in 1986.

The nation's laying flocks produced 17.2 billion eggs during the June through August 1987 quarter, up 1 percent from the 17.0 billion produced during the corresponding quarter a year ago. Number of layers for the quarter averaged 277 million, 2 percent greater than the 273 million a year earlier.

All layers on September 1, 1987, totaled 278 million, up 2 percent from the 273 million a year ago. Layers on September 1 consisted of 242 million for table eggs and 36.6 million layers for hatching eggs. Rate of lay on September 1, for all layers, averaged 67.2 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 67.5 a year earlier.

September 1 10-State Market Hogs Compared to Last Year



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Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Sept 1st Crop Production
August Prices Received
Montana Third in CRP Acres
Manufactured Dairy
Meat Consumption Patterns Change

MONTANA FARMERS HARVEST LARGE CROPS

Farmers expect to harvest 144.5 million bushels of wheat this year, up 4 percent from last year, and a crop that ranks well above the 10 year average of 129.7 million. Acres for harvest at 4.5 million are 5 percent below last year and 8 percent below the 1977-86 average. The expected yield of 32.1 bushels per acre is the second highest on record.

Winter wheat production at 72.0 million bushels is up 13 percent from 1986, hard spring wheat at 66.7 million is down 5 percent, and durum at 5.8 million is up 4 percent.

For the nation, total wheat production is forecast at 2.11 billion bushels, up 1 percent from 1986 but down 1 percent from the August 1 forecast. Durum production is expected to be down 5 percent from both 1986 and August 1. Other spring wheat is down 3 percent from 1986 and 1 percent from August 1.

Montana's record large barley crop of 94.6 million bushels is unchanged from a month ago and is 11 percent larger than the 1986 crop. Oats production is forecast at 6.24 million bushels compared with 4.14 million last year. Production of all hay at 4.1 million tons is down 5 percent from 1986. Sugarbeet producers expect to harvest 1,082,000 tons in 1987 compared with 1,020,000 tons last year.

AUGUST PRICES

The 1987 August All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers increased 6 points from July. The index, at 139 percent of its 1977 average, stands 17 points higher than one year ago. Much of this overall increase was due to stronger livestock prices as crop prices for the period generally declined.

The Livestock and Products Index increased 14 points from July to reach 171 for August. All prices for commodities measured in this index increased, with the exception of wool, which remained unchanged. The largest monthly increase in livestock commodities were for beef cattle at $58.50/cwt, up $6.60 and lambs, $82.00/cwt., up $3.50. The August Livestock and Products Index was 27 points higher than one year ago.

The August Crops Index decreased one point from July to 104 percent. Prices for durum, barley, oats and hay were lower in August, while winter and spring wheat prices were higher. The August All Crops Index was 5 points higher than one year ago.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1987

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

by District as a Percentage of Normal

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987
Northwest	59	77	89
North Central	38	82	83
Northeast	25	70	88
Central	45	83	79
Southwest	52	90	95
South Central	42	73	79
Southeast	41	59	86
STATE	43	76	85

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MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS - SEPTEMBER 1, 1987

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	1,008.0	1,200.0	+19	597.0	700.0	+17	4,198.0	4,100.0	- 2
N CENT.	29,740.6	33,900.0	+14	32,609.4	28,900.0	-11	43,520.0	43,900.0	+ 1
N EAST	6,723.5	7,700.0	+15	31,527.0	32,900.0	+ 4	10,517.0	13,800.0	+31
CENTRAL	12,571.0	13,800.0	+10	4,927.1	4,200.0	-15	14,316.5	17,500.0	+22
S WEST	1,773.0	2,400.0	+35	1,097.0	1,300.0	+19	4,634.0	5,500.0	+19
S CENT.	7,536.4	7,800.0	+ 5	1,233.0	1,100.0	-11	5,877.0	6,300.0	+ 7
S EAST	4,647.5	5,200.0	+12	2,529.5	3,400.0	+34	1,957.5	3,500.0	+79
STATE	64,000.0	72,000.0	+13	74,520.0	72,500.0	- 3	85,020.0	94,600.0	+11

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

WHEAT PRODUCTION BY CLASSES - UNITED STATES 1/

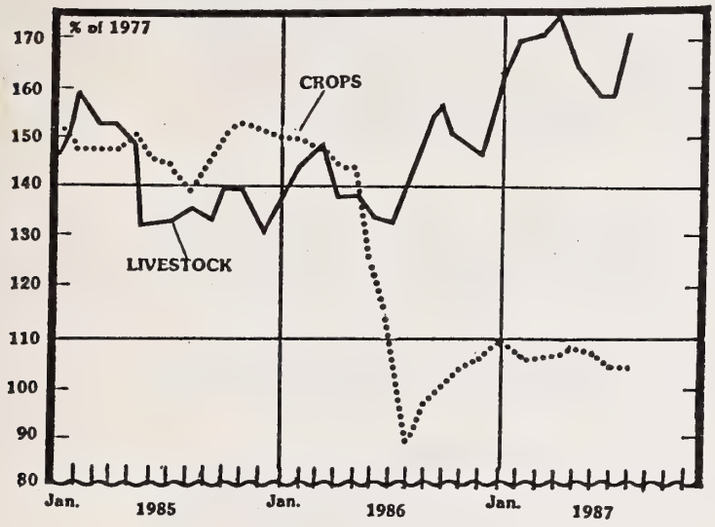
	1985	1986	1987 2/
		--1,000 Bushels --	
Winter Wheat			
Hard Red	1,230,075	1,017,831	1,026,421
Soft Red	368,417	290,095	345,297
White	229,123	211,217	195,316
Spring Wheat			
Hard Red	460,205	451,417	440,859
Durum	112,510	95,407	90,734
White	24,775	20,813	15,865
Total	2,425,105	2,086,780	2,114,492

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on variety acreage survey data collected at 5-year intervals for all wheat producing states. The 5-year varietal survey data are adjusted annually as other variety survey information becomes available.
2/ Indicated September 1, 1987.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION - Selected States

SELECTED	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
	1986	Indv. 1987	1986	Indv. 1987	1986	Indv. 1987
	--000 Acres--		-- Bushels --		--000 Bushels--	
COLO	2,955	2,560	32.6	39.7	96,430	101,700
IDAHO	1,310	1,140	62.4	67.2	81,750	76,600
KANS	10,200	9,800	33.0	38.0	336,600	372,400
MINN	2,814	2,519	36.8	43.6	103,666	109,759
MONT	4,760	4,500	29.1	32.1	138,520	144,500
NEBR	2,000	1,950	38.0	44.0	76,000	85,800
N DAK	9,380	8,726	30.9	30.5	289,820	266,158
OKLA	5,200	4,800	29.0	27.0	150,800	129,600
OREG	1,025	810	57.0	65.1	58,405	52,740
S DAK	3,840	3,505	28.3	31.2	108,660	109,445
TEX	4,800	3,800	25.0	28.0	120,000	106,400
WASH	2,410	2,015	48.5	56.2	116,850	113,335
U.S.	60,688	55,386	34.4	38.2	2,086,780	2,114,492

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



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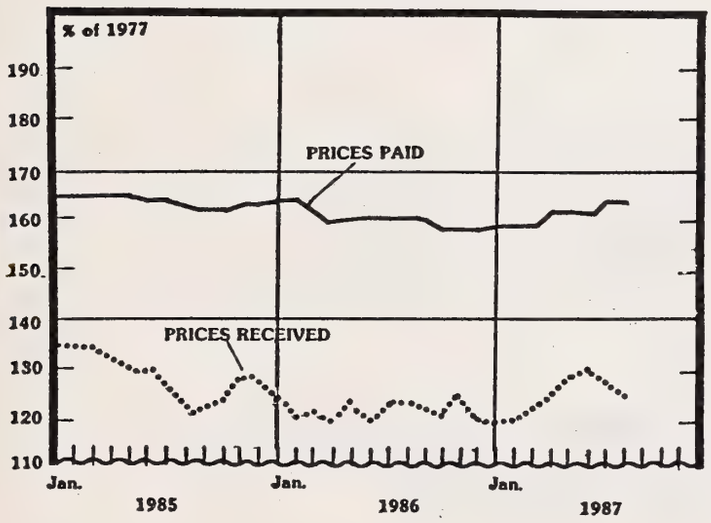

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1987	MONTANA Aug. 15, 1987	U.S. Aug. 15, 1987
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.20	2.29	2.30	2.25
Durum	Bu.	2.30	2.99	2.85	2.82
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.50	2.31	2.45	2.34
All Wheat	Bu.	2.33	2.34	2.40	2.31
Barley	Bu.	1.48	2.13	1.87	1.65
Oats	Bu.	1.14	1.22	1.20	1.36
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	55.00	50.00	47.00	64.60
All Other Hay	Ton	50.00	45.00	42.00	52.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	55.00	50.00	47.00	61.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	55.20	65.70	67.00	66.20
Cows	Cwt.	37.10	44.40	45.00	43.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	48.00	51.90	58.50	61.90
Calves	Cwt.	61.40	72.50	73.70	81.60
Sheep	Cwt.	27.70	28.40	29.00	28.60
Lambs	Cwt.	66.60	78.50	82.00	75.50
Hogs	Cwt.	53.20	53.90	55.00	58.80
All Milk	Cwt.	12.20	12.15	12.35	12.20
Eggs	Doz.	.590	.420	.440	.409
Wool 2/	Lb.	.810	1.050	1.050	.842
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	122	133	139	125
All Crops	Pct.	99	105	104	98
Livestock & Products	Pct.	144	157	171	150

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

CONSUMERS SHIFT MEAT PREFERENCES

U.S. consumers have changed the mix of meats they buy at the supermarket. Beef and veal consumption fell 16 pounds per person from 1976-86; pork consumption, however, rose 4 pounds and poultry consumption jumped 21 pounds.

Part of the pattern change is due to the relative price of beef and veal, pork, and poultry. Pork and poultry prices have increased much less than beef and veal. During the 10-year period, beef and veal prices jumped 65%; pork 37%, and poultry, 49%. In relation to beef and veal, poultry prices have declined.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	Aug. 1986	July 1987	Aug. 1987
Prices Received 1/	125	128	125
Prices Paid (1977 = 100) 2/	159	164 3/	164
Ratio (1977 = 100) 4/	79	78	76

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates.
3/ July 1987 Prices Paid Index. 4/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index.

Annual Per Capita Meat Consumption

(Retail Weight Equivalent)

	1976	1983	1984	1985	1986
	Pounds per Capita				
Beef & Veal	98	80	80	81	82
Pork	54	62	62	62	58
Poultry	52	65	67	70	73

MONTANA THIRD IN CRP ACRES

Montana farmers and ranchers have enrolled a total of 1,762,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) after five signup periods.

This is the third highest acreage in the nation following Texas and Kansas. Acres signed-up represent 20.5 percent of Montana's highly erodible cropland and about 11 percent of the total cropland. Average rental price paid to Montana participants was $37.31 per acre.

Counties are limited by program rules to enrolling no more than 25 percent of their total cropland. This is to limit adverse economic impact in those counties. Counties at or near the 25 percent level are Carter, Fallon, Golden Valley, Musselshell and Petroleum.

The U.S. is half way to its goal of signing 40-45 million acres of highly erodible cropland into the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program. In the fifth signup, conducted last month, farmers bid an additional 5,288,694 acres into CRP. USDA accepted 90 percent of the 5,862,948 acres offered. The 10 states bidding in the most land in this 5th signup were North Dakota, Montana, Kansas, Texas, South Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Colorado, in that order.

Nearly 23 million acres are now in the CRP Program. Of these, 17,707,306 acres were signed in the first four signups (3 last year and 1 earlier this year). There are 101,535,800 highly erodible U.S. cropland acres eligible for the program; of those, 22.6% -- 22,996,000 -- are now in the CRP Program.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 163,000 gallons of ice cream during July -- 26 percent less than in July 1986. Butter output for July totaled 97,500 pounds which was down 11 percent from last year. Creamed cottage cheese production at 327,000 pounds was down 9 percent.

Nationally, butter production was 79.1 million pounds, 1 percent below July last year and 5 percent below June 1987.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 58.2 million pounds, 8 percent below last year and 2 percent below June 1987.

Ice cream production, at 93.6 million gallons was up 2 percent from July 1986. Ice milk production was 37.0 million gallons, up 5 percent from last July. There was 5.41 million gallons of sherbet produced, down 6 percent from July 1986.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Helena, MT 59604
Phone 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Livestock Slaughter
Farmland Values
Wage Rates for Hired Workers
Egg Production
Milk Production

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat in July 1987. This production was up 2 percent from the previous month and is down 10 percent from July 1986.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 2,100 head was down 500 head from last year. Total liveweight of these cattle was down 12 percent from one year ago. Hog slaughter, at 2,200 head, was down 8 percent from last year and total liveweight was 6 percent below last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in July 1987 totaled 3.16 billion pounds, down 4 percent from July 1986. January - July red meat production, at 21.9 billion pounds, was down 4 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 5; Veal, down 17; Pork, down 3; Lamb and Mutton, down 9. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

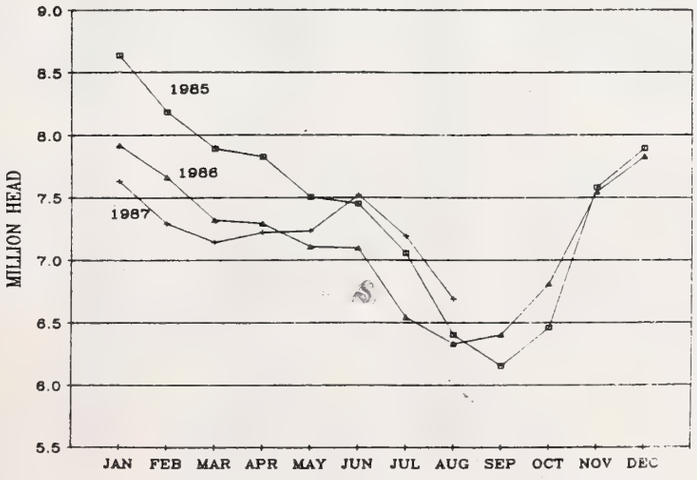
Cattle and calves on feed August 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.69 million head, up 6 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above August 1, 1985.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during July totaled 1.69 million head, slightly above last year and 1 percent above July two years ago. This is the greatest number marketed during July since 7 state estimates were begun in 1972.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during July totaled 1.26 million, down 18 percent from last year but 17 percent above July 1985. NET PLACEMENTS for July, of 1.19 million, are 20 percent below last year but 17 percent above July two years ago.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 74 thousand head, compared with 64 thousand during July 1986 and 61 thousand during July 1985.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



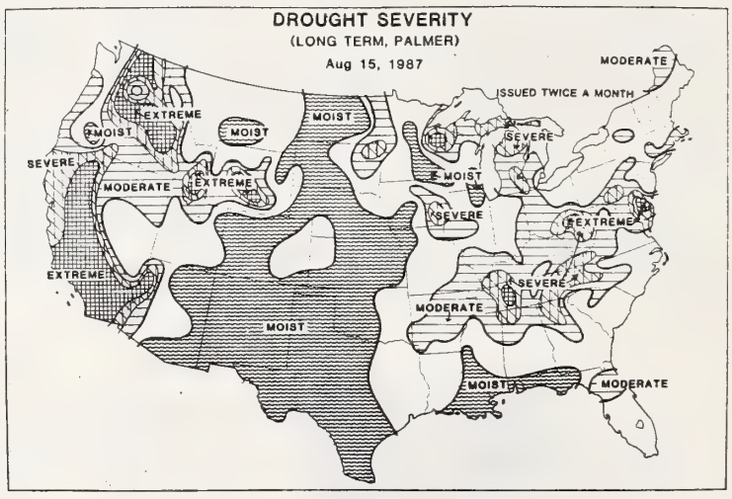
NUMBER OF WORKERS UNCHANGED - WAGES UP

During the week of July 12-18, 1987, there were 3.47 million people working on farms and ranches in the United States. This number was unchanged from July 1986. The workforce was comprised of 1.35 million self-employed farm operators, 587,000 unpaid workers, and 1.27 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees accounted for the remaining 258,000 workers.

The wage rate for all workers hired directly by farm operators was $4.78 per hours, up 21 cents from July last year. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $4.59 per hour compared with $4.46 last July. Field workers received an average of $4.60 per hour, up 21 cents from the July 1986 week. Livestock workers earned $4.29 per hour compared with $4.15 a year earlier.

During the July survey week, self-employed farm operators worked an average of 47.1 hours, 0.2 hours less than the comparable week in 1986. Unpaid workers averaged 39.0 hours, 0.1 hour less than last year. Hired employees worked 37.9 hours compared with 37.0 hours during July of last year.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 45 percent of the hired workers during the July 1987 survey week. Data from the 1986 farm costs and returns survey showed that the value of perquisites including insurance and retirement benefits, FICA and other compensation taxes, housing, and other non-cash benefits represented 14 percent of the total farm and ranch labor expenditures.



WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES & REGIONS, JULY 12-18, 1987 1/

State and Region 2/	Type of Worker					Method of Pay		
	Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece Rate	Other
	---Dollars per hour---							
Northeast I	4.59	3.90	4.34	6.67	3/	4.88	3/	3.97
Northeast II	5.13	4.17	4.91	8.10	7.39	4.92	8.02	5.75
Appalachian I	3.84	4.51	3.97	8.13	3/	3.90	3/	5.31
Appalachian II	3.69	4.17	3.89	6.61	3/	3.79	3/	4.87
Southeast	3.63	4.43	3.87	7.06	4.86	3.93	4.46	4.39
Florida	4.51	5.17	4.62	9.23	6.70	4.62	4.89	7.45
Lake	4.51	3.69	4.17	7.01	3/	4.47	4.50	3.89
Cornbelt I	4.77	4.68	4.74	7.46	3/	4.75	3/	5.80
Cornbelt II	4.00	4.70	4.22	8.18	3/	4.35	3/	5.28
Delta	3.83	4.10	3.90	6.39	3/	3.93	3/	4.41
Northern Plains	4.35	4.32	4.34	6.54	5.44	4.67	5.54	4.27
Southern Plains	3.90	4.23	4.02	7.47	3/	3.90	3/	4.97
Mountain I	4.03	3.58	3.94	5.37	3/	3.98	4.74	3.92
Mountain II	4.31	3.67	4.15	6.09	3/	4.41	3/	4.17
Mountain III	4.07	4.09	4.07	6.56	3/	4.13	3/	4.90
Pacific	4.90	5.37	4.94	7.34	3/	4.96	4.63	5.73
California	5.54	5.93	5.58	10.10	3/	5.39	6.60	8.25
Hawaii	7.93	3/	7.82	11.24	7.88	7.72	3/	10.71
U.S.	4.60	4.29	4.52	7.79	6.40	4.59	5.54	5.11

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data.

FARMLAND VALUES

After falling for 5 straight years, U.S. land values showed some stability in early 1987. Surveys taken since February indicate that the downturn may have been halted. A May 1 survey of rural appraisers and several surveys by Federal Reserve Banks in April noted a leveling in values in areas where values were still falling late last year. As of February 1, 1987, the value of U.S. farm and ranch land averaged $548 an acre, down from $595 a year earlier and 33 percent below the 1982 peak of $823.

Optimism about the land market stems from expectations of another year of high net cash income and low interest rates. Net cash income is expected to rise mainly because of reduced expenditures and higher Government payments, which will offset lower commodity receipts. Interest costs will decline with reduced farm debt and lower rates. Although interest rates may climb this year, they are below 1986 levels. Higher net cash income and reduced interest rates on farm mortgages will enable more farmers to finance land purchases. Also, high rent-to-value ratios may attract nonfarm investors to the farm real estate market.

The large supply of farmland on the market could put downward pressure on values. Although prices were maintained on land sold by the Farm Credit System early this year, millions of acres acquired by lenders remain to be disposed of, and new land is still being added to lender inventories. In addition, downward pressure on values could intensify if price supports or other Government programs are cut back, because much of the anticipated rise in farmers' net cash income this year is based on Government payments.

Overall, farmland values for the remainder of 1987 and early 1988 probably will continue to show stability. In the longer run, values will be influenced by technological changes and forces in the U.S. and global economy. Farmland values probably will increase somewhat toward the end of the decade, but large changes are not expected.

FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES 1/

STATE	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
	----------Dollars----------							
CORN BELT								
Ohio	1,730	1,831	1,629	1,504	1,444	1,126	1,013	942
Indiana	1,863	2,031	1,804	1,610	1,594	1,259	1,058	931
Illinois	2,041	2,188	2,023	1,837	1,800	1,314	1,143	1,040
Iowa	1,840	1,999	1,889	1,684	1,499	1,064	841	748
Missouri	902	990	945	856	856	659	606	552
NORTHERN PLAINS								
North Dakota	405	436	455	439	439	360	317	282
South Dakota	292	329	349	348	338	250	215	178
Nebraska	635	729	730	701	617	444	364	335
Kansas	587	619	628	601	583	466	387	340
MOUNTAIN STATES								
Montana	235	251	271	259	264	222	204	167
Idaho	698	774	839	814	814	749	644	567
Wyoming	161	180	193	193	197	177	154	151
Colorado	387	434	451	454	468	435	357	364
New Mexico	185	192	195	178	182	163	134	122
Arizona	267	287	302	289	295	265	231	242
Utah	530	567	589	560	571	514	478	454
Nevada	248	262	268	249	254	229	199	211
PACIFIC STATES								
Washington	736	877	922	933	961	923	812	723
Oregon	587	668	705	705	698	579	521	479
California	1,424	1,732	1,900	1,918	1,918	1,726	1,571	1,366
48 STATES	737	819	823	788	782	679	595	548

1/ Average value per acre of land and buildings, selected states & U.S. Feb. 1, 1980-81; April 1, 1982-85; & Feb. 1, 1986-87.

20 STATE EGG PRODUCTION & LAYER NUMBERS UP

Laying flocks in the nation's 20 major egg production states produced 4.80 billion eggs during July 1987, up 1 percent from the 4.75 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.19 billion table or commercial type eggs and 610 million hatching eggs. The number of layers producing table and hatching eggs during July averaged 229 million compared with 227 million a year ago. Egg production per 100 layers for the laying flock was 2,093 eggs compared with 2,095 for 1986.

All layers on August 1, 1987, in the 20 states totaled 230 million, 1 percent above the 227 million a year earlier. The 230 million layers consisted of 199 million for table or commercial type eggs and 31.8 million for hatching eggs. Rate of lay on August 1, 1987, for all layers, averaged 66.9 eggs per 100 layers, the same as a year ago.

During the 3-month period, March through May 1987, the 20 monthly states produced 83.6 percent of the U.S. egg production. If producers in the remaining 30 states not surveyed on August 1 followed the same production trend indicated by the 20 states, U.S. egg production would have totaled about 5.74 billion for July compared with 5.70 billion for July 1986. The monthly states accounted for about 83.2 percent of the average number of layers during the last quarter. If producers in the remaining 30 states followed the same trend, the average number of layers in the U.S. during July would have totaled about 276 million, compared with 272 million a year ago.

JULY MILK PRODUCTION - 21 STATES

Milk production during July 1987 in the 21 selected states totaled 10.4 billion pounds. This was about the same as production in these same states a year earlier.

During the April-June period the 21 selected states produced 85.2 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed for August 1, followed the trend shown by the reporting states, the U.S. milk production would total about 12.2 billion pounds for July. Production per cow in the 21 selected states averaged 1,188 pounds during July, 29 pounds above July 1986.

The average number of milk cows during July 1987 in the 21 selected states was 8.79 million head, 14 thousand head more than a month earlier but 247 thousand head fewer than July 1986.

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Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Pasture & Range Conditions
Small Grain Prospects Excellent
Crop Production
All Wheat
Montana Production Forecast
Monthly Prices
Number of Farms & Land in Farms
Montana Cash Receipts

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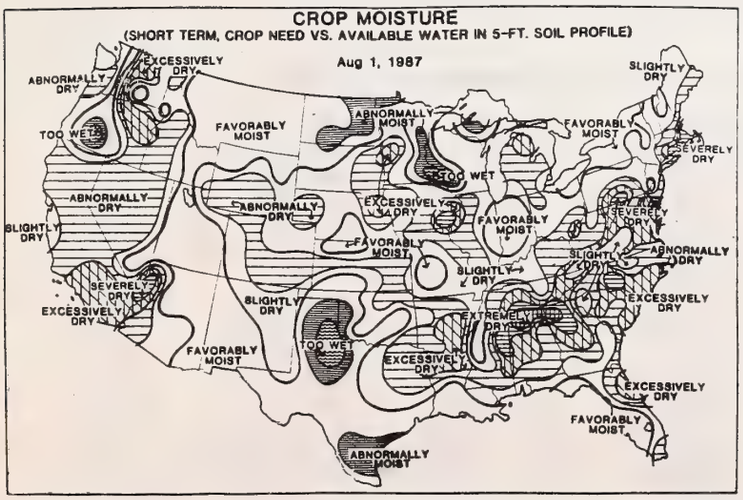
MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

By Districts as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987
Northwest	43	93	84
North Central	26	91	76
Northeast	20	80	86
Central	27	93	84
Southwest	50	92	94
South Central	32	83	80
Southeast	29	72	79
STATE	32	86	83



SMALL GRAIN PROSPECTS EXCELLENT

The 1987 Montana **wheat** crop is forecast at 142.0 million bushels, up nearly 3 percent from a year earlier and the largest crop since 1982. Producers expect an average yield of 31.6 bushels per acre compared with 29.1 last year and 33.6 in 1982. **Winter wheat** production forecast at 72.0 million bushels moved up 6.0 million bushels from July's forecast and is 13 percent larger than the 1986 crop. The average yield is 36.0 bushels per acre compared with 32.0 bushels realized last season. The first forecast of **hard spring wheat** is 64.4 million bushels with an average yield of 28.0 bushels per acre. A year ago producers harvested 70.2 million bushels and averaged 27.0 bushels per acre. **Durum wheat** production at 5.6 million bushels is up 30 percent from 1986. The expected yield, at 28.0 bushels per acre, is one bushel above the 1986 average.

Montana's **barley** crop is forecast at a record high 94.6 million bushels, up 11 percent from the previous record set in 1986. Yield is forecast at 43.0 bushels compared with 39.0 a year ago. **Oats** production, at 6.24 million bushels, compares with 4.14 million bushels produced in 1986. **All hay** production of nearly 4.1 million tons is down 5 percent from last year. **Sugarbeet** growers expect to harvest 1,082,000 tons in 1987 compared with 1,020,000 tons in 1986. **Corn** production is projected at 1.15 million bushels - nearly 23 percent less than last year's production. **Dry bean** production at 98,000 cwt. is up 1 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, **all wheat** production is forecast at 2.13 billion bushels, up 2 percent from 1986. Harvested area for grain, at 55.4 million acres is off 9 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 38.4 bushels per acre, 4.0 bushels above last year's average.

The U.S. **barley** crop is expected to be 518.4 million bushels, down 15 percent from last year's record crop. Harvested acreage is expected to be 10.1 million acres compared with 12.0 million in 1986. Average yield is forecast at 51.2 bushels per acre, slightly above 1986.

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CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1987

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --				- 000 Bushels -	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,000	2,000	32.0	36.0	64,000	72,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	200	27.0	28.0	4,320	5,600
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,300	27.0	28.0	70,200	64,400
All Wheat	Bu.	4,760	4,500	29.1	31.6	138,520	142,000
Corn for Grain	Bu.	13	10	115.0	115.0	1,495	1,150
Oats	Bu.	90	130	46.0	48.0	4,140	6,240
Barley	Bu.	2,180	2,200	39.0	43.0	85,020	94,600
Dry Beans	Cwt	4.5	5.6	21.6	17.5	97	98
Sugarbeets	Ton	47.0	49.2	21.7	22.0	1,020	1,082
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	1,240	2.30	2.30	2,990	2,852
All Other Hay	Ton	950	950	1.40	1.30	1,330	1,235
All Hay	Ton	2,250	2,190	1.92	1.87	4,320	4,087
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --				- 000 Bushels -	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,170	39,152	35.2	40.0	1,519,143	1,567,034
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,877	3,086	33.2	31.1	95,407	95,939
Spring Wheat	Bu.	14,641	13,148	32.3	35.1	472,230	462,124
All Wheat	Bu.	60,688	55,386	34.4	38.4	2,086,780	2,125,097
Corn for Grain	Bu.	69,189	59,553	119.3	121.4	8,252,834	7,230,950
Oats	Bu.	6,870	7,290	56.0	53.9	384,546	392,843
Barley	Bu.	12,007	10,128	50.8	51.2	610,497	518,423
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,495.0	1,704.4	15.3	14.6	22,898	24,898
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,191.3	1,250.7	21.2	21.6	25,224	27,045
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,748	25,497	3.42	3.38	91,424	86,109
All Other Hay	Ton	35,526	34,706	1.80	1.86	63,847	64,689
All Hay	Ton	62,274	60,203	2.49	2.50	155,271	150,798

ALL WHEAT - SELECTED STATES

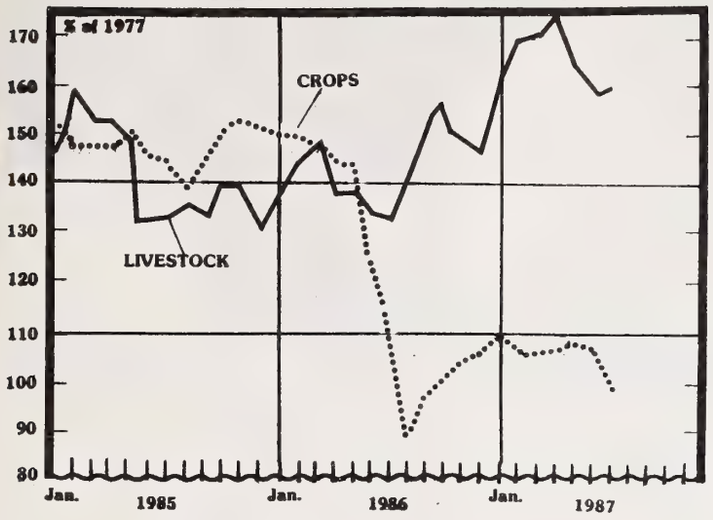
SELECTED	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
	1986	1987	1986	1987	1986	1987
	--000 Acres--				--000 Bushels--	
COLO	2,955	2,560	32.6	39.7	96,430	101,700
IDAHO	1,310	1,140	62.4	67.2	81,750	76,600
KANS	10,200	9,800	33.0	38.0	336,600	372,400
MINN	2,814	2,519	36.8	43.6	103,666	109,759
MONT	4,760	4,500	29.1	31.6	138,520	142,000
NEBR	2,000	1,950	38.0	44.0	76,000	85,800
N DAK	9,380	8,726	30.9	31.8	289,820	277,358
OKLA	5,200	4,800	29.0	27.0	150,800	129,600
OREG	1,025	810	57.0	65.1	58,405	52,740
S DAK	3,840	3,505	28.3	31.8	108,660	111,350
TEX	4,800	3,800	25.0	28.0	120,000	106,400
WASH	2,410	2,015	48.5	56.2	116,850	113,335
U.S.	60,688	55,386	34.4	38.4	2,086,780	2,125,097

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS - AUGUST 1, 1987 1/

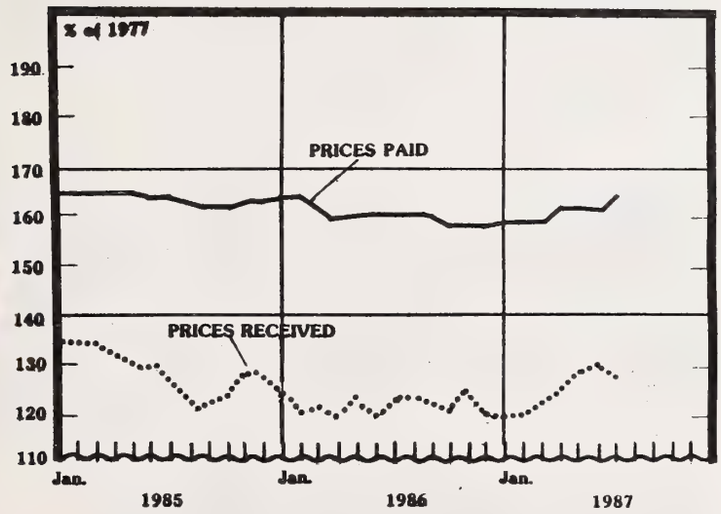
DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.	1986	Ind. 1987	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	1,008.0	1,200.0	+19	597.0	630.0	+ 6	4,198.0	4,100.0	- 2
N CENT.	29,740.6	33,900.0	+14	32,609.4	28,720.0	-12	43,520.0	43,900.0	+ 1
N EAST	6,723.5	7,700.0	+15	31,527.0	30,920.0	- 2	10,517.0	13,800.0	+31
CENTRAL	12,571.0	13,800.0	+10	4,927.1	4,450.0	-10	14,316.5	17,500.0	+22
S WEST	1,773.0	2,400.0	+35	1,097.0	1,200.0	+ 9	4,634.0	5,500.0	+19
S CENT.	7,536.4	7,800.0	+ 5	1,233.0	1,050.0	-15	5,877.0	6,300.0	+ 7
S EAST	4,647.5	5,200.0	+12	2,529.5	3,030.0	+20	1,957.5	3,500.0	+79
STATE	64,000.0	72,000.0	+13	74,520.0	70,000.0	- 6	85,020.0	94,600.0	+11

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1987	MONTANA July 15, 1987	U.S. July 15, 1987
		----------	Dollars	----------	
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.43	2.52	2.25	2.28
Durum	Bu.	2.75	3.22	2.75	2.71
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.87	2.56	2.50	2.40
All Wheat	Bu.	2.62	2.57	2.37	2.30
Barley	Bu.	2.20	1.63	1.48	1.55
Oats	Bu.	1.07	1.59	1.50	1.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	55.00	50.00	50.00	65.70
All Other Hay	Ton	50.00	45.00	45.00	49.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	55.00	50.00	50.00	61.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	51.80	65.30	65.00	66.60
Cows	Cwt.	37.30	44.60	45.10	44.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	43.10	51.80	52.10	62.30
Calves	Cwt.	58.30	74.50	74.50	80.70
Sheep	Cwt.	22.00	28.50	28.00	26.10
Lambs	Cwt.	70.80	81.60	77.00	78.30
Hogs	Cwt.	50.40	52.90	54.40	59.40
All Milk	Cwt.	12.31	11.80	11.85	11.90
Eggs	Doz.	.530	.480	.420	.418
Wool 2/	Lb.	.700	1.050	1.050	.866
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	130	135	130	128
All Crops	Pct.	116	108	99	106
Livestock & Products	Pct.	142	158	160	150

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	July 1986	June 1987	July 1987
Prices Received 1/	125	131	128
Prices Paid (1977 = 100) 2/	159	162 3/	164
Ratio (1977 = 100) 4/	79	81	78

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates.
3/ April 1987 Prices Paid Index. 4/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index.

NUMBER of FARMS & LAND in FARMS BY SELECTED STATES, JUNE 1, 1985-87 1/

STATE	FARMS 1985	FARMS 1986	FARMS 1987 2/	LAND IN FARMS 1985	LAND IN FARMS 1986	LAND IN FARMS 1987 2/
	----------	Number	----------	----------	(000) Acres	--------
CALIF	79,000	79,000	77,000	32,900	32,800	32,600
COLO	26,700	26,600	26,800	34,400	34,200	34,000
IDAHO	24,600	24,000	23,000	14,500	14,200	13,800
MONT	23,800	23,600	23,300	61,000	60,900	60,800
NEBR	59,000	57,000	56,000	47,200	47,200	47,200
NEV	2,500	2,400	2,400	8,800	8,800	8,800
N DAK	34,000	33,000	32,500	40,900	40,700	40,500
OREG	37,000	37,000	37,000	18,000	17,900	17,900
S DAK	36,500	36,000	35,000	44,500	44,500	44,500
UTAH	13,900	13,700	13,600	11,600	11,400	11,300
WASH	38,000	38,000	37,000	16,100	16,000	15,800
WYO	9,000	8,800	8,700	34,800	34,800	34,800
U.S.	2,274,730	2,211,920	2,173,410	1,014,383	1,007,643	1,002,463

1/ A farm is a place as of June 1 that sells or could sell $1,000 of agricultural products during the year. 2/ Preliminary.

MONTANA CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES and COMMODITY GROUPS, 1985-19[illegible]

COMMODITIES	VALUE		PERCENTAGE OF ALL COMMODITIES	
	1985 1/	1986 2/	1985 1/	1986 2/
	----(000) Dollars----		--Pct. of Total--	
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS				
Cattle & Calves	689,332	537,562	56.2	47.0
Dairy Products	43,852	41,211	3.6	3.6
Sheep & Lambs	24,584	19,864	2.0	1.7
Wool	3,743	3,867	.3	.3
Hogs	21,954	24,503	1.8	2.2
Farm Chickens & Eggs	8,753	9,569	.7	.8
Other	11,322	15,254	.9	1.3
TOTAL	803,540	651,830	65.5	56.9
CROPS				
Wheat	254,279	290,499	20.7	25.4
Barley	60,351	91,955	4.9	8.1
Sugarbeets	28,791	35,802	2.4	3.1
Hay	49,187	46,068	4.0	4.0
Potatoes	15,844	9,186	1.3	.8
Oats	1,288	671	.1	.1
Dry Edible Beans	2,011	1,570	.2	.1
Other Crops	1,781	10,009	.1	.9
FRUITS & BERRIES				
Cherries	2,255	480	.2	3/
Other Fruits	25	25	3/	3/
OTHER PRODUCTS				
Forest Products	4,500	4,750	.4	.4
Greenhouse & Nursery	2,132	2,000	.2	.2
TOTAL	422,444	493,015	34.5	43.1
ALL COMMODITIES	1,225,984	1,144,845	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 0.1 of a percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Farm Labor

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat Varieties
Barley Varieties
Milk Production
Mink Production
Slaughter
Cattle on Feed

WHEAT VARIETIES

Redwin remains top winter wheat variety: For the fifth year Redwin continues to be the most prominent variety of winter wheat grown in Montana. It was seeded on 457,200 acres or 21.8 percent of the state's 1987 winter wheat acreage. This is down nearly 100,000 acres from last year, but remains by a wide margin ahead of the second most popular variety. Redwin is grown for its winter hardiness and excellent protein level. It also has excellent milling and baking qualities.

Newana remains the number one spring wheat variety: Newana moved into first place in 1983. This year it is once again the most popular spring wheat grown in Montana. It was planted on 520,000 acres or 21.7 percent of the spring wheat acreage. Newana is a bearded semi-dwarf variety, resistant to loose smut and stripe and stem rust, but is susceptible to leaf rust.

Vic remains top durum variety: Vic continues to be the most popular durum variety grown in Montana with 112,200 acres or 53.4 percent of the total planted acreage. This is up nearly 24 points from 1986. Vic is of medium height with good disease resistance to stem rust and rootrot. It also shows moderate resistance to leaf rust and blackpoint.

This report was made possible by funds provided by the **Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.**

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES: 1982-1987

VARIETY	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE				
	1982	1983	1984	1986	1987
	----------Pct.----------				
WINTER WHEAT					
Redwin	8.3	24.2	34.6	25.9	21.8
Neeley	--	--	1.3	9.0	14.0
Norstar	11.8	10.4	11.7	12.7	11.3
Winalta	22.2	14.3	13.4	13.8	10.6
Rocky	8.0	8.0	11.1	9.0	9.4
Centurk	15.4	8.9	6.6	7.2	6.6
Cree	--	--	--	2.6	4.3
Roughrider	5.0	6.4	4.0	2.6	3.7
Cheyenne	15.6	8.3	5.1	2.4	3.1
Weston	0.2	--	0.5	0.8	1.0
Agassiz	--	--	--	0.1	0.9
Norwin	--	--	--	--	0.8
Citation	--	0.9	2.4	0.5	0.7
SR 5221	--	--	--	0.5	0.6
Sage	--	--	0.1	0.3	0.5
Winridge	--	--	0.9	0.9	0.5
Other & Unknown	13.5	18.6	8.3	11.7	10.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Newana	12.7	19.8	21.8	22.9	21.7
Fortuna	11.9	10.7	12.0	18.2	19.9
Len	4.0	11.9	12.4	11.9	11.0
Lew	11.5	9.4	10.0	11.5	10.3
Olaf	17.8	11.3	9.5	5.7	5.6
Stoa	--	--	--	4.4	4.1
Tioga	5.6	2.3	2.9	1.5	3.7
Pondera	0.6	3.5	2.3	1.9	3.1
Butte	5.1	2.7	4.0	2.5	1.9
Glenman	--	--	--	0.3	1.7
Northrup K. 751	2.7	3.7	1.5	3.3	1.7
Leader	--	--	0.1	0.8	1.5
Success	--	--	--	--	1.3
Alex	--	0.6	0.4	0.7	1.3
Solar	7.7	5.6	3.7	2.8	1.3
Prodax	7.6	5.5	6.6	1.6	0.8
Other & Unknown	12.8	13.0	12.8	10.0	9.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM WHEAT					
Vic	7.8	25.3	36.9	29.6	53.4
Ward	40.9	33.1	22.0	19.5	12.3
Crosby	9.3	2.6	9.8	8.3	10.2
Lloyd	--	--	2.1	16.6	4.1
Rolette	9.7	8.9	10.7	1.6	3.5
Cando	9.2	7.6	3.7	1.9	3.0
Westbred Laker	--	--	--	0.3	2.6
Medora	--	--	--	--	1.5
Wells	3.5	2.2	3.7	3.5	1.2
Westbred 803	--	--	--	--	1.0
Welch	--	--	--	--	0.5
Other & Unknown	19.6	20.3	11.1	18.7	6.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES

The leading barley variety grown in Montana in 1987 is Hector, accounting for nearly one-third of all planted acreage, according to a June survey of growers. This is the sixth straight year the feed variety has been first. It was planted on 32.9 percent of the total barley acreage. In second place is Klages, the number one malt variety, increasing 18 percent from last year's planted acreage. Piroline, a variety formerly recommended for malt, is the third most popular variety. Clark, a malt variety, moved from third to fourth place, dropping its acreage 38 percent from last year. Hector, Klages, Piroline, Clark, and Harrington accounted for 80 percent of Montana's 1987 planted barley acreage.

MILK PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana dairymen produced 85 million pounds of milk in the second quarter of 1987. This production was 2 percent less than the production for the April-June period of 1986. Milk cow numbers declined from 27,000 head to 25,000 head, but production per cow was up more than 5 percent from last year.

On July 1, grain and other concentrates fed averaged 14.5 pounds per milk cow, up one-half pound per day per head. The average cost of these concentrates was down from $7.05 in 1986 to $6.20/cwt. this year.

Nationally, the quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.3 billion pounds, 3 percent below the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 10.4 million head, down 5 percent from the same period in 1986.

APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION 1986-1987

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1986	1987	1986	1987
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	1,022	995	4,432	4,510
IDAHO	167	158	629	602
MINN	910	823	2,953	2,758
MONT	27	25	87	85
N DAK	99	92	304	288
ORE	103	92	393	389
S DAK	158	148	479	456
WASH	217	206	985	950
WISC	1,867	1,853	6,814	6,874
WYO	11.2	9.6	34.6	30.5
U.S.	10,943	10,422	38,350	37,341

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL ACREAGE 1983-1987

VARIETY		PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE				
		1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
		Percent				
Hector		35.1	32.4	32.9	33.9	32.9
Klages	M	10.6	13.1	8.6	11.5	14.1
Piroline		25.6	19.3	20.1	18.7	12.8
Clark	M	7.4	15.6	15.8	16.7	10.8
Harrington		--	0.1	--	1.9	9.1
Bowman		--	--	--	1.7	3.1
Kimberly		0.6	0.9	3.0	1.1	2.6
Menuet		0.7	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.1
Lewis		--	--	--	0.6	1.8
Morex	M	2.8	1.9	0.7	0.8	1.2
Compana		1.5	0.6	2.6	0.6	0.8
Horsford		0.7	1.2	1.7	0.7	0.8
Summit		2.1	3.5	2.5	1.0	0.7
Unitan		2.5	2.8	1.3	0.7	0.6
Moravian III	M	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5
Robust		--	--	--	--	0.3
Steptoe		1.4	1.0	1.2	0.2	0.3
Shabet		0.8	0.1	--	0.1	0.3
Ingrid		1.0	1.1	0.7	--	0.3
Betzes		0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Larker		0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
Westbred 501		--	--	0.2	0.2	0.2
Fairfield		0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Ridawn		--	0.1	0.1	--	0.1
Premier	M	--	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.1
Other & Unknown		5.0	2.9	5.1	6.0	3.8
TOTAL		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

M = American Malting Barley Improvement Association recommended malting varieties for Montana 1987.

RAINS BOOST CROP PROSPECTS

The July 27th crop-weather report had mostly good news for Montana farmers and ranchers. Timely rains replenished soil moisture supplies and crops were rated mostly good to excellent. Harvest of grain and hay was delayed by the rains, but immature crops greatly benefited. We now expect that the grain crops have sufficient moisture to mature without undue stress.

Winter wheat was 52 percent ripe and 8 percent harvested. Maturity is running a week or so ahead of normal for this date. Spring wheat, barley and oats were about 10 percent ripe with harvesting just getting underway.

Hay harvest continued about on a normal schedule -- 21 percent of the alfalfa second cutting and 70 percent of the wild hay had been cut.

Grasshoppers continue to plague the state. Damage is heavy in some areas, but most producers are optimistic about prospects for good grain yields with higher protein content than a year ago.

We now need some sunny weather to mature the crops and allow the combines to roll!

MINK PELT PRODUCTION DOWN

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1986 totaled 4.08 million pelts, down 2 percent from 1985, Wisconsin, the major mink state, produced 1.13 million pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: standard - 39.5 percent; Demi-buff - 14.0 percent; Ranch wild - 10.2 percent; Mahogany - 9.0 percent; Pastel - 7.1 percent; Gunmetal - 5.4 percent; and white - 3.5 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 11.3 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1986 crop year were valued at 158.6 million dollars, up 36 percent from 1985. The average price per pelt for the 1986 crop year was $38.90,compared with $28.00 in 1985 and $30.80 in 1984.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1987 totaled 1.07 million, down 1 percent from 1986. Females bred for the two major color classes are: Standard - 498 thousand and Demi-buff - 120 thousand. Females bred in the leading states are: Wisconsin - 295 thousand; Minnesota - 140 thousand; and Utah - 138 thousand.

There were 977 mink farms producing pelts in 1986 compared with 1042 the previous year. Leading states were Wisconsin with 228 farms, Minnesota with 155 and Utah with 121 farms. Fourteen percent of the mink farms also raised fox, the same percentage as last year.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds of red meat in June 1987. This production was up 11 percent from the previous month and is up 3 percent from the June 1986 production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, was down about 300 head from last year, but the total liveweight of these cattle was up 11 percent because average slaughter weights increased. Hog slaughter, at 2,000 head, was down 13 percent from last year and total liveweight was 14 percent below last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in June 1987 totaled 3.10 billion pounds, down 2 percent from June 1986. January-June red meat production, at 18.7 billion pounds, was down 4 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 4; Veal, down 17; Pork, down 4; Lamb and Mutton, down 10. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

JAPAN REMAINS OUR BEST CUSTOMER

Although more than 150 countries import U.S. agricultural products, our top ten foreign customers accounted for 60 percent of U.S. export sales last year.

Japan was in its usual first place position, taking $5.1 billion worth of American farm goods. Its purchases included more than $1 billion in U.S. coarse grains, $877 million in oilseeds, and $667 million in red meats.

The Netherlands, which also trans-ships to other nations, was the destination of record for around $2.1 billion in products from U.S. farms. Oilseeds, feeds, and fodders were the major items.

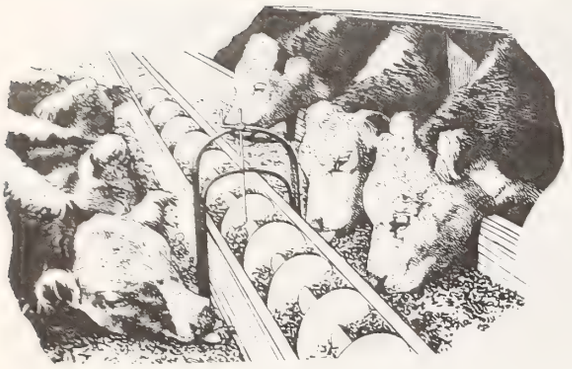
Canada spent around $1.5 billion, roughly one-third of that on American fruits and vegetables. Other billion-dollar buyers were South Korea, Taiwan, Mexico, and West Germany.

Adding in Egypt, Italy, and Spain, the ten largest markets took $15.5 billion worth of U.S. agricultural products. Our total farm exports in 1986 came to $26.0 billion.

For the first time in several years, the Soviet Union was not among the top ten. Its purchases dropped from $1.9 billion in 1985 to $658 million in 1986.

Top Markets for U.S. Farm Exports

Ten top buyers	U.S. ag exports
	-- millions --
Japan	$ 5,106
Netherlands	$ 2,069
Canada	$ 1,547
South Korea	$ 1,293
Taiwan	$ 1,164
Mexico	$ 1,074
West Germany	$ 1,042
Egypt	$ 805
Italy	$ 720
Spain	$ 701



CATTLE ON FEED UP

Cattle and calves on feed July 1, 1987 for slaughter in the 13 quarterly states totaled 8.67 million head, up 9 percent from July 1 last year but unchanged from 1985.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.60 million steers and steer calves, 14 percent above last year and 7 percent above 1985. This group represented 65 percent of the total July number on feed compared with 62 percent in 1986. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.03 million, virtually unchanged from a year ago but 10 percent below April 1, 1985.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June quarter totaled 5.96 million, up 14 percent from last year and 15 percent above the comparable period in 1985. Other disappearance of 423 thousand head leaves net placements at 5.54 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 5.67 million, 3 percent less than a year ago and 2 percent below 1985.

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CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
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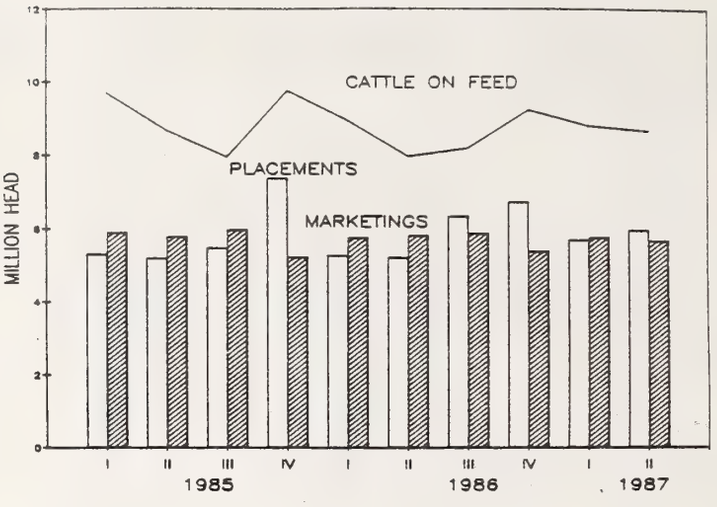

Cattle On Feed, Placements & Marketed by Quarters, 13 States

Quarter	Placements	Marketed	Cattle on Feed	
			Date	Number
	(000)	(000)		(000)
1985				
Jan-Mar	5,315	5,907	April 1	9,688
Apr-Jun	5,206	5,787	July 1	8,670
Jul-Sep	5,480	5,969	Oct 1	7,937
Oct-Dec	7,365	5,224	Jan 1, 1986	9,754
1986				
Jan-Mar	5,270	5,763	April 1	8,945
Apr-Jun	5,221	5,821	July 1	7,970
Jul-Sep	6,336	5,876	Oct 1	8,197
Oct-Dec	6,726	5,376	Jan 1, 1987	9,235
1987				
Jan-Mar	5,700	5,767	April 1	8,797
Apr-Jun	5,961	5,669	July 1	8,666

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Manufactured Dairy
Monthly Prices
Crop Production
Pasture & Range
Grain Stocks
Hogs & Pigs
Cattle Inventory
Sweet Cherries

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

Montana wheat farmers expect to harvest 66.0 million bushels of winter wheat -- an increase of 3 percent from last year. The July 1 forecast is 11 percent greater than the June 1 estimate due to an increase in yield to 33 bushels and an upward revision in harvested acres.

In Montana, acres of winter wheat for harvest at 2.0 million are unchanged from 1986.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.57 billion bushels, 4 percent above the 1986 production.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION
by Districts - July 1, 1987 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1986	Ind. 1987	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	1,008	1,000	- 1
N. CENTRAL	29,741	31,000	+ 4
NORTHEAST	6,724	6,600	- 2
CENTRAL	12,571	13,000	+ 3
SOUTHWEST	1,773	2,200	+24
S. CENTRAL	7,536	7,500	--
SOUTHEAST	4,647	4,700	+ 1
STATE	64,000	66,000	+ 3

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

CROP ACRES JUNE 1, 1987

CROP	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED	
	1986	1987	1986	Ind. 1987	1986	1987	1986	Ind. 1987
	----------000----------				----------000----------			
Winter Wheat	2,150	2,100	2,000	2,000	53,930	48,520	43,170	39,152
Durum	165	210	160	200	2,994	3,156	2,877	3,086
Hard Spring Wheat	2,700	2,400	2,600	2,300	15,109	13,487	14,641	13,148
All Wheat	5,015	4,710	4,760	4,500	72,033	65,163	60,688	55,386
Corn	80	80	13	10	76,674	66,024	69,189	59,553
Oats	200	235	90	130	14,708	17,960	6,870	7,290
Barley	2,400	2,300	2,180	2,200	13,059	11,022	12,007	10,128
Sorghum	--	--	--	--	15,321	11,771	13,904	10,532
Soybeans	--	--	--	--	61,480	58,685	59,427	57,649
Dry Beans	4.8	5.8	4.5	5.6	1,673.8	1,776.8	1.495.0	1.723.4
Sugarbeets	47.5	49.4	47.0	49.2	1,231.7	1,268.2	1,191.3	1,248.8
Fall Potatoes	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6	1,060.2	1,105.9	1,031.3	1,086.5
Alfalfa Hay	--	--	1,300	1,240	--	--	26,748	25,497
All Other Hay	--	--	950	950	--	--	35,526	34,706

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MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY	
	June 1, 1986	Mar. 1, 1987*	June 1, 1987	June 1, 1986	June 1, 1987
	-----Million Bushels-----				
Northwest	.7	.7	.6	1.8	1.0
North Central	32.2	53.3	46.5	7.6	7.8
Northeast	18.2	34.5	23.0	2.5	3.4
Central	9.6	15.2	11.9	3.3	3.6
Southwest	3.2	3.6	3.0	.5	1.4
South Central	6.7	7.5	7.1	2.5	1.7
Southeast	5.7	5.7	4.0	.9	.3
STATE	76.2	120.5	96.0	19.1	19.2

1/ These district estimates of wheat stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION JULY 1, 1987

District	1985	1986	1987
	Percent of Normal		
Northwest	74	90	86
North Central	42	98	78
Northeast	33	81	89
Central	38	95	80
Southwest	56	95	80
South Central	42	92	83
Southeast	46	89	82
State	46	92	83

GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1986	Mar. 1, 1987	June 1, 1987	% Chg. '87/'86	June 1, 1986	Mar. 1, 1987	June 1, 1987
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	48,230	85,000	60,000	+24	681,080	794,000	560,000
Off Farms 1/	32,830	35,521	36,000	+10	1,223,901	1,455,841	1,254,815
TOTAL	81,060	120,521	96,000	+18	1,904,981	2,249,841	1,814,815
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	28,454	41,000	31,000	+ 9	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	20,255	21,242	22,000	+ 9	--	--	--
TOTAL	48,709	62,242	53,000	+ 9	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	19,776	44,000	29,000	+47	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	12,575	14,279	14,000	+11	--	--	--
TOTAL	32,351	58,279	43,000	+33	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	78,929	72,570	49,305
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	42,355	56,618	43,311
TOTAL	6,323	6,649	4,800	-24	121,284	129,188	94,616
CORN							
On Farms 5/	--	--	--	--	3,143,067	5,024,000	3,491,800
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	1,846,970	3,224,193	2,839,879
TOTAL 4/	--	--	--	--	4,990,037	8,248,193	6,331,679
OATS							
On Farms	993	--	1,200	+21	147,181	--	103,300
Off Farms 1/	350	--	160	-54	36,534	--	29,446
TOTAL	1,343	--	1,360	+ 1	183,715	--	132,746
BARLEY							
On Farms	12,900	--	14,000	+ 9	199,288	--	193,945
Off Farms 1/	6,200	--	5,200	-16	125,554	--	142,496
TOTAL	19,100	--	19,200	+ 1	324,842	--	336,441

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. 5/ Included with other states starting April '86. 6/ Per program modifications: stocks estimates for barley and oats will only be made as of June 1 each year.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 119,000 gallons of ice cream in May 1987, 5 percent more than the previous month but 23 percent less than last year. Creamed cottage cheese output at 317,000 pounds was 12 percent below April and 5 percent below the previous year. Butter production totaled 114,000 pounds, 16 percent less than the previous month and 27 percent less than a year ago.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 7 PERCENT

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the U.S. on June 1, 1987, is estimated at 52.3 million head, 7 percent above a year ago and slightly above June 1, 1985.

--Breeding inventory is 10 percent above last year and slightly above two years ago.

--Market hog inventory is 7 percent above a year ago but nearly the same as two years ago.

The December 1986 - May 1987 U.S. pig crop was 43.2 million head, 7 percent above last year and 2 percent above two years ago.

June-November farrowings are expected to increase 8 percent from actual farrowings during the same period in 1986 and 3 percent above two years ago.

U.S. CATTLE COUNT DOWN 2 PERCENT

The nation's cattle herd at 112 million head is the smallest since mid-year estimates were begun in 1973 and is down 2 percent from a year ago. However, beef cows are fractionally higher and beef cow replacement heifers are unchanged from June 1986 which may mean the downturn is slowing or at an end.

Of the total inventory, cows make up 45.0 million (34.6 million are beef), heifers 17.1 million, steers 15.7 million, bulls 2.2 million, and calves 32.1 million head.

The total calf crop is expected to be 40.7 million head.

State estimates of cattle and calves are made once a year in January.

SWEET CHERRY PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's 1987 sweet cherry production is forecast to be 7.0 million pounds as of July 1, an increase of 119 percent over last year. The production estimate is 24 percent under 1985.

For the U.U., sweet cherry production is estimated to be 379.2 million pounds, 38 percent above 1986 and 43 percent above 1985.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	June 1986	May 1987	June 1987
Prices Received 1/	121	129	131
Prices Paid (1977 = 100) 2/	159	162	162
Ratio (1977 = 100) 3/	76	80	81

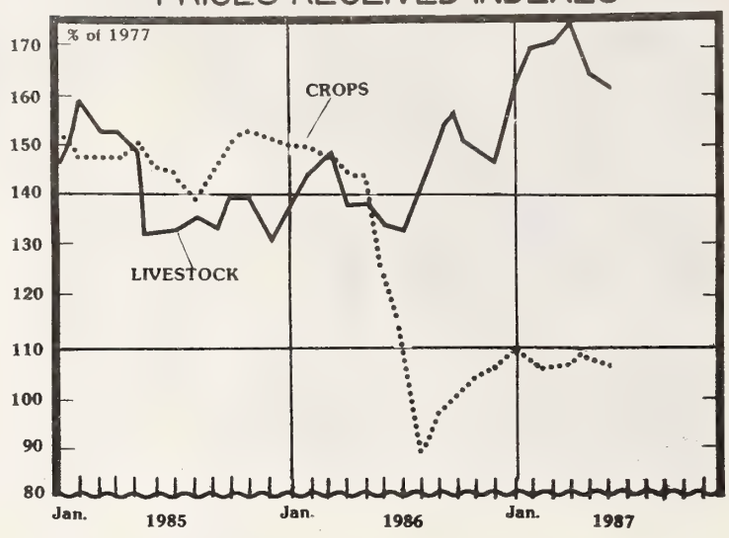
1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates.
3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

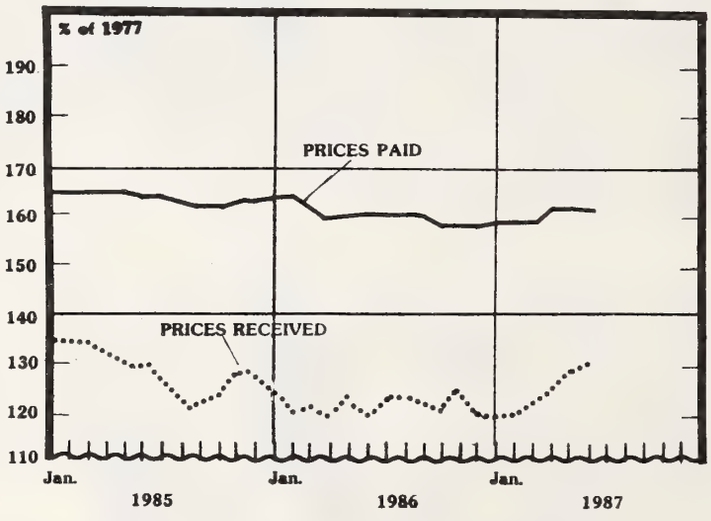
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1987	MONTANA June 15, 1987	U.S. June 15, 1987
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.65	2.51	2.40	2.37
Durum	Bu.	3.01	3.10	3.10	3.04
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.24	2.77	2.70	2.55
All Wheat	Bu.	3.03	2.64	2.56	2.44
Barley	Bu.	1.70	1.68	1.62	1.67
Oats	Bu.	1.34	1.74	1.65	1.50
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	45.00	50.00	67.10
All Other Hay	Ton	67.00	40.00	45.00	50.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	72.00	45.00	50.00	63.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	53.30	67.90	68.10	67.30
Cows	Cwt.	36.50	44.20	44.30	43.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	44.00	56.10	55.00	63.00
Calves	Cwt.	59.10	72.30	71.60	78.10
Sheep	Cwt.	24.60	23.40	25.00	25.40
Lambs	Cwt.	68.10	66.50	75.00	87.70
Hogs	Cwt.	47.70	47.60	53.20	59.70
All Milk	Cwt.	11.90	11.70	11.20	11.80
Eggs	Doz.	.390	.400	.480	.553
Wool 2/	Lb.	.740	1.050	1.050	.949
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	130	138	136	131
All Crops	Pct.	126	109	107	112
Livestock & Products	Pct.	133	164	162	150

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



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Slaughter
Mink

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat Situation & Outlook
Wheat Exports Rise Sharply
Egg Production
More Beef to Japan
Cattle on Feed
Livestock Slaughter
Farm Economy Turns Corner
Crop Moisture Map

CROP-WEATHER SITUATION
(for week ending June 21)

Montana's crops are being maintained fairly well by frequent but spotty shower activity and are in mostly good to excellent condition. However, soil moisture shortages were developing the middle of June, and there was little reserve to sustain crops in the event of hot and windy weather.

Crop progress is ahead of both last year and average which will help crops get through the hot weather that normally occurs in July.

Grasshopper damage appears to be a major threat to both crops and ranges expecially in the eastern parts of the state. Considerable damage has already occurred in those areas.

WHEAT SITUATION and OUTLOOK

The first indication of 1987 U.S. wheat production came in January when winter wheat farmers said they had seeded only 48 million acres, down almost 6 million from 1986 and the smallest since 1978. In March, spring wheat producers said they also intended to reduce planted area by an additional 1.5 million acres. This means that 1987's overall wheat area may be down 10 percent from 1986 and the smallest in 14 seasons. The cutback came about because the sixth successive acreage reduction program received heavy support from farmers, along with growing participation in the Conservation Reserve Program.

Generally mild weather conditions left minimal damage to winter wheat and aided swift seeding of spring wheat. The outlook suggests that 1987's yields may be up considerably from last season, producing a crop of between 2.0 and 2.2 billion bushels, compared with 2.09 billion in 1986. This illustrates weather's significant impact on efforts to relieve burdensome commodity supplies.

The expected larger harvest will maintain U.S. wheat supplies at 3.97 billion bushels, just below the all time high 4.01 billion bushels. Thus, the outlook for the 1987/88 marketing year hinges on expected increased demand. However, domestic disappearance is likely to show a decline, because the expected wheat/feed grain price spread will favor larger use of coarse grains in livestock feed rations. So, exports will be the pacesetter and the most important factor to aid the lowering of excess stock levels.

With the prospect of increased world wheat trade in 1987/88 and renewed U.S. selling to the Soviet Union and Chinese markets, the initial U.S. export forecast is 1.23 billion bushels -- a 20 percent increase over last season. Expectations of brisk early-season shipments from large Export Enhancement Program sales, in combination with the reduced marketable supplies of old-crop wheat, suggest loan-level harvest-time farm prices could strengthen as 1987/88 progresses. The seasons's farm price may average between $2.30 and $2.60 a bushel, compared with $2.40 last year.

Global 1986/87 wheat output hit a record 528 million metric tons. The 1987/88 season seems to point to another large harvest, although weather and reduced planting in some areas may preclude a new record. Trade will likely expand, particularly with a major harvest shortfall in the Soviet Union, but may not top the 100 million tons of the 1983/84 and 1984/85 seasons. Aggressive competition among exporters will likely continue as each seeks a share of the moderately expanding market.

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WHEAT EXPORTS RISE SHARPLY

U.S. wheat and flour exports for fiscal 1987 are forecast at 31.3 million tons, up 11 percent from the previous forecast, and value is projected at $3.3 billion. Total world wheat trade is forecast to rise in fiscal 1987 due to increased import demand in China and the USSR. Much of the increase in U.S. sales is due to the Food Security Act of 1985 which lowered the loan rate and established the Export Enhancement Program (EEP). The EEP has allowed U.S. wheat and products to compete effectively in targeted markets where competitors previously undercut U.S. exports with subsidies. Largely because of the EEP, U.S. exports to Eastern Europe, China, the USSR and North Africa are expected to rise in fiscal 1987. The recent offer of 4 million tons of EEP wheat to the USSR is the largest initiative of the program. The grain agreement calls for shipments by the end of the fiscal year. Most of the 1 million tons of EEP wheat purchased by China is also expected to be shipped before the end of the fiscal year. With U.S. and foreign production and stocks remaining close to record levels, export markets will continue to be highly price competitive.

EGG PRODUCTION ABOVE LAST YEAR

Montana poultrymen produced 53 million eggs in the quarter ending May 31, 1987. The average number of layers on hand in the March through May period was down more than 1 percent from last year but a higher rate of lay pushed production 2 percent over the 1986 quarter.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17.7 billion eggs during the March through May quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Layers for the quarter averaged 280 million, up 1 percent from the 277 million a year earlier.

All layers on June 1, 1987, totaled 277 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. Layers on June 1 consisted of 240 million for table eggs and 38 million layers for hatching eggs. Rate of lay on June 1, for all layers, averaged 67.4 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 68.1 a year earlier.

MORE BEEF TO JAPAN

Livestock, Dairy and Poultry exports are forecast at $4.8 billion in fiscal 1987, unchanged from last quarter's forecast, but an increase of $400 million from fiscal 1986. Exports are expected to rise in fiscal 1987 due to increased beef and veal exports to Japan and Brazil and poultry meat exports to Egypt, Iraq, and Japan. Beef exports to Brazil are the result of sales made to minimize the adverse effect of the Dairy Termination Program. EEP iniatives are expected to increase poultry sales to Egypt and Iraq.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES

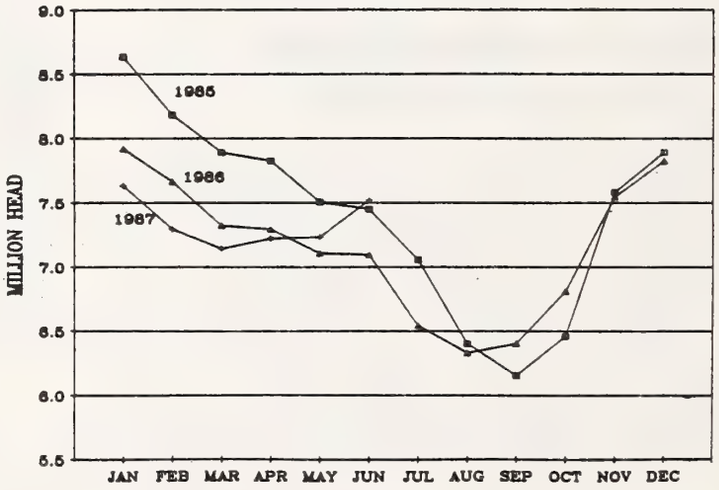
Cattle and calves on feed June 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.52 million head, up 6 percent from a year ago and 1 percent above June 1, 1985.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.52 million, down 7 percent from last year and 5 percent less than May two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during May totaled 1.95 million, up 11 percent from last year and 17 percent above May 1985. This is the highest May placement total since 1978. Net placements of 1.81 million for May are 12 percent above last year and 17 percent above May two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 143 thousand head, compared with 132 thousand during May 1986 and 128 thousand during May 1985.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER MAY 1987

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat in May 1987. This production was up slightly from the previous month, but was 15 percent less than the May 1986 production.

Cattle slaughter, at 1,800 head, yielded 15 percent less red meat than a year ago. The hog slaughter, also at 1,800 head, produced 24 percent less red meat than last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in May 1987 totaled 2.98 billion pounds, down 12 percent from May 1986. January-May red meat production, at 15.6 billion pounds was down 5 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 5; Veal, down 17; Pork, down 5; Lamb and Mutton, down 11. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

THE FARM ECONOMY MAY HAVE TURNED THE CORNER

There are signs that financial conditions affecting farmers may have finally begun to turn up. It appears that for the vast majority of agricultural producers, earnings on investments are now returning to levels consistent with the more stable, slow-growth 1960's and early 1970's.

"Good news amid bad" is often the situation during the initial stage of an ailing industry's recovery. This is because economic forces-such as a 60 percent fall in land values in the upper Midwest-also provide the foundation for eventual stabilization and recovery. In this case, the rebound will be based on farm real estate that has become a bargain compared with its price 4-5 years ago.

Land prices in the 1980's have fallen by one-half to two-thirds in parts of the western Corn Belt, and nearly two of every three stressed commercial-size farmers in the United States live in a 10-state region of the upper Midwest. Since this area has been the hardest hit by the farm economy crunch, it is a significant area to examine for signs of beginning recovery.

Therefore, an analysis was done on whether Midwest land values today can be supported by current crop prices and Government benefits. Data used come from the 1985 and 1986 USDA Farm Costs and Returns Surveys. The results are based on data received from approximately 400 corn and soybean farmers. Because the survey is probabilistically based, these 400 operators represent about 60,000 farms of similar size and type in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri.

The question analyzed was: Can management afford to pay current market values for farmland, given the production costs of this operation and current market interest rates? This question is critical to operators considering expansion or purchase of rented land, and to both operators and lenders examining the feasibility of debt restructuring.

HAVE LAND VALUES FALLEN ENOUGH IN RELATION TO CASH FLOW?

In 1987, for the first time since 1984, the typical corn/soybean farm in the Midwest could meet all cash expenses on a piece of land purchased at 11 percent interest with a 25 percent downpayment. For the sample of 400 farms, projected 1987 gross farm receipts average $112,400, including $25,100 in Government benefits. Total cash expenses, including interest on real estate, but not including principal repayment, are projected at about $112,000 per operation, so cash receipts would about equal cash expenses.

In contrast, survey data indicate that corn/soybean farms in the Midwest in 1984 averaged cash costs $41,200 higher than receipts.

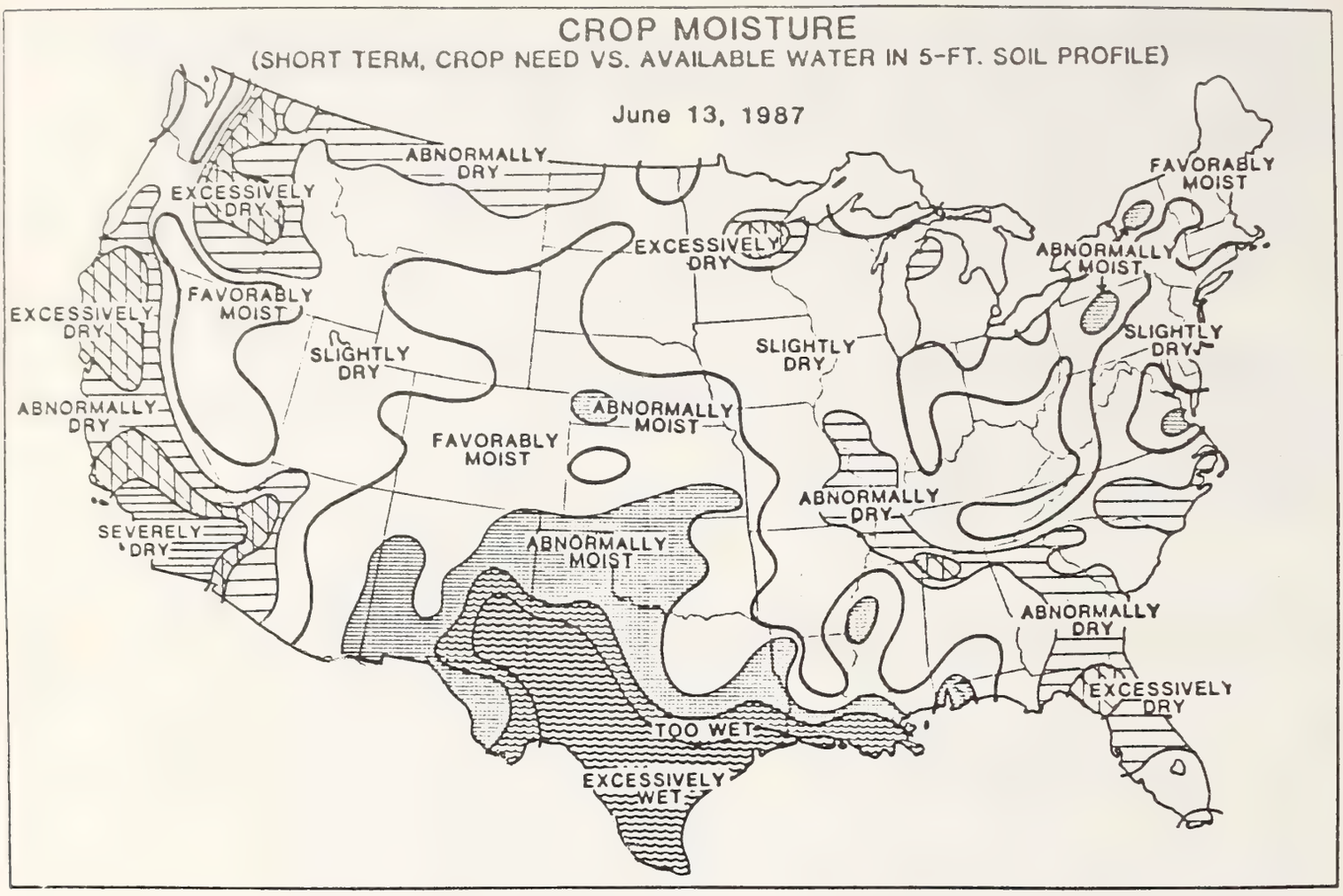
Thus, the highest feasible ratio of real estate debt to value a farm can afford increased from about 35 percent in 1984 to about 75 percent in 1987, mainly because of the 40-45 percent decline in land values for the farms sampled. Although gross receipts per farm fell $20,000 between 1985 and 1987's estimated level, this is more than offset by a nearly $20,000 drop in real estate interest expense and an additional $10,000 decline in other cash expenses.

The importance of the large fall in land values during the middle 1980's, and the decline in interest rates that occurred during 1985 and 1986, is shown in the mirroring trend of declining interest burdens and the number of farms that can purchase land and still cover cash costs. Only about one in 10 corn/soybean farmers could have achieved positive cash flows from 1984 land purchases at market rates current then. But, by 1987, with the interest burden of buying a farm down over $30,000, three of five farms could fully meet the interest expenses associated with land purchases, assuming a 25-percent downpayment.

Farmland contracts providing seller financing are often available at interest rates of 7 to 10 percent. Projections indicate that most of the sample farms can meet interest payments, even on loans with no downpayment, if mortgage interest rates of 7-9 percent are available and land is priced at beginning 1987 values.

"It is, Sir, the people's Constitution, the people's government, made for the people, made by the people, and answerable to the people. The people of the United States have declared that the Constitution shall be their supreme law. We must either admit the proposition or deny their authority."

Daniel Webster



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HIGHLIGHTS:

June 1st Winter Wheat Forecast
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Pasture & Range Conditions
Livestock & Poultry Outlook
Manufactured Dairy Production

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WINTER WHEAT

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1986	Ind. 1987	1986	Ind. 1987	% Chg.
	-(000) Acres-		--(000) Bu.--		%
Colorado	2,900	2,700	92,800	108,000	+16
Kansas	10,200	9,500	336,600	408,500	+21
Montana	2,000	1,850	64,000	59,200	- 7
Nebraska	2,000	1,950	76,000	81,900	+ 8
North Dakota 1/	480	176	13,920	6,160	-56
South Dakota	1,800	1,600	57,600	59,200	+ 2
Texas	4,800	3,800	120,000	106,400	-11
Oklahoma	5,200	4,800	150,800	129,600	-14
PLAINS STATES	29,380	26,376	911,720	958,960	+ 5
Idaho	850	730	51,850	45,260	-13
Oregon	930	760	53,940	50,160	- 7
Washington	2,100	1,825	102,900	109,500	+ 6
PACIFIC NW	3,880	3,315	208,690	204,920	- 2
Illinois	820	1,000	36,080	55,000	+52
Indiana	700	670	30,100	35,510	+18
Michigan	680	400	30,600	20,000	-35
Missouri	570	730	18,810	29,930	+59
Ohio	1,050	800	48,300	41,600	-14
CORN BELT	3,820	3,600	163,890	182,040	+11
Alabama	220	160	5,720	5,280	- 8
Arkansas	780	775	31,980	30,225	- 5
Georgia	550	440	15,400	14,520	- 6
Kentucky	270	310	8,910	11,160	+25
Mississippi	200	275	6,200	9,625	+55
North Carolina	460	440	14,260	18,040	+27
South Carolina	300	275	7,500	9,625	+28
Tennessee	325	400	10,725	15,200	+42
Virginia	170	235	6,970	11,280	+62
SOUTHERN STATES	3,275	3,310	107,665	124,955	+16
California	600	455	45,000	35,035	-22
Other States 1/	2,215	1,814	82,178	71,579	-13
UNITED STATES	43,170	38,870	1,519,143	1,577,489	+ 4

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA'S WINTER WHEAT PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

Montana's winter wheat production forecast on June 1 at 59.2 million bushels is unchanged from last month's estimate and down 7 percent from last year. Good moisture conditions last fall and a mild winter produced good stands this spring. Moisture was short and temperatures high until after mid-May. Good subsoil moisture in the main wheat growing areas kept the Montana crop from deterioration. The yield, forecast at 32 bushels per acre, is the same as last month. The current forecast of 32 bushels, compares with 32 in 1986; 16 in 1985; 27 in 1984; and the record high 38 in 1982.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.58 billion bushels, 2 percent above last month and 4 percent more than 1986. Yields are placed at 40.6 bushels per acre nationwide, second highest on record. Acreage for harvest, at about 39 million acres is unchanged from last month, but the expected yield is almost 1 bushel higher. Acreage for harvest is down almost 10 percent from last year, but projected yield is up almost 5 bushels per acre.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST by DISTRICTS - JUNE 1, 1987 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1986	Ind. 1987	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	1,008	800	- 21
N. CENTRAL	29,741	26,000	- 13
NORTHEAST	6,724	6,600	- 2
CENTRAL	12,571	12,000	- 5
SOUTHWEST	1,773	1,900	+ 7
S. CENTRAL	7,536	6,500	- 14
SOUTHEAST	4,647	5,400	+ 16
STATE	64,000	59,200	- 7

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

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MONTANA FARM PRICES HIGHER

The Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers in May was up 1 point* from April but 3 points above May a year ago.

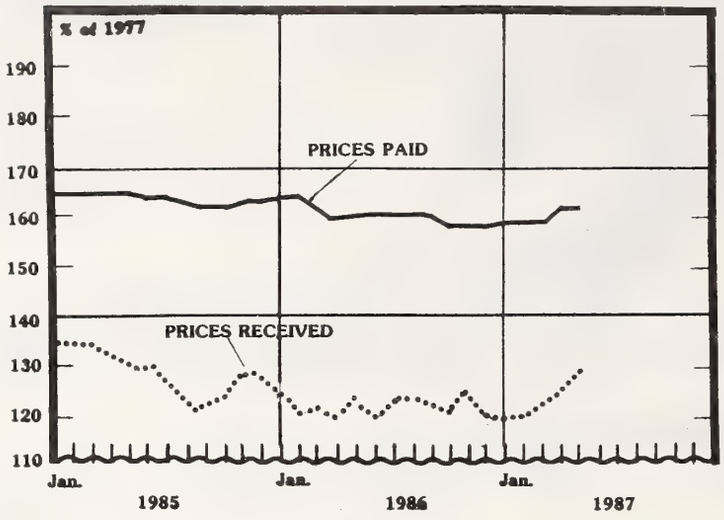
Montana's All Farm Products Index was 144 percent of the January-December 1977 average. The small April to May increase reflects higher crop prices but generally lower livestock prices.

All crop items advanced except oats, which was down; and hay, which was unchanged. Steer and heifer prices, hogs and wool were the only livestock prices moving up.

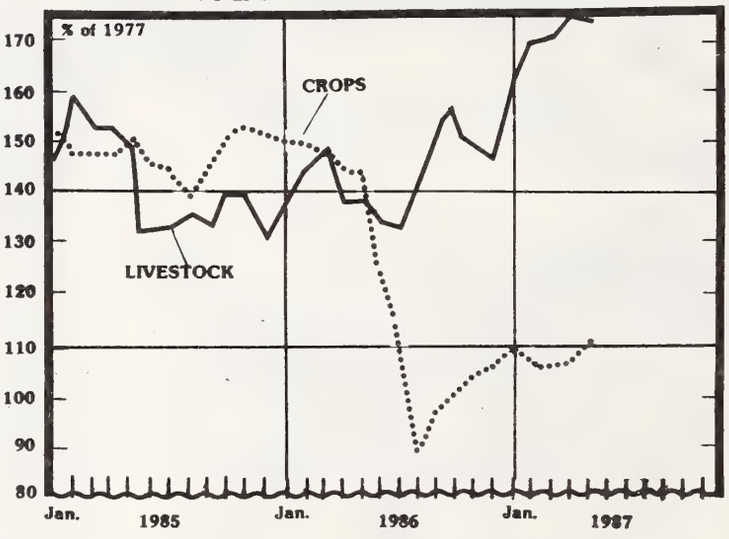
The May U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers increased 4 points from April to 129 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for beef cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, and cotton were partially offset by lower prices for milk, eggs, and tomatoes. The index was 6 points above a year ago.

Meat animal prices were up sharply from a month earlier. Cattle and calf prices were at their highest levels since February and March 1980, respectively. The month-to-month gain in the hog price was $3.50 following a $3.40 increase from March to April. This brought the hog price to the highest level since September 1986. Prices of grains, oilseeds, and hay were up significantly from a month earlier.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1987	MONTANA May 15, 1987	U.S. May 15, 1987
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.18	2.43	2.60	2.62
Durum	Bu.	3.13	3.05	3.10	3.18
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.83	2.66	2.75	2.71
All Wheat	Bu.	3.49	2.56	2.69	2.70
Barley	Bu.	1.87	1.64	1.72	1.80
Oats	Bu.	1.64	1.65	1.35	1.50
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	85.00	45.00	45.00	77.50
All Other Hay	Ton	75.00	40.00	40.00	73.30
All Hay Bale	Ton	84.00	45.00	45.00	50.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	51.30	68.80	68.90	69.20
Cows	Cwt.	37.60	44.50	43.50	43.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	45.80	61.40	61.30	64.90
Calves	Cwt.	60.30	74.90	73.00	77.60
Sheep	Cwt.	20.00	17.00	14.60	29.90
Lambs	Cwt.	68.00	70.50	68.30	88.40
Hogs	Cwt.	39.50	43.70	46.00	54.30
All Milk	Cwt.	12.15	12.05	12.05	12.00
Eggs	Doz.	.480	.540	.400	.401
Wool 2/	Lb.	.770	1.040	1.050	1.110
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	141	143	144	129
All Crops	Pct.	144	107	111	108
Livestock & Products	Pct.	137	175	174	150

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	May 1986	Apr. 1987	May 1987
Prices Received	123	125	129
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates	159 1/	162	162 2/
Ratio 1/	77	77	80

1/ April 1986 Prices Paid Index. 2/ April 1987 Prices Paid Index

SWEET CHERRIES

Montana's sweet cherry crop is forecast to be 3,000 tons up 88 percent from last year's small picking. Pollination conditions were excellent and freeze damage, so far, has been minimal. For the nation, the crop is expected to be 150,700 tons, up 31 percent from last year.

LIVESTOCK and POULTRY OUTLOOK

Livestock and poultry producers are expected to have positive returns in 1987. Large supplies of grain, protein meal, and forage should moderate production costs. However, the fifth consecutive year of record-large total meat supplies probably will keep poultry and pork prices at or below last year's average. Reduced beef supplies should firm or improve prices received by many cattle producers in 1987.

Favorable feeding margins are likely to stimulate broiler, turkey, and hog production the most, with the cattle herd beginning to stabilize. Broiler production in first quarter was up 9 percent. The broiler hatchery supply flock will be 10 to 15 percent above last year this spring and summer, permitting continued production increases. Broiler output could increase nearly 9 percent this year with prices averaging in the upper 40-cent-per-pound range this summer and seasonally lower in the fall.

Red meat and poultry supplies are expected to be record large in 1987. Per capita retail weight consumption of red meat and poultry is expected to be about 216 pounds, up slightly from 1986. The increase continues a trend begun in 1982. Projected red meat and poultry consumption in 1987 is 12 pounds per person above the 1970-85 average. First-half supplies should be at or slightly below first-half 1986 levels. However, second-half production of red meat and poultry should be above a year ago.

First-quarter beef production was unchanged from a year ago as record heavy slaughter weights more than offset a 1 percent decline in cattle slaughter. As cattle numbers stabilize, the slaughter mix and thus average slaughter weights over all classes of cattle also shift. In the first quarter, a 2 percent increase in steer and heifer slaughter almost offset a 12 percent drop in cow slaughter. Beef cow slaughter was down 18 percent, while dairy cow slaughter declined 4 percent. Even sharper year-to-year reductions in cow slaughter, particularly dairy, will occur during the second and third quarters as measured against the large Dairy Termination Program (DTP) cow slaughter during these periods in 1986. Fed cattle marketings are expected to remain near the large levels of recent years. As the steer and heifer proportion of the slaughter mix rises relative to a year ago, so will average slaughter weights. During the 1980's, steer and heifer dressed weights have averaged about 200 and 110 pounds heavier than dressed cow weights, respectively.

PASTURES and RANGES IMPROVE

Montana's pastures and ranges were helped by rains and snow the last week of May. Drouth conditions that prevailed before that had retarded grass growth. Hardest hit was the Central district. Grasshoppers plagued the Eastern parts of the state where hatching conditions were ideal. Stockwater supplies are holding up well because of good carryover from last fall's rains. There has been little or no run-off this spring.

MONTANA PASTURE and RANGE CONDITION - JUNE 1 by DISTRICT as a PERCENT of NORMAL

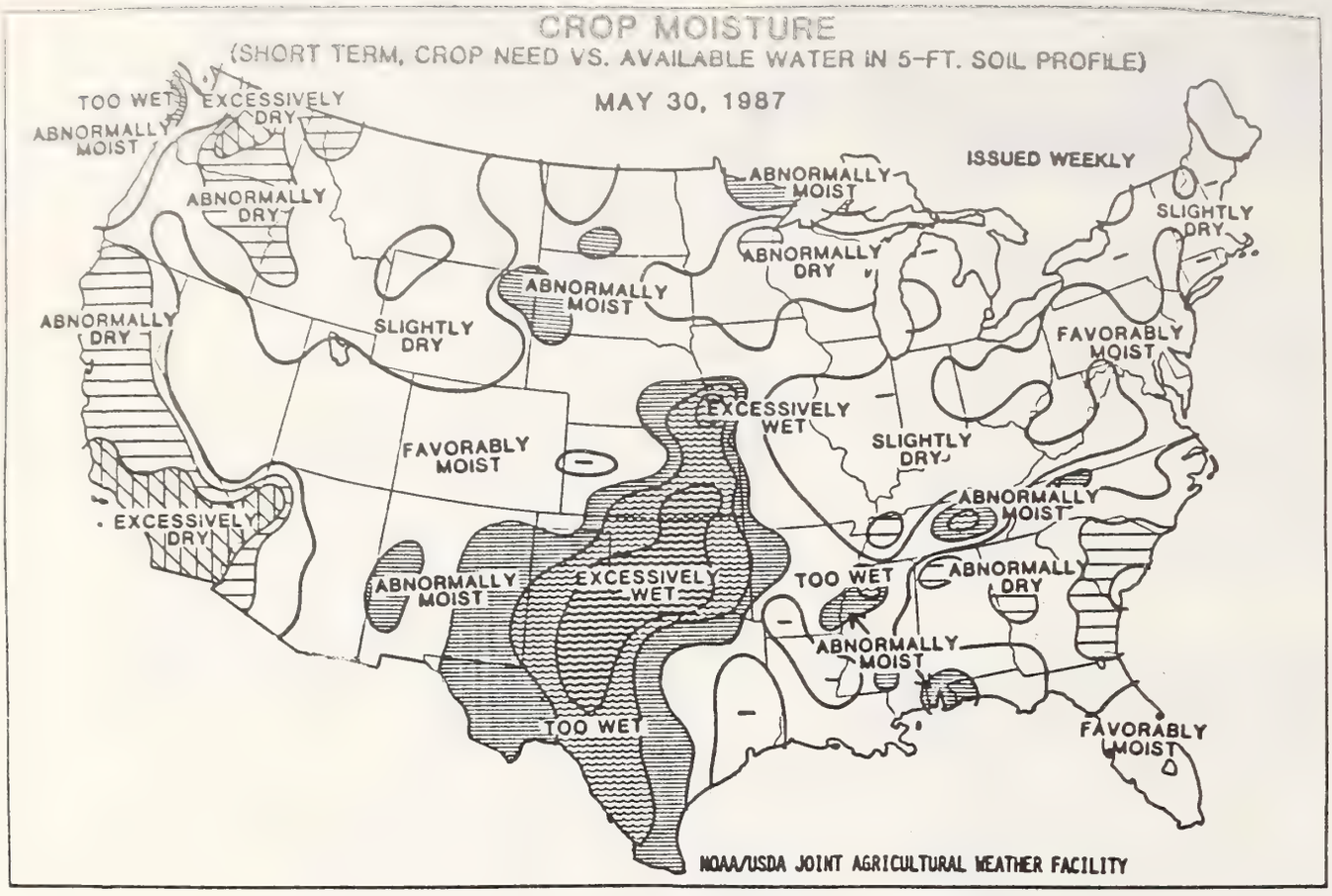
DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987
Northwest	70	88	81
North Central	42	96	76
Northeast	39	83	92
Central	44	91	82
Southwest	63	88	86
South Central	52	91	74
Southeast	52	91	88
STATE	51	90	83

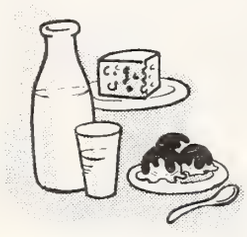
CONSUMER PREFERENCES CHANGE A LOT IN 20 YEARS

A good indicator of the changing lifestyles of Americans is their choice of food. Here's a rundown on how consumer preferences have changed:

	1965	1985	Change 1965-85
	1/ Lbs. per Capita		Pct.
SOME GAINERS:			
Red Meats	146.3	153.2	+ 5
Lowfat Milk & Yogurt 2/	39.3	117.0	+198
Corn Sweetners	18.2	87.5	+381
Poultry	41.1	69.7	+ 70
Soft Drinks (Gallons)	19.2	45.6	+137
Fresh Bananas	17.9	25.6	+ 43
Salad, Cooking Oils	12.5	23.5	+ 88
Cheese	9.8 3/	22.4	+129
Frozen Potatoes	7.2	21.2	+194
Fresh Onions	10.7	18.3	+ 71
Fish	10.8	14.5	+ 34
Pasta Products	5.6	12.3	+120
Fresh Grapes	3.8	6.3	+ 66
Fresh Broccoli	0.3	2.6	+767
SOME LOSERS:			
Whole Milk	246.0	120.8	- 51
Refined Sugar	97.0	63.4	- 35
Fresh Potatoes	65.2	49.9	- 23
Coffee (Gallons)	36.3	25.9	- 29
Eggs (Dozens)	26.1	21.3	- 18
Canned Peaches	6.7	2.9	- 57
Lard	6.3	1.8	- 71

1/ Retail weight basis. 2/ Also includes skim, buttermilk, flavored drinks.
3/ 1966 data.





COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 113,000 gallons of ice cream in April, 26 percent less than the same month last year. Creamed cottage cheese production was 304,000 pounds, 9 percent less than the previous year. Butter output was down 15 percent at 135,000 pounds.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

COUNTY WHEAT ESTIMATES AVAILABLE
RAIN BOOSTS CROP PROSPECTS
ALL WHEAT COUNTY ESTIMATES
JUNE SURVEY UNDERWAY
FARM LABOR
MAY 1 POTATO STOCKS
APRIL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

1986 COUNTY WHEAT ESTIMATES

The 1986 wheat county estimates are now available for distribution. We're publishing the "all wheat" figures in this publication, but estimates by class and cropping practice are available from the office upon request.

These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on an acreage and production survey conducted last fall. About 5,300 questionnaires were tabulated including about 3,100 telephone calls made to producers in counties where mail returns were light. Thanks to those who provided information!

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RAINFALL BOOSTS CROP PROSPECTS

Soaking rains during the past two weeks have improved the condition of Montana crops. Both winter and spring wheat were rated over 70 percent good to excellent on May 23 and recent widespread rains should further boost prospects. Pastures and ranges have also responded well to the improved moisture likely boosting the fair rating reported on the 23rd. More rain and sunshine will still be needed to maintain pasture grasses.

The timing for recent precipitation was very good. We saw some crops and pastures come under stress, but little permanent damage was done. Grasshoppers were hatching rapidly and feeding heavily on grains, hay and pastures and we had some reports of reseeding due to grasshopper damage. But, the cool, wet weather should slow the hatch and feeding activity.

Snow pack and streamflow is far below normal this year. How will this impact Montana agriculture? We expect a shortage of stream irrigation water. This will certainly impact farmers and ranchers who depend on this source -- especially if we receive less than normal rainfall during the next month. Overall, however, we don't expect this shortage of irrigation water alone would cause a disastrous reduction in Montana crop or pasture production. About 20 percent of the harvested cropland in Montana is irrigated and part of that acreage uses water from reservoirs that have adequate supplies.

Could we still see a drought comparable to 1985? It's possible, but very unlikely because subsoil moisture supplies are much better than in '85. In June 1985 we had hot, windy weather, little rainfall and very short subsoil moisture. Normal June weather could still result in good to excellent crops this year.

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MONTANA ALL WHEAT 1986

COUNTY and DISTRICT	TOTAL SEEDED ACRES	NET SEEDED ACRES	TOTAL HARVESTED ACRES	YIELD PER ACRE BU.	PRODUCTION BU.
Deerlodge	300	300	300	45.0	13,500
Flathead	10,000	10,000	9,700	57.6	559,000
Granite	500	500	500	44.8	22,400
Lake	13,800	13,800	12,400	51.6	639,800
Mineral	300	300	300	29.0	8,700
Missoula	3,500	3,500	3,200	35.0	112,100
Powell	3,100	3,100	2,700	33.1	89,400
Ravalli	3,200	3,200	2,800	45.5	127,400
Sanders	1,300	1,300	1,100	29.7	32,700
N. WEST	36,000	36,000	33,000	48.6	1,605,000
Blaine	159,400	159,100	153,100	28.5	4,367,000
Chouteau	430,500	428,300	417,800	34.5	14,427,400
Glacier	128,400	128,300	122,400	24.3	2,973,000
Hill	415,800	415,000	409,100	32.9	13,442,700
Liberty	224,300	224,200	218,100	32.6	7,119,400
Phillips	150,400	150,300	138,100	28.1	3,885,700
Pondera	150,700	150,600	147,600	39.2	5,791,200
Teton	150,500	148,600	142,800	34.7	4,950,400
Toole	203,400	203,000	197,000	27.4	5,393,200
N. CENTRAL	2,013,400	2,007,400	1,946,000	32.0	62,350,000
Daniels	206,900	206,700	191,200	22.3	4,264,400
Dawson	150,600	150,500	143,500	24.7	3,544,500
Garfield	88,100	87,800	75,500	20.0	1,509,400
McCone	216,400	215,200	189,000	24.2	4,565,400
Richland	149,500	149,200	142,600	28.6	4,072,400
Roosevelt	299,700	293,400	285,000	22.9	6,513,700
Sheridan	254,200	253,900	248,500	26.5	6,580,200
Valley	309,000	306,800	297,800	24.2	7,200,500
N. EAST	1,674,400	1,663,500	1,573,100	24.3	38,250,500
Broadwater	37,600	37,300	36,000	44.0	1,584,200
Cascade	172,400	172,100	167,000	32.9	5,502,500
Fergus	130,600	130,600	125,100	31.9	3,984,800
Golden Valley	33,100	33,100	31,000	28.6	885,800
Judith Basin	66,300	66,200	62,000	31.9	1,979,500
Lewis & Clark	14,000	14,000	12,800	39.1	500,900
Meagher	9,600	9,600	9,000	34.9	313,800
Musselshell	44,800	44,700	41,700	30.5	1,270,900
Petroleum	25,100	25,100	22,800	31.8	724,900
Wheatland	31,400	31,300	29,200	25.7	750,800
CENTRAL	564,900	564,000	536,600	32.6	17,498,100
Beaverhead	11,700	11,700	11,200	35.0	391,700
Gallatin	45,300	45,000	43,100	43.6	1,880,000
Jefferson	9,900	9,900	9,500	31.4	298,600
Madison	9,900	9,900	9,100	32.4	294,700
	100	100	100	50.0	5,000
S. WEST	76,900	76,600	73,000	39.3	2,870,000
Big Horn	100,100	100,000	96,000	33.9	3,255,700
Carbon	22,100	22,100	20,500	30.2	620,100
Park	11,500	11,500	11,000	36.0	396,100
Stillwater	52,000	51,900	46,000	27.6	1,269,400
Sweet Grass	7,600	7,600	6,800	33.3	226,100
Treasure	6,100	6,100	5,700	45.6	260,000
Yellowstone	83,800	83,700	81,000	33.9	2,742,000
S. CENTRAL	283,200	282,900	267,000	32.8	8,769,400
Carter	57,900	56,900	50,100	20.7	1,036,700
Custer	46,700	46,700	41,500	23.5	974,600
Fallon	71,800	71,800	66,000	18.6	1,225,700
Powder River	30,600	30,000	26,500	25.3	669,900
Prairie	38,900	38,900	35,000	24.4	853,800
Rosebud	62,200	62,200	57,000	21.7	1,236,400
Wibaux	58,100	58,100	55,200	21.4	1,179,900
S. EAST	366,200	364,600	331,300	21.7	7,177,000
STATE	5,015,000	4,995,000	4,760,000	29.1	138,520,000

JUNE SURVEY UNDERWAY

We're now heading into our busy mid-year survey period. That means over 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers will be contacted during the first two weeks of June to update the 1987 numbers. They will be contacted by phone, mail or by personal interview. Questions asked will cover planted acreage, grain stocks and livestock numbers.

The new numbers will include actual acres planted to all crops. The last information on spring grown crops was provided by the March intentions report. Those intentions may have changed due to weather, participation in government programs or for a number of other reasons.

It's important that we have accurate numbers to help farmers plan their marketing strategy. Participation remains voluntary for these surveys, but remember, accurate information depends on good cooperation, and you need accurate information to make those vital farm and ranch decisions.

NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWN FROM 1986 - WAGES UP

During the week of April 12-18, 1987, there were 2.82 million people working on farms and ranches in the United States. The count of workers was down 3 percent from a year ago. Included in the work force were 1.31 million self-employed farm operators, 445,000 unpaid workers, and 885,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. The additional 188,000 workers were agricultural service employees.

Hired farm workers received an average of $4.90 per hour during the April 1987 survey week, up 19 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $4.67 per hour compared with $4.52 in April 1986. Field and livestock workers earned $4.70 and $4.32, respectively. Last year their wages were $4.58 and $4.26.

Self-employed persons worked an average of 43.6 hours during the April 1987 survey week, the same as a year earlier. Unpaid workers averaged 36.1 hours, 1.4 hours more than last year. Hired employees worked 40.3 hours, up 1.5 hours from April 1986.

Perquisites and other benefits such as housing and food were provided to 46 percent of the hired workers. Housing was provided to 13 percent of the workers, unchanged from last year.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES & REGIONS, APRIL 12-18, 1987 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	4.66	3.60	4.17	7.13	6.31	4.55	3/	4.43
NORTHEAST II	4.87	3.90	4.50	7.35	5.94	4.81	3/	5.16
APPALACHIAN I	3.98	4.31	4.11	7.89	3/	4.22	3/	5.38
APPALACHIAN II	3.76	3.90	3.85	3/	3/	3.80	3/	4.52
SOUTHEAST	3.73	4.36	3.95	6.68	4.62	3.98	3/	4.19
FLORIDA	4.64	4.54	4.63	9.99	6.54	4.47	5.69	6.70
LAKE	4.36	3.88	4.15	3/	6.07	4.09	3/	4.94
CORNBELT I	5.04	4.17	4.64	8.59	5.62	5.07	3/	4.79
CORNBELT II	4.37	4.39	4.38	3/	5.23	4.83	3/	4.25
DELTA	3.86	4.00	3.90	6.51	3/	3.97	3/	4.59
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.29	4.43	4.35	5.88	5.51	4.56	3/	4.29
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.26	4.93	4.62	7.55	6.26	4.62	5.34	5.36
MOUNTAIN I	3.94	3.44	3.77	5.29	3/	4.61	3/	3.48
MOUNTAIN II	4.33	4.18	4.26	6.02	5.55	4.59	3/	4.34
MOUNTAIN III	4.50	4.29	4.45	7.37	7.88	4.36	3/	5.53
PACIFIC	4.89	5.14	4.93	7.42	7.42	4.93	5.33	5.97
CALIFORNIA	5.44	5.58	5.46	10.00	8.76	5.22	6.42	8.20
HAWAII	7.82	3/	7.68	11.26	7.83	7.85	3/	9.97
U.S.	4.70	4.32	4.57	7.97	6.38	4.67	6.09	5.16

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: Northeast I CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data.

MAY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana potato stocks on hand May 1, 1987 totaled 400,000 cwt, up 800 percent from a year ago. The stocks on hand were 18 percent of production.

Nationally, May 1, 1987 potato stocks totaled 57.0 million cwt in the 15 fall storage states. This is down 13 percent from last year but 9 percent above two years ago. Nineteen percent of fall potato production is still on hand, the same percentage as a year ago. Eastern and Central States are down sharply from last year, while Western states show 1 percent more potatoes stored.

The three Eastern states held 3.50 million cwt, down 57 percent from last year and 33 percent below two years ago. Maine had 3.00 million cwt on hand, 58 percent less than last May. New York and Pennsylvania are practically finished for the season.

The six Central states' potato storage stands at 7.79 million cwt, down 34 percent from last year and 9 percent under two years ago. North Dakota stocks at 3.00 million cwt are down 21 percent; Wisconsin holdings of 2.30 million cwt are off 28 percent; while Minnesota's 1.80 million cwt dropped 42 percent from a year ago. Michigan, with only half a million cwt of potatoes on hand, was 67 percent below last year and Nebraska with 190 thousand cwt was off 30 percent.

The Western states held 45.8 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1987, up 1 percent from last year and 18 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks of 25.5 million cwt are up 13 percent; Oregon storage with 5.80 million cwt is at last year's level; and Washington's 8.70 million cwt are down 10 percent. Colorado storage with 4.25 million cwt and California stocks of 1.10 million cwt are down 21 and 42 percent, respectively.

APRIL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat in April 1987. This production was slightly higher than the previous month, but was 8 percent less than April 1986 production.

Cattle slaughter, at 1,800 head, was down 22 percent from last year. Hog slaughter was down 8 percent with 2,200 head slaughtered.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in April 1987 totaled 3.16 billion pounds, down 9 percent from April 1986. January-April red meat production, at 12.6 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 2; Veal, down 15; Pork, down 3; Lamb and Mutton, down 11. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

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 Winter Wheat Production
 Pasture and Range

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farmland Values
Winter Wheat Production
Milk Prod., Disp., & Income
Manufactured Dairy
Hay Stocks
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Prices Received & Indexes
Take Pride in America

SURVEY RESULTS

FARMLAND VALUES

Farmland values are watched closely by those both in and out of agriculture. They are a measure of the general health of the agricultural economy. That's why this year's figures were a shock to many who expected a leveling off of the declines we've seen in recent years. This year's report pegged Montana farmland at an average of $167 per acre on February 1st -- down a sharp 18 percent from a year earlier. This was a larger decline than we expected based on much improved production and income in 1986.

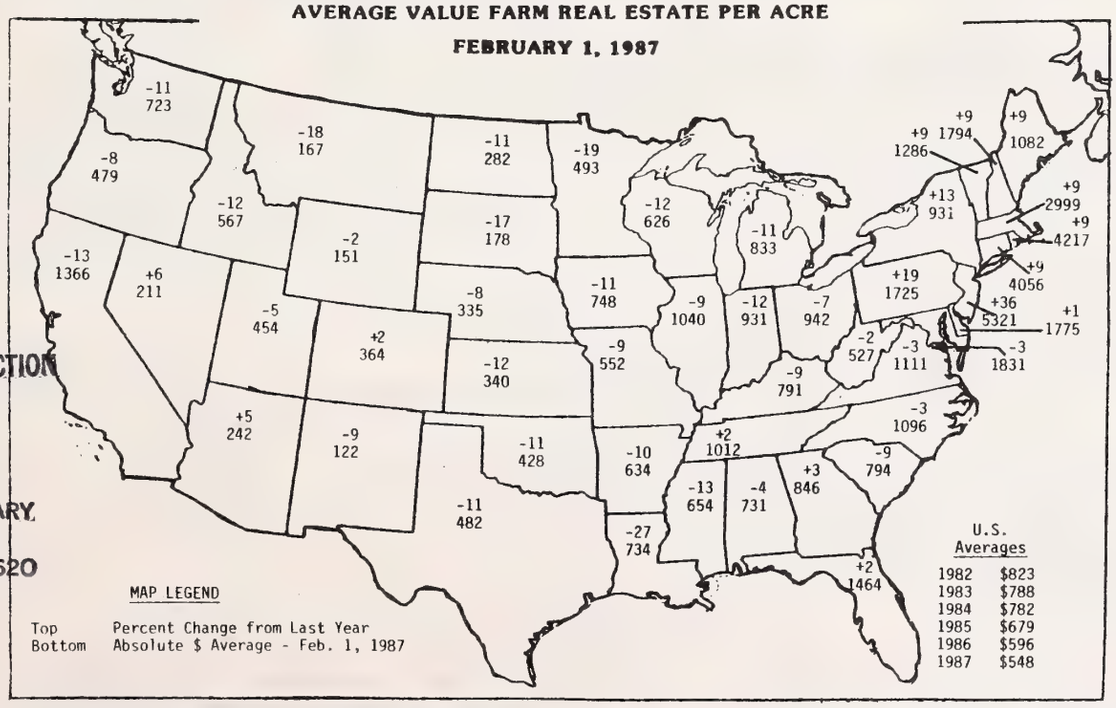
The $167 per acre figure for Montana land is the lowest value in 10 years.

Montana's 18 percent decline was much larger than the U.S. reduction of 8 percent and exceeded declines in surrounding states.

Regionally, only the Northeast showed an increase in 1986. The largest declines occurred in the Lake States, where farmland values fell 15 percent, and the Delta, where they dropped 16 percent. In the Corn Belt and Northern Plains, which suffered severe losses in the past 5 years, declines appear to be moderating. Also, there are reports of stable values in some areas of the Corn Belt.

The continuing downturn in values reflects the large acreage of land offered for sale relative to demand, concern about lower crop prices, and uncertainty over farm programs. These factors tend to offset the effects of relatively high cash farm income, lower interest rates, and reduced operating expenses.

PERCENT OF CHANGE FEBRUARY 1, 1986-87
AVERAGE VALUE FARM REAL ESTATE PER ACRE
FEBRUARY 1, 1987



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SURVEY RESULTS

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION OFF 8 PERCENT

Montana's winter wheat crop is expected to total 59.2 million bushels -- 8 percent less than last year. The forecast is based on conditions reported by farmers as of May 1. The forecast yield of 32.0 is about normal for the state and the same as last year. Farmers reduced seeded acreage last fall because of wet conditions and anticipated government programs. Acres for harvest at 1.85 million are down 150,000 acres from last year.

Nationally, the May 1 winter wheat forecast, at 1.55 billion bushels, is up 2 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of May 1, growers expect to harvest about 39 million acres, down 10 percent, and the lowest level since 1978. All major winter wheat states indicated fewer acres for harvest. Texas and Oklahoma were down 11 percent and 14 percent respectively on production, while Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska indicated higher production this year, up 21 percent, 16 percent, and 5 percent respectively. All three states expect 40 bushels per acre yields or more.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST by DISTRICTS - MAY 1, 1987 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT 1986	INDICATED 1987	% CHANGE
	---000 Bu.---		-Pct.-
Northwest	1,008	800	-21
North Central	29,741	28,600	- 4
Northeast	6,724	5,800	-14
Central	12,571	11,800	- 6
Southwest	1,773	1,500	-15
South Central	7,536	6,100	-19
Southeast	4,647	4,600	- 1
State	64,000	59,200	- 7

1/ District data funded by Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 180,000 gallons of ice cream in March, 15 percent more than March the previous year. Creamed cottage cheese production at 359,000 pounds was 10 percent more than last year. Butter output amounted to 150,000 pounds, 9 percent less than March 1986.

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, CASH RECEIPTS and GROSS INCOME, 1985-1986

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1985	MONTANA 1986	UNITED STATES 1985	UNITED STATES 1986
Number of Milk Cows 1/	(000) Hd.	28	27	11,016	10,839
Milk Prod. Per Cow 2/	Lbs.	12,464	12,481	12,994	13,293
Total Milk Production	Mil. Lbs.	349	337	143,147	144,080
Milk Used on Farms Where Produced	Mil. Lbs.	17	15	2,456	2,559
Milk Marketed by Farmers	Mil. Lbs.	332	322	140,691	141,521
Milk Sold to Plts & Dealers Percent Fluid Grade 3/	Mil. Lbs.	329	319	139,436	140,306
Price Per 100 Pounds 4/	Dollars	13.10	12.70	12.75	12.51
Cash Receipts from Milk Sold	(000) Dols.	43,099	40,513	17,778,640	17,550,874
Cash Receipts from all Marketings	(000) Dols.	43,852	41,211	18,062,961	17,824,118
Farm Value of Milk Prod. 5/	(000) Dols.	46,098	43,130	18,379,194	18,146,585
Gross Farm Income From Dairy Products	(000) Dols.	44,777	41,979	18,155,290	17,911,998

1/ Average number during year excluding heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves. 3/ Percent of milk sold to plants and dealers that is eligible for fluid use (Grade A in most states). Includes fluid grade milk used in manufacturing dairy products. 4/ Price of milk sold to plants and dealers. 5/ Valued at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. Includes value of milk fed to calves.

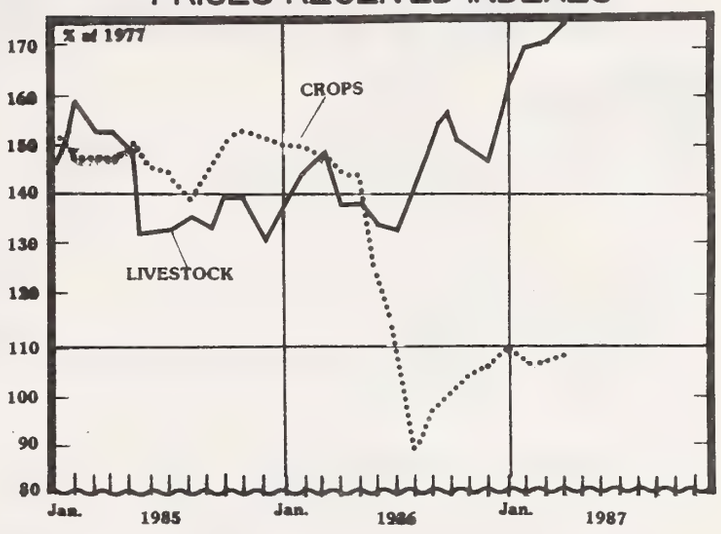
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

The mild, open winter coupled with last fall's good moisture greened up pastures and ranges early this year. However, growth was slow due to cool weather and very little moisture until mid-March. Rain and snow the last of March and the first part of April promoted good growth across most of the State. Warm weather and wind during the last week of April depleted topsoil moisture supplies and slowed pasture, range and hay growth. Farmers and ranchers have vivid memories of the 1985 drought year still fresh in their minds. Moisture is badly needed to promote growth and also provide stockwater for good pasture feed.

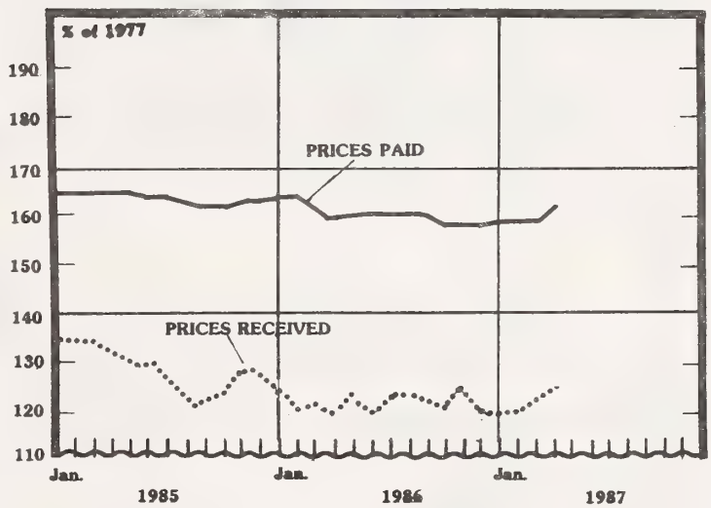
MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE - MAY 1

DISTRICT	1985	1986	1987
Northwest	82	86	86
North Central	54	85	91
Northeast	36	67	86
Central	67	79	85
Southwest	89	85	83
South Central	75	83	82
Southeast	77	75	81
STATE	68	80	85

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on Montana farms as of May 1 were 1,296,000 tons, almost 4 times last year's record low carryover. Last summer's good hay crop plus a mild winter are reasons for higher stocks this year.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1987	Apr. 1987
Prices Received	121	123	125
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates	159	159 2/	162 2/
Ratio 1/	76	77	77
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 3/	-	-	52

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ April 1987 Prices Paid Index. 3/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1987	MONTANA Apr. 15, 1987	U.S. Apr. 15, 1987
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.20	2.44	2.45	2.49
Durum	Bu.	3.15	2.98	3.15	3.11
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.85	2.65	2.65	2.61
All Wheat	Bu.	3.52	2.54	2.56	2.59
Barley	Bu.	1.88	1.70	1.76	1.66
Oats	Bu.	1.50	1.39	1.35	1.43
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	45.00	45.00	66.90
All Other Hay	Ton	85.00	40.00	40.00	48.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	90.00	45.00	45.00	62.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	52.40	67.00	68.80	66.90
Cows	Cwt.	34.60	47.40	47.50	43.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	46.20	60.10	61.30	63.20
Calves	Cwt.	59.50	72.10	73.70	75.10
Sheep	Cwt.	19.70	20.30	17.70	30.30
Lambs	Cwt.	57.60	75.50	69.00	85.40
Hogs	Cwt.	35.50	41.60	42.90	50.70
All Milk	Cwt.	12.54	12.45	12.35	12.30
Eggs	Doz.	.500	.520	.540	.465
Wool 2/	Lb.	.700	.870	1.040	.968
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	141	141	143	125
All Crops	Pct.	145	107	108	102
Livestock & Products	Pct.	137	171	174	148

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE 59 PERCENT SHORT

The crop-weather report released on May 9th had one urgent message, we need rain! The hot, windy weather has depleted much of the topsoil moisture and stress is beginning to show up in pastures and ranges. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 59 percent short, up 13 percent from a week earlier.

The dry weather did allow farmers to make excellent progress planting spring crops. Spring wheat, barley, sugarbeets and oats were 73 to 86 percent seeded. Planting of other crops were as follows: Potatoes, 21 percent; corn, 70 percent and dry beans, 50 percent.

The condition of Montana's winter wheat crop was still rated 74 percent good, but had deteriorated from a week earlier. Grasshoppers were hatching in large numbers, expecially in the eastern third of the State and some hopper damage was already reported.

The livestock situation shows about 46 percent of the cattle, calves, sheep and lambs had moved to summer range. Movement this year is ahead of normal for this date. There is concern about this year's hay crop and reduced range grass because of shortages of irrigation water and little rain. Maybe it's time for a rain dance folks!

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Potato Stocks
Farm Labor

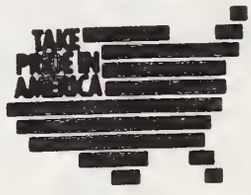
FARMLAND A VITAL RESOURCE

Farms are an important part of the nation's ecosystem. That fits in with the emphasis on the "Take Pride in America" campaign, which stresses responsibility for both public and private land.

Many of the nation's natural resources are either owned or influenced by farmers. Use of these lands influences the appearance of our rural landscape, the quality of our water and air, as well as the type and amount of wildlife.

Farmers have become more aware of the wisdom of land stewardship. Soils sustain the crops, livestock, and trees upon which a healthy agricultural economy depends. Careless management may lead to excessive erosion, water pollution, and other problems that generations of work may not be able to repair. The "Take Pride" campaign emphasizes protection of agricultural land as one of this country's most vital resources.

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA
AWARENESS WEEK MAY 17-23, 1987



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HIGHLIGHTS:

SHEEP LOSSES UP
FIELDWORK ACTIVE
MILK PRODUCTION DOWN
EGG RECEIPTS UP
POTATO STOCKS UP
WHEAT MOVEMENT UP
FARMLAND VALUES

FIELDWORK MADE GOOD PROGRESS

Late April's warm weather helped farmers make good progress tilling fields and seeding crops. Most spring seeding was close to 40 percent done at the end of last week. This is slightly behind average and quite a bit behind last year. Although soil moisture is adequate in most locations, about 20 percent of the state is reporting short topsoil moisture. Also, every location reported below normal precipitation April 1-25.

Calving and lambing are in final stages and both cattle and sheep death losses have been below normal this year.

SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES

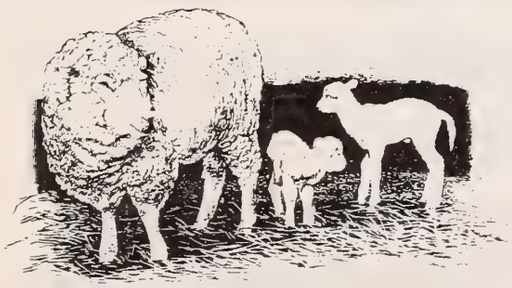
Montana sheepmen lost 132,000 sheep and lambs in 1986 to weather, predators, disease and other causes - up 4 percent from 1985. The value of the loss was up 8 percent at $6.4 million. Predators were responsible for $2.1 million, non-predator factors caused $3.4 million, and unknown causes claimed $.9 million.

Coyote predation continued to be the single most important cause of death. They accounted for 23 percent of the total lost value.

Total predator caused losses in the lamb crop were down 15 percent from last year. Sheep lost to predators were down 32 percent.

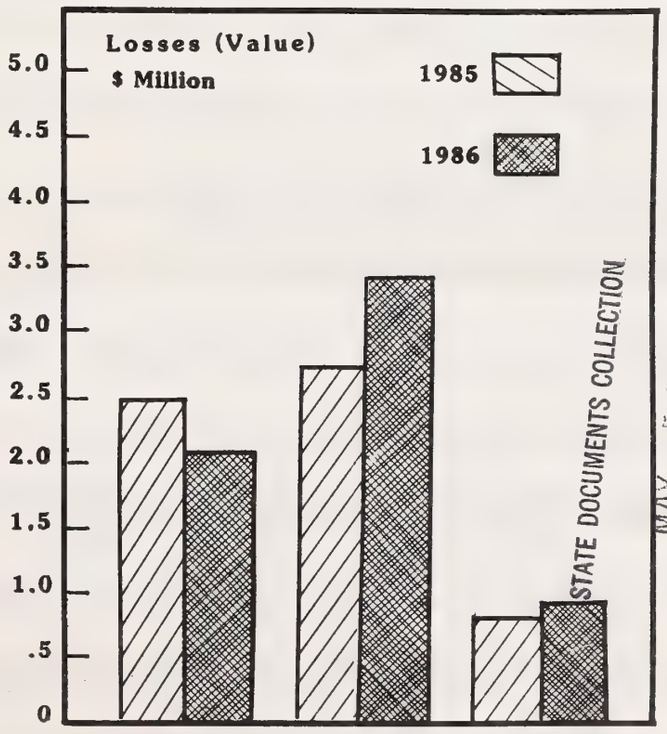
Lambs lost to weather, disease and other non-predator causes were up 17 percent from last year. Sheep losses to non-predator factors were up 26 percent.

Lambs and sheep lost to unknown causes were up 15 percent.



SURVEY RESULTS

SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES -- 1986



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Average Value of Farmland & Buildings Per Acre By State & County

Selected Years, 1890-1982

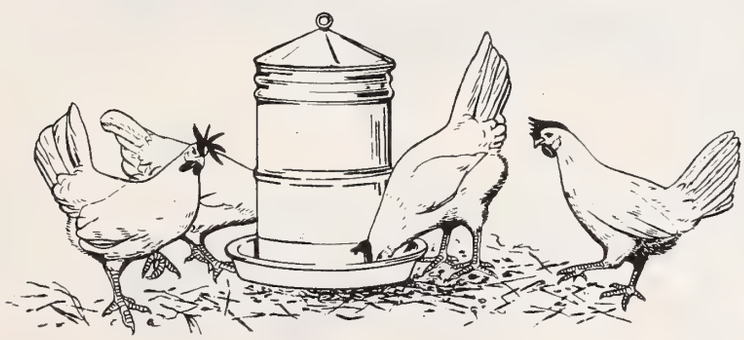
	1890	1900	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1954	1959	1964	1969	1974	1978	1982	
MONTANA	13	5	19	22	14	12	8	8	9	17	24	35	42	60	112	196	259	MONTANA
BEAVERHEAD	10	8	19	27	16	12	9	7	9	19	30	28	43	58	127	206	307	BEAVERHEAD
BIG HORN	-	-	-	17	8	6	6	7	6	14	17	28	31	48	86	138	185	BIG HORN
BLAINE	-	-	-	15	10	10	6	6	6	12	15	28	30	41	71	134	198	BLAIN
BROADWATER	-	11	20	29	20	12	11	9	8	25	24	38	49	64	120	214	341	BROADWATER
CARBON	-	12	36	36	27	27	17	14	17	33	41	60	73	100	194	341	418	CARBON
CARTER	-	-	-	12	6	5	4	3	4	7	13	19	26	35	55	110	124	CARTER
CASCADE	20	6	15	34	16	17	13	11	13	25	36	55	65	81	144	254	310	CASCADE
CHOUTEAU	7	5	14	23	10	12	8	7	11	25	41	55	63	84	137	234	342	CHOUTEAU
CUSTER	7	4	12	11	7	5	4	3	4	9	10	16	23	36	68	113	130	CUSTER
DANIELS	-	-	-	-	13	16	11	8	11	17	28	36	51	75	143	256	281	DANIELS
DAWSON	8	4	16	17	13	10	8	4	7	11	17	24	36	52	92	183	208	DAWSON
DEER LODGE	16	8	23	34	20	20	16	23	13	11	45	66	55	42	85	144	315	DEER LODGE
FALLON	-	-	9	15	10	10	6	5	5	11	15	23	30	42	82	144	149	FALLON
FERGUS	10	5	24	31	20	16	9	8	10	20	28	38	44	62	112	188	270	FERGUS
FLATHEAD	-	14	46	39	40	40	28	34	37	73	78	78	103	176	390	770	1,165	FLATHEAD
GALLATIN	15	14	34	47	41	31	20	21	21	37	53	63	70	109	220	423	587	GALLATIN
GARFIELD	-	-	-	10	7	6	4	2	3	5	8	14	21	30	57	102	132	GARFIELD
GLACIER	-	-	-	10	4	5	4	6	7	13	19	37	40	71	107	180	257	GLACIER
GOLDEN VALLEY	-	-	-	-	12	6	3	3	4	11	14	19	23	34	58	145	172	GOLDEN VALLEY
GRANITE	-	12	20	29	17	14	11	10	11	18	25	36	49	76	130	239	334	GRANITE
HILL	-	-	-	20	10	9	7	6	9	15	30	58	57	76	121	225	345	HILL
JEFFERSON	17	12	19	24	17	16	9	8	8	13	25	28	38	56	110	206	309	JEFFERSON
JUDITH BASIN	-	-	-	-	25	19	9	8	12	25	40	52	61	76	138	199	316	JUDITH BASIN
LAKE	-	-	-	-	28	19	13	19	27	49	76	81	106	119	258	437	592	LAKE
LEWIS & CLARK	25	6	12	18	12	11	8	6	8	12	19	25	34	52	118	184	237	LEWIS & CLARK
LIBERTY	-	-	-	20	11	8	6	7	10	24	38	55	61	74	110	244	348	LIBERTY
LINCOLN	-	-	24	27	22	22	16	16	16	34	43	59	86	122	274	491	1,011	LINCOLN
MCCONE	-	-	-	12	11	10	7	4	6	11	16	28	37	49	127	164	185	MCCONE
MADISON	13	10	22	29	18	16	10	10	11	22	25	35	49	70	126	241	293	MADISON
MEAGHER	10	3	10	14	10	9	6	5	7	10	15	25	34	35	70	126	161	MEAGHER
MINERAL	-	-	-	28	21	23	14	16	13	25	35	61	75	106	206	686	922	MINERAL
MISSOULA	13	14	41	38	30	29	22	22	23	60	50	72	92	120	229	586	657	MISSOULA
MUSSELSHELL	-	-	-	24	9	5	3	2	3	8	10	14	19	30	60	143	195	MUSSELSHELL
PARK	9	7	18	28	16	15	9	10	11	21	31	38	52	73	149	268	331	PARK
PETROLEUM	-	-	-	-	-	8	4	3	4	8	12	17	19	26	52	90	144	PETROLEUM
PHILLIPS	-	-	-	14	9	7	5	5	5	11	15	22	23	38	101	125	177	PHILLIPS
PONDERA	-	-	-	28	21	20	14	14	17	42	57	82	90	115	176	289	462	PONDERA
POWDER RIVER	-	-	-	11	7	7	4	3	5	9	12	20	25	35	76	129	144	POWDER RIVER
POWELL	-	-	15	25	15	10	9	9	8	12	22	29	37	77	110	272	347	POWELL
PRAIRIE	-	-	-	15	9	8	6	5	6	11	14	18	20	43	74	133	164	PRAIRIE
RAVALLI	-	20	81	63	60	40	28	28	32	61	100	95	124	207	442	825	1,044	RAVALLI
RICHLAND	-	-	-	20	15	13	9	8	11	16	23	34	39	58	161	221	274	RICHLAND
ROOSEVELT	-	-	-	20	11	15	10	8	12	19	29	41	51	68	132	190	246	ROOSEVELT
ROSEBUD	-	-	8	11	9	6	4	4	4	7	10	13	18	28	58	106	130	ROSEBUD
SANDERS	-	-	33	32	19	14	12	12	12	14	25	44	50	68	176	298	449	SANDERS
SHERIDAN	-	-	-	21	16	15	10	8	14	21	32	44	62	81	143	228	267	SHERIDAN
SILVER BOW	19	13	20	21	15	19	15	10	9	17	24	28	59	73	139	277	291	SILVER BOW
STILLWATER	-	-	-	28	15	12	6	8	10	21	27	38	55	65	127	241	301	STILLWATER
SWEET GRASS	-	5	18	24	12	10	7	6	6	17	21	27	38	56	101	151	220	SWEET GRASS
TETON	-	6	14	27	16	15	11	12	15	28	51	64	69	100	160	269	399	TETON
TOOLE	-	-	-	19	11	9	6	7	9	19	34	61	62	69	106	185	299	TOOLE
TREASURE	-	-	-	16	13	9	5	4	5	11	13	19	23	35	81	118	133	TREASURE
VALLEY	-	5	13	15	12	12	8	7	9	18	25	39	38	56	98	177	242	VALLEY
WHEATLAND	-	-	-	25	14	8	4	4	6	11	16	21	29	40	70	129	181	WHEATLAND
WIBAUX	-	-	-	23	17	14	7	6	9	16	18	25	36	47	100	169	146	WIBAUX
YELLOWSTONE	11	2	14	28	26	18	12	11	14	22	28	42	54	72	154	326	441	YELLOWSTONE

POTATO STOCKS

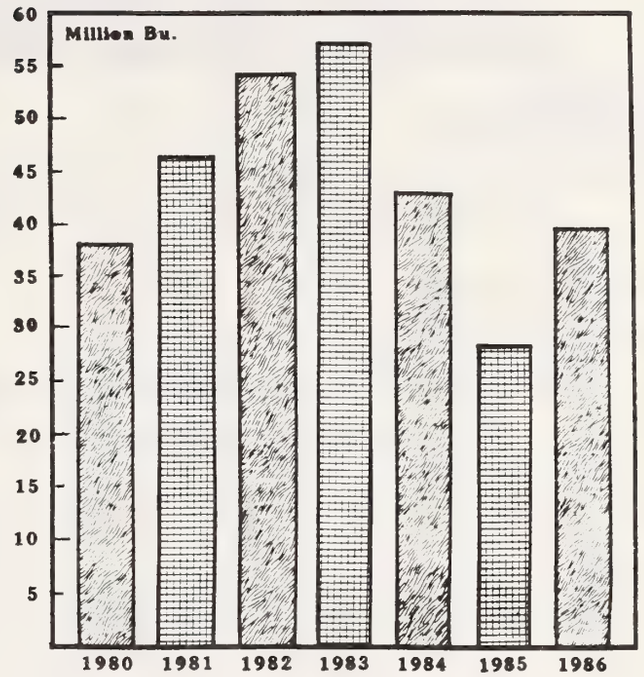
Montana potato stocks on hand April 1, 1987, totaled 1.35 million cwt, up 23 percent from a year ago.

April 1, 1987, potato stocks totaled 91.7 million cwt in the 15 fall storage states. This is down 12 percent from a year ago, but 5 percent above 2 years ago.

Stocks in the six western states totaled 69.8 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year, but 14 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks of 38.0 million cwt are 9 percent above last year and Montana (mainly seed) stocks of 1.35 million cwt are up 23 percent. The other four western states have fewer potatoes on hand than a year ago. Washington stocks of 14.6 million cwt are 10 percent below last year and Oregon's 7.8 million cwt of stocks are down 2 percent. Colorado at 6.3 million cwt is down 17 percent and California stocks of 1.7 million cwt are off 35 percent.



MONTANA WHEAT SHIPPED OUT OF STATE
6 months June - November



EGG RECEIPTS UP

Montana 1986 egg production was valued at $9.4 million, 9 percent above last year in spite of a 1 percent decrease in egg production. The average price was 56 cents per dozen, 5 cents more than the previous year.

Chickens sold in 1986, excluding broilers, brought producers $189,000. The average price received, mostly for spent laying hens, was 8 cents per pound.

Nationally, value of egg production was $3.52 billion in 1986, up 8 percent from 1985. Egg prices averaged 61.6 cents per dozen in 1986, compared with 57.1 cents in 1985.

CHICKENS & EGGS: PRODUCTION, SALES and VALUE -- 1985-1986

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1985	1986	1985	1986
CHICKENS					
Lost	000 Head	100	120	37,502	35,820
Sold	000 Head	600	590	220,395	216,938
Pounds Sold	000 Lbs.	2,400	2,360	1,029,146	1,022,566
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	7.0	8.0	14.8	12.5
Value of Sales	000 Dols.	168	189	152,175	127,853
EGGS					
Produced	Million	202	201	68,407	68,514
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	51.0	56.0	57.1	61.6
Value of Prod.	000 Dols.	8,585	9,380	3,252,519	3,515,228

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana dairymen produced 76 million pounds of milk during the first quarter of 1987. The production was 10 percent less than the January-March period of 1986 and reflected a decline in the number of milk cows in Montana. Milk cow numbers fell from 28,000 head in 1986 to 24,000 head in January-March 1987. Largely due to the nation-wide dairy buy-out program.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1 averaged 15.0 pounds per head, up slightly from last year. The price of these concentrates fell an average of 60 cents per hundredweight to $6.00 per hundredweight.

Nationally, the quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 34.9 billion pounds, 4 percent below January-March 1986.

The average number of cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 10.5 million head, 6 percent below January-March 1986, and 1 percent below October-December 1986.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION
JANUARY-MARCH

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1986	1987	1986	1987
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	1,037	987	4,209	4,145
IDAHO	172	158	565	541
MINN	935	840	2,843	2,587
MONT	28	24	84	76
N DAK	102	92	277	262
ORE	102	92	356	345
S DAK	162	150	434	408
WASH	223	205	946	891
WISC	1,881	1,837	6,141	6,046
WYO	11.2	9.8	31.7	28.4
U.S.	11,126	10,481	36,172	34,877

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
  Winter Wheat
  Hay Stocks
  Pasture & Range
Milk - Prod., Disp. and Income
Slaughter

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
SID LEBAHN, ACTING DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

PLANTING INTENTIONS
MARCH PRICES
GRAIN STOCKS
WOOL PRODUCTION
MEAT ANIMAL CASH RECEIPTS

SURVEY RESULTS

1987 PLANTING INTENTIONS

The March 1st acreage intentions report held some interesting news for Montana farmers. Acreage to be planted to all major crops plus hay acreage for harvest totaled 9,528 thousand acres, down 469 thousand acres or 5 percent from 1986.

WHEAT ACREAGE CUT 5 PERCENT

Wheat acreage is expected to total 4,770 thousand acres in 1987, down 5 percent from 1986 and the smallest acreage since 1973. Nationally, wheat acreage is forecast at 64.8 million acres down 10 percent from 1986 and the fewest acres in 14 years.

BARLEY ACREAGE OFF SHARPLY

Montana farmers intend to plant 2,300 thousand acres of barley, 4 percent less than a year ago. U.S. barley acreage is expected to be down a whopping 15 percent, with North Dakota, the largest producing state, off a sharp 17 percent.

The data for the March Intentions Survey was collected by phone from about 1600 Montana farmers between March 1st and 13th. Farmers that had bids pending in the most recent sign-up of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) were to answer assuming their bids would be accepted. Oat acreage was higher both statewide and nationally. Much of this crop may never be harvested because oats is commonly used as a cover crop for land placed in conservation programs.

Another reason planting intentions are down in Montana is because participation in this year's farm program requires a set-aside of 20 percent and 95 percent of producers are expected to sign up.

FIGURES COULD CHANGE

Remember, this survey covers intentions for all spring planted crops and these plans could change! Factors such as farm prices, costs and, of course, the weather could result in somewhat different figures when we see the next acreage report in early July.

MONTANA PLANTED ACRES

CROP	1986	1987 1/	% CHANGE
Winter Wheat	2,150,000	1,950,000	- 9
Hard Spring Wheat	2,700,000	2,600,000	- 4
Durum	165,000	220,000	+33
All Wheat	5,015,000	4,770,000	- 5
Oats	200,000	225,000	+13
Barley	2,400,000	2,300,000	- 4
Corn	80,000	80,000	N.C.
Sugarbeets	47,200	47,000	N.C.
Dry Beans	4,800	5,800	+21
All Hay Harvest	2,250,000	2,100,000	- 7

1/ Intended.

U.S. PLANTED ACRES

CROP	1986	1987 1/	% CHANGE
	---1000 acres--		
Winter Wheat	53,930	48,195	-11
Hard Spring Wheat	15,109	13,515	-11
Durum	2,994	3,137	+ 5
All Wheat	72,033	64,847	-10
Oats	14,708	15,673	+ 7
Barley	13,059	11,031	-15
Corn	76,674	67,556	-12
Sugarbeets	1,233	1,249	+ 1
Dry Beans	1,674	1,839	+10
All Hay Harvest	62,274	61,154	- 2
Soybeans	61,480	56,885	- 7

1/ Intended.

WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN, VALUE UP

Montana wool growers produced 5.2 million pounds of wool in 1986, 6 percent less than the previous year. Value of this year's wool clip increased, despite smaller production, as prices rose from 67 cents in 1985 to 74 cents per pound in 1986. Montana's 1986 wool clip value was $3.9 million.

Montana's rank among all wool producing states is 5th, in terms of total wool production. However, Montana growers produced the second heaviest average fleece weight, outranked only by Alaska. The average fleece weight for all U.S. producers was 7.81 pounds, while Montana averaged 10.5 pounds and Alaska was 10.6 pounds per fleece.

WOOL PRODUCTION & VALUE - 1985 - 1986

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		U.S.	
		1985	1986	1985	1986
Sheep Shorn	000 Hd.	526.0	500.0	11,158.0	10,802.0
Weight per Fleece	Lbs.	10.6	10.5	7.88	7.81
Wool Prod.	000 Lbs.	5,587.0	5,225.0	87,941.0	84,356.0
Price per Lb.	Cents	67.0	74.0	63.3	66.8
Value	000 Dol.	3,743.0	3,867.0	55,657.0	56,331.0

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Mar. 15,	Mar. 15,
		Mar. 1986	Feb. 1987	1987	1987
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.22	2.42	2.45	2.49
Durum	Bu.	3.15	2.80	2.85	3.05
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.88	2.64	2.70	2.64
All Wheat	Bu.	3.55	2.54	2.58	2.57
Barley	Bu.	1.93	1.63	1.64	1.61
Oats	Bu.	1.55	1.44	1.45	1.39
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	46.00	45.00	61.00
All Other Hay	Ton	85.00	41.00	40.00	48.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	90.00	46.00	45.00	57.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	55.50	66.70	66.70	62.60
Cows	Cwt	37.90	45.70	46.00	42.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	49.30	59.40	59.50	59.20
Calves	Cwt	60.60	72.90	74.00	71.90
Sheep	Cwt	18.40	29.90	30.90	31.70
Lambs	Cwt	59.60	77.00	82.00	81.20
Hogs	Cwt	34.80	44.00	41.00	46.70
All Milk	Cwt	12.72	12.67	12.44	12.60
Eggs	Doz	.670	.470	.520	.544
Wool 2/	Lb.	.700	.740	.870	.710
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	145	141	141	122
All Crops	Pct.	147	107	107	101
Livestock & Products	Pct.	144	171	171	142

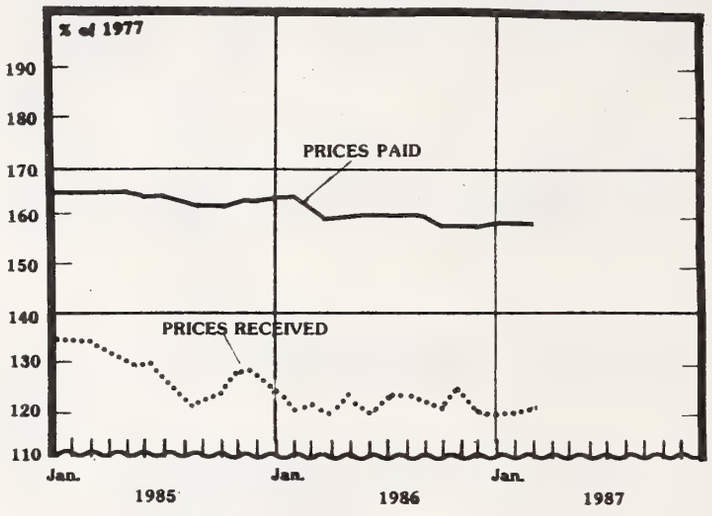
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	Mar. 1986	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1987
Prices Received	122	122	122
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates	161	159 2/	159 2/
Ratio 1/	76	77	77

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ January 1987 Prices Paid Index.

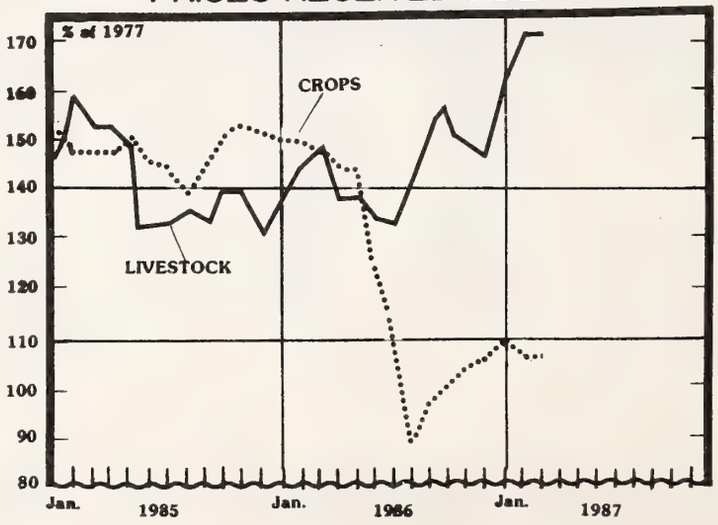
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 113,000 gallons of ice cream in February, 22 percent less than the same month a year ago. Creamed cottage cheese production at 268,000 pounds was also down 22 percent from 1986. Butter churned was down 24 percent from last year at 138,000 pounds. American cheese production at 248,000 pounds was down 22 percent from the previous year.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



FIELDWORK GETTING STARTED

This year's first weekly crop-weather report shows field work is just getting started in Montana with very little seeding so far. This report is a cooperative venture between the Agricultural Extension Service, National Weather Service and Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Crop-weather reports are issued every Monday throughout the growing season.

This week's report says both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies are adequate to surplus with very few areas showing shortages. This reflects the good carryover moisture we had from last fall and the recent spring snowstorms.

The condition of our winter wheat crop continues to improve with warm days and is now rated mostly good. Most of the crop is greening up with about 20 percent still dormant.

A look at the livestock situation shows calving is now about 60 percent complete while lambing is about half done. Both are about average for this date.

Temperatures were normal to above normal last week with very little precipitation.

WHEAT STOCKS ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Montana's All Wheat Stocks on March 1, 1987, totaled 121.3 million bushels, 40 percent more than April 1, 1986. Wheat stored on farms at 85 million bushels was up 63 percent from last year, while wheat stored off farms at 36.3 million was up 5 percent.

Disappearance from December 1, 1986, totaled 41.6 million bushels, a reduction in total stocks of 26 percent.

Winter wheat stocks in all positions totaled 63.6 million bushels, hard spring wheat was 51.3 million, and durum was 6.4 million.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 1987, is estimated at 2.25 billion bushels, up 6 percent from April 1, 1986. Off-farm stocks are placed at 1.46 billion bushels. On-farm storage accounts for 796 million bushels. Indicated disappearance from all storage positions during the December 1986 February 1987 quarter is 418 million bushels.

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT		
	Apr. 1, 1986	Dec. 1, 1986 2/	Mar. 1, 1987
	Million Bushels		
Northwest	.8	1.5	.7
North Central	35.3	73.2	53.4
Northeast	22.3	44.2	33.6
Central	11.4	22.0	15.0
Southwest	3.4	4.7	3.8
South Central	7.2	9.3	8.8
Southeast	6.4	8.0	6.0
STATE	86.8	162.9	121.3

1/ These district estimates of wheat stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 2/ Revised.

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS - 1985-1986

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1985	1986	1985	1986
CATTLE & CALVES					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,370.5	1,052.0	54,483.6	55,398.1
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	47.60	49.30	53.70	52.60
Calves	Dols./Cwt	62.20	62.60	62.10	61.10
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	689.3	537.6	29,050.7	28,910.1
HOGS & PIGS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	56.7	58.0	20,361.0	19,550.3
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	38.50	42.10	44.00	49.30
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	22.0	24.5	9,029.5	9,701.9
SHEEP & LAMBS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	44.8	35.1	868.9	809.0
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	17.60	22.70	23.90	25.60
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	66.80	67.20	67.70	69.00
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	24.6	19.9	503.2	483.5

STOCKS OF GRAIN MARCH 1, 1987 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Apr. 1, 1986	Dec. 1, 1986 *	Mar. 1, 1987	% Change '87/'86	Apr. 1, 1986	Dec. 1, 1986 *	Mar. 1, 1987
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels-----		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	52,250	124,000	85,000	+63	799,432	1,063,000	796,000
Off farms 1/	34,598	38,901	36,300	+ 5	1,330,641	1,608,458	1,457,143
T O T A L	86,848	162,901	121,300	+40	2,130,073	2,671,458	2,253,143
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	31,816	61,000	41,000	+29	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	21,256	23,145	22,600	+ 6	--	--	--
T O T A L	53,072	84,145	63,600	+12	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	20,434	63,000	44,000	+115	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,342	15,756	13,700	+ 3	--	--	--
T O T A L	33,776	78,756	57,700	+ 71	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--		89,192	96,910	72,570
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--		46,878	57,558	56,104
T O T A L	5,610	7,775	6,400	+14	136,070	154,468	128,674
CORN							
On Farms					3,981,992	6,795,500	5,024,000
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,965,087	3,508,605	3,222,849
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	5,947,079	10,304,105	8,246,849

1/Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Poultry, Prod., Disp., & Income

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
SID LEBAHN, ACTING DEPUTY STATE STAT.
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Thanks to Reporters!
U.S. Export Update
Montana Potato Stocks Up
Montana Egg Production
Montana Cash Receipts Up
February Livestock Slaughter
Food Processing Adds Value
Productivity in US Agriculture
Financial Stress In US Agriculture

US EXPORT UPDATE

During the last 5 marketing years the following percentage of production of these crops was exported: wheat (54), rice (49), cotton (47), soybeans (40), corn (26). These crops produced primarily in the Corn Belt, Delta, Northern Plains, and Southern Plains, remain heavily dependent upon exports.

However, the export value of wheat, rice, feed grains, oilseeds and products, and cotton declined 25 percent in the first 11 months of the 1986 fiscal year. The value of agricultural exports fell 17 percent overall in this period, while export volume declined 15 percent.

With recent changes in exchange rates there are indications that U.S. agricultural exports in 1987 will begin to stabilize for commodities such as soybeans, wheat, and rice, while increasing in cotton. The longer-run export outlook is clouded because of the uneven changes in the U.S. dollar against currencies of both importers and exporters of grains, oilseeds, and cotton, and the 1-3 year lag between currency devaluation and resultant changes in trade patterns. Also affecting exports will be the continued presence of both tariff and nontariff barriers to major U.S. agricultural commodities, targeted Export Assistance Agreements, and supply/demand factors ranging from global weather patterns to changes in meat production levels in centrally planned economies.

In compensation for lower U.S. feed grain exports because of Spain's and Portugal's entry into the Common Market, the European Community (EC) has agreed that Spain will import 2 million metric tons of corn and 300,000 tons of sorghum annually from outside the EC. If imports do not reach this level by reducing tariffs, the grain will be imported directly by EC intervention agencies.

Under the 4-year agreement, the United States will share this quota with other exporters. Tariffs on 26 other agricultural products and industrial goods were also reduced, and the EC lifted a requirement that 15 percent of Portugal's grain imports come from the rest of the EC.

The agreement brought the United States and the EC back from the brink of another trade confrontation because of the lost feed grain exports.

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THANKS TO REPORTERS!

At one time or another most of us have been asked to provide survey information--sometimes by mail, othertimes by phone or personal interview. Surveys are used to sample public opinion or to gather measurable factual information. Why are there so many surveys these days? And why are survey results so important? Simply put, surveys help people make better decisions. Surveys provide information that helps us make fewer mistakes! Those with the best information usually make the best decisions.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service does surveys about agriculture. We survey producers and agriculture businesses to help farmers and ranchers make informed decisions about production and marketing. Participation in surveys in the U.S. is voluntary, yet 85 to 95 percent of those contacted participate!

In turn, those who participate in Montana Agricultural surveys receive results free of charge. But, too often, we don't take time to say, "Thanks" to those who contribute -- your help is appreciated!

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS UP

Montana potato stocks on hand March 1, 1987, totaled 1.97 million cwt, up 52 percent from a year ago.

Potato stocks in the 15 fall storage states totaled 125 million cwt on March 1, 1987. This is down 10 percent from last year, but 5 percent above two years ago. March 1 stocks represent 41 percent of fall production in the 15 states compared with 40 percent last year. Holdings are below last year in all states except Idaho and Montana.

The six western states storages held 90.5 million cwt of potatoes on March 1 this year, within 1 percent of last year's stocks and 15 percent more than two years ago. March 1 stocks in Idaho are 3 percent above last year. The Montana stocks are well above a year ago. Washington stocks are down 3 percent and Oregon holdings are down 4 percent. Colorado potato stocks are down 12 percent from last year and California is off 28 percent.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION

Montana poultry farms produced 51 million eggs in the December, 1986, through February, 1987, quarter. This is 4 percent more than in the same quarter last year.

The average number of layers in Montana poultry flocks was up nearly 1 percent from the previous year at 795,000.

The nation's laying flock was up 1 percent from the previous year and egg production was also up 1 percent.

U.S. NET FARM INCOME

Net farm income for 1986 likely ranged between $28 and $32 billion, in line with the final 1985 figure of $30.5 billion. A small increase to $29 to $34 billion is expected in 1987, because lower production expenses and larger direct Government payments will outweigh further declines in cash receipts. In 1987, production expenses are expected to drop over $1 billion to $124 billion, and Government payments could rise $3 billion to $16 billion.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE BIG CONTRIBUTORS TO RURAL STABILITY

Small businesses have contributed both jobs and stability in the rural nonfarm sector. According to a recent USDA report,*

1. between 1976-80, 31% of the net increase in private nonfarm jobs in nonmetro areas were created by small businesses (independent firms with less than 100 employees);

2. while it was true that some small businesses in operation less than 5 years had very high turnover rates, these new businesses nonetheless accounted for over 40% of the net increase in private non-farm jobs in both nonmetro and metro areas between 1976-80.

3. small businesses in nonmetro areas accounted for 31% of the 1976-80 increase in new jobs versus 40% in the metro areas. It's expected that small businesses could "incubate" better in metro than nonmetro areas because of the larger market and better availability of services and goods.

According to the report, local planners should look at both advantages and disadvantages of both small businesses and large corporations when mapping out economic development strategies.

Large corporations may be able to create many new jobs in a single stroke. Yet the shutdown of a large branch plant can devastate a small rural community.

Creating new and small local businesses can help rural communities expand employment, even though their failure rate is somewhat higher than for established businesses.

By encouraging small business startups, rural communities can diversify their local industrial base and reduce their vulnerability.

---

*"Recent Contributions of Small Businesses and Corporations to Rural Job Creation," James Miller, Economics Research Service, USDA.

PRODUCTIVITY IN US AGRICULTURE

We often hear about the tremendous productivity of U.S. agriculture -- what does this mean? Productivity is defined by economists as increased output per unit of input. More efficient use of resources such as fertilizer, feed and improved plant and animal breeding contribute to higher productivity. Feed conversion in animals and plant yields are measures of productive gains that have been characteristic of U.S. agriculture.

Productivity gains averaged 2 percent a year from 1948 to 1984, but during the past few years growth has increased to over 5 percent per year.

With relatively low farm prices, the need to reduce production costs becomes very important. In fact, it may mean the difference between staying in business and going broke!

So the pressure is on to continue to increase productivity to cut production costs. So look for U.S. farm productivity to grow at an average rate of 2-4 percent over the next few years.

MONTANA CASH RECEIPTS UP

Preliminary cash receipts data indicate Montana farmers and ranchers took in 2 percent more from the sale of commodities in 1986 compared with 1985.

Livestock receipts were up nearly 2 percent, and crop receipts were nearly 3 percent higher than the previous year.

CASH RECEIPTS - MONTANA

ITEM	1984	1985	1986 1/
	---Million dollars---		
Livestock	717	802	817
Crops	649	405	417
Total from Marketings 2/	1366	1207	1234

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Excludes government payments.

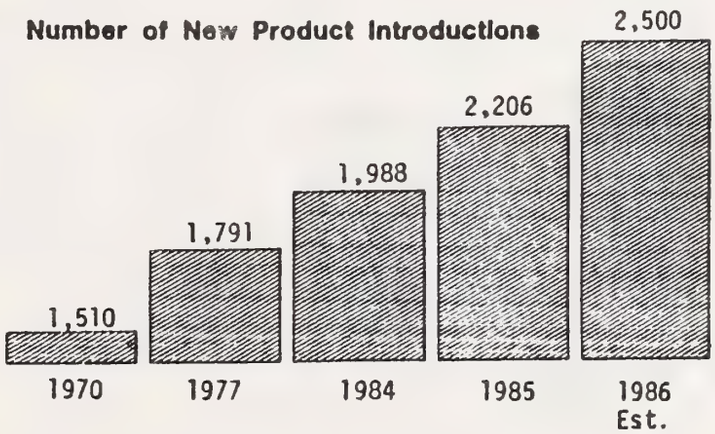
FOOD PROCESSING ADDS VALUE

The food system continues to be the largest marketing system in the U.S. economy, accounting for about one-tenth of U.S. employment and gross national product (GNP). The system's contribution to the GNP last year was almost 9 times the value of the U.S. farm system's food-related contribution.

USDA estimates that last year, the food marketing system bought $85 billion in U.S. ag commodities, $15 billion in foreign ag commodities, and $8 billion in seafood products.

The food processing industry added an estimated $70 billion to the value of this raw food supply; wholesaling, retailing, and transportation combined added over $135 billion; and eating and drinking places added $60 billion.

The estimated number of new products introduced by the food marketing system last year totaled 2,500 versus 2,206 in 1985.



FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in February, 1987, 10 percent less than in January and 1 percent less than a year ago.

Cattle slaughter at 1600 was 6 percent less than a year ago. Total liveweight, however, was off only 2 percent as average liveweight increased 61 pounds per head.

Hog slaughter at 1900 was down 5 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in February, 1987, totaled 2.88 billion pounds, down 2 percent from February 1986.

The percentage changes from 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down 2; Veal, down 13; Pork, down 2; Lamb and Mutton, down 16.

COMMODITY PROGRAMS TAKE 40% OF USDA BUDGET

This year's USDA budget is $53.14 billion. A breakdown on where those funds go is shown on the chart below.

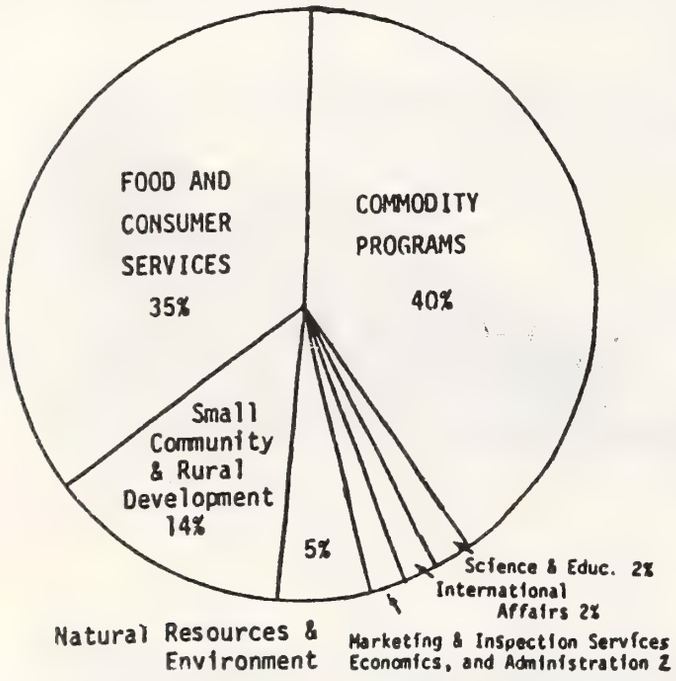
Commodity programs account for 40% of this year's budget. Out of every $3 in the budget, over $1 will go for food and consumer services, mostly in the form of food stamps.

At this level, for every $1 spent on the USDA budget, about $6 is spent on defense (military and civilian).

FINANCIAL STRESS IN US AGRICULTURE

Financial stress in U.S. agriculture has been widespread during some parts of every decade since World War I. The Great Depression began for agriculture in 1920 and continued until World War II. During the late 1940's, the 1950's, and the 1960's, two-price programs, acreage allotments, marketing quotas, and the Soil Bank were used in various times to help improve life on the farm while disposing of surpluses and limiting Government outlays. Even the boom in exports in the early 1970's provided only temporary respite. By 1978, before the current slide in asset values began, some farmers were protesting Government policies by blockading Washington streets with tractors. Thus the financial stress in agriculture during the 1980's, while severe, continues a decades-old trend.

A LOOK AT USDA'S BUDGET IN 1987


FOOD AND CONSUMER SERVICES 35%
COMMODITY PROGRAMS 40%
Small Community & Rural Development 14%
5%
Science & Educ. 2%
International Affairs 2%
Natural Resources & Environment
Marketing & Inspection Services Economics, and Administration 2

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Wool Production
- Ag Prices
- Dairy Products Mfg.
- Meat Animals - Prod., Disp., And Income
- Prospective Plantings
- Grain Stocks

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN

C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Large-Scale Farms in Perspective
Gasohol
Average Farm Prices Received
United States Index Summary
Montana Dairy Products
Changes From Farm to Retail
CAT Scanning Farm Animals

LARGE-SCALE FARMS IN PERSPECTIVE

The number of large-scale farms (farms with annual sales of $500,000 or more) increased from 11,400 in 1974 to 27,800 in 1982. Although only 1.2 percent of all U.S. farms, these farms controlled over 10 percent of the land in farms in 1982 and accounted for nearly 33 percent of the total value of farm production. Adjusted for the effects of price inflation between 1974 and 1982, the number of large farms by sales class still rises, but by 5,286 less than the increase of 16,388 in the unadjusted number.

Large-scale farms have a higher than average value of output per acre and per dollar of investment. The largest farms are predominantly cattle feedlots, poultry operations, and vegetable farms. The smaller large-scale farms are mostly cattle ranches, cash-grain farms, and dairy farms.

The majority of large-scale farm operators are partowners. But 40 percent of the owners operate as sole proprietors and 37 percent as corporations (mostly family corporations). Less than 33 percent of large-scale farms with sales below $1 million operate as corporations. For farms with sales between $1 million -$4,999,999, about 50 percent operate as corporations, and nearly 80 percent of those with sales of $5 million or more are corporations.

Any discussion of how large-scale farms will fare relative to smaller farms is at best conjectural. However, indications are that these farms will continue to be an increasingly important segment of U.S. agriculture. Two recent studies concluded that a bimodal distribution of farms is emerging, with a large proportion of small farms, an increasing proportion of large farms, and a declining proportion of medium-sized farms. Neither study, however, suggests that medium-sized farms will disappear.

The strongest evidence for the continued growth of large-scale farms is their ability to withstand economic adversity. Average net farm income of large-scale farms fell 36 percent between the peak farm income year of 1973 and 1984, much less than all other sales classes except farms with gross sales of $100,000-$499,999.

Ability to control production costs is a major factor contributing to large-scale farms' ability to maintain net income levels. While the average large-scale farm recorded a slight decrease in production costs between 1973-84, all other sales classes recorded substantial increases in per farm costs of production. Consequently, large-scale farms may come through periods of economic adversity, such as the 1982-86 farm debt crisis, in a much stronger financial condition than small full-time commercial farms.

Another indicator that points to continued growth of large-scale farms is their rate of technological innovation. Large-scale farms tend to operate at the forefront of technology and are usually the first to adopt new production and managerial techniques. This is a major reason that they have been able to contain costs of production more effectively than have smaller farms. For these reasons, large-scale farms will continue to increase their numbers and share of total production.

Large-scale farms:

Number of farms, land in farms, and value of sales

Item	Unit	1974	1978	1982
Farms	Number	11,412	17,976	27,800
Land in farms	1,000 acres	53,844	84,465	103,590
Value of sales	Mil. dol.	18,305	29,561	42,764
As percentage of:				
Number of farms	Percent	.5	.7	1.2
Land in farms	do.	5.3	8.2	10.5
Value of sales	do.	22.5	27.3	32.4

WHY GASOHOL CAN'T PASS THE FARM INCOME COST-BENEFIT TEST

Boosting farm income by subsidizing the production of fuel ethanol from grain is beginning to make less and less economic sense as energy prices remain depressed.

That's the view of researchers at USDA's Office of Energy in a recent report, "Fuel Ethanol and Agriculture: An Economic Assessment."

"Subsidized ethanol production is a very inefficient way to raise farm income," says USDA economist Gerald Grinnell, one of the researchers. "It would be much more economical to burn straight gasoline in our automobiles and pay farmers a direct subsidy equal to the amount they would receive as a result of ethanol production."

If these conclusions are correct--and not everyone agrees with them--it could mean bad news for the U.S. ethanol industry.

The industry, which was built with the government's financial support, was expected to help protect the United States from the threat of future oil embargoes and spiraling oil prices. Although such threats could arise again in the future, they no longer seem nearly as urgent.

It's that apparent lack of urgency on the energy issue that raises another question: Is continued government support for the industry justified because of ethanol's importance to agriculture?

The Office of Energy study indicates that the ethanol industry cannot survive without massive government subsidies--given the current outlook for petroleum prices. And federal subsidies are scheduled to expire at the end of 1992.

Moreover, even these subsidies (which now amount to 60 cents per gallon of fuel ethanol) are not sufficient for most existing ethanol plants to continue operating, according to Grinnell. "The majority of ethanol producers will need larger subsidies to stay in business, unless oil price increases make fuel ethanol more competitive," he says.

Here's how the federal subsidy works: The federal excise tax on gasoline is now 9 cents per gallon. To encourage development of a domestic fuel ethanol industry, the federal government reduced the tax on fuel ethanol-gasoline blends, also known as gasohol.

Gasohol blends of one part ethyl alcohol (ethanol) and nine parts gasoline are eligible for a 6-cents-per-gallon exemption from the federal excise tax. Since 1 gallon of ethanol makes 10 gallons of gasohol after blending with gasoline, that translates into an exemption of 60 cents for each gallon of ethanol.

In addition, many states have enacted laws to encourage ethanol production and its use by motorists. More than half of all states offer incentives, usually in the form of exemptions from the state excise tax or sales tax on motor fuels. State subsidies vary, ranging from 10 cents to $1.40 per gallon of ethanol. Some states offer subsidies only for fuel ethanol produced in that state, others for all domestically produced fuel ethanol, and still others for all fuel ethanol, both imported and domestic.

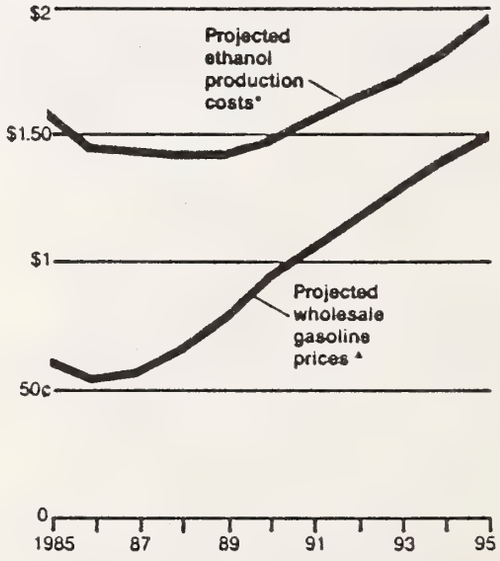
Assisted by such subsidies, the industry produced around 625 million gallons of ethanol in 1985 by converting about 250 million bushels of corn and other feedstocks.

"The fuel ethanol industry grew from near nothing in 1978 to become an imnportant component of the gasoline market," says Grinnell. "The 625 million gallons of fuel ethanol were blended with 5.6 billion gallons of gasoline in 1985."

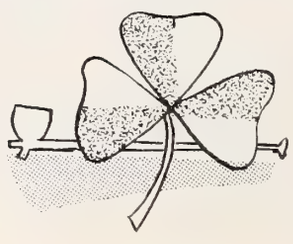
Since most U.S. ethanol is produced from corn, corn producers have come to view ethanol as a significant market for their crop.

"Many people believe that increased ethanol production can help solve the problem of overproduction and low prices in agriculture and reduce the costs of government commodity programs," says Grinnell. "However, the ethanol industry, like agriculture, is heavily dependent on government subsidies. As a result, increased ethanol production could simply shift subsidy payments from agriculture to ethanol interests as more outlays for ethanol subsidies offset lower commodity program costs."

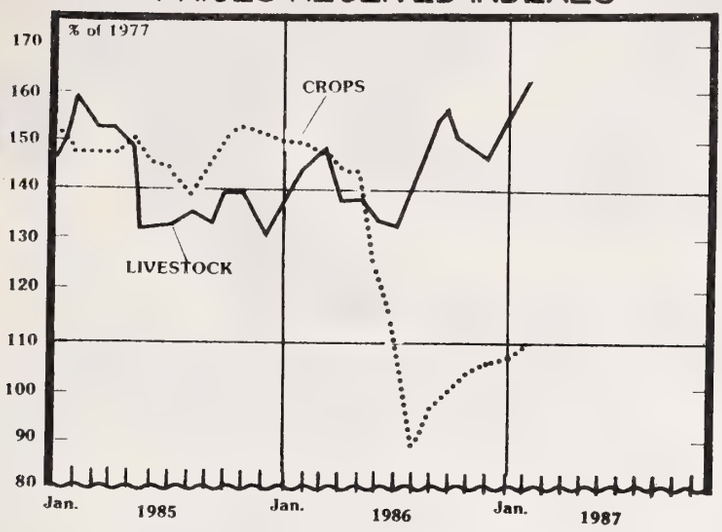
Projections Suggest Ethanol Production Costs Will Continue To Exceed Wholesale Gasoline Prices



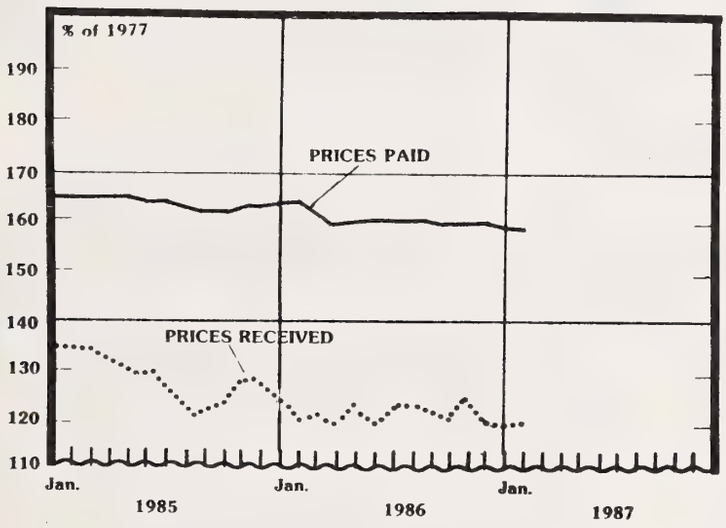
*Estimates assume ethanol production grows to 1 billion gallons annually by 1995 and existing federal subsidies are extended or increased. ▲ U.S. Department of Energy "base case" scenario.



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



SURVEY RESULTS

MONTANA LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS STRENGTHEN--CROPS WEAKER

Montana farm prices increased during February for most livestock items while crop prices were mostly down.

The February Index of Prices Received by Montana Farmers for All Farm Products was 142 percent of the 1977 base -- up 5 points from January, but 4 points below a year ago. The All Crops Index at 109 was down 1 point from January and 41 points below February 1986. The All Livestock and Products Index at 171 was up 9 points from last month, and 27 points above a year ago.

Nationally, the February All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers, at 121 percent of its January-December 1977 average, was unchanged from the previous month. Compared to a year earlier, the Index was down 1 point (0.8 percent). Higher prices for cattle, hogs, oranges, and sweet corn were offset by lower prices for lettuce, corn, cotton, and milk.

Cattle and hog prices were higher, but prices for most other items in the Livestock and Products Index were below the previous month. Field crop prices generally declined from a month earlier. Compared to a year earlier, only oats, dry edible beans, and potato prices were higher.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	Feb. 1986	Jan. 1987	Feb. 1987
Prices Received	122	121	121
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates	161	159 2/	159 2/
Ratio 1/	76	76	76

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ October 1986 Prices Paid Index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1987	MONTANA Feb. 15, 1987	U.S. Feb. 15, 1987
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.36	2.49	2.45	2.43
Durum	Bu.	3.20	2.89	2.95	3.04
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.84	2.79	2.75	2.60
All Wheat	Bu.	3.60	2.65	2.62	2.53
Barley	Bu.	2.10	1.62	1.65	1.58
Oats	Bu.	1.47	1.39	1.40	1.43
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	51.00	46.00	61.00
All Other Hay	Ton	82.00	47.00	41.00	50.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	89.00	51.00	46.00	58.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt	58.00	63.50	66.30	62.20
Cows	Cwt	38.50	40.10	42.90	40.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	49.60	55.30	59.30	58.70
Calves	Cwt	59.90	70.40	72.50	70.20
Sheep	Cwt	22.50	29.80	29.70	32.20
Lambs	Cwt	69.90	78.00	72.50	76.80
Hogs	Cwt	36.50	41.40	45.40	48.90
All Milk	Cwt	12.90	13.00	12.85	13.10
Eggs	Doz	.560	.530	.470	.583
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.740	.740	.596
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	146	137	142	121
All Crops	Pct.	150	110	109	97
Livestock & Products	Pct.	144	162	171	144

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

SURVEY RESULTS

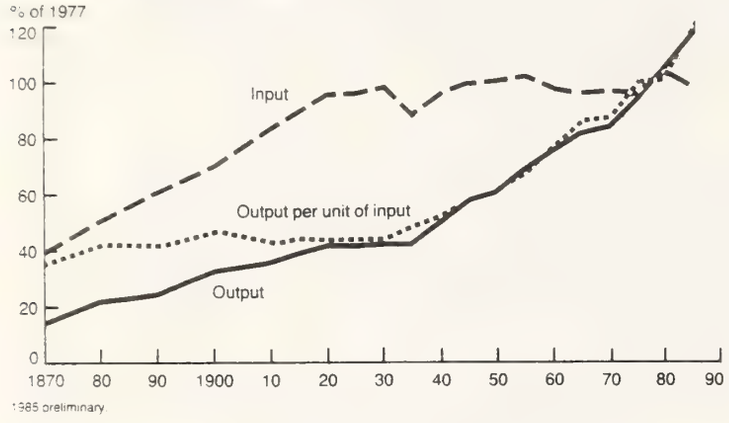
MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

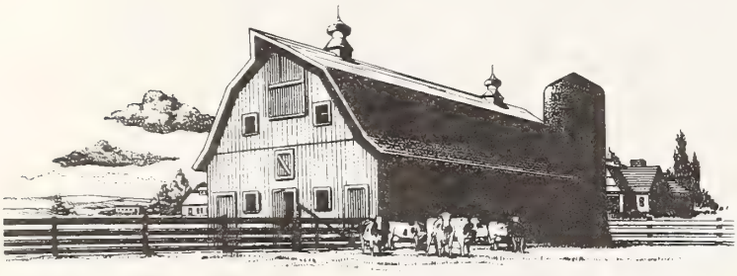
Montana dairy plants produced 86,000 gallons of ice cream during January -- 41 percent less than in January 1986. Creamed cottage cheese production at 288,000 pounds was 16 percent less than a year earlier. Butter output at 192,000 pounds was up 6 percent. American cheese production at 200,000 pounds was down 37 percent from the same month a year ago.

CHANGES FROM FARM TO RETAIL

Changes in agriculture boosted productivity. Output per unit of input rose 243 percent between 1870 and 1985, much of it during the past 30 years. These increases resulted from many factors, including the expansion of the Nation's agriculture into the more productive lands of the Midwest, shifts among crops, and improvements in farm management, pest, control, and cropping techniques. Applied genetics alone has probably accounted for as much as 50 percent of harvest increases since the 1930's.

Greater Farm Productivity Means More Output From Inputs





CAT SCANNING FARM ANIMALS

A sophisticated tool used in human medicine may help select livestock of the future with just the right amount of fat for consumers.

Kreg A. Leymaster, an animal geneticist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Nebraska, believes the CAT (computer-assisted tomography) scan may be just the tool for livestock scientists.

Preliminary results from experiments Leymaster helped conduct at the Agricultural University of Norway "are quite encouraging," Leymaster says.

CAT scanners are commonly used in medicine as a diagnostic tool. The cross-sectional images, constructed from X-ray data, may provide animal researchers a way to assess the amount of lean meat without slaughtering the animal.

Leymaster says, "After seeing inside the living animals in this way, researchers can save for breeding those animals judged as genetically superior."

The goal is to produce meat that is lean as well as tender and tasty. --By Ben Hardin, ARS.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Debt to Assets Down
Farm Finances Improve
Potato Stocks
January Slaughter Down
Montana's Rank
Wheat Movement & Utilization

DEBT TO ASSETS DOWN

SURVEY RESULTS

Results of the 1986 survey peg the 1986 Debt to Asset Ratio at 23.4 percent --down from 27.8 percent reported a year ago. The Debt to Asset Ratio is a standard measure of economic health used in financial analysis. It means the average farm debt in Montana was 23.4 percent of average farm assets.

Total assets averaged $655,786 per farm or ranch, up 5 percent from 1985. Increased grain production and stocks along with higher livestock values helped stabilize assets, off-setting a futher decline in real estate values. Debt per operation at $153,171 was down 12 percent from 1985. There were a number of comments on this year's survey indicating that government program payments made late in 1986 were used by many to bring delinquent loans up to date and to pay off debt.

A review of Debt to Asset Ratios by Crop Reporting District shows conditions have improved in north central, central, eastern, and southwestern areas while conditions have deteriorated somewhat in the northwest and south central districts. Ratios in all areas were less volatile and none reached the 30 percent and over level that we saw in 4 districts a year ago.

	1985 (561 Reports)	1986 (551 Reports)
Assets	623,844	655,786
Debt	173,563	153,171
Ratio	27.8%	23.4%

FARM FINANCES IMPROVE in '86

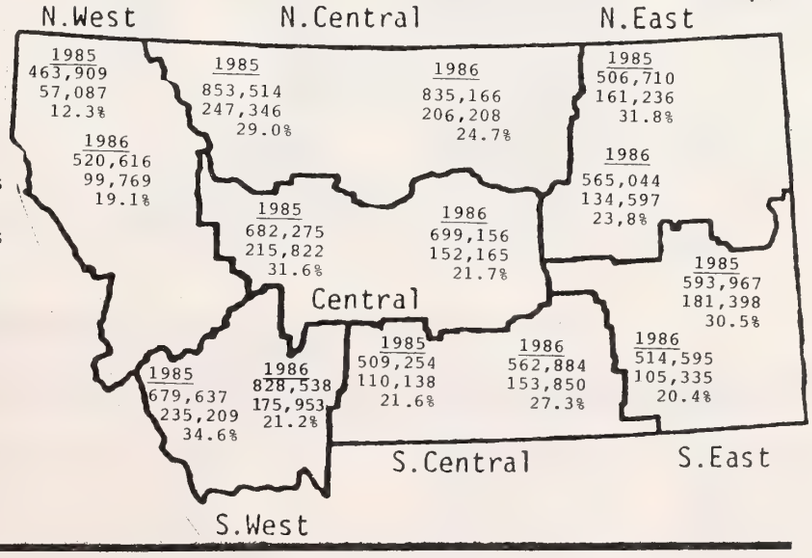
Montana's 1986 agricultural production showed tremendous improvement over the drouth plagued 1985 season. All Wheat production was nearly three times larger than the '85 crop, while barley hit a new production high. Crop prices, however, were down sharply from '85 levels. Cattle inventories were down again according to the January 1, 1987, count, but the decline is leveling off and prices were up from a year ago. Both hog and sheep industries are expanding as prices and profitability have improved.

Farm income figures for 1985 showed an average 15 thousand dollar loss for each farm or ranch in Montana. Government program payments averaged 9 thousand dollars per farm in 1985. This kept losses from going even higher.

Montana's agriculture usually accounts for nearly one-third of the state's gross income. The severe reduction in farm income has contributed heavily to the state's economic problems. Results of this year's survey provide some optimism that conditions are not as dismal as they were a year ago.

Average Farm Assets, Debt, and Debt/Asset Ratio 1985 & 1986

SURVEY RESULTS



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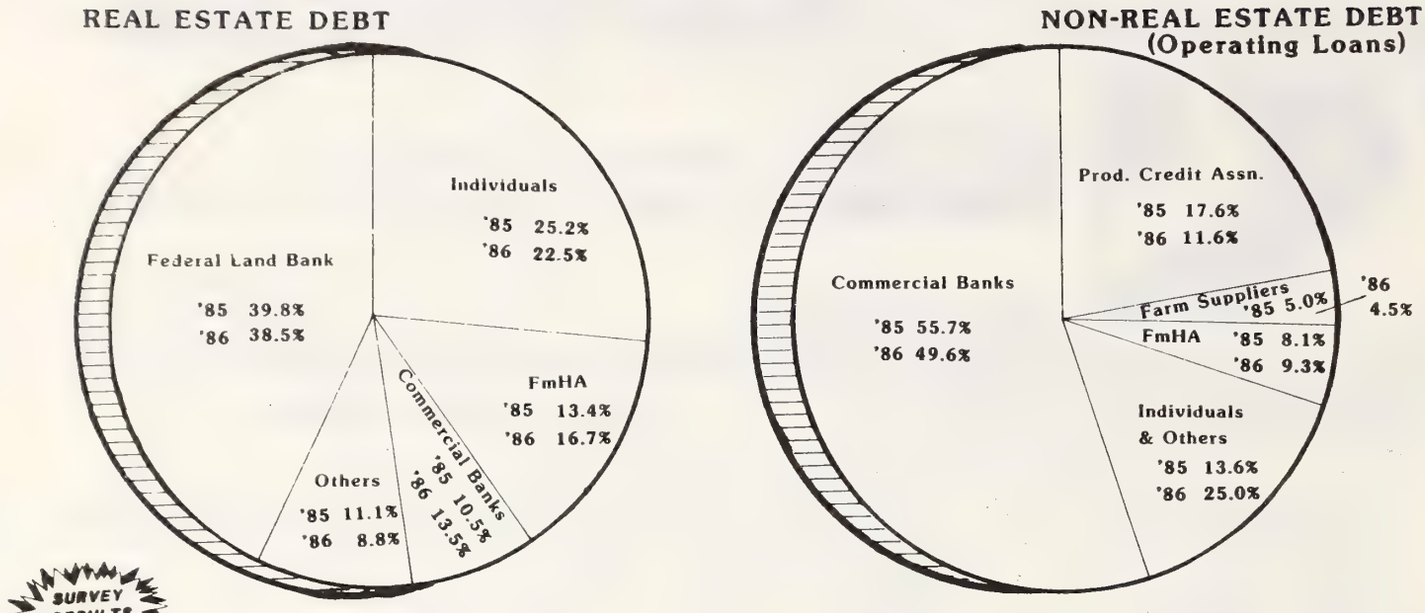
MONTANA FARM DEBT BY LENDER 1985 & 1986



SURVEY RESULTS

DELINQUENCY RATES DOWN

The delinquency rate on both real estate and operating loans is down from a year ago. Real estate delinquencies declined from 24.1 percent in 1985 to 18.4 percent in 1986. Operating loan delinquencies dropped sharply from 32.7 percent to 14.2 percent.

Livestock producers had the lowest delinquency rate on real estate at 11.1 percent, while Cash Grain producers were at 15.1 percent. Cash Grain producers had the lowest operating loan delinquencies at 13.7 percent while livestock producers tabbed 14 percent. The Mostly Livestock farm class had the highest delinquency rates for both real estate (29.6 percent) and operating loans (17.7 percent).

A look at loan applications shows 13.9 percent were turned down compared with 15.6 percent a year ago. Fifty percent of these were able to find credit elsewhere -- up from 47 percent a year ago.

LOAN DELINQUENCY RATE BY SIZE OF FARM

SIZE OF FARM	REAL ESTATE LOANS DELINQUENT		NON-REAL ESTATE LOANS DELINQUENT	
	1985	1986	1985	1986
-Acres-	--------Percent--------			
499 or Less	21.5	40.0*	36.7	19.0
500-999	39.3	10.0	34.5	10.3
1,000-1,999	25.3	15.6	41.9	17.0
2,000-2,999	29.5	13.0	39.0	25.5
3,000-4,999	18.9	16.5	19.6	7.2
5,000-9,999	19.5	11.5	19.0	7.3
10,000 +	18.5	17.9	28.2	6.5
STATE TOTAL	24.1	18.4	32.7	14.2

* Fewer in this group had real estate loans, but those with loans had a high delinquency rate.

OTHER FACTS AND FIGURES

--Real estate delinquencies at 22.6 percent were highest in the 35-44 age category, lowest at 5.6 percent were found in the 65+ age group.

--Operating loan delinquencies were highest in the 25-34 age group, averaging 19.7 percent, lowest at 10 percent were the over 55 group.

--Twenty percent of total income was earned off of the farm. Percents ranged from 43 percent for those under 500 acres to 4 percent for the 10,000+ acre group.

--Average real estate interest rate was 9.5 percent, while operating loan interest averaged 10.9 percent. This compares with 10.6 percent and 12.9 percent a year ago.

POTATO STOCKS

Montana potato stocks on hand February 1, 1987, totaled 2.04 million CWT, up 51 percent from a year ago.

Fall potato stocks in the 15 major storage states totaled 151 million CWT on February 1, 1987. This is down 12 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 50 percent of 1986 fall production, the same percentage as a year earlier. By type, potatoes are 81 percent russet, 16 percent white, and 3 percent red.

The 6 western states stored 106 million CWT of potatoes on February 1, 1987, down 5 percent from last year but 13 percent more than two years ago. Idaho stocks were down 4 percent from last year. Oregon and Washington stocks were down 5 percent. Colorado stored 21 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago and California stocks were off 31 percent.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS and UTILIZATION 1981-1984 MARKETING YEARS

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
SUPPLY			Million Bushels		
Beginning stocks 1/	75.8	88.3	113.8	93.6	93.1
Production	172.8	180.3	136.9	104.7	50.2
Total Supply	248.6	268.6	250.7	198.3	143.3
DISPOSITION					
Recorded movement out of State 2/	115.4	138.2	134.3	88.3	56.3
Milled for flour in Montana	8.9	7.7	6.9	6.4	7.2
Used for seed in Montana	6.0	5.0	5.3	5.6	4.9
Used for livestock feed 3/	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.2
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	28.2	2.0	8.6	2.9	- 7.4
Total Disposition	160.3	154.8	157.1	105.2	62.2
Ending stocks 1/	88.3	113.8	93.6	93.1	81.1

1/ Farm, commercial--June 1 stocks.
2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers, special survey of truck destinations and barge traffic.
3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills and purchased by other farmers for feed.
4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION and EXPORTS 1/ BY MARKETING YEARS 1981-1985

ITEM	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
	Million Bushels				
Beginning Stocks 3/	75.8	88.3	113.8	93.6	93.1
Production	172.8	180.3	136.9	104.7	50.2
Ending stocks 3/	-88.3	-113.8	-93.6	-93.1	-81.1
Total Disposition 4/	160.3	154.8	157.1	105.2	62.2
Shipments of wheat into Pacific NW 5/ (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance)	135.5	134.0	129.9	79.7	45.5
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific NS (includes bulgar) 6/	20.5	18.6	19.6	18.9	18.4
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific NW ports 7/	115.0	115.4	110.3	60.8	27.1
Percent of total disposition	72%	75%	70%	58%	44%
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter and Durum from Pacific NW ports	166.5	216.2	181.2	163.5	154.2
Montana exports as percent of total HRS, HRW and Durum exports from Pacific NW ports	69%	53%	61%	37%	18%

1/ Pacific Northwest--Oregon and Washington.
2/ June 1 - May 31.
3/ June 1 stocks.
4/ Beginning stocks plus production minus ending stocks.
5/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project.
6/ Total Pacific NW wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington or other states.
7/ Estimated Montana wheat shipped to Pacific NW minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific NW.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Cropland in Cultivated Summerfallow	5,391,461	acres	1982 Census	2
Land in farms and ranches	61,000,000	acres	1986	2
Income from cash receipts excluding Gov't payments:				
Total	1,206,800,000	dollars	1985	33
Crops	404,800,000	dollars	1985	36
Livestock	802,000,000	dollars	1985	29
LIVESTOCK and LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS				
All Cattle & Calves	2,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 1987	13
All Cows	1,350,000	head	Jan. 1, 1987	11
Milk Cows	24,000	head	Jan. 1, 1987	44
Beef Cows	1,326,000	head	Jan. 1, 1987	7
Cattle on Feed	70,000	head	Jan. 1, 1987	22
Hogs and Pigs	190,000	head	Dec. 1, 1986	25
Sheep and Lambs	523,000	head	Jan. 1, 1987	6
Wool Production	5,074,000	pounds	1985	6
All Chickens	1,010,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1986	40
CROPS (Production)				
All Wheat	138,520,000	bushels	1986	4
Winter Wheat	64,000,000	bushels	1986	7
Durum Wheat	4,320,000	bushels	1986	3
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	70,200,000	bushels	1986	3
All Hay	4,320,000	tons	1986	14
Alfalfa Hay	2,990,000	tons	1986	11
Dry Beans	97,000	cwt	1986	15
Barley	85,020,000	bushels	1986	2
Oats	4,140,000	bushels	1986	18
Potatoes--fall	2,230,000	cwt	1986	20
Sugarbeets	1,016,000	tons	1986	7

JANUARY SLAUGHTER DOWN

SURVEY RESULTS

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in January, down 16 percent from December 1986, and down 20 percent from January 1986.

Cattle slaughter was down about 500 head from last January - a reduction of 22 percent in terms of liveweight. Hog slaughter was down about 300 head as liveweight was down 16 percent.

Nationally, commercial red meat production for the United States in January 1987 totaled 3.41 billion pounds, down 2 percent from January 1986.

Comparing January 1987 with January 1986:

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was down 2 percent. Head kill totaled 3.20 million, down 4 percent. The average liveweight increased 9 pounds to 1109.

Veal production, at 39 million pounds, was down 15 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 263 thousand head, down 15 percent, and the average liveweight increased 1 pound to 250.

Pork production, at 1.24 billion pounds, was down 2 percent. Hog kill totaled 6.92 million head, down 4 percent. The average liveweight increased 4 pounds to 250.

Lamb and mutton production, at 25 million pounds, was down 19 percent. Slaughter totaled 428 thousand head, down 17 percent. The average liveweight was unchanged at 118 pounds.

Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Manufacturing

BEEF EXPORT PROSPECTS BRIGHTEN

Montana is a state blessed with abundant natural resources, but lacks value added industries. For example, over 80 percent of our grain is shipped out of state for milling into flour or for export. Most of our cattle is also sold to buyers in other states where they're fed and sold to out-of-state slaughter houses. But all is not doom and gloom! Some enterprising Montanans have been communicating with the Japanese to sell Montana beef in Japan. Prospects appear very good at this time according to Keith Kelly, Herb Townsend, and Craig Winterburn, who just returned from a promotion trip to Japan. The plan is to fatten Montana beef on a mostly barley ration and slaughter, cut, wrap, and freeze the beef according to exact Japanese specifications. This beef would fill a niche in the Japanese market that can't be filled by their beef growers.

The prospects are exciting as both jobs and a market for Montana beef and barley would be created.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle Numbers Continue Down
Farm Prices Show Some Strength
Sheep Numbers Continue Up
Honey Production
Chicken Inventory Stable
State's Red Meat Output Down

JANUARY 1 CATTLE COUNT DOWN

Montana's cattle inventory declined 2 percent from January 1, 1986, to January 1, 1987, according to the annual survey of Montana's ranchers and farmers. Total Cattle and Calves on Hand at the beginning of 1987 was 2.4 million head. This is the third consecutive year cattle numbers have declined. This year's total is nearly 1 million below the record high 1974 inventory and the lowest since 1963.

Beef cows that have calved were down 3 percent, but beef replacement heifers were up 2 percent. Milk cow numbers were down 11 percent, reflecting the effects of the dairy herd buy-out program. Milk cow replacement heifers were down 30 percent. Other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more, were down 22 percent. Steers weighing 500 pounds or more were down 12 percent. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds were up 22 percent.

The 1986 calf crop was 1.38 million, down 6 percent from 1985.

All Cattle and Calves in the United States January 1, 1987, totaled 102 million, down 3 percent from the 105 million on January 1, 1986, and 7 percent below the 110 million two years ago. This continued the recent downward trend in cattle inventories begun four years ago and was the lowest number on hand since 1962.

The 1986 U.S. Calf Crop was estimated at 41.2 million, up slightly from 1985, but down 3 percent from 1984. The estimated calf crop is up 3 percent from the expected numbers published last July.

SURVEY RESULTS

CATTLE and CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1986-87

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1986	1987	% Change '87/'86	1986	1987	% Change '87/'86
	----000 Head---			----000 Head---		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,450	2,400	- 2	105,468	102,031	- 3
Cows & Heifers that have calved						
Beef Cows	1,373	1,326	- 3	33,633	33,910	+ 1
Milk Cows	27	24	-11	11,177	10,547	- 6
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	230	235	+ 2	5,149	5,154	NC
For milk cow replacement	10	7	-30	4,761	4,335	- 9
Other heifers	170	132	-22	8,090	7,548	- 7
Steers 500 pounds and over	245	215	-12	15,967	15,249	- 4
Bulls 500 pounds and over	80	77	- 4	2,261	2,204	- 3
Calves less than 500 pounds	315	384	+22	24,431	23,084	- 6
All cattle value ($000)	918,750	960,000	+ 4	41,279,749	41,491,650	+ 1
Value per head (Dollars)	375	400	+ 7	391	407	+ 4

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS -- 1985 and 1986

ITEM	1985	1986	% Change '86/'85	1985	1986	% Change '86/'85
Calves born during year (000)	1,470	1,375	- 6	41,045	41,201	NC
Number cattle farms	16,200	16,000	- 1	1,493,880	1,449,730	- 3

JANUARY FARM PRICES

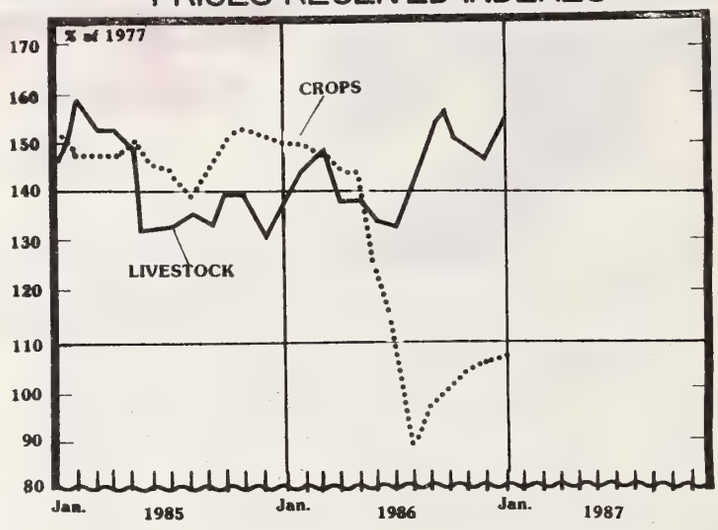
The January All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers increased 6 points from December 1986. The index at 133 percent of its January-December 1977 average was still 11 points below January last year.

The All Crops Index was up 1 point from the previous month while the Livestock and Livestock Products Index was up 8 points. Compared with last year, the 2 index figures show sharply different changes. The January Livestock Index is 16 points above January 1986 but the Crops Index is down 43 points. Individual commodities were mostly up from last month with hogs and eggs down. Hay, winter wheat and wool were unchanged.

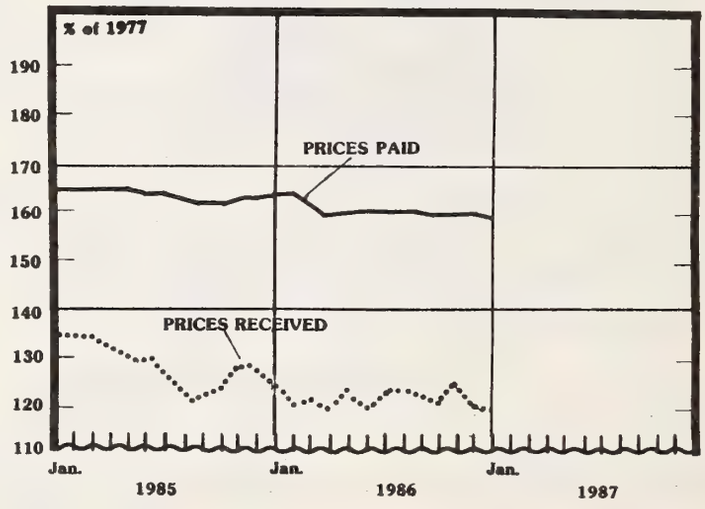
The January All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by US Farmers decreased 2 points from December to 119 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for hogs, cotton, eggs, and corn were partially offset by higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, and lettuce. The index was 5 points below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for January was 159 percent of its 1977 average. The index increased 1 point from October but was down 2 points from a year earlier. Feeder cattle and fuel prices were up slightly for the quarter. The Feed Index was unchanged from October.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1986	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1986	MONTANA Jan. 15, 1987	U.S. Jan. 15, 1987
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.43	2.40	2.40	2.37
Durum	Bu.	3.49	2.78	2.90	2.78
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.83	2.67	2.70	2.54
All Wheat	Bu.	3.60	2.56	2.59	2.44
Barley	Bu.	2.13	1.55	1.56	1.58
Oats	Bu.	1.58	1.46	1.55	1.41
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	86.00	51.00	51.00	58.20
All Other Hay	Ton	80.00	47.00	47.00	47.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	85.00	51.00	51.00	55.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	56.50	61.20	63.00	59.50
Cows	Cwt	34.00	35.50	38.00	38.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	46.40	47.60	51.80	54.70
Calves	Cwt	60.30	66.80	69.00	65.10
Sheep	Cwt	27.50	28.30	30.00	30.10
Lambs	Cwt	66.80	76.30	79.00	77.70
Hogs	Cwt	37.40	45.80	40.20	46.40
All Milk	Cwt	13.10	13.20	13.30	13.30
Eggs	Doz	.630	.630	.530	.593
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.740	.740	.570
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	144	127	133	119
All Crops	Pct.	150	106	107	99
Livestock & Products	Pct.	139	147	155	139

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	Jan. 1986	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1987
Prices Received	124	121	119
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates	161	158 2/	159 2/
Ratio 1/	77	77	75

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ October 1986 Prices Paid Index.

SHEEP NUMBERS UP

Montana sheep producers had 523,000 sheep and lambs in their January 1, 1987, inventory. This was 11 percent more than on hand a year ago. Value per head was also up pushing inventory value to $42.9 million, 47 percent above January 1, 1986.

Sheep and lambs on feed for the slaughter market were 23,000, unchanged from a year ago. Stock sheep and lambs were up 11 percent at 500,000.

Most of this increase was caused by an increase of 46,000 head of ewe lambs being kept for replacement ewes. Ewes 1 year old and older were unchanged from last year at 370,000.

The 1986 lamb crop was down 4 percent from 1985 at 450,000 lambs docked or branded.

Nationally, the all sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 1987, totaled up 3 percent from the 9.98 million head a year earlier, and the first increase since 1982.

Stock sheep inventory increased to 8.82 million head on January 1, 1987, up 4 percent from the record low 8.49 million head on January 1, 1986.

The U.S. 1986 lamb crop of 7.35 million head decreased 1 percent from the 1985 lamb crop.

SHEEP and LAMBS ON FARMS and RANCHES -- JANUARY 1, 1986-1987

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1986	1987	% Change 87/860	1986	1987	% Change 87/86
	-Thous. Head-			-Thous. Head-		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	473	523	+11	9,983	10,328	+ 3
On feed	23	23	--	1,492	1,504	+ 1
Stock sheep	450	500	+11	8,491	8,824	+ 4
Lambs						
Ewes	60	106	+77	1,048	1,296	+24
Wethers and rams	9	11	+22	318	367	+15
One year old & older						
Ewes	370	370	--	6,817	6,841	--
Wethers and rams	11	13	+18	310	320	--
All sheep value ($000)	29,090	42,886	+47	673,048	781,800	+16
Value per head (Dollars)	61.50	82.00	+33	67.40	75.80	+12

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS -- 1985-1986

ITEM	1985	1986	% Change 86/85	1985	1986	% Change 86/85
Lamb crop (000)	470	450	- 4	7,412	7,349	- 1
Number of sheep farms	2,900	2,900	--	117,370	114,800	- 2

FARM COSTS and RETURNS SURVEY

A nationwide survey to determine 1986 farm costs and returns will be conducted in February and early March. Here, in Montana, field interviewers are gearing up to contact a sample of 405 of the state's farmers and ranchers for this information. The information collected in this survey will determine current production and buying trends of U.S. farmers and ranchers. Estimates of farm costs and production expenses are used to compute Montana net farm income, which is needed to better understand the economic position of farmers and ranchers. The financial data will provide a current, more detailed perspective of the debts, assets, cash flow and level of financial stress of farmers and ranchers throughout agriculture.

Survey results will be published in June 1987 and will show data for the nation and ten economic regions of the U.S. The survey results will be mailed free of charge to survey respondents.

HONEY PRODUCTION

Montana Honey Production for 1986 (for producers with five or more hives) amounted to 7.0 million pounds. The State's beekeepers had 110,000 producing colonies last year. Average yield per colony was 64 pounds. Stocks were 211,000 pounds or 3.0 percent of production. The price for the 1986 honey crop averaged 48 cents per pound.

Nationally, honey production for 1986 amounted to 200 million pounds. The number of colonies producing this amount was 3.21 million with an average yield per colony of 62.5 pounds. Stocks were 27.2 million pounds or 13.6 percent of production. Prices for the 1986 honey crop averaged 51.3 cents per pound.

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DECEMBER SLAUGHTER DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat in December, 10 percent more than in November but 2 percent less than in December 1985. Total red meat production in the state for all of 1986 at 22.5 million pounds is 22 percent below 1985.

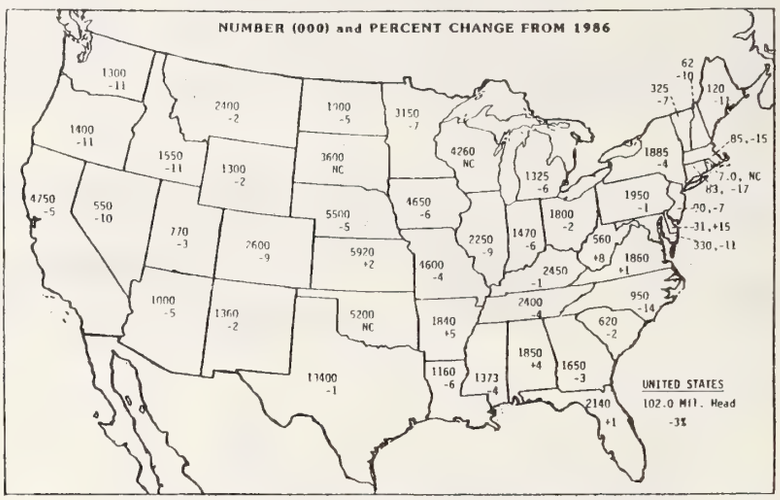
Cattle slaughter was down about 100 head from the previous December but red meat production was virtually unchanged due to increased slaughter weights. The average liveweight, at 1045 pounds, was up 42 pounds per head from 1985. Hog slaughter was virtually unchanged in terms of the number of head slaughtered, but again increased slaughter weights resulted in slightly higher red meat production.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in December 1986 totaled 3.26 billion pounds, up 4 percent from December 1985. January-December red meat production, at 39.0 billion pounds, was down fractionally from a year earlier. The percentage changes for 1986 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, up 3; Veal, up 2; Pork, down 5; Lamb and Mutton, down 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 139,000 gallons of ice cream during December -- 50 percent more than in December 1985. Butter output at 152,000 pounds was down 16 percent. Creamed cottage cheese production at 296,000 pounds was up 3 percent. American cheese production at 274,000 pounds was down 16 percent from the same month a year ago.

ALL CATTLE and CALVES JANUARY 1, 1987



CHICKEN NUMBERS REMAIN STABLE

Montana chicken numbers remained the same but total value increased during 1986. The December 1, 1986 inventory was 1.01 million birds the same as a year earlier. The inventory included 790,000 hens and pullets of laying age. The total inventory value of all chickens increased 11 percent to $2,020,000. The average value per bird at $2.00 was 20 cents more than the previous year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Montana's Rank

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1986 CROP YEAR MUCH BETTER
WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS DOWN
MORE WHEAT IN STORAGE
LESS MILK PRODUCED
MORE HAY ON HAND
POTATO STOCKS HIGHER

1986 MONTANA CROP SEASON IN REVIEW

Montana's 1986 crop season was very much improved from 1985's major drouth. Good soil moisture supplies got both fall planted winter wheat and spring sown grains off to a good start. Winter weather favored the winter wheat crop and rains during June and July pushed spring grain development.

The excellent growing weather overshadowed a major grasshopper infestation in small grains which developed during the early summer. Considerable acreage was sprayed, especially field borders, but many farmers couldn't keep up and abandonment of spring plantings was extensive. Aphid damage also occurred and especially affected late planted oats, barley and spring wheat.

Harvest was interrupted by an abnormally wet September. This caused severe flood damage along the Milk River Valley, with stacked hay suffering the most. The fact that frost held off until early October enabled some crop farmers to complete harvest but somewhat later than normal. It proved to be a banner year for sugar beets because of the extended growing season.

Sprouting of small grains, especially barley, was a problem the second year in a row. In spite of the major problems, yield of all crops returned to a more normal level and hay stocks were replenished.

MONTANA ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 1985-1986 1/

SURVEY RESULTS

CROP	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
	----------Thousand Acres----------				---Bushels---		-Thousand Bushels-	
Winter Wheat	2460	2150	1400	2000	16.0	32.0	22400	64000
Durum Wheat	200	165	160	160	9.0	27.0	1440	4320
Hard Red Spring Wheat	3000	2700	2400	2600	11.0	27.0	26400	70200
All Wheat	5660	5015	3960	4760	12.7	29.1	50240	138520
Barley	2350	2400	1500	2180	20.0	39.0	30000	85020
Oats	225	200	70	90	33.0	46.0	2310	4140
Corn for Grain	84 2/	80 2/	11	13	95.0	115.0	1045	1495
Corn Silage	84 2/	80 2/	69	63	19.0	19.0	1311	1197
Sugarbeets 3/	43.5	47.2	42.7	46.8	19.0	21.7	811	1016
Potatoes 4/	7.9	7.8	7.0	7.7	270	290.0	1890	2233
Dry Beans 4/	3.4	4.8	3.0	4.5	19.0	21.6	57	97
Alfalfa Hay 3/	---	---	950	1300	1.80	2.30	1710	2990
All Hay 3/	---	---	1950	2250	1.42	1.92	2760	4320
Sweet Cherries 5/	---	---	---	---	---	---	4600	1600

1/ All estimates for 1986 are preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Yield and production in tons. 4/ Yield and production in hundredweight. 5/ Production in tons.

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UNITED STATES ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 1985-1986 1/

CROP	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
	----------Thousand Acres----------				---Bushels---		-Thousand Bushels-	
Winter Wheat	57752	53930	47953	43170	38.1	35.2	1827615	1519143
Durum Wheat	3207	2994	3094	2877	36.4	33.2	112510	95407
Hard Red Spring Wheat	14616	15109	13687	14641	35.4	32.3	484980	472230
All Wheat	75575	72033	64734	60688	37.5	34.4	2425105	2086780
Barley	13156	13059	11603	12007	51.0	50.8	591383	610497
Oats	13255	14708	8177	6870	63.7	56.0	520800	384546
Corn for Grain	83448 2/	76674 2/	75224	69189	118.0	119.3	8876706	8252834
Corn Silage	83448 2/	76674 2/	7160	6244	14.4	14.2	102753	88510
Sugarbeets 3/	1124.5	1232.5	1102.5	1191.3	20.4	21.2	22529	25229
Potatoes 4/	1409.1	1253.2	1361.1	1215.3	299	292	407109	354468
Dry Beans 4/	1569.9	1673.8	1481.4	1495.0	1497	1532	22175	22898
Alfalfa Hay 3/	--	--	25608	26748	3.32	3.42	85048	91424
All Hay	--	--	60423	62274	2.46	2.49	148601	155271
Sweet Cherries 5/	--	--	--	--	--	--	132500	137710

1/ All estimates for 1986 are preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Yield and production in tons. 4/ Yield and production in hundredweight. 5/ Production in tons.

WINTER WHEAT PLANTINGS DOWN

Montana farmers planted 1.85 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1987--down 14 percent from the previous year and the lowest winter wheat acreage seeded since 1970.

An abnormally wet September provided good soil moisture but fields became too wet for drilling. This delayed planting on a considerable acreage until October. However, stands were well established before cold winter weather. Snowcover protection has been poor for most of the winter thus far, but wind damage has been light.

Nationally, growers planted 48.7 million acres in the fall of 1986 for the 1987 crop--10 percent less than the previous year.

POTATO STOCKS

Montana potato stocks on hand January 1, 1987, totaled 2.1 million cwt, up 50 percent from a year ago.

Storage of fall potatoes in the 15 major states totaled 177 million cwt on January 1, 1987. This is down 13 percent from last year but 2 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 59 percent of production this year, the same percentage as last year. Types stored were: 79 percent russet, 17 percent white, and 4 percent red.

The 6 western states stored 121 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1987, down 7 percent from last year but 9 percent more than two years ago. Idaho and Washington stocks were down 7 percent from last year. Oregon stocks were down 5 percent. Colorado stored 9 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago and California stocks were off 20 percent.

WINTER WHEAT

SELECTED STATES & US

SELECTED STATES	AREA SEEDED 1/ CROP OF 1986	AREA SEEDED 1/ CROP OF 1987	1987 as Pct. of 1986
	--000 Acres--		Pct.
ARK	850	870	102
CALIF	650	580	89
COLO	3300	3100	94
GA	640	600	94
IDAHO	950	820	86
ILL	1300	1100	85
IND	900	750	83
KANS	11500	11000	96
KY	440	460	105
MICH	750	450	60
MISS	250	320	128
MO	1050	900	86
MONT	2150	1850	86
NEBR	2300	2200	96
N MEX	740	660	89
N C	525	490	93
N DAK	520	170	33
OHIO	1150	850	74
OKLA	7400	7300	99
OREG	970	830	86
S C	325	305	94
S DAK	1900	1700	89
TENN	430	500	116
TEX	8100	6800	84
WASH	2250	1900	84
U.S.	53930	48705	90

1/ Total area seeded for all purposes.

GRAIN STOCKS HIGHER

Montana wheat stocks in both farm and off-farm storage postions on December 1, 1986 totaled 161.8 million bushels, up 55 percent from January 1, 1986. The stocks are down 13 percent from the 186.8 million bushels on hand September 1, and reflect a relatively slow movement off farms during the fall quarter. Farm stocks amounted to 124.0 million bushels or 77 percent of the total wheat in storage.

Winter wheat stocks at 83.2 million bushels are up 39 percent from January 1, 1986; hard red spring wheat stocks at 70.7 million bushels are up 83 percent; and durum stocks at 7.9 million are up 31 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 1986 are estimated at 2.66 billion bushels. Wheat stored on farms is 1.06 billion bushels. Off-farm stocks total 1.60 billion bushels, or 60 percent of the total stocks. The indicated disappearance from all positions September-November 1986 is 490 million bushels.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 1986 are placed at 154 million bushels.

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT		
	Jan. 1, 1986	Sept 1, 1986 2/	Dec. 1, 1986
	------Million Bushels------		
Northwest	1.1	1.9	1.9
North Central	42.1	84.2	72.3
Northeast	28.6	46.3	44.5
Central	13.0	27.8	21.9
Southwest	4.0	5.7	4.7
South Central	8.0	10.4	8.6
Southeast	7.7	10.5	8.4
STATE	104.5	186.8	161.8

1/ These district estimates of wheat stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee.
2/ Revised.

STOCKS OF GRAIN DECEMBER 1, 1986 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1986	Sept 1, 1986 *	Dec. 1, 1986	% Change Dec/Jan	Jan. 1, 1986	Sept 1, 1986 *	Dec. 1, 1986
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels-----		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	69,331	146,000	124,000	+79	1,011,203	1,293,000	1,063,000
Off farms 1/	35,182	40,790	37,800	+ 7	1,514,964	1,861,559	1,601,330
T O T A L	104,513	186,790	161,800	+55	2,526,167	3,154,559	2,664,330
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	37,027	72,000	61,000	+65	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	22,733	24,602	22,200	- 2	--	--	--
T O T A L	59,760	96,602	83,200	+39	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	32,304	74,000	63,000	+95	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,286	16,188	15,600	+25	--	--	--
T O T A L	44,753	90,188	78,600	+76	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--		111,608	124,800	96,019
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--		38,441	52,874	57,683
T O T A L	6,043	9,175	7,900	+31	150,049	177,674	153,702
CORN							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	5,528,606	2,049,410	6,795,500
Off Farms 5/	--	--	--	--	2,366,162	1,990,112	3,507,145
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	7,894,768	4,039,522	10,302,645

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Included with other states starting April 86. 5/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana's October-December milk production at 81 million pounds, was 7 percent lower than the same period last year. Average milk production per cow, at 3240 pounds, was up nearly 4 percent, but the reduction in the number of milk cows, from 28,000 head to 25,000 head, more than offset the increase in per cow production. Montana's dairymen fed an average of 14.5 pounds of grain and concentrates per head per day, up from 14.0 pounds last year. The cost per hundredweight of this feed was $6.45, down 55 cents from a year ago.

Nationally, the quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 34.2 billion pounds, 4 percent below October-December 1985. The average number of cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 10.6 million head, 1 percent below July-September 1986 and 5 percent below October-December 1985.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1985	1986	1985	1986
CALIF	1,025	990	4,180	4,193
IDAHO	174	162	606	582
MINN	932	862	2,567	2,375
MONT	28	25	87	81
N DAK	102	92	260	243
ORE	102	93	352	345
S DAK	162	151	434	385
WASH	224	200	938	882
WISC	1,896	1,847	6,085	5,847
WYO	11.4	10.0	33.5	31.0
U.S.	11,171	10,622	35,590	34,225

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

HAY STOCKS UP

Montana farmers and ranchers had 4.4 million tons of hay on hand as of December 1, 1986, over 2 times more than on January 1, 1986. Hay stocks on hand were 3 percent above production and reflect a very small carryover from last year and also a greatly reduced feeding demand prior to December 1.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

CATTLE INVENTORY
SHEEP INVENTORY
AG PRICES
SLAUGHTER
CHICKEN INVENTORY
DAIRY PRODUCTS MFG.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farm Income
December Farm Prices
Meat, Poultry & Dairy Outlook
Manufactured Dairy Output

U.S. FARM INCOME

Net cash income for crop farms is expected to be down in 1986, going from 1985's average $27,000 per farm to about $25,000. Government payments to crop farms will rise more than 50 percent, cushioning this year's drop in commodity prices. Lower expenses should save crop farms more than $3 billion in 1986. For the livestock sector, net cash income per farm may climb more than $3,500. The average livestock operation, which typically includes some crop production, had cash income of more than $17,000 this year, because of higher prices, production, and Government payments, and lower expenses.

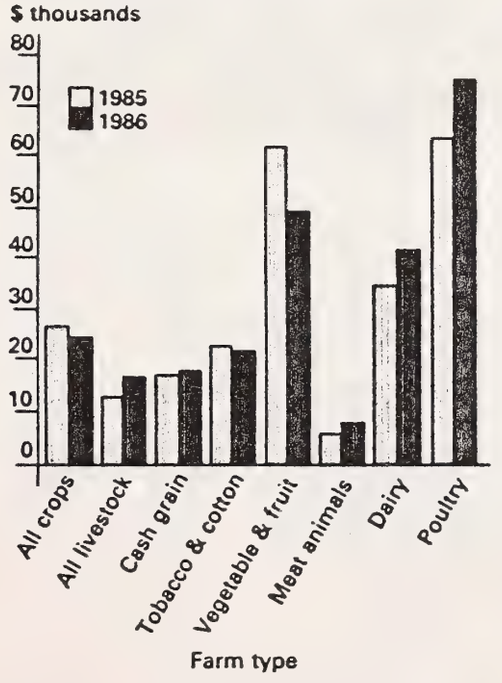
Under the Tax Reform Act of 1986, the after-tax cost of capital for all farm machinery should increase an average of 11 percent above costs under the current law. The cost of capital for tractors and long-lived equipment should be, respectively, 10.5 and 11.2 percent higher than under the existing law. Because of this, net investment in agriculture during 1986-90 will probably fall below the already negative level which is now occurring.

If marketing loans had been implemented for 1986/87, wheat exports might be only about 30 million bushels higher than without the loans, at a cost of $8 to $9 per added bushel. The per-bushel cost of extra corn and soybean exports would also be well above current market prices.

A large-scale acreage reduction program designed to idle 125 million acres, or about half of the program acreage base, could raise U.S. farm prices 30 to 40 percent above 1985/86 (by comparison, the 1986 program idled about 44 million acres). As a consequence, Government outlays for price and income supports would fall to nearly zero after several years, and farmers' net cash income would probably rise. In contrast, outlays for fiscal 1986, which include advance deficiency and dairy termination payments, totaled $25.8 billion.

However, large farm price increases would likely reduce U.S. farm exports 30 to 50 percent. Also, the mix of food purchased by domestic consumers would shift away from more expensive high-value products in response to a 30-35 percent rise in retail food prices. These declines would cut agriculture's contribution to U.S. GNP by $50 to $75 billion per year. As many as 2 million jobs might be lost on farms and in the inputs and marketing industries.

Net Cash Income Rising on Livestock Farms, Falling on Crop Farms



DECEMBER FARM PRICES

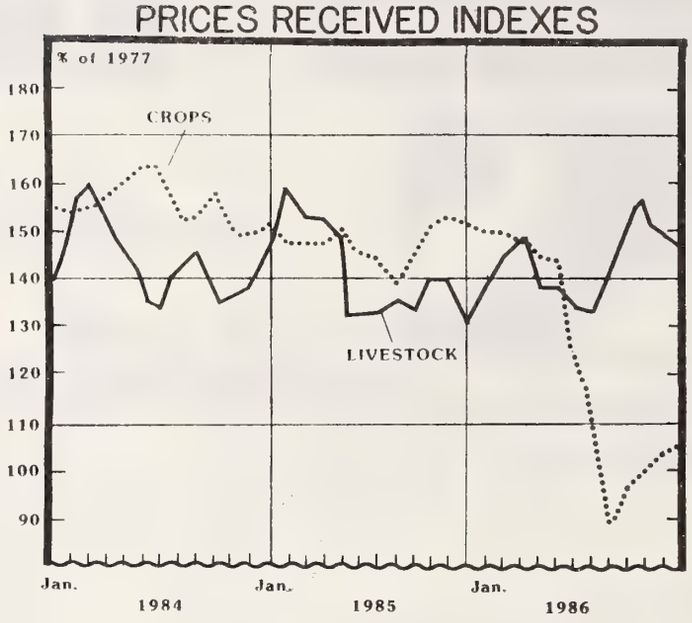
Montana farmers received slightly less for their products in December than a month earlier with the decrease mostly due to lower hay and barley prices. The Index of Prices Received for All Farm Products was 127 (1977 = 100) in December, 2 points below the November index. The All Crops Index at 105 was unchanged, although the Food Grain Index at 112 was up 1 point while the Feed Grain Index at 81 was down 4 points. The Livestock and Products Index at 148 was down 2 points reflecting an increase in cow marketings.

For individual commodities, price decreases were noted from November to December for winter wheat, barley, and hay. All other commodities increased except spring wheat, eggs, and wool which remained unchanged.

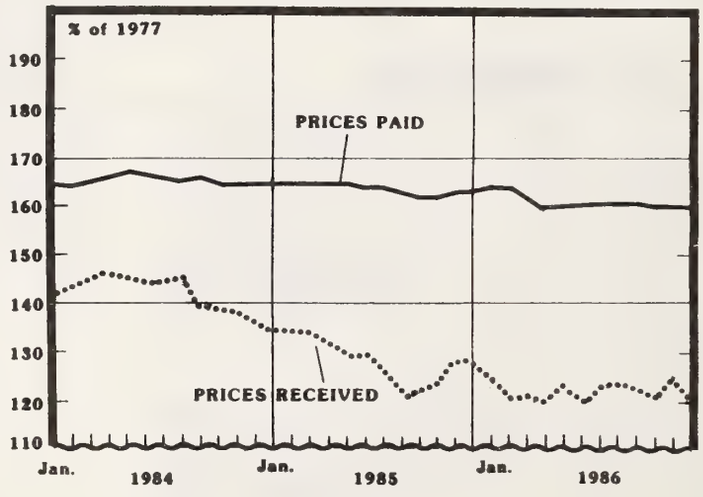
Nationally, the December All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 3 points from November to 121% of its January - December 1977 average. Lower prices for oranges, tomatoes, broilers, cattle, hogs, and turkeys, were partially offset by higher prices for cotton, strawberries, corn and lettuce. The index was 7 points below a year ago.

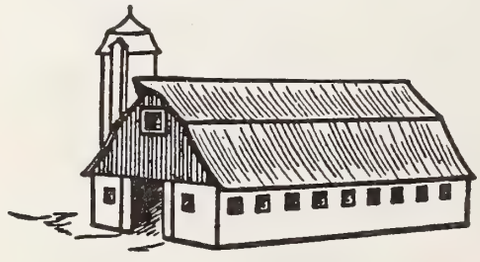
Month to month changes in grain prices were mixed. The all beef cattle and all hog prices were down, but calf prices were higher. Average lamb prices were up sharply, but broiler and egg prices were down. The all milk price was unchanged. Sharply lower prices for oranges and tomatoes were important factors in the month to month decrease of the commercial vegetable and all fruit indexes.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED





AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1986	MONTANA Dec. 15, 1986	U.S. Dec. 15, 1986
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.51	2.36	2.35	2.34
Durum	Bu.	3.18	2.49	2.70	2.75
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.83	2.65	2.65	2.53
All Wheat	Bu.	3.67	2.53	2.54	2.42
Barley	Bu.	2.06	1.51	1.43	1.52
Oats	Bu.	1.46	1.42	1.45	1.37
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	84.00	52.00	51.00	59.60
All Other Hay	Ton	74.00	48.00	47.00	50.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	83.00	52.00	51.00	57.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt	55.30	61.10	61.50	58.80
Cows	Cwt	31.60	35.10	35.50	34.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	42.30	51.20	48.50	53.60
Calves	Cwt	56.60	62.90	64.80	63.00
Sheep	Cwt	33.70	22.40	25.50	27.00
Lambs	Cwt	59.90	71.30	78.00	73.00
Hogs	Cwt	38.80	47.20	49.30	51.30
All Milk	Cwt	13.25	13.17	13.20	13.40
Eggs	Doz	.700	.630	.630	.652
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.740	.740	.620
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	141	129	127	121
All Crops	Pct.	152	105	105	99
Livestock & Products	Pct.	130	150	148	141

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977 = 100	Dec. 1985	Nov. 1986	Dec. 1986
Prices Received	128	124	121
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates	162	160 2/	160 2/
Ratio 1/	79	78	76

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates. 2/ October 1986 Prices Paid Index.

MEAT, POULTRY & DAIRY:
What Does the Future Hold?

Spurred by cost-savings at the farm and processing levels, per-pound retail prices for poultry have remained well below those of red meat products. The Consumer Price Index shows that while retail pork, and beef and veal prices climbed about 190 percent between 1962 and 1985, poultry prices rose a comparatively modest 112 percent. In 1985, consumers paid, on the average, 76 cents a pound for broilers and $1.05 a pound for whole turkeys. Retail Choice beef prices, in contrast, averaged $2.33 a pound, and pork was $1.62.

Nevertheless, better production practices have also helped hold the line on costs in the beef and pork industries. Gains in efficiency have kept retail increases for beef and pork below what they would have been in the absence of industry changes, helping maintain consumer demand for these productis over the last 20 years.

The story isn't much different in the dairy industry. Fewer but more productive milk cows are now supplying more than consumer needs. The number of cows declined from almost 22 million in 1950 to 11 million in 1985. At the same time, there was a significant increase in output per cow, from about 5,300 pounds in 1950 to over 13,000 in 1985--a 145 percent gain. Production per cow rose 26 percent just since 1975. Better producing cows pushed milk output from 117 billion pounds in 1950 to 144 billion in 1985.

Increases in milk supplies, however, have come in the face of relatively constant agregate demand. Increases in population from 1950 to 1985 have been largely offset by decreases in per capita consumption, from 341 pounds in 1950 to 243 pounds in 1984 (product-weight basis).

The mix of animal products we eat has changed significantly in the last three decades. Today, it's more chicken, turkey, beef, and cheese, and less pork, butter, and eggs. Even the types of meat and dairy products we eat are different. For example, shoppers can purchase brand-name poultry, choose their favorite parts, and even select pan-ready items.

What's more, the decade ahead is likely to bring more changes. Technological advances will mean a host of new products in the meat counter and dairy case. With little increase in overall consumption of animal products expected in the next decade, the beef, pork, poultry, and dairy industries will try to capture a larger share of a stagnant market by offering more higher profit processed products. Furthermore, industry structure is likely to change because of this slow-growing market. Beef producers, for instance, may follow the lead of their poultry counterparts and assume more functions from farm to retail.

A host of factors explain the changes in consumption of animal products, including growing incomes, new production and marketing technologies, and shifts in consumer preferences.

On the production side, the poultry industry has clearly been a leader in making physical and organizational improvements and in passing these benefits on to consumers. Improved productivity has enabled the poultry industry to produce and market chicken, turkey, and eggs at prices that have not risen as fast as overall consumer prices or prices of production inputs, such as labor, feed, and energy. A 1983 report by the Economic Research Service (ERS) estimated that, in the absence of technological advances, the retail price for chicken would have been $1.30 a pound in 1981 -- 56 cents above the actual retail price. Similarly, improvements in producing and processing turkeys meant that consumers paid only 93 cents a pound in 1981, instead of the $1.77 that would have been necessary to cover the costs of production under 1960 technology.

Americans Ate Less Whole Milk, Eggs, and Butter, and More Chicken, Turkey, and Lowfat Milk in 1985

	1950	1985
	Pounds per capita	
Fluid milk (product weight)		
Whole milk 1/	298.0	123.0
Lowfat milk 2/	31.6	113.2
Cream and specialties	11.8	7.3
Total	341.4	243.5
Butter	10.7	4.9
Margerine	6.1	10.7
Cheese		
American	5.2	12.0
Other	2.2	9.7
Total	7.4	22.4
Red Meat		
Beef	50.1	78.6
Veal	7.3	1.8
Pork	64.4	62.0
Lamb and mutton	3.6	1.5
Poultry		
Chicken	20.6	57.4
Turkey	4.1	11.9
Eggs (number)	389.0	255.0
Fish and seafood	11.8	14.5

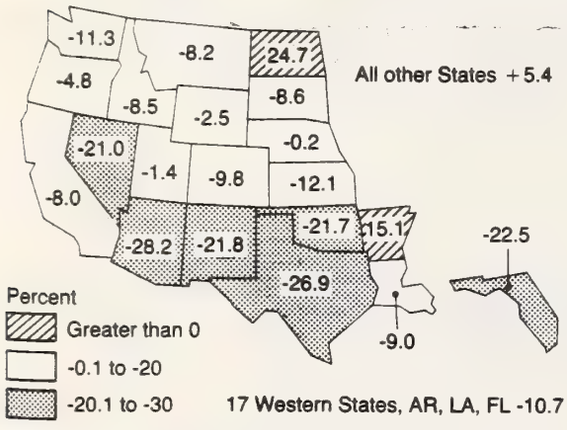
1/ Includes flavored milks. 2/ Includes lowfat, skim, buttermilk, and yogurt.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Dairy plants in the state produced 118,000 gallons of ice cream during November -- 2 percent less than in November 1985. Butter output at 158,000 pounds was down 9 percent. Creamed cottage cheese production at 265,000 pounds was down 16 percent. American cheese production at 160,000 pounds was down 39 percent from the same month a year ago.

Changes in Irrigated Acres, 1979-84

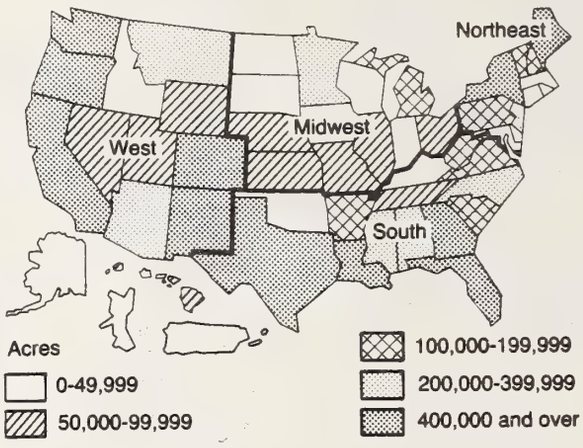
Most of the principal irrigation States saw substantial declines in irrigated acreage during 1979-84, due primarily to less favorable producer cost/price relationships.



Excludes Alaska, Hawaii, abnormal, and specialty farms. Source: 1979 and 1984 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Surveys.

Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land

Foreigners owned 12.1 million acres of U.S. farmland in 1985—less than 0.6 percent of all U.S. land. Forest land accounts for 51 percent of these foreign-held acres.



1985 data.

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1986 Annual Crop Production
Grain Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Milk Production
Potato Stocks

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C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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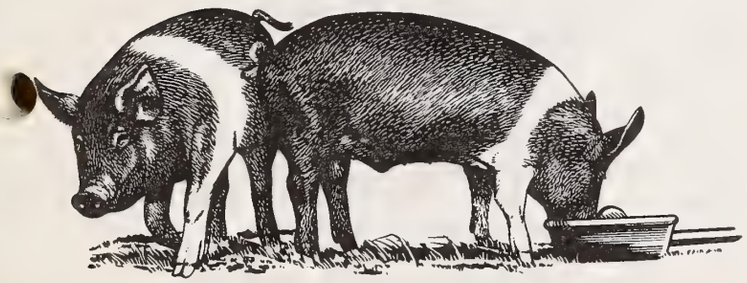
HIGHLIGHTS:

HOG COUNT UP SHARPLY
POTATO STOCKS INCREASE
CATTLE ON FEED DOWN
FEWER EGGS PRODUCED
BIG FIVE EXPORT CROPS



MONTANA HOG NUMBERS UP

A December 1 survey of producers revealed hog numbers increased substantially from last year. The State's December 1 Hog Inventory at 190,000 is up 41 percent from a year ago. The Breeding Hog Inventory at 21,000 is up 31 percent and the Market Hog Inventory at 169,000 is up 42 percent from December 1, 1985.

The Number of Pigs Produced in 1986 was 324,000 head, 33 percent more than in 1985. The Spring Pig Crop (December-May) at 156,000 was up 24 percent, and the Fall Pig Crop (June-November) at 168,000 was up 42 percent.

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 51.0 million head on December 1, 1986. This is 3 percent below a year ago, 6 percent less than December 1, 1984 and the lowest December 1 inventory since 1975.

-- Breeding Hog Inventory at 6.61 million, is 3 percent below last year and 5 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest December 1 Breeding Inventory since Breeding Inventory estimates were first begun in 1963.

-- Market Hog Inventory at 44.3 million, is 3 percent below a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago.

The U.S. Pig Crop for 1986 totaled 82.3 million head, 4 percent below 1985 and 5 percent below the 1984 Pig Crop.

-- December 1985-May 1986 Pig Crop, estimated at 40.3 million head, is down 5 percent from both a year earlier and the comparable period in 1984.

-- June-November 1986 Pig Crop, estimated at 42.0 million head, is 3 percent below last year, and 5 percent below the June-November 1984 crop.

U.S. Hog producers intend to have 5.34 million sows farrow during the December 1986-May 1987 period, up from a year ago.

HOG & PIG INVENTORY – DECEMBER 1, 1985 & 1986

HOGS & PIGS	MONTANA			U.S.		
	1985	1986	% Chg.	1985	1986	% Chg.
	(000)		%	(000)		%
Breeding	16	21	+31	6,783	6,612	- 3
Market	119	169	+42	45,530	44,349	- 3
Under 60 Lbs.	38	57	+50	17,301	16,956	- 2
60-119 Lbs.	33	46	+39	11,700	11,153	- 5
120-179 Lbs.	26	39	+50	9,320	9,071	- 3
180+ Lbs.	22	27	+23	7,210	7,168	- 1
TOTAL	135	190	+41	52,313	50,960	- 3
Sows Farrowing						
Dec.-May 1/	16	20	+25	5,571	5,236	- 6
June-Nov.	16	21	+31	5,668	5,420	- 4
Pig Crop	244	324	+33	86,029	82,283	- 4

Intentions to Farrow	1987	% Chg.
December - May 1/	5,342	+ 2

1/ December preceeding year.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

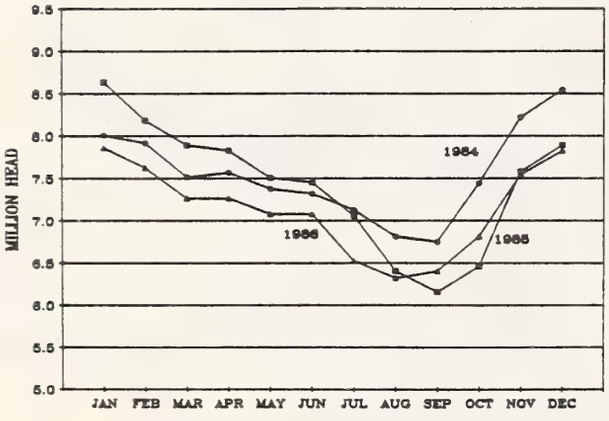
Cattle and calves on feed December 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.83 million head, down 1 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below December 1, 1984.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during November totaled 1.45 million, 5 percent above last year but 4 percent less than November two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during November totaled 1.81 million, up 3 percent from last year but 7 percent below November 1984. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.73 million for November are 2 percent above last year but 5 percent below November two years ago.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 87 thousand head, compared with 76 thousand during November 1985 and 121 thousand during November 1984.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES

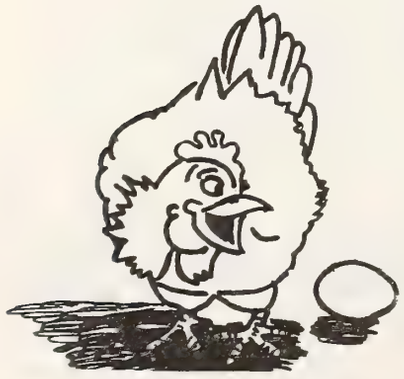


NOVEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat in November, 24 percent less than October and 15 percent below November a year ago.

Cattle slaughter amounted to 2100 head, 16 percent below last year. Hog slaughter at 2,000 head was 23 percent less than last year. The average liveweight for cattle was 1,015 pounds, 49 pounds heavier than a year ago. Average liveweight for hogs was up 5 pounds from last year at 231.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in November 1986 totaled 2.98 billion pounds, down 4 percent from November 1985. January-November red meat production, at 35.8 billion pounds was down 1 percent from a year earlier. The percentage changes in accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, up 2; Veal, up 4; Pork, down 6; Lamb and Mutton, down 6.



MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana's laying flocks produced 48 million eggs during the September - November quarter -- 8 percent less than the previous quarter and 6 percent less than the same period a year ago.

The average number of layers in the flocks during the quarter was 780,000, 2 percent less than the previous quarter and 4 percent less than a year ago.

America's Favorite Fresh Vegetables: 1985's Leaders in Per Capita Consumption

	Per capita consumption			Change,
	1970	1980	1985	1970-85
	pounds per person[1]			
Lettuce	20.8	24.9	23.7	+14%
Onions	11.5	9.3	17.9	+56%
Tomatoes	10.5	11.4	13.4	+28%
Cabbage[2]	8.2	8.0	—	—
Carrots	5.7	6.8	7.4	+30%
Corn	7.3	6.6	7.1	−3%
Celery	6.7	7.3	6.9	+3%
Cucumbers[2]	2.9	4.0	—	—
Green peppers[2]	2.2	3.3	—	—
Broccoli	.5	1.5	2.6	+420%
Green beans[2]	1.6	1.4	—	—
Cauliflower	.6	1.2	2.0	+233%

[1]Retail weight basis. 1985 data are preliminary estimates. [2]Data not reported by USDA since 1981.

TAKE PRIDE

"Take Pride in America" is a National Public Awareness Campaign to encourage everyone to take pride in the nation's natural and cultural resources. Our lands and resources must be protected for and by us, not from us. We must prevent thoughtless behavior by a few that reduces enjoyment for many.

The Campaign is a partnership of public and private organizations committed to ensuring the wise use of the resources that belong to all of us.

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA LOGO

POTATO STOCKS

Montana potatoes in storage on December 1 totaled 2,150,000 cwt, 34 percent above a year ago and amount to 96 percent of production. Most of Montana's potato production is certified seed and traditionally does not move out of storage until spring.

Nationally, storage of fall potatoes in the 15 major states totaled 204 million cwt on December 1, 1986. This is down 13 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 68 percent of fall production this year the same as last year. Russets were the main type stored accounting for 79 percent of the total in the 11 major states; whites made up 18 percent and reds, 3 percent.

Storage in the six western states was set at 137 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year, but 9 percent above 1984. Idaho stocks were 67.5 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year ago. Washington at 32.3 million cwt was down 4 percent; while Oregon at 17.0 million cwt was off 8 percent. Colorado stocks, totalling 13.6 million cwt were down 7 percent, and California at 4.70 million cwt was down 15 percent.

GLEANINGS

Farmers' expenses for interest on farm debt finally seem to be moving in a firm downward direction, observes economist Greg Hanson of the Economic Research Service. The farm sector's total interest expenses climbed from around $6.1 billion in 1975 to a peak of $21 billion in 1982 as interest rates rose and farmers took on additional billions of dollars of indebtedness to expand and upgrade their operations. The first significant drop in the interest bill came last year, Hanson says. Interest expenses declined an estimated 10% from 1984's $20.3 billion. He and other ERS analysts expect a further drop of 10%-13% this year.

Hanson lists several reasons why these expenses are now easing off. Interest rates are down from the highs of the early 1980's, and farmers are reducing their overall debt burdens because of the threat that large debts have posed to farm profitability and survival. In addition, bankers are extending less credit and have written off substantial amounts of bad debt.

The downward trend in interest payments (along with reduced expenses for fertilizer, fuel, and land) should help prop up future farm incomes, Hanson suggests. Spiralling interest expenses took a big bite out of net farm income during the last few years. From 1975 to 1979, farmers' interest expenses averaged $8.7 billion a year. In the first 5 years of the 1980's, the average was $19.3 billion. In other words, the sharp runup in interest expenses between the late 1970's and early 1980's slashed net farm income by an average of $10.6 billion a year. That's equivalent to more than one-third of total net farm income in 5 of the last 6 years. "The decline in interest expenses," concludes Hanson, "is a sign that much of the financial adjustment necessary to set the stage for recovery is now occurring."

The Farm Sector's Annual Interest Expenses Are Now Declining

*Excludes interest on farm household debt. *1985 estimated; 1986 projected.

BIG FIVE EXPORT CROPS

Although U.S. farm exports doubled in value from 1975 to 1981 -- increasing from $22 billion to $44 billion -- export sales of farm commodities had fallen nearly 30 percent from their 1981 high by the end of 1985.

Across the nation, 420 counties received 50 percent or more of total farm sales from just five "export-oriented" crops. Farm communities dependent on sales of corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, and rice know what this means.

Together these five commodities accounted for 53 percent of the growth in U.S. farm trade from 1975 to 1981 and 76 percent of the subsequent decline.

In the peak year of 1981, these five export-oriented crops comprised 59 percent of U.S. farm exports. They made up more than half of U.S. farm exports in 1985, albeit of a much smaller volume.

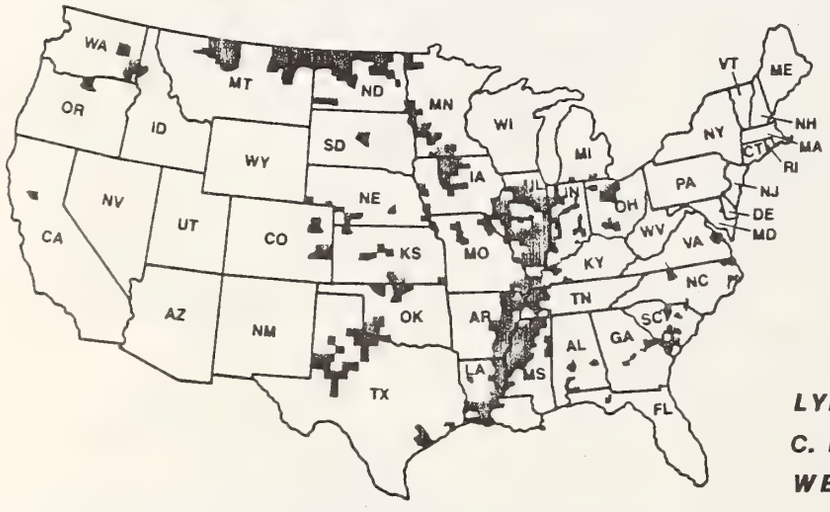
The importance of international sales from the five farm products is demonstrated by the significant share of U.S. production sold in world markets.

In the last 5 marketing years, an average of 54 percent of U.S. wheat production was marketed abroad. During the same marketing years, 26 percent of U.S. corn production was exported, 40 percent of soybeans, 47 percent of cotton, and 49 percent of rice.

U.S. exports also contributed heavily to total world trade in these commodities. In the marketing years from 1981 to 1985, U.S. wheat exports, on average, made up 36 percent of world wheat exports. The percentages for the other crops were: corn, 72 percent; soybeans, 52 percent; cotton, 28 percent; and rice, 18 percent.

These figures suggest the impact that changes in international trade may have on U.S. producers of these commodities, their communities, and even large geographic regions.

Export-Dependent Counties Are Concentrated in the Corn Belt and Delta States*



*Counties were classified as export-dependent when 50 percent or more of their farm sales in 1982 consisted of "export-oriented" crops—corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, and rice.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Agricultural Prices

Dairy Products Mfg.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN

C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN

WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana Crop and Livestock REPORTER

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Christmas Greetings

SHELVED WITH PERIODICALS

There are some Christmases that we recall more vividly than others, but all focus on the joy of giving and sharing with others. When I was a young boy I particularly remember the joy and anticipation on the faces of my parents and relatives when they surprised us with a bicycle, BB gun or sled. Our close family ties helped instill in us a strong sense of belonging and self-worth.

In addition to the celebration of the birth of Christ, Christmas has an extended meaning to me. It means a sharing of our joy and good fortune with others. It's experiencing the joy of giving, just as those three Wise Men did so long ago. It's seeing our children learning to give and experiencing the rewards of fulfillment that result.

During these times of economic and emotional stress, there are many who would appreciate assistance and some have too much pride to even ask for help. This year, our office staff will adopt a needy family for Christmas. We're all excited about making their Holidays a little brighter and in turn we'll share their joy.

On behalf of the office staff I want to thank you for your support throughout the year and want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Lyle Pratt
State Statistician

Wendy Brucki Lyle Pratt Charlotte Hagen Violet Smith Randy Van Winkle Carol Jean Smith Ray Stack Ron Schumacher Linda Pratt Jerry Thorson Michelle S Billye Vincent Elma St. Clair

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NOVEMBER FARM PRICES

The November index of prices received by Montana Farmers and Ranchers for All Farm Products at 128 was down 2 points from October and down 18 points from November 1985. The All Crops index at 104 was 4 points above last month but 48 points below last year at this time. The Livestock and Products index at 149 was 8 points below October but 8 points higher than a year ago.

Crop items mostly registered price increases during November except for oats and hay. Prices were generally lower for all livestock items except lambs and eggs.

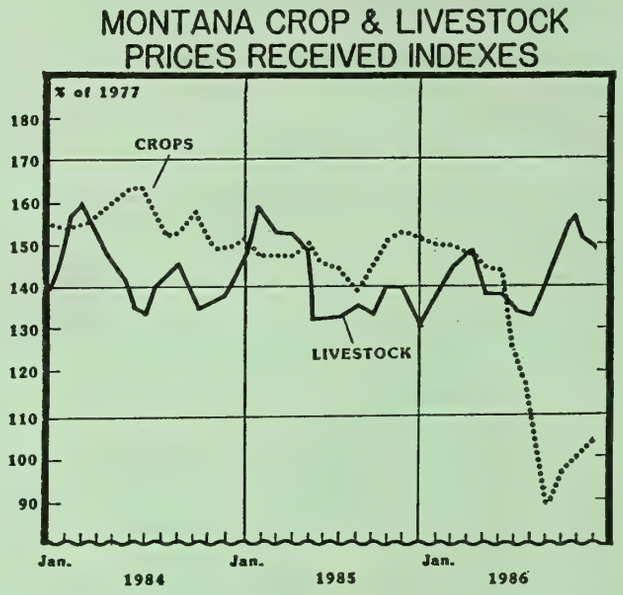
Nationally, the November All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers increased 4 points from October to 125 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for oranges, lettuce, cotton, grains, eggs, and milk were partially offset by lower prices for broilers, grapefruit, strawberries, and apples. The index was 2 points below a year ago.

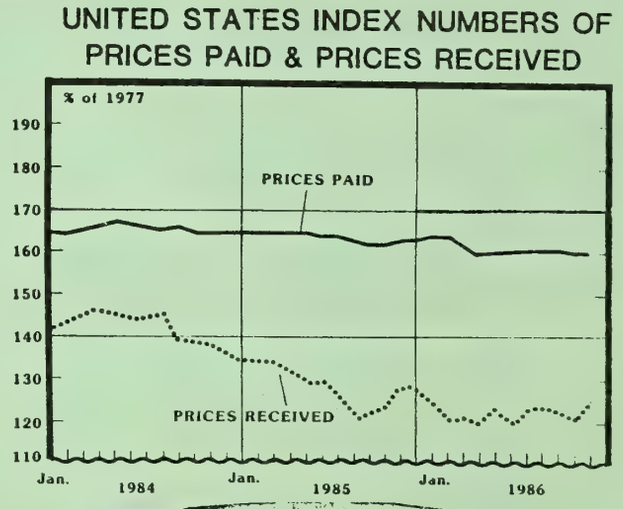
Crop prices generally increased from a month earlier. Food and feed grain prices increased from a month earlier, but all were well below a year ago except oats. Most commercial vegetable prices were above last year. Hog prices continued to decline but were still well above a year earlier. Steer and heifer prices were at the highest level since December 1985.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Nov. 1985	Oct. 1986	Nov. 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	127	121	125
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	162	160	160 4/
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	78	76	78

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ October 1986 Prices Paid Index.





AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1986	MONTANA Nov. 15, 1986	U.S. Nov. 15, 1986
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.45	2.24	2.35	2.30
Durum	Bu.	3.26	2.38	2.60	2.53
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.81	2.47	2.55	2.46
All Wheat	Bu.	3.65	2.38	2.48	2.37
Barley	Bu.	2.12	1.45	1.59	1.69
Oats	Bu.	1.32	1.28	1.25	1.22
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	84.00	53.00	52.00	58.80
All Other Hay	Ton	74.00	49.00	48.00	49.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	83.00	53.00	52.00	56.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt	57.40	60.20	59.50	59.50
Cows	Cwt	32.40	35.10	34.00	34.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	47.40	54.60	50.60	54.70
Calves	Cwt	61.30	62.90	61.50	62.20
Sheep	Cwt	15.50	21.40	17.65	23.20
Lambs	Cwt	63.60	64.10	64.30	67.10
Hogs	Cwt	35.40	48.70	47.40	52.90
All Milk	Cwt	13.15	13.30	13.30	13.40
Eggs	Doz	.640	.520	.630	.663
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.740	.740	.623
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	146	130	128	125
All Crops	Pct.	152	100	104	103
Livestock & Products	Pct.	141	157	149	145

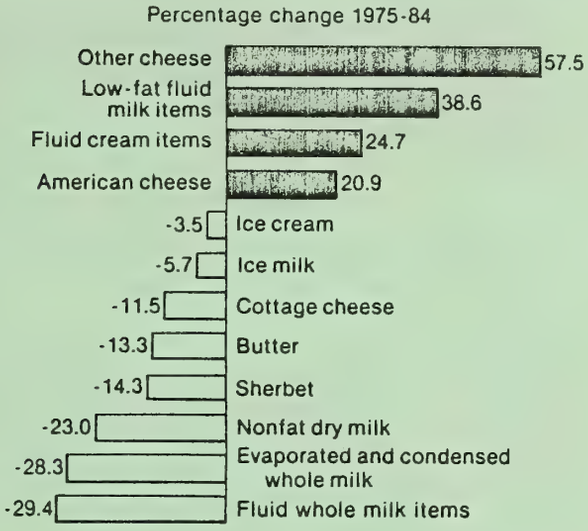
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana Dairy Plants manufactured 143,000 gallons of ice cream during October, 4 percent less than the same month last year. Creamed cottage cheese production at 318,000 pounds was 3 percent less than a year ago. Butter output at 192,000 pounds was down 2 percent. American cheese production at 194,000 pounds was down 3 percent from the same month last year.

UNITED STATES

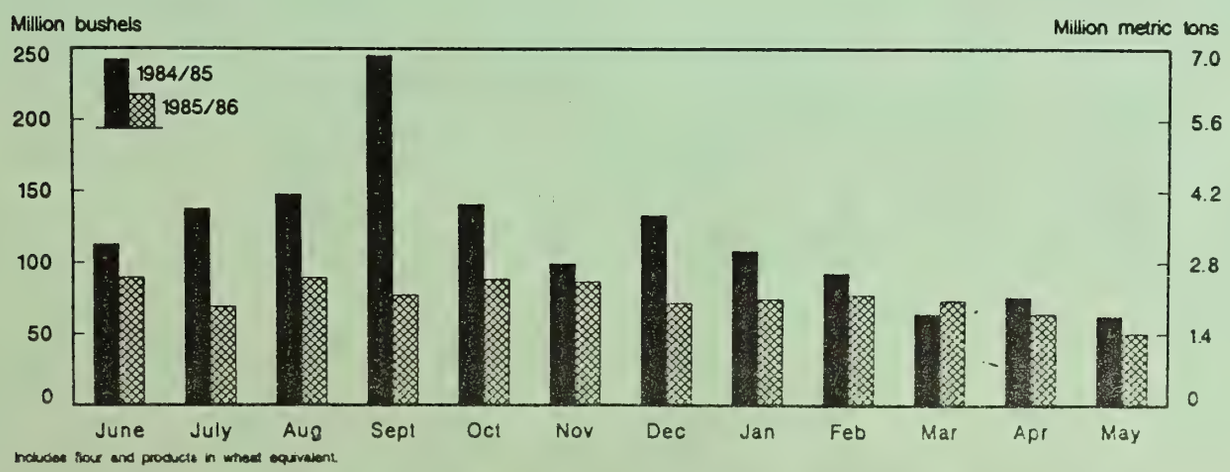
10-Year Change in per Capita Dairy Product Sales



REBOUND IN WHEAT EXPORTS EXPECTED IN 1986/87

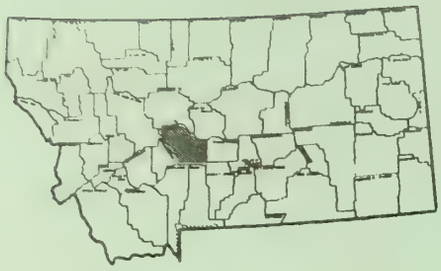
The decline in U.S. wheat export activity during 1985/86 was the most precipitous ever experienced. Loadings of 915 million bushels were down 509 million from the previous season and 856 million from the 1981/82 record. To reverse the decline in the U.S. share of world wheat trade, export bonus programs have been implemented during the past two seasons. During 1985/86, the Export Enhancement Program (EEP) favored certain markets by offering U.S. exporting companies extra quantities of CCC-owned stocks for sale to overseas markets. Program sales began slowly, but ballooned late last season. In anticipation of large supplies of lower-priced wheat, many customers deferred purchases until early in the 1986/87 marketing year. Current export commitments (outstanding sales plus shipments) are 27 percent above a year ago. Total shipments of SRW (the more favored EEP class) in July were the largest in 2 years. Adding to the potential for boosting overseas shipments of U.S. wheat was the Presidential announcement that the Soviet Union be included in the EEP. This offer is good only for the remainder of the long-term grain trade agreement year (October 1, 1985-September 30, 1986). The ultimate EEP will be determined by future subsidies that make U.S. wheat more attractively priced. However, competitors' responses also will bear heavily on the degree of success. For the season, U.S. wheat exports are forecast at 1.15 billion bushels, one-fourth higher than last year, but still nearly 20 percent under the average for the past five seasons.

U.S. Wheat Exports



Includes flour and products in wheat equivalent.

*featuring. . . . .*MEAGHER COUNTY



Meagher County is situated in central Montana with the Little Belt Mountains marking its northern boundary, and the Big Belt Mountains laying along its western border. Sections of the Lewis & Clark and Helena National Forests are scattered in various regions of the county. The Smith River flows northwesterly through Meagher County, while the Musselshell River originates in the south central region and flows east. White Sulphur Springs is the county seat, and the area has an annual average precipitation of 15.70 inches.

Although a little more than half the terrain is mountainous, agriculture is still a prominent industry. Meagher County ranked 18th and 23rd, respectively, among the cattle and sheep producing counties in the January 1, 1985 livestock inventories. December 1, 1984 hog numbers put the county in 37th place. Cash receipts for livestock and livestock products totaled $14,507,000 in 1984.

Most of the cropland is irrigated. Hay, oats, winter and spring wheat, and barley are all grown. Meagher County ranked 6th for all hay production in the 1985 crop production totals, as well as 40th and 41st for oats and winter wheat, respectively. Crops cash receipts came to $2,620,000 in 1984. Government payments added $531,00 for a total cash return of $17,658,000.

MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1985		UNIT	1985
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,530,924	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	105,847
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	989,727	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	49,320
Number of Farms 1/		119			
CROPS			**LIVESTOCK**		
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	8,700	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	62,000
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	1,400	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	5,700
Barley	Acres Plntd.	16,000	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	1,200
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,600			
Hay	Acres Hvstd.	47,600			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1984.

Coming in Next Reporter

December 1 Hog Survey
Quarterly Egg Production
Slaughter
Potato Stocks

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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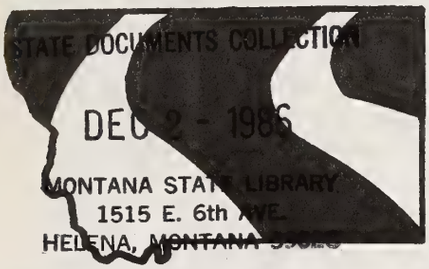

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Helena, MT 59604
Phone: 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

SURVIVAL SKILLS
OCTOBER FARM LABOR
CATTLE ON FEED DOWN
OCTOBER SLAUGHTER LOWER
featuring..CASCADE COUNTY

SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR TOMORROW'S FARMER

The successful farmers of the future will be better managers than today's farmers -- production managers, marketing managers, and financial managers. In other words, they'll be highly skilled at obtaining both technical and economic efficiency.

On the technical side, they'll seek always to squeeze the "last drop" of benefit out of each unit of input, whether land, labor, chemicals, or machinery. New technologies in both crops and livestock will enable them to monitor the production process and maintain peak efficiency.

Although the prices farmers receive for their products will probably continue to fall in relation to the prices they pay for their inputs, this ratio has been drifitng downward for decades. Greater productivity from improved inputs made up the difference. There is no reason to think that future downward pressure on prices will prevent efficient farmers from maintaining net farm income at acceptable levels in most years.

Financial Managers, Too

But focusing on technical efficiency alone will not get the job done. Farming is becoming more risky, and capital requirements are higher than they are in other industries. Thus, business expertise in general, and particularly financial management skills to operate in a high risk environment, will be every bit as important as production skills.

The ever-changing business environment, will require proficient use of accounting, financial statements and analyses, budgeting and planning, and sophisticated office management procedures. The successful farmers will better understand the risks of the economic and financial environment and utilize the best available marketing and financial management techniques to counter or control those risks.

On the business side, the emphasis will be on controlling costs and maximizing net income from each farm enterprise, rather than on maximizing volume and gross sales. For example, attention will shift to obtaining higher calving percentages and weaning weights rather than more cows, limiting applications of fertilizer to maximize net returns rather than yields, and producing crops with the most efficient machinery rather than the largest.

Increasing price variability in world markets will intensify the need for reliable marketing information and forecasts. While such information is provided by USDA and many other public and private institutions, the greater level of price uncertainty will strengthen the incentive for farmers to acquire their own information.

Furthermore, emerging technologies in telecommunications and microcomputer systems will offer farmers instant access to the best information available for making production, marketing, and financial decisions. The ability to accumulate accurate, detailed information and to form reliable expectations from this information will become crucial to survival in a farm business.

Opportunities Along with Risks

Increased fluctuation in financial conditions and markets will present opportunities for gains as well as losses. Successful farmers will be those who maintain the resiliency to survive during the busts so they are in a position to take advantage of the booms. This resiliency will be reflected in the way farm investment is financed, in the organizational structure of the farm, and in the use of technologies so that production can respond to changing conditions.

Survival Skills Cont. Page 2

Survival Skills Cont. from Page 1

Structurally, the adjustment seems to be away from the savings-financed sole proprietorships that have long been traditional to U.S. family farming. Partnerships and family-held corporations are, to some extent, replacing the sole proprietorships for commercial-size farms. At the same time, debt financing is declining as the principal means of acquiring the resources necessary for farming. Leasing and various methods of outside equity financing are growing in importance.

Overall, these changes appear to represent the slow emergence of a more "industrial" type of business organization and financial structure in agriculture. Whatever drawbacks this may have -- outside financing, for instance, may entail some loss of control over assets by farmers -- it should improve the financial resiliency of the agricultural sector. Resilient farms will provide the agricultural industry of tomorrow with the ability to adjust to an unstable environment.

Although the future is impossible to predict, the present farm crisis seems to be the painful part of a permanent shift to a new baseline environment for agriculture. If so, it should be noted that American farmers have successfully adapted to changes of this magnitude in the past. Moreover, many farmers -- a majority, in fact -- have already made adjustments to position themselves so they can survive, and prosper, in the challenging economic and financial environment of the next few decades.

BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE

The 1986 **Agricultural Statistics Bulletin** is now available for distribution. This year's issue is a continuation of a series of publications going back to 1946 -- forty years ago.

The Bulletin is provided free of charge to those who voluntarily provide information for input to the publication. This includes participation in current surveys. Others are charged $5.00 per copy to help cover publication costs. To obtain a copy of the 1986 Bulletin please write:

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CATTLE ON FEED

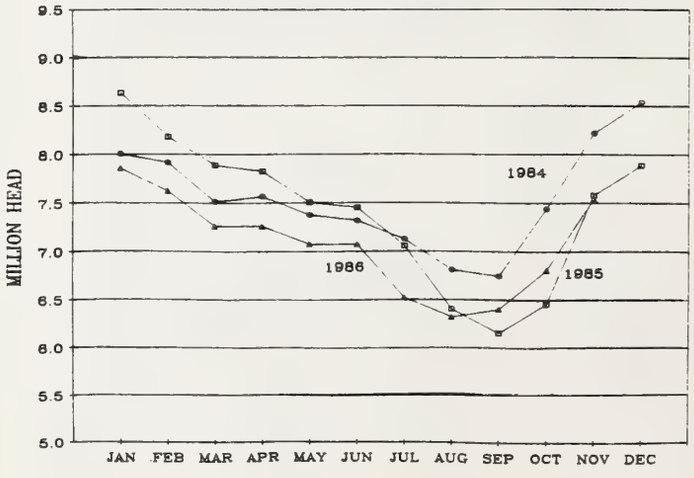
Cattle and calves on feed November 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.55 million head, down fractionally from a year ago and 8 percent below November 1, 1984.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during October totaled 1.59 million, 1 percent above last year but 4 percent less than October two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during October totaled 2.40 million, down 14 percent from last year and 6 percent below October 1984. This is the lowest October placement total since 1981. Net placements of 2.32 million for October are 14 percent below last year and down 5 percent from two years ago.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 81 thousand head, compared with 85 thousand during October 1985 and 110 thousand during October 1984.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES



America's Favorite Fresh Fruits: 1985's Leaders in Per Capita Consumption

	Per capita consumption			Change,
	1970	1980	1985	1970-85
	pounds per person[1]			
Bananas	17.6	20.8	25.6	+45%
Apples	16.3	18.3	17.4	+7%
Oranges	15.7	15.3	12.0	−24%
Grapes	2.5	3.3	6.3	+152%
Grapefruit	8.0	7.8	5.5	−31%
Peaches	5.6	5.4	3.8	−32%
Lemons and limes	2.1	2.3	2.9	+38%
Strawberries	1.6	1.9	2.9	+81%
Pears	1.9	2.3	2.7	+42%
Avocados	.4	.8	1.7	+325%
Nectarines	.6	1.5	1.6	+167%
Plums and prunes	1.4	1.5	1.5	+7%
Pineapples	.7	1.4	1.4	+100%

[1]Retail weight basis. 1985 data are preliminary estimates.

FARM WORKERS DECLINE - WAGE RATES INCREASE

A total of 3.04 million people worked on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12 - 18, 1986. This compared with 3.14 million workers during the comparable survey week in 1985. Included in the work force were 1.29 million self-employed farm operators, 550,000 unpaid workers, and 975,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. An additional 229,000 workers were Agricultural Service Employees. Self-employeed, unpaid, and hired worker numbers all dropped about 5 percent from last year while agricultural service workers increased 22 percent.

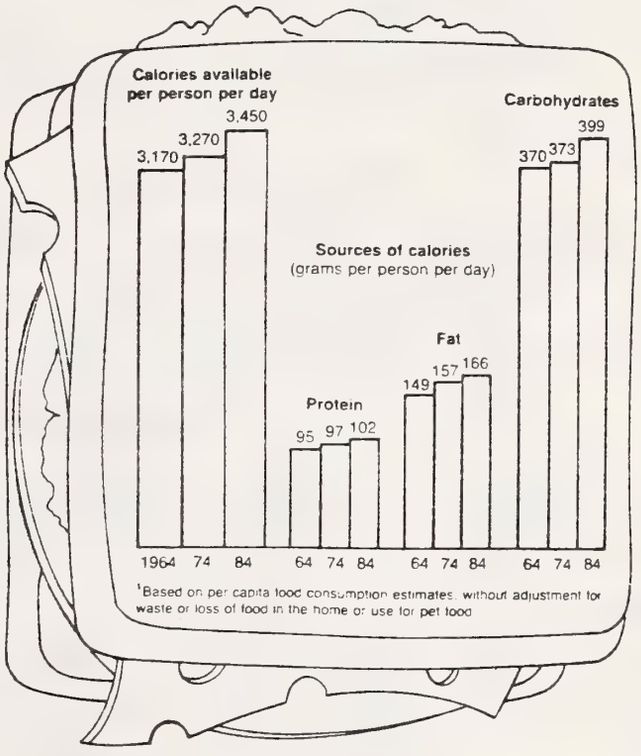
The all hired farm worker wage rate in October was $4.83 per hour, up 27 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $4.56 per hour, compared with $4.41 in October 1985. Wage rates for field and livestock workers were $4.61 and $4.37, respectively. Last year field workers made $4.47 per hour and livestock workers earned $4.24.

During the October 1986 survey week, self-employed persons worked an average of 48.7 hours, 0.8 hours more than in the comparable week in 1985. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, averaged 37.0 hours, compared with 38.6 a year earlier. Hired workers spent an average 39.9 hours doing agricultural work, up 1.3 hours from October of last year.

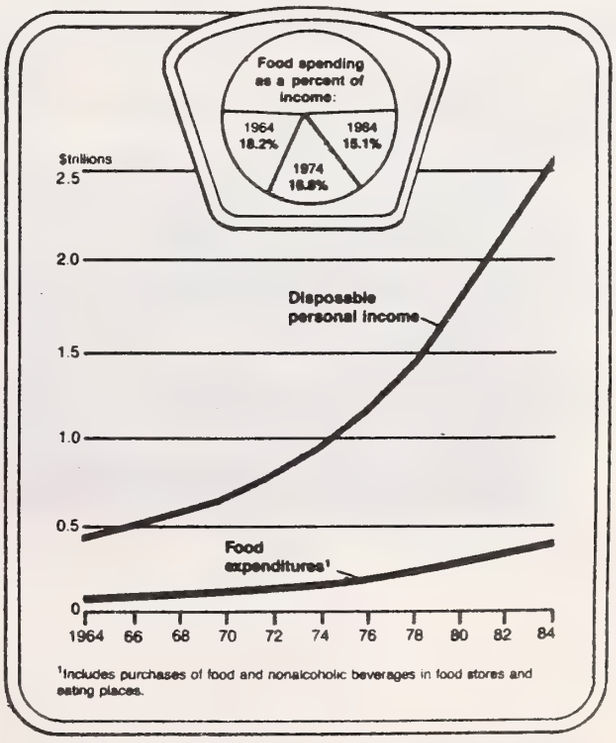
Perquisites and other benefits such as housing and food were provided to 52 percent of the hired workers. Housing was provided to 13 percent of the workers compared with 14 percent in October 1985.

During the week of October 12 - 18, 1986, rain slowed grain harvest in the Corn Belt and Southern Great Plains. Corn was 37 percent harvested, 3 points below the 5-year U.S. average. Soybeans were 37 percent harvested compared with a 46 percent average. Cotton harvest, at 37 percent, was 7 points above average. However, harvest of the Texas cotton crop lagged 3 points below their state average. Winter wheat planting was active in many states and was 72 percent planted by week's end. Apple harvest was well advanced on the east coast. Vegetable and melon harvest were active in Arizona. Favorable weather in the northwest resulted in normal harvest activities.

The Calorie Count Is Up Since 1964, With Most of the Increase from Fats and Carbohydrates[1]


Calories available per person per day
3,170
3,270
3,450
Sources of calories (grams per person per day)
Protein
95 97 102
Fat
149 157 166
Carbohydrates
370 373 399
1964 74 84 64 74 84 64 74 84 64 74 84
[1]Based on per capita food consumption estimates, without adjustment for waste or loss of food in the home or use for pet food

But the Calories Come Cheaper When Food Bills Are Measured Against Incomes



*featuring.....*CASCADE COUNTY

Cascade County was created in December of 1887 and lies in central Montana. The county is crisscrossed by numerous rivers and streams. The Missouri River enters along the western border and flows northeasterly through the county, while the Smith River enters along the southern boundary and flows north to join the Missouri near Ulm, Montana. The Sun River enters along the northwestern border and joins the Missouri near Great Falls. The terrain is characterized by rolling plains and river valley, except for the extreme southeastern corner that is mountainous and timbered. A section of the Lewis & Clark National Forest is nestled there, and the Little Belt Mountains lie along the southern border. Great Falls is the county seat.

Being well suited to agricultural production, Cascade County supports a variety of agricultural interests. In 1985 crop production, the county ranked 7th in winter wheat, 12th in barley, 13th in durum wheat, and 14th in spring wheat production. Hay, oats, and corn are also grown. Most of the cropland is not irrigated.

Cattle raising is a major livestock interest as Cascade County came in 10th in the state in the January 1, 1985 inventory. The sheep inventory on the same date showed the county in 19th place, and the December 1, 1984 hog count put Cascade 18th among the hog raising counties.

Cash receipts from the sale of crops added up to $23,655,000 in 1984. Livestock receipts were $31,804,000, while government payments came to $8,022,000. Cash receipt total for 1984 amounted to $63,481,000.

CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1985		UNIT	1985
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,727,232	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	482,025
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,393,000	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	32,448
Number of Farms 1/		799			

CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	112,900	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	80,000
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	75,100	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	7,400
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	900	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	3,600
Barley	Acres Plntd.	101,000			
Oats	Acres Plntd.	3,000			
Hay	Acres Hvstd.	62,800			
Corn	Acres Plntd.	400			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1984.

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Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufacturing
Commercial Fertilizer

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C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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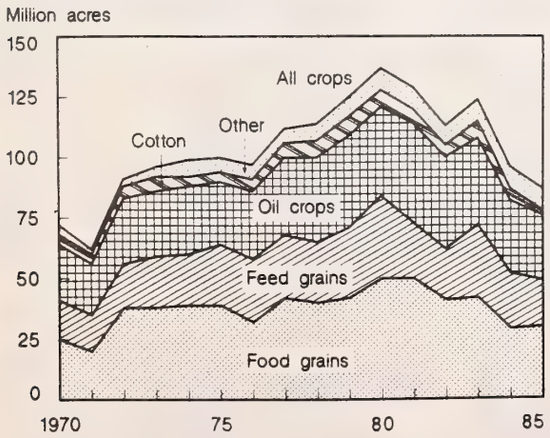
HIGHLIGHTS:

CROPLAND USE
U.S.D.A.'s NEW SURVEY PROGRAMS
AG PRICES INCREASE
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION GOOD

ACREAGE EQUIVALENTS OF CROPS EXPORTED LOWEST SINCE 1971

U.S. agricultural exports for fiscal 1986 are forecast to be down 13-15 percent from last year's 126 million tons and more than 34 percent below the 1980 peak. U.S. and world stocks of major commodities are at record or near-record levels. Without a dramatic upturn in world demand, all exporters will be facing an increasingly competitive market and downward pressure on world prices. U.s. farmers look to export markets for disposing of a significant portion of domestic production and, in turn, for strengthening domestic prices. Because the demand for most commodities is inelastic, changes in the volume of commodities exported can have substantial impacts on world and domestic prices.

Acreage Equivalents of Crops Exported, United States

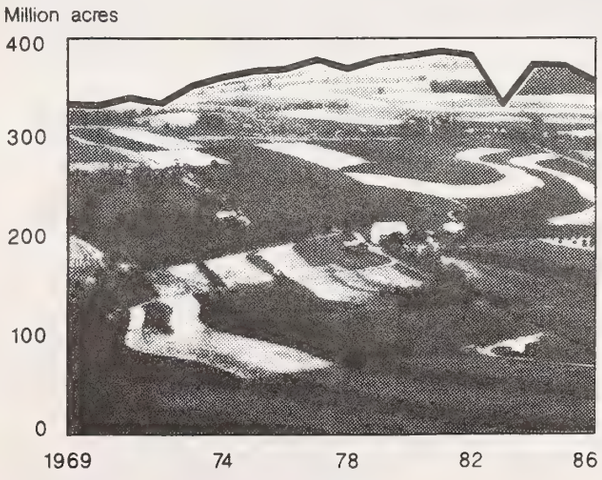


U.S. CROPLAND

Cropland used for crops--harvested, failed, and summer fallowed--is expected to total 356 million acres in 1986, down 16 million from last year. In 1986, farmers diverted from production 18 million more acres than a year ago. Peak acreage of cropland used for crops was 387 million in 1981.

The reduction in cropland harvested from 1985 to 1986 continues a trend that began in 1982. Largest reductions are expected in the Corn Belt (down 5 percent) and the Southern Plains (down 11 percent). Despite the decline in harvested acreage, output per acre has increased. The index of crop production per acre reached a high of 119 in 1985 (1977=100), 7 points above the 1984 level. The previous high was 116 in 1982.

Cropland Used for Crops Down 16 Million Acres from Year Ago



USDA TO MODIFY CROP and LIVESTOCK SURVEY PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will collect data for livestock inventories, on-farm grain stocks, and crop acreage and production through quarterly integrated surveys rather than individual surveys, starting next year.

The changes in the crop and livestock data collecting and estimating program follow extensive study and industry input. The new surveys will be on a multiple frame (area and list sample) probability basis and will be conducted between the 1st and 15th of March, June, September and December, with the first of the month as the official reference date.

A special January survey will use a NASS list of producers to gather most of the data needed to estimate cattle and sheep numbers at the beginning of the year. This information will be supplemented by an update of information from the December area frame survey for operations that are not on the list frame. NASS will continue a midyear national cattle survey, but the reference date will be June 1 instead of July 1 as in past years.

Benefits of the new program:

--The altered survey techniques will improve the NASS estimating program by putting all major crops on a probability sampling basis, and will reduce the number of total contacts with farmers while maintaining reliability for all estimates.

--Estimates of acreage harvested, yield and production of small grains will be developed from the September survey and issued in October. In past years, surveys were conducted from September through November, depending on the area of country, and estimates were not available until late December.

--Previously, much data was collected without a specific reference date, so estimates were not as precise as they will be under the new system.

--With the NASS move to integrated surveys that cover more crops and livestock than in the long-standing separate surveys, more of the farmers contacted are likely to have information to report. Also, combination surveys are more cost-effective.

SUMMARY OF THE NEW SERIES OF SURVEYS AND REPORTS:

Integrated Survey Reference Date	Information Collected	Proposed Release Date	Report Title
December 1, 1986	Hogs & Pigs inventory	Dec. 22, 1986	Hogs & Pigs
	On-farm grain stocks	Jan. 15, 1987	Grain Stocks
	Annual crop summary	Jan. 15	Crop Production Annual
	Winter wheat seedings	Jan. 15	Winter Wheat
January 1, 1987	Cattle inventory	Feb. 4, 1987	Cattle
	Sheep inventory	Feb. 9	Sheep & Goats
March 1, 1987	Hogs & Pigs inventory	March 31, 1987	Hogs & Pigs
	On-farm grain stocks	March 31	Grain Stocks
	Acreage intentions	March 31	Prospective
June 1, 1987	Hogs & Pigs inventory	June 30, 1987	Hogs & Pigs
	On-farm grain stocks	June 30	Grain Stocks
	Mid-year cattle inventory	June 30	Cattle
	Planted acreage	July 9	Crop Production
September 1, 1987	Hogs & Pigs inventory	Sept. 30, 1987	Hogs & Pigs
	On-farm grain stocks	Sept. 30	Grain Stocks
	Small grain annual summary	Oct. 8	Crop Production

MONTANA FARM PRICES MOSTLY UP

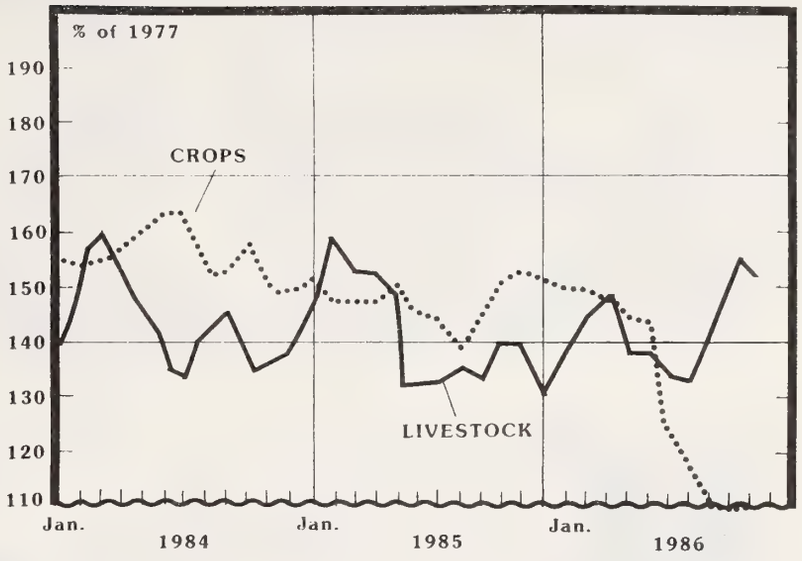
Montana farm crop prices strengthened during October while most livestock prices weakened. The index of all farm products on October 15 at 129 percent of the 1977 base was up 2 points from September, but down 15 points from a year ago. The all crops index at 104 went up 7 points from last month but was 45 points below October 1985. The livestock and products index at 152 was down 3 points from September but was 12 points above a year ago.

Spring wheat and durum had the largest price increases of the grains while hogs saw the largest price drop in the livestock items. Steers and heifers, cows, and calves had only slight price changes during the month.

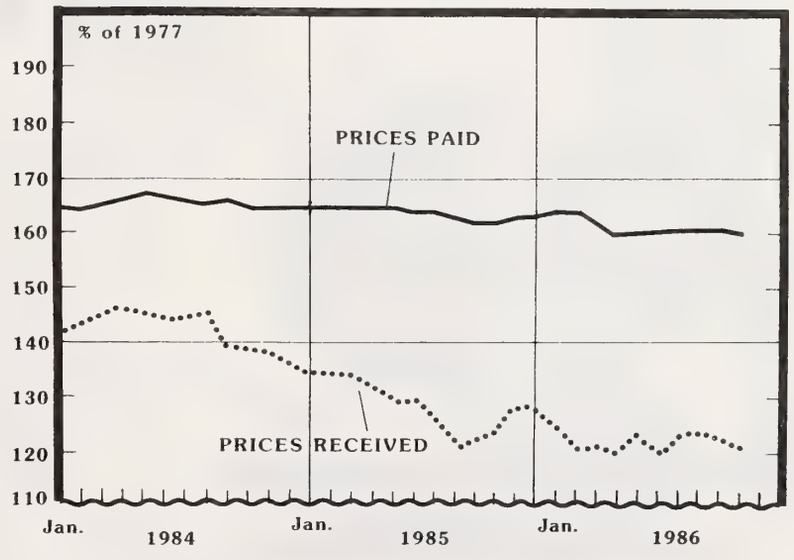
For the nation, the October all farm products index of prices received by farmers, at 121 percent of its January-December 1977 average, decreased 1 point from September. Lower prices for hogs, corn, soybeans, eggs, and lettuce were partially offset by higher prices for tomatoes, strawberries, milk, broilers, and most small grains. The index was 2 points below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for October was 160 percent of its 1977 average. The index dropped 1 point from July and 2 points from last year. Lower feed and fertilizer prices for the quarter more than offset the increase in feeder livestock prices. The index for feed was the lowest since October 1978.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1986	MONTANA Oct. 15, 1986	U.S. Oct. 15, 1986
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.33	2.19	2.25	2.27
Durum	Bu.	3.17	2.19	2.55	2.46
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.58	2.43	2.60	2.41
All Wheat	Bu.	3.51	2.32	2.46	2.33
Barley	Bu.	2.26	1.41	1.56	1.53
Oats	Bu.	1.46	1.05	1.05	1.04
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	84.00	51.00	53.00	59.40
All Other Hay	Ton	74.00	48.00	49.00	49.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	83.00	51.00	53.00	57.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	56.50	58.30	58.60	59.00
Cows	Cwt	32.10	36.50	36.20	36.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	46.70	53.60	51.90	54.60
Calves	Cwt	61.70	62.60	62.20	63.60
Sheep	Cwt	14.20	21.70	21.90	26.50
Lambs	Cwt	64.20	64.30	66.40	62.60
Hogs	Cwt	38.60	49.20	45.80	53.40
All Milk	Cwt	13.10	13.00	13.40	13.00
Eggs	Doz	.570	.570	.520	.581
Wool 2/	Lb.	.700	.740	.740	.682
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	144	127	129	121
All Crops	Pct.	149	97	104	96
Livestock & Products	Pct.	140	155	152	145

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

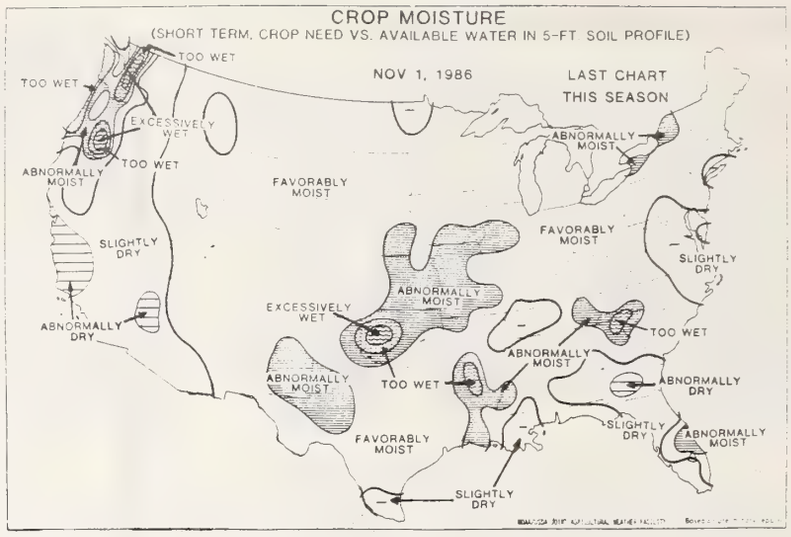
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Oct. 1985	Sept. 1986	Oct. 1986
Prices Received (1977=100)	123	122	121
Prices Paid (1977=100)	162	161 1/	160
Ratio (1977=100) 2/	76	76	76

1/ July 1986 prices paid index. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.

PASTURE and RANGE

Montana's pasture and range condition on November 1 at 88 percent is 34 points above last year at this time and the highest November 1 condition figure since 1982. Stock ponds and reservoirs were filled earlier by good rains which also were beneficial in the regrowth of native grasses. A lot of good fall grazing has been available on stubble fields and hayland. By November 1 about 85 percent of the cattle and 90 percent of the sheep had been moved from summer ranges which is about normal.



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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. WHEAT CROP
RED MEAT PRODUCTION INCREASES
LESS MILK PRODUCED
MORE CATTLE ON FEED
featuring.....GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY

U.S. WHEAT PRODUCTION

The total U.S. 1986 wheat crop at 2076.7 million bushels is 14 percent under last year and the smallest crop since 1978. It is nearly 1/4 less than the record produced in 1981. Wheat production in the U.S. has been decreasing each year since 1981, except for a small increase in 1984.

However, the total supply of wheat on September 1 (production plus carryover, plus imports) was at a record high 3982.7 million bushels. Domestic use, projected to be 1075.0 million bushels, was only higher during 1983 and 1984. Exports are expected to be above last year, but substantially below all the other years of the 1980s. If these projections are realized, the ending stocks on May 31 will be only slightly less than the record high of last year.

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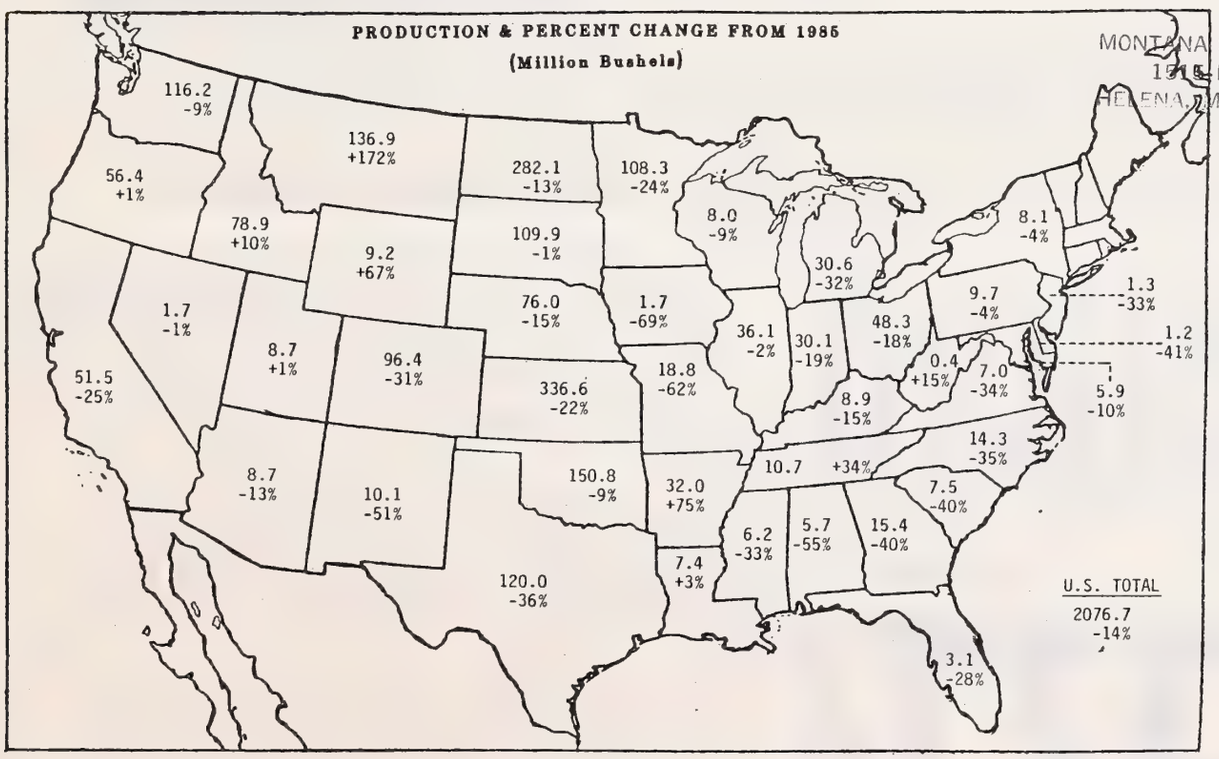
ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION -- 1986



CATTLE ON FEED UP

Cattle and calves on feed October 1, 1986 for slaughter in the 13 Quarterly States totaled 8.20 million head, up 3 percent from October 1 last year but 9 percent below 1984.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.18 million steers and steer calves, 6 percent above last year but 8 percent below 1984. This group represented 63 percent of the total October number on feed compared with 62 percent in 1985. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 2.99 million, down 1 percent from last year and 11 percent below 1984.

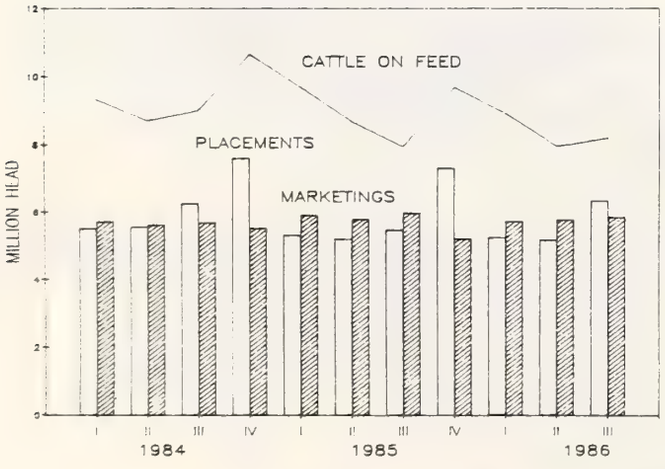
PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during the July-September quarter totaled 6.33 million, up 15 percent from last year and 1 percent above the comparable period in 1984. **OTHER DISAPPEARANCE** of 233 thousand head leaves **NET PLACEMENTS** at 6.09 million.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle for slaughter during July-September totaled 5.85 million, 2 percent less than the same quarter a year ago but 3 percent above 1984.

EXPECTED MARKETINGS FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER UP 3 PERCENT

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.40 million head during the October-December quarter of 1986. This would be 3 percent above the fourth quarter marketings in 1985 but 2 percent below 1984.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



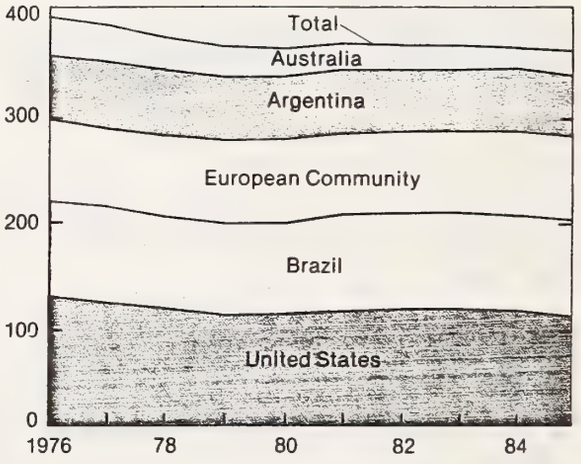
SEPTEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.2 million pounds of red meat during September, 14 percent above August and 15 percent more than September 1985. Cattle slaughter, at 3,100 head, was up 24 percent from last year, but hog slaughter at 2,500 head was down 17 percent.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in September 1986 totaled 3.26 billion pounds, up fractionally from September 1985. January-September red meat production, at 29.3 billion pounds was virtually the same as a year earlier. The percentage changes in accumulated production by individual components were: beef, up 3; veal, up 7; pork, down 5; lamb and mutton, down 5. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Cattle in Major Beef-Producing Countries

Million head



Inventory taken as close to January 1 as possible.

LARGE SURVEY UNDERWAY

Montana's largest agricultural survey of the year is underway. The Fall Acreage and Production Survey is designed to measure final end-of-season statistics of all the major crops in the state. Other important uses of the survey are to establish crop figures by county, and winter wheat planted for harvest in 1987.

Nearly half of the state's 23,600 farmers will be contacted by either mail or telephone for data on their individual operations. Questions will refer to acres and production by irrigated, summerfallow, and recrop cropping practices.

Statistics from the survey are important in providing an accurate picture of crop production for the state and for each county. The results are also used to administer farm programs, and also to help guide payments under various disaster programs.

MILK PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana's July-September milk production at 85 million pounds was 8 percent below the same period last year. The size of the state's milk cow herd declined 2,000 head from last year to 26,000 head. Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1 averaged 13.5 pounds per head, down 1.5 pounds from last year. The cost per hundredweight of these feeds fell 35 cents to $6.55/cwt.

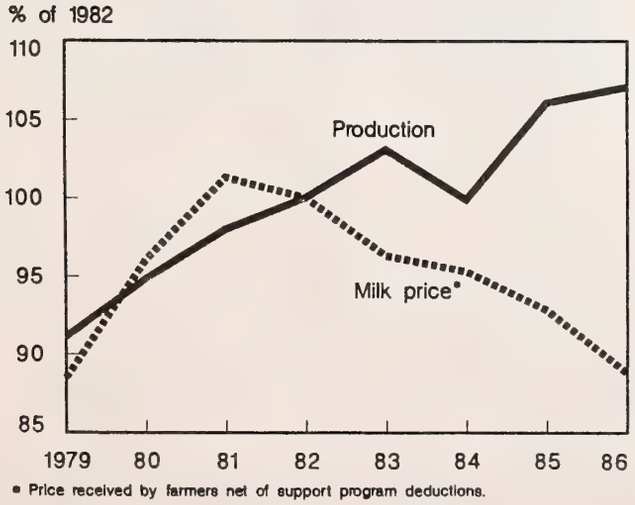
Nationally, milk production during the third quarter of 1986 totaled 35.9 billion pounds, 2 percent below July-September 1985. The total number of milk cows averaged 10.7 million head during the quarter, 3 percent less than last year.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION
JULY-SEPTEMBER

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1985	1986	1985	1986
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	1,011	1,000	4,396	4,436
IDAHO	172	161	663	635
MINN	922	867	2,640	2,472
MONT	28	26	92	85
N DAK	102	94	284	259
ORE	102	95	385	390
S DAK	162	153	470	425
WASH	228	208	985	971
WISC	1,892	1,852	6,602	6,435
WYO	11.5	10.7	35.4	33.7
U.S.	11,108	10,730	36,833	35,918

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Price and Production



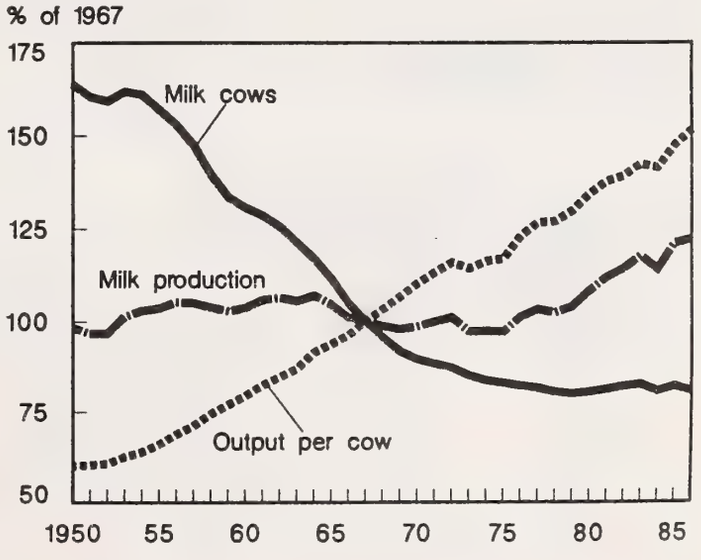
* Price received by farmers net of support program deductions.

THE 1980-1985 SHIFT IN MILK SUPPLY

Milk production increased 12 percent between 1980 and 1985, despite declining prices and returns. Milk prices, net of price-support deductions, declined 3.3 percent during 1980-85, slightly more than decreases in all crop prices but not as sharp as the fall in other livestock prices. The large shift in the supply curve (more milk supplied at the same price) probably was unprecedented. Lower feed prices cushioned some of the milk price decline, but returns over concentrate costs in 1985 were 2 percent less than in 1980. Returns over all cash and replacement costs fell 14 percent during the same period. Accounting for inflation makes these drops much more pronounced. Real returns over cash and replacement costs in 1985 were down a third from 1980 and close to the level of 1975--when only four-fifths as much milk was produced.

Several factors caused an increase in milk production despite lower prices. Productivity gains were a major contributor to the supply shift. Genetic improvement and better management of feeding, reproduction, and herd health played their roles. However, substantial productivity gains have been an important feature of dairying for several decades. It is possible (but by no means clear) that productivity gains have accelerated during the eighties.

Milk Per Cow, Cows, and Production



*featuring.....*GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY

Golden Valley County occupies approximately 749,881 acres of land in central Montana. Except for the extreme northwest corner that is taken by a section of the Lewis & Clark National Forest and the Big Snowy Mountains, the land is characterized by rolling prairie. The Musselshell River runs the entire width of the county in the south. Ryegate is the county seat, and the average annual precipitation for the area is 12.49 inches.

The county supports a variety of agricultural interests, including the production of winter and spring wheat, barley, oats, hay, and corn. The cropland is largely non-irrigated.

Sheep, cattle, and hogs are all raised in Golden Valley County. Hog numbers brought the county a rank of 13th in the December 1, 1984 hog inventory. Golden Valley came in 13th and 43rd for the cattle and sheep inventories, respectively, on January 1, 1985.

Cash receipts from crops amounted to $2,044,000. Livestock and products contributed $12,027,000, while Government payments added $1,526,000 for a cash recept total of $15,597,000 for Golden Valley County in 1984.

GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1985		UNIT	1985
Land Area 1/	Acres	749,881	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	85,457
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	628,983	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	5,300
Number of Farms 1/		153			
CROPS			**LIVESTOCK**		
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	35,400	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	28,000
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	13,600	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	10,600
Barley	Acres Plntd.	18,600	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	3,800
Oats	Acres Plntd.	2,000			
Hay	Acres Hvstd.	12,600			
Corn	Acres Plntd.	200			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1984.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

'86 CROP PRODUCTION
GRAIN MOVEMENT DROPS OFF
SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION BETTER
FARM PRICES

CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Montana's 1986 wheat crop didn't break any records, but well exceeded the output of the previous two years. Based on preliminary end-of-season surveys, the State's wheat crop estimated at 136.9 million bushels is 2.7 times greater than last year and 1.3 times more than 1984. Even with two years of serious drouth, annual average wheat production during the decade of the 80s is outpacing the 70s by about 5 percent. Winter wheat, which accounted for 57 percent of the total during the 70s, fell to 51 percent during the first 7 years of the 80s. By class, **winter wheat production** at 66 million bushels, is up almost 3 times above last year. **Hard spring wheat** at 67.5 million bushels is up about 2.5 times, and **durum** at 3.4 million bushels is up 2.3 times.

Barley production in Montana was estimated at a record high 89.4 million bushels, nearly 3 times more than a year ago. Average annual production during the 1980s is running 15% above the 1970s. **Oats production** for the state estimated at 3.7 million bushels is 1.6 times more than last year. **Hay production** this year forecast at 4.7 million tons is 1.7 times more than a year ago. Alfalfa, at 3.3 million tons, is up 1.9 times from last year, while other hay at 1.4 million tons is up 1.4 times. **Sugarbeet production** forecast at 966 thousand tons is about 1.2 times more than last year.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION 1986 1/

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	2,000	16.0	33.0	22,400	66,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	134	9.0	25.0	1,440	3,350
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,400	2,500	11.0	27.0	26,400	67,500
All Wheat	Bu.	3,960	4,634	12.7	29.5	50,240	136,850
Corn for Grain	Bu.	11	10	95.0	105.0	1,045	1,050
Oats	Bu.	70	80	33.0	46.0	2,310	3,680
Barley	Bu.	1,500	2,180	20.0	41.0	30,000	89,380
Dry Beans	Cwt	3.0	2.7	19.0	19.0	57	51
Sugarbeets	Ton	42.7	47.1	19.0	20.5	811	966
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	950	1,300	1.8	2.50	1,710	3,250
All Other Hay	Ton	1,000	950	1.05	1.50	1,050	1,425
All Hay	Ton	1,950	2,250	1.42	2.08	2,760	4,675

1/ Preliminary end of season estimates for wheat, oats and barley; October 1 forecast for hay and sugarbeets; August 1 forecast carried forward for corn and dry beans.

WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT DECLINE

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1985 - May 1986 was 35 percent below the same period last year, at 28.1 million bushels. Wheat originating in northeast and north central Montana showed the strongest declines--shipments were off 45 and 39 percent, respectively. Wheat movement out of western Montana and the southeast corner were up substantially. Rail movement was down 37 percent from last year, and truck movement was off 30 percent.

Western destinations received 40 percent less wheat compared with last year, but eastern destinations showed an 81 percent increase. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, showed a 35 percent increase.

Western destinations received 88 percent of the total shipments, while eastern destinations received 7 percent, and other destinations received 5 percent.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations December 1985 - May 1986 amounted to 6.0 million bushels, 44 percent less than a year ago. Rail movement fell off 45 percent, and truck movement was down 44 percent.

Barley going west was down 37 percent, eastern movement was down 67 percent and all other destinations were 41 percent below a year ago.

WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT
SHIPPED OUT-OF-STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE, & DESTINATION 1/

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT	DECEMBER 1985 - MAY 1986					
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Chg. from Last Year	Barley	Chg. from Last Year
	--(000) Bu.--			%	(000 Bu.)	%
Northwest	27	57	84	+105	67	-81
North Central	6,353	7,274	13,627	-37	2,895	-54
Northeast	636	5,495	6,131	-45	10	-99
Central	2,062	1,484	3,546	-39	1,598	-21
Southwest	590	1,135	1,725	+61	1,200	+20
South Central	1,294	532	1,826	-34	249	-20
Southeast	388	745	1,133	+29	6	+20
Truck East	204	373	577	-11	221	-72
Truck West	3,503	3,148	6,651	-31	2,049	-41
Truck Other 3/	100	310	410	-28	508	-29
TOTAL BY TRUCK	3,807	3,831	7,638	-30	2,778	-44
Rail East	341	1,102	1,443	+122	616	-65
Rail West	7,117	10,805	17,922	-43	2,619	-34
Rail Other 3/	85	984	1,069	+106	12	-93
TOTAL BY RAIL	7,543	12,891	20,434	-37	3,247	-45
TOTAL GRAIN SHIPPED	11,350	16,722	28,072	-35	6,025	-44

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown.

Grain Movement statistics are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee through the Montana Department of Agriculture.

STOCKS OF GRAIN SEPTEMBER 1, 1986 WITH COMPARISONS

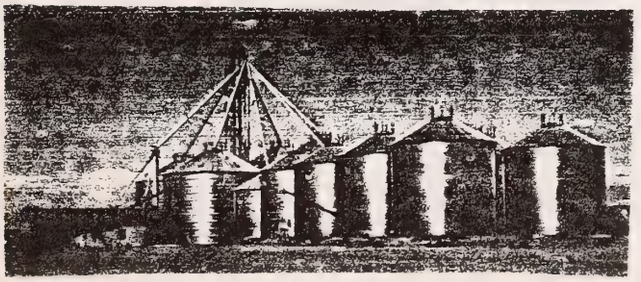
GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 1, 1985*	June 1, 1986*	Sept. 1, 1986	% Chg. '86/'85	Oct. 1, 1985*	June 1, 1986*	Sept. 1, 1986
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	81,891	48,230	137,900	+68	1,248,446	681,059	1,291,000
Off Farms 1/	32,950	32,830	40,200	+22	1,722,651	1,223,901	1,824,106
TOTAL	114,841	81,060	178,100	+55	2,971,097	1,904,960	3,115,106
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	46,928	28,454	67,000	+43	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	21,416	20,255	23,500	+10	--	--	--
TOTAL	68,344	48,709	90,500	+32	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	34,963	19,776	70,900	+103	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	11,534	12,575	16,700	+45	--	--	--
TOTAL	46,497	32,351	87,600	+87	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	127,722	78,929	124,150
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	44,124	42,355	53,122
TOTAL	6,323	5,488	8,300	+31	171,846	121,284	177,272
CORN							
On Farms 5/	--	--	--	--	678,947	3,141,546	2,049,410
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	701,780	1,846,972	1,988,640
TOTAL 4/	--	--	--	--	1,380,727	4,988,518	4,038,050
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	45,870	136,936	91,500
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	225,147	491,984	459,506
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	271,017	628,920	551,006

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT		
	Oct. 1, 1985	June 1, 1986*	Sept. 1, 1986
	-----Million Bushels-----		
Northwest	1.0	.9	1.7
North Central	44.1	32.7	80.9
Northeast	31.4	20.8	45.4
Central	14.6	10.0	24.6
Southwest	4.2	3.2	5.2
South Central	10.1	7.7	10.2
Southeast	9.4	5.8	10.1
STATE	114.8	81.1	178.1

1/ These district estimates of wheat stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.



PASTURE & RANGE CONDITIONS IMPROVE

Pasture and range conditions remained above normal during September on the state's farms and ranches. The wet weather during September prompted some regrowth of native grasses. The October 1 condition of 82 percent of normal was the highest October 1 condition reported since 1982. Fall grazing prospects are very good and most stockwater reservoirs are full. About 40 percent of the cattle and 50 percent of the sheep were moved from summer ranges by October 1.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION--OCT. 1

By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1984	1985	1986
Northwest	82	75	97
North Central	32	69	89
Northeast	27	30	74
Central	51	60	89
Southwest	86	61	91
South Central	60	43	78
Southeast	52	48	63
STATE	53	54	82

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1986	MONTANA Sept. 15, 1986	U.S. Sept. 15, 1986
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.26	2.20	2.25	2.17
Durum	Bu.	3.10	2.30	2.35	2.38
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.49	2.50	2.55	2.31
All Wheat	Bu.	3.40	2.33	2.38	2.23
Barley	Bu.	2.05	1.48	1.46	1.39
Oats	Bu.	1.53	1.14	1.15	.892
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	82.00	55.00	51.00	60.20
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	50.00	48.00	51.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	81.00	55.00	51.00	58.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	52.40	55.20	57.00	58.70
Cows	Cwt	34.80	37.10	37.90	36.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.50	48.00	52.20	55.00
Calves	Cwt	58.10	61.40	64.80	64.10
Sheep	Cwt	15.20	27.70	28.40	27.30
Lambs	Cwt	68.90	66.60	67.10	67.40
Hogs	Cwt	35.60	53.20	54.00	59.10
All Milk	Cwt	12.80	12.20	12.50	12.50
Eggs	Doz	.580	.590	.570	.628
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.740	.740	.721
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	137	122	129	122
All Crops	Pct.	143	89	100	96
Livestock & Products	Pct.	131	144	155	147

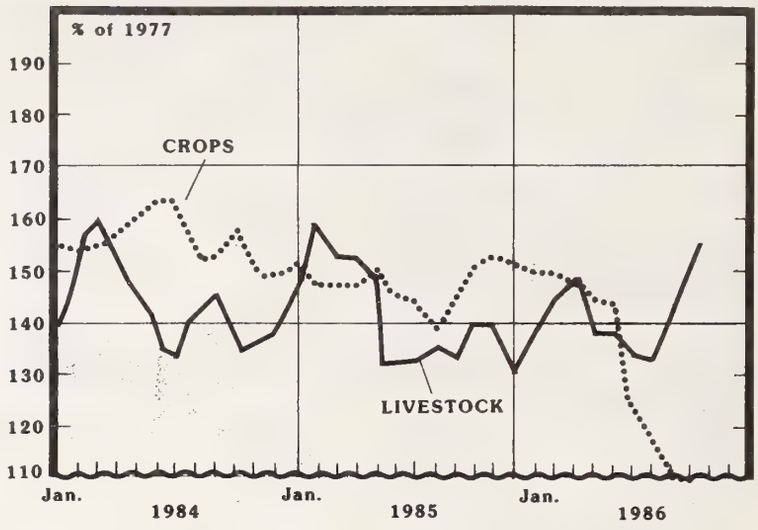
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

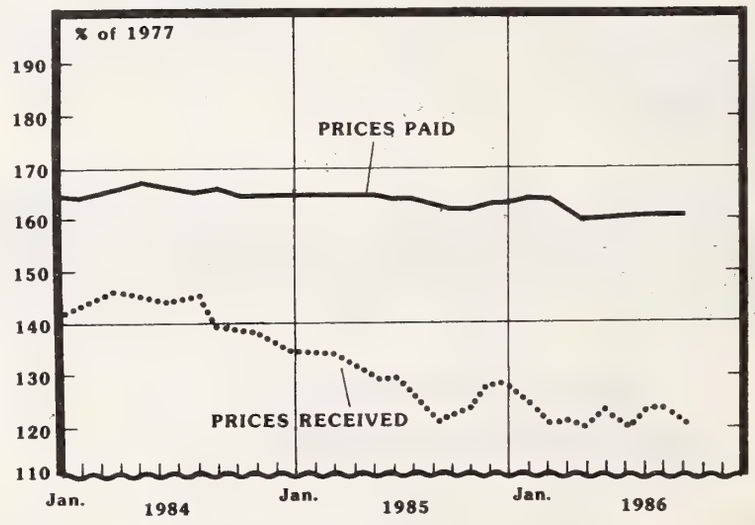
INDEX	Sept. 1985	Aug. 1986	Sept. 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	120	125	122
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	162	161	161
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	74	78 4/	76 4/

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio derived using the most recent Prices Paid Index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



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HIGHLIGHTS:

HOG NUMBERS DROP
MORE CATTLE ON FEED
RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP
OUTLOOK ON: WHEAT
FEED GRAINS
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY
featuring.....BROADWATER COUNTY

HOG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1986, in the 10 States conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 39.6 million head, 5 percent below last year. This is 8 percent below September 1, 1984 and the lowest September 1 inventory since 1975.

--Breeding inventory, at 4.84 million head, is 10 percent less than a year ago, and 13 percent below two years earlier. This is the lowest September 1 breeding inventory since 1973, when estimates for these comparable 10 States became available.

--Market hog inventory, at 34.7 million head, is 5 percent below last year, 8 percent less than 1984 and the lowest September 1 market hog inventory since 1975.

PIG CROP: The June-August 1986 pig crop was 15.9 million head, 6 percent below last year and 8 percent below two years ago. There were 2.03 million sows that farrowed during June-August, down 7 percent from a year earlier and 10 percent less than the same period two years ago.

Sows farrowing during June-August 1986 averaged 7.79 pigs per litter compared with 7.73 last year and 7.60 during the comparable period two years ago. The 7.79 pigs is a record high and continues the trend of a gradual increase in pigs saved per litter.

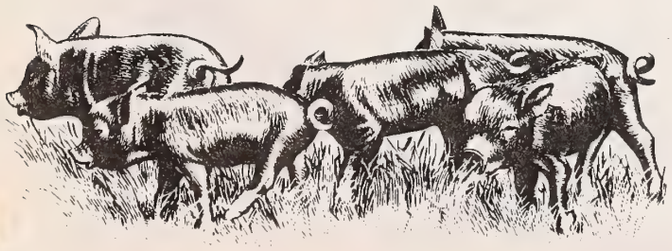
FARROWING INTENTIONS: Hog producers in the 10 quarterly States intend to farrow 2.06 million sows during September-November of this year. This is 9 percent fewer than during the comparable period in 1985, and 11 percent below 1984.

Farrowing intentions for December 1986 - February 1987 quarter are 1.83 million head, 6 percent below a year earlier and 7 percent below two years earlier.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, SOWS FARROWING and PIG CROP 1984-1986, 10 STATES 1/

ITEM	1984	1985	1986	1986 AS % OF 1985
	--(000) Head--			-Pct.-
SEPT. 1 INVENTORY:				
All Hogs & Pigs	43,180	41,820	39,585	95
Kept for Breeding	5,550	5,377	4,840	90
Market	37,630	36,443	34,745	95
MARKET HOGS & PIGS BY WEIGHT GROUPS:				
Under 60 Lbs.	14,957	14,630	13,480	92
60-119 Lbs.	9,209	8,820	8,645	98
120-179 Lbs.	7,835	7,406	7,150	97
180 Lbs. & Over	5,629	5,587	5,470	98
SOWS FARROWING:				
December-May 2/	4,445	4,375	4,101	94
June-November	4,575	4,456	4,094 3/	92
PIG CROP:				
December-May 2/	33,102	33,452	31,758	95
June-November	34,578	34,196	--	--
PIGS PER LITTER:				
December-May 2/	7.45	7.65	7.74	101
June-November	7.56	7.67	--	--

1/ Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio.
2/ December preceding year.
3/ Actual farrowings for June-August plus intentions for September-November.



CATTLE ON FEED UP

Cattle and calves on feed September 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.40 million head, up 4 percent from a year ago but 5 percent below September 1, 1984.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.66 million, 2 percent below last year and 1 percent less than August two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August totaled 1.81 million, up 20 percent from last year and 8 percent above August 1984. This is the highest August placement total since 7 State estimates were begun in 1971. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.74 million for August are 20 percent above last year and up 8 percent from two years ago.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 70 thousand head, compared with 62 thousand during August 1985 and 61 thousand during August 1984.

AUGUST LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced slightly less than 2 million pounds of red meat during August, 7 percent more than last month, but 14 percent lower than the August 1985 production.

Cattle slaughter, at 2,600 head, was down 13 percent from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,500 head, was down 12 percent.

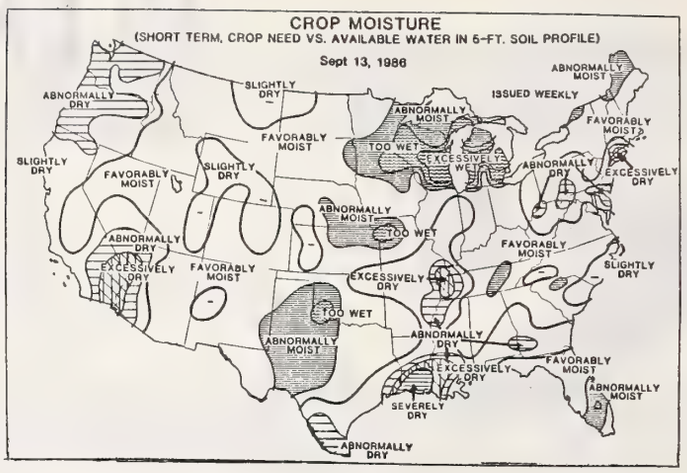
Nationally, commercial red meat production in August 1986 toaled 3.18 billion pounds, down 6 percent from August 1985. January-August red meat production, at 26.0 billion pounds, was down fractionally from a year earlier. The percentage changes in accumulated production by incividual components were: beef, up 3; veal, up 7; pork, down 5; lamb and mutton, down 6.

SURVEY RESULTS

EGG PRODUCTION

Montana poultrymen produced 52 million eggs in the June-August quarter, 2 percent less than a year ago. The average number of layers on hand during the quarter at 793,000 was down 4 percent from last year.

The Nation's laying flocks produced nearly 17.0 billion eggs during the June-August quarter, slightly more than during the same period in 1985. The number of layers averaged 272 million, slightly more than a year ago.



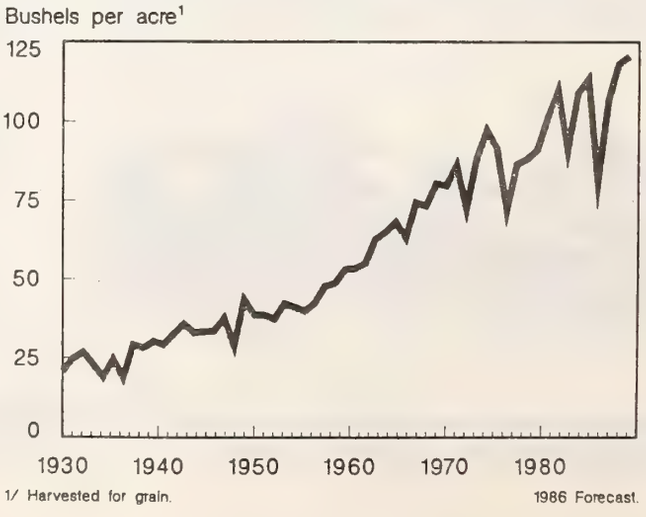
FEED GRAIN SITUATION

Although the 1986 feed grain program helped to hold plantings to 120 million acres, the U.S. feed grain crop is forecast at 252 million metric tons, down 8 percent from--and second only to--last year's record harvest. Corn is forecast to supply about 83 percent (8.3 billion bushels) of the expected total, while about 9 percent (873 million bushels) is sorghum. Following record production in 1984 and an excellent harvest in 1985, this year's barley crop is forecast to reach a new high of 626 million bushels.

Growing conditions in most of the major corn producing regions have been near ideal. As the weeks passed through the first half of the summer, Government and trade estimates of the corn crop edged upwards. The projected corn yield of 119.7 bushels per acre tops last year's record by 1.7 bushels. However, the favorable weather has not been evenly distributed, as several southeastern States have suffered through a long drought that has been called the worst on record.

Drought in the southeast has also adversely affected hay production and pasture and forage conditions, causing severe feed shortages on cattle and dairy enterprises. Some of the shortages will be offset by feed cost-sharing payments that make Government grain stocks available to affected livestock producers.

Corn Yield Continues Long Upward Trend



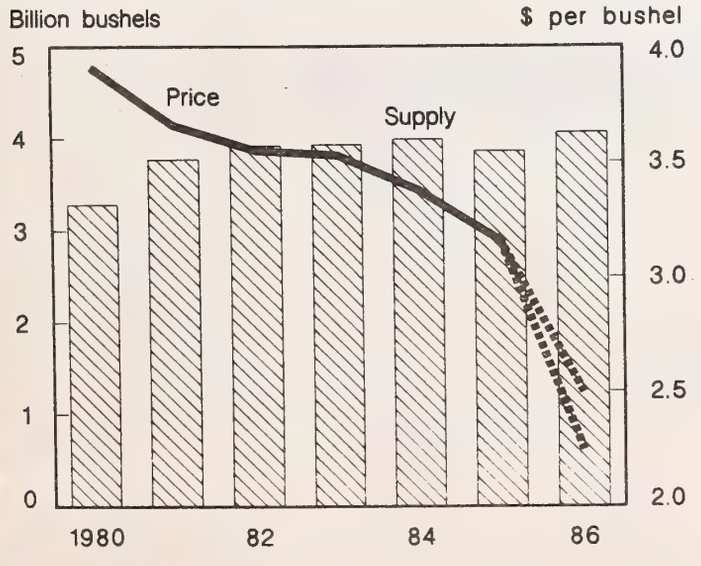
WHEAT SITUATION

U.S. wheat production, aided by generally good growing conditions, has ballooned to record heights in several of the last 6 years, resulting in excessive stocks. Government efforts to reduce stocks have depended heavily upon acreage reduction programs, although the new farm bill puts additional empahsis on expanding exports. Participation in the 1986 acreage reduction program, at 84 percent, and less-than-ideal weather in winter wheat areas lowered the 1986 U.S. wheat harvest to a 6-year low of 2.16 billion bushels, 11 percent less than 1985.

Despite the smaller harvest, a record 4.07 billion bushels are available for the 1986/87 marketing year. Increased carryin stocks and the expected record Hard Red Spring crop will overshadow reduced Hard Red Winter output, resulting in a bread wheat supply of 3.03 billion bushels, an alltime high. Meantime, soft wheat stocks probably will decline 6 percent from last season due to the short Soft Red Winter harvest. Durum supplies will represent about 2 years of normal use.

The world wheat situation also features continued record supplies, a modest pickup in use, increased trade, and depressed prices. Even though the United States and the Soviet Union had smaller 1986 crops, global production is forecast at 506 million tons, the second largest on record. China will remain the largest producer. Offsetting the large supplies is the prospect that use will reach a record 506 million tons, leaving global stocks about equal to 1985/86's record high. World trade is expected to rise, mainly reflecting larger imports by the Soviet Union.

Wheat Supplies Remain Large; Prices Weak

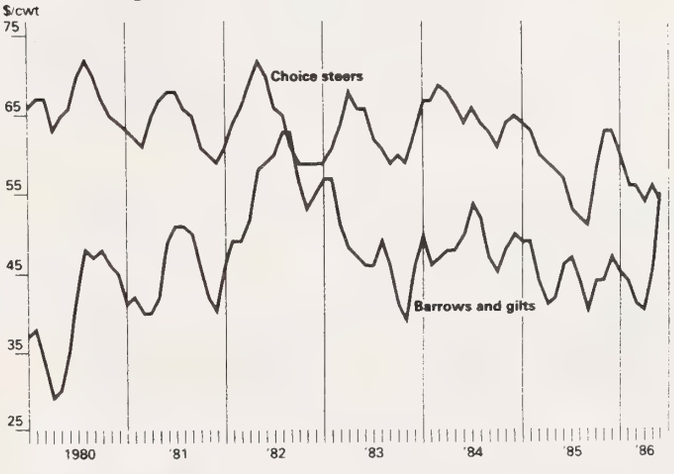


LIVESTOCK and POULTRY SITUATION

Since 1982, when livestock producers began reducing their inventories, large meat supplies have encountered weak demand stemming from sluggish economic growth, constrained consumer purchasing power, and favorable retail prices for poultry relative to red meats. No significant change in the situation is likely next year. Meat supplies are expected to remain almost record large as more poultry offsets less red meat, primarily beef. Relatively lower priced poultry will hold down price gains for red meats, particularly given the weak growth in many sectors of the economy.

Both beef and pork prices are expected to increase from the low levels of the past year. Prices for Choice beef at retail may increase during second-half 1986, but still average about $2.33 per pound for the year, the same as in 1985. Retail pork prices have already moved up from the $1.62 per pound average in 1985 and may be about $1.70 for 1986. In 1987, prices are likely to be near those of the early 1980s--about $2.40 for beef and $1.75 for pork. Poultry prices have advanced sharply, partially because of weather concerns, even as supplies increased. Sizable production gains through 1987 are expected to hold prices near 1986 levels.

Normal Hog-Steer Price Relationship Upset in June



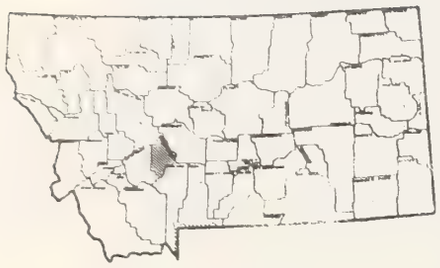
WHEAT FACTS

....Production from one cropland acre out of four goes overseas while production from two out of three wheat acres is exported.

....A modern combine can harvest 1,000 bushels per hour. Since one bushel of wheat yields 73 one pound loaves, this equates to 73,000 loaves per hour or 1,217 per minute.

....2.3 bushels of wheat yield 100 lbs. of flour and that much flour makes approximately 90 loaves of 22.5 ounce bread.

....90.3 percent of all wheat is harvested in 19 states.



*featuring.....*BROADWATER COUNTY

Broadwater County lies in central Montana. The Big Belt Mountains and the Helena National Forest run along the eastern border, and another part of the Helena National Forest lies along the western boundary. The Missouri River and Canyon Ferry Lake reach from the southern to the northern borders of the county. Aside from the mountainous landscape, the terrain is chiefly rolling foothills.

Cropland in Broadwater County includes both irrigated and non-irrigated acres, and a variety of crops abound. Barley, winter and spring wheat, oats, hay, and potatoes are all produced in the county. Cash receipts from the sale of crops totaled $6,938,000 in 1984.

Sheep, hog, and cattle operations can all be found in the county. In the January 1, 1985 sheep and cattle inventories Broadwater County ranked 34th and 39th, respectively. In the December 1, 1984 hog count the county came in 37th. Livestock contributed $7,785,000 in cash receipts in 1984. Government payments added $3,423,000 for a cash receipt total of $18,146,000 for Broadwater County in 1984.

BROADWATER COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1985
Land Area 1/	Acres	760,652
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	496,529
Number of Farms 1/		207
CROPS		
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	18,400
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	22,600
Barley	Acres Plntd.	28,600
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,100
Hay	Acres Hvstd.	21,000
Potatoes	Acres Plntd.	250
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	140,715
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	48,923
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	31,000
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	3,800
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	1,200

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1984.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

WHEAT CROP EXPECTED TO BE UP
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION GOOD
FARM PRICES STEADY
featuring.....DEER LODGE COUNTY

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Pasture and range condition in Montana on September 1st was 76 percent of normal, down 10 points from a month ago, but the highest September 1 condition reported since 1982. Grasshoppers and localized drouth have impacted many pastures and ranges both east and west of the Divide. Other areas show the effect of sufficient rain and little insect damage. The southwest reports pasture and range condition much above normal. Overall, grasslands and stockwater are generally good.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION SEPT. 1

By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1984	1985	1986
Northwest	78	59	77
North Central	28	38	82
Northeast	24	25	70
Central	51	45	83
Southwest	88	52	90
South Central	62	42	73
Southeast	59	41	59
STATE	54	43	76

WHEAT PRODUCTION HIGHER

Montana's 1986 wheat crop is expected to total 145.7 million bushels as of September 1, up 2 percent from the August 1 forecast. This year's crop is nearly 3 times last year's production and the best crop since 1982. The all wheat yield at 29.8 bushels per acre is 0.6 of a bushel above August 1 and 17.1 bushels more than a year ago based on farmer reports as of September 1.

Winter wheat production, at 68.0 million bushels, is more than 3 times last year's level. Yield is expected to be 34 bushels per acre. Hard spring wheat, at 74.0 million, is also 3 times last year's output. Yield per acre at 27 bushels is up 1 since August 1. Durum production, at 3.7 million, is about 2.5 times last year. The yield at 25 bushels is unchanged from last month.

Montana's huge barley crop, a record 92 million bushels, is unchanged from a month ago. Yield is forecast at 40 bushels, twice the level of last year.

Oats production at 8.2 million bushels is up 9 percent from the month earlier forecast. Yield at 50 bushels is up 4 from last month.

All hay production remains at the August 1 forecast level--4.3 million tons, about 56 percent more than last year.

Sugarbeet production at 966 thousand tons is up 3 percent from August 1 and is 19 percent above a year ago. Yield on September 1 is estimated to be 20.5 tons per acre.

(SEE TABLES ON INSIDE PAGE)

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1986

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1985	Ind. 1986	1985	Ind. 1986	1985	Ind. 1986
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	2,000	16.0	34.0	22,400	68,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	147	9.0	25.0	1,440	3,675
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,400	2,740	11.0	27.0	26,400	73,980
All Wheat	Bu.	3,960	4,887	12.7	29.8	50,240	145,655
Corn for Grain	Bu.	11	10	95.0	105.0	1,045	1,050
Oats	Bu.	70	163	33.0	50.0	2,310	8,150
Barley	Bu.	1,500	2,300	20.0	40.0	30,000	92,000
Dry Beans	Cwt	3.0	2.7	19.0	19.0	57	51
Sugarbeets	Ton	42.7	47.1	19.0	20.5	811	966
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	950	1,300	1.8	2.3	1,710	2,990
All Other Hay	Ton	1,000	950	1.05	1.35	1,050	1,283
All Hay	Ton	1,950	2,250	1.42	1.90	2,760	4,273

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1986

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1985	Ind. 1986	1985	Ind. 1986	1985	Ind. 1986
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	47,953	43,244	38.1	35.4	1,827,195	1,532,526
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,094	2,821	36.4	34.2	112,510	96,384
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,687	14,838	35.4	33.1	485,060	491,628
All Wheat	Bu.	64,734	60,903	37.5	34.8	2,424,765	2,120,538
Corn for Grain	Bu.	75,134	69,071	118.0	119.7	8,865,006	8,268,141
Oats	Bu.	8,149	7,537	63.6	54.8	518,626	413,025
Barley	Bu.	11,553	12,455	51.0	50.3	589,183	625,971
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,486.4	1,640.5	14.98	15.66	22,268	25,697
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,102.5	1,226.3	20.5	20.7	22,636	25,438
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,673	26,185	3.32	3.52	85,291	92,243
All Other Hay	Ton	34,880	34,697	1.83	1.76	63,668	61,165
All Hay	Ton	60,553	60,882	2.46	2.52	148,959	153,408

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1986 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1985	Ind. 1986	Chg.	1985	Ind. 1986	Chg.	1985	Ind. 1986	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
NW	638.2	550.0	-14	411.9	336.0	-18	2,748.0	2,400.0	-13
N CENT.	9,469.8	33,525.0	+254	9,772.9	35,299.0	+261	11,473.0	45,740.0	+299
NE	1,378.6	5,940.0	+331	11,974.6	31,355.0	+162	2,987.0	12,800.0	+329
CENTRAL	3,815.0	12,870.0	+237	1,789.1	4,882.0	+173	4,964.0	20,000.0	+303
SW	844.6	1,355.0	+60	1,000.4	1,144.0	+14	2,886.0	3,410.0	+18
S CENT.	3,394.6	7,880.0	+132	931.1	1,302.0	+40	3,373.0	5,250.0	+56
SE	2,859.2	5,880.0	+106	1,960.0	3,337.0	+70	1,569.0	2,400.0	+53
STATE	22,400.0	68,000.0	+204	27,840.0	77,655.0	+179	30,000.0	92,000.0	+207

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

AUGUST FARM PRICES

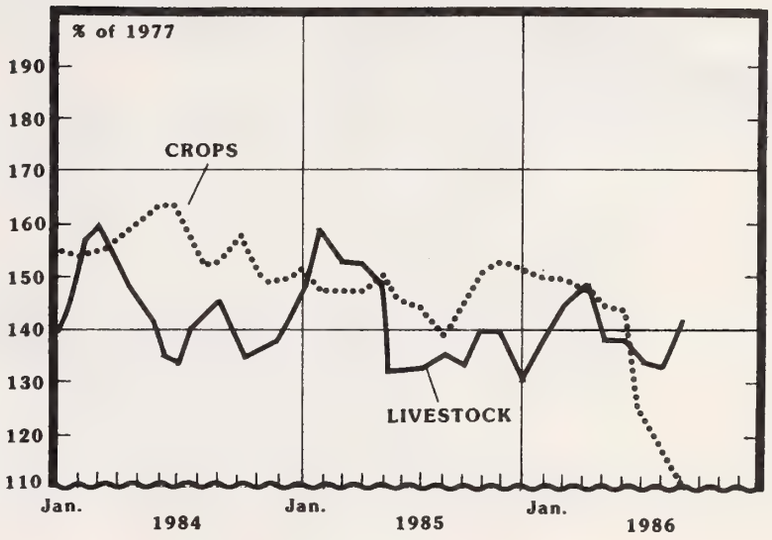
The August index of prices received for all farm products by Montana farmers and ranchers showed no change from July, but was down 11 points from a year ago. The August index was 125 percent of its January-December 1977 average.

The August index for all crops was down 10 points from the previous month and down 31 points from August 1985. The livestock and products index was up 9 points from July and up 6 points from last year at this time. All crop items except oats and hay registered declines from the previous month and were considerably below last year's levels. All livestock prices except for lambs were up from July and except for calves and lambs were up considerably from last year at this time.

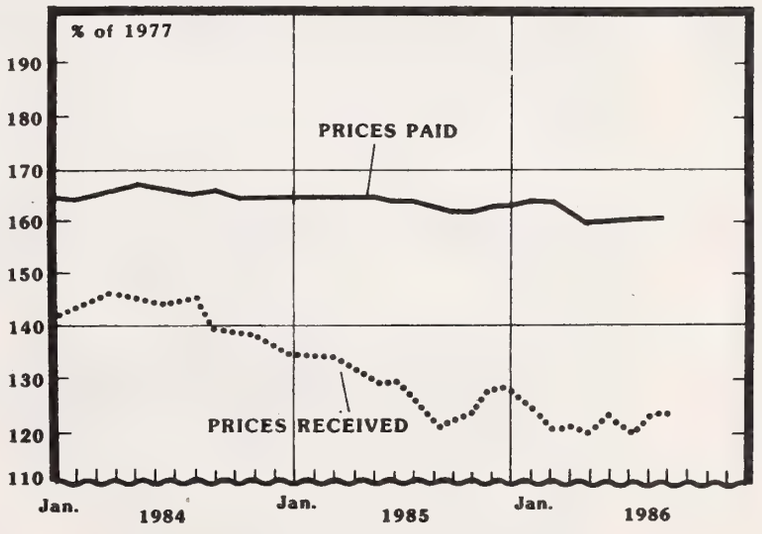
Nationally, the August all farm products index of prices received by farmers, at 125 percent of its January-December 1977 average, was unchanged from July. Cattle, hog, broiler, and egg prices moved higher while corn, cotton, potato and soybean prices were lower. The index was 4 points above a year earlier.

In August, hog and broiler prices were at record highs. The previous record high for all hogs of $61.30 was recorded in September of 1982 while the previous record for broilers was set last month. The August corn price of $1.70 per bushel was the lowest level since October 1977.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1986	MONTANA Aug. 15, 1986	U.S. Aug. 15, 1986
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.19	2.43	2.25	2.16
Durum	Bu.	3.01	2.75	2.55	2.09
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.25	2.87	2.65	2.30
All Wheat	Bu.	3.25	2.62	2.42	2.19
Barley	Bu.	1.99	2.20	1.93	1.48
Oats	Bu.	1.51	1.07	1.15	.84
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	82.00	55.00	55.00	61.00
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	50.00	50.00	49.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	81.00	55.00	55.00	58.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	52.10	51.80	55.40	58.40
Cows	Cwt	34.80	37.30	39.90	36.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.50	43.10	47.70	54.50
Calves	Cwt	65.40	58.30	59.90	60.70
Sheep	Cwt	20.80	22.00	24.30	25.80
Lambs	Cwt	69.70	70.80	68.70	68.60
Hogs	Cwt	35.60	50.40	55.10	61.80
All Milk	Cwt	12.60	12.30	12.30	12.10
Eggs	Doz	.500	.530	.590	.626
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.740	.740	.688
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	136	125	125	125
All Crops	Pct.	137	116	106	100
Livestock & Products	Pct.	136	133	142	148

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Aug. 1985	July 1986	Aug. 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	121	125	125
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	162	161	161
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	75	78 4/	78 4/

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio derived using the most recent Prices Paid Index.

*featuring.....*DEER LODGE COUNTY

Deer Lodge County is located in western Montana and occupies approximately 473,734 acres. Most of the terrain is mountainous, being covered by parts of the Deer Lodge, and Beaverhead National Forests. A section of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness lies along the western boundary. The Continental Divide makes up a portion of the eastern border of Deer Lodge County, cuts through the center, and runs along most of the western boundary. The Big Hole River defines the county's border to the south.

Because of the mountainous landscape, Deer Lodge County is, understandably not a large agricultural area. Inspite of this, spring wheat, barley, oats, and hay, as well as some potatoes are all grown in the county. The major part of the cropland is irrigated. Cash receipts for crops in 1984 totaled $160,000.

Livestock interests include cattle, sheep, and hog raising. Receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products came to $3,048,000 in 1984. Total cash receipts for Deer Lodge County in 1984 amounted to $3,208,000.

DEER LODGE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1985
Land Area 1/	Acres	473,734
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	191,546
Number of Farms 1/		62
CROPS		
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	700
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	12,600
Barley	Acres Plntd.	1,200
Oats	Acres Plntd.	300
Potatoes 3/	Acres Plntd.	400
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	17,834
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	16,305
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	11,200
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	200
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	200

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1984.
3/ Combined total for Deer Lodge and Powell Counties.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. WHEAT PRODUCTION
FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES
RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN
CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS DROP
FARM & RANCH WORK FORCE
featuring.....STILLWATER COUNTY

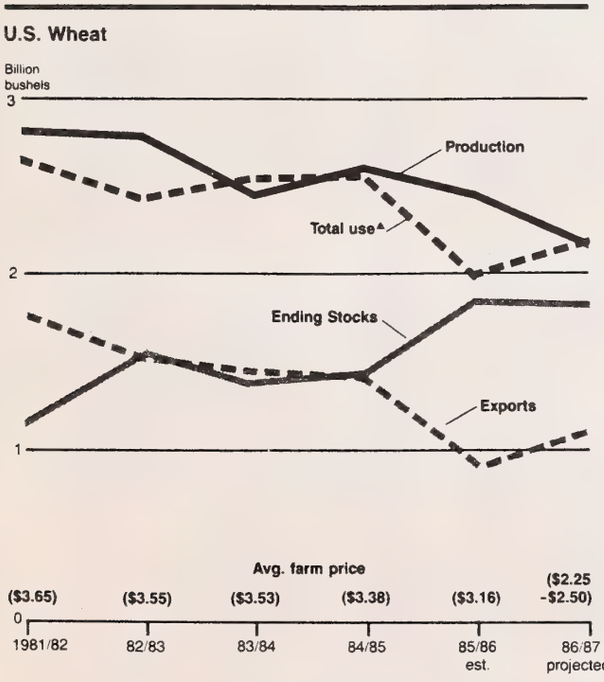
REGIONAL PATTERNS OF WHEAT PRODUCTION

The Plains States are expected to produce 63 percent of the Nation's wheat crop this year, although production for the region is down 9 percent. Increased production in Montana and South Dakota did not offset decreases in the other states.

The Corn Belt States have about 14 percent of the total national production compared with 15 percent last year. This region has the largest percentage decrease in wheat production for 1986.

The Southern States will produce 5 percent of the Nation's total wheat, about the same as last year.

PRELIMINARY OUTLOOK FOR THE 1986/87 SEASON: SMALLER U.S. PRODUCTION AND A PICKUP IN EXPORT VOLUME, BUT LOWER FARM PRICES



ALL WHEAT

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1985	Ind. 1986	1985	Ind. 1986	% Chg.
	-(000) Acres-		--(000) Bu.--		%
Colorado	3,522	2,955	139,302	102,120	-27
Kansas	11,400	10,200	433,200	326,400	-25
Montana	3,960	4,887	50,240	142,915	+184
Nebraska	2,300	2,000	89,700	78,000	-13
North Dakota	8,870	9,130	323,255	319,500	- 1
South Dakota	3,755	3,894	111,215	127,628	+15
Texas	5,850	4,800	187,200	115,200	-38
Oklahoma	5,500	5,200	165,000	150,800	- 9
PLAINS STATES	45,157	43,066	1,499,112	1,362,563	- 9
Idaho	1,350	1,310	72,030	77,220	+ 7
Oregon	1,065	1,015	56,040	57,260	+ 2
Washington	2,690	2,420	128,250	120,680	- 6
PACIFIC NW	5,105	4,745	256,320	255,160	NC
Illinois	750	820	36,750	36,080	- 2
Indiana	700	700	37,100	29,400	-21
Michigan	750	700	45,000	33,600	-25
Minnesota	2,638	2,964	142,426	132,764	- 7
Missouri	1,280	590	49,920	18,880	- 7
Ohio	950	1,050	58,900	48,300	-18
CORN BELT	7,113	6,824	370,096	299,024	-19
Alabama	400	220	12,800	5,500	-57
Arkansas	570	815	18,240	34,230	+88
Georgia	825	550	25,575	14,300	-44
Kentucky	310	270	10,540	9,180	-13
Mississippi	300	200	9,300	6,200	-33
North Carolina	760	460	22,040	13,800	-37
South Carolina	430	300	12,470	8,100	-35
Tennessee	250	325	8,000	11,050	+38
Virginia	285	180	10,545	6,840	-35
SOUTHERN STATES	4,130	3,320	129,510	109,200	-16
California	830	675	68,860	51,750	-25
Other States	2,399	2,273	100,867	87,041	-14
UNITED STATES	64,734	60,903	2,424,765	2,164,738	-11

JULY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Cattle and calves on feed August 1, 1986 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.32 million head, down 1 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below August 1, 1984.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during July totaled 1.68 million, an increase of 1 percent from last year, 8 percent above July 1984 and the highest July total since 7 State estimates were begun in 1972.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States were 1.54 million, an increase of 43 percent from July 1985, 17 percent above two years ago and the highest July placements since 1978. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.48 million were up 46 percent from 1985 and 19 percent from 1984.

OTHER DISAPPEARAHCE totaled 64 thousand head compared with 61 thousand during July 1985 and 84 thousand two years ago.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds of red meat during July. This production was 17 percent more than the previous month but 9 percent less than the July 1985 production.

Cattle slaughter at 2,600 head was unchanged from last year, but lighter slaughter weights resulted in 8 percent less meat production. Hog slaughter at 2,400 head was down 8 percent.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in July 1986 totaled 3.28 billion pounds, up fractionally from July 1985, to a new July record high. January-July red meat production, at 22.9 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from the corresponding period last year. The percentage changes in accumulated production by individual components were: beef, up 4; veal, up 8; pork, down 4; lamb and mutton, down 5. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES: AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS, SELECTED STATES & U.S., FEB. 1, 1979-81, APRIL 1, 1982-85, and FEB. 1, 1986

STATE	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
	----------Dollars----------							
CORN BELT								
Ohio	1,483	1,730	1,831	1,629	1,504	1,444	1,126	1,013
Indiana	1,589	1,863	2,031	1,804	1,610	1,594	1,259	1,058
Illinois	1,858	2,041	2,188	2,023	1,837	1,800	1,314	1,143
Iowa	1,550	1,840	1,999	1,889	1,684	1,499	1,064	841
Missouri	726	902	990	945	856	856	659	606
NORTHERN PLAINS								
North Dakota	347	405	436	455	439	439	360	317
South Dakota	256	292	329	349	348	338	250	215
Nebraska	525	635	729	730	701	617	444	364
Kansas	501	587	619	628	601	583	466	387
MOUNTAIN STATES								
Montana	196	235	251	271	259	264	222	204
Idaho	585	698	774	839	814	814	749	644
Wyoming	144	161	180	193	193	197	177	154
Colorado	322	387	434	451	454	468	435	357
New Mexico	143	185	192	195	178	182	163	134
Arizona	199	267	287	302	289	295	265	231
Utah	400	530	567	589	560	571	514	478
Nevada	191	248	262	268	249	254	229	199
PACIFIC STATES								
Washington	692	736	877	922	933	961	923	812
Oregon	504	587	668	705	705	698	579	521
California	1,186	1,424	1,732	1,900	1,918	1,918	1,726	1,571
48 STATES	628	737	819	823	788	782	679	596

NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS DOWN, WAGES HIGHER

There were 3.5 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 1986. The work force was comprised of 2.0 million self-employed farm operators and other unpaid workers, 1.2 million workers hired directly by the farm operator and nearly 0.3 million agricultural services employees working on farms and ranches. The number of hired workers was down 10 percent (140,000) from July 1985.

The wage rate received by workers hired directly by farm operators was $4.57 per hour, 33 cents above July last year. Workers paid on an hourly basis averaged $4.46 compared with $4.18 in July 1985. Field workers received an average of $4.39, up 32 cents from the July 1985 week. Livestock workers earned an average wage of $4.15 per hour compared with $3.97 a year earlier.

During the July 6-12, 1986 survey week, self-employed farm operators worked an average of 47.3 hours, 2.3 hours less than in the comparable week in 1985. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, averaged 39.1 hours compared with 40.0 hours a year earlier. Hired workers put in an average of 37.0 hours, down 0.6 hour from July of last year.

Perquisites such as meals, housing, or motor vehicles in addition to cash wages were provided to 47 percent of the hired workers during the July 1986 survey week. Data from the 1985 Farm Production Expenditure Survey showed that the value of perquisites, including insurance and retirement benefits, housing, and other noncash benefits represented 16 percent of the farm and ranch labor expenditures.

WAGE RATES FOR FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, JULY 6-12, 1986 1/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	Field	Live-stock	Field & Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--							
NORTHEAST I	4.31	3.61	4.06	3/	5.15	4.45	3/	3.70
NORTHEAST II	4.20	4.08	4.16	7.30	5.11	4.25	3/	5.23
APPALACHIAN I	3.91	3.94	3.92	3/	4.11	4.18	3.18	4.02
APPALACHIAN II	3.28	4.26	3.60	3/	4.08	3.66	3/	4.34
SOUTHEAST	3.62	4.26	3.79	5.94	3.71	3.92	3.53	4.10
FLORIDA	4.48	4.60	4.50	8.21	6.06	4.69	4.60	6.34
LAKE	4.38	3.36	3.98	3/	4.35	4.12	5.69	3.45
CORN BELT I	4.22	4.25	4.23	7.23	4.76	4.45	3/	5.09
CORN BELT II	4.34	4.15	4.27	3/	4.50	4.42	3/	4.53
DELTA	3.75	4.23	3.91	6.29	3.83	3.82	3/	4.43
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.64	4.80	4.68	3/	4.17	4.55	3/	4.49
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.27	4.20	4.24	6.21	4.22	4.19	3/	4.63
MOUNTAIN I	4.51	3.84	4.27	6.08	4.22	4.63	5.81	3.69
MOUNTAIN II	4.47	5.15	4.74	7.93	5.18	4.54	3/	5.62
MOUNTAIN III	3.99	4.01	3.99	6.81	5.04	4.28	3/	5.19
PACIFIC	4.15	3/	4.19	6.46	4.89	4.51	3.96	5.44
CALIFORNIA	5.22	5.31	5.23	8.80	6.41	5.21	6.57	7.54
HAWAII	6.40	3/	6.40	11.14	8.46	6.81	3/	10.34
U.S.	4.39	4.15	4.32	7.32	4.66	4.46	4.55	4.88

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT; NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA; APPALACHAIN I: NC, VA; APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV; SOUTHEAST I: AL, GA, SC; LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORN BELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORN BELT II: IA, MO; DELTA: AR, LA, MS; NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD; SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX; MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY; MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT; MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM; PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data.

featuring..... STILLWATER COUNTY

The boundaries of Stillwater county encompass approximately 1,147,520 acres of land in south central Montana. The Yellowstone river crosses the center of the county from west to east. The Stillwater River enters in the south and joins the Yellowstone River near Columbus, Montana. Parts of the Gallatin National Forest and Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness blanket the southern tip of Stillwater county. The second highest peak in the state, Mt. Wood with an elevation of 12,661 feet is located in this area. Big game and waterfowl hunting, as well as fishing are all enjoyed in the county.

Cropland is largely non-irrigated. Spring and winter wheat, barley, oats, hay corn, sugarbeets, and dry beans are all produced in the county. Normally there are about 600 to 1,000 acres of sugarbeets grown in the county. However, sugarbeets were not grown during 1984 as no acreage was contracted. Production of winter wheat in 1984 put the county in 15th place, while production of hay and barley ranked the county 17th and 22nd, respectively, in 1984 crop production.

Hogs, sheep, and cattle are all raised in the county. Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products amounted to $19,758,000 in 1984. Crops receipts totaled $6,616,000, and government payments added $2,798,000. This made for a total of $29,172,000 in 1984 cash receipts for Stillwater County.

STILLWATER COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,147,520
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	863,344
Number of Farms 1/		429
CROPS		
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	59,100
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	3,900
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	50,900
Barley	Acres Plntd.	26,400
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,500
Corn	Acres Plntd.	1,600
Dry Beans	Acres Plntd.	200

	UNIT	1984
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	236,356
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	24,264
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	58,500
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	11,700
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	4,900

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN

C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN

CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

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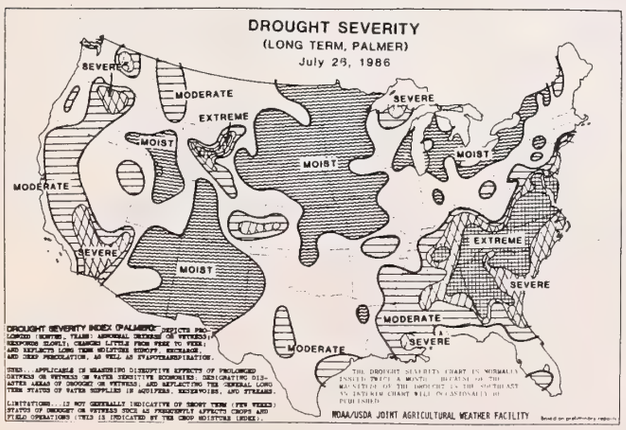
HIGHLIGHTS:

AUGUST 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION GOOD
JULY AG PRICES
NUMBER OF FARMS & LAND IN FARMS
CASH RECEIPTS BY COMMODITY

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION, AUGUST 1

By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1984	1985	1986
Northwest	78	43	93
North Central	33	26	91
Northeast	34	20	80
Central	58	27	93
Southwest	89	50	92
South Central	69	32	83
Southeast	67	29	72
STATE	60	32	86



HIGHEST WHEAT CROP SINCE '82

BARLEY HITS NEW RECORD

Montana's 1986 wheat crop is expected to total 142.9 million bushels, up almost 3 times from a year ago and the largest crop since 1982. The yield at 29.2 bushels per acre is over twice last year's yield and is based on farmer reports as of August 1.

Winter wheat production, estimated at 68.0 million bushels, up over 3 times last year's crop. The yield is expected to be 34 bushels per acre compared with 16 a year ago.

Hard spring wheat production is 2.7 times last year's level with a yield of 26 bushels per acre, up 13 bushels from a year ago. Total production is forecast at 71.2 million bushels.

Durum production is expected to total 3.7 million bushels, about 2.5 times more than a year ago. This year's durum yield is forecast at 25 bushels compared with only 9 a year ago.

Montana's barley crop is expected to reach a record 92 million bushels, slightly more than 3 times last year's production. Yield is forecast at 40 bushels compared with 20 a year ago.

Moisture supplies in much of Montana's grain growing areas have been adequate during the season. However, severe outbreaks of grasshoppers have damaged crops, especially in the eastern parts of the state.

ALL WHEAT - SELECTED STATES

STATE	PRODUCTION		
	1984	1985	1986
	-------1000 bu.---------		
COLO	115,020	139,302	102,120
IDAHO	81,400	72,030	77,220
KANSAS	431,200	433,200	326,400
MINN	120,711	142,426	132,764
MONT	104,655	502,40	142,915
NEBR	81,000	89,700	78,000
N DAK	284,190	323,255	319,500
OKLA	190,800	165,000	150,800
ORE	68,945	56,040	57,260
S DAK	126,038	111,215	127,628
TEX	150,000	187,200	115,200
WASH	160,350	128,250	120,680
U.S.	2,594,777	2,424,765	2,164,738

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1986

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	2,000	16.0	34.0	22,400	68,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	147	9.0	25.0	1,440	3,675
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,400	2,740	11.0	26.0	26,400	71,240
All Wheat	Bu.	3,960	4,887	12.7	29.2	50,240	142,915
Corn for Grain	Bu.	11	10	95.0	105.0	1,045	1,050
Oats	Bu.	70	163	33.0	46.0	2,310	7,498
Barley	Bu.	1,500	2,300	20.0	40.0	30,000	92,000
Dry Beans	Cwt	3.0	2.7	19.0	19.0	57	51
Sugarbeets	Ton	42.7	46.7	19.0	20.0	811	934
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	950	1,300	1.8	2.3	1,710	2,990
All Other Hay	Ton	1,000	950	1.05	1.35	1,050	1,283
All Hay	Ton	1,950	2,250	1.42	1.90	2,760	4,273

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1986

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	47,953	43,244	38.1	35.4	1,827,195	1,532,526
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,094	2,821	36.4	36.1	112,510	101,774
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,687	14,838	35.4	35.7	485,060	530,438
All Wheat	Bu.	64,734	60,903	37.5	35.5	2,424,765	2,164,738
Corn for Grain	Bu.	75,134	69,096	118.0	120.4	8,865,006	8,316,156
Oats	Bu.	8,149	7,537	63.6	58.8	518,626	443,183
Barley	Bu.	11,553	12,455	51.0	52.2	589,183	650,046
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,486.4	1,645.5	14.98	15.77	22,268	25,950
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,102.5	1,224.0	20.5	20.5	22,636	25.032
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,673	26,185	3.32	3.52	85,291	92,243
All Other Hay	Ton	34,880	34,697	1.83	1.76	63,668	61,165
All Hay	Ton	60,553	60,882	2.46	2.52	148,959	153,408

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT - AUGUST 1, 1986 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1985	Ind. 1986	Chg.	1985	Ind. 1986	Chg.	1985	Ind. 1986	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	638.2	550.0	-14	411.9	400.0	- 3	2,748.0	3,100.0	+13
N CENT.	9,469.8	33,525.0	+254	9,772.9	33,255.0	+240	11,473.0	44,885.0	+291
N EAST	1,378.6	5,940.0	+331	11,974.6	30,110.0	+151	2,987.0	12,800.0	+329
CENTRAL	3,815.0	12,870.0	+237	1,789.1	5,530.0	+209	4,964.0	20,000.0	+303
S WEST	844.6	1,355.0	+60	1,000.4	1,240.0	+24	2,886.0	3,465.0	+20
S CENT.	3,394.6	7,880.0	+132	931.1	1,330.0	+43	3,373.0	5,500.0	+63
S EAST	2,859.2	5,880.0	+106	1,960.0	3,050.0	+56	1,569.0	2,250.0	+43
STATE	22,400.0	68,000.0	+204	27,840.0	74,915.0	+169	30,000.0	92,000.0	+206

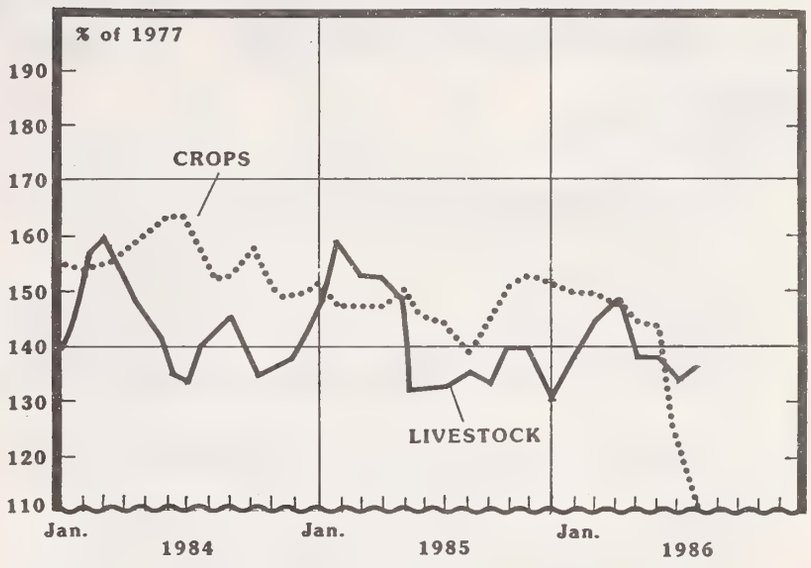
1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

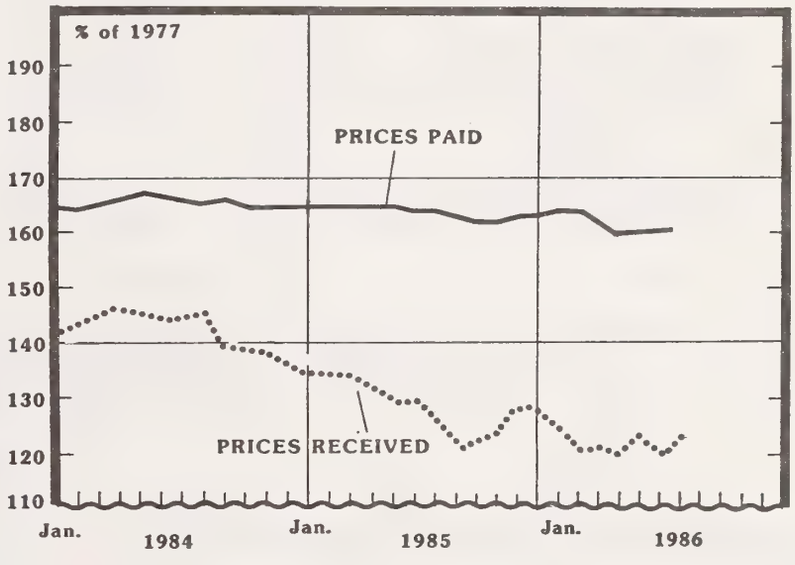
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1986	MONTANA July 15, 1986	U.S. July 15, 1986
		---Dollars---			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.21	2.65	2.35	2.26
Durum	Bu.	3.14	3.01	2.35	2.55
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.24	2.70	2.40
All Wheat	Bu.	3.36	3.03	2.57	2.29
Barley	Bu.	2.20	1.70	1.46	1.40
Oats	Bu.	1.70	1.34	1.35	.92
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	82.00	73.00	55.00	61.40
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	67.00	50.00	49.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	81.00	72.00	55.00	58.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt	54.50	53.30	53.30	56.10
Cows	Cwt	34.10	36.50	36.50	35.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	41.80	44.00	44.10	52.30
Calves	Cwt	64.60	59.10	58.70	59.80
Sheep	Cwt	22.00	24.60	26.00	25.80
Lambs	Cwt	69.80	68.10	69.00	71.90
Hogs	Cwt	42.40	47.70	52.40	58.40
All Milk	Cwt	12.60	11.90	12.10	11.90
Eggs	Doz	.480	.390	.530	.515
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.740	.740	.707
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	137	130	122	124
All Crops	Pct.	143	126	107	105
Livestock & Products	Pct.	132	133	136	142

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	July 1985	June 1986	July 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	126	121	124
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	163	--	161
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	77	75 4/	77 4/

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio derived using the most recent Prices Paid Index.

NUMBERER OF FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, BY SELECTED STATES, JUNE 1, 1984-1986 1/

STATE	FARMS 1984	FARMS 1985	FARMS 1986 2/	LAND IN FARMS 1984	LAND IN FARMS 1985	LAND IN FARMS 1986 2/
	---Number---			---(000) Acres---		
CALIF	78,000	79,000	79,000	33,000	32,900	32,800
COLO	27,000	26,700	26,600	34,600	34,400	34,200
IDAHO	24,600	24,600	24,000	14,700	14,500	14,000
MONT	23,900	23,800	23,600	61,100	61,000	61,000
NEBR	60,000	59,000	57,000	47,200	47,200	47,200
NEV	2,600	2,500	2,400	8,800	8,800	8,800
N DAK	35,500	34,000	33,000	41,000	40,900	40,700
OREG	37,000	37,000	37,000	18,000	18,000	17,900
S DAK	37,000	36,500	36,000	44,500	44,500	44,500
UTAH	14,000	13,900	13,700	11,800	11,600	11,400
WASH	38,000	38,000	38,000	16,100	16,100	16,000
WYO	9,100	9,000	8,800	34,800	34,800	34,800
U.S.	2,328,400	2,274,730	2,214,420	1,019,378	1,014,383	1,007,363

1/ A farm is a place as of June 1 that sells or could sell $1,000 of agricultural products during the year. 2/ Preliminary.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS

BY COMMODITIES and COMMODITY GROUPS, MONTANA 1984-1985

COMMODITIES	VALUE		PERCENTAGE OF ALL COMMODITIES	
	1984 1/	1985 2/	1984 1/	1985 2/
	----(000) Dollars----		--Pct. of Total--	
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS				
Cattle & Calves	597,832	689,332	43.8	56.5
Dairy Products	44,375	44,114	3.2	3.6
Sheep & Lambs	19,302	23,129	1.4	1.9
Wool	4,740	3,400	.3	.3
Hogs	26,855	21,954	2.0	1.8
Farm Chickens & Eggs	10,479	8,753	.8	.7
Other	12,980	11,322	1.0	.9
TOTAL	716,563	802,004	52.5	65.7
CROPS				
Wheat	428,526	248,777	31.4	20.4
Barley	127,471	62,375	9.3	5.1
Sugarbeets	14,768	27,971	1.1	2.3
Hay	45,427	47,872	3.3	3.9
Potatoes	14,460	16,246	1.1	1.3
Oats	2,161	1,592	.2	.1
Dry Edible Beans	1,302	1,733	.1	.1
Other Crops	7,252	1,825	.5	.2
FRUITS & BERRIES				
Cherries	1,525	2,956	.1	.3
Other Fruits	15	25	3/	3/
OTHER PRODUCTS				
Forest Products	4,500	4,500	.3	.4
Greenhouse & Nursery	2,000	2,132	.1	.2
TOTAL	649,407	418,004	47.5	34.3
ALL COMMODITIES	1,365,970	1,220,008	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 0.1 of a percent.

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Farm Labor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

NATIONAL CATTLE HERD DECLINES
RED MEAT PRODUCTION
FEWER CATTLE ON FEED
MT MILK PRODUCTION DROPS OFF
1986 MINK PELT PRODUCTION
featuring.....DAWSON COUNTY

CATTLE & CALF INVENTORY DOWN

The Nation's cattle herd on July 1, 1986 was down 4 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest July 1 inventory since mid-year estimates were begun in 1973 and the fifth consecutive year of decline after only two years of expansion in the early 1980s.

Most individual inventory classes were two to four percentage points below last year's levels except milk replacement heifers were down 6 percent.

The 1986 calf crop is expected to total 40.1 million head, down 2 percent from last year and 6 percent below 1984. This would be the smallest calf crop since 1960.

CATTLE & CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS and CALF CROP, UNITED STATES JULY 1, 1984-1986

CLASS	1984	1985	1986	1986 as % of '85
	(000) Head			Pct.
Cattle and Calves	121,500	116,300	112,200	96
Cows & Heifers That Have Calved	48,700	46,300	45,000	97
Beef Cows	37,900	35,250	34,150	97
Milk Cows	10,800	11,050	10,850	98
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	18,500	18,200	17,500	96
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,500	4,900	4,800	98
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,950	5,000	4,700	94
Other Heifers	8,050	8,300	8,000	96
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	16,400	15,900	15,300	96
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,500	2,300	2,200	96
Calves Under 500 Pounds	35,400	33,600	32,200	96
Calf Crop 1/	42,500	41,045	40,100	98

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

(SEE CALF CROP TABLE ON INSIDE PAGE.)

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CALF CROP: NUMBER & PERCENT OF TOTAL BY SIX MONTH PERIOD, UNITED STATES 1984-1986

PERIOD	1984		1985		1986	
	Number (000)	% of Total	Number (000)	% of Total	Number (000)	% of Total
Jan. 1 - June 30	30,400	71.5	29,350	71.5	28,800	71.8
July 1 - Dec. 31 1/	12,100	28.5	11,695	28.5	11,300	28.2
TOTAL	42,500	100.0	41,045	100.0	40,100	100.0

1/ Expected calf crop for 1986.

JUNE 1986 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds of red meat during June, 8 percent less than the previous month and 10 percent less than June 1985. Cattle slaughter at 2,200 head was down 12 percent from last year. Hog slaughter at 2,300 head was unchanged from a year ago, but the total live weight of the hogs slaughtered was up slightly.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in June 1986 totaled 3.16 billion pounds, up 2 percent from June 1985. January-June red meat production, at 19.6 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from last year. The 1985 accumulated production changes by individual components were: beef, up 3 percent; veal, up 8 percent; pork, down 3 percent; lamb and mutton, down 5 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed July 1, 1986 for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly states totaled 7.95 million head, down 8 percent from July 1 last year and 9 percent less than two years ago. On feed numbers were the lowest for this date since 1975.

The cattle on feed inventory included 4.91 million steers and steer calves, down 7 percent from a year ago and 11 percent below 1984. This group represented 62 percent of the total July 1 number on feed compared with 61 percent in 1985. Heifers and heifer calves, at 3.01 million, were down 11 percent from last year and 5 percent from 1984.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June quarter totaled 5.18 million, down slightly from last year, 7 percent below 1984 and lowest for this comparable period since 1975. Other disappearance of 375 thousand head leaves net placements at 4.81 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 5.77 million, down slightly from the same quarter last year, but 3 percent above 1984.

MILK PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana's April-June milk production at 87 million pounds was 3 percent below last year. Average production per cow at 3,225 pounds was slightly more than the same quarter last year.

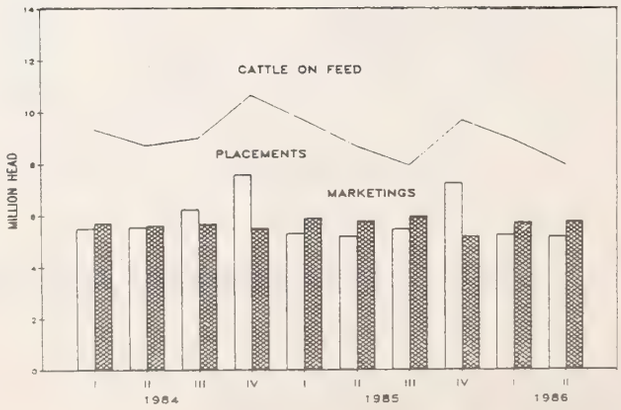
Nationally, milk production in the second quarter of 1986 was 38.5 billion pounds, 3 percent above the same period last year. Production per cow at 3,520 pounds was 3 percent above the previous year.

APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION 1985-1986

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1985	1986	1985	1986
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	998	1,022	4,318	4,514
IDAHO	169	163	626	602
MINN	910	910	2,952	2,953
MONT	28	27	90	87
N DAK	103	99	317	304
ORE	100	99	381	400
S DAK	162	158	481	479
WASH	222	216	965	979
WISC	1,877	1,867	6,609	6,897
WYO	11.6	11.2	33.5	35.2
U.S.	10,997	10,945	37,499	38,517

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES 1986

Redwin remains the most popular winter wheat variety. It was planted on 556,000 acres of the state's 1986 winter wheat acreage. Winalta retained its second position and Norstar is again in third place.

Newana continued to be the number one spring wheat variety. Fortuna moved into second place this year from 1984, the last time a variety survey was done, and Len dropped to the third most popular spring wheat variety.

Vic still remains the most popular durum variety grown in the state. Ward was second followed by Lloyd.

The wheat variety survey was made possible by funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee.

A complete, more detailed report on wheat varieties can be obtained by requesting one from our office.

MINK

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1985 totaled 4.17 million pelts, down 1 percent from 1984. Wisconsin, the major mink state, produced 1.18 million pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: Standard - 38.1 percent; Demi-Buff - 19.2 percent; Ranch Wild - 11.7 percent; Pastel - 8.0 percent; Pearl - 4.0 percent; and Violet - 4.9 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 14.1 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1985 crop year were valued at 126.3 million dollars, down 3 percent from 1984. The average price per pelt for the 1985 crop year was $30.30, compared with an average price of $30.80 in 1984 and $29.90 in 1983.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1986 totaled 1.07 million, down 4 percent from 1985. Females bred for the two major color classes are: Standard - 486 thousand and Demi-Buff - 155 thousand. Females bred in the leading states are: Wisconsin - 291 thousand; Minnesota - 146 thousand; and Utah - 144 thousand.

There were 1,042 mink farms producing pelts in 1985 compared with 1,084 the previous year. Leading states were Wisconsin with 235 farms, Minnesota with 160 farms, and Utah with 132. Fourteen percent of the mink farms raised fox, the same percentage as last year.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES 1982-1986

CLASS and VARIETY	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACRES			
	1982	1983	1984	1986
	Pct.			
WINTER WHEAT				
Redwin	8.3	24.2	34.6	25.9
Winalta	22.2	14.3	13.4	13.8
Norstar	11.8	10.4	11.7	12.7
Rocky	8.0	8.0	11.1	9.0
Neeley	--	--	1.3	9.0
Centurk	15.4	8.9	6.6	7.2
Roughrider	5.0	6.4	4.0	2.6
Cree	--	--	--	2.6
Cheyenne	15.6	8.3	5.1	2.4
Winridge	--	--	0.9	0.9
Weston	0.2	--	0.5	0.8
Archer	--	--	0.5	0.7
Warrior	3.6	3.1	1.5	0.7
Other & Unknown	9.9	16.4	8.8	11.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT				
Newana	12.7	19.8	21.8	22.9
Fortuna	11.9	10.7	12.0	18.2
Len	4.0	11.9	12.4	11.9
Lew	11.5	9.4	10.0	11.5
Olaf	17.8	11.3	9.5	5.7
Northrup King	2.7	3.7	1.5	3.3
Solar	7.7	5.6	3.7	2.8
Butte	5.1	2.7	4.0	2.5
Pondera	0.6	3.5	2.3	1.9
Prodax	7.6	5.5	6.6	1.6
Tioga	5.6	2.3	2.9	1.5
Red River	0.2	1.0	0.2	1.4
Oslo	--	0.4	0.8	1.4
Other & Unknown	12.6	12.2	12.3	13.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM WHEAT				
Vic	7.8	25.3	36.9	29.6
Ward	40.9	33.1	22.0	19.5
Lloyd	--	--	2.1	16.6
Crosby	9.3	2.6	9.8	8.3
Wakooma	2.3	--	--	5.8
Wells	3.5	2.2	3.7	3.5
Cando	9.2	7.6	3.7	3.5
Rolette	9.7	8.9	10.7	1.6
Other & Unknown	17.3	20.3	11.1	13.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

featuring. . . . . . DAWSON COUNTY

Dawson County occupies approximately 1,519,379 acres of land in east central Montana. The Yellowstone River flows through the southern half of the county. The land immediately adjacent to the river and its tributaries is hilly and broken, while a portion of the Big Sheep Mountain range is situated in the northwestern section.

Most of the acres for harvest in the county are non irrigated. Crop production provides the largest share of cash receipts from the sale of agricultural products. The county ranked 12th for spring wheat, durum and oats production in 1984, as well as coming in 14th and 18th for winter wheat and barley, respectively, for the same year. Corn, sugarbeets, and dry beans are also produced here.

Cattle, sheep and hogs are also raised in Dawson County. The January 1,1984 livestock inventories shows the county ranking 30th and 38th in cattle and sheep numbers, respectively. Hog numbers for December 1983 put the county 41st among the hog producing counties.

Cash receipts from the sale of crops totaled $10,752,000, and livestock receipts came to $9,223,000. Government payments added $6,034,000 for a total of $34,786,000 in cash receipts for Dawson County in 1984.

DAWSON COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,519,379
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,353,774
Number of Farms 1/		499
CROPS		
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	65,000
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	900
Oats	Acres Plntd.	5,800
Barley	Acres Plntd.	39,200
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	78,700
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	35,400
Corn	Acres Plntd.	5,200
Sugarbeets	Acres Plntd.	3,020
Dry Beans	Acres Plntd.	700
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	455,938
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	15,056
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	45,400
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	3,300
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	1,500

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

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Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

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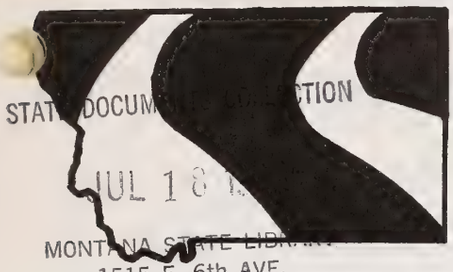

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- WINTER WHEAT FORECAST GOOD
- PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION EXCELLENT
- JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS
- PLANTED CROP ACRES
- AG PRICES
- 1986 BARLEY VARIETIES

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pastures and ranges are in mostly excellent condition and producing ample feed for livestock. Some producers were having a difficult time finding stock to utilize all the good grazing. Warm days and timely rains have helped grasses to develop to near full potential. The present condition of 92 is the highest July 1 condition since 1982, and a complete turnaround from last year at this time when condition was reported at only 46 percent of normal.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION--JULY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1984	1985	1986
Northwest	93	74	90
North Central	45	42	98
Northeast	48	33	81
Central	75	38	95
Southwest	89	56	95
South Central	80	42	92
Southeast	82	46	89
STATE	72	46	92

JULY 1 WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's winter wheat crop for 1986 is forecast at 68.0 million bushels. Good growing weather plus timely rains during June have improved crop prospects for producers across the state. The July 1 forecast is 3 percent higher than the June 1 forecast and over 3 times larger than last year's drought stricken crop. Acreage for harvest at 2.0 million is up 43 percent from last year. The July 1 yield forecast at 34.0 bushels per acre compares with 16.0 bushels last year and 27.0 bushels two years ago.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels as of July 1, 15 percent less than 1985 and the smallest crop in eight years. Yields are expected to average 36.0 bushels per acre, 2.1 bushels under 1985 yields and 0.8 of a bushel less than the June 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is placed at 43.2 million acres, down 10 percent from last year.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
BY DISTRICT--JULY 1, 1986 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1985	Ind. 1986	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	638	550	- 14
N. CENTRAL	9,470	33,545	+254
NORTHEAST	1,379	5,940	+331
CENTRAL	3,815	12,870	+237
SOUTHWEST	845	1,355	+ 60
S. CENTRAL	3,394	7,650	+125
SOUTHEAST	2,859	6,090	+113
STATE	22,400	68,000	+204

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JUNE 1, 1986 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1985*	Apr. 1, 1986*	June 1, 1986	% Chg. '86/'85	June 1, 1985*	Apr. 1, 1986*	June 1, 1986
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	66,979	52,250	48,230	-28	582,077	799,408	681,059
Off Farms 1/	26,126	34,598	28,000	+ 7	843,163	1,330,641	1,219,071
TOTAL	93,105	86,848	76,230	-18	1,425,240	2,130,049	1,900,130
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	40,610	31,816	28,454	-30	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	17,370	21,256	16,870	- 3	--	--	--
TOTAL	57,980	53,072	45,324	-22	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	26,369	20,434	19,776	-25	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	8,756	13,342	11,130	+27	--	--	--
TOTAL	35,125	33,776	30,906	-12	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	69,225	89,192	78,929
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	30,581	46,878	43,689
TOTAL	7,303	5,610	5,282	-28	99,806	136,070	122,618
CORN							
On Farms 5/	166	--	--	--	2,007,823	3,979,886	3,141,546
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	827,701	1,965,087	1,847,018
TOTAL 4/					2,835,524	5,944,973	4,988,564
OATS 6/							
On Farms	1,709	--	993	-42	146,450	--	146,707
Off Farms 1/	103	--	350	+240	33,428	--	36,535
TOTAL	1,812	--	1,343	-26	179,878	--	183,242
BARLEY 6/							
On Farms	12,998	--	12,900	- 1	163,361	--	199,030
Off Farms 1/	3,282	--	6,200	+89	84,033	--	125,548
TOTAL	16,280	--	19,100	+17	247,394	--	324,578

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. 5/ Included with other states starting April '86. 6/ Per program modifications: stocks estimates for barley and oats will only be made as of June 1 each year.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY	
	June 1, 1985	Apr. 1, 1986*	June 1, 1986	June 1, 1985	June 1, 1986
	----------Million Bushels----------				
Northwest	.6	.8	.7	.7	1.8
North Central	34.1	35.3	32.1	7.2	7.6
Northeast	30.0	22.2	18.2	2.1	2.5
Central	11.6	11.5	9.6	2.4	3.3
Southwest	2.6	3.4	3.2	.9	.5
South Central	7.3	7.2	6.7	2.3	2.5
Southeast	6.9	6.4	5.7	.7	.9
STATE	93.1	86.8	76.2	16.3	19.1

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1986	MONTANA June 15, 1986	U.S. June 15, 1986
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.35	3.18	2.45	2.36
Durum	Bu.	3.44	3.13	3.05	2.95
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.83	2.85	2.57
All Wheat	Bu.	3.49	3.49	2.67	2.45
Barley	Bu.	2.02	1.87	1.73	1.65
Oats	Bu.	1.87	1.64	1.50	1.14
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	82.00	85.00	73.00	66.00
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	75.00	67.00	51.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	81.00	84.00	72.00	62.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	54.80	53.70	53.60	52.30
Cows	Cwt	37.60	36.30	35.80	35.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.60	46.70	44.70	49.40
Calves	Cwt	59.50	60.40	59.00	58.40
Sheep	Cwt	21.10	20.40	22.30	24.80
Lambs	Cwt	65.20	58.40	60.00	75.40
Hogs	Cwt	37.10	40.20	45.60	50.10
All Milk	Cwt	12.30	12.20	12.20	11.90
Eggs	Doz	.460	.480	.390	.419
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.730	.740	.735
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	138	141	125	121
All Crops	Pct.	145	144	114	110
Livestock & Products	Pct.	132	138	134	131

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	June 1985	May 1986	June 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	129	123	121
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	--	--
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	79	77 4/	76 4/

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio derived using the most recent Prices Paid Index.

SWEET CHERRIES

Poor pollination due to cold weather which inhibited bee activity has greatly reduced cherry prospects. As of July 1, the state's cherry crop is forecast at 1,000 tons compared with 4,600 tons in 1985 and 2,300 tons in 1984.

PLANTED CROP ACRES

Montana producers planted fewer acres to hard red spring wheat and durum, but more acres to barley, oats and sugarbeets.

Total wheat acreage for harvest at 4.9 million acres is up 25 percent from 1985. A breakdown by classes indicates winter wheat for harvest at 2.0 million acres, up 43 percent; hard red spring wheat 2.8 million, up 16 percent; and durum at 147,000 is down 8 percent. Barley acreage for harvest is forecast at 2.3 million acres, up 53 percent from 1985. Acres of oats for harvest as grain at 163,000 are up over two times last year's acreage. All hay acres for harvest at 2.25 million acres are up 15 percent.

The first production forecast for spring planted crops will be released August 12.

CROP ACRES JULY 1, 1986

CROP	MONTANA ACRES PLANTED 1985	MONTANA ACRES PLANTED 1986	MONTANA ACRES HARVESTED 1985	MONTANA ACRES HARVESTED Ind. 1986	UNITED STATES ACRES PLANTED 1985	UNITED STATES ACRES PLANTED 1986	UNITED STATES ACRES HARVESTED 1985	UNITED STATES ACRES HARVESTED Ind. 1986
	----------000----------				----------000----------			
Winter Wheat	2,460	2,150	1,400	2,000	57,752	53,930	47,953	43,189
Durum	200	150	160	147	3,207	2,882	3,094	2,821
Hard Spring Wheat	3,000	2,850	2,400	2,790	14,616	15,195	13,687	14,888
All Wheat	5,660	5,150	3,960	4,937	75,575	72,007	64,734	60,898
Corn	84	80	11	10	83,348	76,646	75,134	69,396
Oats	225	250	70	163	13,270	14,787	8,149	7,537
Barley	2,350	2,400	1,500	2,300	13,106	13,248	11,553	12,515
Sorghum	--	--	--	--	18,285	14,998	16,672	13,653
Soybeans	--	--	--	--	63,130	61,835	61,584	60,703
Sunflower	--	--	--	--	3,055	1,895	2,844	1,852
Dry Beans	3.4	3.0	3.0	2.7	1,575.9	1,724.0	1,486.4	1,658.5
Sugarbeets	43.5	47.6	42.7	46.7	1,124.5	1,237.5	1,102.5	1,216.9
Fall Potatoes	7.9	7.6	7.0	7.5	1,182.1	1,056.5	1,142.9	1,035.5
Alfalfa Hay	--	--	950	1,300	--	--	25,673	26,185
All Other Hay	--	--	1,000	950	--	--	34,880	34,917
All Hay	--	--	1,950	2,250	--	--	60,553	61,102

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES

Hector, for the fifth year, remained the most popular barley variety grown in Montana, according to a June survey of growers. Hector, a feed variety, was planted on 33.9 percent of the total barley acreage. **Piroline,** a malting variety, remained the second most popular variety this year. This variety moved into the number one spot in 1970 and held that position until 1982. It then dropped to second place and has held that position up to the present time. **Clark and Klages,** both malting varieties, remained in third and fourth place, respectively. These top four varieties accounted for about 81 percent of the total barley acreage planted this year.

A complete, more detailed report on barley varieties can be obtained by requesting one from our office.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1983-1986

VARIETY		% OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE			
		1983	1984	1985	1986
		---------Percent---------			
Hector		35.1	32.4	32.9	33.9
Piroline	M	25.6	19.3	20.1	18.7
Clark	M	7.4	15.6	15.8	16.7
Klages	M	10.6	13.1	8.6	11.5
Kimberly		.6	.9	3.0	1.1
Compana		1.5	.6	2.6	.6
Summit		2.1	3.5	2.5	1.0
Menuet		.7	1.5	1.8	1.8
Horsford		.7	1.2	1.7	.7
Unitan		2.5	2.8	1.3	.7
Steptoe		1.4	1.0	1.2	.2
Morex	M	2.8	1.9	.7	.8
Ingrid		1.0	1.1	.7	--
Moravian III	M	.8	.9	.5	.4
Premier	M	--	.2	.5	.7
Stepford		.1	.1	.3	.1
Larker		.6	.4	.3	.4
Hypana		.1	.2	.2	--
Betzes		.3	.2	.2	.1
Fairfield		.5	.2	.2	.2
Westbred 501		--	--	.2	.2
Freja		--	--	.2	--
Hazen		--	--	.2	.1
Ridawn		--	.1	.1	--
Glenn		.4	.2	.1	--
Other & Unknown		5.2	2.6	4.1	10.1
STATE TOTAL		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

M = American Malting Barley Association recommended malting varieties for Montana 1985.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

JUNE 1 HOG NUMBERS
FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES DECLINE
MORE EGGS PRODUCED
CALIFORNIA LEADING EXPORT STATE
FEWER CATTLE ON FEED
RED MEAT PRODUCTION
featuring.....YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

WEATHER-CROP SITUATION

(For Week Ending June 22, 1986)

Topsoil moisture was generally adequate in the major crop producing areas of the state. However, some shortages were beginning to develop especially in the southwestern part of the state.

Crops grew well in most areas and farmers and ranchers made good progress with summerfallowing, spraying and haying. Concern over grasshopper damage was increasing, especially in most eastern areas of the state. About 60 percent of the winter wheat was headed compared with 70 percent last year and the five year average of 60 percent. Only about 5 percent of the spring wheat was headed compared with 20 percent last year and the average of 10 percent. Sugarbeets are 80 percent thinned, the same as last year, but 10 percent ahead of average. First cutting of alfalfa hay is 25 percent complete, last year 35 percent had been cut and normally 15 percent is cut by this time. Wild hay harvest is ahead of normal and last year.

Pastures and ranges are in much better shape than they were last year at this time. Current grazing conditions for pastures and ranges are reported as 87 percent adequate and 13 percent surplus.

U.S. JUNE HOG & PIG INVENTORY

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the U.S. on June 1, 1986 is estimated at 48.8 million head. This is 7 percent below a year ago and 8 percent below June 1, 1984. This is the lowest June 1 inventory since 1975.

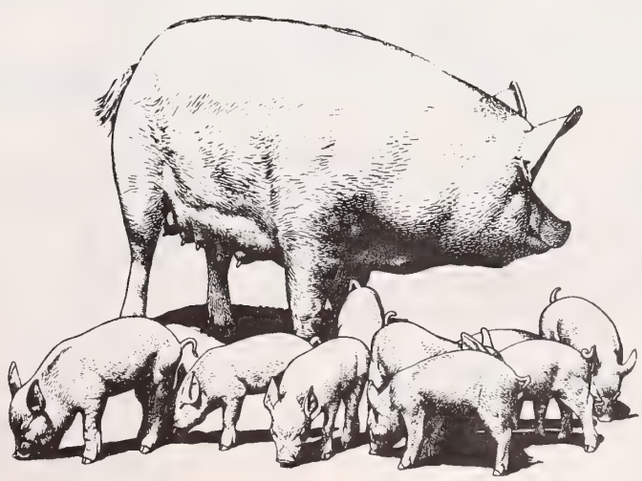
Breeding inventory, at 6.39 million head, is 9 percent below last year and 14 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest June 1 breeding inventory since the establishment of June 1 U.S. inventory estimates in 1964.

Market hog inventory, at 42.5 million head, is 6 percent below a year ago and 7 percent below two years ago.

The December 1985 - May 1986 U.S. **pig crop** was 41.1 million head, 3 percent below last year and two years ago.

Sows farrowing during this 6 month period, at 5.31 million, were 5 percent less than the previous year and 7 percent below two years ago. Pigs saved per litter was a record high 7.73 and compares with 7.64 last year and 7.45 two years ago.

U.S. hog producers **intend to farrow** 5.16 million sows during the June-November period, a decrease of 9 percent from the same period in 1985 and 12 percent below two years ago.



FARMLAND VALUES: WHERE'S THE BOTTOM

The downward trend in farmland values continued during the past year as 37 states registered declines. In 21 states, values dropped more than 10 percent, while increases were recorded in 11 mainly northeastern states.

For the nation as a whole, average farm real estate values per acre dropped about 12 percent, according to economist William Heneberry of USDA's Economic Research Service. "That makes 2 consecutive years with 12-percent delines," he says. Heneberry's latest look at farm real estate values--including both land and buildings--covers 10 months, from April 1, 1985 to February 1, 1986. Last year's report covered the 12 months ending on April 1, 1985.

These figures are all based on average values, he explains, so they do mask the wide differences between locations and types of land. Hilly, rocky, or semi-arid grazing land, for example, is averaged with highly productive, high-priced cropland near urban centers.

Nevertheless, the relatively large declines in the latest data suggest that farmland values have not yet bottomed out in many parts of the country. "We expect to see fewer states with minuses and generally smaller declines during the rest of this year, but a sudden turnaround doesn't seem likely given the recent numbers," Heneberry says.

"All the problems clearly haven't disappeared," he adds. "There are still too many acres available relative to the demand, and some lenders are understandably cautious about financing land purchases. Some buyers may be waiting for prices to drop even further, while a number of farmers who might be potential buyers are still trying to deal with their current debt load."

In addition, some of the factors that influence buyers, including the outlook for commodity prices, exports, and farm income, are not very encouraging this year. Finally, the longer term prospect of smaller government support payments to agriculture (when scheduled target price reductions take effect) may be adding an element of uncertainty and risk for the years ahead.

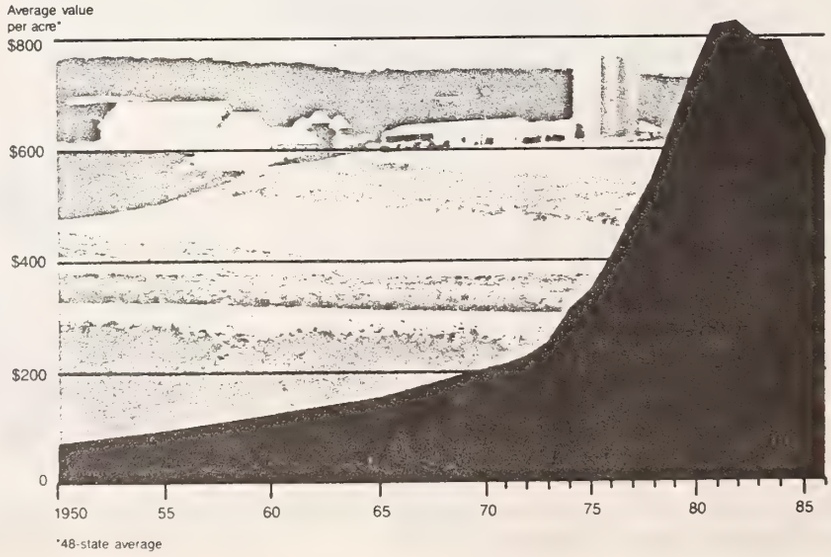
Along with these general observations, Heneberry maintains that regional and sectoral problems have played a role in some land value declines. In the Texas High Plains, for example, concerns about declining water tables and the future availability of water have affected prices for irrigated cropland. Depressed conditions in the beef cattle sector have weakened the market for pasture and grazing land, especially in parts of the Corn Belt, Northern Plains, and Mountain States.

Of course, he can also point to developments that, by themselves, would tend to attract investors and strengthen land prices. Lower interest rates and oil prices, for example, will help reduce costs of production, making it somewhat easier to turn a profit from a piece of farmland.

Farm Real Estate Values Decline in 37 States and Rise in 11 Others

Percent change between April 1985 and February 1986

After Climbing from $200 in 1970 to More Than $800 an Acre in 1982, Farm Real Estate Values Have Dropped Nearly 30%



*48-state average

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat during May, 10 percent more than the previous month but 12 percent less than the May 1985 production.

Cattle slaughter at 2,300 head was down 15 percent from last year. Hog slaughter at 2,400 head was 4 percent below a year ago.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in May 1986 totaled 3.39 billion pounds, down 3 percent from May 1985. January-May red meat production, at 16.4 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from last year. The percentage changes in accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, up 3; Veal, up 8; Pork, down 3; Lamb and Mutton, down 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

EGG PRODUCTION

Montana poultrymen produced 52 million eggs in the March-May quarter--6 percent more than in the preceding quarter and 2 percent more than in the same period a year ago.

The average number of layers in the flocks during the quarter was 800,000, about 2 percent more than the previous quarter but slightly less than a year ago.

The nation's laying flock increased 1 percent in size compared with last year and egg production was also up 1 percent.

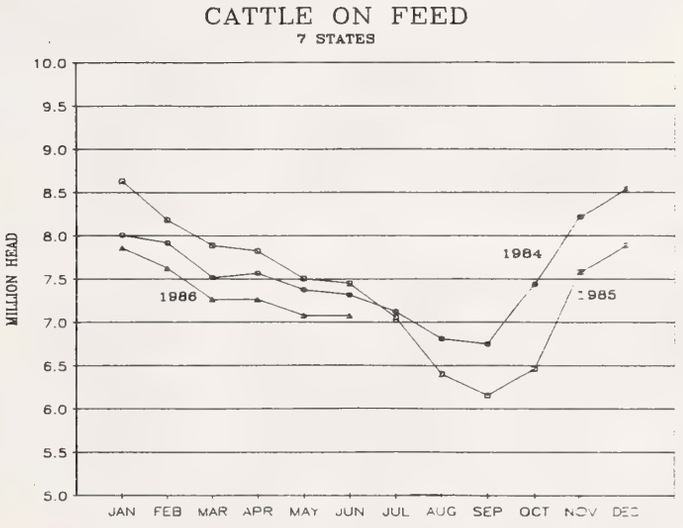
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed June 1, 1986 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.08 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below June 1, 1984.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during May totaled 1.62 million, an increase of 1 percent from last year but 1 percent below May 1984.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States were 1.75 million, an increase of 4 percent from May 1985 but 3 percent below two years ago. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.61 million were up 4 percent from 1985 and 2 percent from 1984.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 132 thousand head compared with 128 thousand during May 1985 and 219 thousand two years ago.



TOP EXPORT STATES

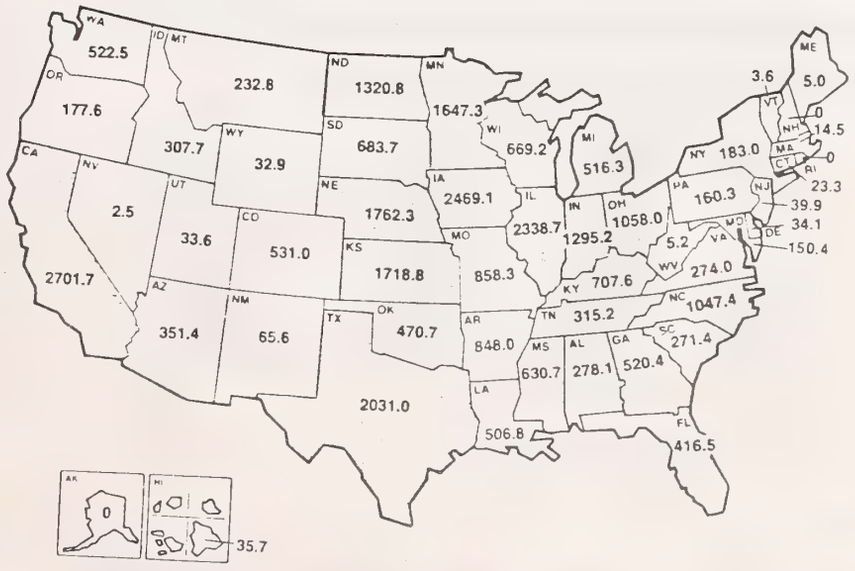
California emerged as the leading farm export state last year, according to analysts of USDA's Economic Research Service. "For the first time since we started producing these statistics in 1964, California was number one," says ERS economist Steve Milmoe.

It wasn't any surge in sales that steered the nation's most populous state ahead of Iowa and Illinois, the traditional leaders for the last several years. Rather, California simply lost less (in its export values) than the two Midwestern states. In fiscal year 1985, California exported some $2.7 billion worth of farm goods, a drop of $87 million from fiscal 1984.

Iowa's export sales, on the other hand, plunged more than $800 million from fiscal 1984 to fiscal 1985. And the value of Illinois' farm exports fell nearly $600 million in the same period. Iowa led the list of exporting states in fiscal years 1981, 1982 and 1984. Illinois was the top export state in fiscal 1983.

With Major Declines in Export Sales of Iowa and Illinois, California Was Top Export State in Fiscal 1985

Fiscal 1985 export sales, in $ millions



featuring. . . . . YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Located in south central Montana, Yellowstone County is bisected lengthwise by the northeasterly flowing Yellowstone River. The Yellowstone Valley extends through the county, flanked by benchlands. The Crow Indian Reservation reachs into the southeastern corner. Billings, the largest city in the state, is located here making the county foremost commercially and industrially in southeastern Montana.

Most of the soil in the area is tillable, with the balance mostly suitable to grazing. There were almost twice as many non-irrigated than irrigated acres harvested in 1984. But the combination of non-irrigated and irrigated land affords opportunities for all types of farming and stock raising.

The variety of crops produced in Yellowstone County in 1984 includes winter and spring wheat, barley, oats, hay, sugarbeets, dry beans, and corn. The county ranked 9th in both winter wheat and hay production in 1984, 10th in barley, 14th in oats, 27th in spring wheat production, and was the largest corn producer.

Cattle raising is a major industry in the county as it ranked 5th in the state in the January 1, 1984 cattle inventory. Sheep, hog and chicken raising are also included in the agricultural picture.

Total cash receipts for Yellowstone County in 1983 were $77,178,000, the second largest total in the state. $44,334,000 of that total came from livestock, while crops contributed $28,220,000. Government payments made up the remaining $4,624,000.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,679,624
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,288,004
Number of Farms 1/		1,046
CROPS		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	50,600
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	92,800
Barley	Acres Plntd.	50,700
Oats	Acres Plntd.	2,800
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	6,200
Corn	Acres Plntd.	22,400
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	341,794
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	72,340
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	120,000
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	6,900
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	3,100
Chickens	# Birds	181,900

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

MT WINTER WHEAT FORECAST PROMISING
PASTURES & RANGES IN GOOD SHAPE
MANUFACTURED DAIRY OUTPUT
BLEAK FORECAST FOR SWEET CHERRY CROP
AG PRICES FOR MAY
featuring.....MINERAL COUNTY

PROSPECTS IMPROVE FOR MONTANA'S WINTER WHEAT CROP

June 1 conditions indicate a Montana winter wheat crop almost three times larger than last year's drought stricken crop. Very little winterkill was reported due to the good stands established last fall before going into the winter. With cool, damp weather during most of May and record high temperatures the last week of the month, yield prospects are very good. The yield, forecast at 33 bushels per acre, is up a bushel from last month, but acreage for harvest remained unchanged.

The nation's winter wheat crop is expected to be 14 percent less than last year. The Plains States, accounting for 58 percent of the U.S. production, are down 16 percent. Both Kansas and Texas are showing huge drops in production. Production in the three Pacific Northwest states is up 4 percent but the Corn Belt States are down 18 percent. The Southern States with only 6 percent of the U.S. production are down 22 percent.

WINTER WHEAT

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1985	Ind. 1986	1985	Ind. 1986	% Chg.
	-(000) Acres-		--(000) Bu.--		%
Colorado	3,450	2,900	134,550	95,700	-29
Kansas	11,400	10,000	433,200	320,000	-26
Montana	1,400	2,000	22,400	66,000	+195
Nebraska	2,300	2,000	89,700	82,000	- 9
North Dakota	450	480	15,750	19,200	+22
South Dakota	1,520	1,690	44,080	70,980	+61
Texas	5,850	4,600	187,200	119,600	-36
Oklahoma	5,500	5,200	165,000	145,600	-12
PLAINS STATES	31,870	28,870	1,091,880	919,080	-16
Idaho	870	800	46,110	53,600	+16
Oregon	960	930	51,840	53,940	+ 4
Washington	2,400	2,050	115,200	114,800	--
PACIFIC NW	4,230	3,780	213,150	222,340	+ 4
Illinois	750	800	36,750	35,200	- 4
Indiana	700	800	37,100	40,000	+ 8
Michigan	750	700	45,000	42,000	- 7
Missouri	1,280	520	49,920	19,240	-61
Ohio	950	1,020	58,900	51,000	-13
CORN BELT	4,430	3,840	227,670	187,440	-18
Alabama	400	350	12,800	7,700	-40
Arkansas	570	600	18,240	21,600	+18
Georgia	825	550	25,575	14,300	-44
Kentucky	310	320	10,540	10,880	+ 3
Mississippi	300	200	9,300	6,600	-29
North Carolina	760	540	22,040	14,580	-34
South Carolina	430	265	12,470	6,625	-47
Tennessee	250	300	8,000	9,300	+16
Virginia	285	250	10,545	9,500	-10
SOUTHERN STATES	4,130	3,375	129,510	101,085	-22
California	750	680	61,500	56,440	- 8
Other States	2,543	2,297	103,485	91,892	-11
UNITED STATES	47,953	42,842	1,827,195	1,578,277	-14

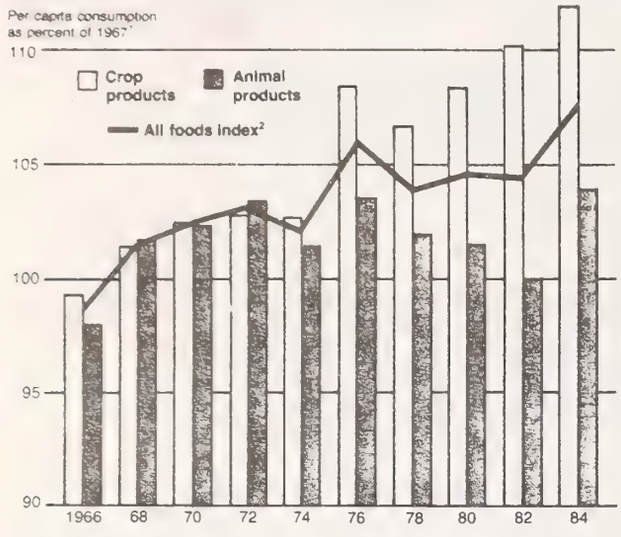
WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS--JUNE 1, 1986 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1985	Ind. 1986	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	638	540	- 15
N. CENTRAL	9,470	31,770	+236
NORTHEAST	1,379	5,940	+331
CENTRAL	3,815	12,480	+227
SOUTHWEST	845	1,320	+ 56
S. CENTRAL	3,394	7,650	+125
SOUTHEAST	2,859	6,300	+120
STATE	22,400	66,000	+195

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

A Look at America's Menu

Americans Are Consuming More Food Per Person . . . With Crop-Based Foods Gaining at a Faster Rate Than Animal Products



[1]Quantity of individual foods are on a retail-weight basis and are combined with indices using constant retail prices. Consumption data measure "use" of food products rather than what is actually eaten and may include spoilage, waste, use for pet food, etc. [2] Excludes some foods for which data are not available.

Consumption Figures for Different Foods Show Some Gainers . . . And Some Losers

	1964	1974	1984	Change, 1964-84
	pounds per capita[1]			percent
Some gainers				
Low-fat milk[2]	8.7	46.4	80.7	+827.6%
Corn sweeteners	18.1	30.9	77.3	+327.1%
Chicken & turkey	38.8	49.9	67.5	+74.0%
Beer (gallons)	16.5	21.8	24.9	+50.9%
Fresh lettuce	18.9	21.8	24.6	+30.2%
Fresh bananas	16.9	18.5	22.1	+30.8%
Shortening	13.8	16.9	21.3	+54.3%
Tomato products	13.9	17.6	19.0	+36.7%
Fish	10.5	12.1	13.6	+29.5%
American cheese	6.2	8.6	12.0	+93.5%
Rice	7.1	7.5	8.6	+21.1%
Potato chips	3.6	3.9	4.5	+25.0%
Frozen broccoli	0.7	1.0	1.7	+142.9%
Some losers				
Whole milk	248.7	180.0	125.2	-49.7%
Refined sugar	96.8	95.6	67.5	-30.3%
Fresh potatoes	70.9	45.5	49.7	-29.9%
Eggs (dozen)	40.3	36.0	33.0	-18.1%
Coffee	11.6	9.6	7.7	-33.6%
Canned peas	4.1	3.5	2.4	-41.5%
Lard	6.2	3.2	2.1	-66.1%
Canned cherries	1.3	0.7	0.5	-61.5%

[1]Retail weight basis. [2]Per capita sales.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 152,000 gallons of ice cream in April, 11 percent less than in the same month last year. Creamed cottage cheese production at 334,000 pounds was 12 percent less than a year ago. Butter output was up 5 percent at 159,000 pounds. American cheese production at 311,000 pounds was 2 percent less than the same month last year.

CHERRY PRODUCTION

Montana's sweet cherry crop is forecast at 1,800 tons, 61 percent less than last year. Pollination was very poor due to frequent frosts and cold and windy weather during bloom. The average date of bloom was May 7.

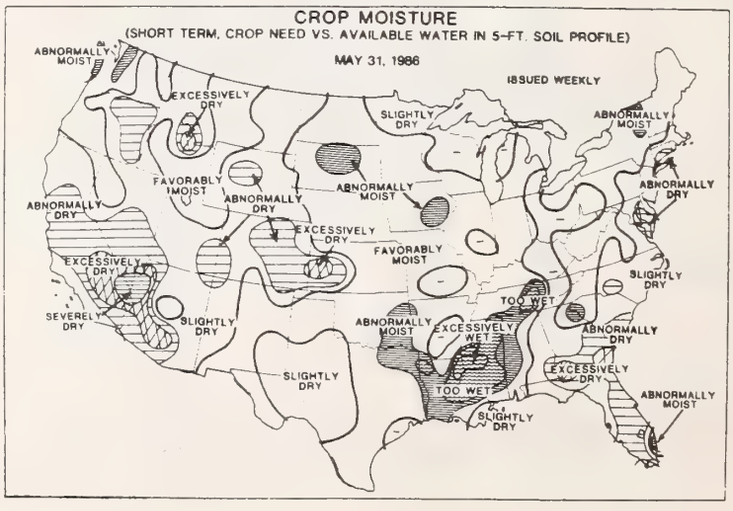
Sweet cherry production in the six western states is expected to total 112,700 tons, 13 percent more than last year, but down 23 percent from 1984.

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range condition on June 1 at 90 percent of normal was the highest June 1 condition since 1978. The good condition is the result of ample moisture received last fall and this spring. Grass growth has generally been slow due to cool weather, but record high temperatures the last week of May accellerated growth and provided generally good grazing.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION--JUNE 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1984	1985	1986
Northwest	88	70	88
North Central	51	42	96
Northeast	27	39	83
Central	71	44	91
Southwest	87	63	88
South Central	78	52	91
Southeast	63	52	91
STATE	65	51	90



MAY FARM PRICES

The May 1986 Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers was unchanged from the previous month. The May index at 141 percent of its January-December 1977 average was 5 points below last year.

May prices were down from April for winter wheat, barley, hay, steers and heifers, milk, eggs and wool. Prices increased for durum wheat, other spring wheat, oats, cows, calves, sheep, lambs and hogs.

Nationally, the May index of prices received by farmers for all farm products increased 3 points from April to 124 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for hogs, lettuce, cattle, apples, corn, and oranges were partially offset by lower prices for wheat, upland cotton, sweet corn, milk and eggs. The index was 6 points below a year ago.

Beef cattle and hog prices moved higher in May after declining since December 1985. Increases in hog prices accounted for about two thirds of the relatively sharp increase in the meat animal index. The April 1986 all wheat price was the highest since April 1985. However, the May preliminary all wheat price declined 20 cents per bushel from the previous month.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		May 15,	May 15,
		May 1985	Apr. 1986	1986	1986
PRICES RECEIVED		----------Dollars----------			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.41	3.24	3.20	3.02
Durum	Bu.	3.40	3.19	3.35	3.42
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.74	3.76	3.85	3.44
All Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.50	3.50	3.16
Barley	Bu.	2.06	1.92	1.78	1.89
Oats	Bu.	1.87	1.34	1.35	1.13
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	83.00	90.00	85.00	74.10
All Other Hay	Ton	73.00	85.00	75.00	56.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	82.00	90.00	84.00	70.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	59.30	52.40	51.30	54.80
Cows	Cwt	39.00	34.60	37.60	35.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	49.10	46.20	45.80	51.50
Calves	Cwt	64.60	59.50	60.30	58.40
Sheep	Cwt	18.00	19.70	20.00	24.70
Lambs	Cwt	58.00	57.60	68.00	73.40
Hogs	Cwt	36.50	35.50	39.50	45.70
All Milk	Cwt	13.50	12.54	12.15	11.90
Eggs	Doz	.460	.500	.480	.488
Wool 2/	Lb.	.680	.750	.730	.752
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	146	141	141	124
All Crops	Pct.	147	145	144	116
Livestock & Products	Pct.	145	137	137	131

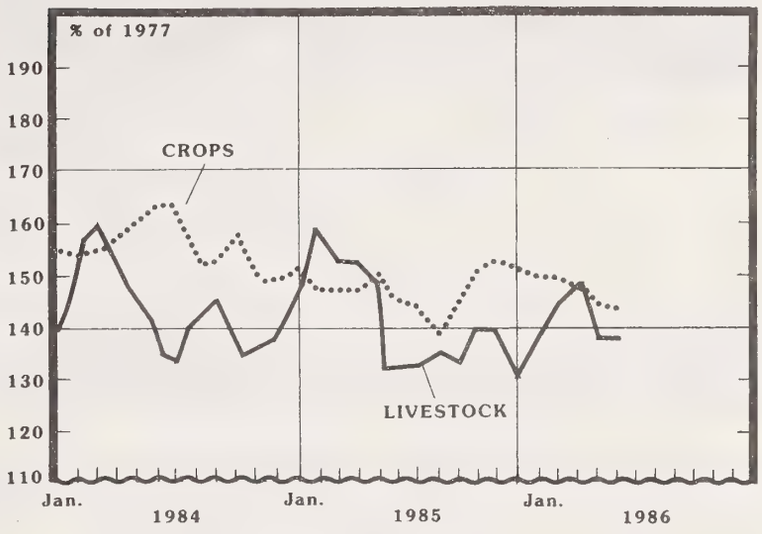
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

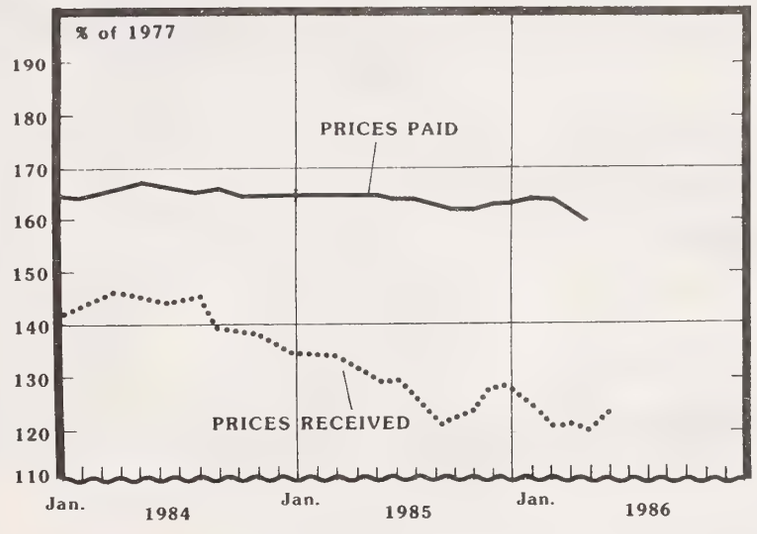
INDEX	May 1985	Apr. 1986	May 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	130	121	124
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	160	--
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	79	76	78 4/

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index, ratio derived using the most recent Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio derived using the most recent Prices Paid Index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



YARDSTICKS OF PERFORMANCE

Among the most important yardsticks of American agriculture's performance are trends in production and efficiency. Here are some recently published measurements, updated to 1984, on how the farm sector has been doing:

Total U.S. farm output doubled between the early 1940's and the 1980's. Although 1984 production recovered from 1983's depressed level, it did not match the peaks of 1981 and 1982.

On average, each person working on a U.S. farm--including farm operators, family helpers, and hired workers--produced enough agricultural products for an estimated 77 people in 1984. That total includes 57 Americans and 20 people abroad. In 1960, the average U.S. farm worker produced enough to supply only around 26 people here and abroad.

featuring. . . . . MINERAL COUNTY

Mineral County is located on the extreme western edge of the state, next to the Idaho line. The Coeur d'Alene Mountains mark its northern boundary, and the Bitterroot Range its western boundary. The Lolo National Forest covers almost the entire county. The Clark Fork River enters the county from the south. Near St. Regis, the river bends to the east and continues on out of Mineral County. The St. Regis River begins on the western border and joins the Clark Fork River at its bend near St. Regis.

The 1982 Census of Agriculture lists Mineral County's farm land at 17,886 acres. This is the smallest farm acreage of any Montana County, and accounts for only 2.3 percent of the total land area in the county. However, winter wheat, barley, oats, hay and corn were all produced in the county according to the 1984 crop production figures. Although the numbers are limited, some cattle, sheep and hogs are also raised in the county.

Total cash receipts for Mineral County amounted to $668,000 in 1983. $366,000 of this total came from livestock, while crops made up the remaining $302,000. There were no government payments in the county in 1983.

Superior is the county seat. The area has an annual average precipitation of 17.46 inches.

MINERAL COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984		UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	778,214	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	4,758
Land In Farms 1/	Acres	17,886	Irrigated Land In Farms 1/	Acres	1,507
Number of Farms 1/		81			
CROPS			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	2,300			
Oats	Acres Plntd.	400	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	1,800
Barley	Acres Plntd.	100	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	200
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	100	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	100
Corn	Acres Plntd.	100			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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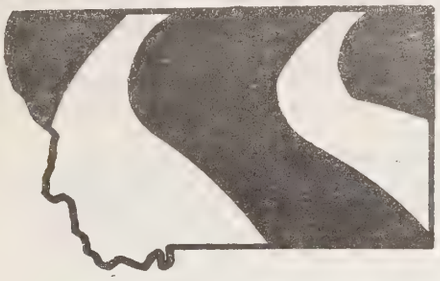

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HIGHLIGHTS:

GOOD NEWS ON CROP CONDITION
HIGHLIGHTS ON FARM PROGRAM SIGN-UP
MORE FARM WORKERS IN 1986
FEWER CATTLE ON FEED
POTATO STOCKS DOWN
MILK: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, & INCOME
featuring.....POWELL COUNTY

MONTANA WHEAT CROP RATED GOOD TO EXCELLENT

This week's crop-weather report shows cool, wet, windy weather prevailed. Only two days were suitable for fieldwork last week, but planting remained at about normal for this date. About 80 to 85 percent of the small grains are now planted. Germination and growth is ahead of average. Winter and spring wheat condition is rated 75 percent good to excellent. This year's first winter wheat forecast pegged this year's crop at 64 million bushels--nearly triple last year's drought stricken crop. Based on May 1st conditions, yields are expected to average 32 bushels per acre--the best since 1983.

Both topsoil and subsoil moisture are over 95 percent adequate to surplus--so we're still in good shape in that respect. Precipitation since April 1st is above normal in nearly all of the major agricultural areas. Those traveling across the State say it looks green and beautiful Statewide--certainly good news compared with the last couple of years.

A look at the livestock situation shows 50 to 60 percent of the cattle and sheep have been moved to summer ranges. Pastures seem to have plenty of moisture but growth has been slowed by cool temperatures.

FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPATION HIGH

Montana producers had a high level of participation in this year's farm programs. According to results released by the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), 92 percent of Montana's wheat base acreage was enrolled this year. This ranked Montana second in participation behind North Dakota. Abcut 82 percent of Montana's wheat farmers signed up.

Participation in this year's barley program was also high as 79 percent of the barley acreage was enrolled. Sixth-three percent of the barley producers participated.

PRECIPITATION, SELECTED STATIONS
(For Week Ending May 17, 1986)

STATIONS	1986	Normal 1/	% of Normal
	----Inches----		---Pct.---
Kalispell	2.53	2.02	125
Missoula	1.72	1.91	90
Polson	2.72	2.66	102
Helena	1.80	1.97	91
Butte	1.37	1.90	72
Bozeman	3.31	3.55	93
Cut Bank	3.84	1.98	194
Havre	3.37	1.98	170
Malta	4.50	2.11	213
Great Falls	4.01	2.90	138
Lewistown	4.36	2.98	146
Harlowton	3.67	2.04	180
Billings	4.55	3.36	135
Lvngston Arpt.	4.29	2.80	153
Glasgow	2.79	1.82	153
Glendive	3.40	2.28	149
Sidney	4.25	2.43	175
Broadus	3.97	2.82	141
Mls Cty Arpt.	4.19	2.67	157

1/ Normal for period 1951-1980.

NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWN FROM 1985--WAGES UP

During the week of April 6-12, 1986, there were 2.9 million people working on farms and ranches in the United States. This included 910,000 workers hired directly by farm operators and 184,000 agricultural service employees working on farms. The count of workers was down 4.4 percent (135,000) from April 1985 and 7.7 percent (241,000) below October 1985. Unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more and self-employed farm operators accounted for the remaining 1.8 million workers, 5.5 percent (106,000) below April 1985 and 6.9 percent (133,000) below October 1985.

The wage rate for all workers hired directly by farm operators was $4.71 per hour, 20 cents above April last year. Workers paid on an hourly basis averaged $4.52, compared with $4.36 in April 1985. Wage rates for other categories of workers were (with April 1985 comparisons): Field $4.58 ($4.51); Livestock $4.26 ($3.91); and Piece-rate $6.18 ($5.61).

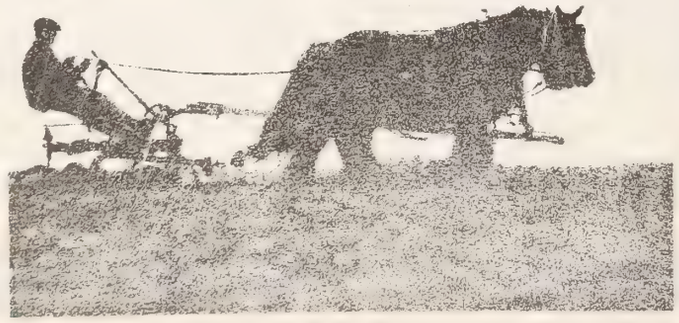
Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 43.6 hours during the survey week, 0.6 hour less than the comparable week in 1985. Other unpaid workers averaged 34.7 hours for the week, down 1.0 hour from last year. Hired workers averaged 38.8 hours, 1.3 hours fewer than last April.

Perquisites such as meals, housing or motor vehicles in addition to cash wages were provided to 46 percent of the April hired workers. Housing was furnished to 13 percent of the labor force. In April 1985, 47 percent of the workers received some type of perquisite.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES, APRIL 6-12, 1986 1/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	Dollars Per Hour							
NORTHEAST I	4.60	3.77	4.11	6.62	4.93	4.62	3/	4.18
NORTHEAST II	4.27	3.64	4.05	7.12	4.45	4.36	4.86	4.28
APPALACHIAN I	3.90	4.23	4.01	7.43	4.04	4.05	3/	5.10
APPALACHIAN II	3.92	4.24	4.04	3/	4.73	4.06	5.41	4.52
SOUTHEAST	3.30	4.10	3.51	6.39	3.48	3.71	3/	3.62
FLORIDA	5.11	4.52	5.00	7.78	5.71	4.52	7.03	6.28
LAKE	4.24	3.37	3.62	3/	4.96	4.03	3/	3.65
CORN BELT I	4.45	4.63	4.56	6.48	4.70	4.66	3/	5.11
CORN BELT II	3.90	3.85	3.88	3/	4.49	4.17	3/	4.07
DELTA	3.68	4.44	3.99	6.33	3.91	3.85	3/	4.61
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.97	4.49	4.74	3/	5.30	4.62	3/	5.09
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.68	4.58	4.65	3/	4.10	4.48	3/	5.02
MOUNTAIN I	4.32	3.57	3.79	5.44	4.36	4.49	3/	3.80
MOUNTAIN II	4.46	5.46	5.07	7.66	6.04	5.60	3/	5.11
MOUNTAIN III	4.73	4.29	4.59	6.89	5.10	4.52	6.15	5.72
PACIFIC	4.70	5.27	4.80	3/	5.90	4.77	3/	6.19
CALIFORNIA	5.04	5.66	5.13	8.75	6.65	5.07	6.60	7.50
HAWAII	6.39	3/	6.36	10.26	3/	6.84	3/	3/
U.S.	4.58	4.26	4.46	7.24	4.80	4.52	6.18	4.92

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: **NORTHEAST I:** CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. **NORTHEAST II:** DE, MD, NJ, PA. **APPALACHIAN I:** NC, VA. **APPALACHIAN II:** KY, TN, WV. **SOUTHEAST I:** AL, GA, SC. **LAKE:** MI, MN, WI. **CORN BELT I:** IL, IN, OH. **CORN BELT II:** IA, MO. **DELTA:** AR, LA, MS. **NORTHERN PLAINS:** KS, NE, ND, SD. **SOUTHERN PLAINS:** OK, TX. **MOUNTAIN I:** ID, MT, WY. **MOUNTAIN II:** CO, NV, UT. **MOUNTAIN III:** AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data.



CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed May 1, 1986 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.08 million head, down 6 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below May 1, 1984.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during April totaled 1.62 million, an increase of 1 percent from last year and 6 percent above April 1984.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States were 1.56 million, an increase of 10 percent from April 1985 and up 3 percent from two years ago. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.44 million were up 12 percent from 1985 and 8 percent above 1984.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 120 thousand compared with 133 thousand during April of 1985 and 194 thousand two years ago.

POTATO STOCKS

Montana potato stocks on hand May 1, 1986 totaled 50,000 cwt, down 67 percent from a year ago and amount to only 3 percent of production.

Nationally, May 1, 1986 potato stocks totaled an estimated 63.4 million cwt, up 21 percent from last year, but below the May 1 stocks created by the heavy 1978 potato production. Current stocks accounted for 19 percent of fall production this year compared with 17 percent remaining last year. April sorting losses and cullage continued high in Western States, running nearly 3 times as high as a year ago.

Western States storages held 42.5 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1986, up 12 percent from last year and 16 percent above 1984. Idaho stocks at 22.5 million cwt were even with last year, but April cullage continued high. Storage operators say about 6 percent of stocks on-hand will not be usable because of frost damage. Washington stocks of 9.7 million cwt were up 39 percent while Oregon holdings of 5.8 million cwt were 29 percent larger than a year ago. Colorado potato stocks totaled 4.7 million cwt, up 40 percent from last year. However, about one-fourth of these holdings are unmarketable under size restrictions and other sorting losses. California holdings at 750 thousand cwt are down 37 percent from last year while Montana's seed stocks are mostly gone.

MILK: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, CASH RECEIPTS and GROSS INCOME, 1984-1985

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1984	1985	1984	1985
Number of Milk Cows 1/	(000) Hd.	28	28	10,833	11,025
Milk Prod. Per Cow 2/	Lbs.	12,179	12,536	12,503	13,031
Total Milk Production	Mil. Lbs.	341	351	135,450	143,667
Milk Used on Farms Where Produced	Mil. Lb.s	22	17	2,938	2,466
Milk Marketed by Farmers	Mil. Lbs.	319	334	132,513	141,201
Milk Sold to Plts & Dealers	Mil. Lbs.	316	331	131,371	139,937
Percent Fluid Grade 3/		97	98	86	87
Price Per 100 Pounds 4/	Dollars	13.80	13.10	13.46	12.75
Cash Receipts from Milk Sold	(000) Dols.	43,608	43,361	17,682,385	17,848,827
Cash Receipts from all Marketings	(000) Dols.	44,375	44,114	17,943,618	18,135,223
Farm Value of Milk Prod. 5/	(000) Dols.	47,436	46,360	18,340,937	18,452,729
Gross Farm Income From Dairy Products	(000) Dols.	45,767	45,039	18,053,449	18,227,568

1/ Average number during year excluding heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves. 3/ Percent of milk sold to plants and dealers that is eligible for fluid use (Grade A in most states). Includes fluid grade milk used in manufacturing dairy products. 4/ Price of milk sold to plants and dealers. 5/ Valued at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. Includes value of milk fed to calves.

Created in January of 1901, Powell County occupies approximately 1,490,758 acres of mostly mountainous terrain in western Montana. Parts of the Flathead, Lolo, Helena, and Deer Lodge National Forests provide beautiful scenery within the boundaries of the county. Powell County is traversed by sections of a number of rivers including the South Fork of the Flathead River, the Blackfoot, Little Blackfoot, and Clark Fork Rivers. Upsata Lake, Coopers Lake, Browns Lake and Nevada Lake are all located in the county also. The well known Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site is located in the southern part of the county.

While not a large agricultural center because of the vast areas of forest land, the county's agricultural industry is diversified. A variety of crops are produced including hay, for which the county ranked 7th in 1984 crop production oats, barley, spring wheat, winter wheat, and some potatoes. Livestock interests include the raising of cattle, for which the county ranked 23rd in the January 1, 1984 inventory, sheep and also hogs.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products brought in $10,528,000 in 1983, while crops contributed $2,329,000. Government payments in the county added $331,000 for cash receipt total of $13,188,000 for Powell County in 1983.

POWELL COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,490,758
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	742,622
Number of Farms 1/		210
CROPS		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	61,200
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,000
Barley	Acres Plntd.	6,200
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	500
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	200
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	89,263
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	72,122
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	61,200
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	1,700
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	1,100

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

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- Crop Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
APRIL 1 GRAIN STOCKS DOWN
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
MFG. DAIRY OUTPUT
RED MEAT PRODUCTION DROPS
APRIL FARM PRICES DECLINE

WINTER WHEAT CROP PROMISING

Montana's production is expected to total 64 million bushels--almost triple last year's drought stricken crop. Good fall moisture at planting time plus a wet cool spring is developing a normal to above normal wheat crop. Winterkill was very light this year due to good stands established last fall before winter set in. This year's May 1 yield forecast at 32 bushels per acre compares with 16 in 1985, 27 in 1984 and 35 in 1983. Acres for harvest at 2.0 million acres are up 43 percent from last year's 1.4 million. In 1983 and 1984 harvest acreage was 2.3 and 2.5 million acres respectively.

WINTER WHEAT SELECTED STATES
MAY 1, 1986

SELECTED STATES	ACRES HARVESTED		PRODUCTION	
	1985	Ind. 1986	1985	Ind. 1986
	--000 Acres--		--000 Bushels--	
ARK	570	600	18,240	21,600
CALIF	750	680	61,500	56,440
COLO	3,450	2,900	134,500	110,200
GA	825	550	25,575	15,400
IDAHO	870	800	46,110	53,600
ILL	750	800	36,750	35,200
IND	700	800	37,100	39,200
KANS	11,400	10,000	433,200	330,000
MO	1,280	520	49,920	18,720
MONT	1,400	2,000	22,400	64,000
NEBR	2,300	2,000	89,700	82,000
OHIO	950	1,020	58,900	53,040
OKLA	5,500	5,200	165,000	145,600
OREG	960	930	51,840	57,660
S DAK	1,520	1,690	44,080	60,840
TEX	5,850	4,600	187,200	119,600
WASH	2,400	2,050	115,200	123,000
U.S.	47,953	42,842	1,827,195	1,603,127

AGENCY NAME CHANGE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture last week changed the name of its Statistical Reporting Service to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The new name more accurately reflects the purpose of the agency and its broad agricultural focus. The agency's Crop Reporting Board was also renamed the Agricultural Statistics Board to closely align with the new agency name and to better describe the scope of the board's responsibility.

The Montana office will drop the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service name and adopt a new name that more closely identifies it with the national office. The Montana office will now be called the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The new name more accurately reflects the wide range of statistical services the office provides. In addition to crop and livestock data, The office provides other information such as farm prices, labor, farm numbers, land in farms and farm finances. The office will continue to operate as a state-federal office under a cooperative agreement with the Montana Department of Agriculture.

WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators on April 1, 1986 totaled 82 million bushels, down 26 percent from a year ago. The April 1 stocks are the lowest amount on hand since 1975 when there were 65 million bushels of wheat stored in the state. The amount held in farm storages was also the lowest since 1975.

Winter wheat stored in the state at 50 million bushels was down 23 percent from April 1, 1985. All spring wheat at 32 million bushels was down 30 percent. The durum wheat portion at 5.3 million was 42 percent below last year.

Due to U.S.D.A. budget reductions for this year, January, April and October stocks estimates of barley and oats are discontinued. End-of-marketing year stocks for these two crops will be made for June 1 only.

(See tables on inside page.)

SURVEY RESULTS

STOCKS OF GRAIN APRIL 1, 1986 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Apr. 1, 1985*	Jan. 1, 1986*	Apr. 1, 1986 6/	% Chg. '86/'85	Apr. 1, 1985*	Jan. 1, 1986*	Apr. 1, 1986 6/
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	80,584	69,331	52,250	-35	713,437	1,011,184	799,408
Off Farms 1/	29,870	35,182	30,000	- 3	953,694	1,514,964	1,324,282
TOTAL	110,454	104,513	82,250	-26	1,667,131	2,526,148	2,123,690
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	44,620	37,027	31,816	-29	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	20,560	22,733	18,220	-11	--	--	--
TOTAL	65,180	59,760	50,036	-23	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	35,964	32,304	20,434	-43	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,300	12,449	11,780	+14	--	--	--
TOTAL	46,264	44,753	32,214	-30	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	81,819	111,608	89,192
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	33,007	38,441	46,590
TOTAL	9,220	6,043	5,322	-42	114,826	150,049	135,782
CORN							
On Farms	345	993	5/	--	2,833,806	5,525,096	3,979,886
Off Farms 1/ 4/	--	--	--	--	1,131,736	2,366,162	1,965,386
TOTAL 4/					3,965,542	7,891,258	5,945,272
OATS							
On Farms	2,448	2,495	--		211,676	310,153	--
Off Farms 1/	130	400	--		44,676	68,426	--
TOTAL	2,578	2,895	--		256,352	378,579	--
BARLEY							
On Farms	20,678	27,600	--		216,721	365,131	--
Off Farms 1/	4,630	8,300	--		103,147	168,449	--
TOTAL	25,308	35,900	--		319,868	533,580	--

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. 5/ Included with other states starting April '86. 6/ Due to U.S.D.A. budget reductions during FY '86, January, April, and October stocks of barley and oats will no longer be estimated. End of market year stocks for June 1st will remain. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT		
	Apr. 1, 1985	Jan. 1, 1986*	Apr. 1, 1986
	-----Million Bushels-----		
Northwest	.7	1.1	.8
North Central	41.5	42.1	32.8
Northeast	34.5	28.6	20.3
Central	13.4	13.0	10.3
Southwest	2.9	4.0	3.5
South Central	9.0	8.0	7.8
Southeast	8.5	7.7	6.7
STATE	110.5	104.5	82.2

1/ These district estimates of wheat stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS MONTANA -- MARCH 31, 1986

PROGRAM	WHEAT 1/		BARLEY	
	1985	1986	1985	1986
	--------000 Bushels-------			
Reserve	56,032	55,388	8,571	8,374
Under Loan	14,257	7,317	2,418	2,663

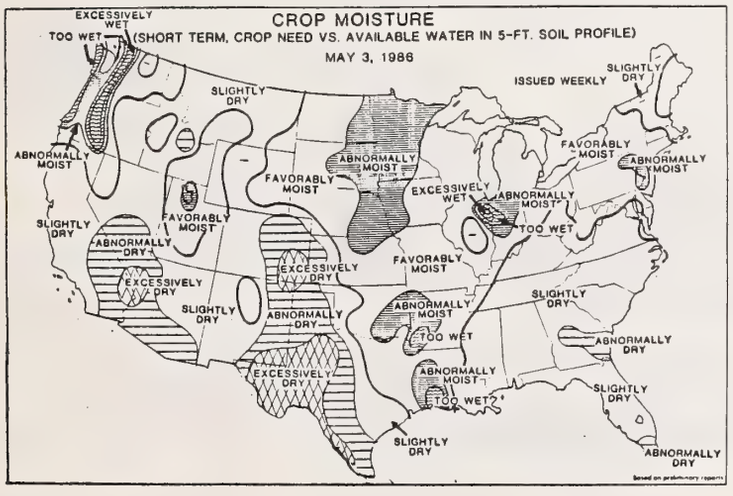
1/ These stocks are included in the April 1 total stocks estimates.

PASTURE & RANGE

Montana's overall pasture and range condition on May 1 had a pretty wide range. the poorest condition was reported in the northeastern part of the state. Grass growth has been slow this spring due to the cool weather. However, most pastures and ranges are green across the state which is much different than last year at this time. As of May 1, about 55 percent of the livestock in the state were still receiving some supplemental feed.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION--MAY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1984	1985	1986
Northwest	92	82	86
North Central	68	54	85
Northeast	44	36	67
Central	81	67	79
Southwest	92	89	85
South Central	82	75	83
Southeast	68	77	75
STATE	74	68	80



MARCH LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in March 1986, 11 percent less than March 1985.

Cattle slaughter was 1,900 head, 10 percent less than last year. Hog slaughter at 2,400 head was unchanged from March a year ago.

Nationally red meat production during March was 3.13 billion pounds, down 1 percent from March 1985. Beef production at 1.86 billion pounds was virtually unchanged from the previous year. Veal production at 43.0 million pounds was up 8 percent and pork production at 1.20 billion pounds declined 3 percent. Lamb and mutton production at 32.0 million pounds was down 3 percent from March a year ago.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
BY DISTRICTS -- MAY 1, 1986 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1985	Ind. 1986	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	638	480	-25
N. CENTRAL	9,470	30,030	+217
NORTHEAST	1,379	6,160	+347
CENTRAL	3,815	12,480	+227
SOUTHWEST	845	7,650	+125
S. CENTRAL	3,394	7,650	+125
SOUTHEAST	2,859	5,880	+106
STATE	22,400	64,000	+186

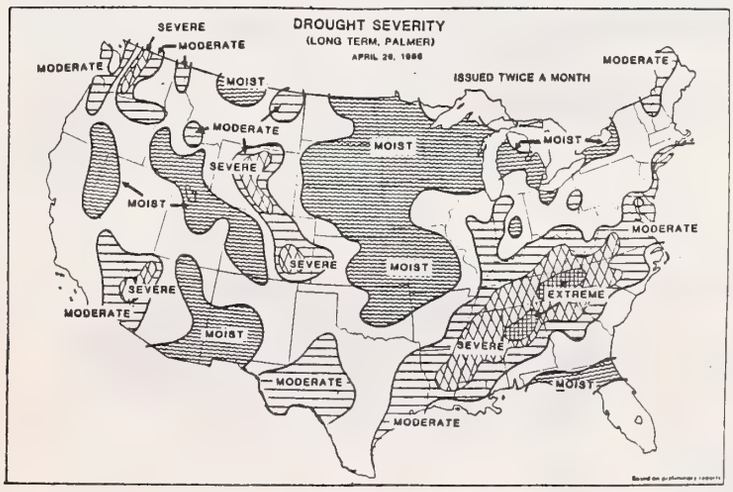
1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches as of May 1 were 331,000 tons--the lowest for this date since 1962. The 10 year average for May 1 hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches is 892,000 tons. This year's low level was caused by drought during the last two growing seasons which cut yields and also reduced the acreage cut for hay.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 157,000 gallons of ice cream during March, 1 percent more than in March 1985. Creamed cottage cheese production at 326,000 pounds was 4 percent less than a year ago. Butter output at 165,000 pounds was up 2 percent. American cheese production at 283,000 pounds was up 48 percent from the same month a year ago.



APRIL FARM PRICES

The April 1986 Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers was down 5 points from last month and 10 points below April 1985.

Prices received for wool were up from last month; durum wheat and hay were unchanged; all other items were down. Compared with last year's April prices, spring wheat, hay and wool were up, eggs were unchanged, all other items were down. Cow prices lead the decline with a $6.80 per hundredweight reduction from last year.

Nationally, the April Index of Prices Received by farmers for all farm products decreased 2 points from March to 120 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for eggs, cattle, hogs, wheat, and milk were partially offset by higher prices for lettuce, potatoes, and tomatoes. The index was 12 points below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for April was 160 percent of its 1977 average. The index declined 3 points from February and was 4 points below a year earlier. Lower prices for fuels and energy, feeder livestock and seeds accounted for most of the decline. The fuels and energy index was the lowest since December 1979.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Farm Labor

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Apr. 15,	Apr. 15,
		Apr. 1985	Mar. 1986	1986	1986
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.38	3.22	3.20	3.03
Durum	Bu.	3.40	3.15	3.15	3.25
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.88	3.85	3.44
All Wheat	Bu.	3.51	3.55	3.52	3.16
Barley	Bu.	2.13	1.93	1.88	1.86
Oats	Bu.	1.95	1.55	1.50	1.07
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	83.00	90.00	90.00	72.70
All Other Hay	Ton	73.00	85.00	85.00	56.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	82.00	90.00	90.00	69.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt	61.40	55.50	52.30	55.00
Cows	Cwt	39.70	37.90	32.90	33.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	52.70	49.30	46.50	51.30
Calves	Cwt	67.60	60.60	58.50	61.00
Sheep	Cwt	18.70	18.40	15.00	23.10
Lambs	Cwt	56.80	59.60	55.00	67.00
Hogs	Cwt	36.10	34.80	33.50	39.30
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	12.72	12.54	12.00
Eggs	Doz	.500	.670	.500	.505
Wool 2/	Lb.	.680	.700	.750	.678
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	151	145	141	120
All Crops	Pct.	147	147	146	112
Livestock & Products	Pct.	154	144	137	128

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Apr. 1985	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	132	122	120
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	--	160
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	80	75 5/	75
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	53	--	50

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index, ratio derived using the most recent Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices. 5/ Ratio derived using the most recent prices paid index.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

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P.O. Box 4369
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Phone: 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

MILK PRODUCTION
'85 SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES
FEWER POTATOES IN STORAGE
POULTRY RECEIPTS DROP
featuring.....GRANITE COUNTY

SURVEY RESULTS

MORE MILK PRODUCED IN MONTANA

Montana dairymen produced 84 million pounds of milk in the first quarter of 1986. This is 2 percent above the same period in 1985. The number of milk cows remained the same as last year at 28,000 head. Dairymen fed 14.5 pounds of grain and concentrates per cow, the same as last year.

Nationally, milk production in the January-March quarter totaled 36.2 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the comparable period in 1985. The total number of milk cows in the nation's herds averaged 11.1 million head in March, 3% above March 1985.

SURVEY RESULTS

MONTANA SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES DOWN

Montana sheepmen lost 127,000 sheep and lambs in 1985 to weather, predators, disease and other causes--29 percent less than in 1984. Weather related deaths were sharply lower than last year, but other causes were up.

The value of the loss came to $5.95 million. This is a 24 percent decrease from 1984. Predators claimed $2.5 million, non-predator factors $2.7 million, and unknown causes claimed $.8 million of the total loss.

Coyotes remain the major predator on the sheep and lamb population. A $1.99 million loss was attributed to coyotes.

Weather losses in 1985 were down considerably from 1984. Only 2,000 sheep and 12,100 lambs were lost to weather in 1985, as compared with 26,700 sheep and 46,100 lambs lost in 1984 to severe weather.

Total predator losses remained the same as the year before at 51,700. Coyotes accounted for a larger percentage of kills in 1985 at 80 percent, compared with 74 percent in 1984.

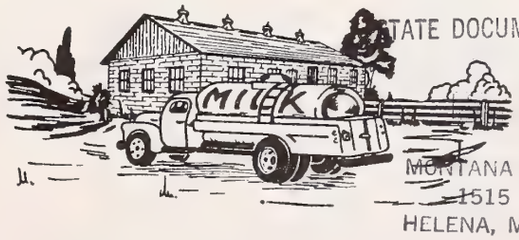
SURVEY FUNDED BY MONTANA WOOL GROWERS ASSN.

(SEE TABLES & CHART ON INSIDE PAGES.)

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION
JANUARY-MARCH

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1985	1986	1985	1986
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	981	1,037	3,840	4,198
IDAHO	166	173	526	569
MINN	895	943	2,681	2,849
MONT	28	28	82	84
N DAK	97	102	254	282
ORE	96	102	320	347
S DAK	161	162	409	434
WASH	213	224	862	948
WISC	1,839	1,881	5,811	6,244
WYO	11.7	11.2	31.6	31.7
U.S.	10,824	11,144	33,745	36,232

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.



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PERCENT OF TOTAL SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES
BY CAUSE and SIZE OF FLOCK -- MONTANA 1985

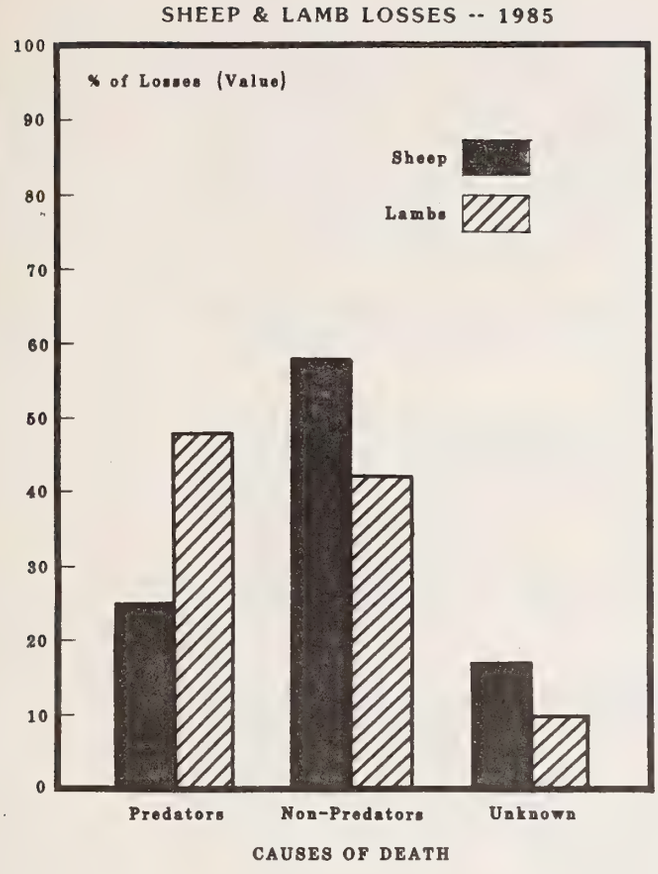
CAUSE	SIZE OF FLOCK					
	1-49	50-299	300-999	1,000-4,000	5,000+	Total
	Percent					
Predators						
Coyotes	5	28	41	32	40	34
Fox	--	1	2	5	2	4
Eagle	1	2	2	2	2	2
Bear	--	*	*	1	7	1
Dog	18	4	1	1	--	1
Bobcat	--	--	--	*	*	*
Mountain Lion	--	*	--	*	1	*
TOTAL PREDATORS	24	35	46	41	52	42
Non-Predators						
Weather	13	11	11	12	3	11
Disease	13	11	7	9	2	8
Poison	*	*	1	3	3	3
Lambing Complication	27	15	14	8	15	11
On Back	*	1	3	2	1	2
Old Age	7	9	5	4	4	5
Theft	--	1	--	6	--	3
Other Non-Predator	4	9	3	2	9	3
TOTAL NON-PREDATOR	64	57	44	46	37	46
UNKNOWN	12	8	10	13	11	12
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	100	100	100	100	100	100

*Less than 1 percent.

MONTANA HISTORIC SHEEP & LAMB DEATH LOSSES

		1968	1969	1974	1982	1983	1984	1985
Sheep & Lambs 1/	000 Hd.	1,250	1,178	750	616	600	564	515
Pred. Death Loss	000 Hd.	85.0	68.0	143.5	50.1	34.4	51.7	51.7
Value Pred. Loss	000 Dol.	1,511.4	1,375.0	3,625.7	1,837.7	1,267.4	2,275.4	2,469.5
Non-Pred. Death Loss	000 Hd.	218.0	376.0	138.6	77.0	73.0	111.7	59.8
Value Non-Pred. Loss	000 Dol.	4,120.0	7,970.0	3,698.1	3,030.2	2,804.2	4,847.6	2,704.6
Unknown Death Loss	000 Hd.	2/	2/	2/	18.9	12.6	16.6	15.5
Value Unknown Loss	000 Dol.	2/	2/	2/	731.7	510.7	743.0	776.1
Total Death Loss 3/	000 Hd.	303.0	444.0	282.1	146.0	120.0	180.0	127.0
Value Death Loss 4/	000 Dol.	5,631.4	9,345.0	7,318.8	5,599.6	4,582.3	7,866.0	5,950.2

1/ On farms and ranches January 1. 2/ 1968-74 unknown death loss included in predator and non-predator totals. 3/ For entire year. 4/ Value lambs equal to September, October, November average price received converted to 70 lb. lamb. Value sheep equal to January inventory value Ewes 1+.



POTATO STOCKS

Montana potato stocks on hand April 1, 1986 totaled 1.10 million cwt, down 7 percent from a year ago and amount to 58 percent of production.

Nationally, April 1 potato stocks totaled an estimated 103 million cwt, up 19 percent from last year and 26 percent above two years ago. Cullage and sorting losses continue to run high in Western States, now reaching nearly two and one-half times last year's level. Stocks account for 30 percent of fall production this season compared with 28 percent a year earlier.

The Western States stored 68.9 million cwt of potatoes this month, up 14 percent from last year and 18 percent above two years ago. After heavy sorting, Idaho storages hold 35.0 million cwt, up barely 3 percent from last year. Farmers indicate about 7.5 percent of these potatoes have frost damage and will be unusable. Colorado stocks totaled 7.10 million cwt, up 31 percent from last year. Increased size standards, frost damage, and low prices will likely lead to abandonment of as much as one-fourth of remaining stocks. Washington with 16.2 million cwt and Oregon with 8.0 million cwt show gains of 43 percent and 25 percent, respectively, from year earlier stocks. California and Montana are below last year's storage level by 21 percent and 7 percent.

POULTRY RECEIPTS DOWN

Montana egg production in 1985 was valued at $8.6 million, 19 percent below last year inspite of a 2 percent increase in egg production. The average price was 51.0 cents per dozen, 20 percent less than the previous year.

Chickens sold in 1985, excluding broilers, brought producers $168,000. The average price received, mostly for spent laying hens, was 7 cents per pound.

Nationally, value of egg production in 1985 was $3.25 billion, down 21 percent from 1984. In 1985, eggs averaged 57.1 cents per dozen, compared with 72.3 cents in 1984.

CHICKENS & EGGS: PRODUCTION, SALES and VALUE -- 1984-1985

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1984	1985	1984	1985
CHICKENS					
Lost	000 Head	200	100	46,229	37,502
Sold	000 Head	580	600	224,664	220,195
Pounds Sold	000 Lbs.	2,320	2,400	1,067,729	1,028,348
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	8.0	7.0	15.9	14.8
Value of Sales	000 Dols.	186	168	169,732	152,060
EGGS					
Produced	Million	198	202	68,230	68,407
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	64.0	51.0	72.3	57.1
Value of Prod.	000 Dols.	10,560	8,585	4,110,920	3,252,519

featuring. . . . . GRANITE COUNTY

Granite County occupies approximately 1,106,681 acres of western Montana. Its terrain is largely mountainous, and comprised of sections of the Deer Lodge National Forest. The Continental Divide crosses its southeastern boundary, while the Sapphire Mountains define the western edge of the county. A section of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness area lies along the southeastern border. The Clark Fork River crosses the northern section of Granite County, while Rock Creek traverses the entire length of the county in the west. Georgetown Lake, a popular fishing spot, lies along the southeastern border.

Approximately 30 percent of Granite County's acreage is in farms and most cropland is irrigated. Hay was the major crop harvested in the county in 1984, but barley, oats, and spring wheat are also produced here.

Livestock interests are also varied, with Granite County ranking 36th among the cattle producing counties in the January 1, 1984 inventory. The county also came in 47th in the January 1, 1984 sheep count, and 56th among the hog producing counties in the December 1, 1983 inventory.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock brought in $8,858,000 in 1983. Crops receipts added $1,159,000, and government payments came to $72,000 for a cash receipt total of $10,089,000 in 1983.

GRANITE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,106,681
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	340,040
Number of Farms 1/		153
CROPS		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	36,600
Oats	Acres Plntd.	300
Barley	Acres Plntd.	600
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	300

	UNIT	1984
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	44,979
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	43,222
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	38,000
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	1,300
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	100

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Grain Stocks
Crop Production
Winter Wheat Prod., Hay Stocks, Pasture & Range
*Milk--Prod., Disp and Income
Slaughter

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

1985 WOOL PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS
WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT
WHEAT UTILIZATION
MARKETINGS & CASH RECEIPTS FOR MEAT ANIMALS
AG PRICES UP
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

SURVEY RESULTS

MONTANA WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana wool growers produced 5.1 million pounds of wool in 1985, 11 percent less than the previous year. The value of this year's wool clip dropped 34 percent as production declined and the average price per pound fell from 91 cents in 1984 to 67 cents in 1985. Value of the 1985 Montana wool clip was $3.4 million.

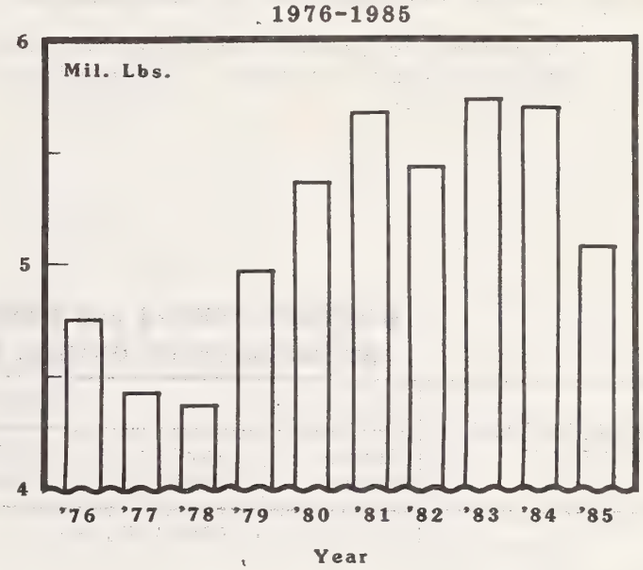
Montana ranked number 6 among all wool producing states, in terms of total wool production. However, Montana growers produced the second heaviest average fleece weight, out-ranked only by Nevada.

The U.S. average fleece weight was 7.83 pounds, while Montana averaged 9.9 pounds, and Nevada was 10.2.

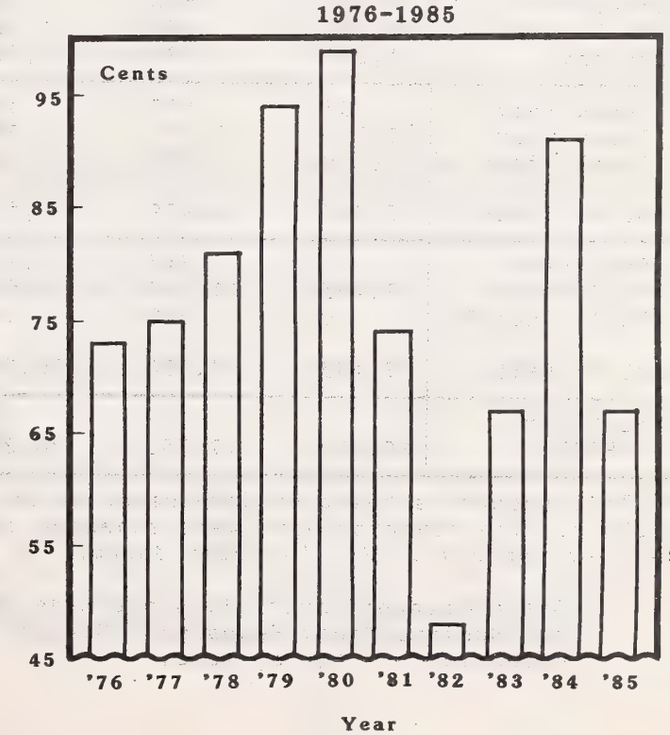
WOOL PRODUCTION and VALUE 1984-1985

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		U.S.	
		1984	1985	1984	1985
Sheep Shorn	000 Hd.	585.0	510.0	12,284.3	11,235.6
Weight per Fleece	Lbs.	9.7	9.9	7.77	7.83
Wool Prod.	000 Lbs.	5,700.0	5,074.0	95,471.0	87,966.0
Price per Lb.	Cents	91.0	67.0	79.5	63.3
Value	000 Dol.	5,187.0	3,400.0	75,876.0	55,690.0

MONTANA WOOL PRODUCTION
1976-1985



MONTANA WOOL PRICE PER POUND
1976-1985



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WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations June-November 1985 was 34 percent below the same period last year. Rail movement amounted to 20.7 million bushels, down from the 31.1 million in 1984. Trucks carried 7.5 million bushels compared with 11.5 million the previous June-November period.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 38 percent below the previous period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was up 69 percent. Shipments to other destinations were up 49 percent.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations June-November 1985 was 40 percent below the same period last year at 7.8 million bushels.

Movement to eastern destinations was 65 percent below the June-November 1984 volume. Movement west was down 15 percent and other destinations were 46 percent below the previous year.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY SHIPPED OUT OF STATE
BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE and DESTINATION 1/

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT	JUNE-NOVEMBER 1985					
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Chg. from Last Year	Barley	Chg. from Last Year
	--(000) Bu.--			%	(000 Bu.)	%
Northwest	71	62	133	-68	91	-55
North Central	4,498	7,815	12,313	-38	3,545	-46
Northeast	1,022	6,556	7,578	-12	75	-93
Central	2,021	1,495	3,516	-42	2,633	-20
Southwest	391	608	999	+21	1,186	+17
South Central	1,233	652	1,885	-65	209	-66
Southeast	1,286	571	1,857	+39	65	+16
Truck East	33	537	570	-15	216	-74
Truck West	3,015	3,571	6,586	-34	2,525	-21
Truck Other 3/	19	371	390	-54	553	-29
TOTAL BY TRUCK	3,067	4,479	7,546	-34	3,294	-32
Rail East	0	1,247	1,247	+211	1,844	-63
Rail West	7,455	11,157	18,612	-39	2,626	- 7
Rail Other 3/	0	876	876	+12514	40	-87
TOTAL BY RAIL	7,455	13,280	20,735	-33	4,510	-45
TOTAL GRAIN SHIPPED	10,522	17,759	28,281	-33	7,804	-40

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown.

Grain Movement statistics are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee through the Montana Department of Agriculture.

WHEAT UTILIZATION

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in the 1984 marketing year (June 1984-May 1985) is estimated at 91.2 million bushels. This is 87 percent of total disappearance. The amount shipped to the Pacific Northwest was 79.7 million bushels--39 percent less than in the 1983 marketing year.

Montana wheat milled for flour in the Pacific Northwest was down 4 percent. The amount exported to overseas destinations from the Pacific Northwest ports declined 45 percent from the previous year. Montana's share of total hard red wheat and durum exported from the Pacific ports dropped to 37%, the lowest since the 1973 marketing year.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS and UTILIZATION 1980-1984 MARKETING YEARS

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
SUPPLY			Million Bushels		
Beginning stocks 1/	74.6	75.8	88.3	113.8	93.6
Production	119.8	172.8	180.3	136.9	104.7
Total Supply	194.4	248.6	268.6	250.7	198.3
DISPOSITION					
Recorded movement out of State 2/	95.0	115.4	138.2	134.3	88.3
Milled for flour in Montana	7.9	8.9	7.7	6.9	6.4
Used for seed in Montana	6.4	6.0	5.0	5.3	5.6
Used for livestock feed 3/	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	7.4	28.2	2.0	8.6	2.9
Total Disposition	118.6	160.3	154.8	157.1	105.2
Ending stocks 1/	75.8	88.3	113.8	93.6	93.1

1/ Farm, commercial--June 1 stocks.
2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers, special survey of truck destinations and barge traffic.
3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills and purchased by other farmers for feed.
4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION and EXPORTS 1/ BY MARKETING YEARS 1980-1984

ITEM	Marketing Year 2/ 1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
	----------Million Bushels--------				
Beginning Stocks 3/	74.6	75.8	88.3	113.8	93.6
Production	119.8	172.8	180.3	136.9	104.7
Ending stocks 3/	-75.8	-88.3	-113.8	-93.6	-93.1
Total Disposition 4/	118.6	160.3	154.8	157.1	105.2
Shipments of wheat into Pacific NW 5/ (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance)	90.2	135.5	134.0	129.9	79.7
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific NS (includes bulgar) 6/	21.1	20.5	18.6	19.6	18.9
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific NW ports 7/	69.1	115.0	115.4	110.3	60.8
Percent of total disposition	58%	72%	75%	70%	58%
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter and Durum from Pacific NW ports	179.0	166.5	216.2	181.2	163.5
Montana exports as percent of total HRS, HRW and Durum exports from Pacific NW ports	39%	69%	53%	61%	37%

1/ Pacific Northwest--Oregon and Washington.
2/ June 1 - May 31.
3/ June 1 stocks.
4/ Beginning stocks plus production minus ending stocks.
5/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project.
6/ Total Pacific NW wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington or other states.
7/ Estimated Montana wheat shipped to Pacific NW minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific NW.

Funds for Wheat Utilization were furnished by the Montana Wheat Commission.

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS -- 1984-1985

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1984	MONTANA 1985	UNITED STATES 1984	UNITED STATES 1985
CATTLE & CALVES					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,197.6	1,370.5	54,644.8	53,901.4
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	47.20	47.60	57.30	53.70
Calves	Dols./Cwt	60.90	62.20	59.90	62.10
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	597.8	689.3	30,664.4	28,741.7
HOGS & PIGS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	60.9	56.7	20,490.9	20,326.4
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	43.90	38.50	47.10	44.00
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	26.9	22.0	9,703.4	9,014.1
SHEEP & LAMBS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	42.4	46.9	944.6	872.6
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	14.30	17.60	16.40	23.90
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	60.30	66.80	60.10	67.70
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	19.3	23.1	466.5	502.8

MARCH FARM PRICES UP SLIGHTLY

The Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers in March 1986 was up one point from the previous month at 147 percent of its January-December 1977 average.

Higher prices received for barley, hay, steers and heifers, calves, sheep, eggs, and wool more than offset lower prices for wheat, oats, cows, lambs, hogs, and milk. Compared with March last year the index is down 3 points. Most items are below last year, only spring wheat, barley, hay, sheep, eggs, and wool were above last year.

Nationally, the Index of Prices Received by Farmers for all farm products decreased 1 point from February to 121 percent of its 1977 average. The index is now 13 points below last year.

A 2 point drop in the Livestock and Livestock Products Index was partially offset by an increase in the poultry and egg index. The March All Crops Index was unchanged from a month earlier.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Mar. 15, 1986	Mar. 15, 1986
		Mar. 1985	Feb. 1986		
PRICES RECEIVED		Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.39	3.36	3.30	3.03
Durum	Bu.	3.51	3.20	3.20	3.20
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.84	3.75	3.38
All Wheat	Bu.	3.49	3.55	3.49	3.11
Barley	Bu.	2.11	2.10	2.19	1.90
Oats	Bu.	2.07	1.47	1.45	1.15
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	80.00	90.00	90.00	71.80
All Other Hay	Ton	70.00	82.00	85.00	58.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	79.00	89.00	90.00	68.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	60.90	58.00	58.80	55.00
Cows	Cwt	40.90	38.50	38.20	36.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	51.90	49.60	51.60	51.80
Calves	Cwt	65.80	59.90	61.00	62.60
Sheep	Cwt	18.60	22.50	23.60	26.20
Lambs	Cwt	66.50	69.60	65.50	68.80
Hogs	Cwt	38.50	36.50	35.30	40.70
All Milk	Cwt	13.70	12.90	12.80	12.20
Eggs	Doz	.620	.580	.670	.617
Wool 2/	Lb.	.650	.650	.700	.617
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	150	146	147	121
All Crops	Pct.	146	150	147	111
Livestock & Products	Pct.	152	144	148	131

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Mar. 1985	Feb. 1986	Mar. 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	134	122	121
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	163	
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	82	75	74
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	50	

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index, ratio derived using the most recent Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 128,000 gallons of ice cream during February--8 percent more than in February 1985. Creamed cottage cheese production at 305,000 pounds was 1 percent less than a year ago. Butter output at 168,000 pounds was down 7 percent. American cheese production at 268,000 pounds was 19 percent above the same month a year ago.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Potato Stocks
*Poultry--Prod., Disp., and Income

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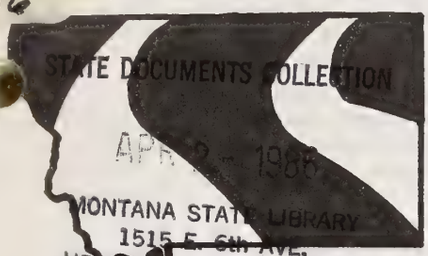

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Phone: 406/449-5303

SURVEY RESULTS

HIGHLIGHTS:

SPRING PLANTING INTENTIONS
NEWS ON THE '86 FARM PROGRAMS
MONTANA POTATO STOCKS DOWN
BUDGET REDUCTION EFFECTS SRS PROGRAMS
RED MEAT PRODUCTION
EGG PRODUCTION DECLINES
featuring.....PARK COUNTY

SPRING PLANTING INTENTIONS

Montana farmers, faced with sharp acreage reduction requirements under the new farm program, are intending to plant 18 percent fewer acres of small grains than last year. This assessment was based on farmer's analysis of conditions and programs as of March 1, and could change before final planting. Soil moisture going into the spring planting season is mostly adequate--contrasting sharply with the early drouth of a year ago.

The intended all wheat acreage, including winter wheat already seeded, at 4.4 million bushels is down 22 percent. Barley acrage is expected to be down only 4 percent--perhaps reflecting the need to build up feed and malting stocks badly depleted by both drouth and sprout damage a year ago. Montana farmers also intend to cut 13 percent more hay acres than last year in order to replenish stocks.

Corn and sugarbeet acreages are expected to increase while dry bean acreage is pointed down--mainly in response to price prospects for these crops.

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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS -- MARCH 1, 1986

CROP	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1985	Indicated 1986	1986/85	1985	Indicated 1986	1986/85
	----000 Acres---		-Pct.-	-----000 Acres-----		-Pct.-
Winter Wheat 1/	2,460	2,150	-13	57,752	53,992	- 7
Hard Spring Wheat	3,000	2,100	-30	14,616	14,189	- 3
Durum	200	180	-10	3,207	2,920	- 9
All Wheat	5,660	4,430	-22	75,575	71,101	- 6
Oats	225	225	NC	13,270	14,435	+ 9
Barley	2,350	2,250	- 4	13,106	12,859	- 2
Corn	84	88	+ 5	83,348	78,066	- 6
Sugarbeets	43.5	48.0	+10	1,125	1,186	+ 6
Dry Beans	3.4	3.0	-12	1,576	1,745	+11
All Hay 2/	1,950	2,200	+13	60,553	60,933	+ 1

1/ Seeded last fall. 2/ Acres for harvest.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MARCH 1 POTATO STOCKS

Total stocks of potatoes in Montana on March 1, at 1,300,000 cwt were 25 percent below a year ago.

Nationally, March 1, 1986 potato stocks totaled an estimated 137 million cwt, up 16 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. Heavy cullage continues in Western States where shrinkage and sorting losses are more than double last season. Stocks on-hand now account for 40 percent of fall production in the 15 storage States compared with 39 percent last March 1.

The six Western States stored a total of 90.5 million cwt on March 1, 1986. This is 15 percent above last year and 18 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks at 46.0 million cwt are 11 percent above last year. Very heavy sorting is being done on potatoes still showing frost damage from last October. In addition, reports indicate that 11 percent of potatoes still in storage are frost damaged. Washington storages contained 21.0 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 27 percent above last year. Oregon stocks, at 10.5 million cwt, were up 21 percent, and in Colorado, stocks of 9.35 million cwt were up 31 percent. California and Montana show 15 and 25 percent fewer potatoes on hand, respectively, than a year ago.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION

Montana poultrymen produced 49 million eggs in the December-February quarter--4 percent less than the previous quarter, but 4 percent more than in the same period a year ago.

The average number of layers in the flocks during the quarter was 788,000, 3 percent less than the previous quarter, but the same as a year ago.

The Nation's laying flock decreased 1 percent in size compared with last year and egg production was down 1 percent.

AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATING PROGRAM CHANGES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Statistical Reporting Service had to modify portions of its crop, dairy, poultry, and prices paid estimating program because of reduced funding levels in fiscal year 1986. the program modifications resulted in the following adjustments that had to be made to SRS programs in Montana.

*Discontinue production forecasts of winter wheat in September and hard spring and durum in October.

*Discontinue production forecasts of barley and oats in July.

*Discontinue quarterly on and off farm stocks estimates for barley and oats, except for an end-of-marketing year estimate in June.

*Change quarterly schedule of grain stocks surveys:

FROM: January, April, June, October
TO: December, March, June, September

*Prospective plantings survey will be changed from February 1 to March 1.

*Pasture and range condition maps will be replaced by crop moisture maps from the National Weather Service.

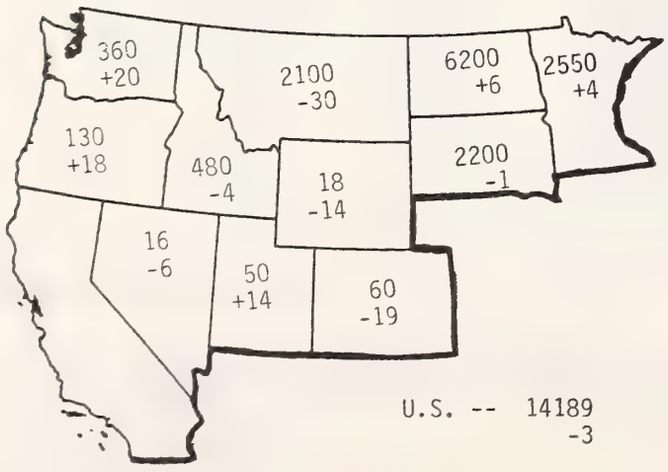
*Discontinue all fertilizer production and consumption statistics published by SRS.

*The frequency of several surveys measuring prices paid by farmers will be reduced.

More detail about the program modifications can be obtained by contacting our office.

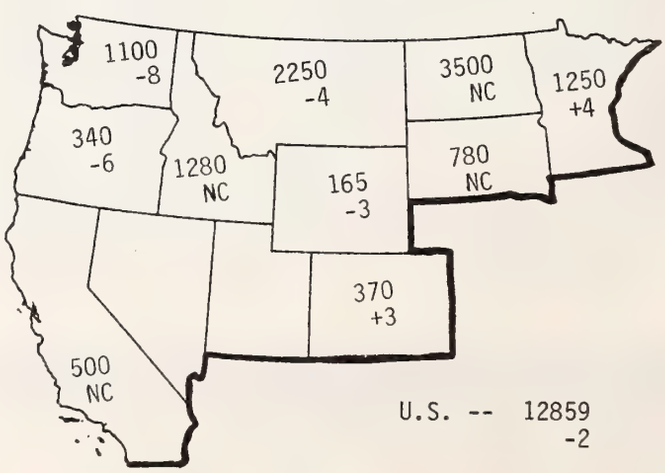
1986 OTHER SPRING WHEAT PLANTING INTENTIONS

000 Acres & Percent Change Change From 1985



1986 BARLEY PLANTING INTENTIONS

000 Acres & Percent Change From 1985



FARM INCOME, PRODUCTION COSTS & THE FARM BILL

The Food Security Act of 1985 begins a 5-year Federal Government program to allow U.S. prices for wheat, feed grains, cotton, and rice to become competitive on the world market. Loan rates are more closely linked to market prices than under the last farm bill, although target prices are frozen for 1986 and 1987 to bolster farm income. The act also authorizes a conservation reserve of up to 45 million acres. Farmers will recieve an annual rental payment in return for placing land in the reserve for 10 years.

Lower crop loan rates are designed to boost use of U.S. commodities. The bill's success hinges on whether competitive prices will raise exports enough to reduce American grain and cotton farmers' reliance on farm programs.

Exports in 1986/87 will likely increase significantly, but 1985/86 export movement has slowed for several commodities. Traders are sorting out the implications of the new commodity programs and awaiting announcement of additional details, especially on rice and cotton. Summer-quarter corn sales will likely slow considerably as importers delay purchases until fall in anticipation of sharply reduced prices.

The farm bill's biggest impact on milk production will probably come from the herd buyout program. The bill aims to remove 12 billion pounds of production capacity by September 1987. Despite the extra animals from the buyout program, cow slaughter for 1986 may still be down somewhat from a year earlier, because of continuing declines in the beef cow inventory.

Net farm income in 1986 is forecast to decline again. A large drop projected for total expenses will be offset by a decline in crop marketing receipts and a lower value of inventory change. Net farm income is currently forecast to total between $21 and $25 billion, following the expected $29 to $32 billion in 1985 and the record $34.5 billion in 1984. Net cash income is forecast at $37-$41 billion, down from last year's forecast record $41-$44 billion, but about even with 1984's $39.2 billion. Cash income will be supported by higher livestock prices and large Government payments to crop farmers.

The prices of major production inputs fell in 1985 and are forecast to continue falling in 1986. As a result, 1986 variable expenses for crop production should average 1 to 2 percent lower. Livestock production expenses, which include feed costs, will decline significantly.

THE 1986 WHEAT and BARLEY PROGRAMS

In recent years the majority of Montana's grain producers elected to participate in the wheat program only. Many elected not to participate in the barley program; however, they did produce barley and certify their barley acreage with ASCS. For many grain producers, this pattern of participation may change with the 1986 wheat and barley programs.

This year grain producers with substantial wheat and barley bases may want to consider participation in both programs. There are different options available and producers will have to find the one that best suits their own operation. Producers can find help in evaluating different aspects of the programs by contacting their local County Extension offices. Worksheets are available that will help evaluate individual or joint participation in the 1986 wheat and barley programs. You'll need the following basic information about your operation to make an accurate evaluation:

--Wheat and barley bases,
--ASCS wheat and barley program yields,
--Expected prices for wheat, barley and non-program crops,
--Variable production costs for wheat, barley and non-program crops.

Contact your local County Extension office for more help on this.

FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in February 1986, 27 percent less than January and 62 percent less than February a year ago.

Cattle slaughter was 1,700 head, 65 percent less than last year. Hog slaughter was 2,000 head, 9 percent fewer than February 1985.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in February 1986 totaled 2.94 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from February 1985. **BEEF PRODUCTION,** at 1.77 billion pounds was virtually unchanged from the previous year. Average live weight increased 20 pounds to 1,107. **VEAL PRODUCTION,** at 40 million pounds, was up 8 percent. **PORK PRODUCTION,** at 1.10 billion pounds declined 1 percent. Average live weight increased 1 pound to 243. **LAMB AND MUTTON PRODUCTION,** at 27 million pounds, was down 4 percent. Average live weight increased 3 pounds to 118.

featuring. . . . . PARK COUNTY

Park County is located in south central Montana, along the Montana/Wyoming border. Almost the entire southern boundary of the county makes up the northern border of Yellowstone Park. The Yellowstone and Shields Rivers traverse the length of Park County and join near Livingston, Montana where they continue east into neighboring Sweet Grass County. Nearly two-thirds of the county is blanketed by the mountains of the Gallatin National Forest, which includes a major portion of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area. The highest point in Montana, Granite Peak, with an elevation of 12,799 feet is located in eastern Park County.

Farmers harvested crops from 50,800 acres of irrigated land in Park County in 1984, compared with 35,700 acres of dryland crops. The major crop produced is hay, followed by barley and winter wheat. Cash receipts from the sale of crop items brought Park County $4,563,000 in 1983.

Cattle, sheep, and hogs are all raised in the county. Receipts from the sale of livestock and their products contributed $14,969,000 to the county's economy in 1983. Government payments added $821,000 making a total of $20,353,000 from Park County's agricultural production.

PARK COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,705,382
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	780,727
Number of Farms 1/		398
CROPS		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	56,500
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,500
Barley	Acres Plntd.	16,300
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	12,800
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	1,500

	UNIT	1984
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	126,858
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	53,576
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	61,200
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	4,500
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	1,700

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wool Production
Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Wheat & Barley Movement
Meat Animals--Prod., Disp. and Income

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

PRELIMINARY CASH RECEIPT DATA
END TO THE DROUGHT IN SIGHT??
WHEAT FACTS
FEBRUARY AG PRICES
MFG. DAIRY OUTPUT DOWN
featuring.....ROOSEVELT COUNTY

FEBRUARY WEATHER: MAKING THINGS LOOK BETTER

This is the time of year when ranchers are busy with calving and lambing. Farmers are tuning up their tractors and getting seed and fertilizer lined up for spring planting. The big question still weighing on everybody's mid is, "Will the drouth cycle be broken this year?" Everyone has their own opinion and they cite ocean currents, sunspots, snowpack, and Aunt Maude's rheumatism as good reasons for their particular forecast.

Based on this year's February crop weather report, the moisture situation is much better than a year ago. Precipitation during February was normal to above normal in all but three of our 42 weather stations. A year ago we had only five stations with normal to above normal moisture. February temperatures were about normal west of the Divide and 3 to 10 degrees below normal east of the Divide. This put heavy demands on the State's short feed supply. By the end of the month, calving was 25 percent complete while lambing was about 20 percent done. The winter wheat crop was rated in fair to good condition by our reporters. Snowcover provided more protection for the crop this year than a year ago.

Yes, spring work will start soon and a new cycle will begin. We're all cautiously optimistic that the spring rains will arrive this year. We simple can't afford another year of drouth.

MONTANA CASH RECEIPTS DOWN

Preliminary cash receipts data indicate Montana farmers and ranchers have taken in 4 percent less from the sale of commodities in 1985 than in 1984. Livestock receipts are up 1 percent, but crop receipts show a 9 percent drop.

CASH RECEIPTS -- MONTANA

ITEM	1983	1984	1985 1/
	------Million Dollars------		
Livestock	657.3	772.4	779.8
Crops	832.1	647.0	585.9
Total From Mktngs. 2/	1489.4	1419.4	1365.7

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Excludes government payments.

Agriculture Day • March 20, 1986

AGRICULTURE
America's Heartbeat
Vital to Us All

March 20 to be Designated 'National Agriculture Day'

Thanks to a recently-passed joint congressional resolution, President Reagan once again has the authority to declare the first day of spring—March 20—as "National Agriculture Day."

Agriculture Day, initiated in 1973 by several agricultural publications, organizations and companies, was first made an official observance in 1981. The Agriculture Council of America serves as national coordinator of Agriculture Day, which is observed primarily at the city and community level with activities organized by hundreds of producers, other agricultural businesses and students.

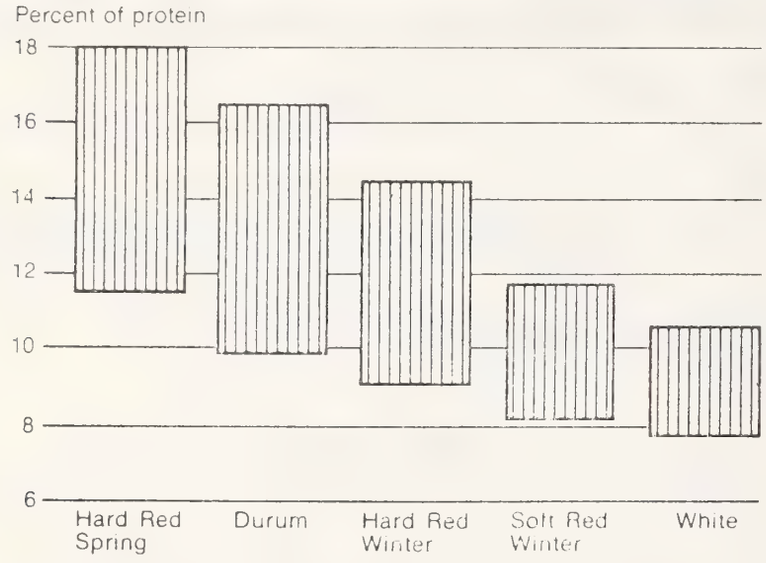
The purpose of Agriculture Day is to set aside a specific time to increase public understanding of the achievements of the 23 million men and women in modern agriculture who generate more than 20 percent of this country's gross national product.

The program's longtime slogan is "Agriculture: America's Heartbeat." This years observance has the theme, "The Business of Food and Fiber."

WHEAT CLASSES

An aspect of wheat that separates it from other crops is that there are five major classes of wheat grown in the United States: hard red winter (HRW), soft red winter (SRW), hard red spring (HRS), white, and durum. These classes are grown in distinct regions, have different end uses, and are marketed separately. The following chart illustrates the range of flour uses of the different classes and the potential for substitution among classes.

Protein Range and Flour Uses of Major Wheat Classes



Flour Uses

- Used to blend with weaker wheats for bread flour
- Whole wheat bread, hearth breads
- Egg noodles (U.S.), macaroni, and other alimentary pastes
- White bakers' bread, bakers' rolls
- Waffles, muffins, quick yeast breads, all-purpose flour
- Noodles (Oriental), kitchen cakes and crackers, pie crust, doughnuts, and cookies, foam cakes, very rich layer cakes

Flour uses are approximate level of protein required for specified wheat products.
Durum is not traded on basis of protein content.

The United States exports all five classes of wheat. HRW, the most important bread wheat, is exported principally to the USSR, Brazil, China, and Japan. China is our largest customer for SRW which is used for cakes, pastries, and crackers. HRS is also a bread wheat, but there is no single outstanding buyer. White wheat is imported mostly by Asian countries, primarily South Korea, Japan and India, where if is used for noodle products. Egypt is also a large importer of white wheat. SRW, HRS, and white wheat are exported in roughly equal amounts. Less than 5 percent of U.S. wheat exports are durum; the largest importers are Tunisia and Algeria.

Because wheat production is less concentrated than other major crops, such as corn or cotton, the national average yield for all wheat varies less from year to year. During 1970-82, the average variability in wheat yields was 5 percent; for corn it was 12 percent, and for cotton, 14 percent. This means that, compared with other crops, imbalances in total wheat supply and demand are less likely to be caused by weather. And, when supplies are excessive, weather is less likely to come to the rescue.

The fact that the wheat program has operated on the basis of a single national average farm price is a reflection of the substitution among the classes of wheat which are traded for the most part on protein content. However, problems occasionally arise. Of the different classes, durum is the most specialized in terms of use. In 1983, durum prices were abnormally high relative to the national average farm price for all wheat. Yet, durum could not be sold without penalty from the farmer-owned wheat reserve because the rules for selling from the reserve are based on the national average price. As a result, durum export sales may have been lost even though supplies were on hand.

FEBRUARY FARM PRICES

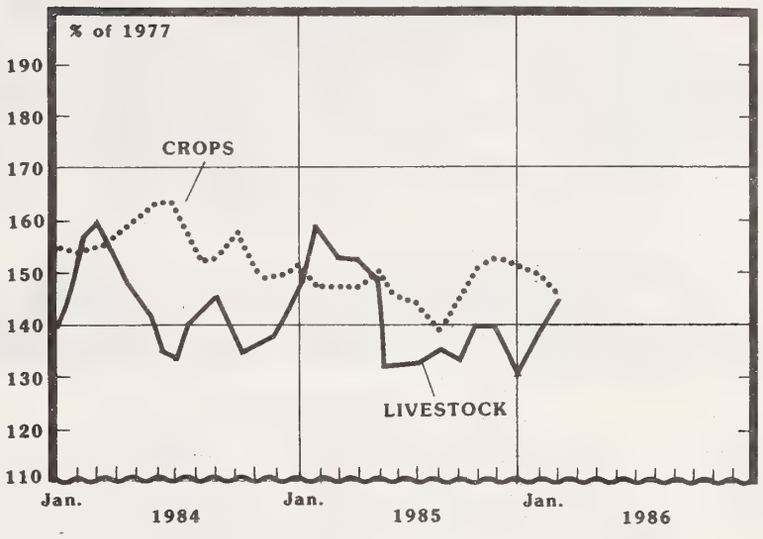
The index of prices received by Montana farmers for all farm products in February at 144 (1977=100) is the same as January but down 9 points from February 1985. The all crops index at 145 was down 5 points from January, while the livestock index at 144 was up 5 points.

Prices went up for hay, steers and heifers, cows, calves, and lambs. Prices went down for all of the grains, sheep, hogs, milk and eggs.

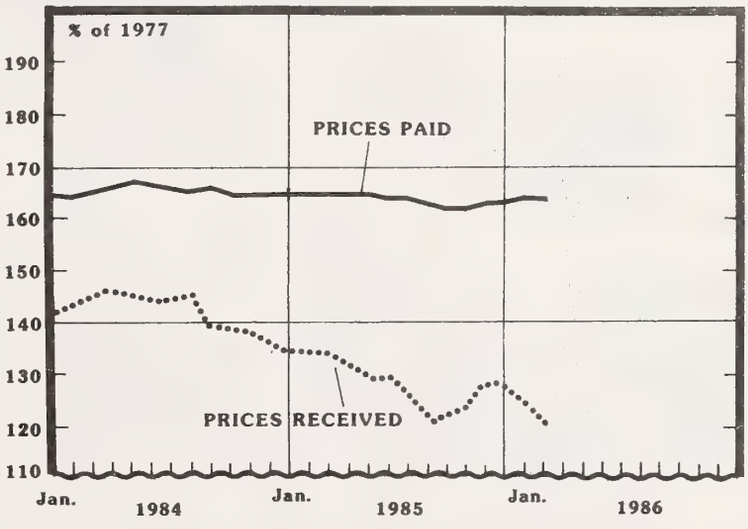
Nationally, the February index of prices received by farmers for all farm products decreased 3 points from January to 121 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Contributing most to the decline from January were lower prices for tomatoes, cattle, lettuce, wheat, eggs, broilers, hogs, oranges, and corn. The index was 14 points (10 percent) below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for February was 163 percent of its 1977 average. The index was unchanged from January but was 1 point below a year earlier. Increases from January in the feeder livestock and family living components were offset by decreases in the fuels and energy and feed. Gasoline and diesel fuel prices dropped to their lowest level in nearly 6 years.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1986	MONTANA Feb. 15, 1986	U.S. Feb. 15, 1986
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.37	3.43	3.25	3.00
Durum	Bu.	3.50	3.49	3.45	3.11
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.83	3.65	3.29
All Wheat	Bu.	3.47	3.60	3.43	3.07
Barley	Bu.	2.20	2.13	2.08	1.87
Oats	Bu.	1.75	1.58	1.55	1.17
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	82.00	86.00	90.00	72.20
All Other Hay	Ton	70.00	80.00	82.00	56.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	81.00	85.00	89.00	67.30
Steers & heifers	Cwt	63.90	56.50	57.30	56.00
Cows	Cwt	41.70	34.00	36.30	36.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	54.30	46.40	48.90	52.00
Calves	Cwt	66.30	60.30	62.40	61.60
Sheep	Cwt	22.80	27.50	20.50	26.70
Lambs	Cwt	67.10	66.80	70.00	63.90
Hogs	Cwt	43.40	37.40	36.60	43.50
All Milk	Cwt	14.00	13.00	12.80	12.40
Eggs	Doz	.530	.630	.560	.536
Wool 2/	Lb.	.700	.650	.650	.558
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	153	144	144	121
All Crops	Pct.	147	150	145	109
Livestock & Products	Pct.	158	139	144	132

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

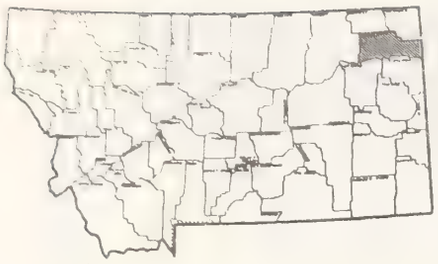
INDEX	Feb. 1985	Jan. 1986	Feb. 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	135	124	121
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	163	163
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	82	76	74
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	51	49

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 145,000 gallons of ice cream during January--8 percent less than in January 1985. Creamed cottage cheese production at 342,000 pounds was 11 percent less than a year earlier. Butter output at 181,000 pounds was down 19 percent. American cheese production at 318,000 pounds was 61 percent above the same month a year ago.

featuring. . . . . . ROOSEVELT COUNTY



Located in extreme northeastern Montana, Roosevelt County has the lowest altitude in the state. The approximate land area of the county is 1,508,665 acres. According to the 1982 U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1,371,234 of those acres are in farmland. The Montana/North Dakota border marks the eastern boundary of Roosevelt County, while the Missouri River marks the entire southern boundary. The Poplar River traverses the county from north to south, emptying into the Missouri River at the southern border. The Fort Peck Indian Reservation occupies all but the eastern section of the county. The terrain is mainly rolling prairie.

Roosevelt County is a prominent agricultural area in the state. The cropland is largely non-irrigated and a variety of crops are raised there. In the 1984 crop production figures, the county ranked 2nd in spring wheat and also in durum wheat production, and came in 11th amonth the oats producing counties. Barley, winter wheat and hay are also grown.

Although crops are the main source of agricultural income, livestock are also an important part of the county's economy. Roosevelt County came in 19th in hog production in the December 1, 1982 inventory. In the January 1, 1983 sheep and cattle counts, Roosevelt County came in 37th and 44th place, respectively.

Cash receipts for crops in 1983 were $34,182,000. The sale of livestock & livestock products contributed $8,327,000, and government payments added $10,993,000--making for a total of $53,502,000 in all cash receipts for Roosevelt County in 1983.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984		UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,508,665	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	710,708
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,371,234	Irrigated Land In Farms 1/	Acres	6,196
Number of Farms 1/		584			
CROPS			**LIVESTOCK**		
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	201,300			
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	27,400	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	30,400
Oats	Acres Plntd.	11,700	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	4,100
Barley	Acres Plntd.	44,400	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	3,600
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	27,100			
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	40,300			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1985 CROP PRODUCTION NUMBERS
HOW MT RANKS IN U.S. AGRICULTURE
RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR JANUARY
FEWER POTATOES IN STORAGE
RESULTS OF '85 FARM FINANCE SURVEY
featuring.....PETROLEUM COUNTY

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

UNIT	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Cropland in Cultivated Summerfallow	5,391,461 acres	1982 Census	2
Land in farms and ranches	60,900,000 acres	1985	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't. payments			
Total	1,419,444,000 dollars	1984	33
Crops	647,011,000 dollars	1984	34
Livestock	772,433,000 dollars	1984	30

LIVESTOCK and LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

All Cattle & Calves	2,450,000 head	Jan. 1, 1986	14
All Cows	1,400,000 head	Jan. 1, 1986	10
Milk Cows	27,000 head	Jan. 1, 1986	40
Beef Cows	1,373,000 head	Jan. 1, 1986	7
Cattle on Feed	80,000 head	Jan. 1, 1986	21
Hogs and Pigs	135,000 head	Dec. 1, 1985	29
Sheep and Lambs	423,000 head	Jan. 1, 1986	9
Wool Production	5,209,000 pounds	1984	7
All Chickens	1,010,000 birds	Dec. 1, 1985	40

CROPS (PRODUCTION)

All Wheat	50,240,000 bushels	1985	14
Winter Wheat	22,400,000 bushels	1985	17
Durum Wheat	1,440,000 bushels	1985	6
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	26,400,000 bushels	1985	4
All Hay	2,760,000 tons	1985	22
Alfalfa Hay	1,710,000 tons	1985	19
Dry Beans	57,000 cwt	1985	12
Barley	30,000 bushels	1985	6
Oats	2,310,000 bushels	1985	22
Potatoes--fall	1,890,000 cwt	1985	24
Sugarbeets	811,000 tons	1985	9

MONTANA 1985 CROP SEASON IN REVIEW

Almost all of Montana was in the grip of a major, general drouth in 1985--the second year in a row for the major crop areas, and the third year for much of the eastern third of the State. Farmers began to hay or pasture drouth damaged small grains in early July to salvage what they could.

Although the winter wheat crop got off to a fair start the winter months were very dry, and by spring a severe infestation of cutworms and wireworms had developed. Winter kill was also above average and grasshoppers hatched early to inflict further damage.

The spring planting season was very difficult because of drouth and incessant winds. Germination was poor and crop development was retarded during most of the spring and early summer months. The only optimism occurred in early June when moderate rains fell but it was short lived. Drouth, hot temperatures, persistant winds, and grasshoppers decimated Montana's grain crops during late June and early July.

An abrupt end to the drouth came in early August with a rainy season that extended into October. Although the rains were too late for grain crops, they helped ranges and pastures and also started volunteer grain and weeds in stubble fields. The rains caused considerable sprouting in irrigated barley fields which was especially damaging to malting barley. The rains also disrupted winter wheat seeding to the point that only about 90 percent of the intended acreage got planted and much of that was too late to properly establish the stand before cold weather.

CROP PRODUCTION 1983-1985

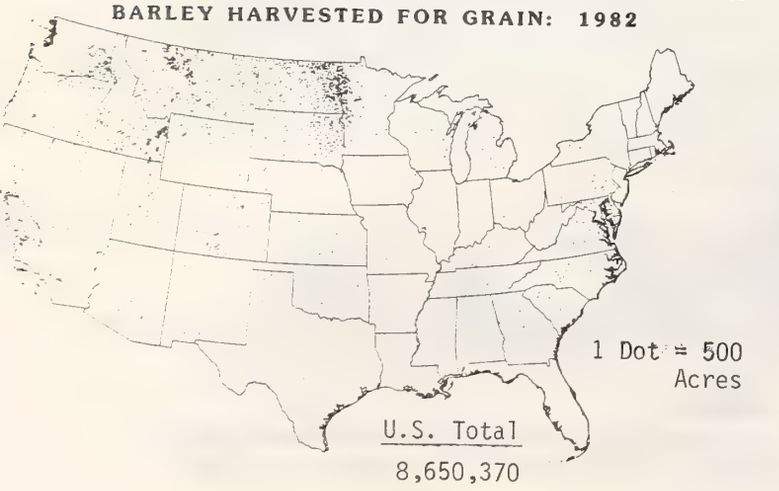
Crop	Year	MONTANA ACREAGE Planted: Thousands	MONTANA ACREAGE Harv. Thousands	MONTANA Production Unit	MONTANA Production Yield Per Acre	MONTANA Production Total Thous.	MONTANA Production % Chg. From Prev. Year %	MONTANA Season Avg. Price Per Unit $	MONTANA Value of Prod. Thous.$	U.S. PRODUCTION Thous.
Corn for Grain 2/ 3/	1983	65	13	Bu.	105.0	1,365		3.20	4,368	4,174,678
	1984	90	15		92.0	1,380		3.09	4,264	7,674,020
	1985	84	11		95.0	1,045	-24	2.80	2,926	8,865,006
Winter Wheat 3/	1983	2,550	2,260	Bu.	35.0	79,100		3.57	282,387	1,988,304
	1984	2,700	2,480		27.0	66,960		3.41	228,334	2,060,266
	1985	2,460	1,400		16.0	22,400	-67	3.40	76,160	1,827,195
Durum Wheat 3/	1983	210	205	Bu.	20.0	4,100		3.90	15,990	72,979
	1984	215	210		17.0	3,570		3.57	12,745	103,439
	1985	200	160		9.0	1,440	-60	3.15	4,536	112,510
Other Spring Wheat 3/	1983	2,050	1,990	Bu.	27.0	53,730		3.81	204,711	358,541
	1984	2,100	1,950		17.5	34,125		3.72	126,945	431,072
	1985	3,000	2,400		11.0	26,400	-23	3.70	97,680	485,060
All Wheat 3/	1983	4,810	4,455	Bu.	30.7	136,930		3.67	503,088	2,419,824
	1984	5,015	4,640		22.6	104,655		3.52	368,024	2,594,777
	1985	5,660	3,960		12.7	50,240	-52	3.55	178,376	2,424,765
Oats 3/	1983	210	120	Bu.	44.0	5,280		1.58	8,342	476,961
	1984	220	105		37.0	3,885		1.77	6,876	473,661
	1985	225	70		33.0	2,310	-41	1.50	3,465	518,626
Barley 3/	1983	1,950	1,850	Bu.	42.0	77,700		2.40	186,480	508,925
	1984	2,320	2,110		28.0	59,080		2.39	141,201	599,204
	1985	2,350	1,500		20.0	30,000	-49	2.15	64,500	589,183
Potatoes	1983	7.3	7.2	CWT	250	1,800		9.20	16,560	333,911
	1984	7.5	7.4		260	1,924		9.50	18,278	362,612
	1985	7.9	7.0		270	1,890	- 2	8.75	16,538	404,131
Dry Beans	1983	3.0	2.8	CWT	13.2	37		18.00	666	15,520
	1984	8.5	8.0		19.0	152		15.00	2,280	21,070
	1985	3.4	3.0		19.0	57	-62	17.00	969	22,268
Sugarbeets	1983	41.6	41.3	Tons	19.8	818		37.60	30,757	20,992
	1984	25.2	24.6		16.9	416		35.50	14,768	22,134
	1985	43.5	42.7		19.0	811	+95	--	--	22,636
Alfalfa Hay	1983	--	1,170	Tons	2.30	2,691		--	--	82,212
	1984	--	1,150		2.10	2,415		--	--	90,105
	1985	--	950		1.80	1,710	-29	--	--	85,291
All Hay	1983	--	2,170	Tons	1.86	4,041		63.00	254,583	140,764
	1984	--	2,200		1.72	3,780		78.00	294,840	150,648
	1985		1,950		1.42	2,760	-27	83.00	229,080	148,959
Sweet Cherries 5/	1983	--	--	Tons	--	1,800		457	624	181,200
	1984	--	--		--	2,300		666	932	181,800
	1985	--	--		--	4,600	+100	653	2,285	132,900
All Main Crops	1983	--	--		--	--		--	1,005,468 6/	--
	1984	--	--		--	--		--	851,463 6/	--
	1985								498,139 7/	--

1/ All estimates for 1985 are preliminary. 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes. 3/ Includes allowance for loans outstanding and purchases by the Government valued at the average loan and purchase rate. 4/ Price of baled hay. 5/ Production in actual tons. 6/ Comparable value to 1985 by excluding sugarbeets, 1983--$874,711; 1984--$836,695. 7/ Excludes sugarbeets value.

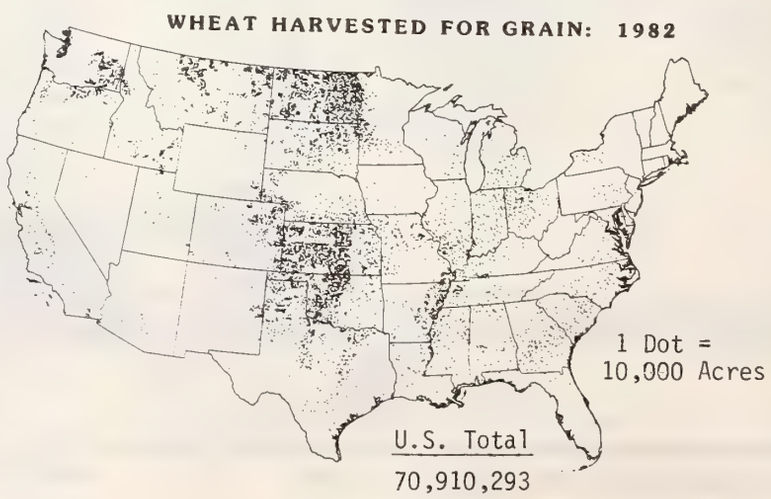
Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician

Jerry Thorson; Ray Stack, Agr. Statisticians

BARLEY HARVESTED FOR GRAIN: 1982



WHEAT HARVESTED FOR GRAIN: 1982



JANUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds of red meat in January, 3 percent more than December, but 71 percent less than January 1985.

Cattle slaughter numbered 2,400 head, a 75 percent decrease from last year. Hog slaughter at 2,500 was down 4 percent from the previous year.

Nationally, beef production, at 2.14 billion pounds was up 4 percent. Head kill was 3.33 million, up 2 percent, and the average live weight increased 20 pounds to 1,100.

Veal production, at 46 million pounds was up 10 percent. Calf slaughter of 307 thousand head was up 7 percent and the average live weight increased 7 pounds to 249. **Pork production** totaled 1.27 billion pounds, down 1 percent. Hog kill at 7.19 million head decreased 2 percent and the average live weight increased 1 pound to 246. **Lamb and mutton production,** at 31 million pounds, was down 3 percent. Slaughter totaled 518 thousand head, down 7 percent, and the average live weight increased 3 pounds to 118.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Total stocks of potatoes in Montana on February 1 at 1,350,000 cwt were 25 percent below a year ago.

Nationally, potato stocks on February 1, 1986 totaled 170 million cwt, up 17 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. Frost damage suffered during harvest last fall continues to plague storage operators in Western states. Shrinkage and sorting losses to date in 5 states (Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Oregon, and California) are running 89 percent above last year. This means a lower than normal percentage of production will be available for sale this year.

February stocks in the 15 potato storage states accounted for 50 percent of fall production this season compared with 48 percent last year. Stocks in the 11 major states are 3 percent reds, 19 percent whites, and 78 percent russets.

In the six Western states, February 1 potato stocks totaled 111 million cwt this year, up 18 percent from last year and 21 percent above two years ago. Idaho storages contained 56.5 million cwt, remaining 19 percent above last year. An estimated 11 percent of Idaho's stocks on hand now are said to be frost damaged. Washington stocks totaled 25.7 million cwt, up 24 percent; Oregon at 13.3 million cwt is up 21 percent; and Colorado at 11.0 million cwt, is up 24 percent from a year ago. California and Montana stored 22 and 25 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago.

1985 FARM FINANCE REPORT

Drouth and low farm prices have continued to depress Montana's agriculture. Wheat production during 1985 was the lowest since 1939 and heavy livestock liquidation has reduced the cattle herd to the lowest count in 23 years. Low farm income has depressed land values and further stressed farm and ranch finances. These conditions have also impacted the rural community and the farm credit system. This report provides an update to a farm finance survey conducted in October of 1984. It provides a measurement of the financial status of Montana farmers and ranchers throughout the 1985 calendar year.

Total assets averaged $623,844 per farm or ranch, down 19% from 1984, for a statewide reduction of $3.4 billion. Debt per operation also declined, averaging $173,563, down 20%, resulting in a total drop in net worth to Montana agriculture of $2.3 billion--down 18%. Based on crop and livestock inventory reductions, it appears assets have been sold off to pay off debt. Respondents seemed to have difficulty appraising the value of their real estate. Many are hesitant to accept reductions that are indicated by distressed sales and prefer to keep an optimistic balance sheet. Adopting lower land prices would result in even higher debt to asset ratios.

The delinquency rate on real estate loans has increased. From 18% in 1984 to 24% in 1985. Operating loan delinquencies went from 31% to 33%. A closer look shows both real estate and operating loan delinquencies were much higher for operations smaller than 3,000 acres. Sixteen percent had loan applications turned down, but nearly half of those obtained credit elsewhere.

Given current trends in farm income and expenses, 51.5 percent of Montana producers said they would quit farming in five years or less. Forty-two percent said they could continue until retirement--down from 48% in 1984. Economic conditions are especially bad in the southwest where 82% would quit in five years. In the northeast two-thirds said they wouldn't survive.

A complete report with more detailed results of the survey can be obtained by send your request along with a large self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Montana Crop & Livestock
Reporting Service
PO Box 4369
Helena, MT 59604

featuring. . . . . PETROLEUM COUNTY

Petroleum County occupies approximately 1,057,254 acres of land in central Montana. The surface of the land is generally rolling with valleys and benches. The extreme north/northeastern border of the county is defined by portions of the Missouri River and Ft. Peck Lake. The Musselshell River defines the remainder of the eastern border. The county is traversed by Flat Willow Creek from the south, and Box Elder creek from the north. They eventually join and empty into the Musselshell River on the eastern border of the county. The Sacagawea River crosses the northern leg of the county and flows into Ft. Peck Lake.

Farmland in Petroleum County is split almost equally between non-irrigated and irrigated cropland. Crops grown in the area include winter and spring wheat, barley, oats, and hay. The county ranked 28th in hay production, 37th in oats, 46th in barley, and 44th and 49th in spring and winter wheat production for 1984.

Petroleum County is not an extensive livestock producing county but sheep and cattle are raised here. The county ranked 27th and 37th, respectively, in the January 1, 1983 sheep and cattle inventories. Some hogs are also raised but not to a great extent.

Cash receipts for the county totaled $10,446,000 in 1983. Livestock receipts made up $7,852,000 of that total, while crops receipts contributed $2,088,000. Government payments added the remaining $506,000.

PETROLEUM COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,057,254
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	700,750
Number of Farms 1/		99
CROPS		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	16,400
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,200
Barley	Acres Plntd.	5,000
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	8,900
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	800
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	51,912
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	11,246
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	36,100
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	6,100
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	100

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

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SURVEY RESULTS

HIGHLIGHTS:

SMALLEST CATTLE HERD SINCE 1963
SHEEP INVENTORY DECLINES
JANUARY 1 GRAIN STOCKS FIGURES
'85 HAY & ROW CROP PRODUCTION
AG PRICES
DECEMBER 1 CHICKEN INVENTORY
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

JANUARY 1 CATTLE COUNT DOWN

Montana's cattle herd was reduced 17 percent in the past year according to a January 1 cattle inventory survey. The cattle inventory shows 2.45 million all cattle and calves on January 1, 1986. This is the smallest herd since 1963, and the largest year to year decline since 1937 when the herd was cut 28 percent. **Beef cows and heifers that have calved** were down 9 percent while **bulls** were down 10 percent.

The largest reduction was shown by **calves weighing less than 500 pounds.** At 315,000 head they were down 44 percent from last year. **Steers over 500 pounds** were off 24 percent compared with January 1, 1985. **Heifers being kept for beef cow replacements** at 230,000 head are down 10 percent. **Other heifers** are down 7 percent. The **1985 calf crop** at 1.47 million was 9 percent smaller than the previous year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1986 totaled 105 million head, down 4 percent from the 110 million on January 1, 1985 and 7 percent below the 114 million two years ago. This continued the recent downward trend in cattle inventories for the fourth consecutive year and was the lowest number on hand since 1963. The **1985 U.S. calf crop** is estimated at 41.0 million, down 3 percent from 1984, down 7 percent from 1983 and is the lowest since 1961.

CATTLE and CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1985-1986

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1985	1986	% Change '86/'85	1985	1986	% Change '86/'85
	----000 Head---			----000 Head---		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,960	2,450	-17	109,749	105,468	- 4
Cows & Heifers that have calved						
Beef Cows	1,513	1,373	- 9	35,370	33,632	- 5
Milk Cows	27	27	NC	10,805	11,179	+ 3
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	255	230	-10	5,542	5,149	- 7
For milk cow replacement	9	10	+11	4,760	4,759	NC
Other heifers	183	170	- 7	8,056	8,090	NC
Steers 500 pounds and over	322	245	-24	16,369	15,967	- 2
Bulls 500 pounds and over	89	80	-10	2,411	2,261	- 6
Calves less than 500 pounds	562	315	-44	26,436	24,431	- 8
All cattle value ($000)	1,124,800	918,750	-18	44,138,618	41,280,203	- 6
Value per head (Dollars)	380	375	- 1	402	391	- 3

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS -- 1984 and 1985

ITEM	1984	1985	% Change '85/'84	1984	1985	% Change '85/'84
Calves born during year (000)	1,610	1,470	- 9	42,500	41,045	- 3
Number cattle farms	16,600	16,200	- 2	1,543,490	1,496,390	- 3

SURVEY RESULTS

STOCKS OF GRAIN JANUARY 1, 1986 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1985*	Oct. 1, 1985*	Jan. 1, 1986	% Chg. '86/'85	Jan. 1, 1985*	Oct. 1, 1985*	Jan. 1, 1986
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	109,888	81,891	69,331	-37	930,281	1,248,446	1,022,320
Off Farms 1/	32,025	32,950	35,000	+ 9	1,210,750	1,722,651	1,514,056
TOTAL	141,913	114,841	104,331	-26	2,141,031	2,971,097	2,536,376
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	64,842	46,928	37,027	-43	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	20,516	21,416	22,300	+ 9	--	--	--
TOTAL	85,358	68,344	59,327	-30	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	45,046	34,963	32,304	-28	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	11,509	11,534	12,700	+10	--	--	--
TOTAL	56,555	46,497	45,004	-20	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/					95,033	127,722	111,608
Off Farms 1/ 4/					37,212	44,124	38,618
TOTAL	10,294	6,323	6,220	-40	132,245	171,846	150,226
CORN							
On Farms	1,173	41	993	-15	4,304,054	678,947	5,525,040
Off Farms 1/ 4/					1,560,171	701,780	2,351,719
TOTAL 4/					5,864,225	1,380,727	7,876,759
OATS							
On Farms	4,351	3,003	2,495	-43	300,332	416,007	310,153
Off Farms 1/	146	380	400	+174	57,727	94,986	68,406
TOTAL	4,497	3,383	2,895	-36	358,059	510,993	378,559
BARLEY							
On Farms	38,402	30,000	27,600	-28	307,300	461,509	365,131
Off Farms 1/	6,782	9,098	8,300	+22	129,623	193,300	168,443
TOTAL	45,184	39,098	35,900	-21	436,923	654,809	533,574
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	228,780	45,870	327,473
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	496,283	225,147	662,410
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	725,063	271,017	989,883

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jan. 1, 1985	Oct. 1, 1985*	Jan. 1, 1986	Jan. 1, 1985	Oct. 1, 1985*	Jan. 1, 1986
	-------Million Bushels-------			-------Million Bushels-------		
Northwest	.9	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.4	2.3
North Central	56.3	44.1	42.5	19.1	14.5	12.9
Northeast	40.2	31.4	28.0	5.1	4.5	4.5
Central	18.0	14.6	12.3	9.4	6.1	5.9
Southwest	4.6	4.2	4.1	3.4	2.9	2.6
South Central	11.9	10.1	8.5	4.4	5.0	3.8
Southeast	10.0	9.4	7.9	1.6	3.7	3.9
STATE	141.9	114.8	104.3	45.2	39.1	35.9

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

SURVEY RESULTS

SHEEP NUMBERS DOWN

The results of a January 1, 1986 survey of sheep and lamb producers indicated numbers were 18 percent below January 1 a year earlier.

Sheep and lambs on feed for the slaughter market were cut nearly in half with 23,000 in feedlots compared with 45,000 last year. Stock sheep at 400,000 head were down 15 percent. This is the smallest flock since 1881, and only a remnant of the 5.7 million sheep in Montana in 1903 when numbers reached their peak. Ewes one year old or over were down 15 percent and ewe lambs less than one year old were down 10 percent. The 1985 lamb crop at 420,000 was 11 percent less than 1984.

The value of all sheep and lambs on Montana farms and ranches was $26.0 million, down 12 percent from last year.

Nationally, all sheep and lambs on January 1, 1986 totaled 9.93 million down 5 percent from the 10.4 million a year earlier. The stock sheep inventory dropped to a record low 8.44 million head, down 5 percent from the previous record low count of January 1, 1985.

SHEEP and LAMBS ON FARMS and RANCHES -- JANUARY 1, 1985-1986

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1985	1986	% Change 86/85	1985	1986	% Change 86/85
	-Thous. Head-			-Thous. Head-		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	515	423	-18	10,443	9,932	- 5
On feed	45	23	-49	1,596	1,492	- 7
Stock sheep	470	400	-15	8,847	8,440	- 5
Lambs						
Ewes	60	54	-10	1,016	1,042	+ 3
Wethers and rams	8	6	-25	284	315	+11
One year old & older						
Ewes	390	330	-15	7,233	6,776	- 6
Wethers and rams	12	10	-17	314	309	- 2
All sheep value ($000)	29,613	26,015	-12	637,873	669,883	+ 5
Value per head (Dollars)	57.50	61.50	+ 7	61.10	67.40	+10

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS -- 1984-1985

ITEM	1984	1985	% Change 85/84	1984	1985	% Change 85/84
Lamb crop	470	420	-11	7,788	7,381	- 5
Number of sheep farms	2,800	2,900	+ 4	123,500	117,220	- 5

HAY and ROW CROPS

The 1985 **hay crop** harvested by Montana farmers and ranchers was the smallest since 1961. Hay production was down 27 percent from 1984 and 32 percent from 1983.

Corn for grain production was down 24 percent and **dry beans** produced in the state were down 62 percent from a year ago.

Montana's **sugarbeet crop** was almost double the 1984 output mainly due to a large acreage increase. **Potato production** was down 2 percent. A substantial portion of the potato crop suffered freeze damage and had to be eliminated from storage.

MONTANA HAY and ROW CROPS

CROP	ACRES HARV.		YIELD		PRODCUTION	
	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
	--Thous.--		----Bu.---		--Thous.--	
Corn for Grain	15	11	92.0	95.0	1380	1045
			----Cwt---			
Potatoes	7.4	7.0	260	270	1924	1890
Dry Beans	8.0	3.0	19	19	152	57
			---Tons---			
Sugarbeets	24.6	42.7	16.9	19.0	416	811
Alfalfa Hay	1150	950	2.10	1.80	2415	1710
All Hay	2200	1950	1.72	1.42	3780	2760

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1985	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1985	MONTANA Jan. 15, 1986	U.S. Jan. 15, 1986
PRICES RECEIVED		---Dollars---			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.51	3.45	3.04
Durum	Bu.	3.52	3.18	3.15	3.15
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.83	3.80	3.43
All Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.67	3.62	3.10
Barley	Bu.	2.46	2.06	2.10	2.07
Oats	Bu.	1.70	1.46	1.50	1.20
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	84.00	86.00	72.00
All Other Hay	Ton	70.00	74.00	80.00	58.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	83.00	85.00	67.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt	61.50	55.30	56.70	57.50
Cows	Cwt	35.70	31.60	33.10	33.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	49.20	42.30	46.10	52.10
Calves	Cwt	63.20	56.60	59.00	58.90
Sheep	Cwt	32.90	33.70	31.70	28.10
Lambs	Cwt	63.70	59.90	63.00	64.40
Hogs	Cwt	43.00	38.80	40.40	44.20
All Milk	Cwt	14.10	13.25	13.10	12.60
Eggs	Doz	.470	.700	.630	.651
Wool 2/	Lb.	.900	.650	.650	.543
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	148	140	144	124
All Crops	Pct.	151	152	151	114
Livestock & Products	Pct.	147	130	138	134

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Jan. 1985	Dec. 1985	Jan. 1986
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	136	128	124
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	162	163
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	83	79	76
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	52	51

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received index divided by Prices Paid index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Montana's Rank

CHICKEN NUMBERS DOWN

SURVEY RESULTS

Montana chicken numbers and value both dropped in 1985. The December 1, 1985 inventory was 1.01 million birds, 1 percent below a year earlier. The inventory included 790,000 hens and pullets of laying age. The inventory value of all Montana chickens December 1, 1985 dropped 11 percent to $1,818,000. The average value per bird at $1.80 was 20 cents less than the previous year.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 93,000 gallons of ice cream during December--10 percent less than in December 1984. Creamed cottage cheese production at 287,000 pounds was 37 percent less than a year earlier. Butter output at 182,000 pounds was up 14 percent. American cheese production at 328,000 pounds was 13 percent above the same month a year ago.

MONTANA GOVERNMENT STOCKS
DECEMBER 31, 1985

PROGRAM	WHEAT 1984	WHEAT 1985	BARLEY 1984	BARLEY 1985
	---000 Bushels---			
Reserve	57,802	56,877	8,557	8,666
Under Loan	17,861	9,330	2,317	2,979

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

AG OUTLOOK FOR 1986
MT MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES
FEWER POTATO STOCKS ON HAND
NEWS OF THE 1986 FARM BILL
RED MEAT PRODUCTION
featuring.....SILVER BOW COUNTY

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IN BRIEF. . . OUTLOOK FOR 1986

Net farm income in 1986 is projected to range from $22 to $26 billion, compared with $25 to $29 billion in 1985 and $34.5 billion in 1984. Gross income will likely fall more than production expenses.

Net cash income this year is expected to be near 1985, as Government programs continue to support farm income. Net cash income may range from $37 to $41 billion.

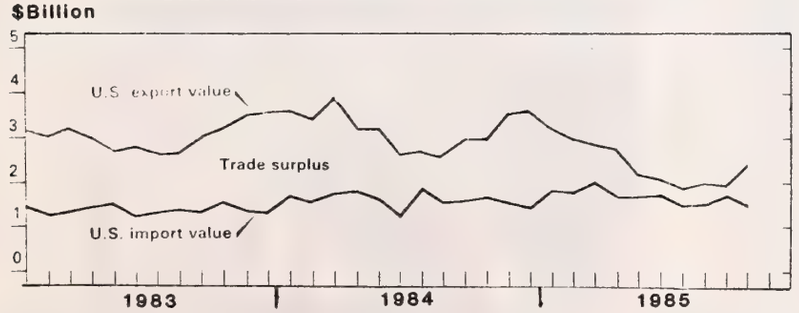
U.S. farm product exports in fiscal 1986 are forecast at $29 billion, 7 percent below 1985's $31.2 billion and nearly $15 billion below the 1981 peak. Export value will slip because both prices and volume will likely fall. Volume is forecast at a little over 120 million tons, down 4 percent from 1985, because of continued strong competition from other exporters and large production gains by traditional importers.

Beef production in 1986 could fall 4 to 6 percent from 1985, the result of a drop in slaughter numbers and lighter slaughter weights. Pork production is forecast to decline about 1 percent. However, fall quarter 1986 production may rise 3 to 5 percent from 1985, marking the beginning of an expansion likely to carry into 1987. With costs of production stable and output of red meat down, broiler producers are expected to increase output 4 percent in 1986.

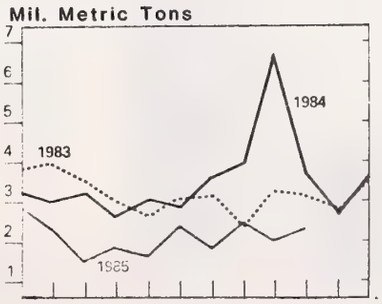
Milk production for next year is forecast to reach a record 148 billion pounds, up 3.3 percent from this year. Commercial use will also probably gain, likely reaching nearly 132 billion pounds, but the increase will be less than the boost in supply.

The **feed grain** outlook for 1985/86 is one of record U.S. output, diminished Soviet demand, and large competing supplies in world trade. Prices are depressed, and the 1985/86 U.S. carryout is expected to top the 1982/83 pre-PIK record. Global coarse grain production is forecast to reach 845 million tons, 4.5 percent over last season's record.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE BALANCE



U.S. WHEAT EXPORTS



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

In the next couple of months you're going to hear a lot about the Conservation Reserve Program. It's a new and interesting part of the 1986 farm bill. It's a plan to conserve soil. The plan calls for a removal of highly erodible cropland from production and planting the land to trees and grasses. The primary purpose of the program is to save our precious soil resources! Other objectives are to reduce production of surplus crops, to reduce sediment run-off in our rivers and streams, and to provide improved habitat for fish and wildlife.

It looks like a huge rental program. U.S.D.A. will contract with farmers and ranchers to rent marginal cropland for a period of ten years. About 342 thousand acres will be targeted for the program this year in Montana. This is the third largest acreage in the nation. Details about the program are still a bit fuzzy, but sign-up procedures will be forthcoming from the Montana Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and ASCS.

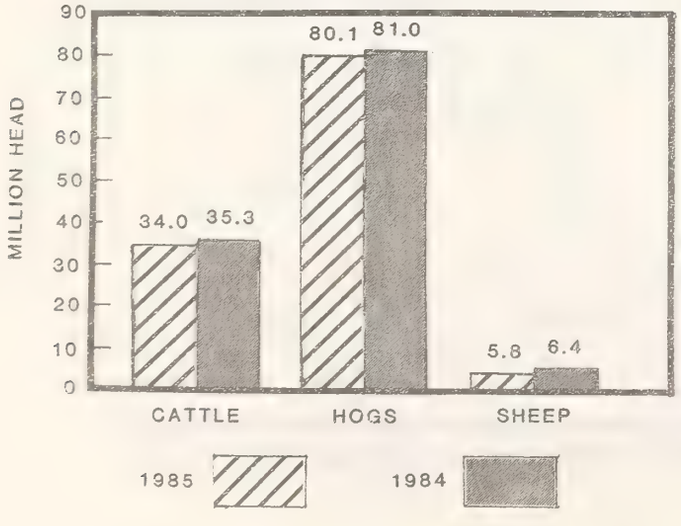
DECEMBER SLAUGHTER DROPS

Commercial red meat production in Montana during December totaled 1.7 million pounds, 5 percent less than November and only 25 percent of December 1984. Total red meat production in the state for all of 1985 at 28.7 million pounds is 54 percent below 1984.

There were 2,400 cattle killed and 2,400 hogs slaughtered during December. For the year 1985 there were 40,000 cattle and 31,900 hogs slaughtered, both were less than half of the previous year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in December 1985 totaled 3.14 billion pounds, up 1 percent from December 1984. January-December red meat production, at 39.1 billion pounds was up fractionally from last year. The 1985 accumulated production percentage changes by individual components were: beef, up 1; veal, up 4; pork, virtually unchanged; lamb and mutton, down 6.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER



POTATO STOCKS

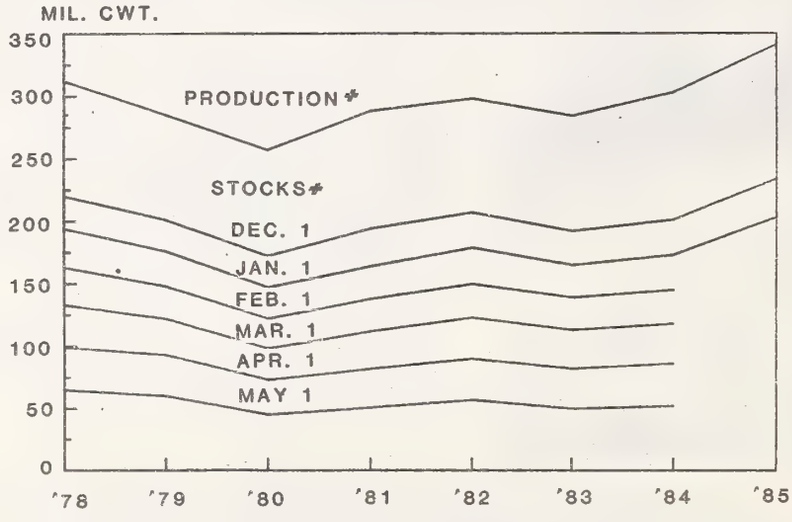
Montana potato stocks on hand January 1, 1986 totaled 1.40 million cwt, down 23 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, potato stocks on January 1, 1986 totaled 201 million cwt, up 16 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. The January 1 stocks averaged 59 percent of fall production this season compared with a 57 percent share last year. Losses are also up sharply, running 32 percent higher than last year. Russets made up 77 percent of the stocks; while whites covered 20 percent and reds 3 percent.

The six Western States stored a total of 129 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1986, up 17 percent from last year and 20 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks of 65.0 million cwt are up 19 percent from last year. However, remaining stocks carry an estimated 12 percent that will be unmarketable due to frost damage. Washington, at 30.0 million cwt is up 16 percent; Oregon storage of 15.7 million cwt is up 22 percent; and Colorado stocks at 12.9 million cwt are up 18 percent. California and Montana carried fewer potatoes in storage than last year.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION and STOCKS

(For 15 States Estimating Potato Stocks)



*Production by crop year. Stocks by months following harvest.

FOOD PRICES & CONSUMPTION

In 1986, the Consumer Price Index for food is expected to average 2 to 4 percent higher than in 1985. For 1985, the index should average 2.2 percent above 1984. The general inflation rate is expected to remain near 4 percent in 1986, as it has for the past two years. The rate of growth in consumer demand for goods and services is expected to stay slow through this year, adding little strength to food prices.

Smaller supplies, particularly of red meats, will lead to an increase of 2 to 4 percent in the farm value of food in 1986. Smaller supplies will also mean stronger retail prices for many foods. Food consumption is expected to decrease 1 to 2 percent.

Although lower red meat supplies and higher red meat prices will help boost the average farm value of all foods, the farm value of most categories besides red meats is expected to fall slightly. Barring a freeze in the fresh winter vegetable growing areas, the farm value of fresh vegetables will decrease nearly 6 percent because of large supplies and low prices for potatoes.

The farm-to-retail price spread increased more than 5 percent in 1985. This was the largest increase in four years, reflecting lower farm prices for many foods but slightly higher retail prices. A slight rise in the cost of marketing food accounted for a portion of the 1985 growth in the spread.

The wider spread in 1985 suggests some recovery in food industry profits, following the recession of the early 1980's, when some food processors were suffering severe losses. In 1986, the farm-to-retail spread will rise at about the same rate as the general rate of inflation.

U.S.D.A. DELAYS PLANTING INTENTIONS SURVEY

The acreage intentions survey that was to have been taken February 1, 1986 will be delayed until March 1. The month delay will provide farmers an opportunity to become aware of the 1986 farm program prior to completing the intentions questionnaire. Specific provisions and implementation guidelines of the new farm program are not likely to reach county ASCS offices until mid-February. Thus, farmers would have only very limited knowledge of the 1986 farm program and would find it difficult to respond and complete the questionnaire on February 1.

The proposed release date for the results of the survey will be March 18, 1986.

FARM COSTS SURVEY IN FEBRUARY

Current economic conditions on Montana farms and ranches and across the nation's farm belt have a large impact on decisions made by the U.S. Congress and state agricultural officials. These decisions must be based on sound, reliable information of how things are on the farm. Farmers and ranchers will have a chance **to tell it the way it is** on the upcoming Nationwide Farm Costs and Returns Survey to be conducted in February 1986.

It's necessary to obtain as many completed reports as possible to accurately reflect the current farm financial plight in Montana. If you are one of the 300 farmers selected to participate in this year's survey, please take time to work with the interviewer who will be contacting you, as your report will be representing many other farmers. All information you provide will be kept confidential and only used to produce regional and national estimates of farm production expenses and income.

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana dairies produced 91 million pounds of milk during the October-December 1985 quarter--7 percent more than the same quarter in 1984. The current quarter's production is 4 percent below the 1985 July-September quarter.

Nationally, milk production during the last quarter of the year totaled 35.6 billion pounds, 10 percent more than the same quarter in 1984. Accumulated milk production during 1985 at 143 billion pounds was 6 percent above the 1984 production.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	973	1,025	3,767	4,180
IDAHO	165	174	537	616
MINN	885	932	2,360	2,562
MONT	27	29	85	91
N DAK	99	99	227	251
ORE	96	102	319	354
S DAK	161	162	385	434
WASH	211	226	845	947
WISC	1,836	1,896	5,518	6,085
WYO	11.7	11.4	32.5	33.5
U.S.	10,819	11,176	32,414	35,596

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

featuring. . . . . SILVER BOW COUNTY

Created in February of 1881 and occupying 459,769 acres of land in southwestern Montana, Silver Bow County is the smallest of all Montana counties. Yet, the size of its land area belies all the county has to offer. The terrain is largely mountainous and picturesque sections of the Deer Lodge National Forest occupy land in the northern, southwestern, and southeastern portions of the county. A section of the Continental Divide traverses the entire width of the county. Half of the southern boundary is designated by the Big Hole River. Silver Bow is also home to the city of Butte, famous for its mining and rich history.

Looking at the agricultural picture, Silver Bow County ranked 28th in all hay, 37th in oats, and 46th in barley production in 1984. Cattle, sheep and hogs are all raised in the area with the county ranking 54th, 56th, and 56th, respectively, for those commodities.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products totaled $2,248,000 in 1983. Receipts from the sale of crop items came to $198,000 for a total of $2,446,000 in 1983.

SILVER BOW COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984		UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	459,769	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	15,855
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	127,864	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	8,201
Number of Farms 1/		108			
CROPS			**LIVESTOCK**		
Barley	Acres Plntd.	300	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	10,500
Oats	Acres Plntd.	200	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	100
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	7,800	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	100

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep Inventory
Cattle Inventory
Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Chicken Inventory
Grain Stocks
Annual Crop Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

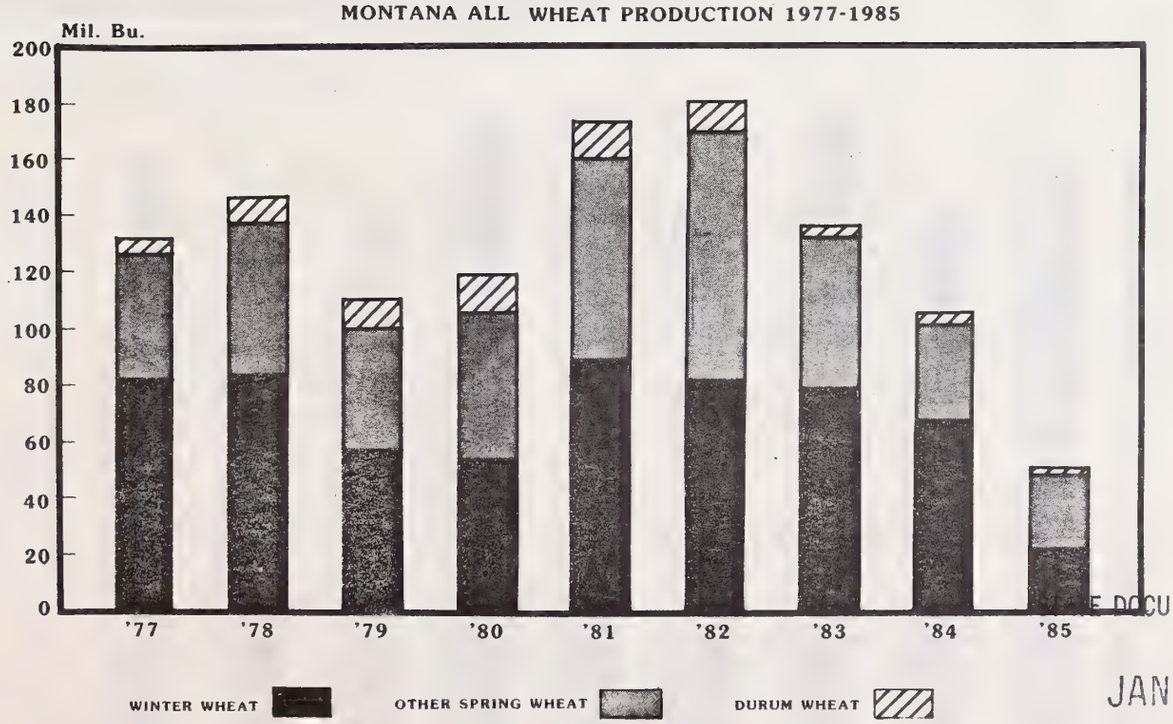
MT GRAIN PRODUCTION DROPS
HAY STOCKS REDUCED
WINTER WHEAT PLANTED FOR '86 CROP
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS DECLINE
DECEMBER AG PRICES WEAK

DROUGHT SHARPLY CUTS GRAIN PRODUCTION

Montana's 1985 all wheat production was 52 percent below 1984 and the smallest wheat crop produced since 1939. These figures came from the results of an acreage and production survey that was sent to producers last fall. The winter wheat crop was the smallest since 1947 and both the hard red spring and durum crops were the smallest since 1961. The survey also revealed the barley crop was drastically reduced and the 1985 production was 49 percent below 1984. This is also the smallest barley crop produced since 1961. Oats production was down 41 percent from 1984. It was the smallest crop since 1889 mainly due to the small acreage harvested for grain. Montana's total small grain production (wheat, oats, barley) at 82.6 million bushels was less than half of the previous year. A table with acres, yield and production is on the inside page.

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION 1977-1985



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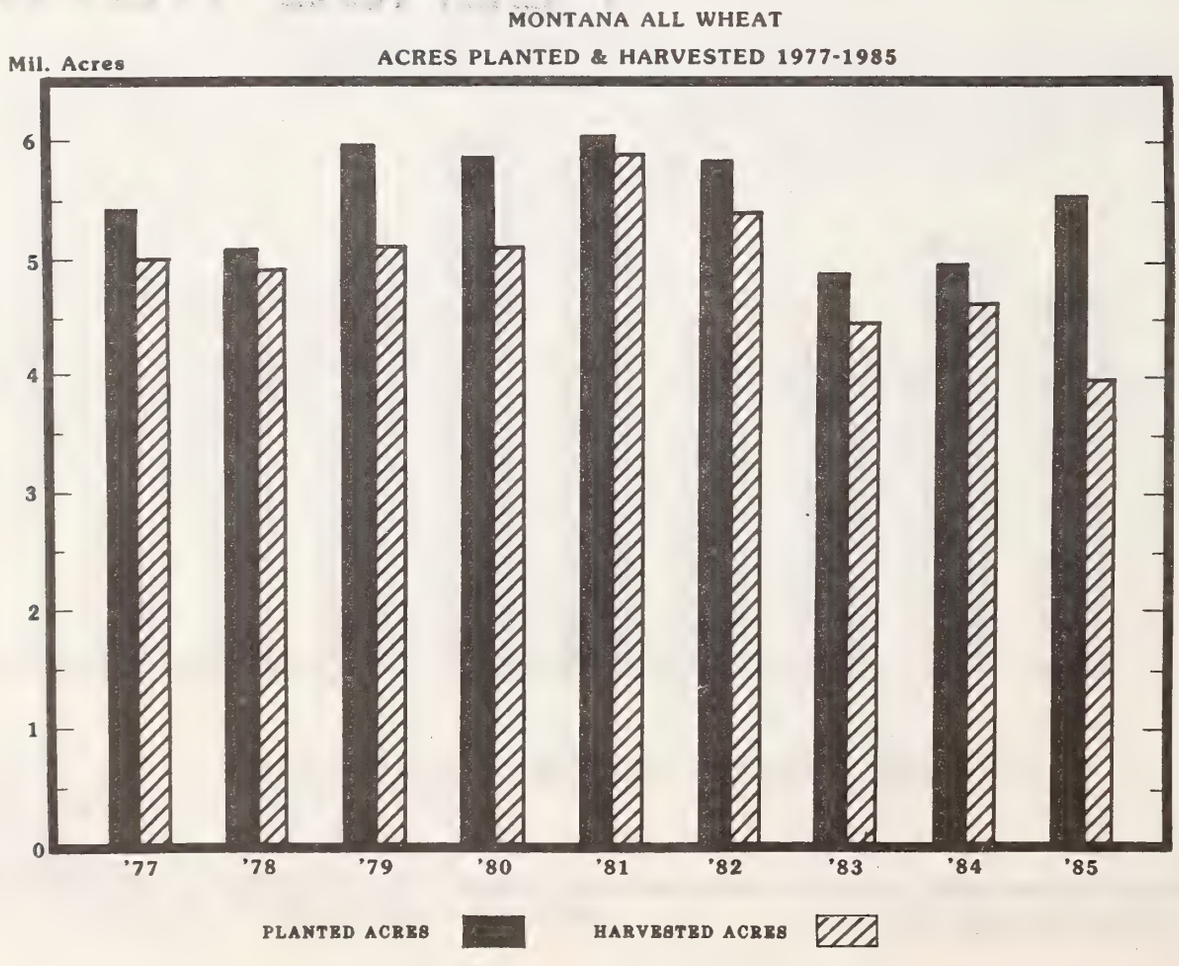
1985 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SMALL GRAINS

CROP	YEAR	MONTANA					U. S.
		ACREAGE		PRODUCTION			
		PLANTED	HARVESTED	YIELD PER ACRE	TOTAL	% CHG. PREV. YEAR	PRODUCTION
		--000 Acres--		Bu.	000 Bu.	Pct.	-000 Bu.-
Winter Wheat	1983	2,550	2,260	35.0	79,100		1,988,304
	1984	2,700	2,480	27.0	66,960		2,060,266
	1985	2,460	1,400	16.0	22,400	-67	1,827,195
Durum Wheat	1983	210	205	20.0	4,100		72,979
	1984	215	210	17.0	3,570		103,439
	1985	200	160	9.0	1,440	-60	112,510
Other Spng Wht	1983	2,050	1,990	27.0	53,730		358,541
	1984	2,100	1,950	17.5	34,125		431,072
	1985	3,000	2,400	11.0	26,400	-23	485,060
All Wheat	1983	4,810	4,455	30.7	136,930		2,419,824
	1984	5,015	4,640	22.6	104,655		2,594,777
	1985	5,660	3,960	12.7	50,240	-52	2,424,765
Oats	1983	210	120	44.0	5,280		476,961
	1984	220	105	37.0	3,885		473,661
	1985	225	70	33.0	2,310	-41	518,626
Barley	1983	1,950	1,850	42.0	77,700		508,925
	1984	2,320	2,110	28.0	59,080		599,204
	1985	2,350	1,500	20.0	30,000	-49	589,183
TOTAL SMALL GRAINS	1983	6,970	6,425	--	219,910		3,405,710
	1984	7,555	6,855	--	167,620		3,667,642
	1985	8,235	5,530	--	82,550	-51	3,532,574



HAY STOCKS DOWN SHARPLY

Stocks of hay on Montana farms as of January 1, 1986 were 2.1 million tons, 31 percent less than a year ago, and the smallest amount on hand since January 1, 1950. The reduced stocks level was mainly due to a severe drouth during the growing season which reduced total hay production, but it has also been impacted by record low temperatures during November which greatly increased feeding requirements.

Last year, Montana livestock producers utilized 2.5 million tons between January 1 and May 1. Whether the stocks on hand will stretch to the end of the feeding season will depend on the extent of livestock inventory reductions that have taken place and the prospects for early spring grazing. However, some localized shortages can be expected to be severe.

STILL MOST EFFICIENT

Has U.S. agriculture lost its competitive edge in food production? Has our technology and productivity been outpaced by our foreign competitors? The answer to these questions is a definite 'no' according to a report from U.S.D.A.

Measuring production costs of wheat among different countries--it appears the U.S., and especially the Northern Plains, can produce wheat as cheaply as any foreign competitor. It was found the variable cost of producing a bushel of wheat was $1.29. That's basicly the out-of-pocket cost excluding the value of land, labor and depreciation. It also appears that productivity gains for both farmland and agricultural labor rose much faster here than in the rest of the world. This means we should have widened our competitive advantage to produce food. But, why haven't we sold more, why are our exports down about 1/3 from 1981? Well, the answers boil down to the same old gremlins--the high value of the dollar and competition that's subsidized. So, given a level playing field, our farmers can compete effectively on the world market.

1986 WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE

Montana farmers planted 2.15 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1986, the smallest acreage planted since 1972. The 13 percent decline in acreage from 1985 was largely due to fields being too wet for seeding equipment to operate early in the planting season, and then weather turning unseasonably cold later in the fall. At the end of December, the crop was reported to be in fair to good condition.

Nationally, growers planted 54.0 million acres in the fall of 1985 for the 1986 crop--7 percent less than the previous year.

WINTER WHEAT -- SELECTED STATES and U.S.

SELECTED STATES	AREA SEEDED 1/		1986
	CROP OF		----
	1985	1986	1985
	--000 Acres--		Pct.
ARK	650	700	108
CALIF	800	700	88
COLO	3,700	3,300	89
GA	950	600	63
IDAHO	1,000	900	90
ILL	850	1,300	153
IND	770	950	123
KANS	12,400	11,500	93
KY	430	470	109
MICH	770	750	97
MISS	380	250	66
MO	1,500	1,100	73
MONT	2,460	2,150	87
NEBR	2,600	2,300	88
N MEX	730	740	101
N C	800	600	75
N DAK	750	520	69
OHIO	1,000	1,150	115
OKLA	7,800	7,400	95
OREG	1,030	1,000	97
S C	460	290	63
S DAK	1,850	1,800	97
TENN	340	400	118
TEX	8,100	8,100	100
WASH	2,550	2,200	86
U.S.	57,752	53,992	93

1/ Total area seeded for all purposes.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 120,000 gallons of ice cream during November--12 percent less than in November 1984. Creamed cottage cheese production at 316,000 pounds was 32 percent less than a year ago. Butter output at 174,000 pounds was down 1 percent. American cheese production at 263,000 pounds was 65 percent above the same month a year ago.

DECEMBER FARM PRICES

Montana December farm prices continued on the weak side with some improvement in grains but decreases for most livestock items.

The all farm products price index for December was 142 percent of the 1977 base, the same as a year ago. However, the November index was 146 percent. The crops index was 154 percent in December, 152 percent in November and 150 in December 1984. The livestock and products index was 130 percent in December, 140 percent in November and 133 percent a year ago.

Nationally, the December index of prices received by farmers for all farm products increased 1 point from November to 128 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for lettuce, hogs, corn, tomatoes and soybeans were partially offset by lower prices for oranges, broilers, cotton, lemons and wheat. The index was 7 points below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for December was 163 percent of its 1977 average. The index was the same as last month and a year earlier. Feed prices were higher in December but their effect on the index was offset by lower feeder livestock prices.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Potato Stocks

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Dec. 15, 1985	Dec. 15, 1985
		Dec. 1984	Nov. 1985		
PRICES RECEIVED		----------	Dollars	----------	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.45	3.50	3.08
Durum	Bu.	3.67	3.26	3.35	3.15
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.81	3.85	3.44
All Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.65	3.70	3.16
Barley	Bu.	2.22	2.12	2.21	2.09
Oats	Bu.	1.62	1.32	1.40	1.14
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	84.00	84.00	71.20
All Other Hay	Ton	68.00	74.00	74.00	56.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	83.00	83.00	67.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt	57.10	57.40	55.00	60.10
Cows	Cwt	33.00	32.40	29.00	31.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.20	47.40	42.00	54.80
Calves	Cwt	60.10	61.30	60.30	59.80
Sheep	Cwt	26.70	15.50	20.00	28.90
Lambs	Cwt	60.20	63.60	63.50	62.50
Hogs	Cwt	42.50	35.40	36.70	45.30
All Milk	Cwt	14.00	13.15	13.30	12.60
Eggs	Doz	.590	.640	.700	.602
Wool 2/	Lb.	.900	.650	.650	.579
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	142	146	142	128
All Crops	Pct.	150	152	154	117
Livestock & Products	Pct.	133	140	130	139

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Dec. 1984	Nov. 1985	Dec. 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	135	127	128
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	163	163	163
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	83	78	79
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	52	52

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
CAROL JEAN SMITH--EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

HOG INVENTORY DROPS
POTATO STOCKS INCREASE
CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS DROP
FEWER EGGS PRODUCED
RED MEAT PRODUCTION
featuring.....MISSOULA COUNTY

MONTANA HOG NUMBERS DOWN

The Montana December 1 All Hog and Pig Inventory at 135,000 is down 13 percent from last year. Hogs on hand for breeding, at 16,000 are unchanged while market hogs at 119,000 are down 14 percent from a year ago.

Montana's 1985 pig crop totaled 244,000 head, down 2 percent from the previous year. The spring pig crop (December-May) at 126,000 was up 8 percent, but the fall pig crop (June-November) at 118,000 was down 10 percent.

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 52.3 million head on December 1, 1985. This is 3 percent below a year ago and 8 percent less than December 1, 1983.

--Breeding hog inventory at 6.78 million, is 2 percent below last year and down 8 percent from two years ago.

--Market hog inventory at 45.5 million, is 3 percent below a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago.

The U.S. pig crop for 1985 totaled 86.0 million head, 1 percent below 1984 and 8 percent below the 1983 pig crop.

--December 1984-May 1985 pig crop, estimated at 42.5 million head, is up slightly from a year earlier but 10 percent below the comparable period in 1983.

--June-November 1985 pig crop, estimated at 43.5 million head, is 2 percent below last year, and 5 percent below the June-November 1983 crop.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 5.59 million sows farrow during the December 1985 - May 1986 period, up fractionally from a year ago.

HOG & PIG INVENTORY -- DECEMBER 1, 1984 & 1985

HOGS & PIGS	MONTANA			U.S.		
	1984	1985	% Chg.	1984	1985	% Chg.
	(000)		%	(000)		%
Breeding	16	16	NC	6,933	6,780	- 2
Market	139	119	-14	47,140	45,518	- 3
Under 60 Lbs.	44	38	-14	18,071	17,295	- 4
60-119 Lbs.	42	33	-21	12,013	11,698	- 3
120-179 Lbs.	31	26	-16	9,610	9,319	- 3
180+ Lbs.	22	22	NC	7,446	7,207	- 3
TOTAL	155	155	-13	54,073	52,298	- 3
Sows Farrowing						
Dec.-May 1/	16	16	NC	5,694	5,569	- 2
June-Nov.	17	16	- 6	5,587	5,667	- 3
Pig Crop	248	244	- 2	86,586	86,006	- 1

Intentions to Farrow	1986	% Chg.
December - May 1/	5,585	NC

1/ December preceeding year.

POTATO STOCKS UP

December 1, 1985 potato stocks totaled 234 million cwt for the 15 states making stocks estimates. This is up 16 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. Stocks averaged 69 percent of fall production this year in the 15 states compared with 66 percent last year. In the 11 major states in the Objective Yield Program, russets accounted for 76 percent of the storage; whites were 21 percent and reds 3 percent.

The six western states stored a total of 148 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1985, up 17 percent from a year ago and 20 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks were placed at 74.5 million cwt, a gain of 21 percent from last year. Washington was up 13 percent; Oregon, up 20 percent; and Colorado, up 15 percent. In Idaho, shrinkage, dumping, and cattle feeding are much above normal as farmers clear their storages of frost damaged potatoes. Of those potatoes still in storage, about 11.5 percent will not be marketable due to frost problems. Frost damage is almost non-existent in southwestern and the western part of south central Idaho, but is an important factor in southeast counties. Potatoes harvested prior to the first frost period of September 28-30 are keeping well. Those harvested after the second frost period of October 8-9 are causing the majority of problems.

Disappearance from harvest to December 1 in the 15 states was 107 million cwt this year compared with 102 million cwt last year and 92 million cwt in 1983. Shrinkage and loss made up 20.4 million cwt of the total this year compared with 16.1 million cwt last year.

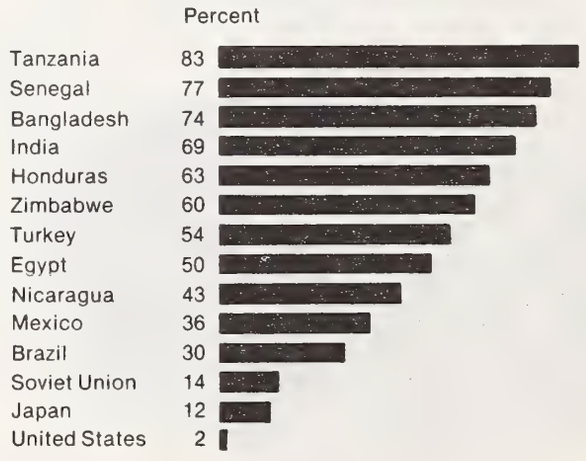
FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION and STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1984 and DECEMBER 1, 1985

STATE	CROP OF 1984		CROP OF 1985	
	Production	Total Stocks Dec. 1, 1984	Production	Total Stocks Dec. 1, 1984
	1,000 CWT			
CALIF	7,280	5,400	7,878	4,900
COLO	17,225	12,700	17,920	14,600
IDAHO	86,600	61,500	102,515	74,500
MAINE	21,360	17,200	27,160	22,100
MICH	12,540	8,000	12,100	8,000
MINN	13,775	11,300	14,145	11,000
MONT	1,924	1,860	1,890	1,600
NEBR	2,480	1,900	2,173	1,750
NY-L.I.	3,577	1,500	3,870	2,000
UPSTATE	6,630	3,100	6,125	3,500
N DAK	20,615	15,300	23,630	18,800
OHIO	2,418	950	2,465	800
OREG	23,525	15,400	26,701	18,500
PA	5,160	4,050	5,720	4,025
WASH	56,925	29,600	62,370	33,500
WISC	21,350	11,600	24,130	14,200
15 STATE TOTAL	303,384	201,410	340,792	233,775

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed December 1 for the slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.88 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago but 1 percent above December 1, 1983. **MARKETINGS** of fed cattle during November totaled 1.38 million, a decrease of 8 percent from last year and 5 percent less than November 1983. **PLACEMENTS** of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states were 1.78 million, down 9 percent from November 1984 but up 4 percent from two years ago. Net placements of 1.70 million were down 7 percent from 1984 but 7 percent above 1983. **OTHER DISAPPEARANCE** totaled 76 thousand compared with 121 thousand during November of 1984 and 1983.

Percentage of Labor Force in Agriculture



1980 data.
Source: World Development Report 1983, World Bank.

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana poultrymen produced 48 million eggs in the September-November quarter, 4 percent less than a year ago. The average number of layers on hand during the final quarter of 1985 was up nearly 3 percent from last year at 810,000.

The Nation's laying flock was down one percent from the same quarter last year with 278 million layers. Eggs produced in the September-November quarter was also down 1 percent at 17.0 billion.

MONTANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Montana totaled 1.8 million pounds in November, 22 percent less than October and only 18 percent of November last year.

Cattle slaughter was 2,500 head compared with 15,000 last year. Hog kill totaled 2,600 compared with 13,000 in November 1984.

NATIONAL SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production for the United States in November 1985 totaled 3.12 billion pounds, down 6 percent from November 1984. January-November red meat production at 36.0 billion pounds, was up fractionally from last year. The 1985 accumulated production percentage changes by individual components were: beef, up 1; veal, up 3; pork, virtually unchanged; lamb and mutton, down 6.

Kill days for November 1985 included 21 weekdays (two were holidays) and five Saturdays. Kill days for November 1984 consisted of 22 weekdays (two were holidays) and four Saturdays.

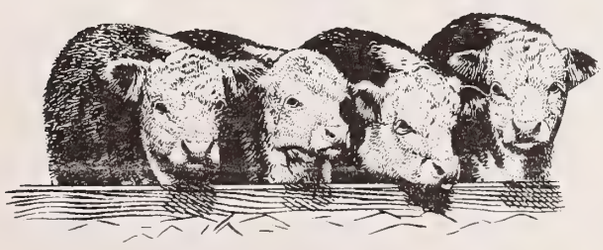
Comparing November 1985 with November 1984:

BEEF PRODUCTION, at 1.81 billion pounds, was down 6 percent. Cattle kill totaled 2.81 million head, down 9 percent. The average live weight increased 30 pounds to 1102.

VEAL PRODUCTION, at 42 million pounds, was down 2 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 288 thousand head, down 4 percent. Live weight averaged 249 pounds, 7 pounds heavier than last year.

PORK PRODUCTION totaled 1.24 billion pounds, down 7 percent. Hog kill totaled 7.01 million head, down 8 percent. Average live weight increased 2 pounds to 248.

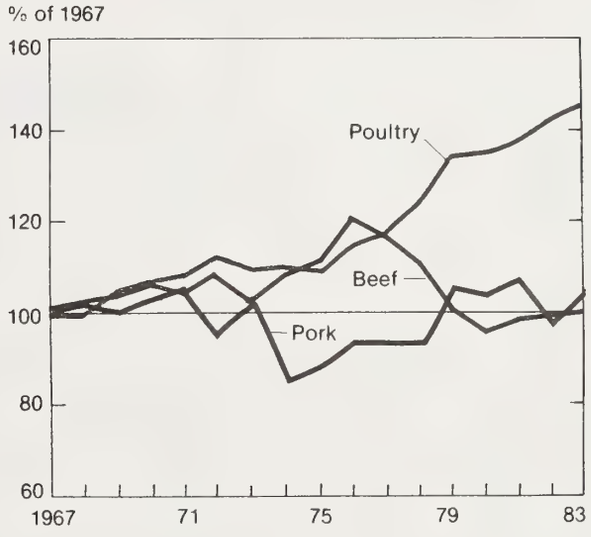
LAMB AND MUTTON PRODUCTION, at 28 million pounds, was down 7 percent. Slaughter totaled 476 thousand head, down 12 percent. Live weight averaged 116 pounds, 3 pounds heavier than a year earlier.



FARM MACHINERY UPDATE

Domestic demand for new farm machinery has fallen sharply this year, continuing a trend started in 1980. Purchases of new machinery, particularly four-wheel-drive tractors and self-propelled combines, have been a casualty of the weak farm economy. Dealers continue to offer incentives to spur new sales. But, with record crop production and weak export demand driving down crop prices, U.S. farmers are expected to purchase even less new machinery in 1986.

Per Capita Consumption of Meat



BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE

The 1985 issue of **Montana Agricultural Statistics** has been published and is available for distribution. This issue includes county statistics (1983 and 1984) on Montana crops and livestock as well as state statistics for the past ten years.

Cost of the publication is $5.00, but is free to farmers and others who furnish data for input to the publication.

Address requests for the publication to:

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featuring . . . . . MISSOULA COUNTY

Missoula County is located midway between the north and south state boundaries in west central Montana. The Idaho-Montana boundary defines the southwestern corner of the county's border. The landscape is largely mountainous and encompasses half of the Seeley-Swan valley in the north, and a portion of the Bitterroot Valley in the south. A major part of the Lolo National Forest lies within the boundaries of Missoula County. The Blackfoot River flows west through the center of the county, while the Bitterroot River and Rock Creek enter from the south. All three join the Clark Fork River at Missoula.

While not a major agricultural area because of limited farm land, Missoula County does have a variety of agricultural interests. The major crop produced in the county is hay. Other crops include oats, barley, winter and spring wheat, and some corn. Most of the cropland is irrigated, and the 1982 Census of Agriculture shows there were 443 farms in the county at that time.

Sheep, cattle, and hogs ranking 49th, 50th, and 52nd, respectively, are all produced in the area. Sales of livestock and livestock products brought in $5,176,000 to Missoula County in 1983. Crop receipts added $1,892,000, while government payments came to $216,000. This brings the cash receipt total for 1983 to $7,284,000.

MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,652,659
Land In Farms 1/	Acres	250,213
Number of Farms 1/		443
CROPS		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	26,100
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,300
Barley	Acres Plntd.	3,600
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	600
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	500
Corn	Acres Plntd.	100

	UNIT	1984
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	39,217
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	19,746
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	19,000
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	800
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	200

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
SID LEBAHN, AGR. STAT.--EDITOR

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Agricultural Prices
Hay Stocks
Dairy Products Mfg.
Small Grains

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Phone: 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

CURRENT WHEAT SITUATION
MFG. DAIRY PRODUCTS
FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION DECREASES
NOVEMBER AG PRICES UP
featuring.....TREASURE COUNTY

WHEAT SITUATION

The 1985/86 marketing year is almost half over, having brought near-record supplies, the slowest export pace in a decade, reduced domestic use, and the lowest prices in 7 years. Farm prices that have sunk 11 percent below the loan rate have encouraged eligible producers to place much of their 1985 wheat under CCC loan.

As of November 1, outstanding loans covered over 672 million bushels of new-crop wheat and 48 million bushels from prior seasons. If prices remain below the loan rate for an extended period--and they may stay low even into the 1986/87 season--a large portion of these loan stocks will likely be added to CCC inventories. Combining these forfeited stocks with another 660 million bushels now in the farmer-owned reserve program and the nearly 500 million in CCCs current inventory would mean that literally all of the wheat stocks at the end of this season would be isolated from the market.

As free stocks of wheat tightened, harvest-depressed wheat prices posted some gains in October, but they still were below the loan level. Accelerated export sales could help bolster prices in the short run. The longer-term price outlook focuses on 1986 wheat seedings, program participation, and establishment of the 1986 loan rate in the farm bill. For the 1985/86 season, the farm price will likely fall between $3.00 and $3.20, below last year's $3.38 a bushel.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

This is the time of year when many of us pause and reflect on the problems of the past year and try to contemplate and foresee what next year will bring. This has been a very tough year for farmers and ranchers. Wheat production was the lowest in over 40 years and grazing conditions were comparable to the drouth years of the 1930s. Prices farmers are now receiving for their products when compared with costs of interest, fuel, fertilizer, machinery and other inputs have reached a historic low. Many can't afford to continue to produce food under these circumstances. Even our family dairy farm in Wisconsin won't escape the squeeze-out. The farm has survived three generations, but is losing money at current prices, so next year the herd will be sold and my brother will move on to another job--out of farming.

This is only one of many hard choices that are being made based on today's economic situation. Even though these changes are heart wrenching and difficult to accept, they must be kept in perspective. We're all fortunate to live in a land where many choices and opportunities exist. We must also keep in mind that families and friends are more important in the long term than farms and businesses.

These stressful and troubled times have also resulted in a sharp increase in requests for information about crop and livestock production. Our job is to serve you by collecting and publishing this information. We sincerely thank each of you who voluntarily takes time to answer our requests for survey information whether by mail, phone or personal interview. Accurate, reliable information depends on your excellent cooperation.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

Lyle Pratt,
State Statistician

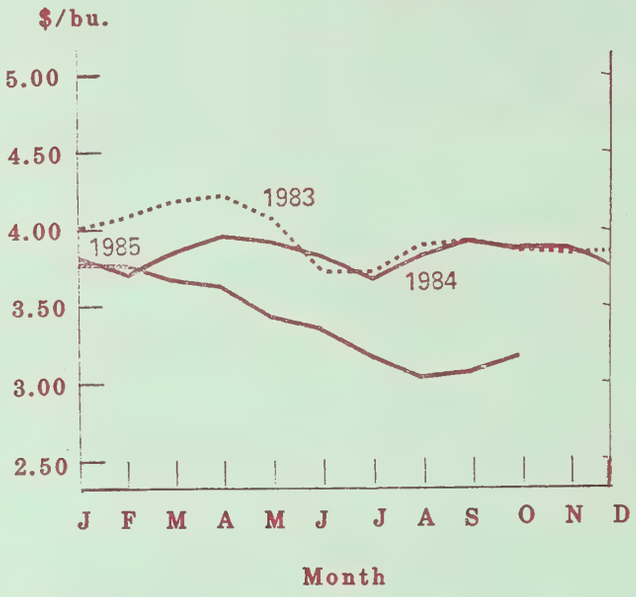
SINCERE GOOD WISHES

FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 327,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese in October--11 percent less than the previous month and 41 percent below October 1984. Ice cream production was up 15 percent from September and was nearly 1 percent above October last year. Butter followed its seasonal pattern and moved up 48 percent from September but was 2 percent below last year. American cheese moved up 1 percent from the previous month and was 18 percent above October 1984.

WHEAT



No. 1 Hard Red Wheat, Kansas City

MONTANA 1985 FERTILIZER USE FALLS 18 PERCENT

Montana farmers used 382 thousand tons of fertilizer in the year ending June 30, 1985. This is an 18 percent drop from last year and the lowest since 1981.

Nationally, consumption was down 2 percent. Inspite of the overall reduction, nitrogen consumption was up 4 percent.

MONTANA & U.S. CONSUMPTION OF FERTILIZER and PLANT NUTRIENTS, 1982-1985

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30	GROSS TONNAGES				PRIMARY NUTRIENT CONTENT			
	Mixed Fertilizer	Primary Nutrient Material	Secondary & Micro Nutrients	TOTAL	N	Available p2o5	K20	TOTAL
	--Thousand Tons--							
MONTANA								
1982	149	236	4	389	115	76	12	203
1983	157	242	5	404	121	76	11	208
1984	179	279	6	464	137	88	14	239
1985	152	227	3	382	109	76	12	197
U.S.								
1982	20,857	26,054	1,758	48,669	10,983	4,814	5,631	21,428
1983	18,352	21,851	1,610	41,813	9,127	4,138	4,831	18,096
1984	21,174	26,928	1,954	50,056	11,092	4,901	5,797	21,790
1985	19,501	27,678	1,829	49,008	11,504	4,641	5,510	21,656

NOVEMBER FARM PRICES

The Montana index of prices received by farmers for all farm products during mid-November was 145 percent of the 1977 base. The index was up 1 point from both last month and last year's level. The all crops price index at 155 was 6 points above October, but only 2 points above November 1984. The livestock and products index at 136 was 4 points below October, and the same as a year ago.

All grain prices increased from October to November. All livestock items except beef cows and hogs also went up, while hay prices held steady.

Nationally, the November index of prices received by farmers for all farm products increased 3 points from October to 126 percent of its 1977 average. Higher prices for cattle, broilers, corn, strawberries, and oranges were partially offset by lower prices for lemons, hogs and grapefruit. The index was 10 points below a year ago.

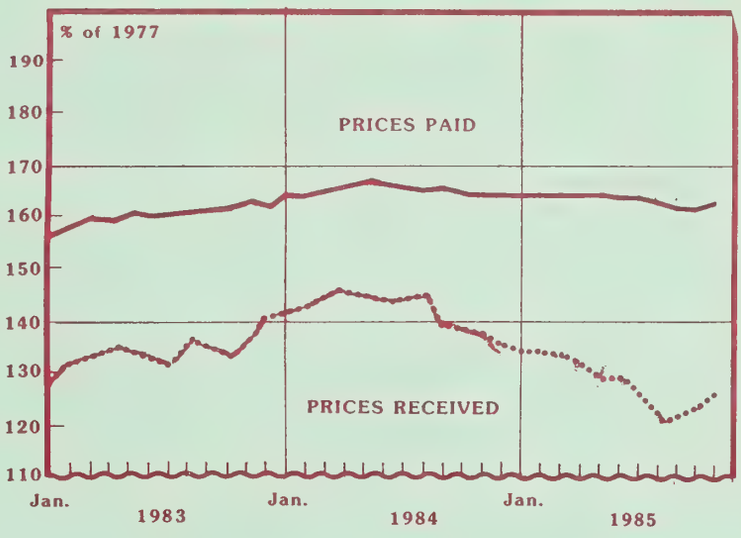
The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for November was 163 percent of its 1977 average. The index was 1 point higher than October but 1 point lower than November 1984. Contributing most to the increase from last month were the feed and feeder livestock components.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Nov. 1984	Oct. 1985	Nov. 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	136	123	126
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	162	163
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	83	76	77
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	50	51

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

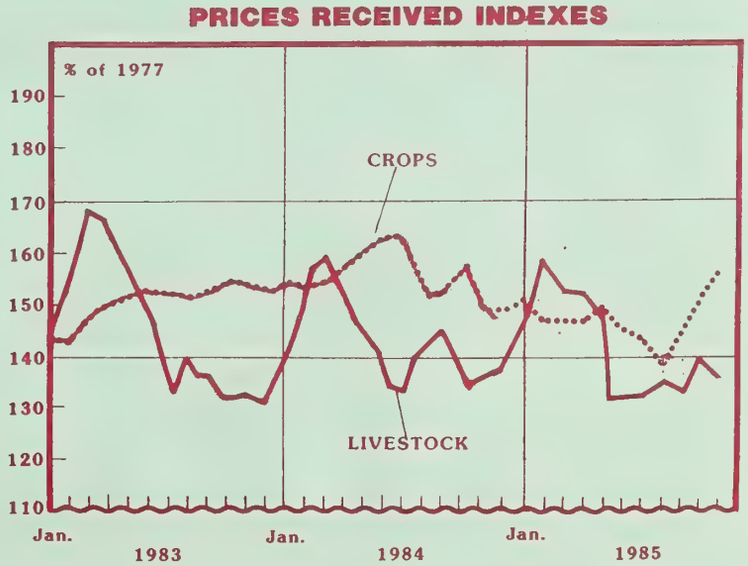


AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

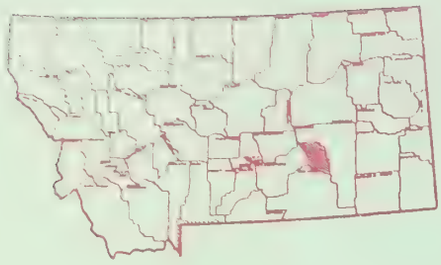
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1984	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1985	MONTANA Nov. 15, 1985	U.S. Nov. 15, 1985
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.40	3.33	3.50	3.03
Durum	Bu.	3.60	3.17	3.30	3.10
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.75	3.58	3.75	3.36
All Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.51	3.68	3.11
Barley	Bu.	2.55	2.26	2.31	1.97
Oats	Bu.	1.70	1.46	1.50	1.10
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	75.00	84.00	84.00	69.40
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	74.00	74.00	55.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	83.00	83.00	66.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	58.40	56.50	57.40	60.30
Cows	Cwt	33.40	32.10	31.10	32.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	44.40	46.70	44.30	55.00
Calves	Cwt	60.20	61.70	61.90	61.10
Sheep	Cwt	14.10	14.20	15.20	23.70
Lambs	Cwt	61.20	64.20	65.10	67.30
Hogs	Cwt	41.10	38.60	37.60	42.40
All Milk	Cwt	14.45	13.10	13.30	12.70
Eggs	Doz	.600	.570	.640	.603
Wool 2/	Lb.	.900	.650	.650	.566
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	144	144	145	126
All Crops	Pct.	153	149	155	114
Livestock & Products	Pct.	136	140	136	138

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



featuring. . . . . TREASURE COUNTY



Treasure County occupies 624,140 acres of land in south central Montana. The landscape of the county is level and gently rolling. The Yellowstone River traverses the center of the county from west to east. Approximately 36,000 acres are devoted to cropland, with nearly 20,000 of these acres irrigated.

A variety of crops can be found growing in Treasure County, including winter and spring wheat, barley, oats, hay, and dry beans. It is also one of the major corn producing counties in the state.

Treasure County has as much interest in livestock as it does in crop production. Cattle, sheep and hogs are all raised in the area.

Cash receipts for 1983 for Treasure County totaled $11,990,000. $5,120,000 of this was contributed by livestock receipts, and $6,272,000 was contributed by crop receipts. Government payments added the remaining $598,000.

Hysham is the county seat and this area has an annual average precipitation of 12.77 inches. Normally, there are 121 frost free days for the area.

TREASURE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	624,140
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	608,477
Number of Farms 1/		107
CROPS		
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	4,200
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	3,000
Barley	Acres Plntd.	2,800
Oats	Acres Plntd.	500
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	10,800
Corn	Acres Plntd.	8,100
Dry Beans	Acres Plntd.	300
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	36,190
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	16,346
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	29,700
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	600
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	500

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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December 1 Hog Inventory
Potato Stocks
Slaughter

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

OUTLOOK ON WHEAT EXPORTS
OCTOBER SLAUGHTER INCREASES
OCTOBER FARM LABOR
FARM ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE RATES UP
FEWER CATTLE ON FEED
featuring.....TETON COUNTY

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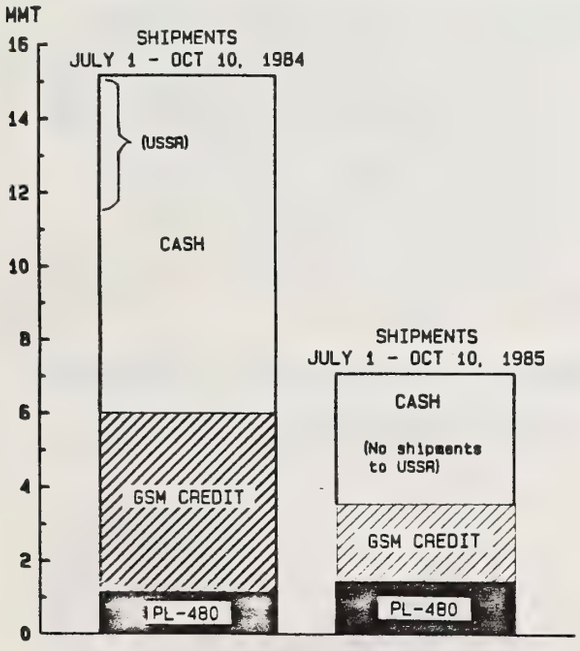
U.S. WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR EXPORTS
RECENT VS. YEAR-AGO RATES



NOTE: Credit and PL-480 quantities are estimated.

WHEAT EXPORT HIGHLIGHTS

As of October 10, U.S. wheat exports lag behind last year's level at this time by over 50 percent, or by about 8 million tons. Nearly 6 million tons of this decline is due to reduced cash exports, including a drop-off of nearly 4 million tons of exports to the Soviet Union. U.S. wheat exports to China, the Middle East, and Western Europe also lag considerably behind last season's exports. Another indication of the lack of competitiveness of U.S. wheat is the growing trend for many countries to not fully utilize available GSM financing. In FY 1984 nearly all announced programming was utilized, while in FY 1985 only about 50 percent of announced programs actually resulted in exports.

EXPORT FORECAST: The 1985/86 U.S. wheat export forecast fell sharply because of depressed world import demand, ample competitor supplies and lagging sales to a number of destinations. Accumulated exports and commitments through October 17 were 13.5 million metric tons as compared to 27.3 million tons one year before. It is especially notable that there are still no 1985/86 exports to the Soviet Union, while last year at this time accumulated exports to the USSR had reached nearly 4 million tons.

SHIPMENTS AND SALES: Wheat shipments in the 4-week period ending October 17 totaled 2.2 million tons, up almost 25 percent from last month, but over 50 percent behind last year's level.

Sizeable purchases of U.S. wheat by Korea, Algeria, Taiwan, and Pakistan, as well as the first sizeable sales to the Soviet Union (150,000 tons) since October 1984, were the month's highlights for U.S. wheat exporters.

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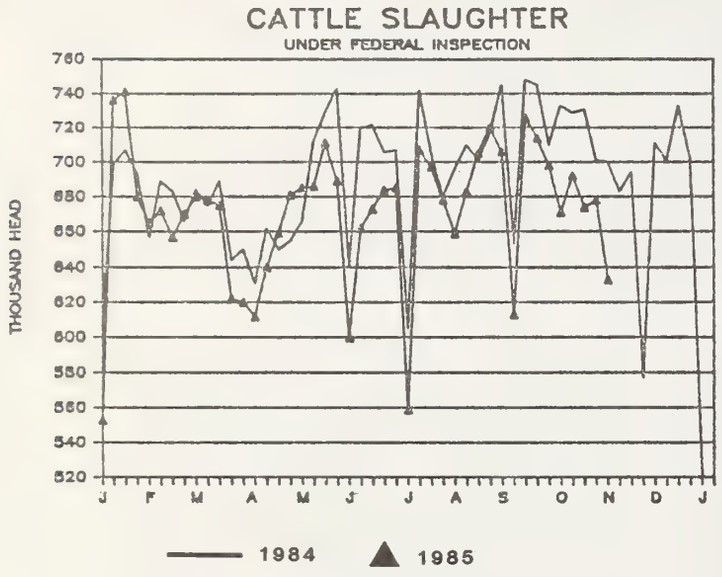
RED MEAT PRODUCTION INCREASES

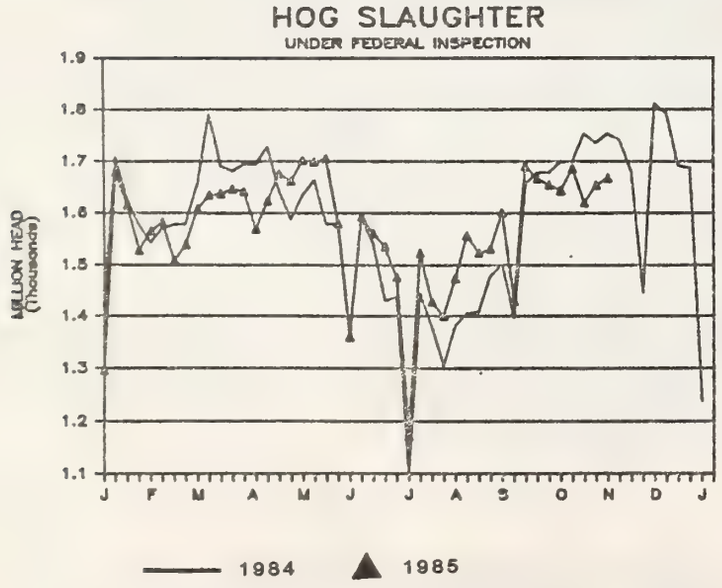
Commercial red meat production in Montana totaled 2.3 million pounds in October, 20 percent more than September but only 29 percent of October last year.

Cattle slaughter was 3,000 head compared with 9,600 a year ago. Hogs killed in Montana packing plants amounted to 3,700 head compared with 17,600 in October 1984.

Nationally, red meat production totaled 3.55 billion pounds in October, 9 percent more than September but 3 percent less than last year.

January-October red meat production was 32.9 billion pounds, 1 percent more than the same period in 1984. The 1985 accumulated production percent changes by individual components were: beef up 1 percent; veal up 3 percent; pork up 1 percent; lamb and mutton down 6 percent.



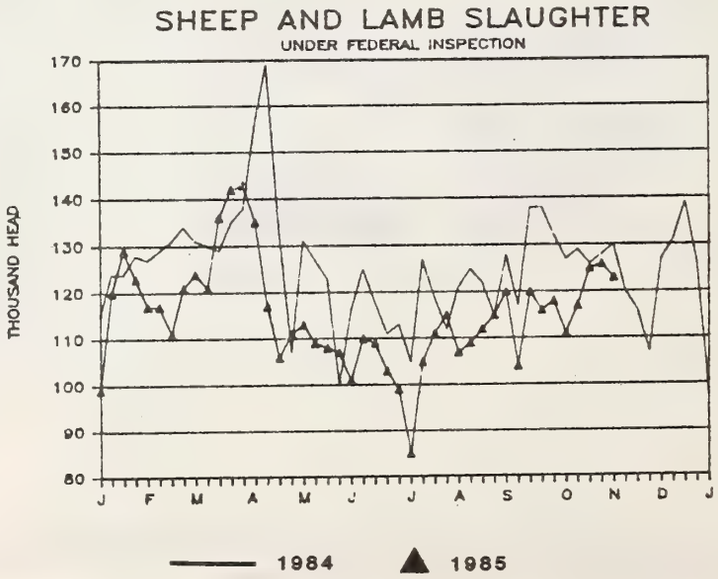


NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS DOWN, WAGES UNCHANGED

A total of 3.1 million people were working on farms and ranches in the United States during the week of October 6-12. Included were workers hired directly by the farm operators and agricultural service employees who were working on farms. In October 1985, there were 3.3 percent (106,000) fewer people working on farms than in a corresponding week a year earlier. Hired workers represented 38 percent (1.2 million) of the total. Of these workers, 1.0 million were hired directly by operators of farms and ranches, 1.0 percent fewer than a year earlier. Farm operators and other unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more accounted for 1.9 million workers, 4.6 percent below October last year.

The all hired farm worker wage rate in October was $4.56 per hour, unchanged from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis averaged $4.41, down 4 cents from October 1984. Wage rates for other categories of workers were: field $4.47; livestock $4.24 and piece-rate $5.51. Seasonal increases in wage rates from July were: all hired workers 32 cents; hourly 23 cents; field 40 cents; livestock 27 cents and piece-rate 78 cents.

Dry weather conditions during the survey week in most areas enabled farm operators to spend long hours in the fields harvesting crops and finishing up fall field activities. The self-employed farm operators worked an average of 47.9 hours, 4.8 hours more than during the comparable week in 1984. Other unpaid workers averaged 38.6 hours for the week, 2.2 hours more than in October 1984. The average work week for the hired workers was 1.6 hours less than a year earlier at 38.6 hours.



FARM ELECTRICITY and TELEPHONE COSTS

Montana farmers and ranchers paid 20 percent more for electric service in mid-1985 compared with a year ago. The average electric bill of $77 for one month represents an increase in usage and a 13 percent increase in cost per kilowatt hour.

Telephone bills were slightly lower with an average of $58.00 compared with $59.60 last year.

Nationally, farmers and ranchers paid an average mid-summer electric bill of $104 in 1985 which was 6.1 percent above the 1984 average of $98. Fuel adjustment costs and taxes are included in the electricity costs. The average cost per kilowatt hour (KWH) was 7.17 cents compared with 6.83 cents in 1984, a 5 percent increase. Usage of electricity averaged 1450 KWH per month in 1985 compared with 1440 KWH a year earlier. Costs per KWH were lowest in Washington at 4.2 cents followed by Idaho (4.6), Oregon (4.7), Tennessee (5.1), and Montana (5.2). Highest rates per KWH were reported in New Jersey (10.7 cents) followed by Connecticut at 9.7, New Hampshire (9.4) and Rhode Island (9.3).

Telephone service for farms and ranches averaged $43.90 per month in 1985, unchanged from last year. Charges for local service, long distance and extension phones were included in the monthly telephone bill. This year local service averaged $16.40 per month which was 80 cents higher than last year.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed November 1 for the slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.56 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below November 1, 1983.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during October totaled 1.57 million, 5 percent below last year and 3 percent less than October two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during October totaled 2.78 million, up 9 percent from last year and 13 percent above October 1983. This is the highest October placement total since 1978. Net placements of 2.69 million for October were 11 percent above last year and 14 percent above October 1983.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 85 thousand head, compared with 110 thousand during October 1984 and 102 thousand during October 1983.

RED MEAT & POULTRY

Total red meat and poultry output is expected to decline about 2 percent in 1986, but remain large by historical standards. An anticipated 4 percent rise in poultry production will partially offset a 5 percent decline in red meat. Large supplies of relatively lower priced poultry products will likely hold down price increases for red meats. Improved but still sluggish economic growth will also temper price gains.

This year, record large red meat and poultry supplies, combined with slow economic growth, have resulted in sharply lower prices to producers and declining consumer prices. Total meat supplies are being augmented by increased poultry production, and by larger marketings of female stock by hog and feeder cattle producers.

Red meat supplies this spring and summer were much larger than expected due to record-high slaughter weights for fed cattle since spring. Beef cow and sow slaughter has been large due to liquidation of breeding herds. However, slaughter of breeding stock has declined sharply since spring.

This fall's large grain harvest and expected lower feed prices may encourage further poultry expansion. Although there is little evidence of expansion in the hog and cattle sectors, lower feed costs and some price improvement could encourage the retention of some young female stock. For the year, however, total meat supplies may rise about 1 percent from 1984 with poultry production advancing 5 percent and red meat output remaining virtually unchanged from levels of the past two years.

featuring. . . . . TETON COUNTY

Teton County is located in north central Montana on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. The section of land along the western border of the county embraces this continental range. The North Fork of the Sun River comprises most of the western and southern borders of the county. The Teton River, formed by Deep Creek and Muddy Creek coming together, begins in the northeastern corner and continues east out of the county to join the Missouri River. The 1,456,179 acres of the county's landscape consists of rolling lowlands and bench prairie, hills, and mountains.

Teton County is a major crop production area in the state. In 1984 crop production the county ranked 2nd in barley, 3rd in winter wheat and 5th in durum wheat among the 56 counties in Montana. Places of 14th for all hay, and 18th for spring wheat production were also recorded in 1984 for Teton County. Nearly 20 percent of the crops are grown on irrigated land in this area.

The 1982 hog inventory showed Teton County in 10th place among the hog raising counties. In the 1983 cattle and sheep inventories the county came in 18th and 21st, respectively.

Cash receipts for crops raised in the county in 1983 totaled $35,083,000, while receipts for livestock came to $21,404,000. Government payments ended up at $9,596,000, making a total cash return of $66,083,000 for Teton County in 1983.

TETON COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984		UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,456,179	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	582,207
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,101,531	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	111,008
Number of Farms 1/		625			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Barley	Acres Plntd.	139,800			
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	141,400	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	64,100
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	3,300	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	7,300
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	48,500	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	5,300
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	32,700			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
SID LEBAHN, AGR. STAT.--EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

LESS GRAIN IN STORAGE
FARM PRICES FOR OCTOBER
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
FARM ENERGY USE

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Montana wheat stocks held in all storage positions October 1 were down 25 percent from a year ago. The total at 117.8 million bushels is the lowest October 1 wheat stocks since 1974. Wheat stored on farms was 72 percent of the total and was down 33 percent from last year. Commercial off farm storage held the remainder and was up 7 percent. Disappearance of wheat from storage since June 1 was 27.6 million bushels, down 31 percent from a year ago.

Winter wheat at 70.6 million bushels was down 26 percent from last year. All spring wheat (including durum) at 47.2 million bushels was down 24 percent. Durum at 8.1 million bushels was down 21 percent.

Barley stocks in all positions totaled 35.3 million bushels, down 37 percent from last October 1. Oats at 4.3 million were down 12 percent.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS
SEPTEMBER 30, 1985, MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
	--------000 Bushels-------			
Reserve	56,542	56,921	8,673	8,711
Under Loan	18,974	10,130	1,466	1,798

1/ These stocks are included in the October 1 total stocks estimates.

NATIONAL GRAIN STOCKS HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on October 1, 1985 totaled 2.93 billion bushels, 7 percent more then the 2.74 billion bushels on hand October 1, 1984, but 1 percent less than the October 1, 1983 stocks. Wheat stored off-farm is 1.72 billion bushels, or 59 percent of the total wheat stocks. Farm stocks amount to 1.21 billion bushels. Farm stocks are fractionally below october 1, 1984, while off-farm stocks are up 13 percent. Indicated disappearance of all wheat during June-September 1985 amounts to 909 million bushels, 27 percent less than the 1.25 billion bushels disappearance during the same period a year ago.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on October 1, 1985 totaled 163 million bushels, down 8 percent from the 177 million bushels stored on October 1, 1984. Farm stocks total 119 million bushels and are 5 percent less than October 1 a year ago. Off-farm stocks of 44.1 million bushels are down 15 percent from last October 1. Indicated disappearance from all storage positions during June-September 1985 is 42.4 million bushels, up 66 percent from the same period in 1984.

Barley stored in all positions on October 1, 1985 totaled 654 million bushels, 14 percent more than on October 1 a year earlier and 27 percent more than on October 1, 1983. Of the total barley stocks on hand October 1, 1985, 71 percent, or 463 million bushels, was stored on-farm. Farm stocks are 15 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, of 191 million bushels are up 11 percent from October 1, 1984. Indicated disappearance during June-September 1985 was 192 million bushels, 10 percent less than the corresponding period a year ago.

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STOCKS OF GRAIN OCTOBER 1, 1985 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 1, 1984*	June 1, 1985*	Oct. 1, 1985	% Chg. '85/'84	Oct. 1, 1984*	June 1, 1985*	Oct. 1, 1985
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	127,679	66,979	85,216	-33	1,217,308	582,179	1,212,544
Off Farms 1/	30,401	26,126	32,586	+ 7	1,522,679	843,163	1,722,259
TOTAL	158,080	93,105	117,802	-25	2,739,987	1,425,342	2,934,803
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	77,228	40,610	48,325	-37	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	18,725	17,370	22,310	+19	--	--	--
TOTAL	95,953	57,980	70,635	-26	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	50,451	26,369	36,891	-27	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	11,676	8,756	10,276	-22	--	--	--
TOTAL	62,127	35,125	47,167	-24	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms	4/	4/	4/	4/	125,005	69,225	118,971
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	51,571	30,581	44,064
TOTAL	10,263	7,303	8,088	-21	176,576	99,806	163,035
CORN							
On Farms	27	166	41	+52	347,853	2,004,109	677,402
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	375,370	827,702	701,944
TOTAL	4/	4/	4/	4/	723,223	2,831,811	1,379,346
OATS							
On Farms	4,740	1,709	3,900	-18	397,368	146,112	438,076
Off Farms 1/	127	103	374	+194	76,540	33,410	94,208
TOTAL	4,867	1,812	4,274	-12	473,908	179,522	532,284
BARLEY							
On Farms	49,036	12,998	28,800	-41	402,124	163,097	463,394
Off Farms 1/	6,967	3,282	6,545	- 6	171,479	84,033	190,747
TOTAL	56,003	16,280	35,345	-37	573,603	247,130	654,141
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	37,932	89,057	45,865
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	212,836	271,700	225,147
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	250,768	360,757	271,012

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Oct. 1, 1984	June 1, 1985*	Oct. 1, 1985	Oct. 1, 1984	June 1, 1985*	Oct. 1, 1985
	-------Million Bushels-------			-------Million Bushels-------		
Northwest	1.0	.6	1.1	3.1	.7	2.2
North Central	65.2	34.1	45.1	23.2	7.2	13.9
Northeast	42.7	30.0	33.5	5.6	2.1	4.4
Central	21.3	11.6	14.6	13.3	2.4	5.8
Southwest	4.0	2.6	3.5	4.1	.9	2.6
South Central	12.9	7.3	10.6	4.8	2.3	5.0
Southeast	11.0	6.9	9.4	1.9	.7	1.4
STATE	158.1	93.1	117.8	56.0	16.3	35.3

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

OCTOBER AG PRICES

The Montana index of prices received for all farm products at 142 was up 4 points from September, but down 3 points from October 1984. The all crop price index at 146 compares with 143 in Septembet and 157 a year ago. The livestock price index at 138 was up 4 points from both September and last October.

Most grain prices, except for barley, registered increases from the previous month. Livestock prices except for hogs, steers and heifers were lower than September.

Nationally, the October index of prices received by farmers for all farm products increased 2 points from September to 123 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for cattle, nogs, milk, turkeys, and cotton were partially offset by lower prices for broilers, corn, grapefruit, and soybeans. The index was 15 points below a year ago.

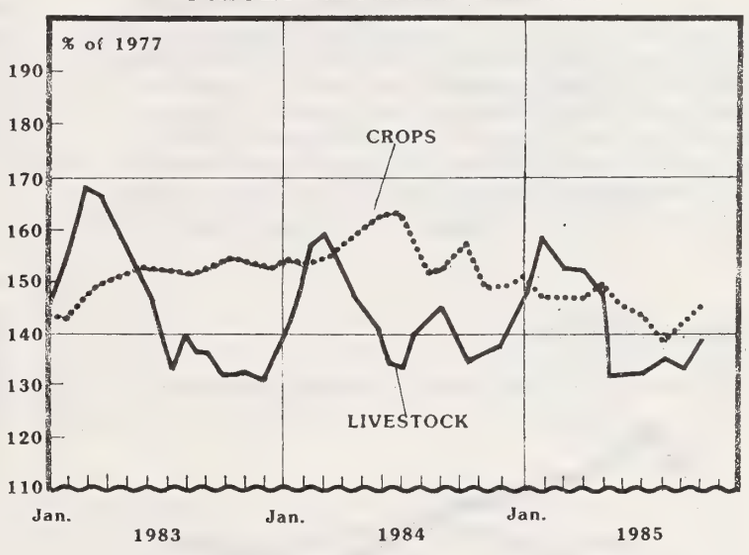
The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for October was 162 percent of its 1977 average. This was unchanged from a month earlier but 1 point lower than in October 1984. A decrease in the feed component from a month ago and the normal seasonal decline in the fertilizer component were offset by increases in the feeder livestock and family living components.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Oct. 1984	Sept. 1985	Oct. 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	138	121	123
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	163	162	162
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	85	75	76
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	56	49	50

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

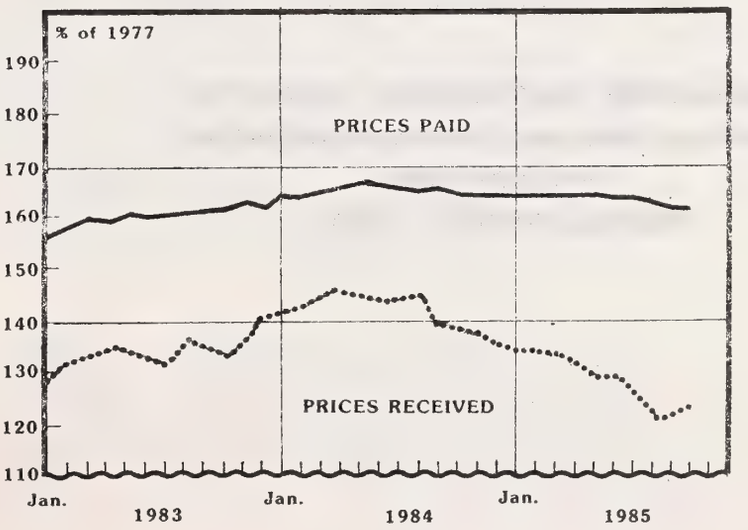


AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1984	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1985	MONTANA Oct. 15, 1985	U.S. Oct. 15, 1985
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.50	3.26	3.30	2.90
Durum	Bu.	3.67	3.10	3.15	3.15
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.83	3.49	3.65	3.20
All Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.40	3.51	3.00
Barley	Bu.	2.77	2.05	1.98	1.85
Oats	Bu.	1.64	1.53	1.60	1.08
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	75.00	82.00	84.00	89.50
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	72.00	74.00	55.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	81.00	83.00	66.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	56.30	51.30	53.70	56.90
Cows	Cwt	33.70	33.30	32.70	33.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.90	45.10	47.40	52.80
Calves	Cwt	60.90	58.10	55.60	59.70
Sheep	Cwt	13.10	15.20	11.80	23.70
Lambs	Cwt	61.20	68.90	64.90	67.00
Hogs	Cwt	37.30	31.50	37.90	43.20
All Milk	Cwt	14.45	12.80	13.00	12.50
Eggs	Doz	.507	.580	.570	.571
Wool 2/	Lb.	.900	.650	.650	.701
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	145	138	142	123
All Crops	Pct.	157	143	146	111
Livestock & Products	Pct.	134	134	138	134

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



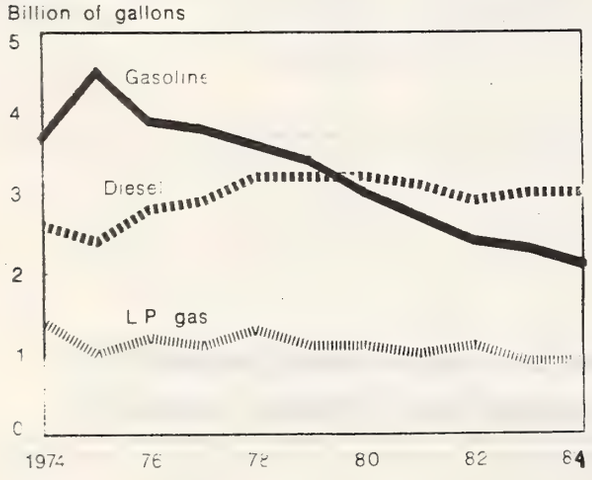
FARM ENERGY US(

Although farm energy use constitutes only a small fraction of total U.S. energy use, it is a very critical farm input. Even though energy supplies have been plentiful and energy prices have been moderate in recent years, farmers have continued to adopt energy-conserving techniques to reduce their operating costs.

Farm energy use in 1985 is expected to decline 2 percent. The projected decline is largely due to continued improvements in farm production technology designed to achieve reduced energy use per unit of output. These improvements include adoption of energy-conserving practices in tillage and crop drying. The reduction in energy use also reflects a slight reduction in acreage planted in 1985.

On-farm gasoline use has continued to decline while LP gas use changed little. Diesel use, however, continues to increase relative to both gasoline and LP gas as older gasoline-powered machinery is replaced by new diesel-powered machinery. Farm use of gasoline has declined 9 percent, whereas diesel fuel and LP gas use have remained unchanged from year-earlier levels.

Farm Fuel Use



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PASTURE & RANG(N) CONDITION

Pasture and range growth during October was essentially stopped because of frequent nighttime frosts. Limited grazing is still available but forage is very light because of earlier drouth. Ranchers are also utilizing hay fields and grain stubble in order to conserve short hay supplies. About 90 percent of all livestock have been moved from summer ranges by the end of October.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION NOV. 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1983	1984	1985
Northwest	86	85	75
North Central	67	34	63
Northeast	52	25	32
Central	76	55	59
Southwest	92	93	65
South Central	73	64	50
Southeast	73	55	42
STATE	73	56	54

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HIGHLIGHTS:

SMALLEST WHEAT CROP IN 5 YEARS
MONTANA MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES
RED MEAT PRODUCTION DECREASES
'85 FARM INCOME SITUATION
UNWELCOME BEES
CROP REPORTING BOARD RELEASE DATES
featuring.....LAKE COUNTY

WHEAT HIGHLIGHTS

The U.S. wheat harvest, probably the smallest in 5 years, is nearing completion. The smaller crop, down 195 million bushels from 1984, will provide 1985/86's marketing season with the lowest supplies in the last three seasons. The 1985/86 marketing year began with a June 1 carryin totaling 1.42 billion bushels, compared with 1.40 billion a year earlier. All of the rise over last year resulted from near record Hard Red Spring stocks, up 19 percent from a year earlier, and record Soft White wheat, up 4 percent. Hard Red and Soft Red Winter wheat inventories declined, while Durum was about unchanged.

Expanded use of the wheat loan program and expectations of large 1985 corn and sorghum harvests will dampen wheat feeding and cause an estimated 15 percent decline in 1985/86 feed use. The high-valued dollar and large foreign wheat crops will hinder this season's exports, causing overseas loadings to decline 19 percent from a year ago, to the smallest volume in 8 years. These projections reflect the sharpest season-to-season decline in wheat use in over 10 years. Lower use will in turn lead to higher stocks when the 1986/87 marketing year begins.

Despite the smaller harvest, 1985/86 wheat prices will be influenced by the near record 1985 world crop and record stocks. The season average U.S. farm price is expected to fall to between $3.05 and $3.25 a bushel, compared with last season's $3.38.

World wheat production in 1985/86 is forecast at 506 million tons, down 8 million from the record last year. The production forecast for the four major foreign exporters was down 4.5 million tons from last month. The outlook in the EC has been hurt by persistent and heavy rains at harvest across northwest Europe. Australian prospects have been hurt by weather; extended dryness before and during the planting will put harvested area at the lowest level in 3 years. Drought in Canada during June and July, and rains at harvesttime have reduced yield prospects in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Also, reduced plantings and yield prospects will likely result in a decline in Argentine output this year.

India has harvested another bumper wheat crop and is seeking to export its surplus. A severe shortage of covered storage is prompting India to make at least 2 to 3 million tons available for export. Although 500,000 tons have already been sold to the Soviet Union, Vietnam, and Romania, recent discussions with Pakistani and Soviet purchasing authorities have apparently been unsuccessful. India's problems in selling wheat include: high domestic support prices (around $130 per ton), a lack of bulk handling facilities, and complaints from the Soviet Union about the quality of last year's shipments.

MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana's July-September milk production at 95 million pounds was 8 percent above last year. Average milk production per cow, at 3,400 pounds, was up 5 percent over last quarter as dairymen fed more grain and concentrates to their cows. Montana's dairymen fed an average of 15 pounds of grain and concentrate per head per day, up from 14 pounds last quarter. The cost per hundredweight of this feed at $6.90/cwt was down an average of 20 cents.

Nationally, milk production during the third quarter totaled 36.7 billion pounds, a record high for that period and 10 percent more than the same period in 1984. Accumulated milk production for the first 9 months of 1985 totaled 108 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the same period in 1984. Production per cow averaged 3,299 pounds for the quarter, 203 pounds above the same quarter in 1984. The total number of milk cows in herds averaged 11.1 million head during the quarter, 3 percent above the same quarter a year ago.

JULY - SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MILK COWS		MILK PROD.	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	971	1,011	3,912	4,235
IDAHO	166	173	599	656
MINN	880	923	2,368	2,706
MONT	27	28	88	95
N DAK	100	100	251	276
ORE	97	102	348	378
S DAK	162	162	420	470
WASH	213	226	894	981
WISC	1,824	1,893	5,920	6,605
WYO	11.8	11.5	34.2	35.4
U.S.	10,809	11,109	33,468	36,654

SEPTEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Montana during September totaled 1.9 million pounds, down 15 percent from a month earlier. The January-September accumulated total at 22.8 million pounds is down 39 percent from the same period a year ago. Cattle slaughter in Montana packing plants during September was 2,500 head. The January-September total at 32,100 head is down 43 percent from last year. Hog slaughter was 3,000 head. The January-September total at 23,200 head was down 34 percent from last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production for the United States in September 1985 totaled 3.25 billion pounds, up 5 percent from September 1984. January-September red meat production, at 29.3 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from last year. The 1985 accumulated production percentage changes by individual components were: beef, up 2 percent; veal, up 4 percent; pork, up 1 percent; lamb and mutton, down 6 percent.

ANNUAL FALL SURVEY GETTING UNDERWAY

The Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service has been making monthly production forecasts throughout the 1985 crop year for the major crops. Now that the harvest season has essentially ended, about half of Montana's 23,600 farmers and ranchers will be asked to participate in a survey during November to obtain final 1985 figures on acreage, yield and production. A sample of producers who fail to respond by mail will be contacted by telephone to assure adequate coverage and accurate results.

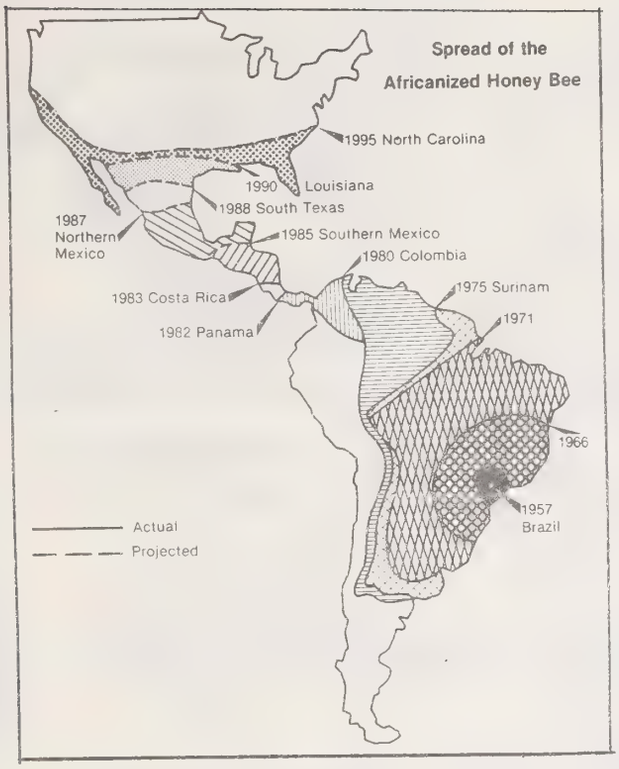
State and county estimates are developed from this annual acreage and production survey. These figures are important in providing an accurate picture of crop production for each county and for Montana. Similar surveys will be conducted in other states and final state and national survey results will be published January 10, 1986.

RELEASE DATES FOR 1986

There have been some changes made in the U.S.D.A.'s Crop Reporting Board release dates for 1986. Major reports will be issued on the following dates in 1986.

CROP PRODUCTION (Monthly)	Jan. 10, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 10, May 9, Jun. 10, Jul. 11, Aug. 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 10, Nov. 10, Dec. 10
SMALL GRAINS (Annual Summary)	Jan. 10
CROP PRODUCTION (Annual Summary)	Feb. 10
GRAIN STOCKS	Feb. 10, Apr. 29, Jun. 27, Sep. 29, Oct. 30
CATTLE INVENTORY	Feb. 10, Jul. 25
PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS	Feb. 18
HOGS AND PIGS	Mar. 21, Jun. 23, Sep. 22, Dec. 22
CATTLE ON FEED	Jan. 24, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, Apr. 25, May 15, Jun. 16, Jul. 25, Aug. 15, Sep. 15, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 15

The Crop Reporting Board calendar and a catalog covering all releases scheduled for 1986 will be available free in early December. For copies, write Crop Reporting Board Publications, Room 5829 South, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 447-4021.



1985 FARM INCOME UPDATE

With both net cash income and net farm income expected to decline, the 1985 U.S. farm economy will probably continue sluggish. Commodity prices are forecast to drop, leaving total cash receipts well below 1984. Crop cash receipts should come near last year, as lower prices just offset increased production. Livestock receipts, however, are expected to fall well short of 1984.

Although PIK disbursements ended earlier this year, total direct Government payments could approach 1984 levels. Cash payments are expected to show a dramatic increase, partly because of advanced deficiency payments for 1985 crops. A decline in gross cash income should be tempered somewhat by lower production expenses. Net cash income is forecast to fall to between $35 and $40 billion, following 1984's $39.2 billion. In constant (1972) dollars, net cash income is expected to total $15 to $17 billion, down from last year's $17.5 billion.

NET FARM INCOME OFF

Net farm income for 1985 is forecast at $23 to $27 billion, compared with $34.5 billion in 1984. Deflated net farm income ($1972) should range between $10 and $12 billion, compared with $15.5 billion last year. Part of the drop can be attributed to an anticipated decline in livestock receipts and inventories. Net cash flow, the cash available for business operation, real estate purchases, and household consumption, will likely also continue to fall.

AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES THREATEN U.S.

Africanized honey bees are now in Central America and are expected to reach Mexico late this year, according to USDA estimates. When the bees do settle here, the annual financial loss facing U.S. beekeepers could range from $26 million to $58 million.

Africanized bees were first brought to this hemisphere from Africa in 1956 by a group of Brazilian scientists. Reportedly, 26 swarms later escaped from laboratories near Sao Paolo, Brazil and have been multiplying ever since.

They are characterized by their aggressive hive defense, stinging, robbing and marauding survival tactics. In tests, they produced six to eight times more stings per colony than domestic bees. Although more aggressive than domestic bees, individually their stings are no more painful or serious. Africanized bees are noteworthy for excessive swarming--a major reason for production losses. They often abscond--an entire colony leaves a nest to hunt for a new location. Their piracy of other colonies may spread disease and parasites.

Rough estimates suggest that Africanized bee colonization mainly would be in areas of southern states with 240 frostfree days, but a somewhat more precise measure is where 60 degrees F. is the mean high temperature for the coldest month, January. That means Africanized bees could settle along the two coasts through part of California, and part of North Carolina, and across the country in parts of the states of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, South Carolina, and most of Florida.

Bees--all types--pollinate at least 100 crops. They may account for 80 percent of pollination, being primary pollinators of about $5-$6 billion in fruit, vegetables, seeds and fiber produced annually. They also are primary pollinators of seed which annually produces $4-$5 billion worth of alfalfa hay, which is a significant factor in cattle, calf and milk production.

The Africanized bee would interbreed with domestic honeybees that pollinate these valuable crops. The result of this cross could be a bee that is more aggressive and produces less honey.

featuring. . . . . . LAKE COUNTY

Lake County is located in the northwestern section of Montana. The upper portion of the county is occupied by beautiful Flathead Lake. The lake is about thirty miles long, and from five to ten miles in width with a rugged, wooded shoreline. Outside of the Great Lake System, Flathead Lake is one of the largest inland lakes in the United States, and is famous for the abundant cherry crop grown along its shore. The rest of Lake County is comprised almost entirely of the Flathead Indian Reservation. The Flathead is the main valley and it lies between the Mission Mountains on the east, and the Little Bitterroot Mountains on the west. The outlet of Flathead Lake, the Flathead River, traverses the center of the county and runs along the southwestern border of Lake and Sanders counties.

Livestock production is a main industry in Lake County as it ranked 12th in hog numbers on December 1, 1982, and 16th in the cattle inventory on January 1, 1983. Lake County came in 28th place for sheep numbers on January 1, 1983.

Crop production is a major agricultural concern in Lake County. All hay and Oats production brought the county rankings of 5th and 6th, respectively, in 1984 crop production. Lake County is one of the major potato producing areas in the state. Barley, spring wheat, and winter wheat are also grown in the area.

Cash receipts for livestock totaled $19,173,000 in 1983, while crops added $11,355,000. Government payments came to $1,208,000 for a total cash return of $31,736,000 for Lake County in 1983.

LAKE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	924,755
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	666,747
Number of Farms 1/		1,027
CROPS		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	52,000
Oats	Acres Plntd.	2,800
Barley	Acres Plntd.	12,500
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	3,100
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	6,900
Potatoes	Acres Plntd.	2,550
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	149,913
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	95,208
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	67,000
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	5,600
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	5,100

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Pasture & Range
Grain Stocks

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
SID LEBAHN, AGR. STAT.--EDITOR

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Phone: 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

OCTOBER 1 CROP FORECAST
ALFALFA SEED CROP DOWN
SEPTEMBER AG PRICES
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
IMPROVED

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at 2.42 billion bushels, 7 percent less than 1984 but essentially the same as 1983. Durum production is expected to be 2 percent above 1984, and 45% above 1983. Hard spring wheat production is 10% above 1984 and 32 percent more than 1983. Winter wheat production is expected to be 11 percent below 1984 and 7 percent below 1983.

Production of barley is forecast to be slightly above 1984 and 18 percent above 1983. Production of corn for grain is expected to be 12 percent above 1984, and more than double the small 1983 crop.

OCTOBER 1 CROP FORECAST

The October 1 crop forecast for Montana small grains is mostly unchanged from a month earlier. The extended drouth during the major part of the growing season greatly reduced yields. Abnormal snow and rain in September made final harvest very difficult, and on October 1 some fields still awaited harvest. Production changes from 1984 and 1983 are as follows:

	1984	1983
Winter Wheat	down 70%	down 74%
Hard Spring Wheat	down 12%	down 44%
Durum Wheat	down 45%	down 52%
Barley	down 49%	down 61%
Oats	down 23%	down 43%
Corn for Grain	up 7%	up 8%
All Hay	down 27%	down 32%
Sugarbeets	up 106%	up 5%

Harvesting of late season crops has been slowed and frost damage has been extensive to this year's potato crop.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- OCTOBER 1, 1985

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,480	1,200	27.0	17.0	66,960	20,400
Durum Wheat	Bu.	210	180	17.0	11.0	3,570	1,980
Spring Wheat	Bu.	1,950	2,300	17.5	13.0	34,125	29,900
All Wheat	Bu.	4,640	3,680	22.6	14.2	104,655	52,280
Corn for Grain	Bu.	15	14	92.0	105.0	1,380	1,470
Oats	Bu.	105	100	37.0	30.0	3,885	3,000
Barley	Bu.	2,110	1,500	28.0	20.0	59,080	30,000
Dry Beans	Cwt	8.0	3.8	19.0	17.0	152	65
Sugarbeets	Ton	24.6	42.8	16.9	20.0	416	856
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,150	950	2.10	1.80	2,415	1,710
All Other Hay	Ton	1,050	1,050	1.30	1.00	1,365	1,050
All Hay	Ton	2,200	2,000	1.72	1.38	3,780	2,760

U.S. CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- OCTOBER 1, 1985

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,513	48,118	40.0	38.2	2,060,646	1,839,284
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,219	3,032	32.1	34.8	103,439	105,627
Spring Wheat	Bu.	12,196	13,458	35.4	35.3	431,394	473,907
All Wheat	Bu.	66,928	64,588	38.8	37.4	2,595,479	2,418,818
Corn for Grain	Bu.	71,816	74,756	106.6	115.1	7,656,195	8,602,994
Oats	Bu.	8,123	8,750	58.1	61.4	471,921	537,443
Barley	Bu.	11,171	11,769	53.4	50.9	596,546	598,840
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,456.3	1,525.1	14.25	14.52	20,754	22,142
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,096.3	1,100.9	20.2	20.9	22,177	22,982
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,809	26,300	3.36	3.27	90,017	85,901
All Other Hay	Ton	34,776	35,501	1.75	1.84	60,764	65,319
All Hay	Ton	61,585	61,801	2.45	2.45	150,781	151,220

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DIRSTRICT -- OCTOBER 1, 1985 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	540.9	616.0	+14	344.6	495.0	+44	3,496.6	2,970.0	-15
N CENT.	33,018.4	7,353.0	-78	13,224.9	12,348.0	- 7	25,579.6	11,905.0	-53
N EAST	6,244.4	1,358.0	-78	17,281.8	12,531.0	-27	6,516.8	2,990.0	-54
CENTRAL	12,404.4	4,709.0	-62	1,955.6	1,612.0	-18	10,918.6	4,190.0	-62
S WEST	1,582.9	756.0	-52	1,084.6	1,768.0	+63	4,836.6	3,825.0	-21
S CENT.	7,216.5	3,330.0	-54	1,418.5	1,560.0	+10	5,594.0	2,860.0	-49
S EAST	5,952.5	2,278.0	-62	2,385.0	1,566.0	-34	2,137.8	1,260.0	-41
STATE	66,960.0	20,400.0	-70	37,695.0	31,880.0	-15	59,080.0	30,000.0	-49

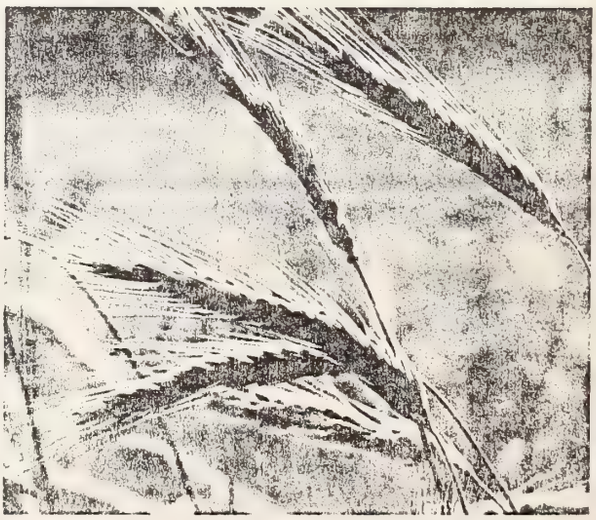
1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

OCTOBER 1 ALFALFA SEED FORECAST

Montana alfalfa seed producers expect to harvest only 2.58 million pounds of clean seed in 1985, according to an October 1 survey of growers. This is down 17 percent from the September 1 forecast and 40 percent under a year ago. Acres for harvest at 12,000 are 57 percent under last year. Yield per acre at 215 pounds compares with 155 pounds a year ago.

Slightly over half of all harvested acres will be in private varieties, while Ladak 65, Vernal, and Common account for 10 percent each. About 80 percent of the harvested acreage is irrigated this year.

Harvest of the crop has been very difficult due to the wet and cold weather.



SEPTEMBER FARM PRICES

The mid-September index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers was 1 point above the previous month at 137 percent of the 1977 average. Compared with a year ago the index is down 11 points.

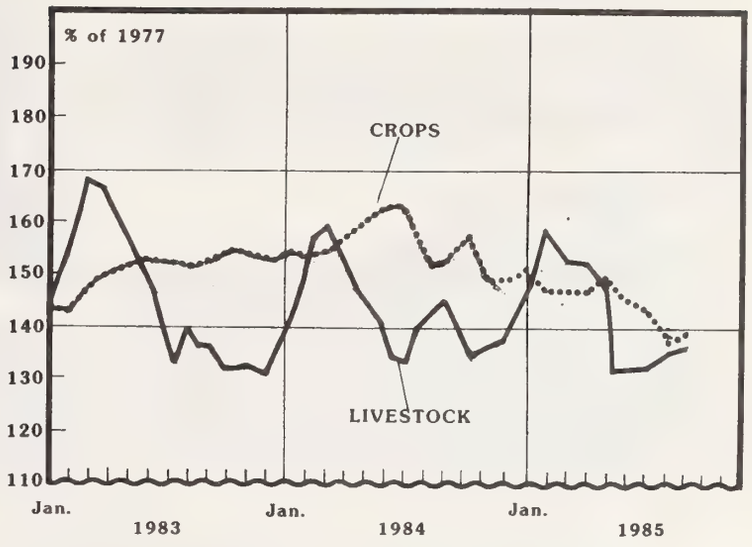
The majority of individual crop and livestock items were down from last month but winter wheat, other spring, wheat, all beef cattle, sheep and eggs were up. These are important items with considerable weight in the Montana index computation.

Prices for most commodities remain much below last year. The only items above a year ago were hay, calves, sheep, lambs and eggs.

The September index of prices received by U.S. farmers for all farm products decreased 1 point from August to 120 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for hogs, cattle, corn, onions and potatoes were partially offset by higher prices for broilers, eggs, lemons, grapefruit and oranges. The index was 18 points below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates was 162 percent of its 1977 average. The index was down 1 point from last month and was 2 points lower than September 1984. The feeder livestock component was the major contributor to the decrease from last month.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Sept. 1984	Aug. 1985	Sept. 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	138	121	120
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	163	162
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	84	74	74
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	56	49	49

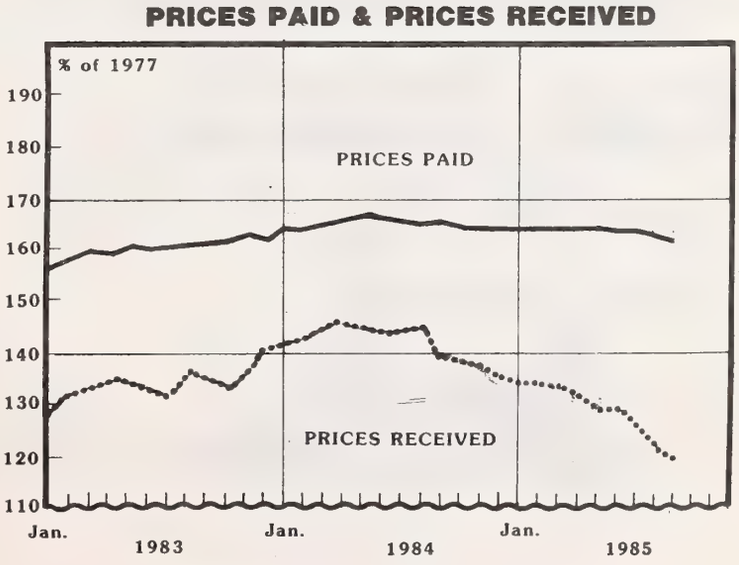
1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Sept. 15,	Sept. 15,
		Sept. 1984	Aug. 1985	1985	1985
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.43	3.19	3.25	2.81
Durum	Bu.	3.50	3.01	3.00	3.11
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.32	3.35	2.90
All Wheat	Bu.	3.61	3.25	3.30	2.90
Barley	Bu.	2.46	1.99	1.98	1.80
Oats	Bu.	1.54	1.51	1.50	1.12
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	82.00	82.00	70.20
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	72.00	72.00	55.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	81.00	81.00	67.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt	57.10	52.10	51.30	50.60
Cows	Cwt	35.50	34.80	34.00	33.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	49.20	43.50	44.40	48.00
Calves	Cwt	57.90	65.40	64.00	59.00
Sheep	Cwt	11.20	20.80	21.50	25.40
Lambs	Cwt	60.90	69.70	69.40	71.30
Hogs	Cwt	41.50	35.60	34.90	39.00
All Milk	Cwt	14.00	12.60	12.60	12.20
Eggs	Doz	.540	.500	.580	.555
Wool 2/	Lb.	.900	.650	.650	.613
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	148	136	137	120
All Crops	Pct.	152	137	139	112
Livestock & Products	Pct.	143	135	136	127

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

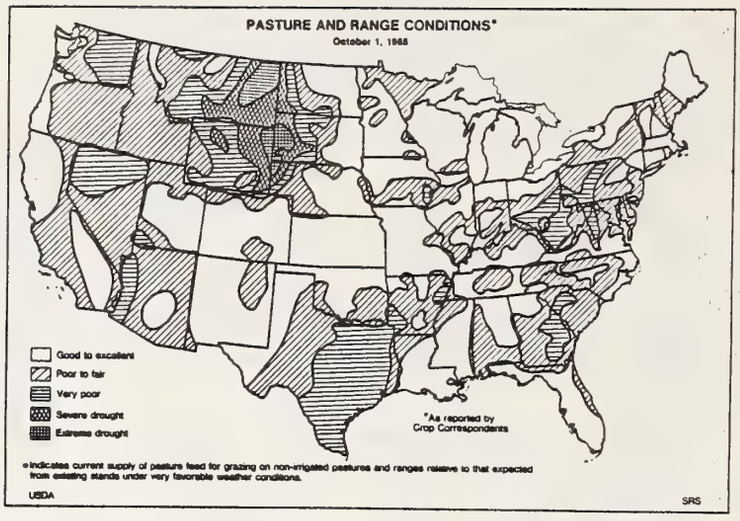
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



OCTOBER PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION IMPROVED

Montana's pasture and range feed condition improved with cool, wet September weather and by October 1 the condition was 54 percent, 11 points above September 1. The current condition is 1 point above last year, but still 24 points below average.

Ranges have greened up but still provide limited grazing because of earlier drought. Nearly 65 percent of all cattle and calves were moved from summer ranges by October 1. Livestock are now grazing hay fields and grain stubble which has more than normal green growth from weeds and volunteer grain this year.


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
October 1, 1985
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents
*Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions.
USDA
SRS

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION OCT. 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1983	1984	1985
Northwest	89	82	75
North Central	67	32	69
Northeast	48	27	30
Central	76	51	60
Southwest	94	86	61
South Central	69	60	43
Southeast	68	52	48
STATE	71	53	54

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
SID LEBAHN, AGR. STAT.--EDITOR

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Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

HOG NUMBERS DECLINE
GRAIN MOVEMENT SLACKS OFF
FEWER CATTLE ON FEED
CATTLE INDUSTRY CHOKED BY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
SLAUGHTER REDUCTION
MORE MONTANA EGGS PRODUCED
*featuring.....*PRAIRIE COUNTY

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HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, SOWS FARROWING and PIG CROP 1983-1985, 10 STATES 1/

ITEM	1983	1984	1985	1985 AS % OF 1984
	--(000) Head--			-Pct.-
SEPT. 1 INVENTORY:				
All Hogs & Pigs	46,030	43,180	41,820	97
Kept for Breeding	5,839	5,550	5,377	97
Market	40,191	37,630	36,443	97
MARKET HOGS & PIGS BY WEIGHT GROUPS:				
Under 60 Lbs.	15,877	14,957	14,630	98
60-119 Lbs.	10,195	9,209	8,820	96
120-179 Lbs.	8,305	7,835	7,406	95
180 Lbs. & Over	5,814	5,629	5,587	99
SOWS FARROWING:				
December-May 2/	4,936	4,445	4,355	98
June-November	4,799	4,575	4,459 3/	97
PIG CROP:				
December-May 2/	37,234	33,102	33,300	101
June-November	35,499	34,578	--	--
PIGS PER LITTER:				
December-May 2/	7.54	7.45	7.65	103
June-November	7.40	7.56	--	--

1/ Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio.
2/ December preceding year.
3/ Actual farrowings for June-August plus intentions for September-November.

HOG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1985, in the 10 states conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 41.8 million head, 3 percent below last year and 9 percent below September 1, 1983.

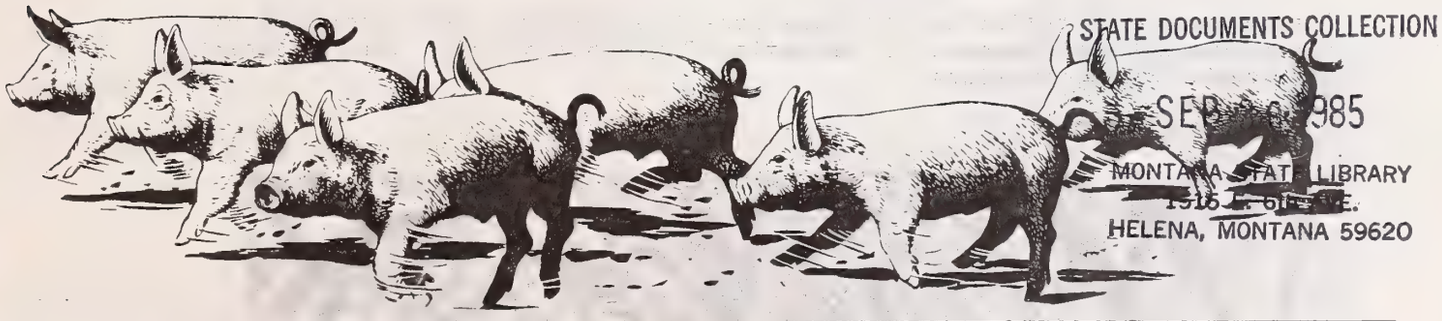
--Breeding inventory, at 5.38 million head, is 3 percent less than a year ago, and 8 percent below two years earlier.

--Market hog inventory, at 36.4 million head, is 3 percent below September 1 last year and 9 percent less than September 1, 1983.

PIG CROP: The June-August 1985 pig crop was 16.9 million head, 1 percent below the corresponding period last year and 5 percent below two years ago. There were 2.19 million sows that farrowed during June-August, down 3 percent from a year earlier and 10 percent less than the same period two years ago. Sows farrowing during June-August 1985 averaged 7.73 pigs per litter compared with 7.60 last year and 7.36 during the comparable period two years ago.

FARROWING INTENTIONS: Hog producers in the 10 quarterly states intend to farrow 2.27 million sows during September-November of this year. This is 2 percent fewer than during the comparable period in 1984, and 5 percent below the 1983 period.

Farrowing intentions for December 1985-February 1986 quarter are 1.93 million head, fractionally below a year earlier and 2 percent below the comparable period two years earlier.



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WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT DROPS OFF

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1984 through May 1985 was 30 percent below the same period last year at 43.4 million bushels. Wheat originating in northwest and north central Montana showed the sharpest decline--shipments were off 37 percent. Movement by rail was down 35 percent and truck movement was down 7 percent.

Western destinations received 31 percent less wheat compared with last year, but eastern destinations showed a 3 percent increase. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, showed a 50 percent increase.

Western destinations still received 94 percent of the total shipments, while east and other destinations shared nearly equal portions of the balance.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations December 1984 through May 1985 amounted to 10.8 million bushels, 56 percent less than a year ago. Rail movement fell off 64 percent, and truck movement was down 39 percent.

Barley going west was down 62 percent, eastern movement was down 21 percent and all other destinations were 51 percent below a year ago.

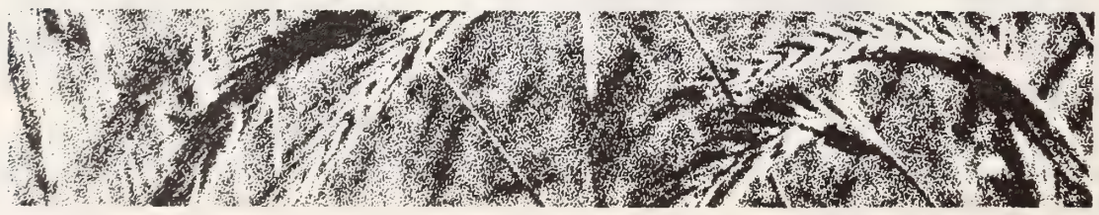
WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

SHIPPED OUT-OF-STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN MODE & DESTINATION 1/

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT	DECEMBER 1984 - MAY 1985					
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Chg. from Last Year	Barley	Chg. from Last Year
	--(000) Bu.--			%	(000 Bu.)	%
Northwest	20	21	41	-89	362	-21
North Central	13,075	8,553	21,628	-37	6,262	-61
Northeast	1,292	9,953	11,245	-14	886	-15
Central	4,339	1,453	5,792	-29	2,021	-61
Southwest	665	408	1,073	-30	1,002	-27
South Central	1,867	909	2,776	-11	311	-34
Southeast	532	344	876	-27	5	
Truck East	102	544	646	+16	797	+20
Truck West	5,346	4,282	9,628	- 8	3,459	-42
Truck Other 3/	133	446	579	-16	711	-51
TOTAL BY TRUCK	5,581	5,272	10,853	- 7	4,967	-39
Rail East	83	566	649	- 7	1,737	-32
Rail West	16,126	15,285	31,411	-36	3,965	-71
Rail Other 3/	0	518	518	+1195	180	-71
TOTAL BY RAIL	16,209	16,369	32,578	-35	5,882	-64
TOTAL GRAIN SHIPPED	21,790	21,641	43,431	-30	10,849	-56

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown.

Grain Movement statistics are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee through the Montana Department of Agriculture.



CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed September 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.14 million head, down 9 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below September 1, 1983.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.70 million, 1 percent above last year and 3 percent more than August two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during August totaled 1.50 million, down 11 percent from last year and 5 percent below August 1983. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.44 million for August are 11 percent below last year and down 4 percent from two years ago.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 62 thousand head, compared with 61 thousand during August 1984 and 88 thousand during August 1983.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.3 million pounds of red meat during August. The August production was 12 percent higher than the previous month, but 60 percent lower than August 1984. Montana's total red meat production for the first eight months of the year was 33 percent below last year.

August slaughter consisted of 3,000 cattle and 2,900 hogs. In terms of total liveweight the cattle kill was down 62 percent, and the hog kill was down 63 percent from last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production during August totaled 3.40 billion pounds, up 1 percent from August 1984. January-August red meat production at 26.1 billion pounds was also up 1 percent from last year. The 1985 accumulated production percentage changes by individual components were: beef, up 1 percent; veal, up 3 percent; pork, up 1 percent; lamb and mutton, down 7 percent.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION UP

Montana's laying flocks produced 4 percent more eggs during the June-August quarter compared with the same period last year. Production totaled 53 million eggs. The number of hens in the laying flock increased 5 percent and averaged 825 thousand for the quarter. The average rate of lay was down slightly.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 16.8 billion eggs during the June-August quarter, 1 percent less than during the same period in 1984. The number of layers averaged 271 million, 2 percent less than a year ago.

LOW PRICES, ERODING LAND VALUES HINDER CATTLE INDUSTRY

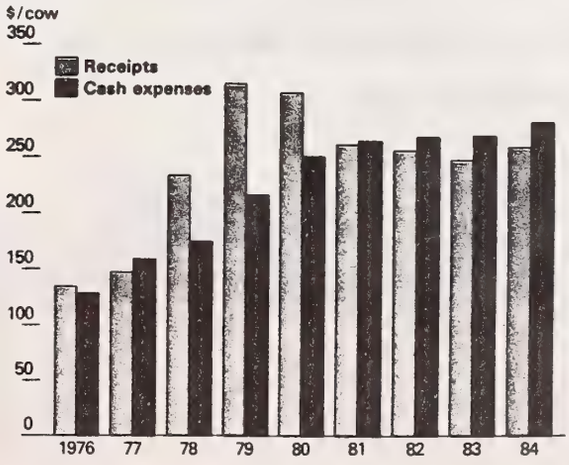
Severe cash flow problems caused by low prices and eroding land values have hindered the cow-calf sector of the cattle industry throughout the 1980s. The current cycle began with an inventory of 110 million head in 1979, but only increased to 115.4 million in 1982 before the expansion was choked by financial problems and drought-reduced forage supplies.

Since 1981, net returns (receipts less cash expenses) have fallen about $80 per cow in each of the four major cow-calf production regions. With rising fertilizer costs, net returns in the Southeast have been nonexistent since 1981. However, from 1980 to 1983, the Great Plains showed the largest decrease, which when combined with drought in 1983/84, resulted in a 7 percent decrease in the beef cow inventory in 1984. Differences in feed costs are a major factor causing variability in costs between regions.

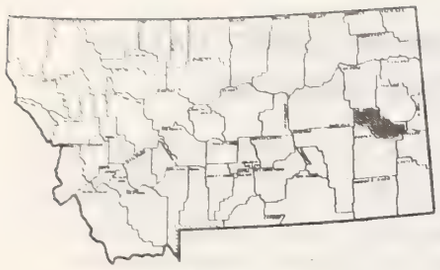
On January 1, 1985, the inventory was 109.8 million, down 3 percent from a year earlier and the lowest inventory since 1968. Beef cows numbered 35.4 million, down 6 percent from the previous year. In addition, the 1984 calf crop, at 42.5 million, was the lowest since 1963.

The cattle inventory will likely continue to decline through 1985 and 1986. Expansion may not be realized before 1988 and, then, only at a much slower pace than previous cycles. Not only has a large portion of the breeding herd been sent to slaughter over the past 4 years, but fewer heifers have been retained to replace the cows. In addition, calf crops each year have continued to decline. The January 1, 1986 inventory may fall to 106 to 107 million head.

Receipts in the U.S. Cattle Industry Fall Below Expenses in the 1980's



featuring. . . . . PRAIRIE COUNTY



Prairie County is divided in half by the Yellowstone River flowing from east to west through the county. The Powder River flows from the southeast to join the Yellowstone in the southwest corner of the county. The landscape of Prairie County is mainly the rolling prairie characteristic of most eastern Montana counties. The northwestern section of the county is broken, however, due to the Big Sheep Mountains that occupy that area. Prairie County covers 1,108,787 acres. Approximately 64 percent of the county consists of farm land.

Agricultural interests in the county include both livestock raising and crop production. In the January 1, 1983 cattle and sheep inventories, Prairie County ranked 34th and 30th, respectively. In the December 1, 1982 hog count, the county came in 31st among the hog raising counties. Prairie County livestock receipts totaled $8,848,000 in 1983.

Crops produced in the area include winter and spring wheat, oats, barley, and hay. Prairie County ranked 21st in winter wheat, and 43rd in spring wheat production in 1984. Oats produced in the county brought a ranking of 22nd among counties that produce that crop, while barley and hay production ranked 37th and 49th, respectively. Corn and sugarbeets are also grown in the county. Crop receipts totaled $5,439,000 in 1983. Government payments added $1,534,000 for a total cash return of $15,821,000 in 1983 for Prairie County.

PRAIRIE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984		UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,108,787	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	134,415
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	715,673	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	10,211
Number of Farms 1/		183			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	41,300			
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	2,300	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	41,600
Barley	Acres Plntd.	15,500	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	5,400
Oats	Acres Plntd.	4,200	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	2,100
Sugarbeets	Acres Plntd.	1,940			
Corn	Acres Plntd.	3,600			
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	14,800			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1983.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP FORECAST
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION IMPROVES
FARM PRICES
ALFALFA SEED CROP BELOW LAST YEAR
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS
featuring.....FALLON COUNTY

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range condition on September 1, at 43 percent is 11 points higher than the the August 1 condition. August was wet and cool and range grasses responded well although not nearly as well as if the rains had come earlier, before the grasses matured under an extreme drouthy environment.

However, the August rains did revive growth and restore green color although production is still very low. The limited growth has enabled ranchers to postpone some early marketing of cows and calves and also postponed some early feeding of hay.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION SEPT. 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1983	1984	1985
Northwest	89	78	59
North Central	72	28	38
Northeast	53	24	25
Central	72	51	45
Southwest	96	88	52
South Central	72	62	42
Southeast	71	59	41
STATE	73	54	43

MONTANA WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN AGAIN

Montana's 1985 wheat production forecast as of September 1 is down 7 percent from last month at 52.1 million bushels. The new forecast is 50 percent less than last year's drought reduced crop and is the lowest production since 1940. The large drop in production from 1984 to 1985 follows 24 percent drops in each of the two preceeding years.

The 1985 winter wheat crop is expected to be down 70 percent, durum 50 percent, and other spring wheat wheat 12 percent from last year.

The State's barley production forecast, down 49 percent from a year ago, is unchanged from August 1. Harvested acres are down 29 percent and the yield fell 8 bushels per acre from last year.

Oats production is down 23 percent from last year, the result of 5 percent fewer acres and a 7 bushel decrease in yield.

Hay production is down 16 percent from last year's relatively small crop and 22 percent below two years ago.

Sugarbeet production more than doubled last year's production, but dry bean output is 57 percent less.

(SEE TABLES ON INSIDE PAGE.)

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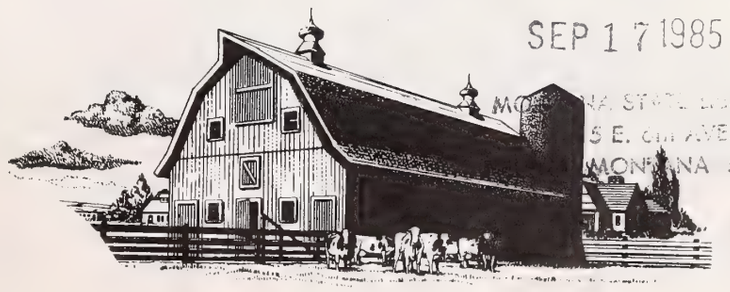


MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1985

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,480	1,200	27.0	17.0	66,960	20,400
Durum Wheat	Bu.	210	180	17.0	10.0	3,570	1,800
Spring Wheat	Bu.	1,950	2,300	17.5	13.0	34,125	29,900
All Wheat	Bu.	4,640	3,680	22.6	14.2	104,655	52,100
Corn for Grain	Bu.	15	14	92.0	105.0	1,380	1,470
Oats	Bu.	105	100	37.0	30.0	3,885	3,000
Barley	Bu.	2,110	1,500	28.0	20.0	59,080	30,000
Dry Beans	Cwt	8.0	3.8	19.0	17.0	152	65
Sugarbeets	Ton	24.6	42.8	16.9	20.0	416	856
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,150	950	2.10	2.00	2,415	1,900
All Other Hay	Ton	1,050	1,050	1.30	1.20	1,365	1,260
All Hay	Ton	2,200	2,000	1.72	1.58	3,780	3,160

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1985

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,513	48,118	40.0	38.2	2,060,646	1,839,284
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,219	3,032	32.1	33.0	103,439	100,115
Spring Wheat	Bu.	12,196	13,458	35.4	34.2	431,394	460,897
All Wheat	Bu.	66,928	64,608	38.8	37.2	2,595,479	2,400,296
Corn for Grain	Bu.	71,816	74,756	106.6	113.3	7,656,195	8,468,504
Oats	Bu.	8,123	8,750	58.1	61.4	471,921	537,443
Barley	Bu.	11,171	11,769	53.4	50.9	596,546	598,840
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,456.3	1,535.1	14.25	14.50	20,754	22,260
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,096.3	1,100.9	20.2	20.7	22,177	22,763
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,809	26,300	3.36	3.21	90,017	84,471
All Other Hay	Ton	34,776	35,501	1.75	1.80	60,764	64,002
All Hay	Ton	61,585	61,801	2.45	2.40	150,781	148,473

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1985 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	540.9	616.0	+14	344.6	495.0	+44	3,496.6	2,970.0	-15
N CENT.	33,018.4	7,353.0	-78	13,224.9	12,312.0	- 7	25,579.6	11,905.0	-53
N EAST	6,244.4	1,358.0	-78	17,281.8	12,385.0	-28	6,516.8	2,990.0	-54
CENTRAL	12,404.4	4,709.0	-62	1,955.6	1,614.0	-17	10,918.6	4,190.0	-62
S WEST	1,582.9	756.0	-52	1,084.6	1,768.0	+63	4,836.6	3,825.0	-21
S CENT.	7,216.5	3,330.0	-54	1,418.5	1,560.0	+10	5,594.0	2,860.0	-49
S EAST	5,952.5	2,278.0	-62	2,385.0	1,566.0	-34	2,137.8	1,260.0	-41
STATE	66,960.0	20,400.0	-70	37,695.0	31,700.0	-16	59,080.0	30,000.0	-49

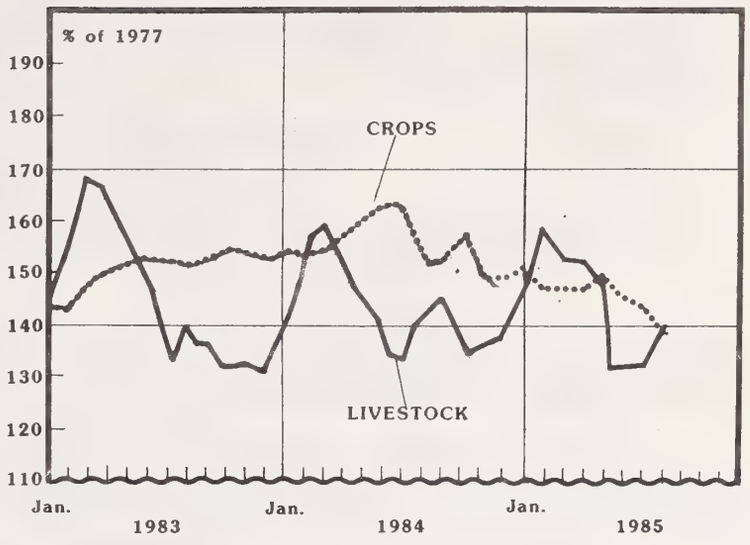
1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1984	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1985	MONTANA Aug. 15, 1985	U.S. Aug. 15, 1985
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.45	3.21	3.15	2.77
Durum	Bu.	3.65	3.14	3.10	3.17
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.54	3.35	3.04
All Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.36	3.24	2.86
Barley	Bu.	2.53	2.20	2.07	1.84
Oats	Bu.	1.79	1.70	1.60	1.13
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	75.00	82.00	82.00	70.80
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	72.00	72.00	54.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	81.00	81.00	66.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	56.60	54.50	54.50	53.40
Cows	Cwt	37.70	34.10	35.40	36.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	44.50	41.80	45.90	50.50
Calves	Cwt	57.80	64.60	66.40	60.20
Sheep	Cwt	12.40	22.00	18.00	25.60
Lambs	Cwt	60.80	69.80	69.00	70.10
Hogs	Cwt	44.50	37.80	36.20	43.40
All Milk	Cwt	13.70	12.60	12.50	12.10
Eggs	Doz	.550	.480	.500	.504
Wool 2/	Lb.	.900	.650	.650	.625
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	143	137	139	122
All Crops	Pct.	153	143	138	115
Livestock & Products	Pct.	135	132	140	130

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

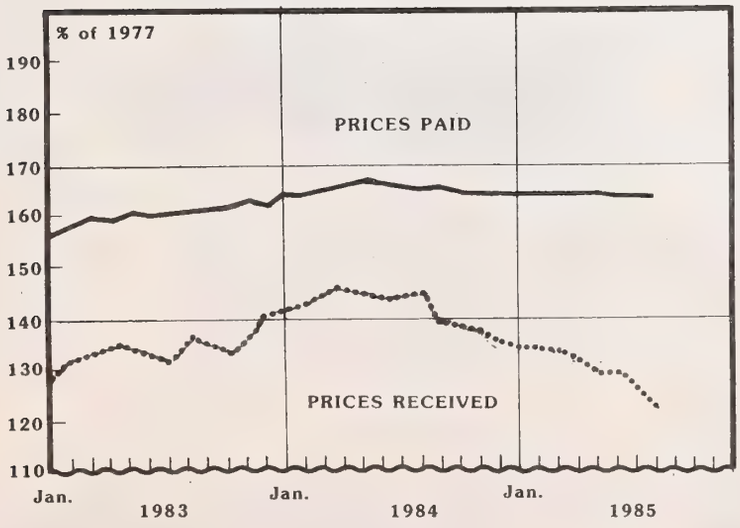


UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Aug. 1984	July 1985	Aug. 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	143	126	122
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	163	163
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	87	77	75
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	58	51	50

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA ALFALFA SEED CROP DOWN

Montana alfalfa seed producers expect to harvest 3.1 million pounds of clean seed in 1985, 28 percent less than last year's crop. Production is below last year mainly because of drouth, grasshoppers, and the diversion of acreage to hay instead of seed. The forecast, funded by the Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee, is based on September 1 conditions.

This year's yield is forecast at 215 pounds per acre compared with 155 a year ago. The yield increased because much of the non-irrigated acreage will not be harvested for seed this year. Acres for harvest at 14,400 are 48 percent less than last year.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 221,000 gallons of ice cream in July, 21 percent more than in June, but about 1 percent less than July 1984. Creamed cottage cheese production at 497,000 pounds was 44 percent above the previous month, but 19 percent below a year ago. American cheese showed a change in the other direction with 516,000 pounds, 20 percent less than in June and 48 percent above the previous year.

featuring. . . . . FALLON COUNTY

Fallon County occupies 1,038,630 acres of prairie land in eastern Montana along the Montana/North Dakota border. It was created December 9, 1913 and has an average annual precipitation of 13.21 inches, based on observations at Plevna, Montana located near the center of Fallon County.

Dryland farming is the main interest in the county and a wide variety of crops are raised in the area. In 1984 crop production Fallon County ranked 15th in oats production, 16th in both spring and durum wheat production, and 24th in winter wheat production. Barley, hay, and corn are also grown in the area.

Hog raising is the major livestock interest in the county. The December 1,1982 hog inventory showed Fallon County in 14th place among the hog producing counties. Cattle and sheep are also raised as Fallon County ranked 29th and 33rd, respectively, in the January 1, 1983 inventories.

1983 cash receipts for crops produced in the county came to $8,246,000. Livestock receipts turned in 9,474,000, while government payments added $2,692,000 for a total cash return of $20,592,000 in 1983.

FALLON COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1984		UNIT	1984
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,038,630	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	237,851
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	886,147	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	3,374
Number of Farms 1/		285			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Oats	Acres Plntd.	4,800			
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	38,600	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	45,700
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	500	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	4,600
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	31,600	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	4,400
Barley	Acres Plntd.	13,800			
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	42,700			
Corn	Acres Plntd.	900			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION
CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS DROP
FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES
JULY FARM LABOR REPORT
featuring.....CHOUTEAU COUNTY

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ALL WHEAT

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1984	1985	1984	1985	% Chg.
	-(000) Acres-		--(000) Bu.--		%
Colorado	3,270	3,540	115,300	144,300	+25
Kansas	11,200	11,700	431,200	444,600	+ 3
Montana	4,640	3,680	104,655	56,060	-46
Nebraska	2,250	2,300	81,000	94,300	+16
North Dakota	8,660	8,650	284,190	274,200	- 4
South Dakota	3,662	3,775	126,038	105,785	-16
Texas	5,000	5,850	150,000	187,200	+25
Oklahoma	5,300	5,500	190,800	165,000	-14
PLAINS STATES	43,982	44,995	1,483,183	1,471,445	- 1
Idaho	1,280	1,350	81,400	75,300	- 7
Oregon	1,115	1,045	68,945	56,200	-18
Washington	2,610	2,690	160,350	128,540	-20
PACIFIC NW	5,005	5,085	310,695	260,060	-16
Illinois	1,600	750	70,400	36,000	-49
Indiana	1,050	700	48,300	37,100	-23
Michigan	800	750	45,600	48,000	+ 5
Minnesota	2,553	2,563	120,711	119,135	- 1
Missouri	2,050	1,370	84,050	53,430	-36
Ohio	1,100	950	48,400	57,000	+18
CORN BELT	9,153	7,083	417,461	350,665	-16
Alabama	380	400	14,820	13,200	-11
Arkansas	1,400	570	61,600	18,240	-70
Georgia	890	825	31,150	24,750	-21
Kentucky	500	310	19,000	10,850	-43
Mississippi	660	350	25,080	10,850	-57
North Carolina	620	760	26,660	22,800	-14
South Carolina	380	420	14,440	11,340	-21
Tennessee	535	260	21,400	8,320	-61
Virginia	275	300	12,375	10,200	-18
SOUTHERN STATES	5,640	4,195	226,525	130,550	-42
California	784	838	61,840	68,716	+11
Other States	2,364	2,412	95,775	95,035	- 1
UNITED STATES	66,928	64,608	2,595,479	2,376,451	- 8

REGIONAL PATTERNS OF WHEAT PRODUCTION

Wheat production has made a significant shift in 1985 with the Plains States increasing their share of total production and the Southern States giving up a substantial part of their share.

Sixty-two percent of this year's crop will be produced by eight Plains States. Last year they provided 57 percent of the U.S. crop. Nine Southern States produced 9 percent of the 1984 crop, but this year they will only contribute 5 percent to the total.

Corn Belt States held near last year's portion at 15 percent, down 1 point. Pacific Northwest States lost 1 point also, and will provide 11 percent of the U.S. output, compared with 12 percent in 1984.

WEATHER-CROP SITUATION

(For Week Ending August 25, 1985)

Precipitation in the last two weeks improved topsoil moisture enough to prompt some winter wheat seeding to begin.

Topsoil moisture supplies are reported mostly adequate but subsoil moisture is mostly short.

Small grain harvest has been slowed by damp, cool weather. Harvest progress is lagging behind last year's pace but is still ahead of normal. Usually by August 25 spring wheat, barley and oats harvest have just passed the halfway point. This year harvest is 65 to 70 percent complete. Second cutting alfalfa harvest, slowed by poor curing weather early in the week, picked up the pace later in the week and was 80 percent completed. This compares with 75 percent last year and 65 percent normally.

Recent moisture has helped pastures and ranges across the State and in some areas they are green for the first time in 1985.

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CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed August 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.39 million head, down 6 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below August 1, 1983.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.67 million, 8 percent above last year and 12 percent more than July two years ago.

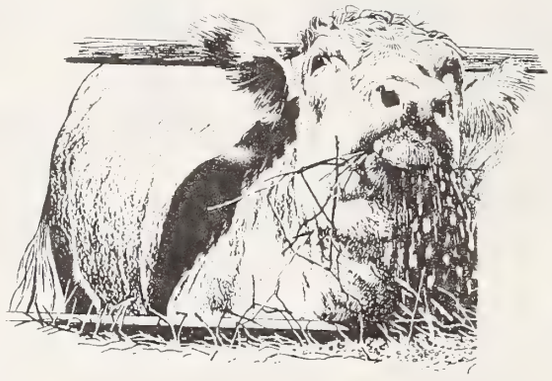
Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during July totaled 1.07 million, down 19 percent from last year and 9 percent below July 1983. Net placements of 1.01 million for July are 18 percent below last year and down 6 percent from two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 61 thousand head, compared with 84 thousand during July 1984 and 94 thousand during July 1983.

MONTANA JULY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.0 million pounds of red meat during the month of July. This production was 16 percent higher than the previous month, but 54 percent lower than the July 1984 production. Production for the first seven months of the year was 18.6 million pounds, 28 percent less than last year.

For the month, cattle slaughter at 2,600 head, was down 62 percent from last year. Hog slaughter, also at 2,600 head, was up 8 percent.



FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES: AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE OF LAND and BUILDINGS, SELECTED STATES, FEB. 1, 1977-81, and APRIL 1, 1982-85

STATE	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
	----------Dollars----------								
CORN BELT									
Ohio	1,099	1,224	1,483	1,730	1,831	1,629	1,504	1,444	1,126
Indiana	1,188	1,357	1,589	1,863	2,031	1,804	1,610	1,594	1,259
Illinois	1,458	1,625	1,858	2,041	2,188	2,023	1,837	1,800	1,314
Iowa	1,259	1,331	1,550	1,840	1,999	1,889	1,684	1,499	1,064
Missouri	548	641	726	902	990	945	856	856	659
NORTHERN PLAINS									
North Dakota	274	300	347	405	436	455	439	439	360
South Dakota	194	227	256	292	329	349	348	338	250
Nebraska	420	412	525	635	729	730	701	617	444
Kansas	398	418	501	587	619	628	601	583	466
MOUNTAIN STATES									
Montana	157	176	196	235	251	271	259	264	222
Idaho	454	515	585	698	774	839	814	814	749
Wyoming	110	121	144	161	180	193	193	197	177
Colorado	256	273	322	387	434	451	454	468	435
New Mexico	101	112	143	185	192	195	178	182	163
Arizona	138	154	199	267	287	302	289	295	265
Utah	271	308	400	530	567	589	560	571	514
Nevada	112	140	191	248	262	268	249	254	229
PACIFIC STATES									
Washington	535	602	692	736	877	922	933	961	923
Oregon	342	414	504	587	668	705	705	698	579
California	759	914	1,186	1,424	1,732	1,900	1,918	1,918	1,726

NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS DOWN, WAGES HIGHER

During the week of July 7-13, 1985, a total of 3.9 million people were working on farms and ranches in the United States. This includes workers hired directly by the farm operators and agricultural services employees working on farms. There were 3.9 percent (161,000) fewer workers on farms this July than a year earlier. Hired workers represented 44 percent (1.7 million) of the total. Of these workers, 1.4 million were hired directly by the farm operators. This was 4.3 percent less than July 1984. Farm operators and other unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more accounted for the remaining 2.2 million workers, 5.1 percent below a year ago.

The wage rate for all hired farm workers was $4.24 per hour, 8 cents above the previous year. Workers paid on an hourly basis averaged $4.18, up 6 cents from a year ago. Field workers received an average of $4.07, up 14 cents from $3.93 per hour for the July 1984 survey week. Livestock workers received an average of $3.97 per hour compared with $3.93 a year earlier.

During the July 7-13, 1985 survey week, self-employed farm operators worked an average of 49.6 hours, 1.4 hours more than in the comparable week of 1984. Other unpaid workers averaged 40.0 hours, 0.8 less than a year ago. Hired workers averaged 37.6 hours, 0.8 hour less than a year ago. Hired workers averaged 37.6 hours, 0.8 hour above a year earlier. Compared with April of this year, self-employed farm operators averaged 5.4 hours more in July and other unpaid workers worked 4.3 hours more but hired workers averaged 2.5 hours less than in April.

Perquisites such as meals, housing or motor vehicles in addition to cash wages were provided to 41 percent of the hired workers in July 1985. Housing was furnished to 11 percent of the hired workers. In July 1984, 42 percent of the farm workers received some type of perquisite. Data from the 1984 Farm Costs and Returns Survey showed that the value of perquisites including health and retirement benefits, housing, and other non-cash benefits represented 16 percent of the farm and ranch labor expenditures.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES and REGIONS, JULY 7-13, 1985 1/

STATE & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	Field	Live-stock	Field & Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--							
NORTHEAST I	3.79	3.39	3.63	6.40	4.56	4.01	3/	3.61
NORTHEAST II	3.69	3.70	3.69	5.66	4.53	3.91	3/	3.89
APPALACHIAN I	3.50	3.78	3.56	6.18	4.15	3.72	3/	4.14
APPALACHIAN II	3.58	3.69	3.61	3/	4.04	3.72	3/	3.68
SOUTHEAST	3.29	3.74	3.38	6.02	3.45	3.43	3.47	3.57
FLORIDA	4.19	4.37	4.24	8.28	5.88	4.60	4.94	5.76
LAKE	3.67	3.48	3.60	6.64	4.31	3.87	3.58	3.63
CORN BELT I	4.06	4.13	4.08	6.77	4.39	4.23	3/	4.66
CORN BELT II	4.20	4.13	4.18	3/	4.11	4.20	3/	4.13
DELTA	3.74	4.08	3.81	5.77	3.68	3.85	3/	3.87
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.47	4.37	4.46	3/	4.26	4.44	5.39	3.90
SOUTHERN PLAINS	3.68	4.19	3.92	6.04	4.29	3.97	6.00	4.40
MOUNTAIN I	3.68	3.24	3.46	5.08	3.74	3.91	4.38	3.37
MOUNTAIN II	3.66	4.55	3.91	5.80	4.52	4.21	3/	4.42
MOUNTAIN III	3.76	4.14	3.89	6.64	3/	3.92	3/	4.89
PACIFIC	4.43	5.19	4.48	6.07	4.81	4.57	4.52	4.86
CALIFORNIA	4.83	5.00	4.85	8.35	5.91	4.75	6.35	6.70
HAWAII	6.31	3/	6.30	11.55	3/	6.77	3/	3/
U.S.	4.07	3.97	4.05	6.86	4.34	4.18	4.73	4.31

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT; NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA; APPALACHAIN I: NC, VA; APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV; SOUTHEAST I: AL, GA, SC; LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORN BELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORN BELT II: IA, MO; DELTA: AR, LA, MS; NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD; SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX; MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY; MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT; MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM; PACIFIC: OR, WA.
3/ Insufficient data.

Chouteau County derives its name from a Frenchman by the name of Pierre Chouteau, who was President of the American Fur Company headquartered at Fort Benton. The landscape in Chouteau County is characterized by gently rolling plain, divided into benches by the Missouri, Marias, and Teton Rivers. The Missouri River traverses the county from west to east, and the Marias and Teton Rivers join the Missouri near Loma, Montana. A northeastern portion of the county is occupied by the Bear Paw Mountains, while the Highwood Mountains and a section of the Lewis & Clark National Forest cover a small area in the south.

Chouteau County ranked 1st for both winter wheat and barley production in 1983; 3rd in spring wheat and 5th in durum wheat production, and also 7th in oats production in 1983. The abundant grain crops brought in $76,024,000 in cash receipts in 1983.

While crops are the major agricultural interest, livestock raising is also an important industry in the county. Chouteau County ranked 1st in the December 1, 1982 hog inventory, and 22nd in the January 1, 1983 cattle count. Receipts from livestock totaled $12,749,000 in 1983. Government payments came to $21,994,000 in 1983, and, combined with the crop and livestock receipts brings the total cash return for Chouteau County to $110,767,000 in 1983.

CHOUTEAU COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	2,551,980	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	1,236,910
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	2,139,961	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	11,430
Number of Farms 1/		742			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	313,000			
Oats	Acres Plntd.	5,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	58,100
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	107,000	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	3,100
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	3,700	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	9,500
Barley	Acres Plntd.	257,900			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

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Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
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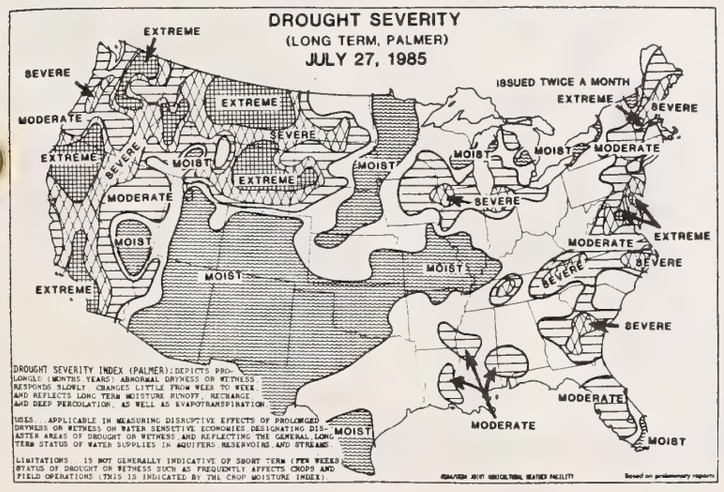
HIGHLIGHTS:

MONTANA CROP FORECAST BLEAK
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
JULY FARM PRICES DROP
NUMBER OF FARMS, JUNE 1, 1985
1984 CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS


DROUGHT SEVERITY
(LONG TERM, PALMER)
JULY 27, 1985
ISSUED TWICE A MONTH
EXTREME
SEVERE
MODERATE
MOIST
DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX (PALMER): DEPICTS PRO-
LONGED (MONTHS YEARS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS
RESPONDS SLOWLY, CHANGES LITTLE FROM WEEK TO WEEK
AND REFLECTS LONG TERM MOISTURE RUNOFF, RECHARGE
AND DEEP PERCOLATION, AS WELL AS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION.
USES: APPLICABLE IN MEASURING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED
DRYNESS OR WETNESS ON WATER SENSITIVE ECONOMIES DESIGNATING DIS-
ASTER AREAS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS AND REFLECTING THE GENERAL LONG
TERM STATUS OF WATER SUPPLIES IN AQUIFERS RESERVOIRS AND STREAMS.
LIMITATIONS: IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF SHORT TERM (FEW WEEKS)
STATUS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS SUCH AS FREQUENTLY AFFECTS CROPS AND
FIELD OPERATIONS (THIS IS INDICATED BY THE CROP MOISTURE INDEX).

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION JULY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1983	1984	1985
Northwest	91	78	43
North Central	78	33	26
Northeast	69	34	20
Central	80	58	27
Southwest	91	89	50
South Central	74	69	32
Southeast	75	67	29
STATE	79	60	32

MONTANA WHEAT PRODUCTION LOWEST IN 24 YEARS

Montana's 1985 all wheat crop will be the smallest since 1961. Based on August 1 conditions the production forecast is down 46 percent from last year. Winter wheat production is down 64 percent, hard red spring wheat is down 12 percent, and durum is down 39 percent from a year ago.

The sharply lowered production forecast is the result of 21 percent fewer acres and a yield nearly 7.5 bushels lower. The winter wheat yield is expected to be 20 bushels per acre, down 7 from last year. Hard red spring wheat yield is forecast at 13 bushels per acre, down 4.5 from a year ago. Durum yield, at 12 bushels per acre is down 5 from last year. All of the wheat yields are the lowest since 1961.

The State's barley production also fell a drastic 49 percent from last year. Harvested acres are down 29 percent and the yield fell 8 bushels from last year. The barley yield at 20 bushels per acre is the lowest since 1961.

Oats production is down 15 percent, the result of 5 percent fewer acres for harvest and a 4 bushel decrease in yield.

Hay production is down 16 percent from last year and 22 percent from 2 years ago. Acres for harvest fell 9 percent mainly because much dryland acreage was abandoned to grazing.

August 1 production forecasts are based on producer reports of condition and yield. Actual field observations and measurements are also used in making the wheat production forecast.

(SEE TABLES ON INSIDE PAGE.)

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MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1985

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,480	1,200	27.0	20.0	66,960	24,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	210	180	17.0	12.0	3,570	2,160
Spring Wheat	Bu.	1,950	2,300	17.5	13.0	34,125	29,900
All Wheat	Bu.	4,640	3,680	22.6	15.2	104,655	56,060
Corn for Grain	Bu.	15	14	92.0	105.0	1,380	1,470
Oats	Bu.	105	100	37.0	33.0	3,885	3,300
Barley	Bu.	2,110	1,500	28.0	20.0	59,080	30,000
Dry Beans	Cwt	8.0	3.8	19.0	17.0	152	65
Sugarbeets	Ton	24.6	42.8	16.9	20.0	416	856
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,150	950	2.10	2.00	2,415	1,900
All Other Hay	Ton	1,050	1,050	1.30	1.20	1,365	1,260
All Hay	Ton	2,200	2,000	1.72	1.58	3,780	3,160

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST — AUGUST 1, 1985

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,513	48,118	40.0	38.3	2,060,646	1,842,884
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,219	3,032	32.1	32.3	103,439	97,790
Spring Wheat	Bu.	12,196	13,458	35.4	32.4	431,394	435,777
All Wheat	Bu.	66,928	64,608	38.8	36.8	2,595,479	2,376,451
Corn for Grain	Bu.	71,816	74,756	106.6	110.6	7,656,195	8,265,554
Oats	Bu.	8,123	8,750	58.1	59.3	471,921	519,028
Barley	Bu.	11,171	11,769	53.4	51.0	596,546	599,730
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,456.3	1,535.1	14.25	14.45	20,754	22,178
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,096.3	1,100.9	20.2	20.8	22,177	22,880
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,809	26,300	3.36	3.21	90,017	84,471
All Other Hay	Ton	34,776	35,501	1.75	1.80	60,764	64,002
All Hay	Ton	61,585	61,801	2.45	2.40	150,781	148,473

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1985 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.	1984	Ind. 1985	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
N WEST	540.9	574.0	+ 6	344.6	550.0	+60	3,496.6	2,970.0	-15
N CENT.	33,018.4	9,300.0	-72	13,224.9	12,410.0	- 6	25,579.6	11,905.0	-53
N EAST	6,244.4	1,600.0	-74	17,281.8	12,141.0	-30	6,516.8	2,990.0	-54
CENTRAL	12,404.4	5,223.0	-58	1,955.6	1,515.0	-23	10,918.6	4,190.0	-62
S WEST	1,582.9	840.0	-47	1,084.6	1,976.0	+82	4,836.6	3,825.0	-21
S CENT.	7,216.5	3,515.0	-51	1,418.5	1,680.0	+18	5,594.0	2,860.0	-49
S EAST	5,952.5	2,948.0	-50	2,385.0	1,788.0	-25	2,137.8	1,260.0	-41
STATE	66,960.0	24,000.0	-64	37,695.0	32,060.0	-15	59,080.0	30,000.0	-49

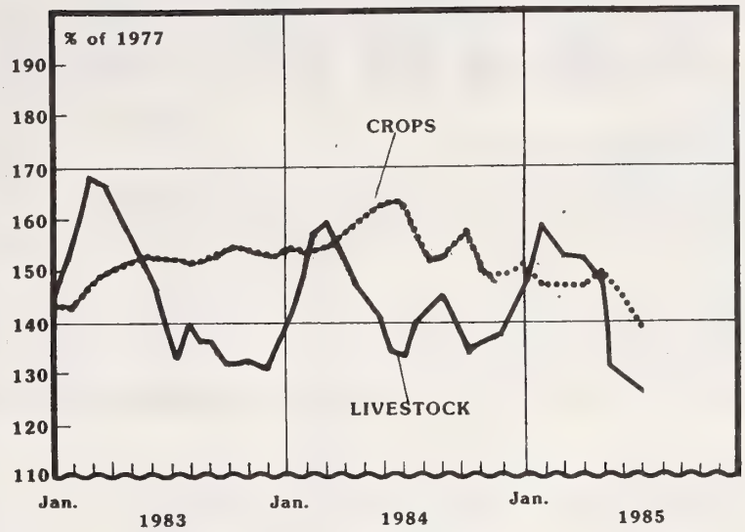
1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1984	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1985	MONTANA July 15, 1985	U.S. July 15, 1985
		---Dollars---			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.35	3.10	2.90
Durum	Bu.	3.68	3.44	3.40	3.28
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.94	3.69	3.60	3.26
All Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.49	3.27	2.95
Barley	Bu.	2.93	2.02	2.01	1.92
Oats	Bu.	1.78	1.87	1.85	1.37
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	85.00	82.00	82.00	73.30
All Other Hay	Ton	80.00	73.00	72.00	53.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	85.00	81.00	81.00	68.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt	55.40	54.80	51.30	54.20
Cows	Cwt	39.50	37.60	35.70	35.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.70	43.60	41.20	51.20
Calves	Cwt	59.10	59.50	54.40	60.70
Sheep	Cwt	16.30	21.10	15.70	26.00
Lambs	Cwt	57.60	65.20	66.30	70.50
Hogs	Cwt	45.90	37.10	42.40	46.80
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	12.30	12.60	12.10
Eggs	Doz	.510	.460	.480	.528
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.000	.650	.650	.679
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	148	138	131	127
All Crops	Pct.	164	145	138	122
Livestock & Products	Pct.	133	132	125	132

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

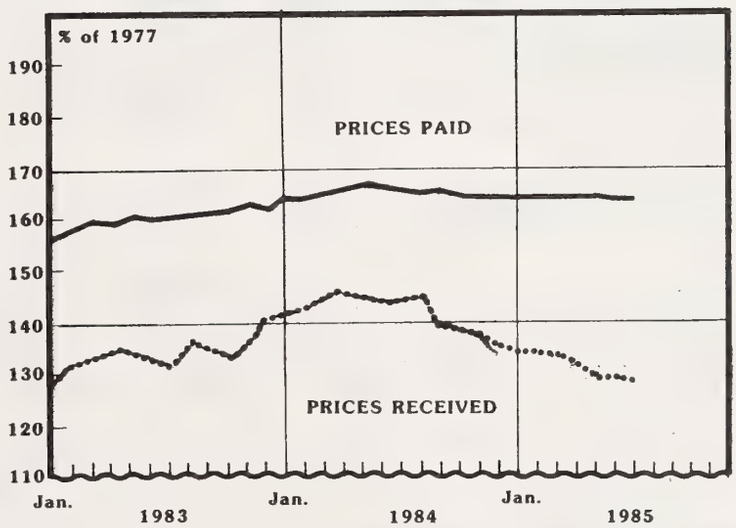


UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	July 1984	June 1985	July 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	145	128	127
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	164	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	88	78	77
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	59	52	52

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



NUMBER OF FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, BY SELECTED STATES, JUNE 1, 1983-1985 1/

STATE	FARMS 1983	FARMS 1984	FARMS 1985 2/	LAND IN FARMS 1983	LAND IN FARMS 1984	LAND IN FARMS 1985 2/
	---Number---			---(000) Acres---		
CALIF	80,000	78,000	79,000	33,200	33,000	32,800
COLO	27,000	27,000	26,700	34,800	34,600	34,400
IDAHO	24,500	24,600	24,600	14,900	14,700	14,700
MONT	24,000	23,900	23,600	61,300	61,100	60,900
NEBR	62,000	60,000	59,000	47,400	47,200	47,200
NEV	2,700	2,600	2,500	8,900	8,800	8,800
N DAK	36,500	35,500	34,000	41,000	41,000	40,900
OREG	37,500	37,000	36,500	18,000	18,000	18,000
S DAK	37,000	37,000	37,000	44,500	44,500	44,500
UTAH	14,000	14,000	13,900	12,000	11,800	11,600
WASH	38,000	38,000	38,000	16,300	16,100	16,300
WYO	9,200	9,100	9,000	35,000	34,800	34,800
U.S.	2,370,200	2,328,400	2,284,630	1,024,195	1,019,378	1,015,583

1/ A farm is a place as of June 1 that sells or could sell $1,000 of agricultural products during the year. 2/ Preliminary.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES and COMMODITY GROUPS, MONTANA, 1983-1984

COMMODITIES	VALUE		PERCENTAGE OF ALL COMMODITIES	
	1983 1/	1984 2/	1983 1/	1984 2/
	----(000) Dollars----		--Pct. of Total--	
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS				
Cattle & Calves	543,673	653,885	36.5	46.1
Dairy Products	45,015	44,927	3.0	3.2
Sheep & Lambs	17,781	18,567	1.2	1.3
Wool	3,849	4,740	.3	.3
Hogs	22,500	26,855	1.5	1.9
Farm Chickens & Eggs	8,883	10,479	.6	.7
Other	15,584	12,980	1.0	.9
TOTAL	657,285	772,433	44.1	54.4
CROPS				
Wheat	572,339	428,054	38.4	30.2
Barley	152,961	134,254	10.3	9.5
Sugarbeets	34,683	19,080	2.3	1.3
Hay	38,600	34,207	2.6	2.4
Potatoes	12,546	14,352	.8	1.0
Oats	2,839	1,814	.2	.1
Dry Edible Beans	1,038	1,241	.1	.1
Other Crops	10,377	6,568	.7	.5
FRUITS & BERRIES				
Cherries	619	926	.1	.1
Other Fruits	83	15	3/	3/
OTHER PRODUCTS				
Forest Products	4,000	4,500	.3	.3
Greenhouse & Nursery	2,000	2,000	.1	.1
TOTAL	832,085	647,011	55.9	45.6
ALL COMMODITIES	1,489,371	1,419,444	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 0.1 of a percent.

---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER---

Slaughter
Farm Labor

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- CATTLE & CALF NUMBERS DROP
- CATTLE ON FEED IN 13 STATES
- MONTANA MILK PRODUCTION UP
- RED MEAT PRODUCTION
- MONTANA 1985 BARLEY VARIETIES

CATTLE & CALF INVENTORY DOWN

The Nation's cattle herd on July 1, 1985 was down 4 percent from a year ago. This was the fourth consecutive year in which the cattle inventory declined.

Heifers being kept for beef cow replacements were down more than any other category with an 11 percent reduction from a year ago. Beef cows and heifers that had already calved were down 7 percent.

The only classes showing larger numbers compared with last year were milk cows, milk cow replacement heifers and other heifers.

The 1985 calf crop is expected to be down 3 percent from 1984 and 6 percent from 1983.

CATTLE & CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS and CALF CROP, UNITED STATES JULY 1, 1983-1985

CLASS	1983	1984	1985	1985 as % of '84
	(000) Head			Pct.
Cattle and Calves	123,540	121,500	116,300	96
Cows & Heifers That Have Calved	49,600	48,700	46,300	95
Beef Cows	38,500	37,900	32,250	93
Milk Cows	11,100	10,800	11,050	102
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	18,570	18,500	18,200	98
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,800	5,500	4,900	89
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,880	4,950	5,000	101
Other Heifers	7,890	8,050	8,300	103
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	16,840	16,400	15,900	97
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,560	2,500	2,300	92
Calves Under 500 Pounds	35,970	35,400	33,600	95
Calf Crop 1/	43,925	42,499	41,100	97

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

(SEE CALF CROP TABLE ON INSIDE PAGE.)

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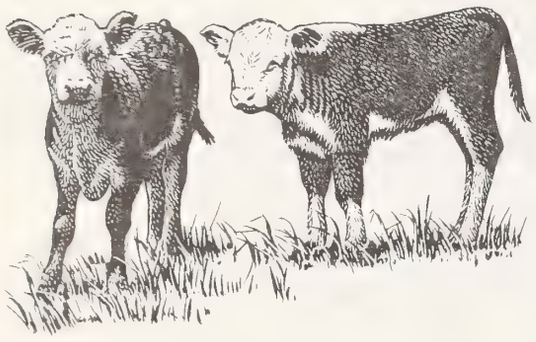
CALF CROP: NUMBER and PERCENT OF TOTAL BY SIX MONTH PERIOD, UNITED STATES 1983-85

PERIOD	1982		1983		1985	
	Number (000)	% of Total	Number (000)	% of Total	Number (000)	% of Total
Jan. 1 - June 30	31,150	70.9	30,400	71.5	29,400	71.5
July 1 - Dec. 31 1/	12,775	29.1	12,099	28.5	11,700	28.5
TOTAL	43,925	100.0	42,499	100.0	41,100	100.0

1/ Expected calf crop for 1985.



CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed July 1 for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly states totaled 8.66 million head, down fractionally from July 1 last year and 5 percent less than two years ago. On feed numbers were the lowest for this date since 1981.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.25 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below 1983. This group represented 61 percent of the total July 1 number on feed compared with 63 percent in 1984. Heifers and heifer calves, at 3.38 million, were the highest since 1978, up 7 percent from last year and virtually the same as 1983.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June quarter totaled 5.19 million, 7 percent below last year, 12 percent below 1983 and lowest for this comparable period since 1975. Other disappearance of 439 thousand head leaves net placements at 4.75 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 5.76 million, up 3 percent from the same quarter last year, 4 percent above 1983 and the largest for the quarter since 1978.

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.98 million head during the July-Sept. quarter of 1985. This would be 5 percent greater than the third quarter marketings in 1984, and 1 percent above 1983.

1985 APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION

Montana's April-June milk production was 5 percent above last year at 91 million pounds.

Milk cow numbers remained the same as last quarter and last year at 28,000. Average production per cow increased seasonally, over last quarter, and at 3,250 pounds per cow was 5 percent more than last year.

Dairymen fed 14 pounds of grain and concentrates per cow per day, the same as last year. The cost per 100 pounds of feed was down 10 cents.

Nationally, milk production in the second quarter of 1985 was 37.2 billion pounds, 5 percent above the same period last year.

The number of milk cows averaged 10.971 million, 165,000 more than last year for the April-June period. Production per cow at 3,394 pounds was nearly 3 percent above the previous year.

APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION 1984-1985

AREA	MILK COWS		MILK PROD.	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	963	998	3,974	4,238
IDAHO	164	167	559	596
MINN	885	908	2,841	2,943
MONT	28	28	87	91
N DAK	101	100	297	301
ORE	98	100	355	374
S DAK	162	162	468	478
WASH	212	220	888	953
WISC	1,824	1,877	6,275	6,590
WYO	11.9	11.6	33.2	33.4
U.S.	10,805	10,971	35,609	37,231

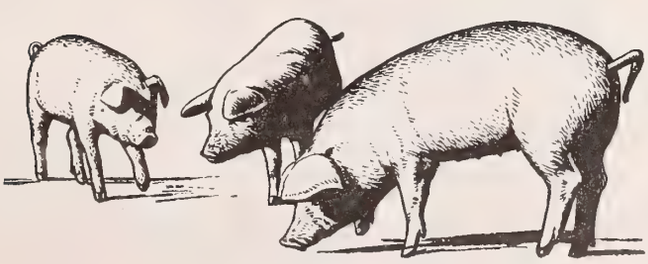
JUNE 1985 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds of red meat during the month of June, 11 percent less than the previous month and 56 percent less than the June 1984 production. Production for the first half of the year was 16.6 million pounds, 22 percent less than last year. For the month, cattle slaughter at 2,500 head, was down 62 percent from last year. Hog slaughter at 2,300 head was unchanged from a year ago, but the total live weight of the hogs slaughtered was down 3 percent.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in June 1985 totaled 3.08 billion pounds, down 4 percent from June 1984. January-June red meat production, at 19.4 billion pounds, was up fractionally from last year. The 1985 accumulated production changes by individual components were: beef, up 1 percent; veal, up 4 percent; pork, down 1 percent; lamb and mutton, down 8 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CLASSIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION, UNITED STATES

ITEM	January-June	
	1984	1985
	--% of Total--	
CATTLE		
Steers	48.7	47.6
Heifers	27.3	30.9
Cows	22.0	19.5
Bulls & Stags	2.0	2.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
HOGS		
Barrows & Gilts	94.2	94.6
Sows	4.7	4.4
Stags & Boars	1.1	1.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
SHEEP		
Mature Sheep	7.8	6.6
Lambs & Yrlngs	92.2	93.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0



MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES

Hector continues to be the most popular barley variety seeded in Montana. According to a June 1985 survey of growers, Hector, a feed type barley, was planted on 33 percent of the barley acres.

The second most popular variety was Piroline, a malting type. This variety occupied 20 percent of the acreage. Clark, another malting type was found in the number three position with 16 percent of seeded acres.

The six varieties recommended for malting accounted for 46 percent of total barley acreage

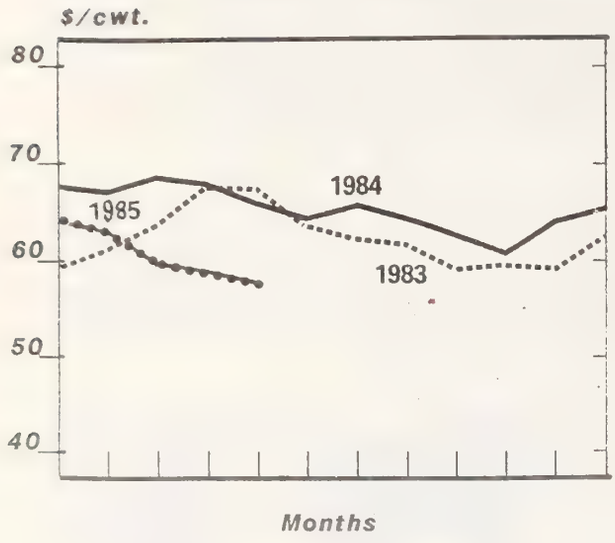
MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES:

PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1982-1985

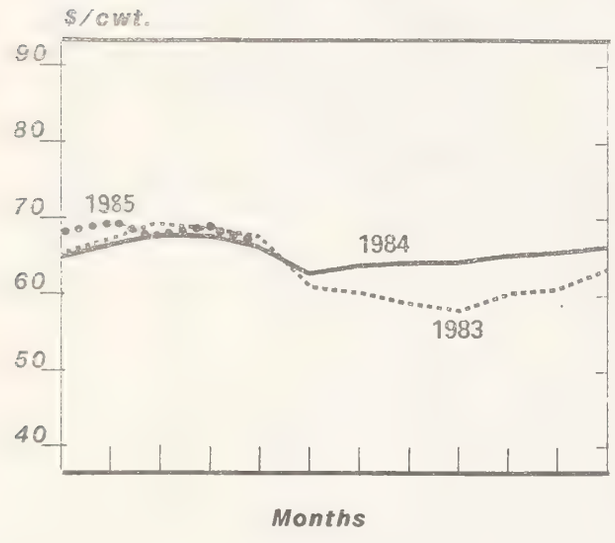
VARIETY	% OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE			
	1982	1983	1984	1985
	Percent			
Hector	27.3	35.1	32.4	32.9
Piroline M	24.8	25.6	19.3	20.1
Clark M	2.5	7.4	15.6	15.8
Klages M	12.6	20.6	13.1	8.6
Kimberly	--	.6	.9	3.0
Compana	2.0	1.5	.6	2.6
Summit	5.5	2.1	3.5	2.5
Menuet	.4	.7	1.5	1.8
Horsford	.6	.7	1.2	1.7
Unitan	3.9	2.5	2.8	1.3
Steptoe	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.2
Morex M	8.5	2.8	1.9	.7
Ingrid	1.0	1.0	1.1	.7
Moravian III M	.2	.8	.9	.5
Premier M	--	--	.2	.5
Stepford	.2	.1	.1	.3
Larker	1.0	.6	.4	.3
Hypana	.4	.1	.2	.2
Betzes	1.1	.3	.2	.2
Fairfield	.6	.5	.2	.2
Westbred 501	--	--	--	.2
Freja	--	--	--	.2
Hazen	--	--	--	.2
Ridawn	--	--	.1	.1
Glenn	1.0	.4	.2	.1
Other & Unknown	5.0	5.2	2.6	4.1
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

M = American Malting Barley Association recommended malting varieties for Montana 1985.

CHOICE STEERS



CHOICE FEEDER CATTLE



PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS

April 1 - July 20

STATIONS	1985	Normal 1/
	------Inches------	
Hamilton	3.21	4.92
Kalispell	3.74	5.74
Polson	5.65	6.58
Belgrade	3.45	6.56
Dillon Arpt.	3.07	5.21
Cut Bank	4.29	6.78
Havre	2.05	5.77
Conrad	3.61	6.71
Ft. Benton	1.86	7.64
Malta	4.20	6.56
Great Falls	4.38	7.58
Helena	1.36	5.48
Lewistown	2.84	8.97
Stanford	3.86	8.31
Billings	3.01	7.04
Wyola	5.23	7.97
Glasgow	3.46	6.28
Sidney	3.83	7.35
Broadus	5.15	7.51
Miles City Arpt.	3.55	7.54

1/ Normal for period 1951-1980.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Planted Crop Acres
Pasture & Range
Grain Stocks
July Crop Production Forecast
Farm Prices

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range condition on July 1 was 46 percent of normal--the lowest since 1931. Last year, the condition was 72 percent. Most non-irrigated pastures and ranges are dormant and dried under severe drouth conditions. Stockwater is also short in many locations. Range feed was depleted last year in most of the northern, central and eastern parts of Montana because of drouth, and were subjected to a very dry spring before the summer's drouth became severe.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION JULY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1983	1984	1985
Northwest	85	93	74
North Central	70	45	42
Northeast	70	48	33
Central	75	75	38
Southwest	87	89	56
South Central	80	80	42
Southeast	83	82	46
STATE	77	72	46

MONTANA CROP ACRES -- JUNE 1, 1985

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
	-----000-----		-----000-----	
Winter Wheat	2,700	2,460	2,480	1,300
Durum	215	220	210	210
Hard Spring Wheat	2,100	3,070	1,950	2,900
All Wheat	5,015	5,750	4,640	4,410
Corn	90	84	15	14
Oats	220	225	105	100
Barley	2,320	2,350	2,110	2,050
Dry Beans	8.5	4.0	8.0	3.8
Sugarbeets	25.2	44.0	24.6	43.5
Alfalfa Hay	--	--	1,150	1,100
All Other Hay	--	--	1,050	1,050
Fall Potatoes	7.5	7.8	7.4	7.7

MONTANA PLANTED CROP ACRES

Montana farmers planted more acreage to hard spring wheat in 1985 than a year ago and fewer acres to winter wheat. All other planted crop acreages remained about the same. Winter wheat plantings were down because of very dry seedbeds last fall, and spring wheat plantings got a big boost when much of the State's winter wheat plantings died out and had to be replanted.

Compared with a year ago, winter wheat plantings were down 9 percent; spring wheat plantings are up 46 percent; durum and oats are up 2 percent each; and barley is up 1 percent.

Acres for harvest of all grain crops in the State were estimated to be down 4 percent from last year as of June 1. Continued drouth since the June Acreage Survey has changed that picture considerably. A new harvested acreage estimate for all grain crops based on August 1st conditions will be released on August 12.

U.S. CROP ACRES -- JUNE 1, 1985

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
	------000------		------000------	
Winter Wheat	63,419	58,095	51,513	48,668
Durum	3,277	3,132	3,219	3,062
Hard Spring Wheat	12,517	14,538	12,196	14,058
All Wheat	79,213	75,765	66,928	65,788
Corn	80,434	83,217	71,816	74,756
Sorghum	17,249	17,800	15,348	16,136
Oats	12,364	13,140	8,123	8,800
Barley	11,887	13,129	11,171	12,319
Rye	2,971	2,558	981	677
Soybeans	67,735	63,320	66,093	62,293
Flaxseed	555	660	538	641
Sunflower	3,754	3,025	3,692	2,977
All Hay	--	--	61,585	61,951
Dry Beans	1,497.0	1,576.5	1,456.3	1,536.1
Sugarbeets	1,121.5	1,116.8	1,096.3	1,097.6
Fall Potatoes	1,124.0	1,181.3	1,093.3	1,159.7

STOCKS OF GRAIN JUNE 1, 1985 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1984*	Apr. 1, 1985*	June 1, 1985	% Chg. '85/'84	June 1, 1984*	Apr. 1, 1985*	June 1, 1985
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	72,573	80,584	66,979	- 8	591,650	713,596	582,179
Off Farms 1/	21,057	29,870	25,514	+21	806,996	953,694	842,320
TOTAL	93,630	110,454	92,493	- 1	1,398,646	1,667,290	1,424,499
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	37,963	44,620	40,610	+ 7	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	12,262	19,471	15,450	+26	--	--	--
TOTAL	50,225	64,091	56,060	+12	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	34,610	35,964	26,369	-24	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	8,795	10,399	10,064	+14	--	--	--
TOTAL	43,405	46,363	36,433	-16	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms	4/	4/	4/	4/	71,554	81,819	69,225
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	27,125	33,007	30,737
TOTAL	9,407	9,220	7,439	-21	98,679	114,826	99,962
CORN							
On Farms	191	345	166	-13	1,213,068	2,828,763	2,004,109
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	932,007	1,131,736	827,701
TOTAL	4/	4/	4/	4/	2,145,075	3,960,499	2,831,810
OATS							
On Farms	2,165	2,448	1,709	-50	151,247	211,193	146,112
Off Farms 1/	124	120	96	+25	29,815	44,676	33,432
TOTAL	2,289	2,568	1,805	-49	181,062	255,869	179,544
BARLEY							
On Farms	10,101	20,678	12,998	+29	117,024	216,294	163,097
Off Farms 1/	2,150	4,743	3,705	+72	72,395	103,147	84,482
TOTAL	12,251	25,421	16,703	+40	189,419	319,441	247,579
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	61,453	134,842	89,039
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	307,444	346,392	271,282
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	368,897	481,234	360,321

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1984	Apr. 1, 1985*	June 1, 1985	June 1, 1984	Apr. 1, 1985*	June 1, 1985
	-------Million Bushels-------			-------Million Bushels-------		
Northwest	.3	.7	.5	.4	1.6	.7
North Central	37.6	41.5	35.3	5.2	10.7	7.6
Northeast	30.4	34.5	32.8	1.4	2.7	2.2
Central	9.7	13.4	10.0	3.7	3.9	2.3
Southwest	2.2	2.9	1.7	.4	1.5	.8
South Central	7.7	9.0	6.4	1.0	3.9	2.4
Southeast	5.7	8.5	5.8	.2	1.1	.7
STATE	93.6	110.5	92.5	12.3	25.4	16.7

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

JULY CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's 1985 **winter wheat crop**, badly damaged by insects, winter kill and a major drouth, will total only 26.0 million bushels--61 percent under last year's low production. This is the lowest production since 1956, and the crop is still vulnerable to acreage abandonment and yield loss due to the drouth. The forecast is based on farmer reported yield and condition as of July 1. The yield forecast is 20 bushels per acre and the acres for harvest are estimated to be 1.3 million.

Barley production in Montana is expected to total 47.2 million bushels, 20 percent under last year. The barley yield is forecast at 23 bushels per acre and acres for harvest are estimated to be 2.05 million. However, the acreage estimate is based on June 1 conditions and may not reflect the effect of widespread drouth since that time. **Oats production** at 3.3 million bushels is 15 percent under last year. The State's **sweet cherry crop** is estimated to be 3,000 tons, up 30 percent from a year ago.

The first production forecast for hard spring wheat, durum, corn, dry beans, sugarbeets and hay will be released August 12.

MONTANA JULY 1 CROP FORECAST

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
	----(000)-----		-----Bu.-----		---(000) Bu.---	
Winter Wheat	2,480	1,300	27.0	20.0	66,960	26,000
Barley	2,110	2,050	28.0	23.0	59,080	47,150
Oats	105	100	37.0	33.0	3,885	3,300
Sweet Cherries	--	--	--	--	2,300 1/	3,000 1/

1/ Tons.

U.S. JULY 1 CROP FORECAST

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
	-----(000)-----		-----Bu.-----		---(000 Bu.)---	
Winter Wheat	51,513	48,668	40.0	38.1	2,060,646	1,854,254
Barley	11,171	12,319	53.4	51.3	596,546	632,228
Oats	8,123	8,800	58.1	56.7	471,921	498,953
Sweet Cherries	--	--	--	--	181,800 1/	132,600 1/

1/ Tons.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT -- JULY 1, 1985 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1984	Ind. 1985	% Chg.	1984	Ind. 1985	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.	-----000 Bu.-----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	541	656	+21	3,496	3,350	- 4
N. CENTRAL	33,018	10,080	-69	25,580	20,459	-20
NORTHEAST	6,244	1,739	-72	6,517	4,866	-25
CENTRAL	12,404	5,700	-54	10,919	7,728	-29
SOUTHWEST	1,583	870	-45	4,836	3,520	-27
S. CENTRAL	7,217	4,200	-42	5,594	4,257	-24
SOUTHEAST	5,953	2,755	-54	2,138	2,970	+39
STATE	66,960	26,000	-61	59,080	47,150	-20

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

JUNE FARM PRICES

The Montana index of prices received for all farm products in mid-June at 144 (1977=100) was down 2 points from May and down 4 points from a year ago. The all crops index at 147 is unchanged from May but 17 points under a year ago. The livestock prices index at 140 was down 5 points from May but 7 points above a year ago.

All crop prices fell from May to June except barley and hard red spring wheat. All livestock prices registered declines except cows, sheep and hogs.

Nationally, the June index of prices received by farmers for all farm products was unchanged from May at 129 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for hogs, tomatoes, potatoes, broilers and cotton were offset by lower prices for cattle, milk, wheat, hay, feed grains and lettuce. The index was 15 points (10 percent) below a year ago.

The June index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates was 164 percent of its 1977 average. The index for June was 1 point (0.6 percent) below both a month and a year earlier. The feeder livestock and feed indexes were down from May while the family living component was higher. The tractor price index was lower than three months ago as incentives offered by dealers and manufacturers lowered prices.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Qtrly. Milk Production
Slaughter
Cattle Inventory & Calf Crop

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		June 15, 1985	June 15, 1985
		June 1984	May 1985		
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.41	3.40	3.03
Durum	Bu.	3.77	3.40	3.30	3.55
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.99	3.74	3.75	3.47
All Wheat	Bu.	3.85	3.54	3.53	3.13
Barley	Bu.	2.66	2.06	2.09	2.17
Oats	Bu.	1.74	1.87	1.82	1.55
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	83.00	82.00	76.80
All Other Hay	Ton	80.00	73.00	72.00	55.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	90.00	82.00	81.00	71.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt	55.00	59.30	57.10	57.90
Cows	Cwt	40.10	39.00	39.70	37.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	44.10	49.10	47.50	54.50
Calves	Cwt	58.70	64.60	61.40	64.00
Sheep	Cwt	11.80	18.00	18.00	24.00
Lambs	Cwt	53.90	58.00	57.80	69.80
Hogs	Cwt	44.00	36.50	38.20	43.70
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	13.20	12.55	12.20
Eggs	Doz	.550	.460	.460	.532
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.000	.680	.650	.725
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	148	146	144	129
All Crops	Pct.	164	147	147	123
Livestock & Products	Pct.	133	145	140	134

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	June 1984	May 1985	June 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	144	129	129
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	165	165	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	87	78	79
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	58	52	52

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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Phone: 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

CROP-WEATHER SITUATION
HOG & PIG NUMBERS DECLINE
CATTLE ON FEED INCREASE
RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP
FARM LAND VALUES ON DOWNWARD TREND
MORE EGGS PRODUCED
featuring.....GARFIELD COUNTY

CROP & WEATHER CONDITIONS

CROPS: Soils continue to be mostly dry in the major crop areas of the State. Although light showers brought some relief, the complete lack of subsoil moisture coupled with hot, dry winds greatly reduced any benefits. Only about 10 percent of the State has adequate topsoil moisture, and reports are increasing that burn spots are beginning to develop in grain fields. Grasshopper control is still going on and serious gopher damage is also developing. Almost two-thirds of the winter wheat crop is in very poor to poor condition with the remainder only fair. About half the spring wheat and barley are in poor condition, about 40% in fair condition and about 10% is rated in good condition. All of the State's grain crops are maturing ahead of normal with some winter wheat already in the turning to mature color stage of development. Haying is active in most of the State and the hot, dry winds have helped to cure the cuttings rapidly. Strong winds in the north central scattered some windrows. Nearly 35% of the first cutting is done compared with 15% on the average. Irrigation water supplies are short in nearly 75% of the State. About 80% of the sugarbeets have been thinned.

LIVESTOCK & HAY: Pastures and ranges in over half the State are in very poor to poor condition. Only a small part of the ranges are in good condition. Cattlemen face the prospect of a sharply reduced grazing season on both private and public lands because of the drouth. Stockwater supplies are also being reduced, further aggravating utilization of pastures and ranges.

JUNE HOG & PIG INVENTORY -- U.S.

Hog & pig inventory in the U.S. June 1, 1985 is estimated at 52.1 million. This is 1 percent below a year ago and 10 percent below June 1, 1983.

The breeding inventory, at 7 million head is 5 percent below a year ago and 14 percent below two years ago. This is the smallest June 1 breeding inventory since June 1 U.S. inventory estimates were first established in 1964.

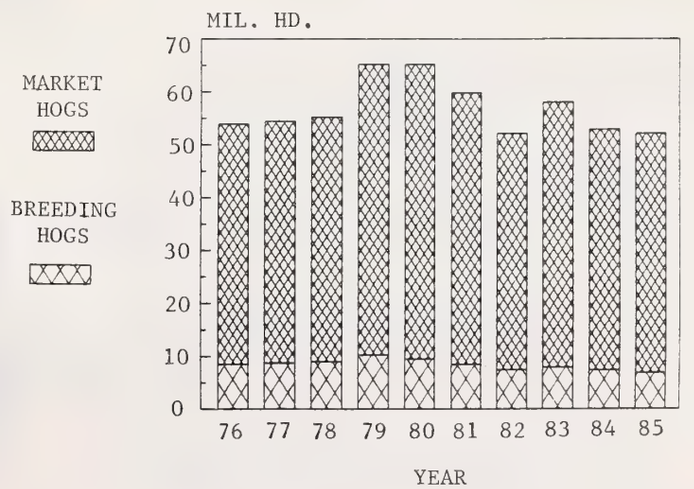
Market hog inventory at 45.1 million is 1 percent below a year ago and 10 percent below two years ago.

The December 1984-May 1985 U.S. pig crop was 42.5 million head, a slight increase from the corresponding period last year but down 10 percent from the comparable period two years ago.

U.S. producers intend to have 5.61 million sows farrow in the June-November 1985 period, a decrease of 4 percent from the same period in 1984 and 9 percent below 1983.

JUNE 1 HOGS & PIGS INVENTORY

UNITED STATES



BEEF SUPPLY & PRICES

Large beef supplies, together with increased poultry production, resulted in large total meat supplies. There was one less slaughter day during the first quarter of this year than in 1984, (one slaughter day difference on a quarterly production). Last year's first-quarter production was the highest since 1978. Because first-quarter beef production about equaled a year earlier, this year's production exceeded last year when adjusted for the difference in slaughter days. These large supplies led to weaker prices.

Choice steer prices at Omaha fell to a $59.58 average for March, down from $64.35 during January. Delayed marketings by cattle feeders, perhaps partially in anticipation of a price rally, compounded the problem. Dressed slaughter weights rose to 654 pounds by mid-March. Higher dressed weights resulted from cattle being held on feed longer, as well as higher daily gains. Weather throughout this winter was conducive to good weight gains. First-quarter dressed weights for cattle averaged 644 pounds, up 15 pounds from a year earlier. The increase resulted from a 23-pound rise in heifer weights and a 20-pound increase in steer weights from a year earlier. Choice steer prices averaged $62.24 for the quarter, down from $67.58 last year.

During April, dressed weights remained high and prices continued to decline, averaging about $58.75 for the month. Wholesale carcass prices for yield grade 3 steer carcasses at Omaha fell to $86 per cwt at times during the month, the lowest since 1979. At the same time, the price spread between yield grade 3 and 4 carcasses widened to about $16 per cwt as overfinished carcasses were heavily discounted.

Prices should begin to strengthen in late spring-early summer as retail movement picks up seasonally and production likely falls from the first half and a year earlier. Even though beef cow slaughter remained high during the first quarter, it began to drop sharply as the grazing season began. Beef cow slaughter fell below year-earlier levels beginning the first week of April. A substantial drop in cow slaughter will result in declining production this summer. Prices were probably supported by the strong economy last year. Economic growth will be considerably slower this year, so beef prices and live cattle prices will likely not receive the same boost. Omaha Choice steer prices may average $59-$62 for the second quarter and $62-$66 for the year.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

Cattle and calves on feed June 1 for the slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.44 million head, up 2 percent from both June 1, 1984 and 1983.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during May totaled 1.59 million, 3 percent below last year but 1 percent above May two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during May totaled 1.67 million, a 7 percent decrease from last May and 9 percent less than may 1983. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.54 million for May were 3 percent below May 1984 and 9 percent below two years ago.

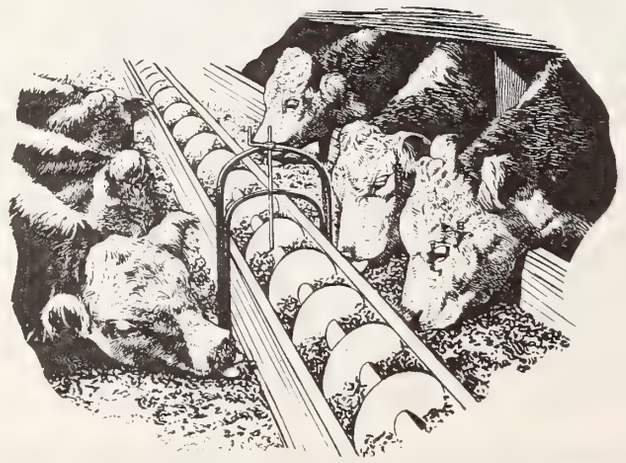
OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 128 thousand head compared with 219 thousand in May 1984 and 150 thousand during May 1983.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.0 million pounds of red meat in May 1985, 11 percent more than the previous month but 51 percent less than a year ago.

May slaughter included 2,700 head of cattle, 57 percent below last year, and 2,500 hogs, 4 percent more than the previous year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in May 1985 totaled 3.49 billion pounds, up 2 percent from May 1984. January-May red meat production, at 16.3 billion pounds (7.39 million metric tons), was up 1 percent from last year. The 1985 accumulated production percentage changes by individual components were: beef, up 2 percent; veal, up 6 percent; pork, down slightly; lamb and mutton, down 7 percent.



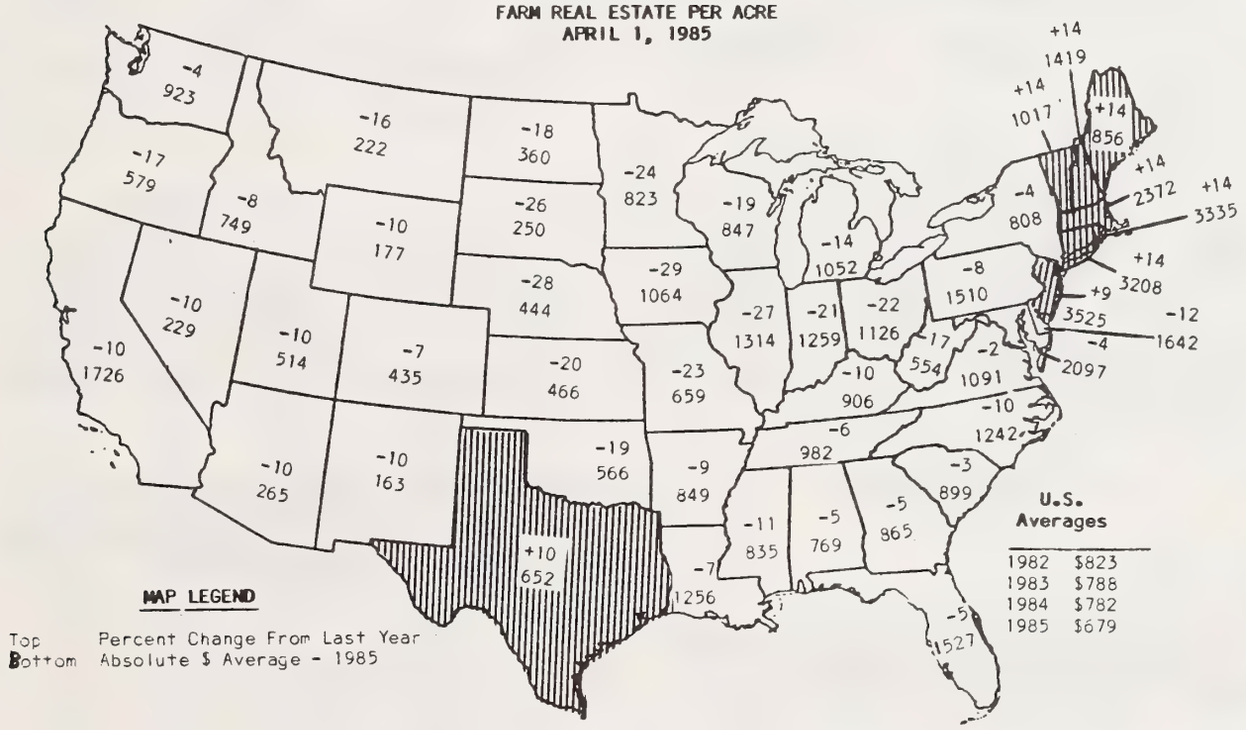
FARM LAND VALUES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

The downward trend in farmland values that began in 1981 accelerated during the past year. From April 1984 to April 1985, the index of farm real estate values dropped 12 percent to 128. Historically, the largest declines occurred in 1932 and 1933, when the index dropped 17 and 19 percent, respectively. During the past year, the largest decreases were in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northern Plains, which incurred losses of 20 percent or more. For the United States, values were 19 percent below 1981.

The Department of Agriculture annually surveys farmers, lenders, realtors, appraisers, farm managers, and others involved in the farmland market to obtain data on farmland values. The values are revised periodically for consistency with values reported by farmers in the Census of Agriculture.

The average farmland value for the United States was $679 per acre on April 1. The U.S. average encompasses a wide variety of productivity and use classes of land, from semi-arid rangeland to irrigated land producing high-value specialty crops. The relatively high values in several northeastern states reflect the demand for land for nonfarm purposes, as well as for farms that are used mainly as residences. States in the lower value ranges generally have little urban pressure and less productive land.

PERCENT CHANGE DURING 1984 AND AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM REAL ESTATE PER ACRE APRIL 1, 1985



EGG PRODUCTION

Montana poultrymen produced 51 million eggs in the three month period March-May 1985.

This is a 4 percent increase over 1984. The average number of layers on hand in that time period was 803,000 for 1985--5 percent more than in the previous year.

The Nation's laying flock was down 1 percent from the 1984 March-May quarter, but egg production was up 1 percent.

featuring..... GARFIELD COUNTY

Garfield County lies in east central Montana and the landscape is generally rolling. The entire northern and half of the eastern boundaries are comprised of the Fort Peck Lake. The Mussellshell River makes up the western boundary. Portions of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge lie along the banks of Fort Peck Lake within the county. The Fort Peck Dam makes up a section of the extreme northeastern boundary.

Sheep raising is a main agricultural interest in the county as it ranked 2nd in sheep numbers in the January 1, 1983 inventory. The cattle count for the same date showed Garfield County in 15th place among the counties for cattle raising. Some hogs are also produced as the county ranked 23rd in the December 1, 1982 hog inventory.

Crops grown in the county include oats, winter wheat, spring wheat and barley, with the county ranking 14th, 19th, 20th and 29th, respectively, for those crops.

1982 cash receipts netted Garfield County a total of $22,513,000. The livestock portion of that total amounted to $12,451,000, while crops added in $7,997,000. Government payments made up the difference with $2,065,000.

GARFIELD COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	2,874,342
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	2,054,185
Number of Farms 1/		263
CROPS		
Oats	Acres Plntd.	7,000
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	51,000
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	43,000
Barley	Acres Plntd.	26,800
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	24,900

	UNIT	1983
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	243,062
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	3,670
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	65,900
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	67,600
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	1,800

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range
Potato Disposition

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

WINTER WHEAT FORECAST BLEAK
FARM PRICES FOR MAY
FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF U.S. LAND
SWEET CHERRY CROP FORECAST
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION POOR
featuring.....DANIELS COUNTY

SMALL WINTER WHEAT CROP

June 1 conditions indicate a Montana winter wheat crop of 39.6 million bushels, 41 percent below last year. If realized this would be the smallest crop since 1962. An above normal amount of winter kill, coupled with cutworm and wireworm damage, this spring resulted in much more than the usual acreage that was reseeded to spring wheat.

The Nation's winter wheat crop is forecast at 1.89 billion bushels, 8 percent less than last year. The Plains States, accounting for 62 percent of the U.S. production, are up 5 percent. A much larger acreage in Texas this year accounts for most of the increase in production for these states. Production in the three Pacific Northwest States is down 17 percent and the Corn Belt States are off 28 percent. The Southern States with only 7 percent of the U.S. production are down the most with a 42 percent drop.

WINTER WHEAT

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1984	1985	1984	1985	% Chg.
	-(000) Acres-		--(000) Bu.--		%
Colorado	3,200	3,100	110,400	120,900	+10
Kansas	11,200	11,600	431,200	452,400	+ 5
Montana	2,480	1,800	66,960	39,600	-41
Nebraska	2,250	2,300	81,000	94,300	+16
North Dakota	550	450	22,000	12,600	-43
South Dakota	1,700	1,720	61,200	49,880	-19
Texas	5,000	6,100	150,000	201,300	+34
Oklahoma	5,300	5,500	190,800	203,500	+ 7
PLAINS STATES	31,680	32,570	1,113,560	1,174,480	+ 5
Idaho	900	900	56,700	58,500	+ 3
Oregon	1,050	980	66,150	53,900	-19
Washington	2,400	2,250	148,800	112,500	-24
PACIFIC NW	4,350	4,130	271,650	224,900	-17
Illinois	1,600	800	70,400	37,600	-47
Indiana	1,050	730	48,300	35,770	-26
Michigan	800	780	45,600	42,900	- 6
Missouri	2,050	1,370	84,050	54,800	-35
Ohio	1,100	830	48,400	41,500	-14
CORN BELT	6,600	4,510	296,750	212,570	-28
Alabama	380	350	14,820	11,550	-22
Arkansas	1,400	570	61,600	21,660	-65
Georgia	890	800	31,150	24,000	-23
Kentucky	500	340	19,000	12,920	-32
Mississippi	660	300	25,080	10,200	-59
North Carolina	620	680	26,660	20,400	-23
South Carolina	380	370	14,440	9,250	-36
Tennessee	535	300	21,400	12,000	-44
Virginia	275	310	12,375	9,610	-22
SOUTHERN STATES	5,640	4,020	226,525	131,590	-42
California	690	650	52,440	48,750	- 7
Other States	2,553	2,522	99,721	100,148	0
UNITED STATES	51,513	48,402	2,060,646	1,892,438	- 8

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST 1/ BY DISTRICTS--JUNE 1, 1985

DISTRICT	1984	Ind. 1985	% Chg.
	----000 Bu.----		Pct.
NORTHWEST	541	480	-11
N. CENTRAL	33,018	16,940	-49
NORTHEAST	6,244	1,792	-71
CENTRAL	12,404	8,976	-28
SOUTHWEST	1,583	1,312	-17
S. CENTRAL	7,217	5,525	-23
SOUTHEAST	5,953	4,575	-23
STATE	66,960	39,600	-41

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

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PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range condition on June 1 at 51 percent of normal was the lowest June 1 condition since the 1930s. The poor condition is the result of last summer's drought and very little rainfall this spring. As a result, growth has been slow and grasses have been maturing very short. Pastures and ranges now look like they would the end of August. A severe infestation of grasshoppers in many areas is adding to the problem as they can do considerable damage to rangeland and pastures.

Herds in many areas are being culled because of the poor grazing prospects and no hay supplies. Many cattle are being moved out of state for summer grazing. Rains were general the last of May which gave range grasses a boost, but more is needed and overall grazing prospects have been lowered for the season.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION-- JUNE 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1983	1984	1985
Northwest	85	88	70
North Central	83	51	42
Northeast	88	27	39
Central	83	71	44
Southwest	82	87	63
South Central	84	78	52
Southeast	90	63	52
STATE	85	65	51

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 170,000 gallons of ice cream in April, 2 percent more than in the same month last year. Creamed cottage cheese production at 378,000 pounds was 28 percent less than a year ago. Butter output was up 3 percent at 151,000 pounds. American cheese production at 317,000 pounds was 33 percent above the same month last year.

CHERRY PRODUCTION

Montana's sweet cherry crop is forecast at 2,700 tons, 17 percent more than last year. May weather was good for pollination during the peak bloom period. The average date of bloom was May 8th.

Sweet cherry production in the six western states is expected to total 96,800 tons, 33 percent less than last year.

AMERICAN LAND IN FOREIGN HANDS

Foreign investors have added to their holdings of U.S. agricultural land during the last few years--but not by much.

At the end of 1982, foreign holdings were reported at 13.5 million acres, or about 1 percent of all privately owned U.S. agricultural land. The most recent count, as of October 1984, found slightly more than 14 million acres under foreign ownership--1.1 percent of all privately owned agricultural land.

Rhode Island Remains the Only State Where No Foreign Holdings Are Reported

Foreign-owned agricultural land by state, in thousands (000) of acres:

The difference: roughly a half million acres, and not all of this increase is attributable to transactions by foreign interests since 1982. Some of the foreign transactions were simply reported too late to be included in the 1982 total. Of course, the same qualification applies to preliminary 1984 data.

Figures for 1984 are from USDA's latest report on foreign ownership and show 57 percent of all foreign-owned agricultural acreage is forestland; only 14 percent is cropland. The rest is pasture and other agricultural land.

MAY FARM PRICES

The Montana index of prices received for all farm products during mid-May at 148 percent (1977=100) was down 3 points from April and down 4 points from a year ago. The all crops index at 149 compares with 147 in April and 160 a year ago. The livestock price index at 148 was down 6 points from April, but 3 points above a year ago.

Slight price increases since April were seen for wheat, but oats prices fell. All livestock prices registered declines except for lambs and wool.

Nationally, the May all farm products index of prices received by farmers decreased 2 points from April to 129 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for tomatoes, cattle, wheat, milk and soybeans were partially offset by higher prices for oranges, onions, hay, lettuce and potatoes. The index was 16 points below a year ago.

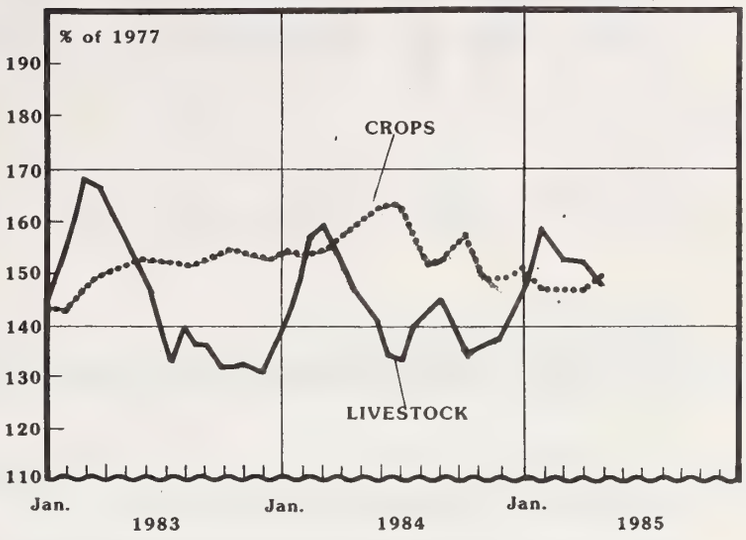
The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for May was 165 percent of its 1977 average. The index was unchanged from last month and last year. The feed and feeder livestock indexes were lower than April, while the fuels & energy index was higher.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May. 1984	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1985	MONTANA May 15, 1985	U.S. May 15, 1985
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.56	3.38	3.40	3.19
Durum	Bu.	3.84	3.40	3.40	3.57
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.95	3.73	3.80	3.49
All Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.51	3.55	3.28
Barley	Bu.	2.60	2.13	2.13	2.22
Oats	Bu.	1.69	1.95	1.90	1.62
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	75.00	83.00	83.00	82.70
All Other Hay	Ton	70.00	73.00	73.00	60.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	82.00	82.00	78.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	58.50	61.40	59.70	58.80
Cows	Cwt	39.90	39.70	38.10	39.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	49.40	52.70	50.00	55.50
Calves	Cwt	59.90	67.60	66.70	64.20
Sheep	Cwt	8.10	18.70	15.00	23.20
Lambs	Cwt	49.00	56.80	61.00	68.80
Hogs	Cwt	43.00	36.10	35.80	40.70
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	13.60	13.50	12.70
Eggs	Doz	.650	.500	.460	.500
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.000	.650	.680	.746
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	152	151	148	129
All Crops	Pct.	160	147	149	124
Livestock & Products	Pct.	145	154	148	134

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

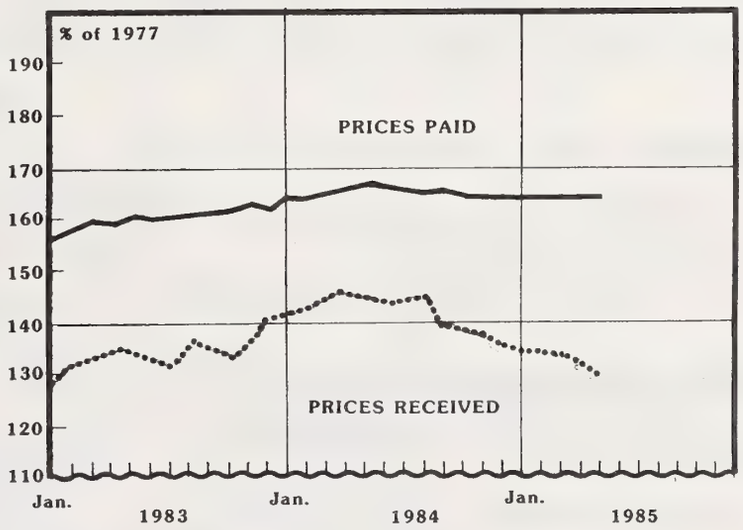


UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	May 1984	Apr. 1985	May 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	145	131	129
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	165	165	165
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	88	79	78
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	59	53	52

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring. . . . . DANIELS COUNTY

Daniels County is situated in the northeastern corner of Montana, bordered on the south by the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and to the north by Canada. It was created in May of 1920 and covers approximately 913,216 acres of land. The land is characterized mainly by rolling prairie. The Poplar River, which eventually empties into the Missouri River, cuts through the middle of the county. The West Fork of the Poplar River crosses the southwestern corner of the County. Scobey is the county seat, and this area has an average annual precipitation of 13.49 inches.

Daniels County has become a major spring and durum wheat producing area, ranking 5th and 7th, respectively, for those crops in 1983 crop production. Other crops grown include barley and oats, along with some winter wheat and hay.

Livestock raising is also a major part of the agricultural industry in Daniels County as it ranked 5th in hog numbers in the December 1, 1982 hog inventory. Sheep and cattle are also raised in the area.

Wheat and other crops produced in Daniels County brought in $23,828,000 in 1982 cash receipts. Livestock returned $5,361,000 the same year, while government payments added $4,207,000. The total cash return for Daniels County in 1982 was $33,396,000.

DANIELS COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	913,216	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	512,409
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	818,643	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	913
Number of Farms 1/		378			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	200,000			
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	4,100	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	18,800
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	1,500	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	1,900
Barley	Acres Plntd.	27,600	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	6,200
Oats	Acres Plntd.	5,800			
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	14,800			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
SID LEBAHN, AGR. STAT.--EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

WEATHER-CROP SUMMARY
NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS
U.S. EXPORTS
SLAUGHTER & MEAT PRODUCTION
CATTLE ON FEED
*featuring.....*TOOLE COUNTY

MONTANA WEATHER-CROP SUMMARY

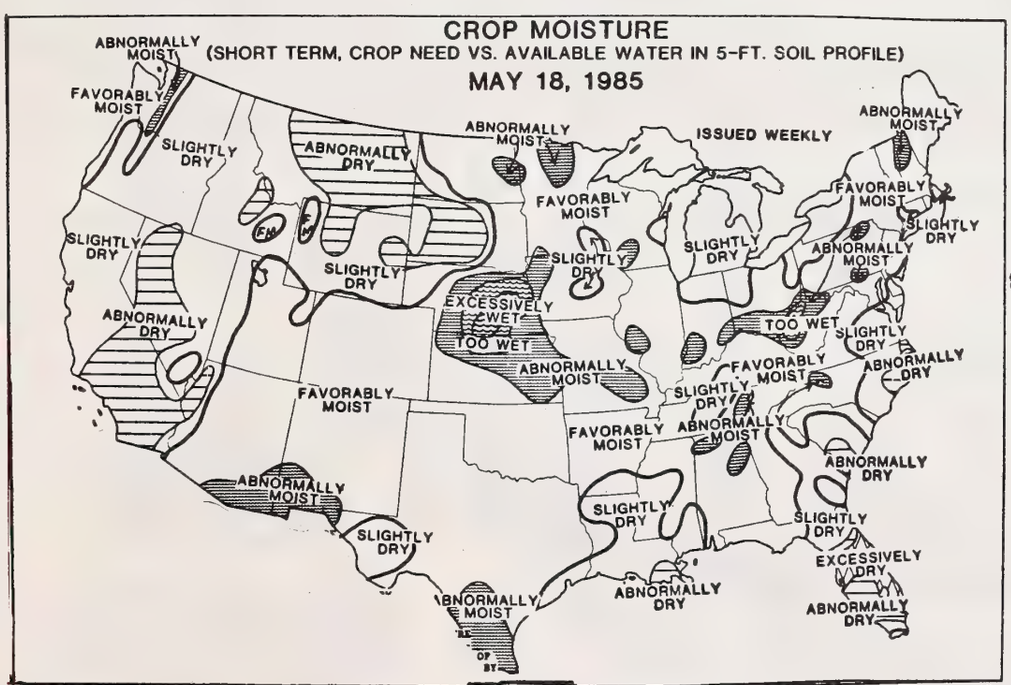
for WEEK ENDING May 26, 1985

Montana planting progress is well ahead of normal for this time of year. Small grains are all in the ground and 90 percent of the spring wheat and barley acreage has emerged, compared with 70 percent normally up at this date.

Late season crops are going into the ground at a rapid pace, also. Corn is 85 percent planted compared with 75 percent normal. In most areas of the state topsoil and subsoil moisture are rated short to very short. Pasture and range feed conditions are mostly poor. About 70 percent of cattle and sheep have been moved to summer ranges. Some ranchers are continuing to supplement range feed with hay and feed grains, especially in the Northcentral region.

NATIONAL WEATHER CROP-week ended May 19

HIGHLIGHTS: Major field crop development and seeding continued outpacing last year and normal. Seeding was ahead of last year and the normal for spring wheat, rice, corn, sorghum, soybeans, and cotton. Heavy rain helped replenish moisture in the Northeast, but dryness plagued the West Coast, Mountain, and some Northern Plain States. Soil moisture was adequate elsewhere, except the Southeast had mostly adequate readings, but leaned towards becoming short. Farmers were able to work 3 days or less in the Central Plains and portions of the Corn Belt, but were active 5-6 days elsewhere.



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NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS DOWN---WAGES LOWER

During the week of April 7-13, 1985, 3.0 million people were working on farms and ranches in the United States. This includes workers hired directly by the farm operators and agricultural services employees working on farms. This is down 6.5 percent (212,000) from October 1984 and down 18 percent from April 1981, when a Farm Labor Survey was last conducted in the spring. Hired workers represented 37 percent (1.1 million) of the total. Of these workers, 0.9 million were hired directly by the farm operators. This is 12 and 28 percent fewer than in October 1984 and April 1981 respectively. Farm operators and other unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more accounted for the remaining 1.9 million workers, 5.9 percent below October and 20 percent below April 1981.

The wage rate for all hired farm workers was $4.52 per hour, down four cents from October. Workers paid on an hourly basis averaged $4.37, down eight cents from October. Wage rates for other categories of workers were: field $4.53, livestock $3.94, and piece-rate $5.61. The all hired wage rate for April 1985 was 60 cents (15 percent) above the comparable rate for 1981 and the hourly wage rate was 51 cents (13 percent) higher than in April 1981.

During the April 7-13, 1985 survey week, self-employed farm operators worked an average of 44.2 hours, 1.1 hours more than in October and 5.8 hours more than in April 1981. Other unpaid workers averaged 35.7 hours for the week, down 0.7 and 1.1 hours from October 1984 and April 1981, respectively. Hired workers averaged 40.1 hours, 0.1 hour less than in October, but 2.2 hours more than in April 1981.

Perquisites such as meals, housing or motor vehicles in addition to cash wage were provided to 47 percent of the hired workers in April 1985. Housing was furnished to 17 percent of the hired workers. In October 1984, 49 percent of the farm workers received some type of perquisite.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES AND REGIONS, APRIL 7-13, 1985 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPERVISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	4.19	3.33	3.62	5.99	5.03	4.29	4.42	3.66
NORTHEAST II	4.47	3.96	4.25	7.05	5.18	4.31	3/	4.79
APPALACHIAN I	3.73	3.93	3.81	5.14	3.68	3.64	3/	4.48
APPALACHIAN II	3.65	4.13	3.88	3/	3.76	3.77	3/	4.33
SOUTHEAST	3.18	3.85	3.44	5.76	3.39	3.58	3/	3.38
FLORIDA	4.28	4.49	4.30	8.21	5.13	4.76	4.74	5.29
LAKE	4.66	3.33	3.63	6.88	4.71	3.93	5.87	3.78
CORNBELT I	4.20	4.26	4.23	7.72	4.28	4.34	3/	4.67
CORNBELT II	4.04	3.94	3.97	3/	4.06	4.10	3/	3.99
DELTA	3.86	3.89	3.87	5.92	3.75	3.82	3/	4.32
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.89	4.23	4.53	6.71	5.03	4.74	3/	4.86
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.11	3.92	4.04	6.48	4.62	4.45	3/	4.21
MOUNTAIN I	3/	3.58	3.63	4.90	4.29	3.87	3/	4.10
MOUNTAIN II	3/	4.47	4.32	5.68	4.73	4.29	3/	4.93
MOUNTAIN III	4.15	4.15	4.15	6.14	4.75	4.25	3/	4.54
PACIFIC	4.78	4.69	4.75	6.26	5.37	4.75	5.64	5.50
CALIFORNIA	5.31	4.81	5.22	8.09	6.22	4.91	6.92	6.66
HAWAII	6.72	3/	6.66	10.97	3/	7.21	3/	3/
U. S.	4.53	3.94	4.28	6.96	4.56	4.37	5.61	4.64

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS.

2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:
NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT.
NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA.
APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA.
APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV.
SOUTHEAST I: AL, GA, SC.
LAKE: MI, MN, WI.
CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH.
CORNBELT II: IA, MO.
DELTA: AR, LA, MS.
NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD.
SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX.
MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY.
MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT.
MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM.
PACIFIC: OR, WA.

3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

WHERE DO U.S. EXPORTS GO?

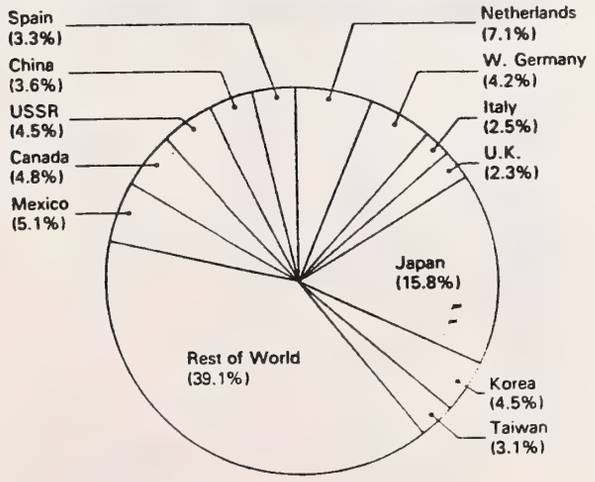
In fiscal 1984, nearly 60 percent of the value of all U.S. agricultural exports went to 10 countries. The 10 account for about 80 percent of the export value of U.S. feed grains and over 60 percent of U.S. wheat.

Most of the countries listed as our 10 largest markets in 1984 were also among the 10 largest 5 years ago. With the exception of the Soviet Union, the composition of the group is fairly stable from year to year. However, some changes have occurred.

Countries that are members of the European Community as well as major U.S. customers have decreased their purchases of U.S. products. Meanwhile the shares of several developing countries--Mexico, Korea, Taiwan, and Egypt--have increased. The trend is not confined to just the United States' 10 major customers. The share sold to all developed countries fell to 50 percent in 1984 and the developing countries' share rose to 39 percent, each group changing about 5 percentage points since 1979.

Japan has been the largest customer for U.S. agricultural products for many years. Not only is Japan's share of U.S. agricultural exports more than twice as large as any other country's, but it is consistently in that position. Alone, Japan accounts for one-fifth to nearly one-third of U.S. fruit, soybean, tobacco, cotton, and feed grain exports. Japan's arable land is only about 1 percent that of the United States, and much of it is planted to rice and vegetables. However, rising incomes are increasing demand for poultry and red meat. Japan's growing livestock sector currently depends on imports for 70 percent of its feed, and the imports' share is increasing. Only 2 percent of the country's coarse grain consumption comes from domestic production.

Japan Is Single Largest Customer for U.S. Farm Exports



Cumulative exports, 1980-84

Japan's agricultural policies, like those of most countries, aim to promote food production and security. But support for domestic food and farmers has emphasized rice, historically the most important crop. There are no import duties on feed grains and imports from the United States rose 37 percent between 1979 and 1984. Feed grains now account for over one-third of the value of U.S. exports to Japan.

Korea and Taiwan share several important features with Japan. Though Japan's highly developed economy sets it apart, all three have limited land and share a tradition and preference for rice. Though less developed, Korea and Taiwan are industrializing and have shown strong income growth and increased meat consumption since development accelerated in the 70's.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed May 1 for the slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.50 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago and 4 percent more than May 1, 1983, according to the Crop Reporting Board.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.60 million, a 5 percent increase from last year and 9 percent above April two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April totaled 1.42 million, 6 percent below last year and 10 percent below 1983. Net placements of 1.28 million for April were down 4 percent from last year and 10 percent below April 1983.

Other disappearance totaled 133 thousand head compared with 184 thousand during April 1984 and 143 thousand two years ago.

SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds of red meat in April. This production was 10 percent more than the previous month but 42 percent less than April 1984. The January-April accumulated total was 12.9 million pounds, 4 percent less than the production for the same period last year.

Cattle slaughter at 2,300 head was down 48 percent from last year. Hog slaughter at 2,800 head was up 27 percent.

featuring. . . . . TOOLE COUNTY

Toole County is located along the Montana/Canadian border in north central Montana. The approximately 1,235,654 acres are made up largely of rolling prairie and bench lands, except for the Sweet Grass Hills in the northeastern quarter of the county. The Marias River traverses the southern tip of the county where it empties into Lake Elwell in the southern quarter. Oil fields, located near Sunburst and Kevin, Montana, which were quite productive in the 1920s and 30s, are still in operation today.

Toole County is one of the major crop production areas in the state. The county came in 3rd in durum wheat, 6th in winter wheat and 14th in spring wheat in 1983 crop production. Toole County also ranked 10th in barley production and 19th in oat production in 1983.

Hog raising is also a major agricultural interest as the county ranked 7th in the December 1, 1983 hog inventory. Cattle and sheep are also raised although not to a great extent.

Crops produced in Toole County returned $48,309,000 in 1982, while the livestock receipts totaled $4,913,000. Government payments came to $5,365,000 for a total cash return of $58,587,000 for Toole County in 1982.

TOOLE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,235,634	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	617,007
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,056,130	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	6,065
Number of Farms 1/		354			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	21,000			
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	117,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	20,700
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	80,000	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	2,300
Barley	Acres Plntd.	86,100	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	5,000
Oats	Acres Plntd.	3,400			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

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Crop Production
  Winter Wheat Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- WINTER WHEAT FORECAST
- WHEAT STOCKS DROP
- PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION POOR
- FARM PRICES FOR APRIL
- POTATO STOCKS UP
- HAY STOCKS DECREASE

WINTER WHEAT CROP DOWN

The Nation's winter wheat crop, forecast at 1.97 billion bushels, will be 4 percent less than last year. Acres for harvest are down 6 percent, and the expected yield at 40.7 bushels per acre is 0.7 bushel above a year ago.

For Montana, production is expected to total 39.6 million bushels, 40 percent less than last year. Winterkill on the acreage planted last fall has been much above average and, as a result, the State's acreage at 1.8 million is down 27 percent. This amounts to only 72 percent of the acreage planted last fall. Yield prospects at 22 bushels per acre is down 5 bushels from last year and the lowest since 1962.

WINTER WHEAT, SELECTED STATES
MAY 1, 1985

SELECTED STATES	ACRES HARVESTED		PRODUCTION	
	1984	Ind. 1985	1984	Ind. 1985
	--000 Acres--		--000 Bushels--	
ARK	1,400	700	61,600	28,000
CALIF	690	650	52,440	48,750
COLO	3,200	3,100	110,400	117,800
GA	890	800	31,150	21,600
IDAHO	900	900	56,700	60,300
ILL	1,600	800	70,400	376,000
IND	1,050	730	48,300	35,770
KANS	11,200	11,600	431,200	464,000
MO	2,050	1,370	84,050	56,170
MONT	2,480	1,800	66,960	39,600
NEBR	2,250	2,250	81,000	90,000
OHIO	1,100	830	48,400	41,500
OKLA	5,300	5,500	190,800	209,000
OREG	1,050	980	66,150	55,860
S DAK	1,700	1,720	61,200	65,360
TEX	5,000	6,100	150,000	213,500
WASH	2,400	2,250	148,800	135,000
U.S.	51,513	48,482	2,060,646	1,974,228

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators April 1, 1985 totaled 111.4 million bushels--down 9 percent from a year ago.

Wheat disappearance since January 1 was 30.5 million bushels, down 20 percent from a year ago. Farm storage at 80.6 million bushels was 17 percent below a year ago and commercial storage at 30.9 million bushels was up 21 percent.

Total winter wheat stored in the state at 65.2 million bushels was about the same as last year. All spring wheat at 46.3 million bushels was down 19 percent from a year ago. The durum portion at 9.2 million bushels was down 15 percent. Barley stocks totaled 25.3 million bushels--up 13 percent and oats in storage at 2.6 million bushels were down 27 percent.

NATIONAL WHEAT STOCKS LOWER

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on April 1, 1985 totaled 1.67 billion bushels, 5 percent less than the 1.76 billion bushels stored on April 1, 1984. Farm stocks, at 714 million bushels, are down 7 percent from April 1 a year ago. Off-farm stocks amounted to 954 million bushels, off 3 percent from April 1, 1984. Indicated disappearance from all storage positions during January-March 1985 is 474 million bushels, down 17 percent from the comparable quarter in 1984.

U.S. durum wheat stored in all positions on April 1, 1985 is estimated at 115 million bushels, down 5 percent from the 120 million bushels on hand April 1 a year earlier. Farm stocks totaled 81.8 million bushels, 5 percent less than April 1, 1984

Barley stored in all positions on April 1, 1985 totaled 319 million bushels, 19 percent more than the 269 million bushels stored on April 1,1984. Stocks of barley stored on farms amounted to 216 million bushels, or 68 percent of the total stocks.

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STOCKS OF GRAIN APRIL 1, 1985 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Apr. 1, 1984*	Jan. 1, 1985*	Apr. 1, 1985	% Chg. '85/'84	Apr. 1, 1984*	Jan. 1, 1985*	Apr. 1, 1985
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	97,220	109,888	80,584	-17	771,212	930,512	713,596
Off Farms 1/	25,490	32,025	30,860	+21	986,924	1,210,750	954,023
TOTAL	122,710	141,913	111,444	- 9	1,758,136	2,141,262	1,667,619
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	51,504	64,842	44,620	-13	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,861	20,516	20,560	+48	--	--	--
TOTAL	65,365	85,358	65,180	+ 0	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	45,716	45,046	35,964	-21	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	11,629	11,509	10,300	-11	--	--	--
TOTAL	57,345	56,555	46,264	-19	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms	4/	4/	4/	4/	86,007	95,033	81,819
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	34,245	37,212	32,929
TOTAL	10,825	10,294	9,220	-15	120,252	132,245	114,748
CORN							
On Farms	314	1,173	345	+10	1,933,652	4,296,175	2,828,763
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	1,317,558	1,560,171	1,131,741
TOTAL	4/	4/	4/	4/	3,251,210	5,856,346	3,960,504
OATS							
On Farms	3,115	4,351	2,448	-21	226,715	299,440	211,193
Off Farms 1/	438	146	130	-70	43,300	57,727	44,686
TOTAL	3,553	4,497	2,578	-27	270,015	357,167	255,879
BARLEY							
On Farms	17,094	38,402	20,678	+121	169,362	306,564	216,294
Off Farms 1/	5,319	6,782	4,630	-13	99,563	129,623	103,034
TOTAL	22,413	45,184	25,308	+13	268,925	436,187	319,328
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	88,631	228,599	134,584
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	380,979	496,283	346,086
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	469,610	724,882	480,670

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Apr. 1, 1984	Jan. 1, 1985*	Apr. 1, 1985	Apr. 1, 1984	Jan. 1, 1985*	Apr. 1, 1985
	-------Million Bushels-------			-------Million Bushels-------		
Northwest	.5	.9	.7	.9	2.2	1.6
North Central	52.4	56.3	41.5	10.2	19.1	10.7
Northeast	39.1	40.2	33.8	2.0	5.1	2.7
Central	12.9	18.0	13.7	5.4	9.4	3.7
Southwest	2.6	4.6	3.7	1.5	3.4	1.5
South Central	9.1	11.9	9.4	2.0	4.4	4.0
Southeast	6.1	10.0	8.6	.4	1.6	1.1
STATE	122.7	141.9	111.4	22.4	45.2	25.3

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

APRIL FARM PRICES

The April index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers was unchanged from the previous month. The index held at 150 percent of its 1977 average as the all crops index remained unchanged and the livestock and livestock products index eased down 1 point.

Winter wheat, barley and oats fell off from March to April while durum, other spring wheat and hay were up.

In the livestock index all commodities were down except steers and heifers, which showed a 30 cent increase, and wool was unchanged. Compared with last year the prices received index is down 4 points.

The April all farm products index of prices received by U.S. farmers decreased 2 points from March 1985 to 132 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for cattle, hogs, milk, eggs and tomatoes were partially offset by higher prices for potatoes, corn, grapefruit and sorghum. The index was 14 points below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for April was 164 percent of its 1977 average. The index was unchanged from a month earlier but was down 1 point from April 1984. The fuels & energy and family living indexes for April were up from a month ago. Offsetting were slight decreases from March by the feed and feeder livestock components and a moderate decline in the seed index that is updated in April and September each year.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1984	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1985	MONTANA Apr. 15, 1985	U.S. Apr. 15, 1985
PRICES RECEIVED		---Dollars---			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.53	3.39	3.35	3.31
Durum	Bu.	3.94	3.51	3.55	3.59
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.85	3.62	3.65	3.53
All Wheat	Bu.	3.76	3.49	3.50	3.40
Barley	Bu.	2.51	2.11	2.05	2.18
Oats	Bu.	1.63	2.07	1.95	1.63
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	85.00	80.00	83.00	77.40
All Other Hay	Ton	75.00	70.00	73.00	59.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	84.50	79.00	82.00	73.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	58.60	60.90	61.20	59.70
Cows	Cwt	39.20	40.90	40.70	40.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	51.20	51.90	52.00	56.10
Calves	Cwt	60.70	65.80	65.60	65.80
Sheep	Cwt	12.60	18.60	15.00	23.80
Lambs	Cwt	52.50	66.50	61.90	69.50
Hogs	Cwt	43.90	38.50	34.90	41.60
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	13.70	13.60	13.00
Eggs	Doz	.780	.620	.500	.530
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.020	.650	.650	.748
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	154	150	150	132
All Crops	Pct.	160	146	146	126
Livestock & Products	Pct.	149	153	152	137

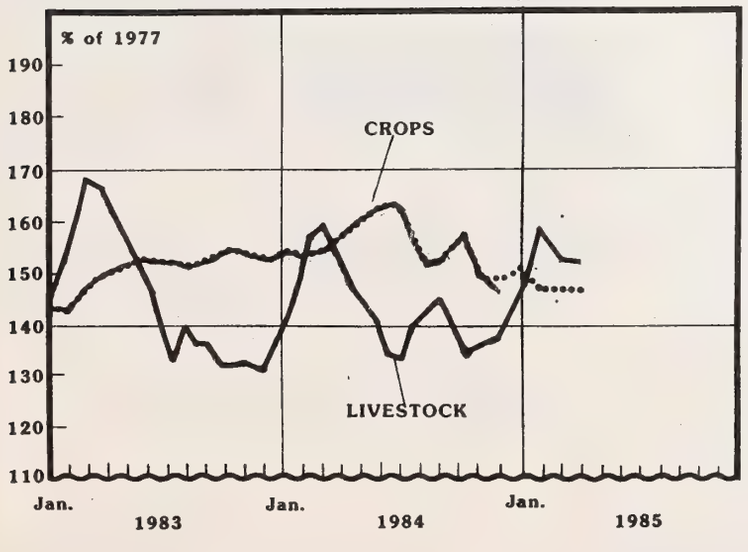
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Apr. 1984	Mar. 1985	Apr. 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	146	134	132
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	165	164	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	88	82	80
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	59	54	53

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



POTATO STOCKS

In Montana, total stocks of potatoes on hand May 1 totaled 150,000 cwt, three times the amount in storage a year ago, but only 8 percent of the 1984 production.

Nationally, May 1, 1985 potato stocks totaled an estimated 51.6 million cwt in the 15 major states, a gain of 2 percent over last year, but 10 percent short of May 1983 stocks. Current stocks account for 17 percent of fall potato production compared with 18 percent last year.

In the 6 Western States, May 1 potato stocks totaled 38.3 million cwt, a gain of 2 percent over last year, but down 9 percent from 1983. Idaho stocks are up 2 percent; while Washington and oregon are off 1 and 4 percent respectively. Colorado storages contain 37 percent more potatoes this year than last but California stocks are down 33 percent.

PASTURE & RANGE

Montana's overall pasture and range condition on May 1 was in poor to fair condition. Areas most seriously affected by last year's drouth have the poorest condition this spring--namely the north central and northeastern parts of the State. Most livestock have been turned out to graze, but unless timely rains occur during May and June range grazing prospects will be poor.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION—MAY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1983	1984	1985
Northwest	89	92	82
North Central	80	68	54
Northeast	82	44	36
Central	85	81	67
Southwest	94	92	89
South Central	82	82	75
Southeast	85	68	77
STATE	85	74	68

HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on Montana farms as of May 1 were 567,000 tons--the lowest for this date since 1977. The 10 year average for May 1 hay stocks on Montana farms is 904,400 tons. This year's low level was caused mainly by drouth during last year's growing season that reduced levels.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Potato Stocks
Farm Labor

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WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
BY DISTRICTS--MAY 1, 1985 1/

DISTRICT	1984	Ind. 1985	% Chg.
	-----Bu.-----		
N. WEST	540,900	480,000	-11
N.CENTRAL	33,018,400	16,940,000	-49
N. EAST	6,244,400	1,792,000	-71
CENTRAL	12,404,400	8,976,000	-28
S. WEST	1,582,900	1,312,000	-17
S.CENTRAL	7,216,500	5,525,000	-23
S. EAST	5,952,500	4,575,000	-23
STATE	66,960,000	39,600,000	-41

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS
MONTANA--MARCH 31, 1985

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
	--------000 Bushels-------			
Reserve	56,293	56,032	8,571	8,512
Under Loan	22,958	14,257	2,418	2,014

1/ These stocks are included in the April 1 total stocks estimates.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
C. R. "BUD" LIES, ASST. STATE STATISTICIAN
SID LEBAHN, AGR. STAT.--EDITOR

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Phone: 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

1984 SHEEP & LAMB DEATH LOSSES
MONTANA MILK PRODUCTION
POTATO STOCKS UP
SLAUGHTER DECREASES
EGG RECEIPTS UP
CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS INCREASE

MONTANA SHEEP & LAMB DEATHS UP SHARPLY

Montana sheepmen lost 180,000 sheep and lambs in 1984 to weather, predators, disease and other causes--50 percent more than in 1983.

The value of the loss came to $7.9 million. This is a 72 percent increase over 1983. Predators took $2.3 million, non-predator factors $4.9 million and unknown causes took $.7 million of the total loss.

The two most damaging factors, weather and coyotes, took more than half the entire toll, accounting for $5 million. Weather caused a $3.3 million loss and coyotes $1.7 million.

Bad weather caused the death of 26,700 sheep and 46,100 lambs in 1984. The previous year, weather caused 4,600 sheep deaths and 27,200 lamb deaths.

Predator loss was up 50 percent with coyotes killing more than twice as many sheep, and 51 percent more lambs than the year before.

(SEE TABLES & CHART ON INSIDE PAGES.)

MONTANA MILK PRODUCTION UNCHANGED

Montana dairies produced 85 million pounds of milk during the first quarter of 1985. Production levels were virtually unchanged from last year despite a 3 percent decline in milk cow numbers. The January-March production was down 3 percent from the previous quarter, however, partially due to the stress of cold weather.

The daily amount of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows increased one half pound per head to 14.5 pounds. The average cost of this concentrate was down 20 cents per cwt from last year at $7.40.

Nationally, milk production during January-March totaled 33.6 billion pounds, 1 percent less than the first quarter of 1984.

MILK COWS and MILK PRODUCTION
JANUARY-MARCH 1984-1985

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PROD. 2/	
	1984	1985	1984	1985
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	959	981	3,625	3,771
IDAHO	166	166	498	528
MINN	897	893	2,762	2,672
MONT	29	28	85	85
N DAK	99	97	261	254
ORE	99	96	316	314
S DAK	162	161	418	413
WASH	213	213	837	853
WISC	1,829	1,838	5,788	5,827
WYO	11.7	11.7	32.1	31.6
U.S.	10,925	10,817	33,953	33,632

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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MONTANA HISTORIC SHEEP & LAMB DEATH LOSSES

		1967	1968	1969	1974	1982	1983	1984
Sheep & Lambs 1/	000 Hd.	1,351	1,250	1,178	750	616	600	564
Pred. Death Loss	000 Hd.	61.4	85.0	68.0	143.5	50.1	34.4	51.7
Value Pred. Loss	000 Dol.	1,017.5	1,511.4	1,375.0	3,625.7	1,837.7	1,267.4	2,275.4
Non-Pred. Death Loss	000 Hd.	361.6	218.0	376.0	138.6	77.0	73.0	111.7
Value Non-Pred. Loss	000 Dol.	6,441.3	4,120.0	7,970.0	3,698.1	3,030.2	2,804.2	4,847.6
Unknown Death Loss	000 Hd.	2/	2/	2/	2/	18.9	12.6	16.6
Value Unknown Loss	000 Dol.	2/	2/	2/	2/	731.7	510.7	743.0
Total Death Loss 3/	000 Hd.	423.0	303.0	444.0	282.1	146.0	120.0	180.0
Value Death Loss 4/	000 Dol.	7,458.8	5,631.4	9,345.0	7,318.8	5,599.6	4,582.3	7,866.0

1/ On farms and ranches January 1. 2/ 1967-74 unknown death loss included in predator and non-predator totals. 3/ For entire year. 4/ Value lambs equal to September, October, November average price received converted to 70 lb. lamb. Value sheep equal to January inventory value Ewes 1+.

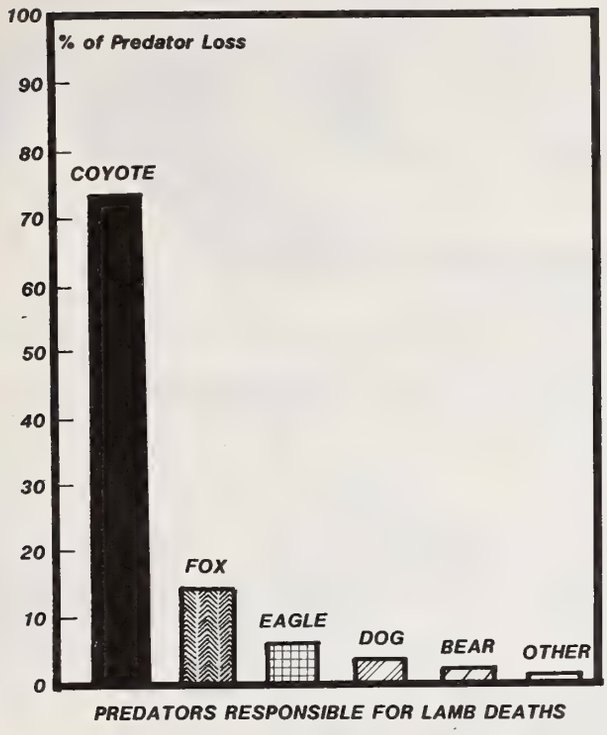
PERCENT OF TOTAL SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES

BY CAUSE and SIZE OF FLOCK -- MONTANA 1984

CAUSE	SIZE OF FLOCK					
	1-49	50-299	300-999	1,000-4,000	5,000+	Total
	Percent					
Predators						
Coyotes	24	15	23	25	10	22
Fox	--	1	2	5	2	4
Eagle	--	2	1	2	2	1
Bear	--	--	*	1	1	1
Dog	4	5	1	1	--	1
Bobcat	--	--	--	*	*	*
Other Predators	2	*	1	*	*	*
TOTAL PREDATORS	30	23	28	34	15	29
Non-Predators						
Weather	20	30	38	36	66	41
Disease	10	13	4	6	2	5
Poison	*	*	1	2	2	1
Lambing Complication	16	11	8	5	2	6
On Back	*	1	1	2	*	1
Old Age	4	4	6	2	*	3
Theft	--	--	2	2	*	2
Other Non-Predator	8	6	2	1	8	3
TOTAL NON-PREDATOR	58	65	62	56	80	62
UNKNOWN	12	12	10	10	5	9
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	100	100	100	100	100	100

*Less than 1 percent.

LAMBS LOST TO PREDATORS



MORE POTATOES IN STORAGE

Montana potato stocks on April 1 at 1,180,000 hundredweight are 12 percent above a year ago, and amount to 61 percent of production. Most of Montana's potato production is certified seed and traditionally does not move out of storage until March and April.

Nationally, stocks of potatoes in the 15 major States on April 1 are estimated at 85.4 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year, but 5 percent below April 1983. The remaining stocks account for 28 percent of Fall potato production compared with 29 percent on hand this time last year.

Stocks in the six Western States totaled 60.0 million cwt, up 3 percent from last year, but 5 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Washington stocks were each about 1 percent above 1984 levels; Oregon holdings were down 2 percent. Colorado stocks were up 32 percent, while California storages held 18 percent less than a year ago. Montana potatoes (mostly for seed) started moving, but present stocks are 12 percent above last year.

1984 EGG RECEIPTS UP

Montana poultrymen received 10.3 million dollars for eggs sold in 1984--18 percent more than 1983. Egg marketings were almost 3 percent above the previous year and the average price was up 15 percent.

The number of chickens sold was down 13 percent, but the price advanced 14 percent and held cash receipts to a 1 percent decline.

For the nation, prices were up from last year for both chickens and eggs. Cash receipts increased 15 percent for chickens sold and were up 18 percent for eggs.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds of red meat in March, 53 percent less than February 1985 and 28 percent below March 1984. The January-March accumulated total was 11.1 million pounds, 8 percent above the same period last year.

Cattle slaughter at 2,100 head was 32 percent below last year. Hog slaughter at 2,400 head was the same as the previous year.

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. in March 1985 totaled 3.16 billion pounds, down 6 percent from March 1984.

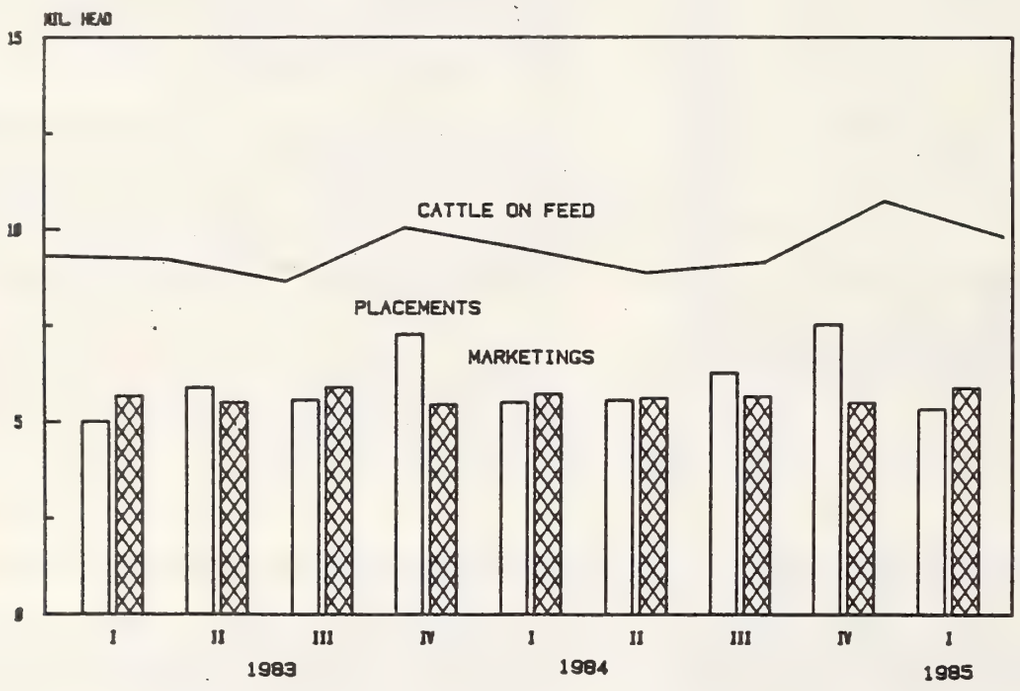
CHICKENS & EGGS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS -- 1983-1984

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1983	1984	1983	1984
CHICKENS					
Marketings	Thousand Lbs.	2,680	2,320	1,158,551	1,070,709
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	7.0	8.0	12.7	15.9
Cash Receipts	Thousand Dols.	188	186	147,454	170,151
EGGS					
Marketings	Million	188	193	67,754	67,803
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	55.5	64.0	61.1	72.3
Cash Receipts	Thousand Dols.	8,695	10,293	3,448,613	4,085,760

CATTLE ON FEED UP IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed April 1, 1985 for the slaughter market in the 13 Quarterly States totaled 9.68 million head, up 4 percent from a year earlier and up 6 percent from April 1, 1983. The cattle on feed inventory included 5.95 million steers and steer calves, about the same as last year's level, but up 2 percent from April 1, 1983. Steers and steer calves made up 61 percent of the inventory total for April 1, 1985 compared with 64 percent the two previous years. Heifers and heifer calves numbered 3.68 million head on April 1, showing an increase of 10 percent from a year ago and 12 percent from two years earlier.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Ag Prices
- Dairy Products Mfg.
- Grain Stocks
- Crop Production
  - Winter Wheat Production
  - Hay Stocks
  - Pasture & Range
- Milk--Prod., Disp. & Income

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

MONTANA WOOL PRODUCTION
MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS & CASH RECEIPTS
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS
AG PRICES FOR MARCH
featuring.....MADISON COUNTY

U.S. SHEEP & LAMB OUTLOOK

Commercial production of lamb and mutton totaled 371 million pounds in 1984, up 1 percent from a year earlier and the fifth consecutive year of increase. The increase was due to liquidation because of drought in some major sheep production areas and poor returns in 1983. The farm price of lambs averaged $60 per cwt in 1984, compared with $55 in 1983. Prices were strongest in the third quarter when production dropped below year-earlier levels.

Commercial lamb and mutton production is projected to be around 330 million pounds in 1985, down 11 percent from 1984.

Slaughter lamb prices at San Angelo are expected to average $63 to $69 in 1985. The expected strength in the red meat complex, the growing economy, and smaller lamb production are the contributing factors.

MONTANA WOOL PRODUCTION DECLINES

Montana wool growers produced 5.2 million pounds of wool in 1984, 9 percent less than in the previous year. The value of this year's clip was up, however, because the price per pound averaged 91 cents compared with 67 cents last year. Value of the 1984 wool crop was $4.7 million--23 percent over 1983.

Compared with U.S. averages, Montana wool growers did very well with an average price per pound of 91 cents, while the U.S. average was 79.5 cents. The State's fleece weights averaged 9.6 pounds each, while the U.S. average was 7.74 pounds.

Montana retained its number 7 ranking among all states in total wool production. Only Texas, California, Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota and Utah out-ranked Montana.

WOOL PRODUCTION and VALUE 1983-1984

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		U.S.	
		1983	1984	1983	1984
Sheep Shorn	000 Hd.	574.0	544.0	12,864.9	12,015.0
Weight per Fleece	Lbs.	10.0	9.6	8.0	7.74
Wool Prod.	000 Lbs.	5,745	5,209	102,886	92,944
Price per Lb.	Cents	67.0	91.0	61.2	79.5
Value	000 Dol.	3,849.0	4,740.0	62,978	73,859

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MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS -- 1983 - 1984

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1983	1984	1983	1984
CATTLE & CALVES					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,081.7	1,327.2	51,990.0	54,548.8
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	48.00	47.20	55.50	57.30
Calves	Dols./Cwt	62.40	60.90	61.70	59.90
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	543.7	653.9	28,685.5	30,603.0
HOGS & PIGS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	51.0	60.9	20,834.9	20,471.5
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	43.90	43.90	46.80	47.10
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	22.5	26.9	9,785.2	9,691.3
SHEEP & LAMBS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	49.3	39.8	966.5	941.2
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	11.40	14.30	15.70	16.40
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	47.80	60.30	53.90	60.10
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	17.8	18.6	426.4	465.5

PASTURE & RANGE

Montana's pasture and range condition on April 1 was 65 percent of normal reflecting a four year drouth cycle in much of the northern and eastern counties. Ranges are still dormant so moisture during April and May will be beneficial as new grass will start but won't last without more moisture. In many of the north central and northeastern areas hay supplies are short and won't last until new grass is available. Ranchers in these areas are already extending hay supplies by feeding straw and cake.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION -- APRIL 1

by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1983	1984	1985
Northwest	92	88	90
North Central	85	67	47
Northeast	84	53	32
Central	89	81	65
Southwest	93	92	96
South Central	89	75	74
Southeast	90	72	57
STATE	89	74	65

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 118,000 gallons of ice cream in February, 13 percent less than in the same month last year. Creamed cottage cheese production at 309,000 pounds was 41 percent less than a year ago. Butter output was up 3 percent at 180,000 pounds. American cheese production was 58 percent over last year at 225,000 pounds.

1984 ESTIMATES OF ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION BY COUNTY ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR CORN AND WHEAT. IF INTERESTED, REQUEST A COPY FROM OUR OFFICE.

MARCH FARM PRICES

The March index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers was unchanged from February at 153 percent of the 1977 average. Compared with last year the index was down 5 points. The March index for crops was down 2 points from February, but the livestock and livestock products index was up 4 points.

All crops prices were unchanged or lower than last month except for durum wheat, which was up 1 cent.

The all beef cattle price was up $2.20 per cwt as marketings shifted from cows to steers and heifers. Cow prices advanced 80 cents. Steers and heifers were up 10 cents. The only other component of the livestock and products index showing an increase from February to March was eggs, up 9 cents. Hogs were down $4.90 per cwt, calves and sheep were down 80 cents, lambs were down 60 cents and wool was down 5 cents per pound.

The March all farm products index of prices received by U.S. farmers decreased 1 point from February to 134 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for hogs, cattle, oranges, milk and wheat were partially offset by higher prices for tomatoes, eggs, cotton, potatoes, and sorghum. The index was 11 points below a year ago.

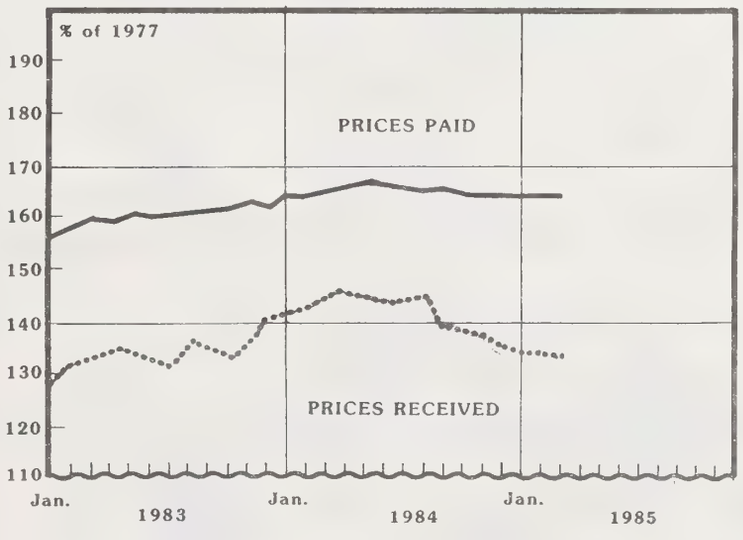
The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for March was 164 percent of its 1977 average. The index was unchanged from a month earlier and a year ago. Increases from last month in the fuels and energy and family living indexes were offset by decreases in feed, fertilizer and farm machinery components.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

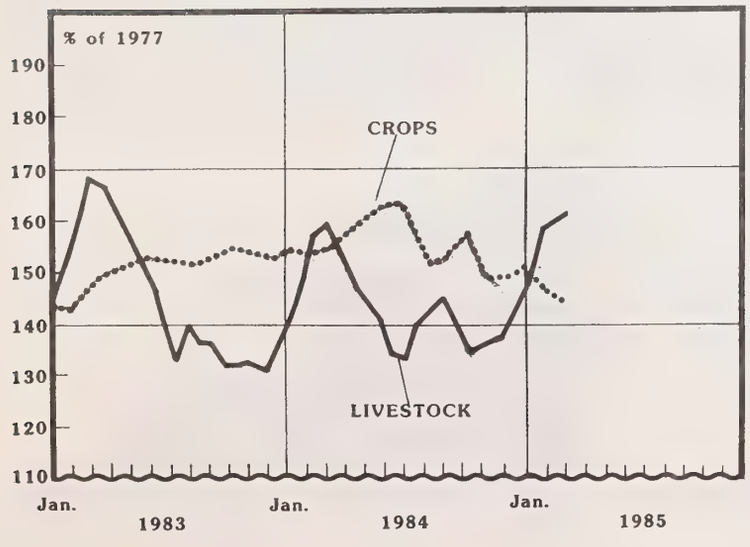
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Mar. 15,	Mar. 15,
		Mar. 1984	Feb. 1985	1985	1985
PRICES RECEIVED		---Dollars---			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.37	3.30	3.27
Durum	Bu.	3.86	3.49	3.50	3.58
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.59	3.55	3.43
All Wheat	Bu.	3.66	3.47	3.40	3.33
Barley	Bu.	2.51	2.20	2.15	2.17
Oats	Bu.	1.69	1.80	1.80	1.71
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	76.00	82.00	80.00	76.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	70.00	70.00	61.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	76.00	81.00	79.00	72.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt	63.20	63.90	64.00	60.90
Cows	Cwt	42.90	41.70	42.50	41.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	56.00	54.30	56.50	57.20
Calves	Cwt	62.50	66.30	65.50	66.00
Sheep	Cwt	15.50	22.80	22.00	25.80
Lambs	Cwt	54.50	67.10	66.50	66.90
Hogs	Cwt	39.40	43.40	38.70	43.60
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	13.80	13.80	13.50
Eggs	Doz	.750	.530	.620	.504
Wool 2/	Lb.	.870	.700	.650	.722
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	158	153	153	134
All Crops	Pct.	154	146	143	126
Livestock & Products	Pct.	149	158	162	141

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1985	Mar. 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	145	135	134
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	164	164	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	88	82	82
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	59	55	54

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

Madison County was created in February of 1865. It occupies approximately 2,297,452 acres in southwestern Montana. Surrounded and divided by mountain ranges, Madison County is composed of two parallel valleys--the Madison and the Ruby. Portions of the Beaverhead National Forest lie within the boundaries of the county. Flowing from south to north is the Madison River in the eastern part of the county, and the Ruby River in the western half. The Ruby joins the Beaverhead River near Twin Bridges, Montana, which then joins the Jefferson River and continues on out of the county. The Ruby River Reservoir is located on the Ruby River near Alder, Montana.

Madison County lends itself to abundant livestock production and ranked 4th and 7th, respectively, in cattle and sheep numbers on January 1, 1983. In the December 1, 1982 hog inventory, Madison County showed up in 16th place.

Hay production is a major agricultural interest in the county as it ranked 2nd in 1983 production of that crop. Spring and winter wheat, barley and oats are also produced in the area.

The thriving livestock industry brought Madison County $21,933,000 in cash receipts in 1982. Crops contributed $5,105,000, while government payments added $581,000 for a total return of $27,619,000 in 1982.

MADISON COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	2,297,452	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	161,043
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,196,626	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	135,424
Number of Farms 1/		439			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	33,800			
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	4,800	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	117,100
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	4,000	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	16,400
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,700	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	2,700
Barley	Acres Plntd.	9,100			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Potato Stocks
Poultry--Prod., Disp and Income

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician

Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

MORE CATTLE ON FEED
CASH RECEIPTS DROP
GRAIN MOVEMENT
SLAUGHTER DECREASES
STOCKS OF POTATOES UP
HOG NUMBERS DROP
featuring.....SANDERS COUNTY

CASH RECEIPTS DOWN

Preliminary cash receipts data indicate Montana farmers and ranchers have taken in 13 percent less from the sale of commodities in 1984 than the previous year. Livestock receipts are down slightly, but crops receipts show a 23 percent drop.

CASH RECEIPTS--MONTANA

ITEM	1982	1983 1/	1984 2/
	------Million Dollars------		
Livestock	655.1	656.4	655.4
Crops	907.1	846.9	652.4
Total from Marketings 3/	1,562.2	1,503.3	1,307.8

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Excludes government payments.

CATTLE ON FEED UP FROM A YEAR EARLIER

Cattle and calves on feed March 1, 1985 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.88 million head, up 5 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above March 1,1983.

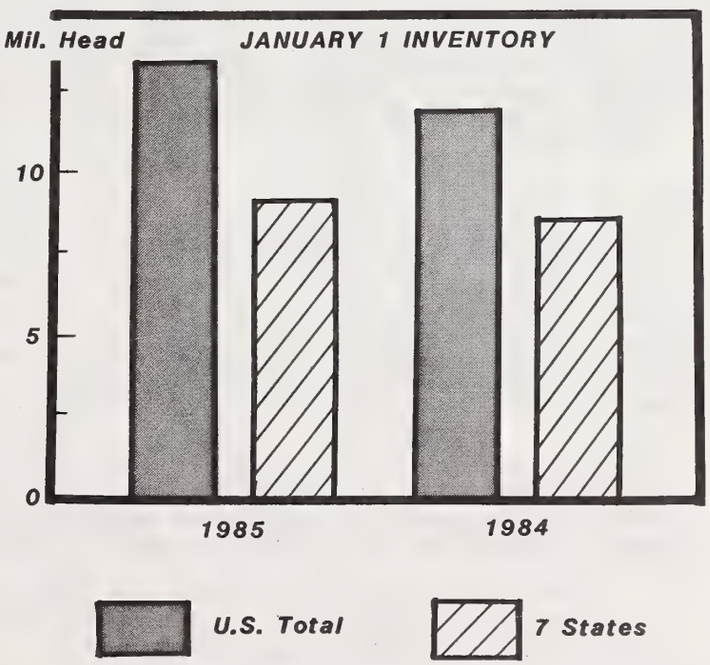
MARKETINGS of fed cattle during February totaled 1.54 million, down 5 percent from last year but 3 percent above February 1983.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during February were 1.34 million, 3 percent above last year and 15 percent above February 1983. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.25 million were up 2 percent from last year and 20 percent above February 1983.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 94 thousand head compared with 82 thousand during February 1984 and 121 thousand two years ago.

CATTLE & CALVES ON FEED

(7 STATES COMPARED WITH U.S. TOTAL)



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GRAIN MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations June-November 1984 was 26 percent below the same period last year. Rail movement was off 30 percent at 31.1 million bushels, and truck shipments were down 10 percent at 11.5 million. Trucks carried 27 percent of the total 42.6 million bushels shipped to out-of-state destinations.

Wheat destined for out-of-state points in western states (primarily Washington and Oregon export facilities) represented 95 percent of total shipments.

Eastern destinations received 65 percent less than in the same period last year and represented 2.5 percent of total out-of-state movement. Other destinations received 13 percent more than in the same period last year and increased their share of total movement.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations June-November 1984 at 13.0 million bushels was down 56 percent from the same period in 1983. Rail movement fell off 63 percent and truck movement was off 35 percent.

Movement shifted from west to east, especially for rail traffic. Rail movement east was 5.0 million bushels in the June-November 1984 period compared with 1.6 in 1983. At the same time, rail movement west was 2.8 million in 1984 compared with 19.4 in 1983.

WHEAT & BARLEY SHIPPED OUT OF STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE and DESTINATION 1/

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT	JUNE-NOVEMBER 1984					
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Chg. from Last Year	Barley	Chg. from Last Year
	--(000) Bu.--			%	(000 Bu.)	%
Northwest	223	94	317	+13	201	-56
North Central	12,013	8,007	20,020	-25	6,616	-63
Northeast	1,877	6,702	8,579	-48	1,045	-70
Central	4,097	1,939	6,036	- 6	3,287	-40
Southwest	536	291	827	- 4	1,178	-20
South Central	4,427	1,013	5,440	+13	616	- 3
Southeast	928	405	1,333	-27	56	+229
Truck East	376	296	672	-26	826	- 6
Truck West	5,274	4,683	9,957	-11	3,216	-39
Truck Other	379	465	844	+18	775	-39
TOTAL BY TRUCK	6,029	5,444	11,473	-10	4,817	-35
Rail East	75	326	401	-81	5,034	+223
Rail West	17,997	12,674	30,671	-28	2,834	-85
Rail Other 3/	0	7	7	-79	314	-67
TOTAL BY RAIL	18,072	13,007	31,079	-30	8,182	-63
TOTAL WHEAT SHIPPED	24,101	18,451	42,552	-26	12,999	-56

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown.

Grain Movement statistics are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee through the Montana Department of Agriculture.

FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 3.4 million pounds of red meat in February, down 44 percent from January, but only 1 percent less than the same month last year.

February **cattle slaughter** was less than half the previous month at 4,800 head, and was 11 percent below a year ago. **Hog slaughter** numbered 2,200--15 percent less than a month ago but 5 percent more than last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production for the United States in February 1985 totaled 2.94 billion pounds, down 5 percent from February 1984.

Beef production, at 1.77 billion pounds was down 5 percent. Head kill was 2.78 million, down 7 percent. Average live weight increased 13 pounds to 1,087. **Veal production,** at 37 million pounds was up 3 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 253 thousand head, a decline of 1 percent. Average live weight increased 5 pounds to 245. **Pork production** totaled 1.11 billion pounds, down 5 percent. Hog kill, at 6.40 million head, declined 6 percent, however, the average live weight increased 1 pound to 245. **Lamb and mutton production,** at 28 million pounds was down 12 percent. Slaughter totaled 484 thousand head, down 14 percent. The average live weight declined 1 pound to 114.

POTATO STOCKS UP

In Montana, total stocks of potatoes on hand March 1, at 1,740,000 cwt, were 12 percent above the stocks in storage a year ago.

Nationally, potato stocks were estimated at 117 million cwt on March 1, 1985 in the 15 major storage States. This is up 3 percent from last year, but 5 percent short of March stocks two years ago. The storage total represents 39 percent of fall production this year compared with 40 percent on hand a year ago.

The six Western States stored 78.0 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, up 2 percent from a year ago but 4 percent short of 1983 holdings. Idaho stocks were equal to last year; Washington was down 1 percent. Oregon storages carried 4 percent more potatoes, but California had 15 percent less. Colorado found potato stocks 27 percent greater than last year at this time. Montana had 12 percent more potatoes in storage than last year.

HOG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1985 in the 10 states conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 39.5 million head, 1 percent below last March 1. This is 6 percent below March 1, 1983 and the lowest March 1 inventory since 1976.

--Breeding inventory, at 5.22 million head, is 4 percent less than last year and 13 percent less than March 1, 1983. This is the lowest March 1 breeding herd inventory since 1973, when estimates for these comparable 10 states became available.

--Market hog inventory, at 34.3 million head, is 1 percent below a year earlier and 5 percent below two years ago.

PIG CROP: The December 1984-February 1985 pig crop was 14.5 million head, 2 percent above the corresponding period last year but 9 percent below two years ago. There were 1.94 million sows that farrowed during the quarter, a decrease of 1 percent from the year earlier quarter and 10 percent below the same period two years ago.

Sow farrowings averaged 7.51 pigs per litter compared with 7.27 last year and 7.45 two years ago. The litter rate is the highest on record for a December-February quarter.

FARROWING INTENTIONS: Hog producers in the 10 quarterly states intend to have 2.37 million sows farrow during March-May of this year. If these intentions are realized, farrowings would total 5 percent less than the actual number for the comparable period of 1984 and 15 percent less than the 1983 quarter. Farrowing intentions for June-August are 2.20 million head, 3 percent below actual farrowings for the same period of last year and 9 percent less than two years ago.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION

Montana poultrymen produced 47 million eggs in the December-February quarter--4 percent less than in the preceding quarter and 2 percent less than in the same period a year ago.

The average number of layers in the flocks during the quarter was 788,000, nearly 3 percent more than the previous quarter and 7 percent more than a year ago.

The Nation's laying flock increased 2 percent in size compared with last year and egg production was up 3 percent.

featuring. . . . . SANDERS COUNTY

Sanders County is located along the Montana/Idaho border in northwestern Montana. The county's 1,759,097 acres are characterized mainly by mountainous country, except for the area along the eastern boundary of the county which is flat. A part of the Flathead Indian Reservation is located in this area. Portions of the Kootenai, Lolo, and Kaniksu National Forests make up the better part of Sanders County. A section of the Bitterroot Mountain range runs the length of the western boundary. Part of the Cabinet Mountains are contained within the boundaries in the northwestern leg of Sanders County. The Clark Fork River cuts through the center of the county. Found along the River in the northwestern leg of Sanders County are the Cabinet Gorge Dam and Reservoir, and the Noxon Rapids, Dam and Reservoir.

Its lumber resources are the county's most important asset. While agriculture is not an extensive interest in Sanders County, there is a variety of crops and livestock raised. Crops grown include hay, oats, winter and spring wheat, barley and corn. The major livestock interests--sheep, cattle and hogs are all produced in Sanders County.

In 1982, livestock and livestock products returned $3,966,000 in cash receipts. Crop production brought in $1,349,000 while government payments added $179,000. This makes for a total of $5,494,000 in cash receipts in 1982.

SANDERS COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,759,097	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	60,294
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	428,497	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	19,355
Number of Farms 1/		379			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	26,300			
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	1,400	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	29,000
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	400	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	2,100
Oats	Acres Plntd.	1,400	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	300
Barley	Acres Plntd.	1,500			
Corn	Acres Plntd.	100			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wool Production
Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Meat Animals--Prod., Disp., and Income

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician

Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

WORLD AG OUTLOOK
FEBRUARY FARM PRICES
'OPERATION IDENTIFICATION'
MFG DAIRY OUTPUT UP
featuring.....CUSTER COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

The economy is expanding faster than anticipated, and consumer and industrial demand for farm products will grow at above average rates again in 1985. However, the largest gains will continue to be in restaurant spending and other service additions to raw farm products. Actual demand at the farm level is expected to increase 1.5 to 2.0 percent--not enough to remove burdensome supplies of major program crops. Rising employment and higher consumer incomes should help domestic demand for meat, though.

Abundant crop supplies for the next year and lower crop prices have increased concern about farmers' current financial stress. However, no immediate turnaround in the farm financial situation is expected.

World trade is likely to continue expanding, as import demand in the United States, Japan and other dynamic economies fuels export sales in the rest of the world. This strong growth in exports, combined with stable interest rates, is helping spur recovery in the developing countries.

As for the U.S. export outlook, a continued strong dollar will likely keep U.S. goods costly in foreign markets, even though domestic crop prices will be off 5 to 10 percent. Consequently, agricultural export volume is expected to increase only slightly, despite foreign economic growth and much larger Soviet grain imports.

Reduced feed costs, a moderate increase in livestock prices since fall, and a robust general economy are helping to improve livestock producers' income prospects for this year and next. Cattle and hog producers, however, continue to reduce inventories. Broiler producers are stepping up first-half production 5 to 8 percent.

Average fertilizer prices this spring could drop below last year, as plentiful supplies reduce fall-to-spring price increases. Machinery sales in 1985 are forecast at $7.35 to $7.65 billion, close to the $7.4 billion estimated for 1984. Aggregate pesticide prices are not expected to change much from last year.

The performance of China's agriculture over the last 7 years has far surpassed the expectations of both Western analysts and China's planners. Total agricultural output expanded 49 percent between 1978 and 1984, ending growth in China's imports and making the nation an exporter in several commodities that it once imported.

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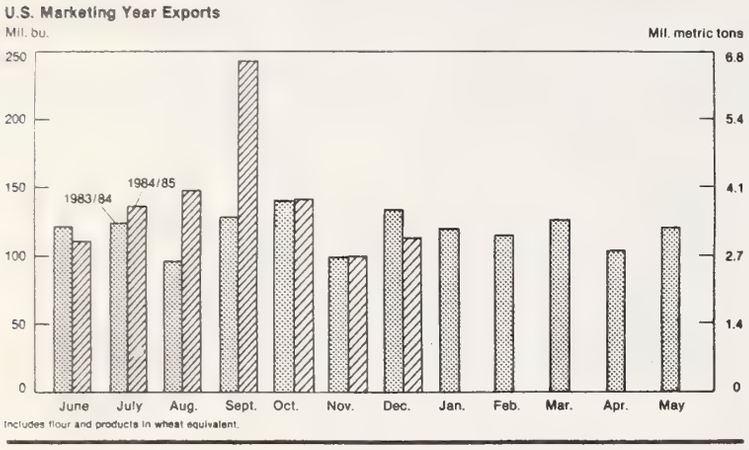
WHEAT EXPORTS

The volume of world wheat trade for 1984/85 is expected to reach a record 107 million tons. A highly price-competitive market has caused purchasing nations to be able to readily switch buying from one exporter to another depending upon price quotes. Influenced by the high value of the U.S. dollar, U.S. exports will not expand as much as the world trade. The U.S. share of the world wheat market will slip to the lowest in 13 years--37 percent.



MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS UP

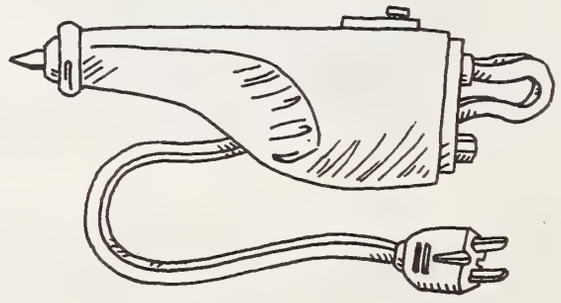
Montana dairy plants produced 158,000 gallons of ice cream in January 1985--53 percent more than the previous month and 40 percent more than in January 1984. Butter production was also above the previous month at 223,000 pounds and was about 2 percent above the previous year. January American type cheese production dropped 10 percent from the previous month but at 198,000 pounds was nearly 3 percent over last year. Creamed cottage cheese production at 386,000 pounds was 15 percent below the previous month and was 31 percent below January 1984.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

Farms and ranches contain many items attractive to thieves. Tools, motors, batteries, tractors and other valuable farm machinery and supplies, such as gasoline, are all things the rural criminal is eager to steal.

'Operation Identification' is a program to discourage burglary and theft by making sure your property can be easily traced to you. Here is how it works: contact your local police or sheriff's department or farm equipment dealer. They can lend you an engraving tool, or you can use an arc welder if you own one. Mark all valuables with a permanent ID number. Your local law enforcement officials can tell you what identification numbers to use. Engrave your ID number on each piece of farm equipment in two places: one in a primary location suggested by your local law enforcement officials, another in a hidden location of your choice. That way, your property can be traced even if your primary marking is removed.

Once your property is marked, make a record and store it in a safe place. Take photographs too. That way you will have double security. Then let thieves know that your valuables and farm equipment are marked by posting 'Operation Identification' stickers on all entrances to your property, mailbox, outbuildings or other clearly visible locations. Stickers are available from your local law enforcement officials.



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FEBRUARY FARM PRICES UP

Montana farmers and ranchers received mostly higher prices for the products they sold during February than a month earlier. However, livestock prices provided the most significant increases.

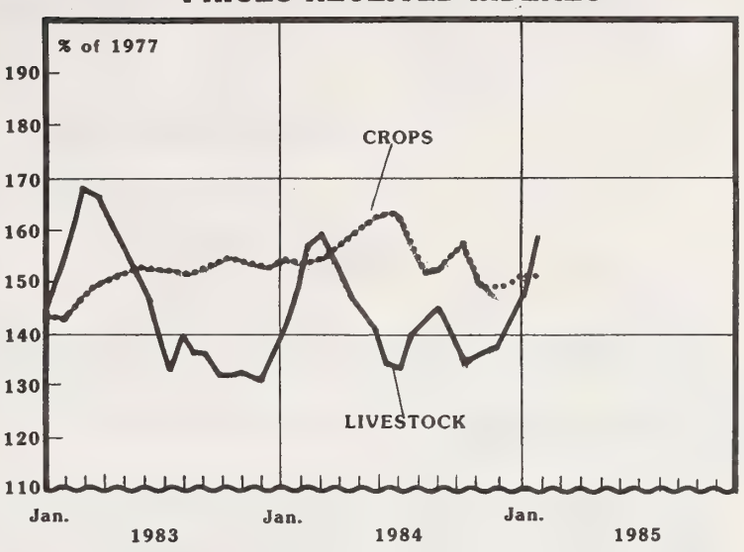
The February index of prices received by Montana producers for all farm products at 155 (1977=100) was 7 points higher than the January index. The all crops index at 151 was unchanged while the livestock index at 158 was up 11 points.

Price increases during February were noted for hard spring wheat, barley, oats, hay, steers and heifers, cows, calves, lambs, hogs and eggs. Prices declined for winter wheat, durum, sheep, milk and wool.

Nationally, the February all farm products index of prices received by farmers was unchanged from January at 135 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for lettuce, cotton, soybeans, oranges and lemons were partially offset by higher prices for cattle, hogs, sweet corn and strawberries. The index was 9 points (6.2 percent) below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for February was 164 percent of its 1977 base. The index was unchanged from a month earlier and a year ago. Declines from a month earlier for the feed, fuels & energy and building & fencing indexes were offset by an increase in the feeder livestock index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



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AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1984	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1985	MONTANA Feb. 15, 1985	U.S. Feb. 15, 1985
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.44	3.40	3.33
Durum	Bu.	3.81	3.52	3.50	3.62
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.64	3.65	3.44
All Wheat	Bu.	3.63	3.52	3.50	3.77
Barley	Bu.	2.52	2.46	2.50	2.16
Oats	Bu.	1.56	1.70	1.75	1.71
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	75.00	78.00	82.00	79.50
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	70.00	70.00	65.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	77.00	81.00	75.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	62.60	61.50	65.00	63.40
Cows	Cwt	39.70	35.70	39.00	40.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	53.10	49.20	54.60	58.70
Calves	Cwt	64.80	63.20	65.80	66.20
Sheep	Cwt	21.00	32.90	25.00	24.10
Lambs	Cwt	57.00	63.70	67.00	64.70
Hogs	Cwt	42.30	43.00	43.30	49.60
All Milk	Cwt	13.70	14.10	14.00	13.80
Eggs	Doz	.780	.470	.530	.446
Wool 2/	Lb.	.750	.900	.700	.653
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	154	148	155	135
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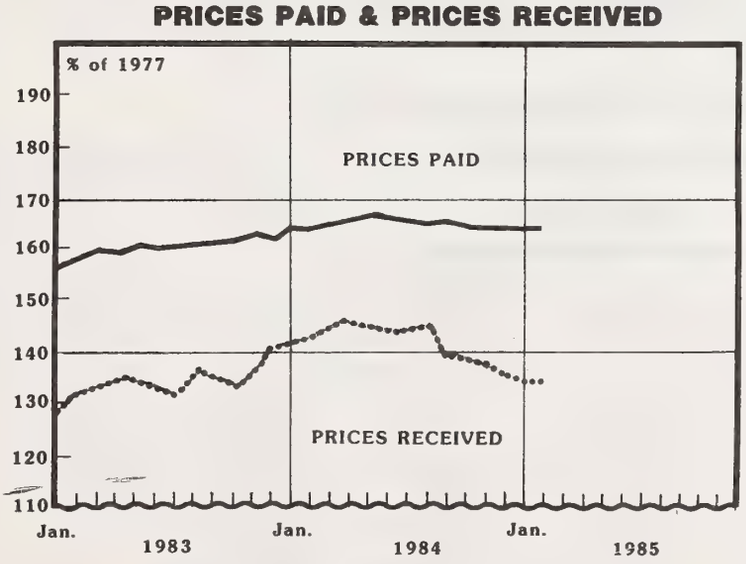

featuring. . . . . CUSTER COUNTY

Custer, one of the original counties of Montana, lies in the southeastern corner of the state. The county consists mainly of rolling country with pronounced breaks along the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers. The Yellowstone River cuts through the northwestern corner of Custer county, while the Tongue River cuts the southwestern corner to join the Yellowstone near Miles City. The Powder River runs the length of the county in the eastern half.

Livestock production is the main agricultural interest in Custer County. In the January 1, 1983 cattle inventory, Custer County shared 6th place with Cascade County and 10th place with Phillips County for sheep numbers. The county came in 24th in the December 1, 1982 hog count.

The major crop grown in the area is winter wheat. However, the county ranked 23rd in production of that crop in 1983. Custer County ranked 20th for all hay production, and 8th for oats production in 1983. The corn acreage ranks number 3 in the state--exceeded only by Yellowstone and Richland Counties. Other crops grown include spring and durum wheat, and barley.

The abundant livestock production brought in $21,703,000 in cash receipts in 1982. Crops returned $11,320,000, while government payments added $974,000 for a total cash return of $33,997,000 for Custer County in 1982.

CUSTER COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	2,416,582	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	169,997
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	2,324,856	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	33,339
Number of Farms 1/		382			
CROPS					
Corn	Acres Plntd.	4,800	LIVESTOCK		
Oats	Acres Plntd.	3,300			
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	40,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	90,800
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	46,400	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	12,500
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	100	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	1,700
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	4,000			
Barley	Acres Plntd.	8,200			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wheat & Barley Movement
Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS

1985 PLANTING INTENTIONS
CATTLE ON FEED UP
RED MEAT PRODUCTION
POTATO STOCKS INCREASE
MONTANA'S RANK
SOVIET GRAIN CONDITION
featuring.....PHILLIPS COUNTY

PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 1985

Many Montana farmers and ranchers participated in a U.S.D.A. survey to determine their intentions to plant major crops for harvest in 1985. The information shown below is the result of this survey.

SPRING PLANTING INTENTIONS

Montana farmers and ranchers intend to plant 7 percent more hard red spring wheat this spring than last year. Their intended acreage is 2.25 million. Durum plantings are expected to be up sharply from the 215,000 acres planted last year. Last fall's wheat growers planted 2.5 million acres of winter wheat, down 7 percent from the 1983 fall plantings. Total wheat plantings, including winter wheat seeded last fall and farmers intentions for spring wheat add up to 5.1 million acres. This is 2 percent above last year's drought-stricken crop.

Barley plantings are expected to be down only 1 percent from 1984 record seedings. **Acreage devoted to oats** indicated only a 2 percent increase according to growers intentions on February 1. This is about a 'normal' oat acreage for Montana. **Uncertain dry bean prices** have deterred any increase in dry bean acreage. The 1985 plantings are expected to be 8,500 acres. **Corn plantings** are expected to be the same as last year, about 90,000 acres. Depending on the spring weather, farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 5 percent more **hay acreage** in 1985. The poor yields in 1984 and the low carryover will prompt ranchers to cut all available hay acreage.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS -- FEBRUARY 1, 1985

CROP	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1984	Indicated 1985	1985/84	1984	Indicated 1985	1985/84
	----000 acres----		-Pct.-	-----000 acres----		-Pct.-
Corn	90	90	--	80,434	82,021	+ 2
Hard Spring Wheat	2,100	2,250	+ 7	12,517	13,528	+ 8
Durum	215	350	+63	5,277	3,525	+ 8
Oats	220	225	+ 2	12,364	12,942	+ 5
Barley	2,320	2,300	- 1	11,887	12,379	+ 4
Dry Beans	8.5	8.5	--	1,497	1,497	--
All Hay 1/	2,200	2,300	+ 5	61,585	62,281	+ 1

1/ Acres for harvest.

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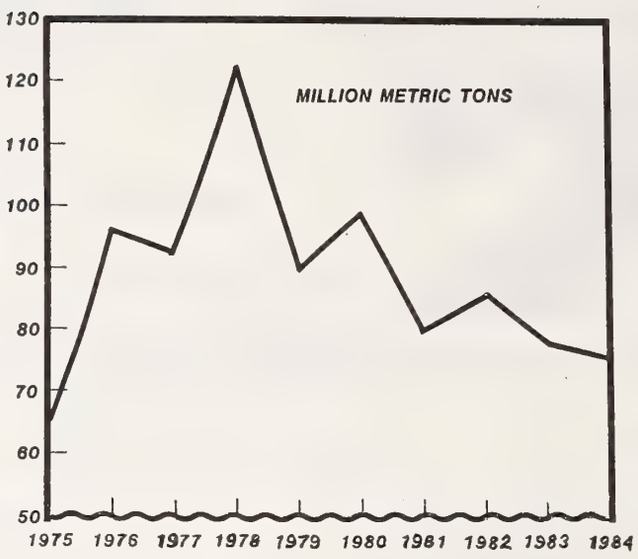
WINTER GRAIN CONDITIONS IN SOVIET UNION

Conditions for the winter grains in the USSR continue favorable. Below normal temperatures in January were accompanied by snow which protected the crop. Precipitation in the major winter wheat and rye areas in January was above normal. January temperatures in the eastern parts of the winter grain area were near normal, while in the west they were 2-7 degrees C. below normal. These coldest regions received as much as 200 percent of normal precipitation, however. In early February, the southernmost winter grain areas experienced above normal temperatures which reduced the snowcover, eliminating it entirely in some places. However, late in the first week of February, the snowcover was regained when precipitation, accompanied by lower temperatures occurred. Although the Soviet winter grain areas have been subjected to below normal temperatures this season, the crop has been protected by adequate snowcover that accompanied the cold. Also, the crop was seeded at or near the optimal time last fall and under more favorable moisture conditions than in the last three years. Winterkill should be no greater than usual. The winter grain area seeded for the 1985 harvest was 35 million hectares, according to official Soviet data.

The cold weather in January will likely have a detrimental impact on the Soviet livestock industry. The Soviet press has carried articles recently noting power outages and the lack of water supplies as the result of the weather. Should feed supplies be short in the spring, it is possible that some winter grains, that were seeded for harvest as grain, may be cut for green feed.

The 1984 Soviet grain crop estimate remains unchanged at 170 million tons, including 75 million wheat, 84 million coarse grains and 11 million miscellaneous grains and pulses. In their plan fulfillment report for 1984, the Soviets did not release any information about the grain harvest.

USSR WHEAT PRODUCTION



7 STATES CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed February 1, 1985 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.17 million head, up 3 percent from a year ago and 1 percent above February 1, 1983.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, up 14 percent from 1984 and 9 percent above 1983.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during January were 1.45 million, 7 percent less than last year and 3 percent below January 1983. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 1.33 million are 10 percent less than last year and 2 percent below January 1983.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 118 thousand head compared with 86 thousand during January 1984 and 130 thousand two years ago.

CATTLE & CALVES: NUMBER ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETED & OTHER DISAPPEARANCE
7 STATES, JAN 1 - FEB 1

ITEM	1984	1985	1985 as % of 1984
	---000 Head--		-Pct.-
On Feed Jan. 1 1/	8,006	8,617	108
Placed on Feed During Jan.	1,566	1,452	93
Fed Cattle Marketed During Jan.	1,569	1,782	114
Other Disappearance During Jan. 2/	86	118	137
On Feed Feb. 1 1/	7,917	8,169	103

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a full ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better. 2/ Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

JANUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 6.1 million pounds of red meat in January, 12 percent less than December, but 31 percent more than January 1984.

Cattle slaughter numbered 9,700 head, a 21 percent increase over last year. Hog slaughter at 2,600 was up 8 percent from the previous year.

Nationally, beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds was up 8 percent. Head kill was 3.28 million, up 5 percent, and the average live weight increased 15 pounds to 1,081.

Veal production, at 43 million pounds was up 10 percent. Calf slaughter of 288 thousand head was up 4 percent and the average live weight increased 7 pounds to 247.

Pork production, totaled 1.28 billion pounds, up 4 percent. Hog kill at 7.34 million head increased 2 percent and the average live weight increased 3 pounds to 245.

Lamb and mutton production, at 32 million pounds, was up 3 percent. Slaughter totaled 557 thousand head, up 1 percent, and the average live weight increased 2 pounds to 115.

POTATO STOCKS UP

In Montana, total stocks of potatoes on hand February 1, at 1,790,000 cwt, were 8 percent above last year.

Nationally, fall potato stocks were estimated at 143 million cwt on February 1, 1985 in the 15 major states. This is up 3 percent from last year, but 5 percent short of two years ago. Variety data shows 75 percent russets, 22 percent whites and 3 percent reds in storage. The storage total represented 47 percent of fall production this year compared with 49 percent on hand a year ago at this time.

The six Western States had 93.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage, an increase of 1 percent from last February, but 5 percent less than two years ago. Idaho stocks totaling 47.5 million cwt were down 1 percent; while Washington's 20.8 million cwt storage was off 5 percent from last year. Oregon at 11.0 millin cwt was up 15 percent. Colorado with stocks of 8.90 million cwt was up 25 percent; while California storages of 3.00 million cwt were off 14 percent.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

UNIT	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Cropland in Cultivated Summerfallow	5,391,461 acres	1982 Census	2
Land in farms and ranches	61,100,000 acres	1984	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't. payments			
Total	$1,503,303,000	1983	32
Crops	$ 846,939,000	1983	30
Livestock	$ 656,364,000	1983	32
LIVESTOCK & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS			
All Cattle and Calves	2,960,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1985	12
All Cows	1,540,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1985	10
Milk Cows	27,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1985	41
Beef Cows	1,513,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1985	6
Cattle on Feed	90,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1985	21*
Hogs and Pigs	155,000 hd.	Dec. 1, 1984	27
Sheep and Lambs	515,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1985	8
Wool Production	5,568,000 lbs.	1983	7
All Chickens	1,025,000 birds	Dec. 1, 1984	40
CROPS (PRODUCTION)			
All Wheat	104,655,000 bu.	1984	9
Winter Wheat	66,960,000 bu.	1984	9
Durum Wheat	3,570,000 bu.	1984	4
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	34,125,000 bu.	1984	4
All Hay	3,780,000 tons	1984	17
Alfalfa Hay	2,415,000 tons	1984	14
Dry Beans	152,000 cwt	1984	12
Barley	59,080,000 bu.	1984	5
Oats	3,885,000 bu.	1984	17
Potatoes--fall	1,924,000 cwt	1984	16
Sugarbeets	416,000 tons	1984	10

*TIED with Florida & Missouri.

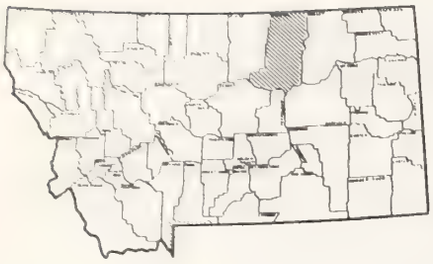
RECOMMENDED MALTING BARLEY VARIETIES FOR 1985

The American Malting Barley Association, Inc. (AMBA) announces its recommended malting barley varieties for the 1985 crop year. These varieties are recommended by AMBA for malting and brewing. When grown in the states and areas recommended and when delivered to market in pure carlots of sound, bright, plump, low moisture barley in an acceptable protein range these varieties may command premium prices over feed barley.

MONTANA

Clark	Premier
Klages	Morex
Moravian III	Robust
Piroline	

*featuring. . . . .*PHILLIPS COUNTY



Phillips County occupies 3,283,411 acres of rolling prairie in north central Montana. The entire southern boundary of the county is comprised of portions of the Missouri River and Ft. Peck Lake. Portions of the Charles M. Russell and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges lie along the banks of the Missouri River and Ft. Peck Lake in southern Phillips County. The Milk River crosses west to east through the center of the county, and the northern boundary of Phillips County makes up a portion of the Montana/Canadian border.

Phillips County is an extensive livestock producing area. The county ranked 8th in the January 1, 1983 cattle numbers, and 10th in the sheep inventory for the same date. Hog production brought the county 20th place in the December 1, 1982 hog inventory.

Phillips County is also a vital crop producing area. It ranked 1st in oats production, 8th in spring wheat production, 10th in all hay production and 15th in barley production in the the 1983 crop figures. A fair amount of winter and durum wheat are also grown in the area.

Livestock and products returned $ 17,067,000 in 1982, while crops receipts added $20,389,000. Government payments brought in $2,752,000 for a total cash return of $40,208,000 in 1982.

PHILLIPS COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	3,283,411
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,987,765
Number of Farms 1/		494
CROPS		
Oats	Acres Plntd.	13,700
Spring Wheat	Acres Plntd.	84,000
All Hay	Acres Hvstd.	66,700
Barley	Acres Plntd.	45,500
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	47,000
Durum Wheat	Acres Plntd.	400
Total Cropland 1/	Acres	51,912
Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	48,410
LIVESTOCK		
All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	88,000
Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	12,500
Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	2,200

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS

CATTLE HERD DECREASES
SHEEP NUMBERS DOWN
JANUARY 1 GRAIN STOCKS
1984 CROP VALUES
CHICKEN NUMBERS INCREASE
FARM PRICES
MFG. DAIRY PRODUCTS

MONTANA CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN

Cattle inventory has been declining for 3 years across the nation and this year Montana joined the reduction with a 6 percent cut in total cattle and calf numbers. For Montana, the class showing the sharpest decline is heifers being held for herd replacement. They are down 22 percent. The category at the other end of the scale is steers 500 pounds or more showing a 13 percent increase over 1984.

Cows and heifers that have calved are 8 percent below last year. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds are down 2 percent from January 1984.

The net affect of these changes is a larger portion of the inventory in young market animals, calves, steers & heifers, and a smaller portion for stock cattle.

CATTLE and CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1984-1985

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1984	1985	% Change '85/'84	1984	1985	% Change '85/'84
	----000 Head---			----000 Head---		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	3,150	2,960	- 6	113,700	109,801	- 3
Cows & Heifers that have calved						
Beef Cows	1,637	1,513	- 8	37,494	35,393	- 6
Milk Cows	29	27	- 7	11,109	10,819	- 3
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	328	255	-22	6,183	5,536	-10
For milk cow replacement	9	9	NC	4,532	4,757	+ 5
Other heifers	189	183	- 3	7,851	8,036	+ 2
Steers 500 pounds and over	284	322	+13	16,371	16,399	NC
Bulls 500 pounds and over	98	89	- 9	2,549	2,411	- 5
Calves less than 500 pounds	576	562	- 2	27,611	26,450	- 4
All cattle value ($000)	1,244,250	1,124,800	-10	44,975,575	44,147,243	- 2
Value per head (Dollars)	395	380	- 4	396	402	+ 2

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS -- 1983 and 1984

ITEM	1983	1984	% Change '84/'83	1983	1984	% Change '84/'83
Calves born during year (000)	1,640	1,610	- 2	43,925	42,499	- 3
Number cattle farms	16,300	16,600	+ 2	1,584,500	1,547,290	- 2

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STOCKS OF GRAIN JANUARY 1, 1985 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1984*	Oct. 1, 1984*	Jan. 1, 1985	% Chg. '85/'84	Jan. 1, 1984*	Oct. 1, 1984*	Jan. 1, 1985
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	130,034	127,679	109,888	-16	1,015,409	1,217,308	933,496
Off Farms 1/	30,946	30,401	29,318	- 5	1,310,964	1,522,679	1,206,266
T O T A L	161,030	158,080	139,206	-14	2,326,373	2,739,987	2,139,762
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	69,915	77,228	60,500	-13	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	16,254	18,725	19,120	+18	--	--	--
T O T A L	86,169	95,953	79,620	- 8	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	60,169	50,451	49,388	-18	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	14,692	11,676	10,198	-31	--	--	--
T O T A L	74,861	62,127	59,586	-20	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms	4/	4/	4/	4/	97,776	125,005	94,961
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	35,267	51,571	37,138
T O T A L	12,588	10,263	10,220	-19	133,043	176,576	132,099
CORN							
On Farms	1,092	27	1,173	+ 7	3,079,963	347,853	4,248,126
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	1,832,904	375,370	1,560,198
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	4/	4,912,867	723,223	5,808,324
OATS							
On Farms	5,386	4,740	4,351	-19	322,352	397,368	299,440
Off Farms 1/	309	127	120	-61	56,404	76,540	57,752
T O T A L	5,695	4,867	4,471	-21	378,756	473,908	357,192
BARLEY							
On Farms	37,296	49,036	38,402	+ 3	244,915	402,124	306,484
Off Farms 1/	5,666	6,967	8,520	+50	122,682	171,479	131,342
T O T A L	42,962	56,003	46,922	+ 9	367,597	573,603	437,826
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	149,330	37,932	232,572
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	505,498	212,836	496,289
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	654,828	250,768	728,861

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jan. 1, 1984	Oct. 1, 1984*	Jan. 1, 1985	Jan. 1, 1984*	Oct. 1, 1984*	Jan. 1, 1985
	-------Million Bushels-------			-------Million Bushels-------		
Northwest	.7	1.0	.9	1.2	3.1	2.4
North Central	71.6	65.2	54.2	20.3	23.2	19.2
Northeast	48.3	42.7	42.1	5.3	5.6	5.9
Central	20.7	21.3	17.3	9.4	13.3	9.5
Southwest	3.3	4.0	3.7	1.7	4.1	3.4
South Central	10.1	12.9	10.9	4.0	4.8	4.9
Southeast	6.3	11.0	10.1	1.1	1.9	1.6
STATE	161.0	158.1	139.2	43.0	56.0	46.9

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

SHEEP NUMBERS DOWN AGAIN

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory continued to shrink in 1984. The January 1, 1985 survey of wool growers shows 515 thousand sheep and lambs on hand, 9 percent fewer than one year ago. The decline is even more significant when lambs on feed are excluded from the count. Producers and feeders had 45 thousand lambs on feed--32 percent more than last year.

Stock sheep were 470 thousand, 11 percent fewer than last year. Ewe lambs were down 17 percent at 60 thousand and ewes one year old or older were 10 percent below January 1984 at 390 thousand.

The national pattern was very similar to Montana. All sheep and lambs were down 9 percent. Ewe lambs were down 18 percent. However, lambs and sheep on feed were down 7 percent for the nation, in contrast with the 32 percent increase for Montana.

SHEEP and LAMBS ON FARMS and RANCHES -- JANUARY 1, 1984-1985

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1984	1985	% Change 85/84	1984	1985	% Change 85/84
	-Thous. Head-			-Thous. Head-		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	564	515	- 9	11,487	10,443	- 9
On feed	34	45	+32	1,718	1,596	- 7
Stock sheep	530	470	-11	9,769	8,847	- 9
Lambs						
Ewes	72	60	-17	1,237	1,016	-18
Wethers and rams	11	8	-27	318	284	-11
One year old & older						
Ewes	432	390	-10	7,874	7,233	- 8
Wethers and rams	15	12	-20	340	314	- 8
All sheep value ($000)	28,764	29,613	+ 3	598,904	637,880	+ 7
Value per head (Dollars)	51.00	57.50	+13	52.10	61.10	+17

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS -- 1983-1984

ITEM	1983	1984	% Change 84/83	1983	1984	% Change 84/83
Lamb crop	475	455	- 4	8,209	7,773	- 5
Number of sheep farms	2,700	2,800	+ 4	126,390	123,300	- 2

MONTANA CROP VALUES

Montana farmers and ranchers harvested crops valued at 842 million dollars in 1984--16 percent below 1983. The sharp decrease in value was a combination of lower prices and a major drouth which cut back production.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS

DECEMBER 31, 1984

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1983	1984	1983	1984
	---------000 Bushels---------			
Reserve	64,425	57,802	8,544	8,557
Under Loan	22,241	17,861	3,755	2,317

1/ These stocks are included in the January 1 total stocks estimates.

MONTANA CROP VALUES -- 1984

CROP	PRODUCTION		VALUE
			Mil. Dols.
Winter Wheat	67.0	Mil. Bu.	$227.7
Hard Spring Wheat	34.1	Mil. Bu.	124.6
Durum Wheat	3.6	Mil. Bu.	12.9
Barley	59.1	Mil. Bu.	147.7
Oats	3.9	Mil. Bu.	6.8
Corn for Grain	1.4	Mil. Bu.	4.3
Dry Beans	152	Thous. Cwt.	2.1
Sugarbeets	416	Thous. Tons	N/A
Potatoes	1.9	Thous. Cwt.	18.3
All Hay	3,780	Thous. Tons	296.7
Sweet Cherries	2,300	Tons	.9

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 455,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese in December 1984, 2 percent less than November and about the same as December the previous year.

American cheese output at 291,000 pounds was 83 percent above the previous month and 11 percent more than December last year.

Butter production fell off 9 percent from the previous month totaling 160,000 pounds and was 32 percent below the same month a year ago.

Ice cream totaled 103,000 gallons, 24 percent less than the previous month but 5 percent more than last year.

CHICKEN INVENTORY UP

Montana chicken numbers and value both increased in 1984. The December 1, 1984 inventory was 1.025 million chickens, 9 percent above one year ago. The average value per bird was $2.00, compared with $1.95 for the previous year. Total value of the Montana chicken flock was $2.05 million compared with the 1983 value of $1.83 million--a 12 percent increase.

---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER----------

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Prospective Plantings
Montana's Rank

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1984	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1984	MONTANA Jan. 15, 1985	U.S. Jan. 15, 1985
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.48	3.50	3.35
Durum	Bu.	3.88	3.67	3.70	3.65
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.70	3.73	3.65	3.38
All Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.59	3.57	3.37
Barley	Bu.	2.50	2.22	2.29	2.25
Oats	Bu.	1.69	1.62	1.75	1.71
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	78.00	78.00	77.50
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	68.00	70.00	65.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	77.00	77.00	74.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	59.70	57.10	58.20	62.80
Cows	Cwt	35.40	33.00	34.80	35.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	45.60	43.20	47.00	56.70
Calves	Cwt	62.20	60.10	60.80	62.30
Sheep	Cwt	14.80	26.70	28.00	25.00
Lambs	Cwt	57.10	60.20	61.00	62.70
Hogs	Cwt	44.60	42.60	42.40	47.70
All Milk	Cwt	13.80	14.00	14.00	13.90
Eggs	Doz	.810	.590	.470	.429
Wool 2/	Lb.	.700	.900	.900	.682
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	146	142	146	134
All Crops	Pct.	153	151	151	125
Livestock & Products	Pct.	140	137	141	143

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Jan. 1983	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1985
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	145	135	134
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	163	164	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	89	82	82
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	59	55	54

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS

1984 MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION
WHEAT UTILIZATION REPORT
MILK PRODUCTION
RED MEAT PRODUCTION
POTATO STOCKS

MONTANA
1984 CROP SEASON REVIEW

The 1984 crop season was plagued with drought conditions in much of the important grain producing areas of the state. As a result, total small grain production was down 24 percent from 1983 and 37 percent from 1982.

Starting in the fall of 1983 winter wheat seedings were delayed by lack of moisture. Limited moisture in early October helped get the crop started, but many areas in the north central and northeast remained very dry. Winter moisture was below average in most of the eastern areas of the state.

A relatively dry spring enabled seeding operations to be completed a little ahead of normal. Most areas of the state were short of moisture by the end of May except the northwest, southwest and south central. The hay crop got off to a very slow start due to the dry spring and yields were sharply reduced.

Much needed moisture came to most of the state during the second week of June and generally continued throughout the month. Crops in the drier parts of the state got a boost and were rated in fair condition.

However, by the first of July hot, drying winds were prevalent over much of the northern and eastern areas of the state which rapidly depleted moisture and put stress on grain crops. July and August were generally hot and dry. Crop conditions over much of the north central and northeast areas deteriorated and final yields were much below average in those areas.

The central part of the state received enough moisture to enable a fair crop to be harvested while the western and southern parts had excellent crops. The dry weather did enable hay and grain crops to be harvested in a timely manner.

Harvesting of winter wheat was mostly complete by the end of August and spring grain harvest was wrapped up by the middle of September. The corn silage harvest progressed slightly ahead of the normal pace and was about complete by mid-October. Harvest of dry beans, potatoes and sugarbeets was essentially complete by the end of October.

(CROP PRODUCTION TABLE INSIDE.)

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CROP PRODUCTION 1983-1984

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
	----Thousand Acres----				---Bushels---		--Thousand Bu.--	
CORN FOR GRAIN 1/								
Montana	65	90	13	15	105.0	92.0	1,365	1,380
U.S.	60,217	80,394	51,483	71,776	81.1	106.6	4,174,678	7,649,995
WINTER WHEAT								
Montana	2,550	2,700	2,260	2,480	35.0	27.0	79,100	66,960
U.S.	62,105	63,419	47,584	51,513	41.8	40.0	1,988,304	2,060,646
DURUM WHEAT								
Montana	210	215	205	210	20.0	17.0	4,100	3,570
U.S.	2,565	3,277	2,492	3,219	29.3	32.1	72,979	103,439
OTHER SPRING WHEAT								
Montana	2,050	2,100	1,990	1,950	27.0	17.5	53,730	34,125
U.S.	11,749	12,517	11,314	12,196	31.7	35.4	358,541	431,394
ALL WHEAT								
Montana	4,810	5,015	4,455	4,640	30.7	22.6	136,930	104,655
U.S.	76,419	79,213	61,390	66,928	39.4	38.8	2,419,824	2,595,479
OATS								
Montana	210	220	120	105	44.0	37.0	5,280	3,885
U.S.	20,289	12,364	9,072	8,123	52.6	58.1	476,961	471,921
BARLEY								
Montana	1,950	2,320	1,850	2,110	42.0	28.0	77,700	59,080
U.S.	10,422	11,887	9,731	11,171	52.3	53.4	508,925	596,546
POTATOES 2/					-----CWT-----		---Thousand CWT---	
Montana	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.4	250	260	1,800	1,924
U.S.	1,272	1,337	1,243	1,300	269	278	333,911	361,648
DRY BEANS								
Montana	3.0	8.5	2.8	8.0	1,320	1,900	37	152
U.S.	1,180	1,497	1,139	1,456	1,363	1,425	15,520	20,754
SUGARBEETS					-----Tons----		---Thousand Tons---	
Montana	41.6	25.2	41.3	24.6	19.8	16.9	818	416
U.S.	1,081	1,121	1,056	1,096	19.9	20.3	20,992	22,207
ALFALFA HAY								
Montana	--	--	1,170	1,150	2.3	2.1	2,691	2,415
U.S.	--	--	25,710	26,809	3.2	3.4	82,212	90,017
ALL HAY								
Montana	--	--	2,170	2,200	1.9	1.7	4,041	3,780
U.S.	--	--	59,717	61,585	2.36	2.45	140,764	150,781
SWEET CHERRIES							-------Tons-------	
Montana	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,800	2,300
U.S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	181,200	181,800

1/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes.
2/ Fall potatoes.

WHEAT UTILIZATION

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in the 1983 marketing year (June 1983-May 1984) is estimated at 142.9 million bushels. This is 91 percent of total disappearance. The amount shipped to the Pacific Northwest was 129.9 million bushels--about 3 percent less than in the 1982 marketing year.

Montana wheat milled for flour in the Pacific Northwest was up 5 percent. The amount exported to overseas destinations from Pacific Northwest ports declined about 4 percent from the previous year. However, Montana increased its share of total hard red wheat and durum exported from the Pacific ports going from 53 percent in 1982 to 61 percent in 1983. The reason for the increase was that hard red wheat and durum exports suffered a 16 percent cut while Montana wheat exports were down only 4 percent.

Over the past 5 years Montana wheat has accounted for more than half the hard red wheat and durum export volume, averaging 53 percent in that period.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION and EXPORTS 1/ BY MARKETING YEARS 1979-1983

ITEM	Marketing Year 2/ 1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	----------Million Bushels---------				
Beginning Stocks 3/	87.1	74.6	75.8	88.3	113.8
Production	116.5	119.8	172.8	180.3	136.9
Ending stocks 3/	-74.6	-75.8	-88.3	-113.8	-93.6
Total Disposition 4/	129.0	118.6	160.3	154.8	157.1
Shipments of wheat into Pacific NW 5/ (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance)	101.3	90.2	135.5	134.0	129.9
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific NS (includes bulgar) 6/	16.5	21.1	20.5	18.6	19.6
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific NW ports 7/	84.8	69.1	115.0	115.4	110.3
Percent of total disposition	66%	58%	72%	75%	70%
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter and Durum from Pacific NW ports	193.1	179.0	166.5	216.2	181.2
Montana exports as percent of total HRS, HRW and Durum exports from Pacific NW ports	44%	39%	69%	53%	61%

1/ Pacific Northwest--Oregon and Washington.
2/ June 1 - May 31.
3/ June 1 stocks.
4/ Beginning stocks plus production minus ending stocks.
5/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project.
6/ Total Pacific NW wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington or other states.
7/ Estimated Montana wheat shipped to Pacific NW minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific NW.

Funds for wheat utilization and movement were furnished by the Montana Wheat Commission.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS and UTILIZATION 1979-1983 MARKETING YEARS

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
SUPPLY	Million Bushels				
Beginning stocks 1/	87.1	74.6	75.8	88.3	113.8
Production	116.5	119.8	172.8	180.3	136.9
Total Supply	203.6	194.4	248.6	268.6	250.7
DISPOSITION					
Recorded movement out of State 2/	107.9	95.0	115.4	138.2	134.3
Milled for flour in Montana	7.9	7.9	8.9	7.7	6.9
Used for seed in Montana	6.4	6.4	6.0	5.0	5.3
Used for livestock feed 3/	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	5.1	7.4	28.2	2.0	8.6
Total Disposition	129.0	118.6	160.3	154.8	157.1
Ending stocks 1/	74.6	75.8	88.3	113.8	93.6

1/ Farm, commercial--June 1 stocks.
2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers, special survey of truck destinations and barge traffic.
3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills and purchased by other farmers for feed.
4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana dairymen produced 88 million pounds of milk in the October-December 1984 quarter, 1 percent more than the same period in 1983. The milk production increase occurred inspite of a 3 percent reduction in milk cows.

United States milk cow numbers were down 3 percent and milk production was off 4 percent from last year.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MILK COWS 1/ 1983	1984	MILK PROD. 2/ 1983	1984
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	959	973	3,654	3,737
IDAHO	173	163	550	528
MINN	908	877	2,502	2,350
MONT	29	28	87	88
N DAK	101	98	239	223
ORE	101	97	331	327
S DAK	164	161	415	403
WASH	215	210	850	838
WISC	1,850	1,836	5,587	5,509
WYO	11.9	11.7	32.8	32.5
U.S.	11,158	10,835	33,825	32,540

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 6.9 million pounds of red meat in December 1984--33 percent less than the previous month but 43 percent more than December 1983.

For the entire twelve months of 1984 red meat production totaled 62.6 million pounds, 47 percent below the 1983 total. The primary reason for this reduction was an 80 percent drop in hog slaughter. Cattle slaughter was off 7 percent from the previous year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in December 1984 totaled 3.12 billion pounds, down 8 percent from 1983. Production during 1984 totaled 39.0 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from last year. The 1984 accumulated production percentage changes by individual components were: beef, up 2 percent; veal, up 11 percent; pork, down 3 percent; lamb and mutton, up 1 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1983-1984

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1983	1984	1983	1984	% Chg.
	----------(000) Head---------				%
No. Slaughtered					
Cattle	99.1	92.6	36,649	37,570	+2.5
Calves	.2	.2	3,077	3,293	+7.0
Hogs	354.1	70.5	87,584	85,156	-2.8
Sheep & Lambs	4.2	4.0	6,619	6,758	+2.1
Total Live Weight	Thous. Lbs.		Mil. Lbs.		%
Cattle	102,554	93,492	39,248	40,074	+2.1
Calves	10	24	729	803	+10.2
Hogs	85,740	17,373	21,285	20,716	-2.7
Sheep & Lambs	450	416	741	749	+1.1
Red Meat Production	118,312	62,612	38,974	38,977	

MORE POTATOES IN STORAGE

In Montana, total stocks of potatoes on hand January 1, at 1,830,000 cwt, were 10 percent above last year.

Nationally, fall potato stocks totaled 173 million cwt (7.84 million metric tons) on January 1, 1985 in the 15 major storage States. This is up 5 percent from last year, but 3 percent below two years ago. By variety, potatoes in storage are 72 percent russets, 25 percent whites, and 3 percent reds based on data from the 11 objective yield States. The storage total accounted for 57 percent of fall production this season compared with 58 percent last year.

The six Western States had 110 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1985, an increase of 2 percent from a year ago, but 4 percent less than two years ago. Idaho with 54.5 million cwt and Washington with 25.9 million cwt were the same as last year. Oregon at 12.9 million cwt was up 7 percent. Colorado with stocks of nearly 11.0 million cwt was up 22 percent; while California storages totaling 3.9 million cwt were off 9 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep Inventory
Cattle Inventory
Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Chicken Inventory
Crop Values
Grain Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS

1985 OUTLOOK: Food Prices, Exports
Farm Machinery, Fertilizer, Pesticide
JANUARY 1 HAY STOCKS
FARM PRICES
MT DAIRY PRODUCTS
featuring.....SWEET GRASS COUNTY

1985 FOOD PRICE OUTLOOK

Price increases for both food eaten at home and away from home have slowed in recent years. Prices for food at home, representing food purchased in grocery stores, rose more than 8 percent in 1980, but rose about 4 percent in 1984. Prices for food purchased away from home in restaurants, cafeterias, and fast food establishments were forecast to go up about 4 percent this year, compared with nearly 10 percent in 1980.

The farm value of food rose at a decreasing rate from 1980 to 1982, and the 1983 farm value of food declined 2.2 percent. This trend was partly due to rising crop production and weak domestic and foreign demand resulting from the recession and the loss of some grain export markets. This, coupled with large supplies of livestock products, depressed farm prices for several years. However, the 1984 farm value was pegged at 4 to 5 percent increase from 1983 because of higher farm prices.

Increases in the farm-to-retail price spread have also slowed in recent years. The farm-to-retail price spread accounts for about two-thirds of the retail price of food. It likely rose about 3 to 5 percent in 1984, up from 2.3 percent in 1983, but less than half the rise 3 years ago.

1985 EXPORT OUTLOOK

After reversing a 2 year decline in fiscal 1984, the value of U.S. agricultural exports is expected to drop to $36.5 billion in fiscal 1985. Lower prices will offset anticipated increases in the volume of grains and soybeans. Export volume--which dropped a million tons in 1984--is expected to rebound to 149.5 million metric tons. A strong dollar will continue to restrain exports, as will larger foreign production. The dollar will also continue to buoy imports, which are forecast to rise marginally from fiscal 1984's record $18.9 billion.

The largely export-led global recovery will likely slow in 1985. Japan is expected to remain the fastest growing foreign industrial economy, and if its growth shifts from export-led to domestic consumption, import needs will strengthen. However, comparatively little growth is likely in Europe, and unemployment there may grow before it declines. Conditions in developing countries are improving, but are hampered by weak commodity prices, high interest rates, and continued debt problems. Like last year, both the world's strongest economic growth and the highest increases in demand for U.S. farm products will be in Asia.

FARM MACHINERY OUTLOOK

U.S. farmers likely purchased about $7.4 billion of farm machinery in 1984. Annual nominal expenditures for farm machinery have declined 37 percent since 1979 and have been at depressed levels during the past 3 years. With farm finances not expected to improve next year, domestic demand for farm machinery could drop slightly from the 1984 estimate. Depending on interest rates, expenditures for farm machinery are projected to range from $7.3 to $7.8 billion in 1985.

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FERTILIZER

No dramatic changes in fertilizer consumption, supplies, or prices are anticipated in 1984/85. U.S. fertilizer consumption reached a record high in 1980/81, then declined about 23 percent over the next 2 years. Fertilizer use rebounded in 1983/84, as crop acreage increased after the PIK cutback. A leveling off in crop acreage and small increases in application rates will keep 1984/85 plant nutrient use close to the previous year's level.

PRICES: ONLY SMALL ADVANCES LIKELY IN 1985

Generally, fertilizer prices have followed a pattern similar to consumption. Prices stabilized or declined as comsumption dropped during 1981/82 - 1982/83. With the recovery in fertilizer consumption during 1983/84, fertilizer prices in May 1984 were 7 percent higher than a year earlier. Overall, fertilizer prices in spring 1985 should show only a small advance from 1984 because of a relatively stable supply-demand situation.

1985 PESTICIDE OUTLOOK

Pesticide use is directly affected by planted crop acreage and the weather during the growing season. Actual 1985 crop acreage will be determined primarily by market developments and farmers' participation in commodity programs. Current projections are that crop acreage next season will be similar to 1984 or slightly higher.

U.S. farm demand for pesticides on major field crops could range from 500 to 545 million pounds (active ingredients) in 1985, compared with an estimated 505 to 510 million in 1984.

Herbicide use could range from 430 to 470 million pounds. Corn production will account for 55 percent of the herbicides used, followed by soybeans at 28 percent. In 1982, 95 percent of the corn acreage and 93 percent of the soybean acreage was treated with herbicides.

Insecticide use is forecast at 65 to 70 million pounds in 1985. Corn farmers are projected to apply about 30 million pounds, primarily for corn rootworm larvae control. Between 1971 and 1982, farmers annually treated 35 to 40 percent of corn acreage with insecticides.

HAY STOCKS BELOW LAST YEAR

Hay stocks on January 1 on Montana farms and ranches totaled 3,100,000 tons--down 19 percent from the same date last year and the lowest January 1 stocks since 1962. The 1984 hay crop was much smaller than normal due to the drought. Poor grazing conditions last summer and fall resulted in the feeding season starting much earlier than usual. Cooler than average temperatures during December also increased feeding requirements resulting in a depletion of hay supplies earlier than usual. Virtually all livestock were receiving supplemental feed by the first of January.

The U.S. hay stocks on farms January 1 totaled 101 million tons, 13 percent more than January 1, 1984 but 3 percent less than January 1, 1983.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 463,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese in November--down 17 percent from October and down 6 percent from the same month last year. Ice cream production totaled 136,000 gallons, down 8 percent from the previous month, but 5 percent more than November 1983. Butter production at 176,000 pounds was 1 percent below the previous year. American cheese output was down 10 percent at 159,000 pounds.

AG PRICES DROP

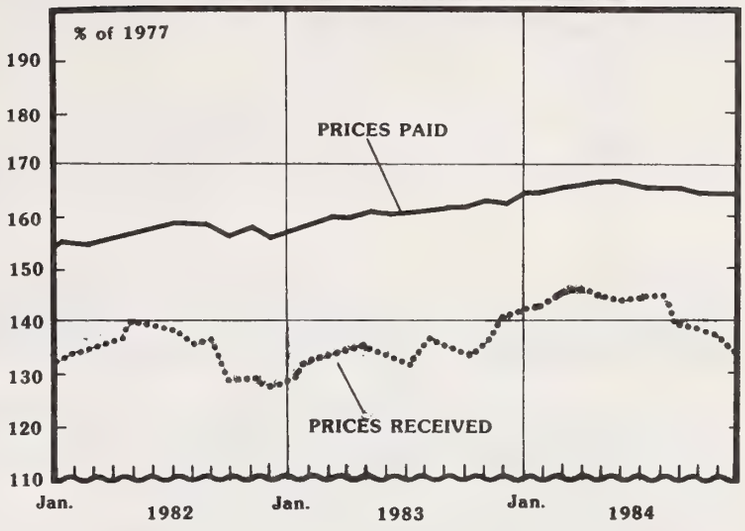
Montana farmers and ranchers received lower prices for most grains in December compared with November, while livestock prices strengthened during the same period. The December index of prices received by Montana farmers for all farm products at 142 (1977=100) was down 1 point from the November index. The all crops index at 147 was down 3 points while the livestock index at 137 was up 1 point.

All grain prices went down during December except spring wheat which went up slightly and barley which remained the same. Compared with a year ago in December all grain prices except oats are lower priced. Hay is higher than both last month and last year. All livestock and products except lambs and eggs are higher in price than a month ago. Milk remained steady. Compared with a year ago, all livestock and products were higher priced except cows and eggs.

Nationally, the December all farm products index of prices received by farmers decreased 3 points (2.2 percent) from November to 134 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for oranges, cotton, soybeans, broilers and milk were partially offset by higher prices for hogs, cattle, hay and turkeys. The index was 6 points (4.3 percent) below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for December was 164 percent of its 1977 base. The index was unchanged for the second consecutive month. Declines in the feed, fuels and fertilizer indexes were offset by the increase in the feeder livestock component. Compared with a year earlier, the index was up 1 point (0.6 percent).

UNITED STATES
INDEX NUMBERS OF
PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

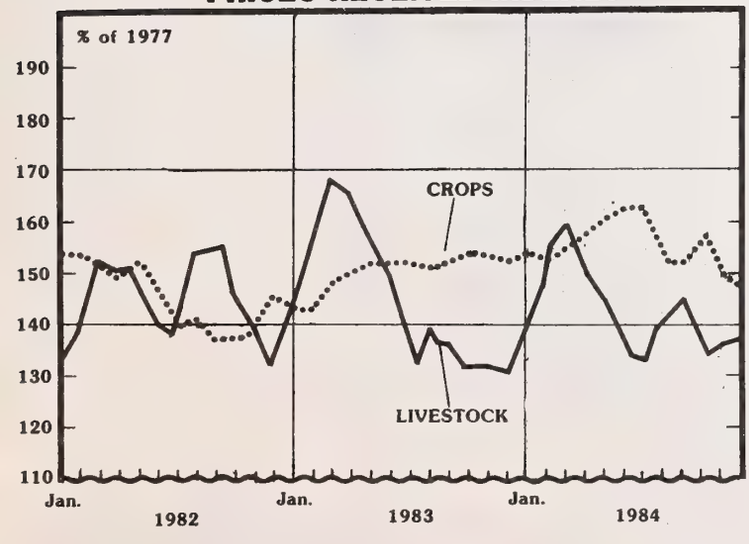


AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1983	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1984	MONTANA Dec. 15, 1984	U.S. Dec. 15, 1984
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.46	3.30	3.33
Durum	Bu.	3.87	3.63	3.55	3.61
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.67	3.62	3.65	3.40
All Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.53	3.45	3.36
Barley	Bu.	2.47	2.40	2.40	2.20
Oats	Bu.	1.63	1.79	1.75	1.69
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	75.00	78.00	79.80
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	65.00	68.00	64.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	75.00	77.00	76.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	56.70	58.40	59.60	62.40
Cows	Cwt	34.60	33.40	33.50	33.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	41.50	44.40	43.90	55.40
Calves	Cwt	60.90	60.20	61.40	59.40
Sheep	Cwt	13.70	19.10	25.00	19.50
Lambs	Cwt	55.00	62.40	61.20	62.10
Hogs	Cwt	41.00	41.10	47.10	48.40
All Milk	Cwt	14.00	14.55	14.55	14.10
Eggs	Doz	.681	.600	.590	.528
Wool 2/	Lb.	.830	.900	.900	.720
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	139	143	142	134
All Crops	Pct.	151	150	147	125
Livestock & Products	Pct.	130	136	137	143

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1984	Dec. 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	140	137	134
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	163	164	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	86	84	82
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	57	55	54

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

featuring. . . . SWEET GRASS COUNTY

Sweet Grass County occupies 1,218,214 acres of land in the south central portion of Montana. The Yellowstone River flows from west to east through the center of the county. The Boulder River enters the county from the south and joins the Yellowstone River at Big Timber. The northwest corner of Sweet Grass County contains part of the Gallatin National Forest, while another section of the same forest blankets the southern quarter of the county. A section of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is also contained in that southern portion of the county.

Livestock raising is the most prominent agricultural interest in Sweet Grass County. The county was in 3rd place in the January 1, 1983 sheep inventory. The December 1, 1982 hog count put the county in 18th place, while cattle numbers in the January 1, 1983 inventory showed Sweet Grass County in 24th place.

A variety of crops are produced in the county, although not to a great extent. In the county rankings for 1983 crop production Sweet Grass came in 19th for all hay production, 20th for oats, 39th for winter wheat--the only type of wheat grown in the county--and 43rd for barley production.

Livestock and products brought in $9,530,000 in cash receipts for 1982, while crops returned $1,441,000. Government payments added $291,000 for a total return of $11,262,000.

SWEET GRASS COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,218,214	Total Cropland 1/	Acres	95,404
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	909,183	Irrigated Land in Farms 1/	Acres	48,410
Number of Farms 1/		292			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
All Wheat	Acres Plntd.	7,800			
Winter Wheat	Acres Plntd.	7,800	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	55,700
Barley	Acres Plntd.	5,300	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	21,400
Oats	Acres Plntd.	2,900	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	2,500
All Hay	Acres Harv.	46,000			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER----------

Annual Crop Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS

1984 SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION
WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS
MORE POTATOES IN STORAGE
HOG NUMBERS DECLINE
EGG PRODUCTION
RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP

1985 WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE

Montana farmers planted 2.5 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1985--a 7 percent decline from a year ago. The severe summer drouth in much of the winter wheat area extended into early fall which delayed the start of seeding. However, scattered showers eased soil moisture shortages and seeding was completed by the end of October. In the major growing areas, new seedings were generally reported in fair condition going into winter dormancy.

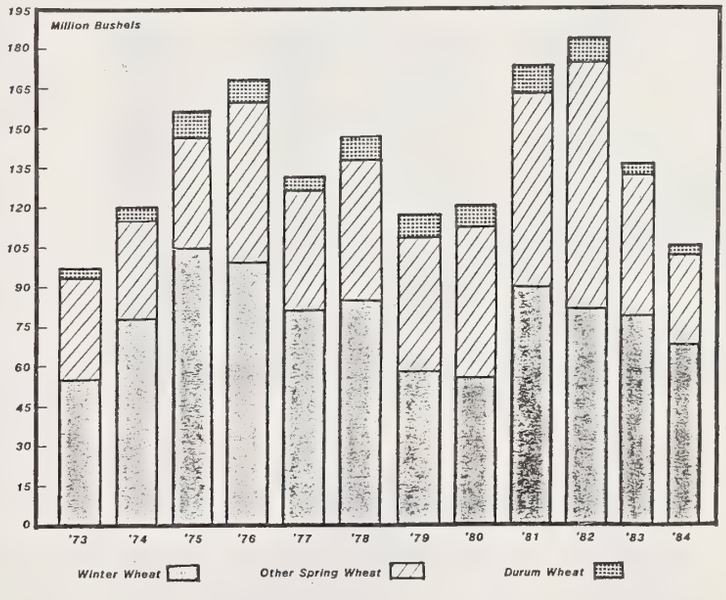
Nationally, growers planted 57.6 million acres in the fall of 1984 for the 1985 crop--9 percent less than the previous year.

WINTER WHEAT -- SELECTED STATES and U.S.

STATE	AREA SEEDED 1/		1985/84
	1984	1985	
	--000 Acres--		Pct.
ARK	1,500	800	53
CALIF	770	690	90
COLO	3,800	3,400	89
GA	1,000	850	85
IDAHO	1,150	1,000	87
ILL	1,800	900	50
IND	1,170	800	68
KANS	13,300	12,700	95
KY	670	470	70
MICH	900	800	89
MISS	770	350	45
MO	2,350	1,600	68
MONT	2,700	2,500	93
NEBR	3,200	2,600	81
N MEX	730	700	96
N CAROLINA	700	760	109
N DAKOTA	620	750	121
OHIO	1,240	850	69
OKLA	7,700	7,800	101
OREG	1,130	1,000	88
S CAROLINA	400	390	98
S DAKOTA	2,000	1,850	93
TENN	670	380	57
TEX	7,400	8,100	109
WASH	2,600	2,400	92
U.S.	63,419	57,599	91

1/ Total area seeded for all purposes.

MONTANA WHEAT PRODUCTION BY CLASSES, 1973-84



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POTATO STOCKS UP

December 1, 1984 potato stocks totaled 201 million cwt for the 15 States making stocks estimates. This is up 5 percent from 1983 but 3 percent below 1982 holdings. Stocks account for 67 percent of fall production this year compared with 68 percent last year. Russets are the major type stored. In the 11 objective yield States, 72 percent are russets; 25 percent whites and 3 percent reds.

The **six Western States** had 125 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1984, up 2 percent from a year earlier but 4 percent short of 1982 holdings. Present Idaho stocks at 61.5 million cwt are equal to last year; Washington stocks at 29.6 million are up fractionally, and Oregon storage of 15.2 million cwt is up 9 percent. Colorado's San Luis Valley storage was up 20 percent; but California registered 12 percent less when compared with last year.

Disappearance in the 15 States totaled 101 million cwt of potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. this included 16.1 million cwt of potatoes lost to dumping, grading, shrinkage, etc., compared with 14.0 million cwt last year.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION & STOCKS DECEMBER 1, 1983 and DECEMBER 1, 1984

STATE	CROP OF 1983		CROP OF 1984	
	Production	Total Stocks Dec 1, 1983	Production	Total Stocks Dec 1, 1984
	--1,000 CWT--		--1,000 CWT--	
CALIF	7,790	5,400	7,280	4,725
COLO	13,950	10,500	17,225	12,550
IDAHO	85,990	61,500	86,600	61,500
MAINE	22,560	18,300	21,360	17,200
MICH	9,840	6,600	12,540	8,000
MINN	10,313	8,500	13,775	12,200
MONT	1,800	1,700	1,924	1,860
NEBR	2,025	1,400	2,240	1,900
NY - L.I.	4,075	1,550	3,726	1,700
UPSTATE	5,635	3,100	6,630	3,400
N DAK	20,480	15,000	20,615	15,300
OHIO	1,886	700	2,465	850
OREG	20,710	14,000	22,680	15,200
PA	4,300	3,400	5,160	4,050
WASH	54,080	29,500	56,925	29,600
WISC	18,910	11,000	21,350	11,300
15 STATE TOTAL	284,344	192,150	302,495	201,335

MONTANA HOG NUMBERS DOWN 14 PERCENT

Montana hog numbers are 14 percent below last year according to the December 1 survey of producers. This is the smallest inventory in 19 years, except for 1982 when the pig count was about the same as this year. Total hogs on Montana farms was 155,000 head. Breeding hogs numbered 16,000, down 24 percent from last year and market hogs 139,000, down 13 percent.

The number of pigs produced in 1984 was 248,000 head, 3 percent fewer than in 1983. The spring pig crop (December-May) at 117,000 was down 9 percent, but the fall pig crop (June-November) at 131,000 was up 2 percent.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 5 PERCENT

Across the nation hog numbers were reduced in 1984. The December 1 inventory stood at 54.0 million, down 5 percent from last year. Hogs kept for breeding were down 6 percent at 6.9 million and market hogs were off 4 percent at 47.1 million.

The 1984 U.S. pig crop was also smaller than 1983, but was above 1982. With 86.5 million head estimated for 1984 the crop was 7 percent below last year. The spring pig crop was down 11 percent and the fall crop was down 3 percent. Looking ahead to see what may be in store for 1985, U.S. hog producers indicated they intend to farrow 5.4 million sows in December 1984-May 1985. If these intentions are carried out the farrowings will be 5 percent below 1984 and 10 percent below 1983.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION

Montana poultrymen produced 49 million eggs in the September-November quarter of 1984, the same as in the 1983 quarter. The average number of layers on hand in that quarter was 765,000--3 percent more than in the same quarter a year ago.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17.2 billion eggs in the final quarter of 1984, 3 percent more than last year. The total number of layers for the quarter averaged 282 million, 3 percent above the previous year.

1984 DROUTH CUTS GRAIN CROPS

The total small grain production for Montana in 1984 was down 24 percent from last year and 37 percent under 1982. The large decrease was due mainly to a widespread drouth that covered much of the northern and eastern sections of the State. Production changes from 1983 and 1982 are:

	FROM 1983	FROM 1982
WINTER WHEAT.....	DOWN 15%	DOWN 17%
DURUM WHEAT.....	DOWN 13%	DOWN 64%
OTHER SPRING WHT..	DOWN 36%	DOWN 62%
ALL WHEAT.....	DOWN 24%	DOWN 42%
OATS.....	DOWN 26%	DOWN 49%
BARLEY.....	DOWN 24%	DOWN 23%
TOTAL SMALL GRAINS	DOWN 24%	DOWN 37%

NATIONAL PRODUCTION UP

All wheat production for the Nation at 2.6 billion bushels was up 7 percent from last year but still 6 percent below the record set in 1982. Barley production at a record high 597 million bushels was up 17 percent.

End-of-season statistics for all other crops will be released January 25, 1985.

1984 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SMALL GRAINS

CROP	YEAR	MONTANA					U. S.
		ACREAGE		PRODUCTION			
		PLANTED	HARVESTED	YIELD PER ACRE	TOTAL	% CHG. PREV. YEAR	PRODUCTION
		--000 Acres--		Bu.	000 Bu.	Pct.	-000 Bu.-
Winter Wheat	1982	2,450	2,120	38.0	80,560		2,073,560
	1983	2,550	2,260	35.0	79,100		1,988,304
	1984	2,700	2,480	27.0	66,960	-15	2,060,646
Durum Wheat	1982	350	340	29.0	9,860		145,863
	1983	210	205	20.0	4,100		72,979
	1984	215	210	17.0	3,570	-13	103,439
Other Spng Wht	1982	2,950	2,900	31.0	89,900		545,544
	1983	2,050	1,990	27.0	53,730		358,541
	1984	2,100	1,950	17.5	34,125	-36	431,394
All Wheat	1982	5,750	5,360	33.6	180,320		2,764,967
	1983	4,810	4,455	30.7	136,930		2,419,824
	1984	5,015	4,640	22.6	104,655	-24	2,595,479
Oats	1982	260	150	51.0	7,650		592,630
	1983	210	120	44.0	5,280		476,961
	1984	220	105	37.0	3,885	-26	471,921
Barley	1982	1,650	1,560	49.0	76,440		515,935
	1983	1,950	1,850	42.0	77,700		508,925
	1984	2,320	2,110	28.0	59,080	-24	596,546
TOTAL SMALL GRAINS	1982	7,660	7,070	--	264,410		3,873,532
	1983	6,970	6,425	--	219,910		3,405,710
	1984	7,555	6,855	--	167,620	-24	3,663,946

MONTANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 10.2 million pounds of red meat during November. The November production was 26 percent higher than last month and 110 percent higher than last November. However, total production through the first 11 months of the year was down 51 percent from a year ago, primarily due to a sharp reduction in hog slaughter.

The November slaughter consisted of 15,000 cattle, 13,000 hogs, and 300 sheep. In terms of total liveweight, the cattle slaughter was up 80 percent and the hog slaughter was up 349 percent from last year.

NATIONAL SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production for the United States in November 1984 totaled 3.32 billion pounds, down 4 percent from November 1983. January-November red meat production, at 35.9 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from last year. The 1984 accumulated production percentage changes by individual components were: beef, up 2 percent; veal, up 12 percent; pork, down 2 percent; lamb and mutton, up 1 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for November 1984 included 22 weekdays (two were holidays) and four Saturdays. Kill days for November 1983 consisted of 22 weekdays (two were holidays) and four Saturdays.

Comparing November 1984 with November 1983:

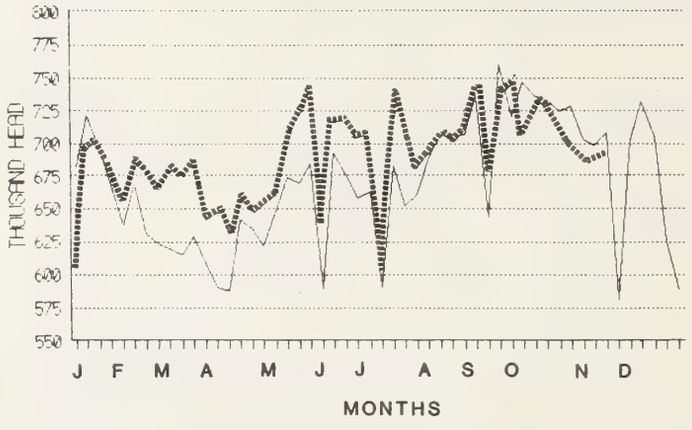
BEEF PRODUCTION, at 1.92 billion pounds was down 1 percent. Head kill was 3.08 million, up fractionally; however, the average live weight declined 5 pounds to 1,072.

VEAL PRODUCTION, at 43 million pounds was up 10 percent. Calf slaughter of 298 thousand head was up 1 percent, and the average live weight increased 13 pounds to 242.

PORK PRODUCTION, totaled 1.33 billion pounds down 10 percent. The 7.60 million head killed declined 10 percent, but the average live weight, at 246 pounds was unchanged.

LAMB and MUTTON, at 30 million pounds was up 3 percent. Slaughter totaled 540 thousand head, up 2 percent, and average live weight increased 2 pounds to 113.

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CATTLE SLAUGHTER



---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER----------

Agricultural Prices
Hay Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS

WHEAT OUTLOOK
MFG. DAIRY PRODUCTS UP
FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION INCREASES
NOVEMBER AG. PRICES
featuring.....RICHLAND COUNTY

WHEAT SITUATION

As 1984 brings in the third largest U.S. wheat harvest ever, the current outlook reflects a season of record supplies, near-record disappearance due to strong exports, and prospects for the lowest national farmgate price in 5 years.

Harvested area in 1984 increased 8 percent and the average yield per acre was only 0.6 bushel lower than 1983's record 39.4. This put the crop at 2.57 billion bushels, up 150 million from a year ago. The increase was sufficient to offset reduced carryin stocks, and to place 1984/85 U.S. wheat supplies at a record of just under 4 billion bushels.

Disappearance in 1984/85 may be much stronger than expected at the outset of the season. Exports and sales since mid-July are up 26 percent from last year, primarily because of heavy shipping to the USSR and China, the two major U.S. wheat customers. Soviet commitments are up more than a third from last year, suggesting the second largest U.S./USSR wheat trade since 1972/73, when the first major grain trade between the two countries took place. Chinese buying accelerated at harvest, but has lagged from earlier expectations, principally because of another record Chinese crop. Total U.S. wheat exports for the season are forecast at 1.53 billion bushels, up 7 percent from last season and the second strongest in history.

(CONTINUED INSIDE)

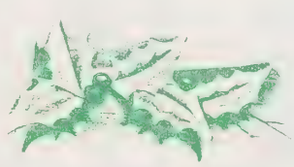
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The disasterous crop year, low farm prices for grain and cattle and the financial problems facing many farmers and ranchers make writing an upbeat Christmas letter somewhat difficult this year. But, problems are relative. We have suffered through bad years and faced crisis situations before. Hopefully, the problems are being recognized and will be addressed with feasible solutions.

Our problems here in Montana are painful to many but not life threatening such as those that face our African neighbors. Imagine the helpless feeling of watching you children and loved ones die from the pain and misery of starvation. Even in the worst of cases few people in this country go hungry.

We are indeed fortunate to be blessed with favorable natural resources and an abundant food supply. But the farmers and ranchers who have invested their lives and fortunes to produce our food are not receiving adequate compensation. The percent of disposable personal income spent for food in the U.S. has now dipped to slightly over 15 percent, down from nearly 16 percent in 1983. This is by far the lowest percent in the world today and clearly not enough to support a healthy agricultural industry.

Those of us who collect data and provide information about Montana agriculture thank you for your support and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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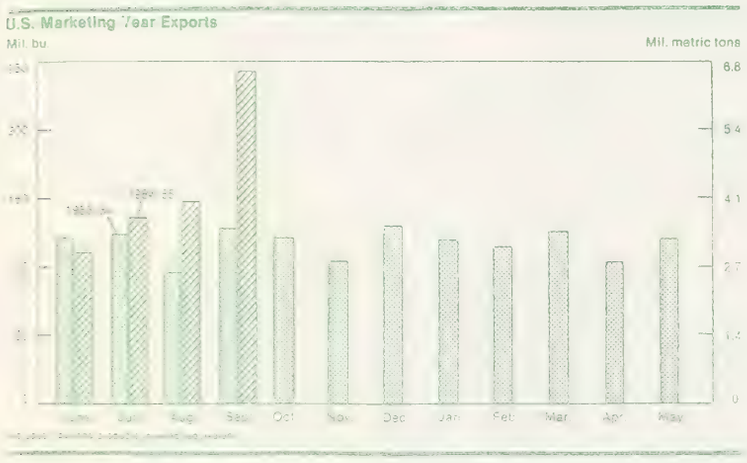
(CONTINUED)

Contributing to increased domestic disappearance was heavy early season use of wheat for feed. Short feed grain and plentiful wheat supplies during June-September upset the more typical premium prices of wheat over feed grains, resulting in record amounts of wheat being fed to livestock and poultry. The current large 1984 feed grain output, however, should turn this situation around, limiting wheat feeding for the rest of the season. Wheat feeding for 1984/85 will be down slightly from a year ago.

Despite the encouraging outlook for demand, large supplies and the reduced loan rate dampen price prospects. Average farm prices during June-September were $3.40 a bushel, compared with $3.53 last year. For all of 1984/85, the season-average farm price may fall below last year's $3.54 a bushel, settling between $3.35 and $3.55.

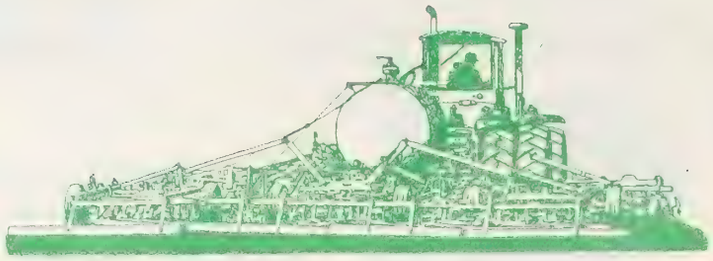
WHEAT EXPORTS



SOURCE: OUTLOOK & SITUATION REPORT--NOVEMBER 1984

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 555,000 pounds of creamed cottage in October--11 percent more than September and 9 percent above the same month last year. Ice cream production moved down seasonally from the previous month but was 7 percent above last year at 148,000 gallons. Butter production moved up from September and was 12 percent above a year ago. American cheese was down seasonally but remained 4 percent above last year's output for October.



MONTANA FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION UP 15 PERCENT

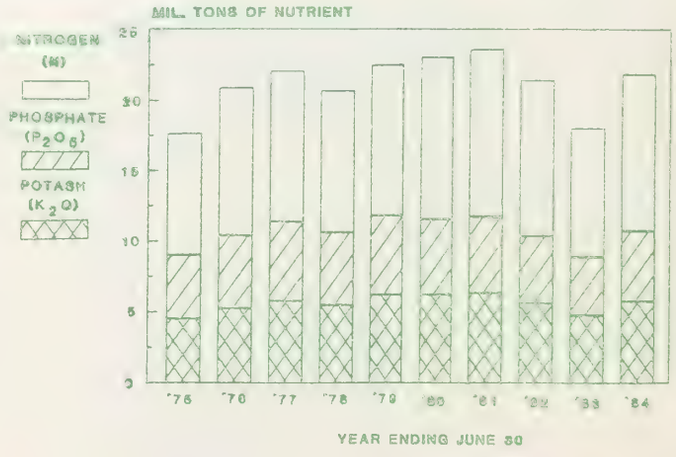
Montana farmers applied 463 thousand tons of fertilizer in the year ended June 30, 1984, an increase of 15 percent over the previous year. Ammonium nitrate lead the advance with a 25 percent increase. Ammonium sulfate and aqua ammonia were each up 15 percent, while Nitrogen solutions fell off 9 percent. Urea was up 12 percent from last year, and other nitrogen material was up 11 percent.

Phosphate materials in the form of ammonium phosphates were up 21 percent from a year ago. Superphosphates were down slightly while other phosphates were up 33 percent but still represent only 5 percent of total phosphate material.

Fertilizer consumption by farmers across the whole nation was up 20 percent from a year ago with 50.2 million tons used in the year ended June 30, 1984. Inspite of the large increase, usage is still 7 percent below the record set in 1981.

UNITED STATES

PLANT NUTRIENT CONSUMPTION



NOVEMBER FARM PRICES

Montana farmers and ranchers received mostly lower prices in mid-November compared with October but many items remained above last year's level. The November index of prices received by Montana farmers was 139 percent of the 1977 average, down 6 points from October and 2 points below last year's November index.

Except for oats, all crop items moved down from October or were unchanged. By contrast all livestock items moved up except for cows and calves. The mid-November cow price averaged $30 per cwt, the lowest level since January 1978. This is the 5th consecutive year that the November cow price has been below the previous year. Although the calf price fell off from October, the average was still 80 cents per cwt above last November. Steer and heifer prices were unchanged from October but $1.00 above a year ago.

Sheep, lambs, hogs, milk and wool were considerably higher than last year and that strength seems to be holding as the mid-November prices were above or unchanged from October.

Looking at crop items, oats are the only commodity showing an increase from October to November. Even after the October to November decline all crop prices except durum and winter wheat are above last year at this date.

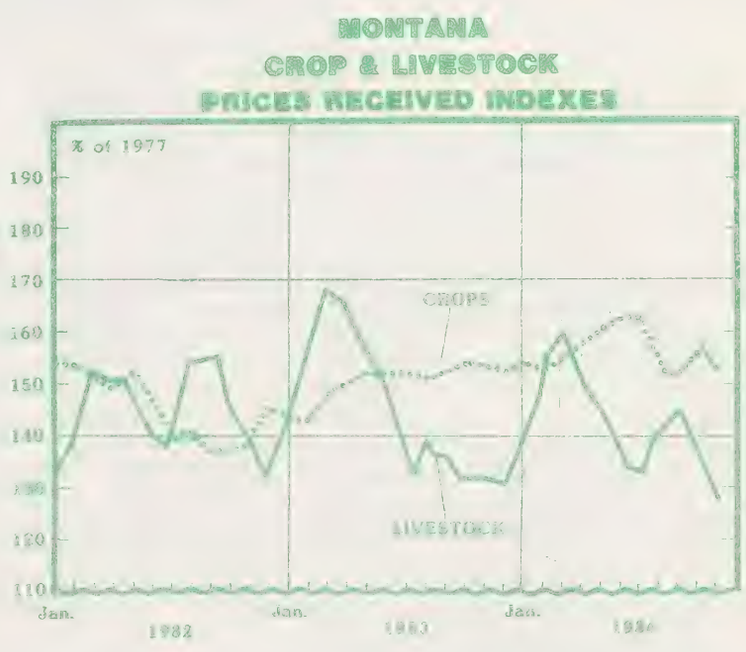
Nationally, the November All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 1 point (0.7 percent_ from October to 137 percent of its January-December 1977 average. In the Index, lower prices for oranges, lettuce, corn, grapefruit and tomatoes were partially offset by higher prices for hogs, eggs, cattle, potatoes and turkeys. The index was 2 points (1.5 percent) above a year ago.

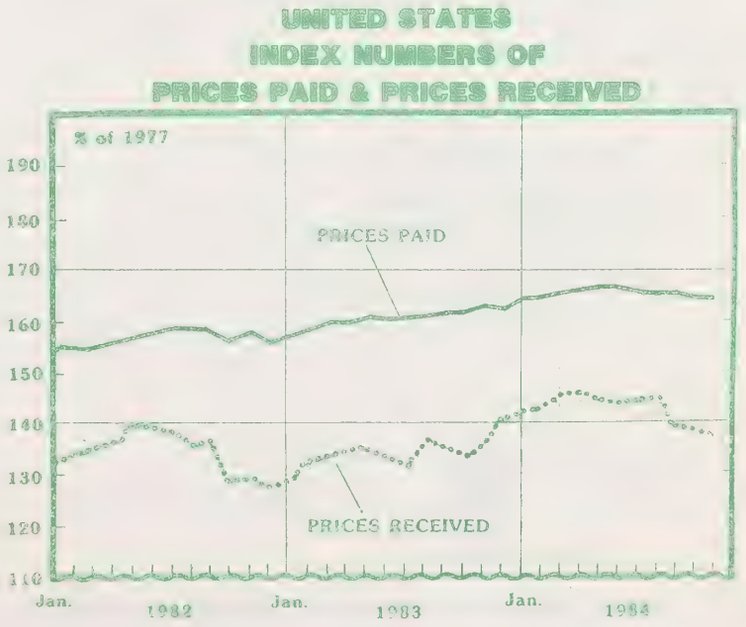
The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Service, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for November was 164 percent of its 1977 base. The index was unchanged from October. Declines in the feeder livestock and fuels & energy indexes were offset by increases in the family living and autos & trucks components. Compared with a year earlier the index was up 2 points (1.2 percent).

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Nov. 15, 1984	Nov. 15, 1984
		Nov. 1983	Oct. 1984		
		---Dollars---			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.53	3.50	3.40	3.39
Durum	Bu.	3.90	3.67	3.60	3.70
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.83	3.75	3.48
All Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.65	3.57	3.43'
Barley	Bu.	2.42	2.77	2.55	2.27
Oats	Bu.	1.62	1.64	1.70	1.66
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	65.00	75.00	75.00	75.80
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	65.00	65.00	62.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	65.00	75.00	75.00	73.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	55.30	56.30	56.30	61.40
Cows	Cwt	32.30	33.70	30.00	32.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.20	43.90	40.50	54.60
Calves	Cwt	58.80	60.90	59.60	58.90
Sheep	Cwt	12.40	13.10	14.10	16.10
Lambs	Cwt	51.30	61.20	61.20	63.10
Hogs	Cwt	34.00	37.30	39.10	47.20
All Milk	Cwt	13.70	14.45	14.45	14.10
Eggs	Doz	.690	.507	.600	.544
Wool 2/	Lb.	.780	.900	.900	.817
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	141	145	139	137
All Crops	Pct.	152	158	153	131
Livestock & Products	Pct.	131	134	128	142

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

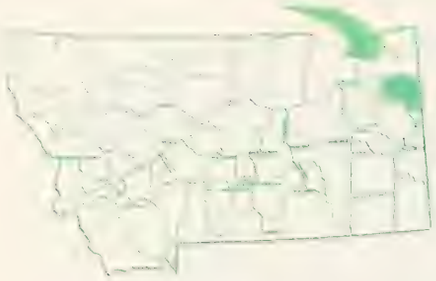




UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1984	Nov. 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	135	138	137
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	162	164	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	83	84	84
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	56	55

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.



featuring. . . . . RICHLAND COUNTY

Richland County occupies 1,332,096 acres of rolling prairie along the Montana/North Dakota border in northeastern Montana. The entire northern boundary of the county is defined by a section of the Missouri River, while the Yellowstone River cuts across the southeastern corner. Richland County was created in May of 1914 and claims Sidney as the county seat. The average precipitafor the area amounts to 13.86 inches.

Farming, and most of it dryland, is the main agricultural interest in the county. It was the second largest oats producer in the state in 1983. Wheat is another major crop as the county ranked 12th in spring wheat production, 16th in durum wheat and 17th in winter wheat production in the 1983 crop production tally. Barley and hay are also raised and brought the county rankings of 22nd and 29th, respectively, in 1983.

Hog raising has been the main livestock interest as Richland county came in 19th in the December 1, 1982 hog inventory. In the January 1, 1983 sheep and cattle inventories the county came in 23rd and 27th, respectively.

Crop production in 1982 returned $38,117,000 to Richland County, while livestock and livestock products brought in $27,520,000. Government payments added a total of $3,809,000 for a final return of $69,446,000 total cash receipts in 1982.

RICHLAND COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,332,096	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	29,840
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,083,207	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	201,000
Number of Farms 1/		555			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Oats	Acres	12,100			
Spring Wheat	Acres	85,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	48,400
Durum Wheat	Acres	1,000	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	5,500
Winter Wheat	Acres	58,000	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	2,400
Barley	Acres	31,600			
All Hay	Acres	42,600			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER----------

Qtrly. Egg Production
Small Grains--Annual Summary
Winter Wheat Seedings
Dec. 1 Hog Inventory
Potato Stocks
Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION OUTLOOK
CATTLE ON FEED UP
ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE COSTS INCREASE
U.S. FARM LABOR
featuring.....GLACIER COUNTY

LIVESTOCK & RED MEATS

HOGS

The September **Hogs and Pigs** report indicated that producers continued to cut back production as planned this summer, and they intend to have fewer sows farrow this fall and winter than a year ago. Hog prices averaged lower this summer than previously expected, but feed costs moderated. Nevertheless, producer returns were above breakeven for only a brief period this summer, the first time in a year. If producers carry out their intentions of having fewer sows farrow during September-February, pork production will decline on a year-over-year basis through at least spring 1985. Smaller pork production, along with lower beef output because of the reduced inventory, should result in higher hog prices. However, greater broiler production will be a price-weakening factor.

DROUGHT and LOW RETURNS HAVE BOOSTED CATTLE SLAUGHTER

Drought and financial difficulties have plagued the beef cattle industry for more than a year. After producers adjusted cow herds because of drastically reduced forage supplies last fall, severe winter storms necessitated increased supplemental feeding and thus brought further reductions in herds. Some additional beef cows may have been slaughtered late last fall as producers became apprehensive about lower prices in 1984.

The farm price of cattle fell to $56 per cwt n 1983, following a high of $66 per cwt in 1979. Prices for feeder steers at Kansas City fell from a 1979 average of $83 to $64 in 1983. Cash costs remained relatively stable through the 4 year period. Thus, net returns on cow-calf operations fell sharply in 1981, 1982 and 1983.

The decline was probably relatively uniform for different size operations. From 1981 through 1983, the units of less than 100 head lost money, as did medium-size operations (100-499 head) in 1983. This is unlikely to change for the smaller units during 1984. Larger operations (greater than 500 head) were able to meet cash expenses during 1981-83, but with a much smaller net margin than they had enjoyed earlier. Returns to both of the larger groups are likely to exceed cash expenses in 1984.

In 1982, over two-thirds of U.S. beef cows were in herds of less than 500. Most of the 100-head-or-under operations were complementary enterprises on crop farms. Many of these operations have had to cut back their herds to raise cash.

Agricultural lending has also gone through significant changes. Deregulation and tighter monetary policy have led to higher interest rates. Together with declining land values, higher interest rates have made it more difficult for producers to service debt against their operations. At the same time, agricultural lenders, particularly commercial banks, have become more cautious when considering new loans and more demanding for payment on existing loans. Consequently, highly leveraged operators faced with a cash flow problem have probably been selling some cows to meet their loan obligations.

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGE.)

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Commercial lamb and mutton production dropped below year-earlier levels this summer, after being above in first-half 1984. Although the inventory of all sheep and lambs on January 1 was down 5 percent, the rate of slaughter was above a year before because poor forage conditions, especially in Texas, caused herd liquidation. Third-quarter production likely totaled 88 million pounds, down 6 percent from a year earlier. During January-August, mature sheep slaughter as a percentage of total slaughter was 8.1 percent, compared with 7.2 percent in the same period last year. Production in the fourth quarter is projected at 80 million pounds, a 12 percent decrease from a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production for all of 1984 is forecast at 358 million pounds, down 2 percent from 1983. Production in 1985 is projected at 320 million pounds, down 11 percent from 1984 because of the herd liquidation since 1982.

Lamb prices have rallied as production has declined on a year-over-year basis. Wholesale lamb prices were sharply higher this summer and exhibited more strength than prices of the other red meats. Choice lamb at San Angelo averaged $61 per cwt this summer, $2 less than in the spring, when prices are seasonally high. Since the seasonal price decline did not materialize this summer, lamb prices in the fourth quarter are projected to average $64 to $68 per cwt, compared with $58 a year ago. For all of 1984, lamb prices are expected to average $62 to $63 per cwt, compared with $58 in 1983. For all of 1985, prices may average $63 to $70, because of the expected price strength throughout the red meat complex.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

Cattle and calves on feed November 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.22 million, a 7 percent increase from a year ago and 1 percent above November 1, 1982.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during October totaled 1.66 million, an increase of 2 percent from last year and up 9 percent from October 1982.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States were 2.55 million, up 3 percent from October 1983 but 2 percent below two years ago. **NET PLACEMENTS** of 2.44 million were up 3 percent from 1983 but 3 percent below 1982.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 110 thousand compared with 102 thousand during october 1983 and 83 thousand two years ago.

NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS DOWN--WAGES HIGHER

During the week of October 7-13, 1984, 3.2 million people were working on farms and ranches in the United States. This includes workers hired directly by the farm operators and agricultural services employees working on farms. This is down 20 percent from July and down 16 percent from October 1980, when the last comparable farm labor survey was conducted. Hired workers represented 37 percent of the total. Of these workers, 1.02 million were hired directly by the farm operators which was 29 and 22 percent fewer than in July 1984 and October 1980, respectively. Farm operators and other unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more accounted for the remaining 2.0 million workers, 12 percent below July and 18 percent below October 1980.

The wage rates for all hired workers was $4.56 per hour, up 9.6 percent from July and up 18 percent from October 1980. The wage rate for workers paid on an hourly basis was $4.45, up 33 cents from July. In October 1980, the wage rate for hourly paid workers was $3.81. Wage rates by categories of workers were: field $4.40, livestock $4.12, and piece rate $5.32.

During the October 7 - 13, 1984 survey week, the self-employed farm operator worked an average of 43.1 hours, 5.1 hours less than in July, but 1.4 hours more than in October 1980. The unpaid workers on farms averaged 36.4 hours for the week, down 4.4 and 2.8 hours from July 1984 and October 1980, respectively. Hired workers averaged 40.2 hours, 3.4 hours more than in July and 0.1 hour more than in October 1980.

FARM ELECTRICITY and TELEPHONE COSTS GO UP

Montana farmers and ranchers paid an average of $64.00 per month during mid-1984 for electric service charges. This represents a 14 percent increase from last year's average monthly costs. Usage increased about 5 percent and cost per kilowatt-hour increased about 10 percent. Telephone bills averaged $59.60 per month during mid-1984, an increase of 22 percent from last year.

Nationally, farmers and ranchers paid an average mid-summer electric bill of $97.40 in 1984 which was 5 percent above the 1983 average of $92.50. Fuel adjustment charges and taxes are included in the electricty costs. The average cost per kilowatt hour (KWH) for U.S. farmers and ranchers was 6.83 cents compared with 6.48 cents in 1983, a 5 percent increase. Usage of electricty averaged 1440 KWH per month in 1984 compared to 1427 KWH a year earlier. Monthly KWH usage was up slightly less than 1 percent. The Northwest continued to have the lowest cost per KWH which was 3.6 cents in Washington, 4.5 cents in Oregon, 4.6 cents in Montana and 4.6 cents in Idaho. The State average cost per KWH was highest in the Northeast with New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware and Massachusetts being the leaders. Usage of electricity was lowest in West Virginia and Arkansas while the highest average usage occurred in Arizona and Washington.

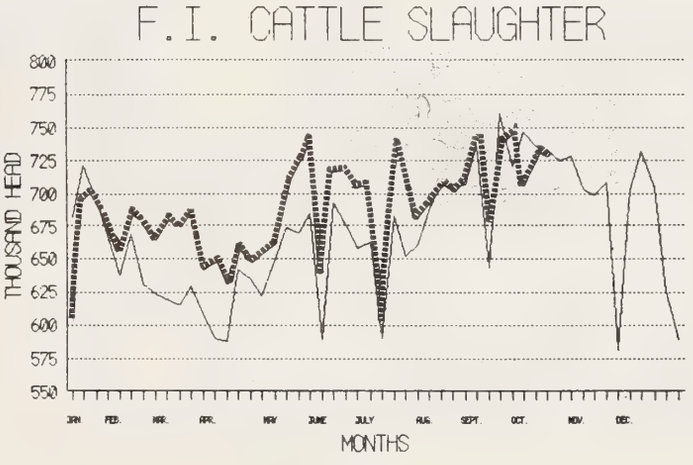
Telephone service for farmers and ranchers in the U.S. averaged $43.90 per month in 1984, up 12 percent from the 1983 average of $39.20. The monthly telephone bill includes charges for local service, long distance calls and extension telephones. The average local service was $15.60 per month in 1984 compared to $14.40 in 1983, up 8 percent.

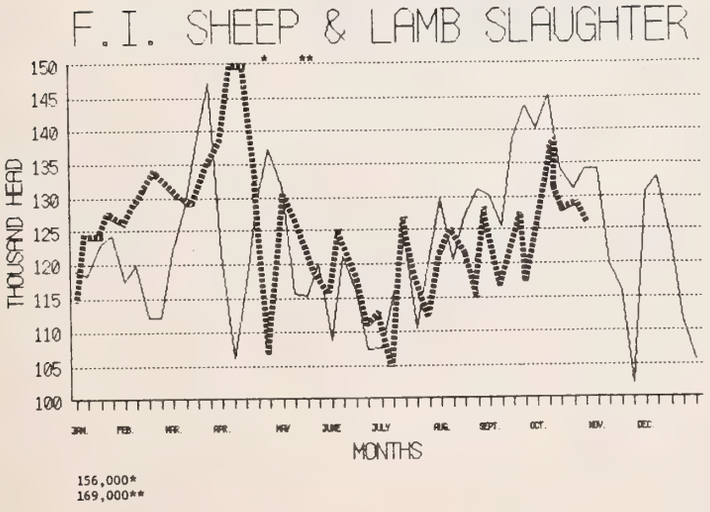
OCTOBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

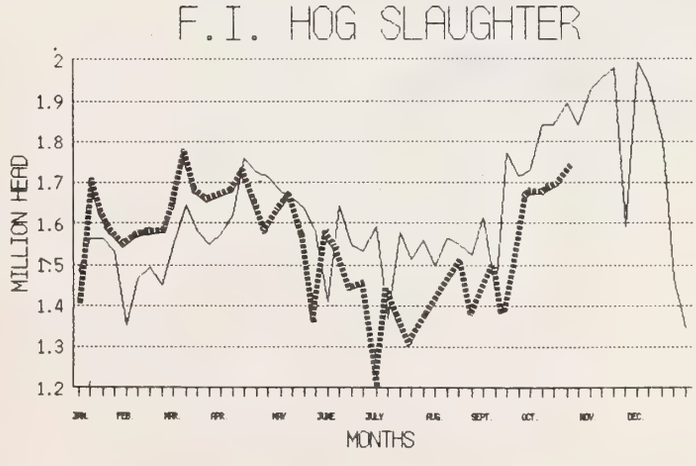
Montana slaughter plants produced 8.1 million pounds of red meat during October. The October production was 34 percent higher than last month and 3 percent higher than October 1983. Total production through the first 10 months of the year was down 58 percent from a year ago, primarily due to a sharp reduction in hog slaughter.

The October slaughter consisted of 9,600 cattle, 17,600 hogs, and 400 sheep. In terms of total liveweight, the cattle slaughter was up 2 percent while the hog slaughter was up 10 percent from last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in October 1984 totaled 3.67 billion pounds, up 4 percent from October 1983. January-October red meat production, at 32.5 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from last year. The 1984 accumulated production percent changes by individual components were: beef, up 3 percent; veal, up 13 percent; pork, down 1 percent; lamb and mutton, up 1 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.







*featuring. . . . .*GLACIER COUNTY

Glacier County was created in April of 1919. It occupies 1,916,454 acres of north central Montana. The Canadian border defines its northern boundary, and the crest of the main range of the Rocky Mountains its western boundary. Cut Bank is the county seat and this area has an annual average precipitation of 11.99 inches. Nearly one half of Glacier National Park lies within the county's boundaries as the western border of Glacier County runs down the center of the park. The rugged mountains in the west give way to sloping plains in the eastern portion of the county. The Blackfeet Indian Reservation occupies all but the extreme eastern edge of the rest of the county. The east-west length of Glacier County is traversed by the Milk River, Cut Bank Creek and the Two Medicine River.

The main agricultural industries in the county include hog raising--for which the county ranked 4th in the December 1, 1982 inventory--also barley and spring wheat production for which Glacier County ranked 6th and 10th, respectively. Some cattle and sheep are also raised, while other crops produced include durum and winter wheat, oats and hay.

Crops contributed the greatest amount in cash receipts with $28,683,000 in 1982. Livestock and livestock products brought in $9,466,000 and government payments added $4,615,000 for a total cash return of $42,764,000, and a rank of 17th for total cash receipts in 1982.

GLACIER COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	1,916,454	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	19,000
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,649,452	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	222,000
Number of Farms 1/	Acres	349			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Barley	Acres	120,200			
Spring Wheat	Acres	95,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	40,400
Durum Wheat	Acres	800	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	4,500
Winter Wheat	Acres	12,000	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	8,500
Oats	Acres	2,200			
All Hay	Acres	24,400			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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AGRICULTURAL FINANCE SURVEY

The problem of agricultural credit and the depressed agricultural economy is a major issue of deep concern to farmers and ranchers, agricultural leaders and lending institutions in the state of Montana. The 1984 drouth and other natural disasters have created additional financial stress.

Two surveys were conducted to help identify the extent and severity of agricultural credit problems in Montana. Questionnaires asking about farm credit were sent to about 1,500 farmers, all 175 commercial banks, the Farm and Home Administration (FmHA), Production Credit Associations (PCAs), and Federal Land Banks (FLBs). Non-respondents were contacted by telephone.

RESULTS OF FARM OPERATOR SURVEY

Results of the farm operators survey show that 18 percent of Montana farmers are delinquent on real estate loan payments. A breakdown shows that about half of those have been able to stay current on interest payments only. The delinquency rate is somewhat higher among farms of less than a thousand acres, averaging 25 to 29 percent.

ONLY 7 OUT OF 10 CURRENT ON OPERATING LOANS

For non-real estate or loans used to purchase operating equipment and supplies 31 percent of the state's farmers are delinquent in their payments. However, 61 percent of those are current on interest payments only. All sizes of operations seem to be having trouble keeping current on operating loans, but those under 1,000 acres in size are running above average on delinquency, while those between 1,000 and 2,000 acres are below average.

LOAN DELINQUENCY RATE BY SIZE OF FARM

SIZE OF FARM	REAL ESTATE LOANS DELINQUENT	NON-REAL ESTATE LOANS DELINQUENT
-Acres-	--------Percent--------	
499 or Less	25.0	31.8
500-999	28.6	37.5
1,000-1,999	14.3	24.5
2,000-2,999	18.8	34.1
3,000-4,999	13.6	32.1
5,000-9,999	8.6	31.8
10,000 +	12.7	28.3
STATE TOTAL	17.6	30.6

Interest rates averaged 10.4 percent for real estate and 13.9 percent for non-real estate loans. Six percent of the survey respondents had been denied credit between January and September 1984. About 4 out of 10 were able to obtain credit elsewhere.

MONTANA FARM FINANCE BALANCE SHEET BY GROSS FARM INCOME

GROSS FARM INCOME	NUMBER OF REPORTS	DEBT TO ASSET RATIO AVERAGE	FARM ASSETS AVERAGE	FARM DEBT AVERAGE	PERCENT DEBT IN LAND CONTRACTS	INTEREST PAID AVERAGE
		-Percent-	-----Dollars-----		--Percent--	-Dollars-
< $10,000	19	14.6	230,418	33,582	26.9	3,543
$10,000-19,999	27	17.1	418,961	71,533	27.0	6,982
$20,000-39,999	57	26.1	371,108	96,740	31.5	9,084
$40,000-69,999	63	21.8	506,527	110,196	40.0	15,729
$70,000-99,999	86	29.3	795,464	232,780	49.3	23,745
$100,000-199,999	104	28.9	1,063,302	306,903	45.9	30,999
$200,000 +	53	34.1	2,007,900	684,813	47.1	65,844
STATE TOTAL	414	28.2	769,114	216,854	39.7	22,241

MONTANA FARM FINANCE BALANCE SHEET BY TYPE OF FARM

TYPE OF FARM	NUMBER OF REPORTS	DEBT TO ASSET RATIO AVERAGE	FARM ASSETS AVERAGE	FARM DEBT AVERAGE	PERCENT DEBT IN LAND CONTRACTS	INTEREST PAID AVERAGE
		-Percent-	-----Dollars-----		--Percent--	-Dollars-
Cash Grains Only	78	23.4	799,472	186,710	33.1	15,978
Mostly Crops	106	30.8	763,397	235,281	51.5	24,296
Livestock Only	91	24.5	681,227	166,685	33.2	16,108
Mostly Livestock	119	30.1	787,260	237,107	42.5	26,240
All Other	20	34.4	912,546	313,605	27.4	35,713
STATE TOTAL	414	28.2	769,114	216,854	39.7	22,241

WHAT IS THE MAJOR CAUSE OF FARM PROBLEMS TODAY?

	ALL FARMERS & RANCHERS	CASH GRAIN	LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS	COMMERCIAL BANKS	FmHA	PCAS	FED LAND BANK
			--Percent--				
Bought Land Too High	3.7	3.1	4.3	5.0	--	--	--
High Cost of Equipment	12.9	15.2	13.7	6.3	--	--	--
High Interest Rates	22.3	19.9	23.1	17.5	50.0	10.0	13.3
Government Farm Programs	4.8	3.6	6.7	2.5	--	--	--
High Input Costs	10.0	7.6	9.8	6.2	--	30.0	6.7
Low Market Prices	36.0	36.9	33.1	39.4	--	60.0	40.0
Natural Disasters	8.7	11.5	8.9	6.9	20.0	--	20.0
Other 1/	1.6	2.1	8.4	16.2	30.0	--	20.0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Poor management, over-mechanized and all other.

OCTOBER FARM PRICES

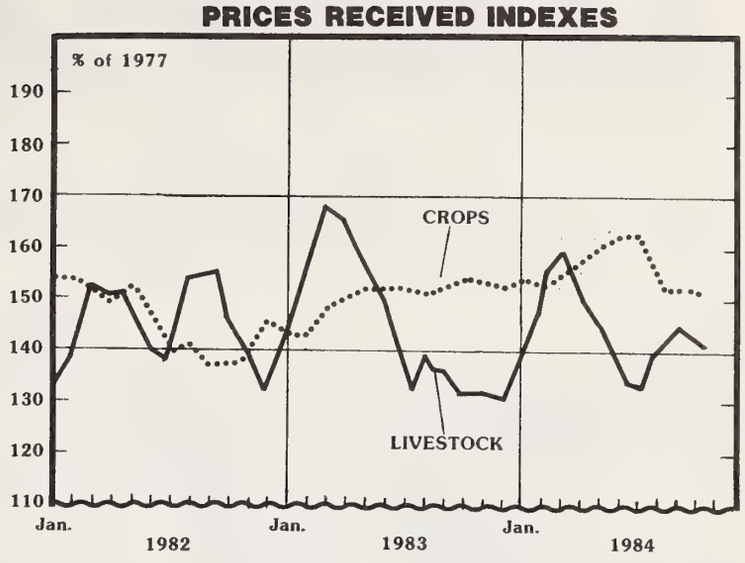
The October index of prices received by Montana farmers declined 2 points from September but is still 3 points above last year. The index at 146 percent of the 1977=100 average was pulled down by a drop in both the crops index and the livestock index.

Crops showed mixed changes with spring wheat and barley down; winter wheat, durum and oats up, and hay unchanged. Livestock and livestock products were down except cows and milk were up and wool was unchanged.

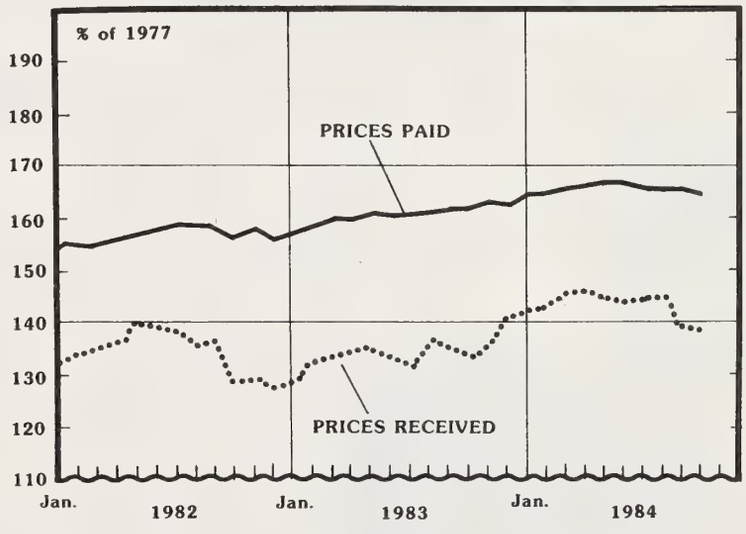
The October all farm products index of prices received by U.S. farmers decreased 1 point from September to 138 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for cattle, hogs, corn, broilers, and eggs were partially offset by higher prices for oranges, grapefruit, milk, lettuce and strawberries. The index was 4 points (3.0 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for October was 164 percent of its 1977 base, down 1 point (0.6 percent) from September. Prices for feed and fertilizer were lower. Higher prices for feeder cattle and calves and diesel fuel were partially offsetting. The index was up 3 points (1.9 percent) from a year earlier.

MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES
INDEX NUMBERS OF
PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Oct. 1983	Sept. 1984	Oct. 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	134	139	138
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	161	165	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	83	84	84
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	56	56

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

A COMPLETE SUMMARY OF THE AGRICULTURAL FINANCE SURVEY CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING OUR OFFICE.

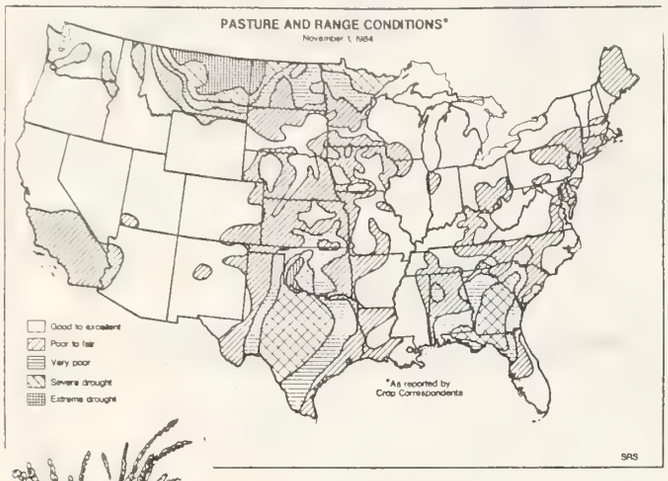
AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1983	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1984	MONTANA Oct. 15, 1984	U.S. Oct. 15, 1984
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.43	3.45	3.38
Durum	Bu.	4.07	3.50	3.60	3.69
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.77	3.75	3.45
All Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.61	3.61	3.42
Barley	Bu.	2.38	2.46	2.43	2.24
Oats	Bu.	1.63	1.54	1.60	1.62
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	60.00	70.00	70.00	74.50
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	65.00	65.00	62.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	60.00	70.00	70.00	71.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt	51.70	57.10	56.10	59.40
Cows	Cwt	33.00	35.50	36.00	35.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.70	49.20	48.70	54.30
Calves	Cwt	57.40	57.90	57.50	58.40
Sheep	Cwt	10.20	11.20	10.90	15.30
Lambs	Cwt	47.00	60.90	60.30	61.90
Hogs	Cwt	40.50	41.50	39.10	43.20
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	14.00	14.10	13.90
Eggs	Doz	.620	.540	.507	.478
Wool 2/	Lb.	.790	.900	.900	.813
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	143	148	146	138
All Crops	Pct.	154	153	152	138
Livestock & Products	Pct.	132	144	141	138

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

PASTURE & RANGE

Montana's pasture and range condition on November 1 was 56 percent of normal--up 3 points from October 1 but down 17 points from a year ago. Many ranges received some moisture during October, but it came too late to stimulate growth. Hay supplies are short in much of the eastern portion of the state, and due to limited grazing, the hay feeding season will start earlier than normal.



HAPPY

THANKSGIVING!

THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

Throughout the 1984 crop year the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service has been making monthly production forecasts for the major crops. As the harvest season has ended, plans to obtain final 1984 data on acreage, yield and production are underway.

More than 10,000 Montana farmers and ranchers were mailed a questionaire the last of October asking for information on crop acreage and production by cropping practice.

Telephone calls will be made to a sample of producers who fail to respond by mail to assure adequate coverage and accurate results. It is from this annual acreage and production survey that county and state estimates are developed. Such figures are important in providing an accurate picture of crop production for each county and for Montana.

Similar surveys will be conducted in other states and final state and national survey results will be published for small grains on December 20, 1984.

---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER----------

Slaughter

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS

MONTANA & U.S. GRAIN STOCKS
SLAUGHTER DECREASES
MILK PRODUCTION UNCHANGED
CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS INCREASE
NEW FARM CREDIT INITIATIVE (back page)

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Stocks of wheat in Montana on October 1, 1984 in all storage positions totaled 161.3 million bushels--down 21 percent from a year ago and the lowest October 1 stocks since 1975. Wheat stored on farms accounted for 80 percent of the total with the remainder in commercial storage. Disappearance of wheat since June 1 totaled 38.7 million bushels--18 percent less than a year ago.

Winter wheat at 96.2 million bushels was down 14 percent from last year. All spring wheat at 65.1 million bushels was down 29 percent with the durum portion at 9.4 million, down 30 percent.

Barley stocks in all positions at 56.6 million bushels were down 18 percent. Oats at 4.9 million were down 23 percent.

NATION'S WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on October 1, 1984 totaled 2.72 billion bushels, 8 percent less than the 2.96 billion bushels stored on October 1 a year ago. Farm stocks of 1.20 billion bushels accounted for 44 percent of the total. Wheat stored off-farms totaled 1.52 billion bushels. Farm stocks are 3 percent below October 1, 1983 while off-farm stocks are down 11 percent from last year. Indicated disappearance of all wheat during June-September 1984 stands at 1.24 billion bushels, compared with 980 million bushels during the same period a year ago. Disappearance during the June-September period implies a higher feed usage than normal.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions October 1, 1984 totaled 179 million bushels, up 12 percent from the 159 million bushels on hand October 1, 1983. Farm stocks, at 127 million bushels, are 13 percent more than the 113 million bushels on hand a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 51.4 million bushels, are 11 percent above October 1 last year. Indicated June-September 1984 disappearance of durum wheat is 27.5 million bushels, down 45 percent from the 49.7 million bushels recorded for the comparable period a year earlier.

Barley stored in all positions on October 1, 1984 totaled 583 million bushels, 13 percent more than on October 1 a year ago and 18 percent greater than on the same date in 1982. Of the total barley stocks on hand October 1, 1984, 70 percent, or 411 million bushels was stored on farms. Farm stocks were 20 percent more than a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 173 million bushels, were up less than one percent from last October 1 level. Indicated disappearance during June-September 1984 was 211 million bushels, 1 percent more than the corresponding period a year ago.

(See tables inside.)

STOCKS OF GRAIN OCTOBER 1, 1984 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 1, 1983*	June 1, 1984*	Oct. 1, 1984	% Chg. '84/'83	Oct. 1, 1983*	June 1, 1984*	Oct. 1, 1984
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	167,055	72,573	129,849	-22	1,235,870	591,650	1,200,018
Off Farms 1/	36,520	21,057	31,490	-14	1,719,317	806,725	1,523,768
TOTAL	203,575	93,630	161,339	-21	2,955,187	1,398,375	2,723,786
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	92,428	37,963	77,215	-17	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	19,518	12,262	19,030	- 3	--	--	--
TOTAL	111,946	50,225	96,245	-14	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	74,627	34,610	52,634	-29	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	17,002	8,795	12,460	-27	--	--	--
TOTAL	91,629	43,405	65,094	-29	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms	4/	4/	4/	4/	112,849	73,727	127,387
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	46,392	27,125	51,385
TOTAL	13,453	9,407	9,424	-30	159,241	100,852	178,772
CORN							
On Farms	28	191	27	- 4	1,510,394	1,210,608	346,916
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	1,609,543	931,986	375,367
TOTAL	4/	4/	4/	4/	3,119,937	2,142,594	722,283
OATS							
On Farms	6,072	2,165	4,735	-22	426,127	151,291	397,590
Off Farms 1/	297	124	170	-43	79,090	29,812	76,584
TOTAL	6,369	2,289	4,905	-23	505,217	181,103	474,174
BARLEY							
On Farms	60,606	10,101	48,572	-20	343,884	116,829	410,944
Off Farms 1/	8,319	2,150	8,020	- 4	171,630	72,353	172,532
TOTAL	68,925	12,251	56,592	-18	515,514	189,182	583,476
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	59,937	60,311	37,204
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	340,296	307,017	212,836
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	400,233	367,328	250,040

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Oct. 1, 1983	June 1, 1984*	Oct. 1, 1984	Oct. 1, 1983	June 1, 1984*	Oct. 1, 1984
	-------Million Bushels-------			-------Million Bushels-------		
Northwest	1.0	.3	1.0	2.4	.4	2.6
North Central	85.9	37.6	69.0	33.7	5.2	22.6
Northeast	55.0	30.4	41.4	6.2	1.4	6.5
Central	29.6	9.7	20.7	15.3	3.7	11.8
Southwest	3.5	2.2	4.1	4.8	.4	4.9
South Central	16.7	7.7	14.9	4.8	1.0	6.7
Southeast	11.9	5.7	10.2	1.7	.2	1.5
STATE	203.6	93.6	161.3	68.9	12.3	56.6

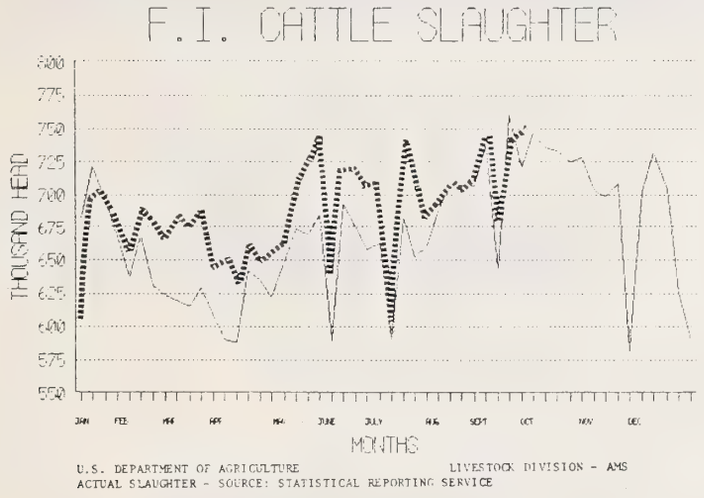
1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

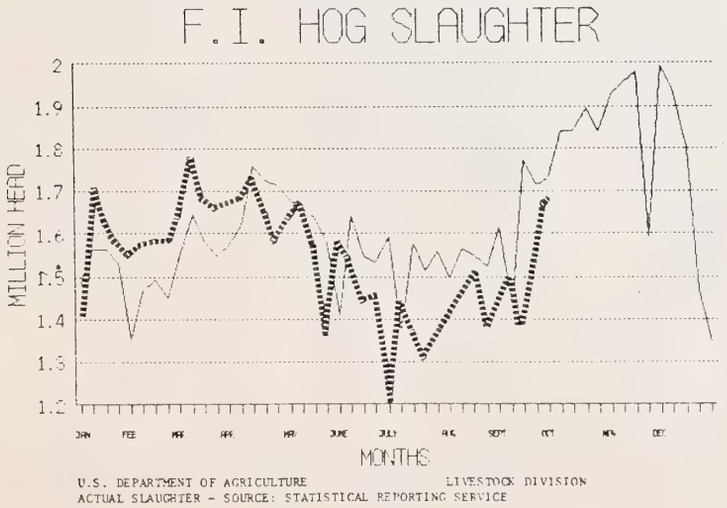
RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 6.1 million pounds of red meat during September. The September production was 8 percent higher than the previous month but 50 percent lower than September 1983. Montana's total red meat production through the first 9 months of the year was down 63 percent from a year ago, primarily due to a sharp reduction in hog slaughter.

The September slaughter consisted of 7,700 cattle, 11,500 hogs and 400 sheep. Interms of total liveweight, the cattle kill was down 28 percent from last year, while the hog kill was down 68 percent.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in September 1984 totaled 3.11 billion pounds, down 9 percent from September 1983. January-September red meat production, at 28.9 billion pounds, is up 1 percent from last year. The 1984 accumulated production percent changes by individual components were: Beef, up 2 percent; Veal, up 13 percent; Pork, down 1 percent; Lamb and Mutton, up 1 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.


F.I. CATTLE SLAUGHTER
THOUSAND HEAD
MONTHS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LIVESTOCK DIVISION - AMS
ACTUAL SLAUGHTER - SOURCE: STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE



MILK PRODUCTION STEADY

From July through September, Montana's dairy industry saw few changes from the same period a year ago. Milk production for the quarter was unchanged at 91 million pounds. The size of the state's milk cow herd remained the same at 29,000 head. Grain and other concentrates fed was unchanged at 14.0 pounds per cow. The value of grain and concentrates, however, increased from $6.80 to $7.10 per cwt.

Nationally, milk production during the third quarter of 1984 totaled 33.6 billion pounds, 4 percent less than the third quarter of 1983. Production per cow averaged 3,104 pounds during the quarter, 41 pounds below the same quarter last year. The total number of milk cows averaged 10.8 million head for the quarter, 3 percent less than last year.

JULY-SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MILK COWS		MILK PROD.	
	1983	1984	1983	1984
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	955	971	3,852	3,991
IDAHO	176	163	621	584
MINN	902	880	2,557	2,315
MONT	29	29	91	91
N DAK	102	99	268	246
ORE	101	97	358	350
S DAK	167	162	469	424
WASH	217	211	906	878
WISC	1,846	1,824	6,027	5,938
WYO	11.9	11.8	36.4	34.2
U.S.	11,135	10,836	35,015	33,640

CATTLE ON FEED UP

CATTLE ON FEED October 1, 1984 in the 7 monthly States totaled 7.44 million, a 7 percent increase from the previous year and a 4 percent increase from 1982. **PLACEMENTS** in feedlots during September, of 2.27 million, were up 13 percent from last year and 14 percent above 1982. **MARKETINGS** during September totaled 1.49 million, 11 percent below 1983 and 5 percent below 1982. There were 2 less slaughter days in September 1984 than in September 1983. **OTHER DISAPPEARANCE** during September was 81 thousand head, 14 percent above last year but 2 percent below 1982.

FARM CREDIT INITIATIVE

On September 18, President Reagan, announced provisions for restructuring farm debt. The program as announced contains four provisions:

--The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) will, on a case-by-case basis, defer 25 percent of the principal and interest payments owed by selected farmers for up to 5 years.

--Federal guarantees of $630 million are being made available to private farm lenders who agree to write off 10 percent of farm debt owed in selected problem farm situations.

--Experts from local communities will be asked to help farmers develop financial and production management plans.

--FmHA can contract out some routine paperwork to private banks and other financial institutions in order to reduce backlogs.

As of July 31, 1984, FmHA had 270,986 farm and ranch borrowers, providing approximately 11 percent of the Nation's farm credit. Of these borrowers, 31 percent are behind in their payments. For the past 3 years, however, more than 97 percent of FmHA's borrowers have been able to remain in farming. Since October 1, 1984, the Secretary of Agriculture has provided special credit assistance to 65,022 FmHA farm borrowers including deferral of loan payments, and rescheduling and subordination of liens to commercial lenders in the private sector.

---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER----------

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Pasture & Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS

MONTANA & U.S. CROP PRODUCTION FORECASTS
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
AG PRICES FOR SEPTEMBER
featuring.....BIG HORN COUNTY

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at 2.57 billion bushels, up 6 percent from the 1983 total, but 7 percent less than in 1982. Durum production is expected to be 44 percent above last year, but 28 percent below 1982. Hard red spring wheat totals should be 20 percent below the record high 1982 crop. The winter wheat production forecast is up 2 percent from 1983, but down 2 percent from 1982.

Production of barley is forecast at a record 606 million bushels, up 19 percent from last year and 17 percent above 1982. Production of corn for grain is forecast at 7.50 billion bushels, up 80 percent from last year's drought-stricken crop, but 9 percent below the record high crop of 1982.

OCTOBER 1 CROP FORECAST

Montana's harvest season is nearly complete except for some late season crops. Production levels are considerably below last year because of the extended drought conditions. Production changes from 1983 are:

Winter Wheat	--	Down 15%
Hard Spring Wheat	--	Down 32%
Durum Wheat	--	Down 26%
Barley	--	Down 25%
Oats	--	Up 1%
Corn for Grain	--	Up 10%
All Hay	--	Down 11%
Potatoes	--	Up 7%
Sugarbeets	--	Down 45%
Dry Beans	--	Up 392%

By October 1 the small grain harvest was essentially complete. The corn silage harvest was 80 percent complete and the dry bean harvest 65 percent complete. Lifting of sugarbeets was just getting underway and about 40 percent of the potatoes had been dug.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- OCTOBER 1, 1984

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,260	2,480	35.0	27.0	79,100	66,960
Durum Wheat	Bu.	205	189	20.0	16.0	4,100	3,024
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	1,990	2,025	27.0	18.0	53,730	36,450
All Wheat	Bu.	4,455	4,694	30.7	22.7	136,930	106,434
Corn for Grain	Bu.	13	15	105.0	100.0	1,365	1,500
Oats	Bu.	120	140	44.0	38.0	5,280	5,320
Barley	Bu.	1,850	2,090	42.0	28.0	77,700	58,520
Potatoes (Fall)	Cwt	7.2	7.4	250.0	260.0	1,800	1,924
Dry Beans	Cwt	2.8	8.5	13.2	17.0	37	145
Sugarbeets	Ton	41.3	25.0	19.8	18.0	818	450
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,170	1,200	2.30	2.00	2,691	2,400
All Other Hay	Ton	1,000	1,100	1.35	1.10	1,350	1,210
All Hay	Ton	2,170	2,300	1.86	1.57	4,041	3,610
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	1,800 1/	2,300 1/

1/ Actual Tons.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT – OCTOBER 1, 1984

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1983	Ind. 1984	% Chg.	1983	Ind. 1984	% Chg.	1983	Ind. 1984	% Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--			--(000) Bu.--			--(000) Bu.--		
Northwest	847.0	833.0	- 2	365.0	264.0	-28	2,901.9	3,248.0	+12
N. Central	43,924.7	30,856.0	-30	26,977.0	15,066.0	-44	41,570.6	24,389.0	-41
Northeast	7,679.0	6,499.0	-15	23,329.0	18,179.0	-22	5,865.1	7,260.0	+24
Central	11,742.0	12,238.0	+ 4	2,761.0	1,576.0	-43	15,950.3	11,178.0	-30
Southwest	1,590.4	1,600.0	+ 1	1,272.0	1,161.0	- 9	4,709.2	5,452.0	+16
S. Central	7,109.4	7,884.0	+11	1,036.0	1,196.0	+15	4,812.8	4,978.0	+ 3
Southeast	6,207.5	7,050.0	+14	2,090.0	2,032.0	- 3	1,890.1	2,015.0	+ 7
STATE	79,100.0	66,960.0	-15	57,830.0	39,474.0	-32	77,700.0	58,520.0	-25

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- OCTOBER 1, 1984

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
		(000)				(000 Bu.)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	47,584	51,009	41.8	39.9	1,988,304	2,036,028
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,492	3,194	29.3	33.0	72,979	105,403
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	11,314	11,991	31.7	35.8	358,541	428,869
All Wheat	Bu.	61,390	66,194	39.4	38.8	2,419,824	2,570,300
Corn for Grain	Bu.	51,443	71,064	81.0	105.5	4,166,108	7,497,831
Oats	Bu.	9,076	8,088	52.6	58.4	477,133	472,460
Barley	Bu.	9,727	11,299	52.3	53.9	508,344	605,700
Potatoes (Fall)	Cwt.	1,051.5	1,089.9	280.0	284.0	294,679	310,048
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,136.7	1,415.0	13.65	14.32	15,518	20,261
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,055.8	1,094.7	19.9	20.3	21,009	22,183
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,710	27,257	3.20	3.40	82,212	92,600
All Other Hay	Ton	33,987	34,994	1.72	1.76	58,522	61,451
All Hay	Ton	59,697	62,251	2.36	2.47	140,734	153,356
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	179,700 1/	182,400 1/

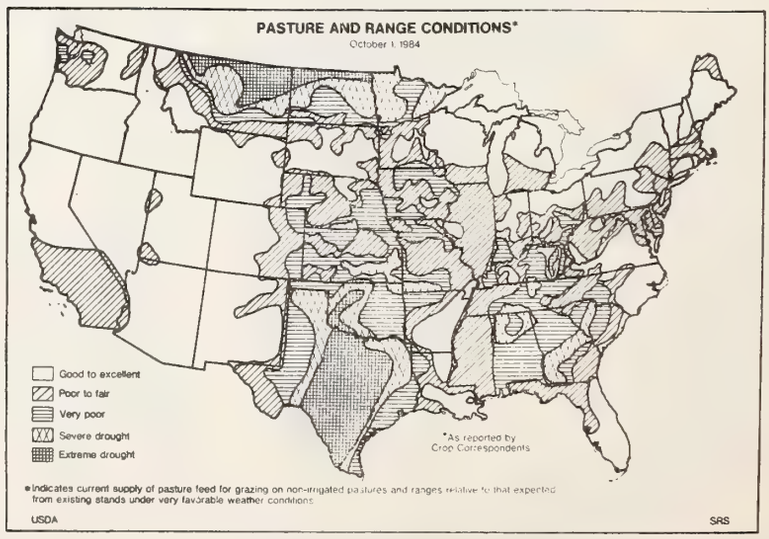
1/ Actual tons.

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION POOR

Montana's pasture and range condition on October 1 was 53 percent of normal--down 1 point from September 1 and down 18 points from a year ago. This is the lowest October 1 pasture and range condition since the mid-1930s. Rain and snow the last half of September softened range grasses, but came too late to improve grazing significantly.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION by District as a Percent of Normal, Oct. 1

DISTRICT	1982	1983	1984
Northwest	88	89	82
North Central	89	67	32
Northeast	89	48	27
Central	90	76	51
Southwest	92	94	86
South Central	93	69	60
Southeast	99	68	5?
STATE	92	71	53


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
October 1, 1984
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents
•Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions
USDA
SRS

FARM PRICES

The September index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers for the products they sell was 151 percent of the 1977 base--up 6 points from the August index. The all crops index at 153 was unchanged from last month while the livestock and products index was up 9 points.

Price increases from August to September were noted for durum, hard spring wheat, barley, steers and heifers, calves, lambs, and milk. Prices went down for oats, hay, cows, sheep, hogs and eggs. Winter wheat and wool remained steady.

Nationally, the September all farm products index of prices received by farmers decreased 4 points from August to 139 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for potatoes, hogs, cattle, oranges, soybeans and corn were partially offset by higher prices for milk, tobacco, peaches, broilers and apples. The September index was 3 points above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for September was 165 percent of its 1977 base. This was unchanged from August but 3 points above a year earlier. Compared with August the feed and feeder livestock indexes were lower but the fuels and energy index was higher.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Sept. 1983	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	136	143	139
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	162	165	165
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	84	87	84
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	56	58	56

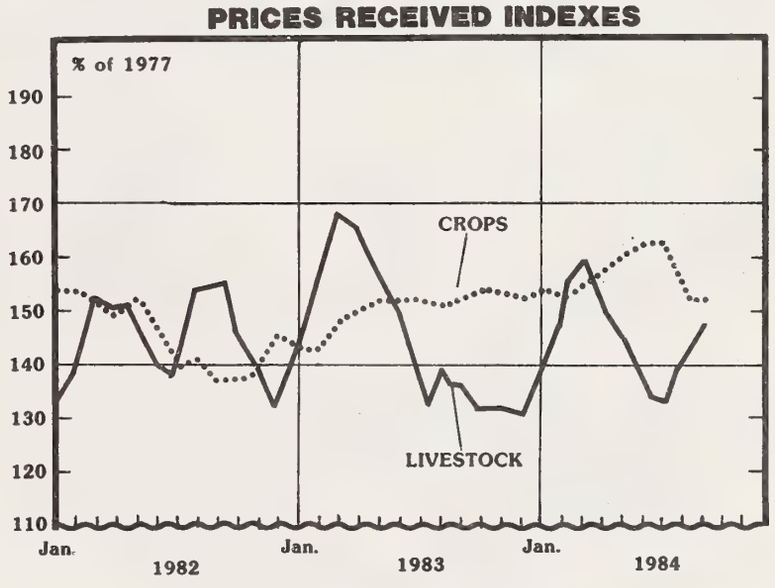
1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

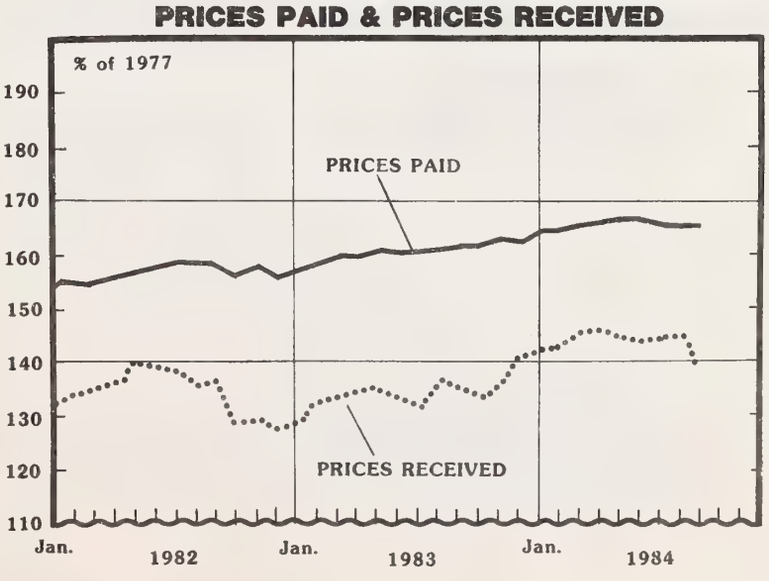
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1983	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1984	MONTANA Sept. 15, 1984	U.S. Sept. 15, 1984
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.45	3.45	3.38
Durum	Bu.	3.96	3.65	3.70	3.69
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.69	3.70	3.46
All Wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.57	3.62	3.42
Barley	Bu.	2.27	2.53	2.54	2.26
Oats	Bu.	1.39	1.79	1.70	1.65
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	60.00	75.00	70.00	74.20
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	65.00	65.00	62.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	60.00	75.00	70.00	71.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	52.60	56.60	56.90	60.10
Cows	Cwt	35.90	37.70	34.80	35.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	47.30	46.50	51.40	55.00
Calves	Cwt	54.70	57.80	58.50	57.80
Sheep	Cwt	10.40	12.40	10.90	17.80
Lambs	Cwt	43.00	60.80	62.50	62.20
Hogs	Cwt	41.10	44.50	42.30	46.60
All Milk	Cwt	13.50	13.70	14.10	13.40
Eggs	Doz	.600	.550	.540	.510
Wool 2/	Lb.	.800	.900	.900	.761
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	145	145	151	139
All Crops	Pct.	153	153	153	138
Livestock & Products	Pct.	137	139	148	140

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring..... BIG HORN COUNTY

Big Horn County was created in January of 1913 and occupies approximately 3,188,182 acres of land along the Montana/Wyoming border in south central Montana. The Crow Indian Reservation is almost entirely contained within the boundaries of Big Horn County, as well as half of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Big Horn Lake makes up a section of the western border of the county, and the Big Horn River flows from the north end of the lake at the Yellowtail Dam. The river continues north, is joined by the Little Big Horn River in north central Big Horn County, and eventually empties into the yellowstone River just outside the county's northern boundary. The Rosebud Mountain range occupies a portion of the eastern half of the county, while the Big Horn Mountains lie in the southwestern corner.

Big Horn County was the second largest cattle raising county in the state in 1983, while it came in 12th for hog numbers in 1982 and 24th in the sheep inventory on January 1, 1983.

Major crops grown in the area include hay, winter wheat, and barley. The county ranked 8th 11th and 18th, respectively, for these crops in the 1983 crop production rankings. Big Horn county also came in 21st for durum wheat production, 25th for spring wheat, and 27th for oats.

The large number of cattle raised, along with the other livestock and livestock products, returned $32,412,000 to the county in 1982. Crop production contributed $25,641,000 and government payments added $2,027,00. This made for a total of $60,080,000 in all cash receipts for Big Horn County in 1982.

BIG HORN COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area 1/	Acres	3,188,182	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	37,280
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	2,701,713	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	146,400
Number of Farms 1/	Acres	462			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
All Hay	Acres	56,000			
Winter Wheat	Acres	95,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	131,200
Barley	Acres	30,000	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	5,400
Durum Wheat	Acres	100	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	3,500
Spring Wheat	Acres	14,000			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Grain Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS INCREASE
CATTLE SITUATION
HOG NUMBERS DROP
U.S. & MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION
SLAUGHTER DECREASES
featuring.....FERGUS COUNTY

CATTLE ON FEED UP

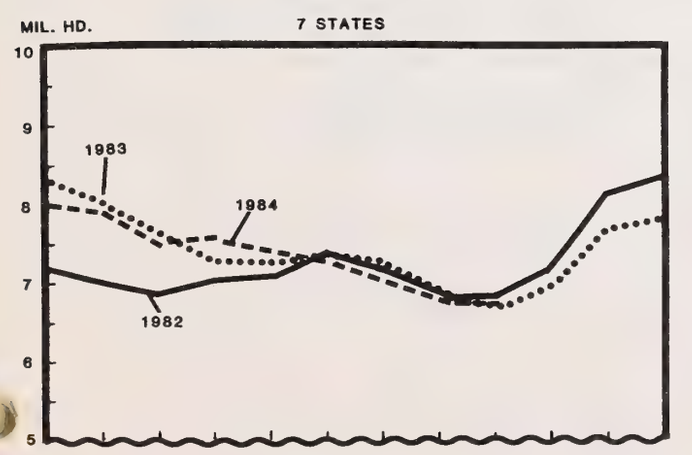
Cattle and calves on feed September 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.75 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago but 1 percent less than September 1, 1982.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.67 million, 1 percent above last year but 1 percent less than August two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during August totaled 1.67 million, up 5 percent from last year but 4 percent less than the same month in 1982. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.60 million head during August were 7 percent more than last year but 4 percent less than two years ago.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 61 thousand head compared with 88 thousand during August 1983 and 61 thousand during August 1982.

CATTLE ON FEED



CATTLE OUTLOOK

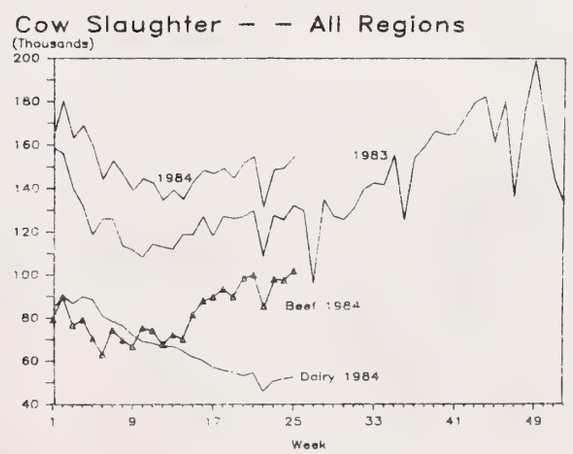
DAIRY COW SLAUGHTER DECLINES FROM FIRST QUARTER

Dairy cow slaughter remained above beef cow slaughter through the first week of March, accounting for 50-56 percent of federally inspected (FI) cow slaughter each week since January 1. Then, beginning in the second week of March, beef cow slaughter began to outpace dairy cow slaughter, and it retained this position for the rest of the first half. Total cow slaughter under Federal inspection for the first half was 4 million head--2.23 million beef cows and 1.77 million dairy cows. Most diversion program slaughter has taken place during the first half. The July 1 inventory showed a 2 percent decline in dairy cows. However, milk cow replacement heifers increased 1 percent from a year earlier, to 5 million head.

SECOND-HALF BEEF COW SLAUGHTER LIKELY TO DECLINE

For the second consecutive year, beef cow slaughter was high during January-June in the southern Great Plains. Because of tight forage supplies resulting from a continued drought this year, producers sent 29 percent more cows to slaughter than a year earlier. In 1983, cow slaughter was up 19 percent from the year before, also because of the drought.

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGE)



(CONTINUED. . . .)

Cow slaughter in the Northern Plains was also large during first-half 1984, with the greater part being beef cows. Total FI cow slaughter was 744,700 head, including 186,500 dairy cows. This region is primarily comprised of mixed crop-livestock operations.

Because cow slaughter has remained heavy throughout the second quarter, it may not increase this fall as much as usual. Three factors support a forecast of declining cow slaughter:

--the herd will be well culled going into the fourth quarter;

--additional hay acreage is expected to be harvested, and forage conditions will probably be mostly good the rest of the year; and

--producers may begin to rebuild or at least stabilize the beef cow herd with the expectation of higher prices in 1985.

The average dressed weight of cows slaughtered in June was 490 pounds, 20 below last year and the lowest for June since 1978. This lower dressed weight indicates cows in poor condition, reflecting the severity of the drought in the Southwest and the late grazing season in many other areas because of the cool wet spring.

CATTLE HERD EXPANSION NOT LIKELY UNTIL 1986

After being in a holding pattern for the past three years, the cattle cycle is not likely to enter the expansion phase before 1986. Although a large percentage of heifers have calved and entered the herd over the past year, an even larger number of cows have been culled from the herd. The percentage of heifers retained might have been larger and might have indicated herd expansion if producers had not been constrained by financial problems or by lack of forage. In addition, the reported number of other heifers was large, suggesting that producers may have initially intended to hold a larger number of replacements to build their herds.

Given the likelihood that good forage conditions will continue in most regions and cattle prices will be higher this fall, the cattle industry may begin an expansion. A larger number of replacements may be held this fall, to be bred through mid-1985 and to calve in the fall and spring of 1985/86. These additional heifers would begin to show up on the January 1, 1986 inventory. Even larger numbers would calve and show up in the inventory of January 1, 1987.

(SOURCE: LIVESTOCK & POULTRY OUTLOOK and SITUATION, AUGUST 1984)

HOG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1984, in the 10 states conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 42.8 million head, 7 percent below last September 1 but 3 percent more than September 1, 1982.

--Breeding inventory, at 5.52 million head, was 5 percent less than a year ago, and 1 percent below two years earlier.

--Market hog inventory, at 37.3 million head, was 7 percent below last year, but 3 percent more than 1982.

PIG CROP: The June-August 1984 pig crop was 16.9 million head, 4 percent below last year but 4 percent above two years ago. There were 2.23 million sows that farrowed during June-August, a decrease of 7 percent from a year ago but 1 percent more than the same period two years ago. Sows farrowing during June-August 1984 averaged 7.60 pigs per litter compared with 7.36 last year and 7.39 during the comparable period two years ago.

FARROWING INTENTIONS: Hog producers in the 10 quarterly states intend to farrow 2.26 million sows during September-November of this year. This is 5 percent fewer than during the comparable period in 1983, and 4 percent fewer than two years ago.

Farrowing intentions for December 1984-February 1985 quarter are 1.91 million head, 1 percent below a year earlier and 9 percent below two years earlier.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, SOWS FARROWING and PIG CROP 1982-84, 10 STATES 1/

ITEM	1982	1983	1984	1984 AS % OF 1983
	--(000) Head--			-Pct.-
SEPT. 1 INVENTORY:				
All Hogs & Pigs	41,670	45,880	42,780	93
Kept for Breeding	5,553	5,829	5,515	95
Market	36,117	40,051	37,265	93
MARKET HOGS & PIGS BY WEIGHT GROUPS:				
Under 60 Lbs.	14,562	15,804	14,857	94
60-119 Lbs.	9,000	10,169	9,348	92
120-179 Lbs.	7,277	8,303	7,608	92
180 Lbs. & Over	5,278	5,775	5,452	94
SOWS FARROWING:				
December-May 2/	4,368	4,858	4,388	90
June-November	4,562	4,770	4,486 3/	94
PIG CROP:				
December-May 2/	32,002	36,606	32,665	89
June-November	33,802	35,286		
PIGS PER LITTER:				
December-May 2/	7.33	7.54	7.44	99
June-November	7.41	7.40		

1/ Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio.
2/ December preceding year.
3/ Actual farrowings for June-August plus intentions for September-November.

RECENT SHIFTS IN U.S. EGG PRODUCTION

The commercial egg industry is changing locations. Substantial production gains that occurred in the South Atlantic and South Central regions in the late 1950s and early 1960s continued throughout the 1970s. But, output in these regions apparently peaked in 1980. Egg production in the South has begun to drop. On the other hand, certain States in the Mid-Atlantic and East North Central regions are showing increases.

Those States with low volume production have always experienced marked percentage changes in output. Now, however, the size of new egg production complexes means that one or two producers can cause significant changes in any State. In areas where output has dropped, much of the decline has been due to higher grain shipping costs. Producing areas where a large proportion of eggs are shipped long distances have also been vulnerable, since egg transportation costs have increased too.

Significant output increases have occurred in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania--States located in or near both the grain belt and many of the Nation's population centers. Some of the newer operations have been financed by foreign investors. Modern egg-producing operations are highly mechanized, with very large capital investments. Once investors begin to expand, there often is momentum toward additional investments in those areas.

Egg production has always been relatively decentralized, and markets are very competitive. Thus, higher transportation costs for grain and eggs in recent years have provided greater incentive for self-sufficiency in some areas that did not have a comparative advantage in egg production. The Mountain States are such an area. Thus, there is also a trend toward greater output in areas more remote from large population centers.

Both these shifts in production--to grain belt areas near population centers, and to remote regions increasing their self-sufficiency--may lead to lower costs for consumers if the production complexes are as efficient as those in established areas.

The Mountain region's production declined for many years through the mid-1970s, but it has increased since then. Production climbed 8.5 percent from 1980 in 1983, to 1.9 billion eggs, only about 2.8 percent of U.S. output. Individual State's output is relatively small. However, Montana, Idaho and Colorado have seen substantial increases. Significant declines have occurred in New Mexico, with Wyoming and Arizona showing somewhat smaller drops. First-quarter changes for 1984 show similar patterns except for Colorado and Utah, which showed losses from a year earlier.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 5.6 million pounds of red meat during August. The August production represented a 28 percent increase over last month but was 54 percent less than August 1983. Montana's total red meat production from January-August 1984 was down 65 percent from a year ago.

The August slaughter consisted of 7,900 cattle, 7,200 hogs, and 700 sheep. In terms of total liveweight, the cattle kill was down 19 percent from last year, and the hog kill was down 80 percent.

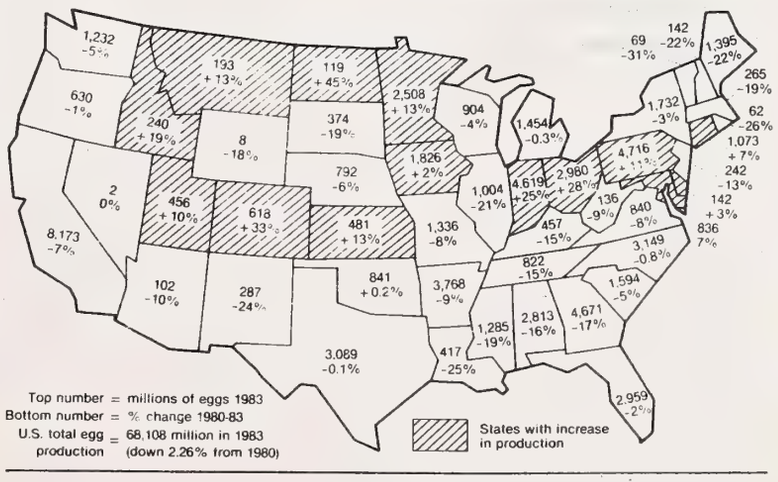
Nationally, commercial red meat production in August 1984 totaled 3.36 billion pounds, down 2 percent from August 1983. January-August red meat production, at 25.8 billion pounds, is up 2 percent from last year. The 1984 accumulated production percent changes by individual components were: Beef, up 4 percent; Veal, up 14 percent; Pork, unchanged; Lamb and Mutton, up 2 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION UP

Montana laying flocks produced 2 percent more eggs in the June 1-August 31 quarter compared with the same period last year. Production totaled 51 million eggs. The number of hens in the laying flock increased 1.7 percent and averaged 788 thousand for the quarter. The rate of lay was up slightly.

The Nation's laying flocks also produced more eggs than a year ago. In the June-August quarter egg production totaled 17.0 billion, 1 percent more than the same period in 1983. The number of layers averaged 276 million, 2 percent above a year earlier.

Egg Production by States for 1983 and Percentage Change in Production from 1980 to 1983



*featuring. . . . .*FERGUS COUNTY

Prior to 1925, Fergus County was known as the largest county in the United States. Judith Basin and Petroleum counties were created in 1920 and 1925, respectively, from portions of the area known as Fergus County. This still left Fergus County with a land area of approximately 2,714,880 acres. Today, 77 percent of those acres are occupied by farmland.

The entire northern border of the county is formed by a portion of the Missouri River. The land along the river is known as the Missouri Breaks. The Judith Mountains lie in the center of the county, while the Big Snowy and Little Snow Mountains lie along the southern boundary.

Fergus County is a major livestock producing area in the state. In the January 1, 1983 cattle inventory the county ranked 3rd, and came up 8th for the January 1 sheep inventory. The December 1, 1982 hog count showed Fergus County in 4th place for number of hogs.

In 1983 crop production, the county ranked 3rd in in the state for both oats and hay; 4th in barley production; 7th in winter wheat production; and 12th in all wheat production.

Cash Receipts for livestock in 1982 totaled $26,178,000, while crops contributed $25,759,000. Government payments added $3,826,000 for a total cash return of $55,763,000 and a rank of 10th among the counties.

FERGUS COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1983		UNIT	1983
Land Area	Acres	2,714,880	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	19,700
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	2,090,999	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	334,800
Number of Farms 1/	Acres	805			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Oats	Acres	5,900			
All Hay	Acres	104,800	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	126,400
Barley	Acres	133,600	Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	16,100
Winter Wheat	Acres	110,000	Hogs & Pigs 2/	# Hd.	8,500
All Wheat	Acres	128,500			

1/ From the 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1982.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
  Grain & Hay
  Pasture & Range
Potato Disposition

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION POOR
FARM PRICES
FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF MONTANA AGRICULTURAL LAND

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Corn for grain production at 7.55 billion bushels is down 2 percent from the August 1 forecast but 81 percent above last year's drought-stricken crop. A crop of this size would be 8 percent below the record high crop of 1982.

Feed grain production (corn, sorghum, oats and barley combined) is expected to total 233 million metric tons, up 71 percent from 1983 but down 7 percent from 1982.

MONTANA WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY

Montana's drouth stricken wheat harvest is expected to total 106.4 million bushels--22 percent less than last year. By contrast, the Nation's wheat harvest will reach 2.57 billion bushels, 6 percent above 1983.

Although Montana's total feed grain production is down 23 percent, the combined corn, sorghum, oats and barley production for the U.S. is up 71 percent from last year.

Because of a dry, cold spring and extended drouth, grain yields were the lowest in several years. This year's winter wheat yield is the lowest since 1980; durum and barley yields the lowest since 1961; hard spring wheat the lowest since 1967; oats the lowest since 1974; and sugarbeets the lowest since 1975.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--SEPTEMBER 1, 1984

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
		(000)				(000 Bu.)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,260	2,480	35.0	27.0	79,100	66,960
Durum Wheat	Bu.	205	189	20.0	16.0	4,100	3,024
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	1,990	2,025	27.0	18.0	53,730	36,450
All Wheat	Bu.	4,455	4,694	30.7	22.7	136,930	106,434
Corn for Grain	Bu.	13	15	105.0	100.0	1,365	1,500
Oats	Bu.	120	140	44.0	38.0	5,280	5,320
Barley	Bu.	1,850	2,090	42.0	28.0	77,700	58,520
Dry Beans	Cwt	2.8	8.5	13.2	17.0	37	145
Sugarbeets	Ton	41.3	25.0	19.8	18.5	818	462
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,170	1,200	2.30	2.20	2,691	2,640
All Other Hay	Ton	1,000	1,100	1.35	1.30	1,350	1,430
All Hay	Ton	2,170	2,300	1.86	1.77	4,041	4,070

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1984 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1983	Ind. 1984	% Chg.	1983	Ind. 1984	% Chg.	1983	Ind. 1984	% Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--			--(000) Bu.--			--(000) Bu.--		
Northwest	847.0	833.0	- 2	365.0	264.0	-28	2,901.9	3,248.0	+12
N. Central	43,924.7	30,856.0	-30	26,977.0	15,066.0	-44	41,570.6	24,389.0	-41
Northeast	7,679.0	6,499.0	-15	23,329.0	18,179.0	-22	5,865.1	7,260.0	+24
Central	11,742.0	12,238.0	+ 4	2,761.0	1,576.0	-43	15,950.3	11,178.0	-30
Southwest	1,590.4	1,600.0	+ 1	1,272.0	1,161.0	- 9	4,709.2	5,452.0	+16
S. Central	7,109.4	7,884.0	+11	1,036.0	1,196.0	+15	4,812.8	4,978.0	+ 3
Southeast	6,207.5	7,050.0	+14	2,090.0	2,032.0	- 3	1,890.1	2,015.0	+ 7
STATE	79,100.0	66,960.0	-15	57,830.0	39,474.0	-32	77,700.0	58,520.0	-25

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--SEPTEMBER 1, 1984

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1983	1983	1983	1984	1983	1984
		(000)				(000 Bu.)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	47,584	51,009	41.8	39.9	1,988,304	2,036,028
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,492	3,194	29.3	33.0	72,979	105,403
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	11,314	11,991	31.7	35.8	358,541	429,629
All Wheat	Bu.	61,390	66,194	39.4	38.8	2,419,824	2,571,060
Corn for Grain	Bu.	51,443	71,064	81.0	106.3	4,166,108	7,551,991
Oats	Bu.	9,076	8,088	52.6	58.4	477,133	47,460
Barley	Bu.	9,727	11,229	52.3	53.9	508,344	605,700
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,136.7	1,415.0	13.65	14.13	15,518	19,998
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,055.8	1,092.7	19.9	20.7	21,009	22,628
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,710	27,257	3.20	3.40	82,212	92,562
All Other Hay	Ton	33,987	34,904	1.72	1.74	58,522	60,794
All Hay	Ton	59,697	62,251	2.36	2.46	140,734	153,356

PASTURE and RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range condition on September 1 at 54 percent of normal was 6 points under a month ago and 19 points below last year. This is the lowest condition figure since 1961 when the September 1 condition was only 53 percent of normal. The northeast and north central areas have the poorest conditions. The only areas in good condition are the western and extreme southern parts of the state.

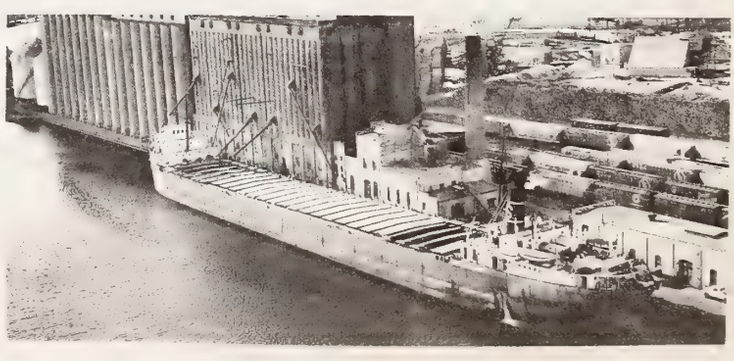
MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1982	1983	1984
Northwest	89	89	78
North Central	94	72	28
Northeast	93	53	24
Central	95	72	51
Southwest	96	96	88
South Central	98	72	62
Southeast	102	71	59
STATE	95	73	54

U.S. FARM EXPORTS STEADY

U.S. agricultural exports for fiscal 1984 are forecast at $38 billion, unchanged from the estimate made last May and 9 percent above the $34.8 billion for fiscal 1983. Export volume, however, is expected to drop 1 million tons from the May figure and total 141 million, 3 percent below the 144.8 million in fiscal 1983.

Agricultural imports are expected to reach $18 billion, up $500 million from the May estimate. Most of the increase comes from horticultural and tropical products, primarily coffee. This change will result in a positive agricultural trade balance of $20 billion, which is down $500 million from the May forecast.



FARM PRICES

The August index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products at 151 was up 3 points from the revised July index. The all crops index at 159 was 5 points below July but 7 points above a year ago. The livestock and products index at 142 was 9 points above July and 11 points above August 1983.

In comparing August prices with July prices decreases or nor change were shown for all items except durum wheat, lambs, hogs, milk and eggs registered increases.

Nationally, the August all farm products index of prices received by farmers was unchanged from July at 144 percent of its January-December 1977 average. The index was 5 points above a year ago. Higher prices for oranges, lettuce, tomatoes, milk and tobacco were offset by lower prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, broilers and hogs.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for August was 165 percent of its 1977 base. This was unchanged from July but 4 points above a year earlier. Index increases from July to August of this year for family living items and feeder livestock were offset by decreases for feed and fuel.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Aug. 15, 1984	Aug. 15, 1984
		Aug. 1983	July 1984		
PRICES RECEIVED		----------	----------	Dollars	----------
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.44	3.40	3.31
Durum	Bu.	3.94	3.68	3.70	3.77
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.84	3.94	3.75	3.48
All Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.77	3.70	3.37
Barley	Bu.	2.22	2.93	2.65	2.31
Oats	Bu.	1.42	1.78	1.65	1.67
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	54.00	85.00	85.00	75.10
All Other Hay	Ton	50.00	70.00	70.00	61.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	54.00	85.00	85.00	71.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt	51.90	55.40	54.70	61.00
Cows	Cwt	38.70	39.50	39.20	38.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.70	43.70	48.50	56.10
Calves	Cwt	55.90	59.10	56.50	58.10
Sheep	Cwt	10.80	16.30	15.00	16.60
Lambs	Cwt	44.80	57.60	60.00	60.10
Hogs	Cwt	47.20	45.90	48.90	50.60
All Milk	Cwt	12.90	13.40	13.60	13.10
Eggs	Doz	.624	.510	.550	.515
Wool 2/	Lb.	.610	1.00	.900	.835
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	141	148	151	144
All Crops	Pct.	152	164	159	145
Livestock & Products	Pct.	131	133	142	142

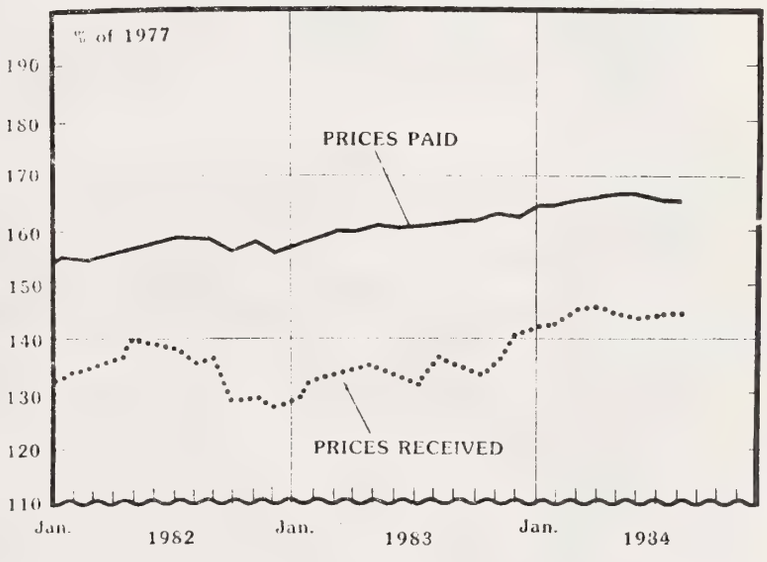
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

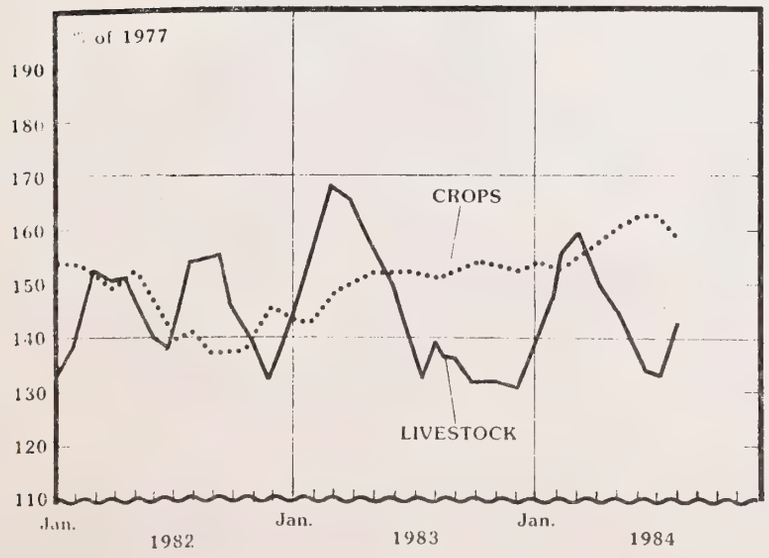
INDEX	Aug. 1983	July 1984	Aug. 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	139	144	144
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	161	165	165
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	86	87	87
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	57	58	58

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

UNITED STATES
INDEX NUMBERS OF
PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



USE OF MANUFACTURED INPUTS UP

With much of the former P.I.K. acreage returned to production, farmer's use of energy, agricultural chemicals, seed, machinery and equipment, and other manufactured inputs is up this year, compared with 1983. As of early June, field crop acreage was estimated at 284 million acres, almost 30 million acres more than 1983 plantings. However, a late, wet spring, continued high interest rates, and a record farm debt/asset ratio have kept fertilizer, pesticide, and farm machinery purchases lower than previously forecast for the 1984 crop year. Farmers now are expected to spend just under $41 billion on manufactured inputs in 1984, compared with about $37 billion in 1983.

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL LANDHOLDINGS

BY COUNTRY OF FOREIGN OWNER and COUNTY, DECEMBER 31, 1983

COUNTY	CANADA	WEST GERMANY	HONG KONG	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	UNITED KINGDOM	ALL OTHERS
			----Acres----			
Big Horn	0	15,000	0	0	0	17,472
Blaine	160	0	0	0	0	160
Carter	5,996	0	0	0	0	0
Cascade	16,326	0	0	0	0	1,520
Chouteau	1,358	1,160	0	0	0	480
Custer	45	0	0	0	0	11,280
Dawson	0	0	0	0	0	958
Fergus	2,381	1,780	0	0	0	3,011
Flathead	8,752	0	0	0	0	0
Gallatin	0	0	182	0	0	10,840
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	320
Glacier	9,737	0	0	0	0	0
Granite	0	0	0	0	0	546
Hill	0	0	0	0	0	961
Jefferson	1,055	0	0	0	0	640
Judith Basin	320	1,530	0	0	0	0
Lake	36	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis & Clark	98	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	45	1,237	0	0	0	0
McCone	320	0	0	0	0	800
Madison	0	0	0	0	0	160
Mineral	0	0	876	0	0	0
Missoula	0	0	609	0	25	0
Park	0	0	487	0	0	0
Phillips	5,068	0	0	0	0	309
Powell	4,010	0	0	0	0	2,158
Ravalli	60	0	0	0	0	0
Roosevelt	1,420	0	0	0	0	0
Rosebud	320	0	0	33,813	0	151,416
Sanders	0	0	785	0	0	0
Sheridan	400	0	0	0	0	480
Sweet Grass	0	0	0	0	0	900
Teton	195	0	0	0	0	0
Toole	10,720	0	0	0	0	880
Wheatland	26,000	0	0	0	0	155
Yellowstone	5	0	0	0	0	9,540
TOTAL	94,827	20,707	2,939	33,813	25	214,986

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS DECLINE
- RED MEAT PRODUCTION
- NATION'S WHEAT PRODUCTION
- '84 FARM LABOR
- NUMBER OF FARMS & LAND IN FARMS
- GRAIN MOVEMENT DECLINES
- CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 1 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed August 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.81 million head, down 1 percent from a year ago and fractionally below August 1, 1982.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during July totaled 1.55 million, 4 percent above last year and 5 percent more than July two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during July totaled 1.32 million, up 13 percent from last year and 10 percent above July 1982. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.24 million for July are 15 percent above last year and up 9 percent from two years ago.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 84 thousand head, compared with 94 thousand during July 1983 and 68 thousand during July 1982.

JULY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 4.4 million pounds of red meat during July--10 percent more than last month but 57 percent less than last year.

The July slaughter consisted of 6,900 cattle, 2,400 hogs, and 400 sheep. In terms of total liveweight, the cattle kill was down about 1 percent from last year and the hog kill was down 93 percent. Montana's total red meat production from January-July 1984 was down 66 percent from a year ago.

REGIONAL PATTERNS OF WHEAT PRODUCTION

This year the Plains States are expected to produce about 57 percent of the Nation's wheat crop--a slightly smaller percent than the last two years.

The Corn Belt States have about 16 percent of the total national production compared with 15 percent last year. This region has the largest percentage increase in wheat production for 1984.

The South, in 1984, will produce about 9 percent of the Nation's total wheat. Last year it was 8 percent, and the year before it was nearly 11 percent.

ALL WHEAT

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1983	1984	1983	1984	% Chg.
	-(000) Acres-		--(000) Bu.--		%
Montana	4,455	4,694	136,930	115,367	-16
Colorado	3,063	3,170	122,103	107,900	-12
Kansas	10,800	11,000	448,200	429,000	- 4
Nebraska	2,300	2,300	98,900	82,800	-16
Oklahoma	4,300	5,300	150,500	190,800	+27
North Dakota	7,205	8,610	194,130	246,630	+27
South Dakota	2,727	3,292	89,729	107,960	+20
Texas	4,600	5,000	161,000	150,000	- 7
PLAINS STATES	39,450	43,366	1,401,492	1,430,457	+ 2
Idaho	1,305	1,280	91,710	89,320	- 3
Oregon	1,085	1,125	65,570	69,225	+ 6
Washington	2,690	2,590	172,570	163,960	- 5
PACIFIC NW	5,080	4,995	329,850	322,505	- 2
Illinois	1,400	1,600	64,400	70,400	+ 9
Indiana	970	1,050	49,470	49,350	--
Michigan	730	800	35,770	43,200	+21
Minnesota	2,140	2,473	78,960	100,520	+27
Missouri	1,850	2,050	70,300	86,100	+22
Ohio	1,200	1,100	58,800	48,400	-18
CORN BELT	8,290	9,073	357,700	397,790	+11
Alabama	460	380	15,180	12,920	-15
Arkansas	1,500	1,400	58,500	61,600	+ 5
Georgia	910	880	30,940	30,800	--
Kentucky	520	500	16,120	19,000	+18
Mississippi	600	640	20,400	24,320	+19
North Carolina	470	600	15,980	24,000	+50
South Carolina	375	380	10,500	14,060	+34
Tennessee	600	520	19,800	19,760	--
Virginia	340	300	14,280	13,500	- 5
SOUTHERN STATES	5,775	5,600	201,700	219,960	+ 9
California	680	800	46,560	62,560	+34
Other States	2,115	2,360	82,522	94,382	+14
UNITED STATES	61,390	66,194	2,419,824	2,527,834	+ 4

WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1983 through May 1984 was 11 percent below the same period last year. Wheat originating in central Montana shows the strongest decline, down 32 percent.

Barley shipments were 48 percent above last year reaching the highest level since records were started in 1974. Barley movement out-of-state has increased each year since 1977.

WHEAT and BARLEY SHIPPED OUT-OF-STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE and DESTINATION 1/

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT	DECEMBER 1983 - MAY 1984					
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Chg. from Last Year	Barley	Chg. from Last Year
	--(000) Bu.--			%	(000 Bu.)	%
Northwest	207	150	357	- 1	459	+23
North Central	17,779	16,348	34,127	- 3	16,017	+55
Northeast	1,938	11,182	13,120	- 9	1,038	+15
Central	5,158	3,011	8,169	-32	5,227	+42
Southwest	760	763	1,523	-20	1,380	+36
South Central	2,096	1,022	3,118	-12	472	+24
Southeast	843	359	1,202	-24	--	--
Truck East	323	234	557	+16	666	-27
Truck West	5,234	5,206	10,440	- 6	5,982	+11
Truck Other 3/	79	612	691	+134	1,450	+56
TOTAL BY TRUCK	5,636	6,052	11,688	- 2	8,098	+12
Rail East	23	678	701	- 2	2,556	+169
Rail West	23,100	26,087	49,187	-13	13,561	+68
Rail Other 3/	22	18	40	- 7	378	- 8
TOTAL BY RAIL	23,145	26,783	49,928	-12	16,495	+75
TOTAL WHEAT SHIPPED	28,781	32,835	61,616	-11	24,593	+48

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown.

Grain Movement statistics are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee through the Montana Department of Agriculture.

NUMBER OF FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, BY STATES, JUNE 1, 1982-1984 1/

STATE	FARMS			LAND IN FARMS		
	1982	1983	1984 2/	1982	1983	1984 2/
	--Number--			--(000) Acres--		
CALIF	82,000	80,000	78,000	33,400	11,600	11,500
COLO	27,500	27,000	27,000	35,200	34,800	34,600
IDAHO	24,700	24,500	24,600	14,900	14,900	14,700
MONT	24,000	24,000	24,000	61,500	61,300	61,100
NEBR	63,000	62,000	60,000	47,500	47,400	47,200
NEV	2,900	2,700	2,700	8,900	8,900	8,900
N DAK	37,000	36,500	36,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
OREG	37,000	36,500	37,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
S DAK	37,500	37,000	37,000	44,500	44,500	44,500
UTAH	14,000	14,000	14,000	12,100	12,000	11,800
WASH	39,000	38,000	38,000	16,400	16,300	16,100
WYO	9,100	9,200	9,100	35,000	35,000	34,800
U.S.	2,400,550	2,370,200	2,332,600	1,027,795	1,024,195	1,019,503

1/ A farm is a place as of June 1 that sells or could sell $1,000 of agricultural products during the year. 2/ Preliminary.

NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS UP, WAGES HIGHER

During the week of July 8-14, 1984, 4.1 million people were working on farms and ranches in the United States. This includes workers hired directly by the farm operators and agricultural services employees working on farms. This is up 1.0 percent (.1 million) from the number for the corresponding week last year. Hired workers represented 43 percent (1.8 million) of the total. Of these workers, 1.44 million were hired directly by the farm operators which was 2.9 percent fewer than in July 1983. Farm operators and other unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more accounted for the remaining 2.3 million workers, 1.9 percent above a year earlier.

The wage rate for all hired farm workers was $4.16 per hour, up 1.2 percent from July 1983. The wage rate for workers paid on an hourly basis was $4.12, up 4 cents from the previous year. Wage rates by categories of workers were: field $3.93, livestock $3.93, and piece-rate $4.60.

During the July 8-14 week, the self-employed farm operator averaged 48.2 hours, .6 hours less than in July a year ago. The unpaid workers on farms averaged 40.8 hours for the week, unchanged from July 1983 and hired workers averaged 36.8 hours, .3 hours more than last year.

Approximately 42 percent of the hired workers received perquisites, such as meals, housing or motor vehicle in addition to the cash wages in July 1984. About 13 percent of the hired workers were furnished a house in addition to the cash wages. In July 1983, 41 percent of the farm workers received some type of the perquisite. Data from the 1983 farm production expenditure survey showed that the value of perquisites represented 15 percent of the total farm and ranch labor expenditures.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY STATES and REGIONS, JULY 8-14, 1984 1/

STATE & REGION	TYPE OF WORK					METHOD OF PAY		
	Field	Live-stock	Field & 2/ Livestock	Super-visory	Other	Hourly	Piece-Rate	Other
	--Dollars Per Hour--							
NY	3.30	3.00	3.20	5.30	4.30	3.43	7/	3.24
PA	3.78	3.48	3.71	7/	5.27	3.90	7/	3.69
VA	3.74	3.49	3.70	7/	7/	3.70	7/	3.82
N. EAST 3/	3.58	3.27	3.49	5.63	4.78	3.78	4.07	3.55
ARK	3.62	4.40	3.81	5.14	3.90	3.95	7/	3.96
FLA	4.09	4.20	4.11	7.14	5.69	4.51	7/	5.18
GA	3.07	3.79	3.22	7/	3.61	3.47	7/	3.34
LA	3.89	4.08	3.91	6.30	4.37	4.10	7/	4.78
MISS	3.32	3.42	3.35	7/	3.45	3.46	7/	3.65
NC	3.40	4.19	3.48	7/	3.70	3.47	7/	4.26
S. EAST 4/	3.42	3.88	3.49	5.89	4.05	3.72	3.11	3.84
ILL	3.89	3.64	3.85	7/	4.77	4.06	7/	4.14
IND	3.65	3.53	3.60	7/	3.95	3.69	7/	3.89
IOWA	3.81	3.77	3.80	7/	4.74	4.04	7/	3.82
KY	3.39	4.30	3.93	7/	5.70	4.06	7/	4.07
MICH	3.96	4.47	4.02	7/	3.94	3.97	7/	5.40
MINN	3.84	3.21	3.67	7/	3.65	3.98	7/	2.90
MO	3.41	4.01	3.60	7/	4.05	3.89	7/	3.87
OHIO	4.04	3.84	4.00	7/	7/	4.27	7/	4.20
WIS	3.20	2.75	2.98	7/	3.43	3.16	7/	3.16
N. CENTRAL	3.77	3.53	3.70	6.16	4.13	3.89	3.82	3.79
KANS	4.00	4.20	4.03	7/	4.69	4.45	7/	4.40
NEBR	4.20	4.30	4.23	7/	3.80	4.32	7/	3.85
TEX	3.80	4.00	3.87	7/	4.00	3.90	7/	4.10
PLAINS 5/	3.93	4.24	4.02	6.11	4.43	4.18	5.86	4.25
ARIZ	3.87	4.15	3.92	6.17	4.75	3.93	7/	5.28
COLO	3.35	4.52	4.03	7/	4.51	4.11	7/	4.39
IDAHO	3.48	3.44	3.47	7/	4.26	3.60	7/	3.50
INTERMOUNTAIN 6/	3.63	4.18	3.75	5.85	3.85	3.81	4.24	4.00
CALIF	4.88	4.87	4.88	6.90	5.47	4.83	6.79	6.07
HAW	6.13	7/	6.11	10.03	8.60	6.90	7/	8.80
OREG	4.29	4.00	4.23	7/	4.20	4.22	7/	3.80
WASH	4.33	7/	4.51	7/	5.56	4.73	7/	5.65
PACIFIC	4.75	4.85	4.76	6.88	5.55	4.84	5.64	5.76
U.S. (49 States)	3.93	3.93	3.93	6.28	4.45	4.12	4.60	4.17

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Wage rates of field and livestock workers combined. 3/ Listed states plus CONN, DEL, MAINE, MD, MASS,NH, NJ, RI, VT, AND W VA. 4/ Listed states plus ALA, SC, and TENN. 5/ Listed states plus N DAK, OKLA, and S DAK. 6/ Listed states plus MONT, NEV, N MEX, UTAH, and WYO. 7/ Insufficient data for this category--data included in all hired farm workers and in region and U.S. wage rates.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES and COMMODITY GROUPS, MONTANA -- 1982-1983

COMMODITIES	VALUE		PERCENTAGE OF ALL COMMODITIES	
	1982 1/	1983 2/	1982 1/	1983 2/
	--(000) Dollars--		--Pct. of Total--	
Cattle and Calves	540,617	543,673	34.6	36.2
Dairy Products	42,833	44,881	2.7	3.0
Sheep and Lambs	18,847	16,703	1.2	1.1
Wool	4,298	3,731	.3	.3
Hogs	32,614	22,909	2.1	1.5
Farm Chickens & Eggs	8,659	8,883	.5	.6
Other 3/	7,186	15,584	.5	1.0
LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS	655,054	656,364	41.9	43.7
Wheat	688,738	588,594	44.1	39.2
Barley	110,408	150,740	7.1	10.0
Sugarbeets	36,040	34,683	2.3	2.3
Hay	34,503	34,948	2.2	2.3
Potatoes	11,944	12,445	.8	.8
Oats	3,168	3,305	.2	.2
Dry Edible Beans	2,745	1,176	.2	.1
Other Crops 4/	12,078	14,377	.7	1.0
Cherries	1,928	620	.1	5/
Other Fruits	51	51	5/	5/
Forest Products	3,500	4,000	.3	.3
Greenhouse and Nursery	2,000	2,000	.1	.1
CROPS	907,103	846,939	58.1	56.3
ALL COMMODITIES	1,562,157	1,503,303	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Turkeys, other poultry, other livestock. 4/ Miscellaneous vegetables, rye, corn, safflower, sweet clover seed, mustard seed, wheat grass seed, other seeds and other field crops. 5/ Less than .1 of a percent.

---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER----------

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CROP PRODUCTION
GRAINS & HAY
PASTURE & RANGE
DAIRY PRODUCTS MFG.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

MONTANA HARVEST PROGRESS
CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST
'84 WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
JULY FARM PRICES

U.S. WHEAT FEED USE

U.S. wheat growers are hoping for another big surge in livestock feeding during June-September to moderate the expected gain in carryover stocks this season. Last season, about 390 million bushels of wheat were fed, of which 259 million were fed during June-September. Ample wheat supplies and tight feed grain stocks this summer should allow for feed use of around 375 million bushels, 15 million below last season. Feed use now accounts for about 15 percent of total use, up from less than 3 percent in 1980/81.

Because supplies are large relative to use, the farm price will probably average only slightly more than the 1984/85 loan rate of $3.30 a bushel. The target prices is $4.38 for this season, so wheat growers who participated in the acreage reduction program will likely earn another large deficiency payment.

CROP HARVEST PROGRESS

Hot, dry weather throughout the summer has hastened the maturity of Montana's grain crops. The winter wheat harvest was well ahead of schedule as of August 12th with 70 percent of the crop harvested. Normally, only 40 percent of the crop has been harvested by this time. The spring grain harvest began early as well with 30 percent of the barley, 25 percent of the spring wheat, and 20 percent of the oats harvested by the end of last week. The harvest is about 10 percent ahead of the normal pace for these crops. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was also well underway with 40 percent of the crop harvested compared with a normal of 30 percent.

MONTANA WHEAT PRODUCTION

LOWEST IN 11 YEARS

Montana's 1984 all wheat crop will be the smallest harvest since 1973. Based on August 1 conditions the forecast production is down 16% from last year. Winter wheat production is down 12 percent, hard spring down 21 percent, and durum down 17 percent.

With harvested acreage up 5 percent for all wheat the lower production is the result of sharply lower drought stricken yields. The winter wheat yield is expected to be 28 bushels per acre, the lowest since 1980, and down 1 bushel from the July 1 forecast and 7 bushels below last year. Hard spring wheat yield is forecast at 21 bushels per acre, the lowest since 1979. Durum yield is estimated to be 18 bushels per acre.

The State's barley production is only down 3 percent from last year's record, mainly because of a 20 percent increase in harvested acres. Barley yield, at 34 bushels per acre is the lowest since 1974. Oats production is about the same as last year. Hay production, is 1 percent under last year's reduced crop.

August 1 production forecasts are based on producer reports of condition and yield. Actual field observations and measurements are also used in making the wheat production forecast.

(SEE TABLES INSIDE.)

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1984

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,260	2,480	35.0	28.0	79,100	69,440
Durum Wheat	Bu.	205	189	20.0	18.0	4,100	3,402
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	1,990	2,025	27.0	21.0	53,730	42,525
All Wheat	Bu.	4,455	4,694	30.7	24.6	136,930	115,367
Corn for Grain	Bu.	13	15	105.0	100.0	1,365	1,500
Oats	Bu.	120	140	44.0	38.0	5,280	5,320
Barley	Bu.	1,850	2,220	42.0	34.0	77,700	75,480
Dry Beans	Cwt	2.8	8.5	13.2	17.0	37	145
Sugarbeets	Ton	41.3	25.0	19.8	18.5	818	462
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,170	1,200	2.30	2.20	2,691	2,640
All Other Hay	Ton	1,000	1,100	1.35	1.30	1,350	1,430
All Hay	Ton	2,170	2,300	1.86	1.77	4,041	4,070

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1983

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	47,584	51,009	41.8	40.1	1,988,304	2,045,088
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,492	3,194	29.3	30.4	72,979	97,112
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	11,314	11,991	31.7	32.2	358,541	385,634
All Wheat	Bu.	61,390	66,194	39.4	38.2	2,419,824	2,527,834
Corn for Grain	Bu.	51,443	71,064	81.0	107.9	4,166,108	7,667,721
Oats	Bu.	9,076	8,088	52.6	56.3	477,133	455,190
Barley	Bu.	9,727	11,359	52.3	52.9	508,344	601,052
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,134.7	1,415.0	13.65	13.61	15,518	19,256
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,055.8	1,094.1	19.9	20.6	21,009	22,551
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	25,710	27,257	3.20	3.40	82,212	92,562
All Other Hay	Ton	33,987	34,904	1.72	1.74	58,522	60,794
All Hay	Ton	59,697	62,251	2.36	2.46	140,734	153,356

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1984

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1983	Ind. 1984	Chg.	1983	Ind. 1984	Chg.	1983	Ind. 1984	Chg.
	----000 Bu.---		%	---000 Bu.---		%	---000 Bu.---		%
Northwest	847.0	884.0	+ 4	365.0	264.0	-28	2,901.9	3,248.0	+12
North Central	43,924.7	31,958.0	-27	26,977.0	18,209.0	-32	41,570.6	36,300.0	-13
Northeast	7,679.0	6,820.0	-11	23,329.0	20,749.0	-11	5,865.1	8,150.0	+39
Central	11,742.0	12,660.0	+ 8	2,761.0	1,877.0	-32	15,950.3	15,050.0	- 6
Southwest	1,590.4	1,600.0	+ 1	1,272.0	1,247.0	- 2	4,709.2	5,452.0	+16
South Central	7,109.4	8,468.0	+19	1,036.0	1,266.0	+22	4,812.8	5,265.0	+ 9
Southeast	6,207.5	7,050.0	+14	2,090.0	2,305.0	+10	1,890.1	2,015.0	+ 7
STATE	79,100.0	69,440.0	-12	57,830.0	45,927.0	-21	77,700.0	75,480.0	- 3

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES 1984

Redwin dominated the winter wheat varieties, as the number one choice of growers being planted on 933,500 acres. Winalta held second place with 361,000 acres while Norstar stayed in third place with 314,900 acres.

Newana remained the top spring wheat variety. Len also held onto its position as second while Fortuna replaced Olaf as the third favorite variety.

Vic captured the number one spot for durum wheat. Ward was second followed by Rolette and then Crosby.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES 1980-1984

CLASS and VARIETY	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACRES				
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
	Pct.				
WINTER WHEAT					
Redwin	--	--	8.3	24.2	34.6
Winalta	26.3	18.7	22.2	14.3	13.4
Norstar	2.3	15.4	11.8	10.4	11.7
Rocky	--	1.8	8.0	8.0	11.1
Centurk	24.7	24.6	15.4	8.9	6.6
Cheyenne	25.2	16.9	15.6	8.3	5.1
Rough Rider	4.1	5.5	5.0	6.4	4.0
Citation	--	--	--	.9	2.4
Warrior	5.8	3.5	3.6	3.1	1.5
Neely	--	--	--	--	1.3
Winridge	--	--	--	--	.9
Other & Unknown	11.6	13.6	10.1	15.5	7.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Newana	7.6	12.7	12.7	19.8	21.8
Len	--	--	4.0	11.9	12.4
Fortuna	22.6	12.0	11.9	10.7	12.0
Lew	10.1	11.1	11.5	9.4	10.0
Olaf	17.1	15.2	17.8	11.3	9.5
Prodax	10.7	12.7	7.6	5.5	6.6
Butte	3.4	4.2	5.1	2.7	4.0
Solar	--	6.8	7.7	5.6	3.7
Tioga	6.2	5.6	5.6	2.3	2.9
Pondera	--	.2	.6	3.5	2.3
Bounty 309	--	--	--	--	1.7
Pro Brand 711	--	--	2.7	3.7	1.5
Marshall	--	--	--	--	1.2
Other & Unknown	22.3	19.5	12.8	13.6	10.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM WHEAT					
Vic	--	1.3	7.8	25.3	36.9
Ward	36.5	28.9	40.9	33.1	22.0
Rolette	14.2	8.3	9.7	8.9	10.7
Crosby	13.5	8.1	9.3	2.6	9.8
Cando	17.5	18.8	9.2	7.6	3.7
Wells	12.2	5.9	3.5	2.2	3.7
Other & Unknown	6.1	28.7	19.6	20.3	13.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 549,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese in June--down 14 percent from last year.

Ice cream production totaled 185,000 gallons in June, 17 percent below the previous year.

American cheese output was down 2 percent at 432,000 pounds. Butter production at 79,000 pounds was 28 percent below last year.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES 1984

Hector is still the most popular barley variety seeded in Montana in 1984. Hector, a feed barley, was planted on 32.4 percent of the barley acreage. Piroline remained at the number two position followed by Clark, both are malting type varieties.

Montana growers seeded 1,138,200 acres or 49 percent of their barley acres with malting varieties, up 8 percent over last year.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES 1980-1984

VARIETIES		PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE				
		1980	1981	1983	1983	1984
		Pct.				
Hector		20.3	28.1	27.3	35.1	32.4
Piroline	M	29.3	31.1	24.8	25.6	19.3
Clark	M	--	--	2.5	7.4	15.6
Klages	M	10.4	10.2	12.6	10.6	13.1
Summit		3.2	1.4	5.5	2.1	3.5
Unitan		5.1	2.8	3.9	2.5	2.8
Morex		.9	2.5	8.5	2.8	1.9
Menuet		--	--	.4	.7	1.5
Horsford		.7	1.1	.6	.7	1.2
Ingrid		2.5	2.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
Steptoe		2.2	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.0
Moravian III	M	.6	.8	.2	.8	.9
Kimberly		--	--	--	.6	.9
Compana		3.3	3.5	2.0	1.5	.6
Larker		1.8	2.3	1.0	.6	.4
Fairfield		5.1	2.4	.6	.5	.2
Premier		--	--	--	--	.2
Glenn		--	--	1.0	.4	.2
Hypana		1.0	.4	.4	.1	.2
Betzes		1.7	.7	1.1	.3	.2
Stepford		.2	.9	.2	.1	.1
Shabet	M	5.5	4.8	.6	.8	.1
Ridawn		--	--	--	--	.1
Vanguard		--	--	--	.2	.1
Other & Unknown		6.2	3.4	4.4	4.2	2.4
STATE TOTAL		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

M = Malting Barley Improvement Association recommended malting varieties for Montana.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
by District as a Percent of Normal

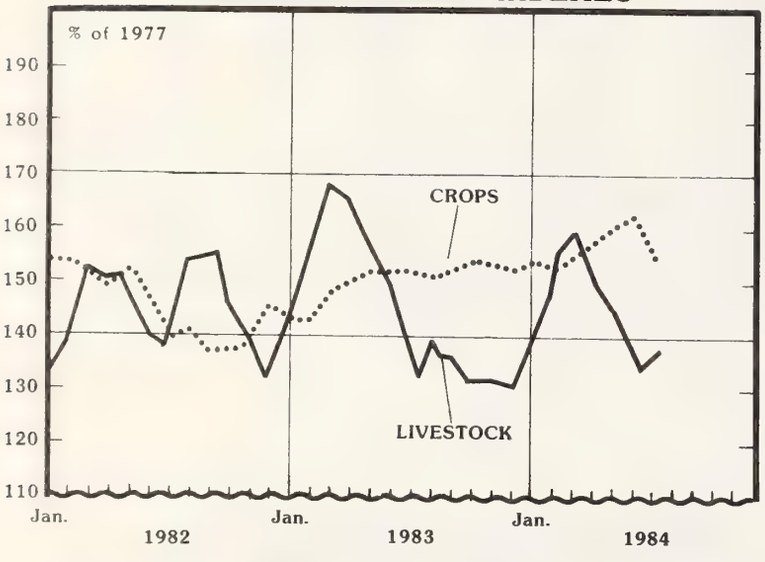
DISTRICT	1982	1983	1984
Northwest	97	91	78
North Central	96	78	33
Northeast	96	69	34
Central	101	80	58
Southwest	99	91	89
South Central	100	74	69
Southeast	102	75	67
STATE	99	79	60

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average July 1983	MONTANA Monthly Average June 1984	MONTANA July 15, 1984	U.S. July 15, 1984
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.49	3.65	3.40	3.27
Durum	Bu.	3.75	3.77	3.70	3.86
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.99	3.90	3.73
All Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.85	3.69	3.29
Barley	Bu.	2.20	2.66	2.49	2.38
Oats	Bu.	1.43	1.74	1.55	1.77
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	85.00	80.00	75.50
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	75.00	70.00	60.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	85.00	80.00	71.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	55.10	55.00	55.60	62.50
Cows	Cwt	39.30	40.10	40.70	38.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	44.30	44.10	45.20	57.40
Calves	Cwt	56.90	58.70	58.80	59.20
Sheep	Cwt	11.70	11.80	13.00	14.30
Lambs	Cwt	47.70	53.90	57.60	58.50
Hogs	Cwt	42.80	44.00	48.40	52.20
All Milk	Cwt	12.90	13.30	13.40	12.90
Eggs	Doz.	.544	.550	.510	.528
Wool 2/	Lb.	.610	1.00	1.00	.864
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	142	148	146	143
All Crops	Pct.	151	164	156	140
Livestock & Products	Pct.	132	134	137	145

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



JULY FARM PRICES

The index of prices received by Montana farmers in July was down 2 points from June but remains 4 points above last year. The crops index dropped 8 points from June as the harvest season approached Montana. At the same time the livestock index moved up 3 points.

Looking at individual prices--all crop items fell off with winter wheat leading the decline, 25 cents lower than June. Livestock prices were all up with hogs leading the advance $4.40 per cwt higher. Steers and heifers and cows were up 60 cents, calves up 10 cents. Eggs were down 4 cents and wool was unchanged. Compared with last year nearly all items were higher. The exceptions were winter and durum wheat down 9 and 5 respectively. Eggs were down 3 cents.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	June 1983	May 1984	June 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	131	144	143
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	160	166	166
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	82	87	86
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	54	58	57

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-143 prices.

---COMING IN NEXT REPORTER----------

Slaughter
Farm Labor

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

CATTLE NUMBERS DROP
CATTLE ON FEED DECREASE
RED MEAT PRODUCTION
MILK PRODUCTION DOWN
PER CAPITA FOOD CONSUMPTION

CATTLE and CALF INVENTORY DOWN

The Nation's cattle herd on July 1, 1984 is estimated at 122 million head, 1 percent less than last year and 2 percent below July 1, 1982. This year's reduction marks the third consecutive year in which the cattle inventory has moved downward.

The 1984 calf crop is expected to be down 2 percent from the 1983 crop. Calves on hand July 1, counted as part of the inventory, were down 1 percent.

Steers weighing 500 pounds or over were down 3 percent from last year, and beef type heifers being kept for breeding were also down 3 percent. However, other beef heifers were up 2 percent. Heifers being kept for milk cow replacements were up 1 percent. Milk cows were down 2 percent and beef cows were down 1 percent from last year. Individual state estimates are not available until January 1.

CATTLE & CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS and CALF CROP, UNITED STATES JULY 1, 1982-84

CLASS	1982	1983	1984	1984 as % of 1983
	(000) Head			--Pct.--
Cattle and Calves	124,140	123,540	121,950	99
Cows & Heifers That Have Calved	49,990	49,600	48,950	99
Beef Cows	38,970	38,480	38,100	99
Milk Cows	11,020	11,120	10,850	98
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	18,550	18,570	18,600	100
For Beef Cow Replacement	6,120	5,800	5,600	97
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,780	4,880	4,950	101
Other Heifers	7,650	7,890	8,050	102
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	16,340	16,840	16,400	97
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,610	2,560	2,500	98
Calves Under 500 Pounds	36,650	35,970	35,500	99
Calf Crop 1/	44,420	44,093	43,400	98

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

CALF CROP: NUMBER and PERCENT OF TOTAL BY SIX MONTH PERIOD, UNITED STATES 1982-84

PERIOD	1982		1983		1984	
	Number (000)	% of Total	Number (000)	% of Total	Number (000)	% of Total
Jan. 1-June 30	31,316	70.5	31,150	70.6	30,600	70.5
July 1-Dec. 31 1/	13,104	29.5	12,943	29.4	12,800	29.5
TOTAL	44,420	100.0	44,093	100.0	43,400	100.0

1/ Expected calf crop for 1984.

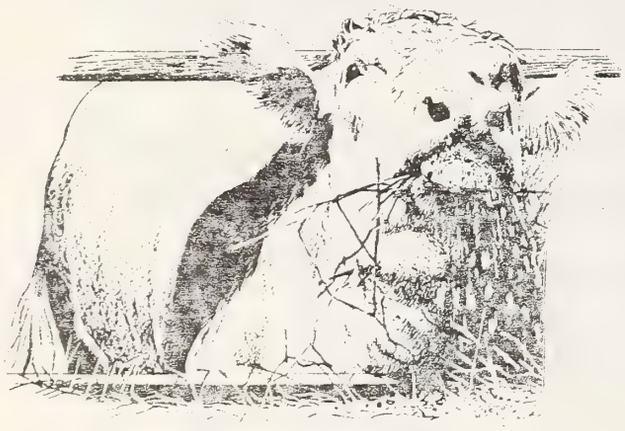
CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed July 1, 1984 for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly states totaled 8.70 million head, 4 percent below last year and 3 percent less than two years ago.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.64 million steers and steer calves, down fractionally from a year ago but virtually unchanged from 1982. This group represented 65 percent of the total July 1 number on feed compared with 62 percent in 1983. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.03 million, down 10 percent from last year and 8 percent below 1982.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June quarter totaled 5.57 million, 5 percent below the same quarter one year ago, and 4 percent below the comparable period in 1982. Other disappearance of 582 thousand head leaves net placements at 4.99 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 5.63 million, up 2 percent from the same quarter last year, and 8 percent above the same quarter in 1982.



CLASSIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION, UNITED STATES

ITEM	JAN-JUNE	
	1983	1984
	-Pct. of Total-	
CATTLE		
Steers	49.2	48.7
Heifers	29.2	27.3
Cows	19.3	22.0
Bulls & Stags	2.3	2.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
HOGS		
Barrow & Gilts	94.4	94.2
Sows	4.5	4.7
Stags & Boars	1.1	1.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
SHEEP		
Mature Sheep	7.1	7.8
Lambs & Yearlings	92.9	92.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production for the United States in June 1984 totaled 3.20 billion pounds, down 3 percent from June 1983. January-June red meat production, at 19.4 billion pounds, is up 3 percent from last year. The 1984 accumualted production percent changes by individual components were: beef, up 4 percent; veal, up 13 percent; pork, up 2 percent; lamb and mutton, up 5 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

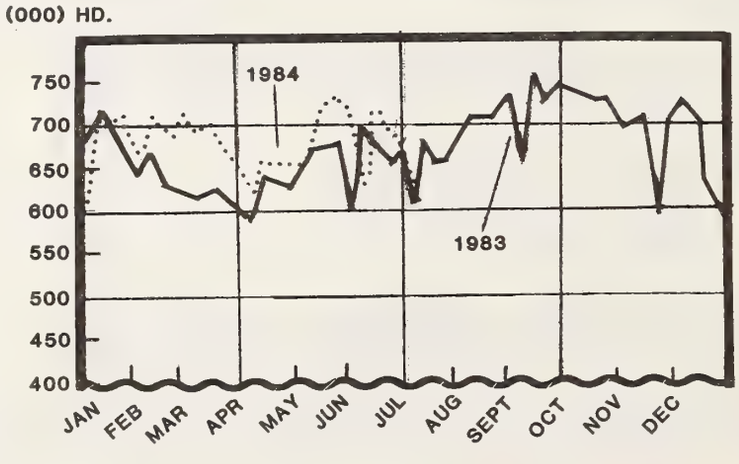
Kill days for June 1984 included 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 4.0 million pounds of red meat during June--just one percent less than last month but 67 percent less than last year.

The June slaughter consisted of 6,600 cattle, 2,300 hogs, and 200 sheep. In terms of total live weight, the cattle kill was down 24 percent from last year and the hog kill was 94 percent less than last year. For the first half of 1984, Montana's total red meat production was down 68 percent from a year ago.

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CATTLE SLAUGHTER



THE HOG FARMER GETS 90 CENTS FOR A POUND OF PORK CHOPS COSTING $1.99 IN THE BUTCHER SHOP.

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana milk production in the second quarter of 1984 showed a seasonal increase over the first quarter but was below last year. Estimated output in the April-June period was 90 million pounds compared with 85 million in January-March.

Last year the April-June output totaled 92 million pounds. The number of milk cows was unchanged from last year.

United States milk production during June totaled 11.8 billion pounds (5.37 million metric tons), 4 percent below June 1983.

Accumulated milk production during the second quarter of 1984 totaled 35.8 billion pounds (16.2 million metric tons), 3 percent below the comparable period in 1983.

Production per cow averaged 1,091 pounds during June, 13 pounds below June 1983.

The total number of milk cows averaged 10.8 million head during June, 3 thousand less than the May average.

APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION

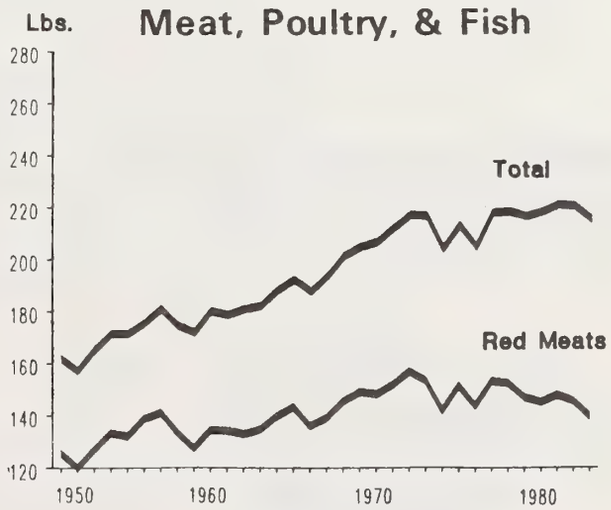
STATE	MILK COWS		MILK PROD.	
	1983	1984	1983	1984
	--Thousand--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	948	963	3,778	3,941
IDAHO	175	164	600	567
MINN	896	885	3,042	2,814
MONT	29	29	92	90
N DAK	102	99	305	292
ORE	101	99	360	358
S DAK	169	162	506	457
WASH	217	211	903	878
WISC	1,844	1,825	6,371	6,295
WYO	11.9	12.0	34.8	33.0
U.S.	11,106	10,852	36,881	35,789

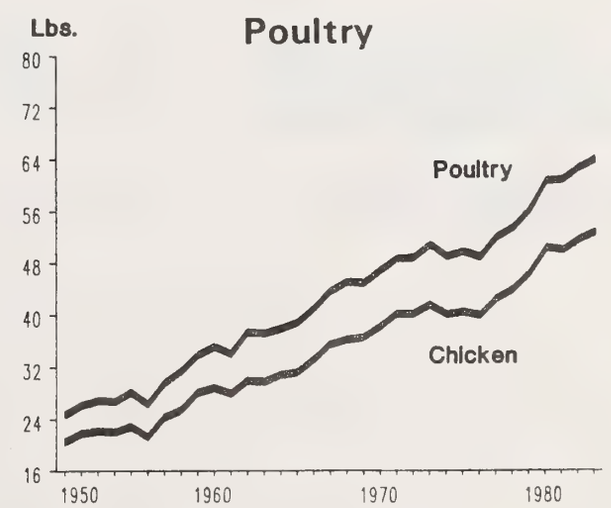
THE DAIRY FARMER GETS 58 CENTS FOR A HALF-GALLON OF MILK COSTING $1.12 AT THE GROCERY STORE.

U.S. PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

Total consumption of meat, poultry, and fish has increased 33 percent since 1950--from an average of 162 pounds to nearly 216 pounds in 1982. Most of this growth occurred prior to 1970, when consumption began to level off.

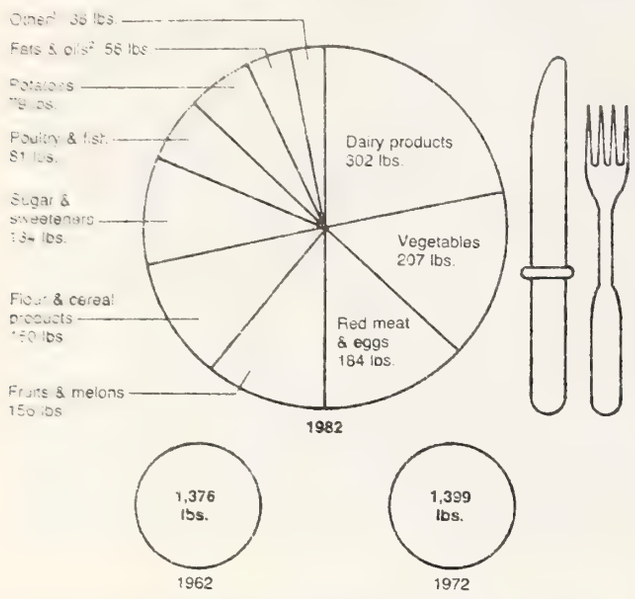
Although total consumption of meat, poultry, and fish has varied no more than 6 pounds per capita since 1970, the mix has changed. For example, we ate about 63 pounds of chicken and turkey each year in 1980-82, compared to only about 50 pounds during the first 3 years of the of the 1970's. Beef and veal consumption fell from 86.4 pounds to 78.6 pounds per person during the decade. Pork consumption changed little--dipping from an average of 64.5 pounds in 1970-72 to 64.1 pounds in 1980-82. Fish consumption began climbing, though slowly, in the 1970's. By 1982, it totaled 12.3 pounds per person, compared to 11.8 pounds in 1970.





America's Menu

Americans Consumed an Average of 1,387 Pounds of Food Per Capita in 1982[1]



[1]Includes game meat and home-grown fruits and vegetables. [2]Does not include "invisible" fats consumed in meats, milk, and other products. [3]Lentils, nuts, coffee, tea, spices, etc.

THE FARMER GETS 93 CENTS FOR A POUND OF BEEF STEAK SELLING AT THE MEAT COUNTER FOR $1.59.

PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS
APRIL 1--JULY 21

Stations	1984	Normal 1/	% of Normal
	----inches----		-Pct.-
Hamilton	4.67	4.92	95
Kalispell	4.86	5.74	85
Polson	6.76	6.58	103
Belgrade	5.00	6.56	76
Dillon Arpt	5.12	5.21	98
Cut Bank	4.38	6.78	65
Havre	2.15	5.77	37
Conrad	2.86	6.71	43
Ft. Benton	4.97	7.64	65
Malta	3.14	6.56	48
Great Falls	4.41	7.58	58
Lewistown	3.52	8.97	39
Stanford	4.23	8.31	51
Billings	4.29	7.04	61
Wyola	5.71	7.97	72
Glasgow	2.88	6.28	46
Sidney	6.03	7.35	82
Broadus	7.74	7.51	103
Miles Cty Arpt	5.92	7.54	79

1/ For period 1951-1980.

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Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST
JUNE FARM PRICES
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
MINK

MONTANA CROP ACRES JUNE 1, 1984

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED	
	1983	1984	1983	Ind. 1984
	---(000)---		---(000)---	
Winter Wheat	2,550	2,700	2,260	2,480
Durum	210	205	205	200
Hard Spring Wheat	2,050	2,200	1,990	2,110
All Wheat	4,810	5,105	4,455	4,790
Corn	65	80	13	15
Oats	210	220	120	140
Barley	1,950	2,320	1,850	2,220
Dry Beans	3.0	9.0	2.8	8.5
Sugarbeets	41.6	25.2	41.3	25.0
Alfalfa Hay	--	--	1,180	1,200
All Other Hay	--	--	1,000	1,100
Fall Potatoes	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.4

U.S. CROP ACRES JUNE 1, 1984

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED	
	1983	1984	1983	Ind. 1984
	----(000)----		-----(000)----	
Winter Wheat	62,105	63,829	47,584	51,109
Durum	2,565	3,282	2,492	3,205
Hard Spring Wheat	11,749	12,415	11,314	12,076
All Wheat	76,419	79,526	61,390	66,428
Corn	60,177	79,940	51,443	71,554
Sorghum	11,695	16,194	9,836	14,619
Oats	20,290	12,229	9,076	8,088
Barley	10,419	11,978	9,727	11,364
Rye	2,707	2,956	896	958
Soybeans	63,139	68,025	61,815	66,733
Flaxseed	605	575	580	555
Sunflower	3,080	3,654	3,033	3,605
All Hay	--	--	59,697	62,251
Dry Beans	1,178.0	1,459.0	1,136.7	1,412.0
Sugarbeets	1,080.4	1,118.5	1,055.8	1,098.2
Fall Potatoes	1,072.7	1,119.8	1,049.8	1,092.2

MONTANA CROP ACRES

Montana farmers planted more acres to hard red spring wheat and barley than last year. This is the second year in a row that barley acreage increased substantially from the previous year and reflects options under the farm program as well as dry seeding conditions this spring.

Montana crop acreage highlights include: total wheat acreage for harvest at 4.8 million acres--up 8 percent from 1983. By classes--winter wheat is forecast at 2.5 million acres, up 10 percent; hard red spring for harvest at 2.1 million, up 6 percent; durum at 200,000 is down 2 percent.

Barley acreage for harvest is forecast at a record high 2.2 million acres, up 20 percent from 1983. Acres of oats for harvest as grain at 140,000 are up 17 percent. All hay acres for harvest at 2.3 million are up 6 percent.

NATIONAL CROP ACRES

The nation's planted crop acres rebounded from last year's depressed level, with feed grains showing the strongest comeback. Feed grains are 17 percent above last year while food grains are up 5 percent. Oilseed crops are up 12 percent.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn plantings up 33 percent from last year, when planted acreage was the lowest since records began. Acres harvested for grain up 39 percent.

Sorghum plantings up 38 percent, harvested for grain acres up 49 percent.

Oats plantings down 40 percent from 1983, harvested acres for grain down 11 percent.

Barley plantings up 15 percent, harvested for grain up 17 percent.

All Wheat plantings up 4 percent, harvested for grain up 8 percent.

JULY CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's winter wheat crop for 1984 is forecast at 71.9 million bushels. Acreage for harvest is up nearly 10 percent from last year but producers expect to harvest 9 percent fewer bushels. Yield prospects were lowered during June because of below normal rainfall in much of the important winter wheat area of north central Montana. The July 1 forecast of winter wheat yield at 29 bushels per acre compares with 35 bushels last year and 38 bushels 2 years ago.

Montana barley production for 1984 is expected to reach 88.8 million bushels, up 14 percent from last year.

Oats production forecast at 5.7 million bushels is nearly 9 percent more than last year, mainly due to a 17 percent increase in acres for harvest.

The state's sweet cherry crop is forecast at 2,100 tons, up 17 percent from last year.

The first production forecast for hard red spring wheat, durum, corn, dry beans, sugarbeets and hay will be released August 10.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1984 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1983	Ind. 1984	Pct. Change	1983	Ind. 1984	Pct. Change
	---000 Bushels--		-Pct.-	--000 Bushels--		-Pct.-
Northwest	847	833	- 2	2,901.9	3,248.0	+12
North Central	43,925	33,060	-25	41,570.6	44,500.0	+ 7
Northeast	7,679	6,175	-20	5,865.1	7,820.0	+33
Central	11,742	14,150	+21	15,950.3	19,350.0	+21
Southwest	1,590	1,600	+ 1	4,709.2	5,922.0	+26
South Central	7,109	9,052	+27	4,812.8	6,075.0	+26
Southeast	6,208	7,050	+14	1,890.1	1,885.0	--
STATE	79,100	71,920	- 9	77,700.0	88,800.0	+14

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

MONTANA -- JULY 1 CROP FORECAST

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
	----(000)---		----Bu.----		--(000) Bu.--	
Winter Wheat	2,260	2,480	35.0	29.0	79,100	71,920
Barley	1,850	2,220	42.0	40.0	77,700	88,800
Oats	120	140	44.0	41.0	5,280	5,740
Sweet Cherries	--	--	--	--	1,800 1/	2,100 1/

1/ 1,000 tons.

U.S. -- JULY 1 CROP FORECAST

CROPS	HARVESTED ACRES		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984
	----(000)---		----Bu.----		---(000) Bu.--	
Winter Wheat	47,584	51,109	41.8	39.6	1,988,304	2,021,918
Barley	9,727	11,364	52.3	54.8	508,344	622,746
Oats	9,076	8,088	52.6	56.2	477,133	454,747
Sweet Cherries	--	--	--	--	179.7 1/	180.6 1/

1/ Actual tons.

MINK

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1983 totaled 4.11 million pelts. Wisconsin, the major mink state, produced 1.17 million pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: Standard - 32.4 percent; Demi-Buff - 17.2 percent; Ranch Wild - 10.5 percent; Pastel - 12.1 percent; Pearl - 8.0 percent; and Violet - 6.0 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 13.8 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1983 crop year were valued at 120.1 million dollars. The average price per pelt for the 1983 crop year was $29.20, compared with an average price of $28.90 in 1982 and $32.20 in 1981.

There were 1,067 mink farms producing pelts in 1983. Leading states were Wisconsin with 252 farms, Minnesota with 148 farms and Utah with 145. Fox were raised on 14 percent of the mink farms.

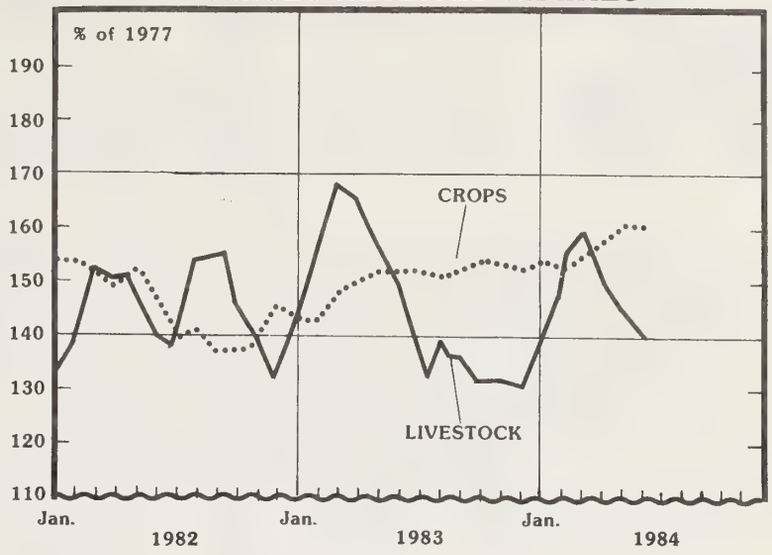
JUNE FARM PRICES

The June index of prices received by Montana farmers was down 3 points from May but was still 3 points above one year ago.

The June index at 150 (1977=100) dropped from May to June because most important items in the index fell off. Only durum wheat, barley, calves, sheep and lambs showed increases. Spring wheat, hay and wool were unchanged.

Compared with last year, winter wheat is the only crop item showing a lower price. In the livestock category, cattle, calves and sheep were down from last year.

MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average June 1983	MONTANA Monthly Average May 1984	MONTANA June 15, 1984	U.S. June 15, 1984
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.56	3.50	3.36
Durum	Bu.	3.55	3.84	3.85	3.87
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.95	3.95	3.84
All Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.77	3.75	3.45
Barley	Bu.	2.16	2.60	2.64	2.69
Oats	Bu.	1.48	1.69	1.65	1.93
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	85.00	85.00	84.60
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	75.00	75.00	64.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	85.00	85.00	78.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	61.60	58.50	58.40	60.60
Cows	Cwt	41.10	39.90	37.70	39.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	48.30	49.40	47.00	56.50
Calves	Cwt	65.10	59.90	60.90	58.90
Sheep	Cwt	12.70	8.10	8.50	13.60
Lambs	Cwt	51.40	49.00	53.50	56.80
Hogs	Cwt	42.20	43.00	42.80	48.40
All Milk	Cwt	12.80	13.50	13.20	12.80
Eggs	Doz.	.535	.650	.550	.538
Wool 2/	Lb.	.610	1.00	1.00	.877
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	147	153	150	143
All Crops	Pct.	150	161	161	145
Livestock & Products	Pct.	145	145	140	142

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

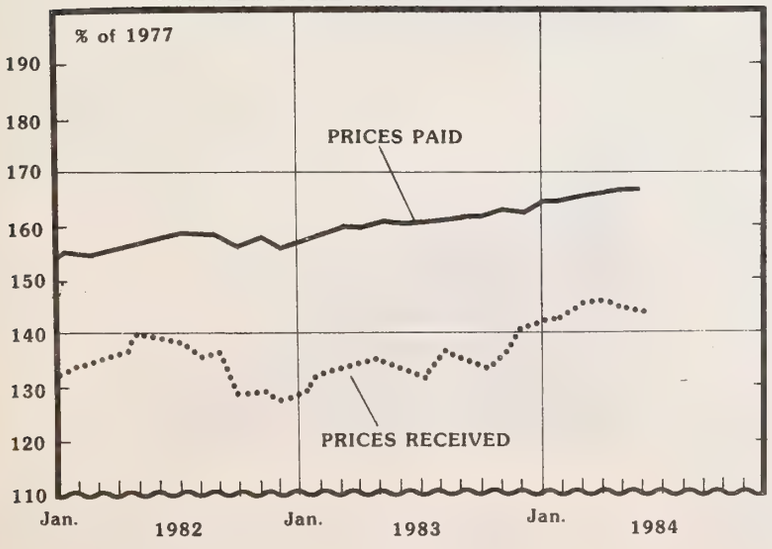
INDEX	June 1983	May 1984	June 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	133	144	143
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	161	166	166
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	83	87	86
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	58	57

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION DOWN

Montana's pasture and range condition on July 1 was 72 percent of normal, down 5 points (6 percent) from a year ago. Pastures improved in the northeast part of the state because of June rains, but deteriorated in the north central. Pastures and ranges remain in good to excellent condition in the southern and western areas.

UNITED STATES
INDEX NUMBERS OF
PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



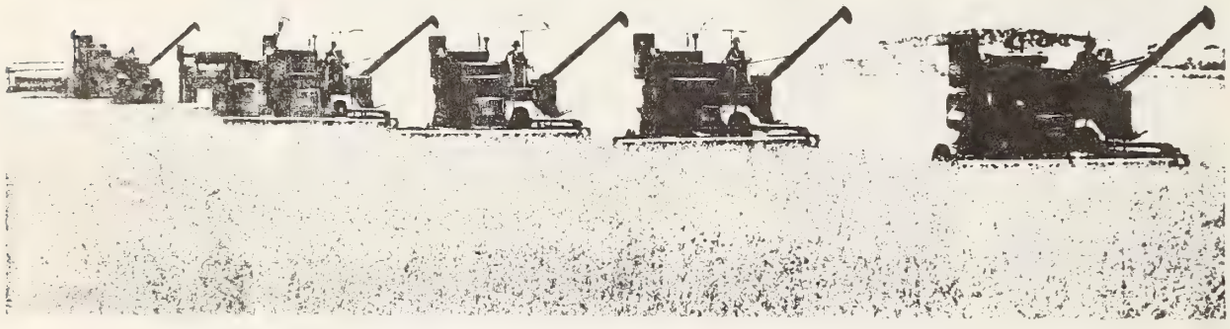
MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1982	1983	1984
Northwest	92	85	93
North Central	96	70	45
Northeast	98	70	48
Central	97	75	75
Southwest	92	87	89
South Central	100	80	80
Southeast	101	83	82
STATE	97	77	72

MAJOR WHEAT IMPORTERS

Projected 1984/85 world wheat demand has changed only slightly from the initial estimate of a month ago. The estimate of European Community (EC) wheat imports has been cut to 3.5 million tons, the lowest level since the EC's formation. Estimates of imports of high-protein hard and durum wheats for blending, which come primarily from the United States and Canada, have been reduced by half a million tons for both 1983/84 and 1984/85. Shipments in 1983/84 lag well behind prior years as EC millers have apparently adapted to using more domestic milling wheat in their mill mix.

On the other hand, deteriorating crop prospects in the North African area, particularly in Morocco, along with a general up trend in consumption, is expected to result in some additional wheat imports. Adverse weather in the Middle East continues to plague wheat crops with imports expected to again be heavy, particularly for Iraq and Syria. India, with prospects for a record or near-record wheat crop, is still expected to import very little wheat in 1984/85, compared with the levels of the past 3 years. Commitments under various grain trading agreements are still expected to result in some increase in Chinese wheat imports from the 1983/84 level. A smaller 1984 USSR wheat crop is likely to keep them in the world market for significant quantities of wheat again this year. Korea's wheat imports are expected to continue at the 1983/84 high level as significant purchases of wheat for feed are likely to continue.



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Qtrly Milk Production
Slaughter
Cattle Inventory &
Calf Crop

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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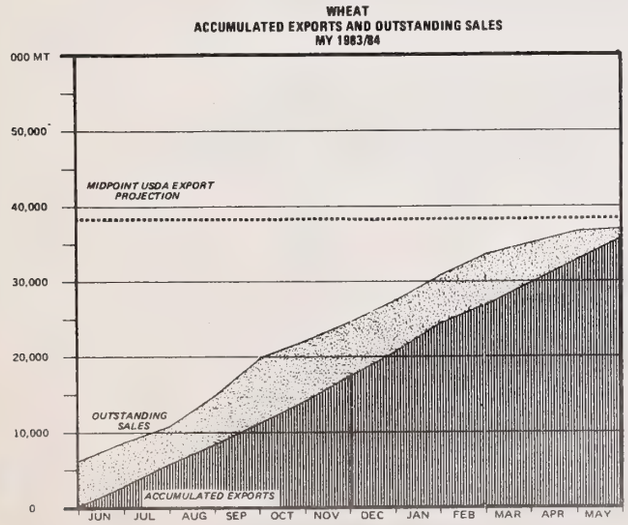
HIGHLIGHTS:

WHEAT STOCKS DOWN
MORE EGGS PRODUCED
SLAUGHTER
U.S. HOG NUMBERS DROP
featuring.....CARTER COUNTY

FARM INCOME PROSPECTS MIXED

The outlook for farm income is mixed. Net farm income in 1984 is forecast to rise to $30 to $34 billion, with much of the gain due to the expected buildup in farm inventories. On the other hand, net cash income is forecast between $34 and $38 billion, down from last year. Gross cash income will rise, reflecting higher receipts from crops and livestock. Direct Government payments will remain large, mainly because a sizable portion of the 1983 PIK payments were dispersed this year. But gains in receipts will be offset by rising production expenses, as more acres are seeded this year and as input prices again rise in line with the general inflation rate.



MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Wheat stored in Montana on June 1, 1984 was down 20 percent from the same date last year. However, with 90.5 million bushels on hand, the supply exceeds the 4 years prior to 1983, and is the third largest carry-in ever recorded. Winter wheat stocks were down 2 percent and spring wheat was down 34 percent. About 80 percent of the wheat stocks are stored on the farm, and 20 percent in off-farm locations.

Barley stocks were 40 percent below last year's relatively high June 1 holdings. Stocks totaled 11.9 million bushels with 10.1 located on the farm and 1.8 off-farm. Oats stocks were down 39 percent from a year ago. Except for 1981, this is the smallest carryover in the past 20 years.

Old Crop Wheat stored in all positions in the United States on June 1, 1984 totaled 1.39 billion bushels, down 8 percent from the 1.52 billion bushels on hand June 1 a year ago, but 20 percent more than two years ago. Farm stocks amounted to 592 million bushels, down 12 percent from June 1, 1983. Off-farm stocks, at 803 million bushels were down 5 percent from June 1 a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during April-May totaled 362 million bushels. For the comparable period last year, disappearance was 347 million bushels. Old crop durum wheat stocks in all positions June 1, 1984 totaled 101 million bushels, 25 percent less than last year`s 136 million bushels, but down 4 percent from June 1, 1982.

Old crop barley stored in all positions on June 1, 1984 totaled 189 million bushels, down 13 percent from June 1 a year ago. Indicated disappearance during April and May 1984 was 79.6 million bushels (1.73 million metric tons), 3 percent more than the corresponding period a year earlier. Old crop oats in all storage positions on June 1, 1984 totaled 181 million bushels, down 18 percent from June 1 a year ago.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JUNE 1, 1984 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1983 *	Apr. 1, 1984 *	June 1, 1984	% Change From 1983	June 1, 1983 *	Apr. 1, 1984 *	June 1, 1984
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels-----		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	91,963	97,220	72,573	-21	668,938	771,212	591,650
Off farms 1/	21,811	25,490	17,906	-18	846,125	985,417	802,678
TOTAL	113,774	122,710	90,479	-20	1,515,063	1,756,629	1,394,328
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	37,829	51,504	37,963	--	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	11,525	13,861	10,190	-12	--	--	--
TOTAL	49,354	65,365	48,153	- 2	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	54,134	45,716	34,610	-36	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,286	11,629	7,716	-25	--	--	--
TOTAL	64,420	57,345	42,326	-34	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--		111,059	89,266	73,727
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--		24,898	34,345	27,613
TOTAL	14,111	10,825	9,247	-34	135,957	123,511	101,340
CORN							
On Farms	140	314	191	+36	3,093,509	1,929,812	1,210,608
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,830,375	1,317,476	926,448
TOTAL	4/	4/	4/	--	4,923,884	3,247,288	2,137,056
OATS							
On Farms	3,443	3,115	2,165	-37	181,178	226,776	151,291
Off Farms 1/	236	438	77	-67	38,650	43,289	29,765
TOTAL	3,679	3,553	2,242	-39	219,828	270,065	181,056
BARLEY							
On Farms	12,995	17,094	10,101	-40	136,771	169,090	116,829
Off Farms 1/	2,990	5,319	1,846	-38	79,926	99,328	71,966
TOTAL	15,985	22,413	11,947	-40	216,697	268,418	188,795
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	96,012	86,803	60,270
Off Farms 1/ --	--	--	--		433,061	380,331	306,926
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	529,073	467,134	367,196

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1983 *	Apr. 1, 1984 *	June 1, 1984	June 1, 1983 *	Apr. 1, 1984 *	June 1, 1984
	------Million Bushels------			------Million Bushels-----		
Northwest	1.6	.5	.3	1.0	.9	.4
North Central	55.9	52.4	36.0	6.7	10.2	5.2
Northeast	33.2	39.1	30.9	2.1	2.0	1.4
Central	9.9	12.9	9.7	3.5	5.4	3.6
Southwest	1.7	2.6	2.1	1.0	1.5	.4
South Central	7.6	9.1	5.9	1.4	2.0	.7
Southeast	3.9	6.1	5.6	.3	.4	.2
STATE	113.8	122.7	90.5	16.0	22.4	11.9

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's laying flock increased seasonally from the first quarter to the second quarter. The average number of laying hens and pullets on hand in the second quarter, ending May 31, was 765,000. This was 4 percent below the same quarter last year. Egg production, however, was up 2 percent with 49 million eggs produced during March-May 1984.

The nation's laying flocks produced 17.2 billion eggs during the March-May 1984 quarter, 1 percent fewer than the 17.3 billion produced during the corresponding quarter a year ago. The total number of layers for the quarter averaged 277 million, 1 percent above 275 million a year earlier.

PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS
APRIL 1--JUNE 23

Stations	1984	Normal 1/	% of Normal
	----inches----		-Pct.-
Hamilton	4.86	4.01	121
Kalispell	4.75	4.63	103
Polson	6.76	5.23	129
Belgrade	4.49	5.34	84
Dillon Arpt	5.17	4.13	125
Cut Bank	4.32	5.11	85
Havre	2.11	4.37	48
Conrad	2.86	5.28	54
Ft. Benton	4.96	6.30	79
Malta	3.14	4.87	65
Great Falls	4.23	6.24	68
Lewistown	3.33	7.17	46
Stanford	3.90	6.62	59
Billings	4.13	6.01	69
Wyola	5.54	6.95	80
Glasgow	2.86	4.57	63
Sidney	5.42	5.53	98
Broadus	6.33	5.92	107
Miles Cty Arpt	5.52	5.86	94

1/ For period 1951-1980.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 4.0 million pounds of red meat in May 1984--33 percent more than April but 57 percent less than May last year.

May slaughter consisted of 6,300 cattle, 2,400 hogs, and 300 sheep. Cattle kill was below last year and hog kill continues at less than 10 percent of the previous year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in May 1984 totaled 3.41 billion pounds (1.55 million metric tons), up 8 percent from May 1983. January-May red meat production, at 16.1 billion pounds (7.32 million metric tons), was up 5 percent from last year. The 1984 accumulated production percent changes by individual components were: Beef, up 5 percent; veal, up 14 percent; pork, up 4 percent; lamb and mutton, up 7 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 9 PERCENT

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the U.S. on June 1, 1984, is estimated at 52.0 million head. This is 9 percent below a year ago but about the same as 1982.

The breeding herd, at 7.34 million head, was 9 percent less than a year ago and 1 percent below two years ago.

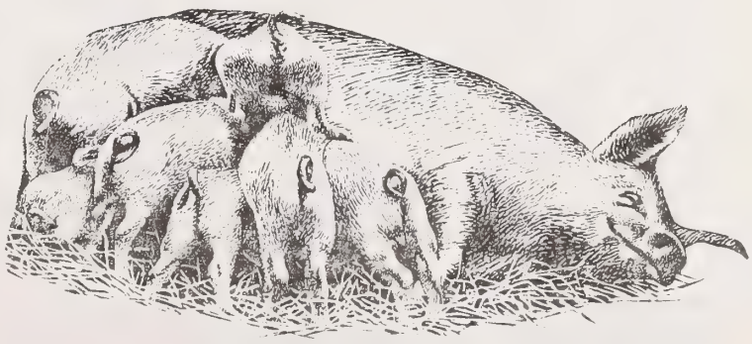
The market hog inventory, at 44.7 million head, was 9 percent below a year ago but about the same as two years ago.

The December 1983-May 1984 U.S. pig crop was 41.5 million head, an 11 percent decrease from the corresponding period last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Sows farrowing during this 6-month period, at 5.56 million, were 11 percent less than the comparable period last year. Pigs saved per litter was 7.46 compared with 7.52 last year and 7.34 two years ago.

U.S. producers intend to have 5.61 million sows farrow during the June-November period, a decrease of 9 percent from the same period in 1983 and 3 percent below 1982.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER JUNE 1,
SOWS FARROWING & PIG CROP, 1982-84, UNITED STATES

ITEM	1981	1982	1983	1984 as % of 1983
	--------000 Head------			--Pct.--
June 1 Inventory				
All hogs & pigs	52,210	57,450	52,030	91
Kept for Breeding	7,419	8,074	7,335	91
Market	44,791	49,376	44,695	91
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:				
Under 60 pounds	19,029	21,855	18,997	87
60-119 pounds	10,999	11,915	11,224	94
120-179 pounds	8,257	8,764	7,981	91
180 pounds & over	6,506	6,842	6,493	95
Sows Farrowing:				
Dec.-Feb. 1/	2,576	2,742	2,501	91
March-May	3,016	3,480	3,062	88
Dec.-May 1/	5,592	6,221	5,563	89
June-August	2,851	3,149		
Sept.-Nov.	2,951	2,992		
June-November	5,802	6,140	5,609 2/	91
Pig Crop:				
Dec.-Feb. 1/	18,372	20,365	18,272	90
March-May	22,655	26,400	23,206	88
Dec.-May 1/	41,027	46,765	41,478	89
June-August	21,088	23,178		
Sept.-Nov.	21,907	22,301		
June-Nov.	42,995	45,479	41,500 3/	91
YEAR	84,022	92,244	82,978 3/	90



featuring. . . . . CARTER COUNTY

Carter County is situated in the extreme southeastern corner of the state, bordered on the east by South Dakota and to the south by Wyoming. The landscape is characterized largely by rolling prairie with the exception of some territory in the northwest and north central area of the county that is occupied by sections of the Custer National Forest. The Little Missouri River meanders through the southeastern corner of the county.

In 1982, Carter County was the number one sheep raising county in the state. In number of cattle for 1982, the county was in 18th place. Some hogs are also raised as Carter County stood 31st in the December 1, 1981 hog inventory.

Principal crops raised include oats, hay and wheat. In the 1982 crop production figures the county stood in 12th, 16th and 31st place respectively for these crops.

Livestock returned $21,703,000 in cash receipts to the county in 1982, while crops added $11,320,000. Government payments amounted to $974,000 for a total return of $33,997,000 in 1982 cash receipts.

CARTER COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1982		UNIT	1982
Land Area	Acres	2,124,160	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	4,600
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,696,443	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	117,800
Number of Farms 1/		335			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
Oats	Acres	8,400	Sheep	No. Head	100,700
All Hay	Acres	65,100	Cattle	No. Head	61,000
Durum Wheat	Acres	900	Hogs 1/	No. Head	1,800
Winter Wheat	Acres	40,000			
All Wheat	Acres	49,900			

1/ 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1981.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

June Acreage
Dairy Products Mfg.
Ag Prices
Crop Production
  Grains, Cherries
  Pasture & Range
Mink

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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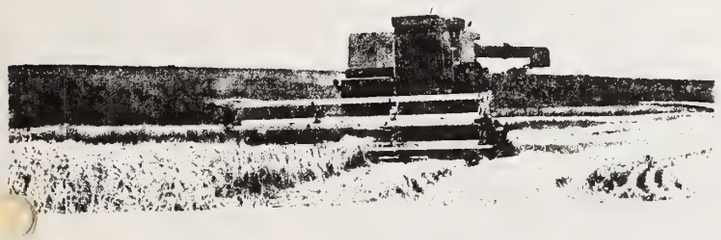
HIGHLIGHTS:

JUNE 1 WINTER WHEAT FORECAST
MAY FARM PRICES
FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES
MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
CHERRY PRODUCTION FORECAST
featuring.....HILL COUNTY



WINTER WHEAT FORECAST DOWN

Montana's 1984 winter wheat crop is forecast at 74.4 million bushels, 6 percent smaller than last year's crop and 4 percent below the May 1 forecast. If realized this would be the smallest crop since 1980. June 1 conditions indicate a yield of 30 bushels per acre compared with 35 last year. Precipitation during May was below normal in many major winter wheat areas causing poor growing conditions.

The nation's winter wheat crop is forecast to be 1 percent smaller than last year. The Plains states, with nearly 51 percent of the U.S. production, are down 9 percent. A 7 percent increase in acreage did not offset the large reduction in yields forecast for these states. Production in the three Pacific Northwest states is up 3 percent and the Corn Belt states are up 5 percent. The Southern states accounting for about 11 percent of the U.S. production are up the most with a 7 percent increase.

WINTER WHEAT

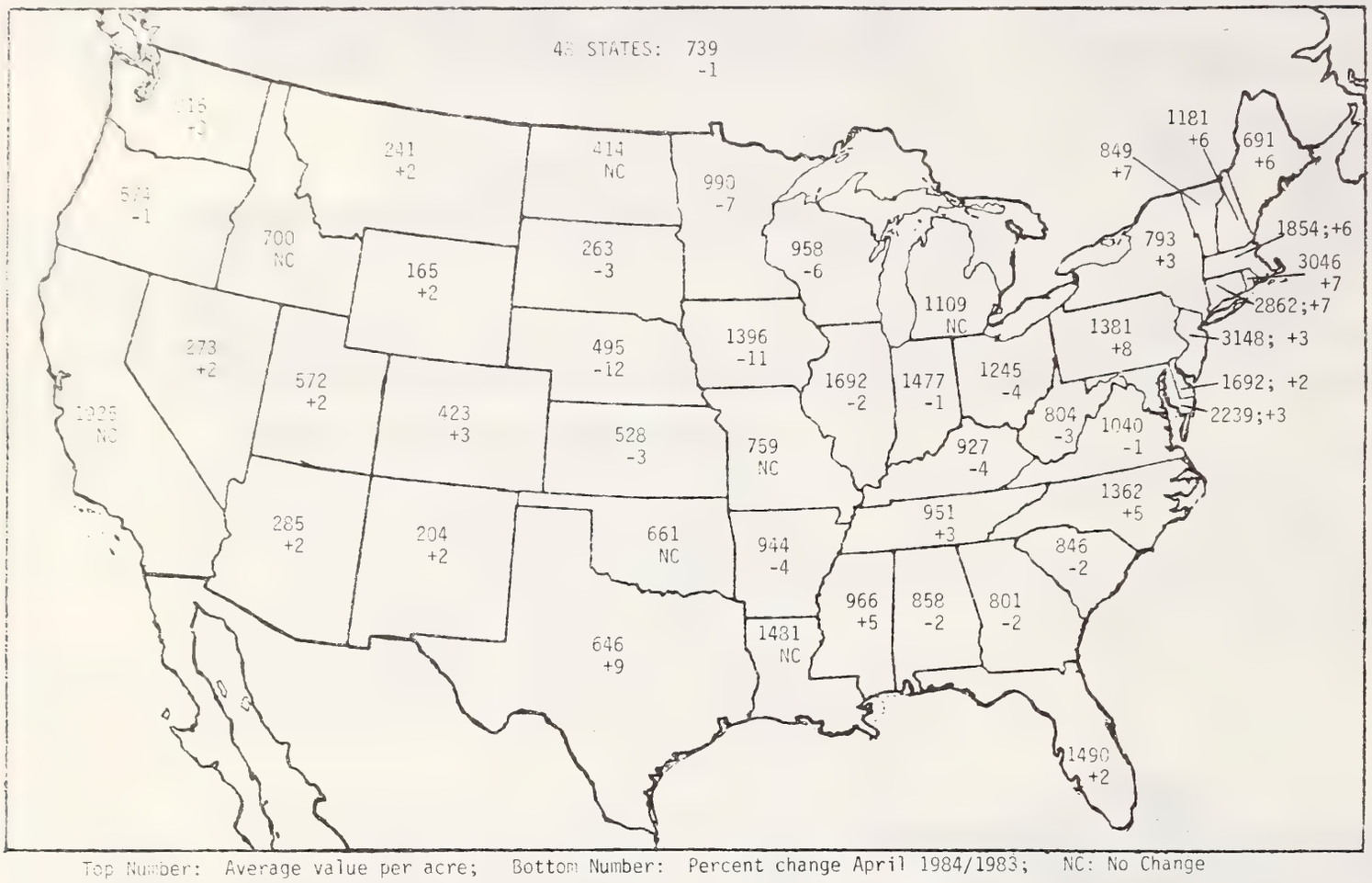
STATE	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1983	1984	1983	1984	% Chg.
	--000 Acres--		------000 Bushels------		
COLO	3,000	3,100	117,000	89,900	-23
KS	10,800	11,100	448,200	399,600	-11
MT	2,260	2,480	79,100	74,400	- 6
NEBR	2,300	2,300	98,900	78,200	-21
S DAK	1,250	1,450	51,250	47,850	- 7
TX	4,600	4,900	161,000	132,300	-18
OKLA	4,300	5,300	150,500	180,200	+20
PLAINS STATES	28,510	30,630	1,105,950	1,002,450	- 9
ID	830	830	55,610	57,270	+ 3
ORE	1,000	1,020	62,000	63,240	+ 2
WASH	2,450	2,580	159,250	154,120	+ 4
PACIFIC NW	4,280	4,430	276,860	285,630	+ 3
ILL	1,400	1,530	65,800	67,320	+ 2
IND	970	1,020	49,470	47,490	- 3
MICH	730	900	35,770	45,000	+26
MO	1,850	2,080	70,300	81,120	+15
OHIO	1,150	1,100	58,650	51,700	-12
CORN BELT	6,100	6,630	279,990	293,080	+ 5
ALA	460	425	15,180	14,450	- 5
ARK	1,500	1,500	58,500	60,000	+ 3
GA	980	1,000	33,320	35,000	+ 5
KY	560	500	17,920	17,500	- 2
MISS	600	575	20,400	20,125	- 1
NC	480	650	16,320	24,700	+51
SC	375	395	10,500	14,220	+35
TENN	640	600	21,120	21,000	- 6
VA	340	355	14,280	15,265	+ 7
SOUTHERN STATES	5,935	6,000	207,540	222,260	+ 7
CALIF	650	770	41,600	56,980	+37
OTHER STATES	2,211	3,123	81,948	112,376	+37
U.S.	47,686	51,583	1,993,888	1,972,776	- 1

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
BY DISTRICTS--JUNE 1, 1984

DISTRICT	1983	Ind. 1984	% Chg.
	-000 Bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	847	833	- 2
North Central	43,925	36,599	-17
Northeast	7,679	5,200	-32
Central	11,742	14,348	+22
Southwest	1,590	1,600	+ 1
South Central	7,109	9,052	+27
Southeast	6,208	6,768	+ 9
STATE	79,100	74,400	- 6

FARM REAL ESTATE

AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE and PERCENT CHANGE IN AVERAGE VALUE -- APRIL 1984



Top Number: Average value per acre; Bottom Number: Percent change April 1984/1983; NC: No Change

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

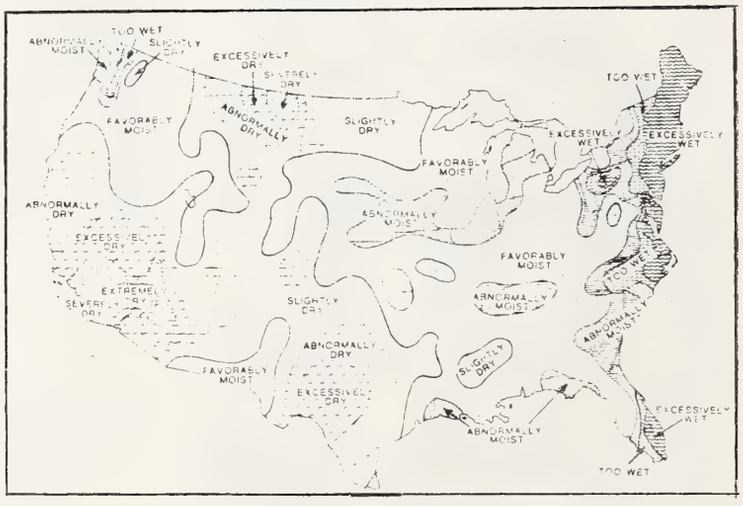
Pastures and ranges in the southern tier of counties and most of the western third of the state were green and growing. Elsewhere range grasses have not greened up and are not growing well because of dry weather and cool temperatures. The grasses in many areas are heading on short stems, because of the poor growing conditions, drastically limiting production.

About 70 percent of the cattle and sheep had been moved to summer ranges by the end of May. There has been some culling of older stock and some producers have started shipping stock to other areas for summer grazing.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1982	1983	1984
Northwest	88	92	88
North Central	84	85	67
Northeast	68	84	53
Central	83	89	81
Southwest	93	93	92
South Central	83	89	75
Southeast	76	90	72
STATE	87	85	65

CROP MOISTURE -- -- JUNE 2, 1984



HOW MUCH U.S. AGRICULTURAL LAND IS OWNED BY FOREIGN INVESTORS?

According to USDA's latest tally as of December 31, 1983, 13.7 million acres are owned by nearly 8,500 foreign investors from more than 80 nations. These investors reported some holdings of forestland, pasture, cropland or other U.S. agricultural land. The 1983 figure is 279,000 acres higher than the 1982 total. For the nation as a whole, foreign investors hold just a tad more than 1 percent of all privately owned ag land.

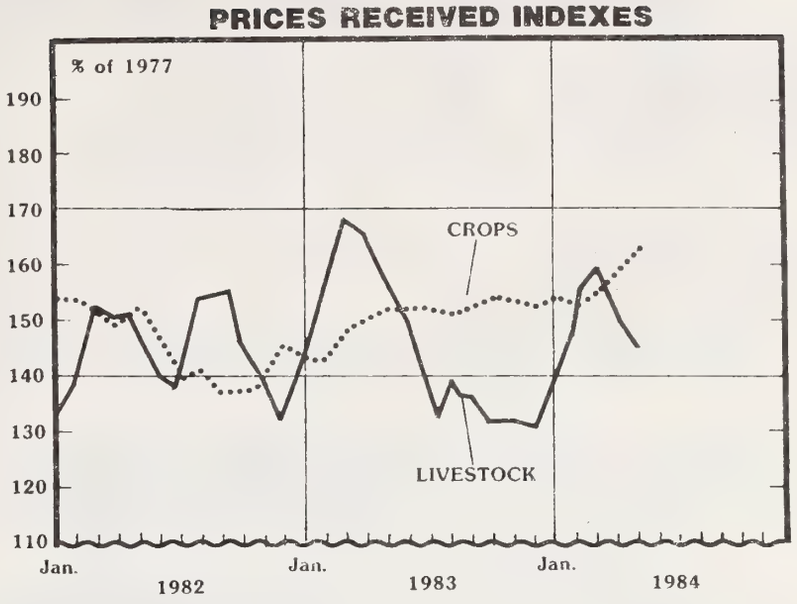
FARM PRICES

The mid-May index of prices received by Montana farmers dropped 1 point below both the previous month and the same month last year. The May index at 153 (1977=100) reflected a 5 point drop from the previous month in the livestock index and a 2 point increase in the crops index. Every item in the livestock index was down but every item in the crops index moved up from last month.

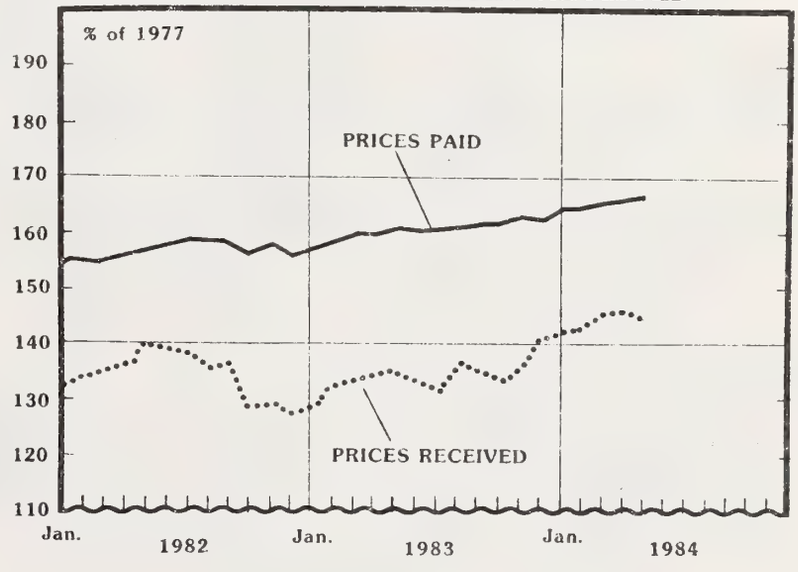
The U.S. May all farm products index of prices received by farmers decreased 2 points from April to 144 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for eggs, cattle, onions, tomatoes and milk were partially offset by higher prices for oranges, soybeans, and cotton. The index was 7 points above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for may was 166 percent of its 1977 base. Replacement livestock prices were lower, while fuel, fertilizer, agricultural chemicals and family living items were higher. Compared with a year earlier, the index was up 5 points.

MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES
INDEX NUMBERS OF
PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Average		May 15, 1984	May 15, 1984
		May 1983	April 1984		
		----------dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.53	3.55	3.49
Durum	Bu.	3.67	3.94	4.00	3.76
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.88	3.85	3.95	3.83
All Wheat	Bu.	3.76	3.76	3.82	3.57
Barley	Bu.	2.19	2.51	2.54	2.60
Oats	Bu.	1.48	1.63	1.65	1.88
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	80.00	85.00	85.00	90.20
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	75.00	75.00	65.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	84.50	85.00	84.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	62.60	58.60	56.30	62.30
Cows	Cwt	41.50	39.20	38.70	40.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	53.10	51.20	49.30	58.10
Calves	Cwt	67.70	60.70	59.90	61.60
Sheep	Cwt	15.00	12.60	9.50	14.30
Lambs	Cwt	49.60	52.50	51.50	60.50
Hogs	Cwt	44.30	43.90	41.30	47.80
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	13.60	13.30	12.90
Eggs	Doz.	.531	.780	.650	.623
Wool 2/	Lb.	.610	1.02	1.00	.878
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	154	154	153	144
All Crops	Pct.	152	160	162	144
Livestock & Products	Pct.	155	149	144	145

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	May 1983	April 1984	May 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	137	146	144
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	161	166	166
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	85	88	87
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	56	58	58

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-143 prices.

CHERRY PRODUCTION

Based on June 1 conditions Montana's cherry crop is forecast at 2,100 tons, 17 percent above last year. Pollination was below average because cold weather limited bee activity. Winter damage was localized and not too severe. Average date of bloom was May 15, somewhat later than normal.

Sweet cherry production in the six western states is expected to total 152,700 tons, 3 percent less than last year.

featuring. . . . . HILL COUNTY

Hill County is located along the Montana/Canadian border midway between the east and west borders of the state. The county is traversed by the Milk River which empties into the Fresno Reservoir at the Fresno Dam near the center of the county. At the tip of the Fresno Reservoir the Milk River turns north, continuing through Hill County and on into Canada. A major portion of the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation is located in the southeastern corner of the county. A portion of the Bear Paw Mountains occupy the southeastern corner as well.

The main industry in the county is farming as Hill County is one of the major grain growing areas in the state. In the 1982 crop production figures, the county ranked 2nd in all wheat and winter wheat, and 1st in spring wheat production. Also in 1982 Hill County came in 6th for both barley and oats production.

Hill County is also a major hog raising area as it came in 4th in the December 1, 1981 hog inventory. Some sheep and cattle are also raised in the area.

The abundant grain crops grown in the county brought in $59,973,000 in cash receipts in 1982. Livestock receipts came to $6,237,000, with government payments adding $6,945,000 for a total cash receipt return of $73,155,000 in 1982.

HILL COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1982		UNIT	1982
Land Area	Acres	1,860,480	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	6,800
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	1,734,585	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	3,800
Number of Farms 1/	Acres	675			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
All Wheat	Acres	500,500	Hogs 2/	No. Head	10,700
Spring Wheat	Acres	280,000	Sheep	No. Head	1,200
Winter Wheat	Acres	220,000	Cattle	No. Head	28,100
Durum Wheat	Acres	500			
Barley	Acres	76,600			
Oats	Acres	16,800			

1/ 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1981.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Qtrly. Egg Production
Hogs & Pigs

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.—Editor
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HIGHLIGHTS:

FARM EXPENDITURES FORECAST
POTATO STOCKS DROP
WEATHER & CROP SUMMARY
MORE CATTLE ON FEED
FARM MACHINERY SITUATION
featuring.....LINCOLN COUNTY

FARM EXPENDITURES

U.S. farmers are expected to spend $42 billion on machinery and equipment, agricultural chemicals, and energy this year, up 13 percent from 1983. Expenditures for farm machinery inputs are estimated at $13.9 billion, one-third of the total, and will be about 11 percent greater than last year. Outlays for other inputs probably will increase at rates ranging from 9 percent for fuel and lubricating oil to 23 percent for seed. Contributing to this outlook are a projected $9- to $16- billion rise in net farm income and a prospective return to production of 30 to 35 million PIK-diverted acres.

Farm machinery purchases, leases, and rentals may rise 9 percent in 1984 to $8.6 billion. Repairs and operating expenditures are expected to climb 15 percent to $5.3 billion, primarily due to the anticipated gain in planted acreage. Unit sales of farm machinery are projected to rise 5 to 8 percent, although combine sales could decline by 10 to 15 percent.

Pesticide use will expand significantly in 1984 as U.S. field crop acreage rises. Farmers will use around 440 million pounds, active ingredient, of herbicides, 67 million pounds of insecticides, and 7 million pounds of fungicides this season. Pesticide supplies are sufficient to meet expected demand in the major crop regions, although spot shortages of some newly marketed formulations have been reported in the Corn Belt. On average, farmers will pay about 7 percent less for herbicides and 5 percent less for insecticides than in 1983.

Total fertilizer use on field crops is expected to climb 17 percent in 1984, despite an overall rise in fertilizer prices. Farmers will apply an estimated 10.7 million tons of potash this season. Average farm prices are likely to show a year-to-year gain of 16 percent for nitrogen, 8 percent for phosphorus, and 5 percent for potash. Domestic production and imports of the three plant nutrients should meet anticipated demand.

Agricultural energy demand is projected to rise 10 percent in 1984 as fuel needs expand with the anticipated increase in field crop acreage. Farm energy expenditures likely will rise to $8.4 billion from $7.7 billion in 1983. Farmers can expect average per-gallon prices to hold constant this year at about $1.18 for gasoline, $1.04 for diesel fuel, and $0.77 for LP gas.

Farm expenditures for selected production items, 1977 to 1983 and forecast 1984

Year	Farm machinery		Fertilizer and lime	Pesticides	Fuel and lube	Electricity	Seed	Total
	Purchases[1]	Repairs and maintenance						
	Billion dollars							
1977	8.6	2.8	6.3	1.9	4.4	1.0	2.5	27.5
1978	10.8	3.5	6.4	2.7	4.6	1.4	2.6	32.0
1979	12.0	3.7	7.2	3.1	6.3	1.6	3.0	36.9
1980	10.9	4.2	9.5	3.3	7.8	1.8	3.4	40.9
1981	10.6	4.3	9.6	3.6	9.1	2.0	3.9	43.1
1982	8.4	4.4	9.0	3.6	8.8	2.1	4.0	40.3
1983[2]	7.9	4.6	7.6	3.1	7.7	2.3	3.5	36.7
1984[3]	8.6	5.3	8.7	3.6	8.4	2.6	4.3	41.5

[1]Includes leasing and rental. [2]Estimated. [3]Forecast.

FARM MACHINERY

SUPPLIES--There have been unusually large supplies of most types of farm machinery for the past few years for several reasons. Imports of machinery assembled abroad have increased significantly. At the same time, sales were declining, and manufacturers did not adjust domestic production rapidly enough to avoid inventory accumulation.

This is perhaps best illustrated by the tractor supply situation for 1982 and 1983. In 1982, U.S. tractor supplies included 246,200 units of which 122,200 or 50 percent were inventories carried over from the previous year, 59,500 units or 24 percent which were domestically produced during the year, and 64,500 units or 26 percent that were imported. Tractor supplies in 1983 were about 5 percent less than in 1982, with about the same share in inventories (47 percent) but with domestic production declining from 59,500 units to 32,400, a 46-percent drop. Most of the drop was in the 40-99 hp category which declined from 15,000 units to fewer than 500. By contrast, the number of imported units increased from 64,500 to 90,700, a 41 percent rise.

The inability to make timely downward production adjustments has resulted in inventories of tractors and selected types of harvesting machinery that are currently about double normal inventory requirements.

INVENTORIES--Tractor inventories increased between 1978 and 1981-82. Yearend stocks were about the same for 40-99 hp tractors and about twice as great for larger 2-wheel drive tractors in 1983 as in the early and mid-70's. However, inventories for 40-99 hp tractors have been declining in the last few years because of major factory production cutbacks, reflecting reduced demand for these tractors.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

On May 1, 1984 there were 50,000 cwt of potatoes in Montana storages compared with 200,000 cwt on May 1, 1983.

Potato stocks in the 15 major producing states totaled 46.2 million cwt, down 19 percent from last year and 9 percent below 1982. The May 1 stocks accounted for 17 percent of fall production this year compared with 19 percent last year.

RECOVERY BROADENS

World economic output will likely grow 3.5 to 4.0 percent in 1984. The industrialized economies, including the United States, will enjoy the largest expansion. As in 1983, growth in the United States, forecast at 5 to 6 percent, will probably be much faster than that in the other industrialized countries, especially in Europe. Although growth in the centrally planned economies and the less developed countries as a group will likely trail the average rate for the world, their expansion will probably exceed the rate of expansion last year, especially for the LDC's.

World trade volume this year is apt to climb about 3.5 percent, following almost no growth in 1983. This increase will boost export earnings for all regions, but it will especially help the LDC's that export manufactured goods and industrial raw materials. Thus, Asian countries that produce manufactured items will probably see a surge in sales and revenues, and so could some African nations that export mostly raw materials. Exporters of petroleum, however, will probably grow much less than the world average rate, because of continuing slack demand.

INVESTMENTS, CONSUMPTION STRONG IN FOREIGN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES

For the foreign industrialized countries, the recovery will be supported by exports, investments, and consumption. Japan, Canada, and to a lesser extent the U.K. and Germany have enjoyed the strongest rebounds and will likely remain the leaders this year. Some of the increases in their exports will reflect sales to the United States, where healthy growth and the high-valued dollar are expected to continue fueling import demand. Japan and Canada together provide about 40 percent of U.S. imports, so they will benefit proportionately more from the U.S. expansion.

Annual Percent Changes in Growth Rates for World Economies

	1982	1983	1984F
All industrialized countries	-0.3	2.7	4.3
Industrialized countries less U.S.	.5	1.4	3.0
Centrally planned countries	2.5	2.4	3.5
Developing countries	.7	.6	3.6
Africa/Middle East	1.3	2.4	2.6
Asia	2.8	3.7	5.9
Latin America	-1.6	-3.5	1.6

Source: Project LINK.

CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY
FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 19, 1984

Soil moisture continued short except in the south central and western portions of the state. While rain was reported in north central and northeastern Montana, high winds in these areas reduced the benefit of this moisture. Most activities centered on windup of small grain plantings, summerfallowing, weed spraying and moving livestock to summer pastures.

Calving and lambing were virtually complete by week's end and about 50 percent of the livestock had been moved to summer ranges. Hay and range growth were progressing slower than normal due to the cool spring weather.

PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS
FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 19, 1984

Station	1984	Normal 1/	% of Normal
	----inches----		-Pct.-
Hamilton	2.44	1.88	130
Kalispell	2.56	2.02	127
Polson	4.13	2.66	155
Belgrade	1.88	2.41	78
Dillon Arpt.	2.70	1.83	148
Cut Bank	2.11	1.98	107
Havre	.61	1.98	31
Conrad	1.72	2.11	82
Ft. Benton	2.20	2.65	83
Malta	.70	2.11	33
Great Falls	1.65	2.90	57
Lewistown	.61	2.98	21
Standard	1.23	2.77	44
Billings	1.98	3.36	59
Wyola	3.12	3.77	83
Glasgow	.83	1.82	46
Sidney	1.14	2.43	47
Broadus	3.38	2.82	120
Miles Cty Arpt	1.58	2.67	59

1/ For period 1951-1980.

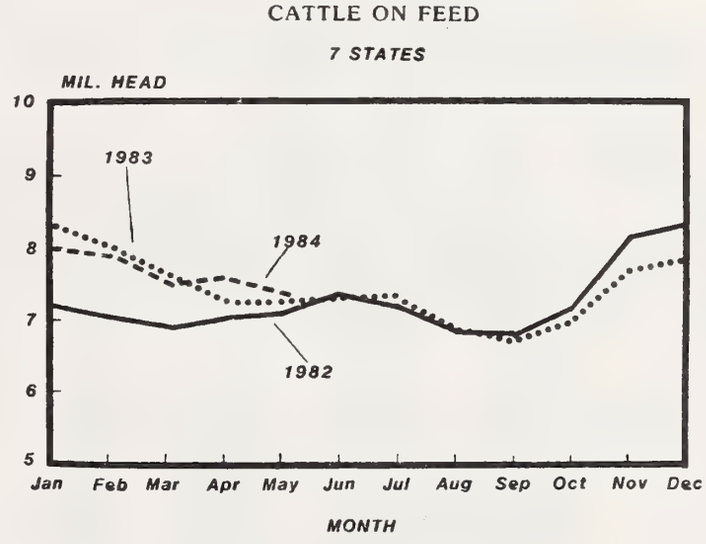
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

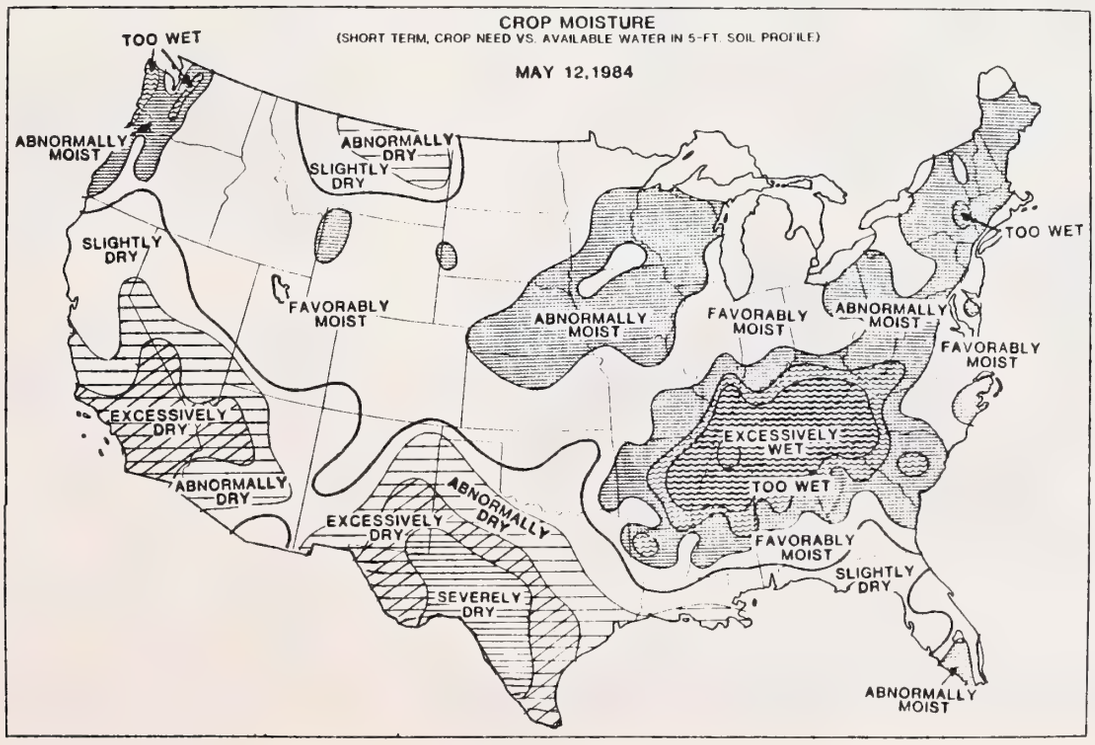
Cattle and calves on feed May 1 for the slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.38 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago and 4 percent more than May 1, 1982.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during April totaled 1.52 million, a 4 percent increase from last year and 8 percent above April two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during April totaled 1.52 million, 3 percent below both last year and 1982. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.33 million for April are down 6 percent from last year and 9 percent from 1982.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 184 thousand compared with 143 thousand during April 1983 and 109 thousand two years ago.





featuring. . . . . LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County is nestled among the mountains in the extreme northwestern corner of the state. Created in July of 1909, the county covers approximately 2,346,240 acres. Lumbering is the chief industry in the county. The agricultural areas are limited, the only considerable body of open land being found in the Tobacco Plains valley, near Eureka. The Kootenai River traverses the county from west to east. The Libby Dam on the Kootenai River near the center of the county, forms Lake Koocanusa which extends up into Canada. The Yaak River runs through the northwestern corner of the county and joins the Kootenai River near the Montana/Idaho border.

That land in farms occupies only 55,391 acres of the total 2.3 million acres in the county illustrates the limited agricultural interest. Lincoln County ranked 51st in all hay production, 54th in oats, and 56th for barley in the 1982 crop production figures. No wheat was grown in the county in 1982.

In the livestock inventories, Lincoln County ranked 37th in hog numbers, on December 1, 1981; 45th in sheep, and 54th in cattle numbers on January 1, 1982.

1982 cash receipts for the county totaled $2,601,000. Livestock receipts made up $1,438,000, crops contributed $1,147,000 and government payments made up the remainder of the total with $16,000.

LINCOLN COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1982		UNIT	1982
Land Area	Acres	2,346,240	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	6,800
Land in Farms 1/	Acres	55,391	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	3,800
Number of Farms 1/	Acres	264			
CROPS			LIVESTOCK		
All Hay	Acres	10,400	Hogs 2/	No. Head	500
Oats	Acres	200	Sheep	No. Head	300
Barley	Acres	100	Cattle	No. Head	7,400

1/ 1982 Census of Agriculture. 2/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1981.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
- Winter Wheat Production
- Pasture and Range
- Cherries

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

WINTER WHEAT FORECAST
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
MILK: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION and INCOME
AG PRICES INCREASE
MFG. DAIRY UP
featuring.....LIBERTY COUNTY

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS--MAY 1, 1984

DISTRICT	1983	Ind. 1984	% Chg.
Northwest	847	833	- 2
North Central	43,925	41,876	- 5
Northeast	7,679	5,251	-32
Central	11,742	15,614	+33
Southwest	1,590	1,600	+ 1
South Central	7,109	9,052	+27
Southeast	6,208	7,614	+23
STATE	79,100	81,840	+ 3

DOLLAR'S GAIN IS EXPORT'S LOSS

The U.S. dollar's strength against foreign currencies since 1980 has had the same effect as an export tax--it has raised the world market price of American products and reduced the demand for U.S. exports.

As the dollar dropped in value during the 1970's, U.S. farm exports boomed, and idled acreage was shifted into crop production. Then, as the dollar climbed in value in the early 1980's, the boom ended. U.S. farm exports slumped and government stocks of surplus production grew. It is estimated that the U.S. lost a total of about $3 billion in export sales of wheat, corn and soybeans during 1981 and 1982 because of the strengthening dollar. In volume, the loss amounted to 16 million tons.

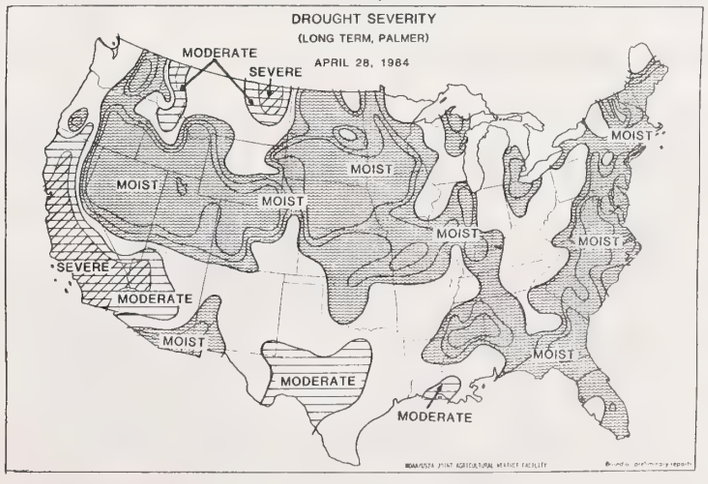
MAY 1 CROP REPORT

The Nation's winter wheat crop, forecast at 1.98 billion bushels will be only 1 percent less than last year. Acreage is up 8 percent, and the expected yield at 38.2 bushels is down 3.6 bushels from a year ago.

For Montana, production is expected to total 81.8 million bushels, 3 percent more than last year. The state's acreage is up almost 10 percent while the yield prospects are down 2 bushels from last year.

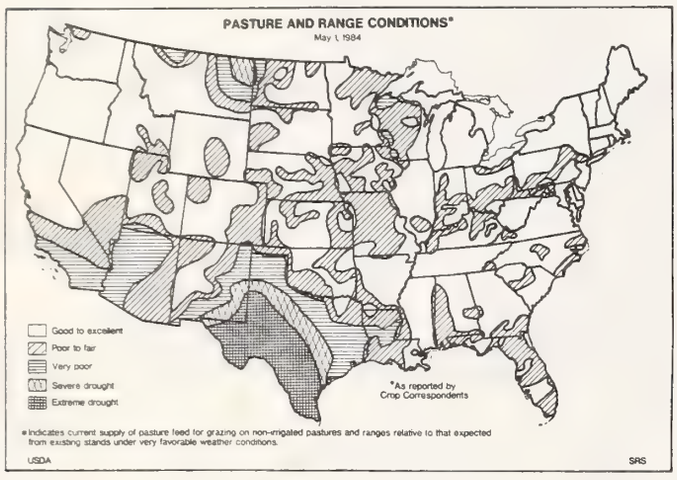
WINTER WHEAT, SELECTED STATES--MAY 1, 1984

SELECTED STATES	ACRES HARVESTED 1983	ACRES HARVESTED Ind. 1984	PRODUCTION 1983	PRODUCTION Ind. 1984
	(000 acres)		(000 bushels)	
ARK	1,500	1,500	58,500	60,000
CALIF	650	770	41,600	56,980
COLO	3,000	3,100	117,000	99,200
GA	980	1,000	33,320	35,000
IDAHO	830	830	55,610	57,270
ILL	1,400	1,530	65,800	70,380
IND	970	1,020	49,470	48,960
KANS	10,800	11,300	448,200	395,500
MO	1,850	2,080	70,300	76,960
MONT	2,260	2,480	79,100	81,840
NEBR	2,300	2,300	98,900	78,200
OHIO	1,150	1,100	58,650	50,600
OKLA	4,300	5,300	150,500	190,800
OREG	1,000	1,020	62,000	63,240
S DAK	1,250	1,450	51,250	47,850
TEX	4,600	4,900	161,000	127,400
WASH	2,450	2,580	159,250	154,800
U.S.	47,686	51,783	1,993,888	1,979,366



PASTURE & RANGE

Montana's overall pasture and range condition on May 1 was unchanged from last month at 74%. This is 11 points below last year. Condition varies from extreme drought in the northeast corner to excellent in the central, southwest and extreme northwest areas. Part of the north central area is rated very poor. Rains and snow the latter part of April helped ranges in much of the state but largely missed the northeast section. At the beginning of May about 10 percent of cattle and sheep had been turned out to summer pasture.


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
May 1, 1984
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents
*Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions.
USDA
SRS

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION--MAY 1, 1984
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1982	1983	1984
Northwest	88	92	88
North Central	84	85	67
Northeast	68	84	53
Central	83	89	81
Southwest	93	93	92
South Central	83	89	75
Southeast	76	90	72
STATE	81	89	74

MILK: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, CASH RECEIPTS and GROSS INCOME, 1982-1983

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1982	1983	1982	1983
Number of Milk Cows 1/	(000) Hd.	29	29	11,033	11,120
Milk Prod. Per Cow 2/	Lbs.	11,759	12,241	12,309	12,587
Total Milk Production	Mil. Lbs.	341	355	135,802	139,968
Milk Used on Farms Where Produced	Mil. Lbs.	19	20	2,360	2,349
Milk Marketed by Farmers	Mil. Lbs.	322	335	133,441	137,619
Milk Sold to Plts & Dealers	Mil. Lbs.	319	332	132,156	136,385
Percent Fluid Grade 3/		97	97	85	86
Price Per 100 Pounds 4/	Dollars	13.20	13.30	13.60	13.60
Cash Receipts from Milk Sold	(000) Dols.	42,108	44,156	17,985,065	18,259,722
Cash Receipts from all Marketings	(000) Dols.	42,833	44,881	18,272,758	18,807,586
Farm Value of Milk Prod. 5/	(000) Dols.	45,353	47,570	18,598,444	191,290,098
Gross Farm Income From Dairy Products	(000) Dols.	43,764	45,551	18,388,563	18,922,639

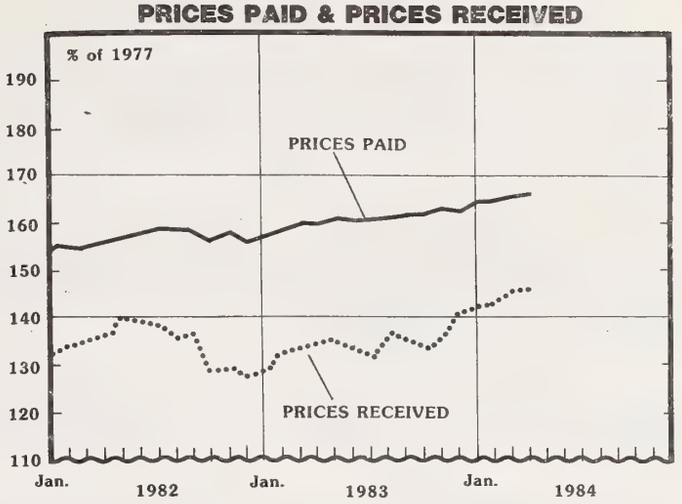
1/ Average number during year excluding heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves. 3/ Percent of milk sold to plants and dealers that is eligible for fluid use (Grade A in most states). Includes fluid grade milk used in manufacturing dairy products. 4/ Price of milk sold to plants and dealers. 5/ Valued at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. Includes value of milk fed to calves.

FARM PRICES UP FROM A YEAR AGO

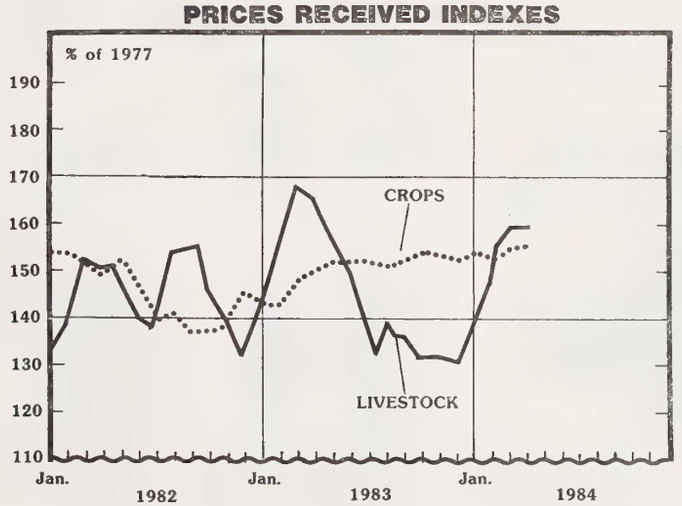
Montana farmers and ranchers received higher prices for most of the products they sold in April compared with a year ago. The items showing lower prices this year, compared with a year ago were winter wheat, steers and heifers, calves and hogs. From March to April this year, prices softened for many major items while increases were noted for spring wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa hay, hogs, eggs and wool.

The mid-April index of prices received for all Montana farm products at 158 (1977=100) was unchanged from last month but up 2 points from last year. The April all crops index at 155 compared with 154 in March and 149 in April last year. The livestock and products index at 160 is the same as March, but 4 points under a year ago. Helping most to hold the indexes steady with a month earlier were stronger prices for wool, alfalfa hay, spring wheat and hogs.

UNITED STATES
INDEX NUMBERS OF
PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average Apr. 1983	MONTANA Monthly Average March 1984	MONTANA Apr. 15, 1984	U.S. Apr. 15, 1984
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.60	3.44	3.40	3.51
Durum	Bu.	3.60	3.86	3.80	3.91
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.80	3.90	3.75
All Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.63	3.64	3.60
Barley	Bu.	2.20	2.51	2.57	2.62
Oats	Bu.	1.52	1.69	1.70	1.77
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	76.00	80.00	86.80
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	70.00	70.00	68.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	75.70	79.50	82.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	63.70	62.60	61.50	64.50
Cows	Cwt	42.10	42.90	42.50	41.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	57.50	56.00	55.80	60.30
Calves	Cwt	67.00	62.50	61.80	63.60
Sheep	Cwt	13.00	15.50	15.00	17.10
Lambs	Cwt	53.80	54.50	54.00	59.90
Hogs	Cwt	45.70	42.70	45.40	47.40
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	13.70	13.60	13.10
Eggs	Doz.	.539	.750	.780	.874
Wool 2/	Lb.	.610	.870	1.02	.861
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	156	158	158	146
All Crops	Pct.	149	154	155	140
Livestock & Products	Pct.	164	160	160	151

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	April 1983	March 1984	April 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	136	145	146
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	160	165	166
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	85	88	88
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	56	58	58

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-143 prices.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 197,000 gallons of ice cream in March, 46 percent more than February and 14 percent above the March 1983 total. Creamed cottage cheese production was 561,000 gallons--8 percent above February and 7 percent above a year ago.

SIXTEEN PERCENT SPENT FOR FOOD

In 1983, Americans spent slightly less than 16 percent of total personal disposable income on food, the lowest percentage on record. This share compares with 16.2 percent 10 years ago, and 18.7 percent 20 years ago. These percentages differed among income groups. Low-income pesons spent proportionally more on food and higher-income consumers spent proportionately less.

*featuring. . . . .*LIBERTY COUNTY

Contained within 920,960 acres, Liberty county is one of the smallest counties in the state. It lies in north central Montana with its northern boundary stretching to the Canadian border. The land is mostly flat with the exception of low elevation hills that lie in the northwestern section of the county. The Marias River traverses the county from west to east, flowing out of Lake Elwell at the Tiber Dam in southern Liberty county and eventually running into the Missouri River in central Montana.

Although small in size, Liberty County is an important wheat growing area in Montana. In the 1982 crop production, Liberty County ranked 6th in winter wheat production, 8th in spring wheat, and 13th in durum wheat. The county also showed up in 11th place for barley production in 1982. Some oats and hay are also grown.

Hog raising is another important industry in Liberty County as it came in 10th in the December 1, 1981 hog numbers. Some sheep and cattle are also raised.

Liberty County's abundant crops brought in $41,072,000 in cash receipts in 1982. Livestock receipts turned in $3,526,000, while government payments added 4,075,000 for a total cash receipt return of $48,673,000 in 1982.

LIBERTY COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR			UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1978 1/	920,960	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	6,300
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	907,596	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	276,300
Number of Farms		1978 1/	280				
CROPS				LIVESTOCK			
All Wheat	Acres	1982	239,500	Hogs & Pigs	# Head	1981	6,200
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	113,000	Stocks Sheep & Lambs	# Head	1982	100
Spring Wheat	Acres	1982	125,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	12,800
Durum Wheat	Acres	1982	1,500				
Barley	Acres	1982	51,200				
Oats	Acres	1982	2,400				
All Hay	Acres	1982	6,900				

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

SLAUGHTER
POTATO STOCKS

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Phone: 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

- LESS WHEAT IN STORAGE
- POTATO STOCKS DOWN
- CHICKEN & EGG RECEIPTS UP
- SLAUGHTER DECREASES
- QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION

featuring. . . . . .ROSEBUD COUNTY

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators April 1, 1984 totaled 119.8 million bushels, down 15 percent from the record high 140.6 million last year. Wheat disappearance since January 1 was 41.2 million bushels, compared with 60.1 million bushels during the same period a year ago. Farm storage, at 97.2 million bushels was 16 percent below last year and commercial storage accounted for 22.6 million bushels, down 10 percent. Farm storages accounted for 81 percent of the total wheat stored in Montana.

Winter wheat stocks, at 64.9 million bushels were 12 percent above the April 1, 1983 stocks. All spring wheat, at 54.9 million bushels was down 34 percent from last year. The durum portion at 10.7 million bushels was 29 percent below last year.

Barley stocks in all positions at 23.8 million bushels were 28 percent below last year. Oats in storage at 3.4 million bushels was down 24 percent from last year.

NATIONAL WHEAT STOCKS LOWER

Naticnally, all wheat stored in all positions on April 1, 1984 totaled 1.75 billion bushels, 7 percent less than last year's record high 1.88 billion bushels. Farm stocks amounted to 772 million bushels, off 13 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 981 million bushels were down 1 percent from April 1. Indicated disappearance during January-March 1984 totaled 574 million bushels. In the comparable period a year earlier, disappearance was 644 million bushels.

Durum wheat stored in all positions on April 1, 1984 amounted to 125 million bushels, down 24 percent from 1983's record high 164 million bushels, and 6 percent less than April 1, 1982. Farm stocks of 89.3 million bushels are 31 percent below the 130 million bushels on hand April 1, 1983. Off-farm stocks, at 35.2 million bushels, are up 4 percent from April 1 a year ago.

Barley stored in all positions on April 1, 1984 totaled 273 million bushels, 8 percent less than last year's 297 million bushels. Stocks of barley stored on farms amounted to 174 million bushels, or 64 percent of the total stocks. Off-farm storages held 99.7 million bushels, or 36 percent of the total stocks. On-farm stocks were down 12 percent but off-farm stocks were up 2 percent from April 1, 1983.

1984 WHEAT PROGRAM SIGN-UP REOPENED UNTIL MAY 4

Producers with a 1984 wheat base have until May 4 to sign up or revise their sign-up in this year's wheat program. This announcement was issued by the State ASCS office on April 20, 1984.

STOCKS OF GRAIN APRIL 1, 1984 WITH COMPARISONS

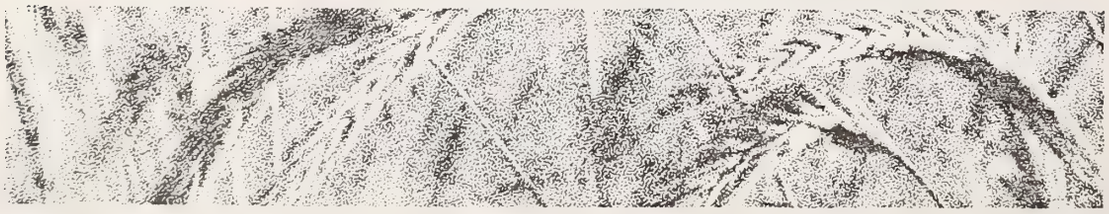
GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Apr. 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1984 *	Apr. 1, 1984	% Change From 1983	Apr. 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1984 *	Apr. 1, 1984
	------Thousand Bushels-----			-Pct.-	-------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	115,643	130,084	97,220	-16	886,402	1,015,851	771,517
Off farms 1/	24,974	30,946	22,581	-10	990,688	1,310,538	981,296
T O T A L	140,617	161,030	119,801	-15	1,877,090	2,326,389	1,752,813
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	43,430	69,915	51,504	+19	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	14,354	16,254	13,381	- 7	--	--	--
T O T A L	57,784	86,169	64,885	+12	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	72,213	60,169	45,716	-37	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,620	14,692	9,200	-13	--	--	--
T O T A L	82,833	74,861	54,916	-34	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--		130,138	97,776	89,266
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--		34,039	35,267	35,247
T O T A L	15,070	12,588	10,717	-29	164,177	133,043	124,513
CORN							
On Farms	280	1,092	314	+12	4,292,404	3,101,952	1,944,250
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,954,869	1,832,378	1,313,536
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	6,247,273	4,934,330	3,257,786
OATS							
On Farms	4,055	5,386	3,115	-23	273,878	322,464	226,925
Off Farms 1/	333	309	237	-29	59,945	55,971	42,456
T O T A L	4,388	5,695	3,352	-24	333,823	378,435	269,381
BARLEY							
On Farms	28,283	40,404	17,094	-60	198,461	253,089	173,777
Off Farms 1/	4,929	5,666	6,753	+37	98,198	122,630	99,698
T O T A L	33,212	46,070	23,847	-28	296,659	375,719	273,475
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	148,887	147,802	86,520
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	470,969	504,325	378,018
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	619,856	652,127	464,538

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Apr. 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1984 *	Apr. 1, 1984	Apr. 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1984 *	Apr. 1, 1984
	-------Million Bushels------			-------Million Bushels------		
Northwest	1.4	.7	.7	1.6	1.3	.9
North Central	63.1	71.6	52.4	17.0	21.7	11.1
Northeast	41.7	48.3	37.5	3.1	5.7	2.1
Central	14.3	20.7	12.7	5.9	10.1	5.5
Southwest	2.5	3.3	2.7	1.5	1.8	1.5
South Central	11.2	10.1	7.5	3.3	4.3	2.3
Southeast	6.4	6.3	6.3	.8	1.2	.4
STATE	140.6	161.0	119.8	33.2	46.1	23.8

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.



MILK PRODUCTION UNCHANGED

Montana dairymen produced 85 million pounds of milk during the January-March quarter, unchanged from a year ago, but 2 percent less than the October-December 1983 quarter.

Nationally, milk production during the first quarter of 1984 totaled 34.1 billion pounds, fractionally below the comparable period in 1983.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	MILK COWS		MILK PROD.	
	1983	1984	1983	1984
	--thousand--		-million lbs-	
CALIF	942	959	3,474	3,567
IDAHO	173	169	527	521
MINN	891	898	2,812	2,766
MONT	29	29	85	85
N DAK	97	99	255	263
OREGON	100	100	314	321
S DAK	165	162	439	408
WASH	214	213	823	837
WISC	1,840	1,829	5,815	5,770
WYO	11.9	11.7	32.0	32.3
U.S.	11,079	10,971	34,247	34,136

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Montana potatoes in storage on April 1 totaled 1.05 million cwt, 14 percent less than on the same date last year. Stocks were 58 percent of the 1983 production.

In the 15 major fall producing states, there were 77.4 million cwt in storage, down 13 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. April 1 stocks accounted for 28 percent of fall production this year compared with 30 percent last April 1.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Commercial red meat production in Montana amounted to 2.2 million pounds in March 1984, 35 percent less than the previous month and only 20 percent of the March 1983 total. The number of cattle slaughtered was 3,100 compared with 7,000 in March 1983. The March 1984 hog kill amounted to 2,400 compared with 39,200 the same month last year.

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. totaled 3.35 billion pounds in March 1984, up 2 percent from a year ago.

CHICKEN and EGG RECEIPTS UP

Montana poultry producers received $188,000 for chickens sold in 1983, 4 percent more than in 1982. This is the fourth year receipts have been above the previous year. Receipts for eggs sold were also higher at $8.7 million compared with $8.5 million in 1982. However, egg receipts in recent years have been stable, showing both year to year increases and decreases.

THE FARMER GETS 61 CENTS FOR A DOZEN LARGE GRADE A EGGS SELLING AT AN AVERAGE YEARLY PRICE FOR 94 CENTS

CHICKENS & EGGS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS -- 1982-1983

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1982	1983	1982	1983
CHICKENS					
Marketings	Thousand Lbs.	3,000	2,680	1,159,252	1,155,822
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	6.0	7.0	10.3	12.7
Cash Receipts	Thousand Dols.	180	188	118,928	146,995
EGGS					
Marketings	Million	185	188	69,274	67,685
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	55.0	55.5	59.5	61.1
Cash Receipts	Thousand Dols.	8,479	8,695	3,437,069	3,443,331

featuring. . . . . ROSEBUD COUNTY

Rosebud County was created in February of 1901 and is located in the southeastern corner of Montana. The Yellowstone River runs through the heart of the county. It is made up primarily of rangeland, both to the north and south of the River. However, the extreme southeastern corner is occupied by a portion of the Custer National Forest. The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation also occupies a portion of the southern tip of Rosebud County.

Because of its vast rangeland, the county is a prime livestock raising area. The county ranked 7th and 8th respectively in sheep and cattle numbers in the January 1, 1982 livestock count. Hogs and pigs are also raised, as the county showed up in 25th place in the December 1981 hog count.

Crops produced in the county include wheat, barley, oats and hay. Rosebud County ranked 21st in barley production, 28th in all wheat, 29th for all hay and 37th in oats production for the 1982 crop year.

Cash receipts from livestock amounted to $15,868,000 or 54% of the total cash receipt return. Crops turned in $12,257,000, and government payments added $1,274,000 for a total cash receipt return of $29,399,000 in 1982.

ROSEBUD COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR			UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1978 1/	3,223,680	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	29,800
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	3,068,984	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	91,000
Number of Farms		1978 1/	350				
CROPS				LIVESTOCK			
All Wheat	Acres	1982	65,000				
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	45,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Hd.	1982	81,000
Spring Wheat	Acres	1982	20,000	Stock Sheep & Lambs	# Hd.	1982	21,000
Barley	Acres	1982	20,500	Hogs & Pigs	# Hd.	1981	2,600
All Hay	Acres	1982	36,600				
Oats	Acres	1982	3,100				

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

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  Winter Wheat Production
  Hay Stocks
  Pasture & Range
Milk--Prod., Disp. & Income

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. & MONTANA WOOL SITUATION
LIVESTOCK CASH RECEIPTS DROP
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTION UP
MARCH FARM PRICES
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION
featuring.....GALLATIN COUNTY

U.S. WOOL SITUATION

In 1983, the U.S. wool textile business completed the best year of the decade. Industry sources believe that strong mill orders should continue into 1984. However, mill demand will slacken if economic growth slows in late 1984.

Mill consumption of raw wool in the fourth quarter was 37 million pounds, clean, which was the largest fourth-quarter since 1972. Apparel wool was 34.5 million pounds, 41 percent more than last year. Raw wool use in carpets was 2.5 million pounds, 16 percent above a year earlier.

WOOL SUPPLY and DISAPPEARANCE, CLEAN CONTENT

Item	1982	1983 1/	1984 1/
	---Million Lbs.---		
Stocks, Jan 1	44.6	46.0	36.1
Production	56.2	53.1	49.3
Imports	61.4	78.1	80.0
Diff. unacc.	0.9	3.9	9.4
Total supply	163.1	181.1	174.8
Mill use	115.7	144.0	140.0
Exports	1.4	1.0	1.0
Total use	117.1	145.0	141.0
Stocks, Dec 31	46.0	36.1	33.8

1/ Estimated.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

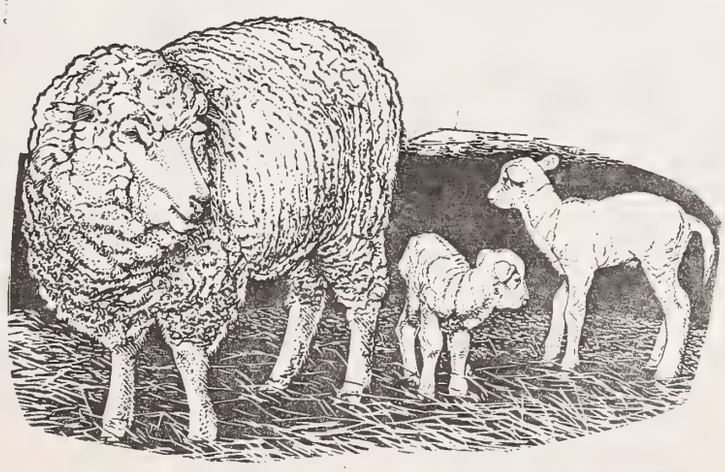
MONTANA WOOL PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana wool growers produced 5.6 million pounds of wool in 1983, 2 percent more than last year. But, inspite of the increased output, the market value was 13 percent less than the 1982 clip. The average price per pound was 67 cents for 1983, a 12 cent crop from the previous year. The average price received by growers in all states was 61.3 cents. The average fleece weight for the U.S was less than 8 pounds. Montana growers averaged 10.2 per fleece for 1983 wool. So Montana growers had a slight edge over the national average in price and fleece weight.

In terms of total wool production, Montana ranks number 7. Texas, Wyoming, California, Colorado, South Dakota and Utah (ranked in order) all out ranked Montana.

WOOL PRODUCTION and VALUE, 1982-83

Item	Unit	Montana 1982	Montana 1983	U.S. 1982	U.S. 1983
Sheep Shorn	000 Hd,	530	546	13,152	12,640
Weight per Fleece	Lb.	10.3	10.2	8.03	7.93
Wool Prod.	000 Lb.	5,440	5,568	105,596	100,265
Price per Pound	Cents	79.0	67.0	68.5	61.3
Value	000 Dol.	4,298	3,731	72,349	61,460



LIVESTOCK CASH RECEIPTS DOWN

Montana livestock producers marketed 1.2 billion pounds of meat animals in 1983 and grossed $583.3 million. Compared with last year, marketings were down nearly 2 percent and cash receipts fell 1 percent.

Cattle and calves accounted for 93 percent of cash receipts, hogs were 4 percent; sheep and lambs 3 percent.

For the nation, livestock marketing volume was down about 1 percent and cash receipts were down 5 percent from last year.

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS -- 1982-1983

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1982	1983	1982	1983
Cattle & Calves					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	1,081.2	1,081.7	53,459.3	51,984.5
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	48.20	48.00	56.70	55.50
Calves	Dols./Cwt	60.30	62.40	59.80	61.70
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	540.6	543.7	29,906.2	28,693.9
Hogs & Pigs					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	69.40	51.9	20,016.4	20,681.7
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	46.80	43.90	52.30	46.80
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	32.6	22.9	10,586.5	9,714.1
Sheep & Lambs					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	52.3	48.2	1,026.5	948.6
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	15.00	11.40	19.50	15.70
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	48.10	47.80	53.10	53.90
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	18.8	16.7	447.2	418.3

MANUFACTURED DAIRY OUTPUT

Montana dairy plants produced 135,000 gallons of ice cream during February--22 percent more than the same month a year ago. Production of creamed cottage cheese at 521,000 pounds was 7 percent above a year ago, but 7 percent below the previous month. Butter production at 175,000 pounds was the same as February 1983.

1983 estimates of wheat acreage, yield and production by county are now available. If interested, request a copy from our office.

MARCH PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS

Stations	March	Pct. of Normal 1/
	-inches-	Pct.
Hamilton	1.60	160
Kalispell	1.34	160
Polson	1.38	175
Belgrade	.99	111
Dillon Airport	--	--
Cut Bank	.57	146
Havre	.85	167
Conrad	.27	59
Ft. Benton	.79	107
Malta	.66	153
Great Falls	1.31	141
Lewistown	1.02	128
Stanford	1.15	192
Billings	.84	80
Wyola	2.36	251
Glasgow	.68	170
Sidney	.35	74
Broadus	1.17	175
Miles City Airport	.27	46

1/ For period 1951-1980.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U. S.
		Monthly Average			
		Mar. 1983	Feb. 1984	Mar. 15, 1984	Mar. 15, 1984
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.66	3.46	3.55	3.38
Durum	Bu.	3.20	3.81	3.85	3.90
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.71	3.75	3.58
All Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.60	3.66	3.45
Barley	Bu.	2.14	2.52	2.52	2.48
Oats	Bu.	1.72	1.56	1.60	1.79
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	48.00	73.00	76.00	80.50
All Other Hay	Ton	42.00	68.00	71.00	65.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	48.00	71.00	76.00	80.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	65.90	62.10	63.20	66.30
Cows	Cwt	43.00	39.70	43.30	41.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	58.90	53.10	57.20	61.40
Calves	Cwt	67.40	64.80	66.10	65.00
Sheep	Cwt	14.60	21.00	23.00	21.30
Lambs	Cwt	62.50	57.00	55.00	57.70
Hogs	Cwt	50.80	42.30	39.40	45.00
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	13.70	13.50	13.20
Eggs	Doz.	.463	.780	.750	.735
Wool 2/	Lb.	.610	.750	.870	.724
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	158	154	160	146
All Crops	Pct.	147	153	155	141
Livestock & Products	Pct.	168	155	163	150

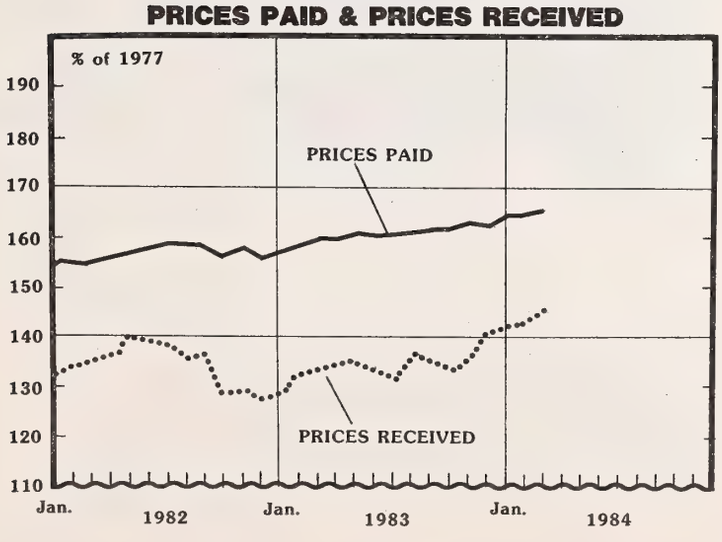
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

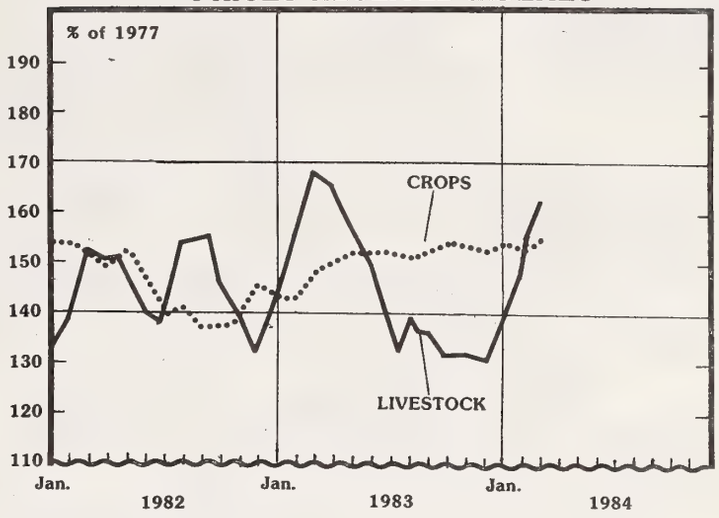
INDEX	Mar. 1983	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	134	144	146
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	159	165	166
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	84	87	88
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	56	58	58

1/ Unadjusted for all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

UNITED STATES
INDEX NUMBERS OF
PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



PASTURE and RANGE

Montana pasture and range condition as of April 1 is reported at 74 percent of normal, this is 15 points below last year at this date. The low condition reflects very dry conditions in northeast Montana. Several counties in that region report less than 50 percent of normal. This condition is partly a carryover from the drought that developed late last summer and fall.

A large region including western, central and part of south central Montana reports good to excellent conditions (80 percent or over).

MONTANA PASTURE and RANGE CONDITION -- APRIL 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1982	1983	1984
Northwest	88	92	88
North Central	84	85	67
Northeast	68	84	53
Central	83	89	81
Southwest	93	93	92
South Central	83	89	75
Southeast	76	90	72
STATE	81	89	74

featuring..... GALLATIN COUNTY

Gallatin County is located on the headwaters of the Missouri River in southern Montana, at the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park. Between one-third and one-half of the county is contained within the Gallatin National Forest. Created in February of 1865 and covering 1,610,880 acres of land Gallatin County is a prime agricultural area. The county seat is Bozeman and this area has an annual average precipitation of 18.63 inches.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products turned in $24,040,000 for Gallatin County in 1982. Crops returned $28,204,000, and government payments added $1,454,000. Total cash receipts for the county in 1982 amounted to $53,698,000.

Being one of the larger cattle raising areas, Gallatin County ranked 14th in the January 1, 1982 cattle inventory. The county was in 17th place in the 1982 sheep inventory, and 22nd in the 1981 hog count.

Major crops raised in the area include hay, barley and wheat. Gallatin County was in 4th place in the county rankings for 1982 all hay production, 9th in barley production, and 24th in all wheat production for 1982.

GALLATIN COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR			UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1978 1/	1,610,880	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	71,400
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	888,246	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	79,600
Number of Farms		1978 1/	759				
CROPS				LIVESTOCK			
All Hay	Acres	1982	65,000				
Barley	Acres	1982	45,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	67,900
All Wheat	Acres	1982	43,500	Stock Sheep & Lambs	# Head	1982	9,100
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	30,000	Hogs & Pigs	# Head	1981	2,900
Spring Wheat	Acres	1982	13,500				
Oats	Acres	1982	2,000				

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
*Poultry--Prod., Disp. and Income

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

HOG NUMBERS DROP
1983 SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES--MT
CHICKEN NUMBERS DECREASE
FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION
featuring.....VALLEY COUNTY

MONTANA SHEEP & LAMB LOSS OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS

Montana sheepmen lost 120,000 head of sheep and lambs in 1983 to predators, disease, weather and other death dealing causes. The value of the loss came to $4.6 million. Of the total number lost, predators killed 29 percent, non-predator factors contributed 61 percent, and 10 percent was due to unknown causes. Lamb losses made up 75 percent of the total.

WEATHER LOSS TOPS ALL OTHERS

Bad weather claimed 27 percent of the total number of sheep and lambs lost in 1983--the number one killer. Coyote predation was second with 20 percent. A year ago, coyote loss was number 1, followed by weather related losses. Other significant losses in 1983 were due to lambing complications--11 percent; disease--9 percent; old age--4 percent; fox, eagle, poison and on back each with 3 percent; dog--2 percent; bear and theft each with 1 percent; and other non-predator loss with 3 percent. The 'other'category was mainly due to sheep and lambs getting bogged down near water holes in the eastern part of the state. Unknown losses accounted for 10 percent of the total.

COOPERATION

This study was undertaken at the request of the Montana Wool Growers Association who also provided funding. The Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service conducted the survey and expresses appreciation to all cooperating sheep producers.

HOG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1984, in the 10 States conducting quarterly hog surveys, is estimated at 39.5 million head, 5 percent below last March. This is 3 percent below March of 1982 and the lowest March inventory since 1976.

--Breeding inventory, at 5.35 million head, was 10 percent less than a year ago and 4 percent less than March 1982. This is the lowest March breeding herd inventory since 1973 when estimates for these comparable 10 States became available.

--Market hog inventory, at 34.2 million head, was 5 percent below last year and 2 percent below two years ago.

PIG CROP

The December 1983-February 1984 pig crop was 13.5 million head, 13 percent less than last year and 4 percent below two years ago. There were 1.86 million sows that farrowed during the quarter, a decrease of 11 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below the same period two years ago.

Sow farrowings averaged 7.26 pigs per litter compared with 7.44 last year and 7.11 two years ago.

FARROWING INTENTIONS

Hog producers in the 10 quarterly States intend to farrow 2.48 million sows during March-May of this year. This is 11 percent less than actual farrowings during the comparable period in 1983, but 4 percent more than two years ago. Farrowing intentions for June-August are 2.10 million head, 13 percent below the same period last year and 5 percent less than two years ago. If these intentions are realized, this will be the lowest June-August farrowings since 1975.

MONTANA SHEEP and LAMB LOSSES BY CAUSE -- 1983

CAUSE OF LOSS	SHEEP LOSS		LAMB LOSS		TOTAL LOSS	
	Number Head	Value 1/ Dollars	Number Head	Value 2/ Dollars	Number Head	Value Dollars
Predators						
Coyote	4,000	196,000	19,900	688,100	23,900	884,100
Fox	100	4,900	3,600	124,500	3,700	129,400
Eagle	100	4,900	3,000	103,700	3,100	108,600
Bear	600	29,400	1,000	34,600	1,600	64,000
Dog	600	29,400	1,100	38,000	1,700	67,400
Bobcat	--	--	100	3,500	100	3,500
Other Predators	--	--	300	10,400	300	10,400
TOTAL PREDATORS	5,400	264,600	29,000	1,002,800	34,400	1,267,400
Non-Predator						
Weather	4,600	225,400	27,200	940,600	31,800	1,166,000
Disease	2,100	102,900	8,900	307,800	11,000	410,700
Poison	1,500	73,500	2,100	72,600	3,600	146,100
Lambing Complication	1,200	58,800	11,500	397,700	12,700	456,500
On Back	3,400	166,600	300	10,400	3,700	177,000
Old Age	4,600	225,400	--	--	4,600	225,400
Theft	900	44,100	500	17,300	1,400	61,400
Other Non-Predator	1,100	53,900	3,100	107,200	4,200	161,100
TOTAL NON-PREDATORS	19,400	950,600	53,600	1,853,600	73,000	2,804,200
UNKNOWN	5,200	254,800	7,400	255,900	12,600	510,700
TOTAL LOSS	30,000	1,470,000	90,000	3,112,300	120,000	4,582,300

1/ Average reported value January 1, 1983 for Ewes 1+ = $49.00. 2/ Lamb value based on average monthly prices received by farmers for all lambs marketed during September, October and November 1983, converted to an average liveweight of 70 pounds and equal to $34.58.

MONTANA HISTORIC SHEEP & LAMB DEATH LOSSES

	Sheep 1/ & Lambs (000 Hd)	Total 2/ Death Loss (000 Hd)	Value 3/ Death Loss (000 Dol)	Pred. Death Loss (000 Hd)	Value Pred. Loss (000 Dol)	Non-Pred. 4/ Death Loss (000 Hd)	Value Non-Pred. Loss (000 Dol)
1967	1,351	423.0	7,458.8	61.4	1,107.5	361.6	6,441.3
1968	1,250	303.0	5,631.4	85.0	1,511.4	218.0	4,120.0
1969	1,178	444.0	9,345.0	68.0	1,375.0	376.0	7,970.0
1974	750	282.1	7,318.8	143.5	3,625.7	138.6	3,698.1
1982	616	146.0	5,599.6	50.1	1,837.7	95.9	3,761.9
1983	560	120.0	5,916.0	33.9	1,697.2	86.1	3,598.4

1/ On farms and ranches January 1. 2/ For entire year. 3/ Value lambs equal to September, October, November average price received converted to 70 lb. lamb. Value sheep equal to January inventory value Ewes 1+. 4/ Includes unknown death loss.

LIVESTOCK FEED INDICATORS CHANGING

Feed use of corn will have to drop below year-earlier disappearance during the latter part of this year. Aggregate livestock and poultry numbers will show little change from a year earlier until June-September. But the outlook is beginning to change even for then. Returns to cattle feeders improved during the fall; consequently, placements on feed in the seven monthly reporting States rose 13 percent in December and 5 percent in January. If feed grain prices remain where they have been the past couple of months, placements on feed the first quarter may exceed year-earlier placements by more than the 2.7 percent built into the current forecast. This would modify the projected drop in livestock feeding during June-September. Similarly, hog producers may have modified breeding plans, so farrowings in the late spring and early summer may not be down as much as anticipated earlier. This too would alter the decline in feed use expected during June-September.

The current outlook is for free corn stocks to become very tight by spring. Through the spring and summer, the market will need to pull corn out of reserve V. The extent of the price increase will depend on the amount of corn on hand April 1, the outcome of the harvest in the Southern Hemisphere, and the extent to which short-run supply reacts to these factors.

CHICKEN NUMBERS DOWN

The average number of layers on hand in Montana during the quarter December through February was estimated at 738,000, 5 percent less than a year ago. However, egg production from December through February was up 4 percent with 48 million eggs produced. Nationally, the average number of layers was down 3 percent at 277.2 million birds. Egg production for the quarter was down 3 percent as well with 16.8 billion eggs produced.

FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana's slaughter plants produced 3.4 million pounds of red meat during February, 26 percent less than in January and 69 percent less than a year ago. February cattle slaughter was 5,400 head while hog slaughter was 2,100 head.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during February totaled 3.09 billion pounds, up 11 percent from February 1983.

Beef production at 1.86 billion pounds was up 9 percent from last year, and head kill at 2.97 million was up 10 percent. Veal production at 36 million pounds increased 13 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter of 255 thousand head was up 14 percent. Pork production totaled 1.17 billion pounds--up 14 percent as was the head killed at 6.81 million head. Lamb and mutton production was 32 million pounds, an increase of 19 percent. The monthly head kill of 56,300 was up 20 percent.

*featuring. . . . .*VALLEY COUNTY

Valley County was created in 1893. Located in northeastern Montana, it stretches from the Canadian border on the north to its southern boundary along the Missouri River and Fort Peck lake. The Milk River traverses the county diagonally. With a total of 3,183,360 acres, it is one of the largest counties in the state in area. A good portion of the eastern half of the county is occupied by part of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Glasgow is the county seat and this area has an average annual precipitation of 11.55 inches.

Valley County is a major wheat growing area as it ranked 3rd in all wheat and spring wheat production in the 1982 crop production totals. Also in 1982, the county came up 8th in both oats and all hay production, and placed 13th among the counties for barley production.

Livestock raising is also a major agricultural enterprise in the county. It showed up in 12th place in the January 1, 1982 cattle inventory, and ranked 13th in the December 1, 1981 hog count.

The county's crops turned in $33,018,000 in 1982 cash receipts while its livestock returned $15,049,000. Government payments added $5,692,000 for a total cash receipt return of $53,759,000 in 1982.

VALLEY COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR			UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1978 1/	3,183,360	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	53,900
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	2,128,083	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	401,700
Number of Farms	Acres	1978 1/	738				
CROPS				LIVESTOCK			
All Wheat	Acres	1982	338,500				
Spring Wheat	Acres	1982	310,000	All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	69,300
Oats	Acres	1982	13,100	Hogs & Pigs	# Head	1981	5,100
All Hay	Acres	1982	73,300	Stock Sheep & Lambs	# Head	1982	4,900
Barley	Acres	1982	48,000				

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wool Production
Ag. Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Cash Receipts
Meat Animals--Prod., Disp. & Income

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

CASH RECEIPTS DIP
AG OUTLOOK
FARM PRICES
FARM EXPORTS DECREASE IN '83
POTATO STOCKS DOWN
featuring.....WHEATLAND COUNTY

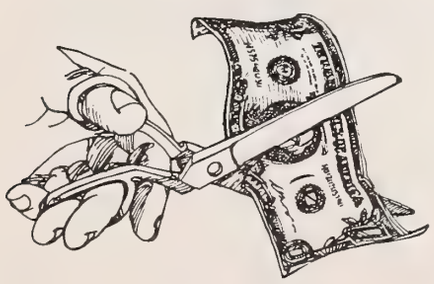
MONTANA CASH RECEIPTS DOWN

Preliminary cash receipts data indicate Montana farmers and ranchers have taken in 7 percent less from the sale of commodities in 1983 than the previous year. Livestock receipts are up about 3 percent, but crops receipts show a 13 percent decrease.

CASH RECEIPTS -- MONTANA

ITEM	1981	1982 1/	1983 2/
	--------Million Dollars------		
Livestock	629.2	652.6	669.2
Crops	782.7	980.3	857.4
Total from Marketings 3/	1,411.9	1,632.9	1,526.6

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Excludes Government Payments.



AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

Because of improvement in the economy, demand for farm products will probably pick up in 1984, especially for red meat and restaurant food. Although foreign demand for farm goods is also expected to increase, it will still be constrained by the sluggish and uneven recovery abroad, the high value of the dollar, and large supplies of some commodities overseas. Somewhat higher inflation and interest rates will mean a slight acceleration in farm costs. Real interest rates will stay high, so farmers with relatively little debt will continue to fare better than highly leveraged producers.

The new dairy legislation, which will pay farmers for milk production cutbacks, may reduce 1984 output by 2 to 10 percent. It probably will also prompt producers to cull their herds, raising beef output, especially in the first half of the year. Total meat production in the first half may be up 2 percent from a year earlier. Moderate increases are likely for beef and pork, but broilers may be down 2 percent.

Increased imports will partially offset the fruit and vegetable losses that resulted from last December's cold spell. Additional frozen concentrated orange juice will come from Brazil to help make up for the 17 percent drop in U.S. citrus production. Mexico will ship the U.S. extra vegetables this winter, particularly since a decline in the peso's value has made Mexican imports cheaper.

Worldwide, the recovery is going less rapidly. A quarter-by-quarter comparison shows that, for the major foreign industrialized economies, the current rebound is less vigorous than that which followed the 1975 recession. Import and export volumes, as well as industrial production, have lagged behind the pace of the mid-1970's recovery.

The EC summit meeting held in Athens in December failed to untangle any of the knotty agricultural problems confronting the Community. Most revolve around money; the EC faces a financial crisis. How the various issues are resolved will affect U.S. agricultural exports, since the EC is both our biggest farm export customer and one of our major competitors in the world market.

FARM EXPORTS DOWN IN 1983

U.S. agricultural export values fell in calendar year 1983 to $36.1 billion. Volume also fell 3 percent to 148 million tons. Over the past 2 years, worldwide import demand for and export supply of agricultural products, particularly U.S. products, have undergone substantial adjustments. High global producer prices encouraged greater production, which in turn, combined with a debilitating recession, lowered import demand. Since 1981, when U.S. export values peaked at $43.3 billion, export quantity has fallen 9 percent, mainly reflecting adjustments by importers; prices have fallen about 8 percent, primarily reflecting adjustments by exporters.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO 20 LEADING MARKETS:
VALUE BY COUNTRY, CALENDAR YEARS 1982 and 1983

Country	1982		1983		Change
	Mil. Dol.	Rank	Mil. Dol.	Rank	Percent
Japan	5,555	1	6,251	1	+13
Netherlands 1/	3,085	2	2,576	2	-16
Mexico	1,156	9	1,942	3	+68
Canada	1,820	4	1,844	4	+ 1
Korea, Rep.	1,581	6	1,840	5	+16
Germany, F. R.	1,448	8	1,529	6	+ 6
USSR	1,866	3	1,473	7	-21
Taiwan	1,155	10	1,308	8	+13
Spain	1,681	5	1,207	9	-28
Egypt	803	14	970	10	+21
Belgium-Luxembourg 1/	906	13	834	11	- 8
United Kingdom	915	12	823	12	-10
Italy	989	11	731	13	-26
India	350	24	699	14	+100
Venezuela	671	15	665	15	- 1
Portugal	578	17	660	16	+14
China, mainland	1,505	7	544	17	-64
France	625	16	485	18	-22
Brazil	526	18	479	19	- 9
Saudi Arabia	500	19	446	20	-11

1/ Not adjusted for transshipments.

WEATHER-CROP UPDATE

Topsoil moisture is generally adequate except for some areas in the north central and eastern portions of the state. There is some concern over adequate irrigation water supplies for the coming year due to the below normal snowpack in most areas of the state.

Winter wheat was in generally good condition over the state at mid-March but still dormant in most areas. Although snowcover protection has been poor, wind damage has been light.

Livestock are reported in good condition. The mild weather during February and the first of March eased feeding requirements and provided good calving and lambing conditions. Both calving and lambing were over 30 percent complete by mid-March. Hay and feed supplies are generally adequate. However, some local shortages of hay were being reported.

FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION - SELECTED STATIONS

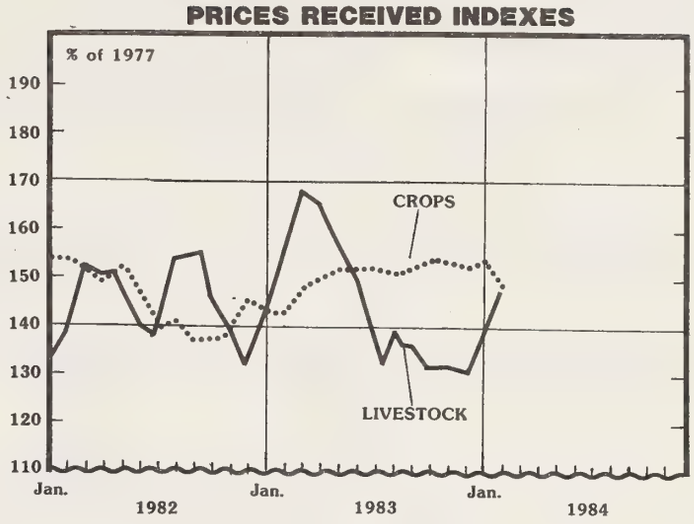
STATION	FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION	PERCENT OF NORMAL 1/
	---inches---	%
Hamilton	.67	93
Kalispell	.66	62
Polson	--	--
Belgrade	.47	100
Dillon Airport	.17	68
Cut Bank	.19	58
Havre	.30	73
Conrad	.18	49
Ft. Benton	.50	81
Malta	.47	127
Great Falls	.69	92
Lewistown	.82	124
Stanford	.85	163
Billings	.93	131
Wyola	--	--
Glasgow	.20	53
Sidney	.07	18
Broadus	.21	38
Miles City Airport	.13	23

LIVESTOCK PRICES IMPROVE

Prices received by Montana farmers in January for grains were lower than the previous month, but livestock prices during the same period went up. Compared with a year earlier, prices in January for winter wheat and most livestock items were lower, while spring wheat, durum, barley, hay, lambs and hog prices were higher.

The mid-January index of prices received by Montana farmers for all farm products was 144 (1977=100)--3 percent above December 1982, and 1 percent under January 1983. The all crops index at 149 was 2 points under a month ago, but 5 points above last year. The livestock and products index at 139 was 9 points above December but 6 points under last year.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average Feb. 1983	MONTANA Monthly Average Jan. 1984	MONTANA Feb. 15, 1984	U.S. Feb. 15, 1984
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.56	3.54	3.34	3.29
Durum	Bu.	3.37	3.88	3.73	3.77
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.70	3.60	3.46
All Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.63	3.48	3.34
Barley	Bu.	1.94	2.50	2.44	2.44
Oats	Bu.	1.55	1.69	1.54	1.76
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	57.00	72.00	75.00	87.90
All Other Hay	Ton	52.00	62.00	65.00	65.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	60.00	72.00	75.00	81.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	64.90	59.70	61.00	63.40
Cows	Cwt	41.30	35.40	36.10	38.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	54.20	45.60	49.80	57.70
Calves	Cwt	66.30	62.20	62.90	63.40
Sheep	Cwt	16.40	14.80	16.00	19.40
Lambs	Cwt	63.90	57.10	57.30	59.80
Hogs	Cwt	54.90	44.60	43.80	45.10
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	13.80	13.60	13.50
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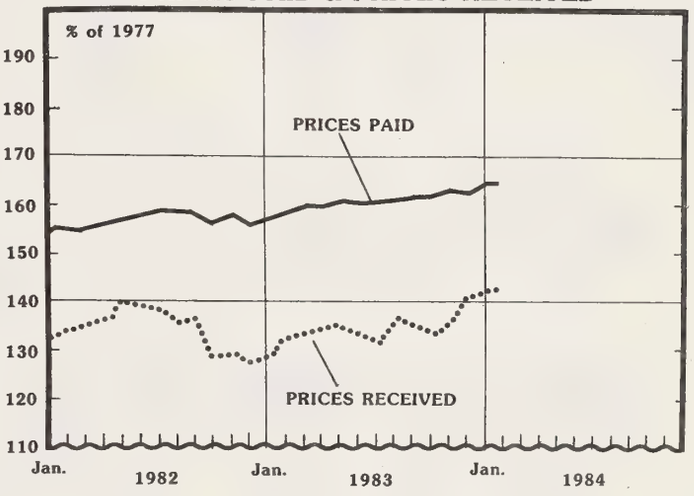

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Ratio (1977=100) 3/	83	88	86
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	55	59	57

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Montana producers had 1.55 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1984--6 percent less than a year ago. The stocks represent 86 percent of production.

In the fifteen major fall states there were 108 million cwt in storage. This is down 11 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. The March 1 stocks accounted for 39 percent of fall production in the fifteen states compared with 41 percent a year ago.

featuring..... WHEATLAND COUNTY

Wheatland County lies in central Montana. The Little Belt Mountains mark its northern boundary, and the lower levels of the Crazy Mountains spill over into a small portion of the southwest corner. The Musselshell River runs east and west through the middle of the county. The land is generally level, sloping gently toward the Musselshell River. Harlowton is the county seat. This area has an annual average precipitation of 12.75 inches, and an average of 104 frost free days.

In the agricultural picture, Wheatland County shows up as one of the major sheep and hog producers. The county ranked 5th in 1982 sheep numbers, and 6th in 1981 hog inventory; while it came in 34th in the 1982 cattle inventory.

Winter and spring wheat are grown in the area with rankings of 26th and 36th respectively in the 1982 crop production figures. Also in 1982, Wheatland County ranked 30th in barley production, and 32nd in oats.

Wheatland County's total cash receipt figure for 1982 was $13,446,000. Livestock and livestock products contributed $9,295,000 of that total, while crops brought in $3,463,000. Government payments added the final $688,000.

WHEATLAND COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1978 1/	908,800
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	843,953
Number of Farms		1978 1/	158
CROPS			
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	28,000
Spring Wheat	Acres	1982	5,000
Barley	Acres	1982	18,300
Oats	Acres	1982	2,500

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	19,700
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	53,300
LIVESTOCK			
Stock Sheep & Lambs	# Head	1982	22,700
Hogs & Pigs	# Head	1981	8,200
All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	40,700

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.—Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1984 PLANTING INTENTIONS
1982 CASH RECEIPTS BY COUNTY
POTATO STOCKS DECREASE
RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR JANUARY
U.S. WHEAT STOCKS
featuring.....BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR 1984

Many Montana farmers and ranchers participated in a U.S.D.A. survey to determine their intentions to plant major crops for harvest in 1984. The information shown below is the result of this survey.

SPRING PLANTING INTENTIONS

Montana farmers and ranchers expect to plant 22 percent more hard red spring wheat this spring than last year. Their intentions indicate 2.5 million acres will be seeded. This is up strongly from last year's reduced plantings but still the smallest acreage since 1978. Durum plantings are expected to be up 90,000 acres following last year's reduction of 140,000 acres. Last fall wheat growers planted 2.7 million acres of winter wheat, a 6 percent increase over one year ago. Total wheat plantings, using winter wheat seeded and growers intentions for spring wheat add up to 5.5 million acres. This is 14 percent above last year, but still the smallest all wheat acreage since 1978.

Barley plantings are expected to be down 15 percent as growers choose spring wheat over barley for 1984. Acreage devoted to oats will be up 10 percent according to growers intentions on February 1. This is still a small acreage compared with earlier years. Improved dry bean prices prompted growers to consider planting twice as much this spring compared with 1983. The 1984 plantings are expected to be 6,000 acres. Corn planting is expected to rebound from last year's low 65,000 acres to 90,000 in 1984. Sugarbeet intended plantings are unchanged from last year. Montana farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 6 percent more hay acreage in 1984 than last year.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS -- FEBRUARY 1, 1984

CROP	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1983	Indicated 1984	1984/83	1983	Indicated 1984	1984/83
	-----1,000 Acres----		-Pct.-	------1,000 Acres------		-Pct.-
Corn	65	90	+38	60,194	81,766	+36
Hard Spring Wheat	2,050	2,500	+22	11,749	13,837	+18
Durum	210	300	+43	2,565	3,850	+50
Oats	210	230	+10	20,308	13,616	-33
Barley	1,950	1,650	-15	10,606	10,565	--
Sugarbeets	41.6	41.6	--	1,080.6	1,131.0	+ 5
Dry Beans	3	6	+100	1,143	1,456	+27
All Hay 1/	2,170	2,300	+ 6	60,461	62,535	+ 3

1/ Acres for harvest.

CASH RECEIPTS BY COUNTIES -- 1982

FROM SALE OF PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS and GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

COUNTY & DISTRICT	Livestock and Livestock Products	Crops	Total Receipts from Marketings ---Dollars---	Government Payments	All Cash Receipts
Deer Lodge	845,000	1,287,000	2,132,000	56,000	2,188,000
Flathead	7,739,000	12,656,000	20,395,000	616,000	21,011,000
Granite	7,792,000	2,092,000	9,884,000	39,000	9,923,000
Lake	14,127,000	14,884,000	29,011,000	498,000	29,509,000
Lincoln	1,438,000	1,147,000	2,585,000	16,000	2,601,000
Mineral	715,000	463,000	1,178,000	15,000	1,193,000
Missoula	4,536,000	3,781,000	8,317,000	111,000	8,428,000
Powell	10,713,000	4,355,000	15,068,000	124,000	15,192,000
Ravalli	15,968,000	4,834,000	20,802,000	163,000	20,965,000
Sanders	3,966,000	1,349,000	5,315,000	179,000	5,494,000
N. WEST	67,839,000	46,848,000	114,687,000	1,817,000	116,504,000
Blaine	13,169,000	26,780,000	39,949,000	3,764,000	43,713,000
Chouteau	12,193,000	72,287,000	84,480,000	10,423,000	94,903,000
Glacier	9,466,000	28,683,000	38,149,000	4,615,000	42,764,000
Hill	6,237,000	59,973,000	66,210,000	6,945,000	73,155,000
Liberty	3,526,000	41,072,000	44,598,000	4,075,000	48,673,000
Phillips	17,067,000	20,389,000	37,456,000	2,752,000	40,208,000
Pondera	8,337,000	43,917,000	52,254,000	5,601,000	57,855,000
Teton	23,819,000	43,254,000	67,073,000	4,576,000	71,649,000
Toole	4,913,000	48,309,000	53,222,000	5,365,000	58,587,000
N. CENTRAL	98,727,000	384,664,000	483,391,000	48,116,000	531,507,000
Daniels	5,361,000	23,828,000	29,189,000	4,207,000	33,396,000
Dawson	9,203,000	28,706,000	37,909,000	3,172,000	41,081,000
Garfield	12,451,000	7,997,000	20,448,000	2,065,000	22,513,000
McCone	8,877,000	22,133,000	31,010,000	3,933,000	34,943,000
Richland	27,520,000	38,117,000	65,637,000	3,809,000	69,446,000
Roosevelt	8,413,000	34,653,000	43,066,000	4,054,000	47,120,000
Sheridan	4,255,000	39,465,000	43,720,000	5,508,000	49,228,000
Valley	15,049,000	33,018,000	48,067,000	5,692,000	53,759,000
N. EAST	91,129,000	227,917,000	319,046,000	32,440,000	351,486,000
Broadwater	5,646,000	18,637,000	24,283,000	2,033,000	26,316,000
Cascade	36,338,000	30,026,000	66,364,000	4,225,000	70,589,000
Fergus	26,178,000	25,759,000	51,937,000	3,826,000	55,763,000
Golden Valley	9,768,000	2,905,000	12,673,000	672,000	13,345,000
Judith Basin	16,104,000	17,197,000	33,301,000	2,489,000	35,790,000
Lewis & Clark	12,430,000	3,853,000	16,283,000	569,000	16,852,000
Meagher	13,352,000	2,133,000	15,485,000	359,000	15,844,000
Musselshell	9,170,000	4,351,000	13,521,000	660,000	14,181,000
Petroleum	7,432,000	1,370,000	8,802,000	251,000	9,053,000
Wheatland	9,295,000	3,463,000	12,758,000	688,000	13,446,000
CENTRAL	145,713,000	109,694,000	255,407,000	15,772,000	271,179,000
Beaverhead	33,306,000	7,197,000	40,503,000	747,000	41,250,000
Gallatin	24,040,000	28,204,000	52,244,000	1,454,000	53,698,000
Jefferson	3,742,000	1,571,000	5,313,000	295,000	5,608,000
Madison	21,933,000	5,105,000	27,038,000	581,000	27,619,000
Silver Bow	4,378,000	582,000	4,960,000	19,000	4,979,000
S. WEST	87,399,000	42,659,000	130,058,000	3,096,000	133,154,000
Big Horn	32,412,000	25,641,000	58,053,000	2,027,000	60,080,000
Carbon	19,411,000	21,666,000	41,077,000	606,000	41,683,000
Park	10,603,000	4,076,000	14,679,000	449,000	15,128,000
Stillwater	18,758,000	8,365,000	27,123,000	1,419,000	28,542,000
Sweet Grass	9,530,000	1,441,000	10,971,000	291,000	11,262,000
Treasure	3,953,000	10,256,000	14,209,000	242,000	14,451,000
Yellowstone	55,936,000	37,488,000	93,424,000	2,145,000	95,569,000
S. CENTRAL	150,603,000	108,933,000	259,536,000	7,179,000	266,715,000
Carter	12,296,000	4,982,000	17,278,000	2,243,000	19,521,000
Custer	21,703,000	11,320,000	33,023,000	974,000	33,997,000
Fallon	6,828,000	9,071,000	15,899,000	1,199,000	17,098,000
Powder River	14,272,000	6,518,000	20,790,000	930,000	21,720,000
Prairie	8,148,000	9,409,000	17,557,000	804,000	18,361,000
Rosebud	15,868,000	12,257,000	28,125,000	1,274,000	29,399,000
Wibaux	4,280,000	6,056,000	10,336,000	1,072,000	11,408,000
S. EAST	83,395,000	59,613,000	143,008,000	8,496,000	151,504,000
STATE	724,805,000	980,328,000	1,705,133,000	116,916,000	1,822,049,000

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

On February 1, 1984 there were 1,650,000 cwt of potatoes in Montana storages--6 percent less than last year.

For the 15 major fall potato producing states there were 134,655,000 cwt in storage, a 10 percent decrease from last year. Idaho storages held 13 percent less than last year, Oregon was down 15 percent, but Washington was up 1 percent. The total 1983 crop in the 15 states was 6 percent smaller than the previous year.

JANUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana's slaughter plants produced 4.6 million pounds of red meat during January, 3 percent less than December 1983. January cattle slaughter was 8,000 and hog slaughter totaled 2,400 head.

Commercial red meat production in the United States during January totaled 3.22 billion pounds, up 2 percent from January 1983.

Beef production at 1.91 billion pounds was down 1 percent, but total head killed at 3.11 million was up 1 percent. Veal production was 39 million pounds, an increase of 15 percent. Calf slaughter at 277,000 head was up 14 percent. Pork production totaled 1.23 billion pounds--up 6 percent and the hog kill totaled 7.19 million head, an increase of 8 percent. Lamb and mutton production was 31 million pounds, an increase of 3 percent. The monthly head kill of 553,000 was up 6 percent.

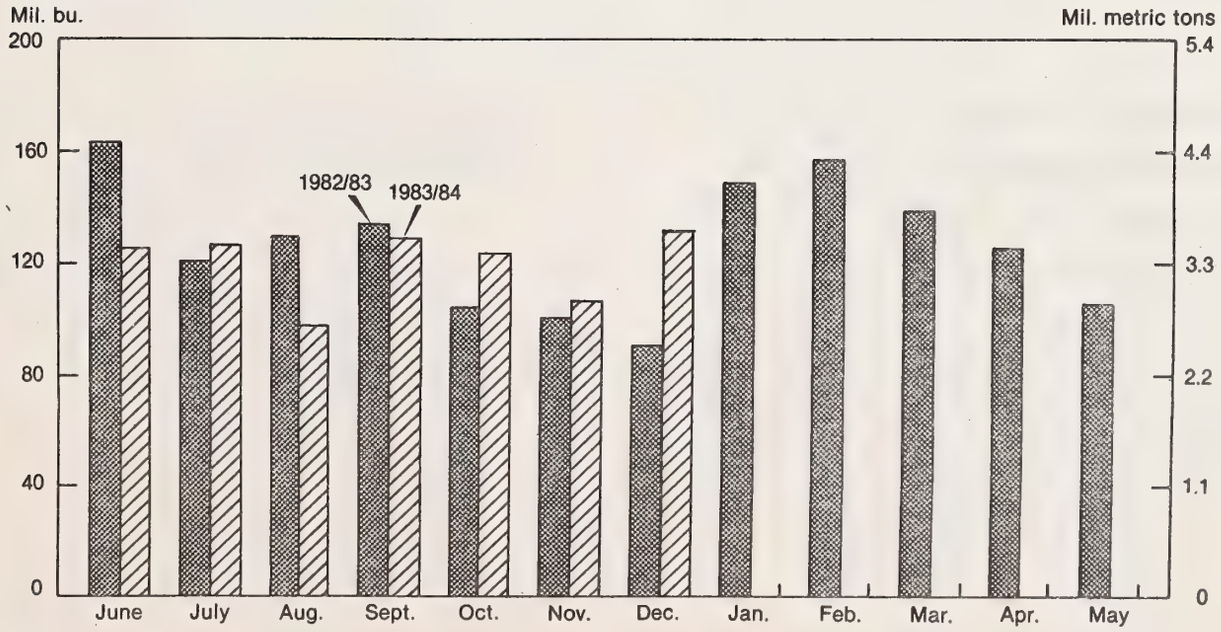
THE NATION'S MIDSEASON WHEAT STOCKS DECLINE, DOMESTIC DISAPPEARANCE EXPANDS

January 1 wheat stocks totaled 2.32 billion bushels, an 8 percent drop from a year earlier. The influence of 1983's reduced harvest and robust use during June-December caused the first year-to-year decline in January stocks since January 1979. Lower stocks of bread wheats (Hard Red Winter and Hard Red Spring) contributed the major part of the reduction--they fell 10 percent. Meanwhile, stocks of pastry wheats (Soft Red and White) remained high--12 percent more than a year ago. The Durum-crop shortfall in 1983 caused January stocks to be 30 percent lower.

January wheat stocks in the farmer-owned reserve fell 300 million bushels from a year earlier because of PIK entitlements. Thus, the percentage of readily marketable wheat (free stocks) for the remainder of the 1983/84 season is much higher than a year ago, which partly explains the expected lower prices. Producers' decisions about redeeming, forfeiting, or placing 1983 loans into the reserve may alter the situation, but currently nearly half of the June 1 carryin is expected to be readily marketable, compared with about a fifth last June.

Because the wheat industry is so dependent upon exporting, a stock drawdown normally reflects expanded export activity. Not so this year: The lower stock level was caused by record domestic disappearance through feeding wheat to livestock. This use, with a steady export volume, resulted in wheat use during June-December 1983 rising to the highest ever--1.64 billion bushels.

U.S. Wheat Exports by Months, Marketing Years 1982/83 and 1983/84



Includes flour and products in wheat equivalent.

featuring. . . . . BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

Located in the extreme southwestern corner of Montana, Beaverhead County abounds in spots of historical interest. Lewis & Clark traversed the county and it derived its name from Beaverhead Rock, named by Lewis & Clark. The ghost town of Bannack was the scene of the state's first great gold discoveries and was Montana's first territorial capital. The Big Hole Battlefield National Monument, commemorating the Battle of the Big Hole, is located in the northwestern corner of the county near Wisdom. The county is bordered on three sides by the Continental Divide and is made up of several broad, rich valleys. The greater portion of the Beaverhead National Forest lies within the boundaries of the county, and it is a popular hunting and fishing area. The county was created in February of 1865 and the county seat is Dillon. This area has an annual average precipitation of 11.10 inches and an average of only 64 frost-free days.

Cattle, sheep and hay are the county's main agricultural concerns. It ranked 1st in cattle numbers and 3rd in sheep numbers in the January 1, 1982 inventory. Hog numbers on December 1, 1981 put the county in 22nd place in the county rankings. The county also ranked 1st in all hay production for the 1982 crop year. Other crops and their respective ranks in 1982 include barley, 34th; all wheat, 36th and oats 39th.

The large numbers of livestock in the county brought in $33,306,000 in cash receipts for 1982. Crop cash receipts totaled $7,197,000, while government payments added $747,000. This brings the total cash receipt return in 1982 to $41,250,000.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1978 1/	3,552,640
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	1,563,038
Number of Farms		1978 1/	319
CROPS			
All Hay	Acres	1982	16,700
All Wheat	Acres	1982	13,500
Barley	Acres	1982	8,100
Oats	Acres	1982	1,800

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	169,300
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	6,700
LIVESTOCK			
All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	187,400
Stock Sheep & Lambs	# Head	1982	28,500
Hogs	# Head	1981	2,900

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Manufactured Dairy Products

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- CATTLE NUMBERS UP
- FARM PRICES
- CHICKEN INVENTORY DECREASES
- SHEEP NUMBERS DOWN
- MONTANA'S RANK
- MANUFACTURED DAIRY

MONTANA'S CATTLE HERD INCREASES

Montana cattle numbers continue to increase, a trend that started back in 1979 and is opposite of the National downward trend. Most ranchers generally had good hay supplies going into the winter. This, coupled with poor calf prices last fall, prompted many cattlemen to hold calves over in anticipation of better prices in the spring. The holdover included a higher proportion of heifer calves being held as possible additions to the beef cow herd.

CATTLE and CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1983-1984

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1983	1984	% Change 84/83	1983	1984	% Change 84/83
	--1,000 Head--			---1,000 Head---		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES						
Cows & heifers that have calved	2,990	3,150	+ 5	115,199	114,040	- 1
Beef Cows	1,520	1,637	+ 8	38,079	37,660	- 1
Milk Cows	29	29	--	11,076	11,140	+ 1
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	260	328	+26	6,343	6,195	- 2
For milk cow replacement	9	9	--	4,533	4,541	--
Other heifers	149	189	+27	7,954	7,862	- 1
Steers 500 pounds and over	218	284	+30	16,225	16,391	+ 1
Bulls 500 pounds and over	87	98	+13	2,615	2,550	- 2
Calves less than 500 pounds	718	576	-20	28,375	27,701	- 2
All cattle value ($000)	1,121,250	1,244,250	+11	46,769,240	45,119,309	- 4
Value per head (Dollars)	375	395	+ 5	406	396	- 2

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS -- 1982 and 1983

ITEM	1982	1983	% Change 83/82	1982	1983	% Change 83/82
Calves born during year (000)	1,570	1,640	+ 4	44,420	44,093	- 1
Number cattle farms	16,000	16,300	+ 2	1,611,020	1,585,200	- 2

LIVESTOCK PRICES IMPROVE

Prices received by Montana farmers in January for livestock were generally higher but grain prices were lower than the previous month. Compared with a year earlier, prices in January for winter wheat and most livestock items were lower, while spring wheat, durum, barley, hay, lamb and hog prices were higher.

The mid-January index of prices received by Montana farmers for all farm products was 144 (1977=100)--3 percent above December 1983, and 1 percent under January 1983. The all crops index at 149 was 2 points under a month ago, but 5 points above last year. The livestock and products index at 139 was 9 points above December but 6 points under last year.

Nationally, the January all farm products index of prices received by farmers increased 3 points (2.1 percent) from December to 143 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for cattle, eggs, tomatoes, hogs and broilers were partially offset by lower prices for oranges, lettuce, soybeans, cotton and milk. The index was 15 points (12 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest taxes and farm wage rates for January 1984 was 164 percent of the 1977 base. The index was up 1 point (0.6 percent) from December and 6 points (3.8 percent) above January 1983. The annual updating of the indexes for farm services and cash rent, interest on the farm real estate debt and farm real estate taxes caused most of the increase from a month earlier.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1983	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1983	MONTANA Jan. 15, 1984	U. S. Jan. 15, 1984
		dollars	dollars	dollars	dollars
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.66	3.46	3.40	3.39
Durum	Bu.	3.66	3.87	3.82	3.77
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.45	3.67	3.60	3.55
All Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.55	3.49	3.43
Barley	Bu.	2.06	2.47	2.45	2.64
Oats	Bu.	1.53	1.63	1.53	1.76
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	59.00	70.00	70.00	86.00
All Other Hay	Ton	48.00	60.00	60.00	64.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	57.00	70.00	70.00	80.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	59.40	56.70	58.20	63.20
Cows	Cwt	35.60	34.60	34.90	34.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	47.80	41.50	45.40	56.50
Calves	Cwt	64.70	60.90	60.50	61.40
Sheep	Cwt	15.20	13.70	14.70	16.20
Lambs	Cwt	54.40	55.00	58.60	59.50
Hogs	Cwt	55.10	41.00	46.60	47.30
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	14.00	13.90	13.70
Eggs	Doz.	.465	.681	.810	.928
Wool 2/	Lb.	.640	.700	.700	.637
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Producst	Pct.	145	141	144	143
All Crops	Pct.	144	151	149	137
Livestock & Products	Pct.	145	130	139	150

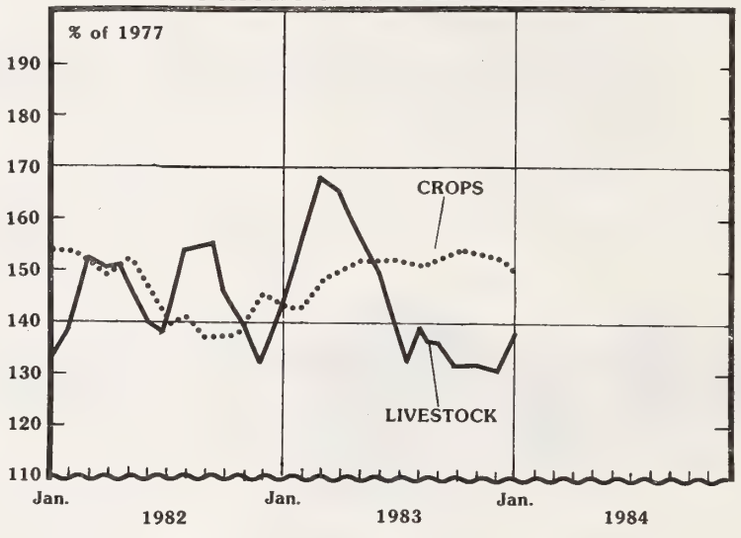
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

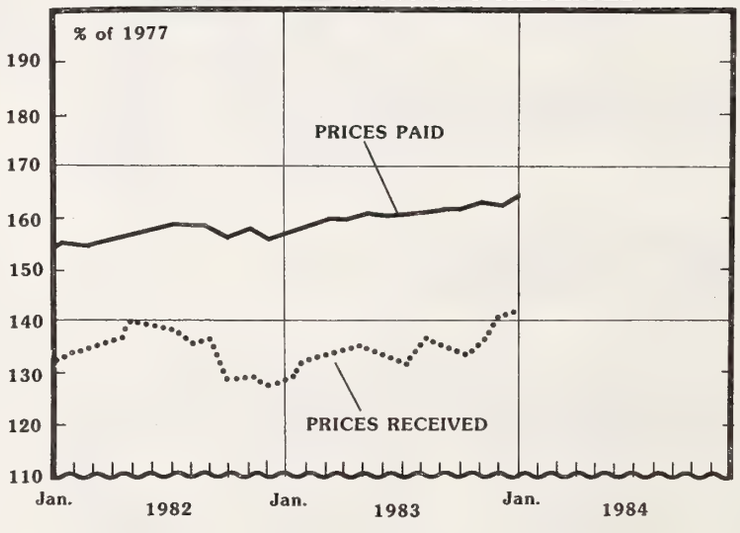
INDEX	Jan. 1983	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1984
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	128	140	143
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	158	163	164
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	81	86	87
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	54	57	58

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

MONTANA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES
INDEX NUMBERS OF
PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

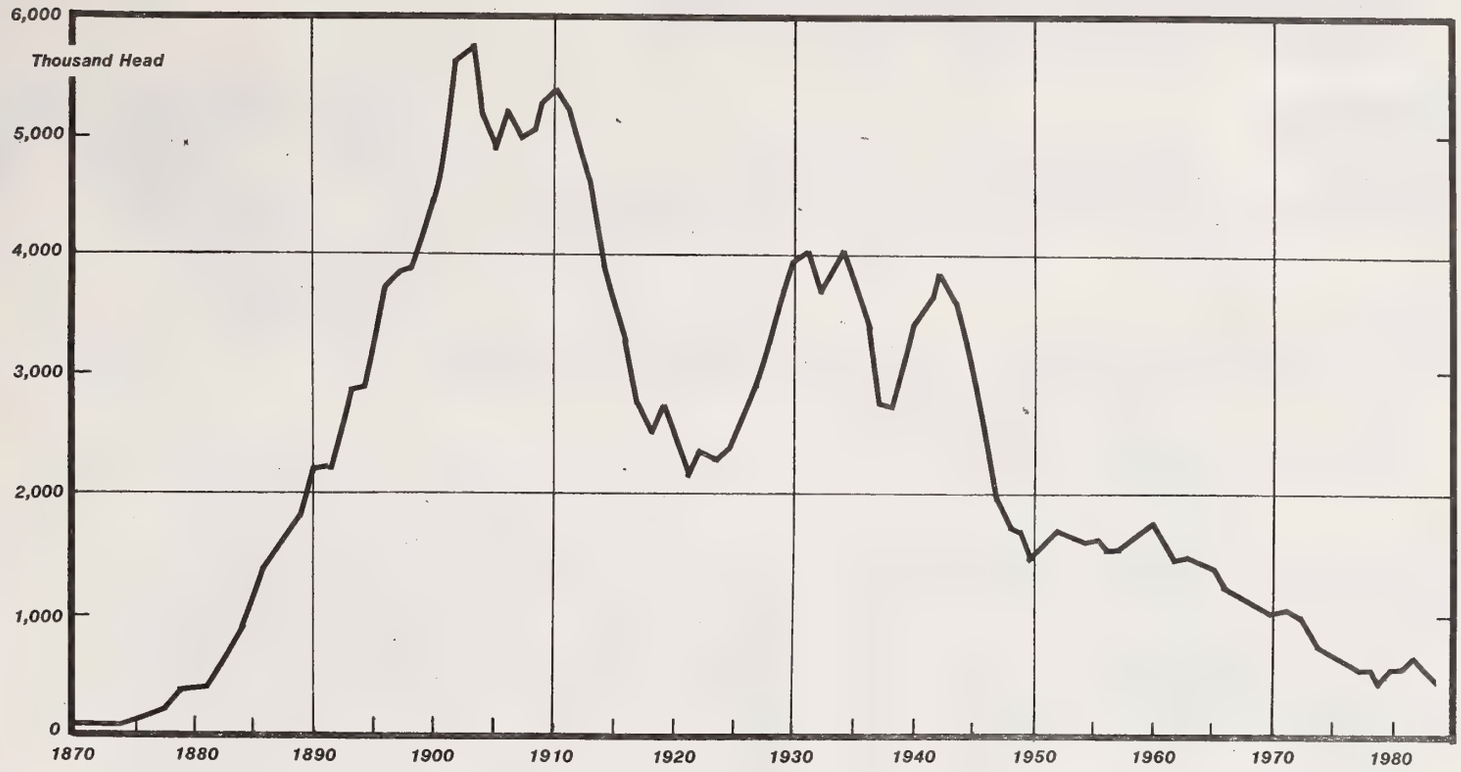


CHICKEN NUMBERS DOWN

The number of chickens on Montana farms December 1, 1983 totaled 940,000--3 percent below a year earlier. The inventory included 730,000 hens and pullets of laying age and 205,000 pullets not of laying age. The inventory value of all Montana chickens December 1, 1983 fell 16 percent to $1,833,000. The average value per bird at $1.95 was 30 cents less than the previous year.

STOCK SHEEP INVENTORY

JANUARY 1, 1870 - 1984



SHEEP NUMBERS CONTINUE DECLINE

Montana's January 1 sheep and lamb inventory was 9 percent less than the previous year. Except for the 1979-82 period, sheep numbers in Montana have been on a long term gradual decline.

Breeding ewes 1 year old and older were down 9 percent pointing to a smaller lamb crop for 1984. Ewe lambs kept for flock replacement were down 24 percent indicating a continued decline of sheep numbers in the State.

Nationally, the January 1 all sheep and lamb inventory was down 5 percent and was the lowest all sheep and lamb inventory on record.

SHEEP and LAMBS ON FARMS and RANCHES -- JANUARY 1, 1983-1984

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1983	1984	% Change 84/83	1983	1984	% Change 84/83
	--Thous. Head--			---Thous. Head---		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	560	509	- 9	12,026	11,411	- 5
On feed	20	34	+70	1,641	1,708	+ 4
Stock sheep	540	475	-12	10,385	9,703	- 7
Lambs						
Ewes	85	65	-24	1,407	1,228	-13
Wethers and rams	15	9	-40	340	316	- 7
One year old and older						
Ewes	425	388	- 9	8,267	7,820	- 5
Wethers and rams	15	13	-13	372	339	- 9
All sheep value ($000)	28,280	25,959	- 8	622,548	594,457	- 5
Value per head (Dollars)	50.50	51.00	+ 1	51.80	52.10	+ 1

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS -- 1982 and 1983

ITEM	1982	1983	% Change 83/82	1982	1983	% Change 83/82
Lamb crop	470	440	- 6	8,576	8,154	- 5
Number of sheep farms	2,500	2,700	+ 8	128,090	126,500	- 1

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

UNIT	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Cropland in Cultivated Summerfallow	5,557,162 acres	1978 Census	3
Land in Farms and Ranches	62,100,000 acres	1983	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't. Payments			
Total	$1,476,228,000	1982	32
Crops	$ 823,614,000	1982	27
Livestock	$ 652,614,000	1982	31
LIVESTOCK and LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS			
All Cattle and Calves	3,150,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1984	11
All Cows	1,666,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1984	6
Milk Cows	29,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1984	44
Beef Cows	1,637,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1984	6
Cattle on Feed	80,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1984	23
Hogs and Pigs	180,000 hd.	Dec. 1, 1983	28
Sheep and Lambs	509,000 hd.	Jan. 1, 1984	8
Wool Production	5,141,000 lbs.	1982	7
All Chickens	940,000 birds	Dec. 1, 1983	41
CROPS (PRODUCTION)			
All Wheat	136,930,000 bu.	1983	6
Winter Wheat	79,100,000 bu.	1983	7
Durum Wheat	4,100,000 bu.	1983	4
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	53,730,000 bu.	1983	3
All Hay	4,158,000 tons	1983	15
Alfalfa Hay	2,688,000 tons	1983	11
Dry Beans	37,000 cwt	1983	16
Barley	77,700,000 bu.	1983	2
Oats	5,280,000 bu.	1983	14
Potatoes--fall	1,800,000 cwt.	1983	20
Sugarbeets	818,000 tons	1983	7

MANUFACTURED DAIRY OUTPUT

Montana dairy plants produced 454,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during December 1983, down 8 percent from November, but up 10 percent from a year ago. Ice cream output at 98,000 gallons was 16 percent below the same month a year ago. Butter production at 237,000 pounds was up 10 percent from the previous December.

THE USSR GRAIN SITUATION

Soviet buyers continued to be fairly active in the world grain market during the past month. Total purchases now are estimated at more than 22 million tons or about 80 percent of projected 1983/84 imports of 30 million tons. The estimate of Soviet total grain imports has been increased by 1 million tons reflecting a higher wheat import estimate. Imports for the first 6 months of the July-June marketing year are estimated at over 14 million tons with wheat accounting for 2 out of every 3 tons of grain imported during the period. Soviet wheat purchases for delivery in 1983/84 are estimated at around 16 million tons, while recent purchases of U.S. corn have pushed coarse grain coverage to more than 6 million tons.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Prospective Plantings

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Sid Lebahn, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

JANUARY 1, 1984 GRAIN STOCKS
SLAUGHTER
MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES
POTATO STOCKS DECREASE
MONTANA CROP VALUES DOWN
featuring.....RAVALLI COUNTY

MONTANA CROP VALUES

Montana farmers and ranchers harvested crops valued at 978 million dollars during 1983--15 percent below 1982. The lower total value was mainly the result of decreased production which more than offset a generally higher price per unit of production in 1983.

MONTANA CROP VALUES -- 1983

CROP	PRODUCTION		VALUE
			Mil. $
Winter Wheat	79.1	Mil. Bu.	280.8
Hard Spring Wheat	53.7	Mil. Bu.	206.9
Durum Wheat	4.1	Mil. Bu.	16.0
Barley	77.7	Mil. Bu.	190.4
Oats	5.3	Mil. Bu.	8.7
Corn for Grain	1.4	Mil. Bu.	4.4
Dry Beans	37	Thous. Cwt.	.7
Sugarbeets	818	Thous. Tons	N/A
Potatoes	1.8	Thous. Cwt.	14.2
All Hay	4,158	Thous. Tons	255.7
Sweet Cherries	1,800	Tons	.6

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS DOWN SHARPLY

Montana wheat stored in all positions totaled 160.1 million bushels as of January 1st, 20 percent below last year's holdings. Indicated disappearance since October 1 was 43.5 million bushels. Disappearance for the comparable period in 1982 was 37.7 million bushels. Farm storages held 130.1 million bushels--25 percent below a year ago, but commercial storages held 30.0 million--up 7 percent.

Winter wheat stocks at 86.5 million bushels were 2 percent below last year. All spring wheat was down 34 percent at 73.6 million bushels. The durum portion at 12.3 million bushels was down 29 percent from last year.

Barley stocks in all positions at 46.3 million bushels were 8 percent below last year. Oats stocks at 5.7 million bushels were down 22 percent.

NATIONAL WHEAT STOCKS DIP SLIGHTLY

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions January 1, 1984 totaled 2.32 billion bushels, 8 percent less than last year's record 2.52 billion bushels, but 7 percent more than January 1, 1982. Farm stocks amounted to 1.01 billion bushels, down 13 percent from a year ago, and 43 percent of all stocks. Off-farm stocks, at 1.31 billion bushels were off 3 percent from January 1, 1983. Indicated disappearance during October-December 1983 is 642 million bushels. Disappearance for the comparable period in 1982 was 467 million bushels.

Durum wheat stored in all positions on January 1, 1984 totaled 133 million bushels, down 30 percent from last year's record high 189 million bushels and 13 percent less than January 1, 1982. Farm stocks of 97.8 million bushels are 37 percent below the 156 million bushels on hand January 1, 1983. Off-farm stocks of 35.0 million bushels, are 5 percent more than last year's 33.3 million bushels.

Barley stored in all positions on January 1, 1984 totaled 378 million bushels, 10 percent less than last year's 418 million bushels. Stocks of barley stored on farms amounted to 257 million bushels, or 68 percent of the total stocks. Off farm storages held 121 million bushels on January 1, or 32 percent of the total stocks. On farm stocks were down 13 percent and off farm stocks were down 2 percent from January 1, 1983.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JANUARY 1, 1984 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1983	Oct. 1, 1983 *	Jan. 1, 1984	% Chg. '83/'84	Jan. 1, 1983	Oct. 1, 1983 *	Jan. 1, 1984
	--------Thousand Bushels------			-Pct.-	--------Thousand Bushels--------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	172,546	167,055	130,084	-25	1,166,244	1,248,833	1,010,906
Off Farms 1/	28,143	36,520	30,000	+ 7	1,354,465	1,717,268	1,313,642
T O T A L	200,689	203,575	160,084	-20	2,520,709	2,966,101	2,324,548
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	72,706	92,428	69,915	- 4	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	15,718	19,518	16,560	+ 5	--	--	--
T O T A L	88,424	111,946	86,475	- 2	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	99,840	74,627	60,169	-40	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	12,425	17,002	13,440	+ 8	--	--	--
T O T A L	112,265	91,629	73,609	-34	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	155,935	126,430	97,776
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	33,266	46,392	34,954
T O T A L	17,379	13,453	12,275	-29	189,201	172,822	132,730
CORN							
On Farms	980	28	1,092	+11	6,016,947	1,531,677	3,099,037
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	2,267,297	1,608,634	1,829,442
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	8,284,244	3,140,311	4,928,479
OATS							
On Farms	6,885	6,072	5,386	-22	399,781	426,204	322,464
Off Farms 1/	423	297	350	-17	75,795	79,062	56,012
T O T A L	7,308	6,369	5,736	-22	475,576	505,266	378,476
BARLEY							
On Farms	45,864	53,613	40,404	-12	293,924	344,351	256,815
Off Farms 1/	4,727	8,319	5,900	+25	124,225	171,629	121,394
T O T A L	50,591	61,932	46,304	- 8	418,149	515,980	378,209
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	267,915	58,704	147,802
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	542,568	340,201	502,746
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	810,483	398,905	650,548

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the MONTANA WHEAT RESEARCH & MARKETING COMMITTEE. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jan. 1, 1983	Oct. 1, 1983*	Jan. 1, 1984	Jan. 1, 1983	Oct. 1, 1983*	Jan. 1, 1984
	----------Million Bushels--------			----------Million Bushels--------		
Northwest	1.4	1.0	.8	2.6	1.9	1.6
North Central	95.8	85.9	64.8	23.9	30.4	21.3
Northeast	54.1	55.0	49.0	4.8	8.3	5.7
Central	20.6	29.6	23.4	12.0	12.3	10.2
Southwest	3.3	3.5	3.0	2.4	2.9	1.8
South Central	15.1	16.7	11.2	3.7	4.7	4.5
Southeast	10.4	11.9	7.9	1.2	1.4	1.2
STATE	200.7	203.6	160.1	50.6	61.9	46.3

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the MONTANA WHEAT RESEARCH & MARKETING COMMITTEE. *Revised.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--DECEMBER 31, 1983

MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	----------(000) Bu.---------			
Reserve	75,343	64,425	5,094	8,544
Under Loan	18,873	22,241	6,209	3,755

1/ These stocks are included in the January 1 total stocks estimates.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in Montana during December totaled 4.8 million pounds, 2 percent less than the November total. The total red meat production in the state for all of 1983 at 118.3 million pounds is 6 percent under 1982.

There were 8,500 cattle killed and 2,400 hogs slaughtered during December. For the year 1983 there were 99,100 cattle killed, up 8 percent from 1982, and 354,100 hogs slaughtered, down 20 percent from the previous year.

Commercial red meat production in the United States for December 1983 totaled 3.39 billion pounds. Production during 1983 totaled 38.9 billion pounds. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. Kill days for December included 22 weekdays (1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production for December totaled 1.97 billion pounds. Total head killed was 3.17 million and live weight averaged 1,070 pounds. Veal production was 37 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 284 thousand head averaged 227 pounds live weight. Pork production during December totaled 1.35 billion pounds. Hog kill totaled 7.82 million head, with an average live weight of 243 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 30 million pounds. The monthly head kill was 551 thousand, averaging 111 pounds live weight

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1982 & 1983

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1982	1983	1982	1983	Pct. Chg.
	----------(000 Head----------				%
No. Slaughtered					
Cattle	91.8	99.1	35,843.3	36,662.4	+2
Calves	N/A	.2	3,020.9	3,076.5	+2
Hogs	440.3	354.1	82,189.7	87,242.3	+6
Sheep & Lambs	4.2	4.2	6,448.7	6,616.1	+3
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	95,362	102,554	38,128	39,249	+3
Calves	N/A	10	712	729	+2
Hogs	105,512	85,740	19,932	21,203	+6
Sheep & Lambs	469	450	715	741	+4
RED MEAT PRODUCTION	126,324	118,312	37,266	38,915	+4

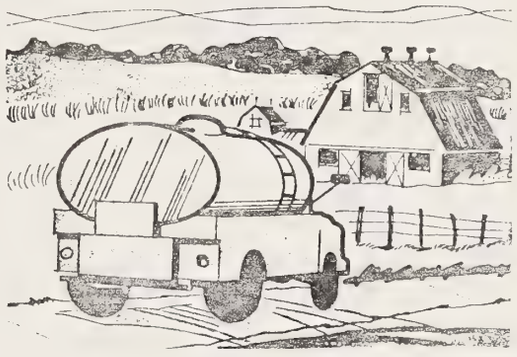
MILK PRODUCTION UP

Milk produced by Montana dairies during the October-December 1983 quarter totaled 87 million pounds, 4 percent more than the same quarter in 1982. The current quarter's production is 4 percent less than the 1983 July-September quarter. The number of cows milked during the past quarter averaged 29,000, same as last year and last quarter.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PRODUCTION 2/	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	--thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
California	939	955	3,578	3,656
Idaho	175	173	539	550
Minnesota	890	890	2,350	2,457
Montana	29	29	84	87
N. Dakota	94	99	217	227
Oregon	100	101	316	320
S. Dakota	163	164	412	415
Washington	213	215	799	855
Wisconsin	1,829	1,835	5,414	5,506
Wyoming	11.9	11.9	32.7	32.8
U.S.	11,053	11,124	32,854	33,667

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.



POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Fall potato stocks totaled 161 million cwt on January 1, 1984, for the 15 major storage states. This is down 10 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below the January 1, 1982 stocks. By variety, potatoes were 70 percent russett, 26 percent white and 4 percent red. The storage total accounted for 58 percent of fall potato production compared with 60 percent a year ago.

In Montana, producers had 1.67 million cwt in storage, down 6 percent from last year. This reflects a 6 percent decrease in the 1983 production compared with 1982.

featuring. . . . . RAVALLI COUNTY

The entire western boundary and half of the southern boundary of Ravalli County comprise a part of the Montana/Idaho border. The county itself occupies 1,524,480 acres of land in western Montana. Much of this land is the Bitterroot National Forest. The Bitterroot River runs through the center of the county from its northern to its southern border, through what is known as the Bitterroot Valley. The Bitterroon mountain range, which is part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area lies on the western border of the county.

Hay is the major crop grown and ranked the county 12th in all hay production for the 1982 crop year. Some wheat, barley and oats are also grown. These crops brought the county rankings of 48th, 42nd and 34th respectively in 1982 production.

Ravalli County was 19th in the state for sheep numbers and 26th in cattle on January 1, 1982. Hog numbers in 1981 put the county in 24th place in the state.

Cash receipts from livestock and livestock products contributed $15,693,000 and a rank of 14th in 1981, while crops turned $4,146,000 and a rank of 39th among the counties. Government payments added $216,000 for a total cash receipt return of $20,055,000 and 31st place in 1981.

Hamilton is the county seat, and this area has an annual average precipitation of 13.11 inches. The high mountain ranges on either side of the Bitterroot Valley provide protection and afford the county a mild, even climate.

RAVALLI COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR			UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1978 1/	1,524,480	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	42,050
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	248,654	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	4,900
Number of Farms		1978 1/	855				
CROPS				LIVESTOCK			
All Hay	Acres	1982	39,000	Sheep	# Head	1982	7,600
Alfalfa Hay	Acres	1982	24,300	All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	45,500
All Wheat	Acres	1982	2,400	Hogs & Pigs	# Head	1981	2,700
Barley	Acres	1982	5,000				
Oats	Acres	1982	1,800				

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep Inventory
Cattle Inventory
Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Chicken Inventory

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.-Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1983 CROP PRODUCTION
MONTANA FARM PRICES FOR DECEMBER
1984 WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS
HAY STOCKS DOWN
featuring.....McCONE COUNTY

FARM FINANCES STRENGTHEN

Financial conditions for U.S. farmers have generally stabilized, even though some farmers still face difficulties. Conditions in mid-December show that the 1983 drought and acreage reduction programs helped raise sectorwide farm income and cash flow, but that real farm income (after adjusting for inflation) has remained relatively low. Livestock producers' returns have suffered from high feed costs and low product prices, and high interest rates continue to plague farmers struggling with large debts.

For the year ending June 1983, the delinquency rate on farm loans at agricultural banks was about 3.7 percent, and the percentage of farmers who went out of business was about 2.3. Both figures are unchanged from a year earlier. However, a larger number went through bankruptcy, 1.1 percent compared with 0.75 percent a year earlier.

Prospects for 1984 suggest farm income will continue to increase, compared with the past few years. The index of prices received by farmers is forecast to average 5 to 7 percent higher. The index of prices paid for all items may also climb 5 to 7 percent, while nonfarm origin inputs may be up 4 to 6 percent.

As farm income and planted acreage increase in 1984, farm investments could advance $3 billion. Last year's gross investment is estimated at $19.1 billion, down $1.5 billion from 1982. The decrease came from high participation in acreage reduction programs, high interest rates, and improved but still sluggish farm income, which kept many farmers from making capital improvements and from purchasing machinery and equipment.

MONTANA 1983 CROP SEASON REVIEW

Montana had large areas of moisture shortages in 1983, especially in the eastern sections. The state's farmers also participated heavily in acreage reduction programs which resulted in a 25 percent decrease in all wheat production. However, barley production for the state set a new record high for the second straight year.

Winter wheat seeding in the fall of 1982 got off to a slow start as many growers were waiting for moisture before they started seeding the 1983 crop. However, precipitation the last of September came in time for seeding to progress and by the last of October the crop was in the ground.

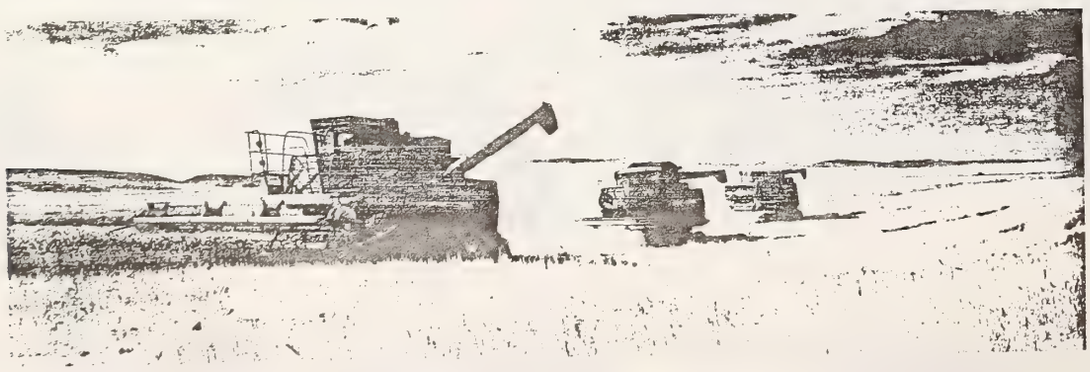
Moisture received during the winter months was generally below average. Fieldwork got started the first of April and proceded faster than normal. By the last of May, most of the spring grains had been planted which was much earlier than normal.

The main growing season was characterized by dry areas in the northwest, southeast and the eastern third of the State. Hay harvest accelerated during June, but persistent scattered showers ruined or lowered the quality of much of the first cutting hay crop when it was down. Above normal temperatures starting the first part of August hastened maturity of small grains, but provided good harvesting conditions. Harvest of spring grains progressed more rapidly than normal. Winter wheat harvest was in the wind-up stage by the latter part of August and harvest of spring grains was essentially complete by mid-September, both earlier than normal. The dry bean and corn silage harvest were in full swing by this time. The potato harvest was finished in late October while the sugarbeet harvest carried over to early November.

CROP PRODUCTION

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
	--Thousand Acres--				--Bushels--		--Thousand Bu.--	
CORN FOR GRAIN 1/								
Montana	80	65	14	13	100.0	105.0	1,400	1,365
U.S.	81,779	60,194	73,030	51,537	114.5	81.6	8,359,364	4,203,777
WINTER WHEAT								
Montana	2,450	2,550	2,120	2,260	38.0	35.0	80,560	79,100
U.S.	66,501	62,503	58,487	47,686	36.1	41.8	2,111,806	1,993,888
DURUM WHEAT								
Montana	350	210	340	205	30.0	20.0	10,200	4,100
U.S.	4,350	2,565	4,217	2,492	35.0	29.3	147,503	72,979
OTHER SPRING WHEAT								
Montana	2,950	2,050	2,900	1,990	32.0	27.0	92,800	53,730
U.S.	16,576	11,749	16,277	11,314	34.0	31.7	552,988	358,541
ALL WHEAT								
Montana	5,750	4,810	5,360	4,455	34.0	30.7	183,560	136,930
U.S.	87,427	76,817	79,981	61,492	35.6	39.4	2,812,297	2,425,408
OATS								
Montana	260	210	150	120	51.0	44.0	7,650	5,280
U.S.	14,266	20,308	10,618	9,098	58.4	52.5	620,509	477,303
BARLEY								
Montana	1,650	1,950	1,560	1,850	49.0	42.0	76,440	77,700
U.S.	9,634	10,606	9,113	9,902	57.0	52.4	522,387	519,026
POTATOES 2/					--Cwt--		--Thousand Cwt--	
Montana	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.2	260.0	250.0	1,924	1,800
U.S.	1,117.4	1,080.1	1,087.7	1,057.2	283.0	272.0	307,526	287,995
DRY BEANS								
Montana	8.5	3	8.4	3	16.5	16.0	139	37
U.S.	1,894.5	1,143.0	1,748.4	1,105.7	14.3	13.8	25,049	15,254
SUGARBEETS					--Tons--		--Thousand Tons--	
Montana	43.1	41.6	43.0	41.3	19.8	19.8	850	818
U.S.	1,054.2	1,080.6	1,026.8	1,055.0	20.3	20.0	20,894	21,111
ALFALFA HAY								
Montana	--	--	1,300	1,120	2.60	2.40	3,380	2,688
U.S.	--	--	26,598	25,937	3.41	3.22	90,678	83,522
ALL HAY								
Montana	--	--	2,450	2,170	2.08	1.92	5,105	4,158
	--	--	60,679	60,461	2.51	2.36	152,424	142,979
SWEET CHERRIES							---Tons---	
Montana	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,400	1,800
U.S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	155,700	179,700

1/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes. 2/ Fall potatoes.



MONTANA FARM PRICES STRENGTHEN

Montana farmers received lower prices for all grains but higher prices for livestock at mid-December compared with November. Hay prices remained unchanged. In comparing the current December prices with a year ago, winter wheat is down while hard spring wheat and durum are up. Barley prices are up significant this year, while hay is showing only a moderate increase. Most livestock prices except hogs and sheep are higher than a year ago.

The all farm products price index for this December at 142 compares with 137 a year ago.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	127	135	140
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	156	162	162
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	81	83	86
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	54	55	58

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

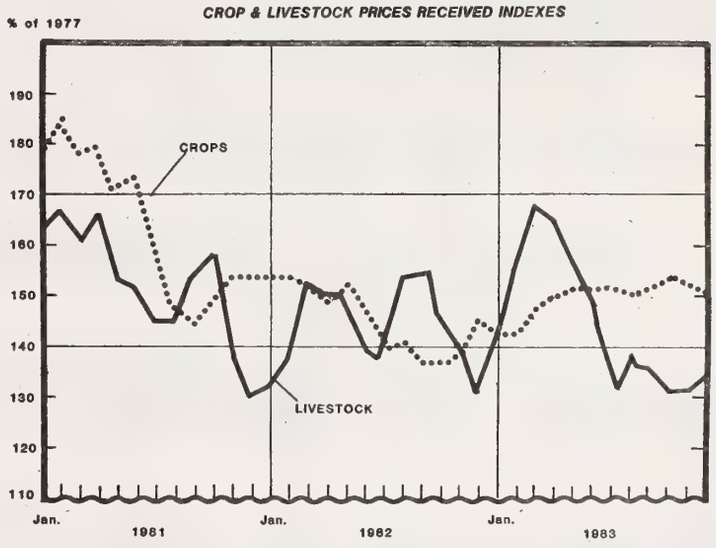
AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1982	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1983	MONTANA Dec. 15, 1983	U. S. Dec. 15, 1983
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.53	3.45	3.41
Durum	Bu.	3.13	3.90	3.75	3.79
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.73	3.60	3.54
All Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.64	3.57	3.46
Barley	Bu.	2.11	2.42	2.40	2.50
Oats	Bu.	1.54	1.62	1.55	1.71
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	62.00	65.00	65.00	83.20
All Other Hay	Ton	50.00	60.00	60.00	63.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	58.00	65.00	65.00	77.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	57.60	55.30	58.70	60.90
Cows	Cwt	32.10	32.30	32.70	33.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	41.90	43.20	45.10	54.60
Calves	Cwt	58.00	58.80	63.30	60.60
Sheep	Cwt	16.60	12.40	13.10	16.40
Lambs	Cwt	48.40	51.30	53.60	57.10
Hogs	Cwt	53.60	34.00	37.30	44.80
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	13.70	13.80	13.80
Eggs	Doz.	.538	.690	.681	.793
Wool 2/	Lb.	.640	.610	.700	.714
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	137	142	142	140
All Crops	Pct.	145	152	150	136
Livestock & Products	Pct.	130	131	134	144

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



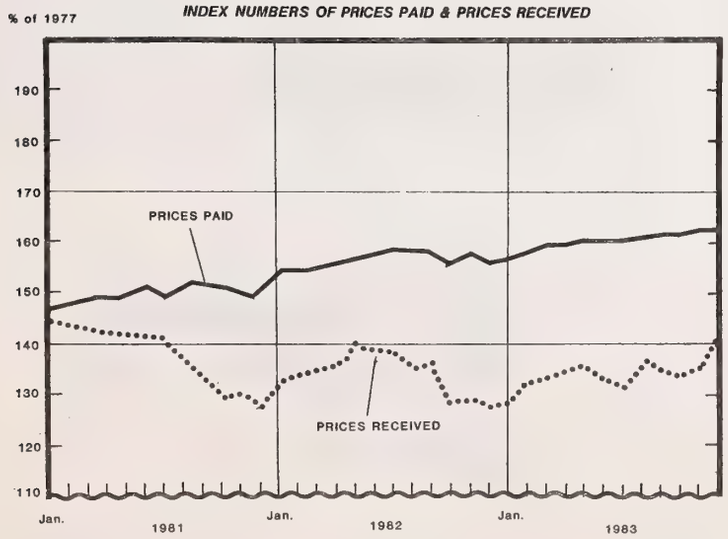
HAY STOCKS BELOW LAST YEAR

Hay stocks January 1 on Montana farms and ranches totaled 3,950,000 tons--down 14 percent from the same date last year. The severe cold weather during December increased feeding requirements considerably and started depleting hay supplies earlier than normal. As a result, some areas may have shortages depending on weather and feeding requirements for the rest of the winter.

The U.S. hay stocks on farms January 1 totaled 90.7 million tons, down 15 percent from a year earlier.

UNITED STATES

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS FOR 1984

Montana farmers planted 2.7 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1984--up 6 percent from a year ago. Most major winter wheat producing states indicated acreage increases. The only ones registering declines were Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas.

The Nation's farmers seeded 64.9 million acres of winter wheat for harvest in 1984. This is up 4 percent from 1983, but down 2 percent from the record 66.5 million acres seeded for 1982.

featuring..... McCONE COUNTY

McCone County is situated in the northeastern section of Montana with the Missouri River defining its northern border. A leg of the Fort Peck Lake lies just on the western boundary of the county. The county itself is characterized mostly by plains, although the land along the northern bounday is broken up by the Missouri Breaks along the river. The county was created in April of 1919 and has an approximate land area of 1,668,480 acres.

A variety of crops are grown on the 1 million plus acres of farmland in the county. McCone ranked 7th in spring wheat production for the 1982 crop year, 9th for durum wheat and 12th in winter wheat production. Oats and barley are also grown extensively as the county ranked 10th in oats production and 18th in barley production in 1982. Cash receipts for these crops brought in $19,323,000 or a ranking of 20th in 1981 cash receipts.

McCone is also one of the major sheep raising counties as it ranked 5th in the state for sheep numbers in 1982. Cattle and hogs both brought the county rankings of 32nd in 1982 livestock numbers. Cash receipts for livestock and livestock products totaled 8,704,000 in 1981 and ranked 34th among the counties.

Adding the cash receipts for crops and livestock, plus government payments, brings the total cash receipt figure to $31,461,000 in 1981 and 24th place in the county rankings.

McCONE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1978	1,668,480
Land in Farms	Acres	1978	1,335,976
Number of Farms	Acres	1978	453
CROPS			
Spring Wheat	Acres	1982	155,000
Durum Wheat	Acres	1982	2,300
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	90,000
Oats	Acres	1982	12,800
Barley	Acres	1982	32,000

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	6,400
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	299,500
LIVESTOCK			
Sheep	# Head	1982	22,700
Cattle	# Head	1982	42,300
Hogs	# Head	1981	1,700

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Crop Values

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1984 WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS
MONTANA HOG INVENTORY INCREASES
POTATO STOCKS
1983 SMALL GRAIN SUMMARY
SLAUGHTER DECREASES

WORLD WHEAT OUTLOOK

The world wheat trade forecast for 1983/84 is unchanged from last month at over 100 million tons. The current world wheat market is characterized by aggressive marketing of near-record supplies. World demand has expanded somewhat since the start of the marketing year; however, exportable supplies still exceed import demand and world wheat stocks are expected to show a modest increase. The amount of wheat traded for feed this year continues to be a major uncertainty. There are still indications that wheat feeding could increase further, illustrated by renewed EC attempts to direct more wheat into domestic feed use.

The Soviet Union, China and Brazil have been active in the world wheat market over the past month. The USSR made a major purchase from Australia and has also bought significant amounts from the United States for 1983/84 delivery. China bought large quantities of Canadian wheat for shipment by July 1984 and made known that it would purchase additional grain, presumably wheat, under the U.S.-China Long-Term Grain Agreement. Brazil has bought about 400,000 tons of Argentine wheat, its first purchase from Argentina since July-June 1981/82.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS FOR 1984

Montana farmers planted 2.7 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1984--up 6 percent from a year ago. Moisture supplies were generally short over most of the State at the beginning of seeding. However, a mid-September snowstorm brought much needed moisture. Seeding was generally completed by mid-October.

The 1984 crop is currently reported in good condition and snowcover is protecting against winter kill and wind damage.

WINTER WHEAT -- SELECTED STATES and U.S.

STATE	AREA SEEDED 1/		1984/83
	1983	1984	
	--000 Acres--		Pct.
Arkansas	1,700	1,700	100
California	770	850	110
Colorado	4,000	3,900	98
Georgia	1,150	1,250	109
Idaho	990	1,020	103
Illinois	1,550	1,700	110
Indiana	1,100	1,170	106
Kansas	13,200	13,500	102
Kentucky	790	720	91
Michigan	830	950	114
Mississippi	720	900	125
Missouri	2,200	2,350	107
MONTANA	2,550	2,700	106
Nebraska	2,850	3,300	116
New Mexico	750	770	103
North Carolina	625	750	120
Ohio	1,250	1,210	97
Oklahoma	7,800	7,700	99
Oregon	1,050	1,100	105
South Carolina	440	420	95
South Dakota	1,500	1,900	127
Tennessee	900	780	87
Texas	7,850	7,400	94
Washington	2,750	2,800	102
U.S.	2,750	2,800	102

1/ Total area seeded for all purposes.

MONTANA'S WHEAT CROP DOWN

All wheat production in Montana was down 25 percent from the record levels of last year because of both lower yields and fewer acres for harvest. Total production at 136.9 million bushels was the lowest since 1980. Barley production, however, was at a new record high for the second straight year. Many farmers diverted wheat acreage to barley to meet requirements for the P.I.K. program. Production, at 77.7 million bushels, was 2 percent higher than last year's record crop. Oats production, at 5.3 million bushels, was down 31 percent as yields fell 7 bushels per acre on 20 percent fewer acres harvested. Overall, total small grain production was down 18 percent in Montana with 219.9 million bushels produced.

Winter wheat production at 79.1 million bushels, fell only 2 percent during 1983. Harvested acres were actually up 7 percent as farmers chose not to divert acres which had already been seeded the previous fall. A reduced yield of 3 bushels per acre lowered production despite more acres for harvest. Spring wheat took the brunt of the diversion program in Montana as nearly a million fewer acres were harvested in 1983. Spring wheat yields were also 5 bushels per acre lower than last year resulting in 42 percent less production at 53.7 million bushels. The P.I.K. program, combined with considerably poorer prices, led to a 60 percent reduction in durum wheat during 1983. Yields were down 10 bushels per acre on 40 percent fewer acres resulting in production of 4.1 million bushels.

NATIONAL PRODUCTION DOWN

All wheat production for the Nation totaled 2.4 billion bushels--down 14 percent from the 1983 record high. Barley production at 519 million bushels was down 1 percent. Oats production at 477 million bushels was down 23 percent from last year.

End of season statistics for all other crops will be released January 13, 1984.

1983 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SMALL GRAINS

CROP	YEAR	MONTANA					U. S.
		ACREAGE		PRODUCTION			
		PLANTED	HARVESTED	YIELD PER ACRE	TOTAL	% CHANGE FROM PREV. YEAR	PRODUCTION
		------000 Acres-----		Bu.	-000 Bu.-	Pct.	-000 Bu.-
Winter Wheat	1981	2,700	2,550	35.0	89,250		2,103,538
	1982	2,450	2,120	38.0	80,560		2,111,806
	1983	2,550	2,260	35.0	79,100	- 2	1,993,888
Durum Wheat	1981	490	480	23.0	11,040		185,940
	1982	350	340	30.0	10,200		147,503
	1983	210	205	20.0	4,100	-60	72,979
Other Spring Wheat	1981	2,850	2,790	26.0	72,540		509,260
	1982	2,950	2,900	32.0	92,800		552,988
	1983	2,050	1,990	27.0	53,730	-42	358,541
All Wheat	1981	6,040	5,820	29.7	172,830		2,798,738
	1982	5,750	5,360	34.2	183,560		2,812,297
	1983	4,810	4,455	30.7	136,930	-25	2,425,408
Oats	1981	220	110	44.0	4,840		509,167
	1982	260	150	51.0	7,650		620,509
	1983	210	120	44.0	5,280	-31	477,303
Barley	1981	1,400	1,320	43.0	56,760		479,333
	1982	1,650	1,560	49.0	76,440		522,387
	1983	1,950	1,850	42.0	77,700	+ 2	519,026
TOTAL SMALL GRAINS	1981	--	7,250	--	234,430		3,787,238
	1982	--	7,070	--	267,650		3,955,193
	1983	--	6,425	--	219,910	-18	3,421,737

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

December 1, 1983 potato stocks totaled an estimated 187 million cwt (8.49 million metric tons) for the 15 States in the Stocks Program. This is down 9 percent from last year and 3 percent below 1981. Of the total stocks in the 11 objective yield states, 72 percent were russets, 24 percent whites, and 4 percent reds.

Storage in the six Western States contained 119 million cwt, down 9 percent from last year and 2 percent from 1981. Idaho stocks were set at 59.5 million cwt, off 14 percent from last year in the wake of heavy fall shipments. Oregon sheds held 14.0 million cwt of tubers, 7 percent below last year. Washington stocks at 29.2 million cwt remained unchanged.

Disappearance so far this season totaled 90.7 million cwt, slightly above last season, but 3 percent short of 2 years ago. This includes 13.8 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, fed on farms where produced, discarded without grading, and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss).

POTATOES:

DECEMBER 1, 1982 and DECEMBER 1, 1983

STATE	Crop of 1982		Crop of 1983	
	Prod.	Stocks 12/1/82	Prod.	Stocks 12/1/83
	----------000 Cwt----------			
CALIF	7,585	5,400	7,790	5,000
COLO	12,825	9,550	13,200	9,600
IDAHO	91,710	69,000	83,590	59,500
MAINE	27,030	22,000	22,090	18,100
MICH	8,085	6,400	7,425	5,500
MINN	11,520	9,000	10,313	8,500
MONT	1,924	1,875	1,800	1,700
NEBR	2,147	1,700	2,025	1,450
NY--L.I.	4,995	2,500	4,075	1,550
--UPSTATE	7,020	4,200	5,635	2,900
N DAK	17,250	13,400	20,460	15,000
OHIO	2,328	750	1,886	700
OREG	21,105	15,100	20,710	14,000
PA	5,758	4,600	4,300	3,400
WASH	52,800	29,200	53,560	29,200
WISC	22,575	11,500	18,910	11,000
15 STATE TOTAL	296,657	206,175	277,769	187,100

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION STEADY

Montana's laying flocks produced 48 million eggs during the September-November quarter, identical with the same quarter in 1982. The average number of layers on hand during the quarter was 740,000, down 4 percent from the same quarter a year ago.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 16,626 million eggs during the September-November quarter--down 5 percent from last year. The number of layers during the quarter averaged 272,521--down 4 percent from the same quarter in 1982.

MONTANA HOG NUMBERS UP

The Montana December 1 all hog and pig inventory, at 180,000, is up 17 percent from last year. Hogs on hand for breeding, at 21,000, are up 5 percent while market hogs at 159,000 are up 19 percent from a year ago.

Montana's 1983 pig crop totaled 256,000 head, the same as the previous year. The spring pig crop (December-May) at 128,000 was down 16 percent, but the fall pig crop (June-November) also at 128,000 was up 23 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, the U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 55.8 million head on December 1, 1983. This is 3 percent above a year ago but 5 percent less than December 1, 1981.

--Breeding hog inventory, at 7.35 million, is 1 percent below last year and down 6 percent from two years ago.

--Market hog inventory, at 48.5 million, is 4 percent above a year earlier but 5 percent less than two years ago.

The U.S. pig crop for 1983 totaled 92.2 million head, 10 percent above 1982 but 2 percent below the 1981 pig crop.

--December 1982-May 1983 pig crop, estimated at 46.8 million head, is up 14 percent from a year earlier but 2 percent below the comparable period two years ago.

--June-November 1983 pig crop, estimated at 45.5 million head, is 6 percent greater than a year ago but 2 percent below the June-November 1981 crop.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 5.90 million sows farrow during the December 1983-May 1984 period, 5 percent below a year ago but 6 percent greater than two years ago.

HOG and PIG INVENTORY -- DECEMBER 1, 1982 & 1983

HOGS & PIGS	MONTANA			U. S.		
	1982	1983	% Chg.	1982	1983	% Chg.
	(000)		%	(000)		%
Breeding	20	21	+ 5	7,415	7,352	- 1
Market	134	159	+ 9	46,519	48,467	+ 4
Under 60 Lbs.	52	56	+ 8	18,628	18,753	+ 1
60-119 Lbs.	37	40	+ 8	11,808	12,333	+ 4
120-179 Lbs.	27	34	+26	9,282	9,771	+ 5
180+ Lbs.	18	29	+61	6,802	7,610	+12
TOTAL	154	180	+17	53,935	55,819	+ 3
Sows Farrowing						
Dec.[1/] - May	20	17	-15	5,592	6,221	+11
June - November	14	17	+21	5,802	6,140	+ 6
Pig Crop	256	256	--	84,022	92,244	+10

Intentions to Farrow	1984	% Chg.
December[1/] - May	5,900	-5

1/ December preceding year.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in Montana during November at 4.9 million pounds was 38 percent below October. The January-November accumulated total was 113.5 million pounds.

There were 8,700 head of cattle slaughtered and 3,000 head of hogs killed during November. The cattle kill was down 6 percent, while the hog kill declined 82 percent from the previous month.

NATIONAL SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in the United States for November 1983 totaled 3.47 billion pounds. The January-November accumulated red meat production totaled 35.5 billion pounds. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

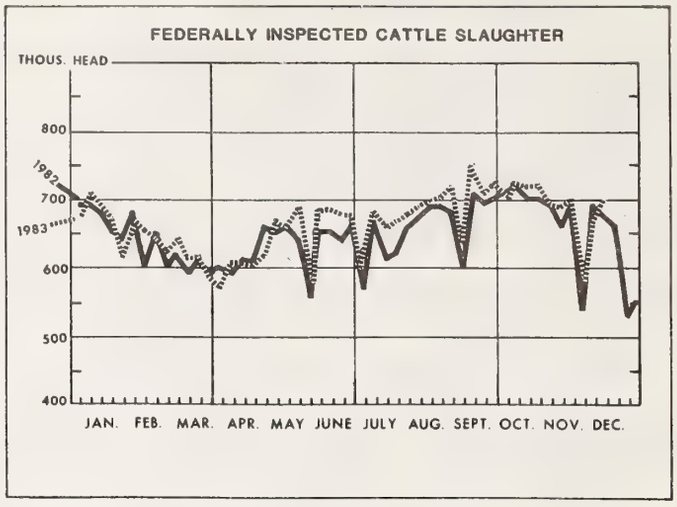
Kill days for November included 22 weekdays (2 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

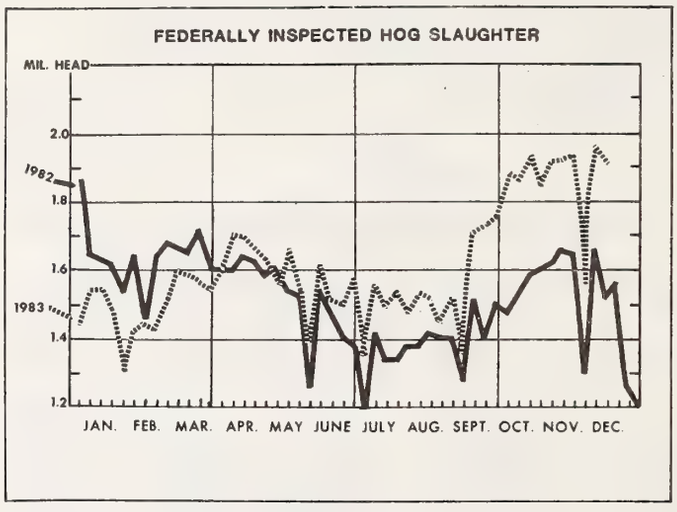
Beef production for November totaled 1.94 billion pounds. Total head killed was 3.08 million and live weight averaged 1,077 pounds.

Veal production was 39 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 294 thousand head averaged 229 pounds live weight.

Pork production during the month totaled 1.47 billion pounds. Hog kill totaled 8.43 million head, with an average live weight of 246 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production was 29 million pounds. Head kill of 528 thousand averaged 111 pounds live weight.





COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Hay Stocks
Annual Crop Production

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.–Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1983 FERTILIZER USE UP
MONTANA CROP PRICES UP; LIVESTOCK DOWN
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS
WHEAT OUTLOOK
featuring.....LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY

MONTANA FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION INCREASES

Montana farmers applied 2 percent more fertilizer during the year ended June 30, 1983 than the year before.

Of the primary plant nutrients consumed, nitrogen made up 58 percent, available phosphate 37 percent, and potassium 5 percent. This was almost the same as the previous year except that nitrogen use increased slightly while phosphate and potassium each dipped. The total primary nutrient tonnage at 205,121, accounted for 52 percent of the gross tonnage applied.

Most of the nitrogen (80%) was applied as direct application material. Of the total nitrogen direct application material, anhydrous ammonia accounted for 26 percent, ammonium nitrate 33 percent, ammonium sulphate 6 percent, nitrogen solutions 11 percent, urea 21 percent and other 3 percent.

The majority of the phosphate (92%) was applied as a mixture. Of the total mixtures, 11-55-0 accounted for 40 percent, 18-46-0 38 percent, 10-34-0 8 percent, and other mixtures the remaining 14 percent

U.S. FERTILIZER USE DOWN

Fertilizer consumption in the U.S. and Puerto Rico during the year ended June 30, 1983 was 42.3 million tons, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Nitrogen consumption decreased 16 percent, and phosphate and potash usage were each down 14 percent.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The economic situation for many Montana farm and ranch families certainly isn't the best, but our state was fortunate to avoid the heavy production losses that impacted the midwestern states. We are indeed blessed to live in a country where the climate and soil enable our farmers to produce enough food to feed all Americans plus many in the rest of the world. Even in a year when production of most crops was down sharply there is still plenty of food for all.

Yet, it's sometimes difficult to realize there are those who go without even in a country where the 'good life' is the norm. In fact, life has been so good to most of us that it's difficult to identify with the father or mother who can't provide enough food or clothing for their children, or with others who are without friends or family. They have nowhere to turn except to the kindness and consideration of those who are more fortunate.

Most of us have struggled with adversity at sometime in our lives. It's during those times a helping hand is most appreciated. Let's remember to share our blessings during the Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

WHEAT SITUATION BY CLASS

HARD RED WINTER CROP DOWN—SUPPLY STILL SETS RECORD

The 1983 hard red winter wheat crop of 1.19 billion bushels is the second largest on record. Ideal growing conditions and improved varieties offset a reduction of nearly 7 million harvested acres. Quality of the crop was reduced in terms of protein and baking quality. However, test weights, average grade and milling quality are up.

The total 1983/84 hard red winter supply will top 1.9 billion bushels, 151 million more than last year's record.

Feed use is expected to surge while exports are projected to be slightly under last year's 679 million bushels.

HARD RED SPRING CROP CUT SHARPLY--FREE STOCKS TO INCREASE

Heavy compliance in the acreage reduction programs coupled with sharply lower yields reduced total production to 313 million bushels--down more than a third from last year. However, record carryover stocks were offsetting and the 1983/84 hard red spring supply is only 13 percent under last year's record 852 million bushels.

Quality of this year's crop is exceptional. This could encourage both more domestic and export use, except that Canada could offer heavy competition.

Immediate entry into the farmer-owned reserve is not a marketing option this year which will expand free stocks.

DURUM CROP REDUCED—SUPPLY DOWN

Heavy participation in the 1983 wheat program pushed plantings to the lowest since 1970. Although the 72 million bushel crop is down sharply, a record carryover will be somewhat offsetting. The 1983/84 supply will be only 43 million bushels short of last year's record 249 million.

World durum production is also down giving rise to an expected 20 percent increase in exports.

There are 100 million bushels of durum in the farmer-owned reserve that are not now marketable. However, 1983 P.I.K. participants will receive entitlements that could release up to half these stocks because spring wheat producers who have both hard red and durum in the reserve can specify the class they want to receive as their P.I.K. entitlements.

SOFT RED WINTER SUPPLY OFF SHARPLY

Heavy participation in the acreage reduction programs, not drought, reduced production 102 million bushels. The total supply for the 1983/84 marketing year is down 13 percent, and the smallest in three years.

Domestic feed use is expected to be larger than export use, an event unparalleled for any wheat class in the era of expanding exports.

LARGE WHITE WHEAT HARVEST CREATES RECORD SUPPLY

Although plantings were reduced record yields produced the third largest crop on record. With a record carryin the total supply rose to 470 million bushels--the largest ever.

FARM INCOME PROSPECTS FOR 1983

Farm income prospects during 1983 remain stronger than a year earlier. Although the forecast for net farm income, including inventory adjustment, has fallen to $24 to $26 billion, from the $25 to $29 billion set this summer, all the drop is due to declining inventories. Because this summer's drought cut output sharply, the value of crop inventories is now expected to fall $6 to $8 billion; stocks at the end of 1983 (excluding those under government loans) will likely drop below those of a year earlier. The value of livestock inventories is expected to remain about equal to 1982, as higher hog numbers offset lower cattle and sheep herds.

Net cash income, including loans by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), is forecast between $42 and $44 billion, surpassing the 1980 high of $38.1 billion. In 1972 dollars, net cash income may range from $19 to $20 billion, also the highest since 1980's $21.3 billion. Total cash income is expected to rise to about $153 to $155 billion because of the Government's increased cash and in-kind payments. About $4 billion of the gain in net cash income are expected to come from a 3 percent decline in cash expenses.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 508,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during October--up 29 percent from a year ago. Ice cream production at 138,000 gallons was up 14 percent, while butter made at 180,000 pounds was down 10 percent. American cheese production at 163,000 pounds was down 22 percent from last year.

NOVEMBER FARM PRICES

Montana farmers received higher prices for field crops at mid-November 1983 than a year ago, but generally less for livestock. Hard spring wheat, durum, barley and oats had substantial price gains over a year ago while winter wheat held about steady. All classes of beef cattle were moderately cheaper this mid-November, while hogs had sharp price declines.

At mid-November, Montana farmers received 6 cents more per bushel for winter wheat than the U.S. average; 9 cents more for durum wheat; 2 cents more for hard spring wheat; 18 cents less for barley and oats.

The all crops price index (1977=100) at 138 is up 9 points from last year, while the all livestock and products price index at 126 fell 11 points. This placed the all farm products index at 138, the same as a year ago.

Nationally, the November all farm products index of prices received by farmers increased 1 point (.7 percent) from October to 135 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices for corn, oranges, eggs, broilers and cotton were partially offset by lower prices for hogs, grapefruit, lettuce, wheat and cattle. The index was 7 points (5.5 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for November was 162 percent of the 1977=100 base. The index was up 1 point (.6 percent) from last month and was 6 points (3.8 percent) above November last year. The November feeder livestock and feed components increased from a month earlier. Lower prices for fuels and energy were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U. S.
		Monthly Avg.		Nov. 15, 1983	Nov. 15, 1983
		Nov. 1982	Oct. 1983		
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.59	3.50	3.44
Durum	Bu.	3.30	4.07	4.05	3.96
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.80	3.66	3.64
All Wheat	Bu.	3.50	3.71	3.60	3.52
Barley	Bu.	1.79	2.38	2.39	2.57
Oats	Bu.	1.47	1.63	1.53	1.71
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	55.00	60.00	60.00	81.40
All Other Hay	Ton	50.00	55.00	55.00	61.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	55.00	60.00	60.00	76.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	57.80	51.70	51.70	56.80
Cows	Cwt	33.00	33.00	31.00	32.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	45.20	43.70	41.40	51.40
Calves	Cwt	60.50	57.40	58.00	59.20
Sheep	Cwt	11.10	10.20	10.20	15.20
Lambs	Cwt	46.40	47.00	49.00	53.50
Hogs	Cwt	49.30	40.50	34.30	36.90
All Milk	Cwt	13.70	13.60	13.80	13.90
Eggs	Doz.	.447	.620	.690	.718
Wool 2/	Lb.	.640	.610	.610	.705
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	138	143	138	135
All Crops	Pct.	141	154	150	136
Livestock & Products	Pct.	137	131	126	135

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Nov. 1982	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	128	134	135
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	156	161	162
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	82	83	83
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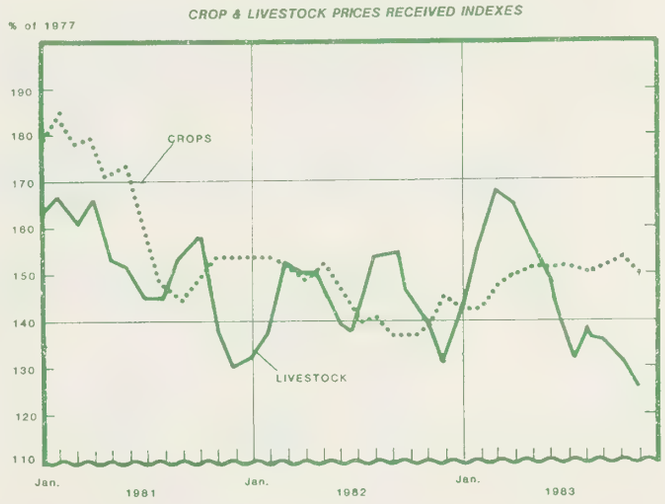
1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

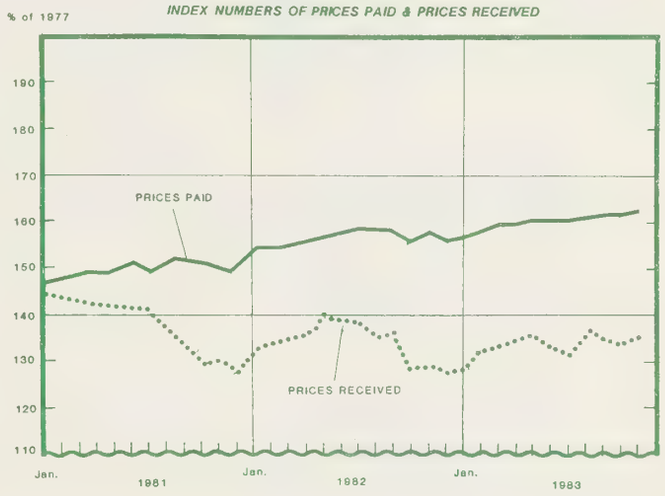
MONTANA

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring. . . . . LEWIS and CLARK COUNTY

The area now known as Lewis and Clark County attracted its first settlers with its rich placer gold deposits. Located in west central Montana, the county occupies 2,225,920 acres of land. The Sun River comprises the northern boundary of the county, and a chain of bodies of water including a portion of the Missouri River, Holter Lake, Lake Helena, Hauser Lake, and part of Canyon Ferry Lake traverse the eastern section of the county from north to south. Nearly half of the county is blanketed by portions of the Helena and Flathead National Forests. The Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains runs down the center of Lewis and Clark County.

When the gold strikes in the county played out, livestock raising and agriculture began to come into their own as an industry. In the 1982 livestock inventory, Lewis and Clark County ranked 13th in sheep numbers and 27th in cattle numbers. The December 1, 1981 hog inventory shows the county in 28th place.

Of the durum wheat producing counties, Lewis and Clark County ranked 17th in 1982 production. The county ranked 20th for all hay production, 33rd for barley, 38th for all wheat and 39th for oats production in 1982.

Livestock and livestock products in Lewis and Clark County brought in receipts of $12,145,000 and a rank of 24th in 1981. Crops added $3,664,000 for 42nd place in the county rankings, while government payments contributed $346,000 for a total cash receipt return of $16,155,000 and a rank of 37th among Montana counties in 1981.

Lewis and Clark County is home to Montana's historic capital city, Helena, which is also the county seat. This area has an annual average precipitation of 11.37 inches and an average of 124 frost free days.

LEWIS and CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1982	2,225,920
Land in Farms	Acres	1978	974,041
Number of Farms		1978	356
CROPS			
Durum Wheat	Acres	1982	400
All Wheat	Acres	1982	14,400
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	10,000
All Hay	Acres	1982	48,700
Alfalfa Hay	Acres	1982	31,700
Oats	Acres	1982	1,700
Barley	Acres	1982	9,000

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	39,800
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	31,500
LIVESTOCK			
Sheep	# Head	1982	11,400
All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	45,000
Hogs & Pigs	# Head	1981	2,100

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Q'trly Egg Production
Small Grains--Annual Summary
Winter Wheat Seedings
Dec. 1 Hog Inventory
Potato Stocks
Slaughter

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Montana Slaughter Increases
Cattle on Feed Numbers Down
Wool Use on the Increase
A Look at the Wheat Situation
Farm Electric and Phone Rates
featuring.....PONDERA COUNTY

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in Montana during October at 7.9 million pounds was 35 percent below September. The January-October accumulated total was 108.7 million pounds.

There were 9,300 head of cattle slaughtered and 16,900 head of hogs killed during September. The cattle kill was down 9 percent, while the hog kill declined 55 percent from the previous month.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in the United States for October 1983 totaled 3.53 billion pounds, up 3 percent from September. January-October accumulated red meat production totaled 32.1 billion pounds. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. Kill days for October included 21 weekdays (1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production for October totaled 2.07 billion pounds, down 1 percent from September. Total head killed was 3.28 million and live weight averaged 1,070 pounds.

Veal production was 41 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 290 thousand head averaged 239 pounds live weight.

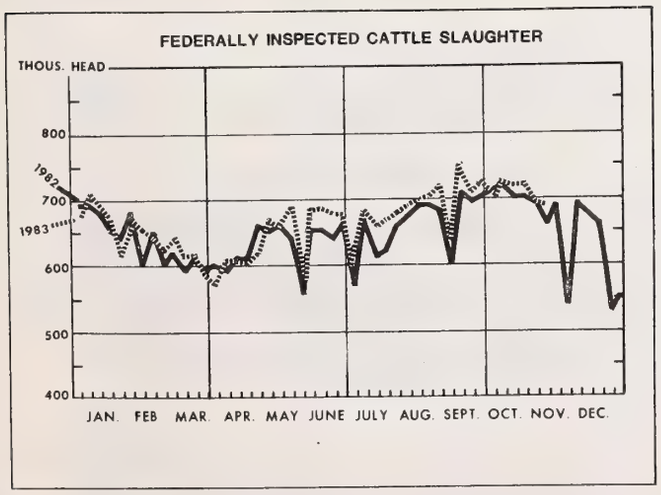
Pork production during the month totaled 1.39 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous month. Hog kill totaled 8.09 million head, with an average live weight of 243 pounds.

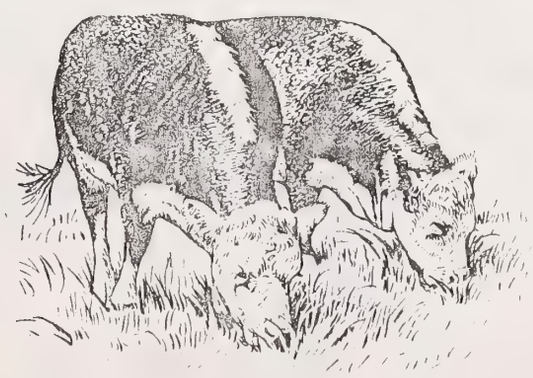
Lamb and mutton was 32 million pounds, down 3 percent from September. Head kill of 600 thousand averaged 109 pounds live weight.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT and LARD PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES 1/

KIND	Sept. 1983	Oct. 1983	Oct. '83 as % of: Sept. 1983	Jan.-Oct. 2/ 1983
	-million lbs.-		%	Mil.Lbs.
Beef	2,091	2,066	99	19,151
Veal	38	41	108	352
Pork	1,274	1,389	109	12,241
Lamb & Mutton	33	32	97	309
Total Red Meat	3,436	3,527	103	32,053
Lard 3/	84	90	107	792

1/ Based on packers dress weights and excludes farm slaughter. 2/ Accumulated totals based on unrounded data.
3/ Preliminary lard production includes rendered pork fat.





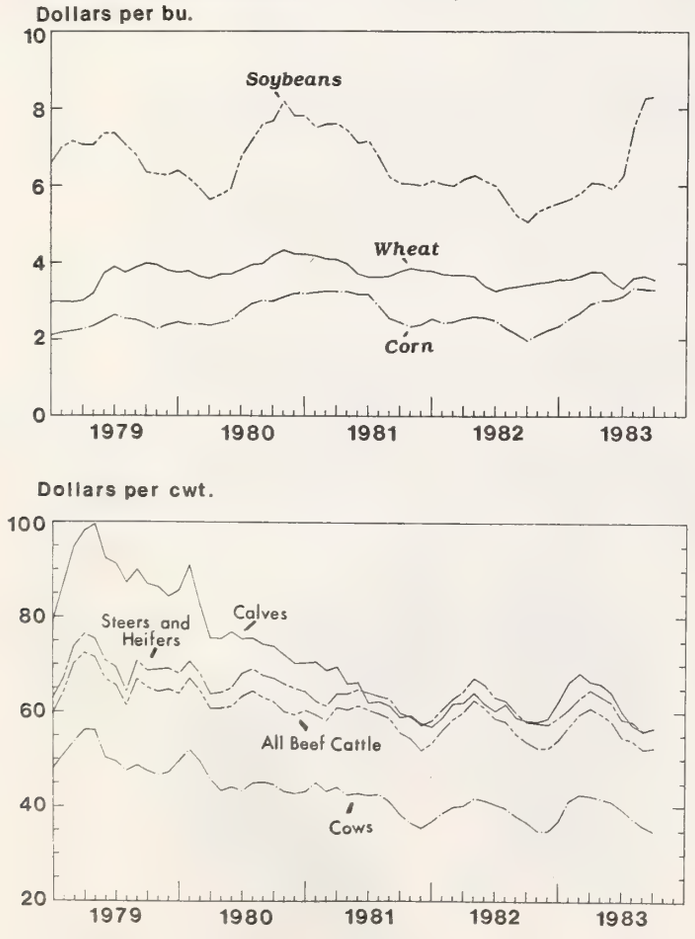
FEED GRAIN USE TO EXCEED OUTPUT, PULLING DOWN STOCKS

In 1983/84, corn and sorghum use will exceed production by a wide margin, resulting in a large drop in carryover stocks next year. Prices are expected to average well above a year earlier. The Payment-In-Kind program and this summer's drought reduced the harvest of corn and sorghum to 116.9 million metric tons, less than half 1982's 234.7 million.

Record high stocks partly offset the impact of the reduced harvest. Stocks of corn, sorghum, barley and oats amounted to 108.6 million tons on October 1--24 million larger than a year earlier. Thus, the supply of feed grains going into the fall and winter totals 216 million tons--about 32 percent less than last year's 320 million and the lowest since fall 1977. The feed grain supply will be augmented by a small amount of imports and by barley and oat harvests next summer.

In several areas, wheat prices were significantly less than those for corn and sorghum, prompting a shift to wheat feeding. As a result, an estimated 270 million bushels of wheat were fed to livestock and poultry during June-September--about 37 percent more than a year earlier. Corn and sorghum prices remain at a premium to wheat, and December futures prices imply more of the same. Consequently, wheat feeding is expected to continue well above a year earlier through fall and winter.

Prices Received by Farmers, US



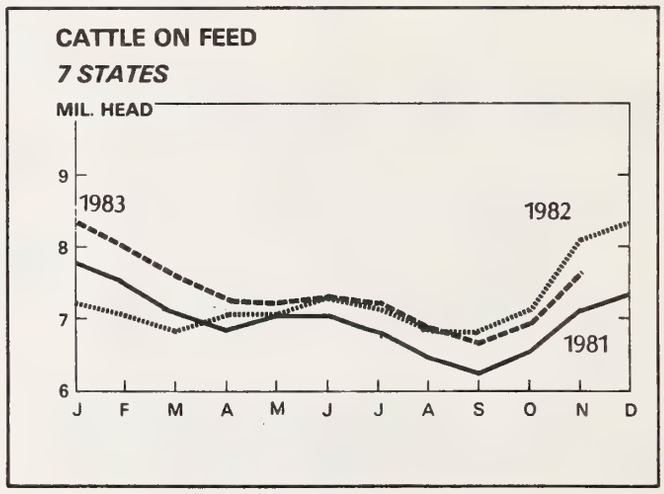
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 6 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed November 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.68 million, a 6 percent decrease from a year ago but 8 percent above November 1, 1981.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.63 million, an increase of 6 percent from last year and up 11 percent from October 1981.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States were 2.46 million, down 5 percent from October 1982 but 19 percent above two years ago. Net placements of 2.36 million were down 6 percent from 1982 but 19 percent above 1981.

Other disappearance totaled 102 thousand compared with 83 thousand during October 1982 and 85 thousand two years ago.



FARM ELECTRICITY and TELEPHONE COSTS GO UP

Montana farmers and ranchers paid an average of $56.00 per month during mid-1983 for electric service charges. This represents a 14 percent increase from last year's monthly costs. Usage increased about 11 percent and electricity cost per kilowatt-hour increased 2 percent. Telephone bills averaged $48.90 per month during mid-1983 on Montana farms and ranches, an increase of 14 percent from last year.

Nationally, farmers and ranchers paid an average monthly mid-summer electric bill of $92.50 in 1983 which was 10 percent above 1982. Telephone service for farmers and ranchers averaged $39.20 per month, up 15 percent.

WOOL USE INCREASES

Mill use of wool continues to exceed earlier expectations. During July-September 1983, U.S. mills used nearly 36 million pounds of clean wool, 44 percent more than during third-quarter 1982, and the highest disappearance in 11 years. Larger production of high quality suits, top coats, and sweaters, combined with low prices for carpet wools relative to manmade fibers, account for most of the increase.

Because the U.S. wool industry is relatively small, wool prices in the United States are determined largely by overall world market trends with domestic developments having only a small impact.

Largely because of the Australian drought, world wool production in 1983/84 is forecast to fall 1 percent. The drought appears to have ended in the eastern states of Australia. Nevertheless, Australian sheep numbers on March 31, 1983, had declined by 2.6 percent to 133.2 million head. No significant recovery in the flock is expected through March 1984 and sheep in former drought areas had already lost fleece potential by fall. Consequently, the official forecast puts the 1983/84 Australian clip at 1.48 billion pounds greasy, down 4.4 percent.

World sheep numbers, wool production, disappearance, and price

Item	1979/ 80	1980/ 81	1981/ 82	1982/ 83[1]	1983/ 84[2]
			Million		
Sheep numbers[3]	1,032	1,058	1,069	1,088	1,098
Australia	134	136	134	138	133
USSR	143	144	142	142	142
New Zealand	62	64	69	70	71
			Million pounds, greasy		
Wool production	6,166	6,285	6,365	6,359	6,305
Australia	1,563	1543	1,579	1,546	1,483
USSR	1,054	1,023	1,063	1,038	1,045
New Zealand	787	840	800	816	816
			Million pounds, clean		
Supply/disappearance					
Beginning stocks	573	564	622	699	760
Supply stocks[4]	207	220	267	364	NA
Commercial stocks[5]	366	344	355	335	NA
Production	3,479	3,527	3,585	3,581	3,545
Total availability	4,052	4,091	4,207	4,280	4,305
Disappearance	3,488	3,469	3,508	3,520	NA
Ending stocks	564	622	699	760	NA
			Cents per pound, greasy		
Average price[6]					
Australia	123	135	132	117	121
United States	87	91	80	63	NA

[1]Preliminary. [2]Forecast; exchange rate of $A1.00 = $U.S.O.88. [3]Generally April-June census dates for the first year shown; January 1 for USSR and USA. [4]Carryover, plus intervention stocks in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, South Africa, Uruguay, and UK. [5]Owned by processors in main OECD processing countries. [6]July-June; average auction price in Australia, average farm price in USA. NA = not available.

THE WHEAT SITUATION

SUPPLIES REMAIN LARGE

The 1983 total U.S. supply of 3.95 billion bushels is only slightly less than 1982, but 4% above 1981 and 21% above 1980.

DOMESTIC USE INCREASES

Total domestic wheat use in 1983 is expected to be 16% above 1982, 26% above 1981 and 39% above 1980. This is mainly due to sharply larger amounts being fed to livestock.

EXPORTS SOFTEN

Because of large global supplies, more agressive competition from other exporters, the continued strength of the dollar, and less buying power by some importers 1983 exports are forecast to be down 7% from 1982. This level of exports will be down 21% from 2 years ago.

ENDING STOCKS TO DECREASE

Because of greater total disappearance in 1983, ending stocks are expected to be 4% under 1982 but still 27% above 1981 and 49% above 1980.

WHEAT PRICES STEADY

Helping prices to go slightly ahead of last year are higher feed grain prices and a higher loan rate.

THE WHEAT SITUATION

ALL WHEAT: SUPPLY and DISAPPEARANCE 1/

Year Beginning June 1	1980	1981	1982 2/	1983 2/
			million bushels	
Beginning Stocks	902	989	1,164	1,543
Production	2,374	2,799	2,809	2,408
Imports	3	3	7	3
Supply, Total	3,279	3,791	3,980	3,954
Domestic				
Food	611	602	616	625
Seed	114	112	97	105
Feed 3/	51	142	215	350
Domestic, Total	776	856	928	1,080
Exports	1,514	1,771	1,509	1,400
Disappear., Total	2,290	2,627	2,437	2,480
Ending Stocks	989	1,164	1,543	1,474

1/ Includes flour and products in wheat equivalent. 2/ Preliminary projected. 3/ Residual, approximates feed use.

featuring. . . . . PONDERA COUNTY

Pondera county was created in April of 1919 and comprises 1,045,760 acres of land in north central Montana. It's western border is marked by the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains, and a section of the Lewis and Clark National Forest takes up the western corner of the county. Although smaller in size than many of the counties, Pondera County is big on crop production. For the 1982 crop year, Pondera County ranked 2nd in Barley production and 3rd in both winter and durum wheat production. The county ranked 6th for all wheat production.

In livestock numbers for 1981 Pondera County came up 2nd in the hog inventory. Some sheep and cattle are also raised. The county turned up 25th in the county rankings for sheep numbers, and 39th in cattle numbers for 1982.

Crops grown in Pondera County brought in $38,341,000 in cash receipts and 4th place in the county rankings in 1981. Livestock and products turned in $8,178,000 in cash receipts and a rank of 36th, and government payments added $2,149,000 for total cash receipts of $48,668,000 in 1981.

PONDERA COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1982	1,045,760
Land in Farms	Acres	1978	903,126
Number of Farms		1978	511
CROPS			
All Wheat	Acres	1982	200,000
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	120,000
Durum Wheat	Acres	1982	30,000
Barley	Acres	1982	116,000

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	48,000
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	272,300
LIVESTOCK			
Hogs	# Head	1981	12,300
Sheep	# Head	1982	6,100
All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	29,500

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Mfg. Dairy Products
Commercial Fertilizer

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.—Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

AG PRICES DROP
WHAT AMERICANS SPEND ON FOOD
A LOOK AT 1983's DROUGHT
featuring.....BLAINE COUNTY

OCTOBER FARM PRICES

Prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers in October were generally down from the previous month. The October index of prices received for all farm products at 142 (1977=100) was down 3 points from the September index, but was the same as a year ago. The all crops index at 150 was 3 points below September, but 13 points above October 1982. The livestock and products index at 135 was 2 points below a month ago and 11 points below a year ago.

In comparing October prices with September prices, increases were noted for oats, barley, calves, sheep, lambs, milk and eggs. Prices were down or remained the same for other commodities.

Nationally, the October all farm products index of prices received by farmers was unchanged from September at 136 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Higher prices since September for lettuce, strawberries, grapefruit, tomatoes and milk were offset by lower prices for hogs, broilers, potatoes, oranges and wheat. The index was 8 points (6.2 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for October was 161 percent of the 1977=100 base. The index was unchanged from September but 5 points (3.2 percent) above a year earlier. The feeder livestock and fertilizer components were lower than a month earlier but increases for the feed and family living components were offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U. S.
		Monthly Average		Oct. 15, 1983	Oct. 15, 1983
		Oct. 1982	Sept. 1983		
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.40	3.59	3.45	3.49
Durum	Bu.	3.10	3.96	3.90	4.01
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.42	3.80	3.71	3.69
All Wheat	Bu.	3.45	3.73	3.62	3.56
Barley	Bu.	1.70	2.27	2.30	2.55
Oats	Bu.	1.46	1.39	1.42	1.66
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	60.00	60.00	84.40
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	55.00	55.00	60.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	60.00	60.00	78.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	57.80	52.60	52.40	56.80
Cows	Cwt	36.90	35.90	34.10	34.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	49.30	47.30	45.60	52.60
Calves	Cwt	62.30	54.70	55.00	56.80
Sheep	Cwt	10.80	10.40	13.00	12.70
Lambs	Cwt	46.20	43.00	45.80	49.70
Hogs	Cwt	55.20	41.10	40.50	40.30
All Milk	Cwt	13.50	13.50	13.70	13.70
Eggs	Doz.	.510	.600	.620	.638
Wool 2/	Lb.	.640	.610	.610	.756
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	142	145	142	136
All Crops	Pct.	137	153	150	137
Livestock & Products	Pct.	146	137	135	135

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(See charts on inside page.)

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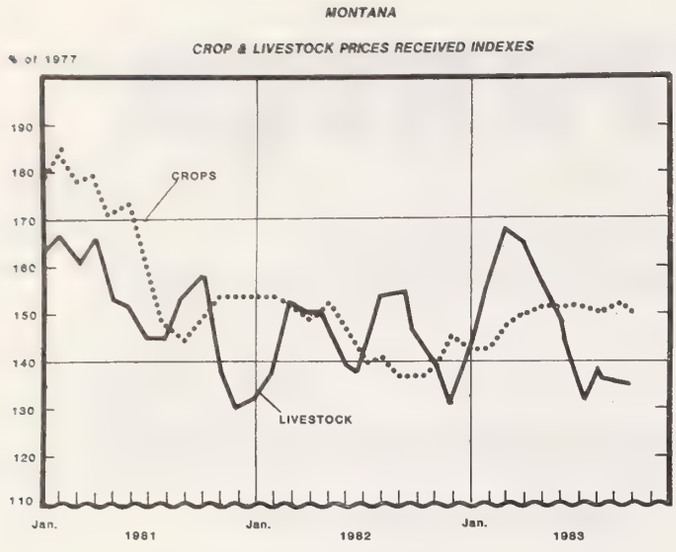
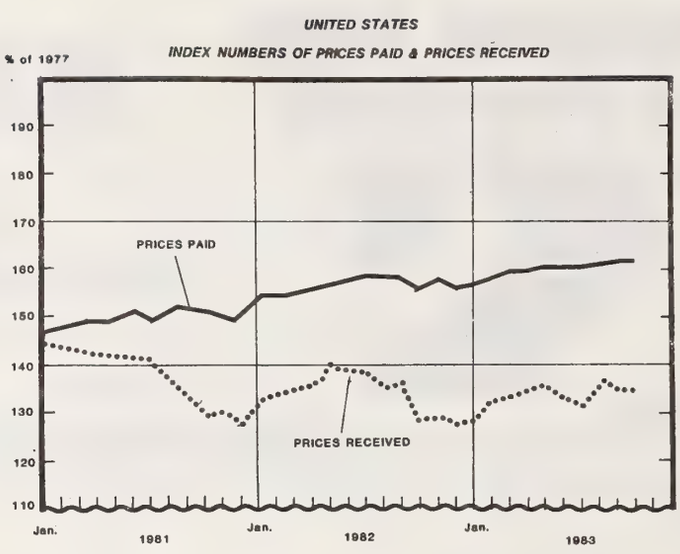
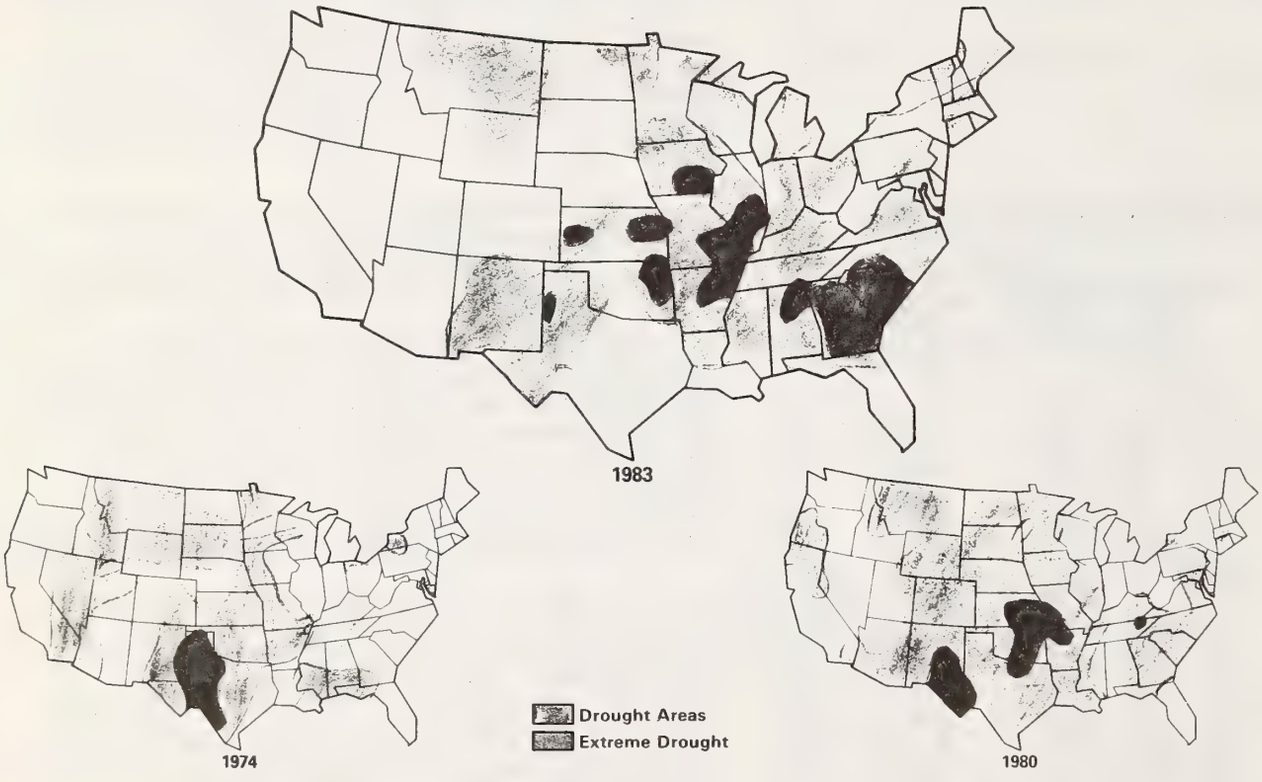




Of Last Three Droughts, 1983 Hit Major Crop Areas Hardest



1983 ACREAGE and PRODUCTION SURVEY

More than 10,000 Montana farmers and ranchers are being surveyed to provide crop production information for the 1983 season. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates generated by this annual survey are used in many important ways and have both a direct and indirect bearing on farm program benefits. Crop production for the entire State is derived by using these after harvest reports. County acreage and yield data are obtained and used as basic input to the various farm programs. State and county statistics go into the official record books so that future years may be compared with the past. Producers can use acreage and production figures along with current and historic price information as they plan next year's operations.

The Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service is mailing questionnaires to nearly half the farms and ranches in the State. Telephone follow-up will be made to insure adequate returns from each county. Similar surveys will be conducted in other states and final state and national survey results will be published for small grains on December 22, 1983.

WHAT AMERICANS SPEND ON FOOD

Although Americans often complain about the cost of food, they shouldn't--says Lyle Pratt, State Statistician. Based on food cost and income statistics, we spend about 16% of our income on food, beverages and tobacco. This is the lowest percent in 55 countries studied. Only one other country spent less than 20 percent of their income dollar for food--the Netherlands at 19.5 percent. Canadians spend 21 percent for food; in France, 22 percent; United Kingdom, 23 percent; Japan, 25 and the USSR 49 percent.

Because incomes in the United States are relatively high, wouldn't we expect to pay a lower proportion for food? This is partially true. U.S. income was the 6th highest of the 55 countries. But the five countries with higher incomes--Belgium, West Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland--spend 25 to 29 percent of their incomes for food. Developing countries spend 40-60 percent of their incomes, while those with centrally planned governments spend 30-50 percent.

Pratt said one of the main contributors to low food prices in the U.S. is the production efficiency of American farmers. This capacity to produce, while good for consumers, often adversely affects farm income.

AMERICANS HAVE 4.5 ACRES FOR FOOD

For each American there are 4.5 acres of farmland available to grow food, natural fibers for clothing and lumber. This is down from 50 years ago when the average was over 10 acres. And, the trend is still downward.

Out of the 4.5 acre share for each person, only 2 acres are cropland. However, added to that 2 acres are some very important ingredients.

First and foremost is a farmer with skill, capital, and the willingness to take risk. He must be provided with enough incentive and profit to keep at the job. He has an average investment in each person's 4.5 acre share of $4,274 in physical assets. For this, the average consumer paid the farmer $725 in 1981 for food and other farm products.

The farmers used this $725 to pay $616 in production expenses. That left a 2½% return on the $4,274 investment--and he threw in his labor free.

Also added to the 2 acres in order for it to produce are 31 gallons of fuel and 174 kilowatts of electricity. The total 4.5 acre per person share also has one-sixth interest in a beef cow and one-twentieth interest in a dairy cow.

The farmer is so efficient that he can make these 4.5 acres produce about twice as much wheat and rice as Americans eat, about 40 percent more cotton and soybeans than they can use, and a fourth more feed grains than it takes to feed the livestock and poultry.

Exports take much of the surplus and help justify production levels high enough to take advantage of efficiency, which in turn helps keep consumer prices down. Farm exports also make jobs for over a million non-farm people in the U.S. We now export about $26 billion more farm products than we import each year. This favorable balance of trade helps finance the import of other needed items like fuel and minerals.

How well Americans and their children eat in years ahead depends on the farmer who tends the 4.5 acres that grow their food and fiber.

(Excerpt from the ASCS Farm News.)

STATISTICS BULLETIN AVAILABLE

Montana Agricultural Statistics, 1983, with county data for 1981 and 1982 is now available upon request. The bulletin is a comprehensive tabulation of crop and livestock data, farm income, farm prices, cash receipts, land use, climatological and other farm and ranch data. Free copies may be obtained by writing:

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporting Service
PO Box 4369
Helena, Montana 59604

*featuring. . . . .*BLAINE COUNTY

Blaine County was created in March of 1912 and occupies 2,733,440 acres in the north central region of Montana. Its northern boundary comprises a portion of the Montana-Canada border. Half of its southern boundary is marked by the Missouri River, and the Milk River meanders the entire width of the county. The land in Blaine County is generally level, being broken in the western and southern regions by the Bear Paw Mountains. The Fort Belknap Indian Reservation occupies the southeastern corner of the county.

Primary crops raised in the county include wheat, oats and barley. Blaine county ranked 9th in 1982 for all wheat production (8th for winter wheat production and 13th in spring wheat production), also 9th in oats production and 15th in barley production. In 1982 livestock numbers, Blaine County ranked 6th in the cattle inventory, 15th for sheep, and 16th in the hog inventory.

Livestock and livestock products brought in $12,826,000 in cash receipts in 1981 with a rank of 21st. Crops contributed $23,380,000 for a place of 15th in the county rankings. Government payments totaled $2,159,000 for a cash receipt total of $38,365,000 in 1981.

BLAINE COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1982	2,733,440
Land in Farms	Acres	1978	2,367,919
Number of Farms		1978	493
CROPS			
All Wheat	Acres	1982	211,500
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	100,000
Spring Wheat	Acres	1982	110,000
Barley	Acres	1982	34,900
Oats	Acres	1982	14,100

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	35,900
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	243,900
LIVESTOCK			
All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	94,300
Sheep & Lambs	# Head	1982	11,000
Hogs & Pigs	# Head	1981	4,400

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

SLAUGHTER

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

OCTOBER GRAIN STOCKS
SLAUGHTER DECREASES
MORE MILK IN MONTANA
'SUPER FARMS'

LIVESTOCK PRICE OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN

The good news is economic conditions have improved dramatically over a year ago--paving the way for more meat purchases. The bad news is record large meat supplies this fall and winter will hold down meat price gains. Increased supplies of meat have been expected since early summer, but summer drought is further boosting the fall and winter volume, and raising uncertainties about future supplies.

This summer total red meat and poultry volume rose 5 percent above a year ago. Pork went 13 percent higher while beef increased 4 percent. Increased deathloss and lighter marketing weights led to a 1 percent decline in broiler output.

Red meat supplies should remain large through winter because of expansion plans made in 1982 and early 1983--this in spite of drought, acreage reduction programs and resulting higher grain prices. In fact, even higher grain prices, or the failure of recent rains to generate favorable fall and winter grazing conditions could send more livestock to market, further expanding red meat supplies. Total red meat and poultry production is likely to exceed year ago levels by 4 percent this fall and 3 percent his winter. Sharpest year-to-year gains will continue to occur in the pork sector, where production is expected to rise 13 percent over a year ago this fall and 8 percent this winter.

Next spring, however, total red meat and poultry production is expected to slip about 2 percent from spring 1983 levels, reflecting producers reactions to higher grain prices and weak live animal prices through winter. Prices for all meats should average above a year earlier starting in the spring of 1984 and carrying through the rest of that year as production begins to fall.

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS SMALLER

Wheat in all Montana storage positions totaled 201.6 million bushels as of October 1--down 15 percent from last year's record holdings. The smaller stocks relfects a smaller 1983 harvest and the largest June-September disappearance since 1978.

Winter wheat stored in the State at 114.2 million bushels was 6 percent above last year. All spring wheat was down 33 percent at 87.4 million bushels largely due to a 46 percent reduction in 1983 production. The durum portion at 9.9 million bushels was down 44 percent from last year.

Barley stocks in all positions at 66.5 million bushels were 2 percent below last year. Oats stocks at 8.0 million bushels were down 6 percent.

NATION'S WHEAT STOCKS DIP ONLY SLIGHTLY

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on October 1, 1983 totaled 2.95 billion bushels, 1 percent below the 2.99 billion bushels on hand a year earlier. Farm stocks of 1.24 billion bushels accounted for 42 percent of the total. Wheat stored off-farms totaled 1.71 billion bushels. Indicated disappearance of all wheat during the June-September period totaled 998 million bushels compared with 986 million bushels during the same period a year ago.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions October 1, 1983 totaled 170 million bushels, down 22 percent from last year's 218 million bushels. Farm stocks accounted for 73 percent of the total, or 124 million bushels.

Barley stored in all positions on October 1, 1983 totaled 525 million bushels, 5 percent more than a year ago and 16 percent greater than on the same date in 1981. Of the total barley stocks on hand October 1, 1983, 67 percent of 351 million bushels were stored on farms. Farm stocks were 1 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 174 million bushels, were up 17 percent from last year's level.

Old crop corn in all positions on October 1, 1983 totaled a record high 3.14 billion bushels, 37 percent above last year's level of 2.29 billion bushels.

STOCKS OF GRAIN OCTOBER 1, 1983 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 1, 1982	June 1, 1983 *	Oct. 1, 1983	% Chg. '83/82	Oct. 1, 1982	June 1, 1983 *	Oct. 1, 1983
	-----Thousand Bushels--------			Pct.	--------Thousand Bushels--------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	209,258	93,616	163,626	-22	1,421,017	694,826	1,238,513
Off Farms 1/	29,144	21,811	38,000	+30	1,566,044	848,345	1,714,148
T O T A L	238,402	115,427	201,626	-15	2,987,061	1,543,171	2,952,661
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	93,132	38,086	93,245	--	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	14,452	11,525	21,000	+45	--	--	--
T O T A L	107,584	49,611	114,245	+ 6	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	116,216	55,530	70,381	-39	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	14,692	10,286	17,000	+16	--	--	--
T O T A L	130,818	65,816	87,381	-33	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	176,767	117,095	123,543
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	41,045	25,308	46,539
T O T A L	17,854	14,570	9,910	-44	217,812	142,403	170,082
CORN							
On Farms	26	140	28	+ 8	1,355,988	3,250,768	1,536,082
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	929,926	1,830,234	1,603,951
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	2,285,914	5,081,002	3,140,033
OATS							
On Farms	8,033	3,443	7,763	- 3	486,005	190,576	423,057
Off Farms 1/	452	236	250	-45	95,268	38,577	79,231
T O T A L	8,485	3,679	8,013	- 6	581,273	229,153	502,288
BARLEY							
On Farms	62,681	16,817	56,166	-10	353,412	142,878	351,127
Off Farms 1/	5,460	2,990	10,300	+89	147,966	79,926	173,610
T O T A L	68,141	19,807	66,466	- 2	501,378	222,804	524,737
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	61,518	94,910	58,726
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	235,032	432,991	340,201
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	296,550	527,901	398,927

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the MONTANA WHEAT RESEARCH & MARKETING COMMITTEE. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Oct. 1, 1982	June 1, 1983 *	Oct. 1, 1983	Oct. 1, 1982	June 1, 1983 *	Oct. 1, 1983
	----------Million Bushels--------			---------Million Bushels----------		
Northwest	1.5	1.6	1.0	3.6	1.2	1.8
North Central	98.9	56.7	84.5	32.2	8.3	32.2
Northeast	71.4	33.7	56.1	8.3	2.7	8.9
Central	27.4	10.0	29.5	13.1	4.4	12.7
Southwest	3.2	1.7	3.5	3.4	1.2	3.2
South Central	19.4	7.7	15.2	5.4	1.7	6.2
Southeast	16.6	4.0	11.8	2.1	.3	1.5
STATE	238.4	115.4	201.6	68.1	19.8	66.5

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the MONTANA WHEAT RESEARCH & MARKETING COMMITTEE. *Revised.

PROFILE OF THE SUPER FARMS

They are called the top farms, the super farms, and sometimes--with a tone of disapproval--the 'corporation' farms. Whatever the label, more farms than ever have entered the $500,000 sales class, and these farms are playing an increasingly important and controversial role in U.S. agriculture.

In 1969, only one in every thousand U.S. farms rang up $500,000 or more in sales of agricultural products. Today, the $500K farms number about one in every hundred. These farms encompass about 8 percent of all U.S. farmland, turn out more than a fourth of the total value of U.S. farm production, and reap an astonishing three-fifths of U.S. net farm income. They also generate two conflicting stereotypes.

On one hand, the Nation's sales giants are extolled as international models of successful, large-scale agriculture. On the other hand, these farms are often stereotyped as huge corporate subsidiaries that feed on the federal treasury.

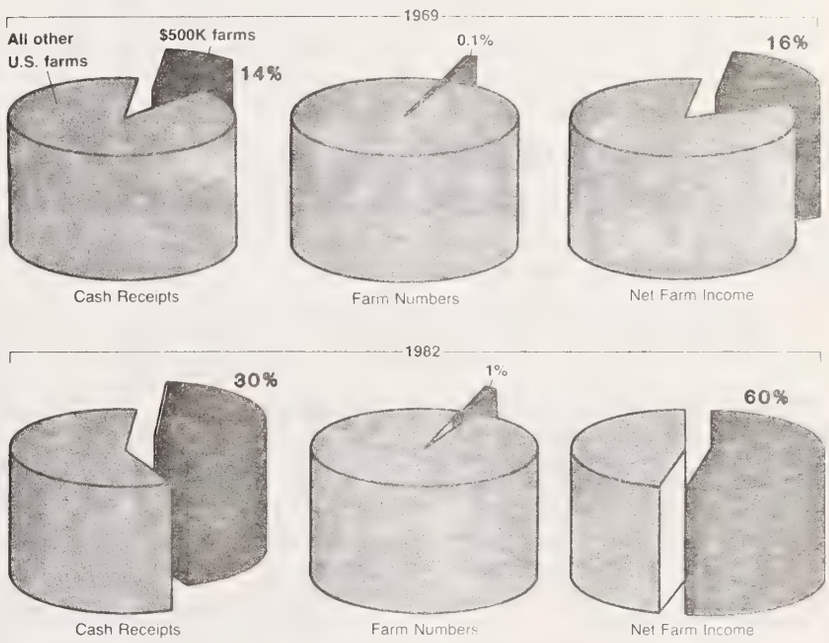
These farms come in all sizes, from less than a hundred acres to several thousand. They include fruit, vegetable, cotton, and grain farms, as well as dairy, poultry and hog farms, cattle ranches, feedlots and many other types of operations. They vary in location and type of ownership. Nevertheless, it's true that these farms are heavily concentrated in certain commodities and geographic areas. Based solely on their numbers, they do receive a disproportionate share of farm program payments. In many cases, they also fly the corporate banner, but that doesn't necessarily mean that any ownership shares are held outside the farm operator family.

FARMS IN THE $500,000 SALES CLASS DOMINATE SOME PRODUCT MARKETS

	Market value of products sold	Share of total U.S. farm sales
	$ billions 1/	pct.
ALL CROPS and LIVESTOCK	29.6	27.4
ALL CROPS	10.0	20.6
Grains	1.9	9.2
Cotton and Cottonseed	1.0	31.2
Tobacco	0.1	3.3
Fieldseeds, hay, forage, and silage	0.3	12.2
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons	2.0	62.0
Fruits, nuts, and berries	2.0	43.6
Nursery and greenhouse products	1.6	55.2
Other crops	1.2	36.1
ALL LIVESTOCK		
Poultry and poultry products	3.6	41.9
Dairy products	1.5	13.1
Cattle and calves	13.2	44.1
Hogs and pigs	0.8	9.4
Sheep, lambs, and wool	0.2	29.8
Other livestock and livestock products	0.3	31.9

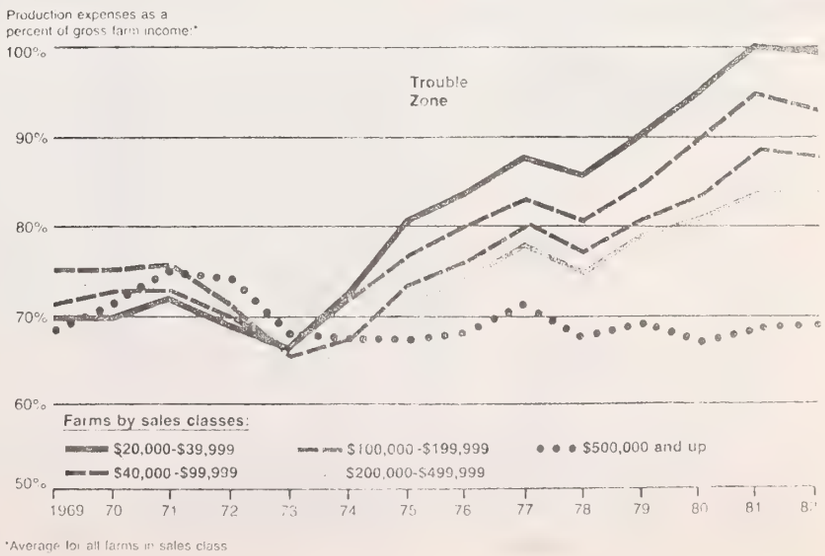
1/ Because of rounding, figures may not add exactly. Source: 1978 Census of Agriculture.

The $500K Class of 1982: 1% of U.S. Farms But 30% of Cash Receipts and 60% of Net Farm Income



Much of their strength is in their success in controlling production expenses.

The $500K Farms Maintain Their Margins, While Other Farms Struggle with an Income-Expense Squeeze



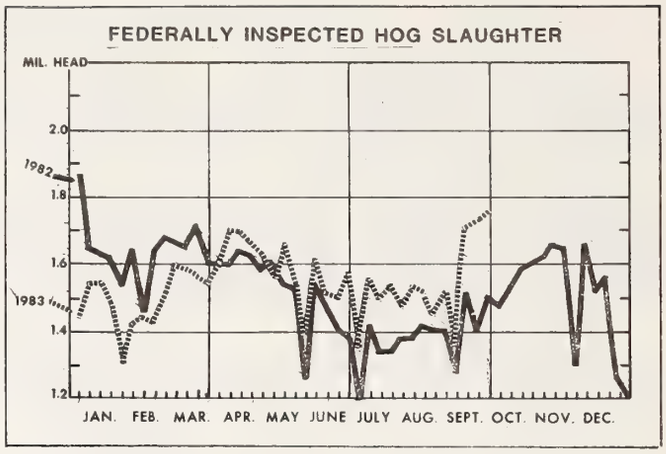
*Average for all farms in sales class

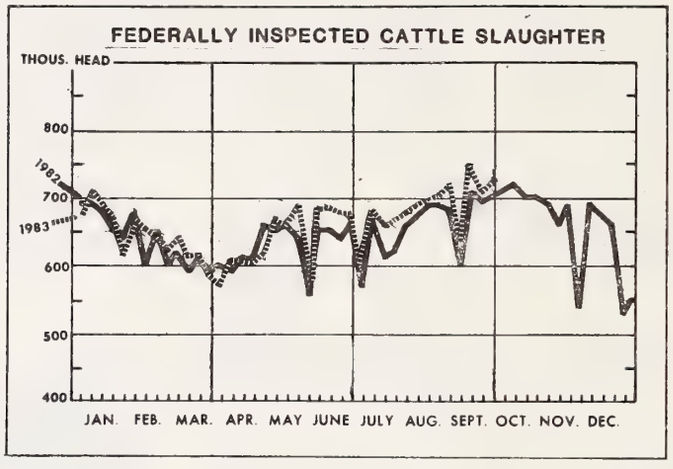
MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Commercial red meat production in Montana during September at 12.1 million pounds was 2 percent below August. The January-September accumulated total was 100.8 million pounds, 14 percent above the same period last year.

There were 10,200 head of cattle slaughtered and 37,400 head of hogs killed during September.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in the United States for September 1983 totaled 3.44 billion pounds. The 1983 January-September accumulated red meat production, at 28.5 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from the comparable period in 1982. January-September red meat production changes from a year earlier by individual components were: Beef, up 3 percent; veal, down 1 percent; pork, up 4 percent; lamb and mutton, up 5 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected slaughter and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. Kill days for September included 22 weekdays (1 Holiday) and 4 Saturdays.





MONTANA'S MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana's dairy herd produced 91 million pounds of milk for the July-September quarter, up 3 percent from last year.

The number of milk cows, at 29,000, is the same as last quarter and last year.

Nationally, milk production for the July-September quarter totaled 34.8 billion pounds, 3 percent more than the same period in 1982. Accumulated milk production during the first nine months of 1983 totaled 105 billion pounds, up 2 percent from last year, and 4 percent above 1981. Grain and concentrates fed on October 1 averaged 15.4 pounds and the value of the grain fed averaged $8.30/cwt.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Mfg. Dairy Products
Pasture & Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.–Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

FARM PRICES

PASTURE and RANGE CONDITION

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

featuring.....POWDER RIVER COUNTY

NATIONS FEED GRAIN PROSPECTS WEAKEN

Continued severe drought further lowered the corn production estimates for October 1. The forecast at 4.26 billion bushels is down 3 percent from September and 49 percent below last year.

Total feed grain production for the nation (corn, sorghum, oats, and barley combined) is expected to total 5.7 billion bushels, down 46 percent from last year.

Food grain production (wheat, rye, and rice) is expected to total 2.5 billion bushels, down 16 percent from 1982.

OCTOBER 1 CROP FORECAST

Montana's wheat production forecast for October 1 is down 27 percent from last year's record. The forecast is down slightly from the September 1 estimate because of reduced yield prospects for durum. In spite of below normal rainfall for most of the eastern third of the state, the expected all wheat yield at 31.0 bushels per acre is only 3.2 below last year's record.

Barley production is up 6 percent from last year's record. Yield at 45.0 bushels per acre is 1 bushel less than the August 1 forecast.

Oats production is down 8 percent from last year. Yield prospects are 2 bushels below the August 1 forecast.

Hay production in Montana is down 8 percent from a year ago--cut from 3 percent fewer acres and an 5 percent smaller yield.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST OCTOBER 1, 1983 1/

CROP	UNIT	MONTANA				U.S.		
		YIELD		PRODUCTION	% 2/	YIELD	PRODUCTION	% 2/
		1982	1983					
				(000)			(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	38.0	35.0	79,800	- 1	41.8	1,976,843	- 6
Durum Wheat	Bu.	30.0	20.0	4,100	-60	29.4	72,301	-51
Other Spring Wheat	Bu.	32.0	27.0	50,220	-46	31.8	358,462	-35
ALL WHEAT	Bu.	34.2	30.9	134,120	-27	39.5	2,407,606	-14
Corn for Grain	Bu.	100.0	110.0	1,210	-14	82.9	4,259,408	-49
Oats	Bu.	51.0	45.0	6,750	-12	52.2	472,541	-23
Barley	Bu.	49.0	44.0	81,400	+ 6	53.7	531,727	+ 2
Potatoes (Fall)	Cwt.	260.0	270.0	1,944	+ 1	278.0	292,696	- 5
Dry Beans	Cwt.	16.5	16.0	48	-65	13.87	15,454	-38
Sugarbeets	Ton	19.8	20.0	828	- 3	20.2	21,199	+ 0
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	2.6	2.4	2,688	-20	3.22	81,461	-10
All Other Hay	Ton	1.5	1.6	2,000	+16	1.74	61,193	- 1
ALL HAY	Ton	2.08	1.98	4,688	- 8	2.36	142,654	- 6

1/ Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. 2/ Percent change in production from 1982.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 1, 1983 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.
	----(000) Bu.----			----(000) Bu.----			----(000) Bu.----		
Northwest	611.0	770.0	+26	431.0	240.0	-44	3,028.9	2,230.0	-26
North Central	41,538.0	41,220.0	- 1	44,880.0	23,872.0	-47	40,713.7	45,050.0	+11
Northeast	8,104.0	8,100.0	--	46,678.5	23,725.0	-48	8,694.0	9,050.0	+ 4
Central	14,041.0	12,920.0	- 8	4,487.5	2,517.0	-44	13,450.9	14,270.0	+16
Southwest	1,736.0	1,800.0	+ 4	1,431.0	810.0	-43	3,483,7	2,990.0	-14
South Central	8,300.0	7,680.0	- 7	1,080.0	611.0	-43	4,341.0	6,055.0	+39
Southeast	6,230.0	7,310.0	+17	4,012.0	2,542.0	-37	2,727.8	1,755.0	-36
STATE	80,560.0	79,800.0	- 1	103,000.0	54,326.0	-47	76,440.0	81,400.0	+ 6

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

WHEAT PRODUCTION BY CLASSES , UNITED STATES

YEAR	WINTER			SPRING			TOTAL
	HARD RED	SOFT RED	WHITE	HARD RED	DURUM	WHITE	
	1,000 BUSHELS						
1980	1,181,126	435,347	278,910	311,448	108,395	59,080	2,374,306
1981	1,116,652	676,467	310,419	467,726	185,940	41,534	2,798,738
1982	1,255,389	609,815	243,042	500,172	147,503	52,816	2,808,737
1983 1/	1,187,936	507,687	281,220	312,542	72,301	45,920	2,407,606

1/ Indicated October 1, 1983

AREA PLANTED, FALL POTATOES

STATE	1982	1983
	1,000 Acres	
California	18.5	19.0
Colorado	45.5	44.5
Connecticut	1.8	1.4
Idaho - 10 SW Co.	25.0	25.0
- Other Co.	320.0	310.0
Indiana	3.4	3.2
Maine	107.0	95.0
Massachusetts	3.5	3.1
Michigan	35.0	35.0
Minnesota	71.0	70.5
Montana	7.5	7.3
Nebraska	8.2	7.6
Nevada	13.0	12.0
New York		
- Long Island	18.8	16.5
- Upstate	28.0	25.5
North Dakota	122.0	124.0
Ohio	10.0	9.5
Oregon		
- Malheur Co.	10.7	9.2
- Other Co.	42.8	40.0
Pennsylvania	24.0	22.0
Rhode Island	3.0	2.8
South Dakota	11.0	16.5
Utah	5.8	5.0
Vermont	.6	.6
Washington	110.0	103.0
Wisconsin	66.0	63.0
Wyoming	5.3	5.4
Total 1/	1,117.4	1,076.6

1/ Indicated October 1, 1983

PASTURE and RANGE CONDITIONS OCTOBER 1

In western Montana, pastures and ranges were generally in excellent condition but in much of the eastern sections condition was reported to be poor. In most of the central area and the southeastern corner range and pasture condition was fair.

Lack of rainfall and shortage of forage has accelerated cattle and sheep movement from summer ranges.

MONTANA PASTURE and RANGE CONDITION OCTOBER 1, 1983 BY DISTRICT AS a PERCENT of NORMAL

DISTRICT	1981	1982	1983
Northwest	89	88	89
Northcentral	74	89	67
Northwest	56	89	48
Central	87	90	76
Southwest	91	92	94
Southcentral	87	93	69
Southeast	62	99	68
State	77	92	72

FARM PRICES

Prices received by Montana farmers in mid-September were slightly higher than in August. Price increases were reported for spring wheat, barley, hay and milk while prices declined for winter wheat, durum wheat, oats and most livestock items. Compared with last year's prices, all of the crop items showed increases except for oats which was unchanged from a year ago. All prices for livestock and livestock products were down from last year except for milk and eggs.

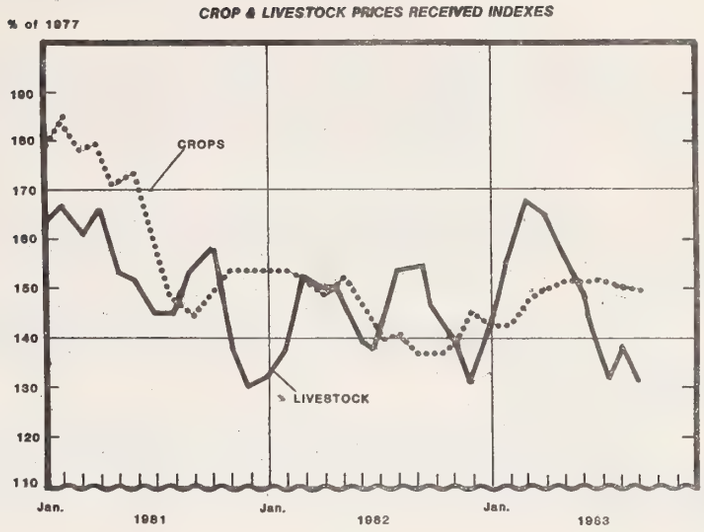
The September index of prices received for all farm products was 142 (1977=100), up 1 point from August but down 5 points from last year. Compared with last year, the all crops index was up 13 points, while the livestock and products index was down 23 points.

Nationally, the September all farm products index of prices received by farmers decreased 2 points (1.4 percent) from August to 137 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Contributing most to the decrease since August were lower prices for oranges, cattle, hogs, and potatoes. Higher prices for soybeans, lettuce and apples were partially offsetting. The index was 1 point (.7 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for September was 161 percent of its 1977 base. The index increased one point (.6 percent) from August as higher feed prices were partially offset by lower prices for feeder cattle and pigs. The index for September was 2.5 percent (4 points) higher than a year earlier.

MONTANA

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



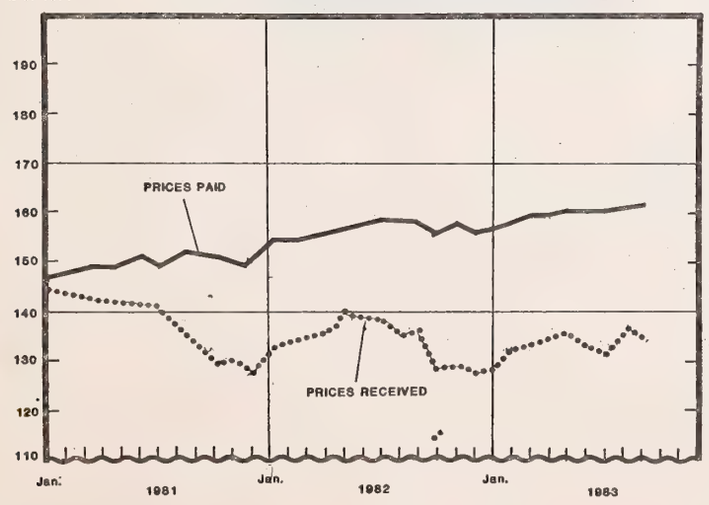
AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average Sept. 1982	MONTANA Monthly Average Aug. 1983	MONTANA Sept. 15, 1983	U.S. Sept. 15, 1983
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.52	3.50	3.54
Durum	Bu.	3.20	3.82	3.79	3.70
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.94	4.01	4.22
All Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.68	3.66	3.60
Barley	Bu.	1.88	2.21	2.28	2.54
Oats	Bu.	1.40	1.42	1.40	1.59
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	47.00	54.00	60.00	79.90
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	50.00	55.00	57.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	47.00	54.00	60.00	74.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	60.00	51.90	49.40	56.00
Cows	Cwt.	39.10	38.70	35.70	36.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	54.00	43.70	45.30	52.30
Calves	Cwt.	60.20	55.90	52.50	56.20
Sheep	Cwt.	15.90	10.80	10.50	14.30
Lambs	Cwt.	48.80	44.80	43.30	48.10
Hogs	Cwt.	58.50	47.20	44.40	44.40
All Milk	Cwt.	13.20	12.90	13.40	13.50
Eggs	Doz.	.490	.624	.600	.603
Wool 2/	Lb.	.640	.610	.610	.616
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	147	141	142	137
All Crops	Pct.	138	150	151	137
Livestock & Products	Pct.	155	131	132	137

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Sept. 1982	Aug. 1983	Sept. 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	136	139	137
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	157	160	161
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	87	87	85
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	58	57	56

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

featuring . . . . . POWDER RIVER COUNTY

Powder River County is situated in the extreme southeastern part of Montana, with the county's southern boundary making up part of the Montana-Wyoming border. The northern and eastern districts of the county are largely composed of rolling prairie. The Powder and Little Powder Rivers traverse the eastern half of the county from north to south. A good portion of the western half of the county is occupied by a section of the Custer National Forest.

Livestock raising is the primary agricultural industry in the county. The January 1, 1982 cattle and sheep inventories put the county 6th in line in sheep production, and 9th for cattle numbers. The county ranked 35th in the State for hog production on December 1, 1981.

Principle crops grown in Powder River County are winter wheat, oats and alfalfa hay. The county ranked 16th for alfalfa hay, 25th for winter wheat and 26th for oats production in the 1982 crop year.

Livestock and livestock products contributed $13,973,000 which accounted for 65% of the total cash receipts for the county in 1981. Crops turned over $5,690,000 and government payments amounted to $1,707,000 for a total of $21,370,000 in cash receipts for the county in 1981.

The county covers 2,096,640 acres and the county seat is Broadus. The average annual precipitation is 13.84 inches, and the county has an average of 125 frost free days.

POWDER RIVER COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1982	2,096,640
Land in Farms	Acres	1978	1,574,911
Number of Farms		1978	346
CROPS			
All Wheat	Acres	1982	35,000
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	33,000
All Hay	Acres	1982	67,800
Alfalfa Hay	Acres	1982	54,700
Oats	Acres	1982	4,000
Barley	Acres	1982	7,900

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	14,700
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	93,500
LIVESTOCK			
Sheep & Lambs	# Head	1982	21,200
All Cattle & Calves	# Head	1982	80,500
Hogs & Pigs	# Head	1981	1,000
Chickens	# Head	1981	2,000

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Grain Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.-Editor

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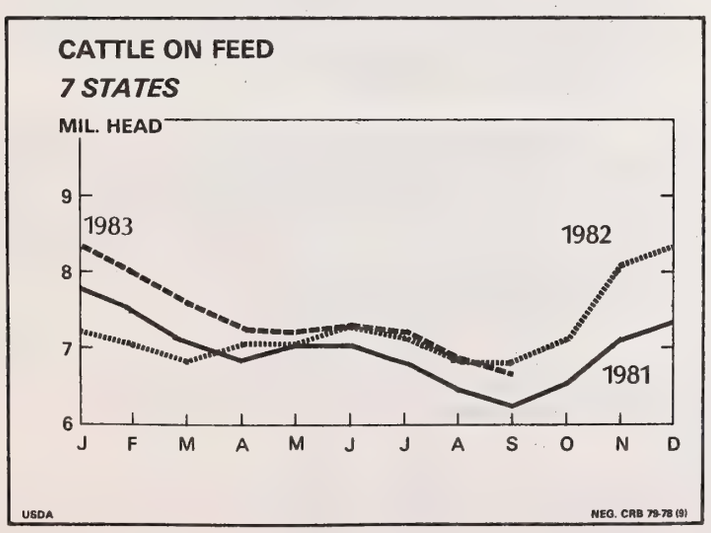
HIGHLIGHTS:

CATTLE SITUATION
MORE HOGS
SLAUGHTER UP
EGG PRODUCTION UP
WHEAT UTILIZATION

featuring.....JUDITH BASIN COUNTY

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed September 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.69 million head, down 2 percent from a year ago but 6 percent more than September 1, 1981. MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.66 million, 2 percent below last year but 9 percent more than August two years ago. PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during August totaled 1.57 million, down 10 percent from last year but 10 percent more than the same month in 1981. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.48 million head during August were 12 percent less than last year but 8 percent more than two years ago. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 89 thousand head compared with 61 thousand during August 1982 and 55 thousand during August 1981.



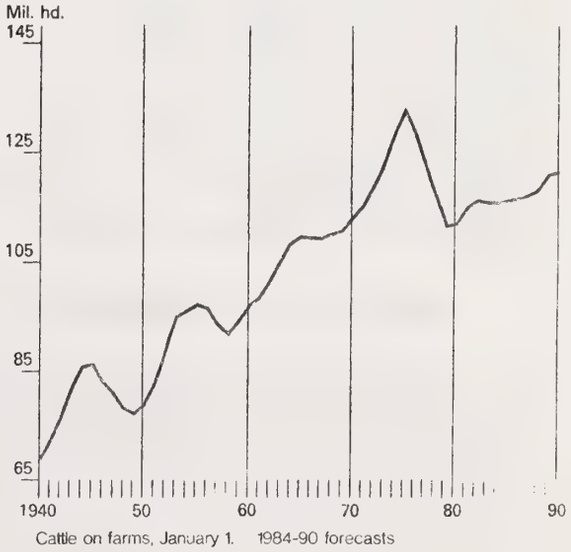
ABERRATIONS IN THE CATTLE CYCLE

Until recently, changes in the cattle inventory have been one of the more reliable cyclical movements in the agricultural economy. However, the present cycle, which began in 1979, has not followed the general pattern of the previous eight recorded since the late 1800's.

The present cattle cycle started with 110.9 million head and rose to 115.6 million by 1982, a fairly typical beginning. But, the cycle began to falter as more cows were slaughtered because of financial difficulties--particularly on crop-livestock enterprises where cattle are supplementary to crops. As a result, the upswing in the cycle halted, and on January 1, 1983 the cattle inventory numbered 115.2 million head, essentially unchanged from a year earlier. Furthermore, the base for future production of beef cattle was reduced; the cow inventory declined 3 percent, while the number of heifers held for herd expansion dropped 4 percent.

Until now, the average cycle length from trough to trough has been 9 to 16 years, with the span gradually shortening. Each cycle peaked in about mid-decade, with the last four peaking in a year ending in 5--1945, 1955, 1965 and 1975--and each at a higher inventory than the previous one.

Last Cattle Cycle May Have Been the Aberration



Cattle on farms, January 1. 1984-90 forecasts

HOG INVENTORY UP CONSIDERABLY

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1983 in the 10 states conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 45.9 million head, 10 percent above last September 1 but 3 percent less than September 1, 1981.

--Breeding inventory, at 5.83 million head, was 5 percent more than a year ago, but 8 percent below two years earlier.

--Market hog inventory, at 40.1 million head, was 11 percent above last year, but 2 percent less than in 1981.

PIG CROP: The June-August 1983 pig crop was 17.7 million head, 9 percent above last year but 3 percent below two years ago. There were 2.40 million sows that farrowed during June-August, an increase of 9 percent from a year ago, but 2 percent below the same period two years ago. Sows farrowing averaged 7.36 pigs per litter compared with 7.39 last year and 7.37 two years ago.

FARROWING INTENTIONS: Hog producers in the 10 quarterly states intend to farrow 2.46 million sows during September-November of this year. This is 4 percent more than during the comparable period in 1982, and 2 percent more than two years ago. Farrowing intentions for December 1983-February 1984 quarter are 2.07 million head, 1 percent below the same period a year earlier but 5 percent above two years earlier.

HOGS and PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, SOWS FARROWING and PIG CROP 1981-1983, 10 STATES 1/

ITEM	1981	1982	1983	1983 as % of 1982
	--------(000) Head-------			-Pct.-
Inventory--Sept. 1:				
All Hogs & Pigs	47,170	41,670	45,880	110
Kept for Breeding	6,357	5,553	5,829	105
Market	40,813	36,117	40,051	111
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:				
Under 60 pounds	16,473	14,562	15,804	109
60-119 pounds	10,268	9,000	10,169	113
120-179 pounds	8,183	7,277	8,303	114
180 pounds and over	5,889	5,278	5,775	109
Sows Farrowing:				
December 2/ - May	4,942	4,368	4,858	111
June - November	4,879	4,562	4,864 3/	107
Pig Crop:				
December 2/ - May	36,604	32,002	36,606	114
June - November	35,987	33,802	--	--
Pigs Per Litter:				
December 2/ - May	7.41	7.33	7.54	103
June - November	7.38	7.41	--	--

1/ Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnestoa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio.
2/ December preceding year.
3/ Actual farrowings for June-August plus intentions for September-November.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION UP

Montana's laying flocks produced 50 million eggs between June 1 and August 31, 1983. The average number of layers was 775,000 during the quarter. Compared with a year earlier, egg production increased 6 percent while layer numbers showed only a slight increase.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 16,731 million eggs during the same period--down 3 percent from a year ago. The number of layers averaged 268.9 million--down 5 percent.

NEW SURVEY TO UPDATE FARM PRODUCTION COSTS

America's agricultural productivity is the highest of any nation in the world, but it costs U.S. farmers record amounts of money to reach this productivity level. Cost of production data is used by farmers and farm organizations to keep consumers and the U.S. Congress informed, so fair farm policy can be developed. Detailed information that is currently available on the costs of producing crops falls short of what is needed.

During October, enumerators from the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service will interview a cross section of Montana farmers as part of a nationwide program to determine 1983 wheat, oats and barley production costs. The Economic Research Service will analyze this data and make the cost of production estimates. Survey results will be published on a regional and national level.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP

Commercial red meat production in Montana during August at 12.4 million pounds was 21 percent above July. The January-August accumulated total was 88.7 million pounds. There were 9,400 head of cattle slaughtered, and 39,200 head of hogs killed during August.

Commercial red meat production in the United States for August 1983 totaled 3.44 billion pounds. January-August accumulated red meat production totaled 25.1 billion pounds. Beef production during August totaled 2.12 billion pounds. Total head killed was 3.37 million and live weight averaged 1,064 pounds per head. Veal production was 39 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 286 thousand head averaged 230 pounds live weight. Pork production totaled 1.25 billion pounds. Hog kill totaled 7.32 million head, with an average live weight of 241 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 33 million pounds. Head kill of 607 thousand averaged 110 pounds live weight.

WHEAT UTILIZATION

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in the 1982 marketing year (June 1982-May 1983) is estimated at 143.7 million bushels--including unaccounted for disappearance. This is about the same as last year. More than 90 percent of total disappearance was shipped to out-of-state destinations.

The amount shipped to the Pacific Northwest was 137.4 million bushels, about 2 percent above last year. Montana wheat shipped overseas from Pacific Northwest ports increased about 4 percent over last year totaling 118.8 million bushels. Montana wheat used for flour in the Pacific Northwest was down 9 percent.

Montana wheat represented 55 percent of the total wheat leaving Pacific Northwest ports in the June 1982-May 1983 marketing period.

Funds for wheat utilization and movement were furnished by the Montana Wheat Commission.

(See tables on following page.)

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS and UTILIZATION

1979 - 1982 MARKETING YEARS

Supply	1979	1980	1981	1982
	Million Bushels			
Beginning stocks 1/	87.1	74.6	75.8	88.3
Production	116.5	119.8	172.8	183.6
Total Supply	203.6	194.4	248.6	271.9
Disposition				
Recorded movement out of State 2/	107.9	95.0	115.4	138.2
Milled for flour in Montana	7.9	7.9	8.9	7.7
Used for seed in Montana	6.4	6.4	6.0	5.0
Used for livestock feed 3/	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.9
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	5.1	7.4	28.2	5.5
Total Disposition	129.0	118.6	160.3	158.3
Ending stocks 1/	74.6	75.8	88.3	113.6

1/ Farm, commercial--June 1 stocks.
2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers, special survey of truck destinations and barge traffic.
3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills and purchased by other farmers for feed.
4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION and EXPORTS 1/

BY MARKETING YEARS 1979 - 1982

ITEM	Marketing Year 2/ 1979	1980	1981	1982
	Million Bushels			
Beginning stocks 3/	87.1	74.6	75.8	88.3
Production	116.5	119.8	172.8	183.6
Ending stocks 3/	-74.6	-75.8	-88.3	-113.6
Total Disposition 4/	129.0	118.6	160.3	158.3
Shipments of wheat into Pacific Northwest 5/ (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance)	92.7	92.5	134.5	137.4
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar) 6/	16.5	21.1	20.5	18.6
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific Northwest ports 7/	76.2	71.3	114.0	118.8
Percent of total disposition	59%	60%	71%	75%
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter and Durum from Pacific Northwest ports	193.1	179.0	166.5	216.2
Montana exports as percent of total HRS, HRW and Durum exports from Pacific Northwest ports	39%	40%	68%	55%

1/ Pacific Northwest--Oregon and Washington.
2/ June 1 - May 31.
3/ June 1 stocks.
4/ Beginning stocks plus production minus ending stocks.
5/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project.
6/ Total Pacific Northwest wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington or other states.
7/ Estimated Montana wheat shipped to Pacific Northwest minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific Northwest.

featuring. . . . . JUDITH BASIN COUNTY

Created in December of 1920, Judith Basin County occupies 1,196,160 acres of central Montana. The Judith River traverses the lower portion of the county, and the southwestern corner is blanketed by a section of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Included in the county's boundaries is the great Judith Basin, recognized as one of the better non-irrigated districts in the State.

Winter wheat, barley, oats and alfalfa hay are the major crops grown in Judith Basin County. Some durum and spring wheat are also grown. The county ranked 15th, 10th and 19th respectively for winter wheat, barley and oats production in 1982 and 26th in spring wheat production. Of the 28 durum wheat producing counties, Judith Basin ranked 15th in 1982.

Crops brought in 47% of the total cash receipts for the county in 1981. That adds up to $15,013,000. Livestock and livestock products made up 49% of the total, or $15,584,000. Government payments contributed the remaining 4% with $1,162,000 for a total cash receipt figure of $31,759,000 for 1981.

In the January 1, 1982 livestock count, Judith Basin County ranked 15th in the state for cattle numbers and 18th in sheep numbers. The December 1, 1981 hog inventory showed Judith Basin ranking 30th in the hog producing counties.

JUDITH BASIN COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land area	Acres	1981	1,196,160
Land in Farms	Acres	1978	817,887
Number of Farms		1978	345
CROPS			
All Wheat	Acres	1982	74,800
Winter Wheat	Acres	1982	54,000
Barley	Acres	1982	64,100
Oats	Acres	1982	4,600
All Hay	Acres	1982	30,400
Alfalfa Hay	Acres	1982	25,200

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	7,000
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1982	155,800
LIVESTOCK			
Cattle	# Head	1982	67,100
Sheep	# Head	1982	8,900
Hogs	# Head	1981	1,900
Chickens	# Head	1981	3,500

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag. Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range
Potato Disposition

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stock, Agr. Stat.—Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION VARIED
AG PRICES UP
U.S.--SOVIET GRAIN TRADE
featuring.....SHERIDAN COUNTY

NATION'S CORN CROP DROPS SHARPLY

Severe drought and high temperatures in the Nation's Corn Belt along with heavy participation in USDA's P.I.K. program have sharply reduced grain production prospects. U.S. corn for grain production is forecast at 4.39 billion bushels, down 16 percent from the August 1 forecast and 48 percent below last year's record crop . If realized, this will be the smallest corn crop since 1970.

Although forecast production of most crops is down, supplies should be sufficient to fulfill the Nation's internal and export demands--but, prices will be higher and stocks in storage will be reduced.

MONTANA WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST UNCHANGED

Montana's wheat production forecast for September 1, 1983 is down 27 percent from last year's record crop. The forecast is unchanged from August 1. The expected yield for all wheat at 31.0 bushels per acre is 3.2 bushels under last year's record. Acres for harvest are down 19 percent and the lowest since 1975.

Barley production is up 6 percent from last year's record. Yield at 45.0 bushels per acre is 1 bushel less than the August 1 forecast.

Oats production is down 8 percent from last year. Yield prospects are 2 bushels below the August 1 forecast.

Hay production in Montana is down 11 percent from a year ago--cut from 3 percent fewer acres and an 8 percent smaller yield.

September 1 production forecasts are based on producer reports of condition and yield. Actual field observations and measurements are also used in making the wheat production forecast.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST SEPTEMBER 1, 1983 1/

CROP	UNIT	MONTANA				U.S.		
		YIELD		PRODUCTION	% 2/	YIELD	PRODUCTION	% 2/
		1982	1983					
				(000)			(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	38.0	35.0	79,800	- 1	41.8	1,976,843	- 6
Durum Wheat	Bu.	30.0	23.0	4,715	-54	29.6	72,916	-51
Other Spring Wheat	Bu.	32.0	27.0	50,220	-46	31.8	358,462	-35
ALL WHEAT	Bu.	34.2	31.0	134,735	-27	39.5	2,408,221	-14
Corn for Grain	Bu.	100.0	110.0	1,210	-14	85.1	4,390,443	-48
Oats	Bu.	51.0	45.0	6,750	-12	52.2	472,541	-23
Barley	Bu.	49.0	44.0	81,400	+ 6	53.7	531,727	+ 2
Dry Beans	Cwt.	16.5	16.0	48	-65	13.74	15,309	-38
Sugarbeets	Ton	19.8	20.0	828	- 3	20.3	21,282	+ 0
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	2.60	2.50	2,800	-17	3.34	84,361	- 7
All Other Hay	Ton	1.50	1.40	1,750	+ 1	1.74	61,203	- 1
ALL HAY	Ton	2.08	1.92	4,550	-11	2.41	145,564	- 5

1/ Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. 2/ Percent change in production from 1982.

MONTANA PRODUCUTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 1, 1983 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.
	----(000) Bu.----			----(000) Bu.----			----(000) Bu.----		
Northwest	611.0	770.0	+26	431.0	240.0	-44	3,028.9	2,230.0	-26
North Central	41,538.0	41,220.0	- 1	44,880.0	23,744.0	-47	40,713.7	45,050.0	+11
Northeast	8,104.0	8,100.0	--	46,678.5	24,482.0	-48	8,694.0	9,050.0	+ 4
Central	14,041.0	12,920.0	- 8	4,487.5	2,517.0	-44	13,450.9	14,270.0	+16
Southwest	1,736.0	1,800.0	+ 4	1,431.0	810.0	-43	3,483.7	2,990.0	-14
South Central	8,300.0	7,680.0	- 7	1,080.0	612.0	-43	4,341.0	6,055.0	+39
Southeast	6,230.0	7,310.0	+17	4,012.0	2,530.0	-37	2,727.8	1,755.0	-36
STATE	80,560.0	79,800.0	- 1	103,000.0	54,935.0	-47	76,440.0	81,400.0	+ 6

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.

NEW U.S.--SOVIET GRAIN PACT

AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON A NEW U.S.-SOVIET GRAIN TRADE PACT was announced on July 28. The 5-year accord would raise minimum Soviet grain purchases by 33%-50%. It should help assure that the U.S. remains a major Soviet grain supplier, and it may even reestablish America's role as the Soviet Union's top grain merchant--a position occupied so far this year by Argentina, with Canada in the number two spot. Since the 1980 U.S. grain embargo, the U.S. share of Soviet grain imports has slid from a high of 70%-80% to an estimated low of around 20% this year.

The pact is scheduled to take effect on October 1, after the current agreement--now in its 7th year--expires. According to a preliminary outline, the Soviets agreed to buy a minimum of 8 million tons of U.S. grain a year, in roughly equal quantities of corn and wheat. In addition, they will buy 1 million tons of either corn or wheat, or 500,000 tons of soybeans or soybean meal. In dollars, the minimum annual purchases represent $1.3-$1.4 billion in U.S. sales at recent export prices. And, if the Soviets want, they may buy as much as 12 million tons of U.S. grain a year without consulting the U.S. government. Beyond that, the U.S. may offer--or the Soviets may request--any additional amount.

The previous agreement, signed in 1975, carried a 6-million-ton grain minimum, with no provision for oilseed sales. It permitted up to 8 million tons in grain purchases without consultations. Until the U.S. embargo, the Soviets took almost any amount the U.S. offered. Not so after the embargo. In fiscal 1982, Soviet purchases of U.S. wheat and corn reached almost 14 million tons, but we had offered 23 million. This year, we again offered up to 23 million tons, but the Russians have bought only around 6 million tons of U.S. grain thus far, and total shipments are unlikely to be much higher. Reasons for this year's reduced sales: signs of a bigger Soviet harvest and, possibly, a Soviet desire to hold onto a strong bargaining position in the trade negotiations with the United States.

"The 1975 agreement was negotiated under far different conditions," says USDA analyst Tom Bickerton. "Then, the Soviets knew they were heading for a crop disaster, and we held most of the supplies. This year, however, they expect a relatively good grain crop, by our estimates the largest harvest in 5 years. Also, they have agreements with other suppliers graranteeing them about 10 million tons of grain a year. In other words, they're in a stronger bargaining position today."

PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Pasture and range conditions continued to be varied across Montana as of September 1st. The northeastern portion of the State continued to suffer from a shortage of moisture and reported pastures and ranges in poor condition. The central and southeastern portions of the State were in generally fair condition, but soil moisture continued to be short in these areas as well. Most of western Montana has benefitted from above average precipitation and pastures and ranges here were reported in good to excellent condition.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION - SEPTEMBER 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1981	1982	1983
Northwest	93	89	89
North Central	79	94	72
Northeast	62	93	53
Central	89	95	72
Southwest	89	96	96
South Central	88	98	72
Southeast	73	102	71
STATE	81	95	73

FARM PRICES

Prices received by Montana farmers in mid-August were slightly higher than in July. Price increases were reported for spring wheat, durum wheat, sheep, hogs, milk and eggs, while prices declined for winter wheat, barley, oats, lambs, cows, calves and steers and heifers. Compared with last year's prices, all of the crop items showed increases except barley and oats. All prices for livestock and livestock products were down from last year except for milk and eggs.

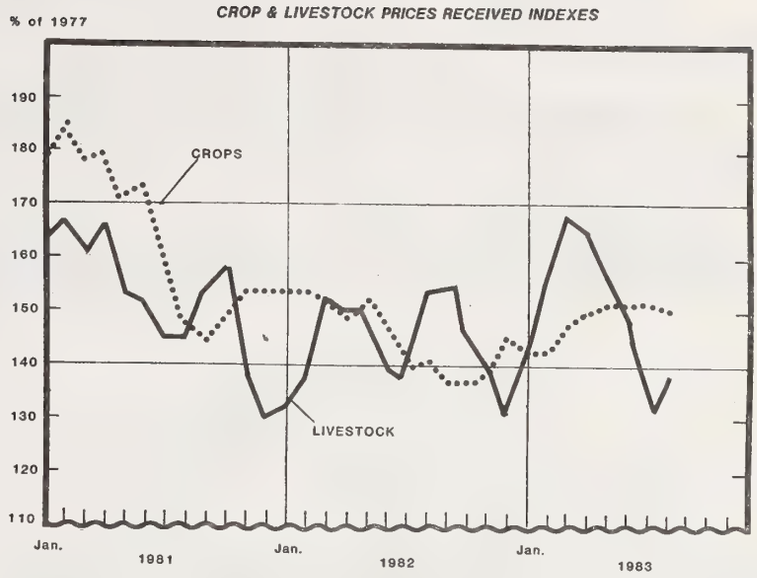
The August index of prices received for all farm products was 144 (1977=100), up 2 points from July but 3 points lower than a year ago. Compared with last year, the all crops index was up 9 points, while the livestock and products index was down 16 points.

Nationally, the August all farm products index of prices received by farmers increased 6 points (4.6 percent) from July to 137 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Contributing most to the increase since July were higher prices for soybeans, corn, hogs, wheat and lettuce. Lower prices for cattle, tomatoes, peaches and calves were partially offsetting. The index was 4 points (3.0 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for August was 161 percent of its 1977 base. The index increased one point (.6 percent) from July as higher feed prices more than offset lower prices for feeder cattle and calves. Compared to a year earlier, the index was up 4 points (2.5 percent).

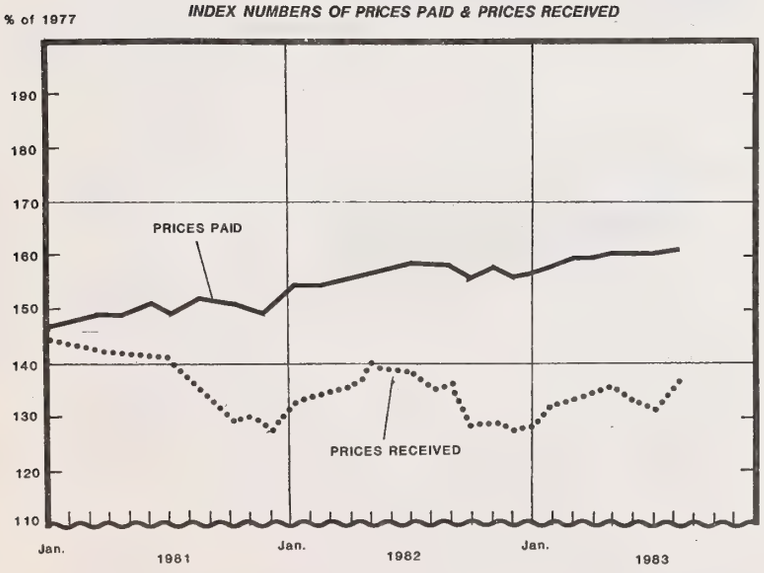
MONTANA

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average Aug. 1982	MONTANA Monthly Average July 1983	MONTANA Aug. 15, 1983	U.S. Aug. 15, 1983
		dollars	dollars	dollars	dollars
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.39	3.50	3.40	3.46
Durum	Bu.	3.16	3.75	3.86	4.19
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.49	3.79	3.82	3.81
All Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.71	3.71	3.57
Barley	Bu.	2.12	2.20	2.08	2.38
Oats	Bu.	1.52	1.43	1.35	1.56
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	47.00	50.00	50.00	77.80
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	45.00	45.00	57.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	47.00	50.00	50.00	72.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	60.60	55.10	52.80	57.50
Cows	Cwt	40.40	39.30	39.00	38.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	53.50	44.30	47.60	53.80
Calves	Cwt	61.10	56.90	54.10	58.30
Sheep	Cwt	16.90	11.70	12.50	15.50
Lambs	Cwt	50.10	47.70	46.00	47.10
Hogs	Cwt	60.10	40.10	45.30	47.00
All Milk	Cwt	13.00	12.90	13.10	13.30
Eggs	Doz.	.420	.544	.624	.574
Wool 2/	Lb.	.640	.610	.610	.623
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	147	142	144	137
All Crops	Pct.	141	151	150	136
Livestock & Products	Pct.	154	132	138	139

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Aug. 1982	July 1983	Aug. 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	133	131	137
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	157	160	161
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	85	82	85
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	56	54	57

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

FEATURING..... SHERIDAN COUNTY

Sheridan County, lying in the extreme northeastern portion of Montana, claims 1,100,800 acres. Sheridan county is a prairie county and three-fourths of the land is tillable. The soil is of Glacier ongin which provides a rich base for small grain production.

In 1981, Sheridan county was ranked 14th in the state for all cash receipts from farming with $41,592,000. Livestock receipts totaled $4,133,000 and ranked 49th. Crops generated $34,454,000 and ranked 7th in the state. Government payments account for the remaining $3,005,000.

Sheridan County ranks first in durum wheat production. In 1982, 62% of the state's durum wheat was produced in Sheridan County. The county also ranks third in oats production. Livestock is limited with cattle ranking 46th and sheep ranking 41st.

SHERIDAN COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1981	1,100,800
Land in Farms	Acres	1978	1,082,999
Number of Farms		1978	642
CROPS			
All Wheat	Acres	1981	326,700
Durum Wheat	Acres	1981	238,100
All Hay	Acres	1981	31,000
Barley	Acres	1981	15,500
Oats	Acres	1981	15,500

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1981	3,600
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1981	372,000
LIVESTOCK			
Cattle	# Head	1981	22,300
Sheep	# Head	1981	2,300
Hogs	# Head	1980	3,500
Chickens	# Head	1980	3,000

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Q'trly Egg Production

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

NUMBER OF FARMS and LAND IN FARMS
WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT
CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS UP
U.S. WHEAT SITUATION
CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS
FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 1 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed August 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.87 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago and 7 percent above August 1, 1981.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.50 million, 1 percent above last year and 6 percent more than July two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during July totaled 1.19 million, down 1 percent from last year but 10 percent above July 1981. Net Placements of 1.10 million for July are 4 percent below last year but up 8 percent from two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 94 thousand head, compared with 68 thousand during July 1982 and 65 thousand during July 1981.

THE UNITED STATES ALL WHEAT SITUATION

Year Beginning June 1	1980	1981	1982 1/	1983 2/
	----------Million Bushels--------			
Beginning Stocks	902	989	1,164	1,541
Production	2,374	2,799	2,809	2,424
Imports	3	3	7	3
Supply, total	3,279	3,791	3,980	3,968
Domestic				
Food	611	600	615	625
Seed	114	112	97	90
Feed 2/	51	142	216	265
Domestic, total	776	854	928	980
Exports	1,514	1,773	1,511	1,400
Disap., total	2,290	2,627	2,439	2,380
Ending Stocks	989	1,164	1,541	1,588

1/ Estimated. 2/ Projected.

REGIONAL SHIFTS IN WHEAT PRODUCTION

The Plains States raise about 59 percent of the Nation's wheat crop and as a group reduced their production this year by 13 percent. The Southern States had by far the greatest percentage reduction in wheat production, but those states account for only 8 percent of the National total. The Pacific Northwest and the Corn Belt States are both increasing production this year because of yield increases. Those states combined account for 24 percent of the U.S. production.

ALL WHEAT

STATE	ACRES HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1982	1983	1982	1983	% Chg.
	(000) Acres		----(000) Bushels----		
Montana	5,360	4,345	183,560	134,735	-27
Colorado	3,048	3,010	87,504	116,600	+33
Kansas	13,200	10,800	462,000	453,600	- 2
Nebraska	2,900	2,300	101,500	98,900	- 3
Oklahoma	6,900	4,300	227,700	150,500	-34
North Dakota	10,490	7,190	330,785	218,230	-34
South Dakota	3,595	2,677	99,630	87,956	-12
Texas	6,000	4,600	144,000	161,000	+12
PLAINS STATES	51,493	39,222	1,636,679	1,421,521	-13
Idaho	1,500	1,275	94,200	86,025	- 9
Oregon	1,200	1,055	64,500	64,935	+ 1
Washington	2,840	2,620	138,880	155,000	+12
PACIFIC NW	5,540	4,950	297,580	305,960	+ 3
Illinois	1,500	1,350	67,500	64,800	- 4
Indiana	1,080	970	46,440	49,470	+ 7
Michigan	600	700	24,600	35,000	+42
Missouri	2,230	1,850	75,820	70,300	- 7
Ohio	1,250	1,150	55,000	59,800	+ 9
CORN BELT	6,660	6,020	269,360	279,370	+ 4
Alabama	825	470	26,400	15,980	-39
Arkansas	1,760	1,375	68,640	53,625	-22
Georgia	1,480	970	48,840	32,980	-32
Kentucky	675	580	26,325	18,560	-29
Mississippi	1,050	600	39,900	20,400	-49
North Carolina	600	480	21,600	16,800	-22
South Carolina	550	400	19,800	11,600	-41
Tennessee	935	630	33,660	21,420	-36
Virginia	370	320	14,060	13,120	- 7
SOUTHERN STATES	8,245	5,825	299,225	204,485	-32
California	1,125	715	81,625	45,630	-44
Other States	5,778	4,237	224,268	166,966	-26
UNITED STATES	78,841	60,969	2,808,737	2,423,932	-14

WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1982 through May 1983 totaled 69.0 million bushels, 31 percent above the same period one year ago. Shipments to western destinations amounted to 67.4 million bushels while eastern shipments totaled 1.2 million. Western shipments were up 35 percent while eastern movement was down 48 percent. The amount of wheat moved by rail was up 41 percent compared with the same period last year. Truck movement was off 2 percent.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1982 through May 1983 totaled 16.7 million bushels, 9 percent more than in the same period last year. Shipments to western destinations amounted to 13.5 million bushels, and 1.9 million went east. These shipments, compared with last year, are up 5 percent to the west and down 10 percent to the east. Trucks hauled less than half the shipments with 7.2 million bushels. Rail movement accounted for 9.4 million.

WHEAT and BARLEY SHIPPED OUT OF STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE and DESTINATION 1/

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT	DECEMBER 1982 - MAY 1983			All Wheat % Change 4/	DECEMBER 1982-MAY 1983	Barley % Change 4/
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat		All Barley	
	(000 Bushels)				(000 Bushels)	
Northwest	101	258	359	-15	373	-32
North Central	19,296	15,843	35,139	+47	10,310	+34
Northeast	3,209	11,215	14,424	+43	906	+4530
Central	8,630	3,389	12,019	+ 4	3,676	-40
Southwest	894	1,001	1,895	- 1	1,017	+42
South Central	2,421	1,111	3,532	- 9	382	+76
Southeast	1,169	416	1,585	+85	6	--
Truck East	183	297	480	-63	916	+ 9
Truck West	5,653	5,512	11,165	+ 7	5,394	- 9
Truck Other 3/	17	278	295	-27	932	+243
TOTAL BY TRUCK	5,853	6,087	11,940	- 2	7,242	+ 2
Rail East	14	704	718	-28	949	-23
Rail West	29,853	26,399	56,252	+43	8,069	+16
Rail Other 3/	0	43	43	+1075	410	+3154
TOTAL BY RAIL	29,867	27,146	57,013	+41	9,428	+15
TOTAL WHEAT SHIPPED	35,720	33,233	68,953	+31	16,670	+ 9

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Other and unknown. 4/ Percent change from same period last year.

Grain Movement statistics are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee through the Montana Department of Agriculture.

MONTANA FARM NUMBERS STABLE

Based on survey data collected in June 1983, the number of farms and ranches in Montana is unchanged from a year earlier and totals 24,000. Land in farms at 62.1 million acres is also unchanged from last year and has remained stable since 1977.

NUMBER OF FARMS and LAND IN FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1981-1983 1/

STATE	FARMS			LAND IN FARMS		
	1981	1982	1983 2/	1981	1982	1983 2/
	Number			(000) Acres		
AZ	7,500	7,200	7,000	39,000	39,000	38,900
CA	82,000	80,000	78,000	34,000	33,700	33,700
COLO	26,500	25,800	25,300	36,500	35,800	35,700
ID	24,000	24,200	24,400	15,100	15,100	15,100
KS	76,000	76,000	75,000	48,500	48,500	48,500
MT	23,900	24,000	24,000	62,100	62,100	62,100
NE	65,000	63,000	63,000	47,700	47,600	47,600
NV	3,100	2,900	2,700	8,900	8,900	8,900
NM	14,000	13,500	13,500	47,400	47,400	47,000
N DAK	39,000	38,000	37,500	41,700	41,700	41,700
OKLA	71,000	71,000	71,000	34,300	34,300	34,000
ORE	36,500	36,000	37,000	18,200	18,200	18,200
S DAK	38,000	37,000	36,500	44,700	44,500	44,500
TX	186,000	185,000	184,000	138,500	138,400	138,300
UT	13,000	12,900	12,800	12,400	12,300	12,300
WA	39,500	39,000	38,000	16,300	16,300	16,300
WYO	9,300	9,100	9,200	35,300	35,300	35,300
U.S.	2,434,010	2,400,370	2,369,750	1,042,100	1,038,530	1,035,160

1/ A farm is a place that sells or normally would sell $1,000 of agricultural products. 2/ Preliminary.

TOTAL MEAT SUPPLIES LARGE, CATTLE INVENTORY UNCHANGED

The July 1 inventory gives continuing evidence of the nearly static state of the cattle cycle. Prospects for large supplies of competing meats, higher grain prices, and lower cattle prices have reduced the incentive for expanding the cattle herd. In spite of a strengthening economy, which should begin to support meat purchases this fall, the near-record meat supplies expected through the winter of 1984, plus higher feed costs, are likely to cause continued losses for meat producers at least until late winter or early spring.

The inventory of cattle and calves on July 1 was down only slightly from a year earlier. However, the breeding herd, the base for future output, points to further modest reductions in 1984. Beef cow numbers were down 1 percent from a year earlier, while the number of heifers being saved for possible herd expansion declined 5 percent. The number of replacement heifers calving and entering the cow herd during the first half of 1983 was the fourth lowest for this period since the midyear inventory began in 1973. This has pushed the 1983 calf crop an estimated 1 percent below the 1982 crop--the third consecutive year of modest declines. However, a larger supply of yearling feeder cattle outside feedlots will likely support feedlot placements and nonfed slaughter through the winter near the large levels of a year ago. A large number of heavy cattle in feedlots on July 1 and increased cow slaughter have raised the forecast for beef production during second-half 1983.

Total red meat and poultry production through first-quarter 1984 is expected to remain 4 to 5 percent above a year earlier. Red meat supplies will rise 5 to 6 percent, with the sharpest gains due to expanding hog inventories. Profitable feeding conditions in 1982 and prospects for lower grain prices encouraged hog producers to expand their breeding inventories. Now faced with prospects for much lower prices and higher feed costs, producers will likely reduce herds, but pork production probably won't fall below a year earlier until late in first-half 1984. Higher grain prices and prospective large supplies of other meats at prices lower than a year earlier will limit poultry output through first-quarter 1984 to a 1 percent rise.

FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES: AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE of LAND and BUILDINGS--MARCH 1, 1974'-75, FEBRUARY 1, 1976-81, APRIL 1, 1982-83

STATE	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	Dollars									
CORN BELT										
Ohio	627	706	846	1,099	1,224	1,483	1,678	1,727	1,474	1,297
Indiana	592	720	888	1,188	1,357	1,589	1,833	1,972	1,715	1,492
Illinois	720	846	1,062	1,458	1,625	1,858	2,013	2,133	1,940	1,727
Iowa	597	719	920	1,259	1,331	1,550	1,811	1,941	1,802	1,568
Missouri	384	396	456	548	641	726	878	941	872	759
NORTHERN PLAINS										
North Dakota	144	195	236	274	300	347	399	423	436	414
South Dakota	119	145	163	194	227	256	273	290	291	271
Nebraska	242	282	363	420	412	525	600	660	626	563
Kansas	253	296	342	298	418	501	573	590	585	544
MOUNTAIN STATES										
Montana	96	112	134	157	176	196	229	239	254	236
Idaho	287	339	386	454	515	585	669	717	753	700
Wyoming	70	80	98	110	121	144	153	164	170	162
Colorado	175	188	219	256	273	322	376	412	419	411
New Mexico	73	78	86	101	112	143	190	203	211	200
Arizona	110	111	122	138	154	199	264	282	294	279
Utah	171	188	227	271	308	400	530	567	590	561
Nevada	85	85	98	112	140	191	253	271	282	268
PACIFIC STATES										
Washington	308	350	438	535	602	692	725	854	888	888
Oregon	234	250	294	342	414	504	556	605	611	580
California	570	653	711	759	914	1,186	1,426	1,735	1,905	1,925

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES and COMMODITY GROUPS, MONTANA -- 1981-82

COMMODITIES	VALUE		PERCENTAGE OF ALL COMMODITIES	
	1981 1/	1982 2/	1981 1/	1982 2/
	-------1,000 Dollars----		-----Pct. of Total----	
Cattle and Calves	506,118	538,414	35.9	33.0
Dairy Products	42,372	42,833	3.0	2.6
Sheep and Lambs	13,469	18,847	1.0	1.2
Wool	5,783	4,061	.4	.3
Hogs	35,090	32,614	2.5	2.0
Farm Chickens and Eggs	9,009	8,659	.6	.5
Other 3/	17,383	7,186	1.2	.4
LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS	629,224	652,614	44.6	40.0
Wheat	590,907	755,049	41.9	46.2
Barley	88,643	110,728	6.3	6.8
Sugarbeets	34,447	43,741	2.4	2.7
Hay	34,114	33,353	2.4	2.0
Potatoes	12,492	11,944	.9	.7
Oats	2,461	3,213	.2	.2
Dry Edible Beans	4,052	2,745	.3	.2
Other Crops 4/	9,435	12,076	.6	.8
Cherries	874	1,928	5/	.1
Other Fruits	46	51	5/	5/
Forest Products	3,000	3,500	.2	.2
Greenhouse and Nursery	2,200	2,000	.2	.1
CROPS	782,671	980,328	55.4	60.0
ALL COMMODITIES	1,411,895	1,632,942	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Turkeys, other poultry, other livestock. 4/ Miscellaneous vegetables, rye, corn, safflower, sweet clover seed, mustard seed, wheat grass seed, other seeds and other field crops. 5/ Less than .1 of a percent.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST
PASTURE & RANGE
MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY
VARIETIES -- 1983
AG PRICES

U.S. WHEAT SUPPLIES REMAIN HIGH

Although more than a third of U.S. wheat land has been idled under 1983 acreage reduction programs, total wheat supplies in the 1983/84 marketing year are expected to be only 1 percent under last year's record. This estimate reflects the August 1 production forecast of 2.42 billion bushels, only 14 percent below the record output of 1982, and a record carryover of old crop wheat of 1.54 billion bushels.

The Plains States, which produced 58 percent of the wheat last year are down 13 percent. The Southern States produced 11 percent of the total in 1982, reduced their production 32 percent. The Corn Belt States and the Pacific Northwest have had an increase in production from last year.

CROP HARVEST PROGRESS

Hot weather has hastened maturity of all crops and put stress on spring grain crops. Winter wheat harvest has started in all areas and is most advanced in the drier eastern districts. Harvest was running slightly ahead of normal with about 25 percent of the crop harvested by the end of the first week of August. Normally, only about 15 percent is harvested by this time. Combining of spring wheat, oats and barley was also running slightly ahead of normal. Grasshopper activity was reported as moderate with most farmers hoping harvest will be early enough to avert widespread damage. Rain showers continue to delay haying in many areas.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION DECREASES

Montana's wheat crop on August 1 was forecast to be down 27 percent from last year's record and the smallest production since 1980. The expected all wheat yield at 31.0 bushels per acre is 3.2 bushels under last year's record, but only slightly less than the second high yield set in 1975. Acres for harvest are down 19 percent and the lowest since 1973.

Barley production is up 9 percent over last year and would be the largest crop on record. The August 1 yield forecast is down 1 bushel from the July 1 estimate.

Oats production is down 8 percent from last year. Yield prospects declined 3 bushels per acre during July.

Hay production in Montana is down 11 percent from a year ago--cut from 3 percent fewer acres and an 8 percent smaller yield.

August 1 production forecasts are based on producer reports of condition and yield. Actual field observations and measurements are also used in making the wheat production forecast. Production changes from 1982 are:

All Wheat	--	down 27%
Winter Wheat	--	down 1%
Hard Spring Wheat	--	down 46%
Durum	--	down 54%
Barley	--	up 9%
Oats	--	down 8%
All Hay	--	down 11%
Sugarbeets	--	down 3%
Corn for Grain	--	down 14%
Dry Beans	--	down 65%

(SEE TABLES ON INSIDE PAGE.)

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1983

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,120	2,280	38.0	35.0	80,560	79,800
Durum Wheat	Bu.	340	205	30.0	23.0	10,200	4,715
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,900	1,860	32.0	27.0	92,800	50,220
All Wheat	Bu.	5,360	4,345	34.2	31.0	183,560	134,735
Corn for Grain	Bu.	14	11	100.0	110.0	1,400	1,210
Oats	Bu.	150	150	51.0	47.0	7,650	7,050
Barley	Bu.	1,560	1,850	49.0	45.0	76,440	83,250
Dry Beans	Cwt	8.4	3.0	16.50	16.00	139	48
Sugarbeets	Ton	43.0	41.4	19.8	20.0	850	828
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	1,120	2.60	2.50	3,380	2,800
All Other Hay	Ton	1,150	1,250	1.50	1.40	1,725	1,750
All Hay	Ton	2,450	2,370	2.08	1.92	5,105	4,550
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--		

1/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1983

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	58,347	47,242	36.1	41.6	2,108,246	1,963,243
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4,217	2,460	35.0	32.9	147,503	80,957
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	16,277	11,267	34.0	33.7	552,988	379,732
All Wheat	Bu.	78,841	60,969	35.6	39.8	2,808,737	2,423,932
Corn for Grain	Bu.	73,152	52,414	114.8	99.9	8,397,334	5,236,558
Oats	Bu.	10,561	9,058	58.4	55.7	616,981	504,201
Barley	Bu.	9,113	9,905	57.3	56.0	522,387	554,315
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,764.4	1,114.0	14.04	14.10	24,764	15,706
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,030.8	1,050.4	20.6	20.3	21,260	21,333
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,548	25,262	3.41	3.34	90,513	84,361
All Other Hay	Ton	34,131	35,132	1.81	1.74	61,911	61,203
All Hay	Ton	60,679	60,394	2.51	2.41	152,424	145,564
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	158.2	156.2

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT AUGUST 1, 1983 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Chg.
	---(000) Bu.---			---(000) Bu.---			---(000) Bu.---		
Northwest	611.0	770.0	+26	431.0	240.0	-44	3,028.9	2,528.0	-17
North Central	41,538.0	41,220.0	- 1	44,880.0	23,744.0	-47	40,713.7	45,901.0	+13
Northeast	8,104.0	8,100.0	---	46,678.5	24,482.0	-48	8,694.0	9,290.0	+ 7
Central	14,041.0	12,920.0	- 8	4,487.5	2,517.0	-44	13,450.9	14,516.0	+ 8
Southwest	1,736.0	1,800.0	+ 4	1,431.0	810.0	-43	3,483.7	3,250.0	- 7
South Central	8,300.0	7,680.0	- 7	1,080.0	612.0	-43	4,341.0	5,790.0	+33
Southeast	6,230.0	7,310.0	+17	4,012.0	2,530.0	-37	2,727.8	1,975.0	-28
STATE	80,560.0	79,800.0	- 1	103,000.0	54,935.0	-47	76,440.0	83,250.0	+ 9

1/ District data funded by Montana Wheat Commission.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES 1983

Hector remained the number one choice of barley varieties seeded in Montana in 1983. Hector, a feed barley, was planted on 35 percent of the barley acreage. Piroline occupied the second spot, followed by Klages, both malting type varieties.

Montana growers seeded 41 percent of their barley acres with malting type varieties, down from 48 percent last year.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES 1979-1983

VARIETY	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACRES				
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	Percent				
Hector	17.5	20.3	28.1	27.3	35.1
Piroline M	28.7	29.3	31.1	24.8	25.6
Klages M	13.6	10.4	10.2	12.6	10.6
Clark	--	--	--	2.5	7.4
Morex M	.1	.9	2.5	8.5	2.8
Unitan	5.1	5.1	2.8	3.9	2.5
Summit	4.0	3.2	1.4	5.5	1.5
Compana	2.8	3.3	3.5	2.0	1.5
Steptoe	3.8	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.4
Ingrid	2.0	2.5	2.1	1.0	1.0
Moravian III M	.3	.6	.8	.2	.8
Shabet M	5.1	5.5	4.8	.6	.8
Horsford	2.6	.7	1.1	.6	.7
Menuet	--	--	--	.4	.7
Larker	1.7	1.8	2.3	1.0	.6
Kimberly	--	--	--	--	.6
Fairfield	1.6	5.1	2.4	.6	.5
Glenn	--	--	--	1.0	.4
Betzes	2.6	1.7	.7	1.1	.3
Vanguard	--	--	--	--	.2
Hypana	1.6	1.0	.4	.4	.1
Stepford	.2	.2	.9	.2	.1
Other	6.7	6.2	3.4	4.4	4.2
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

M = American Malting Barley Assoc., Inc. recommended malting varieties for Montana.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION - AUGUST 1, 1983

by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1981	1982	1983
Northwest	102	97	91
North Central	88	96	78
Northeast	75	96	69
Central	96	101	80
Southwest	98	99	91
South Central	98	100	74
Southeast	79	102	75
STATE	90	99	79

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES 1983

Redwin, an excellent milling and baking quality wheat, was the most widely seeded winter wheat variety in 1983. Winalta, the number one variety for 14 years, fell to second place, while Norstar moved from fourth to third.

Newana replaced Olaf as the number one spring wheat variety. Len moved into second place from ninth, and Olaf fell to third place.

Ward remained the number one durum wheat. Vic was second and Rolette was third.

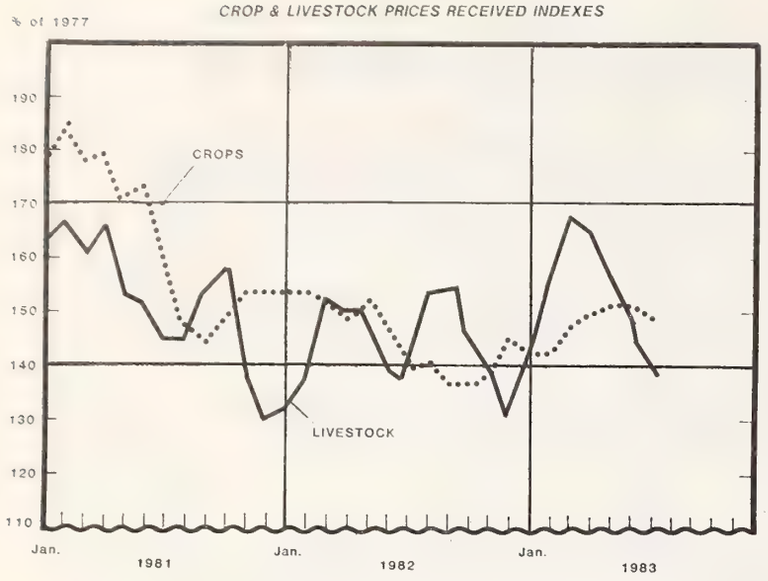
MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES 1979-1983

CLASS and VARIETY	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACRES				
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	Percent				
WINTER WHEAT					
Redwin	--	--	--	8.3	24.2
Winalta	27.7	26.3	18.7	22.2	14.3
Norstar	--	2.3	15.4	11.8	10.4
Centurk	27.1	24.7	24.6	15.4	8.9
Cheyenne	23.5	25.2	16.9	15.6	8.3
Rocky	--	--	1.8	8.0	8.0
Roughrider	2.6	4.1	5.5	5.0	6.4
Warrior	4.6	5.8	3.5	3.6	3.1
Winoka	3.4	2.2	2.2	.2	2.1
Citation	--	--	--	--	.9
Nugaines	--	--	2.4	.5	.8
Other & Unknown	11.1	9.4	9.0	9.4	12.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Newana	5.8	7.6	12.7	12.7	19.8
Len	--	--	--	4.0	11.9
Olaf	17.1	17.1	15.2	17.8	11.3
Fortuna	23.4	22.6	12.0	11.9	10.7
Lew	5.2	10.1	11.1	11.5	9.4
Solar	--	--	6.8	7.7	5.6
Prodax	9.9	10.7	12.7	7.6	5.5
711	--	--	--	2.7	3.7
Pondera	--	--	.2	.6	3.5
Butte	4.5	3.4	4.2	5.1	2.7
Tioga	8.5	6.2	5.6	5.6	2.3
Walera	--	--	--	--	1.4
Red River 68	--	.8	1.5	.2	1.0
Other & Unknown	--	.8	1.5	.2	1.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM					
Ward	18.4	36.5	28.9	40.9	33.1
Vic	--	--	1.3	7.8	25.3
Rolette	18.5	14.2	8.3	9.7	8.9
Cando	17.7	17.5	18.8	9.2	7.6
Crosby	12.2	13.5	8.1	9.3	2.6
Wells	18.3	12.2	5.9	3.5	2.2
Other & Unknown	14.9	6.1	28.7	19.6	20.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

A more detailed bulletin on Wheat & Barley varieties may be obtained by contacting this office.

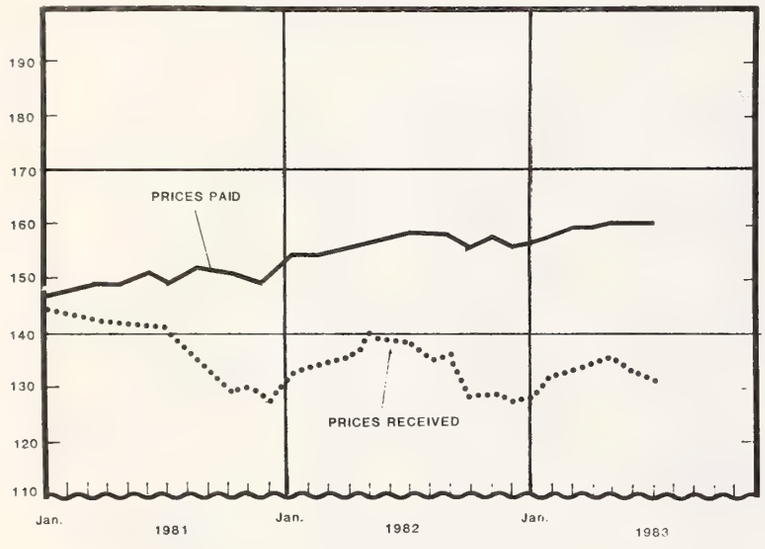
MONTANA

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA - Monthly Average July 1982	MONTANA - Monthly Average June 1983	MONTANA - July 15, 1983	U.S. July 15, 1983
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.41	3.62	3.45	3.28
Durum	Bu.	3.57	3.55	3.68	3.94
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.77	3.82	3.80
All Wheat	Bu.	3.60	3.69	3.66	3.37
Barley	Bu.	2.16	2.16	2.15	2.12
Oats	Bu.	1.91	1.48	1.45	1.50
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	47.00	50.00	50.00	77.30
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	45.00	45.00	56.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	47.00	50.00	50.00	72.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	57.90	61.60	59.90	59.80
Cows	Cwt.	41.40	41.10	40.10	40.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	45.20	48.30	46.00	56.20
Calves	Cwt.	61.00	65.10	61.50	60.40
Sheep	Cwt.	18.50	12.70	12.00	15.30
Lambs	Cwt.	52.80	51.40	50.00	51.90
Hogs	Cwt.	58.30	40.60	42.80	43.50
All Milk	Cwt.	12.70	12.80	12.90	13.20
Eggs	Doz.	.550	.535	.54	.514
Wool 2/	Lb.	.610	.610	.610	.714
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	143	146	143	131
All Crops	Pct.	146	150	149	123
Livestock & Products	Pct.	139	144	138	139

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	July 1982	June 1983	July 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	137	134	131
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	157	160	160
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	87	84	82
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	58	55	55

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.—Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

JULY 1 CATTLE & CALF INVENTORY
RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP
FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES
MORE MILK

NATIONAL CATTLE HERD STABLE

The Nation's cattle and calf inventory on July 1, 1983 totaled 124 million head--only slightly less than last July. The size of the National cattle herd has remained relatively unchanged since 1981, shrinking less than 1 percent during each of the last two years.

Heifers being kept for beef cow replacement are 5 percent under last year, signaling a further decline in the inventory numbers for next year. However, total heifers over 500 pounds are nearly unchanged from a year ago.

Historically, cattle cycles have shown a 7 to 9 year expansion trend before liquidation begins to occur. The expansion phase which began in 1980 lasted only 2 years before numbers began to shrink slightly. If market prices signal cattlement to expand, this downward trend could quickly reverse. Individual state level estimates are not available until January 1.

CATTLE and CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS and CALF CROP, UNITED STATES

JULY 1, 1981-83

CLASS	1981	1982	1983	1983 as Pct. of 1982
	(000 Head)			
Cattle and Calves	124,800	124,140	123,540	100
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	51,004	49,990	49,600	99
Beef Cows	40,084	38,970	38,520	99
Milk Cows	10,920	11,020	11,080	101
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	18,356	18,550	18,570	100
For Beef Cow Replacement	6,233	6,120	5,800	95
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,628	4,780	4,880	102
Other Heifers	7,495	7,650	7,890	103
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	16,253	16,340	16,840	103
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,638	2,610	2,560	98
Heifers, Steers & Bulls Under 500 Pounds	36,549	36,650	35,970	98
Calf Crop 1/	44,776	44,420	44,180	99

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

CALF CROP -- UNITED STATES

PERIOD	1981		1982		1983	
	Number (000)	Pct. of Total	Number (000)	Pct. of Total	Number (000)	Pct. of Total
Jan. 1-June 30	31,791	71.0	31,316	70.5	31,150	70.5
July 1-Dec. 30 1/	12,985	29.0	13,104	29.5	13,030	29.5
TOTAL	44,776	100.0	44,420	100.0	44,180	100.0

1/ Expected calf crop for 1983.

WHO OWNS MOST OF THE CATTLE?

UNITED STATES 1/

1.6% of the National cattle operations have over 500 head
-- They own 28.9% of the inventory.

14.4% of the National cattle operations have 100-499 head
-- They own 39.0% of the inventory.

15.9% of the National cattle operations have 50-99 head
--They own 15.7% of the inventory.

68.1% of the National cattle operations have 1-49 head
--They own 16.4% of the inventory.

MONTANA 1/

10.0% of Montana's cattle operations have over 500 head
--They own 52.0% of the inventory.

37.5% of Montana's cattle operations have 100-499 head
--They own 39.3% of the inventory.

16.3% of Montana's cattle operations have 50-99 head
--They own 5.7% of the inventory.

36.2% of Montana's cattle operations have 1-49 head
—They own 3.0% of the inventory.

1/ Figures refer to January 1, 1983

JUNE SLAUGHTER REPORT

Commercial red meat production in the United States for June 1983 totaled 3.28 billion pounds. January-June red meat production, at 18.7 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from the comparable period in 1982. The 1983 January-June red meat production changes from a year earlier by individual components were: beef, up 2 percent; veal, down 2 percent; pork, down slightly; lamb and mutton, up 4 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for June included 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, the same as June 1982.

BEEF PRODUCTION for June totaled 1.97 billion pounds. Total head killed was 3.13 million and live weight averaged 1,060 pounds per head.

VEAL PRODUCTION was 34 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 232 thousand head averaged 245 pounds live weight.

PORK PRODUCTION during the month totaled 1.25 billion pounds. Hog kill totaled 7.15 million head. Average live weight for the month was 246 pounds.

LAMB and MUTTON PRODUCTION was 29 million pounds. Sheep and lamb kill totaled 525 thousand head averaging 112 pounds live weight.

Commercial red meat production in Montana during June totaled 12.0 million pounds, 28 percent more than in May. The January-June accumulated total at 66.2 million pounds is 5 percent above the same period in 1982. Cattle slaughter in Montana during June totaled 8,900 head. The January-June total was 1 percent above last year. The State's hog kill during June was 38,300 head. For the January-June period the number of hogs killed this year was nearly 2 percent above last year.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 1 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and Calves on feed July 1, 1983 for slaughter market in the 13 states totaled 9.07 million head, 1 percent more than last year and 5 percent more than two years ago.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.66 million steers and steer calves, up slightly from last year and up 2 percent from 1981. This group represented 62 percent of the total July 1 number on feed compared with 63 percent in 1982. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.38 million, up 2 percent from last year and up 11 percent from 1981.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June quarter totaled 5.89 million, 2 percent greater than the same quarter one year ago, and 5 percent above the comparable period in 1981.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 5.52 million, up 6 percent from the same quarter last year, and 8 percent above the same quarter in 1981.

LARGE PORK SUPPLIES TO PRESSURE MEAT PRICES

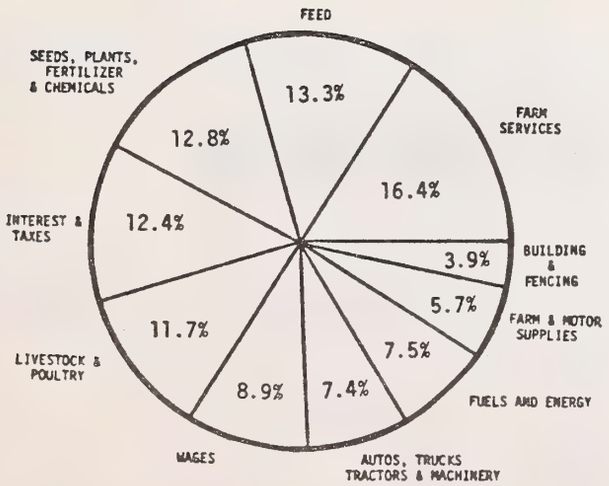
Total red meat and poultry supplies in second-half 1983 are expected to remain well above a year ago, largely the result of sharp increases in pork production. The larger pork supplies will have a negative impact on all livestock and poultry prices, with those for pork well below a year earlier. However, an improving economy and increased consumer confidence, along with the July 1 tax cut, will likely moderate the meat price decline. Per capita consumption of pork may increase by more than 2 pounds this fall compared with a year earlier, while poultry consumption will likely remain unchanged and beef consumption could decline by about a pound.

Pork production is expected to rise about 10 percent this summer, near earlier expectations. However, a much larger breeding inventory and a record-large number of pigs saved per litter this spring will push this fall's pork production up 17 percent from this summer and 15 percent from fall 1982.

Prices for barrows and gilts are expected to average $46 to $49 per cwt this summer. This is near the spring average, but well below the $62 recorded last summer or this past winter's $55. Prices this fall should drop even more, averaging only $38 to $42 per cwt. Expectations of low hog prices, high feed costs, and thus poor returns could result in herd reductions later this summer and fall.

Production of beef and poultry in the second half of the year is expected to be up only modestly from a year earlier. The largest beef supplies will likely occur during late summer through early fall, as the large May-June feedlot placements of cattle off the wheat grazeout acreage are marketed.

1982 EXPENDITURES AS % OF TOTAL



FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES – 1980, 1981 & 1982

UNITED STATES 1/

EXPENDITURE 2/	AVERAGE PER FARM 3/		
	1980	1981	1982
	Dollars		
Total Farm Production Expenditures 4/	55,440	54,218	54,643
Farm Services:	8,833	8,556	8,970
Custom Hire	818	808	744
Veternarian Services, Medicine, & Breeding Fees	424	298	291
Insurance	834	879	898
Marketing & Hired Transportation	954	1,102	1,350
Misc. Farm Business Expenses	697	700	737
Cash Rent	1,546	1,811	1,680
Share Rent	3,342	2,710	3,014
Leasing Expense	137	164	189
Feed:	8,168	7,413	7,263
Grains	2,628	2,226	2,245
Hays & Forages	790	729	738
Mixed or Formula Feeds	4,351	4,039	3,887
Livestock & Poultry & Other Related Expenses:	7,001	6,120	6,407
Cattle Purchased	5,685	4,848	5,147
Hogs & Pigs Purchased	445	607	586
Poultry Purchased	422	245	419
Interest: 4/	4,287	4,993	5,671
Farm Real Estate 4/	2,255	2,460	3,049
Operating Loans	2,031	2,532	2,622
Fuels & Energy:	3,997	4,195	4,103
Gasoline	1,369	1,384	1,199
Diesel Fuel	1,289	1,381	1,355
Electricity	726	812	878
Wage & Contract Labor:	4,113	4,065	4,837
Cash Wages	3,209	3,168	3,800
Total Perquisites Furnished	590	595	703
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Cond.: 5/	4,182	4,077	3,972
Custom Applied Fertilizer	1,358	1,441	1,276
Not Custom Applied Fertilizer	2,287	2,146	2,183
Farm & Motor Supplies:	2,871	2,940	3,115
Motor Veh. Operating Costs Other Than Fuels	1,978	2,029	2,109
Building, Fencing, Farm & Land Improvements:	2,762	2,617	2,154
New Bldg. Contruction & Remodeling	1,456	1,148	1,036
Bldg. Maintenance & Repairs & Fencing	403	403	364
Land & Farm--New Construction Improvements	613	777	450
Tractors & Self-Propelled Machinery:	2,459	2,403	1,715
Tractors	1,509	1,621	1,084
Self-Propelled Machinery	943	781	631
Other Farm Machinery, Implements & Livestock Equipment:	1,904	1,822	1,468
Other Farm Machinery	1,404	1,460	1,099
Seeds and Plants Purchased: 7/	1,492	1,617	1,549
Agricultural Chemicals: 6/	1,265	1,459	1,471
Taxes: 4/	1,087	1,026	1,091
Farm Real Estate	817	845	873
Autos, Trucks & Other Motor Vehicles:	1,010	910	852
Trucks	746	632	606

1/ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii. 2/ Farm Share. 3/ Total expenditure divided by official number of farms published by SRS. 4/ Landlord expenditures for real estate interest and taxes are excluded. 5/ Includes custom applications and materials. 6/ Includes seed treatments. 7/ Excludes bedding plants and nursery stocks purchased for immediate resale.

MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES

The Nation's dairy herds produced 36.5 billion pounds of milk during the April-June quarter of 1983--2 percent more than the same period last year. The number of cows on hand averaged 11.1 million, up less than 1 percent.

Accumulated milk production during the first 6 months of 1983 totaled 70.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the same period in 1982, and 4 percent above the 1981 period.

MONTANA MILK OUTPUT UP

Montana's dairy herds produced 92 million pounds of milk during the April-June quarter, 7 percent above a year ago for the same period. Cow numbers, at 29,000 were up nearly 4 percent from last year.

APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	April-June Milk Cows		April-June Milk Prod.	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	---thousands---		--million lbs.--	
CALIF	939	943	3,667	3,651
IDAHO	174	175	589	596
MINN	910	890	2,912	3,009
MT	28	29	86	92
N DAK	94	96	291	283
ORE	99	101	344	359
S DAK	164	165	481	484
WASH	212	217	829	886
WISC	1,829	1,827	6,273	6,239
WYO	12.0	11.9	35.8	34.9
U.S.	11,004	11,068	35,723	36,453

PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS

APRIL 1 - JULY 23, 1983

STATION	1983	Normal 1/	Pct. of Normal
	-----inches----		%
Hamilton	5.24	4.96	106
Kalispell	8.10	5.77	140
Polson	7.90	6.66	119
Belgrade	8.73	6.62	132
Dillon Airport	6.62	5.25	126
Cut Bank	2.23	6.85	33
Havre	8.48	5.83	146
Conrad	5.91	6.79	87
Ft. Benton	8.63	7.70	112
Malta	6.91	6.66	104
Great Falls	8.02	7.62	105
Lewistown	7.87	9.05	87
Harlowton	6.90	7.05	98
Stanford	8.61	8.41	102
Billings	4.33	7.08	61
Wyola	4.51	8.01	56
Glasgow	5.10	6.03	85
Medicine Lake	4.58	7.49	61
Sidney	4.50	7.04	64
Broadus	3.22	7.31	44
Miles City Airport	3.82	7.35	52

1/ For period 1951-1980.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Manufactured Dairy Products
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Production Forecast:
Acreage Down
Farm Prices Drop
Pasture & Range
Mink Production
featuring.....Jefferson County

U.S. CROP ACRES JUNE 1, 1983

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED	
	1982	1983	1982	Ind. 1983
	-----(000)----		-----(000-----	
Winter Wheat	66,351	62,456	58,347	47,667
Durum	4,350	2,545	4,217	2,460
Hard Spring Wheat	16,576	11,639	16,277	11,267
All Wheat	87,277	76,640	78,841	61,394
Corn	81,909	60,129	73,152	52,464
Sorghum	16,144	11,603	14,247	10,162
Oats	14,211	20,240	10,561	9,053
Barley	9,634	10,548	9,113	9,905
Rye	2,621	2,765	715	843
Soybeans	72,162	63,345	70,783	62,183
Flaxseed	860	615	815	590
Sunflower	5,015	3,105	4,924	3,058
All Hay	--	--	60,679	60,344
Dry Beans	1,903.5	1,186.0	1,764.4	1,140.0
Sugarbeets	1,057.2	1,070.5	1,030.8	1,048.0
Fall Potatoes	1,117.4	1,076.6	1,087.7	1,053.9

MONTANA CROP ACRES JUNE 1, 1983

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED	
	1982	1983	1982	Ind. 1983
	----(000)---		----(000)---	
Winter Wheat	2,450	2,550	2,120	2,280
Durum	350	210	340	205
Hard Spring Wheat	2,950	1,900	2,900	1,860
All Wheat	5,750	4,660	5,360	4,345
Corn	80	55	14	11
Oats	260	210	150	150
Barley	1,650	1,950	1,560	1,850
Dry Beans	8.5	3.0	8.4	3.0
Sugarbeets	43.1	41.5	43.0	41.4
Alfalfa Hay	--	--	1,300	1,120
All Other Hay	--	--	1,150	1,250
Fall Potatoes	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.2

NATION'S FOOD and FEED GRAIN ACRES LOWEST SINCE 1972

The Nation's farmers, responding to government acreage control programs, planted 16 percent fewer acres to feed grains and 12 percent less to food grains than last year. The acreage intended for harvest as grain is down 24 percent for feed grains and 22 percent for all food grains, reflecting program compliance requirements. Oilseed crops seeded acreage is 15 percent less than planted in 1982.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Corn plantings down 27%, harvested acres for grain down 28%.

Sorghum plantings down 28%, harvested acres for grain down 29%.

Oats plantings up 42%, harvested acres for grain down 14%.

Barley plantings up 9%, harvested acres for grain up 9%.

All Wheat plantings down 12%, harvested acres down 22%.

Soybeans plantings down 12%, harvested acres down 12%.

All Hay harvested acres down 1%.

Sugarbeets plantings up 1%, harvested acres up 2%.

Dry Edible Beans plantings down 38%, harvested acres down 35%.

MONTANA CROP ACRES DOWN SHARPLY

Montana producers expect to harvest more acres of winter wheat and barley than last year, but fewer acres of most other crops. Total wheat acreage for harvest in Montana is estimated at 4.3 million acres--down 19 percent from 1982 and the smallest acreage for harvest since 1973. Winter wheat for harvest is up 8 percent. Spring wheat acres for harvest are down 36 percent, and durum wheat is down 40 percent.

Barley acreage for harvest is up 19 percent and would be the largest acreage for harvest since 1973. Oats acres are unchanged while all hay acres for harvest are down 3 percent.

JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana farmers are expecting to harvest 1 percent fewer bushels of winter wheat than last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 35 bushels, 3 bushels under last year, while acres for harvest are up 8 percent.

The Barley production forecast is up 11 percent from last year and would be the largest crop on record.

Oats production is expected to be down 2 percent from a year ago because of a 1 bushel per acre decline in yield.

Montana's sweet cherry crop is down 56 percent from last year because cool weather during bloom resulted in poor pollination.

The first production forecast for spring wheat and durum will be released August 11.

U.S. -- JULY 1 CROP FORECAST

CROP	HARVESTED ACRES		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
	----(000)---		----Bu.-----		-----(000)-----	
Winter Wheat	58,347	47,642	36.1	40.7	2,108,246	1,937,338
Barley	9,113	9,905	57.3	56.5	522,387	559,967
Oats	10,561	9,049	58.4	57.4	616,981	519,002
Sweet Cherries	--	--	--	--	158.2 1/	156.2 1/

1/ 1,000 tons.

MONTANA -- JULY 1 CROP FORECAST

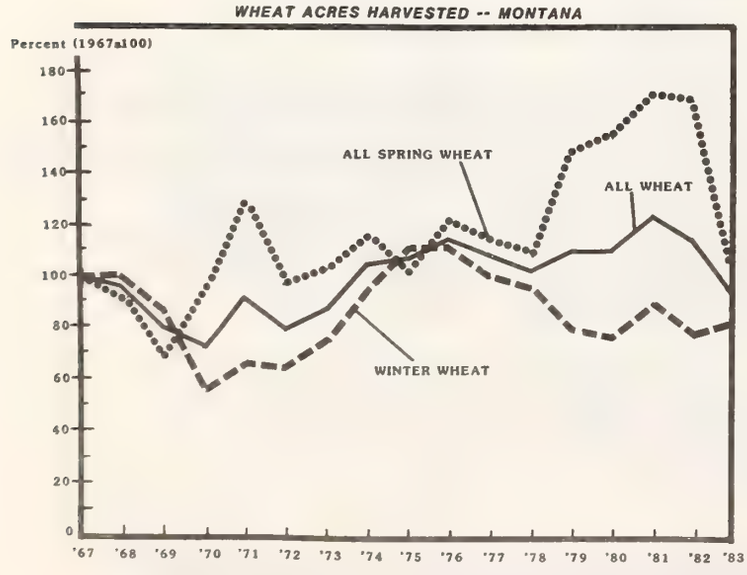
CROP	HARVESTED ACRES		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
	---(000)----		-----Bu.-----		----(000)----	
Winter Wheat	2,120	2,280	38.0	35.0	80,560	79,800
Barley	1,560	1,850	49.0	46.0	76,440	85,100
Oats	150	150	51.0	50.0	7,650	7,500
Sweet Cherries	--	--	--	--	3,400 1/	1,500 1/

1/ Actual tons.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1983 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Change	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Change
	--------(000) Bushels--------			----------(000) Bushels--------		
Northwest	611.0	700.0	+15	3,028.9	2,573.0	-15
North Central	41,538.0	38,700.0	- 7	40,713.7	47,859.0	+18
Northeast	8,104.0	10,650.0	+31	8,694.0	10,620.0	+22
Central	14,041.0	12,350.0	-12	13,450.9	12,396.0	- 8
Southwest	1,736.0	1,600.0	- 8	3,483.7	3,278.0	- 6
South Central	8,300.0	8,500.0	+ 2	4,341.0	6,162.0	+42
Southeast	6,230.0	7,300.0	+17	2,727.8	2,212.0	-19
STATE	80,560.0	79,800.0	- 1	76,440.0	85,100.0	+11

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.



MINK PRODUCTION

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1982 totaled 4.08 million pelts. There was no survey made for 1981 production. Wisconsin, the major mink state, produced 1.16 million pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: Standard - 32.5 percent; Ranch Wild - 10.1 percent; Demi-Buff - 18.0 percent; Pastel - 15.9 percent; Pearl - 6.8 percent; and Violet - 4.9 percent. The remaining color classes account for 11.8 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1982 crop year were valued at 119.9 million dollars. The average price per pelt for the 1982 crop year was $29.40, compared with an average price of $32.20 in 1981 and $35.30 in 1980.

There were 1,154 mink farms producing pelts in 1982. Leading states were Wisconsin with 262 farms, Utah with 175, and Minnesota with 144 farms.

FARM PRICES LOWER

Prices received by Montana farmers during June were lower for wheat, oats, beef cattle, calves, hogs and milk. Only barley, lambs and eggs increased in price during the month. However, compared with a year earlier wheat, hay, beef cattle, calves, milk and eggs are higher in price. Barley, oats, lambs and hogs are lower priced this June compared to a year ago. Price changes from last year are mostly small, except for hogs.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U. S.
		Monthly Avg.		June 15,	June 15,
		June 1982	May 1983	1983	1983
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.65	3.55	3.40
Durum	Bu.	3.38	3.67	3.65	3.95
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.79	3.88	3.80	3.80
All Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.76	3.70	3.48
Barley	Bu.	2.34	2.19	2.30	2.47
Oats	Bu.	1.96	1.48	1.40	1.48
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	50.00	50.00	82.20
All Other Hay	Ton	35.00	45.00	45.00	59.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	50.00	50.00	75.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	58.60	62.00	61.80	62.60
Cows	Cwt	40.90	41.50	39.80	41.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	46.00	53.10	50.80	58.80
Calves	Cwt	62.90	67.70	65.80	65.20
Sheep	Cwt	16.00	15.10	12.40	13.40
Lambs	Cwt	52.80	49.60	51.90	56.70
Hogs	Cwt	58.40	44.80	42.20	44.50
All Milk	Cwt	12.70	13.00	12.80	13.20
Eggs	Doz.	.461	.531	.535	.533
Wool 2/	Lb.	.630	.610	.610	.700
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	145	154	150	134
All Crops	Pct.	150	152	151	126
Livestock & Products	Pct.	140	155	149	142

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

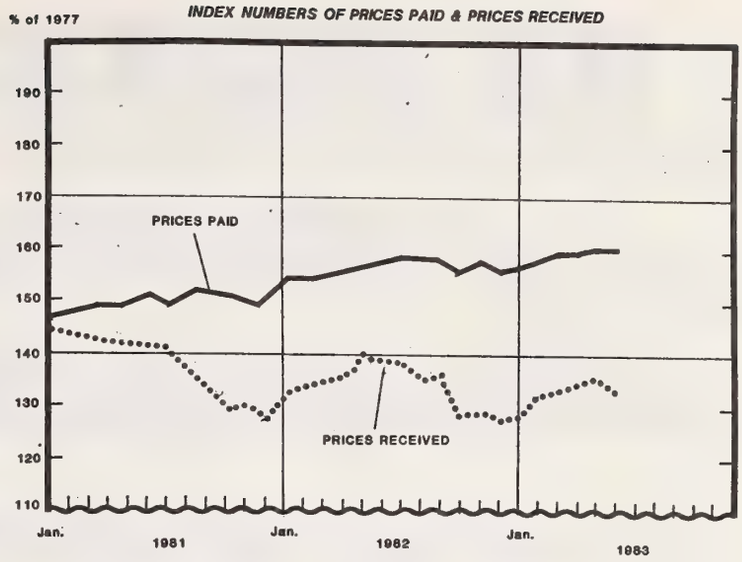
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	June 1982	May 1983	June 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	138	137	134
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	156	160	160
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	88	86	84
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	58	57	56

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

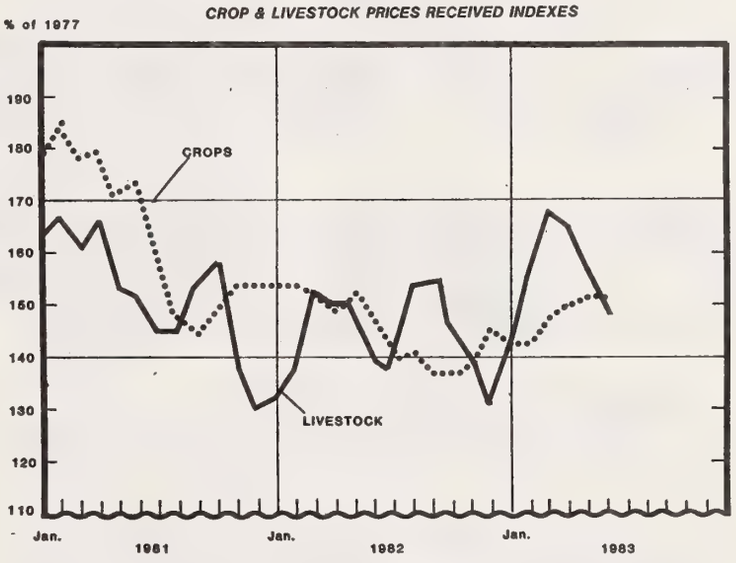
UNITED STATES

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION VARIES

Pastures and ranges in all of western Montana and in most of the southern counties are in good condition. In the central and northern parts of the state ranges are rated poor to fair. Unseasonably cool weather and lack of general rains stunted grass growth in much of the state during May and June.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION – JULY 1, 1982
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1981	1982	1983
	Pct.		
Northwest	99	92	85
North Central	96	96	70
Northeast	84	98	70
Central	103	97	75
Southwest	108	92	87
South Central	101	100	80
Southeast	80	101	83
STATE	95	97	77

FEATURING..... JEFFERSON COUNTY

Created in February of 1865, Jefferson County is one of the original counties of the Territory of Montana. With a land area of 1,047,680 acres it has within its boundaries parts of the Deer Lodge and Helena National Forests. The Boulder River traverses the county from west to east.

In 1981 all cash receipts from farming in Jefferson County totaled $5,115,000. That figure brought the county a ranking of 52nd. Livestock receipts were $3,631,000 and also ranked 52nd, while crops brought in $1,371,000 and ranked 49th. Government payments made up the rest of the total with $113,000.

Jefferson County ranked 44th for both cattle and hog numbers in 1981, and 49th in the state for number of sheep. The county ranked 32nd for hay production and 36th in winter wheat production in 1981. Some barley and oats are also grown.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1981	1,047,680
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	361,569
Number of Farms		1978 1/	187
Crops			
All Wheat	Acres	1981	8,500
Winter Wheat	Acres	1981	7,200
All Hay	Acres	1981	28,000
Barley	Acres	1981	1,600
Oats	Acres	1981	800

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1981	27,500
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1981	10,700
Livestock			
Cattle	No. Head	1981	25,400
Hogs	No. Head	1980	1,500
Sheep	No. Head	1981	900

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Cattle Inventory & Calf Crop

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.—Editor

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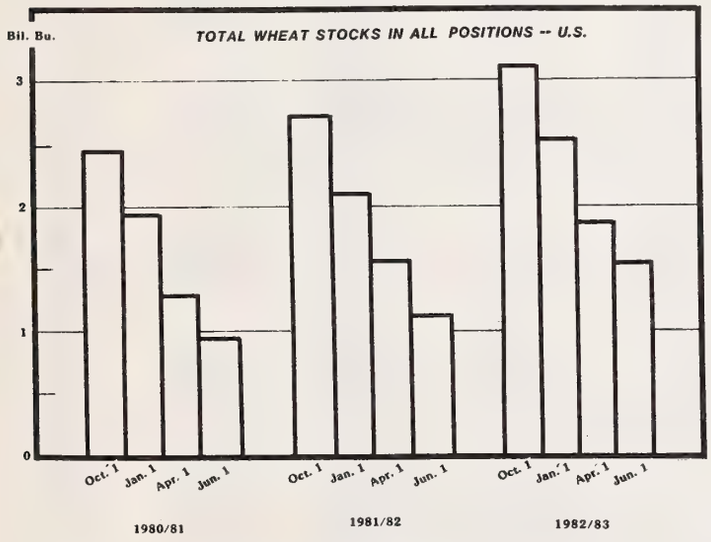
HIGHLIGHTS:

RECORD WHEAT STOCKS
SLAUGHTER UP
HOG NUMBERS UP
MORE EGGS



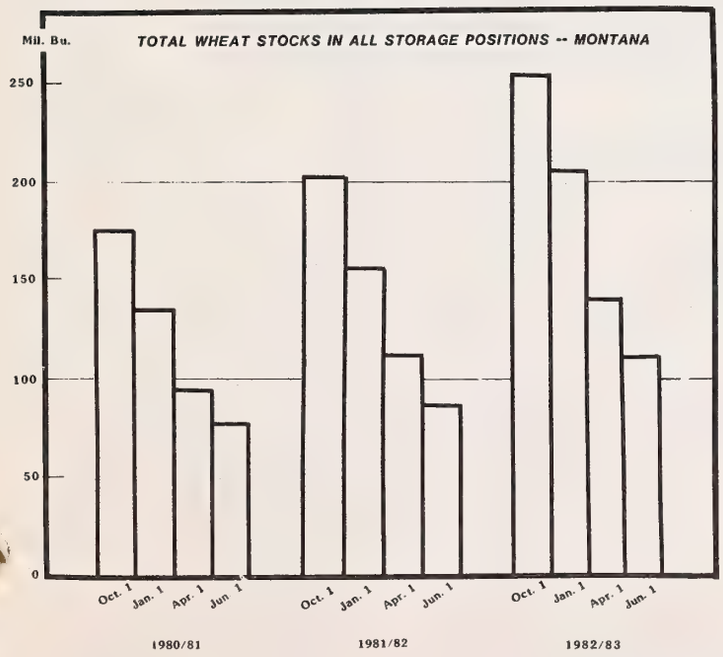
NATIONAL WHEAT STORAGE BIN BULGES

Old crop wheat in all storage positions on June 1, 1983 totaled a record high 1.54 billion bushels, 32 percent greater than the 1.16 billion bushels on hand a year earlier, and 56 percent more than 2 years ago. Farm stocks accounted for 45 percent of the total compared with 50 percent last year.

Disappearance of all wheat during the April-May quarter at 336 million bushels compares with 393 million bushels a year ago. For the June 1982-May 1983 marketing year disappearance totaled 2.43 billion bushels, 7 percent less than last year.

Of the total wheat in storage, 1.24 billion bushels were under government control of which 1.06 billion were in the farmer-owned reserve.

Durum stocks totaled a record high 142 million bushels, up 32 percent. Barley stocks reached 223 million bushels, 49 percent more than last year. Oats in storage on June 1 totaled 229 million bushels, up 51 percent from a year ago.



MONTANA STOCKS RECORD HIGH

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators June 1, 1983 totaled a record high 113.6 million bushels--29 percent more than a year ago. On farm storages on June 1 held a record high 93.6 million bushels or 82 percent of the total wheat stocks.

Winter wheat stored in the state at 49.1 million bushels was up 12 percent from last year. All spring wheat at 64.6 million bushels was up 45 percent. The durum portion at 14.5 million bushels was 78 percent above last year. Barley stocks in all positions at 19.6 million bushels were over 3 times larger than last year and the largest amount on hand June 1 since June 1, 1979. Oats in storage at 3.6 million bushels were almost double those on hand June 1, 1982.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JUNE 1, 1983 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1982	April 1, 1983 *	June 1, 1983	% Change From 1982	June 1, 1982	April 1, 1983 *	June 1, 1983
	-----Thousand Bushels-----			--Pct.--	-------Thousand Bushels-------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	74,317	115,643	93,616	+ 26	581,007	886,331	694,826
Off farms 1/	13,940	24,974	20,000	+ 43	582,902	990,688	846,534
T O T A L	88,257	140,617	113,616	+ 29	1,163,909	1,877,019	1,541,360
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	35,479	43,430	38,086	+ 7	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	8,269	14,354	10,974	+ 33	--	--	--
T O T A L	43,748	57,784	49,060	+ 12	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	38,838	72,213	55,530	+ 43	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	5,671	10,620	9,026	+ 59	--	--	--
T O T A L	44,509	82,833	64,556	+ 45	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On farms	--	--	--	--	90,530	130,138	117,095
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	17,145	34,039	25,208
T O T A L	8,135	15,070	14,470	+ 78	107,675	164,177	142,303
RYE							
On farms	--	--	--	--	1,972	5,434	4,129
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,123	2,527	2,283
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	3,095	7,961	6,412
CORN							
On farms	51	280	140	+175	2,758,514	4,410,985	3,250,768
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,145,571	1,953,396	1,828,994
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	3,904,085	6,364,381	5,079,762
OATS							
On farms	1,694	4,055	3,443	+103	127,167	272,508	190,576
Off farms 1/	183	333	200	+ 9	24,804	59,945	38,540
T O T A L	1,877	4,388	3,643	+ 94	151,971	332,453	229,116
BARLEY							
On farms	5,108	28,283	16,817	+229	94,052	198,461	142,878
Off farms 1/	1,077	4,929	2,800	+160	55,687	98,198	79,716
T O T A L	6,185	33,212	19,617	+217	149,739	296,659	222,594
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	--	--	--	--	93,021	148,814	94,910
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	286,812	471,500	434,684
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	379,833	620,314	529,594

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	W H E A T			B A R L E Y		
	June 1, 1982	April 1, 1983 *	June 1, 1983	June 1, 1982	April 1, 1983 *	June 1, 1983
Northwest	.4	1.4	1.6	.4	1.6	1.2
North Central	32.8	63.1	56.0	2.6	17.0	8.2
Northeast	32.4	41.7	33.2	1.2	3.1	2.6
Central	9.8	14.3	9.8	.6	5.9	4.3
Southwest	1.0	2.5	1.6	.5	1.5	1.2
South Central	6.8	11.2	7.5	.6	3.3	1.7
Southeast	5.1	6.4	3.9	.3	.8	.4
STATE	88.3	140.6	113.6	6.2	33.2	19.6

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. *Revised.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS -- MAY 31, 1983

MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	----------(000 Bu.)----------			
Reserve	44,432	83,941	982	8,354
Under Loan	15,151	13,416	2,361	4,070

1/ These stocks are included in the June 1 total stocks estimates.

WHEAT PRODUCTION and CARRYOVER

STATE	Carryover Stocks June 1, 1983	June 1, 1983 Carryover as % of 1982 Production	June 1, 1982 Carryover as % of 1981 Production
	--000 Bu.--	%	%
MT	113,616	62	50
COLO	60,027	69	60
KS	261,962	57	57
NE	75,796	75	64
N DAK	312,012	94	64
OKLA	100,366	44	35
S DAK	100,206	101	88
TEX	137,386	95	43
PLAINS STATES	1,161,371	71	57
ID	39,005	41	33
ORE	27,493	43	33
WASH	85,114	61	38
PACIFIC NW	151,612	51	36
ILL	20,863	31	19
IND	5,197	11	6
MICH	6,720	27	22
MINN	104,418	82	71
MO	16,737	22	13
OHIO	12,420	23	15
CORN BELT	166,355	42	30
ALA	1,190	5	0
ARK	2,854	4	1
GA	1,465	3	2
KY	1,594	6	3
MISS	971	2	1
NC	2,557	12	12
SC	946	5	4
TENN	3,091	9	7
VA	1,342	10	5
SOUTHERN STATES	16,010	5	3
CALIF	5,051	6	5
OTHER STATES	40,961	42	40
U.S.	1,541,360	55	42

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's laying flocks produced 48 million eggs between March 1 and May 31, 1983. The average number of layers during the quarter was 798,000. Compared with a year earlier, egg production increased 7 percent and the number of layers increased 6 percent.

The Nation's laying flock produced 17.2 billion eggs during the same quarter, 2 percent less than a year ago. The total number of layers for the quarter averaged 275 million, 4 percent below last year.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY INCREASES

The U.S. hog inventory on June 1, 1983 at 57.5 million head is up 11 percent from last year's relatively low level, but 4 percent under 2 years ago.

The breeding herd is up 9 percent from last year but still 3 percent under 2 years ago. These estimates indicate that about 2.5 million gilts were added to the U.S. breeding herd during the December 1982-May 1983 period, the largest gilt retention for this period since 1979. December-May sow slaughter at 1.9 million was 15 percent below the comparable period in 1982.

The U.S. market hog inventory was up 11 percent with the largest increase in the under 60 pound weight group which shows a 15 percent gain. A larger than normal ratio of December-May pig crop to June 1 market hogs indicates favorable weight gains and shorter finishing time. Death losses continued a lower than normal trend.

The U.S. pig crop during the December-May period was 14 percent above a year ago. This reflects an 11 percent increase in sows farrowed and a record high December-May litter rate of 7.53 pigs per litter.

The U.S. intentions to farrow for the June-November period is 9 percent above a year ago. This suggests continued expansion but at a slower rate.

HOGS and PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, JUNE 1

SOWS FARROWING and PIG CROP, 1981-83, UNITED STATES

ITEM	1981	1982	1983	1983 as % of 1982
	---------1,000 Head-------			Pct.
Inv. number-June 1				
All hogs and pigs	59,740	51,990	57,450	111
Kept for breeding	8,358	7,389	8,074	109
Market	51,382	44,601	49,376	111
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:				
Under 60 pounds	23,069	18,941	21,855	115
60-119 pounds	12,204	10,954	11,915	109
120-179 pounds	9,041	8,200	8,764	107
180 pounds & over	7,068	6,506	6,842	105
Sows Farrowing:				
Dec.-Feb. 1/	2,914	2,579	2,740	106
March-May	3,526	3,014	3,478	115
Dec.-May 1/	6,440	5,593	6,218	111
June-August	3,196	2,857		
Sept.-Nov.	3,062	2,958		
June-November	6,258	5,815 2/	6,319	109
Pig Crop:				
Dec.-Feb. 1/	21,046	18,393	20,353	111
March-May	26,554	22,642	26,453	117
Dec.-May 1/	47,600	41,035	46,806	114
June-August	23,540	21,130		
Sept.-Nov.	22,636	21,964		
June-November	46,176	43,094 3/	46,450	108
YEAR	93,776	84,129 3/	93,256	111

1/ December preceding year. 2/ Intentions. 3/ Average number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to compute indicated June-November pig crop.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP

Commercial red meat production in the United States for May 1983 was 3.15 billion pounds, up 4 percent from April. The January-May accumulated red meat production totaled 15.4 billion pounds. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. Kill days for May included 22 weekdays (1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production during May totaled 1.86 billion pounds, up 8 percent from April. Total head killed was 2.96 million and liveweight averaged 1,065 pounds per head. Veal production was 32 million pounds, unchanged from April. Calf slaughter of 214 thousand head averaged 254 pounds live weight. Pork production totaled 1.23 billion pounds, a 2 percent decrease from a month earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.03 million head. Average live weight for the month was 245 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 30 million pounds, up 4 percent from April. Head kill of 527 thousand averaged 113 pounds live weight.

Commercial red meat production in Montana during May at 9.4 million pounds was 4 percent under April. The January-May accumulated total was 54.1 million pounds.

There were 6,500 head of cattle slaughtered, and 31,900 head of hogs killed during May. Sheep and lambs slaughtered totaled 200 head.

PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS

APRIL 1 - JUNE 25

Stations	1983	Normal 1/	Pct. of Normal
	-inches-	-inches-	-pct.-
Hamilton	2.43	4.11	59
Kalispell	5.14	4.77	107
Polson	4.55	5.37	85
Belgrade	5.62	5.49	102
Dillon Airport	2.53	4.25	60
Cut Bank	1.59	5.28	30
Havre	4.41	4.51	98
Conrad	3.74	5.45	69
Fort Benton	3.59	6.45	56
Malta	2.52	5.03	50
Great Falls	3.42	6.40	53
Lewistown	4.18	7.37	57
Stanford	3.53	6.80	52
Billings	3.62	6.13	59
Wyola	5.61	6.18	91
Glasgow	2.26	4.17	54
Sidney	3.09	5.02	62
Broadus	2.92	5.47	53
Miles City Airport	2.94	5.42	54

1/ For Period 1951-1980

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

June Acreage
Mfg. Dairy Products
Farm Prices
Crop Production
  Grains, Cherries
  Pasture & Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

WINTER WHEAT FORECAST
PASTURE & RANGE
AGRICULTURAL PRICES
MILK & POULTRY: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION & INCOME
featuring.....FLATHEAD COUNTY

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
BY DISTRICT - JUNE 1, 1983

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1982	Ind. 1983	Pct. Change
	--000 Bushels--		
Northwest	611	715	+17
North Central	41,538	39,196	- 6
Northeast	8,104	10,175	+25
Central	14,041	12,600	-10
Southwest	1,736	1,554	-10
South Central	8,300	8,360	+ 1
Southeast	6,230	7,200	+16
STATE	80,560	79,800	- 1

CHERRY PRODUCTION

This year's cherry crop in Montana is forecast at 1,500 tons, less than half of last year's record high production. Bloom was heavy, but cool, damp weather limited bee activity and pollination was poor in most orchards.

Sweet cherry production in the six western states is expected to total 128 thousand tons, 6 percent more than last year and virtually the same as 1981.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DECREASES

The Nation's winter wheat crop is forecast to be 11 percent less than last year's record high. The Plains states, with 54 percent of U.S. production, are down 10 percent. The three Pacific Northwest states show a 3 percent increase, and the Corn Belt states are up 5 percent. The Southern states have the sharpest decrease at 29 percent. These states produce mostly soft red winter wheat and now account for 11 percent of the national total compared with 13 percent last year. In 1980, these states had only 7 percent of the total.

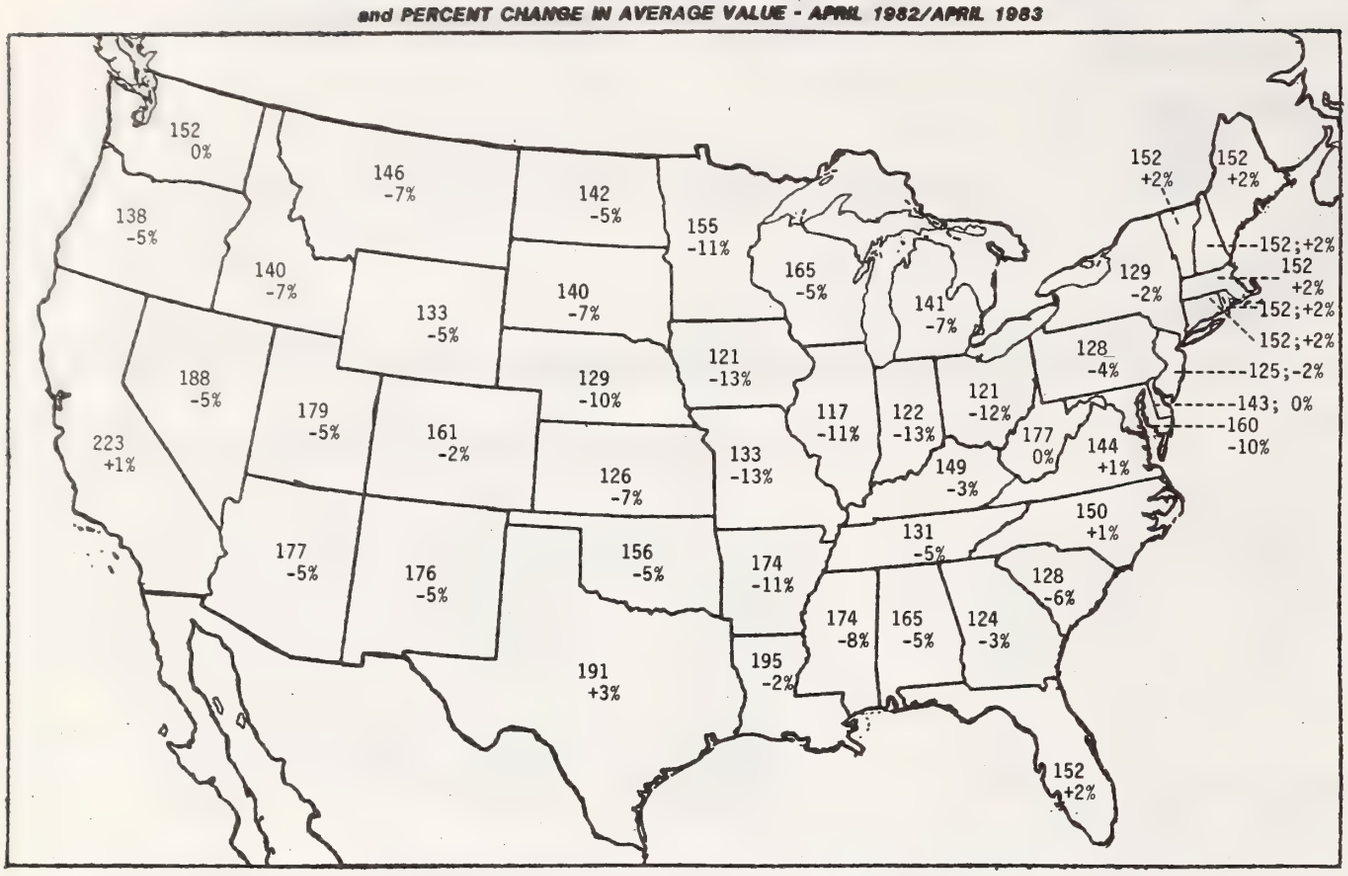
Montana's winter wheat crop is down only 1 percent from last year.

WINTER WHEAT

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1982	1983	1982	1983	% Chg.
	--000 Acres--		--000 Bushels--		
COLO	3,000	2,500	84,000	82,500	- 2
KS	13,200	10,600	462,000	413,400	-11
MT	2,120	2,100	80,560	79,800	- 1
NEBR	2,900	2,350	101,500	89,300	-12
S DAK	1,100	1,200	37,400	45,600	+22
TX	6,000	4,600	144,000	138,000	- 5
OKLA	6,900	4,400	227,700	162,800	-29
PLAINS STATES	35,220	27,750	1,137,160	1,011,400	-10
ID	920	750	52,440	46,500	-12
ORE	1,100	990	60,500	60,390	--
WASH	2,560	2,400	125,440	139,200	+11
PACIFIC NW	4,580	4,140	239,380	246,090	+ 3
ILL	1,500	1,450	67,500	71,050	+ 5
IND	1,080	970	46,440	46,560	--
MICH	600	700	24,600	36,400	+48
MO	2,230	1,800	75,820	68,400	-10
OHIO	1,250	1,150	55,000	59,800	+ 9
CORN BELT	6,660	6,070	269,360	282,210	+ 5
ALA	825	550	26,400	18,150	-31
ARK	1,760	1,300	68,640	48,100	-30
GA	1,480	1,040	48,840	32,240	-34
KY	675	580	26,325	22,620	-14
MISS	1,050	600	39,900	20,400	-49
NC	600	480	21,600	17,280	-20
SC	550	420	19,800	12,180	-38
TENN	935	780	33,660	28,080	-17
VA	370	305	14,060	12,505	-11
SOUTHERN STATES	8,245	6,055	299,225	211,555	-29
CALIF	1,000	780	70,000	53,040	-24
OTHER STATES	2,642	2,213	94,121	78,621	-16
U.S.	58,347	47,008	2,108,246	1,882,916	-11

FARM REAL ESTATE VALUE PER ACRE - APRIL 1983 1/

and PERCENT CHANGE IN AVERAGE VALUE - APRIL 1982/APRIL 1983

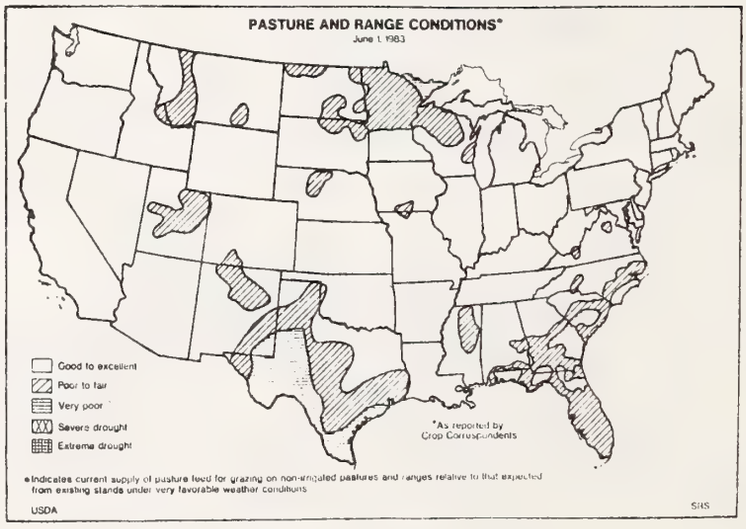


1/ Average value per acre of land and buildings.

PASTURE and RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pastures and ranges were in generally good condition on June 1, but soil moisture was becoming short in many areas by the end of May. Growth of range grass was slow as more moisture is needed for optimum growth. Livestock producers in the drier areas were concerned about stockwater supplies if moisture is not received to replenish stockwater dams and reservoirs.

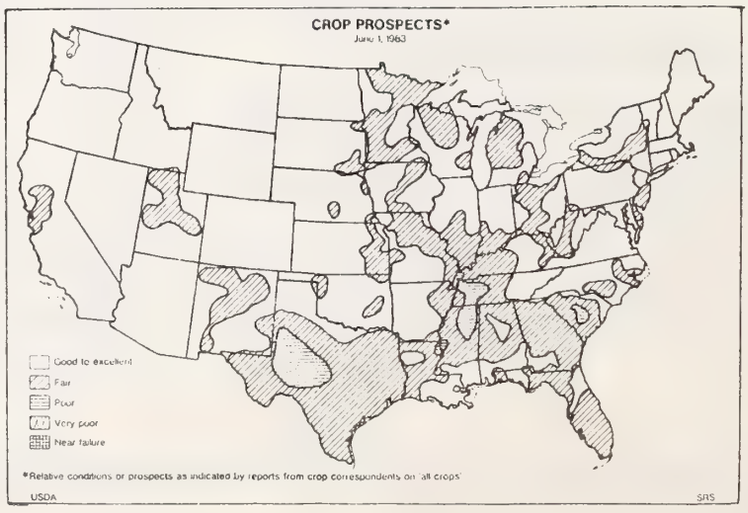
As of the end of May about 60 percent of the cattle and sheep had been moved to summer ranges. Normally, about 75 percent are moved by this time.


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
June 1, 1983
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents
*Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions
USDA
SRS

MONTANA PASTURE and RANGE CONDITION -- JUNE 1

by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1981	1982	1983
Northwest	102	98	85
North Central	48	84	83
Northeast	23	52	88
Central	57	90	83
Southwest	95	98	82
South Central	75	92	84
Southeast	22	65	90
STATE	57	82	85



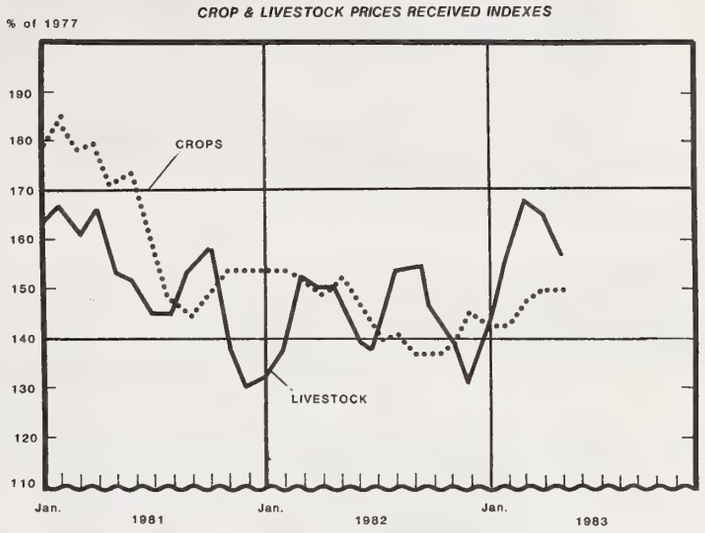
AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

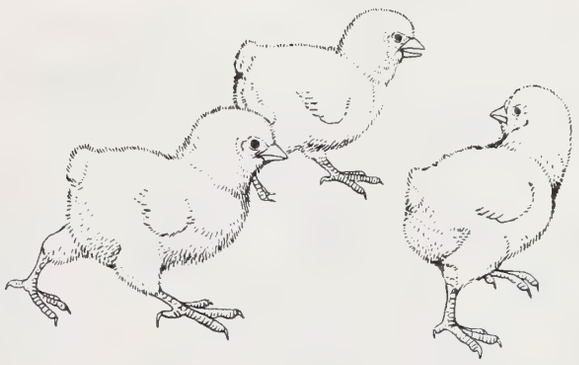
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average May 1982	MONTANA Monthly Average April 1983	MONTANA May 15, 1983	U. S. May 15, 1983
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.60	3.53	3.61
Durum	Bu.	3.73	3.60	3.76	3.99
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.81	3.71	3.80	3.80
All Wheat	Bu.	3.70	3.64	3.65	3.69
Barley	Bu.	2.38	2.20	2.25	2.32
Oats	Bu.	1.75	1.52	1.48	1.53
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	50.00	50.00	90.00
All Other Hay	Ton	37.00	45.00	45.00	60.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	50.00	50.00	83.30
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	60.60	63.70	62.50	63.50
Cows	Cwt	42.60	42.10	41.50	41.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	50.70	57.50	54.10	59.80
Calves	Cwt	63.20	67.00	65.80	66.60
Sheep	Cwt	18.90	13.00	12.00	16.00
Lambs	Cwt	56.60	53.80	50.00	59.80
Hogs	Cwt	53.40	45.70	45.60	46.70
All Milk	Cwt	12.90	13.30	13.10	13.50
Eggs	Doz.	.550	.539	.531	.553
Wool 2/	Lb.	.800	.610	.610	.655
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	151	156	153	137
All Crops	Pct.	152	149	149	129
Livestock & Products	Pct.	150	164	156	144

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

MONTANA

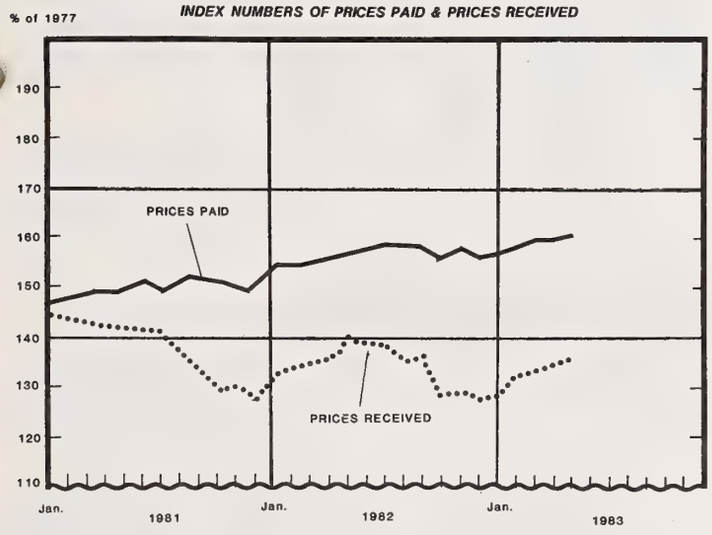
CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES





UNITED STATES

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



POULTRY: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, INCOME 1980-82

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1980/81	MONTANA 1981/82	U.S. 1980/81	U.S. 1981/82
All Chickens					
On Hand Dec. 1	Thous. Head	965	940	392,110	384,838
Chickens Sold	Thous. Head	725	750	238,735	242,281
Cash Receipts					
Chickens Sold	Thous. Dols.	174	180	129,684	118,953
Eggs Produced	Million	174	188	69,827	69,680
Cash Receipts					
Eggs	Thous. Dols.	8,835	8,479	3,648,525	3,435,564
Gross Income 1/					
Chickens & Eggs	Thous. Dols	9,194	8,823	3,805,679	3,579,664

1/ Total of cash receipts plus value of home consumption.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	May 1982	April 1983	May 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	139	136	137
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	156	159	160
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	89	86	86
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	59	57	57

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

MILK: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, INCOME 1981-82

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1981	MONTANA 1982	U.S. 1981	U.S. 1982
Milk Cows					
Number	Thous. Head	29	29	10,923	11,026
Total Production					
Milk	Mil. Lbs.	331	331	133,013	135,795
Milkfat	Mil. Lbs.	12	12	4,843	4,961
Milk & Cream					
Marketed	Mil. Lbs.	314	322	130,709	133,444
Cash Receipts	Thous. Dols.	42,372	42,833	18,127,556	18,274,143
Value of Milk Produced 1/	Thous. Dols.	44,652	45,353	18,446,696	18,597,726

1/ Includes cash receipts plus value of home use plus value fed to calves.

FEATURING..... FLATHEAD COUNTY

Flathead County lies in the extreme northwestern portion of Montana. It was created in February of 1893 and has a land area of 3,388,160 acres. Major portions of the Flathead National Forest lie within the boundaries of the county. The northeastern corner of Flathead County is occupied by 577 majestic square miles of Glacier National Park. Several of Montana's beautiful lakes are also within the boundaries of Flathead County. The northern half of Flathead Lake, famous for the cherry orchards that line its shore, is one of those lakes. Timber is the county's biggest natural resource.

In 1981, Flathead County ranked 35th in the state for all cash receipts from farming with $19,162,000. The breakdown of this total shows that livestock and livestock products brought in $7,697,000, and crops generated $11,089,000 for rankings of 38th and 26th respectively. Government payments account for the remaining $376,000.

In 1981 crop production Flathead County ranked 11th in barley and 19th in all hay production. Other crops grown are wheat and oats. The county ranks high in fruit production with apples, cherries, plums and berries being profitable crops. On the livestock side, Flathead County ranked 9th in hog numbers in 1980. Some cattle and sheep are also raised.

Kalispell is the county seat, and this area has an average annual precipitation of 16.24 inches and 114 frost-free days.

FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	YEAR	
Land Area	Acres	1981	3,388,160
Land in Farms	Acres	1978 1/	327,284
Number of Farms		1978 1/	811
Crops			
All Wheat	Acres	1981	11,200
Barley	Acres	1981	27,000
Oats	Acres	1981	700
All Hay	Acres	1981	42,500

	UNIT	YEAR	
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1981	34,700
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	1981	45,600
Livestock			
Cattle	No. Head	1981	19,400
Sheep	No. Head	1981	1,400
Hogs	No. Head	1980	7,400
Chickens	No. Head	1980	3,200

1/ From the 1978 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Quarterly Egg Production
Hogs and Pigs

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

FOREIGN WHEAT PRODUCTION
LIVESTOCK HIGHLIGHTS
RED MEAT PRODUCTION DROPS
WEATHER/CROP SUMMARY
CATTLE ON FEED UP
POTATO STOCKS HIGHER
Featuring....MUSSELSHELL COUNTY

FOREIGN WHEAT PRODUCTION PROSPECTS HIGH

Early prospects indicate that foreign wheat production may reach a record high in 1983. Mild winter weather benefited fall-sown wheat over most of the Northern Hemisphere except for USSR. Area planted to winter wheat rose in many countries.

Growing conditions have been nearly ideal for the European Community's winter grains. Wheat seedings rose last fall, and moisture supplies have been unusually good through the winter and spring.

In Eastern Europe, winter wheat output may not match 1982's exceptional harvest. Fall sowing increased slightly in all countries except Poland, but emergence and tillering began slowly because of dry soil conditions.

Excellent prospects are seen for China's winter wheat. Area expanded 4 percent because of government policy to encourage grain production. Plentiful rains during the late summer and early fall encouraged plantings and increased irrigation water supplies.

India's wheat production is estimated up again this year. Government price supports make wheat a profitable crop, and area is expanding. Larger area under irrigation and greater use of fertilizer will aid yields.

In the USSR, winter wheat area is down sharply, and the crop developed poorly last fall before entering dormancy because of below-normal precipitation. Winterkill is not expected to be above average, despite earlier concerns about warm temperatures and lack of snow cover.

HEAVY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION WILL CUT 1983 U.S. WHEAT CROP

Harvesting of the 1983 wheat crop is underway, with growers expected to combine the smallest acreage in 4 years, a result of Government efforts to reduce U.S. wheat supplies. Wheat production has ballooned to record heights in each of the last three harvests, burdening the industry with excessively large stocks.

Initially, winter wheat seeding was down 3.4 million acres from 1982/83, but enrollment in the payment-in-kind (PIK) program, announced after planting, idled additional cropland, leaving an expected 47 million acres to be harvested, 11 million less than last year. Higher yields will offset some of the acreage reduction, but as of May 1, 1983, winter wheat production was forecast at 1.9 billion bushels, 215 million below 1982's record. In addition, heavy program participation by spring wheat growers will decrease their 1983 plantings about a third, which will mean a sharp cutback from last year's record crop of 700 million bushels.

Despite the reduced harvest, the total supply will be only fractionally smaller than 1982/83's record because of a large carryin. Early prospects for demand are limited, with exports expected to be down from 1982/83 and only a slight increase in domestic use. Because total wheat use will about match 1983's production, yearend stocks on May 31, 1984, will remain record high. However, 'free' (readily marketable) stocks will increase substantially because nearly half of the stocks isolated in the farmer-owned reserve will be used for PIK. Under these conditions, the average farm price may be only slightly better than 1982/83's $3.53 a bushel, within a range from $3.50 to $3.75.

FARM INCOME STAGNANT

The U.S. economy appears to be in the early stages of a modest recovery. The outlook for 1983 farm income, although improved since the advent of the PIK program, still remains uncertain. Cash receipts from the sale of crops will likely be down 10-15 percent while livestock receipts could increase slightly. Shoring up farm income this year will be government payments, both cash and in-kind. These payments will add nearly $10 billion to cash farm income and represent about 45 percent of the total realized net.

Net farm income has been close to $20 billion for the past two years.

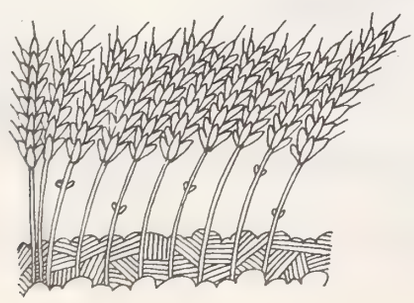
LIVESTOCK HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the rise in feed costs, recent heavy rains have caused major problems for many cattle feeders. Weight gains are down, but marketings have been kept current. On the other hand, good gains by feeder cattle on wheat over the winter and use of PIK-diverted winter wheat acreage as pasture early this spring have tended to delay the movement of feeders to feedlots or to other pastures. This increases the likelihood of bunched marketings later this summer and fall.

Thus, prices for feeder cattle could decline during the spring and the second half of the year, especially for the heavier-weight feeders. At the moment, cattle feeders are unable to lock in a profit in the futures market because prices are too low in the later contract months.

Meanwhile, more hogs are coming to market, and prices have slipped. Hog slaughter will be up 4 to 5 percent for the remainder of the year, reflecting producers' response to the improved profits of 1982. However, last year's profits will not be sustained this year, as higher feed costs and larger supplies of pork, beef, and broilers are pressuring hog prices below last year's levels. Although hog prices could rise seasonally this summer, they will head lower again in the fall. Any squeeze on returns will lead to reduced output in 1984.

1983 estimates of wheat and barley acreage, yield and production by county are now available. If interested, request a copy from our office.



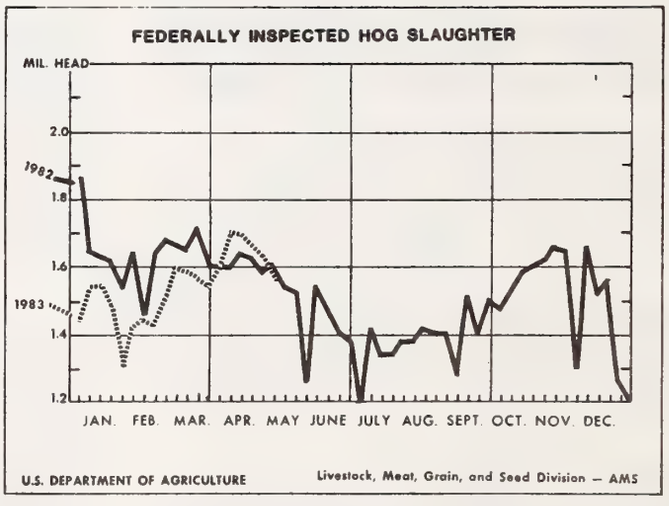
MONTANA MEAT PRODUCTION FALLS

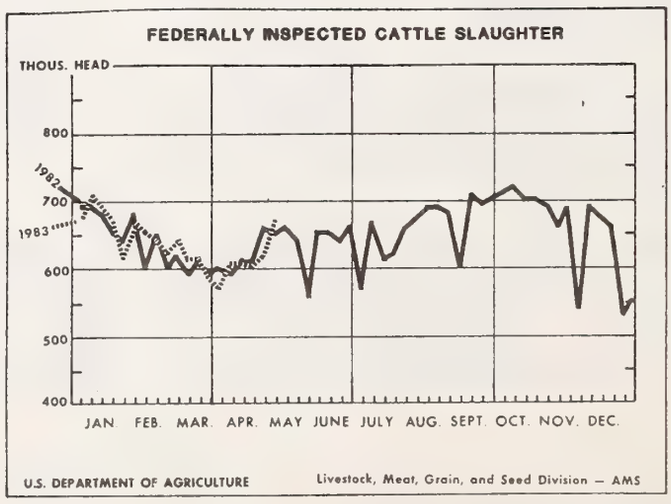
Commercial red meat production in the United States for April 1983 totaled 3.04 billion pounds. January-April accumulated red meat production totaled 12.2 billion pounds. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally Inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. Kill days for April included 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production during April totaled 1.73 billion pounds. Total head killed was 2.76 million and live weight averaged 1,068 pounds per head. Veal production was 32 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 224 thousand head averaged 244 pounds live weight. Pork production totaled 1.25 billion pounds. Hog kill totaled 7.22 million head. Average live weight for the month was 234 pounds. Lamb and mutton production was 30 million pounds. Head kill of 523 thousand averaged 115 pounds live weight.

Commercial red meat production in Montana during April at 9.8 million pounds was 14 percent below March. The January-April accumulated total was 44.8 million pounds.

There were 4,300 head of cattle slaughtered, and 39,200 head of hogs killed during April in Montana. Sheep and lambs slaughtered totaled 200 head.





CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

FOR WEEK ENDING: MAY 21, 1983

FIELD CROPS: Warm days are badly needed to restore vigor and normal growth to crops. Even winter wheat is showing stress to cold, and some fields have been damaged by recent snows and frost. However, the crop is still reported in generally good condition. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture are adequate in most locations, but dry areas are developing in the southwest part of the state and localized areas elsewhere.

Spring wheat is about 60 percent emerged compared with 45 percent last year and a normal of 55 percent. Barley is about 65 percent up compared with 45 percent last year and a normal of 55 percent. Some sugarbeet fields need replanting because of frost kill and soil crusting.

CROP	PERCENT PLANTED		
	Week Ending May 21	Last Year Same Week	Normal For This Date
SW	90	75	75
Barley	90	80	75
Oats	80	65	70
Corn	60	55	50
Sugarbeets	85	100	90
Dry Beans	40	55	50
Potatoes	40	55	45

LIVESTOCK: About 45 percent of the cattle and sheep have been moved to summer pastures. Range grass growth is slow due to cold weather and many livestock are still being fed hay.

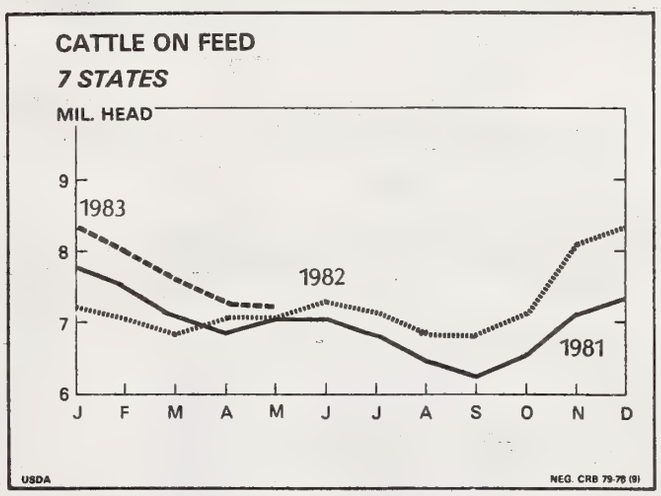
PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS
(FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 21, 1983)

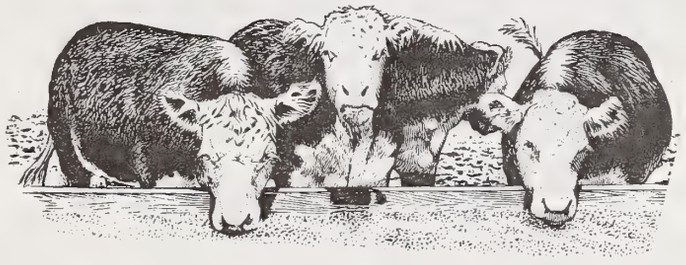
Station	1983	Normal 1/	% of Normal
	----inches----		Pct.
Hamilton	1.75	2.00	88
Kalispell	2.96	2.14	138
Polson	2.78	2.82	99
Belgrade	3.33	2.57	130
Dillon Arprt.	.83	1.94	43
Cut Bank	.58	2.12	27
Havre	3.21	2.08	154
Conrad	3.02	2.25	134
Ft. Benton	1.79	2.83	63
Malta	2.18	2.23	98
Great Falls	1.60	3.08	52
Lewistown	2.07	3.20	65
Stanford	1.62	2.99	54
Billings	2.78	3.52	79
Wyola	2.65	3.95	67
Glasgow	1.67	1.52	110
Sidney	1.24	2.08	60
Broadus	2.16	2.42	89
Miles Cty. Arprt.	1.38	2.29	60

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

Cattle and calves on feed May 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.22 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent more than May 1, 1981.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during April totaled 1.47 million, a 4 percent increase from last year and 6 percent above April two years ago. PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April totaled 1.57 million, virtually the same as last year but down 9 percent from April 1981. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.42 million for April are off 2 percent from last year and off 10 percent from 1981. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 143 thousand compared with 109 thousand during April 1982 and 142 thousand two years ago.





POTATO STOCKS UP

Potatoes in Montana storages on May 1 totaled 200 thousand cwt, over 6 times more than on the same date last year. May 1 stocks totaled 10 percent of the 1982 production.

In the 15 major fall producing states, there were 52.9 million cwt in storage, about 4 percent more than last year. The May 1 National stocks were 18 percent of the 1982 production.

*FEATURING.....*MUSSELSHELL COUNTY

Receiving its name from the Musselshell River that traverses it from east to west, Musselshell County is located jsut south of the geographical center of Montana. It was created in March of 1911 and has a land area of 1,216,000 acres. The Bull Mountain Range comprises most of the southern portion of the county.

In the agricultural business, Musselshell County ranked 30th in winter wheat production and 31st for all hay production in 1981. Other major crops grown in the county include barley and oats. Musselshell County ranked 14th in the state for 1981 sheep production, and 33rd in cattle production.

Livestock cash receipts brought in $8,876,000 and a ranking of 32nd in the state in 1981; crops brought in $3,791,000 for a ranking of 41st which adds up to $12,667,000 for total cash receipts from marketings in 1981. That figure was a 10% decrease from 1980 and netted the county a ranking of 43rd for total receipts from marketings. All cash receipts for the county amounted to $13,542,000, a ranking of 42nd in the state and a 6% decrease from 1980 all cash receipts.

Musselshell County Claims Roundup, Montana as its county seat. This area has an average annual precipitation of 11.64 inches and an average of 130 frost-free days.

MUSSELSHELL COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1981		UNIT	1981
Land Area	Acres	1,216,000	Irrigated Cropland	Acres	14,800
Land in Farms	Acres	1,140,993	Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	46,800
Number of Farms		228			
Crops			Livestock		
Wheat	Acres	30,200	Cattle	No. Head	18,700
Barley	Acres	8,400	Sheep	No. Head	12,900
Corn	Acres	900	Hogs	No. Head	2,200 1/
Oats	Acres	800			
All Hay	Acres	23,000			

1/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1980.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production:
- Winter Wheat Production
- Pasture & Range
- Cherries

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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Helena, MT 59604
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Spring Planting Intentions
- Wheat Production Forecast
- Hay Stocks Up
- Farm Prices Strengthen
- Mfg. Dairy Up
- 1982 Barley Estimates by County
- Pasture & Range Condition

WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's winter wheat crop is forecast at 75.6 million bushels, 6 percent less than last year's crop. The forecast is based upon farmers reported condition of the crop on May 1 and is subject to change based mainly on weather the remainder of the growing season. Acres for harvest are down 1 percent from last year, but 18 percent below the acres harvested in 1981.

WINTER WHEAT

SELECTED STATES	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION	
	1982	Ind. 1983	1981	Ind. 1982
	(000 acres)		(000 bushels)	
ARK	1,760	1,300	67,650	68,640
CA	1,000	780	70,000	53,040
COLO	3,000	2,500	84,000	80,000
GA	1,480	1,040	48,840	32,240
IDAHO	920	750	52,440	46,500
ILL	1,500	1,450	67,500	71,050
IND	1,080	970	46,440	46,560
KANS	13,200	10,600	462,000	424,000
MO	2,230	1,800	75,820	70,200
MONT	2,120	2,100	80,560	75,600
NEBR	2,900	2,300	101,500	85,100
OHIO	1,250	1,150	55,000	57,500
OKLA	6,900	4,400	227,700	167,200
OREG	1,100	990	60,500	61,380
S DAK	1,100	1,200	37,400	43,200
TEX	6,000	4,700	144,000	141,000
WASH	2,560	2,400	125,440	132,000
U.S.	58,347	47,058	2,108,246	1,893,241

SPRING ACREAGE INTENTIONS

Montana farmers intend to plant 17 percent fewer acres to spring wheat, durum, barley, oats, corn, sugarbeets and dry beans than last year. The intended acres are based on farmer's reports on or about April 25.

SPRING PLANTING INTENTIONS 1/

CROP	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	(000 Acres)		(000 Acres)	
Hard Spring Wheat	2,950	1,900	16,576	11,563
Durum	350	150	4,350	2,825
Barley	1,650	1,950	9,634	10,648
Oats	260	300	14,211	21,299
Corn	80	70	81,909	58,812
Sugarbeets	43.1	41.9	1,060.1	1,095.8
Dry Beans	8.5	3.0	1,903.5	1,214.0

1/ As of April 25.

An acreage survey with much broader coverage will be conducted during late May and early June after most planting has been completed to determine actual acres planted. The results of this survey will be released June 29.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS -- MAY 1, 1983

DISTRICT	1982	Ind. 1982	% Change
Northwest	611	495	-19
North Central	41,538	36,535	-12
Northeast	8,104	10,175	+26
Central	14,041	12,250	-13
Southwest	1,736	1,445	-17
South Central	8,300	7,500	-10
Southeast	6,230	7,200	+16
STATE	80,560	75,600	- 6

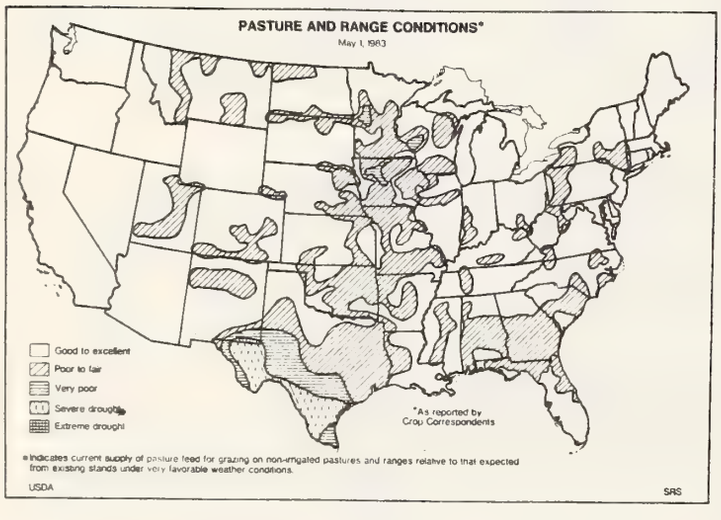
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

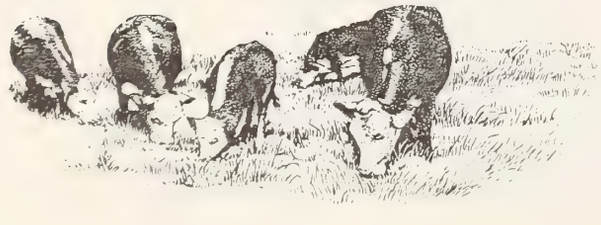
Montana's pastures and ranges were in generally good condition on May 1. Some areas in the north central and southcentral parts of the state were in slightly poorer condition. Topsoil moisture is rated mostly short over the state and pastures and ranges would benefit from a good soaking rain and warmer temperatures.

As of May 1 only about 10 percent of the livestock had been moved to graze on summer ranges.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION - MAY 1
District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1981	1982	1983
Northwest	90	87	89
North Central	59	82	80
Northeast	35	68	82
Central	73	82	85
Southwest	86	89	94
South Central	73	87	82
Southeast	36	71	85
STATE	63	80	85


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
May 1, 1983
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents
*Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions.
USDA
SRS



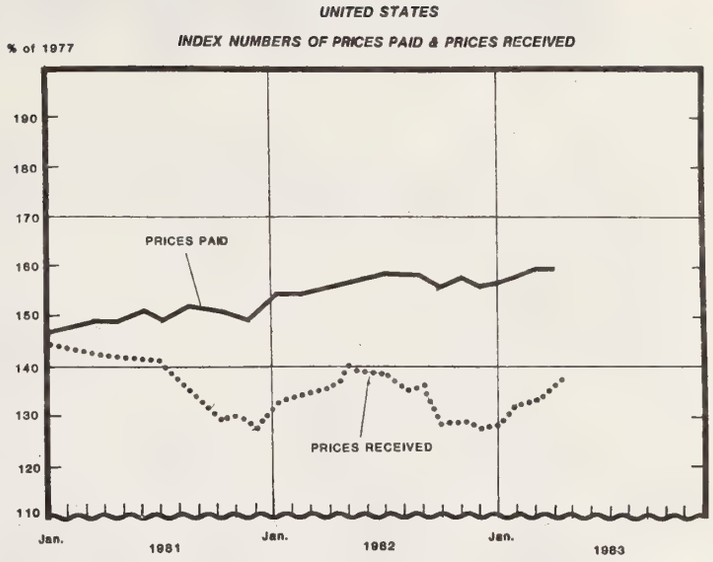
COUNTY YIELD and PRODUCTION
BARLEY

COUNTY	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION
	1977-81 Avg.	1982	1982
	---Bushels---		000 Bu.
Beaverhead	58.8	59.0	377.9
Big Horn	39.4	45.6	1,241.6
Blaine	37.6	50.3	1,625.5
Broadwater	56.8	56.9	927.8
Carbon	53.8	65.6	597.1
Carter	26.4	28.4	280.8
Cascade	42.8	46.1	2,715.1
Chouteau	39.7	53.4	10,279.1
Custer	32.3	46.1	346.1
Daniels	24.6	34.8	984.6
Dawson	24.9	40.8	1,157.6
Deer Lodge	58.2	62.0	80.6
Fallon	26.3	37.7	327.8
Fergus	37.0	40.5	4,382.0
Flathead	56.1	71.2	1,779.5
Gallatin	55.5	63.3	2,620.7
Garfield	24.7	33.3	784.8
Glacier	40.6	54.5	4,931.5
Golden Valley	30.2	43.7	651.1
Granite	59.3	57.6	40.3
Hill	32.8	47.2	3,463.2
Jefferson	43.5	57.9	127.4
Judith Basin	38.5	38.6	2,465.1
Lake	56.5	62.9	471.4
Lewis & Clark	51.2	54.6	453.3
Liberty	34.4	47.8	2,345.0
Lincoln	51.9	60.0	6.0
McCone	25.1	38.0	1,158.1
Madison	56.9	68.9	337.7
Meagher	42.1	48.7	759.2
Mineral	57.4	70.0	7.0
Missoula	48.9	62.3	187.0
Musselshell	30.2	32.9	272.7
Park	39.6	49.7	268.4
Petroleum	27.2	42.6	212.8
Phillips	35.9	45.9	1,712.3
Pondera	47.3	61.3	6,759.2
Powder River	25.2	36.3	235.9
Powell	56.1	44.6	133.9
Prairie	28.5	40.3	289.8
Ravalli	63.3	59.3	266.9
Richland	30.8	40.6	1,044.4
Roosevelt	26.9	35.2	757.2
Rosebud	37.3	52.3	1,046.0
Sanders	44.3	46.9	56.3
Sheridan	27.9	34.3	1,084.1
Silver Bow	56.6	50.0	20.0
Stillwater	31.1	36.0	785.6
Sweet Grass	39.8	44.1	145.5
Teton	52.2	65.4	6,209.3
Toole	37.5	49.4	3,388.6
Treasure	51.2	65.9	125.3
Valley	28.8	37.5	1,723.2
Wheatland	31.4	34.0	611.8
Wibaux	27.1	38.0	201.4
Yellowstone	46.8	51.4	1,177.5
STATE	40.7	49.0	76,440.0

APRIL FARM PRICES

Montana farm prices in April strengthened considerably from March, especially grain prices, with the exception of oats. Cattle prices were also higher than the previous month. Sheep, lambs and hogs posted price declines.

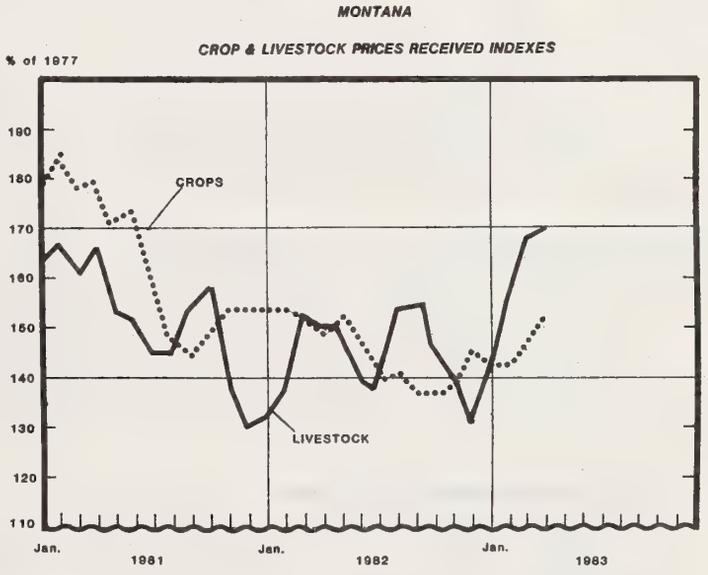
The Montana index of prices received for all farm products at 161 (1977=100) was up 3 points from March and 9 points above April 1982. The all crop price index at 152 compares with 146 in March and 154 a year ago. The livestock price index at 170 was up 2 points from March and 20 points above last April.



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average April 1982	MONTANA Monthly Average March 1983	MONTANA April 15, 1983	U. S. April 15, 1983
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.66	3.70	3.80
Durum	Bu.	3.43	3.20	3.55	3.68
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.90	3.59	3.80	3.76
All Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.62	3.76	3.78
Barley	Bu.	2.28	2.14	2.18	2.17
Oats	Bu.	1.75	1.72	1.65	1.49
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	48.00	50.00	80.00
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	45.00	45.00	75.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	48.00	50.00	59.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	60.40	65.90	66.60	65.60
Cows	Cwt	39.30	43.00	44.50	43.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	51.60	58.90	60.00	61.90
Calves	Cwt	61.70	67.40	68.20	67.20
Sheep	Cwt	17.30	14.60	13.10	20.00
Lambs	Cwt	54.80	62.50	57.80	60.50
Hogs	Cwt	48.90	48.10	45.60	47.40
All Milk	Cwt	13.05	13.30	13.40	13.50
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.463	.539	.508
Wool 2/	Lb.	.900	.610	.610	.674
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	152	158	161	137
All Crops	Pct.	154	146	152	127
Livestock & Products	Pct.	150	168	170	146

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	April 1982	March 1983	April 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	135	134	137
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	155	159	159
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	87	84	86
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	58	56	57

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

SURVEY TO MEASURE ACREAGES and LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Heavy enrollment in the regular acreage reduction and Payment-in-Kind (PIK) programs means large cutbacks in 1983 crops. Feed grain production will likely fall to the lowest levels since the mid-1970's, and wheat output could reach a four-year low. Rice and cotton production will also decrease sharply. Cattle numbers on January 1 declined about 400,000 head from a year earlier, abruptly halting the rise in the cattle cycle. Hog producers had expanded their inventories faster than expected, but higher grain prices because of PIK may slow or halt production increases in 1984.

Just how many acres actually went into production this season and how many livestock are on hand? A nationwide survey in late May and early June will develop estimates to guide farmers in their future marketings, and inform commodity buyers, traders and policymakers on what to expect from agriculture this year.

CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY

For Week Ending May 8, 1983:

CROPS: Topsoil moisture was becoming short, putting stress on new seedlings and range grasses. Widespread storms across much of Montana the week ending May 15 significantly altered that situation. Good planting progress was made prior to the storms.

PERCENT PLANTED

Crop	Week Ending May 7	Last Year Same Week	Normal For This Date
Spring Wheat	75	45	50
Barley	75	50	50
Oats	60	35	45
Corn	30	25	25
Sugarbeets	85	80	70
Dry Beans	10	15	15
Potatoes	10	under 10	15

LIVESTOCK: Calving and lambing are both about 90 percent done which is about normal. Shearing is nearly 80 percent complete.

Cattle and sheep movement to summer ranges is slightly behind schedule with nearly 20 percent moved so far.

HAY STOCKS UP

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches May 1 totaled 1.4 million tons, up 65 percent from last year on the same date. The May 1 stocks were 31 percent of the hay on hand January 1. Last year's May 1 stocks were only 20 percent of the January 1 level. The May 1 stocks is usually carryover into next year's feeding season. However, cool nights and dry weather during April retarded range grass growth and slowed turnout to summer ranges. Cool weather and storms the first half of May will also necessitate more hay feeding than normal for this late date. Even so, considerably more hay will be carried over this year compared with normal.

Montana farmers intend to harvest 2.4 million acres of all hay in 1983, 4 percent less than a year ago.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 523,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during March--up 6 percent from a year ago. Ice cream production at 173,000 gallons was up 6 percent, while butter made at 176,000 pounds was down 21 percent. American cheese production at 231,000 pounds was up 8 percent from last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Potato Stocks
Milk--Prod., Disp., and Income

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

RECORD WHEAT STORAGE
RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP
MORE POTATOES IN STORAGE
MORE MILK
Featuring.....WIBAUX COUNTY

MARCH LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Montana during March totaled 11.3 million pounds, up 1 percent from a month earlier. The January-March accumulated total at 35.0 million pounds is down 11 percent from the same period a year ago.

Cattle slaughter in Montana packing plants during March was 7,000 head. The January-March total at 25,900 head is down 23 percent from last year.

Hog slaughter was 39,200 head. The January-March total at 112,000 head was down 5 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in March 1983 totaled 3.27 billion pounds. January-March red meat production, at 9.21 billion pounds was down 1 percent from the comparable period in 1982. The 1983 January-March red meat production changes from a year earlier by individual components were: beef, up 1 percent; veal, down 4 percent; pork, down 6 percent; lamb and mutton, up 3 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

POTATO STOCKS UP

Montana potatoes in storage on April 1 totaled 1.22 million cwt, nearly 36 percent more than on the same date last year. Stocks as a percent of production were 63 percent.

In the 15 major fall producing states, there were 84.8 cwt in storage, about 4 percent more than last year. The April 1 stocks as a percent of production were 29 percent.

RECORD HIGH WHEAT STOCKS

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators April 1, 1983 totaled a record 135.6 million bushels--up 13 percent from a year ago, breaking the previous record for April 1 holdings set in 1978.

Wheat disappearance since January 1 was 65.0 million bushels, a 70 percent increase from the same period last year. Farm storage at 115.6 million bushels was up 13 percent and commercial storage at 20.0 million bushels was up 10 percent.

Total winter wheat stored in the state at 55.4 million bushels was down 10 percent from last year. All spring wheat at 80.2 million bushels was up 37 percent. The durum portion at 15.0 million bushels was up 50 percent. Barley stocks totaled 32.8 million bushels--up 105 percent and oats in storage at 4.4 million bushels were up 77 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stocks in all storage positions totaled a record high 1.87 billion bushels--20 percent more than last year. Farm storages held 884 million bushels which was 47 percent of the April 1 wheat stocks.

U.S. durum stocks totaled a record high 164 million bushels--24 percent above last year and barley in storage was 297 million bushels--31 percent more than one year ago.

See table inside page.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS -- MARCH 31, 1983

MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	(000) Bu.			
Reserve	42,441	86,725	571	7,461
Under Loan	19,875	16,388	1,490	6,294

1/ These stocks are included in the April 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana dairymen produced 2 percent more milk during the January-March quarter than for the same period a year earlier in spite of no increase in number of cows. Compared with the October-November quarter, milk production was up 1 percent.

Production per cow last quarter averaged nearly 33 pounds per day.

For the Nation, January-March milk production at 33,955 million pounds was up 2 percent. Production per cow during the quarter averaged 34 pounds per day.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PRODUCTION 2/	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	---Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
CALIF	944	944	3,492	3,505
IDAHO	172	172	523	534
MINN	910	890	2,685	2,719
MONT	29	29	83	85
N DAK	93	95	242	245
OREGON	98	100	296	308
S DAK	161	165	423	439
WASH	210	215	751	811
WISC	1,829	1,828	5,635	5,740
WYO	12.0	11.9	33.0	32.3
U.S.	11,019	11,070	33,235	33,955

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY

FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 24, 1983:

CROPS: Soil moisture across most of Montana was lowered this past week as warm days and tillage operations had a drying effect. Topsoil moisture ranges between short and adequate, while subsoil moisture is mostly adequate. Although no range or crop damage has yet occurred because of dryness, a soaking rain would be welcome in most areas. The State's winter wheat crop remains in good condition. The crop in most areas is green and growing, especially with the warm days of last week. There were seven days suitable for field work last week which saw considerable progress being made in seeding spring grains. Spring wheat is 30 percent planted compared with a normal of 20 percent. Barley at 35 percent seeded compares with a normal of 20 percent. Sugarbeets are nearly 45 percent in the ground compared with a normal of 35 percent. Oats are 20 percent seeded, about normal.

LIVESTOCK: Calving is nearly 80 percent and lambing is about 75 percent complete. Ranges are either growing or starting to grow although growth has been limited until last week by cool weather. Stockwater is generally adequate. Livestock movement to summer ranges has already started in some southern parts of the State.

COUNTY YIELD and PRODUCTION

ALL WHEAT

COUNTY	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION
	1977-81 Avg.	1982	1982
	---Bushels---		000 Bu.
Beaverhead	39.6	48.8	600.0
Big Horn	29.1	34.6	3,344.0
Blaine	27.2	34.9	6,993.5
Broadwater	38.7	42.3	1,749.0
Carbon	32.7	34.3	582.5
Carter	19.9	30.2	1,258.9
Cascade	33.2	39.4	5,488.2
Chouteau	31.1	43.9	21,446.5
Custer	23.6	29.2	1,473.2
Daniels	19.8	25.4	6,398.1
Dawson	21.6	30.0	5,431.5
Deer Lodge	34.4	30.0	9.0
Fallon	19.4	26.7	1,957.0
Fergus	30.2	36.2	5,254.0
Flathead	48.5	49.9	364.2
Gallatin	42.0	46.1	1,872.5
Garfield	19.9	28.3	2,824.0
Glacier	29.1	33.5	4,322.0
Golden Valley	23.4	36.5	1,330.0
Granite	28.8	25.0	7.5
Hill	27.6	37.0	17,235.0
Jefferson	28.7	33.0	230.7
Judith Basin	31.0	30.7	1,997.2
Lake	44.6	49.6	441.0
Lewis & Clark	29.2	36.8	486.0
Liberty	27.6	36.9	8,307.0
Lincoln	42.5	0	0
McCone	21.4	28.7	6,739.0
Madison	37.8	47.3	463.8
Meagher	30.2	35.8	236.5
Mineral	39.1	45.0	9.0
Missoula	37.7	33.1	43.0
Musselshell	24.7	32.7	716.1
Park	29.2	36.8	431.0
Petroleum	26.5	32.7	324.0
Phillips	24.4	34.3	5,715.5
Pondera	34.1	46.5	8,473.0
Powder River	24.6	30.8	952.2
Powell	37.9	30.8	18.5
Prairie	24.2	31.5	1,107.2
Ravalli	39.3	41.7	91.8
Richland	23.6	30.6	5,093.0
Roosevelt	20.1	29.1	8,777.5
Rosebud	26.9	29.5	1,629.5
Sanders	35.6	34.1	58.0
Sheridan	22.6	29.4	9,645.4
Silver Bow	0	0	0
Stillwater	28.3	32.3	1,714.5
Sweet Grass	27.9	28.3	184.0
Teton	32.9	46.4	6,007.4
Toole	26.9	32.0	7,918.1
Treasure	32.6	37.7	226.0
Valley	20.4	30.0	9,874.0
Wheatland	25.6	31.7	947.5
Wibaux	20.9	28.1	1,864.0
Yellowstone	30.4	32.9	2,898.0
STATE	26.4	34.2	183,560.0

STOCKS OF GRAIN APRIL 1, 1983 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Apr. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1983 *	Apr. 1, 1983	% Change From 1982	Apr. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1983 *	Apr. 1, 1983
	-------Thousand Bushels------			Pct.	---------Thousand Bushels--------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	101,970	172,546	115,643	+ 13	748,408	1,166,084	884,447
Off farms 1/	18,135	28,143	20,000	+ 10	808,704	1,354,465	984,430
T O T A L	120,105	200,689	135,643	+ 13	1,557,112	2,520,549	1,868,877
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	50,623	72,706	43,430	- 14	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	10,926	15,718	12,025	+ 10	--	--	--
T O T A L	61,549	88,424	55,455	- 10	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	51,347	99,840	72,213	+ 41	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	7,209	12,425	7,975	+ 11	--	--	--
T O T A L	58,556	112,265	80,188	+ 37	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On farms	--	--	--	--	105,718	155,935	130,138
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	26,920	33,266	33,999
T O T A L	10,044	17,379	15,030	+ 50	132,638	189,201	164,137
RYE							
On farms	--	--	--	--	3,373	7,661	5,434
Off farms	--	--	--	--	2,412	3,207	2,527
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	5,785	10,868	7,961
CORN							
On farms	128	980	280	+119	3,625,935	6,156,877	4,410,985
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,505,898	2,266,947	1,951,822
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	5,131,833	8,423,824	6,362,807
OATS							
On farms	2,178	6,885	4,055	+ 86	200,541	397,920	272,508
Off farms	300	423	320	+ 7	36,315	75,795	59,960
T O T A L	2,478	7,308	4,375	+ 77	236,856	473,715	332,468
BARLEY							
On farms	13,622	45,864	28,283	+108	147,488	293,924	198,449
Off farms 1/	2,350	4,727	4,500	+ 91	79,429	124,225	98,321
T O T A L	15,972	50,591	32,783	+105	226,917	418,149	296,770
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	--	--	--	--	125,221	267,736	148,814
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	336,665	541,378	469,685
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	461,886	809,114	618,499

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Apr. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1983 *	Apr. 1, 1983	Apr. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1983 *	Apr.1, 1983
	---------Million Bushels---------			----------Million Bushels---------		
Northwest	1.9	1.4	1.4	.9	2.6	1.7
North Central	51.4	95.8	62.2	6.6	23.9	16.6
Northeast	40.2	54.1	40.2	2.4	4.8	3.1
Central	11.2	20.6	14.2	2.6	12.0	5.9
Southwest	1.7	3.3	2.4	1.5	2.4	1.4
South Central	7.7	15.1	8.8	1.5	3.7	3.3
Southeast	6.0	10.4	6.4	.5	1.2	.8
STATE	120.1	200.7	135.6	16.0	50.6	32.8

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Revised.

*FEATURING.....*WIBAUX COUNTY

Wibaux County lies in the extreme east central portion of Montana with its eastern boundary making up part of the Montana-North Dakota border line. Created in August of 1914, Wibuax County has a land area of 568,960 acres--the third smallest of the counties in Montana. Yet, it has the largest percentage of acres under cultivation. While it was known mainly as a stock district in the old range days, today crop production has taken predominance. The county ranked 27th in 1981 for wheat production, its major crop. Other crops produced in the county include hay, barley, oats and corn. Some livestock are raised although not to a great extent. In 1981 Wibuax County ranked 47th in number of cattle, 38th for number of sheep, and 45th for number of hogs.

Cash receipts from marketings for 1981 in Wibaux County totaled $9,445,000, nearly a five percent increase over 1980. Crops made up $5,287,000 of the total, while livestock and livestock products sales contributed $4,158,000. Wibaux ranked 47th in Montana for all cash receipts with $10,837,000. Livestock and crops receipts ranked 48th and 36th respectively.

The town of Wibaux is the county seat of Wibaux County. The normal precipitation for that area is 14.19 inches, with an average of 120 frost-free days.

WIBAUX COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1978
Land Area	Acres	568,960
Land in Farms	Acres	528,985
Number of Farms		200
		1981
Crops		
Wheat	Acres	78,400
Barley	Acres	5,500
Corn	Acres	1,300
Oats	Acres	4,400
Hay	Acres	25,000

	UNIT	1981
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	2,700
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	101,600
Livestock		
Cattle	No. Head	22,200
Sheep	No. Head	3,100
Hogs	No. Head	1,300 1/

1/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1980.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Crop Production
- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Pasture & Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wool Production Down
Farm Prices Up
Pasture & Range Condition
Livestock Cash Receipts Jump
Featuring. . . . . . Carbon County

FINE WOOL USE STRONG

Mill consumption of raw wool in 1982 was 114.8 million pounds, clean, 17 percent below the previous year. The strong mill demand for the finer grades continues. In both 1981 and 1982, about 60 percent of the raw wool for apparel in both the woolen and worsted systems was 60's and finer. Depressed consumer demand is expected to limit mill consumption in 1983 to around 112 million pounds.

The inventory of stock sheep on January 1, 1982 was reported to be 10.3 million, 10 percent below the previous year. It was the lowest number since estimates were started in 1867. Therefore, wool production in 1983 is forecast at 53 million pounds, clean, compared with 58.8 million in 1981 and estimated 58.6 million in 1982.

Because of the non-competitive nature of the domestic wool business, the mills have been operating with a minimum inventory, causing wool stocks to be maintained by wholesalers and producers.

WOOL SUPPLY and DISAPPEARANCE

ANNUALLY, 1980-1983, CLEAN CONTENT

Item	1980	1980	1982	1983 1/
	--------million pounds--------			
Stocks, Jan. 1	46.8	50.6	52.0	56.8
Production	56.4	58.8	58.6	53.1
Imports	56.5	74.3	64.4	60.0
Diff. unacc.	14.6	7.2	--	--
Total supply	174.3	190.9	173.0	169.9
Mill use	123.4	138.6	114.8	112.0
Exports	0.3	0.3	1.4	4.5
Total use	123.7	138.9	116.2	116.5
Stocks, Dec. 31	50.6	52.0	56.8	53.4

1/ Estimated.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of Census.

MONTANA WOOL PRODUCTION DECREASES

Montana's 1982 wool production dropped 9 percent from 1981, following a national trend to fewer sheep. A more drastic change hit the value of the clip, down 30 percent from the year before. The state's sheep men were able to get a 3 percent increase in the amount of wool from each sheep sheared, but this was offset by a 12 percent decrease in number of sheep and lambs clipped.

Montana remained in 7th place nationally in total wool production. Texas, California, Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota and Utah (ranked in order) all topped Montana. Nearly 91 percent of the Nation's wool is produced west of the Mississippi. The 11 western states produced 54 percent while Texas production accounted for 18 percent of the total.

ANNUAL WOOL PRODUCTION and VALUE

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		U.S.	
		1981	1982	1981	1982
Sheep Shorn	(000) Head	565	500	13,477	13,138
Weight per Fleece	Lb.	10.0	10.3	8.14	7.99
Wool Production	(000) Lb.	5,670	5,141	109,689	104,966
Price per Pound	Cents	102.0	79.0	94.4	68.4
Value	(000) Dol.	5,783	4,061	103,578	71,803

AVERAGE U.S. FARM PRICES PER POUND

FOR SHORN WOOL, GREASE BASIS

Month	1980	1981	1982 1/	1983 1/
	----------Cents----------			
January	82.1	84.6	80.4	52.3
February	86.8	88.3	80.4	57.7
March	93.5	91.8	83.4	
April	92.2	101.0	89.1	
May	86.6	99.8	88.5	
June	86.5	101.0	79.6	
July	85.8	94.4	74.5	
August	85.5	84.8	68.3	
September	84.7	84.3	66.7	
October	89.4	87.3	59.2	
November	92.1	91.1	61.6	
December	90.9	84.2	57.1	
Weighted Season Avg.	88.1	94.5	68.4	

1/ Preliminary.

LIVESTOCK CASH RECEIPTS UP

Montana livestock producers received 6 percent more in cash receipts for meat animals in 1982 compared with 1981. The increase was mainly the result of 15 percent more cattle and calf marketings, together with higher prices for hogs and pigs. Cash receipts in 1981 were 18 percent less than in 1980.

For the Nation, livestock cash receipts in 1982 were 3 percent above 1981.

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS -- 1981-1982

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1981	1982	1981	1982
Cattle & Calves					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	933.3	1,076.8	50,977.7	53,433.1
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	51.90	48.20	58.60	56.70
Calves	Dols./Cwt	62.70	60.30	64.00	59.80
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	506.1	538.4	29,578.5	29,893.1
Hogs & Pigs					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	84.6	69.4	22,237.7	20,094.4
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	41.40	46.80	43.90	52.30
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	35.1	32.6	9,785.0	10,622.9
Sheep & Lambs					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	35.3	52.3	883.8	1,032.6
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	17.40	15.00	21.20	19.50
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	47.20	48.10	54.90	53.10
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	13.5	18.8	415.7	447.4

WEATHER-CROP REPORT
MID-APRIL

CROPS: Montana's winter wheat crop remains in good condition with very little wind damage or winter kill reported. The crop is green and beginning to grow. Field work is underway in almost all areas and farmers are anxious to take advantage of present soil moisture conditions.

Planting of spring grains is underway and averages 5 percent completion for spring wheat and nearly 10 percent completion for barley. In the south central part of the state spring seeding is much more advanced.

Both topsoil and subsoil moisture is adequate. However, spring growth on pasture and ranges has been very slow due to cool weather.

LIVESTOCK: Unsettled weather, which is delaying field work, has not been detrimental to livestock. Nearly 65 percent of the calves and 50 percent of the lambs have been dropped. Supplemental feeding of hay is continuing.

MARCH PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS

Stations	March	Pct. of Normal 1/
	-inches-	-Pct.-
Hamilton	.68	96
Kalispell	1.50	179
Polson	1.35	180
Belgrade	.70	79
Dillon Airport	.47	90
Cut Bank	.62	159
Havre	1.15	225
Conrad	.49	107
Ft. Benton	.92	124
Malta	.89	207
Great Falls	1.60	172
Lewistown	.41	51
Stanford	.49	82
Billings	.73	70
Wyola	.77	82
Glasgow	.39	98
Sidney	.88	187
Broadus	.91	136
Miles City Airport	.95	161

1/ For period 1941-1970.

MONTANA FARM PRICES STRENGTHEN

Prices received by Montana farmers during March generally increased for most major crop and livestock items. However, feed grains, hay hogs, milk, eggs and wool all saw price declines.

Compared with a year ago, prices for Montana grain, milk, eggs and wool are all lower. Hay and livestock prices are running higher than last year.

The over all March index of prices received by Montana farmers for all farm products was 154 (1977=100), up 3 points from February and up 2 points from a year ago. The all crops price index at 143 compares with 142 last month and 152 last year. The livestock price index at 164 compares with 158 last month and 153 a year ago.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U. S.
		Monthly Average		Mar. 15, 1983	Mar. 15, 1983
		Mar. 1982	Feb. 1983		
		----------dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.56	3.60	3.72
Durum	Bu.	3.83	3.37	3.27	3.36
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.75	3.46	3.58	3.53
All Wheat	Bu.	3.72	3.52	3.59	3.65
Barley	Bu.	2.27	1.94	1.87	1.96
Oats	Bu.	2.03	1.55	1.50	1.46
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	57.00	48.00	75.30
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	50.00	42.00	58.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	57.00	48.00	70.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	60.60	64.90	66.50	62.70
Cows	Cwt	41.70	41.30	43.50	42.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	52.90	54.20	56.80	58.90
Calves	Cwt	61.10	66.30	68.50	68.70
Sheep	Cwt	21.20	16.40	16.90	22.00
Lambs	Cwt	57.20	63.90	64.00	62.90
Hogs	Cwt	46.20	54.90	50.80	50.00
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	13.30	13.20	13.80
Eggs	Doz.	.640	.489	.463	.521
Wool 2/	Lb.	.970	.640	.610	.584
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	152	151	154	133
All Crops	Pct.	152	142	143	120
Livestock & Products	Pct.	153	158	164	145

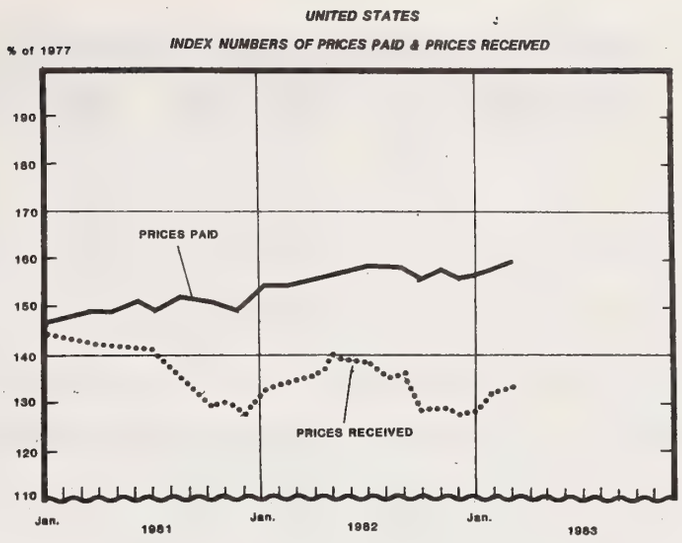
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

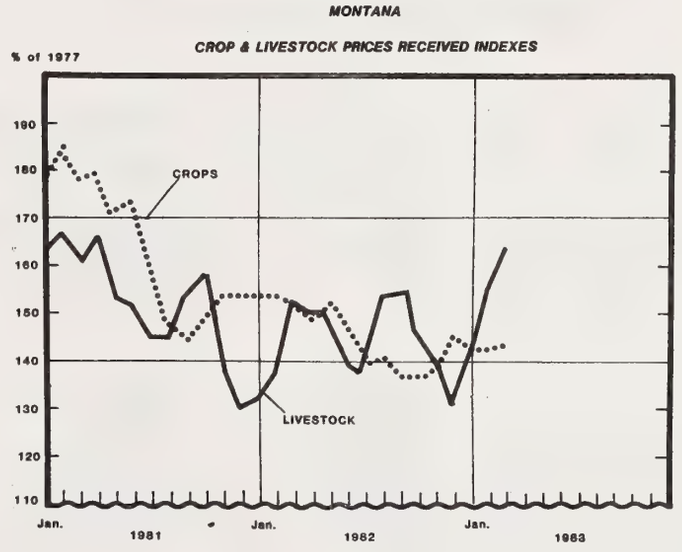
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	March 1982	Feb. 1983	March 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	133	132	133
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	155	158	159
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	86	84	84
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	57	56	56

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

1983 estimates of corn acreage, yield and production by county are now available. If interested, request a copy from our office.





MONTANA PASTURE and RANGE

Montana's pastures and ranges were reported in good to excellent condition over the whole state as of April 1, 1983. The state averaged 89 percent of normal--8 points above last April.

Current feed conditions are adequate on ranges with lots of old grass left over. If ample moisture continues, pastures and ranges should be in good condition for summer grazing.

MONTANA PASTURE and RANGE CONDITION - APRIL 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1981	1982	1983
Northwest	89	88	92
North Central	61	84	85
Northeast	37	68	84
Central	69	83	89
Southwest	87	93	93
South Central	72	83	89
Southeast	41	76	90
STATE	63	81	89

FEATURING. . . . . CARBON COUNTY

Carbon County, situated in the south central portion of Montana, was established in March of 1895. It's northern boundary is marked by the Yellowstone River while the southwestern corner of the county is covered with part of the Custer National Forest and the Beartooth Mountain Range. Several unnamed mountain peaks in this range within Carbon County's boundaries boast elevations above 13,000 feet.

Coal mining was the chief industry in Carbon County early on, but today agriculture is the prominent business. With a land area of 1,324,160 acres, Carbon County ranked 8th in Montana in 1981 for hay production. Other principle crops include barley, wheat, corn and sugarbeets. Also in 1981, the county ranked 10th in sheep numbers and 17th for cattle numbers in Montana.

Carbon County returned $37,901,000 in cash receipts from marketings for the 1981 crop year, a 3% increase over 1980. Crops contributed $18,922,000 to that total, while livestock and livestock product sales made up the remainder with $18,979,000. In 1981 Carbon County ranked 16th in Montana for all cash receipts, livestock receipts ranked 11th and crops, 21st.

Red Lodge, the largest town in the county, is the county seat. The main agricultural areas are the Clark Fork and the Rock Creek Valleys, with important ranching activity in surrounding areas.

CARBON COUNTY, MONTANA

	UNIT	1981
Land Area	Acres	1,324,160
Land in Farms	Acres	623,415
Number of Farms		613
Crops		
Wheat	Acres	21,300
Barley	Acres	12,400
Corn	Acres	5,700
Sugarbeets	Acres	7,680
Dry Beans	Acres	1,700
Hay	Acres	58,000
Irrigated Cropland	Acres	59,820
Non-Irrigated Cropland	Acres	46,500
Livestock		
Cattle	No. Head	59,900
Sheep	No. Head	17,500
Hogs	No. Head	3,400 1/

1/ Hog numbers are for December 1, 1980.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
Poultry--Prod., Disp. & Income

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Hog Numbers Up
A Look at Montana Sheep & Lamb Losses
February Slaughter
Cattle on Feed Up
Cattle & Pork Outlook

HOG INVENTORY UP 3 PERCENT

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1983 in the 10 states conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 41.6 million head, 3 percent above last March. This is 8 percent below March of 1981 and is the first increase in the March Inventory level since 1980.

--Breeding inventory, at 5.91 million head, was 6 percent more than a year ago but 9 percent less than March 1981. This is the first increase in the March breeding herd since 1979.

--Market hog inventory, at 35.7 million head, was 2 percent above last year but 8 percent below two years ago.

PIG CROP

The December 1982-February 1983 pig crop was 15.5 million head, 10 percent more than last year but 2 percent below two years ago. There were 2.08 million sows that farrowed during the past quarter, an increase of 5 percent from a year ago but 5 percent below the same period two years ago.

Sows farrowing averaged a record high 7.44 pigs per litter compared with 7.11 last year and 7.24 two years ago. The litter rate was the highest on record for a December-February quarter and second highest overall for the 10 quarterly states. The highest litter rate on record is 7.54 in March-May of 1981.

FARROWING INTENTIONS

Hog producers in the 10 quarterly states intend to farrow 2.58 million sows during March-May of this year. This is 8 percent more than during the comparable period in 1982 but 6 percent less than two years ago. Farrowing intentions for June-August are 2.35 million head, 7 percent above the same period last year but 5 percent less than two years ago.

MONTANA SHEEP & LAMB LOSS OVER 5 MILLION DOLLARS

Montana sheepmen lost 146,000 head of sheep and lambs in 1982 to predators, disease, weather and other death dealing causes. Lamb losses made up 66 percent of the total, with sheep loss accounting for the rest. The value of the loss came to $5.6 million. Of the total number lost, predators killed 34 percent, non-predator factors contributed 53 percent, and 13 percent was due to unknown causes.

COYOTE LOSS TOPS ALL OTHERS

Coyotes claimed 24 percent of the total number killed. Weather losses accounted for 17 percent, disease 13 percent and lambing complications 6 percent of the total number lost. Fox, eagle, old age and poison each killed 4 percent, while on-back caused 3 percent. Losses under 1 percent each were caused by bear, dog and bobcat.

Generally, predator loss was more severe in the larger operations, while weather and lambing complications hit the smaller flocks a little harder.

Sheep and lambs on farms in Montana on January 1, 1983 were valued at $28.3 million. Dollar loss due to predators was 6 percent of the inventory value, while non-predatory dollar loss amounted to nearly 11 percent.

COOPERATION

This study was undertaken at the request of the Montana Woolgrowers Association who also contributed the required funds for the survey.

(SEE TABLES ON INSIDE PAGE.)

MONTANA HISTORIC SHEEP & LAMB DEATH LOSSES

	Sheep 1/ & Lambs (000 Hd.)	Total 2/ Death Loss (000 Hd.)	Value 4/ Death Loss (000 Dol.)	Pred. Death Loss (000 Hd.)	Value Pred. Loss (000 Dol.)	Non-Pred. 3/ Death Loss (000 Hd.)	Value Non-Pred. Loss (000 Dol.)
1967	1,351	423.0	7,458.8	61.4	1,107.5	361.6	6,441.3
1968	1,250	303.0	5,631.4	85.0	1,511.4	218.0	4,120.0
1969	1,178	444.0	9,345.0	68.0	1,375.0	376.0	7,970.0
1974	750	282.1	7,318.8	143.5	3,625.7	138.6	3,698.1
1982	616	146.0	5,599.6	50.1	1,837.7	95.9	3,761.9

1/ On farms and ranches January 1. 2/ For entire year. 3/ Includes unknown death loss. 4/ Value lambs equal to September, October, November average price received converted to 70 lb. lamb. Value sheep equal to January inventory value Ewes 1+.

MONTANA SHEEP and LAMB LOSSES BY CAUSE — 1982

CAUSE OF LOSS	SHEEP LOSS		LAMB LOSS		TOTAL LOSS	
	Number Head	Value 1/ Dollars	Number Head	Value 2/ Dollars	Number Head	Value Dollars
Predators						
Coyote	8,800	431,200	26,700	875,800	35,500	1,307,000
Fox	400	19,600	5,100	167,300	5,500	186,900
Eagle	400	19,600	4,800	157,500	5,200	177,100
Bear	600	29,400	500	16,400	1,100	45,800
Dog	1,100	53,900	400	13,100	1,500	67,000
Bobcat	600	29,400	300	9,800	900	39,200
Other Predators	100	4,900	300	9,800	400	14,700
TOTAL PREDATORS	12,000	588,000	38,100	1,249,700	50,100	1,837,700
Non-Predator						
Weather	4,500	220,500	20,300	665,800	24,800	886,300
Disease	6,600	323,400	12,100	396,900	18,700	720,300
Poison	3,500	171,500	2,500	82,000	6,000	253,500
Lambing Complication	2,400	117,600	6,800	223,800	9,200	341,400
On Back	4,400	215,600	600	19,700	5,000	235,300
Old Age	5,800	284,200	--	--	5,800	284,200
Theft	2,000	98,000	700	23,000	2,700	121,000
Other Non-Predator	1,900	93,100	2,900	95,100	4,800	188,200
TOTAL NON-PREDATORS	31,100	1,523,900	45,900	1,506,300	77,000	3,030,200
UNKNOWN	6,900	338,100	12,000	393,600	18,900	731,700
TOTAL LOSS	50,000	2,450,000	96,000	3,149,600	146,000	5,599,600

1/ Average reported value January 1, 1982. Value $49.00 per head (Ewes 1+). 2/ Lamb value based on average monthly prices received by farmers for all lambs marketed during September, October and November 1982, converted to an average liveweight of 70 pounds. Value $32.80 per head.

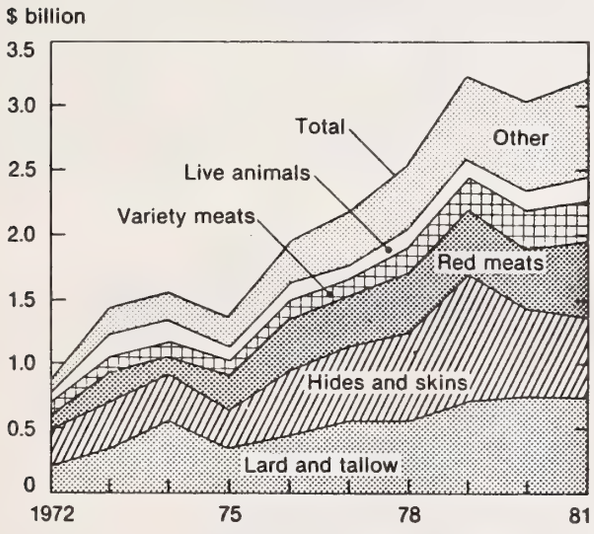
CATTLE OUTLOOK

With cattle slaughter up and the calf crop down, the cattle inventory declined 400,000 during 1982--totaling 115.2 million head at the beginning of 1983. Of significance to future beef production, beef cows and beef heifers being held for replacement purposes were down 3 and 4 percent, respectively, from a year earlier.

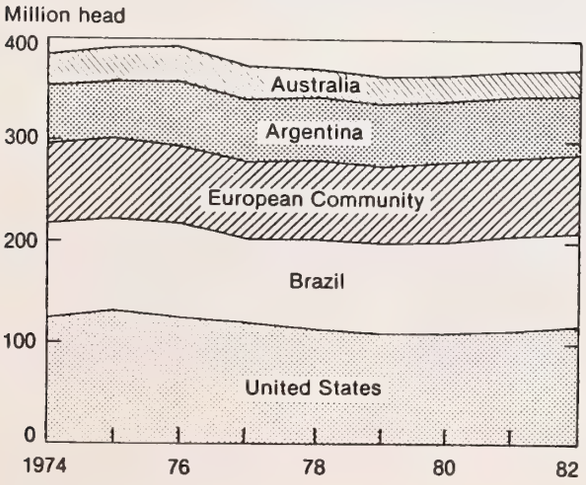
The debate about why the cattle inventory rose for only 3 years before declining has begun. Is the decline in numbers simply an interruption of a longer cycle that will soon reappear, or was this the century's shortest cattle cycle? While it will be some time before the answer becomes clear, the economic forces behind the inventory decline are understood: declining land values, high interest rates, cash-flow needs, a sluggish economy, and a slowdown of inflation.

With the decline, the cattle inventory is now not large enough to support a sustained increase in beef production during the next couple of years without further inventory reductions. Moreover, when the economy perks up this year and consumers spend more for meat, the resulting higher cattle prices--if sustained--will encourage producers to reduce heifer slaughter, retaining them for calf production instead.

U.S. Exports of Livestock Products

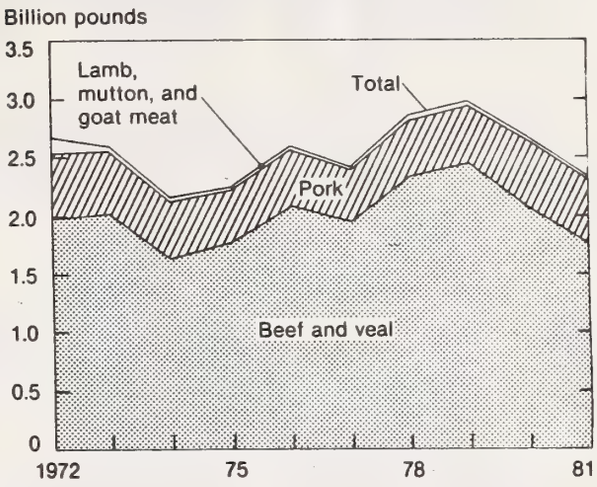


Cattle in Major Beef-Producing Countries



Inventory taken as close to January 1 as possible.

U.S. Imports of Red Meats

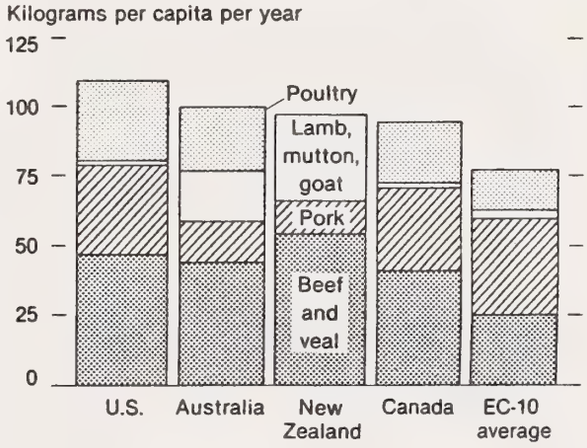


Carcass-weight basis.

PORK OUTLOOK

The outlook for pork production reflects the same economic forces affecting cattle. After dropping sharply in 1982, output will likely level this year. Although hog prices jumped to profitable levels last year, pork producers have not yet shown a clear inclination to sharply expand output. Instead, they are paying off old debts and using income from hog sales to provide cash flow and offset losses on their crop enterprises. Thus, decisions are being based on the health of the entire farm operation, not solely on the profitability of hogs.

Meat Consumption in Major Producing Countries



1981 data. A kilogram is about 2.2 pounds. Meat consumption is in carcass-weight basis. Poultry consumption data not available for New Zealand.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 11 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in the 7 major feeding states totaled 7.6 million head on March 1, up 11 percent from a year ago. Marketings of fed cattle during February at 15.1 million were up 7 percent. Placements in feed lots furing February at 1.18 million were down 11 percent.

FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial cattle slaughter in Montana packing plants during February totaled 8,900 head. The January-February accumulated cattle kill is 18,900. The average weight of cattle slaughtered during February was 1,107 pounds.

Hog slaughter in the state during February was 33,400. The January-February accumulation is 72,800. Average hog weight was 240 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during February 1983 totaled 2.79 billion pounds.

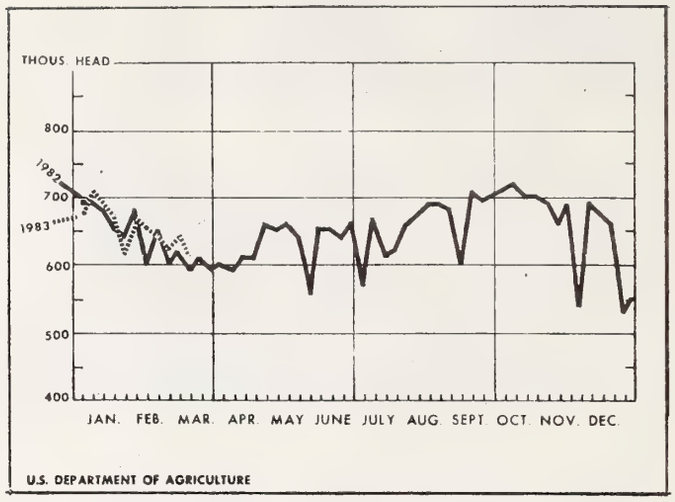
Beef production totaled 1.71 billion pounds. Total head killed was 2.69 million and live weight averaged 1,084 pounds.

Veal production was 32 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 224 thousand head averaged 239 pounds.

Pork production during the month totaled 1.02 billion pounds. Hog kill totaled 5.96 million head. Average live weight for the month was 240 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production was 27 million pounds, head kill of 468 thousand averaged 115 pounds live weight.

FEDERALLY INSPECTED CATTLE SLAUGHTER



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wool Production
Ag. Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Meat Animals--Prod., Disp. & Income

POTATO STOCKS UP

Montana producers had 1.65 million cwt of potatoes in storage as of March 1, 1983--14 percent more than a year ago. The stocks represent 86 percent of production.

In the 15 major fall states there were 117 million cwt in store. This is up 5 percent from last March and 20 percent above two years ago.

In the three Eastern states, estimated holdings totaled 15.8 million cwt, 3 percent above last year and 14 percent above 2 years ago.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cash Receipts Up
Manufactured Dairy Up
Weather-Crop Report
Livestock Prices Up--Crops Down
Wheat Exports

MONTANA FARM CASH RECEIPTS UP

Preliminary cash farm receipts data indicate Montana farmers and ranchers have taken in 9 percent more from the sale of commodities in 1982 than in 1981. Livestock receipts are up only slightly, while crops receipts show a nearly 16 percent increase.

For the Nation, cash receipts from marketings, at $1432.8 billion in 1982, are virtually unchanged from 1981.

CASH FARM RECEIPTS -- MONTANA

ITEM	1980	1981 1/	1982 2/
	-----million dollars-----		
Livestock	747.6	629.1	631.7
Crops	657.6	854.2	987.4
Total from Marketings 3/	1,405.2	1,483.3	1,619.1

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Excludes Government Payments.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 436,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during January--up 4 percent from a year ago. Ice cream production at 110,000 gallons was up 16 percent, while butter made at 227,000 pounds was down 15 percent. American cheese production at 221,000 pounds was up 45 percent.

WEATHER-CROP REPORT

The dry and mild winter has favored livestock raising and has been good to the State's winter wheat crop.

At mid-March, winter wheat was in fair to good condition statewide and greening. Although snow cover protection has been lacking for most of the winter, wind damage has been light.

Topsoil moisture is adequate in the northwestern and eastern districts and mostly short elsewhere. The shortages, although cause for concern, are posing no immediate problems. Subsoil moisture is adequate statewide.

Field tillage is starting in the southern areas and some operators have already completed seedbeds.

Calving and lambing weather has been ideal for most of the state, and by mid-March was over a third done. Livestock feed supplies are in adequate to surplus position.

FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS

STATION	FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION	PERCENT OF NORMAL 1/
	---inches---	%
Hamilton	.78	108
Kalispell	.93	88
Polson	--	--
Belgrade	.27	57
Dillon Airport	.02	8
Cut Bank	.07	21
Havre	.11	27
Conrad	.14	38
Ft. Benton	.24	39
Malta	.28	74
Great falls	.33	44
Lewistown	.43	65
Stanford	.21	40
Billings	.31	44
Wyola	.02	3
Glasgow	.24	63
Sidney	.06	15
Broadus	.15	28
Miles City Airport	.09	16

1/ Normals are for the period 1951-1980.

WHEAT EXPORT UPDATE

Montana wheat is grown mostly for exports. Of the total Montana wheat utilized during the 1981 crop year, 71 percent went overseas, 18 percent was milled into flour, 4 percent was used for seed, 1 percent was fed to livestock with the remaining 6 percent unaccounted disappearance.

A review of the following tables reveals the following current wheat export factors:

1. The U.S. share of total wheat exports is down although we remain the largest exporter by far.
2. The Communist bloc countries, especially the U.S.S.R. and Mainland China, are taking larger share of total imports.
3. Of the major exporting countries, only Australia's production is down.

WHEAT EXPORTS — PERCENT OF WORLD TOTAL

	Marketing Year	
Exporting Country	1980-82 Average	1983 Projected
Canada	17.7	19.6
Australia	12.9	7.4
Argentina	4.6	7.9
EC-10	14.4	16.7
U.S.S.R.	.5	.5
All Others	4.5	5.3
U.S.A.	45.4	42.7
WORLD TOTAL	100.0	100.0

WHEAT PRODUCTION -- PERCENT OF WORLD TOTAL

Country	1979-81 Average	1982
Canada	4.7	5.8
Australia	3.3	1.8
Argentina	1.8	3.0
EC-10	12.1	12.6
U.S.S.R.	20.5	18.2
E. Europe	7.1	7.2
China (Mainland)	13.5	13.4
India	7.9	8.0
All Other Foreign	13.9	13.8
U.S.A.	15.2	16.2
WORLD TOTAL	100.0	100.0

WHEAT IMPORTS -- PERCENT OF WORLD TOTAL

	Marketing Year	
Importing Country	1980-82 Average	1983 Projected
EC-10	5.1	4.1
U.S.S.R.	16.9	18.6
Japan	6.0	5.5
E. Europe	6.5	4.5
China (Mainland)	12.7	13.7
All Others	52.8	53.6
WORLD TOTAL	100.0	100.0

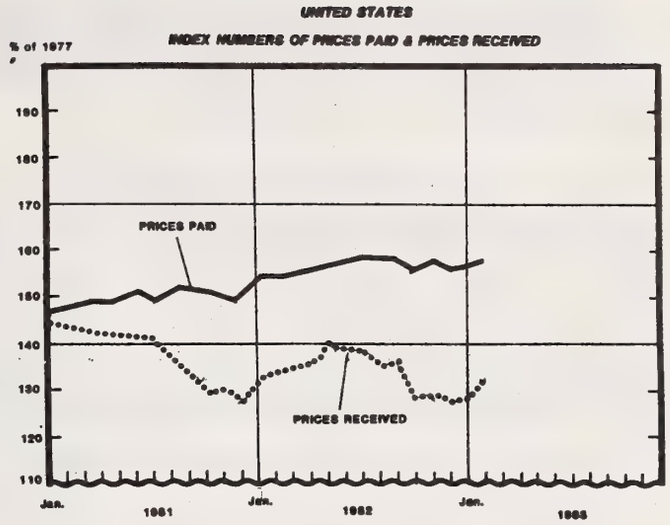
WHEAT UTILIZED WITHIN COUNTRIES -- PERCENT OF WORLD TOTAL

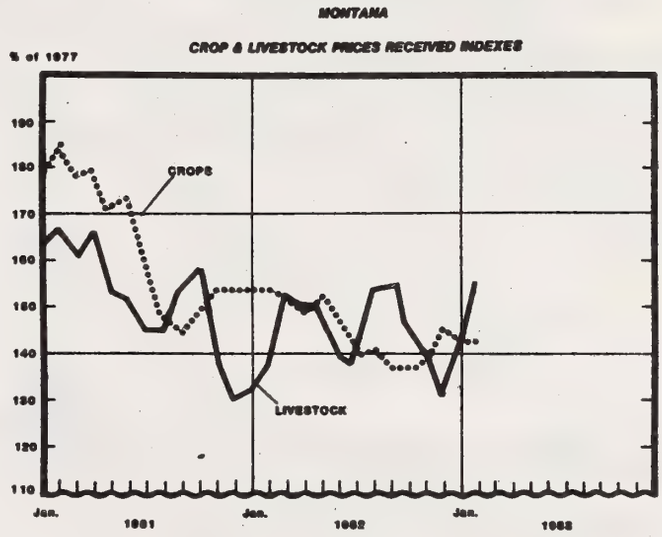
	Marketing Year	
Country	1980-82 Average	1983 Projected
U.S.A.	4.9	5.1
U.S.S.R.	24.9	22.8
China (Mainland)	16.0	16.8
All Other Foreign	54.2	55.3
WORLD TOTAL	100.0	100.0

FEBRUARY FARM PRICES

Prices received by Montana farmers for livestock strengthened during February while crop prices mostly weakened. Beef cattle, hog and lamb prices are higher than both last month and last year levels. Sheep prices are up from last month but still under a year ago. Wheat prices are running under last year mainly due to big declines in hard red spring and durum. Compared with last month wheat prices are only slightly weaker, except for durum which went down more sharply.

The overall February prices received index for Montana at 151 (1977=100) compares with 144 in January and 148 in February last year. The livestock price index at 156 is up 11 points from both last month and last year. The crops price index at 144 is the same as last month, but 9 points under last year.





AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average Feb. 1982	MONTANA Monthly Average Jan. 1983	MONTANA Feb. 15, 1983	U. S. Feb. 15, 1983
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.63	3.66	3.60	3.67
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.66	3.40	3.33
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.87	3.45	3.48	3.34
All Wheat	Bu.	3.76	3.54	3.53	3.59
Barley	Bu.	2.25	2.06	2.03	1.98
Oats	Bu.	1.84	1.53	1.43	1.43
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	55.00	58.00	80.50
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	50.00	48.00	60.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	55.00	57.00	74.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	57.80	59.40	61.30	60.90
Cows	Cwt	37.20	35.60	40.00	40.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	48.90	47.80	52.80	56.90
Calves	Cwt	59.80	64.70	66.90	66.20
Sheep	Cwt	19.30	15.20	16.00	22.10
Lambs	Cwt	50.10	54.40	57.00	59.20
Hogs	Cwt	48.50	55.10	56.20	57.60
All Milk	Cwt	13.40	13.30	13.20	13.80
Eggs	Doz.	.650	.465	.489	.486
Wool 2/	Lb.	.950	.640	.640	.577
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	148	144	151	132
All Crops	Pct.	153	144	144	117
Livestock & Products	Pct.	145	145	156	147

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Feb. 1982	Jan. 1983	Feb. 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	133	128	132
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	154	157	158
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	86	82	84
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	58	54	56

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS POINT DOWN

U.S. agricultural exports are now forecast at $36 billion for fiscal 1983, about $3 billion below last year. Export unit values are expected to decline again after last year's drop, and volume may also fall slightly. Although U.S. farm prices are low, shipments of U.S. farm products continue to be hurt by record global supplies, the economic recession, the high-valued U.S. dollar, foreign exchange constraints, and debt problems in many importing countries.

FOOD PURCHASES TO RISE

Consumer expenditures for domestically produced foods are expected to rise 5 to 8 percent in 1983, pushed up by moderate changes in the price and per-capita quantity of food consumed--plus a 1 percent increase in population. The farm value of food is expected to rise only 1 to 4 percent this year, but marketing costs are forecast up 4 to 7 percent.

WOOL PRICE OUTLOOK GLUM

Low production, use, and prices mark this season's wool market. Sheep numbers on January 1, 1983, were 10.3 million, 10 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since recordkeeping began in 1867. Mill use in 1982 was 115 million pounds, 17 percent below 1981. February farm prices averaged 57.7 cents a pound, greasy, the lowest price for that month since 1975.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS LIMITING 1983 OUTPUT

Livestock producers' returns improved during 1982--a change that normally would suggest a general expansion of livestock output this year. However, red meat production for 1983 is currently forecast to show little, if any, recovery from last year's decline. Faced with weak overall farm financial conditions, producers seem more concerned with keeping their farm operations vaible. As the farm sector has grown more integrated into national money markets and the overall economy, farmers have had to consider ways to enhance their cash-flow position and improve their ability to secure operating funds for future production. At times, these decisions seem to run counter to cash-price signals.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings Down
Red Meat Production
Wheat: Movement and Utilization
Montana's Rank in Agriculture
1981 County Cash Receipts
Potato Stocks Up

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--JANUARY 1983

Montana's slaughter plants produced 12.5 million pounds of red meat during January. Cattle slaughter was 10,100, and hog slaughter totaled 39,300 head.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during January 1983 totaled 3.15 billion pounds. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for January 1983 included 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays (one a holiday).

Beef production totaled 1.93 billion pounds. Total head killed was 3.06 million and live weight averaged 1077 pounds per head.

Veal production was 34 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 244 thousand head averaged 237 pounds live weight.

Pork production during the month totaled 1.16 billion pounds. Hog kill totaled 6.67 million head. Average live weight for the month was 244 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production was 30 million pounds. Head kill of 522 thousand averaged 113 pounds live weight.

Last year slaughter totals were reported for the January-March period, so comparisons with January of 1982 are not available.

SPRING CROP INTENTIONS DOWN

Montana farmers intend to seed 11 percent fewer acres to spring sown crops in 1983 compared with last year, based on a February 1 planting intentions survey. Nearly 97 percent of all spring crops in Montana are hard spring wheat, durum, oats and barley. Nationally, spring crop plantings are also expected to be down 11 percent.

National highlights are:

Corn -- down 15%
Sorghum -- down 19%
Oats -- up 4% (Montana up 15%)
Barley -- unchanged (Montana up 9%)
Hard Spring Wheat -- down 16% (Montana down 20%)
Durum -- down 32% (Montana down 57%)
Soybeans -- down 5%
Sunflower -- down 23%
Dry Beans -- down 22% (Montana unchanged)
Sugarbeets -- up 4%
Hay for harvest -- up 3% (Montana down 2%)

This report is intended to help growers plan their crop program for 1983. Final planted acres will depend upon farm program participation, weather, farm supply costs, and expected prices for 1983 crops.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTING -- FEBRUARY 1

CROP	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1982 1/	1983 2/	1982 1/	1983 2/
	1,000 acres			
Corn	80	90	81,909	69,569
Hard Spring Wheat	2,950	2,350	16,576	13,962
Durum	350	150	4,350	2,940
Oats	260	300	14,211	14,747
Barley	1,650	1,800	9,634	9,675
Sugarbeets	NA	NA	1,060.1	1,104.9
Dry Beans	8.5	8.5	1,903.5	1,485.5
All Hay 3/	2,450	2,400	60,679	62,465

1/ Actual planted acres. 2/ Indicated. 3/ Acres for harvest.

WHEAT MOVEMENT and UTILIZATION

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in the 1981 marketing year (June 1981 - May 1982) is estimated at 143.6 million bushels--including unaccounted disappearance. This is 40 percent more than the previous year. Movement to out-of-state destinations accounted for 90 percent of the total disposition.

The amount headed for Pacific Northwest areas was 134.5 million bushels and represents 94 percent of out-of-state movement. In the Pacific Northwest, the wheat was divided into that destined for overseas shipment--114.0 million--and that for use in milling flour and bulgar products--20.5 million bushels.

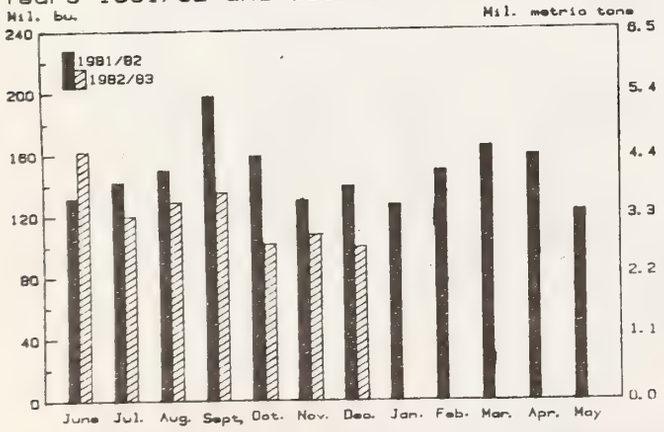
Montana wheat made up 68 percent of all wheat leaving the Pacific Northwest ports in the June 1981 - May 1982 marketing period.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS and UTILIZATION
1978 - 1981 MARKETING YEARS

	1978	1979	1980	1981
Supply	Million Bushels			
Beginning stocks 1/	97.9	87.1	74.6	75.8
Production	146.1	116.5	119.8	172.8
Total Supply	244.0	203.6	194.4	248.6
Disposition				
Recorded movement out of state 2/	113.0	107.9	95.0	115.4
Milled for flour in Montana	8.3	7.9	7.9	8.9
Used for seed in Montana	5.4	6.4	6.4	6.0
Used for livestock feed 3/	3.0	1.7	1.9	1.8
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	27.2	5.1	7.4	28.2
Total Disposition	156.9	129.0	118.6	160.3
Ending stocks 1/	87.1	74.6	75.8	88.3

1/ Farm, commercial--June 1 stocks.
2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers, special survey of truck destinations and barge traffic.
3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills and purchased by other farmers for feed.
4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

U.S. Wheat Exports by Months, Marketing Years 1981/82 and 1982/83



Includes flour and products in wheat equivalent.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT
TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION and EXPORTS 1/

ITEM	Marketing Year 2/ 1978	1979	1980	1981
	--------Million Bushels--------			
Shipments of MT wheat into Pacific Northwest 3/ (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance)	114.8	92.7	92.5	134.5
Total wheat used for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar)	(32.8)	(26.8)	(33.4)	(32.3)
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar) 4/	21.5	16.5	21.1	20.5
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific Northwest ports 5/	93.3	76.2	71.3	114.0
Montana PNW exports as a percent of total disposition	59%	59%	60%	71%
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter and Durum from PNW ports	175.1	193.1	179.0	166.5
Montana exports as percent of total HRS, HRW and Durum exports from PNW ports	53%	39%	40%	68%

1/ Pacific Northwest--Oregon and Washington.
2/ June 1 - May 31.
3/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project.
4/ Total Pacific Northwest wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington and other states.
5/ Estimated Montana wheat shipped to Pacific Northwest minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific Northwest.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

Acres in strip cropping	4,489,260	1969	1
Land in farms and ranches	62,100,000	1982	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't. payments			
Total	$1,483,254,000	1981	33
Crops	$ 854,196,000	1981	30
Livestock	$ 629,058,000	1981	31

LIVESTOCK

All cattle and calves	2,990,000 hd.	1-1-83	12
All cows	1,549,000 hd.	1-1-83	10
Milk cows	29,000 hd.	1-1-83	41
Beef cows	1,520,000 hd.	1-1-83	7
Cattle on feed	75,000 hd.	1-1-83	22
Hogs and Pigs	154,000 hd.	12-1-82	28
Sheep and Lambs	560,000 hd.	1-1-83	7
Wool production	5,670,000 lbs.	1981	7
All chickens	970,000 hd.	12-1-82	39

CROPS (PRODUCTION)

All wheat	183,560,000 bu.	1982	4
Winter wheat	80,560,000 bu.	1982	7
Durum wheat	10,200,000 bu.	1982	3
Spring wheat other than durum	92,800,000 bu.	1982	3
All hay	5,105,000 tons	1982	12
Alfalfa hay	3,380,000 tons	1982	10
Dry beans	139,000 cwt	1982	12
Barley	76,440,000 bu.	1982	2
Oats	7,650,000 bu.	1982	13
Potatoes--fall	1,924,000 cwt	1982	16
Sugarbeets	851,000 tons	1982	8

CASH RECEIPTS BY COUNTIES -- 1981

FROM SALE OF PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS and GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

COUNTY & DISTRICT	Livestock and Livestock Products	Crops	Total Receipts from Marketings	Gov't. Payments	All Cash Receipts
			--Dollars--		
Deer Lodge	816,000	1,156,000	1,972,000	36,000	2,008,000
Flathead	7,697,000	11,089,000	18,786,000	376,000	19,162,000
Granite	7,485,000	1,818,000	9,303,000	74,000	9,377,000
Lake	13,803,000	12,338,000	26,141,000	376,000	26,517,000
Lincoln	1,391,000	997,000	2,388,000	23,000	2,411,000
Mineral	696,000	479,000	1,175,000	8,000	1,183,000
Missoula	4,380,000	3,568,000	7,948,000	103,000	8,051,000
Powell	10,306,000	3,795,000	14,101,000	163,000	14,264,000
Ravalli	15,693,000	4,146,000	19,839,000	216,000	20,055,000
Sanders	3,832,000	1,178,000	5,010,000	170,000	5,180,000
N. WEST	66,099,000	40,564,000	106,663,000	1,545,000	108,208,000
Blaine	12,826,000	23,380,000	36,206,000	2,159,000	38,365,000
Chouteau	11,789,000	63,111,000	74,900,000	4,807,000	79,707,000
Glacier	9,292,000	25,044,000	34,336,000	1,487,000	35,823,000
Hill	6,093,000	52,356,000	58,449,000	3,966,000	62,415,000
Liberty	3,450,000	35,857,000	39,307,000	1,817,000	41,124,000
Phillips	16,556,000	17,808,000	34,364,000	2,572,000	36,936,000
Pondera	8,178,000	38,341,000	46,519,000	2,149,000	48,668,000
Teton	23,519,000	37,765,000	61,284,000	2,161,000	63,445,000
Toole	4,915,000	42,180,000	47,095,000	2,476,000	49,571,000
N. CENTRAL	96,618,000	335,842,000	432,460,000	23,594,000	456,054,000
Daniels	5,297,000	20,803,000	26,100,000	2,657,000	28,757,000
Dawson	8,954,000	23,266,000	32,220,000	3,067,000	35,287,000
Garfield	12,327,000	6,982,000	19,309,000	3,484,000	22,793,000
McCone	8,704,000	19,323,000	28,027,000	3,434,000	31,461,000
Richland	26,760,000	33,280,000	60,040,000	3,061,000	63,101,000
Roosevelt	8,276,000	30,256,000	38,532,000	3,515,000	42,047,000
Sheridan	4,133,000	34,454,000	38,587,000	3,005,000	41,592,000
Valley	14,616,000	28,831,000	43,447,000	8,010,000	51,457,000
N. EAST	89,067,000	197,195,000	286,262,000	30,233,000	316,495,000
Broadwater	5,522,000	16,269,000	21,791,000	758,000	22,549,000
Cascade	34,987,000	26,214,000	61,201,000	2,229,000	63,430,000
Fergus	25,813,000	22,489,000	48,302,000	2,837,000	51,139,000
Golden Valley	9,385,000	2,536,000	11,921,000	415,000	12,336,000
Judith Basin	15,584,000	15,013,000	30,597,000	1,162,000	31,759,000
Lewis & Clark	12,145,000	3,664,000	15,809,000	346,000	16,155,000
Meagher	12,937,000	1,859,000	14,796,000	293,000	15,089,000
Musselshell	8,876,000	3,791,000	12,667,000	875,000	13,542,000
Petroleum	7,175,000	1,196,000	8,371,000	721,000	9,092,000
Wheatland	9,267,000	3,023,000	12,290,000	444,000	12,734,000
CENTRAL	141,691,000	96,054,000	237,745,000	10,080,000	247,825,000
Beaverhead	32,320,000	6,288,000	38,608,000	414,000	39,022,000
Gallatin	23,573,000	24,622,000	48,195,000	1,009,000	49,204,000
Jefferson	3,631,000	1,371,000	5,002,000	113,000	5,115,000
Madison	21,172,000	4,457,000	25,629,000	326,000	25,955,000
Silver Bow	4,184,000	508,000	4,692,000	12,000	4,704,000
S. WEST	84,880,000	37,246,000	122,126,000	1,874,000	124,000,000
Big Horn	31,097,000	22,384,000	53,481,000	1,311,000	54,792,000
Carbon	18,979,000	18,922,000	37,901,000	468,000	38,369,000
Park	10,317,000	3,557,000	13,874,000	326,000	14,200,000
Stillwater	18,205,000	7,303,000	25,508,000	646,000	26,154,000
Sweet Grass	9,409,000	1,258,000	10,667,000	324,000	10,991,000
Treasure	3,783,000	8,954,000	12,737,000	393,000	13,130,000
Yellowstone	53,777,000	32,874,000	86,651,000	1,028,000	87,679,000
S. CENTRAL	145,567,000	95,252,000	240,819,000	4,496,000	245,315,000
Carter	12,669,000	4,349,000	17,018,000	2,701,000	19,719,000
Custer	20,939,000	9,883,000	30,822,000	2,514,000	33,336,000
Fallon	6,645,000	7,919,000	14,564,000	1,991,000	16,555,000
Powder River	13,973,000	5,690,000	19,663,000	1,707,000	21,370,000
Prairie	7,829,000	8,214,000	16,043,000	1,248,000	17,291,000
Rosebud	15,393,000	10,701,000	26,094,000	1,756,000	27,850,000
Wibaux	4,158,000	5,287,000	9,445,000	1,392,000	10,837,000
S. EAST	81,606,000	52,043,000	133,649,000	13,309,000	146,958,000
STATE	705,528,000	854,196,000	1,559,724,000	85,131,000	1,644,855,000

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

MORE POTATOES ON HAND

On February 1, 1983 there were 1,750,000 cwt of potatoes in Montana storages--9 percent more than last year.

For the 15 major fall potato producing states there were 144,950,000 cwt in storage, a 6 percent increase from last year. Idaho storages held 4 percent more than last year, Oregon was up 8 percent and Washington was up 2 percent. The total 1982 crop in the 15 states was 3 percent larger than a year ago.

By February 1, 10 percent fewer potatoes had been utilized for processing in Idaho and Malheur County Oregon, and 5 percent less in Washington and other areas in Oregon.

In the 11 objective yield states, 75 percent of all storage potatoes were Russets, 22 percent whites and 3 percent reds.

MEAT CONSUMPTION

During 1982, total per capita consumption of red meat and poultry was down 2 percent from the 208 pounds (retail-weight basis) consumed in 1981. Total poultry consumption was up 2 percent, but red meats were down 4 percent. Per capita beef consumption was about the same as in 1981, but pork consumption fell nearly 8 pounds from the 65 pounds per person consumed in 1981. Poultry consumption rose a little over 1 pound to nearly 64 pounds, with nearly all of the rise occurring in broiler production.

Per capita meat consumption is expected to decline again in 1983. Beef consumption may be up slightly, while pork consumption is expected to be down almost 4 pounds. The rate of increase in poultry consumption will slow to a gain of less than 1 pound.

During 1982, retail prices of red meats increased as supplies were curtailed. Retail beef prices rose 1 percent to a new high of $2.42 a pound in 1982. In 1982, retail pork prices rose 15 percent to $1.75 a pound. Poultry prices declined about 2 percent.

CATTLE BALANCE SHEET

Year	On farms Jan. 1	Imports	Calf crop	Total supply	Slaughter		Death loss	Exports	Total disap-pearance	To balance	On farms Dec. 31
					Cattle	Calves					
					1,000 head						
1975	132,028	389	50,183	182,600	41,464	5,406	6,992	196	54,058	−562	127,980
1976	127,980	984	47,384	176,348	43,199	5,527	5,190	205	54,121	−583	122,810
1977	122,810	1,133	45,931	169,874	42,381	5,692	6,000	107	54,180	+681	116,375
1978	116,375	1,253	43,818	161,446	39,970	4,302	5,800	122	50,194	−388	110,864
1979	110,864	732	42,603	154,199	34,005	2,927	5,600	66	42,598	−409	111,192
1980	111,192	681	44,998	156,871	34,116	2,679	5,413	66	42,274	−276	114,321
1981	114,321	659	44,776	159,756	35,265	2,886	4,902	88	43,141	−1,011	115,604
1982	115,604	1,005	44,420	161,029	36,125	3,100	5,400	58	44,683	−1,145	115,201
1983	115,201										

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farm Prices
Cattle & Calf Numbers Up in Montana--
Down for Nation
Sheep Inventory Down

MONTANA'S FUTURE BEEF HERD TO SHRINK?

Montana's January 1 cattle and calf inventory at 2.99 million head is up 3 percent from last year.

The state's cattle inventory has been going up each year since 1979. However, this year's increase is due solely to the larger holdover of last year's calf crop. Since beef cows were down 5 percent, and replacement heifers down 14 percent, a future decline in the state's beef herd is indicated.

The total value of the inventory on hand January 1, 1983 was $1.1 billion--down 2 percent from last year.

CATTLE and CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1982-1983

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1982	1983	% Change 1983/82	1982	1983	% Change 1983/82
	--1,000 Head--			--1,000 Head--		
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	2,900	2,990	+ 3	115,604	115,201	--
Cows % heifers that have calved						
Beef Cows	1,604	1,520	- 5	39,319	38,081	- 3
Milk Cows	29	29	--	11,012	11,066	--
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	302	260	-14	6,615	6,343	- 4
For milk cow replacement	12	9	-25	4,532	4,532	--
Other heifers	107	149	+39	7,181	7,954	+11
Steers 500 pounds and over	183	218	+19	15,501	16,229	+ 5
Bulls 500 pounds and over	90	87	- 3	2,618	2,516	--
Calves less than 500 pounds	573	718	+25	28,827	28,382	- 2
All cattle value ($000)	1,145,500	1,121,250	- 2	47,966,517	46,749,210	- 3
Value per head (Dollars)	395	375	- 5	415	406	- 2

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS -- 1981 and 1982

ITEM	1981	1982	% Change 1982/81	1981	1982	% Change 1982/81
Calves born during year (000)	1,580	1,570	- 1	44,776	44,420	- 1
Number cattle farms	16,300	16,000	- 2	1,621,570	1,611,120	- 1

NATION'S CATTLE HERD DOWN SLIGHTLY

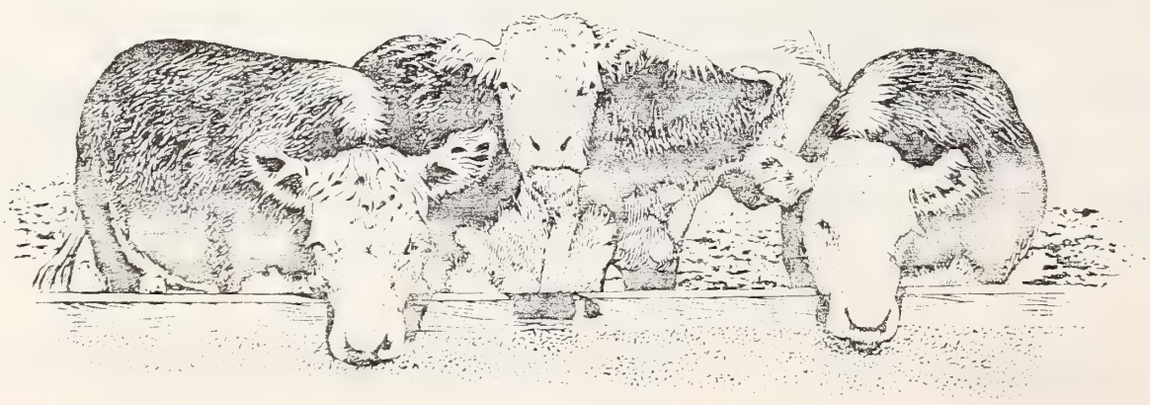
The nation's cattle inventory at 115 million head on January 1 is down 1 million from a year ago. However, the beginning year inventory figures reveal a definite beef breeding herd liquidation trend. Beef cows and replacement heifers were down 4 and 3 percent respectively. Cow slaughter was up 11 percent for the year, producers added a smaller percent of available replacement heifers to their herds than the year before, and heifers placed in feedlots increased.

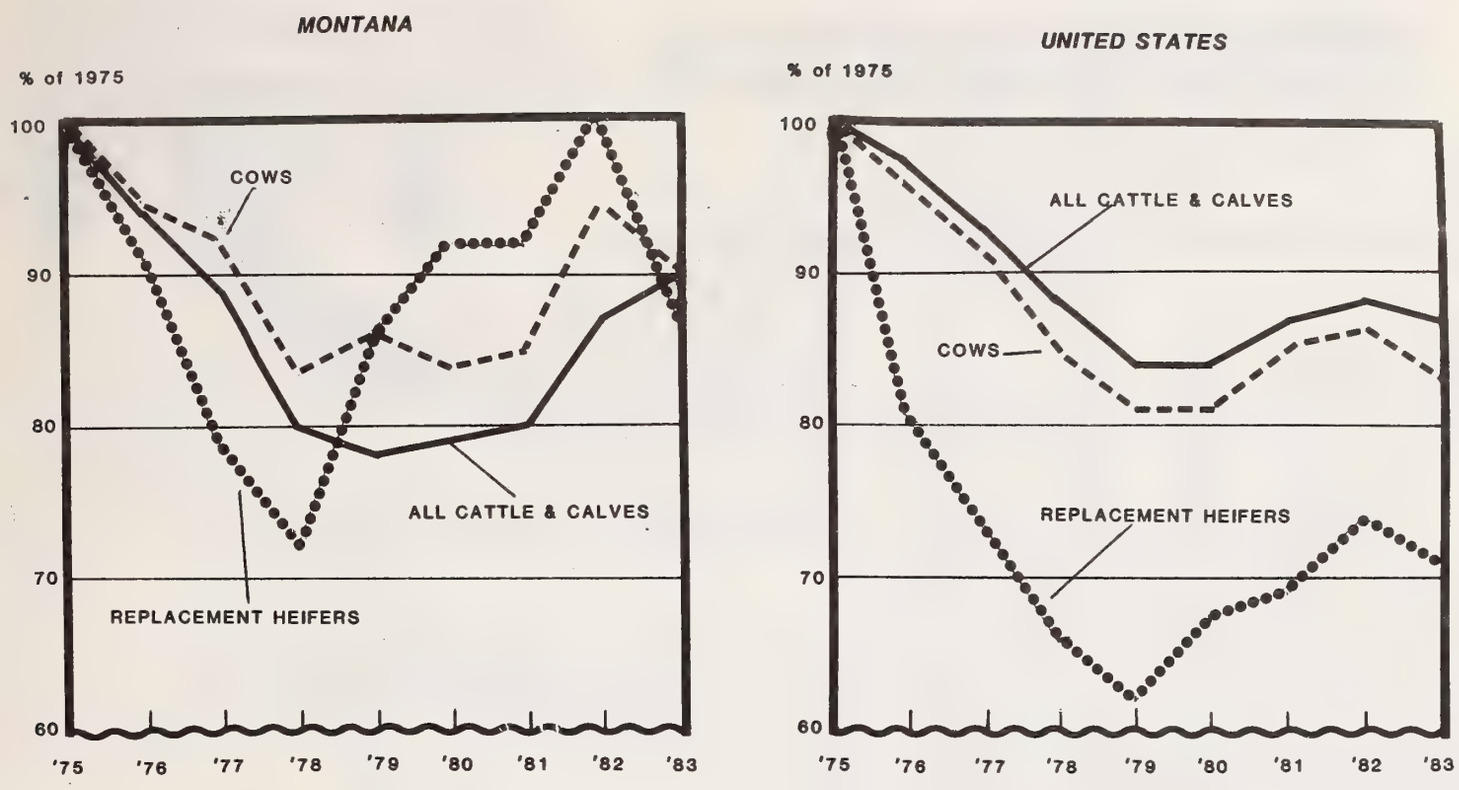
The reasons for the cutbacks are not mysterious. Beef enterprise profits didn't keep up with cost increases, and many cattle men suffered cash flow problems because of high interest rates. Beef cattle prices averaged nearly 7 percent less during 1982 compared with 1981.

The trend could reverse itself in short order or it could continue it's downward slide. One major factor favoring the beef industry is that it does not have a surplus disposal problem to contend with before it can regain economic health.

If market prices signal beefmen to produce more, the ingredients for herd expansion are already in place. A much higher proportion of the available heifers could be saved for herd expansion--and there's 11 percent more other heifers on hand to choose from. Cow slaughter could be cut back substantially. The PIK program will take corn and grain sorghum out of the farmer owned reserve and make it available for sale. This year's mild winter weather will no doubt increase hay carryover, and current interest rates are making financing more palatable.

	BEEF BREEDING CATTLE						***FEEDER CATTLE***					
	ALL CATTLE AND CALVES		ALL BEEF COWS		BEEF REPLACEMENT HEIFERS		OTHER HEIFERS 500 +		STEERS 500 +		CALVES UNDER 500	
	Mil. Head	% Chg. 83/82	Mil. Head	% Chg. 83/82	Mil. Head	% Chg. 83/82	Mil. Head	% Chg. 83/82	Mil. Head	% Chg. 83/82	Mil. Head	% Chg. 83/82
11 WESTERN (AZ, CA, COLO, IDAHO, MT, NEV, N MEX, ORE, UTAH, WASH, WYO)	21.6	under - 1	7.5	- 3	1.4	- 9	1.6	+20	3.3	+ 6	4.8	- 4
5 CENTRAL PLAINS (KS, NEBR, N DAK, OKLA, S DAK)	24.5	- 2	8.3	- 6	1.3	under - 1	2.4	+ 4	4.8	+ 4	6.4	- 3
7 CORN BELT (ILL, IND, IOWA, MINN, MO, OHIO, WISC)	26.4	- 2	6.0	- 6	0.8	- 7	2.1	+ 7	4.2	NC	6.9	- 4
10 SOUTHEASTERN (ALA, ARK, FLA, GA, KY, LA, MISS, N C, S C, TENN)	18.4	- 2	8.3	- 3	1.4	- 7	.5	+ 3	1.0	+11	4.8	- 1
TEXAS	15.0	+ 9	6.3	+ 6	1.1	+ 9	1.2	+25	2.1	+14	3.4	+10
ALL OTHER STATES	9.3	- 2	1.7	- 6	.3	-13	.2	+12	.8	- 5	2.1	- 3
NATION	115.2	under - 1	38.1	- 3	6.3	- 4	8.0	+11	16.2	+ 5	28.4	- 2





Above charts refer to January 1 inventory.

SHEEP NUMBERS DECLINE

Montana's January 1 sheep and lamb inventory was 9 percent less than last year, reversing the trend of a three year buildup in numbers. Breeding ewes 1 year old and over were down 7 percent from last year. The decrease in breeding stock would indicate sheepmen are planning to raise even fewer sheep for the coming year.

SHEEP and LAMBS ON FARMS and RANCHES -- 1982-1983

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1982	1983	% Change 1983/82	1982	1983	% Change 1983/82
	--Thous. Head--			--Thous. Head--		
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS	616	560	- 9	12,966	11,904	- 8
On feed	16	20	+25	1,564	1,641	+ 5
Stock sheep	600	540	-10	11,402	10,263	-10
Lambs						
Ewes	117	85	-27	1,804	1,392	-23
Wethers and rams	13	15	+15	422	338	-20
One year old and older						
Ewes	455	425	- 7	8,788	8,165	- 7
Wethers and rams	15	15	--	388	368	- 5
All sheep value ($000)	33,880	28,280	-17	737,777	615,691	-17
Value per head (Dollars)	55	50.50	- 8	56.90	51.70	- 9

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS -- 1981 and 1982

ITEM	1981	1982	% Change 1982/81	1981	1982	% Change 1982/81
Lamb crop	420	470	+12	8,825	8,499	- 4
Number of sheep farms	2,400	2,500	+ 4	125,560	128,790	+ 3

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA MONTHLY AVERAGE Jan. 1982	MONTANA MONTHLY AVERAGE Dec. 1982	MONTANA Jan. 15 1983	U. S. Jan. 15 1983
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.45	3.54	3.55	3.61
Durum	Bu.	3.76	3.13	3.13	3.12
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.88	3.57	3.50	3.42
All Wheat	Bu.	3.81	3.55	3.52	3.54
Barley	Bu.	2.38	2.11	1.97	2.08
Oats	Bu.	1.91	1.54	1.41	1.47
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	62.00	59.00	75.40
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	50.00	48.00	59.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	58.00	57.00	70.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	55.50	57.60	59.20	59.20
Cows	Cwt	36.70	32.10	33.10	35.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	44.10	41.90	43.50	54.70
Calves	Bwt	56.50	58.00	61.00	62.40
Sheep	Cwt	21.00	16.60	17.80	23.20
Lambs	Cwt	47.80	48.40	49.50	53.30
Hogs	Cwt	41.40	53.60	53.00	54.90
All Milk	Cwt	13.80	13.60	13.70	13.90
Eggs	Doz.	.610	.538	.465	.462
Wool 2/	Lb.	.950	.640	.640	.532
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	144	138	138	128
All Crops	Pct.	156	146	143	113
Livestock & Products	Pct.	132	131	133	142

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Jan. 1982	Dec. 1982	Jan. 1983
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	132	127	128
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	154	156	157
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	86	81	82
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	57	54	54

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices recieved to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

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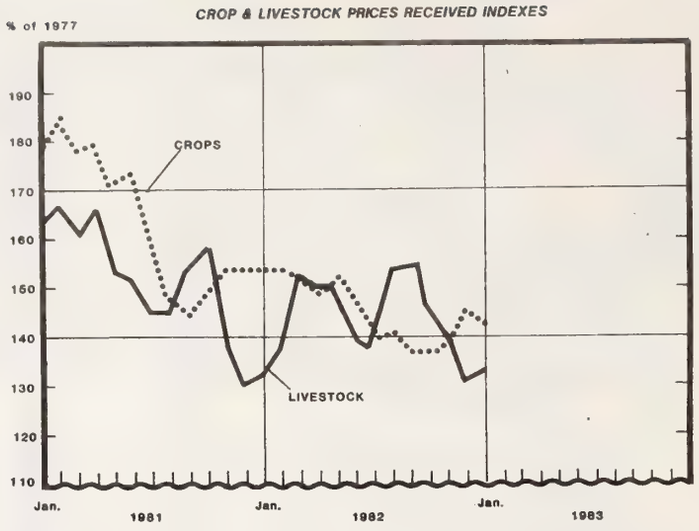
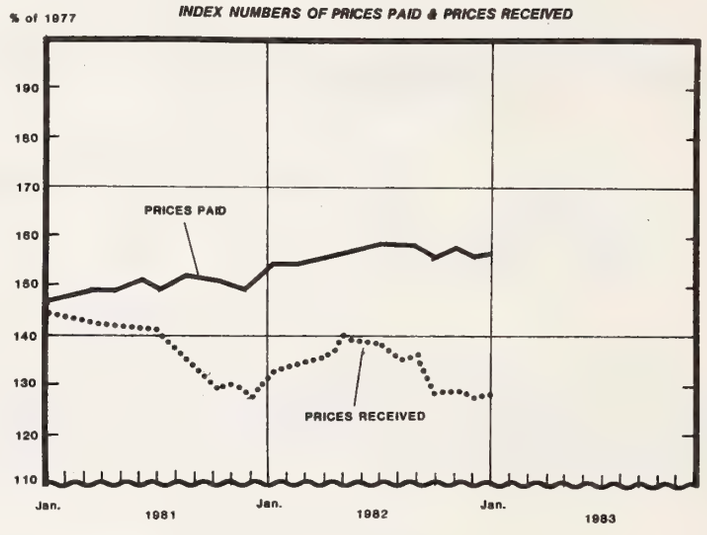


UNITED STATES

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



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HIGHLIGHTS:

Record Grain Storage
Slaughter Down
Potato Stocks Up
More Milk Produced
Value of Montana Crops Up

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

The outlook for agriculture in 1983 remains clouded by large crop supplies worldwide combined with a weak global economy--pointing to low crop prices and poor income prospects for many U.S. farmers. World carryover stocks of all grains will likely rise about 40 million metric tons this season, as they did last season. With nearly all of this buildup occurring in the United States, this country will hold 74 percent of the world's coarse grain stocks and 44 percent of its wheat stocks by the end of 1982/83. In addition, the United States could hold 60 percent of global soybean stocks and 26 percent of the cotton stocks. These huge stocks, plus the strong dollar, are expected to keep U.S. crop prices low.

Weakness in the global economy and limited growth in livestock production have reduced feed requirements nearly everywhere. In the United States, total output of red meats and poultry is anticipated to decline about 3 percent in 1983, and world production is not expected to advance noticeably. The resulting weak demand for feed will intensify the price-depressing effect of large U.S. stocks.

INCOME and FINANCE UPDATE

The current assessment for net farm income in 1982, after adjusting for inventory changes, is still $19.0 billion, down from $25.1 billion in 1981 and $20.1 billion in 1980. Cash income from farming is estimated at about $31 billion for 1982, down about 2 percent from the previous year's level despite large direct Government payments of about $4 billion.

WHEAT STOCKS RECORD HIGH

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators January 1, 1983 totaled 200.5 million bushels, a record high for this date and 27 percent more than a year ago. Disappearance since October 1 was 37.9 million bushels, down 11 percent from a year ago. Farm storages held 172.5 million bushels--31 percent above a year ago and commercial storages held 28.0 million--up 4 percent.

Winter wheat holdings at 88.8 million bushels were up 9 percent from last year. Spring wheat stocks excluding durum were 94.6 million bushels up 47 percent from a year ago. Durum in storage amounted to 17.1 million bushels--up 37 percent.

Barley stocks at 51.2 million bushels were up 57 percent and oats stocks at 7.3 million were up 67 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on January 1, 1983 totaled a record high 2.52 billion bushels, 16 percent more than last year's 2.18 billion bushels and 32 percent more than January 1, 1981. Farm stocks amounted to 1.17 billion bushels or 46 percent of the total January 1, 1983 wheat stocks. Off-farm stocks on January 1, 1983 totaled 1.35 billion bushels, 11 percent more than the January 1, 1982 total of 1.22 billion bushels. Indicated disappearance during the October-December 1982 quarter totaled 466 million bushels. Disappearance for the comparable period a year ago was 557 million bushels.

Barley stored in all positions on January 1, 1983 totaled 419 million bushels, 26 percent more than a year earlier. Stocks of barley stored on farms amounted to 294 million bushels or 70 percent of the total stocks. Off-farm storages held 125 million bushels on January 1, or 30 percent of the total stocks. On-farm stocks were up 27 percent and off-farm were up 22 percent from January 1, 1982.

(See tables on inside pages.)

STOCKS OF GRAIN JANUARY 1, 1983 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1982	Oct. 1, 1982 *	Jan. 1, 1983	% Change From 1982	Jan. 1, 1982	Oct. 1, 1982 *	Jan. 1, 1983
	------Thousand Bushels------			Pct.	--------Thousand Bushels--------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	131,351	209,258	172,546	+31	955,579	1,421,017	1,167,374
Off Farms 1/	27,042	29,144	28,000	+ 4	1,222,428	1,566,044	1,353,998
T O T A L	158,393	238,402	200,546	+27	2,178,007	2,987,061	2,521,372
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	65,464	93,132	72,706	+11	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	16,074	14,452	16,110	--	--	--	--
T O T A L	81,538	107,584	88,816	+ 9	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	65,887	116,126	99,840	+52	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,968	14,692	11,890	+ 8	--	--	--
T O T A L	76,855	130,818	111,730	+45	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	121,384	176,767	155,935
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	31,034	41,045	33,007
T O T A L	12,524	17,854	17,120	+37	152,418	217,812	188,942
RYE							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	5,710	11,895	7,661
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,172	4,565	3,210
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	7,882	16,460	10,871
CORN							
On Farms	638	26	980	+54	5,033,830	1,355,988	6,156,877
Off Farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,933,826	929,926	2,265,842
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	6,967,656	2,285,914	8,422,719
OATS							
On Farms	4,114	8,033	6,885	+67	314,137	486,005	397,920
Off Farms 1/	258	452	400	+55	51,075	95,268	75,702
T O T A L	4,372	8,485	7,285	+67	365,212	581,273	473,622
BARLEY							
On Farms	28,948	62,681	45,864	+58	231,161	353,412	293,924
Off Farms 1/	3,681	5,460	5,300	+44	101,894	147,966	124,798
T O T A L	32,629	68,141	51,164	+57	333,055	501,378	418,722
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	256,555	61,518	267,736
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	432,899	235,032	524,855
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	689,454	296,550	792,591

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the MONTANA WHEAT RESEARCH & MARKETING COMMITTEE. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jan. 1, 1982	Oct. 1, 1982 *	Jan. 1, 1983	Jan. 1, 1982	Oct. 1, 1982 *	Jan. 1, 1983
	-------Million Bushels--------			--------Million Bushels-------		
Northwest	1.9	1.5	1.4	2.7	3.6	2.2
North Central	69.1	98.9	93.8	14.8	32.2	24.1
Northeast	44.8	71.4	58.1	2.5	8.3	5.6
Central	21.3	27.4	20.3	6.5	13.1	12.1
Southwest	2.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.4	2.4
South Central	12.3	19.4	13.5	2.2	5.4	3.6
Southeast	6.5	16.6	10.3	.8	2.1	1.2
STATE	158.4	238.4	200.5	32.6	68.1	51.2

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the MONTANA WHEAT RESEARCH & MARKETING COMMITTEE. * Revised.

MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana dairymen produced about 1 percent more milk during the October-December period than a year earlier. Milk cow numbers in the state held steady from year ago levels but a slight increase in production per cow accounted for the higher production.

Compared with the previous quarter (July-September) milk production in the state dropped 5 percent or 4 million pounds.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PRODUCTION 2/	
	1981	1982	1981	1982
	--Thousands--		-Million Lbs.-	
Calif.	936	939	3,548	3,578
Idaho	168	175	544	541
Minn.	900	900	2,269	2,349
Montana	29	29	83	84
N. Dakota	92	93	206	211
Oregon	97	100	293	313
S. Dakota	156	166	412	430
Wash.	207	213	740	799
Wisc.	1,828	1,829	5,264	5,377
Wyoming	12	12	36	33
U.S.	10,981	11,059	31,982	32,804

1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

MONTANA CROP VALUES UP

Montana farmers and ranchers harvested crops valued at 1.08 billion dollars in 1982--2 percent above 1981. The higher total value was mainly the result of increased production which more than offset a generally lower price per unit of production in 1982.

MONTANA CROP VALUES -- 1982

CROP	PRODUCTION		VALUE
Winter Wheat	80.6	Mil. Bu.	$282.0 Mil.
Hard Spring Wheat	92.8	Mil. Bu.	324.8 Mil.
Durum Wheat	10.2	Mil. Bu.	33.7 Mil.
Barley	76.4	Mil. Bu.	141.4 Mil.
Oats	7.7	Mil. Bu.	11.5 Mil.
Corn for Grain	1.4	Mil. Bu.	3.3 Mil.
Dry Beans	139	Thous. Cwt.	1.7 Mil.
Sugarbeets	851	Thous. Tons	NA
Potatoes	1.9	Thous. Cwt.	14.4 Mil.
All Hay	5,105	Thous. Tons	268.0 Mil.
Sweet Cherries	3,400	Tons	1.9 Mil.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana's slaughter plants produced 37.3 million pounds of red meat in the October-December period, 20 percent less than the same period last year. Accumulated production for all of 1982 was 27 percent below last year.

October-December cattle slaughter at 31,400 head was 19 percent below a year ago. For all of 1982, cattle slaughter was down 34 percent. Hog slaughter at 118,900 head was down 20 percent. For the entire year, hog slaughter was down 17 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during October through December 1982 totaled 9.66 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the October-December 1981 quarter. Red meat production during 1982, at 37.3 billion pounds, declined 4 percent from 1981. The 1982 production percent change from 1981 by individual components were: beef, up 1 percent; veal, up 2 percent; pork, down 10 percent; lamb and mutton, up 9 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

JANUARY-DECEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

1981 & 1982

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1981	1982	1981	1982	Pct. Chg.
	----------1,000 Head---------				%
No. Slaughtered					
Cattle	134.4	88.1	34,953	35,826	+ 2
Calves	.2	.2	2,798	3,019	+ 8
Hogs	526.3	438.0	91,575	82,197	-10
Sheep & Lambs	3.6	3.5	6,008	6,449	+ 7
Total Liveweight	Thous Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	145,828	92,047	37,560	38,112	+ 1
Calves	99	6	698	711	+ 2
Hogs	126,380	104,958	22,211	19,935	-10
Sheep & Lamb	398	405	659	715	+ 8
RED MEAT PRODUCTION	169,323	123,922	38,672	37,259	- 4

MORE POTATOES IN STORAGE

Montana producers had 1.78 million cwt in storage on January 1, 1983--9 percent above last year at this time.

There were 174 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1983 in the 15 major fall producing states. This was up 6 percent from last January and 18 percent above two years ago. Of the total stocks in the 11 objective yield states 74 percent are russets, 23 percent whites and 3 percent reds.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep Inventory
Cattle Inventory
Ag Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Chicken Inventory

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farm Finance Condition
1982 Crop Summary
Ag Prices Decline
Hay Stocks Up

FARM FINANCES DETERIORATE

Financial conditions in the farm sector continued to deteriorate in 1982. Major contributing factors were sluggish foreign and domestic economic conditions, large world crop supplies, high interest rates and the cumulative impact of three years of low farm income. The number of farmers in financial distress increased, although it remains very low. Farmers experienced a decline in borrowing capacity because of a 3.9 percent drop in nominal farm equity. Since the decline in borrowing capacity came at a time when receipts were very tight, farmers were pressed to reduce input purchases and capital expenditures and to take other actions to improve their cash flow. The farm sector debt-to-asset ratio is estimated to have increased from 18.5 at the start of 1982 to a record 20.1 percent on January 1, 1983.

Current prospects for significant improvement in farm financial conditions in 1983 are not favorable; returns to agriculture will likely remain relatively low. Production expenses may grow by only 2 to 3 percent, but total cash receipts are not currently expected to increase significantly. Lower feed costs and modest price improvement are expected to enhance profits for livestock and poultry producers. However, crop receipts are likely to decline because of projected large supplies and sluggish demand. Cash flow difficulties will persist; again, those farmers with high debt loads and no alternative sources of income will be hardest hit.

The nominal value of farm assets is likely to decline about 2 percent in 1982, the first such decline since 1953. Real estate values fell for the second year in a row; the forecast 4.2 percent decline is the result of reduced farm income expectations and a generally sluggish economy. Real estate values are forecast to remain unchanged next year.

(See Table Page 4)

1982 CROP SEASON REVIEW

Montana's major crops set record levels of production in 1982. Ample moisture at the critical time was the main reason for the bumper yields.

Actually, the winter wheat crop got off to a slow start because of dry soils during the fall of 1981. Poor germination prospects halted seeding in late September with only 75 percent of the planting done. In October a three week rainy period changed things. Although farmers tried to speed seeding, time ran out and some acreage had to wait for spring seeding.

Moisture continued to accumulate during the fall and winter months at an above normal rate. However, a very cool spring delayed planting of spring wheat and barley until late April and early May--much behind normal. Cold and rainy weather returned in late May and early June delaying the last 20 percent of the spring wheat planting.

Spring planted crops grew slowly because of cool weather but ample moisture was always generally available. When August arrived, maturity was much behind normal but warm days during the month allowed rapid development.

Winter wheat harvest didn't start until August 1 when normally a fourth of the crop would already be in the bin.

The harvest of spring crops was extended later than usual because of delayed maturity and cool, wet weather. Generally, harvest didn't get wrapped up until mid-October. In spite of running behind schedule most of the season nearly all Montana crops produced record or near record yields.

(TABLE INSIDE PAGE)

CROP PRODUCTION 1981 -- 1982

CROP	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
	--Thousand Acres--				--Bushels--		--Thousand Bu.--	
CORN FOR GRAIN 1/								
Montana	86	80	10	14	85.0	100.0	850	1,400
U.S.	84,156	81,909	74,700	73,152	109.8	114.8	8,201,598	8,397,334
WINTER WHEAT								
Montana	2,700	2,450	2,550	2,120	35.0	38.0	89,250	80,560
U.S.	65,974	66,351	58,647	58,347	35.9	36.1	2,103,538	2,108,246
DURUM WHEAT								
Montana	490	350	480	340	23.0	30.0	11,040	10,200
U.S.	5,876	4,350	5,755	4,217	32.3	35.0	185,940	147,503
OTHER SPRING WHEAT								
Montana	2,850	2,950	2,790	2,900	26.0	32.0	72,540	92,800
U.S.	17,087	16,576	16,611	16,277	30.7	34.0	509,260	552,988
ALL WHEAT								
Montana	6,040	5,750	5,820	5,360	29.7	34.2	172,830	183,560
U.S.	88,928	87,277	81,013	78,841	34.5	35.6	2,798,738	2,808,737
OATS								
Montana	220	260	110	150	44.0	51.0	4,840	7,650
U.S.	13,656	14,211	9,415	10,561	54.1	58.4	509,167	616,981
BARLEY								
Montana	1,400	1,650	1,320	1,560	43.0	49.0	56,760	76,440
U.S.	9,748	9,634	9,158	9,113	52.3	57.3	479,333	522,387
POTATOES 2/					--Cwt--		--Thousand Cwt--	
Montana	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	235	260	1,739	1,924
U.S.	1,075.7	1,117.4	1,052.5	1,087.7	281	280	295,593	304,986
DRY BEANS								
Montana	14.0	8.5	13.0	8.4	16.8	16.5	218	139
U.S.	2,342.0	1,906.5	2,222.0	1,764.4	14.5	14.0	32,183	24,764
SUGARBEETS					--Tons--		--Thousand Tons--	
Montana	44.7	43.1	44.5	43.0	20.8	19.8	926	851
U.S.	1,251.6	1,060.1	1,228.1	1,032.4	22.4	20.6	27,538	21,272
ALFALFA HAY								
Montana	--	--	1,300	1,300	2.60	2.60	3,380	3,380
U.S.	--	--	26,374	26,548	3.18	3.41	83,792	90,513
ALL HAY								
Montana	--	--	2,320	2,450	2.07	2.08	4,808	5,105
U.S.	--	--	60,192	60,679	2.38	2.51	143,201	152,424
SWEET CHERRIES							---Tons---	
Montana	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,240	3,400
U.S.	--	--	--	--	--	--	153,040	158,200

1/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes. 2/ Fall potatotes.

DECEMBER FARM PRICES

Farm prices in Montana weakened in December for practically all commodities--only sheep, lambs, hogs and eggs had increases. Crop price decreases were mostly slight while beef cattle declined moderately.

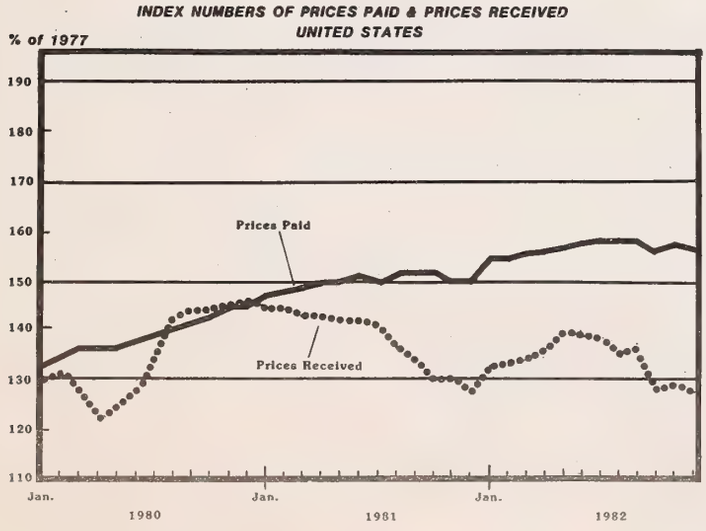
The overall December prices received index at 133 (1977=100) was 5 points (4 percent) below November, and 9 points (6 percent) below December 1981. The crops price index at 138 is 3 points (2 percent) under November and 16 points (10 percent) under a year ago. The livestock price index at 128 is 9 points (7 percent) under November and 2 points below a year ago.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

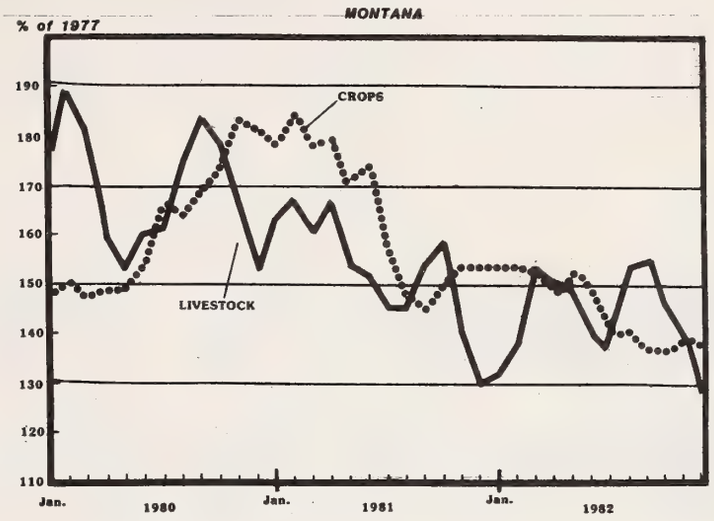
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U. S.
		MONTHLY AVERAGE		Dec. 15	Dec. 15
		Dec. 1981	Nov. 1982	1982	1982
		Dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.52	3.50	3.50
Durum	Bu.	3.71	3.30	3.22	3.23
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.78	3.48	3.44	3.42
All Wheat	Bu.	3.75	3.50	3.46	3.50
Barley	Bu.	2.42	1.79	1.76	1.91
Oats	Bu.	1.86	1.47	1.38	1.45
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	45.00	55.00	55.00	73.10
All Other Hay	Ton	40.00	50.00	50.00	58.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	45.00	55.00	55.00	68.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	55.20	57.80	56.40	56.90
Cows	Cwt	34.20	33.00	31.20	33.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	43.00	45.20	40.50	51.70
Calves	Cwt	56.30	60.50	58.50	58.30
Sheep	Cwt	18.10	11.10	12.60	16.90
Lambs	Cwt	45.90	46.10	49.50	48.90
Hogs	Cwt	37.20	50.80	53.10	53.50
All Milk	Cwt	14.00	13.70	13.60	14.00
Eggs	Doz.	.640	.447	.538	.493
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.01	.640	.640	.571
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	142	138	133	127
All Crops	Pct.	154	141	138	116
Livestock & Products	Pct.	130	137	128	138

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED UNITED STATES



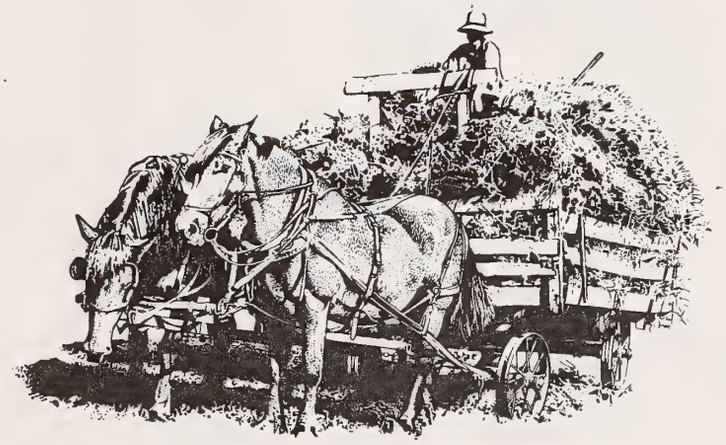
CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1982	Dec. 1982
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	128	129	127
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	150	156	155
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	85	83	82
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	57	55	55

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ RAtio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.



HAY STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

Hay stocks January 1 on Montana farms and ranches totaled 4,595,000 tons--6 percent more than on the same date last year. The relatively mild weather thus far has eased feeding requirements and hay supplies appear adequate for the winter feeding season. Most livestock were being fed hay or supplements by the first of January.

The U.S. hay stocks on farms January 1 totaled 108 million tons, 8 percent more than a year earlier.

Table 1—Balance sheet of the farming sector, 1976-1983[a]

Items/year (Jan. 1)	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982[b]	1983[c]	Percent Change 1982-83
	Billion dollars								
Assets									
Physical assets:									
Real estate	418.1	496.4	554.7	655.0	755.9	830.0	823.8	789.1	-4.2
Non-real estate									
Livestock and poultry	29.4	29.0	31.9	51.3	61.4	60.8	53.6	58.3	8.7
Machinery and motor vehicles	64.0	71.0	77.0	85.1	96.7	102.8	111.4	115.3	3.5
Crops stored on and off-farm	21.3	22.1	24.8	28.0	33.5	35.9	36.5	37.5	2.7
Household equipment and furnishings	11.7	12.1	13.8	16.0	17.2	19.4	21.7	22.4	3.5
Financial assets:									
Deposits and currency	14.5	14.8	15.2	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.8	17.3	3.0
Savings Bonds	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.5	-3.1
Investments in cooperatives	13.4	14.9	15.2	18.3	20.2	22.2	24.4	26.6	9.2
Total Assets[d]	576.3	664.2	736.3	873.4	1,004.8	1,091.0	1,091.8	1,070.0	-2.0
Claims									
Liabilities:									
Real estate debt	49.6	55.2	63.3	71.4	85.4	95.5	105.6	110.0	4.2
Non-real estate debt to:									
CCC	0.4	1.0	4.5	5.7	5.1	5.0	8.0	13.5	69.5
Others	41.6	47.7	54.9	63.7	75.3	81.5	88.1	91.5	3.8
Total liabilities	91.5	103.9	122.7	140.8	165.8	182.0	201.7	215.0	6.6
Proprietors' equity	484.8	560.3	613.6	732.6	839.0	909.0	890.1	855.0	-3.9
Total claims	576.3	664.2	736.3	873.4	1,004.8	1,091.0	1,091.8	1,070.0	-2.0
Debt to asset ratio	15.9	15.6	16.7	16.1	16.5	16.7	18.5	20.1	8.6

[a]Includes farm households. [b]1982 total assets preliminary. [c]Preliminary. [d]Totals may not add due to rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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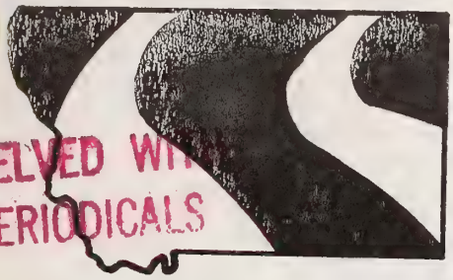

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1983 Winter Wheat Seedings
Telephone & Electric Bills on the Rise
Record Wheat Crop in Montana
Potato Stocks Up
Hog Inventory Drops

SOVIET GRAIN PRODUCTION and PROSPECTS

The 1982 Soviet grain crop estimate remains unchanged at 180 million tons. It includes 86 million tons of wheat, 85 million coarse grains and 9 million miscellaneous grains and pulses. The estimated area for the crop is also unchanged at 122 million hectares, including 57.0 million each for wheat and coarse grains, and 8.0 million for miscellaneous grains and pulses.

Typically, preliminary production results for the year are announced by the Soviets at the November session of the Supreme Soviet. However, this year, as in 1981, no grain production figure was announced. All 1981 production and yield data for grain were also omitted from the recently published USSR statistical handbook, as well as all other major Soviet publications.

Conditions for the 1983 Soviet winter grain crop have not improved noticeably since last month. In the north, conditions for rye continued favorable, and the weather through early December has been good for the plants to harden well before entering dormancy. In the southern part of European USSR, however, the general pattern of below-normal precipitation has persisted since fall seeding began in August, with the consequence that the crop--primarily winter wheat--has developed poorly. To avoid above-average winterkill and enable the crop to have favorable prospects, a mild winter with above-normal precipitation through next spring is needed.

No additional information on winter seeding or fall plowing has been received. Thus, the estimate of winter grain sowings remains at 33-34 million hectares; the target was about 36 million. The latest figure on fall plowing was more than 101 million hectares as of November1; the target was about 112 million.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS FOR 1983

Montana farmers planted 2.4 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1983--down 2 percent from last year's seeding. The normal pace of winter wheat seeding was slowed by generally dry soil conditions in early September and was further delayed by rains the last of September and the first part of October. The crop was generally reported in good condition going into the winter.

Nationally, growers planted 63 million acres in the fall of 1982 for the 1983 crop--5 percent less than the previous year.

WINTER WHEAT -- SELECTED STATES and U.S.

STATE	AREA SEEDED 1/		1983/1982
	1982	1983	
	1,000 Acres		Pct.
Arkansas	1,850	1,500	81
California	1,070	1,100	103
Colorado	3,430	3,330	97
Georgia	1,590	1,430	90
Idaho	990	990	100
Illinois	1,600	1,600	100
Indiana	1,200	1,100	92
Kansas	14,200	13,200	93
Kentucky	810	790	98
Michigan	695	800	115
Mississippi	1,100	1,000	91
Missouri	2,500	2,200	88
MONTANA	2,450	2,400	98
Nebraska	3,100	2,850	92
New Mexico	780	750	96
North Carolina	650	625	96
Ohio	1,500	1,250	83
Oklahoma	8,000	7,800	98
Oregon	1,180	1,080	92
South Carolina	580	540	93
South Dakota	1,350	1,500	111
Tennesse	1,100	1,050	95
Texas	8,200	7,850	96
Washington	2,730	2,640	97
U.S.	66,351	62,981	95

1/ total area seeded for all purposes.

ANOTHER RECORD WHEAT CROP

Montana farmers produced a record all wheat crop of 183.6 million bushels in 1982, 6 percent above the previous record of 172.8 million set last year. Barley production, at 76.4 million bushels, was also at a new record high for the state. Spring planting was delayed by cool, wet weather and was not finished until mid-June in many areas. Despite growth progress running behind schedule most of the season good moisture supplies promoted plant growth and development, and grain crops produced record or near record yields. However, lack of maturity combined with poor drying weather extended harvest of small grains well into October.

Hard red spring wheat, at a record high 92.8 million bushels, was 28 percent above the previous record set last year. Durum production at 10.2 million bushels was 9 percent below last year, but the third largest crop on record. Winter wheat production at 80.6 million bushels was 10 percent below the 1981 total.

The 1982 record barley production of 76.4 million bushels surpassed the previous record of 67.9 million bushels set in 1969. Oats production at 7.7 million bushels was up 58 percent from 1981.

The U.S. all wheat production totaled a record high of 2.8 billion bushels--up slightly from last year. Barley production at a new record high of 522 million bushels was up 9 percent, and oats production at 627 million bushels was up 21 percent from 1981.

End of season statistics for all other crops will be released January 13, 1983.

1982 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SMALL GRAINS

CROP	YEAR	MONTANA					U. S.
		ACREAGE		PRODUCTION			
		PLANTED	HARVESTED	YIELD PER ACRE	TOTAL	% CHANGE FROM PREV. YEAR	PRODUCTION
		1,000 Acres		Bu.	1,000 Bu.	Pct.	1,000 Bu.
Winter Wheat	1980	2,600	2,150	25.5	54,825		1,895,383
	1981	2,700	2,550	35.0	89,250		2,103,538
	1982	2,450	2,120	38.0	80,560	-10	2,108,246
Durum Wheat	1980	470	400	19.0	7,600		108,395
	1981	490	480	23.0	11,040		185,940
	1982	350	340	30.0	10,200	- 9	147,503
Other Spring Wheat	1980	2,900	2,550	22.5	57,375		370,528
	1981	2,850	2,790	26.0	72,540		509,260
	1982	2,950	2,900	32.0	92,800	+28	552,988
All Wheat	1980	5,970	5,100	23.5	119,800		2,374,306
	1981	6,040	5,820	29.7	172,830		2,798,738
	1982	5,750	5,360	34.2	183,560	+ 6	2,808,737
Oats	1980	220	73	44.0	3,212		458,263
	1981	220	110	44.0	4,840		509,167
	1982	260	150	51.0	7,650	+58	616,981
Barley	1980	1,180	1,050	42.0	44,100		360,956
	1981	1,400	1,320	43.0	56,760		479,333
	1982	1,650	1,560	49.0	76,440	+35	522,387
TOTAL SMALL GRAINS	1980	--	6,223	--	167,112		3,193,525
	1981	--	7,250	--	234,430		3,787,238
	1982	--	7,070	--	267,650	+14	3,948,105

POTATO PRODUCTION and STOCKS

Montana potato growers produced a 1982 crop 11 percent larger than last year. Total production of 1,924,000 cwt was harvested from 7,400 acres with an average yield of 260 cwt.

The U.S. production of fall potatoes estimated at 305 million cwt was 3 percent more than last year. Harvested acreage totaled 1.09 million acres, an increase of 3 percent from 1981. The average yield was slightly below last year.

Practically all of the Montana 1982 production was in storage on December 1, 1982. There were 1.9 million cwt in storage--14 percent more than last year.

Potato stocks for the 15 major states on December 1, 1982 were estimated at 202 million cwt, 5 percent above last year and 17 percent above 2 years ago.

POTATOES

December 1, 1981 & December 1, 1982

STATE	Crop of 1981		Crop of 1982	
	Prod.	Stocks 12/1/81	Prod.	Stocks 12/1/82
	----------1,000 cwt----------			
CALIF	6,919	4,800	7,585	5,300
COLO	11,600	8,350	12,600	8,900
IDAHO	84,540	62,000	89,890	67,000
MAINE	26,520	21,300	26,500	21,000
MICH	7,050	5,000	8,085	6,400
MINN	13,300	9,100	11,520	9,000
MONT	1,739	1,650	1,924	1,875
NEBR	2,252	1,850	2,147	1,700
NY--L.I.	5,365	1,860	4,995	2,500
--UPSTATE	6,875	3,900	7,020	4,200
N DAK	20,125	13,800	17,250	12,800
OHIO	1,890	700	2,328	700
OREG	21,710	15,200	21,105	15,100
PA	5,250	3,700	5,758	4,600
WASH	52,920	29,200	52,800	29,200
WISC	18,190	10,400	22,575	11,500
15 STATE TOTAL	286,245	192,810	294,082	201,775

The latest issue of "Montana Agricultural Statistics", Volume XIX, has been published and is available for distribution. This issue includes county statistics (1980 and 1981) on Montana crops and livestock as well as state statistics for the past 10 years.

Requests for the bulletin can be made by writing:

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporting Service
PO Box 4369
Helena, MT 59604

MONTANA HOG NUMBERS DOWN

The Montana December 1 all hog and pig inventory at 154,000 head was down 23 percent from last year and the lowest since 1965. Hogs on hand for breeding, at 20,000 are down 17 percent while market hogs at 134,000 are down 24 percent from a year ago.

Montana's 1982 pig crop totaled 256,000 head, 23 percent less than the previous year. The spring pig crop (December-May) at 152,000 was down 16 percent and the fall pig crop (June-November) at 104,000 was down 32 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, the December 1, 1982 inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 53.2 million head. This is 9 percent below a year ago and 17 percent less than December 1, 1980. The breeding hog inventory at 7.31 million is 7 percent below last year and down 20 percent from two years ago. The market hog inventory at 45.9 million is 10 percent below a year earlier and 17 percent less than two years ago.

The U.S. pig crop for 1982 totaled 84.1 million head, 10 percent below 1981 and 17 percent below the 1980 pig crop. The December 1981 - May 1982 pig crop, estimated at 41.0 million head, is down 14 percent from a year earlier and 22 percent below the comparable period two years ago.

The June - November 1982 pig crop, estimated at 43.1 million head, is 7 percent fewer than a year ago and 13 percent below the June - November 1980 crop.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 5.45 million sows farrow during the December 1982 - May 1983 period, 3 percent below a year ago and 15 percent fewer than two years ago.

HOG and PIG INVENTORY -- DECEMBER 1

HOGS & PIGS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1981	1982	Pct. Chg.	1981	1982	Pct. Chg.
	(000)		%	(000)		%
Breeding	24	20	-17	7,843	7,310	- 7
Market	176	134	-24	50,845	45,919	-10
Under 60 Lbs.	65	52	-20	19,487	18,355	- 6
60-119 Lbs.	46	37	-20	12,923	11,648	-10
120-179 Lbs.	37	27	-27	10,437	9,182	-12
180 + Lbs.	28	18	-36	7,998	6,735	-16
Total	200	154	-23	58,688	53,230	- 9
Sows Farrowing						
Dec. 1/- May	24	20	-17	6,440	5,593	-13
June - November	22	14	-36	6,258	5,810	- 7
Pig Crop	334	256	-23	93,776	84,092	-10
					1983	Pct. Chg.
Intentions to Farrow December 1/- May					5,447	-3

1/ December preceding year.

TELEPHONE and ELECTRIC BILLS UP IN 1982

In 1982, farmers and ranchers in Montana paid an average monthly electric bill of $49.20, up 8 percent from the average monthly bill in 1981. Cost per Kilowatt-hour (KWH) increased one half cent from 1981, a 14 percent increase. Average monthly KWH used in Montana decreased 5 percent from 1981.

Another increase for Montana farmers and ranchers this year showed up in the average monthly telephone bill. In 1982 farmers and ranchers paid an average monthly local telephone bill of $11.10. This was a 9 percent increase over last year's monthly average. The total average monthly phone bill (which includes long distance, toll charges, hook up and extension phone) averaged $42.80 in 1982, up 13% from last year.

The NATION'S farmers and ranchers paid an average monthly electric bill of $83.90 in 1982, which was 20% higher than last year's monthly average. Average monthly Kilowatt-hour usage at 1,356 was barely above last year's monthly average. The cost per KWH was up 18% from 1981.

Likewise, the average monthly local telephone bill for U.S. farmers went up 11%, to $12.80 per month in 1982. The total monthly bill increased 14 percent from the 1981 monthly average.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Agricultural Prices
Hay Stocks
Annual Crop Summary

AVERAGE MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL, KILOWATT-HOURS USED and COST PER KWH 1/

STATE	Avg. Monthly KWH Used		Avg. Monthly Bill		Cost per KWH 2/	
	1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
			---Dollars---		----Cents----	
ID	1,700	1,600	54.40	56.00	3.20	3.50
MT	1,260	1,200	45.40	49.20	3.60	4.10
N DAK	1,300	1,400	59.80	67.20	4.60	4.80
OR	1,850	1,800	61.00	59.40	3.30	3.30
S DAK	1,350	1,400	70.20	84.00	5.20	6.00
WASH	2,890	2,880	66.50	74.90	2.30	2.60
WYO	1,400	1,500	68.60	72.00	4.90	4.80
U.S.	1,307	1,356	69.80	83.90	5.34	6.31

1/ Based on an annual survey made in July and August reporting data from most recent bill, usually June or July.
2/ State averaged rounded to the nearest tenth of a cent.

AVERAGE MONTHLY LOCAL and TOTAL TELEPHONE BILL 1/

STATE	Average Monthly Local Telephone Bill		Average Monthly Total Telephone Bill 2/	
	1981	1982	1982	1982
	----------Dollars----------			
ID	10.20	11.50	32.70	41.50
MT	10.20	11.10	37.90	42.80
N DAK	13.00	15.00	38.40	43.10
OR	9.60	11.20	27.50	35.00
S DAK	11.70	12.40	34.10	36.50
WASH	10.30	11.50	36.20	42.50
WYO	14.00	16.20	47.90	57.00
U.S.	11.50	12.80	29.90	34.20

1/ Based on annual survey made in July and August reporting data from most recent bill, usually June or July. 2/ Difference between total bill and local bill is other charges (long distance, toll charges, hook up and extension phone).

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Fertilizer Consumption Up
'83 Plantings Prospects
Farm Prices Down
A Look at Wheat

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MONTANA FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION INCREASES

Fertilizer consumption in Montana during the year ended June 30, 1982 totaled 392,927 tons, up 15 percent from a year earlier.

Of the primary plant nutrients consumed, 56 percent was nitrogen, 38 percent available phosphate, and 6 percent potassium.

Most of the nitrogen (81%) was applied as direct application materials. Of the total nitrogen direct application material, anhydrous ammonia made up 43 percent, ammonium nitrate 27 percent, urea 17 percent, ammonium sulfate 2 percent and other 11 percent.

Most of the phosphate (89 percent) was applied as a mixture. The most common mixtures were 18-46-0, 11-55-0, and 10-34-0. Ammonium Phosphates (11-48-0, 13-39-0, 16-20-0, 27-14-0, and 21-53-0) were the most common forms of direct application materials.

Fertilizer consumption in the U.S. and Puerto Rico during the year ended June 30, 1982 is placed at 48.7 million tons, down 10 percent from the 54.0 million tons consumed during the 1980/81 year. Nitrogen consumption decreased 7 percent to 11.1 million tons; phosphate usage at 4.8 million tons and potash consumption at 5.6 million tons were each down 11 percent.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Helena, Montana 59601

In my travels around Montana I have the opportunity to visit with many farmers and ranchers as well as others interested in agriculture. All are very much concerned with the current economic situation in this country. Most, however, concede that we were due for a period of readjustment. Inflation and interest rates were getting out-of-hand, and industrial productivity was too low to be competitive in world markets. Readjustment has proven to be a painful experience with high unemployment and returns that do not cover expenses. Yes, these things are upsetting and for some, tragic but times will get better.

Some very positive things are happening in agriculture. I see better management being stressed. Farmers and ranchers are beginning to see the value of information to help make sound marketing decisions. Use of the computer with software packages to help evaluate information and track performance is about to open a new era of agricultural efficiency. Recent reductions in interest rates and energy costs will help push expenses more in line with income.

The road to recovery is long, but we are indeed fortunate to have had an excellent year for crop and livestock production.

We are proud to be a part of Montana's information resource team. Our purpose is to provide unbiased, reliable data to help you make sound production and marketing decisions. We owe a sincere thank you to all the farmers, ranchers and agribusinessmen who voluntarily provide input information. We look forward to serving you during 1983. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, more prosperous, New Year.

Lyle H. Pratt,
State Statistician

THE WHEAT SITUATION

PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The 1982 production, estimated at 2.81 billion bushels, is the largest crop in U.S. history. Although an acreage reduction program was in effect, growers reduced their plantings only 1.7 million acres under the year before. The yield, at 35.6 bushels was a bin busting record. Hard red winter represents 45 percent of the total production for 1982, soft red about 22 percent, hard spring 18 percent, white 10 percent, and durum 5 percent. Compared to last year, hard red winter and hard red spring are up. All other classes went down.

CARRYOVER INCREASES

The carryover next May is projected to reach nearly 1.5 billion bushels--about half of this year's record production and 26 percent above last year's carry-in stocks. Winter wheat accounts for 47 percent of the projected total; hard spring wheat, 30 percent; durum, 10 percent; white, 9 percent; and soft red only 4 percent. The main reason for the low level of soft red carryover stocks is that it is closer to export channels making the class a relative bargain for countries that are not so interested in milling and baking quality.

EXPORT PACE SLOW

Exports for the first quarter of the current marketing year are 12 percent under a year ago. For the entire year ending next May, the export total is expected to be down 7 percent from last year's record, but still 9 percent above the 1980/81 level.

The world economic turndown, the strength of the U.S. dollar, foreign exchange restraints in some importing countries, increased production by most major wheat exporters, and the forecast for reduced wheat imports by the Soviet Union are factors that are dimming export prospects.

To make the United States more competitive in world markets, U.S.D.A. announced a 3 year 'Blended Credit' Export Enhancement Program. Essentially, the program designates $500 million each year in fiscal 1983, 1984 and 1985. A portion of the program includes interest-free direct export credit blended with commercial export financing with repayment guaranteed by the government. All grains are eligible with preference given to those in greatest surplus and causing the greatest outlays from the Treasury.

OUTLOOK FOR 1983 PLANTINGS

TO PLANT OR NOT TO PLANT

The 1983/84 season will be the second successive year that wheat growers must decide whether to participate in an acreage reduction program. Their decisions on what and how much to plant will be based on price expectations for wheat and competing crops, weather, and perceived benefits from complying with program planting restrictions. Provisions of the 1983 program have been expanded to encourage greater producer participation than in 1982 when 48 percent of the 90.7 million wheat acreage base was in compliance.

Some of the major features:

The program is a combination 15-percent acreage reduction plus a 5 percent paid land diversion, which means a producer must reduce 1983 wheat acreage for harvest from the farm's established acreage base by 20 percent to be eligible for program benefits. This compares with a straight 15 percent acreage reduction for the 1982 crop.

At signup time (October 1 - March 31, 1983) a farmer may request an advance of 50 percent of the diversion payment. The diversion payment is $2.70 a bushel, so a farm's advance payment would be $1.35 times the farm's program yield times the acres placed in the diversion program.

Also upon signup, growers may request half of the projected deficiency payment for the 1983 marketing year. Advance payments would equal 32.5 cents a bushel times the farm yield times the planted acreage.

The program provides for a $4.30-a-bushel target price and a $3.65-a-bushel regular loan. Reserve program provisions will be announced at a later date.

MONTANA FARM PRICES WEAKEN

Farm prices in Montana during November were mostly under a year ago. Hog and calf prices were exceptions. November prices were also generally lower than October except that hard spring and durum wheat went up.

Cattle prices weakened as marketings increased. Hog prices remain above year ago levels.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average Nov. 1981	MONTANA Monthly Average Oct. 1982	MONTANA Nov. 15, 1982	U. S. Nov. 15, 1982
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.85	3.50	3.45	3.47
Durum	Bu.	3.68	3.10	3.17	3.23
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.75	3.42	3.49	3.50
All Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.45	3.47	3.46
Barley	Bu.	2.21	1.70	1.69	1.98
Oats	Bu.	1.81	1.46	1.38	1.44
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	48.00	50.00	55.00	72.50
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	45.00	45.00	55.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	48.00	50.00	54.00	68.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	58.80	57.80	57.20	57.80
Cows	Cwt	34.70	36.90	33.70	34.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	48.00	49.30	45.90	52.90
Calves	Cwt	58.60	62.30	61.30	58.10
Sheep	Cwt	14.10	10.80	8.70	13.40
Lambs	Cwt	44.40	46.20	46.20	48.00
Hogs	Cwt	37.90	54.60	49.30	52.20
All Milk	Cwt	13.50	13.50	13.60	13.80
Eggs	Doz	.710	.510	.447	.517
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.00	.640	.640	.616
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All farm products	Pct.	147	142	138	129
All Crops	Pct.	154	137	138	118
Livestock & Products	Pct.	141	146	139	139

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

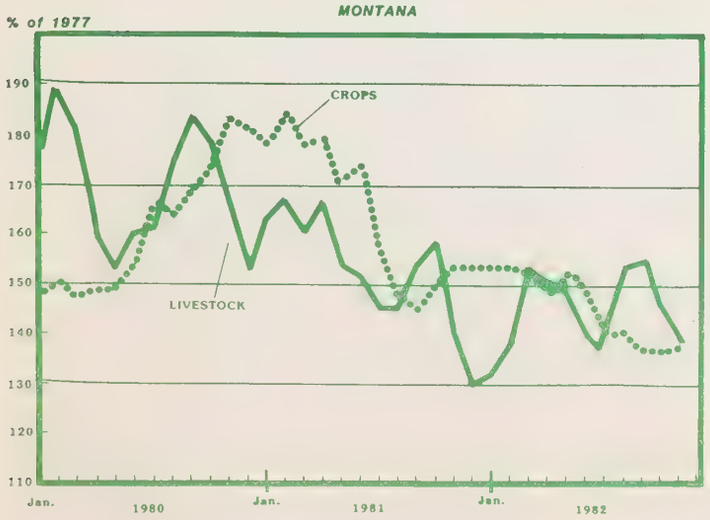
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1982	Nov. 1982
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	130	128	129
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	150	155	156
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	87	83	83
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	57	55	55

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

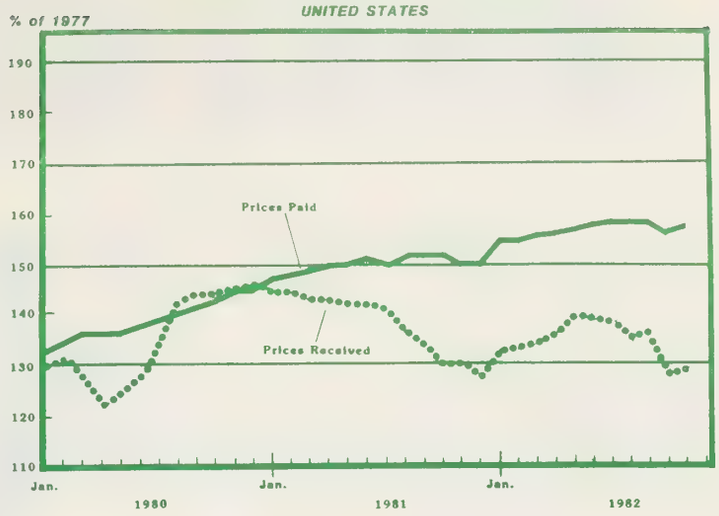
CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

MONTANA



INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

UNITED STATES



FARM FINANCE UPDATE

The now-familiar list of problems facing farmers--weak demand, large crop supplies, and historically high interest rates--continues to strain the agricultural sector. Although general interest rates are declining, farmers will not see significantly lower bank loan rates for some months. Likewise, while a very moderate recovery in the general economy is still expected, its delay continues to pressure demand for farm products.

Indices of Financial Stress in Agriculture, by Region*

Survey Question	U.S.	Plains	West
Farm loan volume delinquent 30 days or more	3.9	3.7	5.0
Farm borrowers who had bank financing discontinued (6/81 to 6/82)	3.3	3.3	3.3
Farm borrowers whom banks anticipate discontinuing (6/82 to 6/83)	4.4	4.5	2.5
Higher than normal	54.6	55.9	41.7
Lower than normal	2.6	1.8	1.4
Normal	42.8	42.3	56.9
If higher, by what percent?	27.6	20.1	15.2
If lower, by what percent?	14.0	14.5	50.0
Farm borrowers loaned-up to practical limit (6/82)	31.9	31.9	40.9
Farm borrowers expected to be loaned-up to practical limit (6/83)	34.8	34.2	41.9
Farmers in bank lending area who went out of business (6/81 to 6/82)	2.2	2.1	2.2
Higher than normal	62.3	61.1	55.1
Lower than normal	1.0	1.1	–
Normal	36.8	37.8	44.9
If higher, by what percent?	16.7	15.4	18.6
If lower, by what percent?	0.8	0.7	–
Of those who went out of business, categorized as:			
Voluntary liquidation	56.8	58.2	68.2
Forced liquidation	27.5	26.0	18.5
Creditor foreclosure	12.6	11.1	12.5
Other	3.1	4.7	0.8
Farmers in bank lending area who went through bankruptcy (6/81 to 6/82)	0.75	0.81	0.47
Higher than normal	48.8	45.7	28.3
Lower than normal	1.8	2.7	5.0
Normal	49.4	51.6	66.7
If higher, by what percent?	24.8	25.1	16.6
If lower, by what percent?	1.0	–	–
Percent of banks reporting no bankruptices	46.2	52.0	57.4

[1] KS, NE, ND, OK, SD, TX
[2] AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY

Source: American Bankers Association 1982 Mid-Year Farm Credit Survey.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Christmas is comin',
or so I hear told.
The wind is ablowin'
and it's molasses freezin' cold.

Hank's a good hand,
long as the weather is fine,
but once it turns cool,
he starts sippin' the wine.

Ridin' the range,
aherdin' them steers,
that's all he's ever done
in his sixty-one years.

It'll be a rodeo,
he'll hawlar and kick,
when we rope him and dress him
to look like Saint Nick.

Still we know that he loves it,
playing the fat-man of fame,
and if the boss ever fired him,
Christmas would never be the same.

There's more to his Christmas
than most strangers can see.
He charges for fencin',
but his kindness comes free.

Many a Christmas have past
when he weren't nearly so glad,
yet he never lets on
'bout them times what was bad.

As you can tell
from the tale that I've told,
this cowboy ain't rich,
but his heart's made of gold.

So may your Christmas be merry,
your New Year be bright,
and may all of your troubles
keep hid out of sight.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Qtrly. Egg Production
Small Grains--Annual Summary
Winter Wheat Seedings
Dec. 1 Hog Inventory
Potato Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Livestock & Meat Situation
- Meat Imports
- Meat Exports
- Feed Crop Situation
- Cattle on Feed

THE LIVESTOCK & MEAT SITUATION

During 1982 there has been less red meat produced by American farmers and ranchers. The main reason is the substantial cut in pork production which has been going down since mid-1980. Beef supplies have held steady or gradually increased during the same period. The red meat deficit has been largely offset by an increase in poultry production until now. For this year and next, total red meat and poultry will be down.

For the first half of 1983, total meat and poultry supplies are expected to total about 1 percent less than the same period in 1982. Beef will likely be up 1 percent, pork down 8 percent, and poultry up 3 percent.

Information available to date, reveals that both cattle and hog producers are not expanding their breeding herds.

On September 1, the hog breeding herd in the 10 major hog states was 13 percent smaller than last year and the second lowest since 1972. Producers said they intend to farrow 10 percent fewer sows this fall and 4 percent fewer this winter.

There are strong indications that the expansion in the beef herd has ceased and may be declining. Cow slaughter continues above a year earlier, particularly in the eastern half of the U.S. Cash flow may be an impelling reason. Also, heifer slaughter from feedlots is up, while feedlot placements continue above year-earlier levels.

The economy still holds some uncertainty about consumer demand which remains cautious with unemployment still over 10 percent.

Not only are producers the recipients of discouraging market signals in the form of "soft" prices, they must also deal with their own set of higher costs -- even if their feed costs are not higher.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT & POULTRY SUPPLIES

	----Million Pounds----			
Year	Beef	Pork	Poultry	Total 1/
1975	23.7	11.3	10.2	46.4
1976	25.7	12.2	11.5	50.6
1977	25.0	13.1	11.7	50.9
1978	24.0	13.2	12.5	50.6
1979	21.3	15.3	13.7	50.9
1980	21.5	16.4	14.0	52.6
1981	22.2	15.7	14.4	53.1
1982	22.3	13.9	14.6	51.5

1/ Includes veal and lamb.

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FARM INCOME UPDATE

Forecasts of most 1983 farm financial indicators have not changed much since September. Gross farm income is expected to rise 1 to 2 percent, as rising livestock receipts and direct Government payments offset declining crop cash receipts. However, larger production expenses will offset these income gains, leaving net farm income near the middle of the $17 to $21 billion range. Neither cash expenses nor cash income will likely change much in 1982, so net cash income will remain near the 1981 level.

The now-familiar list of problems facing farmers--weak demand, large crop supplies, and historically high interest rates--continues to strain the agricultural sector. Although general interest rates are declining, farmers will not see significantly lower bank loan rates for some months. Likewise, while a very moderate recovery in the general economy is still expected, its delay continues to pressure demand for farm products.

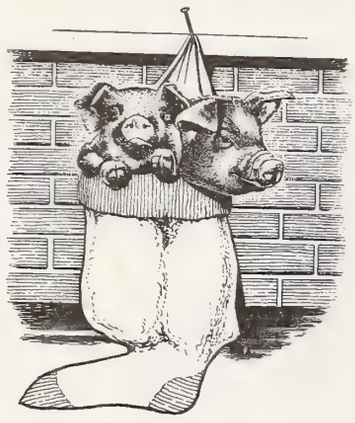
MEAT IMPORTS AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

The U.S. has imported 21 percent more meat during the first 9 months of 1982 compared with the same period in 1981. The total imports represent about 7 percent of the total U.S. production for the period.

Australia brought in 51 percent of the total, New Zealand 31 percent and Canada nearly 10 percent.

Meat imports are subject to the Meat Import Law and include fresh, chilled and frozen beef, veal, mutton and goat meat, and certain prepared items from these meats.

During 1981, the U.S. imported 602,846 metric tons of beef and 195,759 tons of pork.



1981 MEAT EXPORTS RECORD HIGH

Of the total meat exports in 1981, about 10 percent was beef and veal, 13 percent was pork, 27 percent was variety meats and 50 percent was poultry. However, so far in 1982 U.S. meat exports have fallen from the 1981 high because of a stronger dollar, higher prices, increased competition from other suppliers, and soft economic conditions abroad.

U.S. beef exports consist mainly of high-quality beef which goes to restaurants and supermarkets in Japan, Saudi Arabia and other destinations.

EXPORTS OF HIDES & SKINS: A BILLION-DOLLAR BUSINESS

Exports of U.S. hides and skins--and leather-- have made spectacular growth over the past decade or so. These sales, along with those of finished leather and products, now amount to a billion-dollar business--in fact, over $1.2 billion in 1981.

In recent years, the United States has exported one-half to two-thirds of its hide production to more than 60 countries, with Japan the leading customer. Other top buyers are Mexico, Korea, Romania, Canada, Italy, Taiwan, Czechoslovakia, Spain and France.

MORE LEATHER COMING IN THAN GOING OUT

Because of a tremendous imbalance in the trade of leather goods, the U.S. tanning industry has been in a decline.

The number of tanneries and the annual volume of hides processed have dropped sharply--largely because of restrictions on leather imports in other countries.

In 1968, for instance, U.S. tanners processed over 24 million hides, or two-thirds of the available supply from the nation's slaughtered cattle. Since then, the annual volume of hides processed has declined to the current level of 15 million--less than half of the hides available from domestic slaughter.

Per capita U.S. consumption of bovine leather is about eight square feet per year. This is equal to more than 45 million cattle hides. In 1982, U.S. hide production will be below this estimated level.

JAPAN NO. 1 MARKET FOR U.S. MEAT EXPORTS

Destination	Beef & Veal	Pork	Variety Meats	Poultry Meat	TOTAL
Japan	43,696	40,031	35,202	64,958	183,887
EC	2,100	3,127	108,549	18,870	132,646
Middle East	5,074	302	12,976	107,300	125,652
Mexico & Canada	9,924	29,305	37,619	35,882	112,730
Caribbean	7,244	15,167	7,180	51,014	80,605
Far East 1/	3,978	1,289	1,455	49,085	55,807
Other	2,652	11,665	7,000	67,443	88,760
TOTAL	74,668	100,886	209,981	394,552	780,087

1/ Excluding Japan.

RECORD CROPS WEAKEN FEED GRAIN PRICES

Prices for all feed grains weakened in October, as harvest of this year's record 8.3 billion-bushel corn crop gained momentum. U.S. feed grain use is expected to increase in 1982/83, but less than supply. Thus, a further buildup in stocks is probable. The 1982/83 corn carry-over price could rise 40 percent to near 3.3 billion bushels.

The record corn crop, a slightly larger harvest of other feed grains, and only a modest increase in use are likely to hold feed grain prices below a year earlier until late next summer. For 1982/83, corn prices are forecast to average $2.20 to $2.40 a bushel, compared with last season's $2.45.

October 1 stocks of feed grains amounted to 86.6 million metric tons, the largest carryover since 1961. However, the carryover may not be as price-depressing as its size might indicate, since most of this grain is isolated from the market until prices rise substantially.

Producer marketing of new crop grains in compliance with the acreage reduction program will significantly affect prices this year. About one-fourth of this year's feed grain harvest is in compliance. Given the outlook for use, a substantial portion of this grain would have to be placed under loan to raise prices to the loan redemption level next summer. However, market conditions this fall are more conducive to farmers' placing grain under loan than at any time in the past 3 decades.

The number of grain-consuming animal units in 1982/83 likely will be slightly larger than in 1981/82. More intensive feeding in response to the relatively high livestock/feed price ratios, particularly for hogs, also may add to feed use. Feed and residual use of corn this year is expected to total 4.2 billion bushels, about 3 percent above the 4.1 billion bushels fed in 1981/82.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

Cattle and calves on feed November 1 for slaughter market in the seven states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.12 million head, a 14 percent increase from a year ago and up 4 percent from November 1, 1980. This is the highest November 1 number on feed since 1978.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.53 million, an increase of 6 percent from last year but down 3 percent from October 1980.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the seven states were 2.59 million, up 27 percent from October 1981 and up 15 percent from two years ago. This is the highest October placements since 1978. Net placements of 2.50 million were up 27 percent and 18 percent from 1981 and 1980, respectively.

Other disappearance totaled 93 thousand compared with 85 thousand during October 1981 and 130 thousand 2 years ago.

BARLEY PRODUCTION UP

Barley production this year is expected to be 516 million bushels, up 8 percent from the 478 million harvested last year. The area harvested this year was 9.2 million acres, the same as last year, but the average yield this year is expected to reach a record 56.2 bushels per acre, compared with 52.3 last year.

The carryover this past June was 150 million bushels. This year's harvest plus about 5 million bushels imported during June - September brought total supply for the quarter to 671 million. Disappearance for June - September amounted to 168 million bushels, comprised of almost 89 million fed, 55 million used for seed and industrial programs, and 24 million exported. Disappearance for the June - May year is expected to total about 482 million bushels.

The price received by farmers for barley averaged $2.20 a bushel during June - September - a drop of 13 percent from the $2.54 average a year earlier. The price of feed barley at Minneapolis dropped steadily from May to October. The decline in corn prices likely had as much to do with the weakness in the price of feed barley as did the barley harvest.

June - September use left 498 million bushels on hand October 1. So, the supply of barley for the October - May period consists of the stocks on hand October 1 plus imports of 7 to 8 million bushels - or about 505 million bushels. Almost 41 million bushels of the October 1 stocks consist of barley from the 1981 and earlier crops that is tied up in the CCC inventory, the FOR, or outstanding CCC loans. This is not available to the market until prices increase substantially.

Compliance with the acreage reduction program by barley producers was relatively high this year. About 38 percent of the acreage for harvest was on farms in compliance. Thus, as much as 196 million bushels of this year's crop may be eligible to receive a CCC loan or to go in the FOR. The regular loan rate on barley is $2.08 a bushel, and the FOR loan rate is $2.37. These rates are not attractive for quality malting barley, but they do represent a significant premium over mid-October prices for feed barley.

By mid October, 32.1 million bushels of 1982-crop barley had been placed under loan - 17 million in reserve and 15.1 million in regular loan. Carryover stocks next June are expected to be about 45 million bushels above the carryover this year. However, the price of feed barley will still depend to a large extent on corn prices. If corn prices are held down by large stocks of free corn, then the rise in feed barley prices likely will also be limited by corn prices and transportation costs.

RECORD HAY CROP IN 1982

A record 152.5 million tons of hay likely will be harvested this year, slightly more than the 143.1 million harvested last year. A record yield of 2.52 tons per acre, 6 percent above the 1982 yield of 2.38, is the main reason. The area harvested increased less than 1 percent -- from 60.2 million acres last year to 60.5 million this year.

Production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures of hay rose relatively more than the harvest of other types of hay because of a greater increase in yield per acre. The increase in area harvested was about a half percent for each type of hay.

Adding carryover stocks of 25.2 million tons to this year's hay crop gives a total supply of 177.7 million tons available for the 1982/83 crop year (May-April). This year's supply almost equals the record supply of 177.9 million tons in 1979/80.

STATISTICS BULLETIN AVAILABLE

Montana Agricultural Statistics, 1982, with county data for 1980 and 1981 is now available upon request. The bulletin, published every two years, is a comprehensive tabulation of crop and livestock data, farm income, farm prices, cash receipts, land use, farm labor, climatological, and other farm and ranch data. Free copies may be obtained by writing:

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporting Service
PO Box 4369
Helena, Montana 59604

FEED DEMAND

The decline in the 1982 spring and fall pig crops means that the grain-consuming animal units (GCAU's) represented by the hog industry will be down from a year earlier. The decline in hog production will be offset by increased cattle feeding, poultry production, and dairying. However, the aggregate number of GCAU's for the 1982/83 feeding year likely will be only slightly larger than those on hand in 1981/82.

INCREASED FEEDING PER ANIMAL UNIT LIKELY

With the sharp drop in feed grain prices this fall, and with prices expected to hold well below a year earlier through next spring and early summer, livestock/feed price ratios will be conducive to more intensive feeding. However, livestock feeder's response is difficult to forecast. For example, cattle feeders have not increased market weights this summer even though the beef-steer/corn price ratio would indicate a possibility of increasing profit by feeding a few additional days. Broiler and hog producers did increase market weights somewhat this summer. Consequently, feed grain use is expected to increase in 1982/83, but by a modest amount.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

FARM PRICES

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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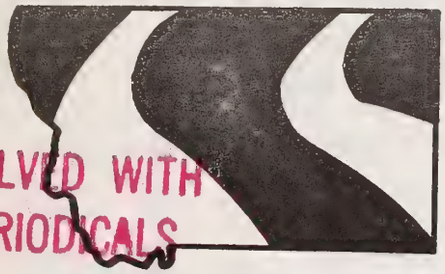

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Ag Prices Down
Wheat Supply & Demand
Food Prices & Farm Income

LARGE CROP and LIVESTOCK SURVEYS START

Crop and livestock surveys will touch base with nearly half of Montana's 24,000 farmers and ranchers during November and December.

On the crops side, questionnaires have already been mailed that ask for detailed information on crop acreage and production by cropping practice. The state's farmers have a large stake in the results of this survey. First, the county yields generated become an important factor in the ASCS county yield formula. Also, crop insurance programs use the yield information generated for payment purposes. The survey figures are also used to help determine crop export policies. The final crop estimates send signals to farm producers that influence farm management decision making.

The hog, sheep and cattle surveys will determine state and national inventories with class and weight breakouts. The July cattle survey revealed a downswing in numbers after a build-up of only 2 years. Whether that downturn was merely a short term dip or the start of a more permanent downslide will be answered.

A strong feature of the Montana Crop and Livestock surveys in recent years is the use of telephone interviewers to call producers who fail to respond by mail. This procedure assures a better sample upon which to base more accurate estimates.

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MONTANA FARMERS EYE WORLD MARKETS

Lagging economic activity in many countries with only slight expansion in livestock feed needs is weakening global use of farm products. U.S. exports are also hurt by a strong dollar that raises prices in world markets in spite of lower U.S. prices.

U.S. WHEAT EXPORT ESTIMATE LOWERED

Lagging export sales have led to a 50-million-bushel decline in the 1982/83 wheat export forecast--a 3 percent drop. The expected level for the year is how 1.65 billion bushels, 7 percent below last year, but still the second largest ever.

U.S. carryover stocks are now estimated to be 1.46 billion bushels--one-fourth higher than last year. The farmer-owned reserve stock forecast has been raised 25 million bushels to 950 million.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION INCREASES

World wheat production in 1982/83 is forecast at a record 17.0 billion bushels--up 4 percent from last year. The U.S. share of global production is nearly 17 percent. However, the U.S. will hold about 44 percent of the world carryover stocks.

RUSSIANS TO BUY LESS

Soviet grain buying activity continues to lag well behind last year's record setting pace. The latest estimate of 1982/83 Soviet grain imports is 37 million tons--20 percent below last year.

Soviet wheat imports are forecast to reach 17 million tons, down from the 19.5 million last year. So far, the Soviets have purchased around 9 million tons of wheat--but none from the United States. The Russians will likely take less from Argentina and Australia, but more from the European Economic Community and Canada.

The U.S. has agreed to make available an additional 15 million tons beyond the 8 million originally provided for Soviet purchase during the October 1, 1982--September 30, 1983 year. No proportion of wheat and corn was specified.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Helena, Montana 59601

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOOD PRICES and FARM INCOME

Producing food is the whole purpose of farming. In turn, food prices are a critical element in setting farm prices. We all understand that fat cattle won't bring 75 cents a pound if hamburger can't be sold for more than it is now.

Food prices and money spent on food have increased dramatically the past ten years. In fact, more substantially than some thought possible considering the economic climate of the country. Food does remain, however, a rare bargain taking only slightly above 16 percent of disposable personal income....

INCREASE IN TOTAL FOOD EXPDENDITURES COMPARING 1971 & 1981

UNITED STATES	UP 266%

Farm cash receipts have also risen during the last 10 years--but not nearly so great as food prices....

INCREASE IN CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS, COMPARING 1971 & 1981

MONTANA	UP 240%

Also, consider that the increase in farm income is even lower than that for cash receipts....

INCREASE IN TOTAL FARM INCOME 1/ COMPARING 1971 & 1981

MONTANA	UP 226%

1/ Includes livestock and livestock products, crops, government payments.

The reason is, of course, the even more rapid increse in farm production expenses that have siphoned off income gains.

Why hasn't farm income kept pace with food prices? Much of the reason is the increases in the food marketing bill....

INCREASES IN THE FOOD MARKETING BILL COMPARING 1971 & 1981

TOTAL MARKETING BILL	UP 260%
Labor	UP 263%
Transportation	UP 269%
Packaging	UP 235%
Fuel & Power	UP 454%
Corporate Profits	UP 308%
Other	UP 222%

Food marketing firms were able to pass part of the increase in costs on to consumers in the form of higher food prices. The increased marketing bill also put downward pressure on farm prices. It's all a matter of relative bargaining strength in the marketplace.

Retail food prices are expected to average about 5 percent higher than last year, the smallest annual increase since 1976. This year's rise is being moderated by the small gain in the farm value of food and by a slowing of food marketing cost increases. The farm value is expected to average around 3 percent above last year's level, the third consecutive year of relatively small increases. The farm-to-retail price spread will be up about 5 percent, the smallest annual rise since 1977.

MONTANA FARM PRICES WEAKEN

Comparing Montana farm prices this October with October a year ago, crop prices were down moderately, cattle prices down slightly, while lamb and hog prices went up.

Leading the price declines from last year were barley and oats, reflecting the bumper yields for these crops. Wheat prices were not down so sharply.

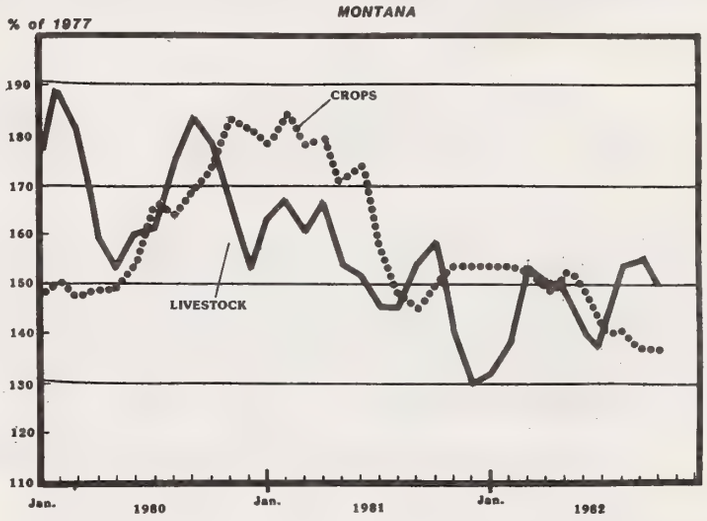
AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA MONTHLY AVERAGE Oct. 1981	MONTANA MONTHLY AVERAGE Sept. 1982	MONTANA Oct. 15 1982	U.S. Oct. 15 1982
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.67	3.44	3.40	3.34
Durum	Bu.	3.51	3.20	3.20	3.13
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.63	3.48	3.50	3.44
All Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.46	3.46	3.35
Barley	Bu.	2.19	1.88	1.77	1.98
Oats	Bu.	1.91	1.40	1.40	1.34
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	54.00	48.00	47.00	71.60
All Other Hay	Ton	49.00	42.00	41.00	55.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	54.00	48.00	46.00	67.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	58.80	60.00	58.00	59.00
Cows	Cwt	37.30	39.10	36.50	37.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	51.40	54.00	52.60	54.40
Calves	Cwt	58.40	60.20	58.40	59.10
Sheep	Cwt	16.50	15.90	15.10	15.30
Lambs	Cwt	45.80	48.80	47.30	48.30
Hogs	Cwt	43.00	58.50	55.20	56.50
All Milk	Cwt	13.70	13.20	13.50	13.80
Eggs	Doz.	.630	.490	.510	.527
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.02	.640	.640	.592
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	148	147	144	129
All Crops	Pct.	150	138	137	114
Livestock & Products	Pct.	148	155	150	143

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

MONTANA



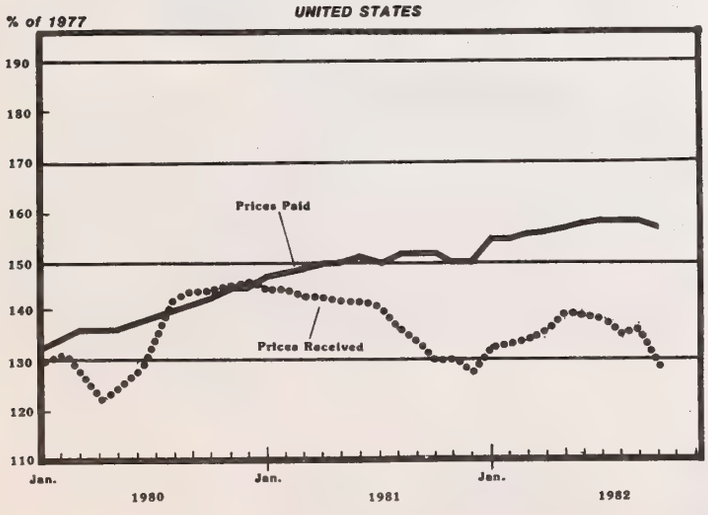
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Oct. 1981	Sept. 1982	Oct. 1982
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	130	136	129
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	150	156	155
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	87	87	83
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	57	58	55

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

UNITED STATES



FINANCIAL STRATEGIES IN THE 1970s

When the rate of inflation in the economy changes, the three variables in planning a fianacial strategy--rate of return, cash flow, and risk--become four. Rate of return on indebted assets must be adjusted for the effects of inflation by comparing real rates of return with real interest rates. For the farm sector as a whole, the 1970's was a period in which expansionary farm financial strategies paid off. Combined real (inflation-adjusted) returns from current income and capital gains exceeded the real interest rate, leaving a positive net return on debt-financed expansion. Cash flow, however, depends on current income (which excludes capital gains) and current expenditures (which include principal payments and interest payments at the nominal interest rate).

Real Rates of Return to U.S. Farm Asset Ownership

	Rate of return from current income	*plus* rate of return from real capital gains	**equals** total real rate of return to debt free assets	*minus* real interest rate	**equals** net real return on indebted assets
1970 .	4.0	-1.1	3.0	1.3	1.7
71 .	4.0	4.2	8.2	3.2	5.0
72 .	5.5	8.5	14.0	3.0	11.0
73 .	9.6	11.3	20.9	-1.8	22.7
74 .	6.0	-4.5	1.5	-3.3	4.8
1975 .	5.4	7.5	12.9	1.0	11.9
76 .	3.5	10.6	14.1	2.7	11.4
77 .	3.0	4.0	7.1	1.4	5.6
78 .	4.1	8.6	12.7	-0.7	13.4
79 .	4.4	0.9	5.3	-3.8	9.1
1980 .	2.7	-2.4	0.3	-1.3	1.6
81 .	3.3	-8.5	-5.2	2.9	-8.1

Note: Totals may not add because of rounding.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO BALANCE WHEAT SUPPLY WITH DEMAND?

During each of the past five marketing years, U.S. wheat use has averaged 69 percent of the total supply available. This has resulted in a carryover that depressed prices to growers. Wheat carryover stocks are essential to orderly marketing in that they assure adequate supplies even during periods of crop failure. The size of an ample carryover is debatable and producers fear that a 'strategic reserve' cannot be properly isolated from market price setting forces.

The carryover buildup does not signal failure of the marketing system. Consider that from 1978 to 1982 production increased 59 percent, but total marketings also increased--nearly 29 percent. The export portion of total use is up 49 percent. Even domestic food use has shown a 5 percent increase. Most experts agree that the export market has the most potential for expansion and much is being done by producers, marketing firms and the government to enlarge this outlet.

In order to bring ending stocks down to more reasonable levels several alternatives appear--some painful and others hard to attain.

Production curbs are one way. To fulfill current demand levels something like 72-73 million acres would need to be harvested at current yields. In the current year, 79 million acres were cut. Thus, a 10 percent acreage reduction would appear to do the job. Perhaps a 70 million acre harvest would be better from the standpoint of cutting into the carryover.

Demand expansion is another approach to solving the surplus dilemma. Some observers claim there is more than enough need in the world to consume all the wheat that could possibly be produced. However, price is a critical factor to much of this demand. Also, both here and abroad, government export and import policies restrain trade. At any rate, total use would have to increase nearly 10 percent in order to match current production and also draw down the surplus. On the surface, a 10 percent imbalance does not appear to be excessive. The problem is that small numbers gradually add up to a burdensome amount.

The following table is present for those growers who want to do their own 'figuring' on the ways to bring the wheat surplus under control.

Supply and utilization:

	Area										
	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	Total Supply[2]	Feed and Residual	Other domestic use	Exports	Total use	Ending stocks	Farm price[3]
	Mil. acres		Bu/acre	Mil. bu							$/bu.
Wheat:*											
1978/79	66.0	56.5	31.4	1,776	2,955	158	679	1,194	2,031	924	2.97
1979/80	71.4	62.5	34.2	2,134	3,060	86	697	1,375	2,158	902	3.78
1980/81*	80.6	71.0	33.4	2,374	3,279	51	725	1,514	2,290	989	3.91
1981/82*	88.9	80.9	34.5	2,793	3,785	141	712	1,773	2,626	1,159	3.65
1982/83*	87.2	79.0	35.7	2,816	3,977	125	715	1,775	2,615	1,362	3.40- 3.50

*** Marketing year starts June 1.**

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
October 1 Grain Stocks
Farm Income

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Like last year, large crop supplies and a weaker-than-expected economy are dominating prospects for the new marketing year. Record U.S. production is now forecast for corn, wheat, and soybeans. Meanwhile, the July tax cut has not yet boosted the U.S. economy as anticipated. Besides dampening domestic demand, the slow recovery of the U.S. economy is also limiting foreign demand for grains and oilseeds. Growth in U.S. and other developed countries' imports is needed to support economic recovery and demand for farm products in the rest of the world.

The continued combination of slow demand and large crop supplies is expected to boost grain and oilseed stocks again this year. With economic weakness and high interest rates continuing through a third straight year, cumulative financial pressures are leading livestock producers to make conservative production decisions. As a result, total meat and poultry output may remain about the same next year, after falling over 3 percent in 1982.

A relatively small number of large farms account for a substantial share of total agricultural product sales. Only 1 percent of farms had sales of $500,000 or more in 1982, but these farms accounted for 30 percent of total cash receipts. Farms with sales of $100,000 or more represented 12 percent of all farms in 1981, while accounting for 68 percent of cash receipts. By contrast, about 72 percent of all farms had sales of less than $40,000 last year, which together amounted to about 13 percent of total cash receipts.

RECORD WHEAT STOCKS

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators October 1, 1982 totaled 250.1 million bushels--up 24 percent from a year ago and the largest October 1 holdings on record. The record stocks are due to a large carryover from last year's record wheat crop and a potential new record wheat crop in 1982.

Winter wheat stored in the state at 116.8 million bushels was up 18 percent from last year. All spring wheat was up 30 percent with 133.3 million bushels in storage. The durum portion at 17.7 million bushels was up 29 percent from last year.

Barley stocks in all positions at 70.6 million bushels were 41 percent above last year. The October 1 holdings were the second largest on record exceeded only by the 74.0 million bushels on hand October 1, 1970. Oats stocks at 9.7 million bushels were up 89 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on October 1, 1982 totaled a record high 3.01 billion bushels, 10 percent more than the 2.73 billion bushels on hand a year earlier. Farm stocks of 1.43 billion bushels accounted for 48 percent of the total. Wheat stored in off-farm storage facilities totaled 1.58 billion bushels or 52 percent of the total stocks. On October 1 last year, farm stocks of all wheat totaled 1.20 billion bushels, and 1.53 billion bushels were stored in off-farm facilities.

Barley stocks in all positions on October 1, 1982 totaled 498 million bushels, 10 percent more than a year earlier. Stocks of barley stored on farms amounted to 350 million bushels or 70 percent of the total stocks.

Oats stored in all positions on October 1, 1982 totaled 570 million bushels, up 24 percent from October 1, 1981.

PLEASE RETURN

STOCKS OF GRAIN OCTOBER 1, 1982 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 1, 1981	June 1, 1982 *	Oct. 1, 1982	% Change from 1981	Oct. 1, 1981	June 1, 1982 *	Oct. 1, 1982
	-------Thousand Bushels------				--------Thousand Bushels--------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	171,102	74,317	219,610	+28	1,204,903	579,816	1,431,826
Off farms 1/	30,033	13,940	30,500	+ 2	1,528,971	582,902	1,578,136
T O T A L	201,135	88,257	250,110	+24	2,733,874	1,162,718	3,009,962
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	81,154	35,479	101,087	+24	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	17,240	8,269	15,760	- 9	--	--	--
T O T A L	98,754	43,748	116,847	+18	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	89,588	38,838	118,523	+32	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	12,793	5,671	14,740	+15	--	--	--
T O T A L	102,381	44,509	133,263	+30	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On farms	--	--	--	--	147,534	90,530	181,189
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	41,701	17,145	40,911
T O T A L	13,776	8,135	17,720	+29	189,235	107,675	222,100
RYE							
On farms	--	--	--	--	9,841	1,958	11,337
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	4,611	1,123	4,560
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	14,452	3,081	15,897
CORN							
On farms	30	51	26	-13	490,134	2,708,144	1,436,988
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	543,843	1,145,571	928,958
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	1,033,977	3,853,715	2,365,946
OATS							
On farms	4,840	1,694	9,293	+92	384,015	126,928	474,550
Off farms 1/	297	183	400	+35	73,738	24,804	95,216
T O T A L	5,137	1,877	9,693	+89	457,753	151,732	569,766
BARLEY							
On farms	45,408	5,108	65,600	+44	303,049	93,940	350,069
Off farms 1/	4,691	1,077	5,000	+ 7	148,000	55,687	147,506
T O T A L	50,099	6,185	70,600	+41	451,049	149,627	497,575
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	--	--	--	--	29,520	93,060	61,512
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	79,089	286,812	230,706
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	108,609	379,872	292,218

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Oct. 1, 1981 *	June 1, 1982 *	Oct. 1, 1982	Oct. 1, 1981 *	June 1, 1982 *	Oct. 1, 1982
	----------Million Bushels-------			---------Million Bushels-------		
Northwest	2.4	.4	1.6	3.7	.4	3.8
North Central	94.9	32.8	103.8	22.4	2.6	33.3
Northeast	55.0	32.4	74.9	4.8	1.2	8.6
Central	23.0	9.8	28.7	9.7	.6	13.6
Southwest	4.1	1.0	3.3	4.3	.5	3.5
South Central	14.4	6.8	20.4	3.4	.6	5.6
Southeast	7.3	5.1	17.4	1.8	.3	2.2

1/ These estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

INCOME BY SALES CLASS, 1981

Although U.S. farm income in 1981 at 19.6 billion was down 20 percent from 1980, this is only part of the story. Income data by sales class provide another view of the economic well-being of farm people and farm businesses. These data also point out some of the problems faced by Congress and USDA in the administration of farm programs.

The data reveal that a relatively small number of large farms account for a substantial share of total agricultural product sales. Only 1 percent of farms had sales of $500,000 or more in 1981, but these farms accounted for 30 percent of total cash receipts. Farms with sales of $100,000 or more represented 12 percent of all farms in 1981, while accounting for 68 percent of cash receipts. By contrast, about 72 percent of all farms had sales of less than $40,000 last year, which together amounted to about 13 percent of total cash receipts.

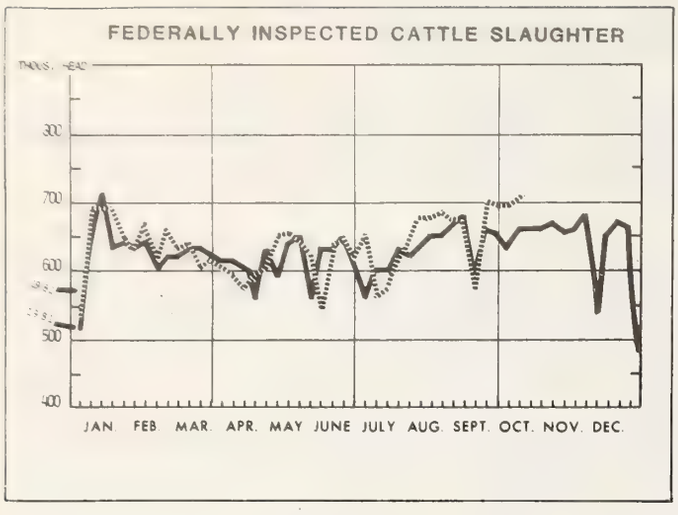
Farms with agricultural sales of $40,000 or less--especially those with sales below $10,000--are not as heavily dependent on farming for family income as are larger farms. According to the 1978 Census of Agriculture, 92 percent of farmers with sales of $100,000 or more were primarily engaged in farming, 89 percent of farmers with sales of $40,000 to $99,999, 76 percent with sales of $20,000 to $39,999, and 60 percent with sales of $10,000 to $19,999. But slightly less than 30 percent of farmers with sales of $10,000 or less worked primarily as farmers; of this number, many were likely using their farms partly for retirement purposes. For example, the 1974 Census of Agriculture revealed that 53 percent of farmes with sales of less then $2,500 who reported farming as their primary occupation were 65 years old or older.

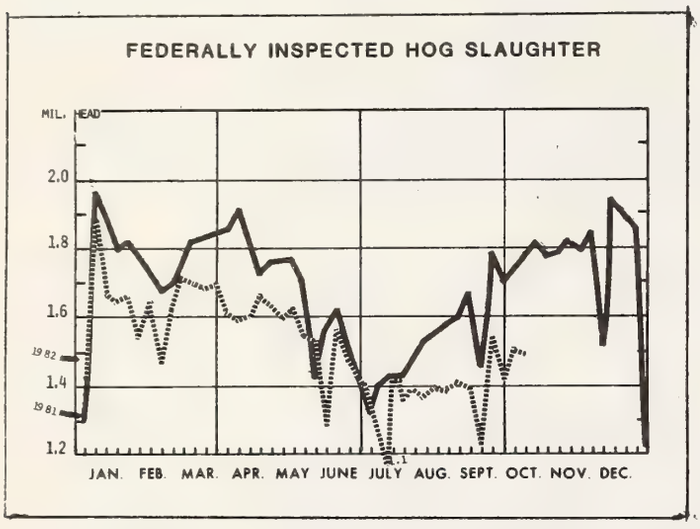
Farm operators with 1981 gross sales of less than $100,000 earned more of their net family income from off-farm sources. And although the average farm income of farmers with sales below $40,000 was negative in 1981, their total income--including off-farm income--was positive. Off-farm income per farm with sales of less than $2,500 equaled $22,425, over 30 times greater than the value of agricultural products sold by these farms.

INCOME PER FARM OPERATOR FAMILY 1/, 1981

	SALES CLASS							
TOTAL FARMS	$100,000 and over	$40,000 and $99,999	$20,000 and $39,999	$10,000 and $19,000	$5,000 and $9,999	$2,500 and $4,999	Less than $2,500	All Farms
				Thousands				
Farm Numbers	298	396	278	286	335	332	511	2,436
				$ Mil.				
Cash Receipts	100,733	27,983	9,042	4,686	2,778	1,389	721	147,332
Net Farm Income 2/ ...	19,910	1,509	-244	-292	-331	-462	-501	19,589
Off-farm Income	4,104	3,383	2,826	4,010	6,170	7,377	11,459	39,329
Total Income	24,014	4,892	2,582	3,718	5,839	6,915	10,958	58,918
Distribution:				Percent				
Farms	12.2	16.3	11.4	11.7	13.8	13.6	21.0	100.0
Cash Receipts	68.4	19.0	6.1	3.2	1.9	.9	.5	100.0
Net Farm Income 2/ .	101.7	7.7	-1.2	-1.5	-1.7	-2.4	-2.6	100.0
Off-Farm Income	10.4	8.6	7.2	10.2	15.7	18.8	29.1	100.0
Total Income	40.8	8.3	4.4	6.3	9.9	11.7	18.6	100.0
Per Farm				Dollars				
Net Farm Income 2/ ...	66,790	3,813	-880	-1,022	-988	-1.389	-982	8,042
Off-Farm Income	13,772	8,543	10,165	14,021	18,418	22,220	22,425	16,145
Total Income	80,562	12,356	9,285	12,999	17,430	20,831	21,443	24,180
				Percent				
Off-Farm Income as a Percentage of Total Income	17	69	109	108	106	107	105	

1/ Including farm households. 2/ Excludes net farm inventory change.





LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana's slaughter plants produced 25 million pounds of red meat during the July-September period, 36 percent less than the same period last year according to the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

July-September cattle slaughter at 13,600 head was 55 percent less than a year ago. Hog slaughter at 102,500 head was down 15 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during July through September 1982 totaled 9.16 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the July through September 1981 quarter, January-September red meat production, at 27.6 billion pounds, declined 4 percent from the corresponding period last year. The 1982 accumulated production percent changes from last year by individual components were: beef, virtually unchanged; veal, up 4; pork, down 9; lamb and mutton, up 10. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY

On September 23, the Secretary announced provisions for the 1983 feed grain program. Target prices for 1983-crop feed grains will be $2.86 a bushel for corn, $2.72 for grain sorghum, $2.60 for barley, and $1.60 for oats. Loan rates will be $2.65 a bushel for corn, $2.52 for sorghum, $2.16 for barley, $1.36 for oats, and $2.25 for rye. (There is no target-price program for rye.) In addition, the 1983 program will feature a combined 10-percent acreage reduction and 10-percent paid land diversion.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
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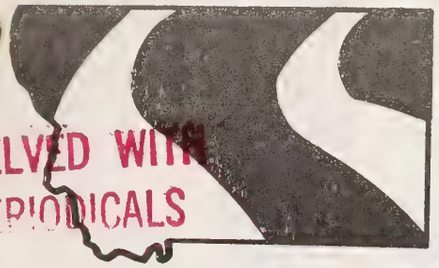

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Phone 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST
FARM PRICES
PASTURE & RANGE EXCELLENT
MILK PRODUCTION UP
BEEF EXPORTS

NATION'S WHEAT PRODUCTION

Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at a record high 2.81 billion bushels, 1 percent above the previous record high set in 1981. Compared with a year earlier, durum wheat production is down 19 percent, other spring wheat is up 9 percent and winter wheat production is up fractionally from last year.

Corn for grain production is forecast at a record high 8.31 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from the September 1 forecast and 1 percent above the previous record high set last year. The 90 percent confidence interval for this production is 7.77 to 8.86 billion bushels.

OCTOBER 1 CROP FORECAST

Harvesting of Montana's huge grain crop is nearly complete. The October 1 production forecast continued to peg most of the state's grain crops at record levels, although the hard spring wheat yield is down 1 bushel from the September forecast. The final, end-of-season tally will be released on December 22, 1982.

Production changes from 1981 are:

Winter Wheat	--	down 2%
Hard Spring Wheat	--	up 31%
Durum	--	down 8%
Barley	--	up 41%
Oats	--	up 83%
All Hay	--	up 10%
Potatoes	--	up 6%
Sugarbeets	--	down 5%
Dry Beans	--	down 32%
Corn for Grain	--	unchanged

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On October 1 nearly 95 percent of the spring wheat, barley and alfalfa hay was harvested. Sugarbeet lifting was 10 percent complete, potatoes were 35 percent dug, and dry bean and corn silage harvest was 75 percent done.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- OCTOBER 1, 1982

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,550	2,185	35.0	40.0	89,250	87,400
Durum Wheat	Bu.	480	340	23.0	30.0	11,040	10,200
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,790	2,880	26.0	33.0	72,540	95,040
All Wheat	Bu.	5,820	5,405	29.7	35.6	172,830	192,640
Corn for Grain	Bu.	10	10	85.0	85.0	850	850
Oats	Bu.	110	150	44.0	59.0	4,840	8,850
Barley	Bu.	1,320	1,600	43.0	50.0	56,760	80,000
Potatoes (Fall)	Cwt	7.4	7.4	235.0	250.0	1,739	1,850
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	9.0	16.8	16.5	218	149
Sugarbeets	Cwt.	44.5	43.0	20.8	20.5	926	882
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,300	1,300	2.60	2.70	3,380	3,510
All Other Hay	Ton	1,020	1,040	1.40	1.70	1,428	1,768
All Hay	Ton	2,320	2,340	2.07	2.26	4,808	5,278
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	1,240 1/	2,150 1/

1/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- OCTOBER 1, 1982

CROP	YIELD & PROD. UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	58,589	58.498	35.8	36.0	2,098,719	2,106,149
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5,755	4,267	32.3	35.4	185,940	150,879
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	16,604	16,199	30.6	34.2	508,777	553,484
All Wheat	Bu.	80,948	78,964	34.5	35.6	2,793,436	2,810,512
Corn for Grain	Bu.	74,264	72,823	109.9	114.2	8,200,951	8,314,938
Oats	Bu.	9,411	10,379	54.0	57.7	508,083	599,008
Barley	Bu.	9,151	9,191	52.3	56.2	478,301	516,192
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,201.0	1,836.0	14.45	13.94	31,814	25,602
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,229.1	1,044.1	22.3	20.5	27,408	21,384
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,394	26,537	3.17	3.41	83,696	90,573
All Other Hay	Ton	33,818	33,984	1.76	1.82	59,409	61,901
All Hay	Ton	60,212	60,521	2.38	2.52	143,105	152,474
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	153.0	158.8

ALL WHEAT

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1981	1982	1981	1982	% Chg.
	---000 Acres---		---000 Bushels---		
MT	5,820	5,405	172,830	192,640	+11
COLO	3,101	3,097	87,394	88,925	+ 2
KS	12,200	13,200	305,000	462,000	+51
NEBR	2,950	2,950	106,200	103,250	- 3
OKLA	6,400	6,900	172,800	227,700	+32
NO DAK	11,690	10,545	331,700	340,070	+ 3
SO DAK	3,820	3,545	88,970	99,480	+12
TEX	6,550	6,000	183,400	144,000	-21
PLAINS STATES	52,531	51,642	1,448,294	1,658,065	+14
ID	1,510	1,500	89,780	93,040	+ 4
ORE	1,310	1,200	77,380	64,500	-17
WASH	3,050	2,840	168,350	130,680	-22
PACIFIC NW	5,870	5,540	335,510	288,220	-14
ILL	1,850	1,470	92,500	66,150	-28
IND	1,350	1,080	62,100	45,360	-27
MICH	830	640	41,500	25,600	-38
MO	2,750	2,200	115,500	74,800	-35
OHIO	1,650	1,250	72,600	53,750	-26
CORN BELT	8,430	6,640	384,200	265,660	-31
ALA	565	850	24,860	27,200	+ 9
ARK	1,650	1,760	67,650	68,640	+ 1
GA	1,070	1,480	46,010	47,360	+ 3
KY	680	675	28,560	26,325	- 8
MISS	600	1,050	24,000	39,900	+66
NC	410	480	15,990	17,280	+ 8
SC	410	600	14,350	21,600	+51
TENN	850	945	37,400	34,965	- 7
VA	390	390	17,160	13,650	-20
SOUTHERN STATES	6,625	8,230	275,980	296,920	+ 8
CALIF	1,365	1,125	107,085	81,625	-24
OTHER STATES	6,127	5,787	242,367	220,022	- 9
U.S.	80,948	78,964	2,793,436	2,810,512	+ 1

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT OCTOBER 1, 1982 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change
	---(000 Bu.)---		%	---(000 Bu.)---		%	---(000 Bu.)---		%
Northwest	1.1	.8	-27	.4	.5	+25	3.1	3.6	+16
North Central	43.0	43.6	+ 1	40.4	41.7	+ 3	28.2	41.4	+47
Northeast	9.4	7.5	-20	33.3	48.4	+45	4.4	9.2	+109
Central	14.8	16.0	+ 8	4.3	5.0	+16	12.3	15.0	+22
Southwest	2.0	1.8	-10	1.5	1.2	-20	3.1	3.4	+10
South Central	11.6	11.6	--	.9	1.6	+78	4.3	4.6	+ 7
Southeast	7.4	6.1	-18	2.7	6.8	+152	1.4	2.8	+100
STATE	89.3	87.4	- 2	83.5	105.2	+26	56.8	80.0	+41

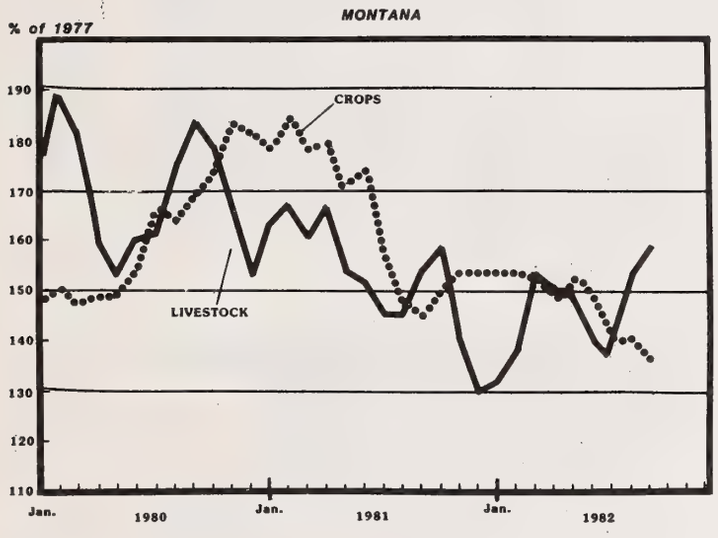
1/ District data funded by Montana Wheat Commission.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

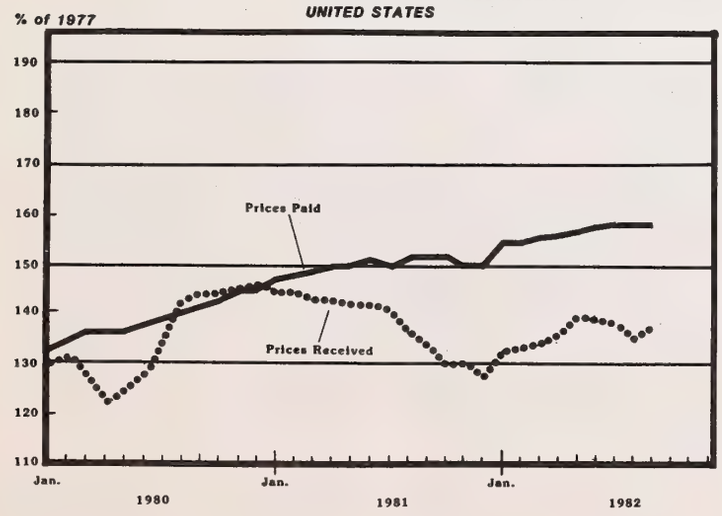
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Average Sept. 1981	MONTANA Monthly Average Aug. 1982	MONTANA Sept. 15 1982	U.S. Sept. 15 1982
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECIEVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.39	3.35	3.38
Durum	Bu.	3.45	3.16	2.84	3.11
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.49	3.42	3.42
All Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.44	3.37	3.38
Barley	Bu.	2.25	2.12	1.90	2.04
Oats	Bu.	1.80	1.52	1.41	1.37
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	55.00	45.00	47.00	69.10
All Other Hay	Ton	50.00	40.00	40.00	53.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	54.00	45.00	47.00	64.84
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	60.30	60.60	61.30	60.00
Cows	Cwt	40.10	40.40	40.00	38.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	54.00	53.50	56.00	55.80
Calves	Cwt	62.20	61.10	63.80	60.00
Sheep	Cwt	16.20	16.90	15.90	14.20
Lambs	Cwt	46.20	50.10	49.80	51.90
Hogs	Cwt	44.10	60.10	60.10	61.80
All Milk	Cwt	13.35	13.00	13.30	13.50
Eggs	Doz.	.620	.420	.490	.513
Wool 2/	Lb.	.990	.640	.640	.667
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	151	147	150	136
All Crops	Pct.	147	141	136	125
Livestock & Products	Pct.	154	154	161	147

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES
MONTANA



INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED
UNITED STATES



FARM PRICES

Farm prices in Montana weakened from August to September for crops but improved slightly for most livestock classes. Winter wheat and hard spring wheat prices dropped moderately while durum, oat and barley price decreases were more severe. Hay prices showed some improvement during the month. Steer and heifer, calf, milk and egg prices went up. Hog prices were unchanged. Prices for cows, sheep and lambs went down.

For the Nation's farmers, prices paid for production items were unchanged, while prices received for the products they sell went up slightly as measured by the prices paid/prices received indexes.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Sept. 1981	Aug. 1982	Sept. 1982
Prices Recieved (1977=100) 1/	133	133	136
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	151	156	156
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	88	85	87
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	58	57	57

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

PASTURE & RANGE

Montana's pasture and ranges benefitted from rain and snow over almost the entire state during September. Grazing conditions remain excellent as of October 1, and weather conditions rather than feed supplies will probably cause the movement of livestock from summer pastures.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION--OCTOBER 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1980	1981	1982
Northwest	69	89	88
North Central	52	74	89
Northeast	33	56	89
Central	72	87	90
Southwest	93	91	92
South Central	72	87	93
Southeast	31	62	99
STATE	31	62	92

SURVEY TO PEG PESTICIDE USE

The Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service will be contacting a cross-section of the state's farm and ranch producers to determine 1982 levels of specific pesticide usage.

The information is important in assessing the economic necessity of continued use of selected pesticides. USDA is charged with providing Congress with agriculture's side of the pesticide story in order to protect the farmer's interest. This survey will be used to document that need.

MORE MILK PRODUCED

Montana dairymen produced nearly 4 percent more milk during the July-September quarter than a year earlier even though cow numbers held steady. The total of 88 million pounds was 2 million more than the April-June quarter.

JULY-SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MILK COWS		MILK PRODUCTION	
	July-Sept 1981	July-Sept 1982	July-Sept 1981	July-Sept 1982
	---Thousand Lbs.---		---Million Lbs.---	
CALIF	924	937	3,711	3,767
IDAHO	167	175	576	595
MINN	885	910	2,340	2,402
MONT	29	29	85	88
N DAK	92	92	242	245
OREGON	97	100	319	339
S DAK	159	165	447	460
WASH	206	213	783	843
WISC	1,825	1,829	5,721	5,798
WYO	12	12	34.8	35.5
U.S.	10,925	11,026	33,086	33,848

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Grain Stocks

WORLD BEEF TRADE

Five countries have historically supplied the U.S. with a lion's share of imported beef products, primarily in the form of 90 percent lean, fresh or frozen, boneless beef. Of this total, Australia is the foremost supplier, exporting nearly 568 million pounds of product worth $566 million to the U.S. in 1981, after a record high of 876 million pounds worth $971 million in 1979. New Zealand is the second largest supplier of imported beef to the U.S., shipping 341 million pounds of product worth about $331 million in 1981.

Australia, New Zealand, and Canada exporters are all reaching 1979 Meat Import Law maximums during 1982. As a result, they have agreed to limit exports for the remainder of the year so that the 1.3 billion pounds "trigger level" will not be exceeded, because this would result in the U.S. imposing quotas. This will necessitate storage of some New Zealand beef until after January 1, 1983.

Since the U.S. is a relatively high income country, as well as being a net importer, the international focus of attention has traditionally been on this prime market. In the past, U.S. imports have ranged from 4-8 percent of total beef production and consumption. In recent years, the amount imported has been increasing, reaching a high of about 10 percent of consumption in 1979. On the other hand, little U.S. product has been exported abroad.

In 1981 the U.S. beef industry exported nearly $700 million of tallow, greases and lard, and $662 million of hides and skins, followed by $306 million in fresh or frozen beef and veal. Total exports amounted to around $2 billion, about the same as the previous year.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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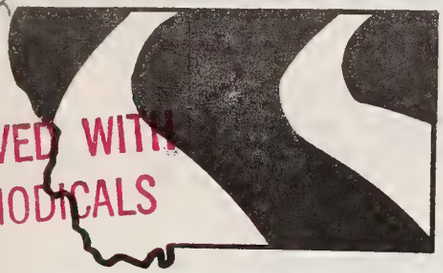

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Grain Movement
Wheat Exports
Hog Numbers Slip
Crop Production Increases
Cattle Outlook

FARM INCOME UPDATE

Key indicators of the farm sector reveal that 1982 will likely be the third straight year of depressed financial conditions for many farmers. While livestock receipts are projected to be record high this year, crop receipts will likely fall from 1981 levels, despite larger marketings, leading to lower overall cash receipts from farm marketings. So, even though production expenses will rise only modestly compared with large annual increases in recent years, net cash income for 1982 will be approximately $31 billion, 1 percent below that for 1981.

When cash receipt and expense measures are adjusted for noncash income and expenses, the resulting net farm income (before inventory adjustments) is projected to be about $19 billion last year. Inventory adjustments this year are expected to neither add to nor detract from net farm income, leaving net farm income after inventory adjustment still at $19 billion, down from $25.1 billion in 1981 and $20.1 billion in 1980.

WORLD AGRICULTURE and TRADE

U.S. agricultural exports are expected to fall 8 percent in fiscal 1982, to $40.5 billion. this would mark the first year-to-year decline in the value of farm exports since 1969, despite record volume projected at 165 million tons. Another bumper U.S. harvest has put additional downward pressure on export prices. Imports are forecast at about $15 billion, also a decline, pushing the U.S. agricultural trade surplus below $26 billion, down from last year's record $26.6 billion.

MONTANA WHEAT FARMERS EYE SOVIET PROSPECTS

Farmers in Montana are largely at the mercy of two critical elements--weather and exports. This is the reason many wheat farmers have become students of export marketing. It's essential to be informed.

In recent years there are many reasons why the Russian wheat situation has had a direct bearing on the prosperity of Montana's vast wheat industry.

The last two years the Soviets have been importing about 15 percent of their wheat supply. This year, they will import nearly 19 percent, or an amount almost equal to the entire 1982 wheat production from Montana, North and South Dakota, and Washington (24 percent of the U.S. total).

The U.S. share of Russian imports has been increasing the last few years going from 19 percent in 1980/81 to 34 percent in 1981/82. Put still another way, last year Russia imported nearly 40 percent of last year's U.S. wheat exports.

The Russians use about the same amount of wheat each year for seed, industrial and food uses. Dockage and waste (post harvest, transport and storage losses) are more variable but have averaged nearly 434 million bushels a year--similar to an average year's production from Kansas. Feed usage is highly variable but has averaged 12 percent more than food use.

A number of factors could be contributing to the slow start of the Soviet 1982/83 import program:

1. An aggressive, late season 1981/82 import program may have provided the Soviets a substantial grain cushion to work from.

2. The crop outlook in the European USSR is somewhat better than a year ago. This may have resulted in an improved early season flow of grain supplies, lessening the need for imports.

3. The Soviets may be reviewing their spending priorities for the year ahead as they face another year of huge expenditures on grain imports.

WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the six month period December 1981 - May 1982 totaled 52.6 million bushels--up 27 percent from the same period a year ago. Railroads carried the major portion of the wheat shipped out of state--77 percent compared with 70 percent during the same period last year.

Ninety-five percent of the wheat shipped from Montana was bound for western destinations. While this represents only a one percent increase in the percent of the crop shipped westward, the record size of last year's crop resulted in 10.8 million more bushels being sent to western destinations.

Barley shipped out of Montana during the six month period was up 14 percent.

Movement to western destinations at 12.9 million bushels was 15 percent over a year ago. Eastern destinations received 2.1 million bushels--virtually the same as last year.

Both rail and truck shipments were up 14 percent from the same period a year ago.

WHEAT and BARLEY SHIPPED OUT OF STATE
BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE AND DESTINATION 1/

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT	DECEMBER 1981 - MAY 1982			All Wheat % Change 4/	DECEMBER 1981 - MAY 1982	Barley % Change 4/
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat		ALL Barley	
	(000 Bushels)				(000 Bushels)	
Northwest	91	332	423	-10	550	-13
North Central	11,088	12,849	23,937	+17	7,679	+18
Northeast	1,970	8,097	10,067	+40	20	-29
Central	8,708	2,858	11,566	+49	6,159	+21
Southwest	957	949	1,906	--	718	-36
South Central	3,236	641	3,877	+24	217	+34
Southeast	669	186	855	+37	0	--
Truck East	727	576	1,303	+33	840	-34
Truck West	5,538	4,933	10,471	- 3	5,910	+24
Truck Other 3/	185	220	405	-23	383	+94
TOTAL BY TRUCK	6,450	5,729	12,179	- 1	7,133	+14
Rail East	234	765	999	+ 8	1,239	+49
Rail West	20,035	19,414	39,449	+39	6,958	+ 9
Rail Other 3/	0	4	4	--	13	+44
TOTAL BY RAIL	20,269	20,183	40,452	+38	8,210	+14
TOTAL WHEAT SHIPPED	26,719	25,912	52,631	+27	15,343	+14

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes Durum. 3/ Other and unknown. 4/ Percent change from same period last year.

Grain Movement statistics are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee through the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Special thanks to the Montana Grain Trade for their cooperation in this project.

CATTLE HIGHLIGHTS

Financial pressures have stalled expansion in the cattle inventory and likely point to continued favorable feeding margins into 1983. Federally inspected cow slaughter during the first half of 1982 rose 11 percent over a year earlier. However, the sharpest increases occurred in areas with mixed crop/livestock operations. In those areas in which cattle enterprises are the main source of income, increases in slaughter ranged from negligible to 8 percent higher.

The number of calves born as a proportion of the January 1, 1982 inventory is expected to tie for the smallest since 1950. Although the number of replacement heifers at the beginning of 1982 was larger than a year earlier, only 28 percent calved and entered the cow herd. This was the lowest since the series began in 1973 and well below the average of 45 percent.

Stronger feeder cattle prices, favorable pasture conditions, anticipated record hay stocks, and an alltime-high grain crop will likely slow the rate of cow slaughter during the remainder of this year. However, cow-calf operators, particularly those on mixed enterprises, may continue to cull cows because of financial stress.

Beef production in second-half 1982 is expected to rise 1 to 2 percent above a year ago. The sharpest year-to-year increases occurred this summer, as a larger number of fed cattle are marketed. Nonfed steer and heifer slaughter is forecast to decline from a year earlier, and only modest increases in cow slaughter are expected.

UNITED STATES JULY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY

Class	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1982/81
			1,000 head				*% change*
Cattle and calves	130,255	121,695	118,437	122,821	124,800	123,740	−0.8
Cows and heifers that have calved	52,190	48,413	47,815	49,941	51,004	49,590	−2.8
Beef cows	41,244	37,652	37,115	39,143	40,105	38,610	−3.7
Milk cows	10,946	10,761	10,700	10,798	10,899	10,980	+0.7
Heifers 500 lb and over	18,360	18,149	17,612	17,825	18,356	18,550	+1.1
For beef cow replacement	5,842	5,385	5,770	5,837	6,233	6,120	−1.8
For milk cow replacement	4,004	3,955	4,115	4,377	4,628	4,780	+3.3
Other heifer	8,514	8,809	7,727	7,611	7,495	7,650	+2.1
Steers 500 lb and over	18,689	17,867	16,796	16,582	16,253	16,340	+0.5
Bulls 500 lb and over	2,687	2,459	2,456	2,611	2,638	2,610	−1.1
Heifers, steers, and bulls under 500 lb	38,329	34,807	33,758	35,862	36,549	36,650	+0.3
Calf crop[1]	45,931	43,818	42,603	44,998	44,714	43,570	−2.6

[1]For 1981, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born after July 1.

MONTANA FARMERS AMONG LEADERS IN PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana farmers are an important part of the Nation's total food grain production output. Food grain production has increased more in the past 10 years than any other type of crop production. There are several factors involved. Perhaps the most important being a series of good weather years. More acres have been brought into production also. However, the widespread adoptation of progressive farming practices can't be ignored.

INDEX NUMBERS OF CROP PRODUCTION
UNITED STATES, 1972-82 (1977=100)

YEAR	PRODUCTION							
	ALL 1/	FEED GRAINS	HAY and FORAGE	FOOD GRAINS	SUGAR CROPS	COTTON	TOBACCO	OIL CROPS
1972	87	88	96	77	110	97	91	74
1973	92	91	101	86	95	91	91	87
1974	84	74	96	91	89	82	104	71
1975	93	91	100	108	114	58	114	86
1976	92	96	94	107	112	74	112	74
1977	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1978	102	108	106	93	101	76	106	105
1979	113	116	108	108	94	102	80	129
1980	101	97	98	121	97	79	93	99
1981	117	121	106	144	111	110	107	115
1982	117	123	111	140	97	77	101	127

1/ Includes some miscellaneous crop production not included in separate groups of crops shown.

HOG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1982 in the 10 states conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 41.6 million head, 12 percent below last September and 15 percent less than September 1, 1980. This is the lowest September 1 inventory for the 10 states since 1975.

--Breeding inventory, at 5.55 million head was 13 percent less than a year ago and 15 percent below two years earlier. This is the second lowest breeding inventory during the past 10 years.

--Market hog inventory, at 36.1 million head was 12 percent below last year and 15 percent less than in 1980. This is the lowest September 1 market hog inventory since 1975.

PIG CROP: The June-August 1982 pig crop was 16.2 million head, 11 percent less than last year and 10 percent below two years ago. Sows farrowing averaged 7.39 pigs per litter compared with 7.37 last year and 7.18 two years ago.

FARROWING INTENTIONS: Hog producers in the 10 quarterly states intend to farrow 2.17 million sows during September-November of this year. This is 10 percent less than during the comparable period in 1981 and 17 percent less than two years ago. Farrowing intentions for December 1982-February 1983 quarter are 1.90 million head, 4 percent below the same period a year earlier and 13 percent below two years ago.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Mfg. Dairy
Crop Production
  Grain & Hay
  Pasture & Range
Potato Disposition

HOGS and PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, SOWS FARROWING and PIG CROP 1980-1983, 10 STATES 1/

ITEM	1980	1981	1982	1982 as % of 1981
	(000 Head)			Pct.
Inventory No.--Sept. 1				
All Hogs and Pigs	49,205	47,170	41,620	88
Kept for Breeding	6,546	6,357	5,545	87
Market	42,659	40,813	36,075	88
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:				
Under 60 pounds	16,579	16,473	14,543	88
60-119 pounds	11,086	10,268	8,991	88
120-179 pounds	8,795	8,183	7,270	89
180 pounds & over	6,199	5,889	5,271	90
Sows Farrowing:				
December 2/ - May	5,416	4,942	4,368	88
June - November	5,111	4,879 3/	4,354	89
Pig Crop:				
December 2/ - May	39,307	36,604	32,002	87
June - November	36,923	35,987	--	87
Pigs Per Litter:				
December 2/ - May	7.26	7.41	7.33	99
June - November	7.22	7.38	--	--

1/ Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio. 2/ December preceding year. 3/ Actual farrowings for June-August plus intentions for September-November.

EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's laying flocks produced 47 million eggs between June 1 and August 31, 1982. The average number of layers was 777,000 during the quarter. Compared with a year earlier, egg production increased 9 percent while layer numbers increased 1 percent.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17,065 million eggs during the same period--don 1 percent from a year ago. The number of layers averaged 279,247--down 1 percent.

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Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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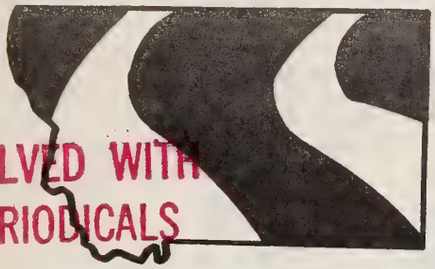

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farm Prices Drop
Pasture & Range Excellent
Record Crop Production
Wheat Situation

U.S. WHEAT PRODUCTION AT RECORD

Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at a record high 2.82 billion bushels, 1 percent above the previous record high set in 1981. Compared with a year earlier, durum wheat production is down 21 percent, other spring wheat is up 10 percent and winter wheat production is up fractionally from last year. The 90 percent confidence interval for the all wheat production forecast is 2.75 to 2.88 billion bushels.

The record crop, combined with the largest carryover in 4 years, may push 1982/83 supplies to a new high. Even though disappearance is expected to match last year's record level, stocks next June are expected to reach 1.4 billion bushels.

MONTANA CROPS AT RECORD LEVELS

Montana's 1982 crop yields are nearly all at record levels. The only exceptions are durum wheat, sugarbeets and dry beans. The latest all wheat production forecast is 13 percent above last year's record, but harvested from 7 percent fewer acres.

September 1 production forecasts are based on producer reports of yield. Also, actual field observations and measurements are used in making the wheat production forecast. Production changes from 1981 are:

Winter Wheat	--	down 2%
Hard Spring Wheat	--	up 35%
Durum	--	down 8%
Barley	--	up 41%
Oats	--	up 83%
All Hay	--	up 5%
Sugarbeets	--	down 5%
Dry Beans	--	down 32%
Corn for Grain	--	unchanged

Winter wheat harvest was about 70 percent complete on September 1 compared with 95 percent last year and a normal of 90 percent. Spring wheat harvest was 30 percent done while progress of the oats and barley harvest was about 45 percent complete--all well behind normal. Although harvest weather has been nearly ideal, cool weather during the spring and early summer delayed growth and maturity.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1982

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,550	2,185	35.0	40.0	89,250	87,400
Durum Wheat	Bu.	480	340	23.0	30.0	11,040	10,200
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,790	2,880	26.0	34.0	72,540	97,920
All Wheat	Bu.	5,820	5,405	29.7	36.2	172,830	195,520
Corn for Grain	Bu.	10	10	85.0	85.0	850	850
Oats	Bu.	110	150	44.0	59.0	4,840	8,850
Barley	Bu.	1,320	1,600	43.0	50.0	56,760	80,000
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	9.0	16.8	16.5	218	149
Sugarbeets	Cwt.	44.5	43.0	20.8	20.5	926	882
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,330	1,300	2.60	2.75	3,380	3,575
All Other Hay	Ton	1,020	1,040	1.40	1.40	1,428	1,456
All Hay	Ton	2,320	2,340	2.07	2.15	4,808	5,031
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	1,240 1/	2,150 1/

1/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- SEPTEMBER 1, 1982

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	58,589	58.498	35.8	36.0	2,098,719	2,106,149
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5,755	4,267	32.3	34.6	185,940	147,535
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	16,604	16,199	30.6	34.7	508,777	561,824
All Wheat	Bu.	80,948	78,964	34.5	35.7	2,793,436	2,815,508
Corn for Grain	Bu.	74,264	73,023	109.9	113.9	8,200,951	8,318,678
Oats	Bu.	9,411	10,379	54.0	57.7	508,083	599,008
Barley	Bu.	9,151	9,191	52.3	56.2	478,301	516,192
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,201.0	1,846.0	14.45	14.09	31,814	26,004
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,229.1	1,044.1	22.3	20.8	27,408	21,754
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,394	26,537	3.17	3.41	83,696	90,540
All Other Hay	Ton	33,818	33,984	1.76	1.80	59,409	61,013
All Hay	Ton	60,212	60,521	2.38	2.50	143,105	151,553
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	153.0	139.9

WHEAT SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Year Beginning June 1	1979	1980	1981 (Projected)	1982
	------million bushels------			
SUPPLY				
Beginning Stocks	924	902	989	1,159
Production	2,134	2,374	2,793	2,816
Imports	2	3	3	2
Total	3,060	3,279	3,785	3,977
DISAPPEARANCE				
Food	596	611	611	615
Seed	101	114	112	110
Feed	86	55	130	125
Exports	1,375	1,510	1,773	1,775
Total	2,158	2,290	2,626	2,625
ENDING STOCKS	902	989	1,159	1,352

ALL WHEAT

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1981	1981	1981	1982	% Chg.
	--000 Acres--		--000 Bushels--		
MT	5,820	5,405	172,830	195,520	+ 13
COLO	3,101	3,097	87,394	88,925	+ 2
KS	12,200	13,200	305,000	462,000	+ 51
NEBR	2,950	2,950	106,200	103,250	- 3
OKLA	6,400	6,900	172,800	227,700	+ 32
NO DAK	11,690	10,545	331,700	336,570	+ 1
SO DAK	3,820	3,545	88,970	99,480	+ 12
TEX	6,550	6,000	183,400	144,000	- 21
PLAINS STATES	52,531	51,642	1,448,294	1,657,445	+ 14
ID	1,510	1,500	89,780	92,460	+ 3
ORE	1,310	1,200	77,380	64,500	- 17
WASH	3,050	2,840	168,350	130,680	- 22
PACIFIC NW	5,870	5,540	335,510	287,640	- 14
ILL	1,850	1,470	92,500	66,150	- 28
IND	1,350	1,080	62,100	45,360	- 27
MICH	830	640	41,500	25,600	- 38
MO	2,750	2,200	115,500	74,800	- 35
OHIO	1,650	1,250	72,600	53,750	- 26
CORN BELT	8,430	6,640	384,200	265,660	- 31
ALA	565	850	24,860	27,200	+ 9
ARK	1,650	1,760	67,650	68,640	+ 1
GA	1,070	1,480	46,010	47,360	+ 3
KY	680	675	28,560	26,325	- 8
MISS	600	1,050	24,000	39,900	+ 66
NC	410	480	15,990	17,280	+ 8
SC	410	600	14,350	21,600	+ 51
TENN	850	945	37,400	34,965	- 7
VA	390	390	17,160	13,650	- 20
SOUTHERN STATES	6,625	8,230	275,980	296,920	+ 8
CALIF	1,365	1,125	107,085	81,625	- 24
OTHER STATES	6,127	5,787	242,367	226,218	- 7
U.S.	80,948	78,964	2,793,436	2,815,508	+ 1

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 1, 1982 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WEHAT			BARLEY		
	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change
	---(000 Bu.)---		%	---(000 Bu.)---		%	---(000 Bu.)---		%
Northwest	1.1	.8	-27	.4	.5	+25	3.1	3.6	+16
North Central	43.0	43.6	+ 1	40.4	42.9	+ 6	28.2	41.4	+47
Northeast	9.4	7.5	-20	33.3	49.9	+50	4.4	9.2	+109
Central	14.8	16.0	+ 8	4.3	5.0	+16	12.3	15.0	+22
Southwest	2.0	1.8	-10	1.5	1.2	-20	3.1	3.4	+10
South Central	11.6	11.6	--	.9	1.6	+78	4.3	4.6	+ 7
Southeast	7.4	6.1	-18	2.7	7.0	+159	1.4	2.8	+100
STATE	89.3	87.4	- 2	83.5	108.1	+30	56.8	80.0	+41

1/ District data funded by Montana Wheat Commission.

PASTURE and RANGE

Montana's pasture and ranges remain in excellent condition as of September 1. While less moisture was received during August than during prior spring and summer months, soil moisture conditions are generally above average across the state.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION --SEPTEMBER 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1980	1981	1982
Northwest	101	93	89
North Central	63	79	94
Northeast	27	62	93
Central	69	89	95
Southwest	98	89	96
South Central	73	88	98
Southeast	37	73	102

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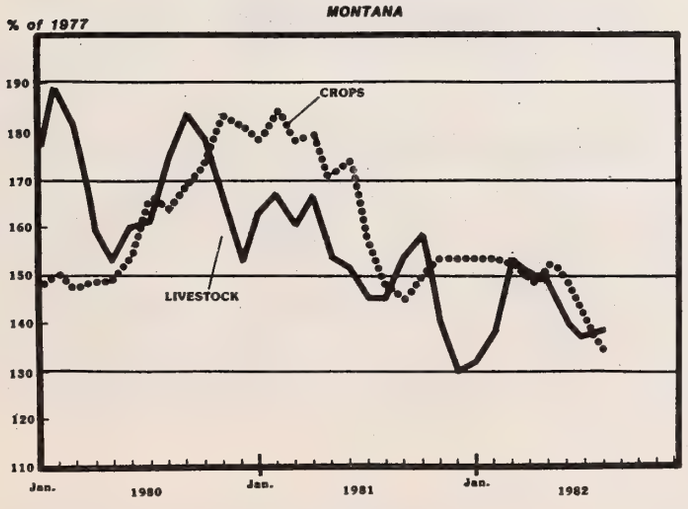


HOG PRICES THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT

Mid-August hog prices in Montana were almost 27 percent above year ago levels--the only bright spot on the farm price scene. Grain markets faced with near record supplies and uncertain foreign demand were substantially weaker. Cattle prices were down slightly.

For the Nation, prices farmers pay for commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates continued to climb while prices they receive for all farm products went down.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		MONTHLY AVERAGE		Aug. 15 1982	Aug. 15 1982
		Aug. 1981	July 1982		
		dollars			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.41	3.25	3.26
Durum	Bu.	3.55	3.57	3.10	3.12
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.72	3.69	3.37	3.38
All Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.60	3.32	3.29
Barley	Bu.	2.19	2.16	1.87	2.04
Oats	Bu.	1.83	1.91	1.80	1.40
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	53.00	47.00	47.00	70.40
All Other Hay	Ton	47.00	40.00	40.00	51.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	52.00	47.00	47.00	65.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	58.20	57.90	57.60	63.20
Cows	Cwt	42.60	41.40	41.50	40.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	48.80	45.20	46.30	58.90
Calves	Cwt	63.20	61.00	58.70	61.30
Sheep	Cwt	17.50	18.50	19.00	20.60
Lambs	Cwt	50.70	52.80	48.10	50.70
Hogs	Cwt	46.30	58.30	58.70	61.10
All Milk	Cwt	12.90	12.70	13.00	13.30
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.550	.420	.442
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.00	.610	.640	.683
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	146	138	137	135
All Crops	Pct.	147	140	134	121
Livestock & Products	Pct.	146	138	139	148

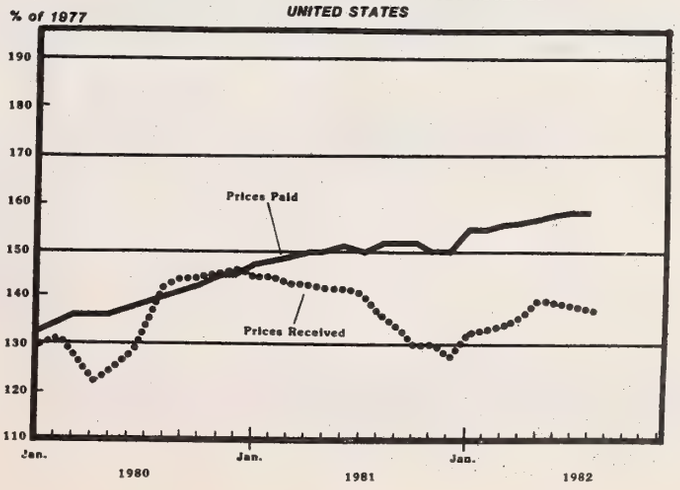
1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Aug. 1982	July 1982	Aug. 1982
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	138	136	135
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	151	156	156
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	91	87	87
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	62	58	57

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of prices received to prices paid using 1910-14 prices.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED
UNITED STATES



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24,25,26	Soybean Stocks
27	Citrus Fruits
28	Potatoes
29	Agriculture Outlook
30	Farmers' Prices

October

1,2,3	Poultry Slaughter
4	Farm News Special
5	Cattle Situation
6	Crops and Weather
7	Livestock Situation
8,9,10,11	Vegetable Report
12	U.S. Crop Production
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15,16,17	Soybean Situation
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28	Feed Situation
29,30,31	Farm Prices

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RANKING OF WESTERN STATES IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

State	Beef Cows	Fed Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
Arizona	35	12	29	12
California	10	6	31	2
Colorado	17	5	23	5
Idaho	26	11	32	10
Kansas	5	3	9	17
Montana	7	22	28	7
Nebraska	4	1	5	16
Nevada	32	--	44	23
New Mexico	25	15	35	8
North Dakota	14	23	24	15
Oklahoma	2	10	27	29
Oregon	20	20	34	9
South Dakota	8	9	10	4
Texas	1	2	16	1
Utah	31	--	41	6
Washington	28	13	36	28
Wyoming	22	--	43	3

-- Indicates lack of data.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Egg Production

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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Phone 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat Exports & Production
Cash Receipts for '80 & '81
Hog Situation
Montana Farm Numbers

RAIL RATES TO CONTINUE UNCHANGED

Rail rates for grain have remained stable so far this year and are expected to continue at current levels through the third quarter, even though the Interstate Commerce Commission's Cost Recovery Index (CCR) would permit a rise of 0.5 percent in the third quarter. The relatively low demand for rail service (down nearly 9 percent from 1981) and the lack of a rate decrease during the second quarter (when the CCR dropped 1.2 percent) argue against any general increase before October.

COMPARING THE WHEAT COMPETITORS' PERFORMANCE

Item	Canada	Australia	Argentina	France	U.S.
Area (mil. hectares).....	11.2	11.4	5.1	4.5	28.8
Growth rate 1/.....	3.9	3.7	1.5	1.3	4.5
Yield (metric tons per ha.)	1.8	1.3	1.5	4.9	2.3
Growth rate 1/.....	0	.7	1.5	3.1	.7
Prod. (mil. metric tons)...	20.3	14.5	7.9	22.0	66.2
Growth rate 1/.....	3.8	4.8	3.0	4.4	5.2
Exports (mil. metric tons)...	16.4	11.6	4.1	12.2	42.5
Growth rate 1/.....	81.0	80.0	52.0	55.0	64.0
Stock (mil. metric tons)...	11.3	3.7	.7	2.5	27.3
% of production....	56.0	25.0	8.9	11.0	41.0

1/ Compound growth rate from 1969-71 average to 1979-81 average. Figures on area, yield, production, exports, and stocks are average for 1979/80 through 1981/82.

WHEAT EXPORTERS VYING FOR WORLD MARKETS

While U.S. wheat policy is reducing acreage for the second straight year, the major foreign competitors for wheat markets--Argentina, Canada, France and Australia--are pursuing policies that could increase production. Furthermore, the expansion of foreign wheat acreage into poorer growing areas will likely make exports--and thus world prices--more volatile in the 1980's.

The United State's competitors in the world wheat market have considerable potential for expanding wheat production, and their output may increase faster than that of U.S. producers during the 1980's. Of the four major competitors, Canada, Australia and Argentina have additional land that can be planted to wheat, although some of this land has poorer soils or less rainfall that would slow yield growth. Area is limited in France, so production gains there will depend on improving yields.

These four countries account for about 45 percent of world wheat exports, slightly more than the United States' average share. The agricultural policies in all four countries are now geared to expanding production and exports. If successful, they will affect U.S. wheat trade, world wheat prices, and the income of American farmers, while also exacerbating the variability in output and exports in each of the wheat exporting countries, including the United States.

PRODUCTION PROSPECTS: OUTPUT GROWTH TO SLOW

The combined wheat outturn of these four countries rose at an annual average rate of 4 percent during the last decade, reaching 72 million metric tons in 1981. Expansion of harvested area--3.1 percent a year--accounted for most of this growth. Wheat yields showed only a small increase despite improved technology, displaying considerable year-to-year variations due to weather.

In the 1980's, these countries' wheat production is projected to expand 3 percent annually, reaching a total of 80 million metric tons by 1990--about the same as projected U.S. output. About half this increase is expected to come from area expansion, achieved through diversion of improved pasture and land currently planted to competing crops. Inadequate moisture will be a limiting factor, but could be offset by applying new production technology.

USSR GRAIN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

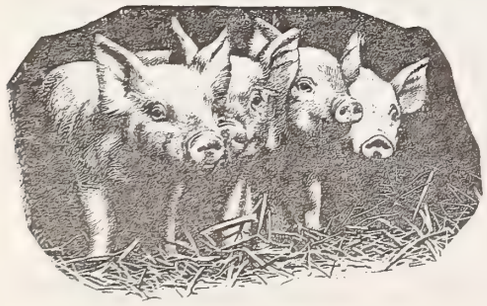
The estimate of the 1982 Soviet grain crop is 170 million tons. Wheat production is estimated at 80 million tons, coarse grains at 81 million and miscellaneous grains and pulses at 9 million. Heavy rains early in the period over the European USSR have abated, benefiting harvest operations. Although, the eastern grain producing region continues dry, some relief has been provided recently by scattered showers. Harvesting progress has lagged this year as wet weather and uneven development slowed harvesters. However, the pace should quicken as the harvest moves into the major spring grain areas.

DOMESTIC USE ESTIMATE UNCHANGED

Large imports this year are expected to generally offset the small crop, maintaining the level of grain supplies. The Soviets typically need around 200 million tons of grain to cover domestic requirements. This does not include an allowance for dockage and waste. In the mid-70's needs grew as more grain was being fed to an expanding livestock sector. The Soviets have reacted to the recent poor crops by drawing down stocks and sharply increasing imports. However, adjustments also were made in domestic use. The past several years have seen a nearly continuous decline in slaughter weights of cattle and hogs and a sharp falloff in dairy production. These developments suggest that although the Soviets have been able to pretty well maintain livestock inventories, the tight feed situation is showing up in a loss of animal productivity in most sectors.

USSR WHEAT PRODUCTION and IMPORTS

YEAR	PRODUCTION	IMPORTS
(July/June)	(Million Metric Tons)	
1972/73	86	15.6
1973/74	110	4.5
1974/75	84	2.5
1975/76	66	10.1
1976/77	97	4.6
1977/78	92	6.6
1978/79	121	5.1
1979/80	90	12.0
1980/81	98	16.0
1981/82	88	19.5
Projected 1982/83	80	19.0



HOGS

IMPROVED RETURNS , BUT NO SIGNS OF EXPANSION

Combined with lower feed costs, the improved prices created the most profitable situation for hog producers since mid-1979. The decline in pork production, along with smaller supplies of competing meats, during the first half of 1982 resulted in substantially higher hog prices. Production costs declined from a year earlier.

Despite the vastly improved costs/return situation, recent slaughter data would suggest that producers have not begun retaining a significant number of gilts for increasing the breeding herd, as would be the normal expectation. The generally unprofitable period of mid-1979 through 1981 has probably made producers cautious about expanding the herd. Other factors maybe poor financial conditions, high interest rates, and a need to generate internal capital to reduce debt loads and fund current operating expenses.

SECOND-QUARTER PORK PRODUCTION DROPS, PRICES RISE

Commercial pork production in the second quarter totaled 3,550 million pounds, down 9 percent from a year ago. The drop in pork production, coupled with smaller supplies of competing meats, contributed to a 29 percent year-over-year increase in hog prices. Barrow and gilt prices at the 7 major markets averaged $56.46 per cwt in the second quarter.

SECOND-HALF OUTPUT TO DECLINE

Third-quarter slaughter is largely drawn from hogs weighing 60 to 179 pounds on June 1. This category was down 10 percent. In July, federally inspected daily slaughter was down about 6 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter during the remainder of the quarter is expected to decline sharply and, for the quarter, average 12 percent below last year. Gilt retention may increase in late August and September, if a good corn crop becomes more certain. Commercial pork production for the third quarter is projected at 3,225 million pounds, down 11 percent from last year, because the average dressed weight is expected to increase from last year's relatively light 169 pounds.

Fourth-quarter slaughter will be largely drawn from the June 1 inventory of hogs weighing under 60 pounds, which was down 18 percent from a year ago. Last year, producers were reducing the breeding herd in the fourth quarter. In contrast, producers may be rebuilding the breeding herd this year, further diminishing the number of hogs available for market. Thus, commercial slaughter may be down more than that indicated by the 18 percent decline in the inventory. This fall, hog slaughter is forecast to drop 19 to 21 percent from last year.

MONTANA FARM NUMBERS UP SLIGHTLY

Based on survey data collected in June 1982, the number of farms and ranches in Montana is up 100 from 1981. However, land in farms and ranches remains stable at 62.1 million acres.

Since 1976, there has been a slow increase in units that meet the definition of a farm--that is units from which $1,000 or more of agiruclltural products were sold or would be sold during the year.

For the Nation, both number of farms and land in farms decreased slightly.

NUMBER OF FARMS and LAND IN FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1980-82 1/

STATE	FARMS			LAND IN FARMS		
	1980	1981	1982 2/	1980	1981	1982 2/
	Number			1,000 Acres		
ARIZONA	7,000	7,500	7,200	38,900	39,000	39,000
CALFIORNIA	80,000	82,000	80,000	33,900	34,000	33,700
COLORADO	26,500	26,500	26,000	36,500	36,500	35,800
IDAHO	24,100	24,000	24,000	15,400	15,100	15,100
KANSAS	75,000	76,000	76,000	48,300	48,500	48,500
MONTANA	23,800	23,900	24,000	62,100	62,100	62,100
NEBRASKA	65,000	65,000	63,000	47,700	47,700	47,600
NEVADA	2,900	3,100	2,900	8,990	8,900	8,900
N MEXICO	13,500	14,000	13,500	46,800	47,400	47,400
N DAKOTA	40,000	39,000	38,000	41,700	41,700	41,700
OKLAHOMA	72,000	71,000	71,000	34,600	34,300	34,300
OREGON	35,000	36,500	36,000	18,100	18,200	18,300
S DAKOTA	38,500	38,000	37,000	45,000	44,700	44,500
TEXAS	186,000	186,000	185,000	138,800	138,500	138,400
UTAH	13,000	13,000	12,900	12,600	12,400	12,300
WASHINGTON	38,000	39,500	39,000	16,100	16,300	16,300
WYOMING	9,100	9,300	9,100	35,000	35,300	35,300
U.S.	2,427,830	2,434,010	2,400,260	1,042,245	1,042,100	1,038,730

1/ A farm is a place that sells or normally would sell $1,000 of agricultural products.
2/ Preliminary.

FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES: AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE of LAND and BUILDINGS--MARCH 1, 1970, '73, '75, FEBRUARY 1, 1976-78, APRIL 1, 1982.

STATE	1970	1973	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
	Dollars									
CORN BELT										
Ohio	399	505	706	846	1,099	1,224	1,483	1,678	1,727	1,474
Indiana	406	494	720	888	1,188	1,357	1,589	1,833	1,972	1,715
Illinois	490	567	846	1,062	1,458	1,625	1,858	2,013	2,133	1,940
Iowa	392	466	719	920	1,259	1,331	1,550	1,811	1,941	1,802
Missouri	224	294	396	456	548	641	726	878	941	872
NORTHERN PLAINS										
North Dakota	94	108	195	236	274	300	347	399	423	436
South Dakota	84	94	145	163	194	227	256	273	290	291
Nebraska	154	193	282	363	420	412	525	600	660	626
Kansas	159	199	296	342	398	418	501	573	590	585
MOUNTAIN STATES										
Montana	60	76	112	134	157	176	196	229	239	254
Idaho	177	229	339	386	454	515	585	669	717	753
Wyoming	41	55	80	98	110	121	144	153	164	170
Colorado	95	137	188	219	256	273	322	376	412	419
New Mexico	42	56	78	86	101	112	143	190	203	211
Arizona	70	91	111	122	138	154	199	264	282	294
Utah	92	141	188	227	271	308	400	530	567	590
Nevada	53	74	85	98	112	140	191	253	271	282
PACIFIC STATES										
Washington	224	273	350	438	535	602	692	725	854	888
Oregon	150	205	250	294	342	414	504	556	605	611
California	479	509	653	711	759	914	1,186	1,426	1,735	1,905

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES and COMMODITY GROUPS, MONTANA -- 1980-81

COMMODITIES	VALUE		PERCENTAGE OF ALL COMMODITIES	
	1980 1/	1981 2/	1980 1/	1981 2/
	----------1,000 Dollars---------		--------1,000 Dollars---------	
Cattle and Calves	640,507	506,095	45.6	34.1
Dairy Products	38,592	42,280	2.7	2.9
Sheep and Lambs	12,307	13,470	.9	.9
Wool	5,304	5,783	.4	.4
Hogs	26,433	35,090	1.9	2.4
Farm Chickens and Eggs	8,023	8,957	.6	.6
Honey and Beeswax	6,583	6,502	.4	.4
Other 3/	9,874	10,881	.7	.7
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	747,623	629,058	53.2	42.4
Wheat	463,051	626,106	33.0	42.2
Barley	77,876	101,726	5.5	6.8
Sugarbeets	45,181	46,465	3.2	3.1
Hay	39,510	35,253	2.8	2.4
Potatoes	5,969	12,540	.4	.8
Oats	2,034	2,424	.1	.2
Dry Edible Beans	4,257	4,362	.3	.3
Alfalfa Seed	4,285	3,674	.3	.2
Other Crops 4/	7,815	14,972	.6	1.0
Cherries	428	874	5/	.1
Other Fruits 6/	41	46	5/	5/
Forest Products	4,700	3,000	.3	.2
Greenhouse and Nursery	2,400	2,754	.2	.2
CROPS	657,547	854,196	46.8	57.6
ALL COMMODITIES	1,405,170	1,483,254	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Turkeys, other poultry, other livestock. 4/ Miscellaneous vegetables, rye, corn, safflower, sweet clover seed, mustard seed, wheat grass seed, other seeds and other field crops. 5/ Less than .1 of a percent. 6/ Apples, strawberries, raspberries and other fruits.

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Crop Production
Grains & Hay
Pasture & Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Record Wheat Crop Expected
Pastures & Ranges Good
Farm Prices Lower
Wheat Production Trends

U.S. WHEAT PRODUCTION NEARS RECORD

The U.S. all wheat crop is projected at 2.8 billion bushels, 1 percent below last year's record production. Indicated record Hard Red Win- production and an expected record Hard Red Spring crop will result in a record output of hard bread wheats. Poor weather reduced production prospects for Soft Red Winter wheat. The 1982 durum harvest will be down 22 percent because of a sharp decline in planted acres.

A near-record crop, combined with the largest carryover in 4 years may push 1982/83 supplies to a new high. Even though this year's disappearance is expected to match last year's record level, stocks next June are expected to rise over 1 billion bushels.

MONTANA CROPS AT RECORD LEVELS

Montana farmers are expected to produce a bumper wheat crop--3 percent above last year's record crop, but harvested from 7 percent fewer acres.

Barley production is also headed for a new record--13 percent above the previous high set in 1969.

The third major Montana crop to set a new high is hay--up 5 percent from last year's record.

August 1 production forecasts are based on producer reports of condition and yield. Actual field observations and measurements are also used in making the wheat production forecast. Production changes from 1981 are:

*Winter Wheat	--	down 9%
*Hard Spring Wheat	--	up 19%
*Durum	--	down 8%
*Barley	--	up 35%
*Oats	--	up 55%
*All Hay	--	up 5%
*Sugarbeets	--	down 9%
*Corn for Grain	--	unchanged
*Dry Beans	--	down 32%

Winter wheat, hard spring wheat, barley and hay yields are at new record highs.

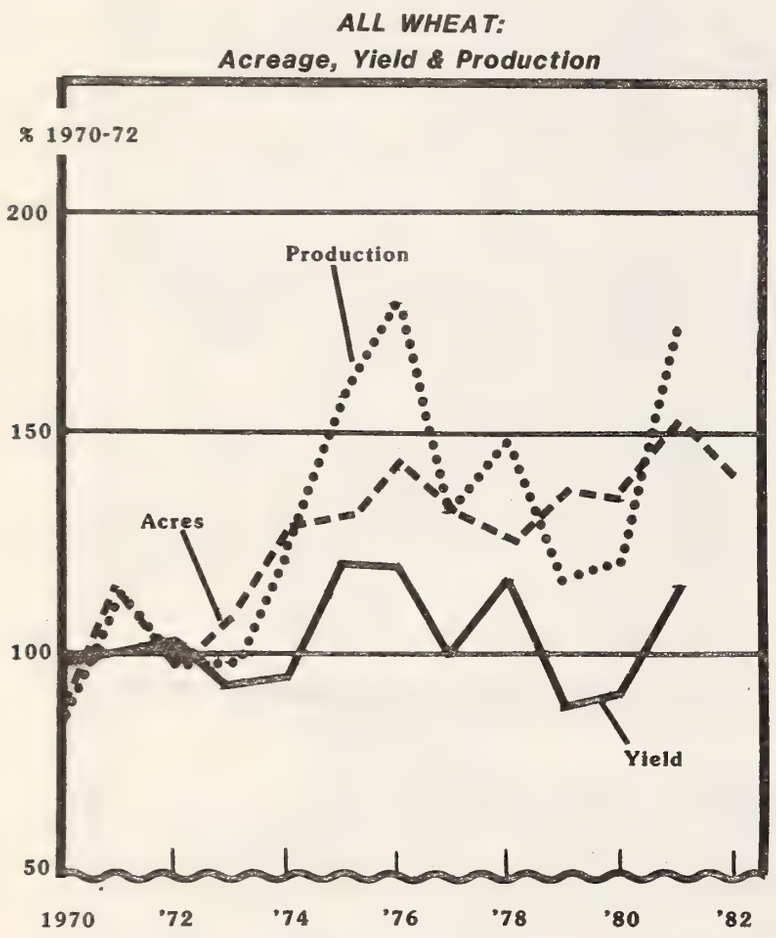
MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1982

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,550	2,185	35.0	37.0	89,250	80,845
Durum Wheat	Bu.	480	340	23.0	30.0	11,040	10,200
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,790	2,880	26.0	30.0	72,540	86,400
All Wheat	Bu.	5,820	5,405	29.7	32.8	172,830	177,445
Corn For Grain	Bu.	10	10	85.0	85.0	850	850
Oats	Bu.	110	150	44.0	50.0	4,840	7,500
Barley	Bu.	1,320	1,600	43.0	48.0	56,760	76,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	9.0	16.8	16.5	218	149
Sugarbeets	Cwt.	44.5	43.3	20.8	19.5	926	844
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	1,330	1,300	2.60	2.75	3,380	3,575
All Other Hay	Ton	1,020	1,040	1.40	1.40	1,428	1,456
All Hay	Ton	2,320	2,340	2.07	2.15	4,808	5,031
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	1,240 1/	2,150 1/

1/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST -- AUGUST 1, 1982

CROP	UNIT	ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1981	1982	1981	1982	1981	1982
		(000)				(000)	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	58,589	58,998	35.8	35.8	2,098,719	2,095,554
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5,755	4,267	32.3	33.8	185,940	144,180
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	16,604	16,205	30.6	32.7	508,777	529,604
All Wheat	Bu.	80,948	79,470	34.5	35.1	2,793,436	2,769,338
Corn For Grain	Bu.	74,624	73,593	109.9	113.9	8,200,951	8,315,088
Oats	Bu.	9,411	10,466	54.0	57.0	508,083	591,478
Barley	Bu.	9,151	9,196	52.3	55.4	478,301	508,754
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,201.0	1,856.0	14.45	14.31	31,814	26,420
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,229.1	1,041.8	22.2	20.7	27,271	21,699
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	26,394	26,537	3.17	3.41	83,696	90,540
All Other Hay	Ton	33,818	33,984	1.76	1.80	59,409	61,013
All Hay	Ton	60,212	60,521	2.38	2.50	143,105	151,553
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	153.0	139.9



ALL WHEAT--

MONTANA PRODUCTION TREND HIGHLIGHTS 1970-82

* **Acres Harvested--** Except for the 1977-80 period, which was mostly static, acres for harvest are trending upward. Farm programs, of course, have a direct impact. Wheat remains the most profitable crop on most of Montana's cropland acreage.

* **Yield--** For the last 13 years, no clear cut pattern appears to be emerging. There were 8 years when the yield was below the average of the period. Weather, no doubt, is the limiting factor.

* **Production--** Since 1974 production has been on a new level. The 1977-80 period again saw little progress, mainly because of lower yields and static acreage.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT AUGUST 1, 1982 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change
	---(000 Bu.)---			--(000 Bu.)--			--(000 Bu.)--		
Northwest	1.1	.8	-27	.4	.4	--	3.1	3.2	+ 3
North Central	43.0	39.1	- 9	40.4	37.0	- 8	28.2	39.1	+ 39
Northeast	9.4	6.9	-27	33.3	46.6	+ 40	4.4	9.1	+107
Central	14.8	14.3	- 3	4.3	4.5	+ 5	12.3	15.0	+ 22
Southwest	2.0	2.1	+ 5	1.5	.8	- 47	3.1	3.2	+ 3
South Central	11.6	11.6	--	.9	1.4	+ 56	4.3	4.6	+ 7
Southeast	7.4	6.0	-19	2.7	5.9	+119	1.4	2.6	+ 86
STATE	89.3	80.8	-10	83.5	96.6	+ 16	56.8	76.8	+ 35

1/ District data funded by Montana Wheat Commission.

SPRING WHEAT--

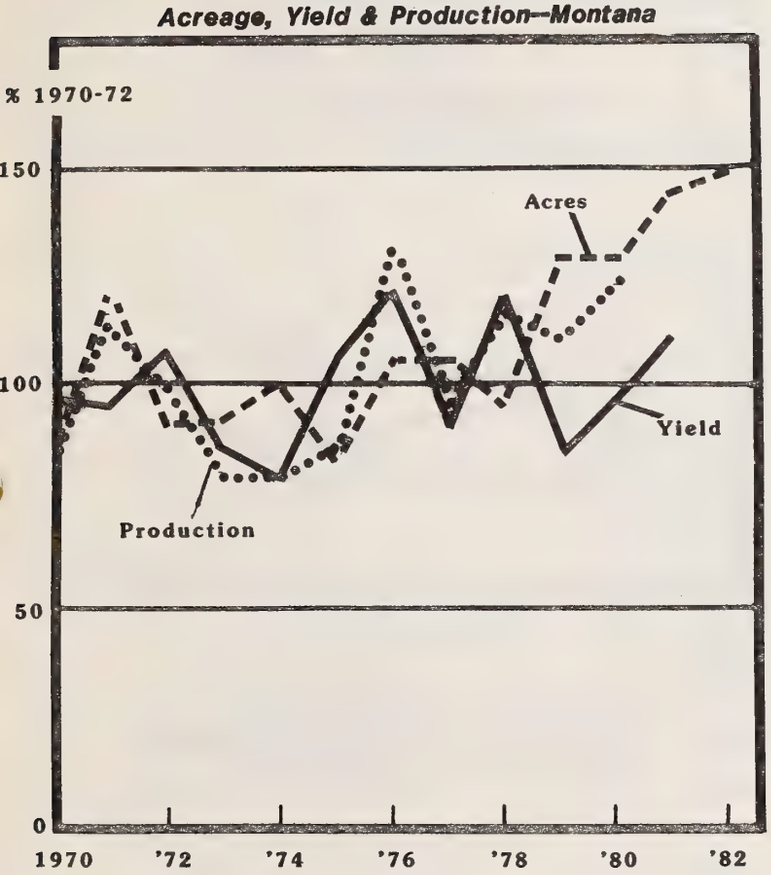
MONTANA PRODUCTION TREND HIGHLIGHTS 1970-82

* **Acres Harvested--** From 1970-77 acres were mostly static. Since 1978, acreage has been climbing significantly--partly because of less winter wheat.

* **Yield--** No visable trend apparent. Yield is highly variable depending mainly upon rainfall. The large influx of marginal acres could be offsetting the varietal improvements.

* **Production--** Closely follows the pattern of harvested acres.

SPRING WHEAT:
Acreage, Yield & Production--Montana



WINTER WHEAT--

MONTANA PRODUCTION TREND HIGHLIGHTS 1970-82

* **Acres Harvested--** Except for 1981, the trend has been mostly down since 1977. There were some rapid increases during the 1974-76 period.

* **Yield--** Highly variable but no visible trend apparent. Here again, the large increase of plowed up rangeland seeded to wheat could be affecting yields.

* **Production--** Influenced in most years mainly by harvested acres.

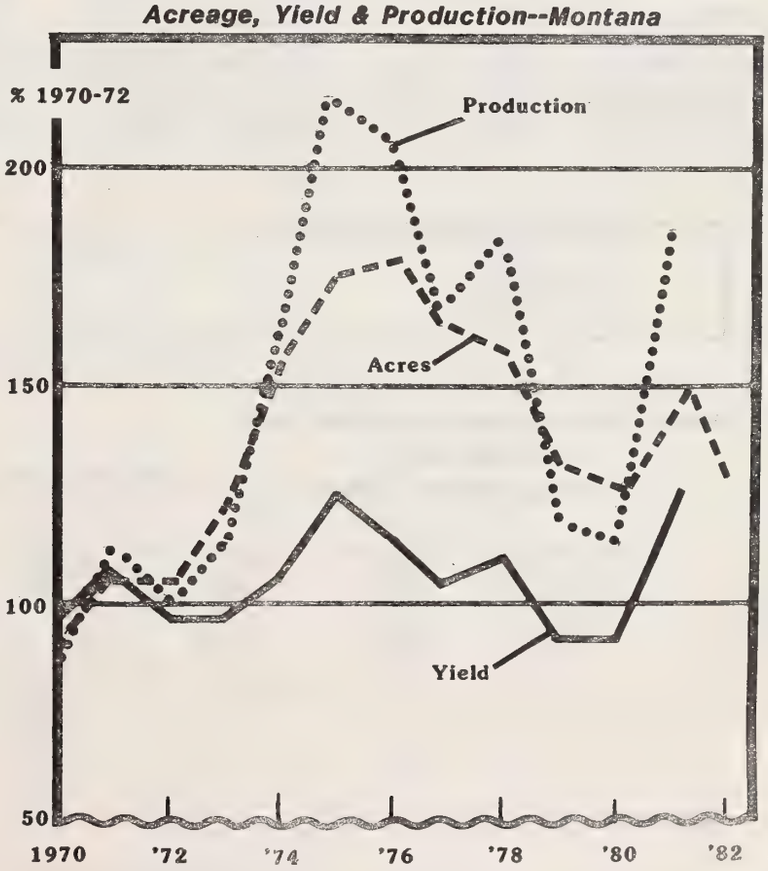
PASTURES & RANGES CONTINUE GOOD

Pastures and ranges continue to benefit from generally above average soil moisture supplies. They are in excellent condition for this time of year. The reported condition of 99 for August 1 is 22 points above the 10 year average.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION--AUGUST 1, 1982
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1980	1981	1982
Northwest	99	102	97
North Central	58	88	96
Northeast	21	75	96
Central	79	96	101
Southwest	95	98	99
South Central	77	98	100
Southeast	27	79	102
STATE	63	90	99

WINTER WHEAT:
Acreage, Yield & Production--Montana



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA MONTHLY AVERAGE July 1981	MONTANA MONTHLY AVERAGE June 1982	MONTANA July 15 1982	U.S. July 15 1982
PRICES RECIEVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.63	3.44	3.22	3.25
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.74	3.38	3.39	3.36
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.81	3.79	3.61	3.57
All Wheat	Bu.	3.72	3.64	3.45	3.29
Barley	Bu.	2.88	2.34	2.27	2.33
Oats	Bu.	2.20	1.96	1.77	1.78
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	51.00	47.00	47.00	73.30
All Other Hay	Ton	47.00	40.00	40.00	50.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	47.00	47.00	66.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	58.80	58.60	57.60	63.80
Cows	Cwt	42.40	40.90	41.00	41.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	49.00	46.00	46.80	59.90
Calves	Cwt	61.50	62.90	61.40	61.10
Sheep	Cwt	24.10	16.00	15.00	20.00
Lambs	Cwt	57.90	52.80	51.00	53.90
Hogs	Cwt	48.30	56.20	58.60	58.00
All Milk	Cwt	13.20	12.70	12.70	13.10
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.461	.550	.494
Wool 2/	Lb.	.950	.630	.610	.745
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	152	145	142	137
All Crops	Pct.	159	150	143	125
Livestock & Products	Pct.	146	140	141	149

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

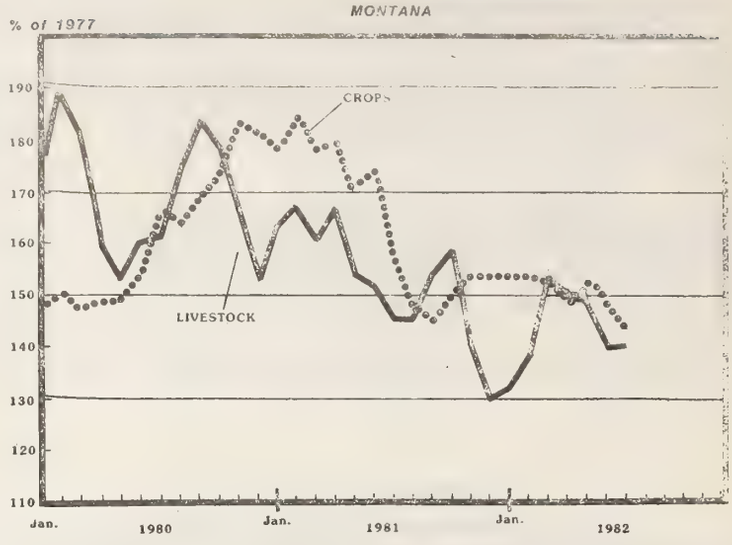
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	July 1981	June 1982	July 1982
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	142	137	137
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	150	156	157
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	95	88	87
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	63	58	58

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ For commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Ratio of Prices Received to Prices Paid using 1910-14 prices.

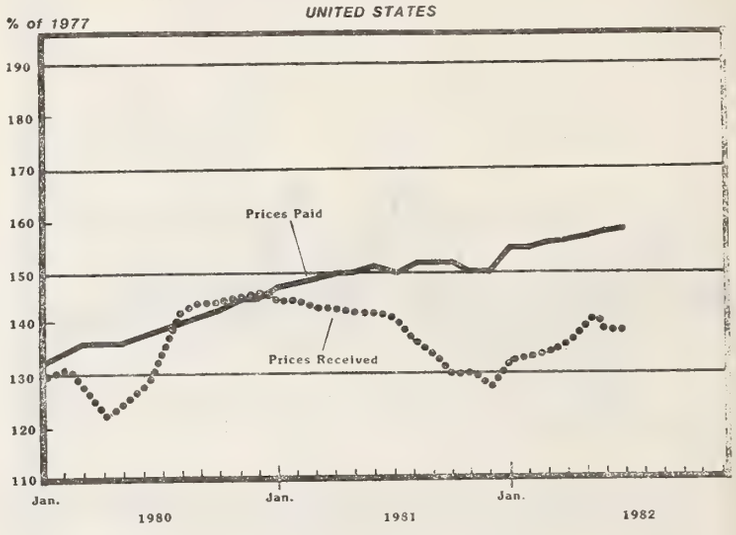
CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

MONTANA



INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

UNITED STATES



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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle Numbers Drop
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Slaughter Decreases
Cattle on Feed Up
Milk Production Increases

NATIONAL CATTLE HERD SLIGHTLY SMALLER

Nationally, all cattle and calves on hand on July 1, 1982 are estimated at 124 million head, down 1 percent from July 1 a year ago and up 1 percent from July 1, 1980.

Individual state level estimates are not available for the mid-year inventory estimate.

CATTLE and CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS and CALF CROP, UNITED STATES
JULY 1, 1981-82

CLASS	1980	1981	1982	1982 as Pct. of 1981
	(000) Head			Pct.
Cattle and Calves	122,821	124,800	123,740	99
Cows and Heifers that Have Calved	49,941	51,004	49,590	97
Beef Cows	39,143	40,105	38,610	96
Milk Cows	10,798	10,899	10,980	101
Heifers 500 Lbs. and Over	17,825	18,356	18,550	101
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,837	6,233	6,120	98
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,377	4,628	4,780	103
Other Heifers	7,611	7,495	7,650	102
Steers 500 Lbs. and Over	16,582	16,253	16,340	101
Bulls 500 Lbs. and Over	2,611	2,638	2,610	99
Hefiers, Steers & Bulls Under 500 Lbs.	35,862	36,549	36,650	100
Calf Crop 1/	44,998	44,714	43,570	97

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be forn after July 1.

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CALF CROP, UNITED STATES

PERIOD	1980		1981		1982	
	Number (000)	Pct. of Total	Number (000)	Pct. of Total	Number (000)	Pct. of Total
Jan. 1-June 30	32,174	71.5	31,747	71.0	30,720	70.5
July 1-Dec. 31 1/	12,824	28.5	12,967	29.0	12.850	29.5
TOTAL	44,998	100.0	44,714	100.0	43,570	100.0

1/ Expected calf crop for 1982.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES - 1982

Winalta nudged Centurk to become Montana's number one winter wheat variety for 1982. Cheyenne went to second place and Centurk fell to third.

Olaf remains the favorite hard spring wheat variety. Newana moved from third to second place and Fortuna went from fourth to third.

Ward remains the top durum variety followed by Crosby and Cando, in that order.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES

Class and Variety	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE				
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
	Percent				
WINTER WHEAT					
Winalta	29.1	27.7	26.3	18.7	22.2
Cheyenne	26.2	23.5	25.2	16.9	15.6
Centurk	28.1	27.1	24.7	24.6	15.4
Norstar	--	--	2.3	15.4	11.8
Redwin	--	--	--	--	8.3
Rocky	--	--	--	1.8	8.0
Roughrider	--	2.6	4.1	5.5	5.0
Warrior	3.2	4.6	5.8	3.5	3.6
Jeff	--	--	--	--	1.2
Scoutland	--	--	--	--	.8
Brawny	--	--	--	--	.6
Other	13.4	14.5	11.6	13.6	7.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Olaf	22.8	17.1	17.1	15.2	17.8
Newana	1.0	5.8	7.6	12.7	12.7
Fortuna	21.6	23.4	22.6	12.0	11.9
Lew	3.8	5.2	10.1	11.1	11.5
Solar	--	--	--	6.8	7.7
Prodax	9.0	9.9	10.7	12.7	7.6
Tioga	8.9	8.5	6.2	5.6	5.6
Butte	--	4.5	3.4	4.2	5.1
Len	--	--	--	--	4.0
711	--	--	--	--	2.7
Wampum	--	--	--	1.4	2.5
Coteau	--	--	--	--	1.8
Norana	3.4	3.2	2.6	3.9	1.7
Other	29.5	22.4	19.7	14.4	7.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM					
Ward	30.8	18.4	36.5	28.9	40.9
Rolette	3.4	18.5	14.2	8.3	9.7
Crosby	19.2	12.2	13.5	8.1	9.3
Cando	7.2	17.7	17.5	18.8	9.2
Vic	--	--	--	1.3	7.8
Calvin	--	--	--	9.1	3.5
Wells	5.7	18.3	12.2	5.9	3.5
Wakoma	--	--	--	--	2.3
Wascana	1.7	--	1.3	3.4	1.0
Other	32.0	14.9	4.8	16.2	12.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

BARLEY VARIETIES - 1982

Hector replaced Prioline this year as the leading Montana barley variety. The 1982 survey had Piroline in second place and Klages in third. Hector is a feed type variety while both Piroline and Klages are malting types.

Feed type varieties accounted for 52 percent of the total plantings in 1982--up slightly from last year.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES 1978-1982

VARIETY	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACRES				
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982 1/
	Percent				
Hector	14.9	17.5	20.3	28.1	27.3
Piroline 2/	31.9	28.7	29.3	31.1	24.8
Klages 2/	12.7	13.6	10.4	10.2	12.6
Morex 2/	--	.1	.9	2.5	8.5
Summit	1.0	4.0	3.2	1.4	5.5
Unitan	6.1	5.1	5.1	2.8	3.9
Clark	--	--	--	--	2.5
Compana	6.0	2.8	3.3	3.5	2.0
Steptoe	4.8	3.8	2.2	1.5	1.4
Betzes 3/	2.8	2.6	1.7	.7	1.1
Glenn	--	--	--	--	1.0
Ingrid	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.1	1.0
Larker	2.5	1.7	1.8	2.3	1.0
Shabet 2/	4.4	5.1	5.5	4.8	.6
Fairfield	--	1.6	5.1	2.4	.6
Horsford	1.4	2.6	.7	1.1	.6
Purcell	--	--	.7	.4	.5
Vireo	.2	.5	1.2	.5	.5
Hypana	3.1	1.6	1.0	.4	.4
Minuet	--	--	--	--	.4
Palister	--	--	--	--	.3
Stepford	.2	.2	.2	.9	.2
Moravian III 2/	.3	.3	.6	.8	.2
Other	5.7	6.2	4.3	2.5	3.1
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

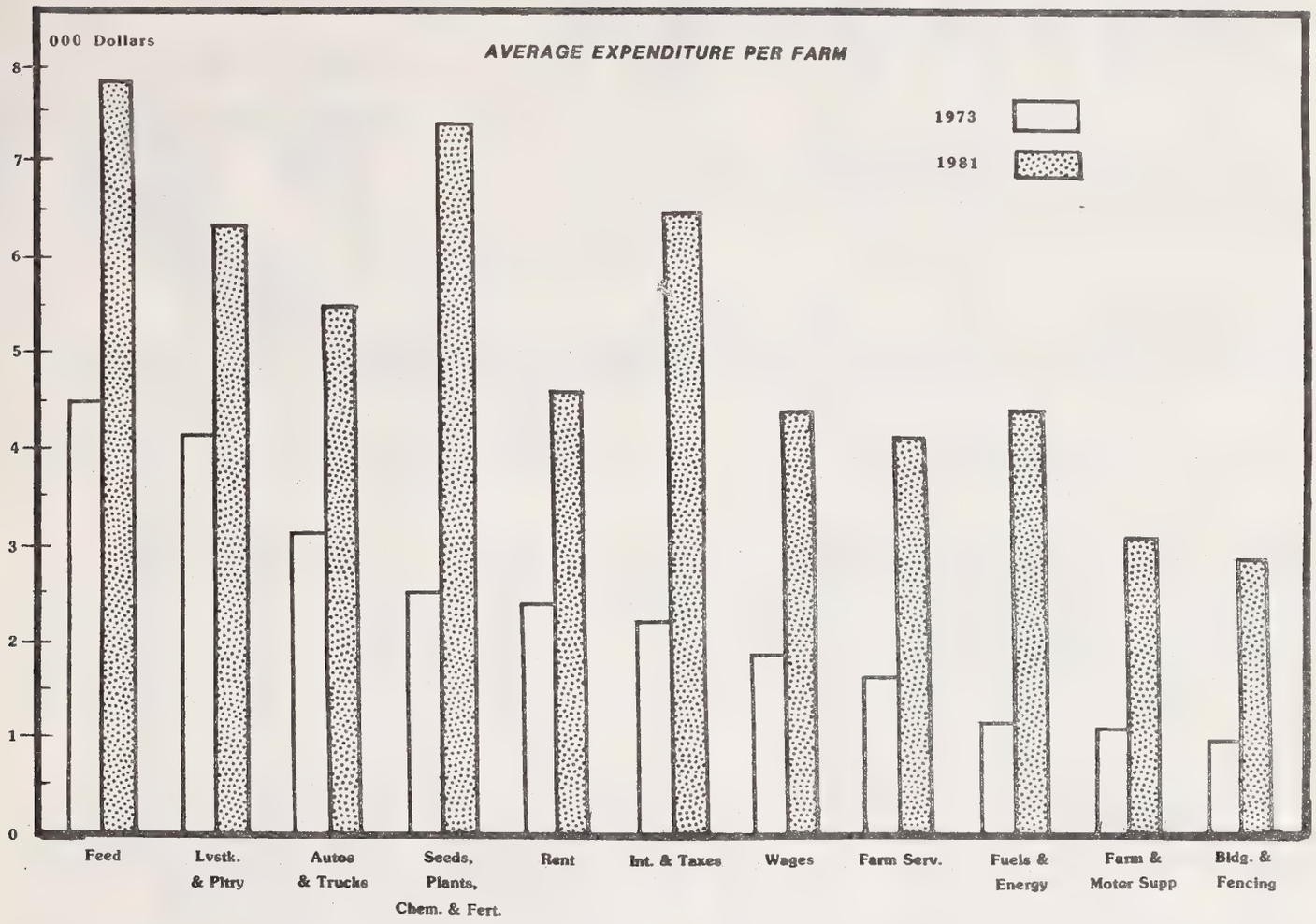
1/ Preliminary. 2/ Malting Barley Improvement Assoc. recommended malting varieties for Montana.

FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES FOR 1981

Farm production expenditures totaled $138.5 billion in 1981, 1.5 percent above the $136.4 billion in 1980. Interest paid on the farm debt was 24 percent higher in 1981. Expenditures for agricultural chemicals increased 18 percent while fuel and energy expenses rose almost 10 percent. For the second consecutive year, farmers and ranchers reduced their expenditures for livestock and poultry. The average total expenditure per farm during 1981 was $56,959 compared with $56,072 in 1980.

Farm services at $21.1 billion was the largest expenditure group and accounted for 15 percent of the total. Feed purchases at $19.0 billion represented 14 percent of the total; seeds, plants, fertilizer and agricultural chemicals $17.7 billion - 13 percent; interest and taxes $15.8 billion - 11 percent; livestock and poultry, $15.4 billion - 11 percent. Motor vehicles and farm machinery accounted for $13.5 billion or 10 percent of the total expenditure. Fuel and energy expenditures were $10.9 billion - 8 percent of the total.

(See Charts on following page.)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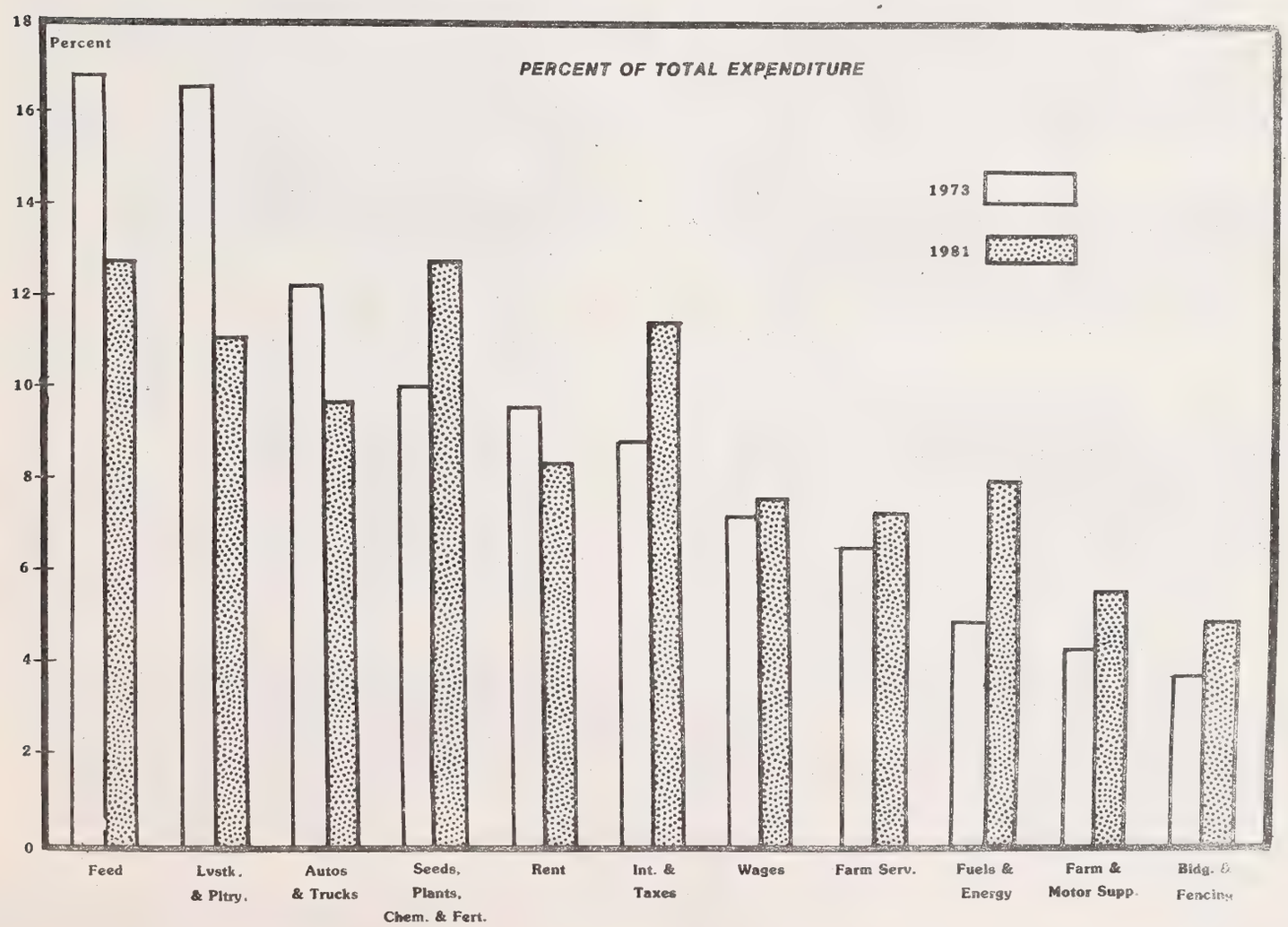
AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER FARM
1973
1981
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
Feed
Lvstk. & Pltry
Autos & Trucks
Seeds, Plants, Chem. & Fert.
Rent
Int. & Taxes
Wages
Farm Serv.
Fuels & Energy
Farm & Motor Supp
Bldg. & Fencing


Percent
PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE
1973
1981
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
Feed
Lvstk. & Pltry.
Autos & Trucks
Seeds, Plants, Chem. & Fert.
Rent
Int. & Taxes
Wages
Farm Serv.
Fuels & Energy
Farm & Motor Supp.
Bldg. & Fencing

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER APRIL-JUNE

Commercial red meat production for the United States during April-June 1982 totaled 9.10 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the April-June 1981 quarter. January-June red meat production, at 18.4 billion pounds declined 4 percent from the corresponding period last year. The 1982 accumulated production percent changes from last year by individual components were: Beef, down 2; veal, up 5; pork, down 9; lamb and mutton, up 9. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Montana's slaughter plants produced 23 million pounds of red meat during the April-June period, 45 percent less than the same period last year.

April-June cattle slaughter at 10,700 head was 68 percent less than a year ago. Hog slaughter at 98,900 head was down 24 percent.

MEAT SUPPLIES TO CONTINUE DOWN

Total red meat and poultry production during the first half of 1982 was 3 percent below year earlier levels in the second half of the year. Total meat production will continue well below a year ago as further declines in pork production more than offset market gains in beef and broiler output.

CATTLE ON FEED INCREASING

Feedlots in the 13 major cattle feeding states held 8.98 million head on July 1, 1982, 4 percent more than the same date in 1980 and 1981. Steers made up 63 percent of the cattle on feed inventory.

Placements of cattle on feed during the April-June quarter totaled 5.77 million--up 3 percent from last year. Marketings are expected to be 5.71 million head during the July-September quarter of 1982--up 5 percent.

MILK PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

The Nation's milk cows produced 35.5 billion pounds of milk during the April-June 1982 quarter, up 1 percent from last year. During the first half of the year milk production totaled 68.5 billion pounds, also up 1 percent from the same period in 1981.

In Montana, milk production increased 1 percent to 86 million pounds while cow numbers dropped 1,000 to 28,000 head.

APRIL-JUNE MILK COW NUMBERS and MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	MILK COWS 1/		MILK PRODUCTION 2/	
	1982	1982	1982	1982
	-----(000)---		Million Lbs.	
Calif	919	939	3,625	3,718
Idaho	167	173	557	585
Minn	880	910	2,843	2,912
MONT	29	28	85	86
N Dak	93	92	283	280
Oreg	97	99	326	337
S Dak	160	160	483	464
Wash	205	209	780	807
Wisc	1,824	1,828	6,155	6,087
Wyo	12	12	35.1	35.8
U.S.	10,892	10,985	35,140	35,512

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Ag. Prices
Outlook on Exports
Crop Production
July Pasture & Range

PASTURE & RANGE GOOD

Rain continued throughout Montana during June resulting in good to excellent pasture and range conditions as of July 1. Cool weather has slowed plant development somewhat, but generally good moisture supplies are providing excellent grazing in almost all areas.

EXPORT HIGHLIGHTS

**Over the past few weeks, export market opportunities for U.S. grain and feed commodities have arisen in several markets. For wheat, opportunities have appeared in Yugoslavia and possibly other countries in Eastern Europe, which have been experiencing dry weather, and in Finland, where the government is committed to building large stocks. Additional Soviet purchases of U.S. corn could occur in the near term, following recent sales by Argentina that were smaller than expected. Possible new export markets have also appeared in Turkey and Indonesia for corn; and in Syria, Portugal and Peru for rice.

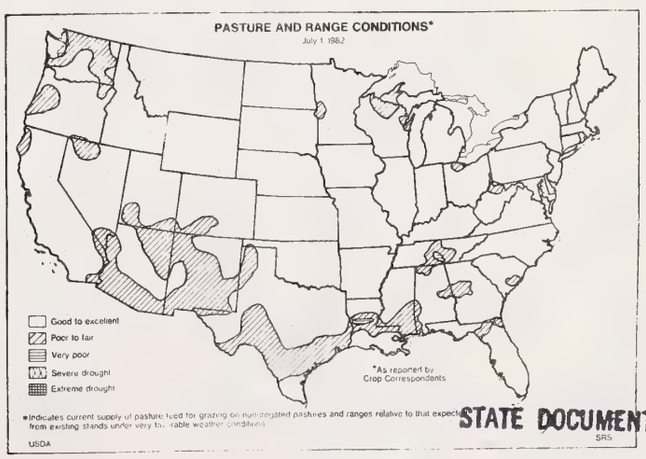
**Competition facing U.S. grain and feed exports has continued to increase. The European Community, in particular, has recently announced a special export rebate for wheat sold to China and has also sold Brazil wheat under 3-year credit terms. The Canadian Wheat Board has reportedly taken steps which would increase that country's grain shipments to the USSR in the coming year by as much as 2 million tons.

**The outlook for U.S. grain and feed commodity exports in fiscal year (FY) 1983 remains unchanged from a month ago, with total earnings expected to show a modest increase over this year's level, based mainly on prospects for both greater value and volume for U.S. corn exports.

**As of June 14, the official U.S. wheat export forecast (excluding products) for June-May 1982/83 was unchanged from a month ago at 44.6 million tons (1.64 billion bushels). Although this level is somewhat lower than 1981/82 exports of 47.4 million tons (excluding products), it would be the second largest volume ever.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION-JULY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1980	1981	1982
Northwest	96	99	92
North Central	70	96	96
Northeast	24	84	98
Central	81	103	97
Southwest	99	108	92
South Central	87	101	100
Southeast	36	80	101
STATE	69	95	97


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
July 1, 1982
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents
•Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions.
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MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION

The 1982 Montana winter wheat crop is expected to total 76.5 million bushels--14 percent less than last year. The July 1 forecast is 3 percent under the June 1 estimate based upon more recent survey data.

Montana's barley crop is expected to reach 73.6 million bushels--30 percent higher than 1981. Acres for harvest at 1.6 million are up 21 percent.

Oat production at 6.6 million bushels is up 36 percent. Acres for harvest at 150 thousand are also up 36 percent.

Sweet cherry production is forecast at 2,150 tons compared with 1,240 tons last year. Bloom was heavy, but winds decreased prospects somewhat.

Moisture supplies throughout Montana are adequate. The prevailing cool temperatures have been good for small grain growth and development.

The first production forecast for spring wheat, durum, corn, dry beans, sugarbeets and hay will be released on August 11.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION - JULY 1, 1982

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1981	1982	Pct. Chg.	1981	1982	Pct. Chg.	1981	1982	1981	1982	Pct. Chg.
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,700	2,450	- 9	2,550	2,185	-14	35.0	35.0	89,250	76,475	-14
Durum	Bu.	490	350	-29	480	340	-29	23.0	1/	11,040	1/	--
Other Spring Wht.	Bu.	2,850	2,950	+ 4	2,790	2,880	+ 3	26.0	1/	72,540	1/	--
All Wheat	Bu.	6,040	5,750	- 5	5,820	5,405	- 7	29.7	1/	172,830	1/	--
Corn for Grain	Bu.	--	--	--	10	10	--	85.0	1/	850	1/	--
Oats	Bu.	220	260	+18	110	150	+36	44.0	44.0	4,840	6,600	+36
Barley	Bu.	1,400	1,650	+18	1,320	1,600	+21	43.0	46.0	56,760	73,600	+30
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.5	7.5	--	7.4	7.4	--	23.5	2/	1,739	2/	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	14.0	9.0	-36	13.0	9.0	-31	16.8	1/	218	1/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	44.7	43.5	- 3	44.5	43.3	- 3	20.8	1/	926	1/	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,300	1,300	--	2.60	1/	3,380	1/	--
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,020	1,040	+ 2	1.40	1/	1,428	1/	--
All Hay	Ton	--	--	--	2,320	2,340	+ 1	2.07	1/	4,808	1/	--
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,240 3/	2,150 3/	

1/ First production forecast released on August 11. 2/ First production forecast released on October 12.
3/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION - JULY 1, 1982

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1981	1982	Pct. Chg.	1981	1982	Pct. Chg.	1981	1982	1981	1982	Pct. Chg.
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	65,917	66,271	+ 1	58,589	59,038	+ 1	35.8	--	2,098,719	2,124,854	+ 1
Durum	Bu.	5,876	4,350	-26	5,755	4,267	-26	32.3	1/	185,940	1/	--
Other Spring Wht.	Bu.	17,071	16,576	- 3	16,604	16,205	- 2	30.6	1/	508,777	1/	--
All Wheat	Bu.	88,864	87,197	- 2	80,948	79,510	- 2	34.5	1/	2,793,436	1/	--
Corn for Grain	Bu.	--	--	--	74,624	73,593	- 1	109.9	1/	8,200,951	1/	--
Oats	Bu.	13,646	14,211	+ 4	9,411	10,466	+11	54.0	--	508,083	580,288	+14
Barley	Bu.	9,741	9,641	- 1	9,151	9,196	--	52.3	--	478,301	478,791	--
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	1,252.7	--	--	1,231.6	--	--	27.1	2/	333,682	2/	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,320.0	2,920.0	-17	2,201.0	1,856.0	-16	144.5	1/	31,814	1/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,257.6	1,064.8	-15	1,229.1	1,041.8	-15	22.2	1/	27,271	1/	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	--	26,394	26,537	+ 1	3.17	1/	83,696	1/	--
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	--	33,818	33,984	--	1.76	1/	59,409	1/	--
All Hay	Ton	--	--	--	60,212	60,521	+ 1	2.38	1/	143,105	1/	--
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	153,040	139,850	- 9

1/ First production forecast released on August 11. 2/ First production forecast released on October 12.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA MONTHLY AVERAGE June 1981	MONTANA MONTHLY AVERAGE May 1982	MONTANA June 15 1982	U.S. June 15 1982
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.99	3.65	3.65	3.37
Durum	Bu.	4.49	3.79	3.70	3.40
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.29	3.81	3.75	3.61
All Wheat	Bu.	4.16	3.73	3.71	3.41
Barley	Bu.	2.97	2.38	2.31	2.48
Oats	Bu.	2.32	2.04	1.83	1.92
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	55.00	45.00	45.00	77.90
All Other Hay	Ton	50.00	35.00	35.00	54.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	55.00	45.00	45.00	70.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	61.40	60.60	61.30	66.50
Cows	Cwt	43.20	42.60	42.90	41.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	51.70	50.70	51.20	62.30
Calves	Cwt	63.40	63.20	64.90	64.20
Sheep	Cwt	14.80	18.90	17.90	21.10
Lambs	Cwt	56.80	56.60	58.40	62.00
Hogs	Cwt	47.80	55.60	58.40	57.40
All Milk	Cwt	13.20	12.65	12.70	13.10
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.550	.461	.454
Wool 2/	Lb.	.950	.800	.630	.796
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	165	152	152	138
All Crops	Pct.	181	153	152	125
Livestock & Products	Pct.	152	150	152	151

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

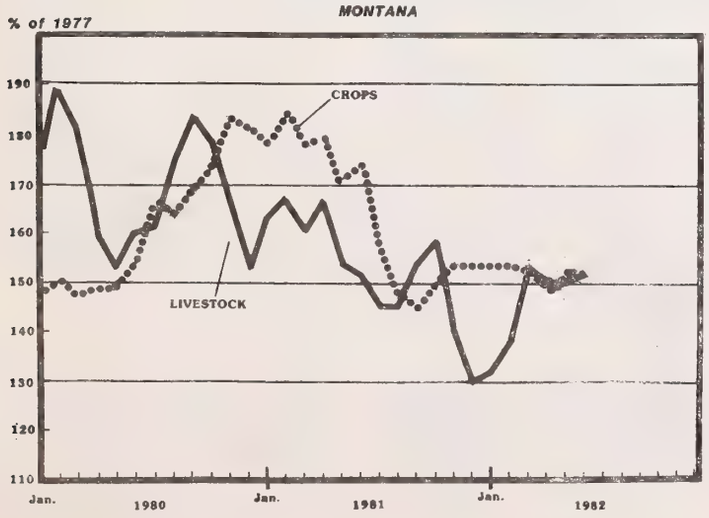
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	June 1982	May 1982	June 1982 Preliminary
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	142	139	138
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	150	155	156
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	95	88	88
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	63	59	59

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ Mid-month for commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Mid-month ratio of prices received to prices paid on 1910-14 base.

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

MONTANA



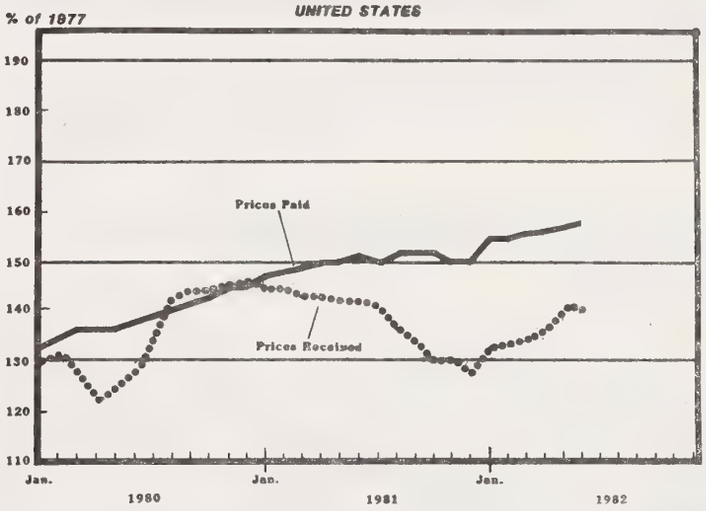
FARM PRICES STEADY

Farm prices in Montana changed little from May to June. Most grain prices suffered while livestock prices increased moderately. Winter wheat, the largest volume grain in trade remained unchanged in price.

The Montana Index of Prices Received by Farmers for All Farm Products at 152 (1977=100) for June was unchanged from the May index. The crops index went down 1 point while the livestock and products index went up 2 points.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

UNITED STATES



STATE HAIL INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Hail Insurance Unit of the Montana Department of Agriculture reported that so far this year 1,958 producers have taken hail insurance on their crops.

The total insurance inforce as of Friday, July 9th is $23,577,358.56. The levy for this is $2,032,435.47 which are new records for the Unit.

One hundred losses have been reported to date with some in the 100% loss range.

With a better than average crop across the entire state, Jack Gunderson, the Administrative Officer predicts that a record dollar coverage will also be reached of over $25,000,000.00.

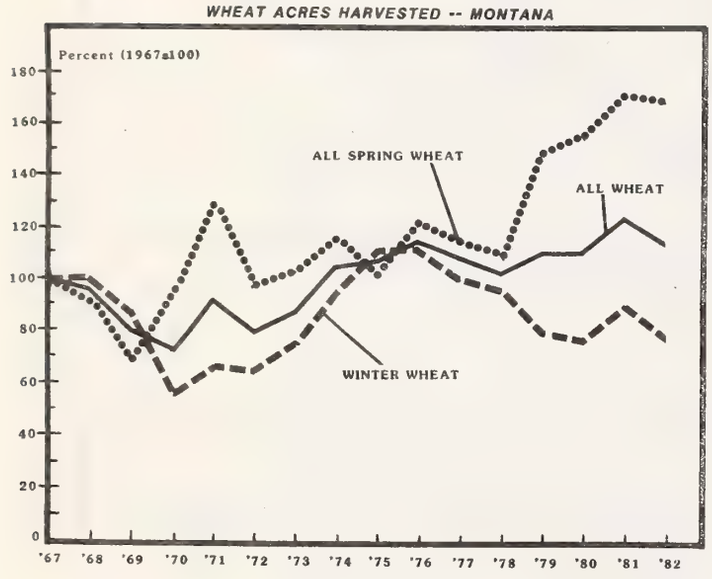
With today's high production costs more producers feel the need for protection against hail losses.

Anyone interested in taking State Hail Insurance should contact their local County Assessor who write the policies or call the Hail Unit in Helena, 449-4762 for further information

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1982 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change	1981	Indic. 1982	Pct. Change
	----(000 Bushels)---		%	---(000 Bu.)-----		%
Northwest	1,101.1	755.0	-31	3,063.8	2,460.0	- 20
North Central	43,053.2	36,540.0	-15	28,191.7	36,905.0	+ 31
Northeast	9,376.4	6,880.0	-27	4,409.7	9,475.0	+115
Central	14,764.5	13,530.0	- 8	12,283.7	14,955.0	+ 22
Southwest	1,965.4	1,800.0	- 8	3,100.4	2,625.0	+ 15
South Central	11,616.8	10,730.0	- 8	4,259.6	4,360.0	+ 2
Southeast	7,372.6	6,240.0	-15	1,451.1	2,820.0	+ 94
STATE	89,250.0	76,475.0	-14	56,760.0	73,600.0	+ 30

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat Commission.



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Slaughter
Cattle on Feed

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Grain Stocks Up
Hog & Pig Numbers Drop
More Eggs Produced

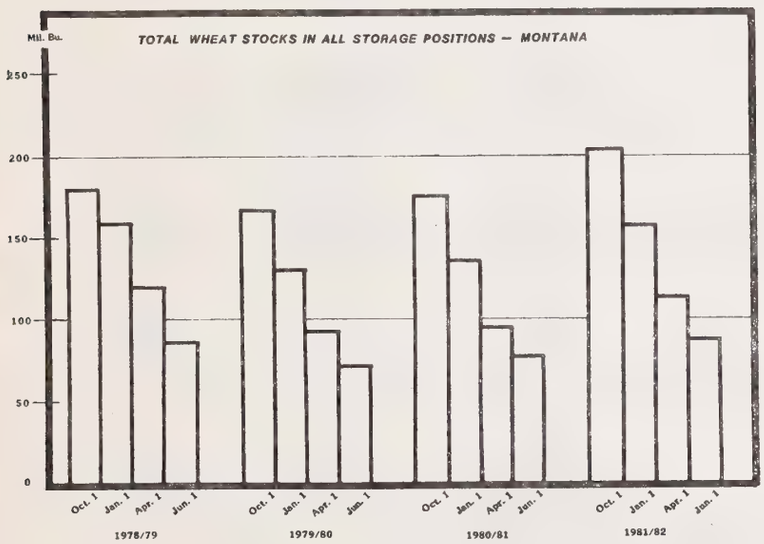
WHEAT DISAPPEARANCE HIGH

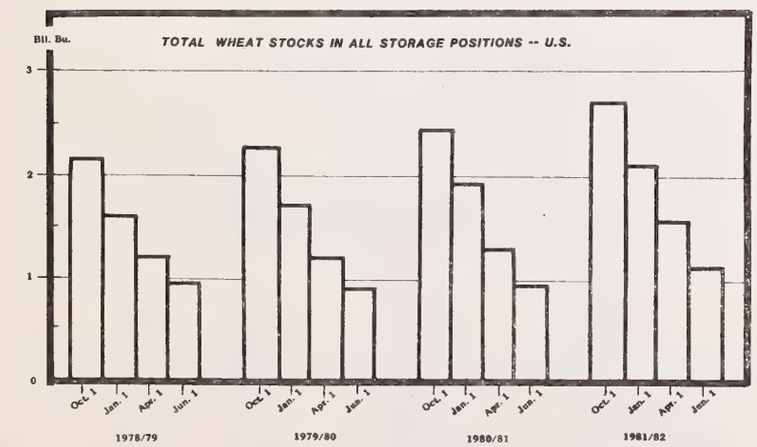
For the 1981-82 marketing year which ended on May 31, Montana grain merchants moved 162.6 million bushels of wheat--37 percent more than the previous year. The yearly disappearance amounts to 94 percent of last year's record wheat production.

In spite of the high level of utilization of the 1981 crop, carryover stocks increased 14 percent and nearly equal one-half of last year's huge wheat crop.

Of the total stocks on hand, 86 percent is being stored on farms. Winter wheat stocks are up 24 percent, hard spring wheat stocks up 5 percent, and durum stocks up 57 percent from last year.

Of the total Montana wheat in storage, nearly 69 percent is in the government reserve or loan program. Nationally, 65 percent of all wheat stocks were under government control on June 1, 1982.

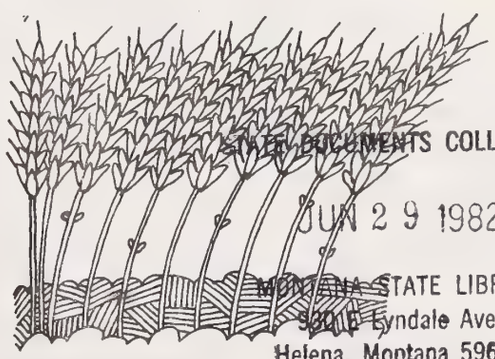




GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS — MAY 31, 1982
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1981	1982	1981	1982
Reserve	31,288	44,432	369	982
Under Loan	8,913	15,151	810	2,361

1/ These stocks are included in the June 1 total stocks estimates.



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STOCKS OF GRAIN JUNE 1, 1982 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1981	Apr. 1, 1982 *	June 1, 1982	% Change from 1981	June 1, 1981	Apr. 1, 1982 *	June 1, 1982
	-------Thousand Bushels------			Pct.	---------Thousand Bushels---------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	61,098	101,970	74,317	+22	414,310	748,035	579,816
Off farms 1/	14,668	18,135	11,700	-20	574,460	808,704	579,199
T O T A L	75,766	120,105	86,017	+14	988,770	1,556,739	1,159,015
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	25,749	50,623	35,479	+38	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	8,524	10,926	7,050	-17	--	--	--
T O T A L	34,273	61,549	42,529	+24	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	35,349	51,347	38,838	+10	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	6,144	7,209	4,650	-24	--	--	--
T O T A L	41,493	58,556	43,488	+ 5	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On farms	--	--	--	--	45,183	105,718	90,530
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	14,735	26,920	16,549
T O T A L	5,144	10,044	8,068	+57	59,918	132,638	107,079
RYE							
On farms	--	--	--	--	2,234	3,345	1,958
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,911	2,369	1,104
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	4,145	5,714	3,062
CORN							
On farms	89	128	51	-43	1,818,348	3,569,737	2,708,144
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	955,897	1,504,924	1,145,550
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	2,774,245	5,074,661	3,853,694
OATS							
On farms	2,152	2,178	1,694	-21	148,871	200,191	126,928
Off farms 1/	144	300	130	-10	28,011	36,315	24,616
T O T A L	2,296	2,478	1,824	-21	176,882	236,506	151,544
BARLEY							
On farms	6,615	13,622	5,108	-23	74,420	147,285	93,940
Off farms 1/	964	2,350	1,050	+ 9	62,836	79,214	54,662
T O T A L	7,579	15,972	6,158	-19	137,256	226,499	148,602
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	--	--	--	--	51,030	125,250	93,060
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	133,520	336,665	287,340
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	184,550	461,915	380,400

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1981	April 1, 1982 *	June 1, 1982	June 1, 1981	April 1, 1982 *	June 1, 1982
	----------Million Bushels---------			---------Million Bushels---------		
Northwest	.6	1.9	.4	.4	.9	.4
North Central	35.9	51.4	32.0	3.2	6.6	2.6
Northeast	23.9	40.2	31.4	1.9	2.4	1.1
Central	7.6	11.2	9.7	.7	2.6	.7
Southwest	.9	1.7	1.0	.5	1.5	.4
South Central	3.2	7.7	6.5	.4	1.5	.7
Southeast	3.7	6.0	5.0	.5	.5	.3
STATE	75.8	120.1	86.0	7.6	16.0	6.2

1/ These estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Revised.

WHEAT STOCKS and CARRYOVER

STATE	Production 1981	Carryover Stocks June 1, 1982	Carryover as % 1981 Production
	-------000 Bushels--------		Pct.
MT	172,830	86,017	49.8
COLO	87,394	51,962	59.5
KS	305,000	174,147	57.1
NEBR	106,200	67,537	63.6
N DAK	331,700	230,020	69.4
OKLA	172,800	61,100	35.4
SO DAK	88,970	77,980	87.7
TX	183,400	78,212	42.7
PLAINS STATES	1,448,294	826,975	57.1
ID	89,780	29,768	33.2
ORE	77,380	25,669	33.2
WASH	168,350	64,260	38.2
PACIFIC NW	335,510	119,697	35.7
ILL	92,500	17,760	19.2
IND	62,100	3,863	6.2
MICH	41,500	9,142	22.0
MINN	144,025	101,872	70.7
MO	115,500	15,005	13.0
OH	72,600	11,064	15.2
CORN BELT	528,225	158,706	30.1
ALA	24,860	0	0
ARK	67,650	503	0.7
GA	46,010	822	1.8
KY	28,560	847	3.0
MISS	24,000	202	0.8
NC	15,990	1,853	11.6
SC	14,350	502	3.5
TENN	37,400	2,639	7.1
VA	17,160	828	4.8
SOUTHERN STATES	275,980	8,196	3.0
CALIF	107,085	5,306	5.0
OTHER STATES	98,342	43,900	40.1
U.S.	2,793,436	1,159,015	41.5

WORLD WHEAT MARKET

For the world wheat market, early prospects for 1982/83 indicate record global production, consumption, and trade--and higher ending stocks. The world stocks-to-use ratio is likely to exceed 21 percent--the highest since 1978/79--compared with less than 19 in 1981/82. The Soviet Union will probably account for the bulk of the world's increase in production and ending stocks.

Assuming continued large Soviet imports, world trade in 1982/83 could reach 100 million tons, slightly above this season's level. Total production by the major foreign exporters (Canada, Australia, Argentina, and the EC) is forecast to increase 2.4 million tons, with exports likely to rise about 4 million. Area, production, and exports will be larger for each, except for Canada, where production could be down.

Among the major importers, China is forecast to increase imports because of lower production due to poor weather. On the other hand, an import decline of 3 million tons is likely for the Soviet Union because of expected higher production. East European and Japanese imports will probably decline for the second consecutive year. Indian imports will likely continue, because of recent flooding and disappointing procurement levels. Other big markets will be Egypt, South Korea, and Bangladesh.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN

* The estimated U.S. inventory on June 1, 1982, at 52.0 million head is down 13 percent from last year and the lowest on June 1 since 1975.

* The breeding herd is down 12 percent. Estimates indicated 1.75 million gilts were added to the U.S. breeding herd during the December-May period--about 200 thousand more than in 1981. Sow slaughter during December-May included more of the December 1 breeding herd than any time since 1968.

* The U.S. market hog inventory was down 13 percent. The largest percentage decrease was in the under 60 pound weight group (18 percent). This indicates a larger share of the March-May pig crop has moved into the 60-119 pound group due to different farrowing patterns or faster weight gains.

* The U.S. pig crop at 41.0 million head reflects 13 percent fewer sows farrowed and 1 percent fewer pigs per litter. Litter size held up well despite severe winter weather in major hog states.

* The U.S. June-November intentions to farrow, at 90 percent of last year, indicates continued reductions in inventories.

HOGS and PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, JUNE 1 and DECEMBER 1, SOWS FARROWING and PIG CROP, 1980-82, UNITED STATES

ITEM	1980	1981	1982	1982 as % of 1981
	-------1,000 Head-------			Pct.
Inv. Number-June 1				
All hogs & pigs	65,255	59,740	51,990	87
Kept for breeding	9,481	8,358	7,389	88
Market	55,774	51,382	44,601	87
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:				
Under 60 Lbs.	25,002	23,069	18,941	82
60-119 Lbs.	13,550	12,204	10,954	90
120-179 Lbs.	9,781	9,041	8,200	91
180 Lbs. & over	7,441	7,068	6,506	92
Sows Farrowing:				
Dec.-Feb. 1/	3,317	2,914	2,587	89
March-May	3,913	3,526	2,991	85
Dec.-May 1/	7,229	6,440	5,578	87
June-August	3,399	3,196		
Sept.-Nov.	3,430	3,062		
June-Nov.	6,829	6,258 2/	5,637	90
Pig Crop:				
Dec.-Feb. 1/	23,682	21,046	18,436	88
March-May	28,604	26,554	22,520	85
Dec.-May 1/	52,286	47,600	40,956	86
June-August	24,341	23,540		
Sept.-Nov.	24,915	22,636		
June-Nov.	49,256	46,176 3/	40,900	89
YEAR	101,542	93,776	81,856	87

1/ December preceding year. 2/ Intentions. 3/ Average number of pigs per litter with allowance for trend used to compute indicated June-November pig crop.

ACREAGE REDUCTION UPDATE

Under the 1982 acreage reduction programs, only farmers who participate will be eligible for target-price protection (deficiency payments), Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans, and the grain-reserve programs. Farmers who signed up at their local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office--between February 16 and April 16, 1982--have the option of changing their minds up until the final certification day, determined by each State for each crop. Certification deadlines have already passed for some commodities, mainly in the South and Southeast. In Montana, all crops must be certified by June 30. At the certification deadline, farmers must be in compliance with their permitted acreage to be eligible for program benefits. However, operators do not have to plant their full permitted acreage. By further reducing the area of the program crop, an operator can lower the acreage that must be devoted to a conservation use.

Final Enrollment Figures for 1982 Acreage-Reduction Programs

Commodity	Farms with bases			Acreage bases		
	Total number	Number enrolled	Percent enrolled	Total acres	Acres enrolled	Percent enrolled
				(1,000)	(1,000)	
Wheat	944,244	588,196	62.3	90,626	76,896	84.8
Corn	1,332,991	757,415	56.8	81,540	61,351	75.2
Sorghum	259,595	182,660	70.4	17,706	15,171	85.7
Barley	128,778	90,710	70.4	10,395	9,054	87.1
Oats	390,614	176,731	45.2	10,368	6,200	59.8
Rice	22,721	18,606	81.9	3,975	3,528	88.8
Upland cotton	138,149	111,907	81.0	15,308	14,115	92.2
U.S. total	3,217,092	1,926,225	59.9	229,882	186,315	81.0

Offsetting compliance and cross-compliance are not required under the 1982 acreage-reduction programs. Thus, farmers owning and operating more than one farm don't have to participate on all farms to qualify for program benefits on participating farms (offsetting compliance). And farmers need not comply with other acreage-reduction programs to be eligible for benefits on specific crops (cross-compliance). Further, normal crop acreages, national program acreages, allocation factors, and voluntary-reduction provisions do not apply when acreage-reduction programs are in effect.

EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's laying flocks produced 45 million eggs between March 1 and May 31, 1982. The average number of layers was 750,000 during the quarter. Compared with a year earlier, egg production increased 7 percent while layer numbers decreased 3 percent.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17,407 million eggs during the same period--down 1 percent from a year ago. The number of layers averaged 282,608--down 1 percent.

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Ag Prices Steady
Wheat Situation
'81 Cash Farm Receipts
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MONTANA'S WINTER WHEAT IMPROVES

Montana's 1982 winter wheat crop, now forecast at 79.1 million bushels, is 11 percent below last year's near record, but 6 percent above the May 1 estimate. Based on June 1 conditions, expected yield at 35 bushels per acre is the same as last year. Acres for harvest are down 11 percent.

Nationally, winter wheat production for 1982 is up 2 percent from the previous record high production set last year. For the 7 plains states, stretching from Montana to Texas, production is up 20 percent. The 3 Pacific Northwest states show a 17 percent decline while the 5 Corn Belt states are down 26 percent. However, in the 9 Southern states production is expected to be up 1 percent. The Southern states now account for 13 percent of the Nation's total winter wheat production--mostly soft red. In 1980 those states had only 7 percent of the total.

The increased production in the South is mainly due to dryer conditions since 1977 that have discouraged dryland corn production and increased soybeans. Wheat can be double-cropped with soybeans, and newer varieties of soft red offer higher yield potential.

WINTER WHEAT

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION		
	1981	1982	1981	1982	% Chg.
	--000 Acres--		---000 Bu.---		
MT	2,550	2,260	89,250	79,100	-11
COLO	3,050	2,900	83,875	75,400	-10
KS	12,200	13,200	305,000	488,400	+60
NEBR	2,950	2,900	106,200	104,400	- 2
OKLA	6,400	6,700	172,800	221,100	+28
SO DAK	1,170	1,070	30,420	33,170	+ 9
TX	6,550	6,300	183,400	163,800	-11
PLAINS STATES	34,870	35,330	970,945	1,165,370	+20
ID	960	940	55,680	47,000	-16
ORE	1,200	1,070	73,200	56,710	-23
WASH	2,830	2,640	161,310	137,280	-15
PACIFIC NW	4,990	4,650	290,190	240,990	-17
ILL	1,850	1,520	92,500	68,400	-26
IND	1,350	1,100	62,100	48,400	-22
MICH	830	600	41,500	25,800	-38
MO	2,750	2,200	115,500	88,000	-24
OH	1,650	1,250	72,600	52,500	-28
CORN BELT	8,430	6,670	384,200	283,100	-26
ALA	565	760	24,860	22,800	- 8
ARK	1,650	1,900	67,650	76,000	+12
GA	1,070	1,300	46,010	44,200	- 4
KE	680	650	28,560	24,050	-16
MISS	600	900	24,000	28,800	+20
NC	410	468	15,990	16,380	+ 2
SC	410	490	14,350	16,660	+16
TENN	850	880	37,400	35,200	- 6
VA	390	370	17,160	14,430	-16
SOUTHERN STATES	6,625	7,718	275,980	278,520	+ 1
CALIF	1,200	1,070	92,400	79,180	-14
OTHER STATES	2,474	2,522	85,004	84,054	- 1
U.S.	58,589	57,960	2,098,719	2,131,214	+ 2

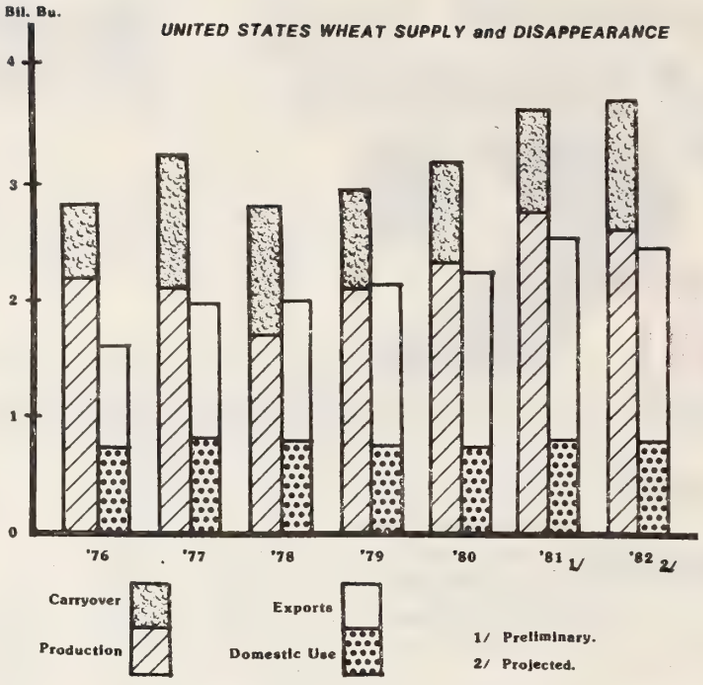
WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
BY DISTRICT - JUNE 1, 1982

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT		
	1981	Ind. 1982	Pct. Change
	---000 Bushels---		
Northwest	1,101.1	720.0	-35
North Central	43,053.2	38,200.0	-11
Northeast	9,376.4	6,500.0	-31
Central	14,764.5	14,800.0	--
Southwest	1,965.4	1,830.0	- 7
South Central	11,616.8	10,800.0	- 7
Southeast	7,372.6	6,250.0	-15
STATE	89,250.0	79,100.0	-11

1/ These district estimates of winter wheat production are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee.

WHEAT SURPLUS BUILDING

* Except for a slight projected dip this year, utilization of wheat has been increasing--mainly due to larger exports. Increases in domestic use are usually tied to animal feed.
* Production also has been rising and remains at a high level for this year.
* Production has been in relatively close balance with use.
* The slight imbalance between production and supply is gradually increasing the size of the carryover.

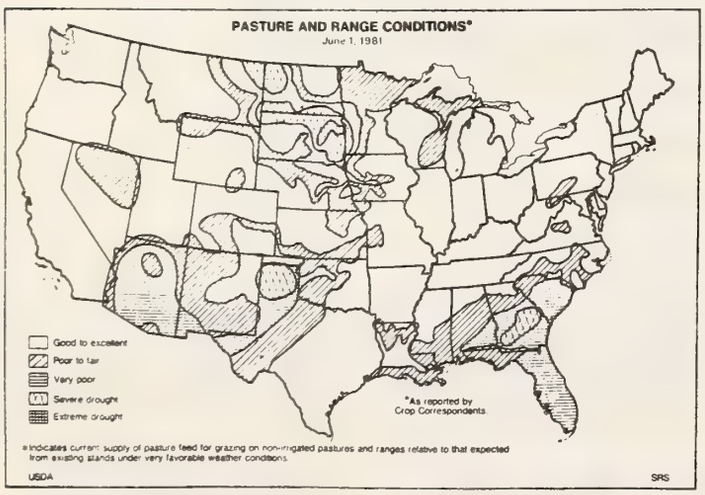


PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Pasture and range conditions were good to excellent throughout Montana as of June 1, 1982. Rain and snowstorms were spread over the entire State during the month of May. The eastern portion of the State has had a particularly wet spring and is now reporting excellent pasture and range conditions.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION JUNE 1, 1982
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1980	1981	1982
Northwest	102	98	81
North Central	48	84	84
Northeast	23	52	94
Central	57	90	85
Southwest	95	98	82
South Central	75	92	85
Southeast	22	65	95
STATE	57	82	87


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
June 1, 1981
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents.
*Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions.
USDA
SRS

DAIRY AND POULTRY RECEIPTS UP

The 1981 cash receipts for Montana dairymen were up 10 percent from the previous year. Cow numbers were the same for the two years, but a greater production per cow and higher milk prices increased the receipts.

Cash receipts from chicken and eggs during 1981 were up 12 percent from a year earlier. The increase was the result of a 4 percent boost in layer numbers plus a large increase in the number of chickens sold.

MILK: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, INCOME 1980-81

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1980	1981	1980	1981
Milk Cows Number	Thous. Head	29	29	10,810	10,919
Total Production Milk	Mil. Lbs.	314	331	128,525	132,634
Milkfat	Mil. Lbs.	11	12	4,696	4,827
Milk & Cream Marketed	Mil. Lbs.	298	312	126,187	130,312
Cash Receipts	Thous. Dols.	38,416	42,104	16,583,532	18,077,097
Value of Milk Produced 1/	Thous. Dols.	40,475	44,652	16,890,254	18,398,974

1/ Includes cash receipts plus value of home use plus value fed to calves.

POULTRY: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, INCOME 1979-81

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1979/80	1980/81	1979/80	1980/81
All Chickens On Hand Dec. 1 Start of Period	Thous. Head	890	965	400,585	392,110
Chickens Sold	Thous. Head	365	725	238,516	238,466
Cash Receipts Chickens Sold	Thous. Dol.	117	174	128,069	131,860
Eggs Produced	Million	170	174	69,684	69,603
Cash Receipts Eggs	Thous. Dol.	7,906	8,783	3,247,069	3,639,880
Gross Income 1/ Chickens & Eggs	Thous. Dol.	8,305	9,194	3,400,387	3,799,245

1/ Total of cash receipts plus value of home consumption.

FARM PRICES CHANGE LITTLE

Farm prices in Montana were higher for livestock, but lower for most crop items in May compared with April. Beef cattle, sheep, hogs, durum and barley all had price gains during the month; but winter wheat, hard spring wheat, milk, eggs and wool all registered price declines.

The May index of prices received for all farm products at 152 (1977=100) was up two points from April. The all crops index dropped 2 points while the livestock and products index went up 6 points.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		MONTHLY AVERAGE		May 15 1982	May 15 1982
		May 1981	Apr. 1982		
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.08	3.65	3.60	3.60
Durum	Bu.	5.10	3.43	3.73	3.49
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.38	3.90	3.76	3.64
All Wheat	Bu.	4.27	3.80	3.70	3.61
Barley	Bu.	2.96	2.28	2.35	2.44
Oats	Bu.	2.25	1.75	1.75	1.97
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	53.00	45.00	45.00	85.00
All Other Hay	Ton	48.00	40.00	37.00	61.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	52.50	45.00	45.00	78.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	60.20	60.40	61.80	67.10
Cows	Cwt	41.10	39.30	41.70	41.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	52.70	51.60	53.40	67.10
Calves	Cwt	64.50	61.70	63.10	65.10
Sheep	Cwt	11.50	17.30	17.20	21.90
Lambs	Cwt	53.30	54.80	58.80	63.10
Hogs	Cwt	40.50	48.90	53.40	56.20
All Milk	Cwt	13.25	13.05	12.90	13.40
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.580	.550	.491
Wool 2/	Lb.	.950	.900	.800	.885
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	162	150	152	138
All Crops	Pct.	171	149	147	124
Livestock & Products	Pct.	153	150	156	151

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

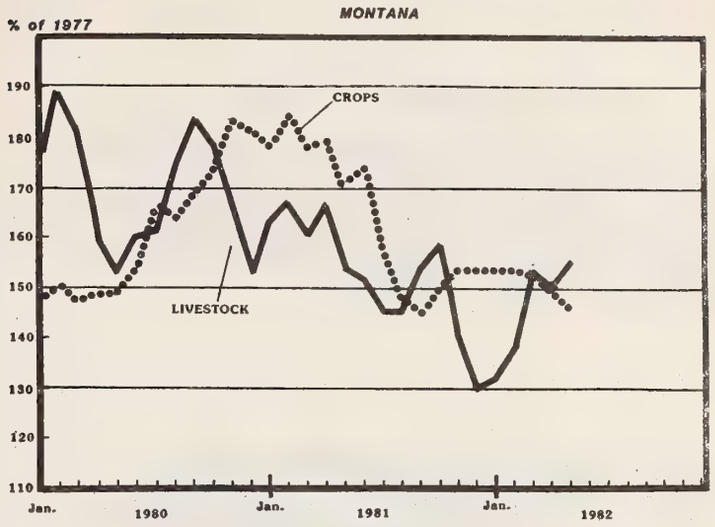
CATTLE OUTLOOK

Declining total meat supplies, feedlots that are keeping current with their marketings, positive feeding margins, and good moisture conditions are a vast improvement over last year. Slaughter weights are well below last year's averages, and nonfed slaughter is declining.

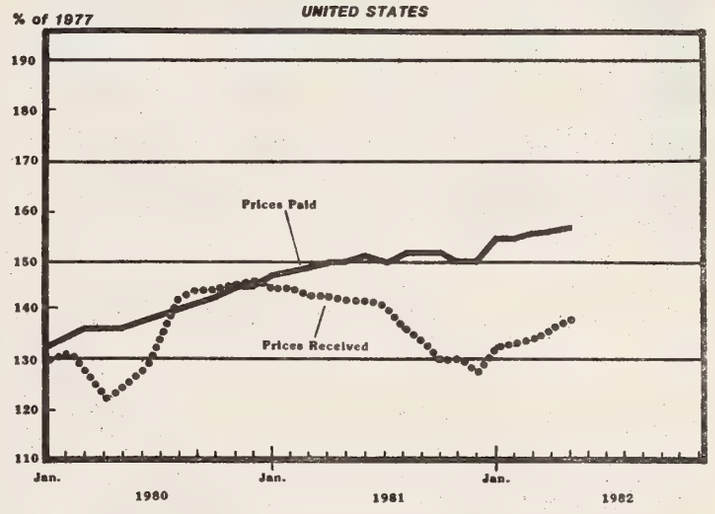
FEEDER CATTLE SUPPLY DECLINES

The increased movement of stocker and feeder cattle this winter was in sharp contrast to a year earlier. In 1981, overweight cattle and depressed prices resulted in reduced feedlot placements. Although forage conditions a year ago were much less favorable than this past winter, very mild weather and adequate hay stocks allowed producers in 1981 to carry many of their cattle into spring in hopes of higher prices. Much of this year's stocker-feeder cattle movement during the first half probably has already occurred. Most of last year's first-half movement did not occur until after the drought extended into spring.

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	May 1982	Apr. 1982	May 1982 Preliminary
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	142	135	138
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	150	155	156
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	95	87	88
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	63	58	59

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ Mid-month for commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Mid-month ratio of prices received to prices paid on 1910-14 base.

U.S. APRIL 1 FEEDER CATTLE SUPPLY

Item	1980	1981	1982	1982/81
		1,000 head		% change
Calves less than 500 lb.				
On farms Jan. 1	27,590	28,904	28,862	-0.1
Slaughter Jan.-Mar.	660	687	769	+11.9
On feed April 1[1]	624	510	359	-29.6
TOTAL	26,306	27,707	27,734	+0.1
Steers & heifers 500 lb. +[2]				
On farms Jan. 1	23,149	22,804	22,696	-0.5
Slaughter Jan.-Mar.	6,532	6,837	6,758	-1.2
On feed April 1[1]	10,000	9,641	10,092	+4.7
TOTAL	6,617	6,326	5,846	-7.6
TOTAL SUPPLY	32,923	34,033	33,580	-1.3

[1]Estimated U.S. steers and heifers. [2]Not including heifers for cow replacement.

CASH RECEIPTS -- 1981

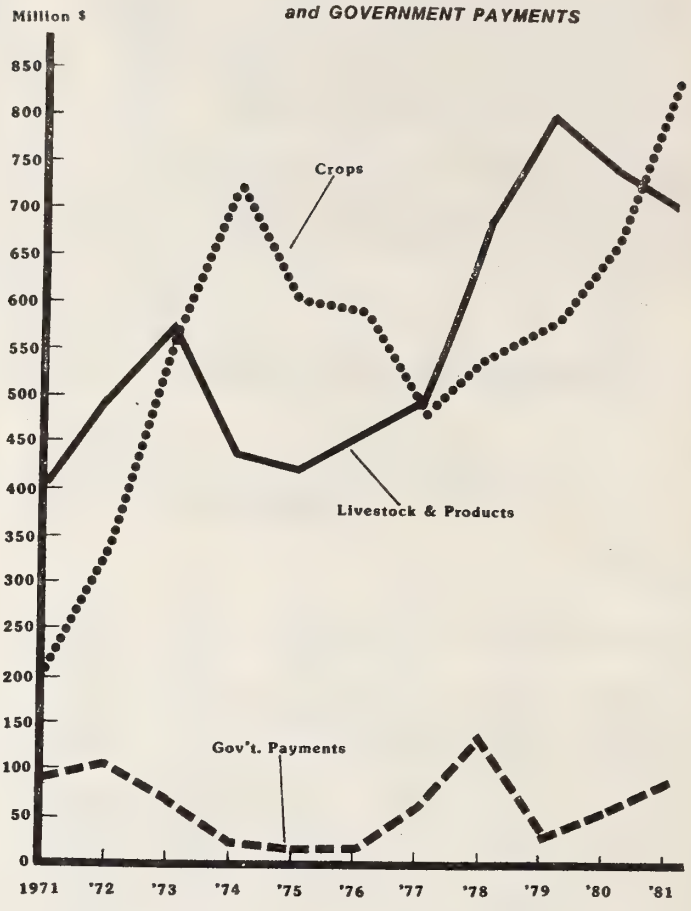
Crop and livestock marketings during 1981 brought Montana producers 1537.7 million dollars--9 percent above 1980. Crop receipts were up 26 percent, but livestock receipts fell 6 percent. Total cash receipts including government payments went up 11 percent.

CASH FARM RECEIPTS and GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1980 1/	1981 2/	1980 1/	1981 2/
	million dollars			
From Marketings				
Livestock & Products	746.8	705.4	67,405.5	69,272.3
Crops	660.5	832.3	69,025.8	73,169.0
Government Payments	58.5	85.1	1,286.0	1,912.0
Total Cash Receipts	1,465.8	1,622.8	137,717.3	144,353.3

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

MONTANA CASH FARM RECEIPTS and GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS



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Grain Stocks
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Hogs & Pigs

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Condition Report
Farm Real Estate Values
Wheat Farmer Competition
Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS REPORT

Winter wheat is in fair to good condition, growing slowly, but benefiting from rain in most regions. Less than 5 percent is in the boot stage compared with 25 percent normally in the boot at this date. There are some reports of reseeding due to winter or spring injury.

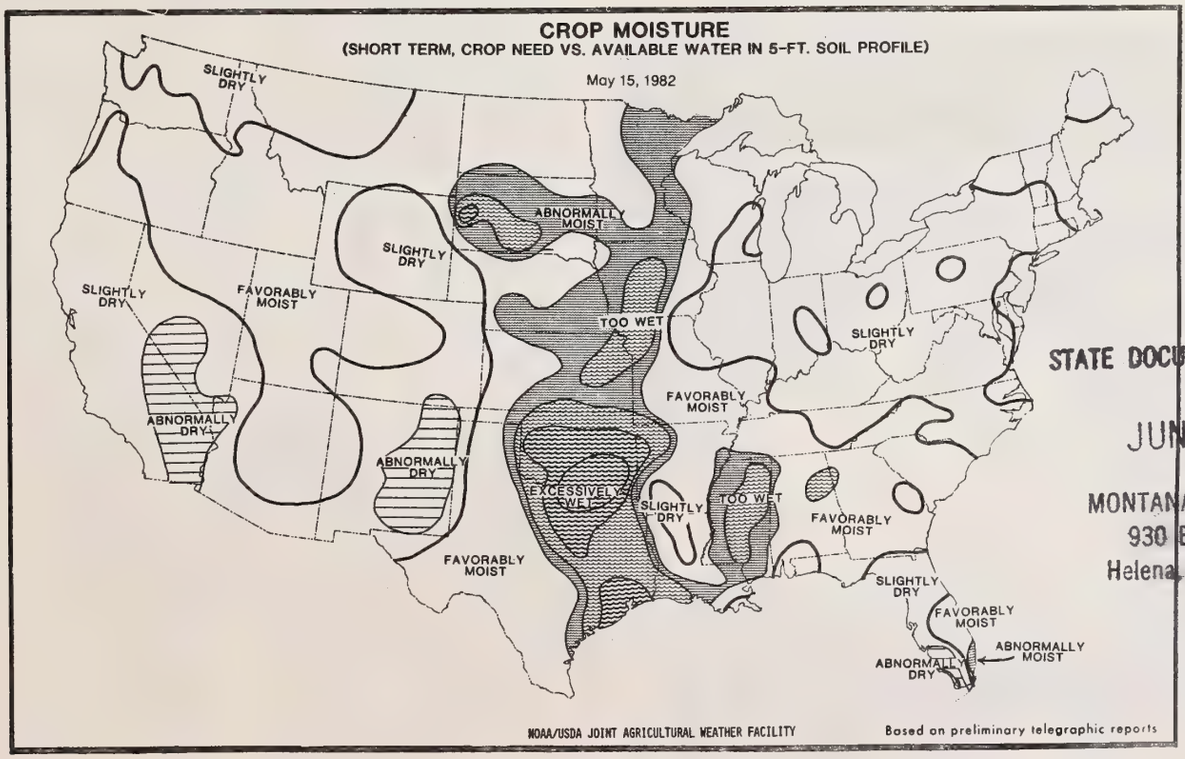
Spring crops that have been seeded are emerging with adequate soil moisture. Cool, wet conditions in the major spring wheat areas have retarded emergence and growth but promise the crops a good start. Seeding is still lagging behind normal.

PRECIPITATION -- APRIL 1--MAY 22

SELECTED STATIONS

STATION	APRIL 1-MAY 22 PRECIPITATION ----Inches----	PERCENT OF NORMAL 1/ Pct.
Hamilton	1.86	98
Kalispell	1.57	73
Polson	2.75	107
Belgrade	2.83	111
Dillon Airport	2.26	119
Cut Bank	.90	45
Havre	1.90	97
Conrad	.56	27
Ft. Benton	2.78	105
Malta	1.50	79
Great Falls	1.94	72
Lewistown	2.88	95
Stanford	3.19	112
Billings	3.30	112
Wyola	3.38	88
Glasgow	2.07	141
Sidney	2.15	90
Broadus	3.89	135
Miles City Airport	2.51	93

1/ For period 1941-1970.



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FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES: AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE OF LAND and BUILDINGS,

BY STATE, GROUPED BY FARM PRODUCTION REGION, FEBRUARY 1, 1980 and 1981, and APRIL 1, 1982 1/

STATE	1980	1981	1982
	(Dollars)		
NORTHEAST			
Maine	579	612	636
New Hampshire	988	1,045	1,087
Vermont	710	751	781
Massachusetts	1,552	1,641	1,707
Rhode Island	2,548	2,696	2,804
Connecticut	2,395	2,533	2,634
New York	708	749	786
New Jersey	2,926	2,998	3,118
Pennsylvania	1,404	1,447	1,332
Delaware	1,755	1,843R	1,659
Maryland	2,251	2,556	2,416
LAKE STATES			
Michigan	1,082	1,232	1,192
Wisconsin	980	1,105	1,073
Minnesota	1,061	1,231	1,197
CORN BELT			
Ohio	1,678	1,727	1,474
Indiana	1,833	1,972	1,715
Illinois	2,013	2,133	1,940
Iowa	1,811	1,941	1,802
Missouri	878	941	872
NORTHERN PLAINS			
North Dakota	399	423	436
South Dakota	273	290	291
Nebraska	600	660	626
Kansas	573	590	585
APPLACHIAN			
Virginia	1,009	1,080	1,040
West Virginia	704	751	829
North Carolina	1,215	1,331	1,284
Kentucky	955	991	996
Tennessee	953	1,024	972
SOUTHEAST			
South Carolina	879	930	918
Georgia	868	915	842
Florida	1,352	1,507	1,432
Alabama	792	935	922
DELTA STATES			
Mississippi	825	1,047	1,000
Arkansas	921	1,061	1,104
Louisiana	1,288	1,519	1,511
SOUTHERN PLAINS			
Oklahoma	604	662	696
Texas	448	492	576
MOUNTAIN			
Montana	229	239	254
Idaho	669	717	753
Wyoming	153	164	170
Colorado	376	412	419
New Mexico	190	203	211
Arizona	264	282	294
Utah	530	567	590
Nevada	253	271	282
PACIFIC			
Washington	725	854	888
Oregon	556	605	611
California	1,426	1,735	1,905
48 STATES	725	795R	788

1/ These estimates of farmland values are based on benchmarks obtained from the 1978 Census of Agriculture. Extrapolations have been made using the indexes in Table 1. R=Revised.

FARMLAND VALUES DECLINED LAST YEAR

U.S. farmland values fell an average of 1 percent from February 1, 1981 to April 1, 1982. This decline follows increases in farmland values of 16 percent in 1979 and 9 percent in 1980.

Last year, Ohio sustained the largest decline, 15 percent, followed by Indiana with 13 percent, Delaware 10 percent, Illinois 9 percent, and Pennsylvania and Georgia, both with 8-percent decreases. The largest increases occurred in Texas, up 17 percent, and California and West Virginia, both up 10 percent.

While average U.S. farmland values slipped 1 percent, the consumer Price Index gained about 8 percent, causing the real value of U.S. farmland to drop by roughly 9 percent. After rising an average 6 percent a year during the 1970's, real farmland values dropped 2 percent in 1980, as an 11-percent gain in the Consumer Price Index offset the 9-percent rise in the price of farmland.

Since February 1980, the real value of farmland in the Corn Belt has declined an average of about 19 percent, compared with a 5-percent decline for the rest of the United States.

MONTANA WHEAT GROWERS

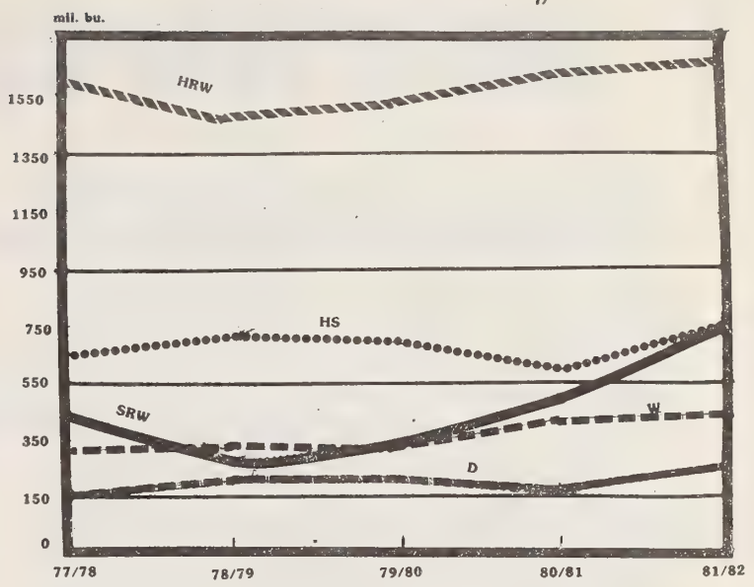
FACE TOUGH COMPETITION

Montana farmers are competing with both other U.S. production regions and foreign exporting countries for the sale of their wheat. The soft red wheat (SRW) states (mainly the east and south) have increased their production and sales the most in recent years. Huge amounts of SRW are exported to China with significant amounts going to eastern Europe, Portugal and Egypt. Soft red wheat is produced in states closer to gulf ports making it more attractive, price wise, to foreign buyers.

Ironically, farm prices for SRW, until this year, were nearly the same or even higher than the better quality hard winter wheat. Producers in the SRW states have access to cheaper barge transportation --the main reason for lower export prices for this class

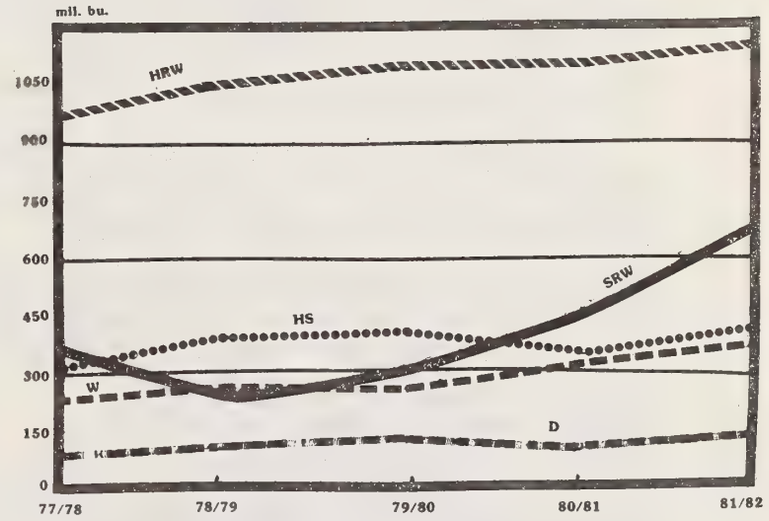
For 1982, hard red winter is expected to be down 2 percent from 1981, SRW is forecast at 10 percent less, and white wheat will be down 15 percent. No forecast have been made for Spring wheat.

TOTAL WHEAT SUPPLIES BY CLASSES 1/



1/ supply equals carry in stocks plus production plus imports

TOTAL WHEAT UTILIZATION BY CLASSES 1/



1/ utilization equals both domestic and export use

HRW-hard red winter HS-hard spring D-durum SRW-soft red winter W-white

ACTUAL WHEAT COUNTS TO BE TAKEN

Wheat production forecasts are watched throughout the summer with great interest. Several sources of information are used to arrive at a Montana and U.S. production estimate each month during the growing season. In addition to individual farmer reports, an objective yield survey is done each month. In Montana 220 randomly selected fields of winter wheat, spring wheat and durum are sampled on farms across the state with the permission of farmers. Trained enumerators lay out 2 plots in each field. Each month the enumerators make various measurements, count wheat plants, determine maturity and harvest a portion of the heads for weighing. The information for all plots is combined and expanded to make an estimate of potential yield for the state, region and U.S.

Seventeen other states participate in similar Wheat Objective Yield surveys. By combining producer reports and Objective Yield data, more reliable production forecasts can be made, which help remove speculation about the crop.

HOW CROP ESTIMATES ARE MADE

Crop estimates start with basic data collected from farmers. However, it's not a simple process. Sampling lists are needed that are costly to build and maintain. The lists need to be as complete as possible with control data present that allows each list name to be classified for sampling purposes. Control data consists of acres operated and numbers of livestock. In Montana, there are about 20,000 farm operators used in selecting samples.

Next, an adequate number of responses need to be obtained for the survey results to be accurate. Cooperation is on a voluntary basis, therefore farmers must understand the need for survey results or they won't respond. Crop estimates mostly relate to the marketing side of farming--perhaps the least understood side of the operation.

After the data is collected, it is put through a sophisticated computer edit before it is summarized. The computer edits allow statisticians to review the data in a systematic way in order to detect weaknesses or errors.

The summarized data is then used to generate indications of acreage, yield, or production. Statisticians prepare state recommendations which are submitted to the Crop Reporting Board in Washington DC. The individual state estimates or forecasts are reviewed and compiled into a national total.

Finally, the estimates need to be released to the consuming public in a timely and effective way. In Montana, the use of press releases, radio broadcasts, and the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporter are the principal ways of disseminating the reports.

Reporters or others that provide voluntary information about Montana Agriculture receive releases free of charge.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

Cattle and calves on feed May 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.07 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago and 3 percent more than May 1, 1980. MARKETINGS of fed cattle during April totaled 1.41 million, a 2 percent increase from last year but 1 percent less than April two years ago. PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during April totaled 1.57 million, down 9 percent from the record high April 1981 placements though 27 percent more than the relatively low level of 1.24 million during April 1980. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.46 million for April are off 8 percent from last year but 32 percent greater than 1980. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 190 thousand compared with 142 thousand during April 1981 and 130 thousand two years ago.

MAY 1 POTATO STOCKS DOWN

MONTANA PRODUCERS had 30,000 cwt in storage on May 1, 1982--down 40 percent from the 50,000 cwt on hand May 1, 1981.

NATIONALLY there were 46.1 million cwt in storage May 1, 1982. This is 4 percent above May 1 a year ago, but 23 percent less than on May 1, 1980.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Agricultural Prices
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Pasture and Range
Cherry Production

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C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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MONTANA CROP and LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Prod.: Winter Wheat Forecast
Hay Stocks Drop
Pasture & Range Good
Dairy Products Up
Farm Prices Steady
Barley County Estimates

HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches on May 1 at 865,000 tons were 6 percent below 1981 on the same date. The May 1 stocks is considered to be carryover into the next feeding season and represents 18 percent of 1981's production.

Lower carryover stocks from last year are a result of an 8 percent increase in the cattle inventory and a much harsher and longer winter feeding season.

WINTER WHEAT

SELECTED STATES	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION	
	1981	Ind. 1982	1981	Ind. 1982
	(000 Acres)		(000 Bushels)	
ARK	1,650	1,900	67,650	76,000
CA	1,200	1,070	92,400	78,110
COLO	3,050	2,750	83,875	60,500
GA	1,070	1,300	46,010	44,200
IDAHO	960	940	55,680	47,000
ILL	1,850	1,520	92,500	63,840
IND	1,350	1,100	62,100	48,400
KANS	12,200	13,000	305,000	455,000
MO	2,750	2,270	115,500	90,800
MONT	2,550	2,260	89,250	74,580
NEBR	2,950	2,900	106,200	98,600
OHIO	1,650	1,250	72,600	52,500
OKLA	6,400	6,700	172,800	214,400
OREG	1,200	1,070	73,200	60,990
S DAK	1,170	1,070	30,420	25,680
TEX	6,550	6,300	183,400	157,500
WASH	2,830	2,640	161,310	145,200
U.S.	58,589	57,720	2,098,719	2,063,336

WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's winter wheat crop is forecast at 74.6 million bushels--16 percent below 1981. The forecast is based upon farmers reported condition of the crop on May 1. Acres for harvest are down 11 percent and expected yield is 2 bushels under last year.

The spring wheat acreage estimate will be released on June 29. The first forecast of spring wheat production (including durum) will be released on August 11.

Last year Montana produced 172.8 million bushels of all wheat. This year's production will depend upon farm program participation as well as unpredictable weather factors.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICTS--MAY 1, 1982

DISTRICT	1981	Ind. 1982	% Change
	---1,000 Bushels---		
Northwest	1,101.1	630.0	-43
North Central	43,053.2	35,700.0	-17
Northeast	9,376.4	5,550.0	-41
Central	14,764.5	14,450.0	- 2
Southwest	1,965.4	1,740.0	-11
South Central	4,616.8	10,500.0	-10
Southeast	7,372.6	6,060.0	-18
STATE	89,250.0	74,580.0	-16

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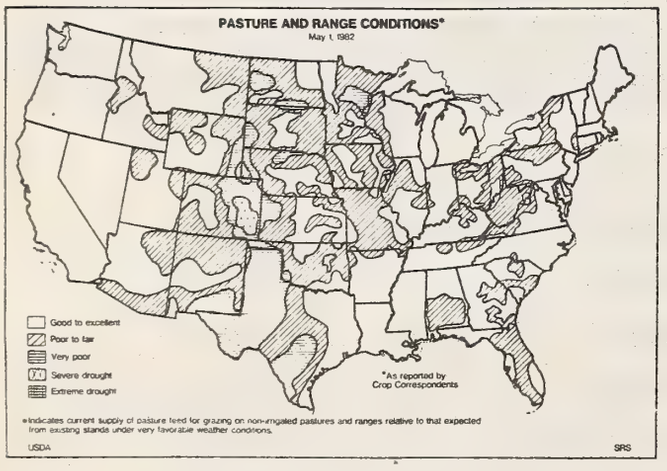
PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION GOOD TO EXCELLENT

Montana's pastures and ranges are in much better condition this May 1 than last year. However, more moisture and warmer days will be needed for growth to reach optimum levels. The abnormally cool weather of April and early May is slowing growing and preventing drought stress where topsoil moisture is lacking.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION--MAY 1
District as a percent of normal 1/

DISTRICT	1980	1981	1982
Northwest	79	90	87
North Central	69	59	82
Northeast	49	35	68
Central	69	73	82
Southwest	87	86	89
South Central	73	73	87
Southeast	58	36	71
STATE	68	63	80

1/ Good to excellent, 80 and over; Poor to fair, 65-79; Very Poor, 50-64; Severe drought, 35-49; Extreme drought, under 35.


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
May 1, 1982
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents
*Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions.
USDA
SRS

TRACTOR SHIPMENTS DOWN AGAIN

Tractor shipments from manufactures has decreased for the third straight year. The total wheel-type tractors shipped during 1981 at 141,445 was down 3 percent from 1980, 30 percent from 1979 and 18 percent from 1978. Shipments for the month of January 1982 are down 38 percent from January 1981. Tractor shipment data is supplied by the Bureau of the Census.

COUNTY YIELD & PRODUCTION
BARLEY

COUNTY	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION
	1976-1980 Average	1981	1981
Beaverhead	56.8	66.8	614,400
Big Horn	39.3	45.3	960,100
Blaine	39.1	36.4	984,100
Broadwater	56.3	57.9	711,900
Carbon	53.0	59.4	707,000
Carter	29.4	21.6	155,200
Cascade	41.7	48.3	2,942,600
Choteau	39.5	44.0	7,955,300
Custer	36.2	24.3	219,000
Daniels	28.4	21.5	232,500
Dawson	27.7	24.7	532,000
Deer Lodge	55.3	58.0	81,200
Fallon	27.4	29.5	183,200
Fergus	35.7	39.0	3,950,800
Flathead	56.2	57.0	1,476,000
Galllatin	55.8	54.1	2,081,600
Garfield	23.8	28.9	694,400
Glacier	41.0	47.9	3,957,500
Golden Valley	29.2	34.1	255,800
Granite	57.0	59.6	41,700
Hill	34.4	33.2	1,184,400
Jefferson	40.4	58.2	75,700
Judith Basin	38.5	37.2	2,319,400
Lake	54.9	58.3	693,900
Lewis & Clark	52.2	45.7	301,300
Liberty	34.6	42.7	1,539,700
Lincoln	46.5	57.0	11,400
McCone	25.4	30.9	703,800
Madison	56.4	59.5	315,300
Meagher	42.7	44.1	657,000
Mineral	53.2	68.0	6,800
Missoula	47.8	47.9	177,200
Musselshell	28.0	38.8	317,800
Park	38.4	41.7	362,400
Petroleum	25.2	35.4	184,300
Phillips	36.9	34.5	913,500
Pondera	47.0	52.4	5,055,800
Powder River	29.6	24.2	142,600
Powell	55.2	52.8	205,800
Prairie	29.2	32.6	198,800
Ravalli	62.6	59.4	314,600
Richland	32.9	30.9	679,000
Roosevelt	28.0	30.3	496,400
Rosebud	40.0	30.8	412,100
Sanders	41.2	50.2	55,200
Sheridan	29.1	29.7	433,200
Silver Bow	55.2	67.0	13,400
Stillwater	32.2	33.4	637,300
Sweet Grass	40.5	48.2	188,100
Teton	51.6	55.3	4,736,400
Toole	38.2	41.7	1,865,000
Treasure	47.3	69.3	187,100
Valley	31.5	27.6	638,400
Wheatland	29.9	33.3	642,800
Wibaux	28.0	30.5	140,200
Yellowstone	46.4	54.8	1,217,600
STATE	41.0	43.0	56,760,000

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		MONTHLY AVERAGE		Apr. 15 1982	Apr. 15 1982
		Apr. 1981	Mar. 1982		
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.12	3.69	3.60	3.70
Durum	Bu.	4.85	3.83	3.67	3.43
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.51	3.75	3.86	3.67
All Wheat	Bu.	4.41	3.72	3.74	3.68
Barley	Bu.	2.91	2.27	2.31	2.36
Oats	Bu.	2.30	2.03	1.84	1.98
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	55.00	45.00	47.00	77.00
All Other Hay	Ton	50.00	35.00	35.00	63.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	55.00	44.50	45.00	73.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	65.40	60.60	60.40	64.70
Cows	Cwt	42.80	41.70	42.80	41.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	57.70	52.90	53.40	60.60
Calves	Cwt	69.60	61.10	62.20	62.60
Sheep	Cwt	17.40	21.20	19.60	23.00
Lambs	Cwt	50.40	57.20	55.20	60.60
Hogs	Cwt	37.60	46.20	47.80	50.70
All Milk	Cwt	13.65	13.30	13.10	13.40
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.640	.580	.581
Wool 2/	Lb.	.950	.970	.900	.891
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	173	152	153	135
All Crops	Pct.	182	152	153	123
Livestock & Products	Pct.	165	153	154	147

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

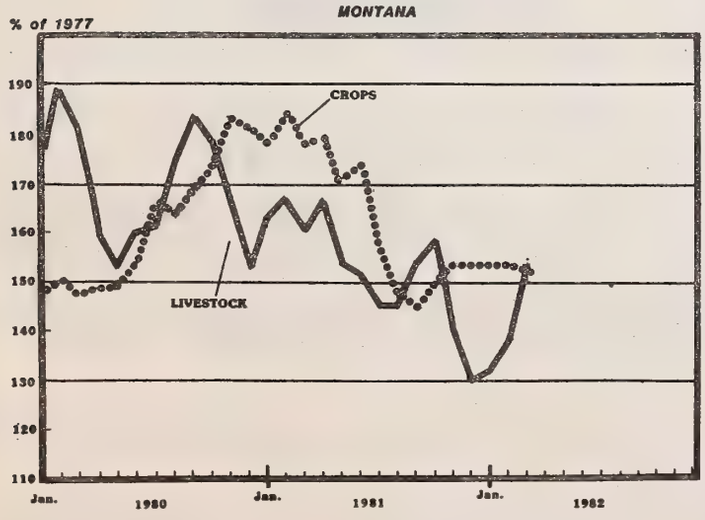
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Apr. 1982	Mar. 1982	Apr. 1982 Preliminary
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	143	133	135
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	150	155	155
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	95	86	87
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	63	57	58

1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ Mid-month for commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Mid-month ratio of prices received to prices paid on 1910-14 base.

CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

MONTANA

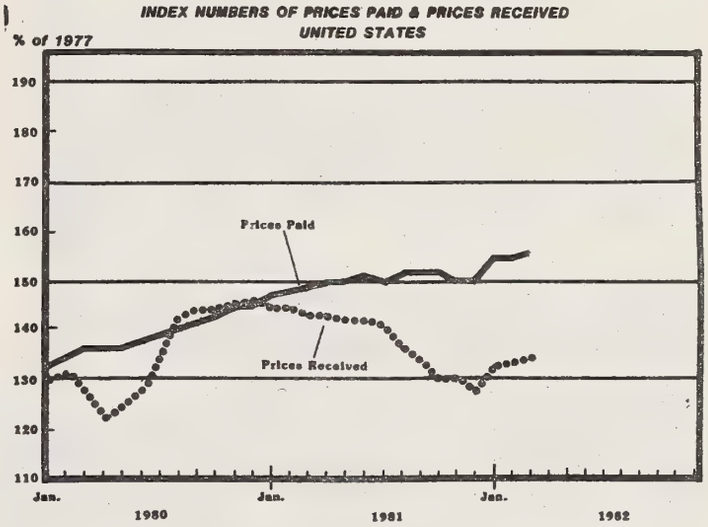


FARM PRICES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Mid-April farm prices in Montana were about the same as the March monthly average. Although slight price increases were noted for hard spring wheat, barley, alfalfa hay, beef cows, calves and hogs, price decreases were seen for winter wheat, durum, oats, steers & heifers, sheep, lambs, milk and eggs.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

UNITED STATES



MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 493,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during March 1982--up 13 percent from February and up less than 1 percent from March 1981. Ice cream frozen at 163,000 gallons was 9 percent below last year. Butter made at 223,000 pounds up 20 percent from a year ago.

QUESTIONS FARMERS ASK ABOUT CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORTS . . .

DO FARMERS SEND IN FALSE REPORTS?

Very few. Usually, if a reporter takes the time to fill out a report, it's reasonably accurate. False, or non-representative reports are also detected by use of sophisticated computer edits. Besides, what purpose would be served by an inaccurate report? Most buyers already have a good idea of supply through their own surveys or other information sources.

Farmers who under-report production could falsely signal other farmers to increase production. Also, their yields would be too low. Others who report too high could provide a reason for buyers to reduce prices.

Our record, when all final production and marketing data have been tabulated, supports the accuracy of our farm reporters. Most farmers report honestly and should continue to do so because false reports result in unpredictable and perhaps negative results.

PRECIPITATION -- APRIL 1--MAY 8
SELECTED STATIONS

STATION	APRIL 1-MAY 8 PRECIPITATION	PERCENT OF NORMAL 1/
	----Inches---	Pct.
Hamilton	1.28	115
Kalispell	1.41	104
Polson	2.17	130
Belgrade	2.05	130
Dillon Airport	1.15	104
Cut Bank	.18	16
Havre	.75	55
Conrad	.31	25
Ft. Benton	1.84	112
Malta	.14	11
Great Falls	1.16	71
Lewistown	2.14	132
Stanford	2.05	132
Billings	2.00	99
Wyola	1.72	63
Glasgow	.35	37
Sidney	.89	60
Broadus	1.29	71
Miles City Airport	.62	36

1/ For period 1941-1970.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Potato Stocks
Milk Production

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Grain Stocks Still Near Record
More Milk
March Slaughter
Potato Stocks Up

MONTANA GRAIN BINS STILL HOLD NEAR RECORD WHEAT STOCKS

Wheat stocks in Montana on April 1, 1982 were the second largest holdings on record, exceeded only by stocks on April 1, 1978. The bulk of the stocks (86 percent) is in farm storages.

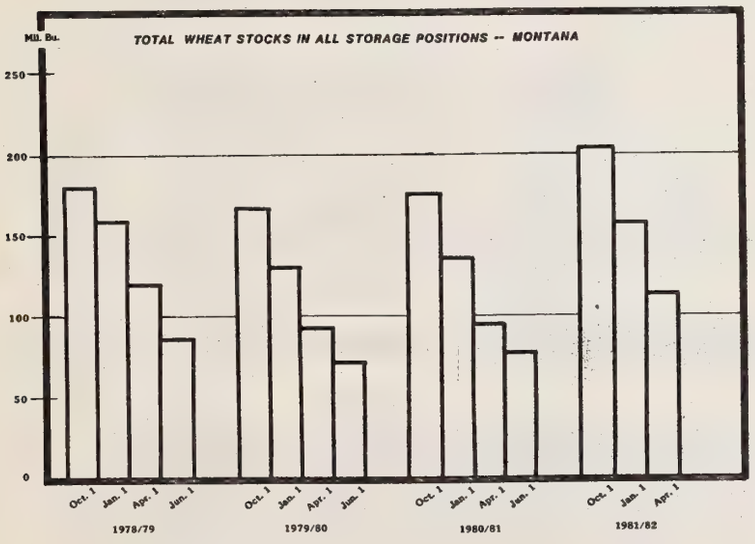
The 26 percent increase in wheat stocks over last year is mainly the result of the huge 1981 crop. Carryover stocks into the current marketing year were the largest since 1975.

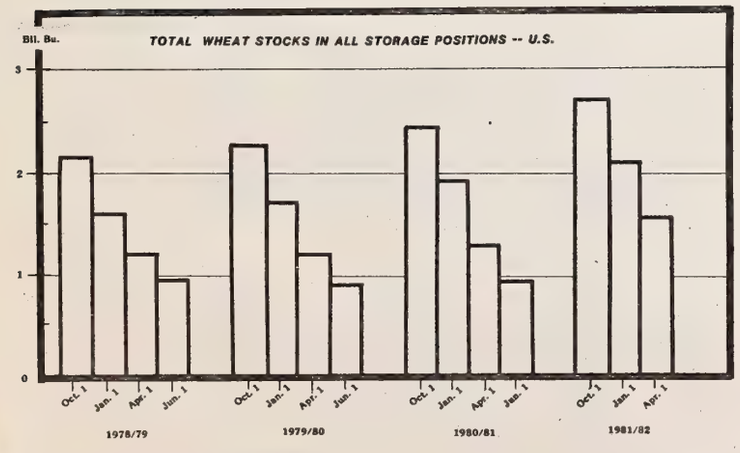
Movement from storage positions during the January 1 - April 1 quarter was brisk, exceeded only slightly by the record Jan.-Apr. disappearance set in 1981. However, as a percent of total supply the movement is down from the last two years, indicating carryover stocks will be larger than last year.

Wheat placed in government storage and loan programs is running ahead of last year. As of March 31, 1982 76 percent more wheat was in the loan program and 34 percent more was in the reserve compared with a year ago.

Of the total wheat in storage, about 52 percent is winter wheat, 40 percent is hard spring and 8 percent is durum.

(See tables page 2.)





GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS -- MARCH 31, 1982
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1981	1982	1981	1982
	(000 Bushels)			
Reserve	31,562	42,441	571	1,011
Under Loan	11,321	19,875	1,490	3,897

1/ These stocks are included in the April 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

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MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STOCKS OF GRAIN APRIL 1, 1982 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Apr. 1, 1981	Jan. 1, 1982 *	Apr. 1, 1982	% Change From 1981	Apr. 1, 1981	Jan. 1, 1982 *	Apr. 1, 1982
	---------Thousand Bushels------			%	--------Thousand Bushels---------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	76,672	131,351	101,970	+33	538,851	954,791	748,035
Off farms 1/	17,578	27,042	17,000	- 3	789,780	1,221,223	806,906
T O T A L	94,250	158,393	118,970	+26	1,328,631	2,176,014	1,554,941
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	29,822	65,464	50,623	+70	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	9,800	16,074	11,000	+12	--	--	--
T O T A L	39,622	81,538	61,623	+56	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	46,850	65,887	51,347	+10	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	7,751	10,968	6,000	-23	--	--	--
T O T A L	54,601	76,855	57,347	+ 5	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On farms	--	--	--	--	59,974	121,384	105,718
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	23,282	31,034	26,650
T O T A L	7,418	12,524	9,774	+32	83,256	152,418	132,368
RYE							
On farms	--	--	--	--	3,516	5,662	3,345
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	3,352	2,172	2,322
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	6,868	7,834	5,667
CORN							
On farms	178	638	128	-28	2,641,110	4,965,440	3,569,737
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,346,138	1,933,209	1,504,363
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	3,987,248	6,898,649	5,074,100
OATS							
On farms	2,570	4,114	2,178	-15	211,747	313,590	200,191
Off farms 1/	217	258	300	+38	44,363	51,075	36,315
T O T A L	2,787	4,372	2,478	-11	256,110	364,665	236,506
BARLEY							
On farms	10,584	28,948	13,622	+29	113,357	230,745	147,285
Off farms 1/	2,181	3,681	2,350	+ 8	89,994	101,473	79,214
T O T A L	12,765	32,629	15,972	+25	203,351	332,218	226,499
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	--	--	--	--	81,136	256,624	125,250
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	232,699	432,899	336,213
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	313,835	689,523	461,463

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Apr. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1982 *	Apr. 1, 1982	Apr. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1982 *	Apr. 1, 1982
	--------Million Bushels--------			---------Million Bushels---------		
Northwest	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.0	2.7	.9
North Central	43.8	69.1	51.0	5.7	14.8	6.6
Northeast	27.7	44.8	39.9	2.1	2.5	2.4
Central	11.6	21.3	11.0	1.5	6.5	2.6
Southwest	1.4	2.5	1.6	.9	3.1	1.5
South Central	4.6	12.3	7.6	1.0	2.2	1.5
Southeast	4.0	6.5	6.0	.6	.8	.5
STATE	94.3	158.4	119.0	12.8	32.6	16.0

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Revised.

FARM and RANCH PROSPECTS -- 1982

The Nation's huge farm production machine is starting to roll. Although 1982's prospects are still uncertain, favorable moisture is setting the stage for large harvests. Acreage-reduction programs could affect final output. So could unfavorable weather if it develops. Still, modern farm technology offers considerable immunity to disaster, and intensive management on the best acres will help maintain high production levels in spite of planting curbs. No doubt about it--U.S. farmers are masters of production.

Market prospects are much more uncertain. Last year's crops continue to sell at low prices. Much of what is in store for farm prices depends upon economic recovery and strong exports--both of which are outside of farmers direct influence.

LIVESTOCK

Total meat and poultry production will likely drop about 4 percent this year. Pork producers are cutting back sharply, beef production will stay about even, and poultry is expected to rise only 1 percent. This would mean a 5 percent drop in per capita meat consumption. Still, strong economic recovery will be needed to push market and retail prices upward.

The United States imports considerable amounts of beef--mainly lower quality lean meat used for hamburger, bologna, etc.--and exports smaller quantities of high-value, high-quality meat--about 60 percent of which goes to Japan. However, U.S. exports have been growing and will likely reach 100,000 metric tons in 1982. Beef and veal imports were down to 799,000 metric tons in 1981, accounting for 8 percent of consumption, and are expected to decline again in 1982.

WHEAT

Winter wheat stands are good to excellent in most of the country and spring wheat planting conditions are favorable. The present winter wheat stand does generally exceed the established wheat acreage base and growers may be reluctant to pare the stand back. Spring wheat growers will likely view the acreage-reduction program more favorably. Further price deterioration would strengthen the incentive to participate.

On the world scene, wheat consumption is expected to drop below production for the first time since 1978/79. World stocks may exceed last year but still be below most years in the 1970s. World wheat trade is forecast to be a record 100 million tons in 1981/82--up 7 percent. U.S. exports are forecast to be up nearly 20 percent.

COARSE GRAINS

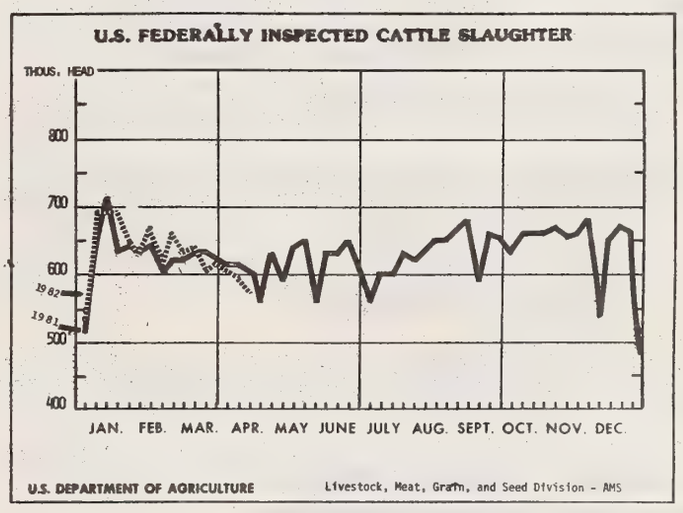
With the global economy still sluggish, total export use of U.S. feed grains will be down. Total domestic and export use is forecast to be only 1 percent above last year. As a result, ending stocks will likely reach 2.1 billion bushels, putting downward pressure on prices. The U.S. share of world trade could decline to 60 percent--its lowest level in nine years.

NATION'S LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DOWN

A smaller hog kill, together with lighter weights for both cattle and hogs, dropped total red meat production in the United States 3 percent this March compared with a year ago. The January-March total for 1982 is running 5 percent below last year. The cattle kill was up 2 percent but averaged 23 pounds per head lighter resulting in 1 percent less beef produced. The hog kill dropped 5 percent with a 2 pound per head average decline.

JANUARY-MARCH LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1981	1982	1981	1982	Pct. Change
	1,000 head				%
No. Slghtrd.					
Cattle	32.3	32.4	8,586	8,669	+ 1
Calves	.1	.1	687	769	+12
Hogs	126.5	117.7	23,678	21,723	- 8
Sheep & Lambs	.6	.6	1,449	1,602	+11
Total Lvwght.					
Cattle	35,437	34,447	9,383	9,309	- 1
Calves	23	1	168	179	+ 7
Hogs	30,446	28,014	5,743	5,219	- 9
Sheep & Lambs	70	80	167	180	+ 8
Red Meat Production	41,253	38,527	9,819	9,342	- 5



MONTANA HAS MORE POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers had 900,000 cwt. of potatoes in storage as of April 1, 1982--25 percent more than last year on this date. Disappearance from storage during March totaled 550,000 cwt., down 5 percent from the same period last year. Production in the state during 1981 at 1,739,000 cwt. was 1 percent more than a year ago.

Nationally, potato stocks as of April 1, 1982 in 15 major fall states are estimated at 77.5 million cwt. This is 7 percent above April 1 a year ago, but 16 percent less than on April 1, 1980.

QUESTIONS FARMERS ASK ABOUT CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORTS . . . .

Why is the government always prying into farmers' affairs?

In a highly commercialized agriculture, farm leaders--especially commodity group leaders--are striving for more and better statistics. These leaders recognize the necessity of statistics to keep both export and domestic market functions running smoothly. They also use statistics to formulate government farm policy and programs.

The collection and publication of these statistics is possible only through cooperative effort--farmer's in partnership with their government. Without this program, farmers could be the victims of private figures heavily biased towards self interest.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 436,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during February 1982--up 4 percent from January and up 9 percent from February 1981. Ice cream frozen at 109,000 gallons was 4 percent above last year. Butter made at 237,000 pounds was up 18 percent from a year ago.

MORE MILK PRODUCED

Montana dairymen produced 6 percent more milk during the January - March quarter than a year earlier, even though cow numbers held steady. The totals of 83 million pounds of milk from 29,000 cows were the same as the October - December quarter.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	MARCH MILK COWS 1/		MILK PRODUCTION 2/	
	1981	1982	1981	1982
	----thousands---		--million lbs.--	
CALIF	916	944	3,360	3,513
IDAHO	165	172	483	535
MINN	880	910	2,609	2,676
MONT	29	29	78	83
N DAK	93	92	232	237
OREGON	96	98	282	290
S DAK	157	155	415	406
WASH	203	208	714	747
WISC	1,823	1,829	5,565	5,462
WYO	12.0	12.0	32.4	33.6
U.S.	10,880	10,997	32,426	33,000

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Agricultural Prices
1981 Cash Receipts
Dairy Products
Winter Wheat Production
Hay Stocks
Pasture & Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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1982

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- U.S. & Montana Wool Situation
- March Farm Prices
- Lower Livestock Receipts
- More Eggs

U. S. SITUATION

Wool prices since mid-1981 have exhibited little movement reflecting the small volume of mill purchases. Mills have been very cautious and have been drawing on their inventories to meet their needs. Most of the wool consumed by mills in the latter part of 1981 was bought in the spring. High interest rates and more competitive prices of imported wool have depressed domestic sales. However, recent reports indicate that world wool prices have moved up as a result of renewed purchasing by Japan and Eastern European countries. Price rises have ranged from 5 to 8 cents.

Congress recently voted to extend the National Wool Act of 1954 to December 31, 1985. The provisions of the new legislation are the same as the previous law except that the incentive payments are based on 77.5 percent of the formula in the Act instead of 85 percent. Under this program, government payments to wool growers were an estimated $37.5 million in 1981, 12 percent above 1980.

U.S. WOOL SUPPLY and DISAPPEARANCE ANNUALLY, 1979-82, CLEAN

ITEM	1979	1980	1981	1982 1/
	---------Million Pounds-------			
Stocks, Jan. 1	48.5	45.0	42.2	43.3
Production	56.0	56.4	58.4	58.6
Imports	42.3	56.5	74.3	75.0
Diff. unacc.	15.5	8.0	6.9	--
TOTAL SUPPLY	162.3	165.9	181.8	176.9
Mill use	117.0	123.4	138.2	135.0
Exports	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
TOTAL USE	117.3	123.7	138.5	135.3
Stocks, Dec. 31	45.0	42.2	43.3	41.6

1/ Estimated.

MONTANA WOOL PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's 1981 wool production, up 6 percent from 1980, was the highest since 1974. The total value of the clip, at $5.8 million, was up 9 percent.

Montana ranks 7th in total production. Texas, in 1st place, equaled the combined production of California and Wyoming, the 2nd and 3rd ranking states. The 11 western states produced 53 percent of the nationaltotal; Texas had 19 percent; the states west of the Mississippi nearly 90 percent.

ANNUAL WOOL PRODUCTION and VALUE

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		U. S.	
		1980	1981	1980	1981
Sheep Shorn	(000) Head	539	560	13,255	13,484
Weight per Fleece	Lb.	9.9	10.1	7.95	8.14
Wool Production	(000) Lb.	5,358	5,670	105,367	109,753
Price Per Pound	Cents	99.0	102.0	88.1	94.5
Value	(000) Dol.	5,304	5,783	92,799	103,744

AVERAGE U.S. FARM PRICES PER POUND FOR SHORN WOOL, GREASE BASIS

MONTH	1978	1979	1980	1981 1/	1982
	----------Cents----------				
January	72.6	78.7	82.1	90.6	80.4
February	68.9	77.3	86.8	92.8	
March	71.2	79.5	93.5	93.1	
April	73.7	86.9	92.2	99.7	
May	73.9	88.0	86.6	103.0	
June	76.2	89.4	86.5	106.0	
July	74.6	87.7	85.8	102.0	
August	74.6	81.8	85.5	94.6	
September	72.7	84.9	84.7	89.0	
October	77.1	87.5	89.4	89.6	
November	81.2	89.0	92.1	90.8	
December	73.6	86.5	90.9	85.3	
Weighted season avg.	74.5	86.3	88.1	95.0 2/	

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Estimated.

PLEASE RETURN

LIVESTOCK RECEIPTS DOWN

Cash receipts received by Montana livestock producers for meat animals in 1981 were 18 percent less than 1980. The decrease was a result of 10 percent fewer cattle marketings and lower prices for both cattle and sheep. Last year's cash receipts were down 25 percent from the record set in 1979.

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS and CASH RECEIPTS 1980-1981

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1980	1981	1980	1981
Cattle & Calves					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	1,034.1	933.3	49,654.5	49,893.2
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	58.00	51.90	62.40	60.80
Calves	Dols./Cwt	76.80	62.70	76.80	64.00
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	640.5	506.1	31,464.4	28,936.3
Hogs & Pigs					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	70.9	84.6	23,378.6	22,270.8
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	37.20	41.40	38.00	43.90
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	26.4	35.1	8,921.1	9,799.3
Sheep & Lambs					
Marketings	Million Lbs.	28.6	35.3	852.3	868.2
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	17.70	17.40	21.10	21.20
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	61.70	47.20	63.60	54.90
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	12.3	13.5	469.7	410.9

MARCH SUMMARY

CROPS: Winter wheat was in fair to good condition during March. Snowcover was generally adequate to protect the crop from both wind damage and cold temperatures most of the month. Some areas were melted off but recovered again prior to the arrival of severe temperatures and wind.

Frequent snow mixed with rain showers added to soil moisture supplies over most of the state. The wet, cool weather prevented field tillage work.

LIVESTOCK: Calving and lambing were often difficult because of wet ground and chilling wind. But sunshine and some warming during the daylight hours allowed good survival.

Feed supplies are adequate for the remainder of the feeding season and livestock are in good condition.

MARCH PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS

STATION	MARCH PRECIPITATION ----inches---	PERCENT OF NORMAL 1/ Pct.
Hamilton	1.31	202
Kalispell	.92	107
Polson	1.36	174
Belgrade	2.36	271
Dillon Airport	.86	172
Cut Bank	.61	145
Havre	1.01	206
Conrad	1.30	277
Ft. Benton	1.49	177
Malta	.59	131
Great Falls	1.97	203
Lewistown	1.60	248
Stanford	1.48	228
Billings	1.81	179
Wyola	1.41	136
Glasgow	.72	195
Sidney	1.78	356
Broadus	1.42	203
Miles City Airport	.74	114

1/ For 1941-1970 period.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED and INDEXES

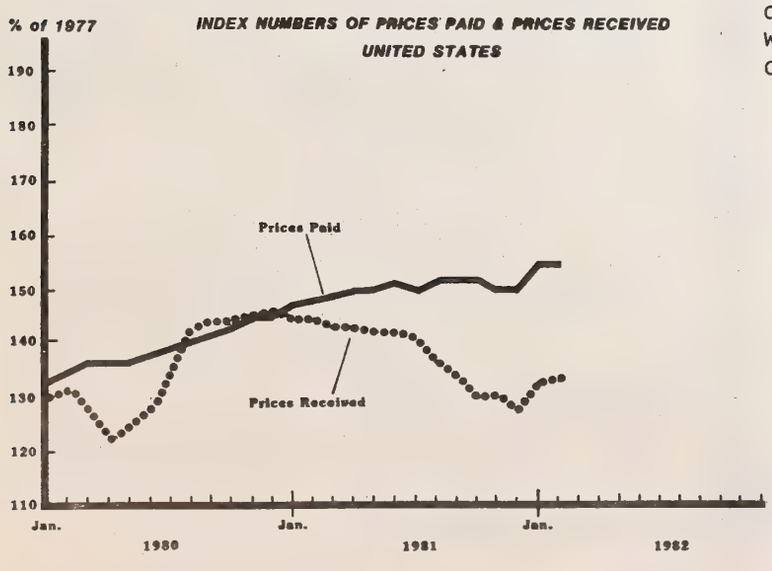
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		MONTHLY AVERAGE		Mar. 15 1982	Mar. 15 1982
		Mar. 1981	Feb. 1982		
		----------Dollars----------			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.13	3.63	3.55	3.61
Durum	Bu.	5.31	3.71	3.75	3.51
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.35	3.87	3.85	3.60
All Wheat	Bu.	4.30	3.76	3.71	3.60
Barley	Bu.	2.94	2.25	2.20	2.36
Oats	Bu.	2.17	1.84	1.85	1.96
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	60.00	50.00	45.00	74.90
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	45.00	40.00	62.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	60.00	50.00	45.00	70.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	62.00	57.80	61.00	62.50
Cows	Cwt	43.90	37.20	40.40	40.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	55.30	48.90	52.40	58.30
Calves	Cwt	68.20	59.80	62.50	62.10
Sheep	Cwt	26.40	19.30	19.00	21.20
Lambs	Cwt	52.20	50.10	56.20	56.10
Hogs	Cwt	37.60	48.50	46.20	48.60
All Milk	Cwt	13.65	13.50	13.50	13.70
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.650	.640	.630
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.00	.850	.970	.834
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	169	148	152	132
All Crops	Pct.	179	153	151	119
Livestock & Products	Pct.	160	145	153	145

1/ Composite of steers, heifers and cows. 2/ Incentive payment not included. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX	Mar. 1982	Feb. 1982	Mar. 1982 Preliminary
Prices Received (1977=100) 1/	143	133	132
Prices Paid (1977=100) 2/	149	154	155
Ratio (1977=100) 3/	96	86	85
Parity Ratio (1910-14=100) 4/	64	57	57

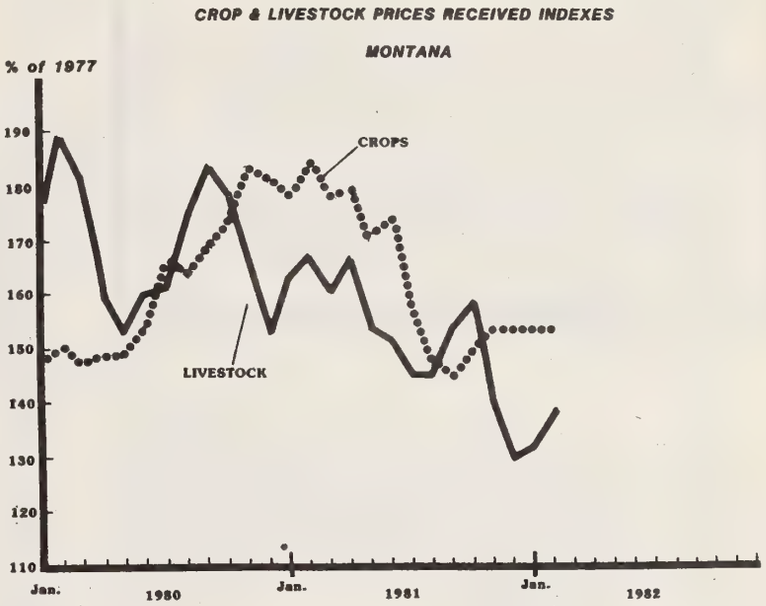
1/ Unadjusted all farm products. 2/ Mid-month for commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates. 3/ Prices Received Index divided by Prices Paid Index. 4/ Mid-month ratio of prices received to prices paid on 1910-14 base.



FARM PRICES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Higher prices for cattle--lower prices for crops highlighted Montana's farm price situation in March compared with a month earlier. However, the state's farmers and ranchers were still receiving lower prices than a year ago for all items except hogs, lambs and eggs.

Wheat and barley prices started to sag at the start of last year's harvest and have never recovered. Beef cattle prices have been fairly soft, except for brief periods, since the fall of 1979.



MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE

Montana's pastures and ranges were in good to excellent condition as of April 1, 1982, except for the eastern third of the State. Most of the eastern portion of Montana was rated in fair condition but the northeastern corner of the State was still reporting very poor pasture and range conditions.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION--APRIL 1

by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1980	1981	1982
Northwest	82	89	88
North Central	71	61	84
Northeast	61	37	68
Central	75	69	83
Southwest	82	87	93
South Central	78	72	83
Southeast	68	41	76
STATE	73	63	81

QUESTIONS FARMERS ASK ABOUT CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORTS . . . .

Why do I always get picked to answer these questionnaires?

First, we have to obtain the basic data from farmers and ranchers to compile state and national totals. However, not all producers receive questionnaires. A random sample is designed to represent everyone who has the item of interest being estimated. Only those selected in the sample are mailed a questionnaire. To obtain the best accuracy at the least cost, the larger operations are sampled more heavily. They account for a larger portion of the population being sampled.

Next, we need to have an adequate return to insure accurate results. That's the reason many producers who don't respond by mail are called by telephone.

Within the bounds of proper survey methods we do try to rotate selection of farmers and ranchers as much as possible to reduce 'respondent burden'.

EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's laying flocks produced 48 million eggs between December 1, 1981 and February 28, 1982. The average number of layers was 770,000 during the quarter. Compared with year earlier levels, egg production increased 12 percent while layer numbers stayed the same.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17,394 million eggs during the same period--virtually unchanged from a year ago. The number of layers averaged 290,232, down almost 1 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks
Qrtly. Milk Production
Poultry

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed Numbers Down
Statistics Program Cut
More Potatoes in Storage
Hog Inventory Down
So Much Wheat!

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK -- 1982

--For 1982, low farm prices and commodity programs may reduce crop production. However, the level of decrease is still uncertain.

--Poor returns are limiting livestock production. In 1982, beef may keep steady with last year, pork will decline sharply, and poultry will likely grow only 2 percent (growth was 6 percent in 1981).

--Although prices paid by farmers are rising more slowly, expenses are still expected to climb faster than cash receipts--stifling net farm income for the third straight year. Inventory values may also decline putting further pressure on farm income.

--The value of exports are projected down 3 percent from fiscal 1981 despite a 4 percent increase in volume. Poor worldwide economic conditions and large supplies are to blame.

--Fertilizer and pesticide usage will decline and investment in machinery will remain limited.

POTATO STOCKS UP

Montana producers had 1.5 million cwt of potatoes in storage as of March 1, 1982--12 percent more than a year ago.

In the 15 major fall states there were 15.4 million cwt in storage on March 1, 1982. This is 11 percent above March 1, 1981, but 12 percent below March 1, 1980.

STATISTICS PROGRAM CHANGED

Reductions and changes in the crop and livestock estimating program of the Statistical Reporting Service were necessary to stay within Fiscal 1982 funding levels. Changes were made following an extensive review of the entire estimating program.

The following are changes having the most impact on Montana's agricultural statistics program:

--Elimination of the December Winter Wheat yield and production forecast for the following year in all states.

--Elimination of the July Durum and Other Spring Wheat production forecast for all states.

--Elimination of Alfalfa Seed acreage, yield and production forecasts for all states.

--Discontinue the annual Fertilizer Consumption report in all states.

--Reduce Quarterly Cattle on Feed from 23 states to 13 major states--Montana estimates are discontinued.

--Reduce July Cattle Inventory and Calf Crop to U.S. data only.

--Discontinue July Lamb Crop and Wool Production for all states.

--Eliminate Honey estimating program in all states.

--Eliminate Mink estimating program in all states.

--Livestock Slaughter and Manufactured Dairy Products now published monthly will be changed to quarterly in all states.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Show Off Your Ag IQ

How much do you know about agriculture? Test yourself and then others. Answers are on page 4. (Source: The 1981 Fact Book of U.S. Agriculture.)

1. How many farms are there in the United States?
   (a) 780,000 (b) 1.5 million (c) 2.4 million (d) 3.2 million

2. USDA defines a farm as a place where people live and sell agricultural products worth at least:
   (a) $50 (b) $250 (c) $750 (d) $1,000

3. The approximate size of the *average* U.S. farm is:
   (a) 200 acres (b) 320 acres (c) 400 acres (d) 430 acres

4. The majority (61 percent) of U.S. farms in 1980 sold agricultural products worth less than:
   (a) $20,000 (b) $40,000 (c) $60,000 (d) $100,000

5. What percentage of Americans' disposable income is spent on food today?
   (a) 16.6 (b) 17.6 (c) 18.1 (d) 19.8

6. Twenty years ago, farmers received 38 cents of every food dollar spent by consumers at the retail level. What is the farmers' share today?
   (a) 37 cents (b) 40 cents (c) 43 cents (d) 48 cents

7. The United States exports more farm products than any other country in the world. In 1981 U.S. farm exports totaled nearly:
   (a) $22 billion (b) $35 billion (c) $44 billion (d) $48 billion

8. Which country was the leading importer of U.S. agricultural products in fiscal 1980?
   (a) Mexico (b) China (c) West Germany (d) Japan

9. The United States was also among the world's six largest importers of agricultural products in 1980. Which country was the largest supplier to the United States?
   (a) Australia (b) Mexico (c) Colombia (d) Brazil

10. (Some people believe far too much U.S. farmland is foreign-owned.) What percentage of U.S. farmland is owned by foreigners?
    (a) less than 1 (b) 3 (c) 5 (d) 8

Answers on back page.

MARCH 1 HOG INVENTORY LOWER

The inventory of hogs and pigs on March 1, 1982 in the 14 states conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 44.9 million head, 10 percent below last year and 18 percent less than March 1, 1980.

The breeding inventory, at 6.22 million head, is 14 percent less than a year ago and down 13 percent from two years earlier. The market hog inventory at 38.7 million head is 10 percent less than last year and 17 percent below March 1, 1980.

Estimates for the 14 quarterly states account for about 87 percent of the U.S. total hog and pig inventory.

The December 1981-February 1982 pig crop in the 14 states totaled 15.6 million, 11 percent fewer than 1981 and 21 percent less than 1980. There were 2.20 million sows that farrowed during December-February, a decrease of 10 percent from a year ago and a reduction of 20 percent from the same period two years ago. Sows farrowing averaged 7.11 pigs per litter compared with 7.23 a year earlier and 7.17 two years ago.

Hog producers in the 14 quarterly states intend to have 2.65 million sows farrow during the March-May 1982 period, 14 percent fewer than 1981 and 21 percent below two years ago.

Farrowing intentions reported for the June-August 1982 period are 2.41 million sows, 12 percent less than the same period a year ago and 15 percent below two years ago.

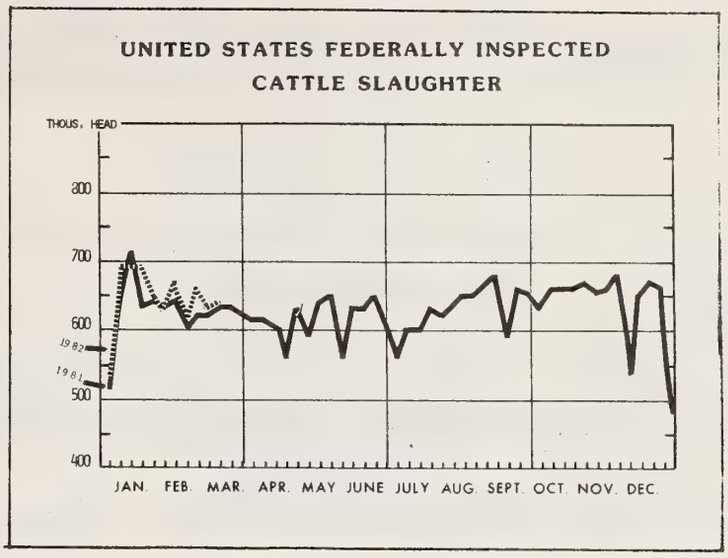
MORE FOOD FOR YOUR MONEY

Despite recent rises in food prices, family income buys considerably more food today than 30 years ago, partly because agriculture has become much more efficient and partly because consumer incomes have risen faster than food prices. For example, here's what the average U.S. factory worker could buy with an hour's pay in 1950 and in 1980:

Food Item	1950	1980
White bread	10.1 lbs.	14.3 lbs.
Frying chickens	2.5 lbs.	10.1 lbs.
Milk	8.0 qts.	13.8 qts.
Potatoes, fresh	32.7 lbs.	38.3 lbs.
Eggs	2.4 doz.	8.7 doz.
Pork	2.7 lbs.	5.2 lbs.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1981 & 1982

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1981	1982	1981	1982	Percent Change
	1,000 Head				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	22.8	22.6	5,665	5,680	--
Calves	.1	.1	448	482	+ 8
Hogs	80.9	74.8	15,327	13,757	-10
Sheep & Lambs	.4	.4	944	1,019	+ 8
Total Liveweight					
Cattle	24,890	23,705	6,183	6,104	- 1
Calves	19	--	109	113	+ 4
Hogs	19,532	17,840	3,734	3,318	-11
Sheep & Lambs	50	43	109	114	+ 5
Red Meat Production	27,592	25,433	6,431	6,046	- 6



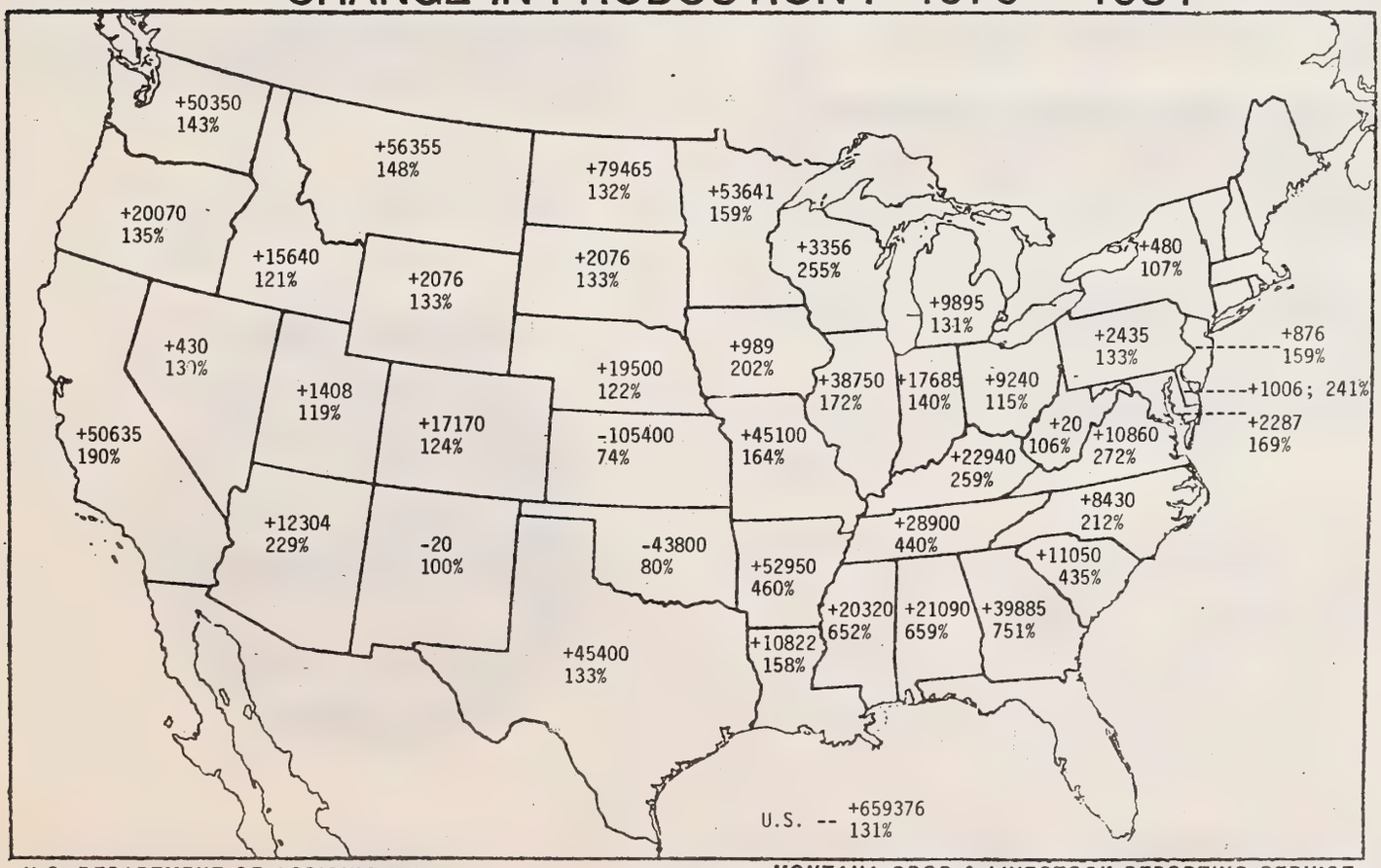
WHERE IS ALL THE WHEAT COMING FROM?

Last year's record all wheat crop pushed January U.S. stocks over the 2 billion bushel mark. Although exports are at record levels, supply continues to exceed demand keeping pressure on prices. The Montana all wheat February price averaged $3.71, down 75¢ from a year earlier.

Why is there so much wheat? Although production has increased in most states from 1979-1981, the biggest boom has been in the southeastern states. For example, in the past three years Georgia has increased wheat production a whopping 751 percent and Alabama and Mississippi are up over 600 percent! So, while the traditional wheat states have pushed up production, more rapid expansion is occurring in southern non-traditional states.

These states, however, are producing a different class of wheat. They produce a soft red winter variety while the Northern wheat belt, including Montana, produces hard red winter wheat. They harvest their wheat in May and June then may plant another crop such as grain sorghum or soybeans.

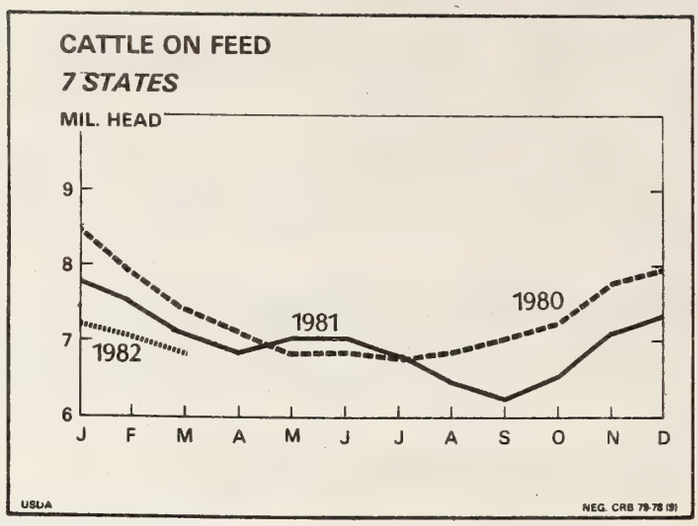
ALL WHEAT
CHANGE IN PRODUCTION : 1979 - 1981



CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES OFF

Cattle and calves on feed March 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.87 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago and 8 percent from March 1, 1980.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during February totaled 1.41 million, down 2 percent from last year and 11 percent lower than February 1980. PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during February totaled 1.32 million, 11 percent more than last year and 8 percent greater than February 1980. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.23 million are up 16 percent from last year and 15 percent from February 1980. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 93 thousand compared with 129 thousand during February 1981 and 155 thousand two years ago.



QUESTIONS FARMERS ASK
ABOUT CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORTS . . .

If I return a filled out questionnaire on my crop and livestock production, isn't it just like telling how much money I have in the bank?

Not at all. The Crop and Livestock Reporting Service collects statistics on a voluntary basis from farmers and ranchers and holds individual reports in strict confidentiality. We've never betrayed our public trust. What farmers raise and store on their farms and ranches is their business. Our business is to provide accurate state and national totals. We need individual reports only to arrive at these totals. No one else, including other government agencies, ever sees individual questionnaires.

Answers to Ag IQ Quiz

1. (c) 2.4 million
2. (d) $1,000
3. (d) 430 acres
4. (a) $20,000
5. (a) 16.6 percent
6. (a) 37 cents
7. (c) $44 billion
8. (d) Japan
9. (d) Brazil
10. (a) less than 1

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS:

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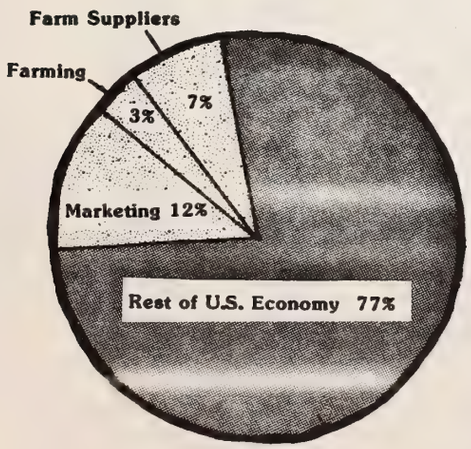
Fertilizer Situation
'81 Crop Summary
Mfg. Dairy Products

EMPLOYMENT GENERATED THROUGH AGRICULTURE

Nearly 23 percent of the U.S. labor force is employed in farming, farm-product marketing, and farm-supply activities--about 24 million workers. Farm production will use about 3.3 million workers in 1982--around 3 percent of the national labor force and 14 percent of all workers required by the food and fiber system. Other employment generated by agriculture includes 2.5 million workers in farm resource and service activities, 7.7 million in transportation and retailing, 5.1 million in the manufacture of feeds and other farm products, 1.7 million in food processing, and 3.3 million in eating establishments.

Agricultural Sector: A Large National Employer



FARM PRICES IMPROVE SLIGHTLY

Higher livestock and barley prices helped boost the mid-February index of prices received for all farm products in Montana to 146 (1977=100)--up 3 points from mid-January. Tempering the increase were lower prices for wheat, oats, milk and wool.

(See tables page 2.)

GRAZING FEE SURVEY

A private grazing fee survey was conducted during November-December 1981 in five states having counties adjacent to National Grasslands. The survey purpose was to determine grazing fees paid on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing lands during 1981. Ranchers included in the survey were those in Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, Prairie, Custer, Powder River, Fallon and Carter counties.

The results of the survey will be compared with grazing rates currently in use on National Grass lands to evaluate fees charged by the Forest Service.

RATES PAID for LEASED PRIVATE GRAZING LAND -- 1981

STATE	NUMBER COUNTIES	DOLLARS PER ANIMAL UNIT MONTH
Montana	8	7.40
Nebraska	4	11.70
North Dakota	12	9.60
South Dakota	18	10.30
Wyoming	9	8.60

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		Feb. 1981	Jan. 1982 1/	Feb. 1982	Feb. 1982
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	4.22	3.74	3.62	3.69
Durum	Bu.	5.53	3.76	3.70	3.62
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	4.27	3.88	3.79	3.62
Wheat, all	Bu.	4.46	3.81	3.71	3.67
Barley	Bu.	2.91	2.38	2.44	2.44
Oats	Bu.	2.03	1.91	1.82	1.99
Alfalfa hay	Ton	60.00	50.00	50.00	74.70
All other hay	Ton	55.00	45.00	45.00	61.80
All hay baled	Ton	59.50	50.00	50.00	70.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	67.20	55.50	58.20	60.30
Cows	Cwt	46.40	36.70	37.50	38.30
Beef cattle 2/	Cwt	57.00	44.10	46.80	55.60
Calves	Cwt	71.00	56.50	58.80	59.50
Sheep	Cwt	25.60	21.00	22.00	23.70
Lambs	Cwt	56.80	47.80	48.90	52.30
Hogs	Cwt	41.50	41.40	48.50	48.20
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	13.75	13.80	13.40	13.90
Eggs	Doz	.670	.610	.650	.612
Wool 3/	Lb.	.950	.950	.850	.804
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	187.00	160.00	162.00	171.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows.
3/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

(1977-100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1982 2/	Feb. 1982	Feb. 1982
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	174	143	146	133
ALL CROPS	185	154	154	124
Food grains	195	166	163	154
Feed grains	161	133	136	122
Feed grains & hay	149	123	126	122
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	165	132	139	142
Meat animals	168	133	141	148
Dairy products	137	134	134	143
Poultry and eggs	118	107	114	116
Wool	128	128	115	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1977=100	
	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1982	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1982
Prices Received	658	609	144	133
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	1,017	1,060	148	154
Ratio 2/	65	57	97	86

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

COUNTY YIELD and PRODUCTION

ALL WHEAT

COUNTY	YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION
	1976-80 Avg.	1981	1981
	-------Bushels-----		000 Bu.
Beaverhead	35.4	51.4	770.5
Big Horn	28.5	35.2	4,111.5
Blaine	27.2	29.4	5,893.8
Broadwater	38.4	41.6	2,156.6
Carbon	31.0	40.2	840.7
Carter	21.2	18.1	812.3
Cascade	32.1	38.2	5,808.2
Chouteau	30.5	36.7	17,754.7
Custer	23.2	27.8	1,511.8
Daniels	22.6	16.9	4,480.6
Dawson	22.1	25.5	4,549.2
Deer Lodge	35.7	30.4	15.2
Fallon	20.5	19.8	1,455.7
Fergus	30.0	33.0	4,505.2
Flathead	48.9	49.6	511.1
Gallatin	42.1	43.1	2,064.0
Garfield	21.2	18.2	2,051.3
Glacier	29.0	35.5	4,358.5
Golden Valley	21.9	34.7	1,113.1
Granite	32.2	19.0	3.8
Hill	26.8	33.5	19,039.2
Jefferson	27.7	31.2	258.8
Judith Basin	30.8	32.7	2,341.1
Lake	43.6	47.9	641.9
Lewis & Clark	28.7	34.5	531.4
Liberty	27.3	33.9	9,041.3
Lincoln	41.0	50.0	5.0
McCone	22.1	23.8	5,674.3
Madison	37.2	40.6	426.0
Meagher	28.9	36.3	319.4
Mineral	38.1	39.2	19.6
Missoula	35.5	43.1	69.0
Musselshell	23.6	33.3	962.2
Park	29.3	27.4	436.4
Petroleum	24.2	35.1	302.1
Phillips	25.4	22.8	3,525.1
Pondera	33.8	39.1	7,800.8
Powder River	24.8	28.8	959.5
Powell	37.8	38.5	53.9
Prairie	23.8	29.8	1,414.8
Ravalli	37.6	40.8	130.6
Richland	24.0	26.5	4,774.5
Roosevelt	21.7	20.9	7,699.6
Rosebud	26.2	32.2	2,208.0
Sanders	33.4	42.7	115.4
Sheridan	24.1	22.6	7,264.2
Silver Bow	25.3		0
Stillwater	26.7	35.7	2,266.9
Sweet Grass	26.2	34.6	363.0
Teton	31.6	41.4	5,944.0
Toole	26.6	34.2	10,015.4
Treasure	31.6	40.5	303.9
Valley	22.2	18.8	6,166.5
Wheatland	24.7	31.9	1,033.1
Wibaux	21.3	24.1	1,741.6
Yellowstone	28.8	37.6	4,213.7
STATE	26.6	29.7	172,830.0

1981 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA ACREAGE Planted (Thousands)	MONTANA ACREAGE Harv. (Thousands)	Production Unit	Yield per Acre	Production Total (Thous.)	% Chg. from prev. year	Season avg. price per unit ($)	Value of prod. (Thous.$)	U.S. PRODUCTION (Thousands)
Corn for Grain 2/3/	1979	85	10	Bu.	77.0	770		2.38	1,833	7,938,819
	1980	85	8		74.0	592		3.60	2,131	6,644,841
	1981	86	10		85.0	850	+44	3.30	2,805	8,200,951
Winter Wheat 3/	1979	3,000	2,250	Bu.	25.5	57,375		3.49	200,239	1,601,234
	1980	2,600	2,150		25.5	54,825		3.90	213,818	1,895,383
	1981	2,700	2,550		35.0	89,250	+63	3.70	330,225	2,098,719
Durum Wheat 3/	1979	335	325	Bu.	21.0	6,825		4.26	29,075	106,654
	1980	470	400		19.0	7,600		5.75	43,700	108,395
	1981	490	480		23.0	11,040	+45	3.60	39,744	185,940
Other Spring Wheat 3/	1979	2,650	2,550	Bu.	20.5	52,275		3.54	185,054	426,172
	1980	2,900	2,550		22.5	57,375		4.15	238,106	370,528
	1981	2,850	2,790		26.0	72,540	+26	3.65	264,771	508,777
All Wheat 3/	1979	5,985	5,125	Bu.	22.7	116,475		3.56	414,368	2,134,060
	1980	5,970	5,100		23.5	119,800		4.14	495,624	2,374,306
	1981	6,040	5,820		29.7	172,830	+44	3.67	634,740	2,793,436
Oats 3/	1979	321	125	Bu.	39.0	4,875		1.49	7,264	526,551
	1980	220	73		44.0	3,212		1.96	6,296	458,263
	1981	220	110		44.0	4,840	+51	1.80	8,712	508,083
Barley 3/	1979	1,100	1,040	Bu.	39.0	40,560		2.13	86,393	382,798
	1980	1,180	1,050		42.0	44,100		2.83	124,803	360,956
	1981	1,400	1,320		43.0	56,760	+29	2.20	124,872	478,301
Potatoes	1979	7.5	7.5	Cwt.	240	1,800		3.60	6,480	342,497
	1980	7.0	6.9		250	1,725		8.50	14,663	302,857
	1981	7.5	7.4		235	1,739	+1	8.00	13,912	333,682
Dry Beans	1979	10.0	9.7	Cwt.	18.0	175		24.00	4,200	20,476
	1980	12.0	11.0		16.0	176		25.00	4,400	26,395
	1981	14.0	13.0		16.8	218	+24	20.00	4,360	31,814
Sugar-beets	1979	44.1	43.4	Tons	19.1	829		37.30	30,922	21,996
	1980	44.2	43.3		20.3	879		51.40	45,181	23,502
	1981	44.8	44.5		20.8	926	+5	--	--	27,271
Alfalfa Seed	1979	--	42	Lbs.	140	5,880		.85	4,998	100,235
	1980	--	35		120	4,200		.90	3,780	102,140
	1981	--	34		135	4,590	+9	.75	3,443	114,955
Alfalfa Hay	1979	--	1,300	Tons	2.25	2,925		--	--	88,314
	1980	--	1,200		2.35	2,820		--	--	79,879
	1981	--	1,300		2.60	3,380	+20	--	--	83,696
All Hay 4/	1979	--	2,380	Tons	1.82	4,329		55.50	240,260	147,847
	1980	--	2,200		1.90	4,170		62.50	260,625	131,027
	1981	--	2,320		2.07	4,808	+15	55.00	264,440	143,105
Sweet Cherries 5/	1979	--	--	Tons	--	2,950		682	2,012	181,980
	1980	--	--		--	700		621	435	171,700
	1981	--	--		--	1,240	+77	711	882	153,040
All Main Crops	1979	--	--		--	--			798,730 6/	--
	1980	--	--		--	--			957,938 6/	--
	1981	--	--		--	--	--		1,058,166 7/	--

1/ All estimates for 1981 are preliminary. 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes. 3/ Includes allowance for loans outstanding and purchases by the Government valued at the average loan and purchase rate. 4/ Price of baled hay. 5/ Production in actual tons. 6/ Comparable value to 1981 by excluding sugarbeets, 1979--$767,808; 1980--$912,757. 7/ Excludes sugarbeets value.

FERTILIZER OUTLOOK

Stable to slightly lower consumption and smaller price increases than in the recent past highlight the fertilizer outlook for spring. Although climbing costs of production, transportation and retailing will pressure the fertilizer industry to raise prices, large inventories, stable domestic use and lower than expected exports will likely slow any increases.

With nitrogen fertilizer use close to last year's levels, May 1982 prices could average 4 to 9 percent above a year earlier.

After an 8 percent decline during the fall of 1981, phosphate prices may return to last spring's level. However, for prices to rise, exports will have to resume a vigorous pace, and continued production cutbacks will have to offset high early-season inventories and stagnant demand.

Given expected prices, fertilizer should be readily available this spring.

FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION SELECTED STATIONS

STATION	FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION --inches--	PERCENT OF NORMAL 1/ %
Hamilton	1.51	210
Kalispell	1.60	151
Polson	1.23	135
Belgrade	.76	185
Dillon	.10	43
Cut Bank	.53	156
Havre	.52	124
Conrad	.57	150
Ft. Benton	.88	136
Malta	.35	92
Great Falls	1.00	133
Lewistown	.90	153
Stanford	.93	175
Billings	.34	48
Wyola	.39	58
Glasgow	.43	113
Sidney	.33	94
Broadus	.24	52
Miles City	.20	37

1/ For 1941-1970 period.

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QUESTIONS FARMERS ASK ABOUT CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORTS . . .

Wouldn't it be better if producers quit revealing their hand to traders and processors who already have more muscle in the marketplace ?

Sure, if farmers could collect and analyze enough data to make accurate estimates to be held 'tightly' among themselves for bargaining advantage.

BUT-- the trade will spend the time and money to assess supply in the absence of USDA reports. Fair prices depend upon all trading partners being equally informed. Crop and livestock reports fulfill that need.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 421,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during January, down 2 percent from a year ago. Ice cream production at 95,000 gallons was down 29 percent, while butter made at 266,000 pounds was up 19 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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Helena, MT 59604
Phone 406/449-5303

HIGHLIGHTS:

1982 Planting Intentions
Red Meat Production Decreases
Montana's Rank
Wheat Utilization
Potato Stocks

LESS WHEAT - MORE BARLEY IN MONTANA

Based on a February 1 planting intentions survey, Montana farmers will plant 4 percent less spring grains (wheat, oats & barley) for harvest in 1982. For the nation as a whole, February 1 planting intentions for these grains will increase slightly. The Nation's corn acreage is also pointed up a small amount.

Unfortunately, farm program details were not announced until Janaury 29--almost a week after questionnaires were mailed to farmers. For this reason, the intentions report only reflects farmer's analysis of conditions prior to official program announcements.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS--FEBRUARY 1
MONTANA & U.S.-- 1981 & 1982

CROP	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1981	1982 1/	1981	1982 1/
Corn	86,000	86,000	84,153,000	84,735,000
All spring wht.				
Other spring	2,850,000	2,800,000	17,071,000	17,097,000
Durum	490,000	350,000	5,876,000	4,661,000
Oats	220,000	290,000	13,646,000	14,705,000
Barley	1,400,000	1,450,000	9,741,000	9,991,000
Sugarbeets	44,000	45,000	1,258,000	1,170,000
Dry Beans	14,000	16,000	2,320,000	2,202,000
All hay 2/	2,320,000	2,450,000	60,212,000	61,619,000

1/ Indicated. 2/ Acres for harvest.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DOWN

The sharply reduced hog kill, coupled with slightly lighter weights for both cattle and hogs, dropped total red meat production in the Nation 8 percent this January compared with a year ago. Red meat production in 1981 was almost identical to 1980. National slaughter levels in 1982 will likely reflect the 9 percent decreases for both hogs and cattle on feed numbers.

Montana slaughter levels appear to be following the National trend.

JANUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1981 & 1982

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1981	1982	1981	1982	Percent Change
	1,000 Head				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	12.2	11.8	3,005	2,936	- 2
Calves	--	--	238	251	+ 5
Hogs	42.4	39.1	8,131	7,163	-12
Sheep & Lambs	.3	.2	504	520	+ 3
Total Liveweight					
Cattle	13,144	12,430	3,276	3,164	- 3
Calves	--	--	58	59	+ 2
Hogs	10,279	9,384	1,995	1,741	-13
Sheep & Lambs	35	25	58	58	--
Red Meat Production	14	13	3,417	3,152	- 8

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POTATO STOCKS UP

On February 1, 1982 Montana producers had 1.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage--1 percent more than a year ago.

There were 132.8 million cwt in storage on February 1, 1982 in the 15 major fall states. This is 9 percent above February 1, 1981. Of the total stocks on hand in the 11 major states reporting stocks by type, 74 percent were Russetts, 22 percent were Whites and 4 percent were Reds.

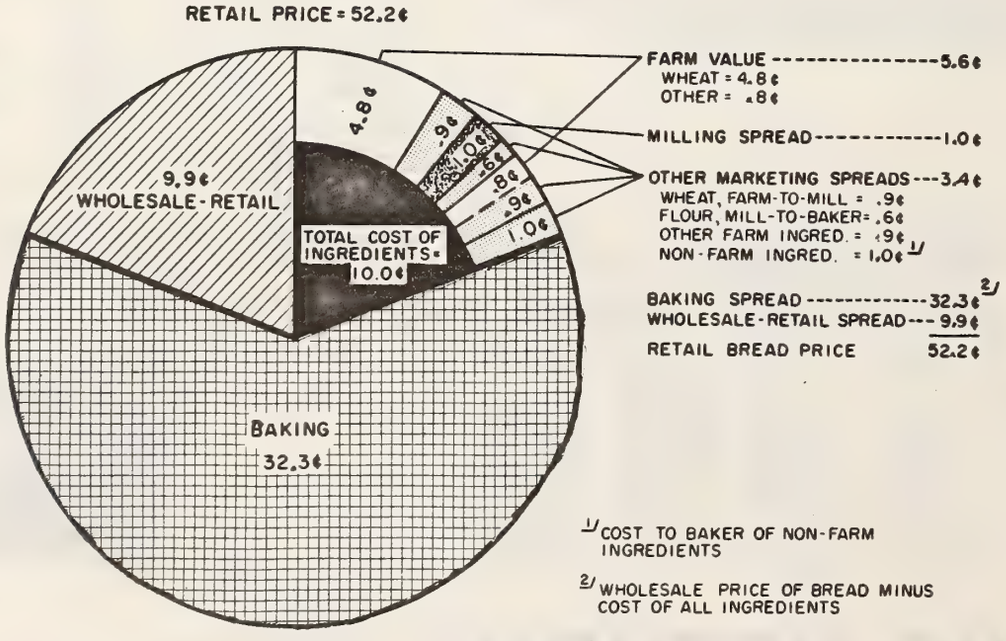
MEAT SUPPLIES DECLINE

Meat supplies are falling from recent record highs, and livestock prices are strengthening. Reduced feed prices and larger forage stocks, combined with rising livestock prices, are improving feeding margins. However, following losses since mid-1979, sustained profits will be necessary to encourage increased cattle feeding and hog production. While feed prices are expected to remain below last year's levels, feeding costs will likely rise seasonally. For continued improvement in feeding margins, higher livestock prices will be needed to offset any rise in feed costs. Meat supplies will be down in the second half of the year, and prices are expected to rise. The extent of the price increase will depend on the strength of economic recovery and improvement in consumer purchasing power.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	RANK	DATE
Acres in summerfallow	3	1978 Census
Land in farms and ranches	2	1981
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't. payments		
Total	33	1980
Crops	32	1980
Livestock	32	1980
All cattle and calves	12	Jan. 1, 1982
All cows	10	Jan. 1, 1982
Milk cows	46	Jan. 1, 1982
Beef cows	6	Jan. 1, 1982
Cattle on feed	22	Jan. 1, 1982
Hogs and pigs	28	Dec. 1, 1981
Sheep and lambs	7	Jan. 1, 1982
Wool production (July prel.)	8	1981
All chickens	41	Dec. 1, 1981
Honey production	4	1981
All wheat	4	1981
Winter wheat	9	1981
Durum wheat	4	1981
Spring wheat other than durum	3	1981
All hay	10	1981
Alfalfa hay	9	1981
Dry beans	14	1981
Barley	4	1981
Oats	15	1981
Potatoes--fall	16	1981
Sugarbeets	8	1981

WHITE PAN BREAD MARKETING SPREADS
¢/POUND APRIL-JUNE, 1981



Source: Wheat Outlook & Situation Report, February 1982

WHEAT UTILIZATION

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in the 1980 marketing year (June 1980 - May 1981) is estimated at 102.4 million bushels--9 percent less than the previous year. This movement to out-of-state destinations represented 86 percent of total disposition.

The amount headed for Pacific Northwest areas was 92.5 million bushels and represents 90 percent of out-of-state movement. In the Pacific Northwest, the wheat was divided into that destined for overseas shipment--71.3 million--and that for use in milling flour and bulgar products--21.2 million bushels.

Montana wheat made up 40 percent of all wheat leaving the Pacific Northwest ports in the June 1980 - May 1981 marketing period.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS & UTILIZATION
1974-1980 Marketing Years

Supply	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
	Million Bushels				
Beginning stocks 1/	50.1	87.8	97.9	87.1	74.6
Production	167.3	130.9	146.1	116.5	119.8
Total supply	217.4	218.7	244.0	203.6	194.4
Disposition					
Recorded movement out of State 2/	88.8	82.4	113.0	107.9	95.0
Milled for flour in MT	8.1	7.9	8.3	7.9	7.9
Used for seed in MT	4.8	5.2	5.4	6.4	6.4
Used for livestock feed 3/	5.4	5.1	3.0	1.7	1.9
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	22.5	20.2	27.2	5.1	7.4
Total disposition	129.6	120.8	156.9	129.0	118.6
Ending stocks 1/	87.8	97.9	87.1	74.6	75.8

1/ Farm and commercial--June 1 stocks. 2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers and special survey of truck destinations. 3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills and purchased by other farmers for feed. 4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION & EXPORTS 1/
By Marketing Years 1976-1980

ITEM	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
	Million Bushels				
Beginning stocks 3/	50.1	87.8	97.9	87.1	74.6
Production	167.3	130.9	146.1	116.5	119.8
Ending stocks 3/	- 87.8	- 97.9	- 87.1	- 74.6	- 75.8
Total Disposition 4/	129.6	120.8	156.9	129.0	118.6
Shipments of wheat into Pacific Northwest 5/ (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance)	88.5	96.6	114.8	92.7	92.5
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar) 6/	21.0	19.9	21.5	16.5	21.2
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific NW ports 7/	67.5	76.7	93.3	76.2	71.3
Percent of total disposition exported from Pacific NW ports	52%	63%	59%	59%	60%
Montana exports as percent of total HRS, HRW and Durum exports from Pacific NW ports	62%	62%	53%	39%	40%

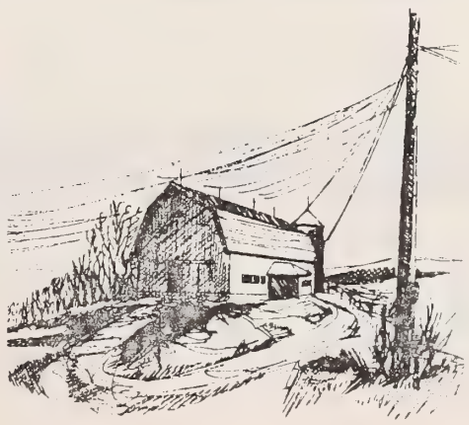
1/ Pacific Northwest--Oregon and Washington. 2/ June 1-May 31. 3/ June 1 stocks. 4/ Beginning stocks plus production minus ending stocks. 5/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project. 6/ Total Pacific Northwest wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington or other states. 7/ Estimated Montana wheat shipped to Pacific Northwest minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific Northwest.

1981 WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION

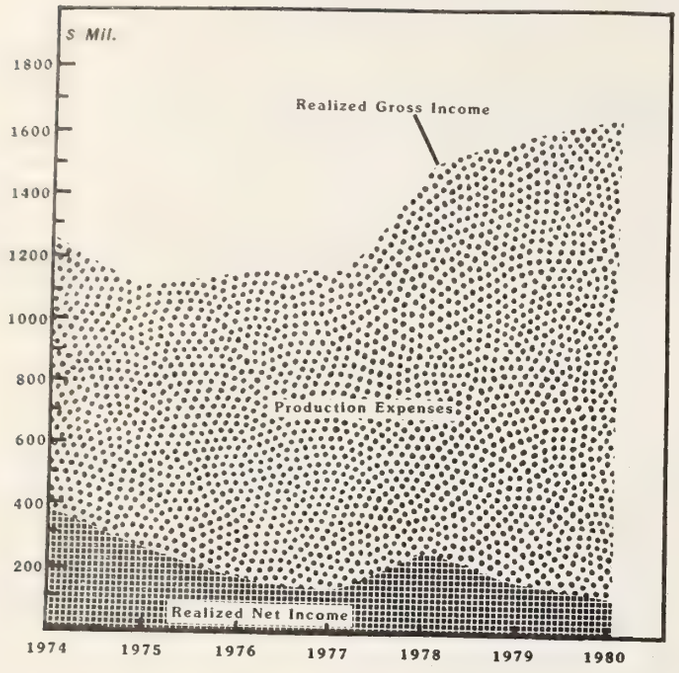
LARGEST EVER

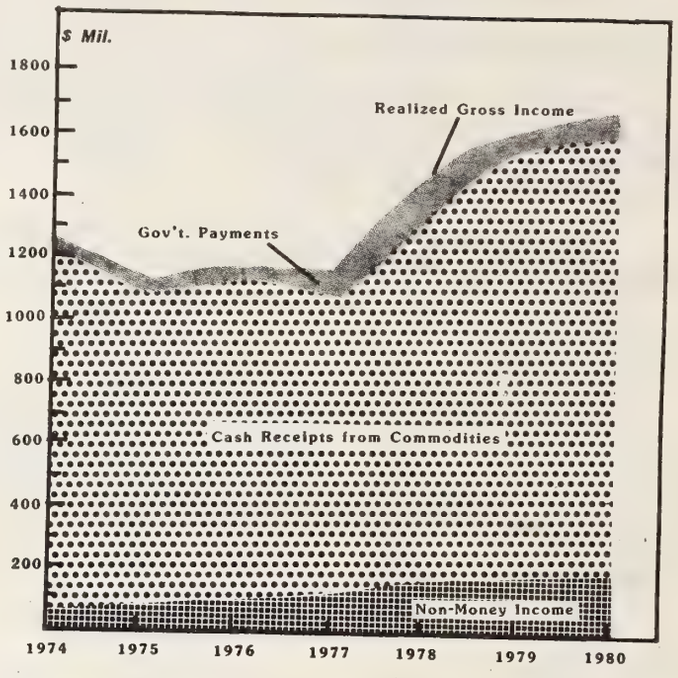
- The final 1981/82 world production will be around 452 million metric tons (16.6 billion bushels)--3 percent above last year.
- The U.S. share of total world production in 1981 was 16.8 percent.
- Record North American crops more than compensated for reduced harvests in Russia and Eastern Europe.
- Total production was at an all time high for the five major exporters.
- The Most significant reduction was a 10 million ton shortfall in the Soviet Union.
- World trade was also a record--expected to top 100 million tons for the first time to 101 million--40 percent above the average yearly trade for the 1970's.

Funds for wheat utilization and movement were furnished by the Montana Wheat Commission.



FARM INCOME COMPONENTS, MONTANA, 1974 - 1980





QUESTIONS FARMERS ASK ABOUT CROP and LIVESTOCK REPORTING . . . .

Don't these reports drive prices down?

Prices in a competitive market are determined by supply and demand. Any reports on weather, world famines, unemployment, yields, acreage, floods, etc. are going to have a short-run effect on prices. Remember, these things drive prices up as often as they drive them down. Fair prices depend upon all trading partners being equally informed.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Mfg. Dairy
1981 Annual Crop Summary

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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Released: February 16, 1982

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cattle & Calf Numbers Strengthen
- Ag Prices Down
- Producer Owned Grain Stocks Slip
- Chicken Numbers Drop
- Sheep Inventory Climbs
- Mfg. Dairy

CATTLE HERDS BUILD

Montana's total cattle and calf inventory increased 8% during 1981. Breeding animals (cows, replacement heifers) were up slightly more than 8%--pointing to further expansion in 1982. Montana herds are building faster then the national average (see charts page 2).

Although calves on hand are down, some of 1981's larger calf crop was reported in the 500 plus categories. On balance, Montana cattlemen are wintering about 5 percent more calves and yearlings than last year.

A LOOK AT MONTANA'S CATTLE INDUSTRY

10.0% of Operations Have 500 Head
--Own 55.6% of the Inventory

36.8% of Operations Have 100-499 Head
--Own 37.6% of the Inventory

14.4% of Operations Have 50-79 Head
--Own 4.0% of the Inventory

38.8% of Operations Have 1-49 Head
--Own 2.8% of the Inventory

Figures refer to January 1, 1982 inventory.

CATTLE and CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1981-1982

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1981	1982	% Change 1982/81	1981	1982	% Change 1982/81
	1,000 head			1,000 head		
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	2,675	2,900	+ 8	114,321	115,691	+ 1
Cows & hefiers that have calved	1,468	1,633	+11	49,586	50,362	+ 2
Beef Cows	1,439	1,604	+11	38,726	39,364	+ 2
Milk Cows	29	29	--	10,860	10,998	+ 1
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	276	302	+ 9	6,136	6,623	+ 8
For milk cow replacement	9	12	+33	4,345	4,530	+ 4
Other heifers	111	107	- 4	7,285	7,187	- 1
Steers 500 pounds and over	146	183	+25	15,519	15,509	--
Bulls 500 pounds and over	85	90	+ 6	2,547	2,619	+ 3
Calves less than 500 pounds	580	573	- 1	28,904	28,862	--
All cattle value (000$)	1,324,125	1,145,500	-13	54,292,044	47,978,582	-12
Value per head (Dollars)	495	395	-20	475	415	-13

I T E M	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	% Change 1981/80	1980	1981	% Change 1981/80
Calves born during year (000)	1,520	1,580	+ 4	44,998	44,714	- 1
Number cattle farms	16,500	16,000	- 3	1,622,530	1,623,370	--

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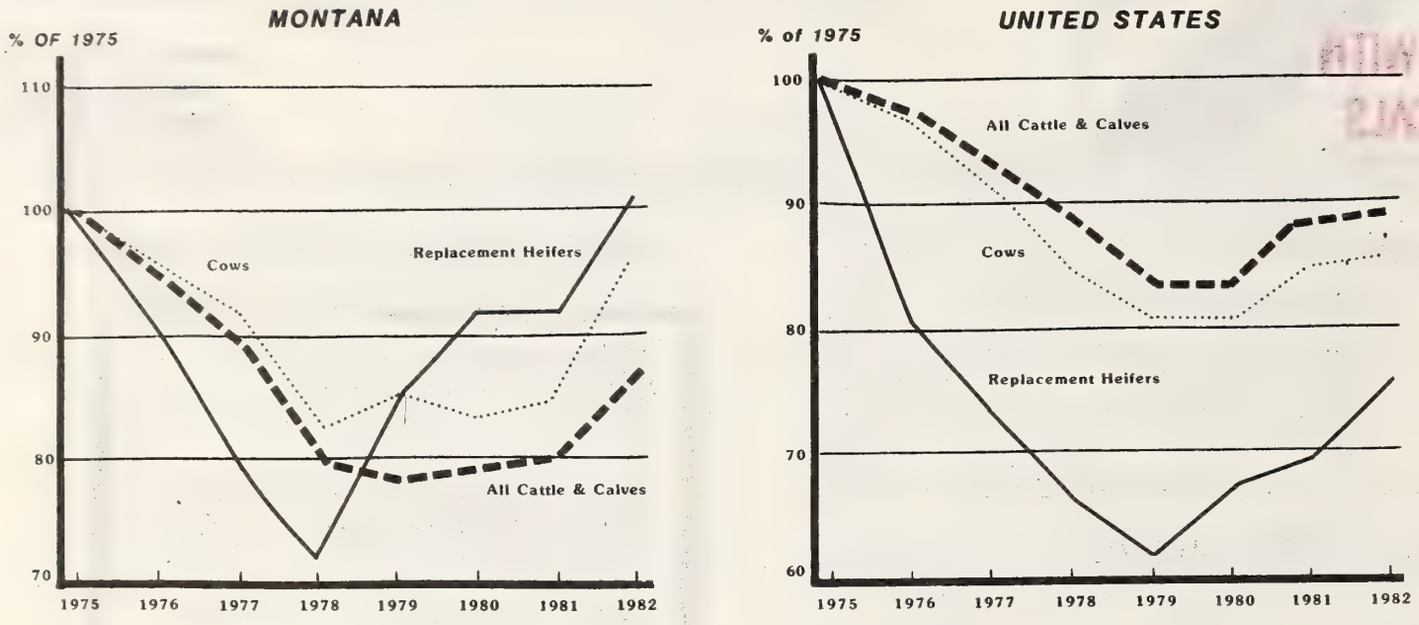
CATTLE HERDS BUILD--

MONTANA FASTER THAN NATION



Above charts refer to January 1 inventory.

SHEEP NUMBERS STRENGTHEN

Sheep numbers in Montana have climbed for the third straight year--up 4 percent from last year and 7 percent above the 1980 levels.

Breeding ewes were up 8 percent from last year, pointing to a larger lamb crop for 1982. However, ewe lambs kept for flock replacement were down 10 percent. This could mean sheepmen are tempering further herd build-up until prices improve.

SHEEP and LAMBS ON FARMS & RANCHES--JANUARY 1, 1981-1982

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1981	1982	Pct. Change from 1981	1981	1982	Pct. Change from 1981
	Thous. head			Thous. head		
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS	595	616	+ 4	12,936	13,116	+ 1
On feed	15	16	+ 7	1,649	1,564	- 5
Stock sheep	580	600	+ 3	11,287	11,552	+ 2
Lambs						
Ewes	130	117	-10	1,788	1,819	+ 2
Wethers and rams	15	13	-13	357	429	+20
One year old and older						
Ewes	420	455	+ 8	8,771	8,911	+ 2
Wethers and rams	15	15	--	370	394	+ 6
All sheep value (000$)	41,353	33,880	-18	903,332	746,520	-17
Value per head (Dollars)	69.50	55.00	-21	69.80	56.90	-18

ITEM	1980	1981	Pct. Change from 1980	1980	1981	Pct. Change from 1980
Lamb crop	390	420	+ 8	8,249	8,855	+ 7
Number of sheep farms	2,300	2,400	+ 4	119,910	125,260	+ 4

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1977-100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	Jan. 1981	Dec. 1981 2/	Jan. 1982	Jan. 1982
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	171	142	138	130
ALL CROPS	180	154	147	123
Food grains	189	164	156	154
Feed grains	162	135	132	122
Feed grains & hay	153	123	123	122
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	162	130	129	136
Meat animals	165	130	129	139
Dairy products	137	136	137	144
Poultry and eggs	99	112	107	114
Wool	115	128	128	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1977=100	
	Jan. 1981	Jan. 1982	Jan. 1981	Jan. 1982
Prices Received	660	593	144	130
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	1,012	1,057	147	153
Ratio 2/	65	56	98	85

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		Jan. 1981	Dec. 1981 1/	Jan. 1982	Jan. 1982
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	4.13	3.73	3.45	3.73
Durum	Bu.	6.16	3.71	3.60	3.49
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	4.28	3.78	3.75	3.62
Wheat, all	Bu.	4.31	3.75	3.57	3.69
Barley	Bu.	2.91	2.42	2.38	2.49
Oats	Bu.	2.10	1.86	1.75	1.94
Alfalfa hay	Ton	65.00	45.00	51.00	72.60
All other hay	Ton	60.00	40.00	46.00	60.10
All hay baled	Ton	64.50	45.00	51.00	68.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt	65.70	55.20	53.10	57.50
Cows	Cwt	44.70	34.20	33.90	36.30
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	55.20	43.00	42.90	52.70
Calves	Cwt	71.70	56.30	54.00	57.90
Sheep	Cwt	20.80	18.10	21.00	20.90
Lambs	Cwt	52.20	45.90	47.00	49.30
Hogs	Cwt	39.00	37.00	41.10	43.80
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	13.80	13.70	13.80	14.00
Eggs	Doz	.560	.640	.610	.635
Wool 4/	Lb.	.850	.950	.950	.804
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	168.00	162.00	160.00	176.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

MONTANA FARM PRICES SAG

Farm markets are responding to a weak economy coupled with supplies of products more than ample to match demand. The Montana index of prices received for all farm products in mid-January was 138 (1977=100), down 33 points from last year and 4 points under December.

Comparing mid-January 1982 prices with January 1981:

- Winter wheat was down 68 cents a bushel
- Spring wheat was down 53 cents
- Durum had fallen $2.56 a bushel
- Barley was down 53 cents
- Hay was priced $14.00/ton less
- All beef cattle were down $12.30 per cwt
- Lamb was down $5.20 per cwt

The bright spots:

- Hogs were selling $2.10 per cwt higher
- Eggs were up 5 cents a dozen
- Milk prices were unchanged.

On the national scene, **Parity**, which measures the purchasing power of farm products at current prices compared with prices during the 190-14 period, was **57**--the lowest since **March 1933.**

FARMER OWNED WHEAT STORED OFF FARMS DROPS SHARPLY

Montana wheat farmers held 1, 950,000 bushels of wheat in off-farm storage positions on January 1, 1982--down 85 percent from last year. This amount was about 8 percent of all wheat stored off-farms and amounts to a little over 1 percent of wheat stocks stored in all positions. This reduced farmer-owned wheat stored off farms--in spite of near record wheat stocks--reflects the build-up of farm storage that has occurred in the state the past few years.

Nationally, 40 percent of total wheat stored in off-farm positions was producer controlled--cown 4 points from last year.

FARM INCOME -- 1979-1980 1/

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	----------Million Dollars----------			
1. Cash Receipts from Crops & Livestock	1,400.4	1,407.3	131,916	136,431
2. Government Payments	34.0	58.5	1,375	1,286
3. CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARMING (1+2)	1,434.4	1,465.8	133,291	137,717
4. Non Money Income 2/	138.5	154.1	11,150	12,579
5. Other Farm Income	26.7	27.8	2,129	2,217
6. REALIZED GROSS FARM INCOME (3+4+5)	1,599.7	1,647.7	146,570	152,512
7. Farm Production Expense	1,440.2	1,545.6	119,217	130,656
8. REALIZED NET FARM INCOME (6-7)	159.5	102.1	27,352	21,856
		UNIT		
9. Number of Farms	23,700	23,800	2,429,960	2,427,830
10. Realized Gross Income Per Farm (6-9)	67,498	69,231	60,318	62,818
11. Realized Net Income Per Farm (8-9)	6,730	4,290	11,256	9,002

1/ Details may not add or calculate exactly due to rounding.
2/ Largely value of home consumptions and gross rental value of farm dwellings.

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 440,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during December 1981--up 11 percent from November, and alos up 7 percent from last year. Ice cream frozen at 108,000 gallons was 7 percent below last year. Butter made at 210,000 pounds was up 8 percent.

MONTANA RANKS 40TH

Chicken numbers on Montana farms dropped 3 percent during 1981, pushing the state to number 10--from the bottom. California ranks as number one. There are 13 states with over 10 million birds and these account for 69 percent of the total.

The December 1 inventory in Montana held 300,000 hens over a year old; 490,000 laying pullets; 143,000 pullets not yet laying and 7,000 other chickens.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Prospective Plantings
Wheat Utilization
Montana's Rank

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Montana Grain Stocks
Slaughter Down
Cattle on Feed Numbers Slip
More Milk & Honey
Potato Stocks

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DECREASES

Montana slaughter plants produced 4 percent less red meat during December 1981 than the same month one year ago. Total production at 15.4 million pounds compares with 16.1 million pounds December 1980 and 15.5 million pounds in November 1981. Production for January-December 1981 at 169.2 million pounds is 8 percent less than the same period in 1980.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during December 1981 totaled 3.42 billion pounds, up 2 percent from December 1980. January-December 1981 red meat production at 38.6 billion pounds was virtually the same as the production during 1980. The 1981 annual production changes from 1980 by individual components were: beef, up 3 percent; veal, up 9 percent; pork, down 4 percent; lamb and mutton, up 6 percent.

Kill days for December included 23 weekdays (one a holiday), and 4 Saturdays, the same as a year ago.

JANUARY-DECEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1980 & 1981

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1980	1981	Percent Change
	1,000 Head				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	156.2	134.4	33,807	34,890	+ 3
Calves	.3	.2	2,588	2,796	+ 8
Hogs	526.5	526.3	96,074	91,547	- 5
Sheep & Lambs	2.9	3.6	5,579	6,007	+ 8
Total Liveweight					
Cattle	172,663	145,865	36,229	37,507	+ 4
Calves	99	65	633	698	+10
Hogs	127,510	126,277	23,216	22,209	- 4
Sheep & Lambs	304	388	624	660	+ 6
Red Meat Production	183,022	169,230	38,590	38,640	--

MONTANA GRAIN BINS HOLD NEAR RECORD WHEAT STOCKS

Montana wheat farmers were storing near record amounts of wheat on January 1, 1982, exceeded only by stocks held on January 1, 1979.

Stocks disappearance since October 1 has been brisk--8 percent above last year and significantly higher than years prior to 1981. However, as a percent of total production, disappearance from all storage positions has not kept pace with the last two years.

Farmers are placing more wheat in government loan programs. As of December 31, 1981 nearly 46 percent more wheat was held under government loan program compared with December 1980, and 27 percent more was in the reserve program.

Wheat stored in the state is about 51 percent winter wheat, 41 percent hard red spring and 8 percent durum.

(See tables inside.)

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--DECEMBER 31
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	(000 Bushels)			
Reserve	29,234	37,256	164	501
Under loan	15,209	22,186	3,140	4,940

1/ These stocks are included in the respective January 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

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STOCKS OF GRAIN JANUARY 1, 1982 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1981	Oct. 1, 1981 *	Jan. 1, 1982	% Change From 1981	Jan. 1, 1981	Oct. 1, 1981 *	Jan. 1, 1982
	------Thousand Bushels--------			Pct.	--------Thousand Bushels----------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	110,216	171,102	131,351	+19	753,422	1,204,903	954,791
Off farms 1/	23,950	30,033	25,000	+ 4	1,149,739	1,528,971	1,219,155
T O T A L	134,166	201,135	156,351	+17	1,903,161	2,733,874	2,173,946
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	46,430	81,514	65,464	+41	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	16,437	17,240	15,000	- 9	--	--	--
T O T A L	62,867	98,754	80,464	+28	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	63,786	89,588	65,887	+ 3	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	7,513	12,793	10,000	+33	--	--	--
T O T A L	71,299	102,381	75,887	+ 6	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On farms	--	--	--	--	73,990	147,534	121,384
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	29,448	41,701	30,945
T O T A L	9,066	13,776	12,462	+37	103,438	189,235	152,329
RYE							
On farms	--	--	--	--	5,878	9,841	5,662
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	3,468	4,611	2,171
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	9,346	14,452	7,833
CORN							
On farms	474	30	638	+35	4,141,465	490,134	4,965,962
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,717,309	543,843	1,934,069
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	5,858,774	1,033,977	6,900,031
OATS							
On farms	4,176	4,840	4,114	- 1	329,314	384,015	313,637
Off farms 1/	196	297	300	+53	61,684	73,738	51,111
T O T A L	4,372	5,137	4,414	+ 1	390,998	457,753	364,748
BARLEY							
On farms	29,547	45,408	28,948	- 2	185,572	303,049	230,651
Off farms 1/	3,518	4,691	3,600	+ 2	117,842	148,000	101,802
T O T A L	33,065	50,099	32,548	- 2	303,414	451,049	332,453
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	--	--	--	--	138,687	29,520	253,737
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	325,760	79,089	425,623
T O T A L	--	--	--	--	464,447	108,609	679,360

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat seaprately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jan. 1, 1981	Oct. 1, 1981 *	Jan. 1, 1982	Jan. 1, 1981	Oct. 1, 1981 *	Jan. 1, 1982
	----------Million Bushels----------			---------Million Bushels----------		
Northwest	1.3	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.7	2.7
Northcentral	69.5	94.9	68.2	14.9	22.4	14.7
Northeast	30.6	55.0	44.4	3.8	4.8	2.5
Central	18.1	23.0	21.0	6.2	9.7	6.5
Southwest	2.4	4.1	2.4	2.0	4.3	3.1
South Central	6.1	14.4	12.2	2.5	3.4	2.2
Southeast	6.2	7.3	6.3	1.3	1.8	.8
STATE	134.2	201.1	156.4	33.1	50.1	32.5

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Revised.

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FEEDLOT NUMBERS BELOW CAPACITY

On January 1 Montana feedlots held 17 percent fewer cattle and calves for slaughter than a year ago. The total, at 53,000 head, is the lowest since 1955 and reflects unprofitable feeding margins prevalent since mid-1979.

Cattle feeders in the 23 major feeding states show the same downward trend. The number of feeders in these feedlots were down 9 percent--the lowest since 1975.

Although not officially estimated, many Montana feedlots will 'warm-up' cattle only--that is, cattle not finished for slaughter but prepared for further feeding in other locations.

CATTLE ON FEED JANUARY 1, 1981-1982

ITEM	MONTANA		23 MAJOR STATES	
	1981	1982	1981	1982
	1,000 Head			
On Feed Oct. 1, 1981	39	30	9,965	9,032
During period Oct. 1 - Dec. 31				
Placed on feed 1/	55	42	7,366	6,899
Marketed 1/	23	15	5,703	5,449
Other disappearance 2/	7	4	523	383
On Feed January 1	64	53	11,105	10,099
Kinds on Feed January 1				
Steers & Steer Calves	34	29	7,491	6,960
Under 500 Lbs.	2	1	482	337
500-699 Lbs.	17	12	1,452	1,268
700-899 Lbs.	5	6	2,283	2,115
900-1099 Lbs.	9	9	2,473	2,544
1100 Lbs. and over	1	1	801	696
Heifers & Heifer Calves	27	21	3,535	3,080
Under 500 Lbs.	2	0	377	242
500-699 Lbs.	11	9	1,068	882
700-899 Lbs.	10	7	1,325	1,230
900 Lbs. and over	4	5	765	726
Cows and Other	3	3	79	59
Marketings January - March	25 3/	25 4/	6,014 3/	5,927 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 31. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 31.

MORE POTATOES IN STORAGE

Montana producers had 1.63 million cwt in storage on January 1, 1982--1 percent above last year at this time.

There were 160 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1982 in the 15 major states. This was 9 percent above January 1 a year ago, but 9 percent less than on January 1, 1980. Of the total stocks on hand in the 11 major states, 73 percent are Russets, 23 percent Whites and 4 percent Reds.

STEER PRICES and NET MARGINS 1/

YEAR	Steers Omaha	Break-even	Net margin
	$ per cwt		
1978			
January	43.62	44.27	-0.65
February	45.02	43.12	+1.90
March	48.66	41.92	+6.74
April	52.52	41.95	+10.57
May	57.28	43.54	+13.74
June	55.38	44.82	+10.56
July	54.59	46.42	+8.17
August	52.40	48.70	+3.70
September	54.26	52.04	+2.22
October	54.93	54.71	+0.22
November	53.82	57.91	-4.09
December	55.54	56.66	-1.12
1979			
January	60.35	57.02	+3.33
February	64.88	57.81	+7.07
March	71.04	58.26	+12.78
April	75.00	59.04	+15.96
May	73.99	59.80	+14.19
June	68.53	62.88	+5.65
July	67.06	66.79	+0.27
August	62.74	70.39	-7.65
September	67.84	74.93	-7.09
October	65.81	77.02	-11.09
November	67.00	76.30	-9.31
December	67.72	73.40	-5.62
1980			
January	66.32	74.82	-8.50
February	67.44	71.32	-3.88
March	66.80	75.27	-8.47
April	63.07	72.84	-9.77
May	64.58	73.03	-8.45
June	66.29	73.52	-7.23
July	70.47	73.48	-3.01
August	72.31	74.81	-2.50
September	69.68	70.98	-1.30
October	67.18	66.72	+.46
November	65.05	66.72	-1.67
December	64.29	69.17	-4.88
1981			
January	63.08	70.49	-7.41
February	61.50	73.90	-12.40
March	61.40	75.37	-13.97
April	64.92	74.24	-9.32
May	66.86	73.75	-6.89
June	68.26	74.20	-5.94
July	67.86	74.80	-6.94
August	66.37	73.69	-7.32
September	65.37	72.10	-6.73
October	62.10	72.74	-10.64
November	--	69.94	--
December	--	69.46	--

1/ Selling price required to cover costs of feeding 600 lb. to 1,050 lb. slaughter in Corn Belt.

MONTANA BEES PRODUCE MORE HONEY

Montana's 1981 honey production, estimated at 10.8 million pounds, was 1 percent above the 1980 production level and is second only to the record crop of 13.2 million pounds produced in 1979. The number of colonies in 1981 at 108,000 was up 5 percent from a year ago. Yield per colony at 100 pounds was down from 104 pounds in 1980. Montana ranked fourth in 1981 U.S. honey production. Florida, North Dakota and Texas ranked first, second and third respectively.

The U.S. honey crop in 1981 totaled 186 million pounds, 7 percent less than the 1980 crop of 200 million pounds. The number of colonies at 4,213,000 was up 2 percent while yield per colony declined to 44.1 pounds from 48.2 pounds in 1980. Honey stocks on hand totaled 48.6 million pounds--20 percent above last year. The 1981 average price for all honey sales of 63.2 cents per pound was up 1.7 cents from 1980.

HONEY & BEESWAX PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1980	1981	1980	1981
HONEY					
Production	000 Lb.	10,712	10,800	199,756	185,927
Price Per Lb.	Dols.	.560	.570	.615	.632
Value of Prod.	000 $	5,999	6,156	122,811	117,559
BEESWAX					
Production	000 Lb.	214	184	3,905	3,712
Price Per Lb.	Dols.	1.90	1.98	1.83	1.91
Value of Prod.	000 $	407	364	7,163	7,103

MORE MILK PRODUCED

Montana dairymen produced 5 percent more milk during the October-December period than a year earlier. Milk cows in the state held steady with year ago levels but production per cow jumped. The totals for the recent quarter are 83 million pounds of milk from 29,000 cows.

Most of the increase occurred in the state's commercial dairy herds and is a result of a more profitable milk/feed price ratio.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Area	Dec. Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	---Thousands--		--Million pounds--	
Calif.	909	921	3,362	3,532
Idaho	159	170	478	544
Minn.	880	885	2,213	2,230
Mont.	29	29	79	83
N. Dak.	93	92	198	198
Oregon	96	97	278	287
S. Dak.	157	154	390	407
Wash.	200	207	709	741
Wis.	1,819	1,829	5,236	5,264
Wyo.	12.0	12.0	32.4	33.4
U.S.	10,872	10,966	31,022	31,888

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep, Cattle & Chicken Inventories
Farm Prices
Mfg. Dairy Products
Producer-Owned Grain Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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Released: January 15, 1982

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Helena, MT 59604
Phone 406/449-5303

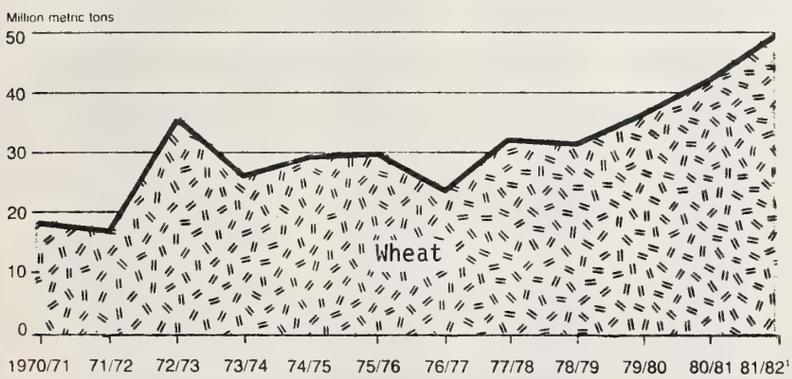
HIGHLIGHTS:

- Record Wheat Exports
- 1981 Farm Bill
- Mfg. Dairy
- Ag Prices Down
- Hay Stocks Up
- Number of Farms Increase

U.S. WHEAT EXPORTS HEADED FOR NEW RECORD

The 1981/82 total sales of U.S. wheat abroad should hit **50 million tons.** This amount is nearly two-thirds of the Nation's 1981 all wheat output, or **almost 11 times the Montana 1981 wheat production**

U.S. Exports of Wheat Register Rapid Growth



¹Forecast.

Factors that will dominate exports this year include:

- Expanded Soviet imports.
- The return of India to the world market as in importer.
- Large imports by Turkey--normally an exporter.
- Growing imports in North Africa, Brazil and South Korea.

1981 FARM BILL HIGHLIGHTS 1/

Commodity	Loan	Target '82	Target '83	Target '84	Target '85
Wheat	$3.55	$4.05	$4.30	$4.45	$4.65
Corn 2/	2.55	2.70	2.86	3.03	3.18
Wool	Support at 77.5 percent of statuatory formula. Wool support price of $1.37 a pound for 1982				
Dairy	Minimum support price of $13.10 per cwt. for fiscal year 1982, which began Oct. 1 Minimum support prices of $13.25, $14.00 and $14.60 in FY-83/85 if purchases of surplus products by USDA exceed $1 billion during any one year. If purchases are below that level in any year, the minimum will be 70 percent of parity. Minimum 75 percent of parity in FY-83/85 if projected surplus purchases are less than 4 billion pounds of milk in 1983, 3.5 billion in 1984 and 2.69 billion in 1984				

1/ The new support levels for all commodities do not come into effect until the start of the 1982/83 marketing year for each commodity. Marketing year begins June 1 for wheat, barley and oats, October 1 for sorghum and corn.

2/ Sorghum, barley and oats support levels will be tied to the level for corn.

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FARM PRICES DECREASE

The December Index of Prices Received by Montana Farmers and Ranchers for All Farm Products at 139 (1977=100) was down 5 percent from the revised November Index, and down 17 percent from December 1980. The All Crops Index at 146 was 5 percent below November and 20 percent below a year ago. The Livestock and Products Index at 133 was 6 percent below November and 13 percent below December 1980.

In comparing December prices with November prices decreases were noted for all crop items except oats and barley. The only livestock items to register increases were sheep, lambs and milk.

Nationally, the December Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 4 points (3.1 percent) from November to 126 percent of its January - December 1977 average. Contributing most to this decrease since November were lower prices for cattle, hogs, cotton, wheat, corn and eggs while higher prices for lettuce, milk and tobacco were partially offsetting. The Index was 19 points (13 percent) below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for December was 150 percent of its 1977 base. The Index was down 1 point from November but 6 points (4.2 percent) above a year earlier. Sharply lower prices for replacement livestock accounted for most of the decreases.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1977-100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	Dec. 1980	Nov. 1981 2/	Dec. 1981	Dec. 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	167	147	139	126
ALL CROPS	182	154	146	119
Food grains	193	166	156	152
Feed grains	157	124	126	116
Feed grains & hay	148	118	116	116
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	153	141	133	133
Meat animals	154	142	134	133
Dairy products	139	134	139	145
Poultry and eggs	119	124	112	111
Wool	133	128	128	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

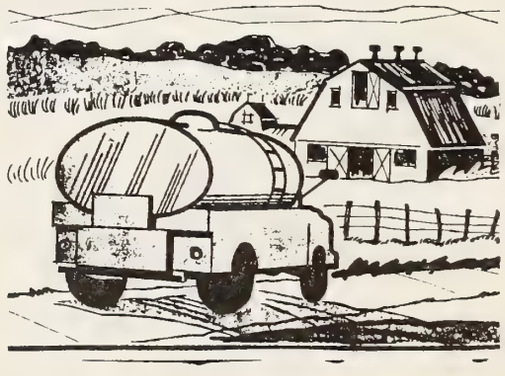
INDEX	1910-14=100		1977=100	
	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1981	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1981
Prices Received	661	576	145	126
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	993	1,033	144	150
Ratio 2/	67	56	101	84

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		Dec. 1980	Nov. 1981 1/	Dec. 1981	Dec. 1981
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	4.10	3.85	3.55	3.72
Durum	Bu.	5.90	3.68	3.60	3.44
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	4.28	3.75	3.57	3.54
Wheat, all	Bu.	4.40	3.80	3.56	3.65
Barley	Bu.	2.83	2.21	2.25	2.34
Oats	Bu.	1.97	1.81	1.90	1.87
Alfalfa hay	Ton	65.00	54.00	45.00	68.70
All other hay	Ton	60.00	50.00	40.00	59.30
All hay baled	Ton	64.50	54.00	45.00	65.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	66.40	58.80	55.50	56.70
Cows	Cwt	42.30	34.70	34.30	34.60
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	50.20	48.00	44.90	51.70
Calves	Cwt	71.70	58.60	56.50	58.70
Sheep	Cwt	19.50	14.10	14.30	18.40
Lambs	Cwt	56.60	44.40	46.00	46.50
Hogs	Cwt	41.10	38.60	37.20	38.90
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	13.95	13.50	14.00	14.10
Eggs	Doz	.680	.710	.640	.613
Wool 4/	Lb.	.980	.950	.950	.853
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	178.00	163.00	162.00	178.00

1/ Revised. 2/Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.



MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced an estimated 398,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during November--down seasonally from October but 7 percent more than November 1980. Ice cream frozen at 104,000 gallons was 18 percent below last year. Butter production at 197,000 pounds was up 7 percent from last year.

FARM NUMBERS UP SLIGHTLY

The number of farms and ranches in Montana during 1981 is estimated at 24,200, continuing the slow upward trend. For 1982, farm and ranch numbers are expected to increase about 200 to reach an estimated 24,400. The amount of land in farms is also showing an increase, from 62.6 million in 1981 to 63.2 million in 1982.

Since 1976, there has been a slow increase in units that meet the definition of a farm. The definition of a farm is units from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would be sold during the previous year.

The number of farms in the United States in 1981 is estimated at 2.44 million, up 0.3 percent from the 2.43 million in 1980. West Coast states accounted for most of the increase, continuing the trend started in 1975. The preliminary 1982 estimate is 2.44 million. Total land in farms was 1,045 million acres for 1981, an increase of 0.2 percent from a year earlier. The preliminary estimate for 1982 is 1,046 million acres of land in farms.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS, SELECTED STATES--1980-82

STATE	FARMS			LAND IN FARMS		
	1980	1981	1982 1/	1980	1981	1982 1/
	Number			1,000 Acres		
Arizona	7,000	7,500	7,700	38,900	39,000	39,600
California	80,000	83,000	84,000	33,900	34,000	34,200
Colorado	26,500	27,000	27,200	36,500	37,000	37,200
Idaho	24,100	24,000	23,900	15,400	15,100	15,100
Kansas	75,000	76,000	76,000	48,300	48,500	48,500
MONTANA	23,800	24,200	24,400	62,100	62,600	63,200
Nebraska	65,000	65,000	65,000	47,700	47,700	47,700
Nevada	2,900	3,100	3,100	545	545	545
New Mexico	13,500	14,000	14,000	46,800	47,700	47,700
North Dakota	40,000	39,000	38,000	41,700	41,700	41,700
Oklahoma	72,000	71,000	71,000	34,600	34,300	34,100
Oregon	35,000	36,500	38,000	18,100	18,200	18,300
South Dakota	38,500	38,000	37,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Texas	186,000	186,000	186,000	138,800	138,500	138,400
Utah	13,000	13,000	12,900	12,600	12,400	12,300
Washington	38,000	39,500	40,000	16,100	16,400	16,500
Wyoming	9,100	9,300	9,400	35,000	35,300	35,500
UNITED STATES	2,427,830	2,435,810	2,437,030	1,042,245	1,044,700	1,045,805

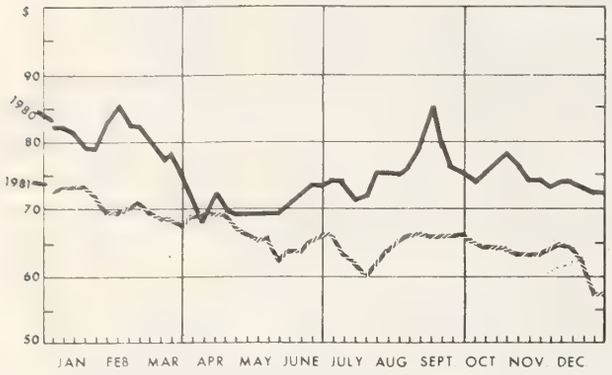
1/ Preliminary

HAY STOCKS HIGHER

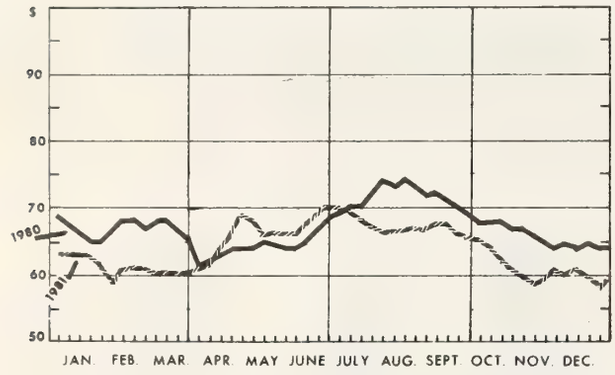
January 1 hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches totaled 4,327,000 tons--7 percent more than on the same date last year. Hay supplies appear ample for the winter feeding season except for some localized areas of eastern Montana. On the first of January, about 75 percent of all livestock were being fed hay or supplements.

The United States hay stocks on farms January 1 totaled 99.9 million tons--9 percent more than a year earlier.

AVG. PRICE M.F. #1 FEEDER STEERS KANSAS CITY – 600–700#



AVG. PRICE CHOICE SLAUGHTER STEERS – OMAHA 1100–1300#



CATTLE INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

The charts show that 1981 was a poor year for the cattle industry with falling prices at year's end.

USDA's Outlook and Situation Report offers the following for 1982....

- A SLUGGISH ECONOMY will further dampen consumer budgets, keeping a lid on price gains for livestock at least through mid-1982.
- LARGER FEED SUPPLIES at lower costs--better forage prospects--moderating interest rates. All should help to hold down production costs.
- MEAT PRODUCTION in the first half of 1982 is expected to decrease 1 - 2 percent from last year helping to hold down price depressing supplies.
- ADDING IT ALL UP: Prices may improve only slightly until mid-spring. Consumers are forecast to have more money the last half of the year, but meat supplies are also expected to increase. Any price gains later in the year could thus be moderated.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Honey Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Ray Stack, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Agricultural Prices
Increase in U.S. Exports
Fertilizer Consumption Up
Holiday Greetings

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

At times we need to slow our hectic pace of living, take stock and give thanks for the many benefits we enjoy in this country. The many freedoms granted us under our Constitution and Bill of Rights quickly come to mind, but often we fail to think of the tremendous advantages we enjoy because of our fantastic agricultural productivity. One U.S. farmer produces enough food and fiber for 68 people--48 Americans and 20 people in other nations. Only 10 years ago one farmer produced enough for 45 people! Food continues to be a bargain, taking about 17 cents out of each dollar earned. Food costs have increased slower than housing, transportation and medical care.

We are indeed fortunate to be blessed with favorable soil, climate and technology, but our biggets thanks must go to our farmers and ranchers who work long hours for small profits. Our statistics have measured the amazing productivity of our agricultural industry, but have also shown sagging returns on investment. These returns must improve to insure a healthy and prosperous agriculturla economy.

We who have the job of collecting the data and issuing the reports about Montana agriculture wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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MONTANA PASTURE and RANGE FEED CONDITION--DEC 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	62	92	86
North Central	64	56	72
Northeast	59	30	55
Central	67	71	88
Southwest	77	93	84
South Central	66	73	86
Southeast	68	30	64
STATE	66	62	78

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION DOWN SLIGHTLY

Pasture and range feed conditions declined 1 point during November, but were 16 points above the same time last year. The northeastern and southeastern areas of the state showed the greatest improvement over last year at this time. About 80 percent of the cattle and sheep were on supplemental feed by December 1.

FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION INCREASES

Fertilizer consumption in Montana during the year ended June 30, 1981 totaled 341,127 tons, up 22 percent from the 280,463 tons consumed in the 1979-80 year. Mixed fertilizer accounted for 133,444 tons of the total, while 201,562 tons were primary nutrients and 6,121 tons were secondary and micronutrients used in direct application materials.

Fertilizer consumption in the U.S. and Puerto Rico during the year ended June 30, 1981 is placed at 53.3 million tons, up 1 percent from the 52.8 million tons consumed during the 1979-80 year.

Primary nutrient content (nitrogen, N; phosphate, P_2O_5; and potash, K_2O) was 23.5 million tons, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Nitrogen consumption increased 3 percent to 11.8 million tons; phosphate usate at 5.4 million tons and potash consumption at 6.2 million tons were unchanged.

The five leading States in order of total consumption and the change in consumption from last year were: Illinois, down 5 percent; California, down 7 percent; Iowa, up 4 percent; Texas, up 5 percent and Indiana, down 5 percent.

Fertilizer consumption represents all commercial fertilizer tonnage sold or shipped for farm and non-farm use as fertilizer. Materials used in the manufacture of registered mixes or for use in other fertilizer are excluded.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS REPORT

The Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) will combine the January and March Prospective Plantings reports into a February 1 Prospective Plantings report to be released at 3:00 p.m. (EST) on February 18, 1982. The report will include expected plantings in all States for corn, durum and other spring wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed, cotton, rice, sorghum, sweet potatoes, dry edible beans, dry edible peas, soybeans, sunflowers, peanuts, sugarbeets and acreage for harvest of hay and tobacco.

A split intentions survey was conducted in 1981, with the southern States surveyed on January 1, and the northern States on March 1. The change to the February 1 Prospective Plantings report is a result of analysis of comments and recommendations from data users to provide a single report on prospective plantings for the Nation.

This action will provide data users an early season indication of farmers' planting intentions and at the same time allow time for producers to monitor markets and finalize their plans while SRS accomplishes required reduction in expenditures and reporting burden.

U.S. EXPORTS UP

U.S. exports of livestock and livestock products for January through August 1981 increased 4 percent to $2,169 million, compared with $2,079 million for the same period a year ago. Increased sales were realized in most areas, but the major commodities traded in this area (tallow and greases, hides and skin, and furskins) were each down somewhat. Beef and veal, which account for 9 percent of the overall export sector, gained 19 percent to $192 million, with quantities up 21 percent to 47,566 metric tons (MT). U.S. export levels to Japan, the major purchaser of beef and veal, increased 19 percent to 26,678 MT. Shipments to Canada increased 85 percent in value, and the quantity (5,403 MT) caused Canada's share of U.S. beef exports to reach 11 percent. Mexico also continues to absorb larger purchases due to increased demand, and during January through August 1981, this market showed a 79 percent gain over the same period a year ago to 1,182 MT.

Pork exports rose 63 percent to $184 million, with the quantity shipped increasing 31 percent to 69,426 MT. Japan, the largest market for U.S. pork products (about 48 percent of total exports), increased 90 percent to 33,329 MT. U.S. exports to Mexico and the Caribbean area, two other important markets, increased by 37 and 31 percent, respectively. Shipments to Canada declined 6 percent to 7,840 MT because of their lower domestic prices relative to U.S. pork.

Tallow and greases account for about 22 percent of the livestock products export market. Sales in this category dropped by 6 percent to $468 million. This reduction reflects lower shipments to Japan, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. Hides and skins, another large segment of the export market (21 percent), experienced a slight drop of 2 percent to $463 million. Furskins dropped 11 percent to $270 million.

Taken collectively, the live animal sector does not constitute a large segment value-wise, but gains were seen in all categories.

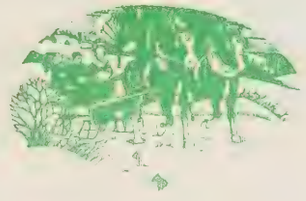
NOVEMBER FARM PRICES

The November Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers for All Farm Products at 148 (1977=100) was up slightly from the revised October index. The All Crops Index at [illegible] was up 1 percent from October but 16 percent below a year ago. The Livestock & Products Index at 145 was 3 percent below October and 12 percent below November 1980.

In comparing November prices with October prices, increases were noted for winter wheat, spring wheat, durum wheat and barley while oats prices declined. All livestock items showed decreases except for steers & heifers, calves and eggs. Wool prices remained unchanged from last October.

Nationally, the November Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 1 point (.8 percent) from October to 129 percent of its January - December 1977 average. Contributing most to the decrease since October were lower prices for cattle, hogs, corn, grapefruit and lemons. Higher prices for oranges, eggs, strawberries, potatoes and milk were partially offsetting. The index was 15 points (10 percent) below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for November was 151 percent of its 1977 base. The index was unchanged from October but 7 points (4.9 percent) above November 1980.



INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1977=100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	Nov. 1980	Oct. 1981 2/	Nov. 1981	Nov. 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	173	147	148	129
ALL CROPS	182	150	152	120
Food grains	195	159	163	159
Feed grains	150	123	124	119
Feed grains & hay	144	118	119	118
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	165	149	145	[illegible]
Meat animals	168	150	146	140
Dairy products	138	136	134	145
Poultry and eggs	105	111	124	117
[illegible]	145	128	128	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		Nov. 1980	Oct. 1981 1/	Nov. 1981	Nov. 1981
		Dollars			
Winter wheat	Bu.	4.14	3.67	3.73	3.86
Durum	Bu.	6.36	3.51	3.65	3.62
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	4.34	3.63	3.73	3.76
Wheat, all	Bu.	4.47	3.65	3.72	3.80
Barley	Bu.	2.71	2.19	2.22	2.41
Oats	Bu.	1.75	1.91	1.80	1.91
Alfalfa hay	Ton	68.00	54.00	54.00	67.70
All other hay	Ton	63.00	50.00	50.00	56.20
All hay baled	Ton	67.50	54.00	54.00	64.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt	69.00	58.00	58.60	58.60
Cows	Cwt	42.80	37.30	34.90	37.10
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	55.40	51.40	50.30	53.90
Calves	Cwt	75.20	58.40	59.00	59.50
Sheep	Cwt	18.90	16.50	16.20	17.70
Lambs	Cwt	58.40	45.80	42.50	46.20
Hogs	Cwt	43.20	42.40	38.60	42.20
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	13.85	13.70	13.50	14.10
Eggs	Doz	.600	.630	.710	.695
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.07	.950	.950	.908
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	178.00	165.00	163.00	175.00

1/ Revised. 2/Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1977=100	
	Nov. 1980	Nov. 1981	Nov. 1980	Nov. 1981
Prices Received	660	591	144	129
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	989	1,039	144	151
Ratio 2/	67	57	100	85

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

Greetings

The snow's afly'n
it's a blizzardy storm.
The collie's in the kitchen
try'n t'keep warm.

Pa's in the meadow,
a check'n the cows,
While the kids like Injuns
are destroy'n the house.

Ma's been real busy,
with cookies and cakes,
(But we always eat leftovers
whenever she bakes.)

The Christmas Day menu,
it's all a big plan,
And that ornery old gander
will spend Christmas in a pan.

We're all wait'n for Santy
and his sled fulla joys.
The kids need new coats,
but he'll prob'ly bring toys.

The tree's all trimmed
with angels and elves,
It's jist a scraggly old pine,
but we cut it ourselves.

So with a New Year a'comin,
a resolution that hence,
We'll do our level darndest,
t'keep up half the fence.

From all of our gang,
from our hold-up out here,
"Have a Very Merry Christmas,
and a Sassy New Year".

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

December 1 Hog Inventory
Quarterly Egg Production
Annual Summary Small Grains
Winter Wheat Seedings
Slaughter
Potato Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C. R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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Released: November 25, 1981

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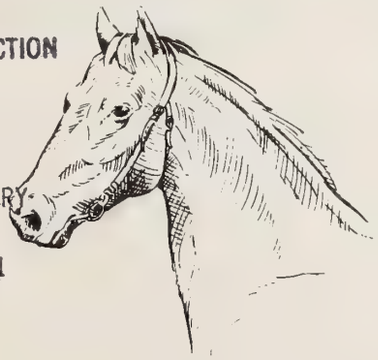
HIGHLIGHTS:

Mediterranean Durum Imports
Red Meat Production Down
Fiscal '82 Export Forecast
Fewer Cattle On Feed
Wheat Supply and Price Outlook

NOTABLE NUMBERS

The 1978 Census of Agriculture indicated there were 63,032 horses and ponies on Montana's farms and ranches



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OCTOBER SLAUGHTER DOWN

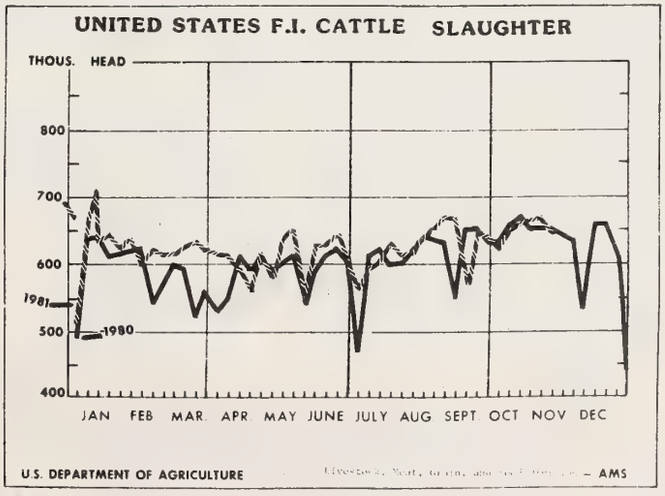
Montana slaughter plants produced 16.0 million pounds of red meat in October, 5 percent less than the same month last year. Accumulated production for the year January-October lags behind last year by 9 percent. October cattle slaughter at 11,500 head was 23 percent below a year ago, but hog slaughter at 54,000 was up 17 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during October 1981 totaled 3.43 billion pounds, 4 percent less than October 1980. January-October red meat production at 32.0 billion pounds was down less than 1 percent from the corresponding period in 1980. The 1981 accumulated production changes from the 1980 period by individual components were: beef, up 3 percent; veal, up 9 percent; pork, down 5 percent; lamb and mutton, up 5 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for October included 22 weekdays (one a holiday) and 5 Saturdays compared with 23 weekdays (one a holiday) and 4 Saturdays a year ago.

JANUARY-OCTOBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER—1980 and 1981

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1980	1981	Percent Change
	----------1,000 Head----------				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	127.6	107.1	28,173	29,034	+ 3
Calves	.2	.2	2,134	2,265	+ 6
Hogs	443.2	432.3	80,171	75,666	- 6
Sheep & Lambs	2.4	3.0	4,661	4,981	+ 7
Total Liveweight					
Cattle	142,316	117,835	30,180	31,198	+ 3
Calves	73	53	523	570	+ 9
Hogs	107,148	103,478	19,300	18,300	- 5
Sheep & Lambs	249	324	519	546	+ 5
Red meat Production	152,363	138,315	32,144	32,040	---



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TIGHTER FREE SUPPLIES OF WHEAT IMPROVE PRICE OUTLOOK

An alltime high 80.7 million acres harvested and generally favorable weather and soil moisture, which boosted the national average yield to a near-record 34.1 bushels an acre, brought about this year's record wheat crop. The October 1 production estimate of 2.75 billion bushels exceeds the 1980 record by 380 million. On the strength of this crop, the total supply for the marketing year rose 14 percent to 3.74 billion bushels, also the largest ever. However, given expectations for record exports and increased wheat feeding, total 1981/82 disappearance will likely exceed production, lowering year-end stocks. Over 70 percent of the carryover may be held in the farmer-owned reserve or by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

This year's record wheat supply and substantially larger U.S. feed grain and soybean supplies have depressed wheat prices to the lowest early season level in 3 years. Despite exceptional export sales, increased farmer use of the loan and reserve programs, and prospects for reduced carryover, farm prices are still below a year ago. Nevertheless, they have advanced slowly. Further price strength is expected, as free supplies of wheat continue to tighten. The timing and quantity of foreign purchases, crop developments in the Southern Hemisphere, and the outlook for the 1982 U.S. winter wheat crop will also influence prices. However, the average farm price is still likely to be below last season's $3.96 a bushel, falling within $3.80 to $3.95. June-October farm prices have been below the target price of $3.81 a bushel, so eligible producers will receive a deficiency payment of around 15 cents a bushel for the 1981 crop. Payments are estimated to total about $400 million.

U.S. exports will likely expand dramatically in 1981/82 because of a significant increase in world import demand. With U.S. supplies more than adequate to meet booming demand, wheat exports are projected at 1.9 billion bushels (51.7 million metric tons). This is a fourth larger than last season's record and means that the United States will account for half of all global wheat trade in 1981/82. World importers will buy nearly 70 percent of the 1981 U.S. crop.

Dry conditions have tempered the outlook for the Southern Hemisphere's wheat crop, but this season's global output is expected to reach a record 448 million metric tons. The most significant reduction is a projected 8-percent shortfall in the Soviet Union--the world's largest wheat producer. The outlook for continued-large world wheat use will help push global trade about a tenth above last year's record.

The 1982 U.S. wheat plantings will probably not repeat last year's alltime high primarily because of an announced 15-percent acreage reduction program. However, current reports indicate vigorous winter wheat planting because of favorable soil moisture and low prices for alternative crops.

MEDITERRANEAN DURUM IMPORTS SEEN INCREASING

Durum imports by Algeria, Italy, Tunisia and Morocco in 1981/82 are expected to increase 775,000 tons over the preceding year to 2.9 million tons. These four Mediterranean countries surveyed in October 1981 have accounted for about one-half of world Durum imports and much of the year-to-year swings in Durum trade over the past decade. All Mediterranean countries combined have taken an average of three-fifths of world Durum imports, with total imports expected to increase to 3.5 million tons this year.

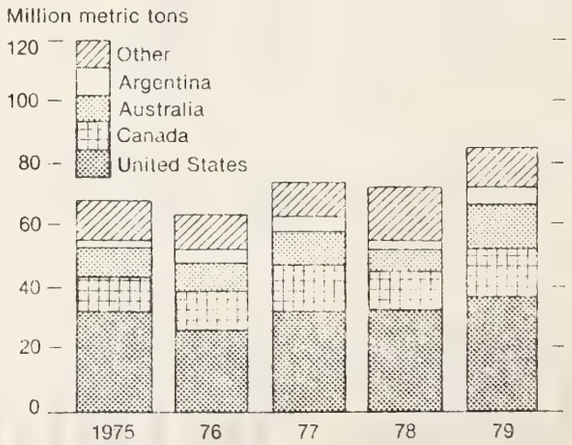
The United States and Canada, which together account each year for nearly all of the world's Durum exports, have ample supplies to satisfy the 3.5-million-ton Mediterranean import requirement. The United States had a record 1981 crop of 5.0 million tons (2.9 million in 1980), and Canada's crop also is up sharply this year to 2.7 million tons (from 1.9 million).

Increased export availabilities, lower prices and reduced crops in the Mediterranean area are stimulating trade. U.S. Durum exports, which were 1.6 million tons in 1980/81, down from a record 2.3 million in the preceding year, now are forecast to rebound to 2.2 million tons or higher in 1981/82. From June 1 to October 23, total U.S. export sales of durum were 1.6 million tons, up 37 percent from the comparable period in the preceding year. In addition to the countries mentioned, other sales have been made to nontraditional markets, such as Brazil and Kenya.

Larger Durum supplies have caused Durum prices to fall despite increased demand. Durum, #3 Hard Amber, is running over $100/per ton lower this season than last season, and has remained relatively unchanged for the past two months.

Since prices for other wheat classes have not fallen as sharply, the differential between Durum and other classes of wheat is much samller this year. If Durum sales continue strong, Durum prices could show some uptrend from present levels.

Major Wheat and Flour Exporters



Includes wheat equivalent of flour and products. Marketing year beginning July 1. 1979 preliminary.

EXPORT FORECAST

U.S. agricultural exports are forecast to increase 4 percent to about $45.5 billion in fiscal 1982, with anticipated lower prices for grains and oilseeds limiting the projected gain. Volume may climb a tenth to about 180 million tons. However, there is still considerable uncertainty about U.S. exports, depending on world economic conditions and crop developments. Agricultural imports are expected to remain at last year's $17 billion. Therefore, the agricultural trade surplus may exceed $28 billion, up from $26.7 billion in fiscal 1981.

Much of the expansion in U.S. exports will be in shipments to the USSR, which should reach a record. In the extension year of the U.S.--USSR Grain Agreement, the United States has offered the USSR 23 million tons of wheat and corn. Also, the Soviets have purchased 500,000 tons of U.S. soybeans. In many developed and middle-income countries, sluggish economic conditions are limiting the import demand for foodstuffs, raw materials, and livestock feeds. Lack of foreign exchange is also forcing many countries, such as Poland, to restrict imports.

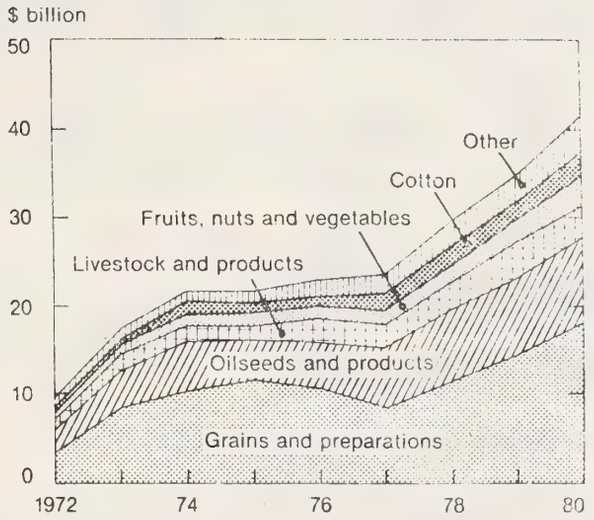
Lower unit values for grains and oilseeds are expected to offset higher prices for some other agricultural products. The unit value of corn may decline almost a tenth, and wheat is estimated down about 2 percent. The unit values for soybeans, protein meal and rice are forecast to drop around 15 percent each.

Grain exports are expected to increase about 12 million tons in fiscal 1982, following last year's 4-million-ton gain. Much of the rise is due to crop shortfalls notably in the USSR and Spain. Mainly because of low domestic procurement, India is presently expected to import up to 4 million tons of wheat, mostly form the United States. Continuing increases are forecast for grain shipments to other developing countries in Asia and Africa. U.S. rice exports are projected to decline sharply because of the reduced import needs of South Korea and Indonesia.

Competition from foreign grain exports may slacken. Argentina and South Africa, which provided strong competition late in fiscal 1981, are not likely to repeat their record harvests of last spring. In addition the European community is forecast to reduce exports. However, Canada and Australia should expand exportable supplies.

U.S. soybean and product exports are expected to partially recover from fiscal 1981's reduced volume. The U.S. share of world trade may increase, because available supplies from South America in 1982 are projected down. Cotton exports may be up a fourth, because world trade will likely increase slightly, and U.S. prices are more competitive than last year. Exports of animals and animal products should rise from $4.2 to $4.8 billion.

U.S. Agricultural Exports by Commodity



CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

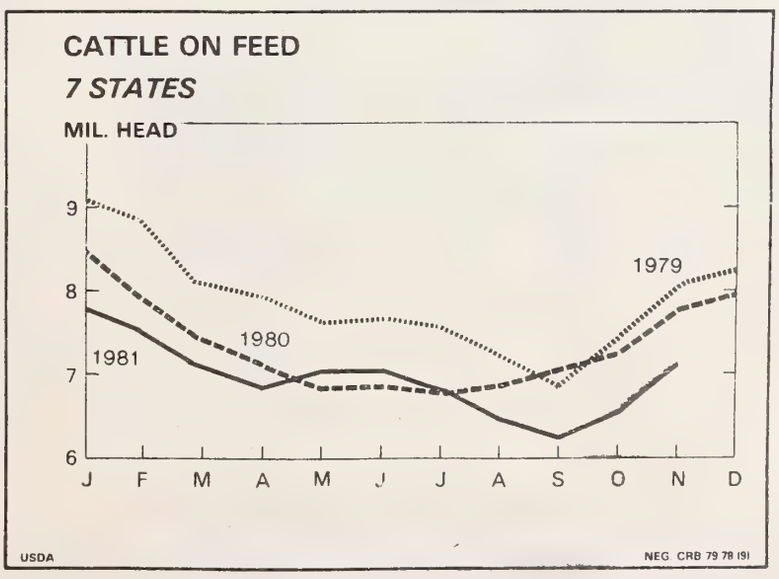
Cattle and calves on feed November 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.11 million head, down 9 percent from a year ago and off 11 percent from November 1, 1979. This is the lowest November 1 number on feed in the 7 states since 1974.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during October totaled 1.45 million, down 8 percent from a year ago and off 12 percent from 1979.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states were 2.05 million, down 9 percent from last year and 14 percent below 2 years ago. Placements in the 7 states during October were the lowest since 1974.

NET PLACEMENTS of 1.96 million were down 7 and 12 percent from 1980 and 1979, respectively.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 85 thousand compared with 130 thousand during October 1980 and 144 thousand 2 years ago.



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Agricultural Prices
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Pasture and Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C. R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farm Prices Slip
Pasture & Range Condition Aided by Rain
Manufactured Dairy Output
How Much Does the Average American Eat?

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		Oct. 1980	Sept. 1981 1/	Oct. 1981	Oct. 1981
		Dollars			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.93	3.57	3.52	3.73
Durum	Bu.	6.22	3.45	3.68	3.51
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	4.31	3.54	3.71	3.63
Wheat, all	Bu.	4.24	3.55	3.62	3.66
Barley	Bu.	2.60	2.25	2.15	2.38
Oats	Bu.	1.67	1.80	1.73	1.79
Alfalfa hay	Ton	67.00	51.00	54.00	68.40
All other hay	Ton	62.00	46.00	50.00	55.10
All hay baled	Ton	67.00	51.00	54.00	64.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	67.70	60.30	58.00	59.90
Cows	Cwt	44.90	40.10	37.20	39.50
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	62.00	54.00	51.80	55.80
Calves	Cwt	77.70	62.20	59.70	60.40
Sheep	Cwt	17.10	16.20	16.80	18.40
Lambs	Cwt	61.00	46.20	48.10	49.90
Hogs	Cwt	45.90	48.00	42.20	44.50
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	13.50	13.35	13.45	14.00
Eggs	Doz	.570	.620	.630	.638
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.01	.950	.950	.896
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	170.00	175.00	172.00	182.00

1/ Revised. 2/Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1977=100	
	Oct. 1980	Oct. 1981	Oct. 1980	Oct. 1981
Prices Received	651	591	142	129
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	981	1,038	142	151
Ratio 2/	66	57	100	85

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

OCTOBER FARM PRICES DOWN

The October Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers for All Farm Products at 148 (1977=100) was down 2 percent from the revised September index. The All Crops Index at 147 was up slightly from September, but 16 percent below a year ago. The Livestock and Products Index at 149 was 4 percent below September and 17 percent below October 1980.

In comparing October prices with September prices, decreases were noted for the following crop items: barley, oats and winter wheat. All livestock items except sheep, lambs, milk and eggs showed decreases.

Nationally, the October Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 5 points (3.7) percent from September to 129 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Contributing most to the decrease were lower prices for cattle, hogs, potatoes, corn and oranges. Higher prices for cotton, milk and grapefruit were partially offsetting. The index was 13 points below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for October was unchanged from September at 151 percent of its 1977 base. Lower prices for replacement livestock, feed and fertilizer were offset by sharply higher family living costs. Compared with a year earlier, the index was up 9 points.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1977-100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	Oct. 1980	Sept. 1981 2/	Oct. 1981	Oct. 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	177	151	148	129
ALL CROPS	174	146	147	118
Food grains	186	156	158	155
Feed grains	145	126	121	122
Feed grains & hay	140	118	116	120
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	179	155	149	140
Meat animals	183	158	151	146
Dairy products	134	133	134	144
Poultry and eggs	100	109	111	112
Wool	137	128	128	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

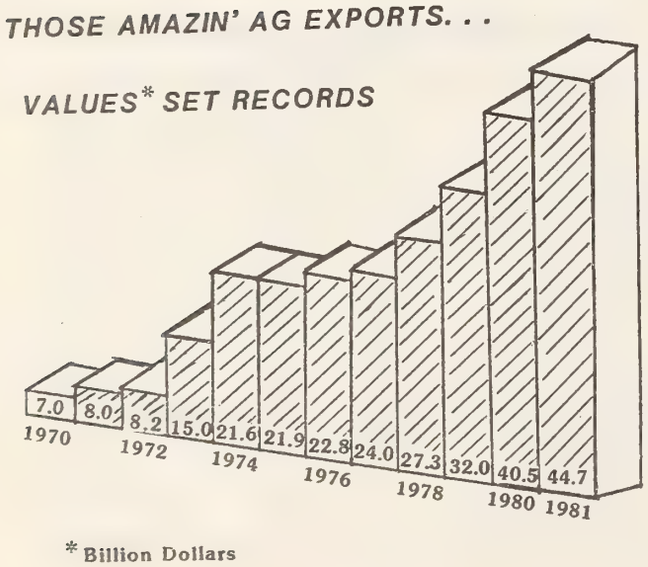
U.S. AG EXPORTS

U.S. agricultural exports are big business these days. In fiscal 1981, (October '80 - September '81) $45 billion worth of farm products will be shipped overseas. This is the 12th straight record year in U.S. export values--starting from a lowly 7 billion in 1970. This year's export dollars will climb 10 percent over 1980, but are up a sharp 40 percent from two years ago. Most of this year's increase is due to higher product prices as volume has changed very little on a total tonnage basis. Exceptions to this were wheat and flour with a 15 percent increase in tonnage shipped over fiscal '80; and beef, pork and variety meats which were up 18 percent.

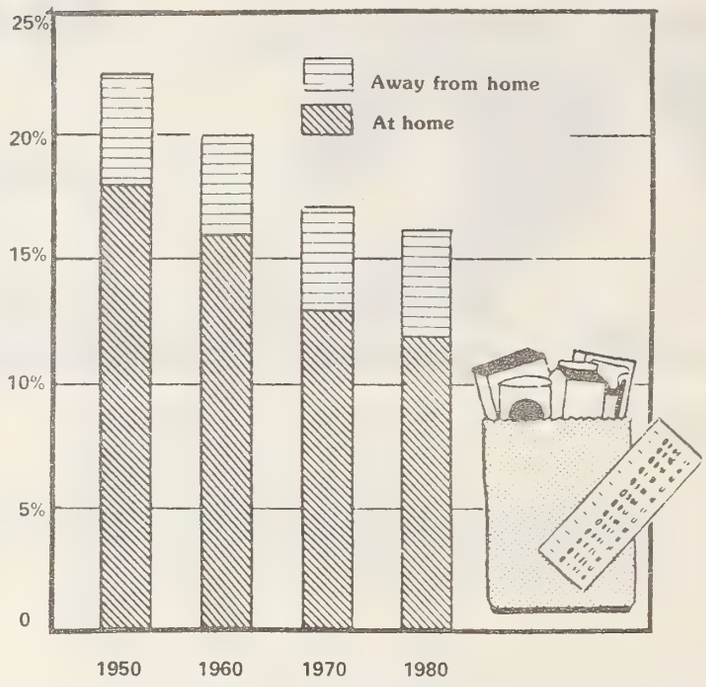
Imports in fiscal '81 are expected to total nearly $17 billion, about the same as a year earlier. This will result in an agricultural trade surplus of a record $27 billion, up 17 percent from last year. This means agriculture has again provided the dollars to pay for foreign oil, cars, clothing, electronic equipment and other non-farm products.

Export prospects for next year point toward a significant increase in volume as U.S. farmers expect record or near-record crops--but prices will probably average below last year. Wheat exports are expected to increase another 10 percent over this year's record. This will again test our transportation and grain handling systems.

How can U.S. farmers stay competitive in world markets? Many economists say that since the acreage expansions of the 1970's cannot continue, most gains in production will have to come from higher yields. If that's the case, agricultural research and technology, and advancement in farm management techniques will play a bigger role in keeping up with the competition.



PERCENT OF DISPOSABLE PERSONAL INCOME SPENT ON FOOD



HOW MANY POUNDS OF FOOD?

The average American ate 1,042 pounds of food last year but paid proportionately less for it than in 1960, according to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study.

Consumer expenditures climbed 319 percent from 1960 to 1980 but, proportionately, food gained less than other items in the consumer's budget. In 1960, about 20 cents of each dollar of disposable income went for food. Last year, food took about 16 cents of the disposable dollar, the survey showed.

In the last 20 years, shifts in consumption patterns affected many products. Consumption of frozen orange juice, for example, increased 98 percent, from 4.6 pounds per capita in 1960 to 9.1 pounds last year. Beef consumption per capita was up 21 percent, from 64.3 to 78.1 pounds. Beef consumption has been dropping each year since 1976 when it hit a record 95.7 pounds per capita.

Chicken consumption also gained dramatically going from 27.8 pounds per person in 1960 to 51.2 pounds in 1980--an 84 percent increase. The biggest gainer was cheese, going from 8.3 pounds per capita to 17.9, an increase of 116 percent.

But some foods lost ground. Potatoes dropped from 80.4 pounds per person in 1960 to 44.4 in 1980, a loss of 45 percent. Egg consumption declined 17 percent, from 42.4 pounds per capita in 1960 to 35.4 twenty years later.

All fluid milk consumption decreased from 290 pounds per capita in 1960 to 243 per pound last year. Other losers were sugar, down 12 percent, and fresh peaches, down 38 percent.

AGRICULTURE TRADE BALANCE COULD SET RECORD

Agricultural imports are expected to total $17.3 billion, about the same as last year. This will result in an agricultural trade balance for 1981 of a record $27.3 billion, according to recent reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farm exports have been increasing much faster than imports, creating a favorable balance in agricultural trade. During the first nine months of fiscal year 1981, farm exports totaled $34.8 billion, 12 percent more than a year earlier. However, imports of supplementary products--those generally grown here--totaled $8.7 billion, 17 percent higher than a year earlier and well on their way towards a new record high for the 12th straight year.

Imports of complementary products--those not generally produced here--totaled $4.7 billion, 19 percent less than a year earlier. However, imports of supplementary products--those generally grown here--totaled $8.7 billion, 17 percent higher than a year earlier. That pushed the overall farm import total for the nine-month period to $13.4 billion, 1 percent more than last year.

Agriculture has been the brightest spot in the U.S. trade picture. While non-agricultural trade has been in deficit, farm exports have exceeded imports of those products, producing an agricultural trade surplus to be applied against the deficit in non-agricultural trade.

For the nation as a whole, agricultural trade contributes billions of dollars yearly to the balance of trade, which bears directly on the strength of the dollar in international currency markets.

USDA officials say farm exports have become basic to the economic health of the U.S., not only on the farm but in business and industry as well. Every dollar that is returned to the farm sector from exports is more than doubled in the economy.

SOURCE: ASCS Farm News

MONTANA DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 452,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during September, down seasonally from August, but 5 percent more than September 1980. Ice cream production at 170,000 gallons showed less than the usual season decline but was 7 percent below last year. Butter, showing a stronger than usual August to September increase, totaled 161,000 pounds--up 18 percent from last year.

RAIN IMPROVES PASTURES AND RANGES

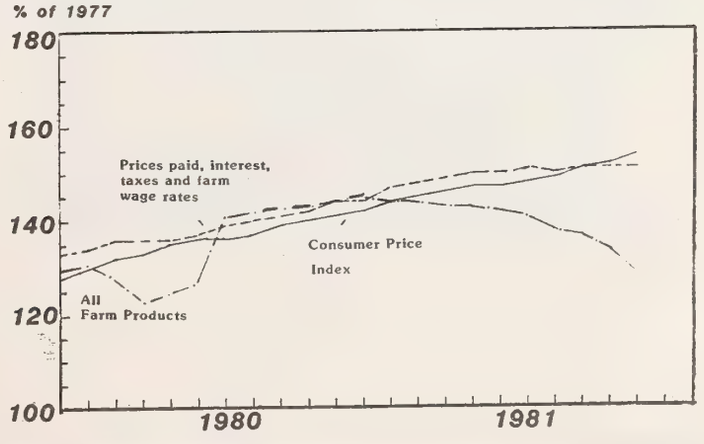
Moisture received during October improved Montana's pasture and range feed conditions. The November 1 condition averaged 79 percent--up 2 points from October 1 and 16 points above last year at this date.

Most livestock have been moved from summer ranges. Stockwater supplies are generally adequate except in the eastern part of the state.

MONTANA PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION-NOV 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	62	89	89
North Central	69	56	73
Northeast	68	33	59
Central	67	68	89
Southwest	84	93	92
South Central	69	78	88
Southeast	63	36	67
STATE	68	63	79

INDEX OF PRICES PAID & RECEIVED BY FARMERS, U.S.



WORLD ECONOMIC ACTIVITY SLOW; PRICES DECLINING

Global economic activity remains slow and will continue so at least well into 1982. Developed nation's attempts to lower inflation caused sluggish economic growth, declining trade and high unemployment. While inflationary pressures seem to be subsiding, overall inflation remains up. Sluggish demand in industrialized countries is slowing trade. For developing nations, only exporters of oil and some manufactured products are expected to perform well.

The U.S. dollar continued to appreciate relative to the German mark, Japanese yen, British pound and Dutch guilder through July and August. The Canadian dollar also declined relative to U.S. currency. However, the yen is expected to strnegthen.

The steady strengthening of the dollar has helped push commodity prices downward. World prices for grain and soybeans and products dropped during the summer. U.S. import prices for many commodities fell, led by bearish markets for coffee and rubber. Farm prices continued to slide, because good weather in July and August boosted prospective 1981/82 supplies.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter

FARM PRICES AND THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

The agricultural sector has been facing declining prices in response to this year's large U.S. and world crops. Although final provisions of the 1981 farm bill and the appropriations process will affect the outlook, agricultural prices are unlikely to rise significantly in the near-term because of weakened worldwide economic conditions. October's upward revision of U.S. export estimates--mainly reflecting deteriorating Soviet crop prospects--was offset by larger projections for U.S. crops.

Total cash receipts in 1981 are expected to be up 4 to 6 percent, with receipts up 2 to 4 percent for livestock and 6 to 8 percent for crops. However, an 8 to 10 percent rise in farm production expenses, led by interest and energy-based inputs, will outstrip gains in cash receipts. As a result, net farm income, before inventory adjustment, is now projected at $17 to $21 billion, compared with $21.9 billion in 1980. After inventory adjustment, net farm income is still forecast at $20 to $24 billion--a slight improvement over last year's $19.9 billion.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Grain Stocks Higher
Milk Production Increases
Slaughter decreases
Cattle on Feed Numbers Slip
Alfalfa Seed Forecast

PLEASE RETURN

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Value of U.S. agricultural exports for 1980 reached 41.3 million dollars, 19 percent above the previous year.

MILK PRODUCTION HIGHER

Montana milk production during the third quarter (July-September) of 1981 was 2 percent above the same quarter last year. The number of cows milked during this quarter averaged 29,000, the same as the previous year. The amount of grain fed per milk cow in herds on October 1 was 13.0 pounds per day, up 1 pound from October 1 a year ago.

JULY-SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	SEPT. MILK COWS 1/		MILK PRODUCTION 2/	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	--Thousands--		--Million Pounds--	
CALIF	903	916	3,578	3,719
IDAHO	155	168	511	579
MINN	870	880	2,270	2,328
MONT	29	29	82	84
N. DAK.	93	92	233	234
ORE	96	97	307	315
S. DAK.	160	156	425	429
WASH	197	207	752	772
WIS	1,816	1,827	5,601	5,721
WYO	12	12	34	35
U. S.	10,849	10,929	32,182	33,035

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

MORE GRAIN IN STORAGE

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators October 1, 1981 totaled 203.1 million bushels--up 16 percent from a year ago. The larger stocks are primarily due to a larger wheat crop in 1981. On farm storages accounted for 84 percent of the total wheat stocks.

Winter wheat stored in the state at 100.6 million bushels was up 13 percent from last year. All spring wheat was up 18 percent with 102.4 million bushels in storage. The durum portion at 14.6 million bushels was 35 percent above last year. Barley stocks in all positions at 50.5 million bushels were 14 percent higher than last year. Oats at 5.7 million bushels were up 18 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions as of October 1, 1981 totaled 2.70 billion bushels, 9 percent more than the 2.47 billion bushels on hand a year earlier. Farm stocks of 1.17 billion bushels account for 43 Percent of the total. Wheat stored in off-farm storage facilities totaled 1.53 billion bushels or 56 percent of the total. Durum wheat stocks on October 1, 1981 totaled 187 million bushels, 52 percent more than last year's 123 million bushels. Farm stocks accounted for 78 percent of the total or 146 million bushels. Barley stocks in all positions on October 1, 1981 totaled 446 million bushels, 14 percent more than a year earlier. Stocks of barley stored on farms amounted to 298 million bushels or 67 percent of the total stocks. Off-farm storage held 148 million bushels on October 1, 1981, or 33 percent of the total.

STOCKS OF GRAIN OCTOBER 1, 1981 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 1, 1980	June 1, 1981 *	Oct. 1, 1981	% Change from 1980	Oct. 1, 1980	June 1, 1981 *	Oct. 1, 1981
	---------Thousand Bushels------				----------Thousand Bushels---------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	148,552	61,098	171,592	+16	975,304	413,763	1,172,149
Off farms 1/	27,162	14,668	31,500	+16	1,496,574	574,460	1,529,552
TOTAL	175,714	75,766	203,092	+16	2,471,878	988,223	2,701,701
WINTER WHEAT							
On farms	69,722	25,749	82,146	+18	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	19,487	8,524	18,500	- 5	--	--	--
TOTAL	89,209	34,273	100,646	+13	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	78,830	35,349	89,446	+13	--	--	--
Off farms 1/	7,675	6,144	13,000	+69	--	--	--
TOTAL	86,505	41,493	102,446	+18	--	--	--
DURUM 3/							
On farms	--	--	--	--	88,456	45,183	145,732
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	34,406	14,735	41,521
TOTAL	10,745	5,441	14,556	+35	122,862	59,918	187,253
CORN							
On farms	19	89	30	+58	920,881	1,818,294	490,191
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	4/	696,597	955,897	543,858
TOTAL	4/	4/	4/	4/	1,617,478	2,774,191	1,034,009
OATS							
On farms	4,497	2,152	5,500	+22	394,799	148,672	386,531
Off farms	340	144	220	-35	89,342	28,011	73,661
TOTAL	4,837	2,296	5,720	+18	484,141	176,683	460,192
BARLEY							
On farms	40,572	6,615	45,760	+13	248,029	73,647	297,569
Off farms 1/	3,605	964	4,700	+30	142,735	62,836	148,009
TOTAL	44,177	7,579	50,460	+14	390,764	136,483	445,578
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	--	--	--	--	40,472	51,968	29,998
Off farms 1/	--	--	--	--	106,064	133,520	79,089
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	146,536	185,488	109,087

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

DISTRICT	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Oct. 1, 1980 *	June 1, 1981 *	Oct. 1, 1981	Oct. 1, 1980 *	June 1, 1981 *	Oct. 1, 1981
	----------Million Bushels----------			----------Million Bushels----------		
Northwest	1.7	6	2.3	2.4	.4	3.7
Northcentral	94.9	35.9	93.8	19.9	5.2	22.7
Northeast	35.1	23.9	62.2	4.3	1.9	4.9
Central	21.3	7.6	19.4	9.1	.7	9.6
Southwest	2.9	.9	4.5	2.8	.5	4.3
Southcentral	10.7	1.2	14.2	3.7	.4	3.4
Southeast	4.1	3.7	6.7	2.0	.5	1.9
STATE	175.7	75.8	203.1	44.2	7.6	50.5

1/ These estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed on October 1 in Montana feedlots for the slaughter market totaled 30,000 head--23 percent less than last October and 25 percent less than the number being fed on July 1. Steers on feed at 15,000 are down 12 percent from last October, and heifers at 15,000 head are down 32 percent. About 93 percent of all steers and heifers on feed weighed 700 pounds or more--47 percent weighed 900 pounds or more. Placements in lots during the July-September period totaled 16,000 head--the same as last year. Montana feeders expect to market 17,000 head during the October-December period, 26 percent less than the same period in 1980.

In the 23 major feeding states, cattle and calves on feed October 1, 1981 for slaughter market totaled 9.03 million head, 9 percent below both a year earlier and 2 years ago. This is the lowest October 1 number on feed since 1967. All weight groups for heifers and steers are below a year earlier except the heaviest weight group of steers which is 1 percent above last year. Placements during the July-September quarter totaled 5.67 million, 11 percent below the same quarter last year and 5 percent below the comparable period in 1979. Placements for the July-September 1981 quarter were the lowest since 1974. Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during July-September totaled 5.93 million, up 4 percent from the same quarter last year but 1 percent below July-September of 1979. Cattle feeders expect to market 5.49 million head during the October-December quarter of 1981. This would be 3 percent less than fourth quarter marketings in 1980 and 5 percent below 1979.

CATTLE ON FEED OCTOBER 1, 1981

ITEM	MONTANA		23 MAJOR STATES	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	1,000 Head			
On feed July 1	49	40	9,620	9,570
During period July 1-Sept. 30				
Placed on feed 1/	16	16	6,359	5,673
Marketed 1/	23	25	5,716	5,930
Other disappearance 2/	3	1	298	281
On feed October 1	39	30	9,965	9,032
Kinds on feed October 1:				
Steers & Steer Calves	17	15	6,863	6,166
Under 500 lbs.	--	--	441	291
500-699 lbs.	1	--	1,068	959
700-899 lbs.	4	6	2,354	2,085
900-1099 lbs.	11	6	2,348	2,173
1100 lbs and over	1	3	652	658
Heifers and Heifer Calves	22	15	3,061	2,838
Under 500 lbs.	--	--	231	140
500-699 lbs.	3	2	799	744
700-899 lbs	12	8	1,276	1,229
900 lbs. and over	7	5	755	725
Cows and other	--	--	41	28
Marketings Oct. - Dec.	23 3/	17 4/	5,677 3/	5,489 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31.

RED MEAT OUTPUT DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 14.5 million pounds of red meat in September, 4 percent less than the same month last year. Accumulated production for the year January-September lags behind last year by 10 percent.

September cattle slaughter at 10,800 head was 17 percent below a year ago, but hog slaughter at 47,300 was up 12 percent.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during September 1981 totaled 3.24 billion pounds, up 1 percent from September 1980. January-September red meat production, at 28.6 billion pounds, was virtually the same as the corresponding period in 1980. The 1981 accumulated production changes from the 1980 period by individual components were: beef, up 4 percent; veal, up 9 percent; pork, down 5 percent; lamb and mutton, up 5 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

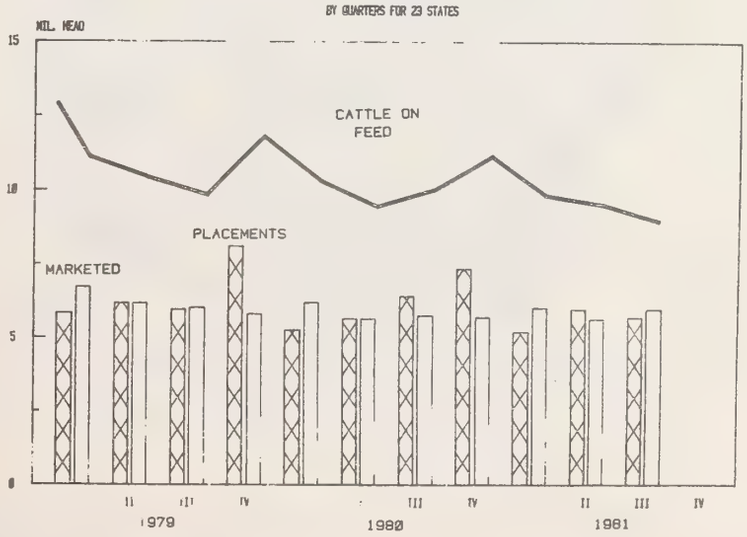
Kill days for September included 22 weekdays (one a holiday) and 4 Saturdays, the same as September 1980.

JANUARY-SEPTEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980 and 1981

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1980	1981	Percent Change
	1,000 Head				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	112.6	95.7	24,954	25,918	+ 4
Calves	.2	.2	1,876	1,994	+ 6
Hogs	397.2	378.2	71,434	67,523	- 5
Sheep & Lambs	2.0	2.6	4,128	4,406	+ 7
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	125,940	105,476	26,753	27,870	+ 4
Calves	71	46	460	503	+ 9
Hogs	95,863	90,460	17,198	16,328	- 5
Sheep & Lambs	205	286	460	484	+ 5
Red Meat Production	135,478	122,348	28,567	28,612	---

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS

BY QUARTERS FOR 23 STATES



MORE ALFALFA SEED PRODUCED

Montana's 1981 alfalfa seed crop is forecast at 4.3 million pounds--up 3 percent from last year's crop. Acres for harvest are down 9 percent, but yield per acre at 135 pounds is up 15 pounds from 1980.

Drought effects during 1980 and again this spring prompted many part-time growers to harvest alfalfa as hay rather than cut it for seed. However, with the introduction of leaf cutter bees, many farmers and ranchers are growing alfalfa for seed as a full-time business with very good yields.

The United States alfalfa seed crop forecast at 117.0 million pounds is 15 percent above last year. Acreage for harvest is down 11 percent from 1980. Yields are expected to average 308 pounds per acre--up 70 pounds from last year.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD and PRODUCTION

1979, 1980 and 1981

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION (CLEAN SEED)		
	1979	1980	1981 1/	1979	1980	1981 1/	1979	1980	1981 1/
	----------Acres----------			------Pounds--------			-------1,000 Pounds-------		
California	80,000	78,000	94,000	435	520	595	34,800	40,560	55,930
Idaho	42,000	36,000	32,000	385	395	445	16,170	14,220	14,240
Kansas	43,000	64,000	55,000	95	100	95	4,085	6,400	5,225
MONTANA	42,000	35,000	32,000	140	120	135	5,880	4,200	4,320
Nebraska	27,000	33,000	25,000	65	75	70	1,755	2,475	1,750
Nevada	18,000	17,000	17,000	405	450	600	7,290	7,650	10,200
North Dakota 2/	6,000	4,000	--	45	40	--	270	160	--
Oklahoma	45,000	55,000	35,000	125	125	140	5,625	6,875	4,900
Oregon	14,000	13,000	12,000	300	350	415	4,200	4,550	4,980
South Dakota	130,000	60,000	50,000	55	70	55	7,150	4,200	2,750
Utah	17,000	13,000	13,000	280	245	285	4,760	3,185	3,705
Washington	33,000	21,000	15,000	250	365	600	8,250	7,665	9,000
TOTAL ABOVE STATES	497,000	429,000	380,000	202	238	308	100,235	102,140	117,000

1/ Indicated. 2/ Estimates discontinued in 1981.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Prices
Manufactured Dairy Products
Pasture and Range Condition
Commercial Fertilizer

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C. R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Pasture & Range Condition
More Sweet Cherries
Increase in Value of Potato Crop
Farm Prices Slip
Mfg. Dairy Up
October Crop Production Highlights

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PERIODICALS

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Richland County ranked number one in Montana oats production for 1979.

WHEAT FORECAST OFF SLIGHTLY

. . . STILL A RECORD CROP

The expected 1981 all wheat production for Montana at 173.3 million bushels will surpass the 1976 record wheat crop by 4 percent. The October 1 forecast is down slightly from last month due to a 7 percent reduction in durum wheat production. Both winter and hard red spring forecasts remained unchanged from last month. The ideal harvesting weather during September has permitted harvest of small grains to be virtually complete by October 1.

Durum wheat production, at 11.9 million bushels, is still 56 percent above last year and the second largest crop--the record was the 1956 crop of 18.1 million. Winter wheat, at 90.0 million is 64 percent above last year and third largest on record. Hard red spring, at 71.5 million, is 25 percent above last year and the largest ever. The previous record was 60.2 million in 1976. Barley, at 57.2 million, and oats, at 5.5 million, are 30 and 71 percent respectively above 1980.

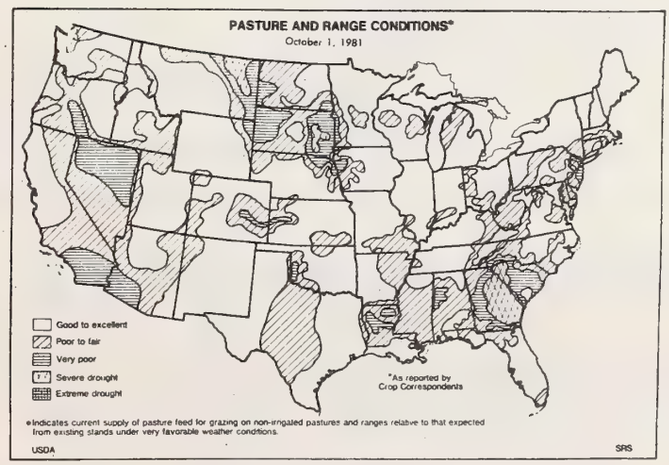
The first forecast of 1981 potato production at 1.9 million hundredweight is 7 percent above last year. Sugarbeet production at 860 thousand tons is unchanged from last month, but 2 percent below 1980. The first forecast of 1981 hay production at 4.3 million tons is 3 percent above last year.

PASTURE AND RANGE DRY

Pasture and range condition declined during September and the October 1 reported condition averaged 4 points below last month, but 18 points above last year's unusually poor October 1 condition. Most of the eastern part of the state is very dry, but stubble fields are providing some grazing. Most range grass is dry and brittle due to the hot dry weather during most of September. However, most of the state received some moisture the last of September which should make the range grass more palatable, and also decrease the danger of range fires which has been very high.

MONTANA PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION-OCT.1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	64	69	89
North Central	62	52	74
Northeast	63	33	56
Central	66	72	87
Southwest	71	93	91
South Central	67	72	87
Southeast	68	31	62
STATE	66	59	79


PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS*
October 1, 1981
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*As reported by Crop Correspondents
*Indicates current supply of pasture feed for grazing on non-irrigated pastures and ranges relative to that expected from existing stands under very favorable weather conditions.
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MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--October 1, 1981

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	1980	1981	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	+ 2	2,150	2,570	+20	25.5	34.0	54,825	87,380	+59
Durum	Bu.	470	490	+ 4	400	475	+19	19.0	25.0	7,600	11,875	+63
Other spring wht.	Bu.	2,900	2,850	- 2	2,550	2,750	+ 8	22.5	26.0	57,375	71,500	+25
All wheat	Bu.	5,970	5,990	--	5,100	5,795	+14	23.5	29.9	119,800	173,325	+45
Corn for Grain	Bu.	--	--	--	8	9	+13	74.0	75.0	592	675	+14
Oats	Bu.	220	220	--	73	110	+15	44.0	50.0	3,212	5,500	+71
Barley	Bu.	1,180	1,400	+19	1,050	1,300	+24	42.0	44.0	44,100	57,200	+30
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.0	7.5	+ 7	6.9	7.4	+ 7	250.	250.0/	1,725	1,850	+ 7
Dry beans	Cwt.	12.0	12.0	--	11.0	11.0	--	1,600.	1,600	176	176	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	44.2	44.8	+ 1	43.3	44.1	+ 2	20.3	19.5	879	860	- 2
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,200	1,250	+ 4	2.35	2.35	2,820	2,938	+ 4
All other hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,000	1,000	--	1.35	1.35	1,350	1,350	--
All hay	Ton	--	--	--	2,200	2,250	+ 2	1.90	1.91	4,170	4,288	+ 3
Sweet cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	700 1/	1,250 1/	+79

1/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--October 1, 1981

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	1980	1981	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	57,425	65,780	+15	51,374	58,575	+14	36.8	35.3	1,891,251	2,064,845	+ 9
Durum	Bu.	5,525	5,840	+ 6	4,840	5,648	+17	22.4	32.2	108,395	182,088	+68
Other spring wht.	Bu.	17,480	17,172	- 2	14,639	16,366	+12	25.3	30.8	370,020	508,492	+37
All wheat	Bu.	80,430	88,792	+10	70,853	80,589	+14	33.4	34.1	2,369,666	2,749,785	+16
Corn for grain	Bu.	--	--	--	73,061	74,563	+ 2	91.0	109.0	6,647,534	8,081,441	+22
Oats	Bu.	13,360	13,616	+ 2	8,640	9,793	+13	53.0	54.1	457,593	522,408	+14
Barley	Bu.	8,283	9,662	+17	7,233	8,977	+24	272	53.3	358,544	483,316	+35
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	1,182.4	1,190.3	+ 1	981.2	1,044.6	+ 6	270	275	266,428	287,051	+ 8
Dry beans	Cwt.	1,896.0	2,265.0	+19	1,836.0	2,171.0	+18	1,422	1,426	26,100	30,968	+19
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,231.3	1,256.0	+ 2	1,188.5	1,225.7	+ 3	19.8	20.9	23,449	25,663	+ 9
Alfalfa hay	Ton	--	--	--	26,269	26,165	--	3.04	3.15	79,865	82,354	+ 3
All other hay	Ton	--	--	--	33,168	33,279	--	1.54	1.77	51,205	59,020	+15
All hay	Ton	--	--	--	59,437	59,444	--	2.21	2.38	131,070	141,374	+ 8
Sweet cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	171,700 1/	154,100 1/	-10

1/ Actual tons.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT October 1, 1981 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change
	---(000 Bu.)---			---(000 Bu.)---			---(000 Bu.)---		
Northwest	1,283.3	950.0	- 26	772.6	420.0	-46	3,551.0	4,600.0	+ 30
Northcentral	28,434.2	43,160.0	+ 52	33,780.9	36,300.0	+ 7	20,262.0	25,200.0	+ 24
Northeast	2,225.3	8,320.0	+274	22,111.6	38,930.0	+76	1,164.6	4,550.0	+291
Central	10,483.3	13,890.0	+ 33	4,744.8	3,390.0	-29	10,741.1	13,000.0	+ 21
Southwest	2,239.4	3,150.0	+ 41	1,024.4	560.0	-45	3,909.4	4,300.0	+ 10
Southcentral	7,230.7	14,240.0	+ 97	882.0	855.0	- 3	3,899.9	3,700.0	- 5
Southeast	2,928.8	6,240.0	+113	1,658.7	2,920.0	+76	572.0	1,850.0	+223
STATE	54,825.0	89,950.0	+64	64,975.0	83,375.0	+28	44,100.0	57,200.0	+ 30

1/ District data funded by Montana Wheat Commission.

SEPTEMBER PRICES SLIGHTLY LOWER

The September Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers for All Farm Products at 150 (1977=100) was down 1 percent from the revised August index, and down 14 percent from September 1980. The All Crops Index at 145 was 3 percent below August and 14 percent below a year ago. The Livestock and Products Index at 154 was 1 percent above August, but 15 percent below September 1980.

In comparing September prices with August prices, winter wheat, barley and oats prices declined while the durum price increased, and the spring wheat price remained unchanged. The Livestock Items that showed increases were steers & heifers, beef cattle, calves, milk and eggs. Cow, sheep, lamb and hog prices declined.

For the Nation, the September index of prices received by farmers decreased 3 points (2.2 percent) from August to 134 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Contributing most to the decrease since August were lower prices for corn, potatoes, soybeans, oranges and cattle. Higher prices for milk, eggs, peaches, tobacco and apples were partially offsetting. The index was 8 points (5.6 percent) below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for September was unchanged from August at 151 percent of its 1977 base. Higher prices for family living items, replacement livestock and farm machinery were offset by lower feed prices. Compared to a year earlier, the index was up 10 points (7.1 percent).

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		Sept. 1980	Aug. 1981 1/	Sept. 1981	Sept. 1981
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.74	3.52	3.48	3.67
Durum	Bu.	5.71	3.55	3.69	3.48
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	5.71	3.72	3.72	3.59
Wheat, all	Bu.	4.12	3.59	3.58	3.63
Barley	Bu.	2.42	2.19	2.07	2.41
Oats	Bu.	1.66	1.83	1.65	1.79
Alfalfa hay	Ton	65.00	51.00	51.00	66.40
All other hay	Ton	60.00	47.00	46.00	54.50
All hay baled	Ton	65.00	51.00	51.00	62.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	67.90	58.20	61.50	62.90
Cows	Cwt	46.40	42.60	41.10	41.70
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	63.60	48.80	53.30	58.40
Calves	Cwt	77.90	63.20	63.80	63.30
Sheep	Cwt	19.10	17.50	17.30	17.20
Lambs	Cwt	63.70	50.70	44.00	50.90
Hogs	Cwt	44.60	48.20	48.00	49.10
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	13.10	13.05	13.10	13.70
Eggs	Doz	.620	.580	.630	.646
Wool 4/	Lb.	.970	.950	.950	.890
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	172.00	172.00	165.00	176.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1977 = 100	
	Sept. 1980	Sept. 1981	Sept. 1980	Sept. 1981
Prices Received	651	610	142	134
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	974	1,042	141	151
Ratio 2/	67	59	101	8.9

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1977 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	Sept. 1980	Aug. 1981 2/	Sept. 1981	Sept. 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	174	151	150	134
ALL CROPS	168	149	145	121
Food grains	180	158	157	155
Feed grains	134	126	115	126
Feed grains & hay	131	119	111	124
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	181	152	154	145
Meat animals	187	154	157	155
Dairy products	131	129	131	141
Poultry and eggs	109	102	111	116
Wool	132	128	128	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY OUTPUT HIGHER

Montana dairy plants produced 526,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during August, 6 percent less than during July, but 12 percent more than August 1980. Ice cream production at 187,000 gallons was 12 percent below the previous month, but 1 percent above August last year. Butter production totaled 127,000 pounds, up 10 percent from August 1980.

VALUE OF 1980 MONTANA POTATO CROP UP SHARPLY

Potato producers in Montana sold 1,485,000 cwt. of potatoes from the 1980 crop--4 percent less than the previous year. Producers sold 86 percent of the 1,725,000 cwt. produced in 1980. Shrinkage and loss accounted for 7 percent, while 8 percent were used for seeding the 1981 crop.

Value of production at $14,663,000 was 126 percent more than the 1979 crop and value of sales at $12,623,000 increased 128 percent from the previous year. Average price for the 1980 crop sales was $8.50--up $4.90 from the previous year.

FINAL SURVEY OF 1981 CROP PRODUCTION

Throughout the 1981 crop year the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service has been making monthly production forecasts for the state's major crops. As the harvest of most crops is nearing completion plans are being made to conduct a survey to obtain final 1981 data on acreage, yield and production for the major crops. The latter part of October, about half of Montana's farmers and ranchers will be mailed questionnaires requesting crop information. To assure adequate coverage and accurate results, telephone calls will be made to some of those who do not return the questionnaire. Similar surveys will be conducted in other states, and final state and national figures will be published December 22 for small grains, and after the first of the year for other crops. All data is confidential and used only to provide reliable county and state production statistics.

LARGER SWEET CHERRY CROP

Sweet cherry production in Montana for 1981 is estimated at 1,250 tons. This is 79 percent above the poor 1980 crop. However, this year's production is still only 42 percent of the record 1979 crop. The major contributing factors to this year's poor crop production were poor pollination caused by cool wet weather and widespread brown rot. Though the production was low, the quality of fruit was very good. Value of production for the state was $954,000 which was considerably higher than the 1980 crop value at $435,000. Average price per ton in Montana was $763.

Production of sweet cherries for the United States is estimated at 154,000 tons. This is 10 percent less than the 1980 crop and 15 percent below the record 1979 crop. Average price per ton increased 40 percent over last year to $771.

Washington was the leading producer with 48,000 tons followed by Oregon with 39,000 tons, California with 32,600 tons and Michigan with 23,000 tons. These 4 states accounted for 93 percent of the total U.S. production.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Alaflfa Seed
Grain Stocks

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C. R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Hog and Pig Numbers Down
- Cattle on Feed
- Egg Production Drops
- Red Meat Production
- Wheat Exports

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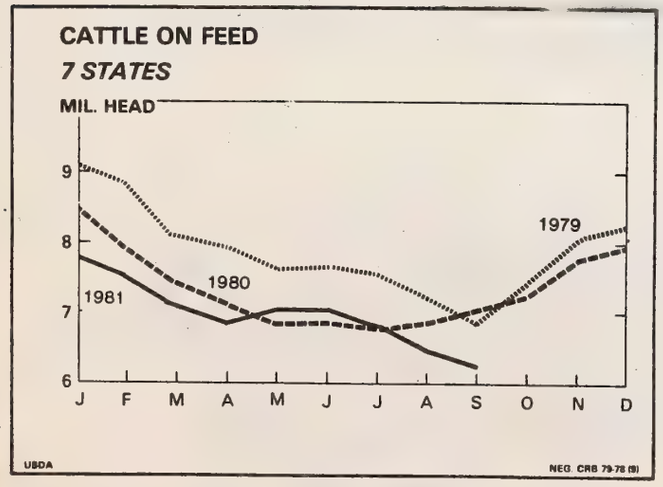
NOTABLE NUMBERS

The record dry bean crop in Montana was in 1943 with over one-half million bags produced--three times recent levels.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed September 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.29 million head, down 11 percent from a year ago and off 8 percent from September 1, 1979. This is the lowest September 1 number on feed in the 7 States since 1975. MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.53 million, up 9 percent from 1980 but down 7 percent from 1979. PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States were 1.42 million, down 12 percent from last year but 5 percent more than the low level of August 1979. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.36 million were down 12 percent from 1980 but 8 percent more than 1979. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 55 thousand compared with 61 thousand during August 1980 and 82 thousand 2 years ago.



HOG & PIG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1981, in the 14 states conducting quarterly hog surveys, is estimated at 52.2 million head, 5 percent below last year and 9 percent less than September 1, 1979.

--Breeding inventory, at 7.06 million head, was 5 percent less than a year ago and 15 percent below two years earlier.

--Market hog inventory, at 45.1 million head, was 6 percent less than a year ago, and 8 percent below September 1, 1979.

Estimates for the 14 Quarterly States account for about 86 percent of the U.S. total hog and pig inventory.

PIG CROP (June-August 1981)--The June-August 1981 pig crop in the 14 states totaled 20.2 million head, 1 percent fewer than in 1980 and 11 percent below 1979. There were 2.74 million sows that farrowed during June-August, a decrease of 4 percent from a year ago and a reduction of 13 percent from the same period two years ago. Sows farrowing averaged 7.37 pigs per litter with 7.18 a year earlier and 7.16 two years ago.

FARROWING INTENTIONS--Hog producers in the 14 quarterly states intent to farrow 2.73 million sows during September-November, 6 percent fewer than during the comparable period in 1980 and 10 percent less than two years earlier. Farrowing intentions for the December 1981-February 1982 period are 2.40 million sows, 1 percent less than the same period a year earlier and 12 percent below two years ago.

AUGUST LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana Slaughter plants produced 28 percent less red meat during August than the same month a year ago. Total production at 11.1 million pounds compares with 15.3 million pounds in August 1980 and 13.4 million pounds in July 1981. The January-August red meat production is 10 percent below the same period last year.

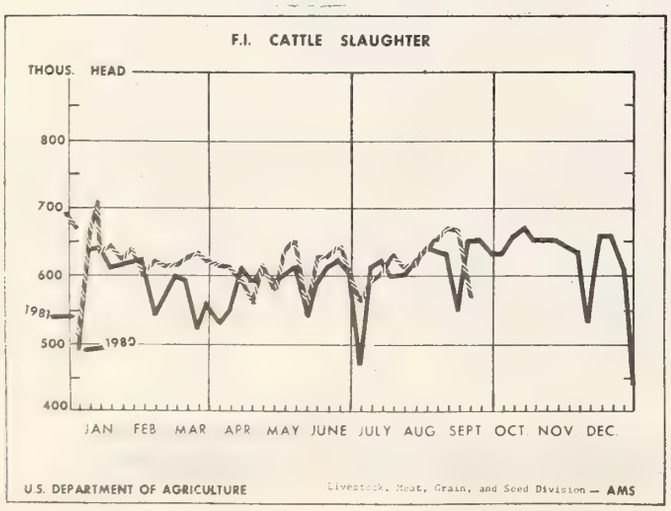
The August cattlekill was 8,200 head--down 41 percent from August 1980. The hogkill at 35,300 was down 12 percent from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during August 1981 totaled 3.04 billion pounds, up 1 percent from August 1980. January-August red meat production, at 25.4 billion pounds, was virtually the same as the corresponding period in 1980. The 1981 accumulated production changes from the 1980 period by individual components were: Beef up 4 percent; Veal up 9 percent; Pork down 5 percent; Lamb and Mutton up 4 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for August included 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays, the same as August 1980.

JANUARY-AUGUST LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980 AND 1981

ITEMS	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1980	1981	Percent Change
	1,000 Head				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	99.6	84.9	22,028	22,900	+4
Calves	.2	.2	1,650	1,733	+5
Hogs	354.8	331.0	63,525	59,911	-6
Sheep & Lambs	1.6	2.0	3,639	3,837	+5
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	111,546	93,648	23,668	24,680	+4
Calves	64	46	403	439	+9
Hogs	85,642	79,131	15,308	14,504	-5
Sheep & Lambs	169	222	408	423	+4
Red Meat Production	120,391	107,819	25,346	25,368	100



MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana's laying flocks produced 43 million eggs during the June-August quarter--down 9 percent from the same period a year ago. The average number of layers on hand during the quarter at 773,000 was up 2 percent from the same quarter a year ago.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17,081 million eggs during the June-August quarter--up slightly from last year. The number of layers during the quarter averaged 280,688 million--down 1 percent from the same quarter last year.

OCTOBER 16 IS WORLD FOOD DAY

The subject of food and world hunger is something to think about on Friday, October 16. That day marks the first annual World Food Dav. The occasion was established by a resolution approved by the 147 member nations--including the United States--of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Despite the efforts of the United States and other developed countries hunger persists in the world. The FAO estimates that one out of nine people in the world, primarily in the developing countries, do not have enough to eat. The purpose of World Food Day is to call public attention to the existence of world hunger, and to urge public participation in efforts to overcome it. To achieve that objective, USDA has been taking action to ensure public awareness of World Food Day.

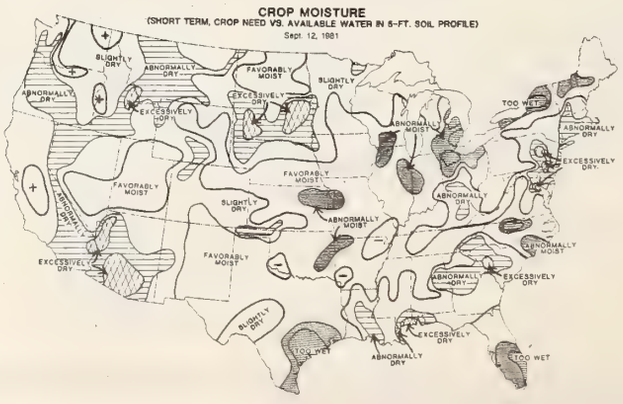
Some of the events to gain public awareness include:

--A special cancellation stamp on mail leaving New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles carrying the message "WORLD FOOD DAY, USA, October 16"

--A leaflet entitled, "Can We End World Hunger?"

--Public service television and radio announcements by Secretary Block promoting World Food Day

--Information packets for distribution to USDA field employees and others asking for world food information.



BREEDING LINE 1 HEREFORDS

The place was the annual cattle sale held at ARS's Livestock and Range Research Station, Miles City, Montana. There a 3-year-old Line 1 Hereford bull sold for $160,000--the highest price ever paid for a single animal in the history of the sale.

In all, 63 bulls of various lines were sold for about $353,000 to buyers from throughout the United States and Canada. Money received from the sale is used for the station's operations.

The sale price of Line 1 Herefords averaged $10,565 per head, more than five times the $1,911 average price brought in by all other lines of Herefords.

The Line 1 program was first established at the Miles City Station in 1934 and is one of the longest continuing beef cattle linebreeding programs in the United States. The animals have been maintained as a closed herd with no introduction of bulls or cows from other herds.

Line 1 Herefords have developed into sound Hereford cattle with good conformation and meat quality and a fast growth rate. Weaning weight and yearling weight are increasing by 22 and 35 pounds, respectively, per generation (about every 4 years); This is the most rapid and consistent gain in average weaning and yearling weight of any of the Hereford varieties.

Despite coming into industry prominence only within the past decade, Line 1 Herefords already command the Nation's highest average sale price for breeder bulls. Currently, almost half of the registered Hereford breeders in the country have cattle from or descended from the Miles City Line 1 herd, even though the herd has never numbered over 150 calving cows.

Animal physiologist Robert A. Bellows is the current research leader at the Station. His address is ARS Livestock and Range Research Station, Route 1, Box 3, Miles City, MT 59301. (By Lynn Yarris, ARS, Oakland, CA.)

SOURCE: Agricultural Research, July '81

TAX RELIEF

The new Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 has many implications for farmers. You can now depreciate all farm cars and light trucks in 3 years, equipment in 5 years, and buildings in 15 years. The new law also gradually lowers estate taxes. For 1982, estates up to $225,000 will be tax-exempt. By 1987, estates up to $600,000 will not be taxed. As of January 1, 1982, estates or gifts of any size, willed or given to your spouse, are tax-free.

WORLD CROP PRODUCTION TO EXCEED USE

Prospective 1981/82 global grain supplies are still projected aobut 2 percent above 1980/81. Production prospects changed little during August as the forecast larger U.S. crop nearly offset indicated reductions for the USSR and Europe. The U.S. grain crop is expected to rise 20 percent over last year's drought-reduced level, while production in other countries is likely to increase less than 1 percent, primarily due to another poor Soviet harvest. World use is expected to expand with a high level of feed use and continued expansion in food requirements, but the use gain is not expected to match the production expansion. Projected global stocks of around 191 million tons would be up from the carry-in level of 172 million.

The prospective 1981/82 world supply-use balance for coarse grains has further eased, primarily due to improved yield prospects for U.S. corn. World wheat supplies edged down slightly, although they remain at a record level and exceed prospective 1981/82 use.

Global 1981/82 soybean supply prospects are up from a month ago and around 8 percent above 1980/81, primarily due to improved U.S. yields and a crop indicated 15 percent above 1980. Larger supplies and lower prices are expected to mean an expanded soybean crush and larger product use during 1981/82. Still, prospective production is well above estimated market needs. Projected U.S. soybean stocks of 430 million bushels next September 1 are up one-fourth from beginning stocks.

Prospective world cotton supplies in 1981/82 further increased in August, as crop prospects improved in the United States and China. The projected supply is 5 percent above a year ago, as the projected 8-percent-larger crop more than offsets 2-percent-smaller beginning stocks. World use is expected to benefit from larger supplies, although sluggish economic actibity in several importing countries may hold the consumption gain to nearly 3 percent. Most of the projected increase in world stocks will occur in the United States where the expected carryover of 5 million bales next August 1 would be sharply above the very low beginning stocks.

WHEAT EXPORTS UP

After slumping in May, wheat exports have rebounded sharply--led by shipments to China and increased exports to Northern Africa, Western Asia and Latin America. Exports through July of wheat and flour amounted to 33.8 million tons--16 percent more than a year ago. New crop wheat (and wheat flour) should be moving out even more heavily during August and September. Anticipated purchases by China, the USSR, India, Turkey and Northern Africa have helped boost the forecast of fiscal 1982 wheat exports by 5 to 7 million tons.

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Here's the schedule for October:

October 1	Cattle Update
2,3,4	Farm News Special
5	Crop Update
6	Crops & Weather
7	Farm News Special
8	Livestock Situation
9,10,11,12	U.S. Crop Prospects
13	World Crop Prospects
14	Milk Production
15	Crops & Weather
16,17,18	Farm News Special
19	Farm News Special
20	Cattle on Feed
21	Soybean Situation
22	Grain Stock Estimates
23,24,25	World Agriculture
26	World Grain Prospects
27	Agricultural Outlook
28	Feed Situation
29	Red Meat Production
30,31	Farmers' Prices

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GRAIN STORAGE

Despite the record wheat and near-record corn crops now forecast, storage space is still sufficient for this year's grain harvest. Nationwide, only 75 percent of all grain storage space is estimated to be used in November. In early August--with 86 percent of the winter wheat crop harvested--only 54 percent of commercial storage space was filled. At the peak of the fall harvest, however, producers in the Midwest should anticipate delays in moving grain into local elevators for storage or reshipment. Rail and barge capacity also appears to be more than adequate for the fall harvest.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Agricultural Prices
Mfg. Dairy
Crop Production
Pasture and Range

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C. R. "Bud" Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farm Prices Drop
Pasture & Range
September Crop Production
Cash Receipts
Mfg. Dairy

PASTURE AND RANGE GOOD

Condition of pastures and ranges over the state is slightly above average for this time of year. Conditions are poorest in the north central, northeast and southeastern areas of the state. Winter grazing prospects are reported adequate to excellent except in the drier areas of eastern Montana. Stockwater supplies are generally below normal for this time of year.

MONTANA PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION-SEPT. 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

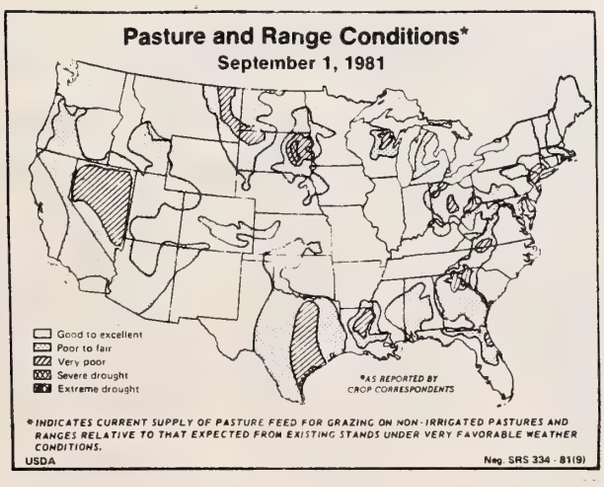
DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	61	101	93
Northcentral	66	63	79
Northeast	68	27	62
Central	68	69	89
Southwest	74	98	89
Southcentral	73	73	88
Southeast	72	37	73
STATE	69	66	81

RECORD ALL WHEAT CROP IS FORECAST

Montana's all wheat production for 1981 is forecast at 174.3 million bushels based upon September 1 conditions. This is slightly higher than last month's estimate. If realized this would surpass the 1976 record all wheat crop of 167.3 million bushels. Harvest of winter wheat was about complete, and other small grains were about 65 percent harvested the first of the month, so most producers had a good opportunity to evaluate their crop output.

Winter wheat production is estimated at 90.0 million bushels. This is 3 percent above the August 1 forecast and would be the third largest Montana winter wheat crop. The largest was in 1975 and second largest in 1976. Hard red spring remains unchanged from August 1 at 71.5 million bushels. If realized it would surpass the previous record of 60.2 million bushels set in 1976. Durum wheat production at 12.8 million bushels would be the second largest crop--the record was the 1956 crop of 18.1 million.

The Montana barley crop is expected to reach 57.2 million bushels, unchanged from the August 1 forecast, and 30 percent more than a year ago. Oats production is 5.5 million bushels is also unchanged from August 1 and 71 percent above 1980. Sugarbeet production is expected to be 2 percent below a year ago at 860,000 tons.


Pasture and Range Conditions*
September 1, 1981
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
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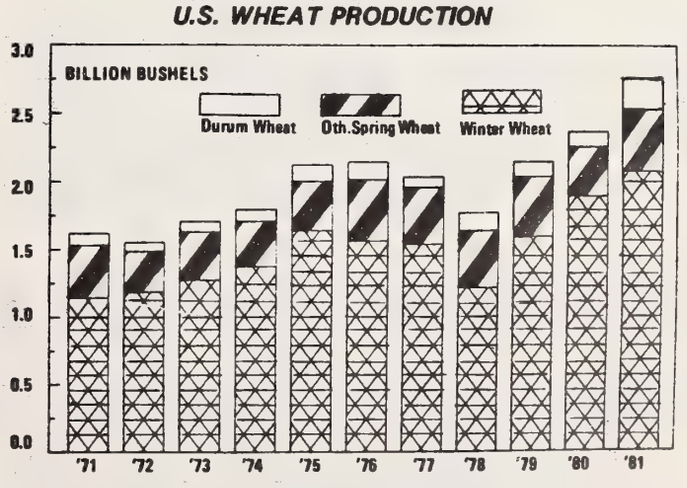
Neg. SRS 334 - 81(9)



MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--SEPTEMBER 1, 1981

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	1980	1981	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	+ 2	2,150	2,570	+20	25.5	35.0	54,825	89,950	+64
Durum	Bu.	470	490	+ 4	400	475	+19	19.0	27.0	7,600	12,825	+69
Other spring wht.	Bu.	2,900	2,850	- 2	2,550	2,750	+ 8	22.5	26.0	57,375	71,500	+25
All wheat	Bu.	5,970	5,990	--	5,100	5,795	+14	23.5	30.1	119,800	174,275	+45
Corn for Grain	Bu.	--	--	--	8	9	+13	74.0	75.0	592	675	+14
Oats	Bu.	220	220	--	73	110	+51	44.0	50.0	3,212	5,500	+71
Barley	Bu.	1,180	1,400	+19	1,050	1,300	+24	42.0	44.0	44,100	57,200	+30
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.0	7.5	+ 7	6.9	7.4	+ 7	250.	1/	1,725	1/	--
Dry beans	Cwt.	12.0	12.0	--	11.0	11.0	--	1,600.	1,600	176	176	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	44.2	44.8	+ 1	43.3	44.1	+ 2	20.3	19.5	879	860	- 2
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,200	1,250	+ 4	2.35	2.35	2,820	2,938	+ 4
All other hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,000	1,000	--	1.35	1.35	1,350	1,350	--
All hay	Ton	--	--	--	2,200	2,250	+ 2	1.90	1.91	4,170	4,288	+ 3
Sweet cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	700 2/	1,800 2/	+157

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 9. 2/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--SEPTEMBER 1, 1981

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	1980	1981	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	57,425	65,780	+15	51,374	58,525	+14	36.8	35.2	1,891,251	2,059,205	+ 9
Durum	Bu.	5,525	5,840	+ 6	4,840	5,648	+17	22.4	33.2	108,395	187,353	+73
Other spring wht.	Bu.	17,480	17,172	- 2	14,639	16,516	+13	25.3	30.5	370,020	503,557	+36
All wheat	Bu.	80,430	88,792	+10	70,853	80,689	+14	33.4	34.1	2,369,666	2,750,115	+16
Corn for grain	Bu.	--	--	--	73,061	74,143	+ 1	91.0	107.1	6,647,534	7,940,421	+19
Oats	Bu.	13,360	13,616	+ 2	8,640	9,654	+ 8	53.0	52.8	457,593	509,457	+11
Barley	Bu.	8,283	9,662	+17	7,233	9,070	+25	49.6	52.5	358,544	476,031	+33
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	1,182.4	1,190.3	+ 1	981.2	1,042.7	+ 6	272	1/	266,428	1/	--
Dry beans	Cwt.	1,896.0	2,265.0	+19	1,836.0	2,231.0	+22	1,422	1,437	26,100	32,070	+23
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,231.3	1,256.0	+ 2	1,188.5	1,225.7	+ 3	19.8	20.9	23,499	25,678	+ 9
Alfalfa hay	Ton	--	--	--	26,269	26,165	--	3.04	3.08	79,865	80,644	+ 1
All other hay	Ton	--	--	--	33,168	33,279	--	1.54	1.72	51,205	57,110	+12
All hay	Ton	--	--	--	59,437	59,444	--	2.21	2.32	131,070	137,754	+ 5
Sweet cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	171,700 2/	138,900 2/	-22

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 9. 2/ Actual tons.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 1, 1981 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change
	---(000 Bu.)---			---(000 Bu.)---			---(000 Bu.)---		
Northwest	1,283.3	950.0	- 26	772.6	420.0	- 46	3,551.0	4,600.0	+ 30
Northcentral	28,434.2	43,160.0	+ 52	33,780.9	36,150.0	+ 7	20,262.0	25,200.0	+ 24
Northeast	2,225.3	8,320.0	+274	22,111.6	40,030.0	+ 81	1,164.6	4,550.0	+291
Central	10,483.3	13,890.0	+ 33	4,744.8	3,390.0	- 29	10,741.1	13,000.0	+ 21
Southwest	2,239.4	3,150.0	+ 41	1,024.4	560.0	- 45	3,909.4	4,300.0	+ 10
Southcentral	7,230.7	14,240.0	+ 97	882.0	855.0	- 3	3,899.9	3,700.0	- 5
Southeast	2,928.8	6,240.0	+113	1,658.7	2,920.0	+ 76	572.0	1,850.0	+223
STATE	54,825.0	89,950.0	+ 64	64,975.0	84,325.0	+ 30	44,100.0	57,200.0	+ 30

1/ District data funded by Montana Wheat Commission.

FARM PRICES DOWN

The August Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all Farm Products at 151 (1977=100) was down 1 percent from the revised July index. The All Crops Index at 149 was 6 percent below July and 9 percent below a year ago. The Livestock and Products Index at 152 was 4 percent above July and 14 percent below August 1980.

In comparing August prices with July prices decreases were noted for all Crop Items except Durum which was unchanged. The only Livestock Items to increase were Cows, Beef Cattle and Hogs.

Nationally, the August Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 3 points (2.1 percent) from July to 138 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Contributing most to the decrease since July were lower prices for corn, cattle, soybeans, peanuts, dry edible beans and cotton. Higher prices for apples, oranges, lemons, milk, tobacco and calves were partially offsetting. The index was 3 points (2.1 percent) below a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for August was 151 percent of its 1977 base, up 1 point (.7 percent) from July. Higher prices for replacement livestock and family living items more than offset the price declines for feed. Compared to a year earlier, the index was 11 points (7.9 percent) higher.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1977=100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	Aug. 1980	July 1981 2/	Aug. 1981	Aug. 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	169	152	151	138
ALL CROPS	164	159	149	131
Food grains	175	163	158	159
Feed grains	133	160	126	139
Feed grains & hay	130	145	119	135
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	176	146	152	145
Meat animals	174	148	154	155
Dairy products	122	131	129	139
Poultry and eggs	103	102	102	116
Wool	115	128	128	3/

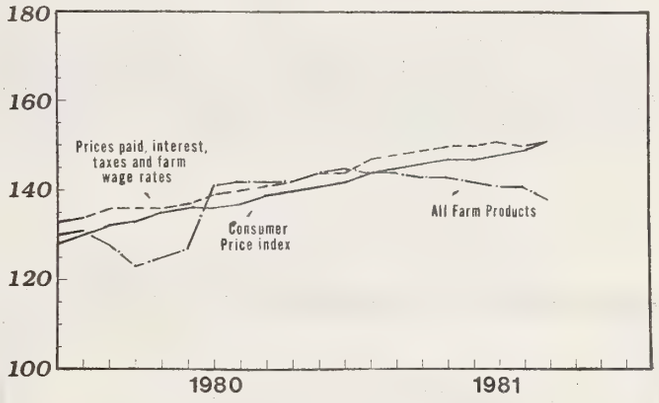
1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		Aug. 1980	July 1981 1/	Aug. 1981	Aug. 1981
		---Dollars---			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.63	3.42	3.64
Durum	Bu.	5.45	3.74	3.74	3.48
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	4.06	3.81	3.78	3.66
Wheat, all	Bu.	4.00	3.72	3.61	3.63
Barley	Bu.	2.39	2.88	2.25	2.45
Oats	Bu.	1.61	2.20	1.87	1.78
Alfalfa hay	Ton	67.00	51.00	51.00	67.10
All other hay	Ton	60.00	47.00	47.00	56.70
All hay baled	Ton	66.50	51.00	51.00	63.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	68.50	58.80	56.30	62.40
Cows	Cwt	45.90	42.40	43.40	42.80
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	61.50	49.00	52.40	58.30
Calves	Cwt	73.30	61.50	60.40	63.80
Sheep	Cwt	18.70	24.10	20.30	20.90
Lambs	Cwt	64.30	57.90	56.40	55.90
Hogs	Cwt	45.70	48.30	49.00	49.40
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	12.60	13.10	12.90	13.40
Eggs	Doz	.590	.580	.580	.593
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.01	.950	.950	.946
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	168.00	175.00	172.00	182.00

1/ Revised. 2/Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

Index of Prices Paid & Received by Farmers



UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1977=100	
	Aug. 1980	Aug. 1981	Aug. 1980	Aug. 1981
Prices Received	643	631	141	138
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	965	1,039	140	151
Ratio 2/	67	61	101	91

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants produced 560,000 pounds of creamed cottage cheese during July--14 percent more than July 1980. Ice cream production at 213,000 gallons was 4 percent below a year ago. Butter production totaled 130,000 pounds, up 16 percent.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES AND COMMODITY GROUPS, MONTANA--1979-1980

COMMODITIES	VALUE		Percentage of all Commodities	
	1979 1/	1980 2/	1979 1/	1980 2/
	----------1,000 dollars----------		---------1,000 dollars--------	
Cattle and calves	700,096	640,326	50.0	45.5
Dairy Products	33,515	37,696	2.4	2.7
Sheep and Lambs	13,242	12,339	.9	.9
Wool	4,672	5,104	.3	.4
Hogs	28,490	26,895	2.0	1.9
Farm Chickens and Eggs	9,071	8,103	.6	.6
Honey and Beeswax	7,660	6,583	.5	.5
Other 3/	9,184	9,794	.7	.7
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	805,930	746,840	57.5	53.1
Wheat	422,258	481,748	30.2	34.2
Barley	73,221	80,436	5.2	5.7
Sugarbeets	30,922	32,749	2.2	2.3
Hay	27,158	34,079	1.9	2.4
Potatoes	7,225	5,562	.5	.4
Oats	3,263	1,858	.2	.1
Dry Edible Beans	2,908	4,257	.2	.3
Alfalfa Seed	3,299	4,285	.2	.3
Other crops 4/	15,270	7,963	1.1	.6
Cherries	2,005	372	.1	5/
Other Fruits 6/	41	41	5/	5/
Forest Products	4,700	4,700	.3	.3
Greenhouse and Nursery	2,200	2,400	.2	.2
CROPS	594,470	660,450	42.5	46.9
ALL COMMODITIES	1,400,400	1,407,290	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Turkeys, other poultry, other livestock. 4/ Miscellaneous vegetables, rye, corn, safflower, sweet clover seed, mustard seed, wheat grass seed, other seeds and other field crops. 5/ Less than .1 of a percent. 6/ Apples, strawberries, raspberries and other fruits.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Statistician
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Red Meat Production
- Cattle Herd Expansion
- Crop Production Costs
- Barley Varieties
- Farm Production Expenditures
- U.S. Feed Grain Crops Outlook Improves

CATTLE EXPANSION SLOWS . . .

BUT CONTINUES

The rate of increase in the cattle herd buildup has moderated, but expansion continues. The July 1 inventory indicated that total cattle and feef cow numbers each rose 2 percent from a year ago. Beef replacement heifers saved for possible herd expansion were 7 percent above last year and point to continued herd rebuilding. Improved grazing and forage prospects are encouraging producers to continue the buildup in spite of feeder cattle selling at prices lower than a year ago. Much of the expansion will likely continue throughout the country on farms and ranches where the cattle enterprise is an important or only source of income. These operations will expand to more fully use forage resources. However, there appears to be little or no incentive to encourage new operations or to deter the shift of cropland pasture back into crop production.

Feeder cattle supplies have tightened but remain adequate for increased feedlot placements and/or continued large nonfed slaughter. The 1981 calf crop is expected to be only 1 percent larger than last year. Feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots on July 1 were also 1 percent above a year ago. Feeder calf supplies were 2 percent bigger, while the yearling supply declined 3 percent.

JULY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 12 percent less red meat during July than the same month a year ago. Total production at 13.4 million pounds compares with 15.2 million pounds in July 1980 and 14.5 million pounds in June 1981. The January-July red meat production is 8 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in July 1981 totaled 3.04 billion pounds (1.38 million metric tons), down 1 percent from July 1980. January-July red meat production, at 22.3 billion pounds (10.1 million metric tons), was essentially unchanged from last year. The 1981 accumulated production changes by individual components were: Beef, up 4 percent; Veal, up 9 percent; Pork, down 6 percent; Lamb and Mutton, up 3 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

JANUARY-JULY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980 AND 1981

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1980	1981	Percent Change
	1,000 Head				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	85.7	76.7	19,176	19,971	+ 4
Calves	.1	.1	1,442	1,508	+ 5
Hogs	314.5	295.6	56,496	53,056	- 6
Sheep & Lambs	1.0	1.5	3,191	3,346	+ 5
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	96,124	84,764	20,672	21,599	+ 4
Calves	57	45	352	383	+ 9
Hogs	75,907	70,525	13,627	12,866	- 6
Sheep & Lambs	111	160	361	371	+ 3
Red Meat Production	105,065	96,715	22,330	22,327	--

Crop Production Costs: This Year's Prospects

Rising production costs continue to plague farmers. Costs per acre this year are projected to increase 14 to 19 percent after last year's 15.4 percent per acre jump in expenses—excluding land costs.

But some relief may be in sight. Input prices—especially fuel—should rise less this year than last, especially in light of OPEC's recent agreement to freeze oil prices through the end of the year.

Last year, fuel prices led the surge in production costs with a 38-percent rise over 1979 levels. Even before the OPEC announcement, USDA economists expected a more moderate 22 to 26 percent rise in fuel prices in 1981.

Since fertilizer and chemical prices are greatly influenced by energy costs, these, too, should rise more slowly. Fertilizer prices are expected to rise 12 to 14 percent this year, after a 24-percent jump during 1980. Farm motor supplies, machinery, and interest costs should also rise at a slower rate.

On the other hand, costs of several inputs are expected to rise more this year than last: wages, automobiles and trucks, and seed.

Per Unit Costs

If the overall rate of per acre cost increases for crops shows little if any improvement over 1980, farmers may fare much better by a different yardstick: per unit production costs.

With last summer's drought cutting sharply into yields, 1981 will almost certainly show much smaller increases in costs per unit of production, according to USDA economist Robert E. Olson.

Many farmers would be quick to say that anything would be an improvement over last year, when falling yields and rising costs in most areas meant a staggering jump in per unit costs. Yields declined for all major crops.

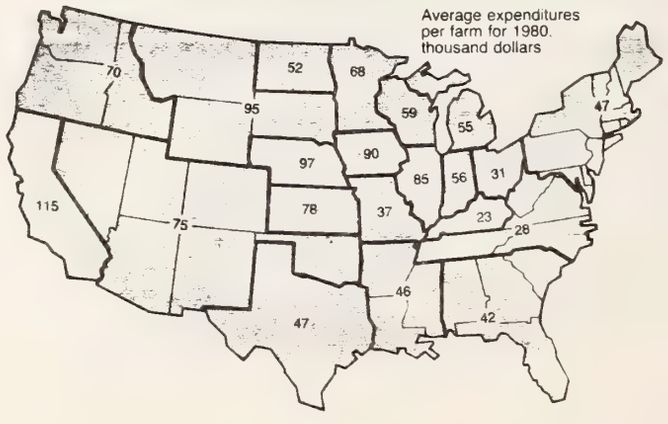
Of course, as Olson points out, these 1980 declines were from 1979 levels—a year that saw record or above average yields for most major crops.

Even so, the effect of the drought on per unit production costs was disastrous for many farmers, since the fast-rising input prices were absorbed by small total output. Per unit costs rose an average of more than 40 percent for all crops and 89 percent for peanuts—a crop that was also hard-hit by fungus.

Yields at pre-drought trends this year, Olson says, would mean only modest nonland production cost increases for most crops: corn and oats, 1 percent per bushel; barley, 6 percent per bushel; wheat, 14 percent per bushel; and rice, 11 percent per cwt. Per unit costs should actually decline for sorghum, soybeans, sunflower, flax, peanuts, and cotton.

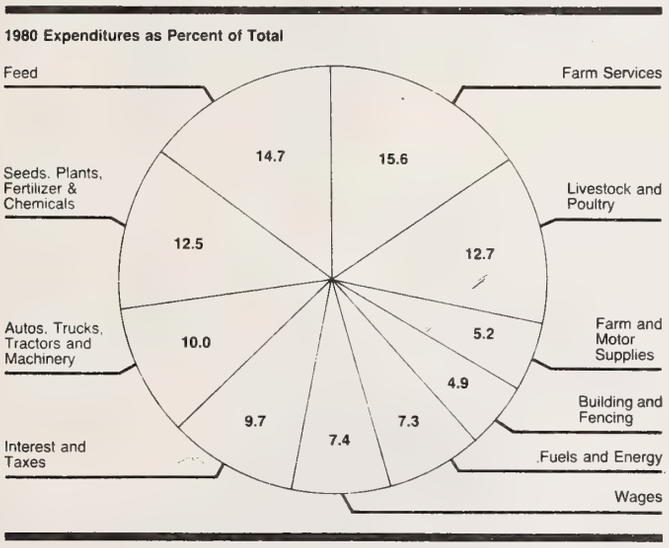
Of course, the figures for 1980 are national averages. Individual farmers—in each region, state, and county—did better or worse. In fact, some regions—especially those that missed the brunt of the drought—actually increased their production. For example, barley yields increased substantially in the northwest, southwest, and northeast.

Projections showing very moderate per unit production cost increases are also subject to wide variation from area to area and farm to farm. Also, with much of the summer still ahead, no one can rule out another drought or other natural disaster which could again greatly reduce yields.

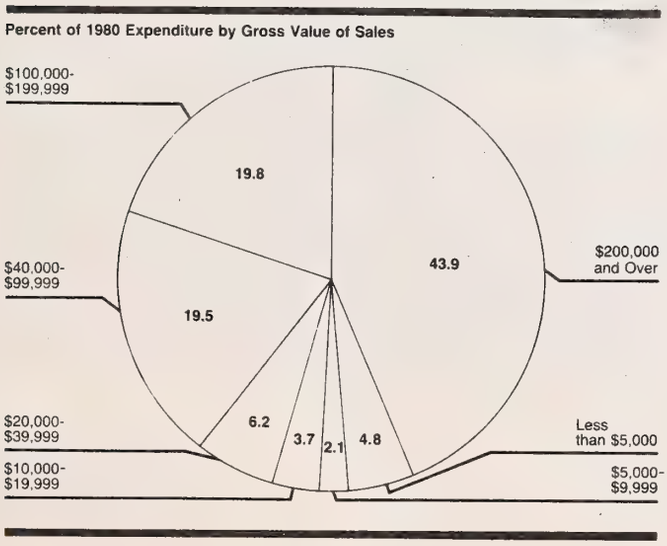


FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES

Farm production expenditures during 1980 totaled $136.6 billion, up just 1 percent from the $135.1 billion level of 1979. The average expenditure per farm declined from $58,049 in 1979 to $56,392 in 1980. Farm Services at $21.3 billion was the largest expenditure group, accounting for nearly 16 percent of the total. Feed purchases totaled $20.1 billion or 15 percent of the total; livestock and poultry accounted for $17.4 billion or 13 percent; interest expense, $10.6 billion or 8 percent; followed by fertilizer and soil conditioners, $10.2 billion or 7 percent.

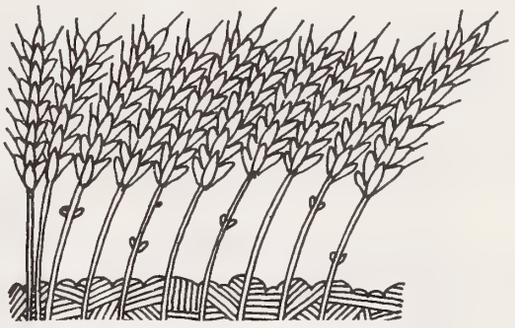


Those farms reporting gross sales of at least $200,000 accounted for less than 7 percent of all farms, but 44 percent of total farm expenditures. Farms with gross sales of $100,000 to $199,999 totaled 10 percent of all farms with 20 percent of all expenses. Farms with sales of $40,000 to $99,999 accounted for 18 percent of all farms and had 19 percent of expenditures. Farms with sales less than $5,000 totaled 32 percent but had only 5 percent of the expenditures.



SOVIET CROP OUTLOOK WORSENS

Continued hot, dry weather in July and a marked reduction in estimated final grain area are responsible for a lower projected 1981 Soviet grain production estimate, down to 185 million metric tons from last month's 200 million. This is the third consecutive year of a poor Soviet grain harvest. The 1981 Soviet grain target was 236 million tons. Wheat production is now placed at 95 million tons against 100 million estimated last month. A larger reduction occurred in projected coarse grain output which fell to 80 million tons from July's projected 90 million. The estimate for miscellaneous grains and pulses remains unchanged at 10 million tons. The preliminary area figures in the Soviet six-month plan fulfillment report show a significant decline in grain area from previous years. Therefore, the estimate for final grain area has been reduced from 126.5 million hectares to 124 million, the lowest since 1972. Wheat area is still projected at 61 million hectares while estimated coarse grain area dropped sharply to 55 million from last month's figure of 58 million. The area for miscellaneous grains and pulses of 8 million hectares is up by 500,000 hectares.



U.S. FEED GRAIN CROPS PROSPECTS

U.S. feed grain supplies will rise next season because of improved prospects for the fall harvest and an upward revision in this year's projected ending stocks. The larger supplies, plus indications of only a modest growth in use, suggest that stocks on October 1, 1982 will exceed this year's level. The projected 1981/82 carryover for feed grains would represent 18 percent of total use, compared with 15 percent this year and an average stocks-to-use ratio of 22 percent for the 1977-79 crops. So, season-average prices for feed grains will likely fall from this year's record.

Based on conditions as of August 1, U.S. feed grain production in 1981 is expected to total 236 million metric tons, up 19 percent from last year's drought-reduced crop but 1 percent less than the 1979 record. Corn production, which normally accounts for about four-fifths of total feed grain output, is projected up 16 percent from last year and 9 percent from the July 1 forecast. Sorghum production is expected to rise 42 percent from last year, with the barley and oats crops up 35 and 14 percent, respectively.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1973 - 1980

VARIETIES	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE							
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
	Percent							
Piroline	34.1	35.8	25.2	24.8	37.8	31.9	28.7	29.6
Hector	--	.2	9.1	11.2	14.3	14.9	17.5	20.4
Klages	--	.2	.6	2.5	6.1	12.7	13.6	10.3
Shabet	8.6	8.4	8.4	17.0	5.0	4.4	5.1	5.8
Fairfield	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.6	5.1
Unitan	19.0	16.5	10.0	8.9	7.9	6.1	5.1	5.0
Compana	9.5	8.0	13.3	5.5	3.0	6.0	2.8	3.2
Summit	--	--	--	--	--	1.0	4.0	2.9
Ingrid	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.4
Steptoe	.6	6.8	11.0	9.0	4.7	4.8	3.8	2.1
Larker	1.7	.8	1.3	.9	3.7	2.5	1.7	2.1
Betzes	7.7	6.0	4.5	5.1	2.8	2.8	2.6	1.7
Vireo	--	--	--	--	--	.2	.5	1.1
Hypana	3.6	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.6	3.1	1.6	1.0
Morex	--	--	--	--	--	--	.1	1.0
Horsford	.4	.9	.9	1.0	.5	1.4	2.6	.7
Dekap	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.7
Moravian III	--	--	--	--	.4	.3	.3	.7
Purcell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.6
Vanguard	1.2	2.7	2.1	.9	.5	.9	.5	.3
Freja	--	--	--	--	--	.2	.2	.2
Other	11.3	8.7	9.6	9.3	8.2	4.8	5.7	3.1
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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September 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Agricultural Prices
Manufactured Dairy

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
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August 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Dairy Products Mfg.
Wheat Varieties

GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW STATE STATISTICIAN.....

About a month ago I moved to Montana to serve as your State Statistician. I appreciate the opportunities and challenges this job represents.

We will do our best to provide you with the kinds of information you need to help develop your production and marketing plans. In these times of high interest rates, high inflation and prices that just don't keep up, we feel this information is vital to all in agriculture.

Fewer and fewer people have direct farm or ranch experience and don't understand the costs and risks involved in agriculture. Fewer than 3 million farm families now produce enough to feed and clothe our 225 million Americans--plus exports. One farm worker in the U.S. supplies food and fiber for 68 people. It's this kind of productivity that allows us to provide over 40 percent of the world's wheat exports and over 70 percent of coarse grains.

Information on production and stocks are essential to maintain and expand our export business and still maintain an adequate domestic supply.

Our purpose is to provide you with accurate, unbiased information. This information is often already available to many grain and livestock buyers through their own sources. To maintain a high level of accuracy, we need the cooperation of each of you that are sampled and receive our questionnaires. Please fill them out, include comments, and we in turn will provide you with the best information available on Montana and U.S. agriculture

Lyle H. Pratt

Lyle H. Pratt,
State Statistician

PASTURE AND RANGE

Pastures and ranges are still above average for this time of year. Range feed is good over most of the State. The grass is very thin and somewhat coarse in the northeast, and scattered areas of the east. The critical element this year as last year is stockwater supplies. Supplies are especially critical in the eastern portions of the north central and northeastern areas of the State.

MONTANA PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION AUGUST 1
by District as a percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	55	99	101
Northcentral	66	58	88
Northeast	73	21	75
Central	68	79	96
Southwest	69	95	97
Southcentral	72	77	98
Southeast	65	27	79
STATE	67	63	90

News on the farm front . . . July 1 conditions pointed to a huge wheat crop of 2.81 billion bushels, up 19% from 1980's 2.37 billion. Expected U.S. average yield: 34.8 bushels per acre, up from 33.4. On the plus side, world demand will rise, and U.S. farmers will use a lot more wheat in feed rations. But we're not the only ones sitting on a record crop--so is the rest of the world. Thus, U.S. prices may not match last season's $3.96. Wheat prices have recently been running below the $3.81 target price, raising a possibility of deficiency payments.

Hot, dry weather is cutting into Soviet crop prospects. This may be their third poor harvest in a row if weather doesn't improve. USDA now estimates their grain crop at 200 million tons, well below their 236-million-ton target. Add a new trade agreement with Brazil to those with Argentina and Canada, and it seems we're at the bottom of their shopping list. But the Soviets aren't likely to find all the grain they need without eventually coming to the U.S.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

The 1981 Montana wheat crop is expected to be 171.2 million bushels--down slightly from last month's projection--primarily due to hot weather during the first week of July, according to the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Winter, hard red spring and durum wheat production should all be much higher than the 1980 drought stricken crop based on August 1 conditions. If realized, this would be a record wheat crop surpassing the previous high in 1976.

The winter wheat production forecast remains unchanged at 87.4 million bushels. This is 59 percent larger than the 1980 crop. Hard red spring, down 4 percent from the July 1 forecast, is at 71.4 million bushels. This is still 25 percent more than 1980. Durum wheat production at 12.4 million bushels is 63 percent above last year's crop.

The Montana barley crop is expected to produce 57.2 million bushels, 30 percent above the 1980 level, but 4 percent below the July 1 estimate. Oats production at 5.5 million bushels is up 71 percent from last year.

Hay production for 1981 is forecast at 4.29 million tons which is 3 percent above the 1980 harvest. The effects of last year's drought are still limiting hay yields this year. Alfalfa hay accounts for 2.94 million tons, up 4 percent, while other hay makes up the remaining 1.35 million tons, unchanged from last year. Sugarbeet production, at 860,000 tons, is 2 percent below last year's crop. Dry bean harvest is expected to produce 176,000 hundredweight, the same as in 1980.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--AUGUST 1, 1981

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	1980	1981	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	+ 2	2,150	2,570	+20	25.5	34.0	54,825	87,380	+59
Durum	Bu.	470	490	+ 4	400	475	+19	19.0	26.0	7,600	12,350	+63
Other spring wht.	Bu.	2,900	2,850	- 2	2,550	2,750	+ 8	22.5	26.0	57,375	71,500	+25
All wheat	Bu.	5,970	5,990	--	5,100	5,795	+14	23.5	29.5	119,800	171,230	+43
Corn for Grain	Bu.	--	--	--	8	9	+13	74.0	75.0	592	675	+14
Oats	Bu.	220	220	--	73	110	+15	44.0	50.0	3,212	5,500	+71
Barley	Bu.	1,180	1,400	+19	1,050	1,300	+24	42.0	44.0	44,100	57,200	+30
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.0	7.5	+ 7	6.9	7.4	+ 7	250.	1/	1,725	1/	--
Dry beans	Cwt.	12.0	12.0	--	11.0	11.0	--	1,600.	1,600	176	176	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	44.2	44.8	+ 1	43.3	44.1	+ 2	20.3	19.5	879	860	- 2
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,200	1,250	+ 4	2.35	2.35	2,820	2,938	+ 4
All other hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,000	1,000	--	1.35	1.35	1,350	1,350	--
All hay	Ton	--	--	--	2,200	2,250	+ 2	1.90	1.91	4,170	4,288	+ 3
Sweet cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	700 2/	1.800 2/	--

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 9. 2/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--AUGUST 1, 1981

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	1980	1981	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	57,425	65,780	+15	51,374	58,575	+14	36.8	35.3	1,891,251	2,064,845	+ 9
Durum	Bu.	5,525	5,840	+ 6	4,840	5,648	+17	22.4	33.0	108,395	186,293	+72
Other spring wht.	Bu.	17,480	17,172	- 2	14,639	16,366	+12	25.3	30.0	370,020	496,257	+34
All wheat	Bu.	80,430	88,792	+10	70,853	80,589	+14	33.4	34.0	2,369,666	2,747,395	+16
Corn for grain	Bu.	--	--	--	73,061	74,563	+ 2	91.0	104.3	6,647,534	7,734,941	+16
Oats	Bu.	13,360	13,616	+ 2	8,640	9,793	+13	53.0	54.1	457,593	522,408	+14
Barley	Bu.	8,283	9,662	+17	7,233	8,977	+24	49.6	53.3	358,544	483,316	+35
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	1,182.4	1,190.3	+ 1	1,155.3	1,165.8	+ 1	270	1/	264,594	1/	--
Dry beans	Cwt.	1,896.0	2,265.0	+19	1,836.0	2,231.0	--	1,422	1,471	26,100	32,814	+26
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,231.3	1,256.0	+ 2	1,188.5	1,223.7	--	19.8	20.8	23,449	25,490	+ 9
Alfalfa hay	Ton	--	--	--	26,269	26,205	--	3.04	3.08	79,865	80,644	+ 1
All other hay	Ton	--	--	--	33,168	33,239	--	1.54	1.72	51,205	57,110	+12
All hay	Ton	--	--	--	59,437	59,444	--	2.21	2.32	131,070	137,754	+ 5
Sweet cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	171,7002/	138,9002/	--

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 9. 2/ Actual tons.

JULY FARM PRICES

The July Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products at 158 (1977=100) was down 2 percent from the revised June Index. The All Crops Index at 167 was 4 percent below June, but slightly above a year ago. The Livestock and Products Index at 149 was 2 percent below June, and 7 percent below July 1980.

In comparing July prices with June prices, decreases were noted for most Crop and Livestock items.

Nationally, the June Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 1 point (.7 percent) from June to 141 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Contributing most to the decrease since June were lower prices for cattle, oranges, wheat, barley and hay. Higher prices for hogs, tobacco, potatoes, broilers and lettuce were partially offsetting. The index was 6 points (4.4 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for July was unchanged from June at 151 percent of its 1977 base. Lower prices for many feed items, replacement cattle and hogs were offset by higher prices for motor supplies and family living items. Compared to a year earlier, the index was 12 points (8.6 percent) higher.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1977 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	July 1980	June 1981 2/	July 1981	July 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	162	162	158	141
ALL CROPS	166	174	167	136
Food grains	180	183	176	154
Feed grains	126	165	153	155
Feed grains & hay	125	148	140	149
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	161	152	149	145
Meat animals	166	154	152	155
Dairy products	119	132	130	138
Poultry and eggs	83	102	102	118
Wool	115	128	128	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		July 1980	June 1981 1/	July 1981	July 1981
		Dollars			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.99	3.90	3.50
Durum	Bu.	5.75	4.49	4.13	3.90
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.99	4.29	4.09	3.87
Wheat, all	Bu.	4.11	4.16	4.00	3.55
Barley	Bu.	2.26	2.97	2.74	2.56
Oats	Bu.	1.84	2.32	2.23	1.89
Alfalfa hay	Ton	65.00	50.00	53.00	69.00
All other hay	Ton	60.00	46.00	48.00	57.40
All hay baled	Ton	65.00	50.00	53.00	65.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt	65.60	61.40	60.10	62.30
Cows	Cwt	43.90	43.20	43.20	42.10
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	53.90	51.70	50.80	58.30
Calves	Cwt	73.90	63.40	62.50	64.80
Sheep	Cwt	13.70	14.80	19.60	23.50
Lambs	Cwt	67.50	56.80	56.40	61.50
Hogs	Cwt	39.90	47.80	48.30	49.60
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	12.30	13.20	13.00	13.40
Eggs	Doz	.470	.580	.580	58.4
Wool 4/	Lb.	.920	.950	.950	102.0
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	155.00	169.00	175.00	187.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1977 = 100	
	July 1980	July 1981	July 1980	July 1981
Prices Received	617	643	135	141
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	955	1,038	139	151
Ratio 2/	65	62	97	93

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 110,000 gallons of ice cream during June--1 percent more than June 1980. Creamed cottage cheese at 508,000 pounds was up 13 percent from last year. Butter production at 141,000 pounds was 18 percent greater than June 1980.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1977 - 1981

Class and Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage				
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
	----------Percent----------				
WINTER WHEAT					
Centurk	25.7	28.1	27.1	24.7	24.6
Winalta	31.1	29.1	27.7	26.3	18.7
Cheyenne	23.0	26.2	23.5	25.2	16.9
Norstar	--	--	--	2.3	15.4
Roughrider	--	--	2.6	4.1	5.5
Warrior	3.9	3.2	4.6	5.8	3.5
Nugaines	.8	.5	1.1	1.2	2.4
Winoka	3.3	3.2	3.4	2.2	2.2
Rocky	--	--	--	--	1.8
Lancer	1.3	.4	.5	.7	.5
Wanser	--	--	--	--	.5
Other & Unknown	10.9	9.3	9.5	7.5	8.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Olaf	24.1	22.8	17.1	17.1	15.2
Prodax	6.3	9.0	9.9	10.7	12.7
Newana	--	1.0	5.8	7.6	12.7
Fortuna	34.1	21.6	23.4	22.6	12.0
Lew	1.4	3.8	5.2	10.1	11.1
Solar	--	--	--	--	6.8
Tioga	7.9	8.9	8.5	6.2	5.6
Butte	--	--	4.5	3.4	4.2
Norana	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.6	3.9
Thatcher	4.4	6.8	3.3	3.4	2.6
Wared	4.9	6.1	4.7	2.6	1.7
Waldron	1.3	2.3	--	--	1.4
Wampum	--	--	--	--	1.4
Other & Unknown	12.2	14.3	14.4	13.7	8.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Class and Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage				
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
	----------Percent----------				
DURUM					
Ward	25.5	30.8	18.4	36.5	28.9
Cando	--	7.2	17.7	17.5	18.8
Calvin	--	--	--	--	9.1
Rolette	--	3.4	18.5	14.2	8.3
Crosby	16.1	19.2	12.2	13.5	8.1
Wells	21.5	5.7	18.3	12.2	5.9
Colter	--	--	--	--	5.2
Wascona	5.0	1.7	--	1.3	3.4
Rugby	--	--	--	--	2.8
Edmore	--	--	--	--	1.6
Vic	--	--	--	--	1.3
Leeds	1.7	3.3	--	1.1	1.0
Other & Unknown	30.2	28.7	14.9	3.7	5.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Slaughter Farm Income

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

July 1 Cattle Inventory Up
Fewer Cattle On Feed
Milk Production Higher
Lamb Crop and Wool Production Up
Red Meat Production Down
Home Grown Oil

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Asia received 29 percent of the U.S. corn exports in the 1979-80 marketing year, followed closely by 28 percent to Western Europe and 17 percent to the U.S.S.R.

NATIONAL CATTLE HERD CONTINUES UP

Nationally, the July 1 cattle inventory was 125 million head, 2 percent above July 1 a year ago, and 6 percent above July 1, 1979. All classes were up except other herd replacement heifers and steers 500 pounds and over.

The 1981 calf crop is expected to be 45.6 million head--1 percent more than 1980.

MONTANA CATTLE HERD LARGER

Montana cattlemen continue to expand their herds as the annual mid-year survey of producers indicates cattle numbers are up 9 percent from last year.

Beef cow numbers were up 10 percent and beef replacement heifers were up 15 percent from a year ago. Steers over 500 pounds were down 11 percent.

The 1981 calf crop is estimated at 1.6 million, up 5 percent from last year. This includes all calves born during the January 1 - July 1 period, plus calves expected to be born before December 31.

CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY -- JULY 1, 1980-81

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1981 as % of 1980	1980	1981	1981 as % of 1980
	---1,000 Head---		Pct.	---1,000 Head---		Pct.
ALL CATTLE & CALVES	3,675	3,995	+ 9	123,071	125,000	+ 2
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,570	1,725	+10	50,111	51,064	+ 2
Beef Cows	1,542	1,696	+10	39,307	40,172	+ 2
Milk Cows	28	29	+ 4	10,804	10,892	+ 1
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	357	409	+15	17,850	18.386	+ 3
For Beef Cow Replacement	261	300	+15	5,859	6,243	+ 7
For Milk Cow Replacement	8	9	+13	4,378	4,638	+ 6
Other Heifers	88	100	+14	7,613	7,505	- 1
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	230	204	-11	16,586	16,301	- 2
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	85	88	+ 4	2,613	2,640	+ 1
Calves Under 500 Pounds on Hand	1,433	1,569	+ 9	35,911	36,609	+ 2
Calf Crop 1/	1,520	1,600	+ 5	45,354	45,611	+ 1

1/ Calves born before July 1 plus number expected to be born after July 1.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

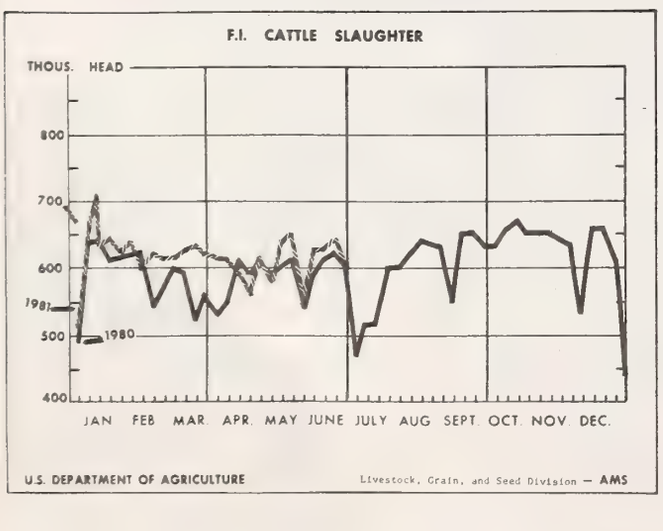
Montana slaughter plants produced 5 percent less red meat during June than the same month a year ago. Total production at 14.5 million pounds compares with 15.2 million pounds in June 1980 and 13.7 million pounds in May 1981. The January - June red meat production is 7 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in June 1981, totaled 3.11 billion pounds, up 1 percent from June 1980. January - June red meat production, at 19.3 billion pounds was up less than 1 percent from last year. The 1981 accumulated production changes by individual components were: Beef, up 5 percent; Veal, up 9 percent; Pork, down 6 percent; Lamb and Mutton, up 3 percent.

Kill days for June included 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, compared with 21 weekdays and 4 Saturdays for June 1980.

JANUARY-JUNE LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980 and 1981

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1980	1981	Percent Change
	----------1,000 Head----------				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	72.2	65.5	16,338	17,056	+ 4
Calves	.1	.1	1,230	1,281	+ 4
Hogs	272.7	257.5	49,275	46,242	- 6
Sheep & Lambs	.7	1.2	2,751	2,887	+ 5
Total Liveweight					
Cattle	81,419	72,352	17,667	18,525	+ 5
Calves	40	36	299	326	+ 9
Hogs	65,777	61,297	11,886	11,221	- 6
Sheep & Lambs	78	133	314	322	+ 3
Red meat Production	89,889	83,348	19,261	19,289	---



MILK PRODUCTION HIGHER

Montana's dairy herds produced 85 million pounds of milk during the April - June quarter--10 percent more than the same quarter a year ago. The number of cows in the State's herd during the quarter averaged 29,000--up 1,000 from last year.

Compared with the previous quarter (January - April 1981) milk production in the State rose 9 percent or 7 million pounds.

JUNE MILK COW & APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	JUNE MILK COW 1/		MILK PRODUCTION 2/	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	Thousands		Million Lbs.	
Calif.	898	910	3,486	3,678
Idaho	154	165	501	556
Minn.	855	875	2,654	2,844
MONT.	28	29	77	85
N. Dak.	93	93	261	277
Oreg.	95	97	315	324
S. Dak.	161	156	455	460
Wash.	202	205	773	783
Wisc.	1,814	1,824	6,022	6,155
Wyo.	12.0	12.0	34.2	35.1
U. S.	10,800	10,880	33,998	35,236

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

NEW U.S. WHEAT CROP TO REACH ALLTIME HIGH

The 1981/82 U.S. wheat outlook is dominated by another record crop. The July 1 forecast places 1981's production at 2.81 billion bushels, almost a fifth larger than last year's record. This increase is mainly the result of the largest area ever planted to wheat--88.8 million acres--plus a sharp increase in spring wheat yields from last year's drought-reduced levels.

Early prospects for the 1981/82 world wheat crop also indicate that production could be record size--around 465 million tons. Most crops in the Northern Hemisphere are expected to be larger than a year ago, with the biggest increases in the United States and Canada. The Soviet Union's crop may be up only slightly from last year, so Soviet import demand is likely to remain strong. This factor, combined with strong demand from other importing countries, notably China and India, suggests that global wheat trade may top last year's record by 7 percent or more.

CATTLE ON FEED--JULY 1, 1981

Cattle and calves on feed in Montana feedlots on July 1, 1981 totaled 40,000 head--18 percent less than last July. Steers on feed at 21,000 head were down 8,000 head from a year earlier, and heifers at 19,000 head were unchanged. About 83 percent of all steers and heifers on feed weighed 700 pounds or more, and 33 percent weighed 900 pounds or more.

Marketings at 15,000 head were down 21 percent from last July. Other disappearance (mainly movement to other feedlots and returning cattle to pasture) at 11,000 head was up 9,000 head from last year. Placements in lots during the April - June quarter totaled 27,000 head--up 29 percent from the same period a year ago.

Montana feeders expect to market 30,000 head of fat cattle during the July - September period, 30 percent more than the same period in 1980.

Cattle and calves on feed July 1, 1981, for slaughter market in the 23 major feeding states totaled 9.57 million head, 1 percent below a year earlier and 7 percent less than 2 years ago. This is the smallest July 1 number on feed since 1975. For both steers and heifers, lighter weight groups are considerably lower than last year, while the heavier weight groups are generally showing increased numbers on feed.

CATTLE ON FEED JULY 1, 1981

ITEM	MONTANA		23 MAJOR STATES	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	--------1,000 Head---------			
On feed April 1	49	39	10,203	9,768
During period April 1-June 30:				
Placed on feed 1/	21	27	5,640	5,953
Marketed 1/	19	15	5,634	5,591
Other disappearance 2/	2	11	589	560
On feed July 1	49	40	9,620	9,570
Kinds on feed July 1:				
Steers & steer calves	29	21	6,289	6,198
Under 500 lbs.	1	0	227	175
500-699 lbs.	1	3	914	746
700-899 lbs.	10	7	2,426	2,393
900-1099 lbs.	16	10	2,188	2,458
1100 lbs. and over	1	1	534	426
Heifer & heifer calves	19	19	3,277	3,328
Under 500 lbs.	1	0	146	78
500-699 lbs.	1	4	909	847
700-899 lbs.	13	13	1,621	1,678
900 lbs. and over	4	2	601	725
Cows and other	1	0	54	44
Marketings July - Sept.	23 3/	30 4/	5,716 3/	6,143 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after April 1 and marketed before June 30. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after July 1 and marketed before September 30.

USSR GRAIN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

The Soviet Union's 1981/82 domestic grain supply outlook has tightened from a month ago as continued dry weather and a smaller estimated grain area have reduced crop prospects. Even if grain imports rise to 38 million tons in 1981/82, 3 million more than forecast last month, the Soviets may have to delay adding appreciably to badly depleted stocks.

The estimate of the 1981/82 USSR grain crop has been placed at 200 million tons, down 10 million from last month's estimate. This compares with last season's poor outturn of 189 million tons and the official Soviet target of 236 million. The estimate of a record level of imports is based on the expectation that domestic utilization will recover in 1981/82, while the Soviets begin to rebuild stocks.

LAMB CROP AND WOOL PRODUCTION UP

Montana's 1981 lamb crop is up nearly 8 percent from last year at 420,000 head. Ewes on hand January 1 were up 5 percent. Therefore, the 8 percent larger lamb crop resulted from a combination of more bred ewes and a higher lambing percent. Mild winter weather probably helped save lambs.

Montana's flock produced a near record average fleece weighing 10.3 pounds each. More sheep shorn and heavier fleeces pushed wool production up to 5.6 million pounds, nearly 8 percent more than a year ago.

LAMB CROP AND WOOL

I T E M	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
Breeding ewes 1 yr. & older (000 head)	400	420	8,524	8,798
Lamb crop per 100 ewes 1 year & older (000 head)	98	100	97	101
Lamb crop (000 head)	390	420	8,246	8,875
Number sheep shorn (000 head)	524	539	13,249	13,427
Weight per fleece (Lbs.)	9.8	10.3	8.0	8.1
Wool production (000 lbs.)	5,156	5,566	105,452	109,156

CAN HOME GROWN OIL STRETCH YOUR DIESEL DOLLAR?

It isn't crude, but it is oil. It's diesaveg (dee'-za-vej), a combination of diesel fuel and vegetable oil. And according to agricultural researchers, diesaveg is coming on strong as an alternative to conventional diesel fuel.

"By the end of this decade, diesaveg could become a fairly common farm fuel," says John Baldwin, professor of agricultural engineering at Louisiana State University. "With the right portable equipment to crush and filter the oil, farm energy needs could be met, at least partially, from crops."

Alternative fuels, primarily gasohol, have gotten a lot of attention in recent years. But because of its alcohol base, gasohol can't be used in the diesel engines of most farm machinery. In 1980, farmers used 3.3 billion gallons of diesel fuel just to produce U.S. crops and livestock. Cost is the biggest drawback to diesaveg. The price of a gallon of sunflower oil ($2.24) or soybean oil ($1.92) looks steep compared with diesel fuel at around $1.20. But this may not always be the case.

"Trends, especially during the 1970's, point in a different direction," says USDA economist Ed Fryar. "The 5 years before the 1973 oil embargo, diesel fuel prices increased an average of 4.5 percent a year. But for the next 8 years, price increases averaged around 25 percent annually."

If these trends were to continue, prices for both diesaveg and diesel fuel would be about equal by the middle to late 1980's. However, energy analysts say that diesel fuel prices in the next 10 years will probably not rise as rapidly relative to vegetable oil. If so, diesaveg might not be an economical substitute for diesel fuel until, perhaps, late this century.

"If the two reach the same price, the cost of diesel fuel will serve as a floor price for vegetable oil," Frayer says. This means that if the price of vegetable oil starts to fall below the price of diesel fuel, more farmers will buy vegetable oil for their tractors, forcing vegetable oil prices back up to those for diesel fuel.

Does diesaveg have enough potential power to compete with conventional diesel fuel? According to Fryar, the answer is yes. BTU content and dynamometer tests prove him out.

Gallon for gallon, the potential power of a diesaveg mixture of 75 percent diesel fuel and 25 percent vegetable oil is only 1 to 2 percent less than conventional diesel fuel. The BTU content of #2 diesel fuel--commonly used to power farm equipment--is 140,000 per gallon. Diesaveg can vary between 137,000 and 138,000 BTU's. Ethanol (or ethyl alcohol), gasohol's base, comes in third at 85,000 BTU's per gallon.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices August 1 Crop Production Pasture and Range Dairy Products Manufactured Wheat Varieties

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
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July 15, 1981

Economics and Statistics Service — USDA and Montana Department of Agriculture — ISSUED TWICE MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Pasture & Range Condition Good
Manufactured Dairy Production
Mink Production Up
Agricultural Prices
State and U.S. Crop Production

NOTABLE NUMBERS

The record production of oats in Montana occured in 1915 with 25 million bushels--followed by the 1970 crop with nearly 23 million bushels.

PROJECTED 1981 SOVIET GRAIN CROP REDUCED

Hot, dry weather has reduced yield prospects in two regions of the Soviet grain belt. This, along with a reduction in sown area, is responsible for lowering the total grain-crop estimate to 200 million metric tons from 210 million in June. The 200 million ton projection assumes normal weather for the balance of the crop season. Adverse weather conditions either during the remaining weeks of the growing season or throughout the harvest could reduce the current estimate by as much as 20 million tons while favorable weather could increase it by 10 million. Estimated wheat production now stands at about 100 million tons--a three million ton reduction from last month--and coarse grains, 90 million--about 7 million below the June projection. The estimate for miscellaneous grains and pulses remains unchanged at 10 million tons.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTION

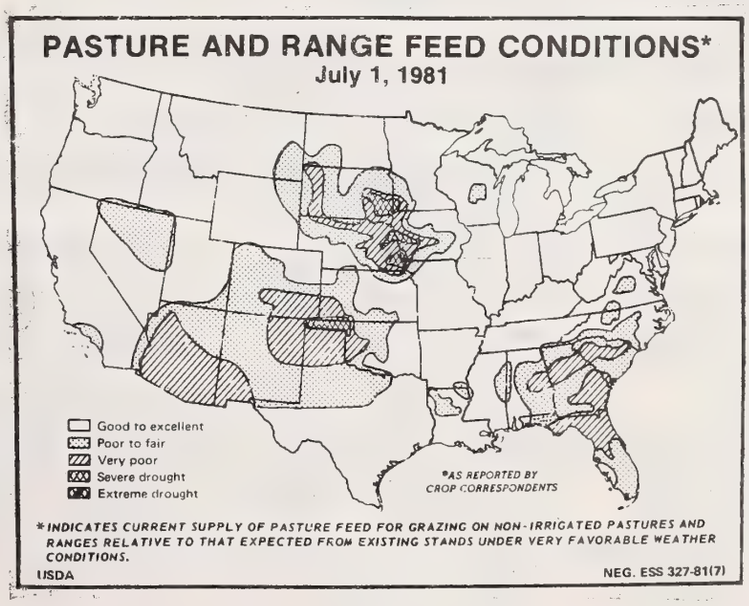
Montana dairy plants made 147,000 gallons of ice cream during May--19 percent less than May 1980. Production of creamed cottage cheese at 474,000 pounds was up 3 percent from last year, but down 8 percent from last month. Butter made at 149,000 pounds was down 2 percent from a year earlier and 11 percent below last month. American cheese production totaled 273,000 pounds, 8 percent less than last year, but 53 percent above last month.

PASTURE AND RANGES GOOD TO EXCELLENT

Pasture and range feed prospects are reported excellent in the western half and south central part of the State. Condition in the north central part of the State and the eastern third is generally reported good. Hot, dry winds and limited moisture could deteriorate pasture and range conditions very rapidly in the eastern half of the State.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION JULY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	74	96	99
Northcentral	78	70	96
Northeast	80	24	84
Central	79	81	103
Southwest	86	99	108
Southcentral	81	87	101
Southeast	74	36	80
STATE	79	69	95


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
July 1, 1981
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESS 327-81(7)

POTENTIAL FOR RECORD WHEAT CROP

The 1981 Montana all wheat crop is expected to total a record high of 174.0 million bushels--slightly above the previous record in 1975 and 45 percent above the 1980 production of 119.8 million bushels.

The July 1 condition of winter, durum and hard spring wheat indicate production should all be much higher than the 1980 drought affected crop. Timely precipitation last fall in the eastern drought areas and late May and June precipitation Statewide has brought about the potential for the State's third largest winter wheat crop.

Winter wheat production at 87.4 million bushels is 59 percent above last year and 13 percent higher than the June 1 forecast. Durum wheat at 12.4 million bushels is up 63 percent from last year and the second largest on record. This is largely a result of a 19 percent increase in harvested acres and significant precipitation in northeastern Montana during June. Production of hard spring wheat at 74.3 million bushels is up 29 percent from 1980 due to both a higher yield and an 8 percent increase in harvested acres. Seasonal rainfall will be needed to realize full crop potential.

Montana barley crop is expected to reach 59.8 million bushels--35 percent higher than 1980, due primarily to a 24 percent increase in harvested acres. Oats production at 5.5 million bushels is up 71 percent. This increase is also largely due to a 51 percent increase in harvested acres.

Sweet cherry production is forecast at 1800 tons compared with the record low 700 tons produced in 1980. Fruit set was light due to cool, wet conditions. Hay, dry bean and sugarbeet production estimates will be released August 12.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--JULY 1, 1981

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	1980	1981	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	+ 2	2,150	2,570	+20	25.5	34.0	54,825	87,380	+59
Durum	Bu.	470	490	+ 4	400	475	+19	19.0	26.0	7,600	12,350	+63
Other spring wht.	Bu.	2,900	2,850	- 2	2,550	2,750	+ 8	22.5	27.0	57,375	74,250	+29
All wheat	Bu.	5,970	5,990	--	5,100	5,795	+14	23.5	30.0	119,800	173,980	+45
Corn for grain	Bu.	--	--	--	8	9	+13	74.0	75.0	592	675	+14
Oats	Bu.	220	220	--	73	110	+51	44.0	50.0	3,212	5,500	+71
Barley	Bu.	1,180	1,400	+19	1,050	1,300	+24	42.0	46.0	44,100	59,800	+36
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.0	7.5	+ 7	6.9	7.4	+ 7	250.	1/	1,725	1/	--
Dry beans	Cwt.	12.0	12.0	--	11.0	11.0	--	1,600.	2/	176	2/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	44.2	44.8	+ 1	43.3	44.1	+ 2	20.3	2/	878	2/	--
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,200	1,250	+ 4	2.35	2/	2,820	2/	--
All other hay	Ton	--	--	--	1,000	1,000	--	1.35	2/	1,350	2/	--
All hay	Ton	--	--	--	2,200	2,250	+ 2	1.90	2/	4,170	2/	--
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7003/	1,8003/	--

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 9. 2/ First forecast on yield and production will be released August 12. 3/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--JULY 1, 1981

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	Pct. Change	1980	1981	1980	1981	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	57,425	65,780	+15	51,374	58,575	+14	36.8	35.7	1,891,251	2,092,692	+11
Durum	Bu.	5,525	5,840	+ 6	4,840	5,648	+17	22.4	33.9	108,395	191,193	+76
Other spring wht.	Bu.	17,480	17,172	- 2	14,639	16,366	+12	25.3	31.9	370,020	526,217	+42
All wheat	Bu.	80,430	88,792	+10	70,853	80,589	+14	33.4	34.8	2,369,666	2,810,102	+19
Corn for grain	Bu.	--	--	--	73,061	74,563	+ 2	91.0	95.9	6,647,534	7,116,069	+ 7
Oats	Bu.	13,360	13,616	+ 2	8,640	9,793	+13	53.0	54.1	457,593	528,118	+15
Barley	Bu.	8,283	9,662	+17	7,233	8,977	+24	49.6	53.3	358,544	478,437	+33
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	1,182.4	1,190.3	+ 1	1,155.3	1,165.8	+ 1	270	1/	264,594	1/	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,896.0	2,265.0	+19	1,836.0	2,188.0	+19	1,422	2/	26,100	2/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,231.3	1,256.0	+ 2	1,188.5	1,220.7	+ 3	19.6	2/	23,275	2/	--
Alfalfa hay	Ton	--	--	--	26,269	26,205	--	3.04	2/	79,865	2/	--
All other hay	Ton	--	--	--	33,168	33,239	--	1.54	2/	51,205	2/	--
All hay	Ton	--	--	--	59,437	59,444	--	2.21	2/	131,070	2/	--
Sweet Cherries	Ton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	171,7003/	138,9003/	--

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 9. 2/ First forecast on yield and production will be released August 12. 3/ Actual tons.

FARM PRICES WEAKEN

Montana farm prices are showing a weakness for several important commodities. The index of prices received (1967=100) at mid-June for all farm products stood at 257, down 11 points from May, but up 1 point from June a year ago.

Lower cattle prices are causing a major portion of the farm price weakness. The June livestock and products index at 224 compares with 233 a month earlier and 242 a year ago. Hog and lamb prices are the only items in the index showing significant improvement from both last month and year ago levels.

For all crops, the index at 306 compares with 318 last month and 276 last year. All wheat is lower than May levels but above June of 1980. Barley is lower than both last month and last year. Hay prices are down nearly $10 per ton from last year when the drought was pushing prices upward.

For the Nation, the June index of prices received by farmers decreased .7 percent from May. Contributing most to the decrease since May were lower prices for wheat, soybeans, corn, hay and lettuce. Higher prices for hogs, tomatoes, potatoes, broilers and turkeys were partially offsetting. The index was 11 percent above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and service, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for June was up .7 percent from May. Higher prices for farm equipment and family living items were partially offset by lower feed and fuel prices. The June index was 10 percent higher than a year earlier.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA June 1980	MONTANA May 1981 1/	MONTANA June 1981	U. S. June 1981
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.54	4.08	3.90	3.59
Durum	Bu.	4.69	5.10	4.59	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.77	4.38	4.41	4.09
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.80	4.27	4.11	3.67
Barley	Bu.	2.14	2.96	2.88	2.01
Oats	Bu.	1.74	2.25	2.11	2.97
Alfalfa hay	Ton	60.00	53.00	50.00	73.70
All other hay	Ton	55.00	48.00	46.00	59.30
All hay baled	Ton	60.00	52.50	50.00	69.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	64.10	60.20	59.00	63.20
Cows	Cwt.	44.30	41.10	41.00	43.10
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	54.60	52.70	49.50	59.10
Calves	Cwt.	73.80	64.50	63.00	68.20
Sheep	Cwt.	11.90	11.50	10.30	18.20
Lambs	Cwt.	56.80	53.30	58.80	64.00
Hogs	Cwt.	31.90	40.50	47.80	47.20
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	12.15	13.30	13.20	13.40
Eggs	Doz.	.500	.580	.580	.571
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.00	.950	.950	106.0
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed Dairy feed 14%	Ton	150.00	175.00	169.00	187.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA June 1980	MONTANA May 1981 2/	MONTANA June 1981	U.S. June 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	256	268	257	258
ALL CROPS	276	318	306	265
Food grains	282	317	305	250
Feed grains	251	346	337	274
Feed grains & hay	253	321	311	276
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	242	233	224	253
Meat animals	246	234	225	261
Dairy products	226	246	244	266
Poultry and eggs	135	156	156	199
Wool	224	213	213	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100 June 1980	1910-14=100 June 1981	1967 = 100 June 1980	1967 = 100 June 1981
Prices Received	581	645	232	258
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	946	1,039	278	306
Ratio 2/	61	62	83	84

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECASTS BY DISTRICT JULY 1, 1981 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change	1980	Indic. 1981	Pct. Change
	----(000 Bu.)----			----(000 Bu.)----			----(000 Bu.)----		
Northwest	1,283.3	980.0	- 24	772.6	440.0	- 43	3,551.0	4,390.0	+ 24
Northcentral	28,434.2	40,775.0	+ 43	33,780.9	34,313.0	+ 2	20,262.0	26,340.0	+ 30
Northeast	2,225.3	8,640.0	+288	22,111.6	43,224.0	+ 95	1,164.6	5,590.0	+380
Central	10,483.3	14,735.0	+ 41	4,744.8	3,670.0	- 23	10,741.1	14,040.0	+ 31
Southwest	2,239.4	2,870.0	+ 28	1,024.4	608.0	- 41	3,909.4	3,400.0	- 13
Southcentral	7,230.7	13,140.0	+ 82	882.0	840.0	- 5	3,899.9	3,870.0	- 1
Southeast	2,928.8	6,240.0	+113	1,658.7	3,505.0	+111	572.0	2,170.0	+279
STATE	54,825.0	87,380.0	+ 59	64,975.0	86,600.0	+ 33	44,100.0	59,800.0	+ 36

1/ District data funded by Montana Wheat Commission.

MINK PELT PRODUCTION UP

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1980 totaled 3.50 million pelts, up 3 percent from 1979. Wisconsin, the major mink State, produced 997 thousand pelts, 2 percent more than the 978 thousand pelts produced in 1979.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: Standard, 36.2 percent; ranch wild, 6.5 percent; demi-buff, 19.1 percent; pastel, 17.6 percent; pearl, 5.1 percent; violet, 4.7 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.8 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1980 crop year were valued at 123.6 million dollars. This is a decrease of 11 percent from the value of 139.5 million dollars for pelts sold during the 1979 crop year. The average price per pelt for the 1980 crop year was $35.30 compared with $41.10 a year ago.

Mink females bred to produce kits in 1981 total 1.07 million, up 4 percent from a year ago. Bred females and percent changes from a year ago for the two major color classes are: Standard, 410 thousand females bred, up 1 percent; pastel, 193 thousand, up 5 percent. Females bred in the leading States and percent changes from 1980 are: Wisconsin, 296 thousand, up 5 percent; Utah, 152 thousand, up 2 percent; and Minnesota, 137 thousand, up 2 percent.

There were 1,122 mink ranches producing pelts in 1980, up 2 percent from the 1,105 ranches a year ago. Wisconsin with 267 ranches was up 6 percent; Utah with 190 was unchanged; and Minnesota with 158 was up 5 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Quarterly Milk Production Cattle on Feed Lamb Crop and Wool Slaughter Cattle Inventory and Calf Crop

Lyle H. Pratt, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Montana Grain Stocks Steady
Slaughter Down
U. S. Hog Inventory Lower
Egg Production
Feed Grain Perspectives

NOTABLE NUMBERS

U. S. wheat production represents only 15 percent of world production, but accounts for 45 percent of world wheat exports.

HOG NUMBERS DROP

The June 1 inventory of hogs and pigs showed some sizeable reductions in inventory numbers, pig crop and farrowing intentions. The U.S. all hog inventory at 59.7 million head was down 8 percent from both a year earlier and 1979. It was also 7 percent lower than the December 1, 1980 inventory. This June report follows tne downtrend in the cycle which started last December.

Breeding hogs this June were down 12 percent from June 1980 and market hogs were off 8 percent. The December - May pig crop was 9 percent below the same period in 1980. Sow farrowings were 5 percent below the farrowing intentions for December - May published in December.

Nearly all the major hog states showed reductions in inventory and farrowing intentions this June. Montana hog statistics are not available separately in June.

U.S. producers intend to farrow 6.05 million sows during the June - November 1981 period down 11 percent from 1980.

Pork supplies will be further reduced in the months ahead, relieving pressure on prices and reducing supply competition to beef.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 10 percent less red meat during April than the same month one year ago. Total production at 13.9 million pounds compares with 15.4 million pounds in April 1980 and 13.7 million pounds in March 1981. The January-April red meat production is 6 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in April 1981 totaled 3.30 billion pounds, down 1 percent from April 1980. January - April red meat production at 13.1 billion pounds was 2 percent more than last year. The 1981 accumulated production changes by individual components: Beef, up 5 percent; Veal, up 9 percent; Pork, down 3 percent; Lamb and Mutton, up 6 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for April included 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, the same as April 1980.

JANUARY-MAY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1981

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1980	1981	Percent Change
	----------1,000 Head---------				Pct.
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	59.7	53.6	13,640	14,134	+ 4
Calves	.1	.1	1,050	1,080	+ 3
Hogs	228.4	214.8	41,658	39,279	- 6
Sheep & Lambs	.6	1.0	2,334	2,428	+ 4
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	67,541	59,271	14,771	15,397	+ 4
Calves	38	28	250	271	+ 8
Hogs	54,995	50,839	10,031	9,521	- 5
Sheep & Lambs	60	109	269	274	+ 2
Red Meat Production	74,673	68,869	16,172	16,175	---

FEED GRAIN PERSPECTIVES

What can farmers expect now that the grain embargo has been lifted? The USSR has already purchased its limit for 1981, the last year in the 5-year agreement, so technically negotiations would have to precede any new purchases. USDA is preparing for such consultations, and options are being discussed for a possible renewed U.S.--USSR grain agreement.

Will the end of the embargo spur prices? Long-term improvement will depend on acutal sales to the USSR this year and the negotiation of a new agreement. The initial price surge in anticipation of new sales has been weaker than expected, possibly because the grain markets had already been adjusting, while recent rain improved crop prospects and dampened prices. At the same time, importers seem to be waiting for lower harvest-time prices.

Are the Soviets still willing buyers? They'll need more grain this year--perhaps up to 5 million tons before fall--and the U.S. could be one of the sellers. However, the USSR diversified its supply sources during the sales suspension and probably won't rely as heavily on the U.S. for its grain imports.

The U.S. has the supplies...especially wheat. Stocks are ample, and USDA now forecasts a record winter wheat crop this year of 2.08 billion bushels. Corn supplies, too, could be enough to meet new demand from the Soviets. This year's plantings are about the same as last year and yields should be up if the weather permits. April 1 corn stocks of 101 million metric tons were also higher than had been expected after the drought last summer, though still 18 percent below last year.

Reduced feed usage helped keep supplies up. Livestock and poultry producers cut down on feed use this year as high feed costs squeezed returns and a mild winter kept up rates of gain, reducing the need for feed. Producers are expected to use about 4.1 billion bushels of corn in 1980/81--250 million fewer than estimated earlier.

Prices could be unstable next year if the trends that kept markets volatile continue. The high interest rates that have made producers reluctant to hold crop and livestock inventories should be here till late in 1981. If the dollar stays strong, that could lower exports as importing countries look elsewhere for less expensive goods. Foreign crops--especially in South America--look larger than had been expected. That's not a good sign for prices.

Source: FARMLINE/June 1981

JUNE 1, 1981 GRAIN STOCKS

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators June 1, 1981 totaled 74.6 million bushels, about the same as one year ago.

Wheat disappearance since April 1 was 19.7 million bushels, down 9 percent from a year ago. On farm storages accounted for 61.1 million bushels or 82 percent of the total wheat stocks.

Winter wheat stored in the State at 33.8 million bushels was down 22 percent from last year. However, all spring wheat at 40.8 was 30 percent above one year ago. The durum portion at 5.4 million bushels was 15 percent above last year. Barley stocks in all positions at 7.5 million bushels were 31 percent below last year, and oats in storage at 2.3 million bushels were down 18 percent.

Nationally, old crop wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 1981 amounted to 991 million bushels--10 percent greater than the 902 million bushels on hand a year earlier and 7 percent more than two years ago. Farm stocks totaled 414 million bushels, 42 percent of the total. In comparison, farm stocks last June 1 were 377 million bushels which was also 42 percent of the total. June 1, 1981 off-farm stocks totaled 577 million bushels, 10 percent more than last year's 525 million bushels. April-May disappearance this year was 338 million bushels compared with 323 million bushels during the comparable period last year. June 1980-May 1981 disappearance totaled 2.28 billion bushels, 6 percent more than the 2.16 billion bushels disappearance for a year earlier. Of the total June 1, 1981 old crop wheat stocks, 548 million bushels were under Government control. This total includes 189 million bushels owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation and 360 million bushels held in the farmer-owned reserve.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--MAY 29, 1981
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	(000 Bushels)			
Reserve	33,008	31,288	207	369
Under loan	15,597	8,913	3,137	810

1/ These stocks are included in the June 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JUNE 1, 1981 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1980	April 1, 1981 *	June 1, 1981	% Change From 1980	June 1, 1980	April 1, 1981 *	June 1, 1981
	------Thousand Bushels---------			Pct.	--------Thousand Bushels---------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	58,238	76,672	61,098	+ 5	376,501	539,395	413,763
Off farms 1/	16,361	17,578	13,500	-17	525,498	789,780	577,066
T O T A L	74,599	94,250	74,598	NC	901,999	1,329,175	990,829
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	31,556	29,822	25,749	-18	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	11,711	9,827	8,084	-31	---	---	---
T O T A L	43,267	39,649	33,833	-22	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	26,682	46,850	35,349	+32	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	4,650	7,751	5,416	+16	---	---	---
T O T A L	31,332	54,601	40,765	+30	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	---	48,669	59,974	45,183
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	12,342	23,282	15,655
T O T A L	4,738	7,418	5,360	+15	61,011	83,256	60,838
CORN							
On farms	116	178	89	-23	2,577,785	2,651,733	1,818,294
Off farms 1/	16	50	25	+ 5	1,092,648	1,345,621	955,675
T O T A L	132	228	114	-14	3,670,433	3,997,354	2,773,969
OATS							
On farms	2,584	2,570	2,152	-17	198,316	211,442	148,672
Off farms 1/	164	217	105	-36	38,096	44,363	27,796
T O T A L	2,748	2,787	2,257	-18	236,412	255,805	176,468
BARLEY							
On farms	9,329	10,584	6,615	-29	112,372	112,152	73,647
Off farms 1/	1,634	2,181	905	-45	79,701	89,994	63,040
T O T A L	10,963	12,765	7,520	-31	192,073	202,146	136,687

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1980	April 1, 1981 *	June 1, 1981	June 1, 1980	April 1, 1981 *	June 1, 1981
DISTRICT	----------Million Bushels----------			----------Million Bushels----------		
Northwest	.5	1.2	.6	.6	1.0	.4
Northcentral	29.1	43.8	35.4	4.6	5.7	3.1
Northeast	25.4	27.7	23.6	2.2	2.1	1.9
Central	8.7	11.6	7.4	1.5	1.5	.7
Southwest	.9	1.4	.9	.6	.9	.5
Southcentral	3.7	4.6	3.1	1.0	1.0	.4
Southeast	6.3	4.0	3.6	.5	.6	.5
STATE	74.6	94.3	74.6	11.0	12.8	7.5

1/ These estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee *Revised

NOTE FROM STATE STATISTICIAN

I will be retiring July 10 after 32 years in this statistical work. It has been an interesting career, providing a necessary service to the Nation's agriculture.

I have served in Montana, Colorado, Washington, D.C., Oregon and back to Montana in 1970. Each assignment presented a new challenge and different field--cattle statistics in Washington, D.C., the varied agriculture of the Pacific Northwest and returning to my home state and viewing our agriculture in a new perspective. Agriculture is the major Montana enterprise and should continue very important in the future.

I have some new interests to pursue during retirement, but I will carry fond recollections of this work and my friends in agriculture.

Lyle H. Pratt will replace me as State Statistician. He is a native of Wisconsin and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He served in the military and worked in our Wisconsin office, Washington, D.C., and has served as Assistant State Statistician of the Minnesota office since 1976. He has an excellent 20 year background in our statistical work and will provide imaginative leadership to the fine Montana office staff. Many of you may meet him in the coming years.

The statistical program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture dates to Civil War days with the founding of a Department of Agriculture. It has progressed over the years from very simple estimating procedures based largely upon observation to quite sophisticated sampling procedures, and, recently, research into use of satellite imagery to estimate crops.

Statistics are a fact of life, both the USDA program statistics and those generated by the various trade groups. The important thing about the USDA statistics is that they are collected using appropriate statistical techniques, are unbiased and furnished back to the producer.

Daniel L. Herbert,
State Statistician

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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EGG PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

Montana's laying flocks produced 42 million eggs during the March through May 1981 quarter--up 2 percent from the same period a year ago. The average number of layers on hand during the quarter at 778,000 was up 7 percent.

The Nation's laying flock produced 17,527 million eggs during the March - May quarter--up slightly from last year. The number of layers averaged 28.3 million, slightly more than last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Acres Planted
Crop Production Forecasts
Agricultural Prices
Manufactured Dairy Products

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Winter Wheat Production Up
Cherry Crop Larger
Pasture and Range Improves
Farm Prices Up Slightly
Manufactured Dairy Production
Tractor Shipments Low
Cattle On Feed Up

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS IMPROVE

Rains over most of the State during May improved pasture and range prospects considerably. The much needed moisture greened up the State and conditions are approaching normal for this time of year. Shortage of stockwater is still a problem for ranchers in some eastern areas of the State.

The State's average condition of 82 improved 19 points from May 1 and is 25 points above June 1, 1980.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

During the 1979-80 marketing year 41 percent of the Nation's barley exports went to Asia, followed by 18 percent to the U.S.S.R. and 16 percent to Western Europe.

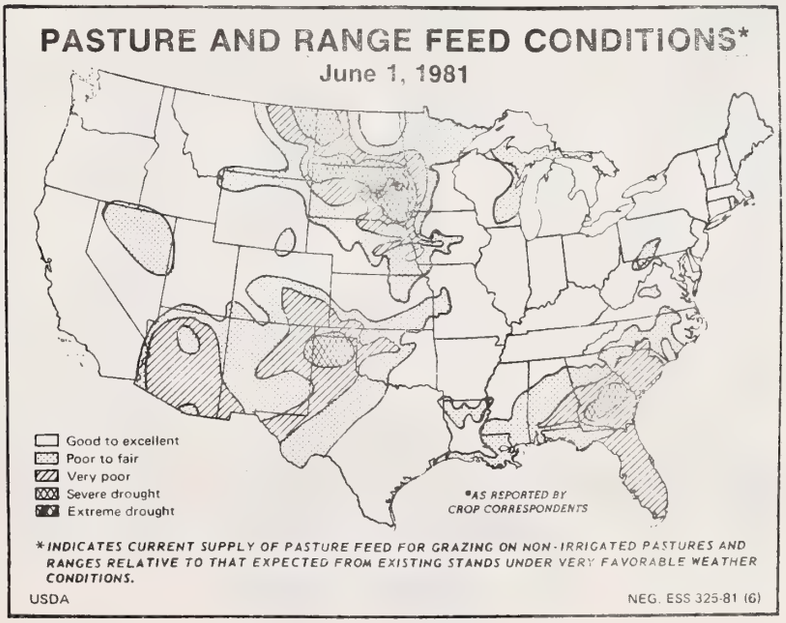
MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION JUNE 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	85	102	98
Northcentral	87	48	84
Northeast	88	23	52
Central	85	57	90
Southwest	81	95	98
Southcentral	78	75	92
Southeast	76	22	65
STATE	83	57	82

MONTANA CHERRY PRODUCTION UP

Montana's 1981 cherry crop is forecast at 1,800 tons--up 2½ times from last year's small crop. A couple of nights of freezing temperatures during blooming had an adverse affect. Precipitation during most of the blossom period resulted in poor pollination which also reduced the crop prospects.

Production in the six western states is forecast at 113,300 tons--down 17 percent from last year and 24 percent smaller than the 1979 production. Montana and Oregon are the only states showing increases from the previous year.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
June 1, 1981
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESS 325-81 (6)

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTION

Montana dairy plants made 179,000 gallons of ice cream during April--13 percent more than April 1980. Production of creamed cottage cheese at 517,000 pounds was up 18 percent from last year and 6 percent above March. Butter production at 167,000 pounds was down 3 percent from last year and 10 percent from March 1981.

JUNE 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Prospects for the 1981 Montana winter wheat crop continue to improve. Production is now forecast at 77.6 million bushels based upon conditions June 1--41 percent above last year and up 14 percent from last month's forecast. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 2,350,000 acres--9 percent above last year. The main producing areas received ample amounts of moisture during May, which enhanced yield prospects. Yield per acre in Montana is expected to be 33 bushels--7.5 bushels above last year and 4 bushels above last month's estimate.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at a record high 2.01 billion bushels, 6 percent above last year, but 3 percent below the forecast a month ago. Freeze damage during May reduced prospects in several Plains States, particularly Kansas. The aggregate of the seven Plains Hard Red Winter States was down 9 percent from May 1--Montana showed the only increase for the group. These decreases were partially offset by improved 1981 prospects in the Corn Belt, Southern and Pacific Northwest States.

WINTER WHEAT, ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION--JUNE 1, 1981

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		
	1980	Ind. 1981	% Change	1980	Ind. 1981	1980	Ind. 1981	% Change
	------1,000 Acres--------			---Bushels----		----------100 Bushels---------		
Montana	2,150	2,350	+ 9	25.5	33.0	54,825	77,550	+41
Kansas	12,000	12,200	+ 2	35.0	27.0	420,000	329,400	-22
Oklahoma	6,500	6,600	+ 2	30.0	29.0	195,000	191,400	- 2
Texas	5,200	6,400	+23	25.0	28.0	130,000	179,200	+38
Colorado	3,350	3,050	- 9	32.0	27.0	107,200	82,350	-23
Nebraska	2,950	3,050	+ 3	38.0	34.0	112,100	103,700	- 7
South Dakota	950	1,030	+ 8	22.0	22.0	20,900	22,660	+ 8
PLAINS STATES	33,100	34,680	+ 5	31.4	28.4	1,040,025	986,260	- 5
Oregon	1,200	1,130	- 6	60.0	60.0	72,000	67,800	- 6
Washington	2,750	2,700	- 2	52.0	54.0	143,000	145,800	+ 2
Idaho	910	820	-10	57.0	57.0	51,870	46,740	-10
PACIFIC NW STATES	4,860	4,650	- 4	54.9	56.0	266,870	260,340	- 2
Ohio	1,370	1,520	+11	49.0	53.0	67,130	80,560	+20
Indiana	1,100	1,350	+23	49.0	51.0	53,900	68,850	+28
Illinois	1,570	1,760	+12	48.0	49.0	75,360	86,240	+14
Michigan	800	820	+ 3	44.0	44.0	35,200	36,080	+ 3
Missouri	2,070	2,950	+43	43.0	45.0	89,010	132,750	+49
CORN BELT STATES	6,910	8,400	+22	46.4	48.2	320,600	404,480	+26
Alabama	235	450	+91	24.5	29.0	5,758	13,050	+27
Arkansas	820	1,585	+93	38.0	39.0	31,160	61,815	+98
Georgia	600	875	+46	33.0	34.0	19,800	29,750	+50
Kentucky	350	590	+69	39.5	40.0	13,825	23,600	+71
Mississippi	250	425	+70	31.0	32.0	7,750	13,600	+75
North Carolina	300	405	+35	35.0	31.0	10,500	12,555	+20
South Carolina	192	300	+56	36.0	27.0	6,912	8,100	+17
Tennessee	350	520	+49	38.0	39.0	13,300	20,280	+52
Virginia	286	370	+29	37.0	38.0	10,582	14,060	+33
SOUTHERN STATES	3,383	5,520	+63	35.3	35.7	119,587	196,810	+65
California	1,050	1,250	+19	74.0	76.0	77,700	95,000	+22
Other States	2,071	2,255	+ 9	32.1	31.4	66,469	70,717	+ 6
UNITED STATES	51,374	56,755	+10	36.8	35.5	1,891,251	2,013,607	+ 6

PRICES INCREASE SLIGHTLY

The May 1981 Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products at 282 (1967=100) was up slightly from the revised April index. The all crops index at 329 was 1 percent above April, but 24 percent above a year ago. The livestock and products index at 250 was the same as March, but 7 percent above May 1980.

In comparing May prices with April prices, increases were noted for durum wheat, spring wheat, lambs and hogs. Prices were down or remained the same for other commodities.

The May Index of Prices Received Nationally decreased 1 point (.4 percent) from April to 260 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since April were lower prices for eggs, soybeans, cattle, wheat, tomatoes, potatoes and corn. Higher prices for oranges, hogs, lettuce, broilers and hay were partially offsetting. The index was 32 points (14 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates for mid-May was 304, unchanged from April. Price increases for feed, fertilizer, agricultural chemicals and family living items were offset by lower replacement livestock and gasoline prices. The May index was 28 points (10 percent) above a year earlier.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

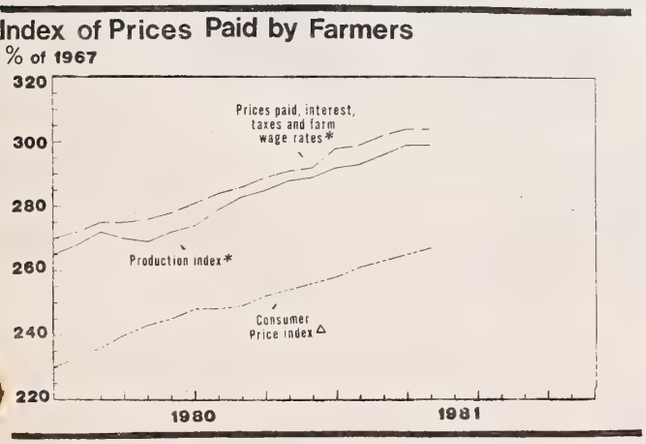
COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U. S.
		May 1980	April 1981	May 1981	May 1981
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.54	4.12	4.05	3.83
Durum	Bu.	4.12	4.85	5.10	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.71	4.51	4.61	4.21
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.66	4.41	4.48	3.96
Barley	Bu.	2.11	2.91	2.90	3.07
Oats	Bu.	1.53	2.30	2.24	2.01
Alfalfa hay	Ton	56.00	55.00	53.00	83.00
All other hay	Ton	50.00	50.00	48.00	62.70
All hay baled	Ton	55.00	55.00	52.50	77.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt	61.80	65.40	63.50	63.00
Cows	Cwt	41.50	42.80	42.80	43.90
Reef cattle 3/	Cwt	52.80	57.70	57.70	59.60
Calves	Cwt	70.00	69.60	69.00	69.00
Sheep	Cwt	13.50	17.40	16.50	19.50
Lambs	Cwt	55.60	50.40	52.40	60.70
Hogs	Cwt	26.60	37.60	37.80	40.40
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	12.35	13.40	13.25	13.50
Eggs	Doz	.460	.580	.580	56.3
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.00	.950	.950	103.0
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	155	179	175	186

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1967=100	
	May 1980	May 1981	May 1980	May 1981
Prices Received	570	650	228	260
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	938	1,035	276	304
Ratio 2/	61	63	83	86

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.



INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U.S.
	May 1980	April 1981 2/	May 1981	May 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	246	281	282	260
ALL CROPS	266	326	329	275
Food grains	272	328	333	269
Feed grains	247	341	340	277
Feed grains & hay	244	319	315	283
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	233	250	250	248
Meat animals	236	253	253	253
Dairy products	230	247	245	268
Poultry & eggs	124	156	156	194
Wool	224	213	213	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

1981 Crop Reporting Board Calendar

July

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Hogs, Cattle Slaughter • Dairy Products	2 Noncitrus Fruits & Nuts – Midyear Supplement	3 Holiday
6 Celery	7 Mink	8	9 Tall Fescue Seed (Southern States)	10 Crop Production
13 Vegetables	14	15	16 Egg Products	17 Milk Production
20 Cold Storage • Cattle on Feed • Catfish	21 Lamb Crop & Wool • Eggs, Chickens & Turkeys	22	23 Livestock Slaughter	24 Peanut Stocks & Processing • Sugar Market Statistics
27 Cattle	28	29	30 Com. Fertilizers	31 Agricultural Prices

TRACTOR SHIPMENTS CONTINUE LOW

Wheel type tractor shipments in the U.S. for January - March 1981 totaled only 36,638 units--down 25 percent from this same 3 month period in 1980, and 35 percent lower than shipments during January - March 1979 according to "Current Industrial Reports" published by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES

Cattle and calves on feed June 1 for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.05 million head, a 3 percent increase from a year ago but down 8 percent from June 1, 1979. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.40 million, up 1 percent from last year but 13 percent less than May 1979. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during May were 1.62 million, virtually the same as last year but off 13 percent from 2 years ago. Net placements of 1.42 million were up 1 percent from last year but down 13 percent from May 1979. Other disappearance totaled 195 thousand head compared with 208 thousand in May 1980 and 218 thousand 2 years ago.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Slaughter Grain Stocks Quarterly Egg Production Hogs and Pigs, June 1 Inventory

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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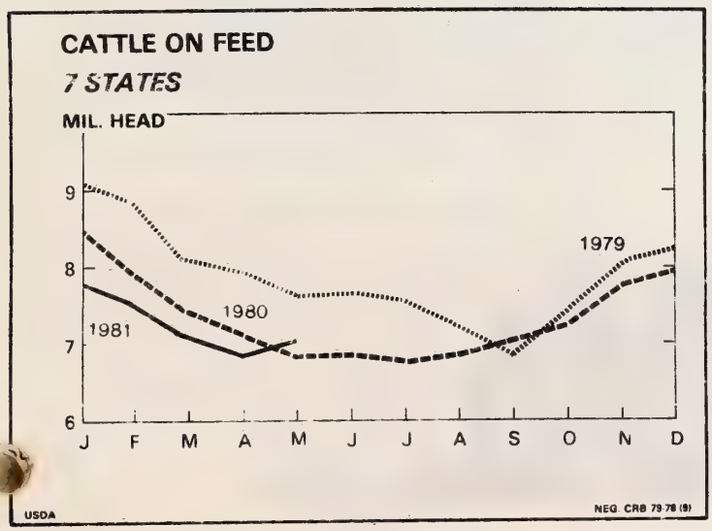
HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Red Meat Production Down
No Change in Farm Labor
Potato Stocks Lower
Cattle On Feed--7 States
Farm Real Estate Taxes
Winter Grain Condition--Northern Hemisphere
Exports for 1981 Expected to be higher

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

Cattle and calves on feed May 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.03 million head, a 3 percent increase from a year ago but down 8 percent from May 1, 1979. This is the first year-to-year increase in the monthly number on feed since Spetember 1, 1980. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.39 million, off 3 percent from last year and 10 percent less than April 1979. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April were 1.72 million, the highest for April since records began in 1972. April placements were 39 percent more than the low level of last year and 17 percent above 2 years ago. The strong increase in placements on feed was influenced by a shortage of forage from grazing in several of the major feeding States. Net placements of 1.58 million were up 43 percent from last year and 26 percent greater than April 1979. Other disappearance totaled 142 thousand compared with 130 thousand in April 1980 and 220 thousand 2 years ago.



NOTABLE NUMBERS

Over three-fourths of the increase in the 1981 U. S. winter wheat crop is in the Corn Belt and Southern states--soft red wheat.

1981 WINTER GRAIN CONDITION IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

The seeding of winter grains and generally favorable weather through March suggest that 1981 winter grain production in the Northern Hemisphere could be above that of 1980. Winter grain sowings were above the 1980 level in most of Western Europe, while reduced winterkill and adequate soil moisture portend improved winter grain harvests in the Soviet Union and Asia. Weather to date has only harmed production in northwest Africa and the Iberian Peninsula where drought has reduced prospects significantly. Delayed fall harvests in Eastern Europe reduced winter seedings to below plan, but since that time weather has been generally favorable. Weather during the next two to three months, however, will be very important in determining the final level of winter grain production.

Winter grain production, in the Northern Hemisphere excluding the United States, accounts for approximately one-half of all the foreign wheat and coarse grain produced each year. Regarding world grain production, winter grains accounted for about 30 percent of annual wheat and coarse grain production, nearly two-thirds of the world wheat crop, and 50 percent of the grain, excluding rice, for human consumption.

The role of spring grains cannot be overlooked, however, accounting for two-thirds of all grain production in the Soviet Union, nearly all grain output in Canada, and 50 percent of production in the People's Republic of China. In Europe and the Soviet Union, producers are opting for winter grains over lower-yielding spring grains. Where weather impeded winter plantings, larger plantings of spring grain are anticipated.

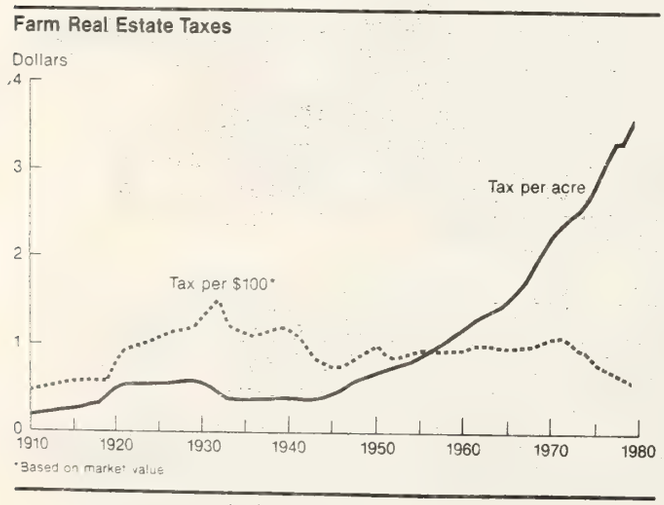
Source: Foreign Agr. Circular--4/29/81

FARM REAL ESTATE TAXES

State legislation limiting the growth of property taxes and increasing the use of differential assessment laws have had at least a short-term impact on farm real estate taxes. Farm real estate taxes in 1977 totaled an estimated $3,038.7 million, a 6.4 percent increase from 1976. In 1978, farm real estate taxes declined by less than 1 percent from the 1977 estimated value to $3,021.6 million. However, in 1979 farm real estate taxes again began to rise, increasing by approximately 7 percent to an estimated value of $3,232.5 million. The United States average tax per acre increased from $3.14 in 1976 to $3.34 in 1977, decreased slightly in 1978 to $3.33, and again increased in 1979 to $3.57.

Taxes levied on farm real estate: Amount per acre, Selected States, and U.S., average 1909-13, and selected years, 1940-79

State	Average 1909-13	1940	1950	1960	1970	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
	DOLLARS									
Montana	.06	0.11	0.21	0.31	0.64	0.82	0.84	0.88	0.93	1.07
No. Dak.	.14	.22	.43	.65	1.18	1.50	1.58	1.74	1.78	1.85
So. Dak.	.13	.28	.46	.69	1.27	1.65	1.67	1.94	2.12	2.37
Wyoming	.03	.06	.14	.19	.37	.45	.48	.52	.50	.59
Colorado	.11	.20	.35	.59	.95	1.18	1.20	1.26	1.25	1.34
Utah	.15	.30	.47	.59	1.10	1.44	1.60	1.58	1.59	1.63
Idaho	.24	.45	.85	1.21	1.60	2.32	2.56	2.86	2.87	2.56
Oregon	.15	.33	.80	1.54	1.98	2.84	2.99	3.04	2.87	2.79
Wash.	.28	.32	.62	1.15	2.26	3.15	3.39	3.72	4.05	4.15
U. S.	.21	.39	.69	1.21	2.27	2.90	3.14	3.34	3.33	3.57



NUMBER OF FARM WORKERS STEADY

The total number of workers on Montana farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 1981 was estimated at 35,000--the same as the comparable week in April 1980. The number of farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week was the same as last year. Hired workers at 10,000 was also the same as April 1980.

FAMILY AND HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS
Week of April 12-18, 1981 with Comparisons
Selected States and United States

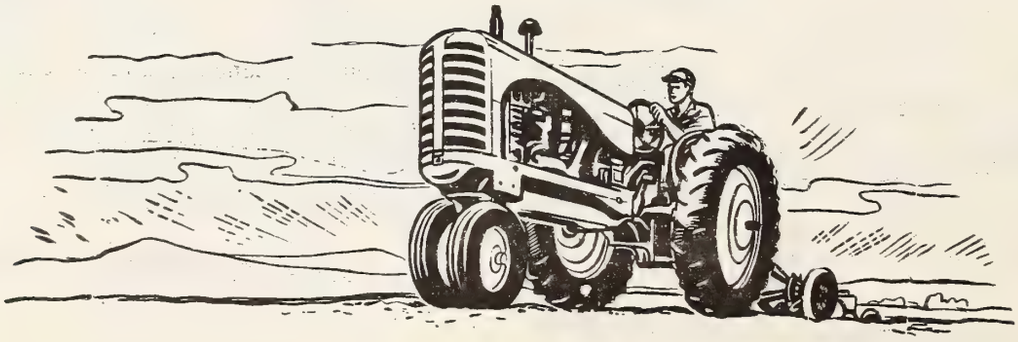
STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	Apr. 6-12 1980	Apr. 12-18 1981	Apr. 6-12 1980	Apr. 12-18 1981
	Thousands			
MONT	25.0	25.0	10.0	10.0
N.D.	45.0	44.0	7.0	11.0
S.D.	59.0	56.0	8.0	8.0
WYO	6.0	6.0	4.0	4.0
IDAHO	21.0	24.0	11.0	22.0
U. S.	2,255.0	2,402.9	1,186.4	1,259.6

FARM WAGE RATES
Week of April 12-18, 1981 with Comparisons
Selected States & United States

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	Apr. 6-12 1980	Apr. 12-18 1981	Apr. 6-12 1980	Apr. 12-18 1981
	Dollars per hour			
MONT	3.14	3.14	3.00	3.00
N.D.	3.77	4.13	3.14	3.20
S.D.	2.75	3.34	2.88	3.42
WYO	3.19	3.13	3.00	2.75
IDAHO	3.49	3.85	3.01	3.46
U. S.	3.61	3.92	3.16	3.49

Discontinuance of Farm Labor Release

The April 24, 1981 Federal Register contains notification of intent to discontinue the Farm Labor Report with this release. This action is being taken as a cost cutting measure expected to save over $1,000,000 annually.



FISCAL 1981 U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS EXPECTED TO REACH $46 BILLION

U. S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1981 are now projected at $46 billion, $5.5 billion, or 14 percent, above last year's record. This is $1 billion below the February 1981 estimate because of reduced volume and prices for feed grains and oilseeds. Export volume is forecast at 167 million tons, 3 million above the year-earlier record. Increased grain exports will likely more than offset a projected decrease in exports of soybeans and soy products.

Some factors that may affect U.S. exports for the remainder of fiscal 1981 include:

* changes in general economic activity abroad and consumer demand for food,
* developments in livestock and poultry output and feed requirements,
* potential developments following the lifting of the USSR sales suspension,
* increased grain and oilseed supplies available from the Southern Hemisphere and favorable crop prospects in the Northern Hemisphere,
* the sensitivity of many U.S. export markets to the exchange rate,
* foreign exchange constraints in many less developed countries.

U.S. farm exports in the first 6 months of fiscal 1981 amounted to $24.3 billion, compared with $21.3 billion a year ago. Grain exports are running 10 percent above a year earlier, offsetting a 14-percent decline in the export volume of soybeans and soy products. Imports in the first half of the fiscal 1981 were $9.2 billion, 3 percent above last year.

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As a special service to *FARMLINE* readers, the three-part series on inflation and agriculture is being reprinted in a booklet entitled *Inflation and the American Farmer*.

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MAY 1 POTATO STOCKS LOWER

Montana producers had 50,000 cwt in storage on May 1, 1981--down considerably from the 450,000 cwt on hand May 1, 1980.

Nationally, there were 40.2 million cwt in storage May 1, 1981. This is down 33 percent from a year earlier and 38 percent less than on May 1, 1979.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DOWN

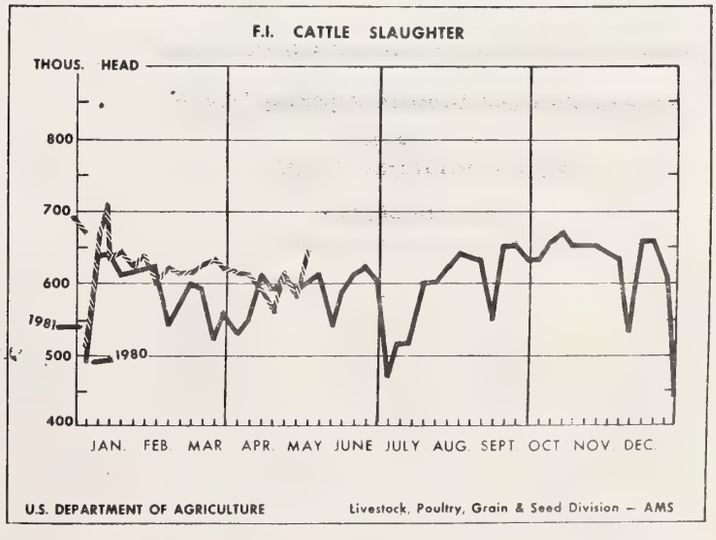
Montana slaughter plants produced 10 percent less red meat during April than the same month one year ago. Total production at 13.9 million pounds compares with 15.4 million pounds in April 1980 and 13.7 million pounds in March 1981. The January - April red meat production is 6 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in April 1981 totaled 3.30 billion pounds, down 1 percent from April 1980. January - April red meat production at 13.1 billion pounds was 2 percent more than last year. The 1981 accumulated production changes by individual components: Beef, up 5 percent; Veal, up 9 percent; Pork, down 3 percent; Lamb and Mutton, up 6 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for April included 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, the same as April 1980.

JANUARY-APRIL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	1,000 Head			
No. Slghtrd				
Cattle	47.4	42.7	10,860	11,383
Calves	.1	.1	866	899
Hogs	179.4	172.5	33,122	31,981
Sheep & Lambs	.5	.8	1,865	1,986
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	54,385	47,035	11,779	12,426
Calves	38	27	202	222
Hogs	43,067	40,930	7,956	7,749
Sheep & Lambs	47	89	216	226
Red meat Production	58,973	55,145	12,862	13,107



The toll-free Farmers' Newsline is being discontinued and replaced on June 1 with the Farmers'--900--Newsline. The Farmers's--900--Newsline will offer the latest agricultural estimates and analysis from ESS at a cost of 50 cents per call to the data user.

The new number for the Farmers'--900--Newsline will be 1-900-976-0404. The Newsline will operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

1-900-976-0404

June 1	Cattle Update
2	Crops & Weather
3	Agricultural Outlook
4	Feed Grain Update
5,6,7	Soybean Update
8	Cotton Update
9	Crops & Weather
10	U.S. Crop Prospects
11	World Crop Prospects
12,13,14	Milk Production
15	Cattle on Feed
16	Cattle on Feed Analysis
17	Tobacco Situation
18	Red Meat Production
19,20,21	World Agriculture Update
22	Grain Stocks / Hogs & Pigs
23	Grain Stocks Analysis
24	Hogs & Pigs Analysis
25	Peanut Stocks
26,27,28	Farm News Special
29	1981 Planted Acreage
30	Farmers' Prices
July 1	Agricultural Outlook
2,3,4,5	Fruit Situation
6	Farm News Special
7	Crops & Weather
8	Livestock Situation
9	Farm Real Estate
10,11,12	U.S. Crop Prospects
13	World Crop Prospects
14	Crops & Weather
15	Farm News Special
16	Soybean Situation

WHEAT OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEY TO START

Montana's first forecast of winter production May 1 was 68.2 million bushels. With the recent rains everyone will be watching to see how the crop is developing. One of the best ways to see how the crop is shaping up is to go out to some fields and check it periodically.

That's just what enumerators from the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service will be doing. Each month from late May until harvest they will be checking wheat fields to determine crop progress and yield potential. Two hundred and twenty sample fields of both winter and spring wheat throughout the State will be involved in the survey. With approval from the farmers, 2 plots will be placed in each field. Each month the enumerator will make various measurements, count wheat stocks, determine maturity and harvest a portion of the heads for weighing. The information from these objective yield counts and measurements help furnish reliable and timely production estimates.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Agricultural Prices
Winter Wheat Production
Pasture and Range
Dairy Products Manufactured
Cherry Production

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

More Winter Wheat
Better Farm Prices
Pasture and Range Condition Varies
Hay Stocks Down
Manufactured Dairy Products
Farm Real Estate Values
U.S. Feed Exports Up
Jumbo Hopper Cars

NOTABLE NUMBERS

In the 1979-80 marketing year 36 percent of the U. S. Wheat Exports went to Asia, followed by 16 percent to South America and 13 percent to Africa.

U.S. EXPORTS OF PREPARED AND OTHER FEEDS APPROACHED $1 BILLION IN 1979/80

The United States exported 6.15 million tons of prepared, byproduct, alfalfa, and other feeds in 1979/80 (October-September). That was a 1.4 million ton (nearly 30 percent) increase over 1978/79. The export value of these feeds was just under a billion dollars, up 40 percent from the year before. Feeds derived from various grain-processing industries made up just over half the total on both a volume and a value basis.

Exports of prepared feeds in 1979/80 at 361,000 tons were over 50 percent above the reduced level of 1978/79. Increased exports to the Netherlands and Mexico accounted for much of the overall increase. Among prepared feeds, the "other feeds" category accounted for most of the increase. The value of all prepared feeds increased nearly a fourth to $99 million.

WINTER WHEAT FORECAST UP

The 1981 winter wheat crop for Montana is forecast at 68.2 million bushels as of May 1--24 percent above last year's crop. If realized it would be the largest crop since 1978. Montana farmers are planning to harvest 9 percent more winter wheat acreage than last year. Moisture received last fall resulted in good germination, and fair to good subsoil moisture supplies maintained the condition of the winter wheat despite the dry winter and spring.

Yield per acre is expected to be 29 bushels based upon producer reports of condition May 1, 4.5 bushels above last year. Rain since May 1 should reinforce production prospects. Even the eastern third of the State with increased acreage and a surprisingly good May 1 condition point toward a larger crop than in 1980.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at a record high 2.08 billion bushels as of May 1--10 percent more than last year's production of 1.89 billion bushels and slightly above the December forecast. Three-fourths of the 187 million bushel larger winter wheat crop this year is in the five eastern Corn Belt and nine southern states.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
BY DISTRICTS--MAY 1, 1981

DISTRICT	1980	Ind. 1981	% Change
	-----1,000 Bushels----		
Northwest	1,283.3	836.0	- 35
Northcentral	28,434.2	31,744.0	+ 12
Northeast	2,225.3	6,440.0	+189
Central	10,483.3	12,672.0	+ 21
Southwest	2,239.4	2,448.0	+ 9
Southcentral	7,230.7	10,320.0	+ 43
Southeast	2,928.8	3,690.0	+ 26
STATE	54,825.0	68,150.0	+ 24

WINTER WHEAT

SELECTED STATES	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION	
	1980	Ind. 1981	1980	Ind. 1981
	(1,000 Acres)		(1,000 Bushels)	
COLO	3,350	3,100	107,200	86,800
ILL	1,570	1,760	75,360	84,480
KANS	12,000	12,900	420,000	412,800
MONT	2,150	2,350	54,825	68,150
NEBR	2,950	3,050	112,100	109,800
OHIO	1,370	1,520	67,130	80,560
OKLA	6,500	6,800	195,000	197,200
OREG	1,200	1,130	72,000	65,540
TEXAS	5,200	6,400	130,000	179,200
WASH	2,750	2,700	143,000	137,700
U. S.	51,374	57,775	1,891,251	2,078,137

FARMLAND LOSES GROUND TO 1980 INFLATION

U.S. farm real estate values normally outpace inflation, but not last year.

Farmland prices rose an average of 9.3 percent in the 12 months ending February 1, 1981, while general inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased about 11 percent. Thus, on a "constant-dollar" basis, the value of U.S. farm real estate declined in 1980--the first such drop in a decade.

Even before adjustment for inflation, the 1980 performance wasn't up to par. The 9.3 percent rise was the smallest in 3 years. Farmland values increased 14 percent in 1978 and 15 percent in 1979. USDA analysts attribute the slowdown to several factors which discouraged buyers from bidding up the price of farmland:

--Net farm income fell from $31 billion in 1979 to $22 billion in 1980.

--Interest rates hit record highs in 1980, with the prime rate climbing to 20 percent in April, then dropping to 11 percent in July, and then shooting to 21.5 percent in December.

--Credit was tight during much of the year, making it difficult for many borrowers to secure loans.

Although the inflation-adjusted value of farmland dropped nationally, 11 states showed value increases that matched or outstripped the CPI. Mississippi topped the list. During the year ending February 1, 1981, prices there rose 27 percent (more than double the CPI rise). California prices increased by 22 percent (about double the CPI). Prices in Alabama, Louisiana, and Washington grew by 18 percent (about two-thirds more than the CPI).

The average acre of U.S. farm real estate (defined as land owned by farmers) was valued at $790 when farmers were surveyed early last February. State averages per acre ran from a high of $2,977 in New Jersey to a low of $160 in Wyoming (Alaska and Hawaii were not included in the survey).

Value averages for each state are shown on the accompanying map. Because real estate owned by farmers may include forest, grazing land, bogs or other land not under cultivation, the dollar averages for some states may not represent typical cropland values.

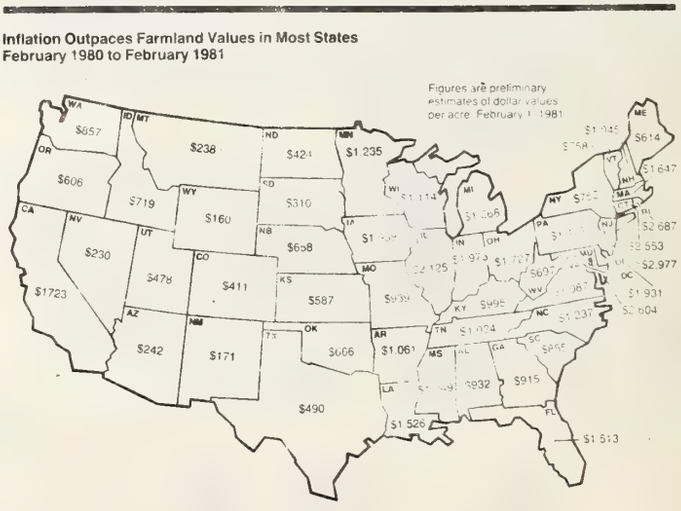
Fewer farm parcels changed hands in the 12 months ending last February 1 than in the preceding year.

Source: The Farmline, May 1981

MONTANA FARM REAL ESTATE:
INDEXES OF AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE
BY LAND TYPES 1950-1980

(1967=100)

Year	Grazing Land	Irrigated Land	Dry Cropland
1950.....	30	45	39
1951.....	37	54	47
1952.....	41	62	52
1953.....	42	61	54
1954.....	40	60	54
1955.....	42	58	57
1956.....	46	60	61
1957.....	50	63	64
1958.....	55	64	68
1959.....	62	67	74
1960.....	67	70	77
1961.....	69	70	77
1962.....	74	82	81
1963.....	76	86	83
1964.....	83	85	86
1965.....	89	91	89
1966.....	97	97	96
1967.....	100	100	100
1968.....	105	110	110
1969.....	112	108	111
1970.....	126	119	125
1971.....	137	129	121
1972.....	157	134	121
1973.....	171	156	143
1974.....	215	195	187
1975.....	256	241	204
1976.....	301	284	240
1977.....	343	298	292
1978.....	384	338	313
1979.....	422	389	360
1980.....	502	463	405
1981.....	497	513	447



APRIL FARM PRICES HIGHER

The April 1981 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products at 279 (1967=100) was up 3 percent from the revised March index. The all crops index at 314 was 1 percent above March and 21 percent above a year ago. The livestock and products index at 256 was 4 percent above March and 5 percent above April 1980.

In comparing April prices with March prices, increases were noted for spring wheat, oats, steers & heifers, calves and lambs. Prices were down for winter wheat, durum wheat, barley, hay, cows, sheep, milk & wool.

The April index of prices received by U.S. farmers decreased 1 point (.4 percent) from March to 261 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since March were lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, soybeans, wheat peppers, corn, lettuce and oranges. Higher prices for cattle, eggs and cotton were partially offsetting. The index was 36 points (16 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for mid-April was 305, up 3 points (1.0 percent) from March. The annual updating of the spring retail seed prices along with modest price increases for replacement livestock and family living items were the major contributors to the increase. The April index was 29 points (11 percent) above a year earlier.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

(1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U. S.
	1980	1981		1981
	April	March 2/	April	April
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	250	272	279	261
ALL CROPS	259	312	314	275
Food grains	262	308	313	272
Feed grains	248	344	333	277
Feed grains & hay	245	323	309	280
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	243	245	256	250
Meat animals	249	250	261	253
Dairy products	232	251	249	272
Poultry and eggs	170	170	170	202
Wool	243	236	224	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1967 = 100	
	April 1980	April 1981	April 1980	April 1981
Prices Received	563	653	225	261
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	937	1,036	276	305
Ratio 2/	60	63	82	86

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U. S.
		April 1980	March 1981	April 1981	April 1981
		---------Dollars----------			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.47	4.13	4.00	3.89
Durum	Bu.	4.01	5.31	4.85	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.72	4.35	4.58	4.15
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.66	4.30	4.39	3.99
Barley	Bu.	2.12	2.94	2.84	2.97
Oats	Bu.	1.65	2.17	2.18	2.04
Alfalfa hay	Ton	57.00	60.00	55.00	75.90
All other hay	Ton	52.00	55.00	50.00	63.00
All hay baled	Ton	56.50	60.00	55.00	72.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt	63.10	62.00	63.30	63.90
Cows	Cwt	42.90	43.90	43.80	44.00
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	54.50	55.30	58.60	59.80
Calves	Cwt	72.60	68.20	69.50	71.40
Sheep	Cwt	14.10	26.40	21.50	25.00
Lambs	Cwt	57.30	52.20	54.60	57.60
Hogs	Cwt	27.30	37.60	37.60	39.10
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	12.50	13.65	13.50	13.70
Eggs	Doz	.579	.580	.580	.644
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.03	1.00	.950	.997
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	149.00	178.00	179.00	186.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches May 1 at 917,000 tons are 9 percent above last year. Hay supplies generally held up well because the winter was mild and livestock feeding requirements were light. However, many shortages were reported in the eastern third of the State which was affected by the drought last summer.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTION UP

Montana dairy plants made 180,000 gallons of ice cream during March--3 percent more than March 1980. Production of creamed cottage cheese at 490,000 pounds was up 20 percent from last year and 23 above February. Butter production at 186,000 pounds was up 18 percent from last year, but down 7 percent from February 1981.

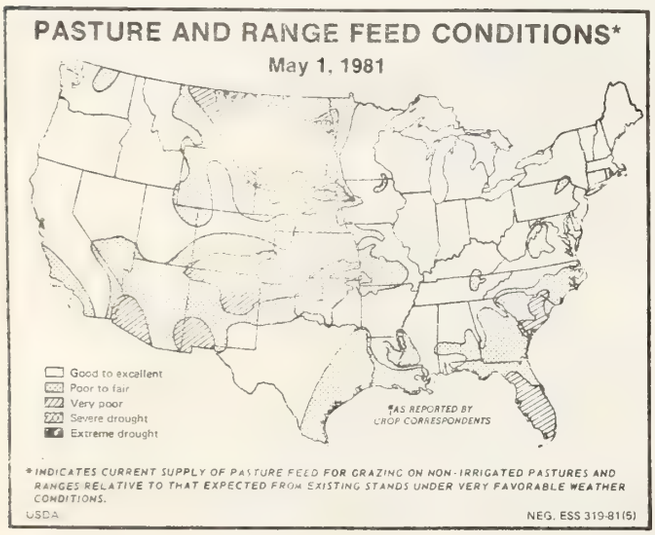
PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION VARIES

Topsoil moisture supplies across the State were generally short as of May 1 and supplies in the eastern half of the State were reported very short. The light snowpack the past winter and lack of any heavy rains this spring has resulted in very little runoff. As a result, stockwater dams in the eastern part of the State are low or dry.

The lack of moisture in the eastern half of the State has resulted in slow or very little new grass growth. Ranchers are still feeding hay to livestock in these areas. Pastures and ranges in the western half of the State are in much better condition.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION MAY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	87	79	90
Northcentral	83	69	59
Northeast	87	49	35
Central	85	69	73
Southwest	89	87	86
Southcentral	86	73	73
Southeast	81	58	36
STATE	85	68	63


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
May 1, 1981
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESS 319-81(5)

JUMBO HOPPERS TAKE OVER RAILS

Forty-foot boxcars--once the prime movers of American grain--are fast fading into the past. Most railroads have switched to jumbo covered hopper cars.

Jumbo hoppers are loaded from the top and can carry 100 tons of grain. Boxcars carry a maximum of 60 tons and have higher per-car maintenance costs to prepare them for grain handling (installing special grain doors and patching holes to prevent leakage).

The number of 40-foot boxcars dropped from 107,300 in January 1977 to 47,000 last January, while railroads added an average of 17,000 new hoppers each year. Last year, more than 80 percent of all U.S. grain moved in hoppers.

Continuing additions of jumbo covered hopper cars to fleets have taken some of the heat off the rail transportation system. The larger loads carried by hopper cars more than offset the declines in the number of small, narrow-door boxcars, increasing railroads' overall grain-hauling capacity.

Source: The Farmline, May 1981

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Farm Labor
Potato Stocks

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Red Meat Production Higher
Milk Production Increases
Fewer Cattle on Feed
Grain Stocks Lower
Potato Stocks Down

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Corn for grain in Montana reached a record high of 2 million bushels in 1918, and again in 1923. Recent years show less than a million bushels of corn for grain.

MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana dairymen produced 78 million pounds of milk during the January - March 1981 quarter--10 percent more than the same period a year ago. Cows milked during the quarter averaged 29,000--up 1,000 from last year. The production per cow for the quarter increased nearly 6 percent from the same period last year--probably the result of the mild winter.

Compared with the previous quarter (October through December 1980) milk production in the State fell 1 percent or 1 million pounds. Cow numbers were the same for the two periods.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	March Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	Thousands		Million Pounds	
Calif.	887	912	3,146	3,314
Idaho	150	162	444	477
Minn.	850	875	2,398	2,599
MONT.	28	29	71	78
N. Dak.	93	93	215	215
Oregon	95	96	269	272
S. Dak.	159	155	399	403
Wash.	203	203	708	714
Wisc.	1,813	1,823	5,439	5,565
Wyo.	12.0	12.0	31.8	32.4
U. S.	10,772	10,862	31,223	32,258

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 3 percent more red meat during March than the same month one year ago. Total production at 13.7 million pounds compares with 13.2 million pounds in March 1980 and 13.1 million pounds in February 1981. The January - March red meat production is 5 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in March 1981 totaled 3.38 billion pounds--up 9 percent from March 1980. January - March red meat production, at 9.81 billion pounds was up 3 percent from last year. The 1981 accumulated production changes by individual components were: Beef, up 6 percent; veal, up 10 percent; pork, down 1 percent; lamb and mutton, up 5 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for March included 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, compared with 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays for March 1980.

JANUARY - MARCH LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1981

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	1980	1981	Percent Change
	1,000 Head				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	37.1	32.3	8,145	8,576	+ 5
Calves	.1	.1	660	686	+ 4
Hogs	127.7	126.5	24,236	23,657	- 2
Sheep & Lambs	.4	.6	1,380	1,450	+ 5
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	41,966	35,437	8,852	9,372	+ 6
Calves	35	23	152	169	+11
Hogs	30,543	30,446	5,818	5,739	- 1
Sheep & Lambs	41	70	160	168	+ 5
Red meat Production	43,597	41,253	9,546	9,810	+ 3

GRAIN STOCKS

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World grain stocks are estimated as of April 13 for the end of the 1980-81 marketing season (June 30) at 158 million tons which is about 3 percent above March estimates. Projected world wheat carryover for this crop year is 69.3 million tons, coarse grains 62.3 million tons, rice 26.1 million tons. These stocks were 32 million tons less than last year and represent only 11 percent of total utilization. Grain prices, however, in recent months have softened because of generally favorable growing conditions for winter grains, reasonable planting conditions for spring grains, and larger corn crops than expected in Argentina and South Africa. In addition, a record 1981 world grain crop is being projected. As a consequence, some stock recovery is projected.

As known, poor growing conditions higher import requirements or the building up of reserves by a country could influence the price outlook in 1981-82. Also, some price protection is afforded by U. S. farmer-owned grain reserve. Total quantity of wheat in the farmer-owned reserve and C.C.C. inventory are projected to be 65 percent of the total U. S. carryover stocks of 24.7 million tons on June 1.

WORLD GRAIN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Early season indications continue to suggest that grain production is likely to exceed world utilization in 1981/82 and that a further global stock drawdown next season is unlikely, unless weather is unusually poor in major grain producing countries. These indications, coupled with weak economic conditions in a number of countries and political tensions in Eastern Europe, have been key factors in the recent market weakness. The overall volume of world grain trade should continue to expand due to a strong underlying demand from developing countries and moderate growth in the industrialized countries. The uncertain status of the partial grain sales suspension to the USSR and of the US-USSR 5-year Grains Agreement continues to be a major variable in the 1981/82 outlook.

Although world grain trade is now expected to increase again in 1981/82, market conditions worldwide will depend heavily on what happens to crop production, general economic conditions, and government policies in the next few months. As farmers gear up for a major production boost in 1981/82 in response to relatively strong current prices, tight world grain supplies, and forecasts of firm demand, factors are at work which could lead to a possible reversal of the 1980/81 world stock drawdown. However, global stocks, especially coarse grain stocks, are likely to continue to be tight, particularly in the event of major crop shortfalls in several key countries.

MONTANA GRAIN STOCKS DOWN

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators April 1, 1981 totaled 94.0 million bushels--down 2 percent from a year ago. Winter wheat at 39.6 million bushels was down 23 percent from last year, but all spring wheat at 54.4 million was up 22 percent. The durum portion at 7.4 million bushels was up 13 percent from April 1980. About 82 percent of all wheat was stored on farms with the remainder in mills and elevators. Disappearance of wheat from storage during the January - April quarter at 40.2 million bushels was up 18 percent from a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions at 12.7 million bushels were down 29 percent and oats at 2.8 million were off 30 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions April 1, 1981 amounted to 1.33 billion bushels--up 9 percent from stocks on hand a year earlier, and 8 percent more than two years ago. Farm stocks of 543 million bushels are 5 percent less than last year's 570 million bushels. On farm storage this April 1 accounted for 41 percent of the total wheat stocks compared with 46 percent a year earlier. Off farm wheat stocks at the beginning of April totaled 791 million bushels. Indicated disappearance during the January - March quarter is 571 million bushels, compared with 491 million bushels for the comparable period a year ago. Of the April 1, 1981 all wheat stocks, 523 million bushels were under government control. This total includes 192 million bushels owned by the commodity credit corporation and 331 million bushels held in the farmer-owned reserve.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--MARCH 31, 1981
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	(000 Bushels)			
Reserve	32,000	31,562	282	571
Under Loan	17,823	11,321	3,786	1,490

1/ These stocks are included in the April 1 Farm and Off-Farm stocks.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Montana producers had 720,000 cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 1981--48 percent below last year. Disappearance since harvest amounted to 1,005,000 cwt.

Nationally potato stocks as of April 1, 1981 are estimated at 68.3 million cwt in the 15 major fall producing states. This is down 26 percent from April 1, 1980, and 31 percent less than on April 1, 1979.

STOCKS OF GRAIN APRIL 1, 1981 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	April 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1981 *	April 1, 1981	% Change from 1980	April 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1981 *	April 1, 1981
	-------Thousand bushels--------			Pct.	----------Thousand bushels---------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	80,368	110,216	76,672	- 5	569,600	754,089	542,530
Off farms 1/	15,710	23,950	17,300	+10	655,518	1,149,739	790,648
T O T A L	96,078	134,166	93,972	- 2	1,225,118	1,903,828	1,333,178
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	40,163	46,430	29,822	-26	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	11,423	16,437	9,800	-14	---	---	---
T O T A L	51,586	62,867	39,622	-23	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	40,205	63,786	46,850	+17	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	4,287	7,513	7,500	+75	---	---	---
T O T A L	44,492	71,299	54,350	+22	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	---	64,486	73,990	59,974
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	21,267	29,448	23,227
T O T A L	6,507	9,066	7,363	+13	85,753	103,438	83,201
CORN							
On farms	116	474	178	+53	3,441,012	4,140,062	2,650,605
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	---	1,416,321	1,717,309	1,344,426
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	---	4,857,333	5,857,371	3,995,031
OATS							
On farms	3,803	4,176	2,570	-32	284,302	328,860	211,442
Off farms 1/	187	196	215	+15	55,324	61,684	44,362
T O T A L	3,990	5,201	2,785	-30	339,626	390,544	255,804
BARLEY							
On farms	15,413	29,547	10,584	-31	166,013	184,069	112,152
Off farms 1/	2,645	3,518	2,150	-19	96,271	117,842	89,963
T O T A L	18,058	33,065	12,734	-29	262,284	301,911	202,115

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	April 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1981 *	April 1, 1981	April 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1981 *	April 1, 1981
	----------Million bushels----------			----------Million bushels----------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	.6	1.3	1.2	1.6	2.4	1.0
Northcentral	39.5	69.5	43.6	7.8	14.9	5.6
Northeast	32.9	30.6	27.6	2.5	3.8	2.1
Central	8.7	18.1	11.6	2.6	6.2	1.5
Southwest	1.3	2.4	1.4	1.2	2.0	.9
Southcentral	4.1	6.1	4.6	1.6	2.5	1.0
Southeast	9.0	6.2	4.0	.8	1.3	.6
STATE	96.1	134.2	94.0	18.1	33.1	12.7

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. *Revised.

FEWER CATTLE ON FEED

On April 1 cattle and calves on feed in Montana feedlots totaled 39,000 head--3 percent less than last April and 39 percent less than January 1, 1981. Steers on feed at 22,000 head were down 1,000 head from last April and heifers at 17,000 head were down 8,000 head from a year ago. Approximately 77 percent of all steers and heifers on feed weighed 700 pounds or more, and 18 percent weighed 900 pounds or more.

Marketings and other disappearance were responsible for the decrease in the number of cattle on feed. Marketings at 25,000 head were up 39 percent from last April and other disappearance (mainly movement to other feedlots and returning cattle to pasture) at 18,000 head was over double a year ago. Placements in lots during the January - March period totaled 18,000 head--up 6 percent from the same period a year ago.

Montana feeders expect to market 14,000 head of fat cattle during the April - June period, 26 percent less than the same period in 1980.

Cattle and calves on feed April 1 for slaughter market in 23 states totaled 9.76 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago, and 12 percent less than 2 years ago. This is the lowest April 1 number on feed since 1975.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the January - March quarter were 5.15 million, 1 percent fewer than in the corresponding quarter in 1980 and 12 percent less than the first quarter of 1979. Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during January - March totaled 6.00 million, down 2 percent from the same period in 1980, and down 11 percent from January - March 1979. Both marketings and placements for the 23 states during the January - March quarter were the smallest since 1975.

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.54 million head during the April - June quarter of 1981. This would be 2 percent less than second quarter marketings in 1980 and 10 percent below the same period in 1979.

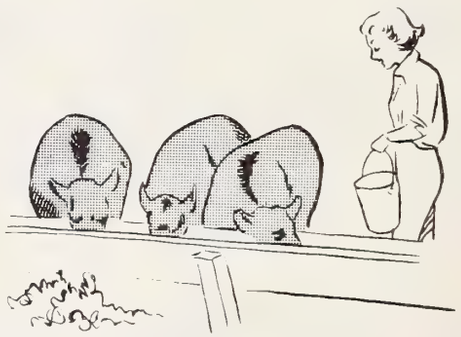
COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured
Winter Wheat Production
Pasture and Range
Hay Stocks

CATTLE ON FEED APRIL 1, 1980-1981

ITEM	MONTANA		23 MAJOR STATES	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	1,000 Head			
On Feed Jan. 1, 1981	57	64	11,713	11,105
During period Jan. 1 - March 31				
Placed on feed 1/	17	18	5,207	5,154
Marketed 1/	18	25	6,145	5,999
Other disappearance 2/	7	18	572	502
On feed April 1	49	39	10,203	9,758
Kinds on Feed April 1				
Steers & Steer Calves	23	22	6,821	6,583
Under 500 Lbs.	--	--	362	284
500-699 Lbs.	8	4	1,398	1,286
700-899 Lbs.	9	13	2,143	2,237
900-1099 Lbs.	6	4	2,213	2,067
1100 Lbs. and over	--	1	705	709
Heifer & Heifer Calves	25	17	3,338	3,126
Under 500 Lbs.	--	1	235	203
500-699 Lbs.	10	4	1,217	1,081
700-899 Lbs.	8	10	1,215	1,274
900 Lbs. and Over	7	2	671	568
Cows and Other	1	--	44	49
Marketings April -June	19 3/	14 4/	5,630 3/	5,541 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after Jan. 1 and marketed before March 31. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after April 1 and marketed before June 30.



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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

March Farm Prices Lower
Wool Production Up
Pasture and Range
Manufactured Dairy Production Down
Meat Animal Receipts Lower
Land Values Increase

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION VARIES

As of April 1 both topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies were short in the eastern part of the State. Although pastures and ranges were open they were providing very little feed and most cattle and sheep were still on supplemental feed. Grass in the eastern part of the State is short or non-existant while grass in western Montana is coming along very well. Stockwater dams in eastern Montana that depend on runoff are very low or dry, as the moisture received has not been sufficient to replenish them.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana hard spring wheat production was at record high of 60 million bushels in 1976.

WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE INCREASES

Shorn wool production in Montana during 1980 totaled 5.2 million pounds--4 percent above the previous year. Average weight per fleece was slightly above 1979. The average price rose 5 cents in 1980 to 99 cents per pound. As a result, the total value of the State's wool production rose 9 percent to 5.1 million dollars.

Montana ranked 7th in 1980 wool production for the Nation. Texas was number 1, followed by California which was number 2.

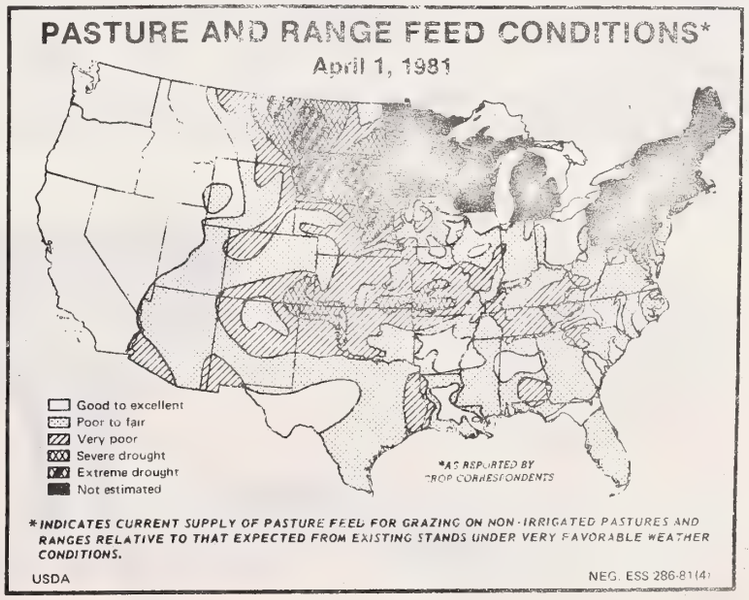
The U. S. shorn wool production during 1980 totaled 105 million pounds--up 1 percent from 1979. Total value of the shorn wool was 92.9 million dollars, up 3 percent from 1979. The average price per pound Nationwide was 88.1 cents for 1980 compared with 86.3 cents in 1979.

ANNUAL WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		U. S.	
		1979	1980	1979	1980
Sheep shorn	(000) Head	510	524	13,068	13,249
Weight per fleece	Lb.	9.7	9.8	8.02	7.96
Wool production	(000) Lb.	4,970	5,156	104,860	105,452
Price per pound	Cents	94.0	99.0	86.3	88.1
Value	(000) Dol.	4,672	5,104	90,531	92,862

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION APRIL 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1979	1980	1981
Northwest	91	82	89
Northcentral	87	71	61
Northeast	88	61	37
Central	87	75	69
Southwest	89	82	87
Southcentral	85	78	72
Southeast	86	68	41
STATE	87	73	63


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
April 1, 1981
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
Not estimated
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
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MEAT ANIMAL RECEIPTS DOWN

Total marketings of meat animals in Montana increased during 1980, but were offset by lower prices received which resulted in cash receipts of 679.7 million dollars--down 8 percent from the record high of 741.8 million set in 1979. Cattle and calves contributed 94.2 percent of the total cash receipts during 1980, while hogs represented 4.0 percent and sheep and lambs 1.8 percent of the total.

MEAT ANIMALS, CHICKENS AND EGGS: MARKETING & CASH RECEIPTS--1979-80

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1979	1980	1979	1980
Cattle and Calves					
Number marketed	1,000 head	1,454	1,489	57,836	55,684
Marketings	Million Lbs.	966.4	1,034.1	50,933	49,160
Average price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt.	67.10	58.00	66.10	62.40
Calves	Dols./Cwt.	89.80	76.80	88.70	76.80
Value of production	Million Dols.	646.6	618.4	25,993.7	25,453.7
Cash receipts	Million Dols.	700.1	640.5	34,399.6	31,163.4
Hogs and Pigs					
Number marketed	1,000 head	299	306	92,327	100,452
Marketings	Million Lbs.	72.1	72.1	21,452	23,376
Average price	Dols./Cwt.	39.50	37.20	41.80	38.00
Value of production	Million Dols.	28.8	28.5	9,415.6	8,873.8
Cash receipts	Million Dols.	28.5	26.9	9.026.7	8,919.9
Sheep and Lambs					
Number marketed	1,000 head	240	271	7,678	8,088
Marketings	Million Lbs.	24.0	28.6	812.0	847.5
Average price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt.	24.40	17.70	25.80	21.10
Lambs	Dols./Cwt.	68.20	61.90	66.70	63.60
Value of production	Million Dols.	13.7	12.5	410.1	401.8
Cash receipts	Million Dols.	13.2	12.3	474.2	468.4
Chickens					
Number produced	1,000 head	410 1/	570	247,827 1/	241,449
Sold	1,000 Lbs.	1,180	1,460	1,135,044	1,183,260
Average price	Cents/Lb.	7.0	8.0	14.4	11.0
Value of production	1,000 Dols.	101	196	174,216	131,501
Cash receipts	1,000 Dols.	83	117	163,598	129,889
Eggs					
Number produced	Million	178 1/	170	69,209 1/	69,683
Sold	Million	171	165	68,761	69,242
Average price	Cents/Doz.	62.5	57.5	58.3	56.3
Cash receipts	Million Dols.	8,906	7,906	3,338,778	3,247,620

1/ Included are layers and eggs destroyed because of possible PCB contamination.

GRAIN PRICES LOWER

The March 1981 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products at 274 (1967=100) was down 2 percent from the revised February index. The all crops index at 300 was 6 percent below February, but 17 percent above a year ago. The livestock and products index at 258 was 1 percent above February, but 8 percent below March 1980.

In comparing March prices with February prices, increases were noted for cows, sheep, wool and milk. Prices were down for all wheat, barley, oats, calves, steers and heifers, lambs, hogs and eggs.

The March index of prices received by U.S. farmers decreased 5 points from February (1.9 percent) to 258 percent of the January - December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease were lower prices for hogs, cattle, soybeans, wheat, cotton and corn. Higher prices for oranges, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce and snap beans were partially offsetting. The index was 24 points (10 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for March 15 was 302, up 2 points (.7 percent) from mid-February. Price increases for family living items, fuels, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and farm equipment were partially offset by lower prices for feed and feeder livestock. The index was 26 points (9.4 percent) above a year earlier.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U. S.
	1980	1981		1981
	March	Feb. 2/	March	March
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	268	280	274	258
ALL CROPS	256	319	300	274
Food grains	261	318	294	266
Feed grains	237	340	336	273
Feed grains & hay	235	319	316	276
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	279	255	258	246
Meat animals	288	259	263	244
Dairy products	236	253	255	276
Poultry and eggs	179	196	170	206
Wool	243	224	236	3/

1/ not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1967 = 100	
	March 1980	March 1981	March 1980	March 1981
Prices Received	585	646	234	258
Prices Paid, Interest Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	937	1,027	276	302
Parity 2/	62	63	85	85

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U. S.
		March 1980	Feb. 1/ 1981	March 1981	March 1981
		Dollars			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.41	4.22	3.74	3.85
Durum	Bu.	4.15	6.08	5.07	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.66	4.27	4.26	4.03
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.64	4.46	4.12	3.93
Barley	Bu.	2.03	2.91	2.88	2.97
Oats	Bu.	1.51	2.03	1.99	2.03
Alfalfa hay	Ton	55.00	60.00	60.00	74.90
All other hay	Ton	50.00	55.00	55.00	64.10
All hay baled	Ton	55.00	59.50	60.00	71.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt	71.20	67.20	66.40	61.40
Cows	Cwt	51.80	46.40	47.40	44.30
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	63.10	57.00	58.80	57.40
Calves	Cwt	82.80	71.00	70.50	70.50
Sheep	Cwt	20.00	25.60	25.90	25.70
Lambs	Cwt	65.80	56.80	55.30	56.20
Hogs	Cwt	34.00	41.50	37.00	38.10
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	12.70	13.75	13.90	13.90
Eggs	Doz	.615	.670	.580	.608
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.03	.950	1.00	.931
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	152.00	187.00	178.00	183.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

MONTANA LAND VALUE INCREASE SLOWED

Montana agricultural land values increased an average of only 3 percent during the period February 1, 1980 to February 1, 1981. This compares to 17 percent a year ago, and is the smallest year to year increase since 1969.

Irrigated farmland with improvements was valued at $1,155 per acre this February compared with $1,035 a year earlier. Dry cropland with improvements was valued at $375--up 10 percent from $340 February 1, 1980. Non irrigated grazing land was reported at $175 per acre--down $5 from a year earlier.

Land value data are based upon reports from nearly 300 farmers and ranchers who reported value of agricultural land in their localities.

The values exclude land where value is affected by use or offer for non-agricultural purposes.

MONTANA LAND VALUES PER ACRE, BY KIND 1/

	Feb. 1, 1979	Feb. 1, 1980	Feb. 1, 1981
Irrigated Farmland	$875	$1,035	$1,155
Dry Cropland	305	340	375
Non Irrigated Grazing Land	150	180	175

1/ Including improvements.

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April 15	Crops & Weather
16	Farm News Special
17,18,19	Farm News Special
20	Cattle on Feed
21	Egg, Chickens, Turkeys
22	Farm News Special
23	Grain Stocks
24,25,26	Red Meat
27	Peanut Stocks
28	Soybean Situation
29	Agricultural Outlook
30	Farmers' Prices
May 1,2,3	Vegetable Situation
4	Farm News Roundup
5	Feed Grain Situation
6	Livestock Situation
7	Sugar Situation
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11	U.S. Crop Prospects
12	World Crop Prospects
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14	Cattle on Feed
15,16,17	Potato Stocks
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19	Farm Exports
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21	Red Meat
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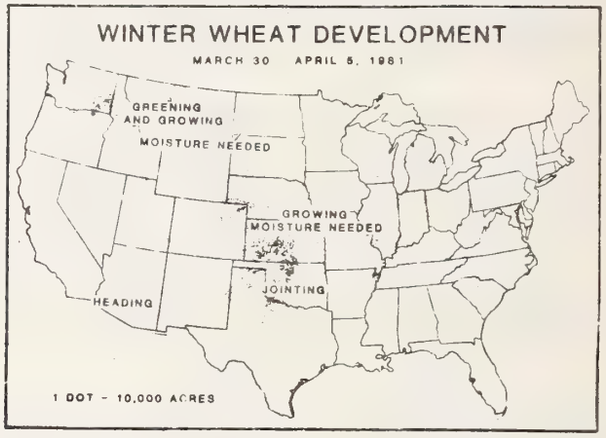
26	Farm Labor & Wages
27	Crops & Weather
28	Cotton & Wool
29,30,31	Farmers' Prices

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana dairy plants made 105,000 gallons of ice cream during February--22 percent less than both February 1980 and January 1981. Production of creamed cottage cheese at 400,000 pounds was down 3 percent from last year and 7 percent less than January. Butter made at 201,000 pounds was up 11 percent from last year but down 10 percent from January 1981.



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Cattle on Feed Slaughter Grain Stocks Potato Stocks Quarterly Milk Production

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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REPORTING SERVICE
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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Intended Plantings Up
Fewer Cattle on Feed
Cash Receipts--Preliminary 1980
March 1 Hog Inventory Down
Red Meat Production Drops
World Overview for Wool
Egg Production Increases
Potato Stocks Down
Tractor Shipments Lower

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana durum wheat production reached a record high of 18 million bushels in 1956.

MARCH INTENDED PLANTINGS UP

Montana farmers and ranchers plan to seed about 5 percent more acreage to spring crops in 1981 compared with last year. Although planting intentions for all spring wheat are up 1 percent, the durum wheat acreage portion is expected to be 6 percent above last year, and hard spring wheat acreage is unchanged. Last fall growers seeded 2.65 million acres to winter wheat. Combining this acreage with the March intentions for durum and hard spring wheat shows total 1981 wheat seedings may be slightly over 6 million acres--1 percent more than 1980. Oats and barley acreages are expected to be up 18 and 14 percent respectively from last year.

Intended corn acreage is up 6 percent, sugarbeet acreage up 2 percent, while dry bean intentions remain unchanged from a year ago. All hay acreage expected to be harvested depends mainly on future moisture supplies. Presently, farmers intend to harvest 7 percent more acreage than in 1980.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS--MARCH 1
MONTANA AND U.S.--1980-1981

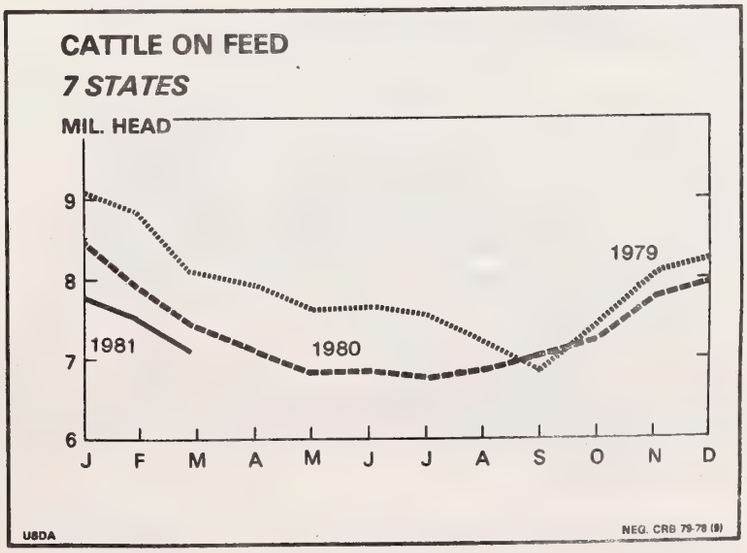
CROP	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1980	1981 1/	1980	1981 1/
Corn	85,000	90,000	84,106,000	83,977,000
All spring wht.				
Other spring	2,900,000	2,900,000	17,480,000	17,007,000
Durum	470,000	500,000	5,525,000	6,135,000
Oats	220,000	260,000	13,360,000	13,513,000
Barley	1,180,000	1,350,000	8,283,000	9,085,000
Sugarbeets	44,200	44,900	1,231,600	1,256,100
Dry Beans	12,000	12,000	1,896,000	2,005,000
All hay 2/	2,200,000	2,350,000	59,437,000	61,051,000

1/ Indicated. 2/ Acres for harvest.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed March 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.13 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago and 13 percent less than March 1, 1979. This is the lowest March 1 number on feed since 1975. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.44 million, off 9 percent from last year and 13 percent less than February 1979. Both marketings and placements for February were the smallest since 1975.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during February were 1.19 million, down 3 percent from last year and off 9 percent from 2 years ago. Net placements of 1.06 million were down slightly from last year and 7 percent from 1979. Other disappearance totaled 129 thousand compared with 155 thousand in February 1980 and 170 thousand in 1979.



CASH RECEIPTS
1980 PRELIMINARY

Marketings of crops and livestock in calendar year 1980 brought Montana farmers and ranchers 1377.4 million dollars--up slightly from 1979 according to preliminary USDA estimates. Livestock and livestock products receipts were down 9 percent but crop receipts were up 14 percent. The increase in government payments is largely the result of disaster payments to farmers caused by the drought during the summer of 1980.

CASH FARM RECEIPTS AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1979 1/	1980 2/	1979 1/	1980 2/
	----------million dollars----------			
CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS				
Livestock & Products	800.3	726.7	68,639	69,209
Crops	571.1	650.7	62,820	68,806
TOTAL	1,371.4	1,377.4	131,459	138,015
Government Payments	34.0	54.0	1,375	1,286
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	1,405.4	1,431.4	132,834	139,301

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

MARCH 1 HOG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of hogs and pigs on March 1, 1981 in the 14 States conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 50.1 million head, 9 percent below last year and 1 percent less than March 1, 1979.

The breeding inventory, at 7.22 million head, was 11 percent less than a year ago and down 13 percent from two years earlier. The market hog inventory, at 42.9 million head, was 8 percent less than last year but 1 percent greater than March 1, 1979.

The 14 Quarterly States account for about 85 percent of the U.S. hog and pig inventory.

The December 1980 - February 1981 pig crop in the 14 States totaled 17.6 million, 10 percent fewer than 1980 and 3 percent less than 1979. There were 2.43 million sows that farrowed. High temperatures last summer reduced conception rates and contributed to the reduction in number of sows farrowed during December - February to 89 percent of a year ago and 92 percent of same period two years ago.

Producers in the 14 States intend to farrow 3.02 million sows during the March - May 1981 period, 10 percent fewer than 1980 and 13 percent below two years ago.

Farrowing intentions reported for the June - August 1981 period are 2.60 million sows, 8 percent less than the same period a year ago and 17 percent below two years ago.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

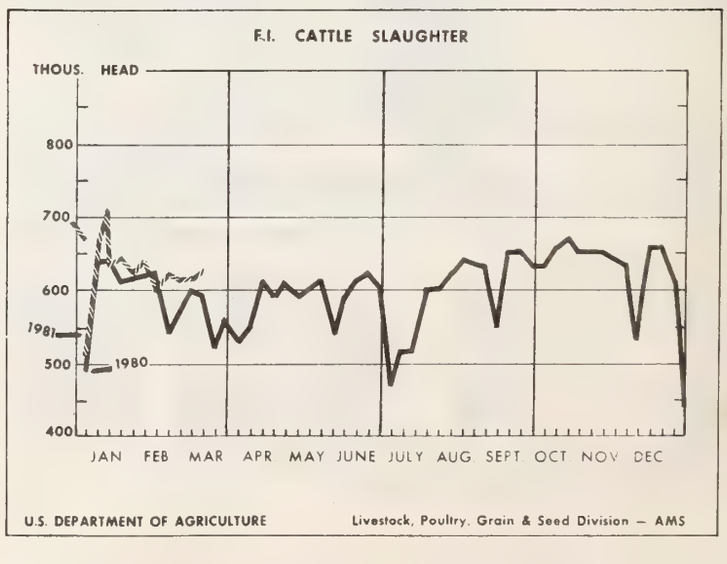
Montana slaughter plants produced 9 percent less red meat during February than the same month one year ago. Total production at 13.1 million pounds compares with 14.4 million pounds in February 1980 and 14.5 million pounds in January 1981. The January - February red meat production is 9 percent below the same period last year.

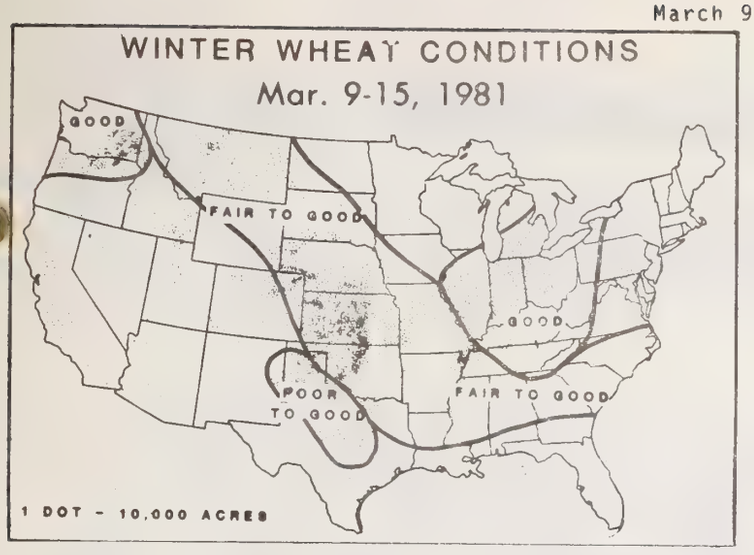
Commercial red meat production for the United States in February 1981 totaled 3.01 billion pounds--down 1 percent from February 1980. January - February red meat production, at 6.43 billion pounds was down less than 1 percent from last year. The 1981 accumulated production changes by individual components were: Beef, up 2 percent; veal, up 7 percent; pork, down 3 percent; lamb and mutton, up 6 percent. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days for February included 20 weekdays (one a holiday) and 4 Saturdays, compared with 21 weekdays (one a holiday) and 4 Saturdays for February 1980.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	----------1,000 head----------			
No. Slghtrd				
Cattle	27.1	22.8	5,575	5,661
Calves	.1	.1	439	447
Hogs	85.4	80.9	16,028	15,319
Sheep & Lambs	.3	.4	895	945
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	30,315	24,890	6,068	6,178
Calves	27	19	102	109
Hogs	20,389	19,532	3,861	3,733
Sheep & Lambs	26	50	104	109
Red meat Production	30,356	27,592	6,447	6,427





WORLD OVERVIEW FOR WOOL

World wool production in the 1980/81 season is expected to total 3.5 billion pounds, clean, 0.5 percent above last season and 4 percent above the average of the past four seasons. An important factor limiting this increase from last year is the drought in Australia which has cut the current clip 4 percent. Several interrelated factors affecting clip size resulted from the prolonged drought, poor pasture growth, higher farm deaths, heavy marketings, etc. Australian sheep flocks are forecast to be 130 million head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Severe drought conditions in South Africa have also kept production in that country at a low level. Poor weather and insufficient fodder in Russia last year caused sheep numbers to drop 1.5 percent below 1979. Argentina will have a 2 percent lower wool output because of flooding and a shift from sheep rearing to cattle grazing.

In contrast, several countries experienced favorable weather conditions which resulted in larger flock size and wool production. New Zealand is expected to have a wool clip 5 percent greater than last year because of abundant pasture growth. Uruguay has had good weather which indicates their wool production may increase 7 percent. Sheep numbers in China have been growing despite bad weather in some areas. Their current clip is expected to be 8 percent more than last year.

In summary, the current wool clip is expected to contain less of the finer wools because of the lower Australian clip and more of the coarser types from New Zealand and China. The merino share of the world clip is estimated to be 31.8 percent, compared to 32.6 percent last year. Crossbred and carpet wools should increase from 67.4 to 68.2 percent.

FOOD AND MARKETING

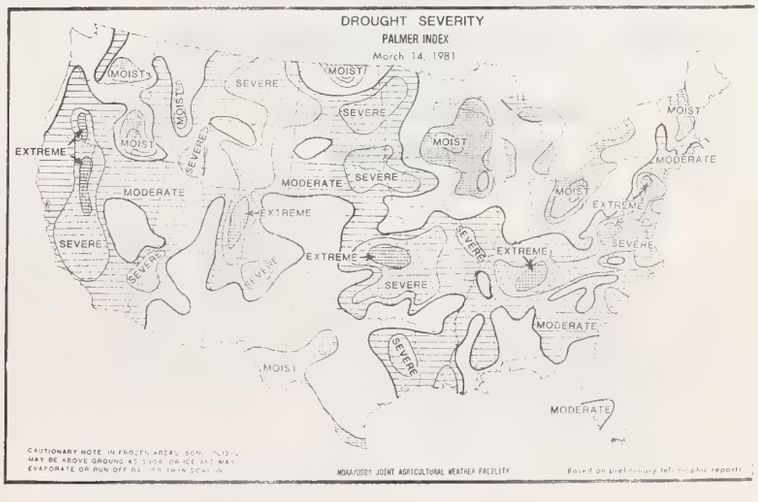
In 1981, the Consumer Price Index for food is expected to increase 10 to 15 percent from its 1980 average. The farm value of food is forecast to rise 12 to 20 percent, contributing significantly more to retail prices than last year, when it rose 6 percent. A 10 to 12 percent increase in marketing costs will also push up retail food prices.

Because of reduced supplies, retail prices of pork, sugar and peanut butter will increase sharply in 1981. Pork supplies will be lower as a result of planned production cutbacks, producer's response to the low hog prices of first-half 1980 and net operating losses through much of last year. Pork production this year is expected to fall 5 to 7 percent from 1980 levels. Coupled with only modest changes in beef and poultry production, this drop in pork output will cause total supplies of red meats and poultry to decline in 1981. As a result, retail prices of all meat items are expected to increase 13 to 15 percent, with pork prices up 18 to 20 percent.

World sugar production has fallen short of consumption for the last two growing seasons; consequently, global reserves have been pulled down sharply. This tight supply situation caused retail sugar prices to climb about 23 percent in 1980. Because of the high prices, some countries may resort to rationing this year, which would reduce consumption needs. Nevertheless, retail prices are still expected to average 15 to 20 percent higher than in 1980.

U. S. peanut production this past fall declined 42 percent from year-earlier levels, mainly because of the hot, dry summer in major producing States. Import quotas have been raised to supplement the shortage; even so, consumers will find fewer peanuts available in 1981 and prices tripled between August and December. Retail prices have begun to reflect these increases and are expected to remain high at least until next fall's harvest.

Source: Agricultural Outlook Jan.-Feb. 1981



EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's laying flocks produced 43 million eggs during the December 1, 1980 through February 28, 1981 quarter--up 23 percent from the same period a year ago. The average number of layers on hand during the quarter at 770,000 was up 18 percent. Most of the increase is the result of bringing flocks to levels established before the PCB incident when many layers had to be destroyed.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17,468 million eggs during the same quarter--down 1 percent from last year. The number of layers averaged 292 million, about the same as a year ago.

TRACTOR SHIPMENTS DOWN

The Bureau of the Census reports wheel-type tractor shipments from factories totaled 147,385 during calendar year 1980--down 27 percent from 1979 and 16 percent below 1979.

Tractor shipments have been down each month since February this year. Dealer inventories must be large and/or sales down.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices Wool Production Dairy Products Manufactured Pasture and Range

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Montana producers had 1.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1981--20 percent below last year at this time.

Potato stocks in the 15 major fall potato producing states as of March 1, 1981 are estimated at 94.2 million cwt. This is down 23 percent from March 1, 1980 and 29 percent less than on March 1, 1979.

Potatoes: Production and Total Stocks of Fall Potatoes Held by Growers, Processors and Local Dealers on March 1, 1980 and March 1, 1981

STATE	CROP OF 1979		CROP OF 1980	
	PROD.	STOCKS 3/1/80	PROD.	STOCKS 3/1/81
	1,000 cwt.			
CALIF	6,364	2,300	6,438	2,000
COLO	11,455	4,400	10,950	4,050
IDAHO	85,050	44,500	78,455	38,500
MAINE	27,685	15,800	24,960	10,700
MICH	8,000	2,400	7,403	1,200
MINN	12,920	6,800	9,920	4,000
MONT	1,800	1,620	1,725	1,300
NEBR	1,482	650	1,876	850
N Y-L I	6,431	1,000	4,418	100
-UPSTATE	6,463	800	6,250	800
N DAK	18,240	6,900	15,680	4,600
OHIO	2,400	400	1,948	80
OREG	25,310	9,800	19,745	7,500
PA	6,000	1,750	4,180	1,150
WASH	48,450	18,900	43,935	14,600
WISC	17,010	3,700	16,000	2,800
15 STATE TOTAL	285,060	121,720	253,883	94,230

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Prices Varied
Manufactured Dairy Output Up
1980 Annual Crop Summary
Drought Severity (Palmer Index)
Farm Exports
Poland Top Customer

FISCAL 1981 FARM EXPORTS NOW EXPECTED TO REACH $47 BILLION

Exports of U. S. farm products in fiscal 1981 are expected to reach a record $47 billion, 16 percent above last year's $40.5 billion, but $1.5 billion below the previous estimate in November 1980. Export volume for the fiscal year is projected at 169 million tons, 3 percent above last year's record but 1.5 million tons below the November estimate. Agricultural imports are expected to hit $18 billion, 4 percent above fiscal 1980. This is $500 million below the November estimate, reflecting lower than anticipated quantity and price for the two major import commodities--coffee and sugar. As a result, the agricultural trade balance will approach a record $29 billion, compared with $23 billion in fiscal 1980.

Exports during the first quarter of fiscal 1981 (October-December) amounted to $11.7 billion, 7 percent above a year earlier. However, the increase was below expectations for the first quarter, mainly reflecting price weakness as a result of generally favorable crop developments in the Southern Hemisphere, high U. S. interest rates, and sluggish demand for soybeans and products in Western Europe. Export volume was down 2 percent with wheat, soybeans, cotton, sunflowerseed, and soybean meal showing significant decreases. Animal product exports also had a disappointing first quarter as exports were only 2 percent above year-ago levels.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana had over 200,000 milk cows in the early 1930's, compared to 29,000 the first of this year.

POLAND A TOP CUSTOMER

Poland is expected to once again be the top East European customer for U. S. agricultural goods this fiscal year.

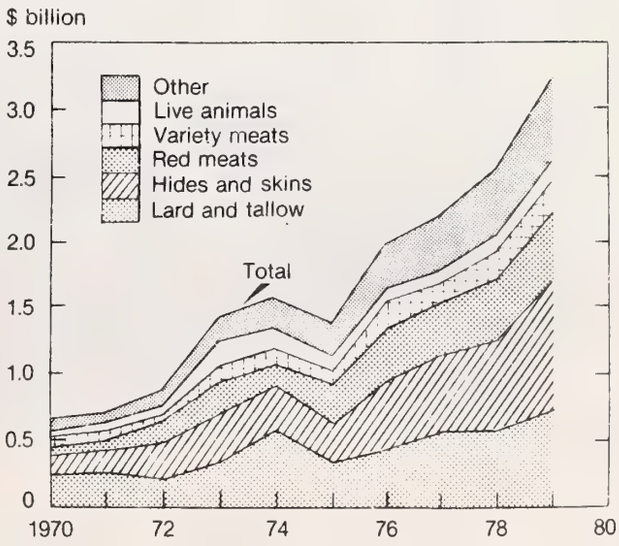
Last year, our farm sales to Poland reached a record $638 million, of which $563 million was in loans through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Exports of corn, the leading sales item, were valued at $316 million. Soybean meal sales totaled $91 million, soybean sales $84 million, and wheat sales $41 million.

The next largest East European importers of U. S. farm goods were East Germany, with purchases totaling $493 million, and Romania, with sales reaching $468 million.

For fiscal 1981, Poland has been granted the largest CCC credit line in history--$670 million--and the polish government is seeking an additional $200 million.

Source: Farmline Jan.-Feb. 1981

U.S. Exports of Livestock Products



FARM PRICES VARIED

The February 1981 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products at 276 (1967=100) was up 1 percent from the revised January index. The all crops index at 307 was 2 percent below January, but 18 percent above last year. The livestock and products index at 253 was 2 percent above January, but 12 percent below a year ago.

In comparing February prices with January prices, increases were noted for barley, cows, calves, sheep, lambs, hogs, eggs and wool. Prices were down for all wheat, oats, hay,steers and heifers, and milk.

The February index of prices received by U. S. farmers decreased 1 point (.4 percent) to 263 percent of its January - December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease were lower prices for soybeans, wheat, oranges, cotton and cattle. Higher prices for tomatoes, hogs and and potatoes were partially offsetting. The index was 28 points (10 percent) above a year ago.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U. S.
	Feb. 1980	Jan. 1981 2/	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	276	273	276	263
ALL CROPS	260	312	307	275
Food grains	265	308	302	274
Feed grains	241	340	341	280
Feed grains & hay	237	324	320	283
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	289	247	253	254
Meat animals	299	252	260	254
Dairy products	239	255	253	280
Poultry & eggs	175	164	196	210
Wool	220	201	226	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

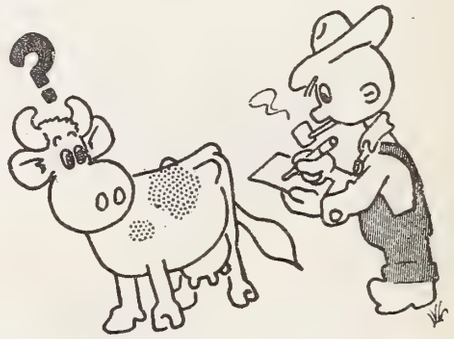
INDEX	1910-14=100		1967 = 100	
	Feb. 1980	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1980	Feb. 1981
Prices Received	598	658	239	263
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	926	1020	272	300
Ratio 2/	65	65	88	88

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY & UNIT		MONTANA			U. S.
		Feb. 1980	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1981
		---------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.72	4.13	3.99	
Durum	Bu.	4.06	6.16	5.53	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.67	4.28	4.35	4.10
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.71	4.31	4.22	4.06
Barley	Bu.	2.07	2.91	2.93	3.10
Oats	Bu.	1.44	2.10	1.87	2.03
Alfalfa hay	Ton	53.00	65.00	60.00	77.50
All other hay	Ton	49.00	60.00	55.00	65.90
All hay baled	Ton	53.00	64.50	59.50	74.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	76.50	65.70	65.30	63.10
Cows	Cwt	50.30	44.70	45.70	45.20
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	65.00	55.20	57.10	59.00
Calves	Cwt	90.00	71.70	72.00	69.40
Sheep	Cwt	20.70	20.80	21.00	25.00
Lambs	Cwt	61.30	52.20	54.60	55.10
Hogs	Cwt	35.90	39.00	41.50	42.30
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	12.85	13.80	13.70	14.10
Eggs	Doz	.599	.560	.670	.626
Wool 4/	Lb.	.930	.850	.950	.928
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	148.00	184.00	187.00	185.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.



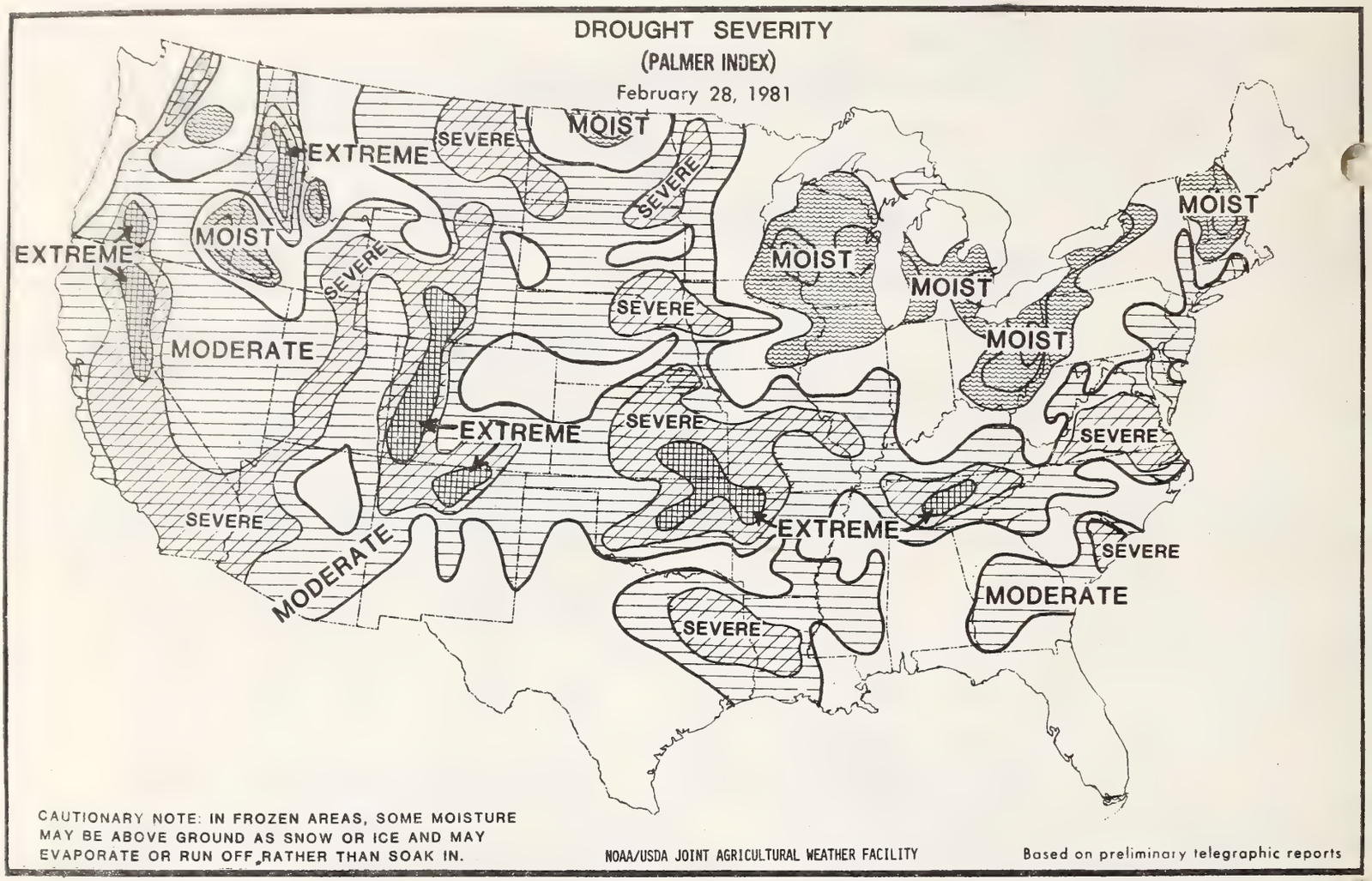
MANUFACTURED DAIRY OUTPUT UP

Montana dairy plants made 134,000 gallons of ice cream during January--8 percent more than January 1980 and 16 percent more than December 1980. Creamed cottage cheese manufactured at 431,000 was up 3 percent from last year and 5 percent above December. Butter made at 223,000 pounds was up 4 percent from last year and 14 percent above last December.

1980 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA Acreage Planted	MONTANA Acreage Harv.	MONTANA Production Unit	MONTANA Production Yield per Acre	MONTANA Production Total	MONTANA Production % Chg. from prev. year	MONTANA Season avg. price per unit	MONTANA Value of prod.	UNITED STATES PRODUCTION
		Thousands				Thous.		$	Thous.$	Thousands
Corn	1978	88	10	Bu.	72.0	720		2.23	1,606	7,267,927
for	1979	85	10		77.0	770		2.38	1,833	7,938,819
Grain 2/3/	1980	85	8		74.0	592	-23	3.60	2,131	6,647,534
Winter	1978	2,900	2,700	Bu.	31.0	83,700		2.73	228,501	1,222,446
Wheat 3/	1979	3,000	2,250		25.5	57,375		3.49	200,239	1,601,234
	1980	2,600	2,150		25.5	54,825	- 4	3.90	213,818	1,891,251
Durum	1978	300	290	Bu.	30.0	8,700		2.87	24.969	133,328
Wheat 3/	1979	335	325		21.0	6,825		4.26	29,075	106,654
	1980	470	400		19.0	7,600	+11	6.05	45,980	108,395
Other	1978	1,900	1,850	Bu.	29.0	53,650		2.77	148,611	419,750
Spring	1979	2,650	2,550		20.5	52,275		3.54	185,054	426,172
Wheat 3/	1980	2,900	2,550		22.5	57,375	+10	4.20	240,975	370,020
All	1978	5,100	4,840	Bu.	30.2	146,050		2.75	402,081	1,775,524
Wheat 3/	1979	5,985	5,125		22.7	116,475		3.56	414,368	2,134,060
	1980	5,970	5,100		23.5	119,800	+ 3	4.18	500,773	2,369,666
Oats 3/	1978	356	185	Bu.	51.0	9,435		1.23	11,605	581,657
	1979	321	125		39.0	4,875		1.49	7,264	526,551
	1980	220	73		44.0	3,212	-34	1.80	5,782	457,593
Barley 3/	1978	1,420	1,300	Bu.	43.0	55,900		1.70	95,030	454,759
	1979	1,100	1,040		39.0	40,560		2.13	86,393	382,798
	1980	1,180	1,050		42.0	44,100	+ 9	2.70	119,070	358,544
Potatoes	1978	8.8	8.7	Cwt.	240	2,088		4.00	8,352	366,314
	1979	7.5	7.5		240	1,800		3.60	6,480	342,497
	1980	7.0	6.9		250	1,725	- 4	8.00	13,800	301,006
Dry	1978	8.4	8.4	Cwt.	15.0	126		16.50	2,079	18,935
Beans	1979	10.0	9.7		18.0	175		24.00	4,200	20,476
	1980	12.0	11.0		16.0	176	+1	25.00	4,400	26,100
Sugar	1978	45.4	44.7	Tons	19.8	885		29.90	26,462	25,788
beets	1979	44.1	43.4		19.1	829		37.30	30,922	21,996
	1980	44.2	43.3		20.3	878	+ 6	---	----	23,275
Alfalfa	1978	---	26	Lbs.	85	2,210		1.00	2,210	91,615
Seed	1979	---	42		140	5,880		.85	4,998	99,925
	1980	---	35		115	4,025	-32	.80	3,220	97,650
Alfalfa	1978	---	1,320	Tons	2.30	3,036		---	----	87,294
Hay	1979	---	1,300		2.25	2,925		---	----	88,314
	1980	---	1,200		2.35	2,820	- 4	---	----	79,865
All	1978	---	2,420	Tons	1.89	4,576		44.00	201,344	56,523
Hay 4/	1979	---	2,380		1.82	4,329		55.50	240,260	59,533
	1980	---	2,200		1.90	4,170	- 4	65.00	271,050	51,205
Sweet	1978	---	---	Tons	---	1,850		701	1,297	156,780
Cherries 5/	1979	---	---		---	2,950		682	2,012	181,980
	1980	---	---		---	700	-76	621	435	171,700
Safflower	1978	---	130	Lbs.	740	96,200			----	-----
6/	1979	180	175		840	147,000			----	-----
	1980	90	55		700	38,500	---		----	-----
Sunflower	1979	30	29	Lbs.	1020	29,580			----	-----
6/	1980	17	9		450	4,050	---		----	-----
All	1978	---	---		---	----	---		752,0667/	-----
Main	1979	---	---		---	----	---		798,7307/	-----
Crops	1980	---	---		---	----	---		920,6618/	-----

1/ All estimates for 1980 are preliminary. 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes.
3/ Includes allowance for loans outstanding and purchases by the Government valued at the average loan and purchase rate. 4/ Price of baled hay. 5/ Production in actual tons.
6/ Estimates available through cooperative agreement with Montana Department of Agriculture.
7/ Comparable value to 1980 by excluding sugar beets, 1978--$725,604; 1979--$767,808.
8/ Excludes sugar beets, safflower and sunflower value.


DROUGHT SEVERITY
(PALMER INDEX)
February 28, 1981
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MOIST
MODERATE
CAUTIONARY NOTE: IN FROZEN AREAS, SOME MOISTURE MAY BE ABOVE GROUND AS SNOW OR ICE AND MAY EVAPORATE OR RUN OFF RATHER THAN SOAK IN.
NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary telegraphic reports

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Prospective Plantings Quarterly Egg Production Potato Stocks Slaughter

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

81-4 February 27, 1981

Service — USDA and Montana Department of Agriculture • ISSUED TWICE MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Red Meat Production Down
Montana Precipitation
Potato Stocks Lower
Wheat Utilization
Ownership of Farm Land
Farm Labor
Montana's Rank

NOTABLE NUMBERS

The Corn Belt and southern states accounted for nearly two-thirds of the National 6.5 million acre increase in winter wheat seeding for the 1981 crop.

SLAUGHTER OUTPUT DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 9 percent less red meat during January than the same month one year ago. Total production at 14.5 million pounds compares with 16.0 million pounds in January 1980 and 16.1 million pounds in December 1980.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during January 1981 totaled 3.42 billion pounds--up 1 percent from January 1980. The January cattlekill was up 3 percent while the hogkill fell 3 percent. Sheep and lambs slaughtered were up 9 percent.

Kill days for January included 22 weekdays (one a holiday) and 5 Saturdays, compared with 23 weekdays (one a holiday) and 4 Saturdays in January 1980.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--JANUARY

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	1,000 Head			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	14.9	12.2	2,923	3,004
Calves	----	----	235	238
Hogs	44.4	42.4	8,416	8,132
Sheep & Lambs	.2	.3	462	505
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	16,086	13,144	3,180	3,275
Calves	----	----	55	58
Hogs	10,588	10,279	2,044	1,995
Sheep & Lambs	14	35	54	58
Red meat production	16	14	3,393	3,416

FARM LABOR

The total number of workers on Montana farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 1981 was estimated at 33,600--34 percent more than January 1980. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were up 50 percent from last year, and hired workers were up 7 percent from January 1980.

FARM WORKERS

STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	Jan. 6-12 1980	Jan. 11-17 1981	Jan. 6-12 1980	Jan. 11-17 1981
	Thousands			
MONT	16.0	24.0	9.0	9.6
N.D.	36.0	32.0	5.0	4.0
S.D.	46.0	48.0	6.0	7.0
WYO	6.0	10.0	5.0	4.0
IDAHO	19.0	24.0	13.0	12.0
U. S.	2111.9	2068.9	909.6	920.6

FARM WAGE RATES

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	Jan. 6-12 1980	Jan. 11-17 1981	Jan. 6-12 1980	Jan. 11-17 1981
	Dollars per hour			
MONT	3.25	3.52	3.05	3.40
N.D.	3.75	3.68	3.26	3.40
S.D.	2.99	3.56	2.97	3.54
WYO	3.72	3.28	3.10	3.09
IDAHO	3.72	4.00	3.20	3.67
U. S.	3.69	4.12	3.26	3.57

COST OF PRODUCTION SURVEY

What does it cost to produce cattle, hogs, and sheep?

USDA interviewers will ask more than 6,500 livestock producers and feeders in 36 states for an hour of their time in March to answer questions about their cost of production and other characteristics of their operations.

Cost of production surveys for livestock are conducted by USDA every 5 years, with the data updated between survey years through a computer-based estimating procedure. The surveys provide cost of production budgets for different size operations in each region of the country.

The data are summarized each year in a special report to the Senate agriculture committee. The report provides lawmakers, farmers, and ranchers with information on annual costs and returns to different types of operations.

The information supplied by the farmers is also used to update the national inventory of equipment, facilities, tractors, and trucks, and to analyze the structure of the operations: livestock replacement rates, births and deaths, average sales rates and labor required.

The survey sample will include 3,700 beef cow operators in 36 states, 1,800 hog producers in 18 states, 700 sheep producers in 13 states, and 300 farmer-feeders in five states. Large commercial feedlots will be surveyed later.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	RANK		DATE
Acres in strip cropping	1		1969 Census
Land in farms and ranches	2		1980
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments			
Total	32		1979
Crops	33		1979
Livestock	29		1979
All cattle and calves	12		Jan. 1, 1981
All cows	11		Jan. 1, 1981
Milk cows	44		Jan. 1, 1981
Beef cows	8		Jan. 1, 1981
Cattle on feed	22		Jan. 1, 1981
Hogs and pigs	27		Dec. 1, 1980
Sheep and lambs	8		Jan. 1, 1981
Wool production (July prel.)	9		1980
All chickens	42		Dec. 1, 1980
Honey production	5		1980
All wheat	6	1/	1980
Winter wheat	12	1/	1980
Durum wheat	4		1980
Spring wheat other than durum	3		1980
All hay	13		1980
Alfalfa hay	11		1980
Dry beans	12		1980
Barley	4	1/	1980
Oats	20		1980
Potatoes--fall	20		1980
Sugarbeets	9		1980

1/ In 1978, all wheat was 3rd, winter wheat 4th and barley 2nd.

MONTANA PRECIPITATION BY STATIONS

Normal 1979 & 1980

Station	August - December				April - December			
	Normal	1979	1980	1980 as pct. normal	Normal	1979	1980	1980 as pct. normal
	------Inches------				------Inches------			
WESTERN								
Kalispell	6.40	4.94	6.36	99	12.65	9.62	15.49	122
Polson	6.06	4.42	4.48	74	12.60	8.50	19.81	157
SOUTHWESTERN								
Belgrade	4.91	3.06	3.82	78	11.79	9.09	13.49	114
Dillon	3.01	2.07	3.10	103	8.49	4.88	10.18	120
NORTHCENTRAL								
Havre	3.74	1.79	3.90	104	10.02	6.68	9.76	97
Conrad	3.55	1.90	3.40	96	10.99	7.33	12.61	115
Ft. Benton	4.59	2.23	3.44	75	12.42	9.70	11.75	95
Malta	3.64	2.64	2.87	79	10.14	11.67	7.42	73
CENTRAL								
Great Falls	4.49	2.12	3.48	78	12.27	7.63	13.40	109
Lewistown	5.73	3.26	5.98	104	15.31	8.93	12.04	79
Augusta	4.13	2.58	3.78	92	12.50	7.08	16.68	133
Harlowton	3.88	2.15	5.11	132	11.29	8.59	12.96	115
SOUTHCENTRAL								
Billings	4.66	2.12	4.74	102	11.68	5.83	11.93	102
Wyola	5.12	3.58	5.65	110	13.20	10.64	12.83	97
NORTHEASTERN								
Glasgow	3.76	1.75	4.30	114	9.73	6.67	7.94	82
Jordon	3.47	1.43	3.96	114	10.23	5.02	6.84	67
Medicine Lk.	4.58	2.11	6.69	146	12.87	8.50	11.46	89
Sidney	4.71	2.28	7.61	162	12.19	9.15	10.91	90
SOUTHEASTERN								
Broadus	4.31	1.76	4.14	96	12.26	8.19	9.87	81
Ingomar	3.26	2.50	4.84	148	9.28	5.96	9.14	98
Miles City	4.17	1.65	5.84	140	12.16	7.09	9.55	79
AVERAGE OF STATIONS	4.39	2.49	4.64	106	11.62	8.06	11.72	101

Precipitation from National Weather Service--Great Falls, Montana.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

On February 1, 1981 Montana producers had 1.58 million cwt of potatoes in storage--5 percent below one year ago.

There were 118 million cwt in storage on February 1, 1981 in the 15 major fall states. This is 20 percent below February 1, 1980 and 27 percent below February 1, 1979. Of the total stocks on hand in the 11 major states, 77 percent were Russetts, 20 percent Whites and 3 percent Reds.

WHEAT UTILIZATION

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-State destinations in the 1979 marketing year (June 1979 - May 1980) is estimated at 112.2 million bushels--including unaccounted disappearance. Wheat used in the State for feed, seed and flour amounted to 16 million bushels--12 percent of total disappearance.

Wheat shipped into the Pacific Northwest, including an allowance for unaccounted disappearance, was 92.7 million bushels. Pacific Northwest flour mills used 16.5 million bushels of Montana wheat to mill flour, and 76.2 million bushels were exported from Pacific Northwest ports. Compared with last year, flour use was down 23 percent and exports were down 10 percent.

Montana wheat accounted for 39 percent of the Pacific Northwest exports in crop year 1979.

Funds for wheat utilization and movement were furnished by the Montana Wheat Commission.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND UTILIZATION
1974 - 1979 Marketing Years

Supply	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
			Million bushels			
Beginning stocks 1/	18.3	24.3	50.1	87.8	97.9	87.1
Production	120.1	155.9	167.3	130.9	146.1	116.5
Total supply	138.4	180.2	217.4	218.7	244.0	203.6
Disposition						
Recorded movement out of State 2/	80.7	97.8	88.8	82.4	113.0	107.9
Milled for flour in Montana	7.2	7.1	8.1	7.9	8.3	7.9
Used for seed in Montana	5.2	4.9	4.8	5.2	5.4	6.4
Used for livestock feed 3/	1.1	1.6	5.4	5.1	3.0	1.7
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	19.9	18.7	22.5	20.2	27.2	4.3
Total disposition	114.1	130.1	129.6	120.8	156.9	128.2
Ending stocks 1/	24.3	50.1	87.8	97.9	87.1	75.4

1/ Farm, commercial--July 1 stocks 1974 & 1975 - June 1 stocks 1976 and on.
2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers, and special survey of truck destinations.
3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills, and purchased by other farmers for feed.
4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION AND EXPORTS 1/
By Marketing Years 1974-1979

ITEM	Marketing Year 2/ 1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
			Million bushels			
Beginning stocks 3/	18.3	24.3	50.1	87.8	97.9	87.1
Production	120.1	155.9	167.3	130.9	146.1	116.5
Ending stocks 3/	- 24.3	- 50.1	- 87.8	- 97.9	- 87.1	- 75.4
Available supply 4/	114.1	130.1	129.6	120.8	156.9	128.2
Shipments of wheat into Pacific Northwest 5/ (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance)	85.6	94.3 8/	88.5	96.6	114.8	92.7
Total wheat used for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar)	(29.9)	(25.9) 8/	(30.7)	(30.4)	(32.8)	(26.8)
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar) 6/	19.8	20.0 8/	21.0	19.9	21.5	16.5
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific Northwest ports 7/	65.8	74.3 8/	67.5	76.7	93.3	76.2
Percent of available supply	58%	57%	52%	63%	59%	59%
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, and Durum from Pacific N.W. ports	116.1	118.2 8/	108.0	123.7	175.1	193.1
Montana exports as percent of total HRS, HRW, and Durum exports from P.N. ports	57%	63%	62%	62%	53%	39%

1/ Pacific Northwest--Oregon and Washington.
2/ July 1 - June 30, 1974; July 1-May 31, 1975; June 1-May 31, 1976-1979.
3/ July 1 stocks 1974 & 1975--June 1 stocks 1976 and on.
4/ Beginning stocks plus production minus ending stocks.
5/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project.
6/ Total Pacific Northwest wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington, or other States.
7/ Estimated Montana wheat shipped to Pacific Northwest minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific Northwest.
8/ July 1 - May 31.

Ownership of Farm and Ranch Land by Occupation 1978 -- Western States 1/

State and region	Occupation						
	Farming 2/	White Collar	Blue Collar 3/	Retired	Other	No Response	Total
	Percent of Acres						
Arizona	68.7	10.6	0.1	6.9	5/	13.7	100.0
California	52.3	19.0	6.4	14.6	3.4	4.3	100.0
Colorado	61.3	12.4	5.0	10.5	2.4	8.4	100.0
Hawaii	91.8	0.4	5.2	5/	2.6	5/	100.0
Idaho	70.4	7.1	6.0	7.7	2.6	6.2	100.0
Montana	84.7	5.0	2.6	4.8	1.0	1.9	100.0
Nevada	73.8	2.6	2.6	8.2	5/	12.8	100.0
New Mexico	71.0	4.7	1.9	7.8	14.6	5/	100.0
Oregon	64.4	9.7	8.1	14.9	0.8	2.1	100.0
Utah	69.9	15.1	4.2	6.1	0.3	4.4	100.0
Washington	55.5	8.2	3.2	22.1	3.0	8.0	100.0
Wyoming	80.9	8.0	3.4	4.9	1.5	1.3	100.0
West	70.1	9.2	4.0	9.2	3.3	4.2	100.0
U.S. Total 4/	53.6	13.4	7.6	15.8	4.1	5.5	100.0

1/ Not including corporations and large partnerships. 2/ Including farm managers and farm laborers. 3/ Including private household and service workers. 4/ Revised, excluding Alaska. 5/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Source: 1978 ESCS Land Ownership Survey

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices Manufactured Dairy Products

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Cattle Inventory
Sheep Inventory
Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured
Chicken Inventory
Producer-Owned Grain Stocks

NOTABLE NUMBERS

National beef and veal imports including quota, non-quota and live animals, reached a record high of 3 billion pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1978. This was 11 percent of domestic consumption.

CATTLE NUMBERS UP

Montana's cattlemen held 2.7 million cattle and calves in their inventory on January 1, 1981--1 percent more than a year ago. The herd build-up which started during 1979 was slowed this year by drouth in the eastern third of Montana. The number of heifers kept for herd replacement in the inventory would indicate that herd expansion will likely be slow during 1981 also.

Class inventory and changes from a year ago are: beef cows 1.5 million head--up 1 percent; milk cows 29,000--up 1 percent; bulls 85,000--down 2 percent; heifers kept for beef replacement 276,000--unchanged; other heifers over 500 pounds 111,000--unchanged; steers over 500 pounds 146,000--up 15 percent; calves under 500 pounds 580,000--unchanged. The 1980 calf crop was estimated at 1.52 million head--2 percent more than the previous year's total.

All cattle and calves in the United States on January 1, 1981 total 115 million head--up 3 percent from the 111 million a year ago. This was the second year of the current cattle cycle's upward trend. All cows and heifers that have calved number 49.9 million--up 4 percent from the 47.9 million as of January 1, 1980.

Beef cows, at 39.0 million, are up 5 percent from the 37.1 million a year ago. Beef heifers are up 4 percent and calves are up 6 percent.

The 1980 calf crop is estimated at 45.4 million-up 6 percent from 1979.

(Page 4 shows inventory by state.)

CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1980-1981

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	% Change 1981/80	1980	1981	% Change 1981/80
	1,000 head			1,000 head		
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	2,645	2,675	+ 1	111,192	115,013	+ 3
Cows & heifers that have calved	1,455	1,468	+ 1	47,865	49,856	+ 4
Beef Cows	1,427	1,439	+ 1	37,086	38,987	+ 5
Milk Cows	28	29	+ 4	10,779	10,869	+ 1
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	275	276	---	5,939	6,189	+ 4
For milk cow replacement	11	9	-18	4,158	4,353	+ 5
Other heifers	111	111	---	7,130	7,333	+ 3
Steers 500 pounds and over	127	146	+15	16,019	15,605	- 3
Bulls 500 pounds and over	87	85	- 2	2,492	2,556	+ 3
Calves less than 500 pounds	579	580	---	27,590	29,123	+ 6
All cattle value (000$)	1,348,950	1,324,125	- 2	55,813,294	54,359,749	- 3
Value per head (Dollars)	510	495	- 3	502	473	- 6

ITEM	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	% Change 1980/79	1979	1980	% Change 1980/79
Calves born during year (000)	1,490	1,520	+ 2	42,603	45,354	+ 6
Number cattle farms	17,000	16,500	- 3	1,638,520	1,608,220	- 2

PRODUCER CONTROLLED OFF-FARM WHEAT STOCKS

Montana wheat producers retained pricing control on 13.5 million bushels stored in off-farm facilities on January 1, 1981--65 percent of the total wheat stored off-farm. A year ago 16.2 million bushels were producer controlled--71 percent of the total off-farm stocks.

Producer owned grain stored in commercial off-farm storage facilities is defined as grain for which the producer has some marketing control.

SHEEP INVENTORY CLIMB CONTINUES

Montana's sheep and lamb numbers continued to climb last year. The January 1, 1981 inventory was 595,000 head, up 4 percent from the same date one year ago. This is the second year with increased numbers in Montana.

Ewes one year old and older were up 5 percent from last year. Ewe lambs were down 4 percent, but their number is still large enough to provide normal replacements and increase the size of next year's breeding flock.

Sheep and lambs on feed at 15,000 were up 1,000 from last year, probably as a result of lambs being kept on the farm or ranch on a fattening ration.

The 1980 lamb crop at 390,000 was up 8 percent. The value of all sheep and lambs on farms and ranches at the beginning of 1981 was $41.4 million, down 21 percent from last year. Lower market prices for all classes of sheep pulled the inventory value down.

Nationally the number of sheep and lambs is 2 percent above last year at 12.9 million head--the second year of increased numbers.

INDEX OF FARM PRICES UP

The January 1981 index of prices by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products was 271 (1967 = 100) compared with 267 a month earlier and 265 for January 1980. The All Crops Index at 320 was 1 percent above last month and 25 percent above last year. The livestock and products index at 238 was up 2 percent from last month, but 14 percent below a year ago.

Comparing January prices with December prices increases were noted for all wheat, barley, calves, sheep and milk. Prices went down for cows, steers and heifers, lambs, oats and eggs; but prices for hay and wool were unchanged.

The January index of prices received by United States farmers decreased 2 points (.8 percent) to 263 percent of its January - December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since December were lower prices for hogs, eggs, soybeans and cattle. Higher prices for corn, potatoes, tomatoes and peanuts were partially offsetting. The index was 26 points (11 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for January 15 was 299, up 7 points (2.4 percent) from mid-December. The annual updating of the indexes for farm services and cash rent, interest and taxes along with higher prices for feed, fuel and family living items were the major contributors to the increase. The January index was 29 points (11 percent) above a year earlier.

CHICKEN NUMBERS INCREASE

The number of chickens on Montana farms December 1, 1980 totaled 965,000--8 percent more than a year earlier. The inventory included 760,000 hens and pullets of laying age and 199,000 pullets not of laying age. The inventory value of all Montana chickens December 1, 1980 increased 18 percent to $2,364,000. The average value per bird at $2.45 was 20 cents more than the previous year.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FARMS & RANCHES--JANUARY 1, 1980-1981

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1980	1981	Pct. Change from 1980	1980	1981	Pct. Change from 1980
	Thous. head			Thous. head		
ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS	574	595	+ 4	12,687	12,942	+ 2
On feed	14	15	+ 7	1,622	1,624	---
Stock sheep	560	580	+ 4	11,065	11,318	+ 2
Lambs						
Ewes	136	130	- 4	1,807	1,791	- 1
Wethers and rams	11	15	+36	368	358	+ 3
One year old and older						
Ewes	400	420	+ 5	8,524	8,798	+ 3
Wethers and rams	13	15	+15	366	371	+ 1
All sheep value (000 $)	52,521	41,353	-21	992,127	904,488	- 9
Value per head (Dollars)	9,150	6,950	-24	7,820	6,990	-11

ITEM	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	Pct. Change from 1979	1979	1980	Pct. Change from 1979
Lambs saved	360	390	+ 8	7,974	8,246	+ 3
Number of sheep farms	2,100	2,200	+ 5	116,070	115,530	---

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY & UNIT		MONTANA Jan. 1980	MONTANA Dec. 1980 1/	MONTANA Jan. 1981	U.S. Jan. 1981
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.64	4.10	4.07	4.18
Durum	Bu.	3.98	5.90	5.81	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.58	4.28	4.40	4.09
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.63	4.40	4.43	4.22
Barley	Bu.	2.16	2.83	3.01	3.10
Oats	Bu.	1.52	1.97	1.93	2.03
Alfalfa hay	Ton	55.00	65.00	65.00	77.20
All other hay	Ton	51.00	60.00	60.00	66.80
All hay baled	Ton	54.50	64.50	64.50	73.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	70.00	66.60	66.10	64.60
Cows	Cwt.	48.00	42.30	42.00	42.90
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	60.10	49.80	51.60	59.10
Calves	Cwt.	85.00	71.70	74.00	69.80
Sheep	Cwt.	24.00	19.50	20.00	22.50
Lambs	Cwt.	66.20	56.50	55.30	54.30
Hogs	Cwt.	35.00	41.10	39.00	40.80
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	12.95	13.95	14.00	14.10
Eggs	Doz.	.663	.680	.560	.648
Wool 4/	Lb.	.850	.850	.850	.906
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	150.00	178.00	184.00	186.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA Jan. 1980	MONTANA Dec. 1980 2/	MONTANA Jan. 1981	U. S. Jan. 1981
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	265	267	271	263
ALL CROPS	257	316	320	275
Food grains	260	314	316	282
Feed grains	252	330	350	287
Feed grains & hay	246	316	332	290
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	276	234	238	253
Meat animals	281	237	243	253
Dairy products	239	256	257	280
Poultry & eggs	192	198	163	213
Wool	201	201	201	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100 Jan. 1980	1910-14 = 100 Jan. 1981	1967 = 100 Jan. 1980	1967 = 100 Jan. 1981
Prices Received	592	658	237	263
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	917	1016	270	299
Ratio 2/	65	65	88	88

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS BY REGIONS

The following table showing winter wheat seedings by groups of states points out the disproportionate increase in seeded acreage in the Corn Belt and southern states this past fall.

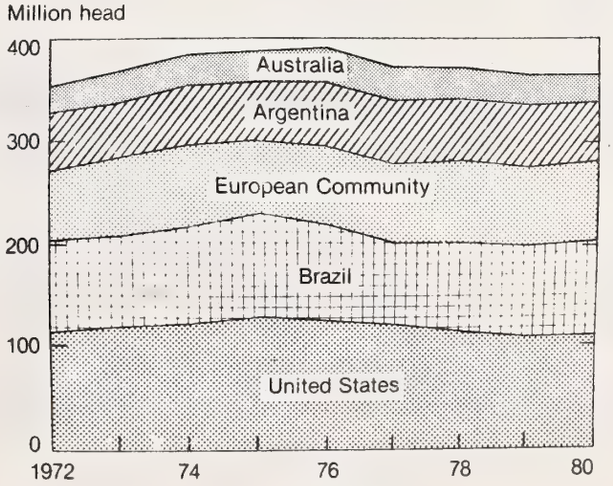
The five Corn Belt states with only 12 percent of the winter wheat acreage in 1980 account for 25 percent of the National 1981 increase in acreage; and the nine southern states with only 7 percent of the acreage in 1980 account for a whopping 36 percent of the 1981 United States increase. Together these 2 regions contribute 61 percent of the winter wheat acreage increase from 1980.

Montana winter wheat seedings last fall were 2.65 million acres, up only 2 percent for 1980.

1981 CROP WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS - by Groups of States

	1980 Crop (Pct. of U.S.)	1981 Crop (000 Acres)	1981/1980 (% Chg.)	1981 Acreage change (000 acres)	Acreage change as pct. U.S. (Pct.)
7 Plains States (MT, KS, OK, TX, CO, NEB & SD)	66	37,700	40,240	+ 7	+2,540	39%
5 Corn Belt States (OH, IND, ILL, MICH & MO)	12	7,170	8,790	+23	+1,620	25%
9 Southern States (ARK, GA, KY, MISS, NC, SC, TENN, ALA & VA)	7	3,912	6,270	+60	+2,358	36%
3 Pacific NW (ORE, WASH & IDAHO)	9	5,130	4,780	- 7	- 350	-5%
California	2	1,130	1,350	+19	+ 220	3%
Other States	4	2,383	2,509	+ 5	+ 126	2%
U.S. TOTAL	100	57,425	63,939	+11	+6,514	100%

Cattle in Major Beef-Producing Countries



Inventory taken as close to January 1 as possible.

CATTLE AND CALVES JANUARY 1, 1980-81

STATE	ALL CATTLE AND CALVES			STATE	ALL CATTLE AND CALVES		
	1980	1981	1981 as % of 80		1980	1981	1981 as % of 80
	1,000 Head		Pct.		1,000 Head		Pct.
Alabama	1730	1925	111	Nebraska	6400	6950	109
Alaska	8.4	8.4	100	Nevada	595	640	108
Arizona	1050	1075	102	New Hampshire	70	69	99
Arkansas	2050	2300	112	New Jersey	100	104	104
California	4550	4760	105	New Mexico	1600	1450	91
Colorado	2975	3125	105	New York	1780	1831	103
Connecticut	104	103	99	North Carolina	1080	1160	107
Delaware	30	32	107	North Dakota	2000	1850	93
Florida	2300	2480	108	Ohio	1825	1815	99
Georgia	1600	1910	119	Oklahoma	5500	5400	98
Hawaii	213	220	103	Oregon	1575	1750	111
Idaho	1860	1990	107	Pennsylvania	1950	2050	105
Illinois	2700	2650	98	Rhode Island	8.0	8.0	100
Indiana	1850	1800	97	South Carolina	625	625	100
Iowa	7150	7450	104	South Dakota	4010	4190	104
Kansas	6200	6450	104	Tennessee	2300	2400	104
Kentucky	2700	2600	96	Texas	13200	13700	104
Louisiana	1300	1360	105	Utah	840	875	104
Maine	131	131	100	Vermont	340	339	100
Maryland	380	410	108	Virginia	1750	1800	103
Massachusetts	104	103	99	Washington	1579	1450	92
Michigan	1310	1380	105	West Virginia	545	570	105
Minnesota	3750	3800	101	Wisconsin	4280	4550	106
Mississippi	1810	1800	99	Wyoming	1340	1350	101
Missouri	5400	5550	103				
MONTANA	2645	2675	101	UNITED STATES	111192	115013	103

MANUFACTURED DAIRY OUTPUT UP

Montana dairy plants manufactured 116,000 gallons of ice cream during December--20 percent more than December 1979, but 9 percent less than November 1980. Creamed cottage cheese output at 411,000 pounds was up 16 percent from a year ago. Butter production at 195,000 pounds was up 27 percent from last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Farm Labor
Wheat Utilization

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst. State Stat.
Randy Van Winkle, Agr. Stat.--Editor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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HIGHLIGHTS

Honey Production Slips
Red Meat Production Up
Increase in Cattle on Feed
More Grain in Storage
Potato Stocks Down
More Milk Produced

HONEY PRODUCTION SECOND LARGEST

Montana's 1980 honey production, estimated at 10.7 million pounds, is second only to the record crop in 1979. The 1980 production was 19 percent below the 1979 record, but 22 percent above the low 1978 production. The number of colonies in 1980 at 103,000 was unchanged from a year ago but drought in eastern Montana and volcanic ash fallout in western Montana combined to lower the yield per colony from 128 to 104 pounds per colony. In 1980, Montana ranked 5th in U.S. honey production.

The U.S. honey crop in 1980 totaled 200 million pounds, 16 percent less than the 1979 crop of 238 million pounds. The number of colonies was down slightly at 4.14 million and yield per colony declined to 48.2 pounds from 57.2 pounds in 1979. Honey stocks on hand totaled 40.3 million pounds-6 percent above last year.

HONEY & BEESWAX PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1979	1980	1979	1980
HONEY					
Production	000 Lb.	13,184	10,712	237,764	199,583
Price per Lb.	Dols.	.577	.560	.590	.614
Value of Prod.	000 $	7,607	5,999	140,303	122,496
BEESWAX					
Production	000 Lb.	224	214	3,757	3,903
Price per Lb.	Dols.	1.64	1.90	1.75	1.83
Value of Prod.	000 $	367	407	6,591	7,147

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

On January 1, 1981 Montana producers had 1.61 million cwt in storage--7 percent below last year at this time.

There were 144 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1981 in the 15 major states. This is 18 percent less than January 1, 1980 and 26 percent below January 1, 1979. Of the total stocks on hand, 74 percent were Russets, 23 percent Whites and 3 percent Reds.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

U. S. beef and veal production in 1980 at nearly 10 million metric tons ranks first in the world and compares to 6.8 million tons for each the European Community and the USSR.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 19 percent more red meat during December than the same month one year ago. Total production at 16.1 million pounds compares with 13.6 million pounds in December 1979 and 14.6 million pounds in November 1980. Production for January-December 1980 at 183.0 million pounds is 13 percent more than the same period in 1979.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during December 1980 totaled 3.35 billion pounds, up 9 percent from December 1979. January-December red meat production at 38.6 billion pounds was 4 percent above last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components were; beef, up 1 percent; veal, down 8 percent; pork, up 8 percent; lamb and mutton, up 9 percent.

Kill days for December included 23 weekdays (1 a holiday) and 4 Saturdays compared with 21 weekdays (1 a holiday) and 5 Saturdays a year ago.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--JANUARY-DECEMBER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1980
	----1,000 head ----------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	150.7	156.2	33,678	33,804
Calves	.4	.3	2,824	2,589
Hogs	461.8	526.5	89,099	96,076
Sheep & lambs	2.3	2.9	5,017	5,574
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	157,537	172,663	35,709	36,228
Calves	125	99	689	634
Hogs	107,413	127,510	21,554	23,216
Sheep & lambs	257	304	571	624
Red meat production	161,732	182,995	37,225	38,584

MORE CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed January 1 in Montana feedlots for the slaughter market totaled 64,000 head--12 percent more than last January and 64 percent more (up seasonally) than the number being fed on October 1. Steers on feed at 34,000 head were up 36 percent from last January and heifers at 27,000 head were unchanged from a year ago. About 48 percent of all steers and heifers on feed weighed 700 pounds or more, and 23 percent weighed 900 pounds or more.

Placements in lots during the October-December period totaled 55,000 head--up 6 percent from the same period a year ago. Montana feeders expect to market 28,000 head during the January-March period, 56 percent more than the same period in 1980.

CATTLE ON FEED JANUARY 1, 1980 - 1981

ITEM	MONTANA		23 Major States	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
	-----1,000 head--------			
On feed Oct. 1	39	--	9,965	---
During period Oct. 1-Dec. 31				
Placed on feed 1/	52	55	8,102	7,340
Marketed 1/	18	23	5,756	5,677
Other disappearance 2/	9	7	571	523
On feed January 1	57	64	11,713	11,105
Kinds on feed Jan. 1				
Steers & steer calves	25	34	7,893	7,491
Under 500 Lbs.	2	2	641	482
500-699 Lbs.	12	17	1,526	1,452
700-899 Lbs.	7	5	2,345	2,283
900-1099 Lbs.	4	9	2,608	2,473
1100 Lbs. & over	0	1	773	801
Heifers & heifer calves	27	27	3,710	3,535
Under 500 Lbs.	2	2	516	377
500-699 Lbs.	9	11	1,159	1,068
700-899 Lbs.	13	10	1,297	1,325
900 Lbs. & over	3	4	738	765
Cows and other	5	3	110	79
Marketings--Jan.-March	18	3/28	4/6,145	3/6,290 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter.
2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 31.
4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 31.

The latest issue of Montana "Agricultural Statistics", Volume XVIII, has been published and is available for distribution. This issue includes county statistics (1978 and 1979) on Montana crops and livestock, as well as state statistics for the past 10 years.

Requests for the bulletin can be made by writing:

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P.O. Box 4369
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USDA ALTERS PROSPECTIVE PLANTING REPORT SCHEDULE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Crop Reporting Board issued a modified Prospective Plantings Report on Jan. 21, covering planted acreages of cotton, rice, corn, oats, barley, sorghum, sweet potatoes, soybeans, and peanuts in 16 southern states of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia.

A second Prospective Plantings Report for major spring planted crops for 32 states including Montana, will be issued in late March.

The January report will be updated in selected areas if events suggest farmers are likely to change their earlier planting intentions.

The January and March reports will be combined to provide a national Prospective Plantings Report in lieu of the usual April report.

Montana Grain Stocks

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators January 1, 1981 totaled 130.9 million bushels--up less than 1 percent from a year ago.

Disappearance since October 1 was 44.8 million bushels, up 18 percent from a year ago. Farm storages held 110.2 million bushels--3 percent above a year ago and commercial storages held 20.7 million--down 10 percent.

Winter wheat at 62.0 million bushels was down 10 percent from last year. Spring wheat stocks excluding Durum were 59.8 million bushels--down 2 percent from a year ago. Durum in storage amounted to 9.1 million bushels--up 10 percent.

Barley stocks at 33.4 million bushels were down 5 percent and oats stocks at 4.3 million were down 41 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stocks in all storage positions totaled 1.90 billion bushels--11 percent more than last year. Farm storages contained 754 million bushels of wheat--40 percent of the total January 1, 1981 stocks.

Durum wheat stocks totaled 103 million bushels--3 percent below last year. U.S. Barley stocks were 303 million bushels--17 percent less than one year ago.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--DECEMBER 31
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	33,747	29,234	1,304	164
Under loan	17,307	15,209	6,123	3,140

1/ These stocks are included in the respective January 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JANUARY 1, 1981 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1980	Oct. 1, 1980 *	Jan. 1, 1981	% change from 1980	January 1, 1980	October 1, 1980 *	January 1, 1981
	-------Thousand Bushels--------			---Pct.---	----------Thousand Bushels----------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	107,157	148,552	110,216	+ 3	773,920	975,304	754,089
Off farms 1/	22,856	27,162	20,650	-10	942,247	1,496,574	1,147,927
T O T A L	130,013	175,714	130,866	+ 1	1,716,167	2,471,878	1,902,016
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	52,692	69,822	46,430	-12	----	----	----
Off farms 1/	16,392	19,487	15,607	- 5	----	----	----
T O T A L	69,084	89,309	62,037	-10	----	----	----
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	54,465	78,730	63,786	+17	----	----	----
Off farms 1/	6,464	7,675	5,043	-22	----	----	----
T O T A L	60,929	86,405	68,829	+13	----	----	----
DURUM 3/							
On farms	----	----	----	---	87,384	88,456	73,990
Off farms 1/	----	----	----	---	19,776	34,406	29,469
T O T A L	8,307	10,645	9,087	+ 9	107,160	122,862	103,459
CORN							
On farms	578	23	474	-18	5,041,691	920,881	4,140,062
Off farms	4/	4/	4/	---	1,844,484	696,597	1,713,245
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	---	6,886,175	1,617,478	5,853,307
OATS							
On farms	7,098	4,497	4,176	-41	400,765	394,799	329,150
Off farms 1/	185	340	155	-16	76,007	89,342	61,787
T O T A L	7,293	4,837	4,231	-42	476,772	484,141	390,937
BARLEY							
On farms	31,231	40,572	29,547	- 5	246,366	248,029	184,472
Off farms 1/	3,888	3,605	3,850	- 1	119,210	147,311	118,083
T O T A L	35,119	44,177	33,397	- 5	365,576	395,340	302,555
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	----	----	----	---	235,370	40,472	141,293
Off farms 1/	----	----	----	---	412,290	106,064	324,508
T O T A L	----	----	----	---	647,660	146,536	465,801

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jan. 1, 1980	Oct. 1, 1980 *	Jan. 1, 1981	Jan. 1, 1980	Oct. 1, 1980 *	Jan. 1, 1981
	----------Million bushels----------			----------Million bushels----------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	.7	1.7	1.3	3.0	2.4	2.4
Northcentral	51.5	94.9	67.7	14.6	19.9	15.0
Northeast	45.8	35.1	30.1	4.8	4.3	3.9
Central	12.1	21.3	17.5	6.3	9.1	6.2
Southwest	2.3	2.9	2.3	2.1	2.8	2.0
Southcentral	8.0	10.7	5.8	3.0	3.7	2.6
Southeast	9.6	9.1	6.2	1.3	2.0	1.3
STATE	130.0	175.7	130.9	35.1	44.2	33.4

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee.
*Revised.

MILK PRODUCTION UP

Milk produced in Montana during the October-December 1980 quarter totaled 79 million pounds, 10 percent more than for the same quarter in 1979. The number of cows milked during this quarter averaged 29,000, up 1000 from the previous year. The amount of grain fed per milk cow in herds on January 1 was 12.5 pounds per day--unchanged from January 1 a year ago.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Area	Dec. Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	-----Thousands---		---Million pounds---	
Calif.	878	918	3,174	3,388
Idaho	142	159	427	476
Minn.	860	870	2,087	2,147
Mont.	28	29	72	79
N. Dak.	93	93	185	195
Oregon	94	96	263	267
S. Dak.	166	163	371	380
Wash.	195	199	688	713
Wis.	1,813	1,819	5,131	5,264
Wyo.	11.0	11.0	30.3	29.7
U. S.	10,803	10,895	29,826	30,935

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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February	4	- Agricultural Outlook
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February	6,7,8	- Farm News Special
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February	11	- U.S. Crop Report
February	12	- World Crop Report
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February	26	- Cotton Situation
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March	1	- Farmers' Prices

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Numbers, Up
Agricultural Prices, Down
Dairy Products Manufactured
Hay Stocks
Farm Income 1978-79
Foreign Held Acreage

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Record national beef and veal slaughter was reached in 1976 with 26.5 billion pounds--this compares with 1979 at 21.7 billion pounds.

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MORE MONTANA FARMS

Montana farm numbers in 1980 are estimated at 23,800--up 100 from last year. The preliminary estimate of farm numbers for 1981 is 23,900. The new estimate of farming units published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is the result of a detailed review of 1974 and 1978 Census data and other statistical information from 1975 through 1980.

The latest farm number series is above the previous series and shows the farm number decline halted between 1975 and 1976--thus ending a 45-year trend. Since 1976, there has been a slow increase in units that meets the definition of a farm (the official definition, used since 1975, includes places from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would be sold during the previous year). The census of agriculture shows that from 1974 to 1978 the largest increase took place in the smaller size groups, especially the 10-49 acre groups, as the larger size groups continued in a downward trend. The amount of land in Montana farms has been unchanged since 1977.

Montana joined 19 other states showing increased farm numbers from 1979 to 1980. However, the national total continued its downward trend--showing 2,000 fewer farms.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS--1979-81

STATE	FARMS			LAND IN FARMS		
	1979	1980	1981 1/	1979	1980	1981 1/
Colorado	26,300	26,500	26,500	36,700	36,500	36,500
Idaho	24,000	24,100	24,200	15,400	15,400	15,400
MONTANA	23,700	23,800	23,900	62,100	62,100	62,100
Nevada	2,900	2,900	2,900	8,990	8,990	8,990
North Dakota	40,500	40,000	40,000	41,700	41,700	41,700
Oregon	34,000	35,000	35,000	18,200	18,100	18,100
South Dakota	39,000	38,500	38,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Utah	13,000	13,000	13,000	12,600	12,600	12,600
Washington	37,000	38,000	39,000	16,100	16,100	16,100
Wyoming	9,000	9,100	9,200	35,000	35,000	35,000
UNITED STATES	2,429,960	2,427,830	2,418,740	1,043,195	1,042,245	1,041,370

1/ Preliminary.

FARM PRICES LOWER

Montana farmers and ranchers received slightly lower prices for their crops and livestock on December 15 compared with a month earlier. The December 1980 index of prices received by the State's farmers for all farm products at 278 (1967=100) was down less than one percent from the revised November index, but 3 percent above December 1979. The all crops index at 317 was unchanged from last month but 20 percent above last year. The livestock and products index at 253 was also unchanged from last month but was down 8 percent from a year ago.

In comparing December prices with November prices, increases were noted for barley, oats, milk, and eggs. Prices went down for all other items except hay and wool which remained unchanged from the previous month.

The December index of prices received by U.S. farmers decreased 3 points (1.1 percent) to 261 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since November were lower prices for soybeans, oranges, wheat, hogs, cattle, and lettuce. Higher prices for eggs, corn, peanuts, tobacco, and rice were partially offsetting. The index was 22 points (9.2 percent) above a year ago.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U. S.
	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1980 2/	Dec. 1980	December 1980
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	270	279	278	261
ALL CROPS	264	317	317	266
Food grains	263	319	314	274
Feed grains	269	315	336	278
Feed grains & hay	262	304	321	282
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	276	253	253	258
Meat animals	284	258	257	257
Dairy products	237	254	254	278
Poultry and eggs	200	174	197	227
Wool	236	200	200	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1967 = 100	
	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1980
Prices Received	598	653	239	261
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	883	991	260	291
Ratio 2/	68	66	92	90

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U.S.
		Dec. 1979	Nov. 1980 1/	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1980
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.74	4.14	4.02	4.0
Durum	Bu.	4.09	6.36	6.06	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.61	4.34	4.37	4.03
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.70	4.47	4.40	4.09
Barley	Bu.	2.32	2.71	2.90	3.02
Oats	Bu.	1.42	1.75	1.77	1.91
Alfalfa hay	Ton	59.00	65.00	65.00	77.90
All other hay	Ton	55.00	60.00	60.00	66.10
All hay baled	Ton	58.50	64.50	64.50	74.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	73.00	69.00	66.60	64.70
Cows	Cwt.	47.00	42.80	42.60	41.70
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	60.60	55.40	55.80	59.10
Calves	Cwt.	87.00	75.20	74.50	70.80
Sheep	Cwt.	23.00	18.90	17.00	21.90
Lambs	Cwt.	69.50	58.40	58.20	58.10
Hogs	Cwt.	34.40	43.20	41.10	43.90
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	12.83	13.85	13.90	14.00
Eggs	Doz.	.689	.600	.680	.726
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.00	.850	.850	.866
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	150.00	178.00	178.00	185.00

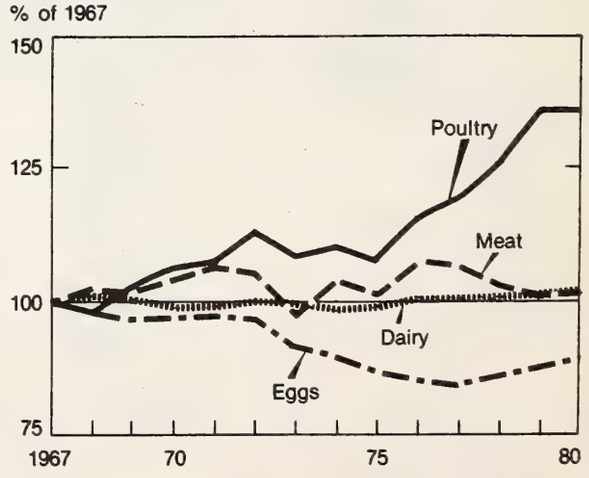
1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

MONTANA HAY STOCKS UP

January 1 hay stocks on Montana farm and ranches totaled 4,045,000 tons---5 percent more than on the same date last year. Hay supplies are still tight and high priced in the Eastern third of the State, but feeding requirements have been eased considerably by the mild winter.

The United States hay stocks on farms January 1 totaled 92.0 million tons---15 percent below the record high a year earlier and the lowest January 1 stocks since 1977.

Per Capita Consumption of Selected Animal Products



Dairy includes butter. 1980 projected.

MONTANA FOREIGN HELD ACREAGE BY COUNTRY [1/]

COUNTRY	NO. OF PARCELS	PERCENT OF TOTAL	TOTAL ACREAGE	NON-AG	AG
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA	6	26.1%	65,308		65,308
CANADA	81	23.6%	58,924	3,074	55,850
BELGIUM	1	10.7%	26,770		26,770
LIECHTENSTEIN	2	10.6%	26,493		26,493
SWITZERLAND	6	10.5%	26,250		26,250
FRANCE	4	6.7%	16,710		16,710
NETHERLAND ANTILLES	4	4.4%	10,960		10,960
NETHERLANDS	7	2.6%	6,433	3,683	2,750
WEST GERMANY	8	2.3%	5,708		5,708
CANADA - BAHAMAS	10	1.6%	4,063		4,063
OTHERS	7	.9%	2,436	42	2,394
TOTALS	136	100.0%	250,055	6,799	243,256

FOREIGN HELD ACREAGE BY COUNTY

COUNTY	FOREIGN HELD ACREAGE	USE	
		NON-AG.	AGRICULTURAL
BEAVERHEAD	1,000	1,000	
BIG HORN	17,633	3,683	13,950
BLAINE	320		320
CARTER	5,997		5,997
CASCADE	255	135	120
CHOTEAU	4,011		4,011
CUSTER	11,320		11,320
DAWSON	958		958
FERGUS	820		820
FLATHEAD	1,496	1,214	282
GARFIELD	320		320
GLACIER	10,162		10,162
HILL	320		320
JEFFERSON	1,055		1,055
JUDITH BASIN	1,530		1,530
LAKE	35	21	14
LEWIS & CLARK	19	19	
LINCOLN	1,268	20	1,248
MCCONE	1,120	220	900
MADISON	420	420	
MINERAL	876		876
MISSOULA	634	25	609
PARK	391		391
PHILLIPS	426		426
RAVALLI	60		60
ROOSEVELT	1,420		1,420
ROSEBUD	137,561		137,561
SANDERS	785		785
SHERIDAN	880	2	878
SWEETGRASS	900	15	885
TETON	195	25	170
TOOLE	8,892		8,892
WHEATLAND	26,156		26,156
YELLOWSTONE	10,820		10,820
TOTALS	250,055	6,799	243,256

[1/] Summarized by Montana Department of Agriculture from reports to ASCS.

FARM INCOME -- 1978-1979[1/]

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	Million Dollars			
1. Cash Receipts From Crops & Livestock	1,228.3	1,371.4	112,520	131,459
2. Government Payments	137.2	34.0	3,030	1,375
3. CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARMING (1+2)	1,365.5	1,405.4	115,550	132,834
4. Non Money Income 2/	120.5	136.6	9,223	10,551
5. Other Farm Income	21.4	26.7	1,702	2,125
6. REALIZED GROSS FARM INCOME (3+4+5)	1,507.4	1,568.7	126,475	145,510
7. Farm Production Expense	1,266.9	1,455.3	100,791	118,618
8. REALIZED NET FARM INCOME (6-7)	240.5	113.4	25,684	26,892
	UNIT			
9. Number of Farms	23,600	23,700	2,436,250	2,429,960
10. Realized Gross Income Per Farm (6÷9)	63,873	66,190	51,914	59,882
11. Realized Net Income Per Farm (8÷9)	10,191	4,785	10,542	11,067

1/ Details may not add or calculate exactly due to rounding.
2/ Largely value of home consumptions and gross rental value of farm dwellings.

BUTTER AND ICE CREAM PRODUCTION UP

Montana dairy plants manufactured 127,000 gallons of ice cream during November - 17 percent more than November 1979 but 18 percent less than October 1980. Creamed cottage cheese output at 372,000 pounds was 3 percent less than last year. Butter production at 193,000 pounds was up 16 percent from a year ago but 3 percent less than last month.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed
Grain Stocks
Honey Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Slaughter

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Winter wheat seedings up
Small grain production increases
Fewer potatoes in storage
Red meat production drops
December 1 hog inventory up
Egg production higher

NOTABLE NUMBERS

In 1974, 25 percent of Montana's farm and ranch land was cropland, 70 percent was rangeland or pasture, and 5 percent woodland or wasteland.

1981 WHEAT OUTLOOK

The wheat market is international in scope. Worldwide crops and events influence the market. Currently, worldwide stocks of all grains are only 10.5 percent of total world use, the lowest in recent years--even lower as a percent of use than during the food crisis years of 1966-67 and 1972-75. The actual level of stocks is about 151 million tons compared to 132 million tons in 1974/75. Lower stocks are a result of increased human and livestock use. World trade in grains has increased from 110 million tons in 1970/71 to a projected 206 million tons in 1980/81. This general situation, however, primarily describes coarse grains. World stocks of wheat and rice are moderate. Montana and United States winter wheat producers are responding to the higher wheat prices in 1980. Montana farmers have increased winter wheat plantings 2 percent to 2.65 million acres and U.S. acreage to 63.9 million acres--up 11 percent over 1980. This winter wheat acreage is a new record acreage compared to 61.2 million acres planted in the fall of 1948.

The embargo on grain to the Soviet Union will probably end but it will have little impact on the total grain outlook. Russia can only import about 36 million tons because of capacity limitations and they are importing close to that capacity, 35 million tons of wheat and coarse grains. This amount of imports will necessitate a cutback in their livestock feeding. Factors which could still influence the 1980/81 outlook include grain production outturns in the Southern Hemisphere countries, any additional changes in global import requirements and the "bearish" nature of early 1981 U.S. planting intentions and crop outlook.

The outlook for 1981 wheat prices will depend primarily on the 1981 coarse grain crops, world weather, and on U.S. relations with the USSR and China. Given good weather and a trend increase in exports, ample supplies of wheat will be available and some stock buildup may occur.

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION DROPS

Montana slaughter plants produced 13 percent less red meat during November than the same month one year ago. Total production at 14.6 million pounds compares with 16.7 million pounds last November and 16.9 million pounds in October 1980. Production for January-November 1980 at 166.9 million pounds is 13 percent more than the same period in 1979.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during November 1980 totaled 3.10 billion pounds--down 6 percent from November 1979. January-November red meat production at 35.2 billion pounds was 3 percent more than last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components were: beef, up less than 1 percent; veal, down 9 percent; pork, up 8 percent; lamb and mutton, up 8 percent.

Kill days for November included 20 weekdays (2 were holidays) and 5 Saturdays compared with 22 weekdays (2 were holidays) and 4 Saturdays a year ago.

JANUARY-NOVEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Pct. Change
No. Slghtrd	----------1,000 head----------				Pct.
Cattle	136.2	141.2	31,025	30,877	--
Calves	.3	.3	2,608	2,349	-10
Hogs	426.6	482.4	81,463	87,884	+ 8
Sheep & lambs	2.2	2.6	4,614	5,090	+10
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	142,987	156,819	32,848	33,076	+ 1
Calves	115	89	638	576	-10
Hogs	99,139	116,738	19,677	21,198	+ 8
Sheep & lambs	239	278	524	568	+ 8
Red Meat Production	148,174	166,911	34,150	35,238	+ 3

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS UP

Montana farmers planted 2.65 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1981, an increase of 2 percent from last year's seedings. Based upon farmer-reported conditions of the crop on December 1, the estimate for 1981 production is 68.9 million bushels--up 26 percent from 1980. The great increase is due to a larger acreage expected for harvest as poor germination due to the dry fall of 1979 and some winterkill sharply reduced the 1980 harvested acres. Winter wheat was seeded under generally dry conditions, but moisture received after mid-October improved condition of the crop before going into winter dormancy.

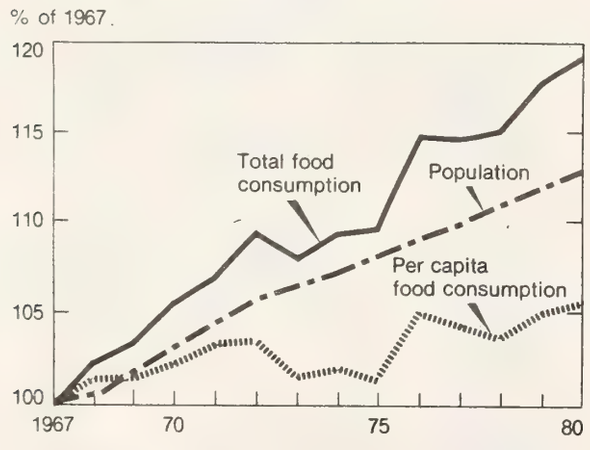
Nationally, growers seeded a record high 63.9 million acres in the fall of 1980 for the 1981 crop--11 percent more than last year. Production of the 1981 crop based on December 1 condition is forecast at 1.98 billion bushels--5 percent more than in 1980.

WINTER WHEAT--SELECTED STATES AND U. S.

STATE	AREA SEEDED 1/			PRODUCTION	
	1980	1981	1981 / 1980	1980	1981 2/
	1,000 Acres		Pct.	1,000 Bushels	
ARK	900	1,700	189	31,160	51,000
CALIF	1,130	1,350	119	77,700	90,450
COLO	3,500	3,450	99	107,200	75,900
IDAHO	980	880	90	51,870	41,360
ILL	1,600	1,800	113	75,360	77,400
IND	1,150	1,400	122	53,900	60,200
KANS	13,000	14,000	108	420,000	420,000
MO	2,200	3,200	145	89,010	118,400
MONT	2,600	2,650	102	54,825	68,900
NEBR	3,100	3,200	103	112,100	99,200
OHIO	1,400	1,550	111	67,130	72,850
OKLA	7,500	7,900	105	195,000	213,300
OREG	1,250	1,150	92	72,000	63,250
S DAK	1,200	1,250	104	20,900	18,750
TEX	6,800	7,700	113	130,000	154,000
WASH	2,900	2,750	95	143,000	126,500
U. S.	57,425	63,939	111	1,891,251	1,977,079

1/ Total area seeded for all purposes.
2/ Indicated December 1, 1980.

Population and Food Consumption



Total food consumption based on retail weight using constant retail prices as index weights. Civilian population on July 1, for 50 States. 1980 projected.

MONTANA HOG NUMBERS UP

Montana hog numbers were up 20 percent from last year. The December 1, 1980 inventory of 250,000 head included 11 percent more breeding hogs and 21 percent more market pigs. Lighweight pigs (under 60 pounds) showed the greatest increase over last year--45 percent more. The heavier weight groups showed smaller changes with those weighing 120-179 pounds down 7 percent and the 180 pounds and over weight group up 8 percent.

The State pig crop for 1980 was 370,000--up 20 percent from the previous year. The spring pig crop (December-May) at 185,000 was up 19 percent and the fall pig crop farrowed during June-November at 185,000 was up 21 percent.

Nationally, the inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 64.5 million head on December 1, 1980. This is 4 percent below a year ago but 7 percent more than December 1, 1978. Breeding inventory at 9.16 million is 5 percent below both a year ago and December 1, 1978. Market hog inventory at 55.4 million is 4 percent fewer than a year earlier but 9 percent more than two years ago.

The U.S. pig crop for 1980 totaled 101.6 million head--1 percent below 1979 but 15 percent above the 1978 pig crop. The December 1979-May 1980 pig crop estimated at 52.3 million head is up 3 percent from a year earlier and 23 percent above two years ago.

The June-November 1980 pig crop estimated 49.3 million head is 5 percent fewer than a year ago but 7 percent above the June-November 1978 crop.

U. S. hog producers intend to have 6.78 million sows farrow during the December 1980-May 1981 period--6 percent below both a year ago and the same period two years ago. These intentions and projected litter size indicate a pig crop of 48.5 million--7 percent below 1980 and 4 percent below the December 1978-May 1979 crop.

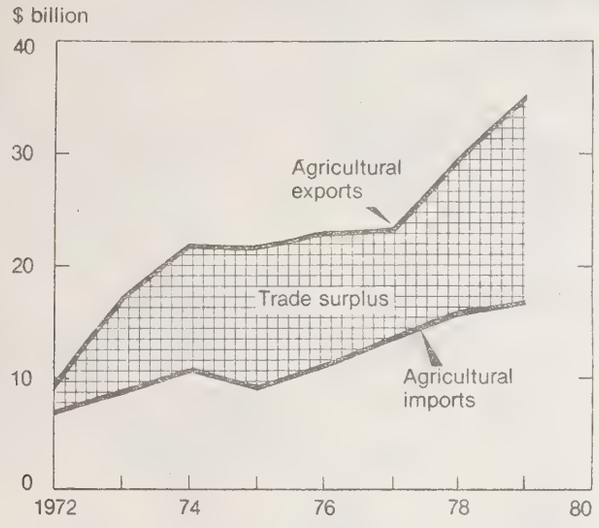
HOGS AND PIGS INVENTORY--DECEMBER 1

HOGS & PIGS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	Pct. Chg.	1979	1980	Pct. Chg.
	(000)		%	(000)		%
Breeding	28	31	+11	9,655	9,164	- 5
Market	181	219	+21	57,699	55,356	- 4
Under 60 Lbs.	60	87	+45	22,845	22,191	- 3
60-119 Lbs.	51	63	+24	15,437	13,934	-10
120-179 Lbs.	45	42	- 7	11,284	10,973	- 3
180+ Lbs.	25	27	+ 8	8,133	8,258	+ 2
Total	209	250	+20	67,353	64,520	- 4
Sows farrowing						
Dec. 1/ - May	21	26	+24	7,179	7,231	+ 1
June-November	21	25	+19	7,306	6,841	- 6
Pig Crop	308	370	+20	102,691	101,634	- 1

	1981	Pct. Chg.
Intentions to farrow December 1/ - May	6,780	- 6

1/ December preceding year.

U.S. Agricultural Trade Balance



1980 SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION UP

Montana farmers produced 167.1 million bushels of wheat, barley and oats in 1980--3 percent more than a year earlier. The increase was achieved inspite of a severe drought in the eastern third of the State. Compared with 1978 however, this year's small grain production was down 21 percent.

Total wheat production at 119.8 million bushels was up 3 percent from 1979. Winter wheat was down 4 percent, durum was up 11 percent, and hard spring wheat was up 10 percent.

Barley production at 44.1 million bushels was up 9 percent. Oats production at 3.2 million bushels was down 34 percent.

All wheat production for the nation totaled 2.4 billion bushels--up 11 percent from 1979. Barley production at 359 million bushels was down 6 percent, and oats production at 458 million bushels was down 13 percent from last year.

End-of-season statistics for other crops will be released January 14, 1981.

1980 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SMALL GRAINS

		MONTANA					UNITED STATES
		Acreage		production			
CROP	YEAR	Planted	Harvested	Yield per Acre	Total	% Change from prev year	PRODUCTION
		1,000 Acres		Bu.	1,000 Bu	Pct.	1,000 Bu
Winter Wheat 1/	1978	2,900	2,700	31.0	83,700		1,222,446
	1979	3,000	2,250	25.5	57,375		1,601,234
	1980	2,600	2,150	25.5	54,825	- 4	1,891,251
Durum Wheat	1978	300	290	30.0	8,700		133,328
	1979	335	325	21.0	6,825		106,654
	1980	470	400	19.0	7,600	+11	108,395
Other Spring Wheat	1978	1,900	1,850	29.0	53,650		419,750
	1979	2,650	2,550	20.5	52,275		426,172
	1980	2,900	2,550	22.5	57,375	+10	370,020
All Wheat	1978	5,100	4,840	30.2	146,050		1,775,524
	1979	5,985	5,125	22.7	116,475		2,134,060
	1980	5,970	5,100	23.5	119,800	+ 3	2,369,666
Oats	1978	356	185	51.0	9,435		581,657
	1979	321	125	39.0	4,875		526,551
	1980	220	73	44.0	3,212	-34	457,593
Barley	1978	1,420	1,300	43.0	55,900		454,759
	1979	1,100	1,040	39.0	40,560		382,798
	1980	1,180	1,050	42.0	44,100	+ 9	358,544
Total Small Grains	1978	---	6,325	---	211,385		2,811,940
	1979	---	6,290	---	161,910		3,043,409
	1980	---	6,223	---	167,112	+ 3	3,185,803

1/ Acreage seeded in preceding fall.

MORE EGGS PRODUCED

Laying flocks in Montana produced 47 million eggs in the September 1 through November 30 quarter. This is 7 million more than the same period last year. The main reason for the large increase is that laying flocks have been restored to levels prior to the PCB incident during the same quarter last year when a large number of layers had to be destroyed.

Nationally, 17.4 billion eggs were produced in the September-November quarter--slightly more than the same period last year.

EGG PRODUCTION

STATE	Avg. No. Layers on hand during Sept.-Nov.	Total Eggs Produced Sept.-Nov.	
	1980	1979	1980
	Thous.	Millions	
Idaho	1,019	43 2/	63
Colorado	1,875	116	118
MONTANA	768	40 2/	47
N. Dakota	343	19	19
S. Dakota	2,115	121	119
Wyoming	54	3	2
U. S.	290,577	17,301 2/	17,384

2/ Included are eggs destroyed because of possible PCB contamination.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Farm numbers Agricultural prices Hay stocks Dairy products MFG

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Montana producers had 1.6 million cwt. of potatoes in storage--5 percent below last year at this time.

Potato stocks for the 15 major States on December 1, 1980 are estimated at 169.8 million cwt.--15 percent less than a year ago. Total stocks for the 15 States are the smallest since 1973.

POTATOES
DECEMBER 1, 1979 & DECEMBER 1, 1980

STATE	Crop of 1979		Crop of 1980	
	Prod.	Stocks 12/1/79	Prod.	Stocks 12/1/80
	1,000 cwt.			
CALIF	6,364	4,200	6,438	4,200
COLO	11,455	8,200	10,950	8,550
IDAHO	85,050	65,000	78,455	58,000
MAINE	27,685	23,300	24,960	18,900
MICH	8,000	4,300	7,403	4,500
MINN	12,920	10,500	9,920	8,400
MONT	1,800	1,720	1,725	1,630
NEBR	1,482	1,100	1,876	1,350
N Y--L.I.	6,431	3,300	4,418	1,450
Upstate	6,463	3,200	6,250	3,100
N DAK	18,240	12,500	15,680	10,700
OHIO	2,400	1,250	1,948	500
OREG	25,310	16,900	19,745	13,300
PA	6,000	4,200	4,180	3,300
WASH	48,450	30,600	43,935	24,300
WIS	17,010	9,450	16,000	8,600
15 STATE TOTAL	285,060	200,820	253,883	169,780

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Prices off Slightly
Pasture and Range Conditions Vary
1978 Agricultural Census Data
Dairy Products Manufactured
Agricultural Finance
Building Bridges To China

BUILDING BRIDGES TO CHINA

Last year, USDA experts painted a rosy picture of U.S. trade prospects with China.

They predicted that China would enter the ranks of nations with billion-dollar purchases of U.S. farm products in Fiscal 1980. They also expected China to nudge its way into the top 10 U.S. markets for farm goods.

What happened exceeded even the most optimistic forecasts. When final figures are in, China's purchases are expected to reach around $2 billion in the year that ended September 30.

This would not only push the country into the top 10, but would make China the third or fourth leading foreign market for U.S. farm products. China has climbed the market ladder at an unprecedented rate since Fiscal 1977 when Chinese imports of U.S. farm products were practically nil. Until then, trade between the two nations fluctuated considerably, depending partly on whether China's regular suppliers could meet its import needs and partly on how tightly it was trying to control imports.

In 1978, when China again opened it doors to increased foreign trade, it became American agriculture's 20th ranked customer, with sales totaling $370 million. The following year, in an atmosphere of expanding political and economic ties, U.S. sales reached $917 million, beating the previous record of $870 million in 1974 and leaving China the 12th ranked market.

Source: Farmline--Dec. 1980

NOTABLE NUMBERS

The Federal Government owns 29.7 percent of Montana's land area, the State 5.7 percent, and Indian reservations 5.6 percent. The balance, 59.0 percent is privately owned.

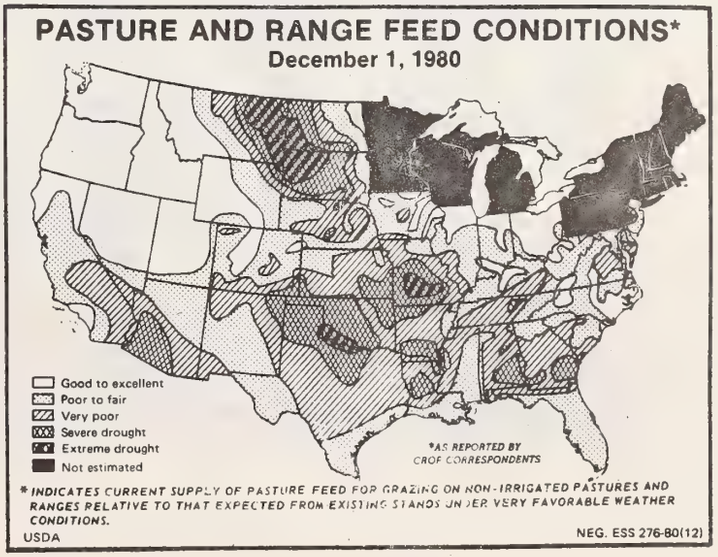
PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS VARY

Montana pasture and range feed conditions declined 1 point during November and averaged 62 percent on December 1 compared with 66 percent on December 1, 1979.

The eastern third and southcentral areas of the State showed a November 1 to December 1 decline, while other areas were essentially unchanged or somewhat improved.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION DEC. 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	93	62	92
Northcentral	90	64	56
Northeast	90	59	30
Central	88	67	71
Southwest	89	77	93
Southcentral	90	66	73
Southeast	88	68	30
STATE	89	66	62


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
December 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
Not estimated
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESS 276-80(12)

NOVEMBER FARM PRICES OFF SLIGHTLY

Montana farmers and ranchers received lower prices for livestock but higher prices for most crop items on November 15 compared with a month earlier. The November 1980 index of prices received by the State's farmers for all farm products at 283 (1967=100) was down nearly one percent from the revised October index, but 4 percent above November 1979. The all crops index at 316 was 4 percent above last month and 21 percent above last year. The livestock and products index at 262 was 4 percent less than last month and 7 percent below last year. In comparing November prices with October prices, increases were noted for all wheat, barley, oats, milk, and eggs. Prices went down for all hay, beef cattle, calves, sheep, lambs, hogs, and wool.

Nationally, the November index of prices received by farmers increased 5 points (1.9%) to 265 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since October were higher prices for soybeans, corn, eggs, milk, lettuce, and wheat. Lower prices for cattle, hogs, grapefruit, broilers, tomatoes, and apples were partially offsetting. The index was 27 points (11 percent) above a year ago.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U. S.
	Nov. 1979	Oct. 1980 2/	Nov. 1980	November 1980
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	272	285	283	265
ALL CROPS	261	303	316	273
Food grains	267	303	315	286
Feed grains	236	302	323	278
Feed grains & hay	235	303	315	282
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	282	274	262	259
Meat animals	291	282	268	261
Dairy products	240	248	253	278
Poultry and eggs	178	166	175	220
Wool	239	203	201	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1967=100	
	Nov. 1979	Nov. 1980	Nov. 1979	Nov. 1980
Prices Received	596	662	238	265
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	876	987	258	290
Ratio 2/	68	67	92	91

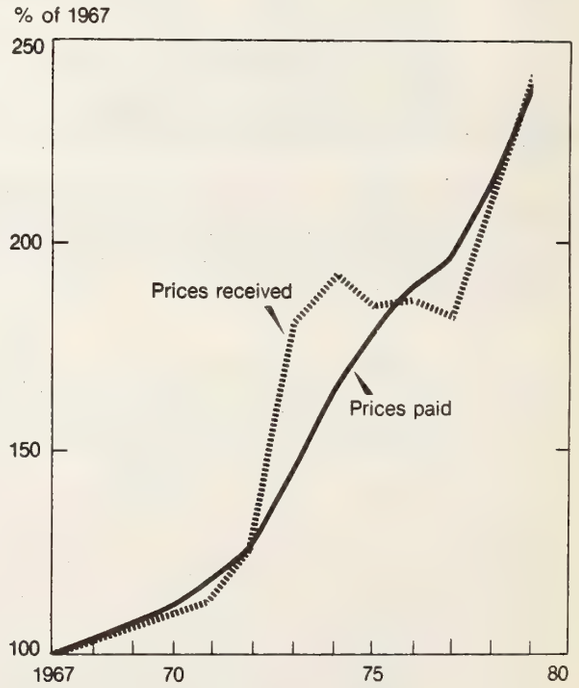
1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U. S.
		Nov. 1979	Oct. 1980 1/	Nov. 1980	Nov. 1980
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.93	4.08	4.20
Durum	Bu.	4.56	6.22	6.29	
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.64	4.31	4.52	4.31
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.74	4.24	4.42	4.34
Barley	Bu.	2.01	2.60	2.78	3.05
Oats	Bu.	1.65	1.67	1.79	1.80
Alfalfa hay	Ton	57.50	69.00	65.00	78.10
All other hay	Ton	50.00	64.00	60.00	63.10
All hay baled	Ton	56.50	68.50	64.50	73.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	72.00	67.70	67.30	65.00
Cows	Cwt.	45.00	44.90	43.20	42.90
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	62.90	62.00	58.90	59.60
Calves	Cwt.	88.00	77.70	75.00	72.90
Sheep	Cwt.	25.00	17.10	16.00	21.70
Lambs	Cwt.	64.10	61.00	56.80	59.40
Hogs	Cwt.	31.90	45.90	43.20	45.30
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	12.98	13.50	13.80	14.00
Eggs	Doz	.614	.570	.600	.655
Wool 4/	Lb.	1.01	.860	.850	.924
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	150.00	170.00	178.00	180.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, & cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

Prices Received and Paid by Farmers



Prices paid includes commodities and services, interest, taxes, and wage rates.

BUTTER AND ICE CREAM PRODUCTION UP

Montana dairy plants manufactured 155,000 gallons of ice cream during October--5 percent more than October 1979 but 15 percent less than September 1980. Creamed cottage cheese output at 436,000 pounds was 3 percent less than last year. Butter production at 198,000 pounds was up 13 percent from a year ago and 46 percent more than last month.

NUMBER OF FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, AND VALUE BY COUNTIES--MONTANA 1978

FROM PRELIMINARY 1978 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS--U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

COUNTY	All Farm Numbers	Land in Farms	CROPLAND		Irrigated Land	Value of Land & Bldgs	
			Total	Harvested		Avg. per Farm	Avg. per Acre
		Acres	Acres		Acres	Dollars	
NORTHWEST							
Deer Lodge	63	181,195	29,858	15,905	22,869	413,989	144
Flathead	812	327,294	119,885	81,039	38,838	324,198	774
Granite	141	347,999	44,613	28,820	38,540	596,416	239
Lake	986	642,980	147,529	83,874	89,743	280,918	437
Lincoln	204	79,883	17,022	10,707	7,082	225,755	490
Mineral	57	20,314	5,044	3,215	1,494	244,621	686
Missoula	385	282,808	51,036	28,990	25,762	399,544	586
Powell	194	775,854	74,502	56,317	61,699	1,098,232	272
Ravalli	855	248,654	96,342	47,878	74,521	246,708	825
Sanders	312	408,975	65,478	35,999	23,420	418,180	300
NORTHCENTRAL							
Blaine	494	2,369,959	433,014	243,549	44,514	645,137	134
Chouteau	825	2,372,348	1,251,192	626,807	9,198	671,079	234
Glacier	364	1,673,078	399,462	208,403	16,392	815,050	180
Hill	694	1,780,919	1,132,237	529,404	4,801	580,050	225
Liberty	280	907,596	549,995	267,701	4,470	812,342	244
Phillips	512	2,079,721	447,912	229,298	43,812	489,409	126
Pondera	511	903,126	568,356	293,912	47,906	534,989	289
Teton	645	1,244,210	572,062	299,475	116,482	533,191	269
Toole	351	1,100,983	644,100	319,413	2,173	576,510	185
NORTHEAST							
Daniels	409	854,129	520,408	257,252	1,699	530,178	256
Dawson	546	1,341,660	446,461	232,782	16,704	457,986	184
Garfield	269	2,054,185	226,551	119,509	6,516	781,697	102
McCone	453	1,335,976	499,550	256,251	7,901	463,908	164
Richland	612	1,128,075	446,158	258,277	36,349	422,654	221
Roosevelt	703	1,482,951	754,768	368,676	5,984	401,696	190
Sheridan	642	1,082,999	700,899	352,036	1,382	411,585	228
Valley	738	2,204,083	735,210	386,221	34,996	512,024	174
CENTRAL							
Broadwater	205	453,500	125,523	72,337	51,113	475,396	214
Cascade	786	1,343,154	463,538	255,101	33,390	444,103	254
Fergus	810	2,114,120	599,450	318,542	15,758	483,020	188
Golden Valley	140	584,887	80,629	41,454	8,643	568,780	129
Judith Basin	345	817,887	286,886	156,222	7,421	438,119	199
Lewis & Clark	356	974,041	121,964	70,803	43,332	516,747	183
Meagher	136	983,672	87,570	65,485	49,080	905,661	126
Musselshell	228	1,112,193	119,128	72,835	11,736	669,076	140
Petroleum	100	711,382	53,427	34,860	16,192	637,149	90
Wheatland	159	856,144	114,604	78,963	26,508	725,694	130
SOUTHWEST							
Beaverhead	319	1,563,038	231,215	154,347	252,181	1,015,802	206
Gallatin	760	895,406	283,759	163,103	94,602	470,939	423
Jefferson	188	361,615	64,270	36,949	31,611	400,180	206
Madison	433	1,089,013	158,360	104,298	140,181	645,326	241
Silver Bow	91	138,320	17,464	8,416	9,636	421,559	277
SOUTHCENTRAL							
Big Horn	496	2,763,989	286,739	172,616	49,275	789,439	140
Carbon	613	623,415	172,279	102,563	81,944	349,701	340
Park	377	857,111	129,845	74,175	56,839	582,954	268
Stillwater	435	855,420	232,246	128,689	26,632	443,147	241
Sweet Grass	284	824,444	108,950	58,382	52,868	447,405	151
Treasure	112	600,213	43,152	29,226	21,307	637,179	118
Yellowstone	1,024	1,338,870	335,268	181,953	87,945	443,221	325
SOUTHEAST							
Carter	345	1,566,046	173,973	120,580	19,698	487,349	110
Custer	376	2,262,965	149,437	102,911	36,067	679,743	113
Fallon	306	893,551	231,270	124,630	3,956	413,467	144
Powder River	345	1,544,911	165,988	102,010	9,106	573,140	129
Prairie	199	709,352	142,248	62,464	8,506	493,453	135
Rosebud	350	3,068,984	182,827	126,260	33,838	945,580	106
Wibaux	200	528,985	155,241	81,505	1,158	467,353	169
Unallocated 1/	926	585,505	97,899	65,842	20,628	---	---
STATE	24,501	62,254,087	16,394,793	8,809,231	2,086,398	500,657	196

1/ Not shown in county totals.

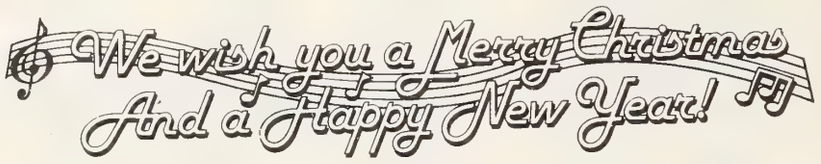
DROUGHT & HIGH INTEREST RATES AGGRAVATE FARMERS' 1980 FINANCIAL SITUATION--1981 OUTLOOK BRIGHTER

In 1980, farmers were faced with major financial problems brought about by high interest rates and tight credit in the spring and widespread drought. Farmers in drought-stricken areas will enter 1981 heavily burdened with debt because of the need to obtain extensions and renewals of existing debts. Farmers not affected by the adverse weather should be in a stronger financial situation. Interest rates are expected to remain high in 1981; however, they are expected to be lower, on average, than this year's rates.

Net farm income will be between $23 and $25 billion in 1980--down from $31 billion in 1979. However, projected higher farm prices, lower interest rates, and a decline in the rate of increase in production expenses should contribute to increased net farm income in 1981--currently forecast from $27 to $32 billion. The higher farm prices forecast for 1981 are due to a substantial drop in supplies of commodities, as well as expectations of strong export demand. Cash income from both farm and nonfarm sources rose slightly in 1980 and is expected to take a substantial jump in 1981.

As a whole, farmers are likely to be in an improved financial position by the end of 1981. However, Hog and poultry producers' incomes are expected to improve only marginally, while producers of vegetable, fruits, and nuts are forecast to have lower incomes in 1981.

Source: Agricultural Finance--11/17/80



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
December 1 Hog Inventory
Quarterly Egg Production
Annual Summary Small Grains
Winter Wheat Seedings
Slaughter
Potato Stocks

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Slaughter output down
Wheat supply and disappearance
Landholdings of foreign owners
Farm workers increase

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 4 percent less red meat during October than the same month one year ago. Total production at 16.9 million pounds compares with 17.5 million pounds last October and 15.1 million pounds in September 1980. Production for January-October 1980 at 152.3 million pounds is 16 percent more than the same period in 1979.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during October 1980 totaled 3.58 billion pounds--up 1 percent from October 1979. The January-October red meat production at 32.1 billion pounds was 4 percent above last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components were: beef, up 1 percent; veal, down 10 percent; pork, up 10 percent; lamb and mutton, up 8 percent.

JANUARY-OCTOBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Percent Change
	1,000 head				Pct.
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	120.6	127.6	28,226.4	28,166.4	--
Calves	.3	.2	2,367.7	2,135.0	-10
Hogs	375.0	443.2	72,963.5	80,177.7	+10
Sheep & lambs	2.0	2.4	4,211.0	4,657.2	+11
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	127,560	142,316	29,852	30,174	+ 1
Calves	99	73	582	523	-10
Hogs	87,165	107,148	17,594	19,301	+10
Sheep & lambs	224	249	478	518	+ 8
Red Meat Production	131,489	152,340	30,845	32,138	+ 4

Notable Numbers

In most years Choteau county leads the State in crop cash receipts followed by Hill county.

FARM EXPORTS TOP ALL FORECASTS

Ten months ago, no one would have bet that the value of U.S. agricultural exports would reach a record $40 billion in 1980, according to USDA trade analyst, Steve Milmoe.

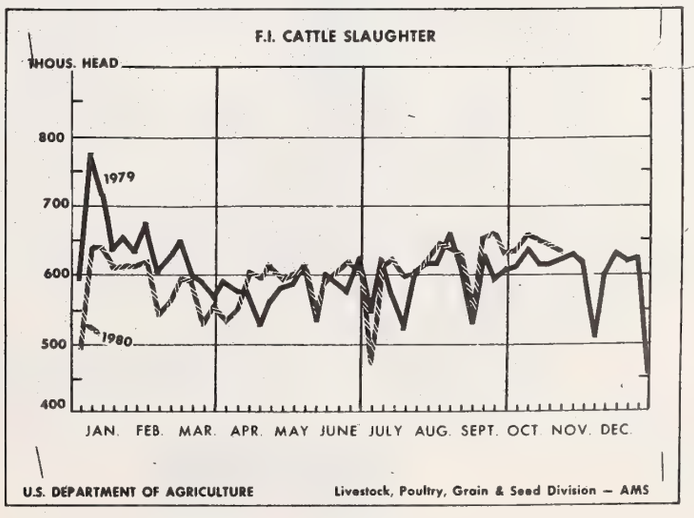
"We knew export sales would set another record. But the boycott of U.S. goods by Iran, a half-billion dollar farm market in 1979, and the partial suspension of trade with the Soviets were pessimistic signs", Milmoe says.

So last February, USDA forecasters trimmed $1 billion off expected 1980 export sales, previously pegged at $38 billion.

Instead, sales soared past the $38 billion mark--reaching an estimated $40 billion for the 1980 Fiscal Year, which ended September 30. That's a 25-percent increase from 1979's $32 billion. At the same time, U.S. export volume rose about 18 percent to 162 million metric tons.

The windfall in sales boosted the U.S. agricultural trade surplus (the value of farm goods exported minus the value imported) from 1979's $15.8 billion to a record $22.5 billion.

Reprint from the Farmline



Another Record Wheat Crop Means Alltime High Supply

The 1980 U.S. wheat crop developed through a variety of conditions—from drought to excessive rains—but the hardiness of the wheat plant was again evident as the October 1 crop estimate was a record 2.36 billion bushels, up 10 percent from last year. Chances are 2 out of 3 that this forecast will not differ from the final production by more than 35 million bushels. A 14-percent increase in harvested acreage more than offset lower yields—33.0 bushels per acre, compared with a record 34.2 bushels in 1979.

The 1980 *winter wheat* crop was planted under dry soil conditions in the Southern Plains but was followed by a mild winter which minimized freeze damage. A wet, cool spring caused late maturing of the crop and delayed the harvest, but producers garnered a record 1.88 billion bushels. The average winter wheat yield of 36.1 bushels per acre was less than a bushel short of 1979's record although there were marked regional variations. White winter wheat yields in the Pacific Northwest increased sharply, helping to produce a record crop; Hard Red Winter yields averaged slightly lower in southern areas but were record high in western regions; and eastern Soft Red yields were records in many States.

Responding to advancing 1979/80 *Durum* prices, growers upped plantings 35 percent last spring. But persistent drought in Durum areas lowered yields by 5 bushels, so on balance, the crop of 107 million bushels was virtually the same as last year. Cool, wet weather in the Northern Plains delayed the harvest causing over half of the crop to suffer sprout damage.

Growers of *other spring wheat* also increased planted acreage by 12 percent. But the same drought conditions and rain-delayed harvest turned a potential record harvest into the smallest crop in 5 years. Total production of other spring wheat consisted of 315 million bushels of Hard Red Spring and 61 million bushels of White wheat. Yields are expected to average 25.5 bushels per harvested acre, down from 28.2 bushels a year ago.

Overall, the quality of the 1980 winter wheat crop—Hard Red, Soft Red, and White—is probably the highest in many years, with increased protein levels for the hard breadmaking wheat, and optimally low protein levels for the soft pastry wheats. Quality of Durum and Hard Red spring wheats suffered widespread sprout damage while White spring was relatively unaffected.

Reprint from Wheat Situation

Wheat: Supply and disappearance

Item	June-September	
	1979	1980
	Million bushels	
June 1 stocks	925	90
Production	2,142	2,362
Total supply[1]	3,067	3,265
Exports	511	518
Food	198	198
Seed	33	33
Feed	53	50
Total disappearance	795	799
October 1 stocks	2,272	2,466

[1] Includes imports.

FARM WORKERS INCREASE

The total number of workers on Montana farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 1980 was estimated at 34,000--31 percent above October 1979. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were up 65 percent from last year, but hired workers at 6,000 were down 33 percent from October 1979.

The survey week in 1979 was October 7-13. This year it was October 12-18--about a week later.

WORKERS ON FARMS
October 12-18, 1980

STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	Oct. 7-13 1979	Oct. 12-18 1980	Oct. 7-13 1979	Oct. 12-18 1980
	Thousands			
MONT	17.0	28.0	9.0	6.0
N.D.	14.0	37.0	11.0	12.0
S.D.	10.0	68.0	15.0	8.0
WYO	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
IDAHO	33.0	23.0	24.0	31.0
U.S.	1317.4	2484.7	1418.4	1305.5

FARM WAGE RATES
October 12-18, 1980

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	Oct. 7-13 1979	Oct. 12-18 1980	Oct. 7-13 1979	Oct. 12-18 1980
	Dollars per Hour			
MONT	2.93	3.17	2.50	3.10
N.D.	3.88	4.19	1/	3.24
S.D.	3.01	3.34	2.70	3.24
WYO	3.28	3.20	2.90	3.22
IDAHO	3.70	3.86	3.16	3.53
U.S.	3.57	3.85	3.04	3.40

1/ Insufficient data for this categority.

U.S. agricultural landholdings of foreign owners,
by State, February 1, 1979

State	Total area of State 1/	Privately owned agricultural land 2/	Foreign-owned agricultural land 3/	Proportion of foreign-owned agricultural land
	1,000 acres		Acres	Percent
Alabama	32,452	29,467	163,498	0.6
Alaska	362,516	400	337	.1
American Samoa	49	NA	20	Neg.
Arizona	72,587	10,983	82,780	.8
Arkansas	33,245	28,834	40,046	.1
California	100,071	47,353	221,506	.5
Colorado	66,410	37,527	180,625	.5
Connecticut	3,112	2,267	303	Neg.
Delaware	1,268	1,064	837	.1
Florida	34,618	26,529	202,101	.8
Georgia	37,167	33,253	257,309	.8
Hawaii	4,112	1,992	2,940	.1
Idaho	52,913	15,166	9,905	.1
Illinois	35,679	32,326	37,891	.1
Indiana	23,102	20,909	12,906	.1
Iowa	35,802	33,912	24,077	.1
Kansas	52,344	49,911	31,475	.1
Kentucky	25,376	22,915	14,327	.1
Louisiana	28,755	26,463	69,950	.3
Maine	19,789	18,829	951,576	5.1
Maryland	6,330	5,146	17,727	.3
Massachusetts	5,009	3,322	438	Neg.
Michigan	36,363	26,117	42,032	.2
Minnesota	50,745	36,204	18,241	.1
Mississippi	30,269	26,629	84,846	.3
Missouri	44,157	40,025	44,178	.1
Montana	93,176	54,189	180,561	.3
Nebraska	48,949	45,397	65,559	.1
Nevada	70,328	7,586	155,577	2.1
New Hampshire	5,777	4,682	30,943	.7
New Jersey	4,813	2,894	18,879	.7
New Mexico	77,703	34,451	193,606	.6
New York	30,612	24,257	205,130	.8
North Carolina	31,231	27,321	152,096	.6
North Dakota	44,339	39,617	15,053	Neg.
Ohio	26,224	22,979	7,638	Neg.
Oklahoma	44,020	38,875	15,544	Neg.
Oregon	61,557	25,685	169,532	.7
Pennsylvania	28,778	22,380	153,655	.7
Puerto Rico	NA	NA	780	Neg.
Rhode Island	671	439	0	0
South Carolina	19,344	15,932	240,437	1.5
South Dakota	48,611	38,241	15,242	Neg.
Tennessee	26,450	22,901	287,855	1.3
Texas	167,766	156,768	413,710	.3
Utah	52,541	10,779	34,441	.3
Vermont	5,931	5,251	39,932	.7
Virginia	25,459	21,499	55,209	.3
Washington	42,605	23,028	40,618	.2
West Virginia	15,405	13,744	3,580	Neg.
Wisconsin	34,857	27,637	12,710	Neg.
Wyoming	62,210	26,142	13,271	.1
Total	2,263,587	1,290,217	5,033,429	.4

NA = Not available.
Neg. = Negligible.
1/ 1970 Census of Population.
2/ Privately held land based on unpublished data; T. Frey; Econ., Statis., and Coop. Service; U.S. Dept. Agr.; 1979. Estimate of total land less public, Indian, transportation, and urban lands. Includes forest land, pastureland, cropland, range, and miscellaneous.
3/ Reported to the Secretary of Agriculture under the Agr. Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

1981 LIVESTOCK PRICES AND PRODUCTION COSTS TO INCREASE SHARPLY

Livestock and poultry prices are expected to increase later this fall and throughout most of 1981, as totals meat supplies remain below year-earlier levels. However, despite prospects for much higher 1981 prices, the outlook for producers' profits has been clouded by much higher costs, particularly for feed. Sharply higher meat prices are also in store for 1981. Higher livestock and poultry prices will be necessa to enable producers to cover higher feeding costs, particularly on marketings in the second half of 1981. If livestock and poultry prices fail to cover production costs, future output may be reduced.

Total red meat and poultry supplies are expected to increase seasonally this fall, but remain below levels of a year ago. Increased fed cattle marketings this fall and winter will be further augmented by continued large nonfed cattle slaughter so beef production will likely be above year-earlier levels. Pork supplies are rising seasonally, but remain below last year's levels and the rate of decline will accelerate late this fall. Broiler producers have started to expand production in response to prospects for declining red meat supplies and higher prices. But increases in broiler output may be limited by higher production costs.

Per capita consumption of pork in 1981 may fall about 10 percent from 1980 levels, and beef consumption could be down slightly. Broiler consumption in early 1981 will about equal last year's levels and should increase throughout the remainder of the year, but not enough to offset the drop in red meat consumption. Consequently, per capita red meat and poultry consumption may decline about 2 to 4 percent in 1981.

Retail meat prices in the third quarter increased 4.5 percent from the previous quarter, but were still only 3.9 percent above the third quarter of 1979. The Consumer Price Index for pork rose 9.6 percent from the previous quarter but only 2.9 percent for beef. Declining meat supplies, rising consumer incomes, and continued high rates of inflation are likely to result in substantial increases in retail meat prices in 1981. Pork prices are expected to increase the most--perhaps 25 percent or more. Beef prices may increase 12 to 16 percent and poultry meat prices 15 to 20 percent. The sharpest price increases may begin in the second quarter as nonfed cattle slaughter slows with the beginning of the spring grazing season.

Fed cattle price gains will likely be held down through the first quarter of 1981 as the large nonfed slaughter supplements increased fed cattle marketing. Choice fed steer prices at Omaha may average in the upper $60's this fall before moving to the low $70's in the first quarter as pork supplies decline. Prices may reach $80 next spring before leveling off in the second half of 1980. Continued large feeder cattle movements and increased feeding costs will hold down feeder cattle prices through much of the first quarter. Yearling feeder cattle prices may average in the mid-to-upper $70's until late in the winter quarter before increasing to the uppper $80's as the spring grazing season begins and the forced cattle movement declines. Feeding margins are likely to be most favorable on cattle marketed in the spring quarter as a result of rising fed cattle prices and the lower prices for feeder cattle when they were placed on feed.

Reprint from Outlook & Situation Summary

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural prices Dairy products manufactured Pasture and range

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

October Prices Up
Pastures and Ranges Improve
Fertilizer Consumption Drops
Dairy Products Manufactured
World Grain Supplies Tighten

FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION DROPS

Fertilizer consumption in Montana during the year ended June 30, 1980 totaled 280,463 tons, down 16 percent from the 333,834 tons consumed during the 1978-79 year. Mixed fertilizer accounted for 116,065 tons of the total, while 158,438 tons were primary nutrients and 5,960 tons were secondary and micronutrients used in direct application materials.

Fertilizer consumption in the U.S. and Puerto Rico during the year ended June 30, 1980 is placed at 52.6 million tons--up 2 percent from the 51.5 million tons consumed during the 1978-79 year. Primary nutrient content (nitrogen, N; phosphate, P_2O_5; and potash K_2O) was 23.0 million tons--up 2 percent from a year earlier. Nitrogen consumption increased 6 percent to 11.4 million tons; phosphate usage decreased 4 percent to 5.4 million tons; and potash at 6.2 million tons was down 1 percent.

The five leading States in order of total consumption and the change in consumption from last year were: Illinois--up 7 percent; California--up 11 percent; Iowa--down 1 percent; Texas--up 7 percent; and Indiana--down 3 percent.

Fertilizer consumption represents all commercial fertilizer tonnage sold or shipped for farm and non-farm use as fertilizer. Materials used in the manufacture of registered mixes or for use in other fertilizers are excluded.

Notable Numbers

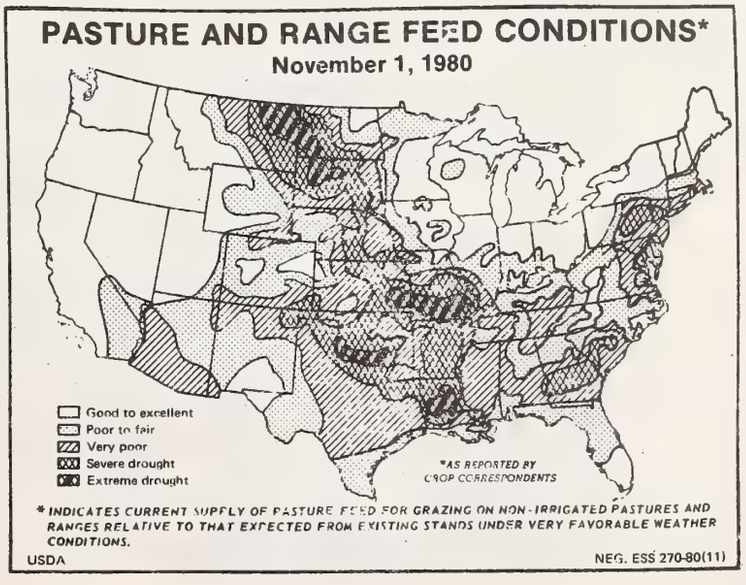
In 1979, Beaverhead county lead the State in livestock and livestock products cash receipts followed very closely by Yellowstone.

RAIN HELPS PASTURES AND RANGES

Montana range and pasture feed conditions improved in October as snow and rain replenished topsoil moisture. The condition as of November 1 averaged 63 percent--up 4 points from October 1, but still 5 points below last year at this date. In the drought-stricken northeast corner, no improvement over last month was noted and the central region showed a 4-point decline.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION NOV. 1
By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	92	62	89
Northcentral	101	69	56
Northeast	100	68	33
Central	97	67	68
Southwest	90	84	93
Southcentral	95	69	78
Southeast	97	63	36
STATE	96	68	63


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
November 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESS 270-80(11)

OCTOBER PRICES UP SLIGHTLY

The October 1980 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products was 290 (1967=100) compared with 284 a month earlier and 289 for October 1979. The all crops index at 310 was 6 percent above last month and 15 percent above last year. The livestock and products index at 278 was down slightly from last month and down 9 percent from last year. Price increases were noted for all items except cows, calves, sheep, and eggs. Calves on October 15 were 17 cents a pound under last year prices, while hogs were up almost 12 cents.

The U.S. October index of prices received by farmers increased 1 point (.4 percent) to 262 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since September were higher prices for milk, oranges, wheat, hogs, soybeans, and grapefruit. Lower prices for potatoes, cotton, apples, eggs, lettuce, and tobacco were partially offsetting. The index was 26 points (11 percent) above a year ago. The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and wage rates for October 15 was 288--up 2 points (.7 percent) from mid-September. Higher prices for replacement livestock, feed, and family living items were the major contributors to the increase. The index for October was 31 points (12 percent) higher than a year earlier.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Oct. 1979	MONTANA Sept. 1980 1/	MONTANA Oct. 1980	U. S. Octob 1980
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.66	3.74	3.87	4.09
Durum	Bu.	4.72	5.71	6.12	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.74	4.17	4.50	4.13
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.80	4.12	4.39	4.19
Barley	Bu.	2.27	2.42	2.52	2.81
Oats	Bu.	1.41	1.66	1.80	1.68
Alfalfa hay	Ton	57.50	67.00	69.00	79.10
All other hay	Ton	50.00	61.00	64.00	63.30
All hay baled	Ton	56.50	66.50	68.50	74.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	74.00	67.90	68.40	67.80
Cows	Cwt.	48.00	46.40	46.00	45.20
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	70.10	63.60	63.90	63.40
Calves	Cwt.	92.00	77.90	74.90	74.80
Sheep	Cwt.	25.00	19.10	19.00	22.90
Lambs	Cwt.	67.10	63.70	63.90	65.40
Hogs	Cwt.	34.10	44.60	45.90	47.70
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	12.33	13.10	13.50	13.60
Eggs	Doz.	.610	.620	.570	.585
Wool 4/	Lb.	.910	.860	.860	.945
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	145.00	172.00	170.00	174.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100 Oct. 1979	1910-14=100 Oct. 1980	1967=100 Oct. 1979	1967=100 Oct. 1980
Prices Received	590	656	236	262
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	874	979	257	288
Ratio 2/	68	67	92	91

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967=100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA Oct. 1979	MONTANA Sept. 1980 2/	MONTANA Oct. 1980	U. S. October 1980
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	289	284	290	262
ALL CROPS	269	293	310	260
Food grains	271	295	313	273
Feed grains	264	282	294	263
Feed grains & hay	256	280	291	269
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	306	279	278	265
Meat animals	318	288	287	276
Dairy products	229	242	248	270
Poultry and eggs	177	180	166	213
Wool	215	203	203	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

PROSPECTS FOR 1980 SOVIET CROP DOWN SHARPLY

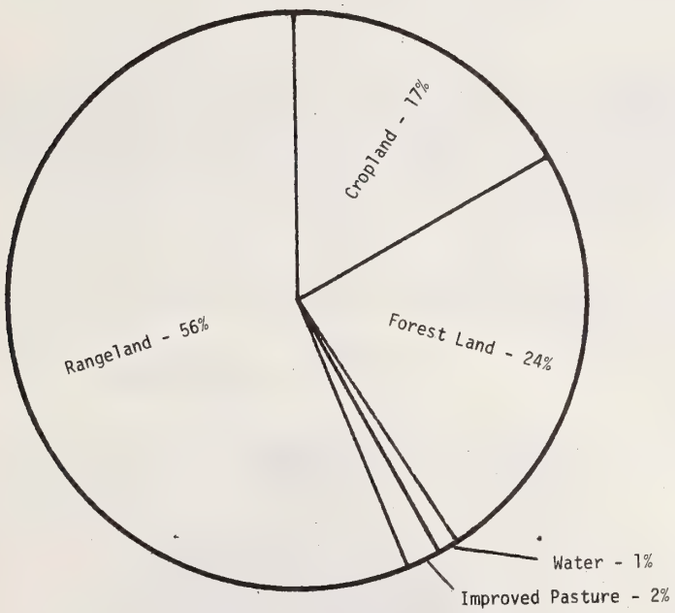
Recent statements by Soviet officials point to a disappointing 1980 grain crop--probably not much better than last year's outturn of 179 million tons. Although these statements were made earlier than normal, especially in light of the slow and difficult harvest, such statements in the past have generally approximated the size of the final crop. Accordingly, USDA has revised its estimate downward to 185 million tons from the 205 million tons estimated in the October circular. The wheat crop is now estimated at 90 million tons; coarse grains at 85 million tons and miscellaneous grains and pulses at 10 million tons. The estimate of total grain area has been reduced to 126 million hectares compared with 127 million in October--reflecting late-season harvesting difficulties.

A crop estimate of 185 million tons suggests lodging and harvest losses were much higher than earlier thought. In addition, heavy rains at harvest probably resulted in some grain fields being abandoned or harvested for forage, and may have resulted in some grain that had been windrowed (but not yet threshed) going out of condition.

Reprint from Foreign Agricultural Circu

ICE CREAM PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana dairy plants manufactured 182,000 gallons of ice cream during September--26 percent more than September 1979 but 2 percent less than August 1980. Creamed cottage cheese output at 430,000 pounds was 17 percent more than last year. Butter production at 136,000 pounds was up 16 percent from a year ago and 18 percent from August 1980.



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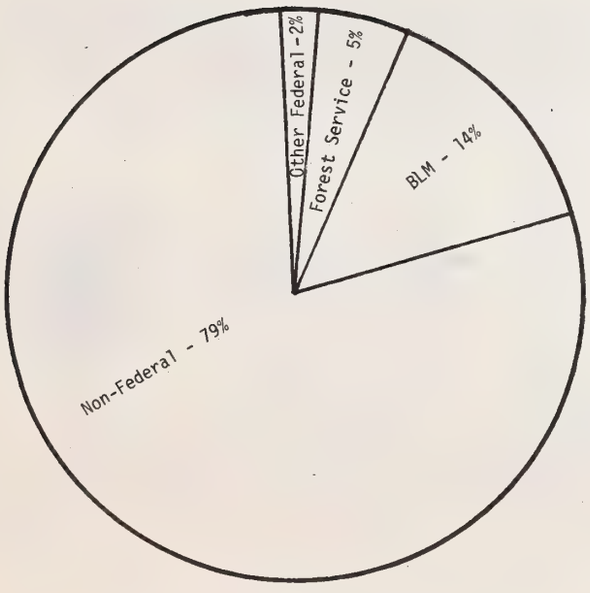

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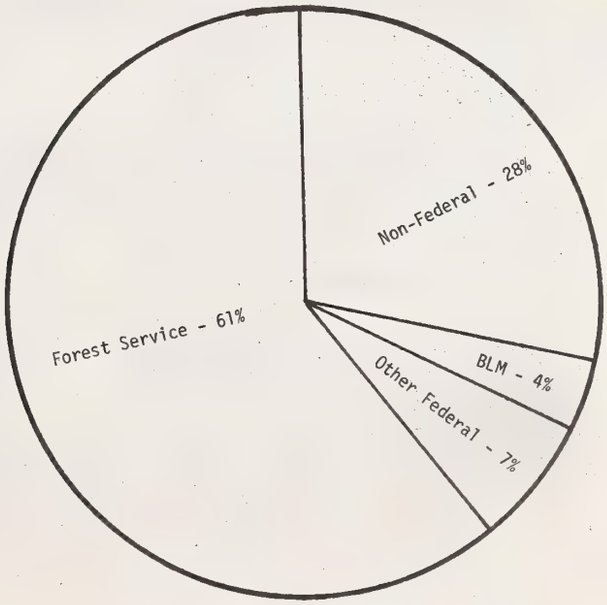

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WORLD GRAIN SUPPLIES TIGHTEN--PRICES TO STRENGTHEN

Because of further deterioration in world crops and continued strong export demand, prices for feed grains and oilseeds are likely to be stronger than earlier expected. Although world grain production is forecast up slightly for 1980/81, this will not offset the 12 percent smaller stocks carried into the marketing year. In early October, total world grain supplies for 1980/81 were estimated at 1.61 billion metric tons--down slightly from last year's supply of 1.62 billion. World cotton supplies remain tight as the smaller U.S. crop has reduced total world supplies for 1980/81 by about 3 percent from a year earlier.

World trade and use of grains are expected to set records in 1980/81, with ending stocks likely to be down around 20 percent from the 192.5 million tons on hand at the end of 1979/80. However, since earlier October, indications are that grain production prospects in the Soviet Union, Argentina, and Australia may have deteriorated. If this is the case, the world grain supply situation may be even tighter than these latest figures indicate. Next year's carryover stocks will decline to about 10½ percent of use--the same tight relationship that stocks bore to world use at the end of the 1974/75 marketing year, when the stock/use ratio reached the lowest level of the 1970's.

The improved farm prices of the second half of 1980 will offset the lower prices of the first half, leaving average prices received by farmers slightly higher than last year. However, total cash receipts may be up 6 to 7 percent--mainly because of larger marketings. Farm inventories of corn, soybeans, cotton, and hogs are being reduced. Net farm income in 1980 (after inventory adjustment) is still expected to fall within a range of $23 to $25 billion--down 20 to 25 percent from 1979. Before inventory adjustment, net farm income in 1980 will be down less than 10 percent from 1979.

Prospects for higher crop and livestock prices in 1981 indicate a brighter farm income situation, as cash receipts will likely rise more than costs. Thus, net farm income in 1981 is expected to increase significantly--possibly recouping all of this year's decline.

Reprint from Agricultural Outlook

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Slaughter Farm Labor

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE
Alfalfa seed production down Cattle on feed numbers up October grain stocks higher Quarterly milk production increases September slaughter down

Notable Numbers

In 1979, Choteau county lead the State in Cash receipts from agriculture, followed closely by Yellowstone.

MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana milk production during the third quarter (July-September) of 1980 was 8 percent above the same quarter last year. The increase in production is due to the addition of about 2,000 cows to the milking herd since last year. The 29,000 cows in the State produced 82 million pounds of milk in the period July-September. Dairymen fed an average of 12 pounds of grain and concentrates per day to all cows in the herd on October 1.

JULY-SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	Sept. Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	---- Thousands ----		- Million Pounds -	
CALIF	875	910	3,330	3,574
IDAHO	142	156	448	506
MINN	845	855	2,087	2,171
MONT	27	29	76	82
N. DAK	93	93	227	229
ORE	94	96	293	301
S. DAK	167	165	407	414
WASH	192	195	728	762
WIS	1,813	1,816	5,574	5,684
WYO	11	11	31.5	30.8
U.S.	10,785	10,876	31,151	32,157

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

MONTANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1 percent less red meat during September than the same month one year ago. Total production at 15.1 million pounds compares with 15.2 million pounds last September and 15.3 million pounds during August 1980. Production for January to September 1980 at 135.5 million pounds is 19 percent more than the same period one year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during September 1980 totaled 3.22 billion pounds--up 12 percent from September 1979. January-September red meat production at 28.6 billion pounds was 5 percent above last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components were: beef, up less than 1 percent; veal, down 11 percent; pork, up 12 percent; lamb and mutton, up 8 percent.

JANUARY-SEPTEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Percent Chg.
	-------1,000 head----------				Pct.
No. Slghtrd.					
Cattle	105.8	112.6	25,188	24,946	- 1
Calves	.3	.2	2,114	1,878	-11
Hogs	319.0	397.2	63,862	71,438	+12
Sheep & lambs	1.7	2.0	3,737	4,125	+10
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	111,516	125,940	26,611	26,746	+ 1
Calves	87	71	520	460	-12
Hogs	74,391	95,863	15,394	17,199	+12
Sheep & lambs	186	205	425	460	+ 8
Red meat Production	113,975	135,458	27,288	28,561	+ 5

CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS UP

Cattle and calves on feed on October 1 in Montana feedlots for the slaughter market totaled 39,000 head--this is 22 percent more than last October but 20 percent less than the number being fed on July 1. This is the largest number on feed October 1 in the last 3 years and the smallest seasonal decline from July 1 since 1976. Steers on feed at 17,000 head are up 21 percent from last October and heifers at 22,000 head are up 29 percent. About 90 percent of all steers and heifers on feed weighed 700 pounds or more, 49 percent weighed 900 pounds or more. PLACEMENTS in lots during the July-September period totaled 16,000 head--up 45 percent from the same period last year. Montana feeders expect to market 24,000 head during the October-December period--33 percent more than the same period in 1979.

In the 23 major feeding States, cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market totaled 9.99 million head. The number on feed was virtually unchanged from 1979 but 12 percent less than on October 1, 1978. PLACEMENTS during the July-September quarter totaled 6.41 million--an increase of 8 percent over the same quarter last year but 13 percent less than the third quarter of 1978. MARKETINGS of fed cattle for slaughter during the July-September quarter totaled 5.75 million--down 4 percent from the comparable quarter in 1979 and 12 percent less than 1978.

OCTOBER GRAIN STOCKS HIGHER

Stocks of wheat in Montana on October 1, 1980 in all storage positions totaled 170.0 million bushels--up 1 percent from a year ago. A slightly higher proportion of this year's production is still on hand compared with a year earlier. Wheat stored on farms accounted for 85 percent of the total with the remainder in commercial storage. This includes wheat in the reserve, under loan, and "free". Disappearance of wheat since June 1 totaled 22.6 million bushels--37 percent less than a year ago.

Winter wheat in storage at 85.4 million bushels was down 2 percent from last year, but all spring wheat at 84.6 million bushels was up 4 percent with the durum portion at 9.4 million down 18 percent. Barley stocks in all positions at 45.7 million bushels were down 12 percent and oats at 5.6 million were down 28 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stocks in all storage positions as of October 1, 1980 totaled 2.47 billion bushels--9 percent larger than last year. Farm storages contained 972 million bushels of wheat--39 percent of the total October 1, 1980 stocks, while the remainder in off-farm storage amounted to 1.49 billion bushels. Last year, farm storages held 1.03 billion bushels and off farm storage had 1.24 billion bushels. Durum wheat stocks on October 1, 1980 totaled 122 million bushels--20 percent less than last year.

CATTLE ON FEED OCTOBER 1, 1979-1980

ITEM	Montana		23 Major States	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	1,000 head			
On feed July 1	48	49	10,309	9,619
During period July 1-Sept. 30				
Placed on feed 1/	11	16	5,957	6,412
Marketed 1/	25	23	5,976	5,746
Other disappearance 2/	2	3	352	299
On feed October 1	32	39	9,938	9,986
Kinds on feed Oct. 1				
Steers & steer calves	14	17	6,696	6,883
Under 500 Lbs.	--	--	493	439
500-699 Lbs.	--	1	905	1,064
700-899 Lbs.	3	4	2,249	2,362
900-1099 Lbs.	10	11	2,435	2,363
1100 Lbs. & over	1	1	614	655
Heifer & heifer calves	17	22	3,203	3,062
Under 500 Lbs.	--	--	286	232
500-699 Lbs.	1	3	865	798
700-899 Lbs.	4	12	1,308	1,276
900 Lbs. & over	12	7	744	756
Cows and other	1	--	39	41
Marketings--Oct.-Dec.	18 3/	24 4/	5,731 3/	5,880 4/

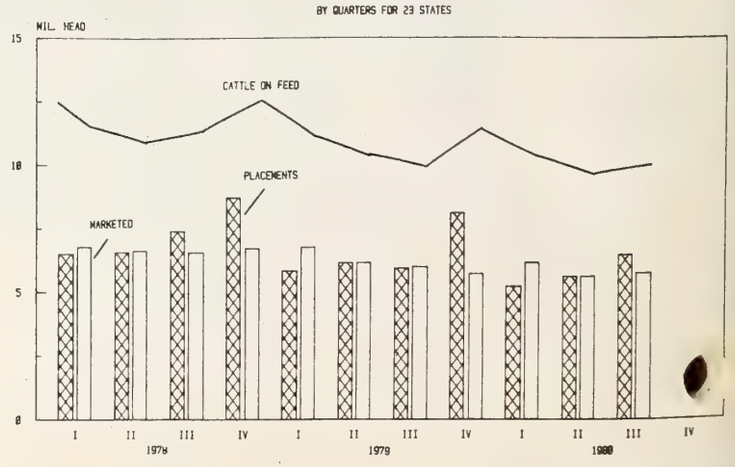
1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Marketings including those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--SEPTEMBER 30
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	36,523	30,773	1,079	104
Under loan	12,293	11,080	4,047	1,963

1/ These stocks are included in the respective October 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS,
BY QUARTERS FOR 23 STATES



STOCKS OF GRAIN OCTOBER 1, 1980 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 1, 1979	June 1, 1980 *	Oct. 1, 1980	% Change from 1979	October 1, 1979	June 1, 1980 *	October 1, 1980
	------ Thousand bushels -----			---Pct.---	----------Thousand bushels----------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	140,935	58,238	145,340	+ 3	1,031,332	376,562	972,054
Off farms 1/	27,073	17,195	24,700	- 9	1,240,745	526,332	1,494,112
T O T A L	168,008	75,433	170,040	+ 1	2,272,077	902,894	2,466,166
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	67,285	31,556	72,691	+ 8	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	19,666	10,421	12,700	-35	---	---	---
T O T A L	86,951	41,977	85,391	- 2	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	73,650	26,682	72,649	+ 8	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	7,407	6,774	12,000	+62	---	---	---
T O T A L	81,057	33,456	84,649	+ 4	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	---	122,621	44,444	87,638
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	30,870	12,477	34,641
T O T A L	11,420	4,872	9,398	-18	153,491	56,921	122,279
CORN							
On farms	11	58	12	+ 9	776,256	2,494,504	900,777
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	---	509,460	1,092,668	696,608
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	---	1,285,716	3,587,172	1,597,385
OATS							
On farms	7,644	2,894	5,390	-29	472,168	201,506	388,625
Off farms 1/	193	170	235	+22	102,310	38,102	89,355
T O T A L	7,837	3,064	5,625	-28	574,478	239,608	477,980
BARLEY							
On farms	46,644	9,329	41,731	-41	308,626	111,782	240,442
Off farms 1/	4,994	1,845	3,950	-21	150,319	79,912	148,037
T O T A L	51,638	11,174	45,681	-12	458,945	191,694	388,479
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	---	---	---	---	40,757	90,272	39,708
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	118,683	186,056	106,064
T O T A L	---	---	---	---	159,440	276,328	145,772

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators.
2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat.
4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Oct. 1, 1979 *	June 1, 1980 *	Oct. 1, 1980	Oct. 1, 1979 *	June 1, 1980 *	Oct. 1, 1980
	---------- Million bushels ----------			-------- Million bushels --------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	1.4	.5	1.7	3.7	.6	2.5
Northcentral	69.7	29.4	91.9	23.6	4.7	20.6
Northeast	53.9	25.6	33.9	5.4	2.3	4.4
Central	17.2	8.9	20.5	9.0	1.5	9.5
Southwest	3.0	.9	2.8	3.7	.6	2.9
Southcentral	10.3	3.8	10.3	4.5	1.0	3.8
Southeast	12.5	6.3	8.9	1.7	.5	2.0
STATE	168.0	75.4	170.0	51.6	11.2	45.7

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Some data revised.

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION UP

Montana's 1980 alfalfa seed crop is forecast at 4.0 million pounds--down 31 percent from last year's crop. Acres for harvest at 35,000 are down 17 percent and yield per acre at 115 pounds is down 25 pounds from 1979. Dry weather in much of the main producing areas of eastern Montana put increased emphasis on hay production rather than seed and also reduced seed yields.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION
1978, 1979 and 1980

STATE	Area Harvested			Yield per Acre			Production (clean seed)		
	1978	1979	1/1980	1978	1979	1/ 1980	1978	1979	1/ 1980
	Acres			Pounds			1,000 Pounds		
CALIF	64,000	80,000	77,000	280	435	510	17,920	34,800	39,270
IDAHO	43,000	42,000	36,000	350	385	400	15,050	16,170	14,400
KANSAS	60,000	40,000	42,000	115	95	110	6,900	3,800	4,620
MONT	26,000	42,000	35,000	85	140	115	2,210	5,880	4,025
NEBR	32,000	27,000	23,000	75	65	65	2,400	1,755	1,495
NEV	17,000	18,000	17,000	365	405	400	6,205	7,290	6,800
N DAK	17,000	6,000	4,000	45	45	45	765	270	180
OKLA	55,000	45,000	50,000	145	125	145	7,975	5,625	7,250
OREG	14,000	14,000	13,000	345	300	330	4,830	4,200	4,290
S DAK	150,000	130,000	60,000	85	55	65	12,750	7,150	3,900
UTAH	15,000	17,000	14,000	290	280	250	4,350	4,760	3,500
WASH	36,000	35,000	21,000	285	235	350	10,260	8,225	7,350
TOTAL ABOVE STATES	529,000	496,000	392,000	173	201	248	91,615	99,925	97,080

1/ Indicated.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural prices Dairy products manufactured Pasture and range Commercial fertilizer

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

October 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured
Sweet Cherry Production
Tractor Shipments
Red Meat and Poultry Output

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NOTABLE NUMBERS

All major winter wheat states, except Montana, Oklahoma and Texas, had larger winter wheat crops in 1980 than in 1979.

SWEET CHERRY CROP SMALLER

The 1980 sweet cherry production in Montana totaled 700 tons compared with 2,950 tons last year. This is the smallest crop since 1969 when production was 610 tons. Much of the crop was damaged by rain and hail just a few weeks before harvest. The crop was valued at $377,000, considerably less than last years $2,012,000 crop. Average price received by growers dropped to $539 per ton compared with $682 in 1979.

The Nation's sweet cherry crop totaled 164,300 tons in 1980, 11 percent below the record crop of 184,000 tons last year. The crop was valued at 106 million dollars, 4 percent less than in 1979. Growers received an average of $649 per ton, up from $601 last year.

Washington, the leading producing state, had 45,000 tons. California, in second place, produced 43,500 tons. Oregon, in third and Michigan in fourth place, produced 32,000 and 29,000 tons respectively. These four states produced 91 percent of the total crop this year.

TRACTOR SHIPMENTS CONTINUE DOWN

The Bureau of the Census reports wheel-type tractor shipments from factories totaled 48,992 during April-July 1980--down 32 percent from the same period in 1979 and 12 percent below April-July 1978.

Tractor shipments have been down each month since February this year. During this 6-month (Feb.-July) period, only 80,626 wheel-type tractors were shipped--30,597 fewer than in 1979.

Dealer inventories must be large and/or sales down.

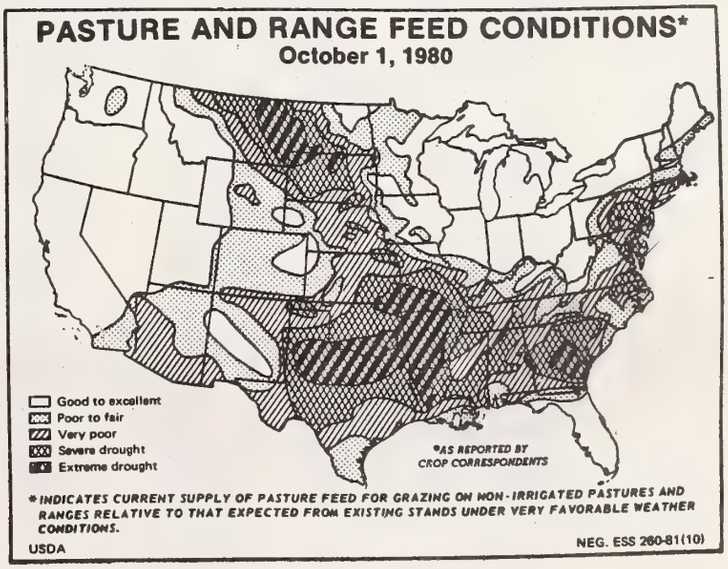
PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS POOR

Montana ranges and pastures showed slightly more than the seasonal decline during September. The October 1 condition was 59 percent--5 points below last month and 7 points below last year.

September rains helped sustain feed supplies but the benefit was limited because many grasses had entered seasonal dormancy. Late season grasses greened up in many areas but growth was limited.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION OCT. 1
By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	94	64	69
Northcentral	101	62	52
Northeast	100	63	33
Central	95	66	72
Southwest	90	71	93
Southcentral	96	67	72
Southeast	100	68	31
STATE	97	66	59


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
October 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESS 260-81(10)

OCTOBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Montana's 1980 wheat crop based on an October 1 survey is expected to total 117.2 million bushels--1 percent above last year. The forecast is slightly below the September 1 forecast because of reduced durum prospects. The first part of September was not an ideal time for harvesting, as showers frequently held up combining. However, toward the latter part of the month, better weather prevailed and harvest of all small grains was nearing completion.

Montana's winter wheat production at 57.2 million bushels is essentially un-changed from a year ago, hard spring wheatat 53.6 million bushels is up 2 percent, durum at 6.5 million bushels is down 5 percent, barley at 45.4 is up 12 percent, and oats at 3.9 is down 29 percent.

The season's first production forecast for potatoes indicates a total of 1,633 thousand hundredweight-down 9 percent--mainly due to fewer acres for harvest. Other crop forecasts are: sugarbeets with 844 thousand tons--up 2 percent from year-ago levels; dry beans, 195 thousand hundredweight--up 11 percent; corn for grain at 450 thousand bushels--up 17 percent, and all hay at 4,100 thousand tons, off 4 percent.

Nationally, corn production is forecast at 6.47 billion bushels (164 million metric tons)--1 percent below the September 1 forecast, and 17 percent below the record crop produced a year ago. Feed grain production (corn, sorghum, oats, and barley combined) is expected to total 192 million metric tons-- 18 percent less than last year. Wheat production is forecast at 2.36 billion bushels on October 1--up slightly from September 1 and up 10 percent from last year.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--OCTOBER 1, 1980

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres Harvested			Yield per Harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. Change	1979	Indic. 1980	1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. Change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	2,250	2,200	- 2	25.5	26.0	57,375	57,200	--
Durum wheat	"	325	380	+17	21.0	17.0	6,825	6,460	- 5
Other spring wheat	"	2,550	2,550	--	20.5	21.0	52,275	53,550	+ 2
All Wheat	"	5,125	5,130	--	22.7	22.8	116,475	117,210	+ 1
Corn for grain	"	5	6	+20	77.0	75.0	385	450	+17
Oats	"	140	110	-21	39.0	35.0	5,460	3,850	-29
Barley	"	1,040	1,080	+ 4	39.0	42.0	40,560	45,360	+12
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.5	7.1	- 5	240.0	230.0	1,800	1,633	- 9
Dry beans (clnd.)	"	9.7	13.0	+34	18.0	15.0	175	195	+11
Sugarbeets	Tons	43.4	43.3	--	19.1	19.5	829	844	+ 2
Alfalfa hay	"	1,260	1,250	- 1	2.25	2.20	2,835	2,750	- 3
All other hay	"	1,120	1,000	-11	1.30	1.35	1,456	1,350	- 7
All hay	"	2,380	2,250	- 5	1.80	1.82	4,291	4,100	- 4
Sweet cherries	"	---	---	--	--	--	2,950 2/	2,200 2/	-25

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 10. 2/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--OCTOBER 1, 1980

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres Harvested			Yield per Harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. change	1979	Indic. 1980	1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	43,572	52,030	+19	36.9	36.1	1,608,897	1,878,671	-17
Durum wheat	"	3,932	4,845	+23	27.1	22.0	106,654	106,635	--
Other spring wht.	"	15,096	14,752	- 2	28.2	25.5	426,181	376,315	-12
All wheat	"	62,600	71,627	+14	34.2	33.0	2,141,732	2,361,621	+10
Corn for grain	"	70,984	71,193	--	109.4	90.8	7,763,771	6,466,622	-17
Oats	"	9,831	8,861	-10	54.4	50.9	534,386	450,660	-16
Barley	"	7,468	7,367	- 1	50.6	47.7	378,067	351,567	- 7
Rye	"	949	700	-26	25.9	23.1	24,549	16,189	-34
Flaxseed	"	1,018	763	-25	13.3	10.4	13,539	7,940	-41
Dry beans (clnd)	Cwt.	1,418.7	1,786.5	+26	14.57	13.53	20,665	24,178	+17
Potatoes (fall)	"	1,071.2	976.7	- 9	277.0	267.0	296,938	260,686	-12
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,123.7	1,173.9	+ 5	19.6	19.8	22,073	23,245	+ 5
Alfalfa hay	"	27,519	26,868	- 2	3.18	2.89	87,581	77,687	-11
All other hay	"	33,643	32,994	- 2	1.73	1.48	58,297	48,704	-16
All hay	"	61,162	59,862	- 2	2.39	2.11	145,878	126,391	-13

1/ First forecasts on yield and production will be released October 10.

SEPTEMBER PRICES HIGHER

Montana farmers and ranchers received slightly higher prices for their products on September 15 compared with a month earlier. The index of prices received at 282 (1967=100) was 3 percent above a month ago but 4 percent lower than mid-September a year ago. The prices received index for crops at 292 was 3 percent higher than last month and 12 percent above a year ago. During September, prices were higher for all crops except winter wheat and barley--barley prices declined 5 cents per bushel, while winter wheat prices remained unchanged from a month ago. The livestock index at 277 was 3 percent above last month but 13 percent below last year. Prices were generally higher for all livestock items except sheep and hogs.

For the nation, the September index of prices received by farmers increased 5 points (1.9 percent) to 261 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since August were higher prices for soybeans, corn, milk, oranges, lettuce, and eggs. Lower prices for apples, cattle, potatoes, lemons, hogs, and tomatoes were partially offsetting. The index was 21 points (8.8 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for September 15 was 286--up 3 points (1.1 percent) from mid-August. Higher prices for feed, seed, feeder livestock and farm equipment were the major contributors to the increase. The index for September was 31 points (12 percent) higher than a year earlier.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

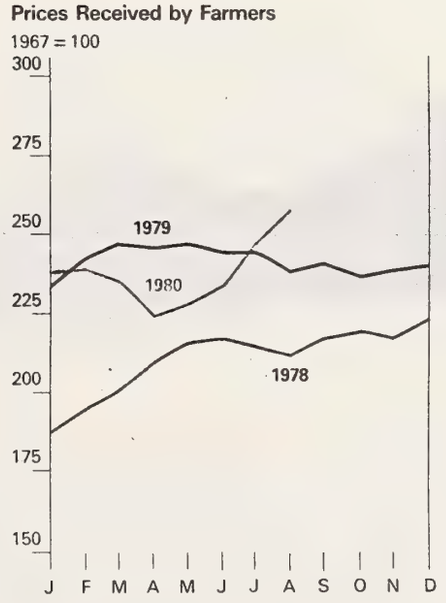
COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Sept. 1979	MONTANA Aug. 1980	MONTANA Sept. 1980	U. S. Sept. 1980
		----------	Dollars	----------	
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.62	3.62	3.84
Durum	Bu.	4.39	5.45	6.40	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.64	4.06	4.22	3.92
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.67	4.00	4.14	3.97
Barley	Bu.	2.17	2.39	2.34	2.63
Oats	Bu.	1.28	1.61	1.63	1.63
Alfalfa hay	Ton	56.00	66.00	67.00	75.60
All other hay	Ton	50.00	60.00	61.00	59.80
All hay baled	Ton	55.50	65.50	66.50	70.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	77.00	68.30	67.60	68.30
Cows	Cwt.	50.00	45.90	49.20	45.60
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	74.10	61.50	63.90	63.90
Calves	Cwt.	92.00	73.30	74.10	75.60
Sheep	Cwt.	24.50	18.70	14.00	19.50
Lambs	Cwt.	68.00	64.30	66.90	66.80
Hogs	Cwt.	35.60	45.70	44.60	45.80
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.97	12.60	12.85	13.10
Eggs	Doz.	.603	.590	.620	.619
Wool 4/	Lb.	.930	.850	.860	.931
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	140.00	168.00	172.00	174.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS*
(1967=100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA Sept. 1979	MONTANA Aug. 1980 2/	MONTANA Sept. 1980	U. S. September 1980
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	293	274	282	261
ALL CROPS	260	284	292	258
Food grains	263	286	296	260
Feed grains	252	279	273	261
Feed grains & hay	247	276	273	265
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	319	269	277	263
Meat animals	331	278	286	276
Dairy products	223	233	237	260
Poultry and eggs	175	172	180	217
Wool	220	201	203	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.



UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-1914=100 Sept 1979	1910-1914=100 Sept 1980	1967=100 Sept 1979	1967=100 Sept 1980
Prices Received	601	652	240	261
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	866	972	255	286
Ratio 2/	69	67	94	91

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

ICE CREAM PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana dairy plants manufactured 186,000 gallons of ice cream during August--14 percent less than August 1979 and 16 percent less than July 1980. Creamed cottage cheese output at 468,000 pounds was 4 percent less than last year. Butter production at 115,000 pounds was up 13 percent from a year ago and 3 percent from July 1980.

LOWER RED MEAT AND POULTRY OUTPUT EXPECTED IN COMING MONTHS

During the rest of 1980, supplies of pork, broilers, and eggs will fall short of year-earlier levels as production cutbacks planned earlier in the year--plus the impact of this summer's heat and drought--begin to take effect. Beef production, on the other hand, will be slightly higher than last year.

The September 1 inventory of hogs and pigs (in the 14 major producing States) showed market hog numbers down 2 percent from last year, but still 15 percent larger than in 1978. Farrowings during June-August and farrowing intentions for September-November were both down 10 percent, implying that pork production in the first half of 1981 will fall substantially below year-ago levels.

Farm commodity prices have been rising much faster than input prices in recent months, thus improving farm income prospects for 1980 relative to earlier expectations. The index of prices received by farmers gained 12 percent from June to September, while the index of prices paid rose only 3 percent. Despite this improvement, prices paid by farmers were up 12 percent from a year ago in September, while prices received were up 9 percent. Higher feed prices have continued to squeeze livestock producers' margins. In addition farmers who lost most or all of their crops to this summer's drought and heat will not share in the improved income situation.

With improved market conditions, total feed grains have shown net movement out of the farmer-owned reserve in recent months. Corn, which is in release status, has shown the largest absolute drop in farmer-owned reserves, while oats, which are in call status, have shown the largest percentage drop. Barley is the only feed grain for which net movement has been into the reserve. Wheat has been moving into the reserve in recent weeks, although at a slow pace.

Retail food prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), increased 1.5 percent in August--the largest monthly rise since February 1979. The major contributors to the August increase were poultry, pork, beef, and fresh fruit. With food prices having risen relatively slowly in the first half of 1980, the total gain this year is expected to be about 9 percent--the smallest increase since 1977.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Alfalfa Seed
Cattle on Feed
Grain Stocks
Slaughter
Quarterly Milk Production

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

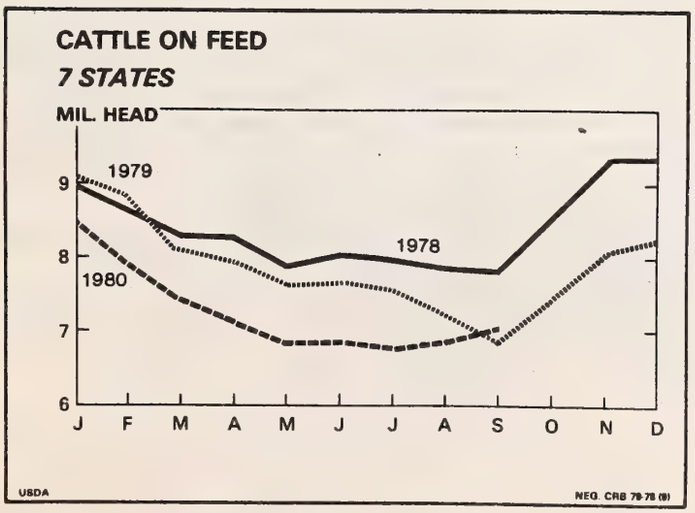
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Potato Disposition
Farm Population
Sept. 1 Hog Inventory

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Farm production expenditures in 1979 were 9 percent above 1978--the largest annual percentage increase since 1973.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP

Cattle and calves on feed September 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.05 million head--up 3 percent from last year but 10 percent fewer than September 1, 1978. September marked the first time in 18 months that numbers on feed were higher than the corresponding year earlier totals. MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.40 million--down 14 percent from last year and 16 percent from August 1978. This is the lowest number of August marketings from the 7 States since 1975. PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August were 1.62 million--a 20 percent increase from last year but 8 percent less than August two years ago. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.56 million were 23 percent more than August last year but 5 percent below August 1978. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE during August totaled 61 thousand head compared with 82 thousand during August 1979 and 115 thousand in 1978.



HOG AND PIG INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of hogs and pigs on September 1, 1980 in the 14 States conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 55.6 million head--3 percent below last year, but 13 percent above 1978.

--Breeding inventory at 7.45 million head, 10 percent less than a year ago and virtually unchanged from two years earlier.

--Market hog inventory at 48.1 million head--2 percent less than last year but up 15 percent from 1978.

This summer's high temperatures across much of the major hog producing areas slowed weight gains of market hogs. Death losses were also above a year ago.

The 14 Quarterly States account for about 84 percent of the U.S. hog and pig inventory.

PIG CROP (June-August 1980)--The June-August 1980 pig crop in the 14 States totaled 20.5 million head--10 percent less than 1979 but 7 percent above 1978. A total of 2.85 million sows farrowed in these States--down 10 percent from last year. Pigs saved averaged 7.17 for the quarter compared with 7.16 pigs per litter for the same quarter last year.

FARROWING INTENTIONS--Producers in the 14 States intend to farrow 2.74 million sows during the September-November 1980 period--10 percent less than 1979. Farrowing intentions reported for the December 1980-February 1981 period are 2.56 million sows--a decrease of 7 percent from the same period a year ago.

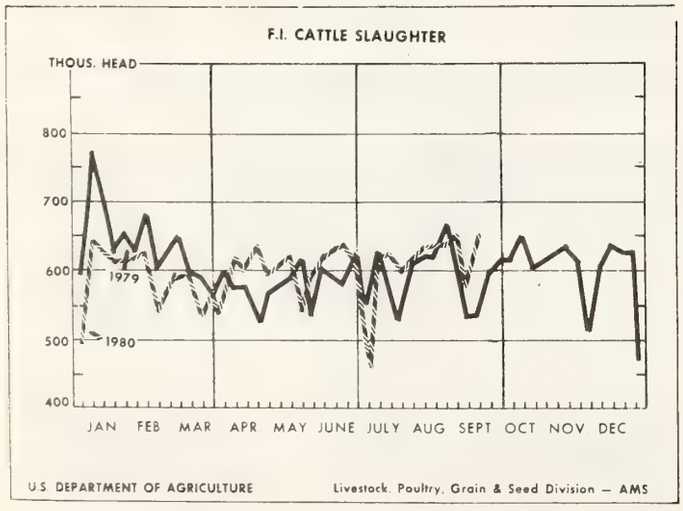
AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION DROPS

Montana slaughter plants produced 7 percent less red meat during August than the same month one year ago. Total production at 15.3 million pounds compares with 16.4 million pounds last August and 15.2 million pounds in July 1980. Production for January-August 1980 at 120.4 million pounds is 21 percent more than the same period in 1979.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in August 1980 totaled 3.02 billion pounds--down 9 percent from August 1979. January-August red meat production at 25.3 billion pounds was 4 percent above last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components were: beef, down 1 percent; veal, down 14 percent; pork, up 12 percent; lamb and mutton, up 8 percent.

JANUARY-AUGUST LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Percent Change
	1,000 head				-Pct.-
No. Slghtrd.					
Cattle	94.0	99.6	22,637	22,022	- 3
Calves	.2	.2	1,896	1,650	-13
Hogs	272.6	354.8	56,746	63,527	+12
Sheep & lambs	1.4	1.6	3,309	3,634	+10
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	98,576	111,546	23,914	23,662	- 1
Calves	83	64	469	404	-14
Hogs	62,639	85,642	13,685	15,309	+12
Sheep & lambs	150	169	377	408	+ 8
Red meat Production	98,717	120,373	24,412	25,340	+ 4



U.S. FARM POPULATION--1979

The number of persons living on U.S. farms averaged 6,241,000 in the 12-month period centered on April 1979. 1/ This is about 260,000 lower than the estimate of 6,501,000 for 1978, but such a decrease is statistically insignificant; the chances are about 1 out of 15 that a decline of this magnitude would have been obtained from the sample without any real change in the farm population between 1978 and 1979. The U.S. farm population estimate for 1979 was also not significantly different from that of 6,194,000 for 1977.

These estimates are based on the new definition of a farm, first introduced into farm population statistics in 1978. Under this definition, the farm population consists of persons living in rural territory on places that sold, or normally would have sold, $1,000 or more of agricultural products in the reporting year. The previous definition, in use since 1960, defined the farm population as all persons living in rural territory on places of 10 acres or more with at least $50 worth of agricultural products sold, and places of under 10 acres with at least $250 worth of agricultural products sold.

A related report issued jointly by the Bureau of the Census and the U.S. Department of Agriculture noted that the change in definition had the following effects on the 1978 farm population estimates: 2/

* There was a substantial reduction (1.5 million) in the number of persons counted as living on farms.
* The demographic and social characteristics of the farm population were not significantly altered.
* The population reclassified from rural farm to rural nonfarm was primarily white, older, and less likely to be in the labor force or, if in the labor force, were supported chiefly by off-farm work.

1/ The estimate of the U.S. farm population is an annual average computed by using quarterly data for the year centered on the April date for which the estimate is prepared. In this case, quarterly estimates for October 1978 and January, April, July, and October 1979 were used with a weight of one-eighth given to each of the two October estimates and a weight of one-fourth to each of the estimates of the other 3 months.

2/ Banks, Vera J., and Diana DeAre. Farm Population of the United States: 1978. Current Population Reports, Series P-27, No. 52. U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating. 1979.

TIGHTER SUPPLIES IN PROSPECT FOR FEED GRAINS, COTTON, AND OILSEEDS

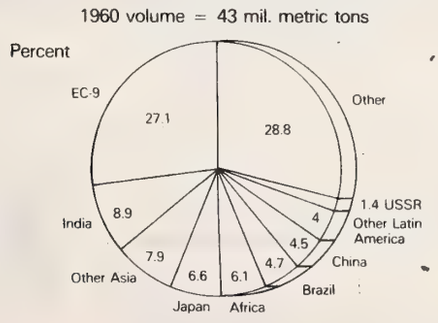
This summer's hot, dry weather has cut 1980 crop production, reducing 1980/81 supplies of feed grains, cotton, and oilseeds. With tighter supplies and relatively strong demand, prices of farm commodities have risen sharply; prices received by farmers for all farm products climbed 10 percent from June to August, although it was up only 7½ percent from a year earlier. Despite the gains in livestock and poultry prices, higher feed prices will again squeeze feeding margins this fall.

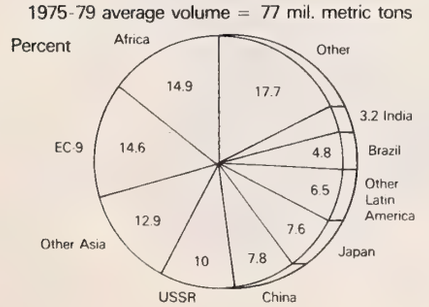
Although net farm income in 1980 will still be down significantly from 1979, the income picture has improved from the first half of the year due to sharp summer advances in crop and livestock prices. Net farm income is now forecast to be $23 to $25 billion this year--down 20 to 25 percent from 1979. Much of this decline is due to the large change in inventories from 1979 to 1980. As a result, net farm income before inventory adjustment and on a cash income basis (excluding inventories and non-cash income and expenses) will decline about half that much.

The first detailed 1979 farm income statistics have recently been completed. These estimates incorporate recent data from the Farm Production Expenditures Survey plus an update of 1979 cash receipts. As a result, net farm income for 1979 is now estimated at $31 billion--down from the earlier forecast of $33.3 billion. Total cash receipts were only slightly higher than earlier estimated, but production expenses increased an estimated 18 percent instead of the 16 percent forecast earlier.

U.S. agricultural exports likely will hit $40 billion in Fiscal 1980. The present export strength is expected to carry over into Fiscal 1981. With slightly larger volume and higher prices, the value of exports in Fiscal 1981 could range from $40 to $45 billion.

Shifts in the World Wheat Import Market





EGG PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana's laying flocks produced 47 million eggs during the June-August quarter--up 4 percent from the same period a year ago. The average number of layers on hand during the quarter at 758,000 was down 1 percent from the same quarter a year ago.

The nation's laying flocks produced 17,029 million eggs during the same quarter--down 1 percent from last year. The number of layers during the quarter averaged 281.7 million--down 1 percent from the same quarter a year ago.

POTATO PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION

Potato producers in Montana sold 1,540,000 cwt. of potatoes from the 1979 crop--12 percent less than the previous year. Producers sold 86 percent of the 1,800,000 cwt. produced in 1979. Shrinkage and loss accounted for 8 percent and 6 percent were used for seeding the 1980 crop and other uses on the farms where produced.

Value of production at $6,480,000 was 22 percent less than the 1978 crop and value of sales at $5,544,000 dropped 21 percent from the previous year. Average price for the 1979 crop sales was $3.60--down 40 cents from the previous year.

The nation's 1979 potato crop totaled 343 million cwt.--6 percent less than the record 1978 crop and 3 percent below the 1977 output. With the decline in production, total value of the nation's 1979 crop fell 4 percent to 1,174 million dollars. The average 1979 price received per cwt. at $3.43 compares with $3.38 for the 1978 crop.

Total sales for the U.S. from the 1979 potato crop of 307 million cwt. were 6 percent below the 325 million cwt. sold a year earlier, and 3 percent below the 1977 crop sales. Sales for processing accounted for 48 percent of total production; fresh market sales accounted for 34 percent and other sales totaled 7 percent. Use of potatoes on farms where produced and shrinkage accounted for the remaining 11 percent of the 1979 production.

WHERE DO THE FIGURES COME FROM?

Every agricultural crop and livestock estimate that you see in the "Montana Crop and Livestock Reporter" originates from the farm, ranch, or related business. Many readers are well aware of that fact, having faithfully reported their individual farm data over a period of many years.

Each fall, at the close of the harvest season, an acreage and production survey is conducted by the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. It is the major farm survey of the year to obtain final 1980 State data on acreage, yield and production. This survey also forms the basis for county estimates of crop production. Similar surveys will be conducted in other States and final State and national estimates will be published.

Questionnaires for this year's survey will go to nearly 12,000 Montana farmers and ranchers and will be mailed the latter part of October.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices October 1 Crop Production Pasture and Range Dairy Products Manufactured

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October 3,4,5	- Dairy Situation
October 6	- Farm News Special
October 7	- Farm News Special
October 8	- Agricultural Outlook
October 9	- Livestock Situation
October 10,11,12,13	- 1980 Crop Prospects
October 14	- Supply & Demand Forecasts
October 15	- Retail Meat Situation
October 16	- Farm News Special
October 17,18,19	- Farm News Special
October 20	- Cattle on Feed
October 21	- Soybean Situation
October 22	- Farm News Special
October 23	- Grain Stocks
October 24,25,26	- Supply & Demand Forecasts
October 27	- Feed Situation
October 28	- Red Meat Production
October 29	- Fruit Situation
October 30	- Vegetable Situation

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

September 1 Crop Production
Farm Prices Increase
Pastures & Ranges Improve
Dairy Products Manufactured
Cost of Production up
1981 Livestock Preview

NOTABLE NUMBERS

In 1979 Capital Investment per worker in agriculture was $174,000 compared with $78,000 per production worker in manufacturing.

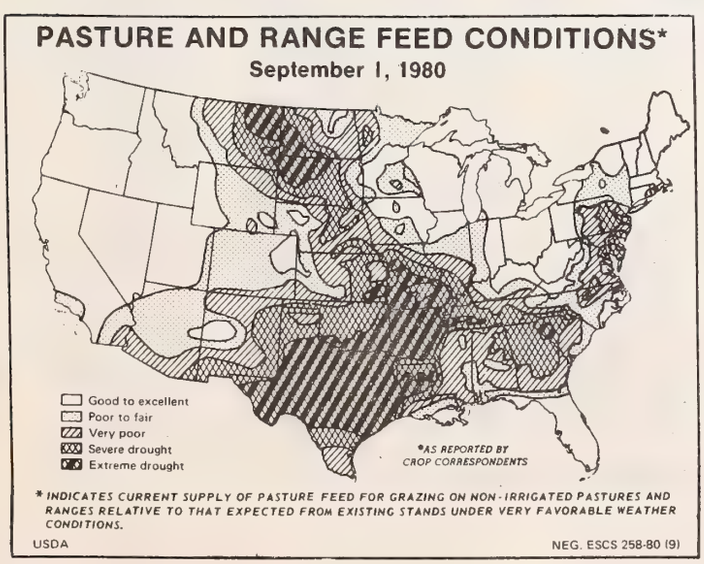
PASTURES AND RANGES IMPROVE SLIGHTLY

Montana pastures and ranges improved during August as beneficial rains and cool temperatures prevailed over much of the State.

The September 1 condition was up 1 point from August 1, but 5 points below last year on the same date. The small change in the State average was the result of deteriorating conditions in the central and southcentral regions --offsetting considerable improvement in other areas.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION SEPT. 1
By District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	98	61	101
Northcentral	100	66	63
Northeast	98	68	27
Central	96	68	69
Southwest	87	74	98
Southcentral	93	73	73
Southeast	104	72	37
STATE	97	69	64


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
September 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 258-80 (9)

1981 LIVESTOCK PREVIEW

Despite the drought in many areas, the cattle industry is now entering a period of more favorable supply and demand factors.

Large year-to-year increases in total red meat and poultry supplies began late in the second quarter of 1979, forcing meat prices lower. Supplies started to ease this summer and will continue to ease throughout 1981.

The major shocks of the current recession occurred prior to and during the second quarter of this year. Some economic indicators will remain negative, but consumer incomes--a primary factor determining meat demand--slowed markedly in the second quarter and are expected to increase during the second half of this year and throughout 1981.

Large financial losses during the last half of 1979 and throughout the first half of 1980 reduced feedlot placements and caused hog and poultry producers to cut back production plans. Poultry production has already dropped below year-earlier levels, where it's expected to remain until next spring.

Pork production is slowing and while it may reach record levels in early fall, it's expected to be below year-earlier levels late in the year and throughout 1981.

Sharply higher grain prices, which have reduced the uncertainty of selling grain in the cash market, are expected to contribute to lower total meat production in 1981--especially pork produced on smaller crop-livestock farms.

Reduced meat production from last year's levels and stronger demand factors suggest livestock, poultry, and meat prices will increase during the second half of this year and into 1981.

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Montana's important grain crops were helped by cool weather and scattered showers during August. Although rains fell over much of the drought-stricken areas of eastern Montana during August, they were generally too late to have as much impact on yields as occurred in the northcentral part of the State. However the much-needed rains hampered harvesting and progress at the end of August was lagging behind normal. About 75 percent of the winter wheat, 45 percent of the spring wheat, and 50 percent of the oats and barley was harvested by the end of the month. Normal harvesting progress for the end of August is 85 percent for winter wheat, 55 percent for spring wheat and oats, and 50 percent for barley.

Montana's 1980 all wheat crop is expected to total 117.6 million bushels--up 1 percent from last year. The forecast is 6 percent above the August 1 forecast because of increased prospects for all classes. Winter wheat production at 57.2 million bushels is essentially unchanged from last year, hard spring wheat at 53.6 million is up 2 percent, and durum at 6.8 million is about the same as last year. The State's barley crop is forecast at 45.4 million bushels--up 12 percent from last year, but oats production at 3.9 million is off 25 percent from 1979.

Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at a record high 2.35 billion bushels (64.1 million metric tons)--10 percent more than last year. Durum production is down 4 percent, other spring, down 13 percent, and winter wheat production up 17 percent from last year.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--SEPTEMBER 1, 1980

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres Harvested			Yield per Harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. Change	1979	Indic. 1980	1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. Change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	2,250	2,200	- 2	25.5	26.0	57,375	57,200	--
Durum wheat	"	325	380	+17	21.0	18.0	6,825	6,840	--
Other spring wheat	"	2,550	2,550	--	20.5	21.0	52,275	53,550	+ 2
All Wheat	"	5,125	5,130	--	22.7	22.9	116,475	117,590	+ 1
Corn for grain	"	5	6	+20	77.0	75.0	385	450	+17
Oats	"	140	110	-21	39.0	35.0	5,460	3,850	-29
Barley	"	1,040	1,080	+ 4	39.0	42.0	40,560	45,360	+12
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.5	7.1	- 5	24.0	1/	1,800	1/	--
Dry beans (clnd.)	"	9.7	13.0	+34	18.0	15.0	175	195	+11
Sugarbeets	Tons	43.4	43.3	--	19.1	19.5	829	844	+ 2
Alfalfa hay	"	1,260	1,250	- 1	2.25	2.30	2,835	2,875	+ 1
All other hay	"	1,120	1,000	-11	1.30	1.35	1,456	1,350	- 7
All hay	"	2,380	2,250	- 5	1.80	1.88	4,291	4,225	- 2
Sweet cherries	"	---	---	--	--	--	2,950 2/	2,200 2/	-25

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 10. 2/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--SEPTEMBER 1, 1980

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres Harvested			Yield per Harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. change	1979	Indic. 1980	1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	43,572	52,030	+19	36.9	36.1	1,608,897	1,878,671	+17
Durum wheat	"	3,932	4,845	+23	27.1	21.2	106,654	102,915	- 3
Other spring wht.	"	15,096	14,752	- 2	28.2	25.2	426,181	372,055	-13
All wheat	"	62,600	71,627	+14	34.2	32.9	2,141,732	2,353,641	+10
Corn for grain	"	70,984	71,193	--	109.4	91.8	7,763,771	6,534,370	-16
Oats	"	9,831	8,861	-10	54.4	50.9	534,386	450,660	-16
Barley	"	7,468	7,367	- 1	50.6	47.7	378,067	351,567	- 7
Rye	"	949	700	-26	25.9	23.1	24,549	16,189	-34
Flaxseed	"	1,018	763	-25	13.3	10.1	13,539	7,700	-43
Dry beans (clnd)	Cwt.	1,418.7	1,786.5	+26	14.57	13.37	20,665	23,894	+16
Potatoes (fall)	"	1,074.2	977.4	- 9	281.	1/	301,628	1/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,123.7	1,177.1	+ 5	19.6	19.4	22,073	22,829	--
Alfalfa hay	"	27,519	26,868	- 2	3.18	2.83	87,581	76,123	-13
All other hay	"	33,643	32,994	- 2	1.73	1.46	58,297	48,329	-17
All hay	"	61,162	59,862	- 2	2.39	2.08	145,878	124,452	-15

1/ First forecasts on yield and production will be released October 10.

FARM PRICES UP

Montana farmers and ranchers received higher prices for their products on August 15 compared with a month earlier. The index of prices received for all farm products at 270 (1967=100) was 3 percent higher than a month ago and 6 percent higher than mid-August a year ago. The prices received index for crops at 291 was 1 percent over last month but 20 percent above a year ago. Higher prices were received during August for all crops except winter wheat and oats. The livestock index at 257 was 5 percent above last month but 3 percent below last year. All livestock items except sheep and lambs registered price increases during the month. Wool remained unchanged.

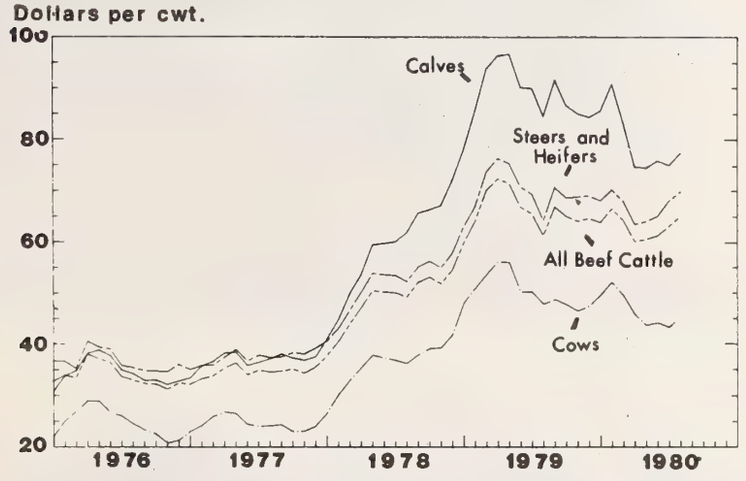
For the nation, the August index of prices received by farmers increased 9 points (3.6 percent) to 256 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since July were higher prices for hogs, cattle, corn, eggs, potatoes and soybeans. The index was 18 points (7.6 percent) above a year ago. The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for August 15 was 284--up 4 points (1.4 percent) from mid-July. Higher prices for feed and feeder livestock were the major contributors to the increase. The index for August 1980 was 33 points (13 percent) higher than a year earlier.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA August 1979	MONTANA July 1980 1/	MONTANA August 1980	U. S. August 1980
		---------- Dollars ----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.41	3.73	3.50	3.71
Durum	Bu.	3.75	5.75	6.24	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.43	3.99	4.04	3.88
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.43	4.11	4.12	3.86
Barley	Bu.	1.98	2.26	2.38	2.56
Oats	Bu.	1.38	1.84	1.72	1.55
Alfalfa hay	Ton	55.50	65.00	66.00	74.30
All other hay	Ton	49.50	59.00	60.00	55.50
All hay baled	Ton	55.50	65.00	65.50	68.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	64.80	65.60	68.30	69.90
Cows	Cwt.	46.60	43.90	47.30	45.30
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	60.30	53.90	57.00	65.10
Calves	Cwt.	77.00	73.90	75.00	77.40
Sheep	Cwt.	23.00	13.70	13.00	19.20
Lambs	Cwt.	65.00	67.50	63.80	65.80
Hogs	Cwt.	35.00	39.90	45.70	46.80
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.72	12.30	12.60	12.80
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.470	.590	.580
Wool 4/	Lb.	.910	.850	.850	.881
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	140.00	155.00	168.00	168.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

Prices Received by Farmers



INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967=100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA August 1979	MONTANA July 1980 2/	MONTANA August 1980	U.S. August 1980
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	255	262	270	256
ALL CROPS	243	288	291	248
Food grains	245	293	294	255
Feed grains	231	265	278	255
Feed grains & hay	230	265	276	258
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	266	245	257	264
Meat animals	274	252	264	281
Dairy products	219	228	233	254
Poultry and eggs	168	137	172	207
Wool	215	201	201	3/

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

ICE CREAM OUTPUT HIGHER

Montana dairy plants manufactured 222,000 gallons of ice cream during July--5 percent more than July 1979 and 18 percent more than June 1980. Creamed cottage cheese output at 493,000 pounds was 4 percent more than last year. Butter production at 112,000 pounds was up 7 percent from a year ago, but down 7 percent from June 1980.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100 Aug. 1979	1910-14=100 Aug. 1980	1967 = 100 Aug. 1979	1967 = 100 Aug. 1980
Prices Received	596	641	238	256
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	855	964	251	284
Ratio 2/	70	66	95	90

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

CROP PRODUCTION COSTS TAKING BIG BITE

USDA's latest cost-of-production report on 10 major U.S. crops (corn, sorghum, barley, oats, wheat, rice, soybeans, flaxseed, peanuts, and cotton) gives final figures for 1978, preliminary data for 1979, and projections for this year.

For all wheat, costs were pushed up mainly by higher fuel, fertilizer, seed, and machinery prices. Per-acre costs for all wheat rose 20 percent, while costs per bushel increased 10 percent despite a large increase in yields. National average costs last year stood at $89 an acre and $2.74 a bushel.

For the different classes of wheat, average costs in 1979 were: hard red winter, $82.48 an acre and $2.51 a bushel; soft red winter, $111 an acre and $2.74 a bushel; durum, $83 an acre and $3.33 a bushel; hard red spring, $82.50 an acre and $3.16 a bushel; and white, $120.47 an acre and $2.95 a bushel.

Hard red winter wheat accounted for 51 percent of the total U.S. wheat crop last year.

Barley growers in all regions faced higher costs per acre in 1979. Costs ranged from $1.54 in the southwest to $91 in the Northern Plains, where 49 percent of last year's crop was grown. Per-acre costs were up 17 percent nationwide from 1978.

Despite a record average U.S. yield of 48 bushels per acre, the cost of producing a bushel of barley still rose 12 percent to $2.26. Dramatic yield gains in the Southern Plains and southwest helped bring costs per bushel down somewhat in those regions, although costs rose in all others.

The Southern Plains had the lowest cost per bushel last year at $2.00, while the Northern Plains, which had the lowest cost in 1978, had the second lowest cost at $2.09

At $2.87, costs per bushel were highest in the southwest, where most of the barley is grown under irrigation.

Production Costs For Major Crops Rise Sharply[1]

	1978	1979[2]	1980[3]	1978 to 1979	1979 to 1980
	dollars per unit[4]				
Corn (bu.)	1.49	1.59	2.00-2.35	+ 7	+26-48
Sorghum (bu.)	1.82	1.94	2.52-3.01	+ 7	+30-55
Barley (bu.)	2.01	2.26	2.85-3.26	+12	+26-44
Oats (bu.)	1.46	1.65	1.92-2.21	+13	+16-34
Wheat (bu.)	2.48	2.74	3.31-3.79	+10	+21-38
Rice (cwt.)	6.24	6.84	8.30-8.87	+10	+21-30
Soybeans (bu.)	3.39	3.59	4.37-4.89	+ 6	+22-36
Flaxseed (bu.)	4.61	5.35	7.26-10.34	+16	+36-93
Peanuts (lb.)	0.14	0.16	0.20-0.21	+14	+25-31
Cotton (lb.)	0.67	0.60	0.72-0.88	- 10	+20-

[1] Nonland costs only. [2] Preliminary. [3] Projected. [4] Unit costs projected for 1980 reflect a yield range based on 15-year trend yields. Yields of most crops are expected to fall in 1980 from last year's levels—down 10 percent for corn, 12 percent for sorghum, 9 percent for barley, 2 percent for oats, 5 percent for all wheat, 6 percent for soybeans, 24 percent for flaxseed, and 11 percent for cotton. Yields for rice and peanuts are expected to show little change from 1979.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Potato Disposition

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Slaughter Increases
Farm Production Expenditures Up
Barley Varieties
Farm Labor Down
Cash Receipts

NOTABLE NUMBERS

National hay production for 1980 forecast at 124 million tons is down 15 percent from 1979 and the second lowest since 1968.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER INCREASES

Montana slaughter plants produced 7 percent more red meat during July than the same month one year ago. Total production at 15.2 million pounds compares with 14.1 million pounds last July and 15.2 million pounds during June 1980. Production for January - July 1980 at 105 million pounds is 28 percent more than the same period one year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in July 1980 totaled 3.1 billion pounds -- up 4 percent from July 1979. January - July red meat production at 22.3 billion pounds was 6 percent above last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components were: beef, down less than 1 percent; veal, down 14 percent; pork, up 15 percent; lamb and mutton, up 9 percent.

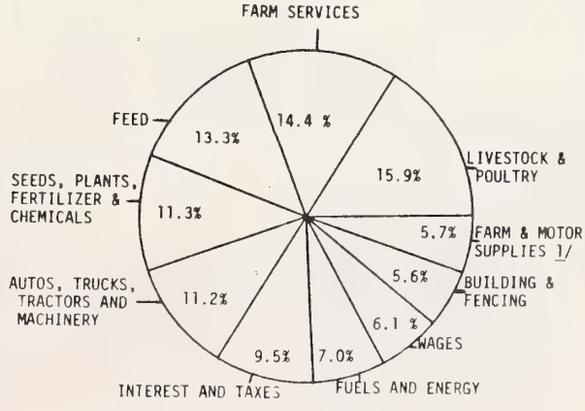
JANUARY-JULY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Percent Change
	1,000 head				-Pct.-
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	80.3	85.7	19,603	19,166	- 2
Calves	.2	.1	1,656	1,443	- 13
Hogs	220.5	314.5	48,783	48,783	+ 16
Sheep & lambs	.9	1.0	2,875	3,187	+ 11
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	83,385	96,124	20,715	20,662	----
Calves	83	57	413	352	- 15
Hogs	50,955	75,907	11,770	13,624	+ 16
Sheep & lambs	100	111	330	361	+ 9
Red Meat Production	82,304	105,049	21,083	22,320	+ 6

U.S. FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES UP

Farm production expenditures during 1979 totaled $135.1 billion, up 18 percent from the $114.2 billion level of 1978. This was the largest percentage increase since 1973. The average expenditure per farm was $58,049 in 1979, compared with $48,273 in 1978. Livestock and poultry at $21.5 billion were the largest expenditure group, accounting for 16 percent of the total. Farm services expenditures totaled $19.4 billion or 14 percent of the total; feed purchases accounted for $18.0 billion or 13 percent; seeds, plants, fertilizer and agricultural chemicals, $15.5 billion and 11 percent; followed by motor vehicles and farm machinery, $15.2 billion and 11 percent.

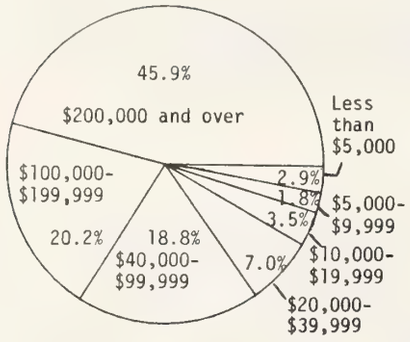
1979 EXPENDITURES AS % OF TOTAL



1/ INCLUDES .2% OF UNALLOCATED EXPENSES.

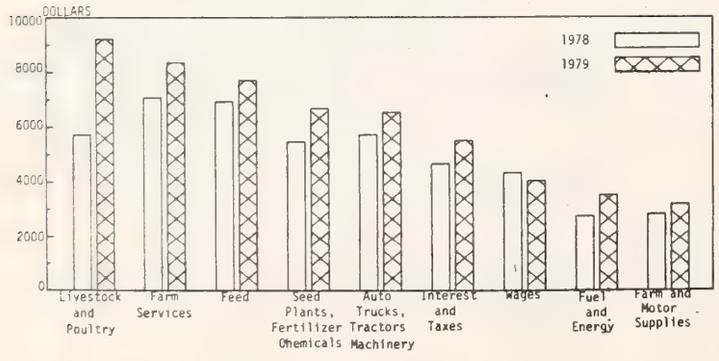
Those farms reporting gross sales of at least $200,000 accounted for only 7 percent of all farms, but 46 percent of total farm expenditures. Farms with gross sales of $100,000 to $199,999 totaled 16 percent of all farms with 20 percent of all expenses. Farms with sales of $40,000 to $99,999 accounted for 19 percent of all farms and had 19 percent of expenditures. Farms with sales less than $5,000 totaled 28 percent but had only 3 percent of the expenditures.

PERCENT OF 1979 EXPENDITURES
BY GROSS VALUE OF SALES



The average expenditures per farm for livestock and poultry increased 61 percent from a year earlier due almost entirely to higher cattle prices. Fuel and energy expenses increased 28 percent, largely because of price gains for diesel fuel and gasoline. Seed, plants, fertilizer and chemical expenditures increased 22 percent from 1978. Farm services rose nearly 18 percent. Expenditures for motor vehicles and farm machinery were 14 percent above those for 1978, while feed expenses were up 11 percent.

AVERAGE EXPENDITURES PER FARM



FARM LABOR DOWN

The total number of workers on Montana farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 1980 was estimated at 42,000--compared with 43,000 in July 1979. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were down 3 percent from last year while hired workers remained the same as last year at 11,000.

FAMILY AND HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS
Week of July 6-12, 1980 with Comparisons
Selected States and United States

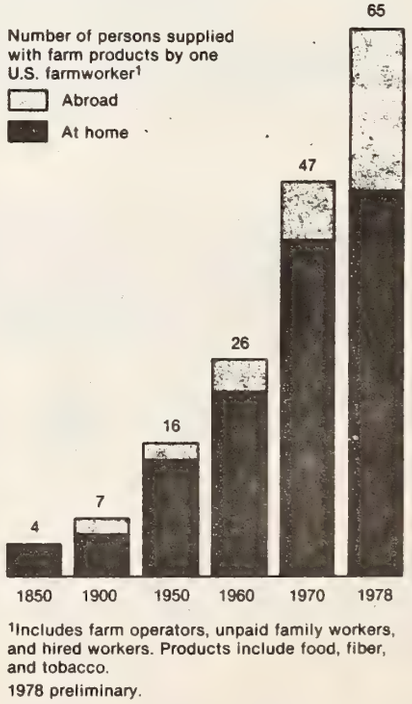
STATE	Family		Hired	
	July 8-14 1979	July 6-12 1980	July 8-14 1979	July 6-12 1980
	Thousands			
Mont.	32.0	31.0	11.0	11.0
N.D.	66.0	55.0	13.0	13.0
S.D.	56.0	52.0	8.0	10.0
Wyo.	12.0	8.5	9.0	8.0
Idaho	33.0	27.0	26.0	25.0
U.S.	2,831.9	2,751.2	1,807.4	1,791.4

FARM WAGE RATES
Week of July 6-12, 1980 with Comparisons
Selected States and United States

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	July 8-14 1979	July 6-12 1980	July 8-14 1979	July 6-12 1980
	Dollars per hour			
Mont.	2.52	2.67	2.49	2.67
N.D.	3.21	3.73	*	*
S.D.	2.79	3.09	2.70	3.04
Wyo.	2.80	2.83	2.67	2.70
Idaho	3.35	3.49	2.61	3.25
U.S.	3.23	3.52	2.99	3.22

* Insufficient data for this category

U.S. Farmer Supplies Many Here and Abroad



[1]Includes farm operators, unpaid family workers, and hired workers. Products include food, fiber, and tobacco.
1978 preliminary.

How Inflation Hurts Farmers

The recent slowdown in the rate of inflation throughout the economy is good news to farmers. It's easy to see why.

If your net farm income in 1975 was:	. . . to keep up with past inflation, you'd have to net this much this year:[1]	. . . and this much in 1985 if prices kept rising at the 1975-80 rate:[1]
$5,000	$7,080	$10,030
$10,000	$14,160	$20,050
$15,000	$21,240	$30,080
$20,000	$28,320	$40,100
$25,000	$35,400	$50,130
$30,000	$42,480	$60,150
$40,000	$56,640	$80,200
$50,000	$70,800	$100,250
$100,000	$141,600	$200,510

[1]Based on inflation throughout the general economy as measured by the GNP implicit price deflator.

Here's how prices of some of your farm production items have increased since 1975:

Diesel Fuel

July 1975 — 40 cents gal.
June 1980 — $1.00 gal.
Up 150%

Diammonium Phosphate 18-46-0

April 1975 — $263 ton
May 1980 — $298 ton
Up 13%

Medium Capacity Combine

June 1975 — $27,300
June 1980 — $47,500
Up 74%

Hired Farm Labor

April 1975 — $2.42 hr.
April 1980 — $3.61 hr.
Up 49%

Dairy Feed, 16% Protein

June 1975 — $130 ton
June 1980 — $167 ton
Up 28%

Pickup Hay Baler (PTO)

June 1975 — $3,920
June 1980 — $6,090
Up 55%

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES AND COMMODITY GROUPS, MONTANA--1978-1979

COMMODITIES	VALUE		Percentage of all commodities	
	1978 1/	1979 2/	1978 1/	1979 2/
	----------1,000 dollars---------		----------1,000 dollars--------	
Cattle and calves	582,260	700,096	47.4	51.0
Dairy products	30,175	31,611	2.5	2.3
Sheep and lambs	15,340	10,752	1.2	.8
Wool	3,547	4,049	.3	.3
Hogs	34,348	27,973	2.8	2.0
Farm chickens and eggs	8,526	8,991	.7	.7
Honey and beeswax	4,825	7,576	.4	.6
Other 3/	4,213	9,264	.3	.7
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	683,234	800,312	55.6	58.4
Wheat	382,302	400,299	31.1	29.2
Barley	75,012	72,997	6.1	5.3
Sugarbeets	25,753	26,528	2.1	1.9
Hay	25,947	30,211	2.1	2.2
Potatoes	7,962	7,225	.7	.5
Oats	2,920	3,620	.2	.3
Dry edible beans	1,989	2,978	.2	.2
Alfalfa seed	2,854	3,175	.2	.2
Other crops 4/	13,005	15,092	1.1	1.1
Cherries	1,276	2,005	.1	.2
Other fruits 6/	40	41	5/	5/
Forest products	4,200	4,700	.3	.3
Greenhouse and nursery	1,800	2,200	.2	.2
CROPS	545,060	571,071	44.4	41.6
ALL COMMODITIES	1,228,294	1,371,383	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Turkeys, turkey eggs, other poultry, other livestock.
4/ Miscellaneous vegetables, rye, corn, safflower, sweet clover seed, mustard seed, wheat grass seed, other seeds and other field crops. 5/ Less than .1 of a percent.
6/ Apples, strawberries, raspberries, and other fruits.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1973 - 1980

VARIETIES	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE							
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
	Percent							
Piroline	34.1	35.8	25.2	24.8	37.8	31.9	28.7	29.6
Hector	--	.2	9.1	11.2	14.3	14.9	17.5	20.4
Klages	--	.2	.6	2.5	6.1	12.7	13.6	10.3
Shabet	8.6	8.4	8.4	17.0	5.0	4.4	5.1	5.8
Fairfield	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.6	5.1
Unitan	19.0	16.5	10.0	8.9	7.9	6.1	5.1	5.0
Compana	9.5	8.0	13.3	5.5	3.0	6.0	2.8	3.2
Summit	--	--	--	--	--	1.0	4.0	2.9
Ingrid	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.4
Steptoe	.6	6.8	11.0	9.0	4.7	4.8	3.8	2.1
Larker	1.7	.8	1.3	.9	3.7	2.5	1.7	2.1
Betzes	7.7	6.0	4.5	5.1	2.8	2.8	2.6	1.7
Vireo	--	--	--	--	--	.2	.5	1.1
Hypana	3.6	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.6	3.1	1.6	1.0
Morex	--	--	--	--	--	--	.1	1.0
Horsford	.4	.9	.9	1.0	.5	1.4	2.6	.7
Dekap	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.7
Moravian III	--	--	--	--	.4	.3	.3	.7
Purcell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	.6
Vanguard	1.2	2.7	2.1	.9	.5	.9	.5	.3
Freja	--	--	--	--	--	.2	.2	.2
Other	11.3	8.7	9.6	9.3	8.2	4.8	5.7	3.1
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

September 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Agricultural Prices
August 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Dairy Products Manufactured
Wheat Varieties

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Peak hog numbers in Montana were reached in 1944, with 445,000 head.

On December 1, 1979 we had 209,000.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION DETERIORATES

Montana pasture and range feed conditions declined 6 points in July, averaging 63 percent on August 1 compared with 69 one month ago. All areas of the State except the region west of the Divide showed reductions. Early July rains improved grazing conditions in the northwest and southwest, but compared with last year, conditions averaged 4 points lower.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION AUGUST 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	95	55	99
Northcentral	102	66	58
Northeast	102	73	21
Central	101	68	79
Southwest	88	69	95
Southcentral	99	72	77
Southeast	108	65	27
STATE	100	67	63

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed August 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.89 million head--down 4 percent from a year ago and 12 percent less than August 1, 1978.

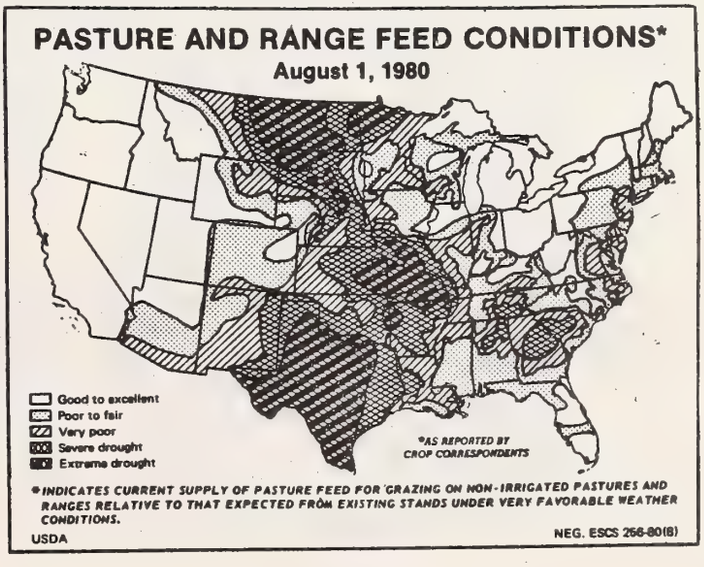
Marketing of fed cattle during July totaled 1.35 million--down 8 percent from last year and 16 percent from July 1978. This is the lowest number of July marketings from the 7 States since 1975. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during July were 1.52 million--a 25 percent increase from last year but 3 percent less than July 2 years ago.

Net placements of 1.44 million were 31 percent more than July last year but 3 percent below July 1978. Other disappearance during July totaled 79 thousand head compared with 108 thousand during July 1979 and 78 thousand during July 1978.

PLEASE RETURN

TRACTOR SHIPMENTS DOWN

Census data on U. S. tractor shipments show only 74,507 wheel-type tractors shipped January-May this year compared to 95,843 the same period a year earlier--a reduction of 22 percent.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
August 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 256-80(8)

AUGUST 1, ALL WHEAT CROP PROSPECTS DOWN

Yield prospects for the major Montana grain crops were reduced by the dry conditions during July.

The 1980 all wheat crop for Montana is expected to total 110.6 million bushels--5 percent less than a year ago and 5 percent below a month earlier. Lower yields are responsible for the reduced production since the acreage of wheat for harvest is about the same as last year. Winter wheat production at 55.0 million bushels is down 2.4 million bushels from last year and 2 million less than July 1 due to a one bushel reduction in yield. Spring wheat production at 51.0 million bushels is down 2 percent from 1979; and 7 percent below July 1 due to a reduction in acreage for harvest. Durum wheat production is estimated at 4.6 million bushels--2.3 million bushels below 1979 but 4 percent above the forecast a month ago.

The State's barley crop estimated at 42.1 million bushels is up 4 percent from 1979 and 5 percent above July 1. The 1980 oats crop at 4 million bushels is down 27 percent from last year--mostly due to a 21 percent decrease in the acres of oats for harvest. All hay production for Montana is down 2 percent from a year ago at 4.2 million tons. Production prospects of most principally irrigated crops are above a year ago. Dry bean production at 195,000 hundredweight is up 11 percent. Corn for grain at 450,000 bushels is up 17 percent, while sugarbeet production is up 2 percent at 848,000 tons.

Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at a record high 2.32 billion bushels (63.3 million metric tons)--virtually unchanged from the July 1 forecast but 9 percent more than last year. The 90 percent confidence interval for this production forecast is 2.25 to 2.40 billion bushels. The winter wheat crop is now forecast at 1.87 billion bushels--up 1 percent from the July 1 forecast. The durum wheat production forecast is up 11 percent, while other spring wheat is down 6 percent from a month earlier.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--AUGUST 1, 1980

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres Harvested			Yield per Harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. Change	1979	Indic. 1980	1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. Change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	2,250	2,200	- 2	25.5	25.0	57,375	55,000	- 4
Durum wheat	"	325	380	+17	21.0	12.0	6,825	4,560	-33
Other spring wheat	"	2,550	2,550	--	20.5	20.0	52,275	51,000	- 2
All Wheat	"	5,125	5,130	--	22.7	21.6	116,475	110,560	- 5
Corn for grain	"	5	6	+20	77.0	75.0	385	450	+17
Oats	"	140	110	-21	39.0	36.0	5,460	3,960	-27
Barley	"	1,040	1,080	+ 4	39.0	39.0	40,560	42,120	+ 4
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.5	7.1	- 5	24.0	1/	1,800	1/	--
Dry beans (clnd.)	"	9.7	13.0	+34	18.0	15.0	175	195	+11
Sugarbeets	Tons	43.4	43.5	--	19.1	19.5	829	848	+ 2
Alfalfa hay	"	1,260	1,250	- 1	2.25	2.30	2,835	2,875	+ 1
All other hay	"	1,120	1,000	-11	1.30	1.35	1,456	1,350	- 7
All hay	"	2,380	2,250	- 5	1.80	1.88	4,291	4,225	- 2
Sweet cherries	"	---	---	--	--	--	2,950 2/	2,200 2/	-25

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 10. 2/ Actual tons.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--AUGUST 1, 1980

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres Harvested			Yield per Harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. change	1979	Indic. 1980	1979	Indic. 1980	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	43,572	52,030	+19	36.9	35.9	1,608,897	1,870,211	+16
Durum wheat	"	3,932	4,845	+23	27.1	20.7	106,654	100,195	- 6
Other spring wht.	"	15,096	14,752	- 2	28.2	24.0	426,181	354,545	-17
All wheat	"	62,600	71,627	+14	34.2	32.5	2,141,732	2,324,951	+ 9
Corn for grain	"	70,984	71,423	+ 1	109.4	93.0	7,763,771	6,645,852	-14
Oats	"	9,831	8,861	-10	54.4	49.7	534,386	440,655	-18
Barley	"	7,468	7,367	- 1	50.6	46.2	378,067	340,000	-10
Rye	"	949	700	-26	25.9	23.1	24,549	16,189	-34
Flaxseed	"	1,018	763	-25	13.3	9.3	13,539	7,060	-48
Dry beans (clnd)	Cwt.	1,418.7	1,786.5	+26	14.57	12.99	20,665	23,199	+12
Potatoes (fall)	"	1,074.2	977.4	- 9	281.	1/	301,628	1/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,123.7	1,179.1	+ 5	19.6	18.7	22,073	22,044	--
Alfalfa hay	"	27,519	26,868	- 2	3.18	2.83	87,581	76,123	-15
All other hay	"	33,643	32,994	- 2	1.73	1.46	58,297	48,329	-17
All hay	"	61,162	59,862	- 2	2.39	2.08	145,878	124,452	-15

1/ First forecasts on yield and production will be released October 10.

MOST PRICES HIGHER

Montana farmers and ranchers received mostly higher prices for their products during July than a month earlier. The index of prices received for all farm products at 266 (1967=100) was 10 points higher than a month ago and 8 points over mid-July a year ago. The prices received index for crops at 285 was 17 points over last month and 51 points above a year ago. Higher prices were received during July for all crops except winter wheat and oats. The livestock price index at 254 was 3 points above last month but 24 points below last year. All livestock items except sheep, milk, & eggs registered price increases during the month, while wool remained unchanged.

For the nation, the July index of prices received by farmers increased 12 points (5.2 percent) to 244 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since June were higher prices for hogs, soybeans, corn, broilers, potatoes, and cattle. The index was unchanged from a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for July 15 was 280--up 2 points (.7 percent) from mid-June. The major contributors to the increase were higher prices for (1) feed, (2) family living items, and (3) feeder livestock. Compared to a year earlier, the index was up 28 points (11 percent).

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U. S.
		July 15 1979	June 1/ 1980	July 1980	July 1980
		---------- Dollars ----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.34	3.54	3.48	3.69
Durum	Bu.	3.40	4.69	6.13	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.27	3.77	4.24	4.10
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.32	3.80	4.02	3.82
Barley	Bu.	1.88	2.14	2.34	2.61
Oats	Bu.	1.36	1.74	1.67	1.59
Alfalfa hay	Ton	51.00	63.00	65.00	73.10
All other hay	Ton	45.50	55.00	59.00	52.30
All hay baled	Ton	50.50	60.00	64.50	66.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	72.90	66.10	67.40	67.10
Cows	Cwt.	51.70	44.30	45.70	42.90
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	61.40	54.60	56.30	62.60
Calves	Cwt.	87.90	73.80	76.00	75.60
Sheep	Cwt.	22.00	11.90	11.40	17.40
Lambs	Cwt.	65.00	56.80	63.70	66.50
Hogs	Cwt.	38.50	31.90	40.80	41.00
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.59	12.15	12.10	12.50
Eggs	Doz.	.640	.640	.470	.507
Wool 4/	Lb.	.940	.850	.850	.903
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	145.00	150.00	155.00	160.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers and cows. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1967 = 100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U. S.
	1979	1980		1980
	July 15	June 15 2/	July 15	July 15
Food grain	238	271	288	252
Feed grains	220	251	273	239
Feed grain & hay	217	250	271	244
ALL CROPS	234	268	285	236
Meat animals	288	257	261	265
Dairy products	217	226	225	248
Poultry products	186	186	137	195
Wool	222	201	201	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	278	251	254	251
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	258	256	266	244

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation
2/ Revised for some items.
3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1967 = 100	
	June 1980	July 1980	June 1980	July 1980
Prices Received	579	609	232	244
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates 1/	944	952	278	280
Ratio 2/	61	64	83	87

1/ Mid-month Index. 2/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 188,000 gallons of ice cream during June--6 percent more than June 1979. Creamed cottage cheese at 448,000 pounds was up 4 percent from last year. Butter production at 120,000 pounds was 8 percent greater than June 1979.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1976 - 1980

Class and Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
	Percent				
WINTER WHEAT					
Winalta	35.3	31.1	29.1	27.7	26.3
Cheyenne	30.0	23.0	26.2	23.5	25.2
Centurk	12.0	25.7	28.1	27.1	24.7
Warrior	6.1	3.9	3.2	4.6	5.8
Rough Rider	--	--	--	2.6	4.1
Norstar	--	--	--	--	2.3
Winoka	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4	2.2
Nugaines	.7	.8	.5	1.1	1.2
Gent	--	--	--	.5	.9
Sundance	2.6	2.5	2.4	1.7	.8
Lancer	.6	1.3	.4	.5	.7
Itana	--	--	--	--	.6
Other & unknown	9.2	8.4	6.9	7.3	5.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT EXCLUDING DURUM					
Fortuna	35.2	34.1	21.6	23.4	22.6
Olaf	26.0	24.1	22.8	17.1	17.1
Prodax	1.1	6.3	9.0	9.9	10.7
Lew	--	1.4	3.8	5.2	10.1
Newana	--	--	1.0	5.8	7.6
Tioga	6.1	7.9	8.9	8.5	6.2
Thatcher	8.1	4.4	6.8	3.3	3.4
Butte	--	--	--	4.5	3.4
Wared	1.0	4.9	6.1	4.7	2.6
Norana	8.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.6
Red River 68	2.4	1.1	5.5	3.0	1.5
Bounty 309	--	--	--	1.2	.6
Other & unknown	11.9	12.4	11.1	10.2	11.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Class and Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
	Percent				
DURUM WHEAT					
Ward	16.0	25.5	30.8	18.4	36.5
Cando	--	--	7.2	17.7	17.5
Rollette	--	--	3.4	18.5	14.2
Crosby	2.9	16.1	19.2	12.2	13.5
Wells	38.4	21.5	5.7	18.3	12.2
Wascana	--	--	--	--	1.3
Leeds	--	--	--	--	1.1
Other & unknown	42.7	36.9	33.7	14.9	3.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

For a more detailed county breakdown of wheat varieties, request a copy from our office

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Farm Labor
Farm Income
Potato Disposition

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

80-14 July 29, 1980

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Lamb Crop and Wool
Slaughter
New Cropland
July 1 Cattle Inventory

NOTABLE NUMBERS

The peak in Montana cattle numbers was reached January 1, 1974, with 3.4 million head--nearly 5 times as many cattle as people.

MONTANA CATTLE NUMBERS REDUCED BY DROUGHT

A mid-year survey of Montana cattlemen revealed 2 percent fewer cattle and calves on July 1, 1980 than a year earlier. The all cattle and calf inventory at 3.68 million head this year compares with 3.75 million a year ago. The drought in eastern Montana was mainly responsible for the decrease. Montana herds had been rebuilding after a decline which ended over a year ago. Cattle have been moved from drought-stricken areas to better ranges, and marketings for slaughter have increased. Grazing conditions in central and western Montana are excellent and herd rebuilding is likely continuing there. The July 1 beef cow inventory at 1.54 million head is down 1 percent, but milk cows at 28,000 head are up 4. Heifers for beef cow replacement are down 15 percent, forestalling herd rebuilding in many areas next year. Milk heifers are down 27 percent and other heifers are off 12. Steers weighing over 500 pounds are estimated at 230 thousand head--off 11 percent but calves on hand are up 2. The Montana 1980 calf crop is estimated at 1.54 million head--up 3 percent from 1979. The increase reflects the larger number of cows on hand before the drought liquidation.

Nationally, the July 1 cattle inventory was 123 million head--up 4 percent from a year earlier. Herd rebuilding is underway. Cows were up 5 percent, all heifers up 1 percent, and beef replacement heifers were up 2 percent. Steers were down 1 percent and calves on hand July 1 were up 6 percent. The 1980 calf crop is estimated at 45.5 million head--6 percent above last year.

CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY--JULY 1, 1979-80

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1980 as % of 1979	1979	1980	1980 as % of 1979
	1,000 head		Pct.	1,000 head		Pct.
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	3,750	3,675	- 2	118,487	123,221	+ 4
Cows & heifers that have calved	1,580	1,570	- 1	47,740	50,148	+ 5
Beef cows	1,553	1,542	- 1	37,006	39,316	+ 6
Milk cows	27	28	+ 4	10,734	10,832	+ 1
Heifers 500 pounds and over	418	357	-15	17,646	17,885	+ 1
For beef cow replacement	307	261	-15	5,778	5,871	+ 2
For milk cow replacement	11	8	-27	4,117	4,389	+ 7
Other heifers	100	88	-12	7,751	7,625	- 2
Steers 500 pounds and over	259	230	-11	16,853	16,605	- 1
Bulls 500 pounds and over	85	85	--	2,455	2,617	+ 7
Calves under 500 pounds on hand	1,408	1,433	+ 2	33,793	35,966	+ 6
Calf crop 1/	1,490	1,540	+ 3	42,752	45,525	+ 6

1/ Calves born before July 1 plus number expected to be born after July 1.

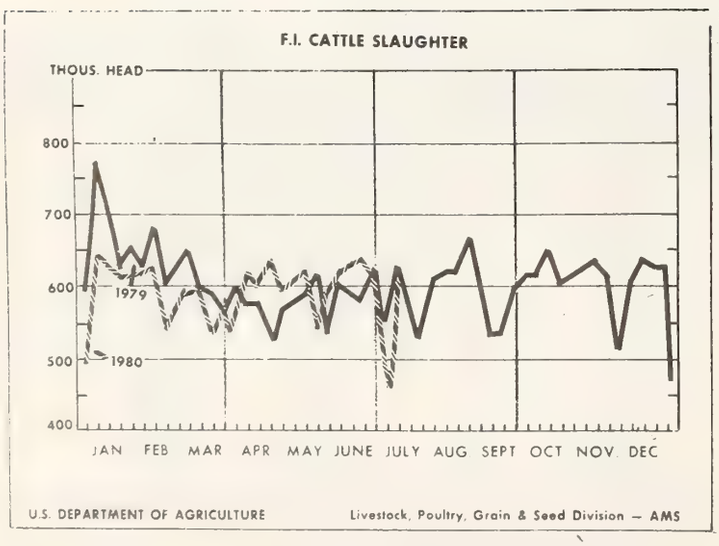
SLAUGHTER OUTPUT UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 18 percent more red meat during June than the same month one year ago. Total production at 15.2 million pounds compares with 12.9 million pounds last June and 15.7 million pounds during May 1980. Production for January-June 1980 at 89.9 million pounds is 32 percent more than the same period one year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in June 1980 totaled 3.09 billion pounds--up 3 percent from June 1979. January-June red meat production at 19.3 billion pounds was 6 percent above last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components were: beef, down 1 percent; veal, down 15 percent; pork, up 18 percent; lamb and mutton, up 10 percent.

JANUARY-JUNE LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Percent Change
	1,000 head				-Pct.-
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	67.6	72.2	16,940.2	16,333.4	- 4
Calves	.2	.1	1,437.7	1,231.3	-14
Hogs	180.8	272.7	41,779.9	49,271.4	+18
Sheep & lambs	.6	.7	2,747.8	2,747.8	+11
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	69,553	81,419	17,910	17,661	- 1
Calves	75	40	356	300	-16
Hogs	41,507	65,777	10,060	11,885	+18
Sheep & lambs	71	78	285	314	+10
Red meat Production	68,163	89,875	18,125	19,255	+ 6



CATTLE ON FEED

Montana feedlots held 2 percent more cattle and calves July 1 this year compared with a year ago. There were 49,000 on feed for the slaughter market, with the breakdown by class showing 29,000 steers--up 26 percent from last year, 19,000 heifers--down 21 percent, and 1,000 cows, the same as last year.

Weight breakouts show 21,000 steers and heifers weighing over 900 pounds.

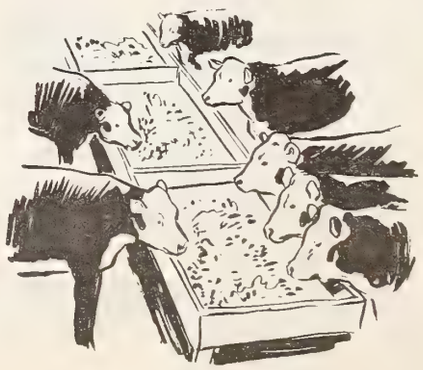
There were 21,000 cattle and calves placed on feed from April 1 - June 30--40 percent more than the preceding year. In the same quarter, 19,000 were moved out of feedlots to be slaughtered--27 percent more than the same quarter last year.

Feeders expect to market 32,000 in the July - September quarter. This would be 7,000 more than last year for that quarter.

CATTLE ON FEED JULY 1, 1979-1980

ITEM	MONTANA		23 Major States	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	1,000 head			
On feed April 1	58	49	11,074	10,203
During period April 1-June 30				
Placed on feed 1/	15	21	6,149	5,625
Marketed 1/	15	19	6,146	5,620
Other disappearance 2/	10	2	768	589
On feed July 1	48	49	10,309	9,619
Kinds on feed July 1				
Steers & steer calves	23	29	6,818	6,292
Under 500 Lbs.	0	1	321	227
500-699 Lbs.	1	1	1,025	915
700-899 Lbs.	9	10	2,483	2,427
900-1099 Lbs.	12	16	2,429	2,187
1100 Lbs. & over	1	1	560	536
Heifer & heifer calves	24	19	3,448	3,273
Under 500 Lbs.	0	1	233	146
500-699 Lbs.	1	1	1,057	908
700-899 Lbs.	13	13	1,597	1,619
900 Lbs. & over	10	4	561	600
Cows and other	1	1	43	54
Marketings--July-Sept.	25 3/	32 4/	5,976 3/	5,751 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after April 1 and marketed before June 30. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after July 1 and marketed before September 30.



LAMB CROP And WOOL

Montana's 1980 lamb crop is estimated at 370,000 head--up 9 percent from 1979. Lambs saved per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1 is 108--3 more than last year and 9 more than the U.S. average.

Wool production in Montana is placed at 4,458,000 pounds--up 4 percent from a year ago. The total number of sheep shorn at 456,000 head was up 3 percent from 1979.

LAMB CROP And WOOL

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
Breeding ewes 1 yr. & older (000 head)	324	343	8,248	8,385
Lamb crop per 100 ewes 1 year & older (000 head)	105	108	98	99
Lamb crop (000 head)	340	370	8,043	8,278
Number sheep shorn (000 head)	441	456	12,826	12,980
Weight per fleece (Lbs.)	9.8	9.8	8.02	7.87
Wool production (000 Lbs.)	4,307	4,458	102,803	102,140

MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana milk production was 5 percent above last year in the second quarter (April-June) of 1980. About 1,000 cows have been added to the milking herd since last year and production per cow is also up. The 28,000 cows in the State produced 77 million pounds of milk in the period April-June. Dairymen fed 12 pounds of grain and concentrates per day to each milk cow. The price for grain fed averaged $6.10 per cwt.--20 cents more than in the previous quarter.

JUNE MILK COWS & APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	June Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	Thousands		Million Lbs.	
Calif.	871	890	3,205	3,427
Idaho	142	151	431	484
Minn.	830	855	2,567	2,650
MONT	27	28	73	77
N. Dak.	95	93	252	253
Oreg.	93	95	298	306
S. Dak.	168	165	442	444
Wash.	192	199	735	768
Wis.	1,813	1,814	5,928	6,130
Wyo.	11.1	11.0	29.0	31.5
U. S.	10,738	10,812	32,799	33,959

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION & TRADE

Total meat production in the major importing countries is expected to increase 3 percent to a record level in 1980. Pork, poultry and lamb and mutton production is predicted to increase 4 percent--3 percent and 2 percent respectively. Beef and veal output may decline about 1 percent from the 1979 level.

With total meat production up in the major importing countries, net imports of all meats, led by pork, beef and poultry, are expected to fall. Global trade in beef and veal is expected to decline in 1980 as the substantial drop in shipments to the United States, Canada, Brazil, Korea, Israel and others will outweigh larger movement to countries such as the USSR and Japan. Beef and veal imports by the United States, the world's largest importer, are expected to drop substantially below last year's level. Lower U.S. import prices for beef are not attracting beef from many exporting countries--especially as many of these countries are rebuilding their beef cattle herds.

Poultry meat and lamb and mutton supplies are expected to be more plentiful on the world market and supported by demand from Middle Eastern countries and the Soviet Union, trade is increasing accordingly. Trade in pork, however, is expected to decline substantially on the world market in view of increased supplies in many countries. This is best illustrated by the major markets, as they move this year from a net import position for pork to a net export position.

BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS BY SELECTED COUNTRIES
(Carcass Weight Equivalent)

COUNTRY	1978	Est. 1979	1980 1/	% Chg. from 1979
United States	1,053	1,103	960	-13
European Common Market 2/	430	411	385	- 6
Yugoslavia	51	41	32	-22
Canada	102	87	50	-43
Japan	143	185	193	4
Spain	73	80	80	0
Greece	120	115	110	- 4
USSR	56	145	255	76
Brazil	118	105	35	-67
Korea, Republic of	45	60	1	-98
Israel	37	71	29	-59
Egypt	134	74	90	22
Other countries 3/	214	101	39	-61
TOTAL	2,576	2,578	2,259	-12

1/ FAS forecasts. 2/ Excludes intra-trade. 3/ Combination of approximately 30 countries additional to the preceding list.
Source: Reports of U.S. Agricultural attaches and related information.

LAND BROKEN UP FOR CROPPING

Our definition of "New Cropland" is land broken up for cropping which was previously native sod, improved pasture and the other land not tilled in the past 3 years. The Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service has been collecting data on new lands broken up for the past 6 years. New land broken up in Montana for cropping totaled 185,000 acres during the July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980 period. Of this amount, 180,000 acres were actually cropped.

The second table shows the total of planted acreage estimates for 1975-80 and the change in acreage each year. The results from these two approaches do not agree exactly and probably shouldn't since summerfallow practices can change and some crop land may be withdrawn and put into permanent pasture, new hay seedings or other uses.

USDA SURVEY INDICATED NEW CROPLAND

ITEM	July 1, '74-June 30, '75	July 1, '75-June 30, '76	July 1, '76-June 30, '77	July 1, '77-June 30, '78	July 1, '78-June 30, '79	July 1, '79-June 30, '80
	Thousand acres					
New land broken up	240	325	260	180	150	185
New land seeded to crops	160	225	165	110	145	180

USDA PLANTED ACREAGE ESTIMATES ADDED FOR TOTAL CROPLAND

ITEM	1975 Crop Year	1976 Crop Year	1977 Crop Year	1978 Crop Year	1979 Crop Year	1980 Crop Year
	Thousand acres					
Cropland acres planted (includes spring planted crops and harvested acres of winter wheat and alfalfa hay)	8,040	8,265	8,341	8,201	8,392	8,435
Change from previous year	+68	+225	+76	-140	+191	+43

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

- Agricultural Prices
- Dairy Products Mfg.
- August 1 Crop Production
- Pasture and Range
- Wheat Varieties

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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80-13 July 16, 1980

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE
Most Agricultural Prices Up
June Acres Planted
July 1 Crop Forecast
Pasture & Ranges Improve
Dairy Products Manufactured
Mink Production

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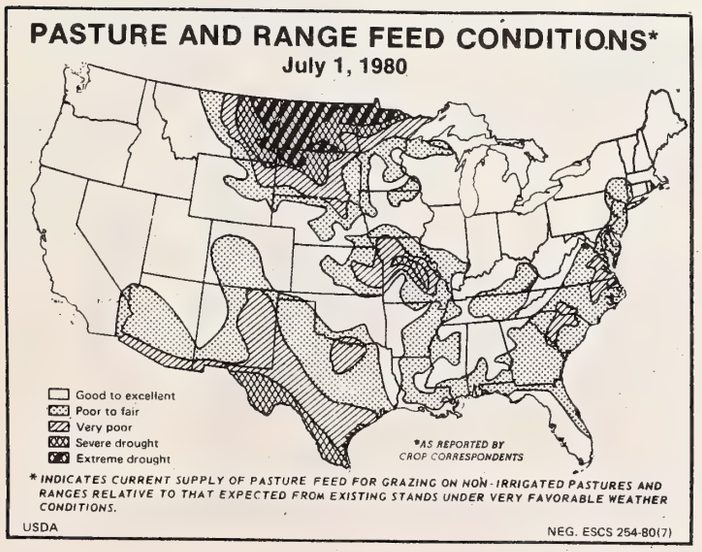
NOTABLE NUMBERS

The 1974 Census of Agriculture showed Chouteau County, Montana, the Number 1 county in the nation in acres in cropland.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION UP

World 1980/81 wheat production is forecast at 444 million metric tons--6 percent higher than last year but 1 percent below the record 1978/79 crop. Worldwide crop conditions have been better than last season with the notable exception of continued dryness in the northcentral United States and Canada. Production is expected to be larger in the United States, USSR, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and parts of the Mid-East and Asia. Smaller crops are likely in China, India, and Australia.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
July 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 254-80(7)

RAIN IMPROVES PASTURES AND RANGES

Montana pasture and range conditions improved dramatically in June as significant rain pushed deeper into the drought-stricken eastern counties.

The State average jumped 12 points from June 1 to July 1, averaging 69 percent for the entire State. Large portions of northcentral and central Montana received life-giving moisture and the ranges turned green for the first time this year. The eastern fourth of Montana remains in extreme drought with only showers bringing slight relief to some areas.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION JULY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	98	74	96
Northcentral	98	78	70
Northeast	105	80	24
Central	98	79	81
Southwest	88	86	99
Southcentral	99	81	87
Southeast	109	74	36
STATE	100	79	69

GRAIN CROPS MAKE RECOVERY

Montana 1980 production of durum wheat will be down considerably but output of hard spring wheat will be higher and winter wheat production will be essentially the same as last year based upon July 1 conditions. Late May and June precipitation significantly improved crop prospects in central and northcentral Montana, but crops in the eastern third remain poor.

The 1980 all wheat crop is expected to total 116.6 million bushels--essentially the same as the 1979 output of 116.5 million. Winter wheat production at 57.2 million bushels is down slightly from last year, but up 36 percent from the June 1 forecast. Durum production at 4.4 million bushels is down 36 percent from last year. This is mainly a result of reduced yields in dry northeastern Montana where most of the durum crop is grown. Production of hard spring wheat at 55.0 million bushels is up 5 percent from 1979. The increase is due to an 8 percent increase in acreage for harvest as yield dropped slightly. The large acreage of hard spring wheat in northcentral Montana has done well.

The State's expected barley crop at 40.0 million bushels is down 1 percent due to a smaller yield; acreage for harvest increased slightly. The 1980 oats crop is expected to produce 4.0 million bushels--down 27 percent. The large decrease is mainly due to a 21 percent decrease in harvested acres.

Sweet cherry production is forecast at 2,200 tons compared with 2,950 tons last year. Set was light and hail damaged some orchards in late June.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--JULY 1, 1980

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1979	1980	Pct. Change	1979	1980	Pct. Change	1979	1980	1979	1980	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	-15	2,250	2,200	- 2	25.5	26.0	57,375	57,200	--
Durum wheat	"	335	420	+25	325	400	+23	21.0	11.0	6,825	4,400	-36
Other spring wht.	"	2,650	2,900	+ 9	2,550	2,750	+ 8	20.5	20.0	52,275	55,000	+ 5
All wheat	"	5,985	5,920	- 1	5,125	5,350	+ 4	22.7	21.8	116,475	116,600	--
Corn for grain	"	85	85	--	5	6	+20	77.0	75.0	385	450	+17
Oats	"	360	220	-39	140	110	-21	39.0	36.0	5,460	3,960	-27
Barley	"	1,100	1,180	+ 7	1,040	1,080	+ 4	39.0	37.0	40,560	39,960	- 1
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	7.5	7.2	- 4	7.5	7.1	- 5	240.	1/	1,800	1/	--
Dry beans	"	10.0	13.5	+35	9.7	13.0	+34	18.0	2/	175	2/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	44.1	44.2	--	43.4	43.5	--	19.1	2/	829	2/	--
Alfalfa hay	"	--	--	--	1,260	1,250	- 1	2.25	2/	2,835	2/	--
All other hay	"	--	--	--	1,120	1,000	-11	1.30	2/	1,456	2/	--
All hay	"	--	--	--	2,380	2,250	- 6	1.80	2/	4,291	2/	--
Sweet cherries	"	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,950 3/	2,200 3/	-25
Safflower 4/	Lbs.	180	115	-36	175	--	--	840	--	147,000	--	--
Triticale 4/	"	110	5/	--	108	--	--	25.0	--	2,700	--	--

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 10.
2/ First forecast on yield and production will be released August 11.
3/ Actual tons.
4/ Estimates available through cooperative agreement with Montana Department of Agriculture.
5/ Less than 5,000 acres.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--JULY 1, 1980

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1979	1980	Pct. Change	1979	1980	Pct. Change	1979	1980	1979	1980	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	51,919	57,958	+12	43,572	52,230	+20	36.9	35.4	1,608,897	1,848,161	+15
Durum wheat	"	4,042	5,475	+35	3,932	4,999	+27	27.1	18.1	106,654	90,512	-15
Other spring wht.	"	15,597	17,492	+12	15,096	15,692	+ 4	28.2	24.1	426,181	378,395	-11
All wheat	"	71,558	80,925	+13	62,600	72,921	+16	34.2	31.8	2,141,732	2,317,068	+ 8
Corn for grain	"	80,011	83,478	+ 4	70,984	73,323	+ 3	109.4	99.3	7,763,771	7,284,036	- 6
Oats	"	14,146	13,215	- 7	9,831	9,383	- 5	54.4	47.9	534,386	449,504	-16
Barley	"	8,060	8,288	+ 3	7,468	7,361	- 1	50.6	44.6	378,067	328,557	-13
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	1,317.2	1,000.0	-24	1,074.2	977.4	- 9	281	1/	301,628	1/	--
Dry beans	"	1,453.0	1,814.5	+25	1,418.7	1,770.5	+25	14.6	2/	20,665	2/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,166.4	1,223.9	--	1,123.7	1,179.9	+ 5	19.6	2/	21,996	2/	--
Alfalfa hay	"	--	--	--	27,519	26,868	- 2	3.18	2/	87,581	2/	--
All other hay	"	--	--	--	33,643	32,994	- 2	1.73	2/	58,297	2/	--
All hay	"	--	--	--	61,162	59,862	- 2	2.39	2/	145,878	2/	--
Sweet cherries	"	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	182.5 3/	166.7 3/	--

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 10.
2/ First forecast on yield and production will be released August 11.
3/ Actual tons.

MOST PRICES REGISTER INCREASES

Higher prices for all products except winter wheat, sheep and wool pushed the June index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers to 254 percent of its 1967 average. This is 4 percent above the May index, but 1 percent below the June 1979 index. The index of all livestock and products increased 8 percent from May, while the all crops index advanced only 1 percent. However, compared with June a year ago, the crops index is up 19 percent, while the livestock index is down 11 percent.

Durum wheat showed a substantial price increase from the previous month, but winter wheat registered a decline. All other grain prices advanced moderately, but hay prices strengthened considerably.

Most livestock prices increased from May, but sheep and wool prices held steady.

The June index of prices received by U.S. farmers increased 1 percent to 230 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since May were higher prices for hogs, apples, cattle, peaches, tomatoes, and cabbage. Lower prices for lettuce, wheat, grapefruit, hay, cotton, and milk were partially offsetting. The index was 6 percent below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for mid-June was 277--up 0.7 percent from May. The major contributors to the increase were: (1) the feeder livestock index, (2) the farm machinery indexes, and (3) family living items. Compared with June 1979, the index was up 11 percent.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967 = 100 1/)

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U. S.
	1979	1980		1980
	June 15	May 15 2/	June 15	June 15
Food grains	222	262	263	238
Feed grains	206	247	255	213
Feed grain & hay	206	244	252	219
ALL CROPS	219	258	261	224
Meat animals	295	241	258	249
Dairy products	214	227	227	248
Poultry products	197	135	186	166
Wool	222	201	201	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	284	234	252	237
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	256	244	254	230

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation.
2/ Revised for some items.
3/ Not available.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U. S.
		June 15 1979	May 15 1980	June 15 1980	June 15 1980
		----------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	3.09	3.54	3.37	3.46
Durum	Bu.	3.72	4.12	4.69	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	3.14	3.71	3.85	3.64
Wheat, all	Bu.	3.11	3.66	3.68	3.55
Barley	Bu.	1.76	2.11	2.18	2.38
Oats	Bu.	1.41	1.53	1.55	1.49
Alfalfa hay	Ton	50.00	58.00	63.00	71.30
All other hay	Ton	45.00	52.00	55.00	49.40
All hay baled	Ton	49.50	57.00	60.00	64.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	72.80	61.80	65.60	64.60
Cows	Cwt.	53.40	41.50	45.00	44.60
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	62.90	52.80	56.50	61.20
Calves	Cwt.	90.90	70.00	75.00	76.20
Sheep	Cwt.	22.00	13.50	13.50	21.10
Lambs	Cwt.	65.00	55.60	58.60	64.50
Hogs	Cwt.	39.00	26.60	31.90	32.40
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.45	12.20	12.25	12.50
Eggs	Doz.	.679	.460	.500	.484
Wool 4/	Lb.	.940	.850	.850	.908
PRICES PD. BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	140.00	155.00	155.00	167.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1967 = 100	
	May 15 1980	June 15 1980	May 15 1989	June 15 1980
Prices Received	568	576	227	230
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	936	943	275	277
Ratio 1/	61	61	83	83

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The May CPI for all urban consumers, 1967 base, was 244.9. This was up 1.0 percent from April and up 14.4 percent from April 1979.

THE CPI HOTLINE

TELEPHONE: (816) 374-2372

Want quick information on the national Consumer Price Index (The CPI)? You can obtain that information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from the CPI Hotline. CPI users calling the hotline number, (816) 374-2372 will hear a recorded statement, providing the latest available Consumer Price Index.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY OUTPUT INCREASES

Montana dairy plants manufactured 181,000 gallons of ice cream during May--12 percent more than May 1979 and 14 percent more than April 1980. Creamed cottage cheese output at 460,000 pounds was 1 percent more than last year. Butter production at 152,000 pounds was 3 percent greater than April 1979.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Cattle on Feed
Lamb Crop & Wool Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
New Cropland

MINK PRODUCTION

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1979 totaled 3.39 million pelts--up 1 percent from 1978. Wisconsin, the major mink State, produced 978 thousand pelts--3 percent fewer than the 1.0 million pelts produced in 1978.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: standard, 36.1 percent; ranch wild, 6.1 percent; demi-buff, 19.5 percent; pastel, 17.2 percent; pearl, 5.0 percent; violet, 5.2 percent; and the remaining color classes accounted for 10.9 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1979 crop year were valued at 140 million dollars. This is an increase of 6 percent compared with the value of 132 million dollars for pelts sold during the 1978 crop year. The average price per pelt for the 1979 crop year was $41.30 compared with $39.30 a year ago.

Mink females bred to produce kits in 1980 totaled 1.04 million--up 6 percent from the 978 thousand the previous year. Bred females and percent changes from a year ago for the two major color classes are: standard, 406 thousand females bred--up 9 percent; pastel, 171 thousand--up 3 percent. Females bred in the leading mink States and percent changes from 1979 are: Wisconsin, 282 thousand--up 6 percent; Utah, 149 thousand--up 6 percent; and Minnesota, 134 thousand--up 10 percent.

There were 1,097 mink ranches producing pelts in 1979--up fractionally from the 1,095 ranches a year ago. Wisconsin with 253 ranches was down 2 percent; Utah with 190 was virtually unchanged; and Minnesota with 150 was up 6 percent.

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

80-12 June 27, 1980

Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service-USDA and Montana Department of Agriculture • ISSUED TWICE MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Montana Grain Stocks Down
Slaughter Up
U. S. Hog Inventory Higher
Egg Production
Wheat Importing and Exporting Countries

HOG INVENTORY HIGHER

Inventory of hogs and pigs on June 1, 1980 in the U.S. was estimated at 65.9 million head, 1 percent above last year--19 percent larger than 1978 and the largest June inventory of record. Breeding Inventory at 9.53 million head was 8 percent less than a year ago but 7 percent above two years earlier. Market Hog Inventory at 56.4 million head was 3 percent larger than 1979 and 22 percent greater than 1978.

The December 1979-May 1980 U.S. pig crop was 53.0 million head--a 5 percent increase from last year and 25 percent more than two years ago. Sows farrowed during this 6-month period at 7.33 million were 2 percent more than those farrowed last year. Pigs saved per litter at 7.23 were well above the 1978 and 1979 levels of 7.04 and 7.05 respectively.

U.S. producers intend to have 6.72 million sows farrow during the June-November period--a decrease of 8 percent from the same period in 1979 but 5 percent above 1978.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

The Soviet Union was the largest importer of wheat during the 1979 marketing year, followed by China, 2nd and Japan 3rd.

SLAUGHTER PLANTS INCREASE OUTPUT

Montana slaughter plants produced 33 percent more red meat during May than the same month one year ago. Total production at 15.7 million pounds compares with 11.8 million pounds last May and 15.4 million pounds during April 1980. Production for January-May 1980 at 74.7 million pounds is 35 percent more than the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during May 1980 totaled 3.31 billion pounds--up 6 percent from May 1979. January-May red meat production at 16.2 billion pounds was 7 percent more than last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components: beef, down 1 percent; veal, down 17 percent; pork, up 20 percent; lamb and mutton, up 12 percent.

JANUARY-MAY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Percent Change
	----------1,000 head----------				-Pct.-
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	56.1	59.7	14,222	13,633	- 4
Calves	.2	.1	1,245	1,051	-16
Hogs	144.2	228.4	34,836	41,649	+20
Sheep & lambs	.4	.6	2,089	2,332	+12
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	56,984	67,541	15,036	14,764	- 2
Calves	75	38	302	251	-17
Hogs	33,006	54,995	8,354	10,029	+20
Sheep & lambs	53	60	242	269	+11
Red meat Production	55,234	74,661	15,135	16,165	+ 7

LEADING WHEAT EXPORTING & IMPORTING COUNTRIES

A recent publication from the Foreign Agricultural Service contained some interesting detail on wheat exports and imports by country.

LEADING WHEAT EXPORTING COUNTRIES--1979 CROP YEAR

Country	Pct. of Production	Million Bushels
United States	62	1,324
Canada	79	514
Australia	80	478
France	48	341
Argentina	47	136
India	3	33
Turkey	6	29
Greece	27	24
USSR	1/	18
Sweden	42	16
		2,913

1/ Less than 1 percent.

LEADING WHEAT IMPORTING COUNTRIES--1979 CROP YEAR

	Pct. of Consumption	Millions of Bushels
USSR 1/	9	386
China (Mainland) 1/	11	276
Japan	89	202
Egypt	72	193
Brazil	64	162
Poland	39	107
United Kingdom	29	103
Italy	24	92
Bangladesh	73	70
Korea	98	66
Morocco	51	64
Netherlands	100	62
Algeria	50	62
Iraq	63	55
Vietnam	100	48
Indonesia	100	46
Mexico	35	44
Yugoslavia	21	44
Belgium-Luxembourg	84	44
Nigeria	100	42
Iran	18	40
Pakistan	10	37
Cuba	100	37
Czechoslovakia	20	37
Venezuela	100	33
		2,352

1/ In the 1978 crop year, China was 1st and USSR was 3rd.

TRACTOR SHIPMENTS DOWN

The Bureau of the Census reports wheel-type tractor shipments from factories totaled 48,826 during January-March 1980--down 13 percent from the same period in 1979 but up 2 percent from January-March 1978. March only shipments were down 26 percent from 1979 and off 16 percent from 1978.

Apparently, the tractor manufacturers anticipate reduced sales in 1980.

Total 1979 wheel-type tractor shipments were 16 percent higher than in 1978 so there may be sizeable numbers in dealers hands.

GRAIN STOCKS--JUNE 1, 1980

Stocks of wheat held in Montana on June 1, 1980 in all storage positions totaled 73.5 million bushels--down 16 percent from a year ago. The smaller stocks are due to a smaller carryover from the previous crop year and a smaller wheat crop in 1979. On farm storages accounted for 79 percent of the total wheat stocks, slightly less than last year at this time.

Winter wheat at 43.5 million bushels was down 12 percent from last year. All spring wheat at 30.0 million was down 21 percent and the durum portion at 4.6 million was down 36 percent. Disappearance of wheat from storage during the April-June quarter at 22.5 million bushels was 35 percent less than last year.

Barley stocks in all positions at 11.1 million bushels were 59 percent less than last year. Oats at 3.1 million bushels were down 50 percent.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--APRIL 30, 1980
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	41,611	32,425	1,458	261
Under loan	24,021	18,288	7,546	3,646

1/ These stocks are included in the June 1 farm and off-farm stocks--May 31 government program stocks not available.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JUNE 1, 1980 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1979	April 1, 1980 *	June 1, 1980	% Change from 1980	June 1, 1979	April 1, 1980*	June 1, 1980
	-----Thousand bushels------			Pct.	-------Thousand bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	71,565	80,368	58,238	-19	484,928	569,873	376,562
Off farms 1/	15,551	15,710	15,300	- 2	439,777	655,518	524,437
T O T A L	87,116	96,078	73,538	-16	924,705	1,225,391	900,999
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	38,502	40,163	31,556	-18	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	10,756	11,423	12,000	+12	---	---	---
T O T A L	49,258	51,586	43,556	-12	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	33,063	40,205	26,682	-19	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	4,795	4,287	3,300	-31	---	---	---
T O T A L	37,858	44,492	29,982	-21	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	---	69,685	64,486	44,444
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	16,084	21,267	12,940
T O T A L	6,947	6,507	4,636	-33	85,769	85,753	57,384
RYE							
On farms	---	---	---	---	6,724	10,215	8,064
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	2,947	6,023	5,248
T O T A L	---	---	---	---	9,671	16,238	13,312
CORN							
On farms	54	116	58	+ 7	2,263,030	3,363,694	2,494,504
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	---	969,208	1,416,321	1,091,867
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	---	3,232,238	4,780,015	3,586,371
OATS							
On farms	5,940	4,259	2,894	-51	236,037	288,228	201,506
Off farms 1/	220	187	170	-23	50,703	55,324	37,851
T O T A L	6,160	4,446	3,064	-50	286,740	343,552	239,357
BARLEY							
On farms	24,241	15,413	9,329	-62	150,055	164,407	111,782
Off farms 1/	2,623	2,645	1,800	-31	78,615	96,271	79,700
T O T A L	26,864	18,058	11,129	-59	228,670	260,678	191,482
SORGHUM GRAIN							
On farms	---	---	---	---	100,221	141,511	89,864
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	222,988	252,911	186,056
T O T A L	---	---	---	---	323,209	394,422	275,920
FLAXSEED							
On farms	---	---	---	---	1,168	4,358	2,928
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	1,609	3,249	2,335
T O T A L	---	---	---	---	2,777	7,607	5,263

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1979	April 1, 1980 *	June 1, 1980	June 1, 1979	April 1, 1980 *	June 1, 1980
	---------Million bushels---------			----------Million bushels----------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	.4	.6	.6	1.4	1.6	.6
Northcentral	37.1	39.5	28.9	12.4	7.8	4.8
Northeast	32.0	32.9	25.1	3.7	2.5	2.2
Central	6.5	8.7	8.5	3.7	2.6	1.5
Southwest	1.2	1.3	.9	1.5	1.2	.6
Southcentral	4.2	4.1	3.3	2.0	1.6	.9
Southeast	5.7	9.0	6.2	1.0	.8	.5
STATE	87.1	96.1	73.5	25.7	18.1	11.1

1/ These estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Revised.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION DROPS

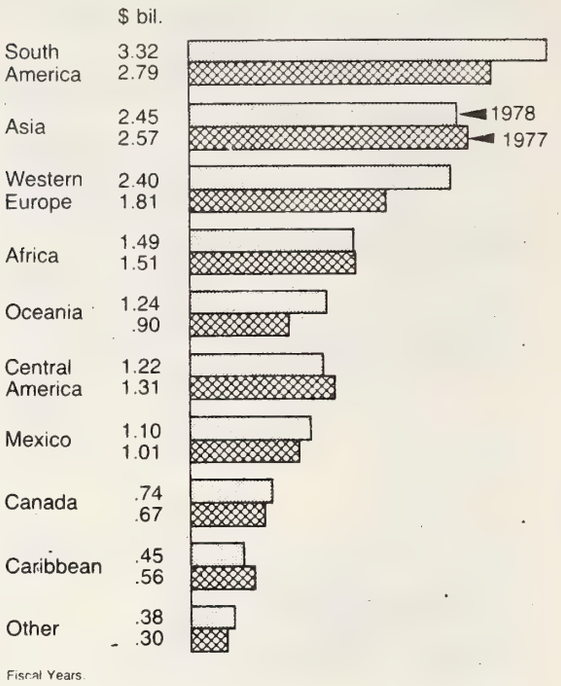
Layers in Montana produced 41 million eggs in the period March 1 through May 31. This is down 13 percent from the same quarter in 1979. The average number of layers during the March-May period was 725,000--down 7 percent from the same quarter last year. Rate of lay dropped to 62 percent--down 4 percent from the same quarter in 1979.

Nationally, 17.4 billion eggs were produced during the March through May quarter. This is about the same as one year ago. The average number of layers on hand during the period totaled 283 million--1 percent less than a year earlier.

Rate of lay for the quarter averaged nearly 68 percent--up slightly from the same period in 1979.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Acres Planted
Crop Production Forecasts
Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured

Where We Get Our Agricultural Imports



U.S. Agricultural Imports: Value by Origin

	1977	1978
	Million dollars	
Total	13,438	14,804
South America	2,788	3,320
Asia	2,572	2,446
Western\Europe	1,813	2,403
Africa	1,510	1,499
Oceania	904	1,236
Central America	1,310	1,224
Mexico	1,013	1,104
Canada	672	743
Caribbean	557	449
Other	299	380

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Winter wheat Production
Pasture and Range
Cherries
Alfalfa Seed Production

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana is second in the nation for land in farms and ranches--62 million acres.

MONTANA WINTER WHEAT CROP DOWN SHARPLY

Prospects for Montana's 1980 winter wheat crop came into sharper focus with release of the June 1 crop forecast of 42.0 million bushels. This is 29 percent below the last forecast, issued May 1 and 27 percent below last year's winter damaged crop. A winter wheat crop of this size would be the smallest since 1970.

Both acreage for harvest and expected yield were reduced since May 1. Poor germination last fall and continued dry weather in many wheat areas this spring are blamed for the poor crop prospects.

Only 5 other winter producing States show a reduction from 1979--among them are the important Texas and Oklahoma areas.

The U. S. winter wheat crop is expected to be a record 1.76 billion bushels--9 percent greater than last year and a 3 percent increase over last month's forecast.

CHERRY PRODUCTION DOWN

This year, Montana's cherry crop is forecast at 2,200 tons--down 25 percent from last year's bumper crop. Some concern has been expressed by growers over the affects of volcanic ash fallout but generally production prospects are good.

In the six western States, production is forecast at 146,600 tons--down 4 percent from last year, but 27 percent greater than the 1978 production.

WINTER WHEAT, ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION--JUNE 1, 1980

SELECTED STATES	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		
	1979	Ind. 1980	% Change	1979	Ind. 1980	1979	Ind. 1980	% Change
	----------1,000 Acres---------			-----Bushels------		----------100 Bushels----------		
COLO	2,600	3,250	+25	26.0	29.0	67,600	94,250	+39
ILL	1,300	1,520	+17	43.0	48.0	55,900	72,960	+31
KANS	10,800	11,600	+ 7	38.0	34.0	410,400	394,400	- 4
MONT	2,250	2,000	-11	25.5	21.0	57,375	42,000	-27
NEBR	2,550	2,950	+16	34.0	37.0	86,700	109,150	+26
OHIO	1,320	1,420	+ 8	48.0	46.0	63,360	65,320	+ 3
OKLA	5,700	6,500	+14	38.0	32.0	216,600	208,000	- 4
S DAK	550	875	+59	19.0	19.0	10,450	16,625	+59
TEXAS	4,600	5,000	+ 9	30.0	25.0	138,000	125,000	- 9
WASH	2,200	2,650	+20	43.0	45.0	94,600	119,250	+26
U.S.	43,572	49,608	+14	36.9	35.4	1,608,897	1,757,170	+ 9

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS

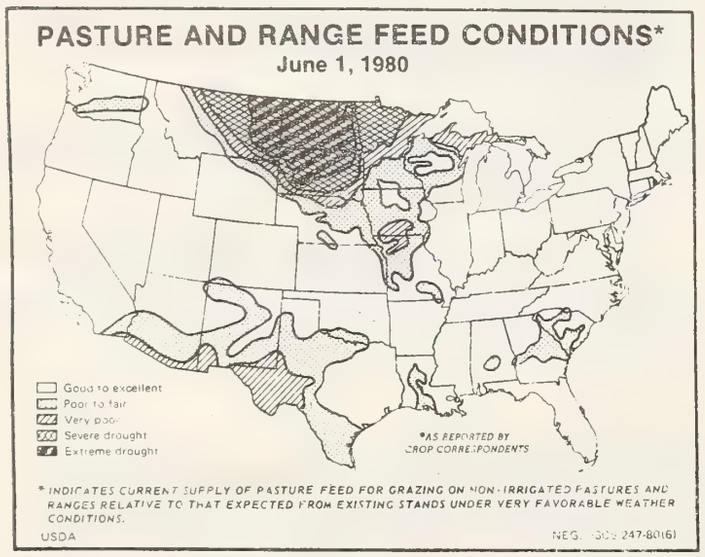
Rains brought abundant moisture to western and southcentral Montana in May but continued to bypass the drought-stricken eastern areas.

Pasture and range conditions vary according to the rainfall pattern. They are good to excellent in the west and decline across in central areas reaching extreme drought in the eastern sections. Livestock are being moved out of the area to seek grazing or to be sold. Supplemental feeding is widespread.

The State average condition at 57 reflects the severe drought in eastern counties and is the lowest June 1 average on records dating back to 1923.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION JUNE 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	97	85	102
Northcentral	97	87	48
Northeast	93	88	23
Central	95	85	57
Southwest	90	81	95
Southcentral	98	78	75
Southeast	95	76	22
STATE	95	83	57


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
June 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
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MANUFACTURED DAIRY OUTPUT INCREASES

Montana dairy plants manufactured 159,000 gallons of ice cream during April--11 percent more than April 1979 but 9 percent less than the previous month. Cream cottage cheese output at 440,000 pounds was 7 percent more than last year. Butter production at 172,000 pounds was 21 percent greater than April 1979.

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

Per capita consumption of red meats on a retail weight basis declined to 147.6 pounds in 1979--2.1 pounds below 1978 and the lowest leve since 1975. However, poultry consumption increased by 4.7 pounds--more than offsetting the decline in red meats. Thus, total consumption of red meats and poultry rose to a record-high 209.2 pounds--2.4 pounds more than in 1978.

PER CAPITA MEAT CONSUMPTION BY YEARS

YEAR	Carcass Weight	Retail Weight
	Pounds	
Beef		
1972	116.1	85.9
1973	109.6	81.1
1974	116.8	86.4
1975	120.1	88.9
1976	129.3	95.7
1977	125.9	93.2
1978	120.1	88.9
1979	107.6	79.6
Veal		
1972	2.2	1.8
1973	1.8	1.5
1974	2.3	1.9
1975	4.2	3.6
1976	4.0	3.3
1977	3.9	3.2
1978	3.0	2.5
1979	2.0	1.6
Pork		
1972	71.3	62.9
1973	63.9	57.6
1974	69.1	62.2
1975	56.1	51.2
1976	59.5	54.6
1977	61.5	56.7
1978	61.4	56.9
1979	70.2	65.1
Lamb & mutton		
1972	3.3	2.9
1973	2.7	2.4
1974	2.3	2.0
1975	2.0	1.8
1976	1.9	1.7
1977	1.7	1.5
1978	1.6	1.4
1979	1.5	1.3
Red meat		
1972	192.9	153.5
1973	178.0	142.6
1974	190.5	152.5
1975	182.4	145.5
1976	194.7	155.3
1977	193.0	154.6
1978	186.1	149.7
1979	181.3	147.6

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The May 1980 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers rose less than 1 percent from last month, reaching 251 percent of the 1967 base. The crops index remained unchanged from last month, while the livestock index rose 2 percent. However, compared with May a year ago, the crops index is up 27 percent but the livestock index is down 13 percent.

Barley and oats prices were down 9 and 11 cents per bushel respectively, while winter wheat declined 4 cents per bushel to $3.43. Spring and durum wheat prices rose 4 cents and 22 cents per bushel respectively. Cattle and sheep prices increased for all categories, while hogs, milk, eggs, and wool prices declined.

The May index of prices received by farmers nationally increased 1 percent to 226 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since April were higher prices for oranges, hay, corn, broilers, and potatoes. Prices were also higher for cotton, soybeans, and hogs. Lower prices for eggs, milk, and cattle were partially offsetting. The index was 8 percent below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for mid-May was 275--up less than 1 percent from April. Higher prices for feed, fertilizer, family living and agricultural chemicals were partially offset by the lower prices for feeder livestock. The May index was 10 percent above a year earlier.

INDEX OF NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
(1967 = 100 1/)

COMMODITY	MONTANA			U. S.
	1979	1980		1980
	May 15	Apr. 15 2/	May 15	May 15
Food grains	203	262	263	243
Feed grains	205	248	238	208
Feed grain & hay	201	243	237	218
ALL CROPS	203	258	253	222
Meat animals	337	249	256	240
Dairy products	216	232	229	250
Poultry products	174	168	135	161
Wool	224	241	201	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	321	243	248	231
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	271	249	251	226

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised 3/ Not available.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

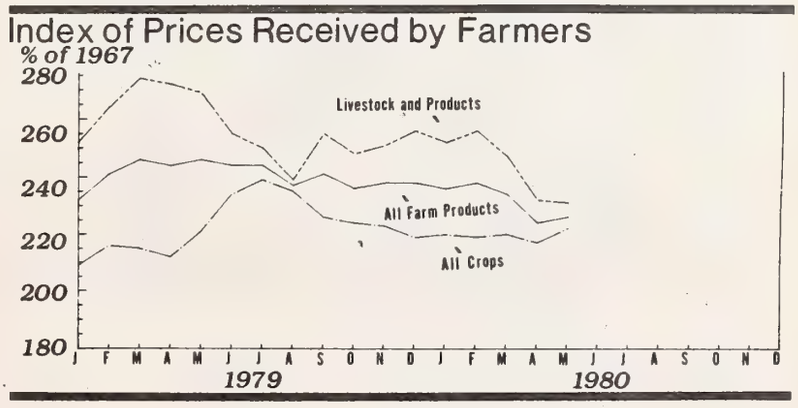
COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA			U. S.
		May 15 1979	Apr. 15 1980 1/	May 15 1980	May 15 1980
		---------Dollars---------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	2.81	3.47	3.43	3.51
Durum	Bu.	2.94	4.01	4.23	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.86	3.72	3.76	3.65
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.84	3.66	3.68	3.62
Barley	Bu.	1.76	2.12	2.03	2.18
Oats	Bu.	1.25	1.65	1.54	1.42
Alfalfa hay	Ton	47.50	60.00	58.00	76.80
All other hay	Ton	41.50	52.00	52.00	52.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	79.60	63.10	63.60	63.50
Cows	Cwt.	58.40	42.90	43.90	44.00
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	74.00	54.50	56.70	60.00
Calves	Cwt.	96.50	72.60	73.00	75.30
Sheep	Cwt.	24.00	14.10	15.00	24.90
Lambs	Cwt.	71.00	57.30	58.00	60.60
Hogs	Cwt.	42.40	27.30	26.60	28.50
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.55	12.50	12.35	12.60
Eggs	Doz.	.596	.579	.460	.470
Wool 4/	Lb.	.95	1.02	.850	.882
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	140.00	149.00	155.00	157.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, & slaughter bulls.
4/ Average local market price excluding incentive pmts.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100		1967=100	
	Apr. 15 1980	May 15 1980	Apr. 15 1980	May 15 1980
Prices Received	561	566	224	226
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	933	936	274	275
Ratio 1/	60	60	82	82

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.



ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Montana alfalfa seed production in 1979 totaled 5,880,000 pounds according to final figures tabulated after the bulk of the crop had been cleaned. The 1979 total is 166 percent more than the 1978 production and reflects a 62 percent increase in acreage and a 65 percent jump in yield. The farm value of production at $4,798,000 was 126 percent more than a year earlier. In 1979, the season average price per 100 pounds was $85 compared with $100 in 1978.

ANNUAL ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

STATE	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION-CLEAN SEED		
	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979
	Acres			Pounds			1,000 Pounds		
ARIZ 1/	1,000			150			150		
CALIF	47,000	64,000	80,000	660	280	435	31,020	17,920	34,800
IDAHO	33,000	43,000	42,000	430	350	385	14,190	15,050	16,170
KANS	42,000	60,000	40,000	95	115	95	3,990	6,900	3,800
MONT	39,000	26,000	42,000	90	85	140	3,510	2,210	5,880
NEBR	28,000	32,000	27,000	75	75	65	2,100	2,400	1,755
NEV	15,500	17,000	18,000	520	365	405	8,060	6,205	7,290
N.DAK	8,000	17,000	6,000	40	45	45	320	765	270
OKLA	32,000	55,000	45,000	140	145	125	4,480	7,975	5,625
OREG	13,000	14,000	14,000	470	345	300	6,110	4,830	4,200
S.DAK	105,000	150,000	130,000	65	85	55	6,825	12,750	7,150
UTAH	14,000	15,000	17,000	260	290	280	3,640	4,350	4,760
WASH	31,000	36,000	35,000	410	285	235	12,710	10,260	8,225
TOTAL ABOVE STATES	408,500	529,000	496,000	238	173	201	97,105	91,615	99,925

1/ estimate discontinued 1978.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Slaughter Grain Stocks Quarterly Egg Production Hogs and Pigs

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service
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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

80-10 May 28, 1980

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Slaughter
Farm Labor
Potato Stocks
Montana Land Values
Milk Disposition & Income
Cattle on Feed--7 States
World Crops

PLEASE RETURN

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana has 4.5 million acres in strip-cropping--more than any other State in the nation.

FARM LABOR UP

The total number of workers on Montana farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 1980 was estimated at 35,000--3 percent above April 1979. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were up 9 percent from last year but hired workers at 10,000 were down 9 percent from April 1979.

FAMILY AND HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS
Week of April 6-12, 1980 with Comparisons
Selected States and United States

STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	Apr. 8-14 1979	Apr. 6-12 1980	Apr. 8-14 1979	Apr. 6-12 1980
	----------Thousands----------			
MONT	23.0	25.0	11.0	10.0
N.D.	53.0	45.0	7.0	7.0
S.D.	47.0	39.0	9.0	8.0
WYO	8.5	6.0	4.0	4.0
IDAHO	21.0	21.0	16.0	11.0
U. S.	2,424.4	2,239.0	1,056.2	1,196.4

FARM WAGE RATES
Week of April 6-12, 1980 with Comparisons
Selected States & United States

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	Apr. 8-14 1979	Apr. 6-12 1980	Apr. 8-14 1979	Apr. 6-12 1980
	--------Dollars per hour----------			
MONT	2.80	3.14	2.45	3.00
N.D.	3.22	3.77	3.13	3.14
S.D.	2.44	2.75	2.40	2.88
WYO.	2.80	3.19	2.47	3.00
IDAHO	3.31	3.49	2.71	3.01
U. S.	3.40	3.61	2.90	3.16

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UP SHARPLY

Montana slaughter plants produced 49 percent more red meat during April than the same month one year ago. Total production at 15.4 million pounds compares with 10.3 million pounds last April and 13.2 million pounds during March 1980. Production for the first four months of 1980 at 59.0 million pounds is 36 percent more than for the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during April 1980 totaled 3.31 billion pounds--up 15 percent from April 1979. January-April red meat production at 12.9 billion pounds was 7 percent more than last year. The 1980 accumulated production changes by individual components: beef, down 2 percent; veal, down 18 percent; pork, up 22 percent; lamb and mutton, up 11 percent.

JANUARY-APRIL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Percent Change
	----------1,000 head----------				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	45.1	47.7	11,429	10,851	- 5
Calves	.2	.1	1,030	867	-16
Hogs	110.2	179.4	27,276	33,098	+21
Sheep & lambs	.4	.5	1,655	1,863	+13
Total Liveweight					
Cattle	45,588	54,385	12,081	11,768	- 3
Calves	63	38	246	202	-18
Hogs	25,328	43,067	6,518	7,950	+22
Sheep & lambs	46	47	192	215	+12
Red meat Production	43,426	58,964	12,005	12,851	+ 7

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES UP

Montana land values increased an average of 17 percent during the 12 months ended February 1, 1980 according to the Montana Crop & Livestock Reporting Service. Irrigated farm land with improvements was valued at $1,035 per acre this February compared with $875 a year earlier. Dry farm land with improvements was valued at $340 per acre--up from $305 February 1, 1979. Non-irrigated grazing land was valued at $180 per acre compared with $150 a year earlier.

Land value data are based upon reports from about 300 farmers and ranchers who reported values of agricultural land in their localities.

These values exclude land where value is affected by use or offer for non-agricultural purposes.

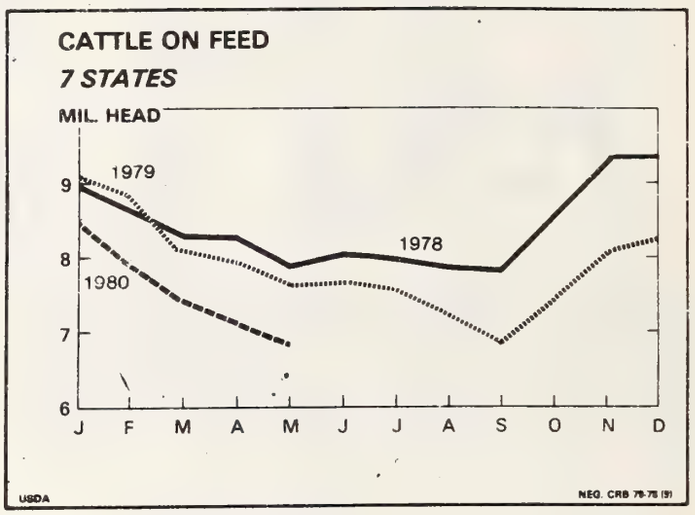
MONTANA LAND VALUES--FEB. 1, 1979 & 1980 1/

	Feb. 1, 1979	Feb. 1, 1980
	Dollars per Acre	
Irrigated farm land	$875	$1,035
Dry farm land	305	340
Non-irrigated grazing land	150	180

1/ Including improvements.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed May 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.83 million head, down 11 percent from a year ago and 13 percent less than May 1, 1978. This is the lowest May 1 number on feed since 1975. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.45 million--down 6 percent from last year and 15 percent from April 1978. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April were 1.25 million--down 15 percent from last year and off 19 percent from April 2 years ago. This is the lowest April placements in the 7 States since 1973. Net placements of 1.12 million were down 11 percent from a year ago and were 14 percent below 2 years ago. Other disappearance totaled 130 thousand head compared with 220 thousand during April 1979 and 235 thousand during 1978.



MILK: Production, Disposition, Cash Receipts and Gross Income, 1978-1979

		MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1978	1979	1978	1979
Milk cows on farms 1/	(000 head)	27	27	10,841	10,777
Milk produced per cow 2/	Lbs.	11,333	10,630	11,218	11,471
Total milk production	Mil. Lbs.	306	287	121,609	123,623
Milk used on farms where prod.	Mil. Lbs.	20	20	2,673	2,493
Milk marketed by farmers	Mil. Lbs.	286	267	118,935	121,129
Milk sold to plants and dealers	Mil. Lbs.	274	259	117,293	119,510
Percent fluid grade 3/		93	96	83	83
Price per 100 pounds 4/	Dollars	10.70	11.90	10.60	12.00
Cash receipts from milk sold	(000) Dol.	29,318	30,821	12,408,560	14,361,926
Cash receipts from all mktgs	(000) Dol.	30,175	31,611	12,689,873	14,667,569
Farm value of milk produced 5/	(000) Dol.	32,283	33,981	12,974,249	14,967,830
Gross farm income from dairy products 6/	(000) Dol.	31,441	33,032	12,815,653	14,795,067

1/ Average number during year excluding heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.
3/ Percentage of milk sold to plants and dealers that is eligible for fluid use (Grade A in most States). Includes fluid grade milk used in manufactured dairy products.
4/ Price of milk sold to plants and dealers.
5/ Valued at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. Includes value of milk fed to calves.
6/ Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home comsumption and producer-churned butter.

WORLD CROP PROSPECTS

World 1979/80 (July-June) wheat and coarse grain production is estimated at 1.15 billion metric tons--down 4 percent from last year. The decline is due primarily to a 25 percent decline in production by the Soviet Union and a 21 percent decline in Argentine production. Smaller crops also occurred in Europe, Canada, and Australia, while the U. S. crops of wheat and coarse grains were record large.

The world wheat and coarse grain supply for 1979/80 is estimated at 1.35 billion tons--down 1 percent from last year. Utilization is expected to exceed production by 22 million tons, which would reduce ending stocks to 178 million tons.

COARSE GRAIN CROP TO DECLINE

World 1979/80 coarse grain production now estimated at 732 million tons is down about 2 percent from last year's record crop. Most of the decline in the crop is attributable to smaller crops in the Soviet Union and Argentina, where coarse grain production is expected to fall nearly 30 percent from last year. Smaller coarse grain crops were also experienced in Canada, Australia, and Western Europe. In the United States, however, coarse grain production rose nearly 8 percent.

World 1979/80 coarse grain use is expected to decline to 737 million tons--slightly below 1978/79. Utilization in the USSR is expected to drop about a tenth because of reduced supplies. Use will be up only 1 percent in the rest of the world. A stocks decline of 5 percent to around 90 million tons is projected this season. The United States carries nearly 60 percent of world stocks of coarse grain.

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE GRAIN PRODUCTION PROSPECTS

Southern Hemisphere (Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, and Australia) 1980 coarse grain production is forecast at 50 million tons--virtually unchanged from last year. Most of these crops are being harvested now. South African and Brazilian production is expected to increase 24 and 18 percent respectively. The Australian crop is 7 percent below last year. The Argentine coarse grain crop is estimated at 12 million tons--nearly 30 percent below last year's reduced crop because of dry weather during the growing season--especially during critical periods prior to harvest.

ON THE SPOT WHEAT COUNT

What is the best way to get a handle on how this season's wheat crop is shaping up? Go out to some fields and check it.

That's just what enumerators from the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service do to judge potential yield. A sample of fields scattered across Montana will be visited each month during the growing season to follow development and determine through specific measurements and counts how the crop is likely to turn out at harvest.

With the farmers' approval, enumerators walk a given number of rows and paces into the randomly selected fields and lay at sample units. The units may turn up in good spots or bad ones, but overall, they balance out to provide unbiased information for wheat yield in Montana.

The enumerator counts the number of plants and measures the distance between rows in the unit to indicate plant population per acre. Next, he observes the stage of development, then counts and measures such plant characteristics as number of emerged heads, mature heads, and spikelets for a gauge to yield per plant.

When the crop is mature, the enumerator hand harvests the sample unit for laboratory analysis. After the farmer harvests the field, the enumerator makes a final visit to glean a small section to determine harvest loss and arrive at an estimate of net yield per acre.

The information from these objective yield counts and measurements, plus other facts supplied from surveys of producers, furnish reliable and timely production estimates to help remove speculation about farm, production, and strengthen the farmers' marketing position.

POTATO STOCKS HIGHER

Montana producers had 260,000 cwt. in storage May 1, 1980--30 percent above a year ago.

Nationally, there were 63.5 million cwt. in storage May 1, 1980. This was 2 percent below the stocks on hand May 1, 1979--the first year the May 1 stocks estimates were available.

FARMERS' NEWSLINE

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Features are Subject to Change

June 2	- Poultry Slaughter
June 3	- Dairy Situation
June 4	- Weather and Crops
June 5	- Fertilizer Situation
June 6,7,8	- Farm News Special
June 9	- Vegetables
June 10	- Agricultural Outlook
June 11	- Crop Production
June 12	- Supply & Demand Analysis
June 13,14,15	- Cattle on Feed
June 16	- Cattle on Feed Analysis
June 17	- Tobacco Situation
June 18	- Farm News Special
June 19	- Livestock Slaughter
June 20,21,22	- Hogs and Pigs Report
June 23	- Supply and Demand Analysis
June 24	- World Agricultural Situation
June 25	- Hogs and Pigs Analysis
June 26	- Weather and Crops
June 27,28,29	- Farm News Special
June 30	- Farmers' Prices
July 1	- Annual Farm Prices
July 2	- Fruit Situation
July 3,4,5,6	- Farm News Special
July 7	- Poultry Slaughter
July 8	- Cattle Situation
July 9	- Hog Situation
July 10	- Agricultural Outlook
July 11,12,13	- Crop Production
July 14	- Crop Supply & Demand
July 15	- Farm Real Estate
July 16	- Soybean Situation
July 17	- Milk Production
July 18,19,20	- Cattle on Feed
July 21	- Dairy Situation
July 22	- Wheat Situation
July 23	- Crops & Weather
July 24	- Livestock Slaughter
July 25,26,27	- Farm News Special
July 28	- Cattle Report
July 29	- Crops and Weather
July 30	- Farm News Special
July 31	- Farmers' Prices

(In some areas it might be necessary to dial 1-800-424-7964)

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices Winter wheat Production Pasture and Range Dairy Products Manufactured Cherry Production

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

April Prices Down
Winter Wheat Production Higher
Pasture & Range Conditions Poor
Meat Animal Receipts Up
Manufactured Dairy Products
Hay Stocks

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana's largest wheat crop was in 1976 with 167 million bushels.

MORE WINTER WHEAT

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Montana's 1980 winter wheat crop is forecast at 59.4 million bushels as of May 1--4 percent above last year's small crop but 18 percent below last fall's forecast. This will make 2 consecutive crop years in which winter wheat growers found a sizeable portion of their fall-seeded crop with a poor stand as it came out of dormancy. As of May 1, it appeared that on the average across the State, 15 percent of the seeded acres would not be harvested. Most of the problem involved dry soils last fall that caused poor germination. The Northern Triangle has some of the best stands.

Yield per acre is expected to be 27 bushels based upon producer reports of condition May 1, 1.5 bushels above last year but 3 bushels below the 5-year average. Warm weather has hastened growth but moisture in April was below normal in most areas and dry soils pose a threat to yields.

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITIONS POOR

Condition of Montana pastures and ranges May 1 continued to decline from April under seasonably warm temperatures and limited moisture. Conditions varied from extremely poor in the northeast and southeast to good to excellent in the west and southwest.

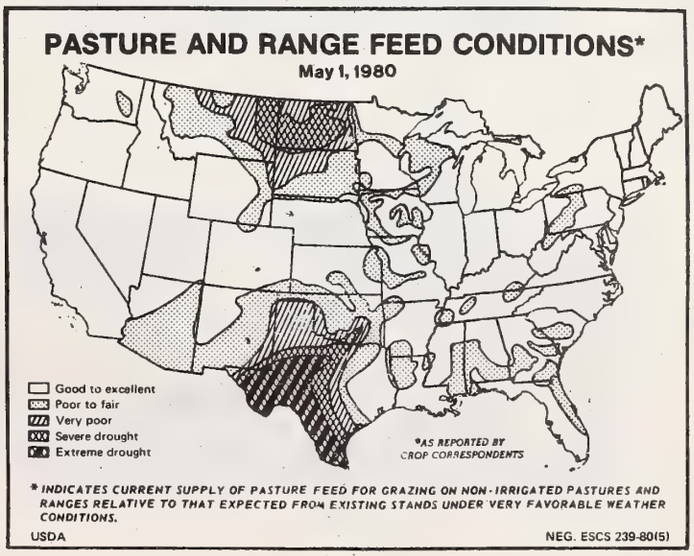
The May 1 condition averaged 68 percent of normal--5 points below April and the lowest May 1 condition figure since 1961.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION MAY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	85	87	79
Northcentral	81	83	69
Northeast	63	87	49
Central	82	85	69
Southwest	92	89	87
Southcentral	79	86	73
Southeast	72	81	58
STATE	79	85	68

WINTER WHEAT

SELECTED STATES	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION	
	1979	Ind. 1980	1979	Ind. 1980
	1,000 Acres			
COLO	2,600	3,250	67,600	94,250
ILL	1,300	1,520	55,900	68,400
KANS	10,800	11,600	410,400	371,200
MONT	2,250	2,200	57,375	59,400
NEBR	2,550	2,950	86,700	106,200
OHIO	1,320	1,420	63,360	63,900
OKLA	5,700	6,500	216,600	195,000
OREG	1,000	1,160	48,000	54,520
TEXAS	4,600	5,000	138,000	125,000
WASH	2,200	2,650	94,600	113,950
U. S.	43,572	49,873	1,608,897	1,711,010


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
May 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
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NEG. ESCS 239-80(5)

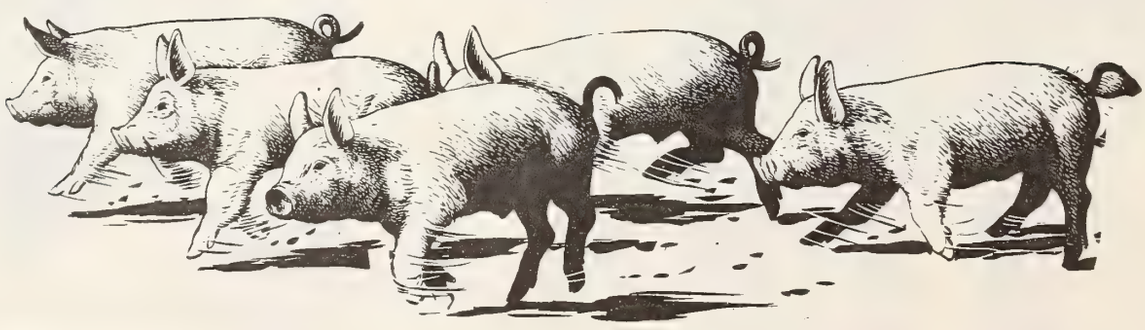
MEAT ANIMAL RECEIPTS RECORD HIGH

Higher prices for cattle, sheep and lambs during 1979 brought Montana's meat animal cash receipts to a record high 738.9 million dollars--17 percent a above the previous year. Cattle and calves contributed 94.7 percent of the total cash receipts during 1979, while hogs represented 3.8 percent and sheep and lambs 1.5 percent of the total.

MEAT ANIMALS, CHICKENS AND EGGS: MARKETING & CASH RECEIPTS--1978-79

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1978	1979	1978	1979
Cattle and Calves					
Number marketed	1,000 head	1,558	1,454	66,574	58,261
Marketings	Million Lbs.	1,051.0	966.4	57,381.0	51,684.5
Average price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt.	51.50	67.10	48.50	66.00
Calves	Dols./Cwt.	70.30	89.80	59.00	88.80
Value of production	Million Dols.	515.3	646.6	19,457.9	26,292.9
Cash receipts	Million Dols.	582.3	700.1	28,204.7	34,848.7
Hogs and Pigs					
Number marketed	1,000 head	336	299	81,428	92,371
Marketings	Million Lbs.	76.7	70.8	18,749.4	21,489.6
Average price	Dols./Cwt.	44.80	39.50	46.60	41.80
Value of production	Million Dols.	35.2	28.3	9,136.3	9,444.0
Cash receipts	Million Dols.	34.3	28.0	8,736.6	8,973.7
Sheep and Lambs					
Number marketed	1,000 head	292	201	8,076	7,728
Marketings	Million Lbs.	31.4	22.2	856.7	823.3
Average price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt.	18.20	24.40	21.70	26.30
Lambs	Dols./Cwt.	67.10	68.20	62.70	66.70
Value of production	Million Dols.	11.7	10.3	389.9	418.5
Cash receipts	Million Dols.	15.3	10.8	462.6	483.9
Chickens					
Number produced	1,000 head	620	410	237,856	248,487
Sold	1,000 Lbs.	2,180	1,180	1,036,859	1,138,305
Average price	Cents/Lb.	7.0	7.0	12.4	14.4
Value of production	1,000 Dols.	182	101	140,108	174,552
Cash receipts	1,000 Dols.	153	83	128,673	163,793
Eggs					
Number produced	Million	193	178*	67,140	69,107
Sold	Million	185	165	66,683	68,664
Average price	Cents/Doz.	54.3	62.5	52.2	58.3
Cash receipts	Million Dols.	8,371	8,594	2,900,451	3,334,340

* Included are eggs destroyed because of possible PCB contamination.



APRIL PRICES DOWN

The April 1980 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers dropped 7 percent from last month. The crops index and livestock index shared equally in the month-to-month decline and dropped the all products index to 250 percent of its 1967 average. However, compared with April a year ago, the crops index is 18 percent higher, while the livestock index is down 20 percent.

Cow prices and hog prices lead the decline, with each off more than $6.00 per hundredweight compared with March. Every item in the index computation joined the downward slide except for hay and milk. The April milk price remained unchanged from March, while hay prices strengthened.

The U.S. index of prices received by farmers decreased 5 percent to 223 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since March were lower prices for cattle, hogs, soybeans, wheat, corn, and calves. Higher prices for lettuce, hay, cucumbers, apples, tomatoes, and onions were partially offsetting. The index was 9 percent below a year ago.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for mid-April was 274--unchanged from March. Higher prices for fuels and energy, farm and motor supplies, seed and family living items were offset by lower feed and feeder livestock prices. The April index was 11 percent above a year earlier.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA Apr. 15 1979	MONTANA Mar.15 1980 1/	MONTANA Apr. 15 1980	U. S. Apr. 15 1980
		---------Dollars----------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	2.81	3.41	3.25	3.35
Durum	Bu.	2.92	4.15	3.96	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.79	3.66	3.48	3.31
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.82	3.64	3.37	3.40
Barley	Bu.	1.70	2.03	1.98	2.14
Oats	Bu.	1.35	1.51	1.49	1.34
Alfalfa hay	Ton	48.50	53.00	60.00	68.50
All other hay	Ton	43.50	48.50	52.00	50.00
All hay, baled	Ton	46.50	51.50	54.00	63.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	80.40	71.20	63.90	63.40
Cows	Cwt.	57.60	51.80	45.70	46.90
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	76.00	63.10	58.40	60.40
Calves	Cwt.	97.80	82.80	78.80	76.80
Sheep	Cwt.	25.00	20.00	19.30	26.00
Lambs	Cwt.	72.00	65.80	61.10	63.40
Hogs	Cwt.	43.70	34.00	27.30	27.60
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.55	12.70	12.70	12.70
Eggs	Doz.	.688	.615	.579	.521
Wool 4/	Lb.	.93	1.03	1.02	.929
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	140.00	152.00	149.00	155.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX OF NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1967=100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA 1979 April 15	MONTANA 1980 March 15 2/	MONTANA 1980 April 15	U. S. 1980 April 15
Food grains	202	261	240	231
Feed grains	199	237	232	200
Feed grain & hay	197	232	230	207
ALL CROPS	202	255	239	213
Meat animals	344	288	267	240
Dairy products	216	235	235	252
Poultry products	200	179	168	167
Wool	220	243	241	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	328	279	261	232
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	274	268	250	223

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation
2/ Revised for some items.
3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100 Mar. 15 1980	1910-14=100 Apr. 15 1980	1967 = 100 Mar.15 1980	1967 = 100 Apr. 15 1980
Prices Received	584	558	234	223
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	933	932	274	274
Ratio 1/	63	60	85	81

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates.

MORE ACRES IN FEED GRAINS NATIONALLY

Farmers surveyed around April 1 indicated they'd plant about 2 percent more feed grain acreage this year than last. Prospects for 82 million acres of corn--2 million more than last year--account for most of the increase. Only oat plantings were indicated smaller.

Corn production has set records every year since 1975. While it's too early to speculate on this year's crop, early-season conditions seem mostly favorable. However, tight credit and higher production costs may cause farmers to cut back on use of fertilizer, chemicals, and fuel, which could lower yields even if weather conditions are ideal.

ICE CREAM UP--COTTAGE CHEESE DOWN

Montana dairy plants manufactured 175,000 gallons of ice cream during March--5 percent more than March 1979. Cream cottage cheese output at 410,000 pounds was 2 percent less than last year. Butter production at 158,000 pounds was the same as last year.

HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches are 4 percent above last year at 901,000 tons. Hay supplies held up well because the winter was mild and livestock feed requirements were light.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Slaughter Farm Labor Potato Stocks

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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80-8 April 29, 1980

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Prospective Plantings
Cattle on Feed Down
Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana ranks second in the nation in farm storage of wheat.

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APRIL PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Montana farmers intend to plant more spring wheat, barley and dry beans--but fewer acres of oats compared with a year ago. Acreage intended for durum shows a substantial increase of 16 percent, while other spring wheat acreage is expected to be up 4 percent. Last fall, growers seeded 2.6 million acres to winter wheat. Combining this acreage with the April intentions for durum and other spring shows total 1980 wheat seedings may be 5.7 million acres--4 percent less than 1979. Barley seedings are expected to be 1.2 million acres--up 9 percent from last year. Dry edible beans are expected to show the largest percentage increase, with 15,000 acres expected to be planted compared with 10,000 planted in 1979. The acreage seeded to oats is expected to be down 11 percent compared with last year. Total acres of hay for harvest are expected to decline 2 percent.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 19 percent more red meat during March than the same month one year ago. Total production at 13.2 million pounds compares with 11.1 million pounds last March and 14.4 million pounds during February 1980. Production for the first three months of 1980 at 43.6 million pounds is 32 percent more than for the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during March 1980 totaled 3.10 billion pounds--an increase of less than 1 percent from March 1979. January-March red meat production at 9.54 billion pounds was 5 percent above last year. Changes by individual components: beef, down 5 percent; veal, down 20 percent; pork, up 21 percent; lamb and mutton, up 14 percent.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS--APRIL 1
MONTANA AND U. S.--1979-80

CROP	ACRES PLANTED			
	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1979	1980 1/	1979	1980 1/
	----------1,000 acres----------			
Corn	85	85	80,011	82,022
All spring wht.	2,985	3,140	19,639	22,646
Other spring	2,650	2,750	15,597	17,091
Durum	335	390	4,042	5,555
Oats	360	320	14,146	13,694
Barley	1,100	1,200	8,060	8,232
Sugarbeets	44.1	44.2	1,160.9	1,203.9
Dry beans	10.0	15.0	1,453.0	1,757.9
Potatoes	7.5		1,317.2	
All hay 2/	2,380	2,330	61,162	60,527

1/ Indicated. 2/ Acres for harvest.

JANUARY-MARCH LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Percent Change
	----------1,000 head----------				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	35.8	37.1	8896.3	8139.4	- 9
Calves	.1	.1	807.3	660.8	-18
Hogs	79.3	127.7	20040.2	24229.0	+21
Sheep & lambs	.3	.4	1210.1	1378.3	+14
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	35,918	41,966	9,405	8,846	- 6
Calves	45	35	191	153	-20
Hogs	18,215	30,543	4,780	5,816	+22
Sheep & lambs	34	41	142	160	+13
Red meat Production	33,110	43,590	9,126	9,541	+ 5

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

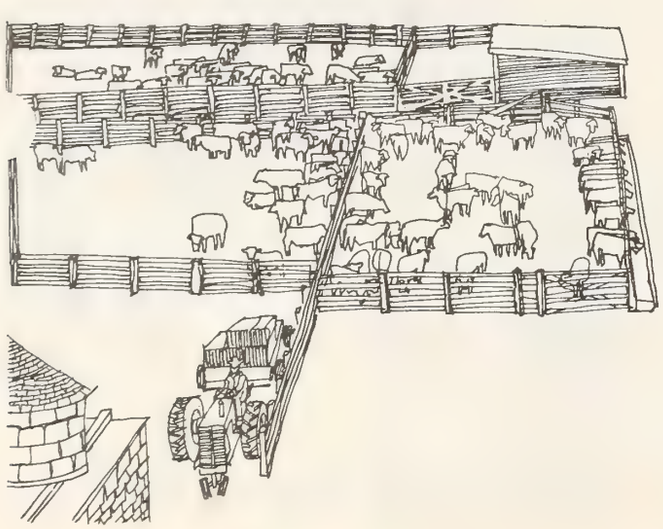
Montana's cattle feedlots held 16 percent fewer cattle on April 1, 1980 being fattened for the slaughter market than a year ago. The total number on feed at 49,000 head was made up of 23,000 steers, 25,000 heifers, and 1,000 cows. Compared with last year, steers were down 5,000 head and heifers down 4,000. There were the same number of cows on feed as last year. Of the total steers and heifers, 13,000 weighed over 900 pounds, 17,000 weighed between 700-800 pounds, with the balance below 700 pounds.

During the January-April quarter, 18,000 finished cattle were marketed for slaughter--down 14 percent from last year. Cattle placed in feedlots during the quarter totaled 17,000--up 21 percent from last year. Montana feeders expect to market 20,000 head during the next 3 months--up 33 percent from last year.

CATTLE ON FEED APRIL 1, 1979-1980

ITEM	MONTANA		23 MAJOR STATES	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	1,000 head			
On feed Jan. 1	80	57	13,311	11,713
During period Jan. 1-Apr. 30				
Placed on feed 1/	14	17	5,853	5,217
Marketed 1/	21	18	6,747	6,155
Other disappearance 2/	15	7	713	572
On feed April 1	58	49	11,074	10,203
Steers & steer calves	28	23	7,333	6,821
Under 500 Lbs.	0	0	406	362
500-699 Lbs.	8	8	1,553	1,398
700-899 Lbs.	11	9	2,302	2,143
900-1099 Lbs.	8	6	2,415	2,213
1100 Lbs. & over	1	0	657	705
Heifer & heifer calves	29	25	3,695	3,338
Under 500 Lbs.	0	0	354	235
500-699 Lbs.	13	10	1,505	1,217
700-899 Lbs.	10	8	1,307	1,215
900 Lbs. & over	6	7	529	671
Cows and other	1	1	46	44
Marketings--April-June	15 3/	20 4/	6,146 3/	5,914 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after April 1 and marketed before June 30. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after April 1 and marketed before June 30.



MONTANA GRAIN STOCKS DOWN

Stocks of wheat stored in Montana on April 1, 1980 in all storage positions totaled 95.9 million bushels--down 21 percent from a year ago. The smaller stocks are a result of a 11 percent smaller carryin from the previous crop year--a 20 percent smaller 1979 wheat crop, and nearly 13 percent more moved out of storage during the October-April period compared with the same period a year ago.

Winter wheat at 51.7 million and all spring wheat at 44.2 million were both down 21 percent from last year. Durum at 6.4 million was down 23 percent. About 84 percent of all wheat was stored on farms with the remainder in mills and elevators. Disappearance of wheat from storage during the January-April quarter at 34.1 million bushels was 4 percent less than last year.

Barley stocks in all positions at 18.0 million bushels were down 47 percent and oats at 4.5 million was off 41 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on April 1, 1980 amounted to 1.23 billion bushels--down slightly from stocks on hand a year earlier and 20 percent less than two years ago. Farm stocks of 570 million bushels are 9 percent less than last year's 630 million bushels. On-farm storage this April 1 accounted for 47 percent of the total wheat stocks compared with 51 percent a year earlier. Off-farm wheat stocks at the beginning of April totaled 655 million bushels--10 percent more than last year's 596 million bushels. Indicated disappearance during the January-March quarter is 491 million bushels compared with 407 million bushels for the comparable period a year ago.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--MARCH 31, 1980
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	41,772	32,000	1,231	282
Under loan	24,825	17,823	7,814	3,786

1/ These stocks are included in the April 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

STOCKS OF GRAIN APRIL 1, 1980 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	April 1, 1979	Jan. 1, 1980 *	April 1, 1980	% Change from 1979	April 1, 1979	Jan. 1, 1980 *	April 1, 1980
	------Thousand bushels-------			Pct.	--------Thousand bushels-------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	102,235	107,157	80,368	-21	629,597	772,412	569,873
Off farms 1/	19,472	22,856	15,500	-20	596,172	943,538	655,308
T O T A L	121,707	130,013	95,868	-21	1,225,769	1,715,950	1,225,181
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	53,568	52,692	40,163	-25	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	12,222	16,392	11,500	- 6	---	---	---
T O T A L	65,790	69,084	51,663	-21	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	48,667	54,465	40,205	-17	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	7,250	6,464	4,000	-45	---	---	---
T O T A L	55,917	60,929	44,205	-21	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	--	82,966	87,384	64,486
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	21,519	19,776	21,203
T O T A L	8,349	8,307	6,443	-23	104,485	107,160	85,689
RYE							
On farms	---	---	---	--	8,662	12,317	10,215
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	3,895	6,842	6,018
T O T A L	---	---	---	--	12,557	19,159	16,233
CORN							
On farms	108	289	116	+ 7	3,100,829	4,928,348	3,363,694
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,322,484	1,844,484	1,416,323
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	4,423,313	6,772,832	4,780,017
OATS							
On farms	7,320	7,098	4,259	-42	326,287	406,449	288,228
Off farms 1/	237	185	230	- 3	64,291	76,007	55,367
T O T A L	7,557	7,293	4,489	-41	390,578	482,456	343,595
BARLEY							
On farms	30,154	31,231	15,413	-49	198,180	244,108	164,407
Off farms 1/	4,087	3,888	2,600	-36	97,753	119,210	96,226
T O T A L	34,241	35,119	18,013	-47	295,933	363,318	260,633
SORGHUM							
On farms	---	---	---	--	142,512	233,956	141,511
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	276,684	412,290	252,911
T O T A L	---	---	---	--	419,196	646,246	394,422
FLAXSEED							
On farms	---	---	---	--	2,806	5,397	4,358
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	3,039	4,723	3,248
T O T A L	---	---	---	--	5,845	10,120	7,606

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

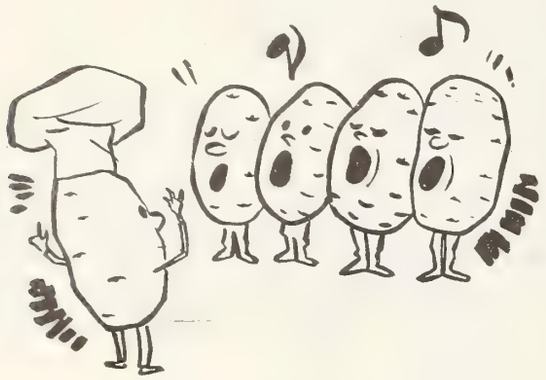
	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	April 1, 1979	Jan. 1, 1980 *	April 1, 1980	April 1, 1979	Jan. 1, 1980 *	April 1, 1980
	---------- Million bushels ----------			----------Million bushels --------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	.5	.7	.6	1.9	3.0	1.6
Northcentral	49.7	51.5	39.4	15.9	14.6	7.8
Northeast	43.0	45.8	32.9	3.7	4.8	2.4
Central	10.9	12.1	8.7	5.1	6.3	2.6
Southwest	1.4	2.3	1.3	2.2	2.1	1.2
Southcentral	6.2	8.0	4.1	3.0	3.0	1.6
Southeast	10.0	9.6	8.9	1.0	1.3	.8
STATE	121.7	130.0	95.9	32.8	35.1	18.0

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Revised.

POTATO STOCKS SAME AS YEAR AGO

Montana producers had 1.10 million cwt. in storage April 1, 1980--the same as a year ago.

Nationally, there were 96.8 million cwt. of potatoes in storage April 1, 1980. This was 3 percent less than the record holdings last year, but 9 percent above stocks held on April 1, 1978.



FERTILIZER USE COULD FALL

U. S. fertilizer use may decline by 3 to 7 percent during the fertilizer year ending this June 30. According to a supplement to the Fertilizer Situation to be issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, greater-than-expected increases in prices farmers pay for fertilizer, energy, and interest relative to crop prices, combined with tight farm credit, will discourage fertilizer use this spring. Most forecasts made in late 1979, including USDA's, had called for a moderate increase in use this fertilizer year.

Net domestic supplies of fertilizers are expected to be about 14 percent higher this year. So, if the usual strong spring demand for fertilizer falls to materialize, prices could level off and possibly begin to decline--especially phosphates, before the planting season is finished.

MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana milk production in the first quarter (January-March) totaled 71 million pounds. This was 8 percent above the same quarter last year but 3 percent below the previous quarter. Average amount of grain fed to all cows in the herd on April 1 was 12.5 pounds per day--the same as last April 1.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

STATE	March Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	Thousands		Million pounds	
Calif.	867	883	2,840	3,108
Idaho	140	148	383	429
Minn.	840	850	2,404	2,423
MONT	27	28	66	71
N. Dak.	96	93	210	202
Oregon	93	95	249	262
S. Dak.	169	164	389	399
Wash.	191	197	660	708
Wis.	1,812	1,813	5,317	5,448
Wyo.	11.0	11.0	26.2	28.9
U. S.	10,773	10,783	29,847	31,058

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured
Winter Wheat Production
Pasture and Range
Hay Stocks

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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80-7 April 15, 1980

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

March Farm Prices Decline
Wool Production Down
Pasture and Range
Dairy Products Manufactured
Cash Receipts

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NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana's largest barley crop was in 1969 when 67,914,000 bushels were produced.

TOTAL VALUE OF MONTANA WOOL UP

Shorn wool production in Montana during 1979 totaled 4.3 million pounds--2 percent below the previous year. Average weight per fleece at 9.8 pounds was slightly below 1978. The average price rose 13 cents in 1979 to 94 cents per pound. As a result, the total value of the State's wool rose 14 percent to 4.0 million dollars.

The U.S. shorn wool production in 1979 was 103 million pounds--up 1 percent from 1978. Total value of the shorn wool was 88.7 million dollars, up 17 percent from 1978. The average price per pound nationwide was 86.3 cents in 1979 compared with 74.5 the previous year.

ANNUAL WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		U. S.	
		1978	1979	1978	1979
Sheep shorn	(000) head	440	441	12,609	12,826
Weight per fleece	Lb.	10.0	9.8	8.1	8.0
Wool production	(000) Lb.	4,379	4,307	101,874	102,803
Price per pound	Cents	81.0	94.0	74.5	86.3
Value	(000) Dol.	3,547	4,049	75,883	88,719

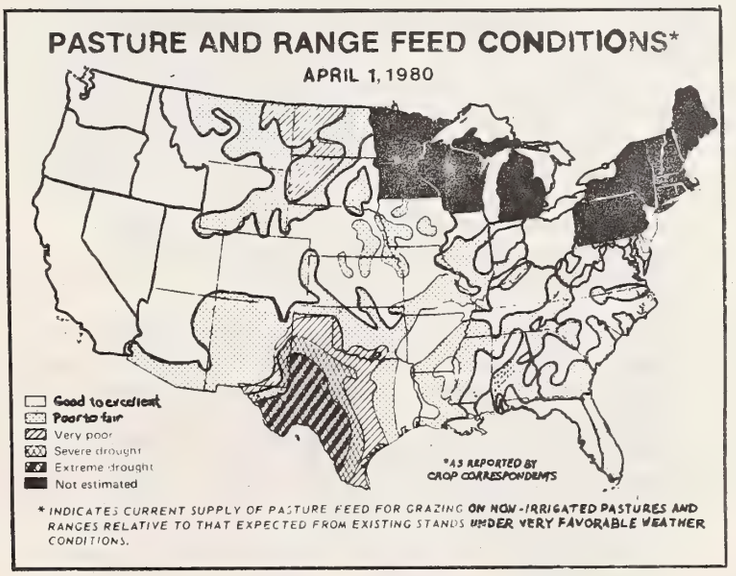
PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pastures and ranges showed considerable variation as of April 1, 1980. Conditions were reported very poor in the northeast, but good to excellent in the west. Dry weather last fall caused grazing conditions to deteriorate, but the mild winter and some moisture this spring have improved conditions. New growth is beginning where moisture is available.

The State's condition averaged 73 percent of normal--14 points below last April's unusually good condition, but only 5 points below April 1978.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION APRIL 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1978	1979	1980
Northwest	95	91	82
Northcentral	78	87	71
Northeast	63	88	61
Central	74	87	75
Southwest	94	89	82
Southcentral	79	85	78
Southeast	69	86	78
STATE	78	87	73


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
APRIL 1, 1980
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
Not estimated
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

CASH RECEIPTS
1979 Preliminary

Marketings of crops and livestock in Calendar Year 1979 brought Montana farmers and ranchers 1,334.4 million dollars--down 3 percent from 1978 according to preliminary USDA estimates. Livestock and livestock product receipts were up 10 percent but crop receipts dropped slightly. Government payments totaled 33.0 million dollars and were less than one-fourth of the 1978 payments.

CASH FARM RECEIPTS AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS
1978 and 1979

	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1978 1/	1979 2/	1978 1/	1979 2/
	--------Million dollars -------			
Cash receipts from marketings				
Livestock & products	682.8	753.8	58,991	67,259
Crops	548.9	547.6	52,051	61,682
TOTAL	1,231.7	1,301.4	111,042	128,941
Government payments	137.2	33.0	3,030	1,912
Total cash receipts	1,368.9	1,334.4	114,072	130,853

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

NET FARM INCOME: 1979 IN REVIEW

Last year, net farm income reached $33 billion--a jump of 18 percent from 1978. The increase in farm production expenses of $15.6 billion was more than offset by an increase of $17.9 billion in total cash receipts. Farm income was also enhanced by 1979's large grain crops which added to the value of inventories.

At $61.7 billion, cash receipts from crop marketings were up 18 percent from 1978. Cash receipts for wheat soared 45 percent, while corn receipts were up more than 35 percent. The record production of many grain crops normally would have caused prices to drop; instead, prices rose due to exceptionally strong domestic and foreign demand. Wheat prices jumped nearly 25 percent, while corn prices rose 12 percent. Soybean prices were up about 10 percent for the year.

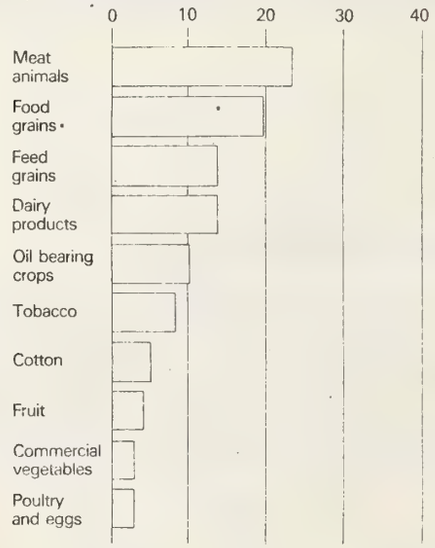
NET FARM INCOME TO DECLINE IN 1980

Current prospects indicate that net farm income will fall to the mid-$20 billion level in 1980. The reduction will be largely due to rapidly rising production expenses. Cash receipts for crops and livestock are forecast to increase about 5 percent. Prices will be higher for most crops, but total production will probably be somewhat lower as yields are unlikely to match the record highs of 1979.

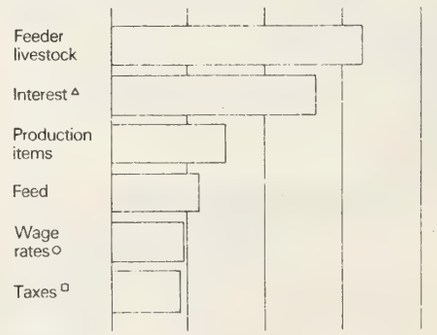
Larger production expenses--estimated to be up 13 percent this year--will more than offset the gain in cash receipts. Fuel and fertilizer prices will increase the most. With the amount of farm loans expected to increase and interest rates higher, interest charges are forecast to show a substantial increase over 1979.

Prices Received by Farmers Increased in 1979

Percent increase in indexes of prices received and paid by farmers (1978 to 1979)



. . . While Prices Paid Also Advanced



△ Interest payable per acre on farm. □ Farm real estate taxes payable per acre. ○ Seasonally adjusted.

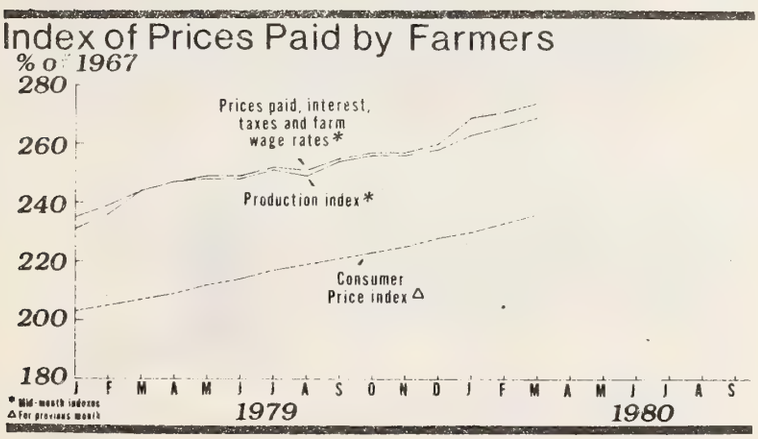
CATTLE, GRAIN PRICES DROP

Lower prices for cattle, hogs, and small grains dropped the March index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers below the February index. The March Montana index of farm prices received at 270 (1967=100) was down 6 points from the previous month but up 4 points from 1979. The index of all livestock and products declined 2 points from the February index to 287, while the all crops index at 250 was 10 points below the February level.

Between February and mid-March prices for sheep, lambs, wool, and eggs showed increases, but cattle, hog, and milk prices fell somewhat. The all wheat price declined 16 cents per bushel due to the 31-cent drop in the price of winter wheat. Slight increases in the price of spring and durum wheat were partially offsetting. Barley was down 6 cents per bushel, while oats was down 2 cents.

The United States March index of Prices Received by farmers decreased 4 points (1.7 percent) to 234 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since February were lower prices for cattle, hogs, soybeans, wheat, corn, and calves. Higher prices for eggs, apples, tomatoes, and rice were partially offsetting. The index was 12 points (5 percent) below a year ago.

The mid-March index of Prices Paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates was 274--up 3 points (1.1 percent) from February. Higher prices for fertilizers, fuels, farm equipment and agricultural chemicals, were only partially offset by lower prices for feeder livestock and feeds. Compared with a year earlier, the index was up 30 points (12 percent).



PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED

COMMODITY AND UNIT		MONTANA Mar. 15, 1979	MONTANA Feb. 15, 1980 1/	MONTANA Mar. 15, 1980	U. S. Mar. 15, 1980
		---------Dollars---------			
Winter wheat	Bu.	2.80	3.72	3.41	3.62
Durum	Bu.	2.94	4.06	4.21	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.82	3.67	3.68	3.46
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.82	3.71	3.55	3.62
Barley	Bu.	1.68	2.07	2.01	2.19
Oats	Bu.	1.35	1.44	1.42	1.35
Alfalfa hay	Ton	50.00	53.00	53.00	63.40
All other hay	Ton	43.00	50.00	48.50	48.60
All hay, baled	Ton	47.50	52.50	51.50	58.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt	76.30	76.50	70.80	69.30
Cows	Cwt	56.30	50.30	50.30	50.10
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt	71.70	65.00	64.70	65.50
Calves	Cwt	94.20	90.00	87.50	86.00
Sheep	Cwt	24.50	20.70	21.00	25.90
Lambs	Cwt	70.00	61.30	66.90	66.50
Hogs	Cwt	49.10	35.90	34.00	34.60
All milk, wholesale	Cwt	11.60	12.85	12.75	12.70
Eggs	Doz	.696	.599	.615	.550
Wool 4/	Lb.	.85	.93	1.03	.916
PRICES PD BY FARMERS					
Mixed dairy feed 14%	Ton	140.00	148.00	152.00	155.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of cows and steers and heifers. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1967=100) 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA 1979 Mar. 15	MONTANA 1980 Feb. 15 2/	MONTANA 1980 Mar. 15	U. S. 1980 March 15
Food grains	202	265	254	244
Feed grains	197	241	235	201
Feed grain & hay	197	236	230	206
ALL CROPS	202	260	250	217
Meat animals	329	299	297	268
Dairy products	217	237	236	252
Poultry products	202	174	179	178
Wool	201	220	243	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	314	289	287	251
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	266	276	270	234

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation.
2/ Revised for some items.
3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14=100 Feb. 15 1980	1910-14=100 Mar. 15 1980	1967 = 100 Feb. 15 1980	1967 = 100 Mar. 15 1980
Prices Received	596	586	238	234
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	923	932	271	274
Ratio 1/	65	63	88	85

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates.

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April 14	Supply & Demand Analysis
April 15	Potato Stocks
April 16	Farm News Special
April 17	Prospective Plantings
April 18,19,20	Cattle on Feed
April 21	Farm News Special
April 22	Eggs, Chickens & Turkeys
April 23	Weather and Crops
April 24	Grain Stocks
April 25,26,27	Supply & Demand Analysis
April 28	Soybean Situation
April 29	Red Meat Production
April 30	Farmers' Prices
May 1	Vegetable Situation
May 2,3,4	Sugar and Sweeteners
May 5	Feed Situation
May 6	Weather and Crops
May 7	Agricultural Outlook
May 8	Livestock Situation
May 9,10,11	U.S. Crop Prospects
May 12	Supply-Demand Situation
May 13	Wheat Situation
May 14	Cattle on Feed
May 15	Cattle on Feed Analysis
May 16,17,18	Potato Stocks
May 19	Cotton Situation
May 20	Wool Situation
May 21	Export Outlook
May 22	Livestock Slaughter
May 23,24,25,26	Farm Labor
May 27	Dairy Situation
May 28	Poultry and Egg Situation
May 29	Weather and Crops
May 30	Farmers' Prices

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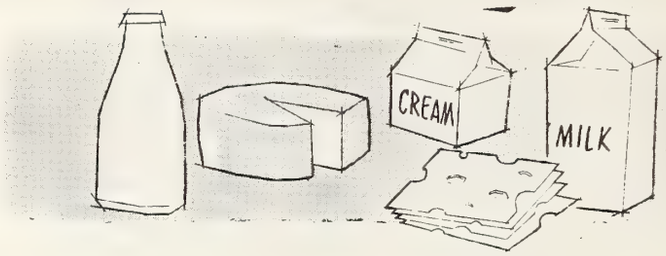
MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS UP

Montana dairy plants manufactured 134,000 gallons of ice cream during February--26 percent more than February 1979. Cream cottage cheese output at 414,000 pounds was 18 percent more than last year. Butter production at 181,000 pounds was up 1 percent from a year ago.



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Prospective Plantings
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks
.Quarterly Milk Production

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

80-6 March 26, 1980

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Potato Stocks Down
- Quarterly Egg Production Down
- Slaughter--Hogkill High
- Cattle on Feed Continue Lower
- March 1 Hog Inventory Record High
- Tractor Shipments Up
- Foreign Land Ownership--Not so Bad

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NOTABLE NUMBERS

National hog slaughter for January and February 1980 was the largest on record for these months.

FEBRUARY SLAUGHTER UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 46 percent more red meat during February than the same month one year ago. Total production at 14.4 million pounds compares with 9.8 million pounds last February and 16.0 million pounds during January 1980. Production for the first two months of 1980 at 30.4 million pounds is 38 percent more than for the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during February 1980 totaled 3.05 billion pounds--up 11 percent from February 1979. January-February red meat production at 6.44 billion pounds was 7 percent above last year. Changes by individual components: beef, down 5 percent; veal, down 20 percent; pork, up 28 percent; lamb and mutton, up 16 percent.

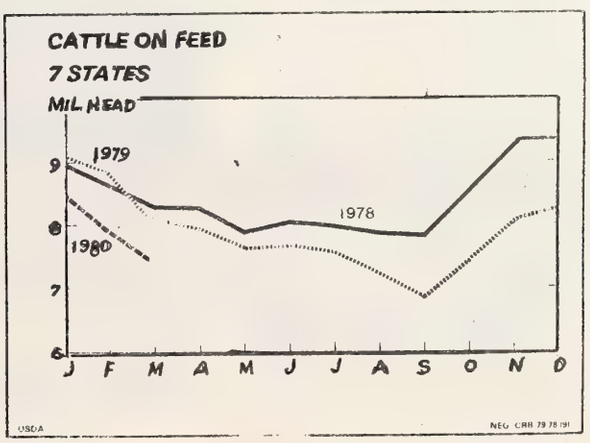
JANUARY-FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--1980

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Pct. Chg.
	--------- 1,000 head ---------				
No. Slghtrd					
Cattle	24.8	27.1	6043.7	5567.4	- 8
Calves	--	.1	535.6	440.0	-18
Hogs	49.3	85.4	12642.1	16019.1	+27
Sheep & lambs	.2	.3	765.9	893.3	+17
Total Liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.		
Cattle	24,830	30,315	6,391	6,060	- 5
Calves	--	27	128	102	-20
Hogs	11,301	20,389	3,020	3,859	+28
Sheep & lambs	22	26	89	104	+17
Red meat Production	22,010	30,351	6,036	6,441	+ 7

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed March 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.44 million head, down 9 percent from a year ago and 10 percent less than March 1, 1978. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.57 million, down 5 percent from last year and 7 percent less than February 1978.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during February were 1.21 million, down 8 percent from last year and off 21 percent from February 1978. Net placements of 1.05 million head were down 7 percent from a year ago and 21 percent below 2 years ago.

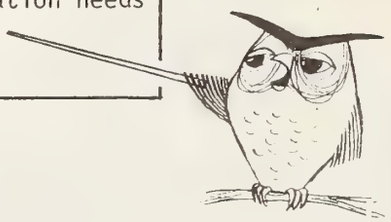


REMINDER

We have mailed out our 1980 subscription renewal forms to most of our readers.

If you received one, it must be returned by April 10 so we can keep your name on our mailing list and serve your information needs in 1980.

Do we have yours back yet?



MARCH 1 HOG INVENTORY

Inventory of hogs and pigs on March 1, 1980 in the 14 States conducting quarterly hog surveys was estimated at 54.7 million head--up 7 percent from a year earlier. This is the largest March 1 inventory since records began in 1970.

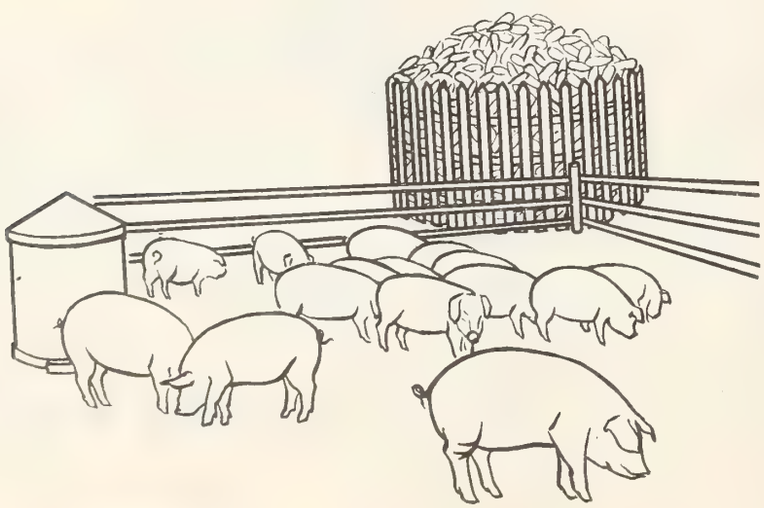
The number kept for breeding at 8.09 million was down 3 percent from 1979 but 17 percent above 1978, and number for market at 46.6 million was 9 percent above 1979 and 24 percent more than 1978.

The 14 quarterly States account for about 85 percent of the U.S. hog and pig inventory.

The December 1979-February 1980 pig crop in the 14 States totaled 19.6 million--7 percent more than 1979 and 26 percent more than 1978. There were 2.74 million sows farrowed in these States, up 3 percent from the previous year and 20 percent more than two years ago. Litter size averaged 7.17 pigs for the December 1979-February 1980 period compared with 6.87 a year earlier and 6.84 two years ago.

Producers in the 14 quarterly States intend to have 3.47 million sows farrow in the March-May 1980 period--about the same as last year.

Farrowing intentions reported for the June-August 1980 period are 3.07 million sows--3 percent below 1979.



POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Montana producers had 1.5 million cwt. of potatoes in storage March 1, 1980--14 percent below last year. Disappearance since harvest amounted to 300,000 cwt.

Nationally, there were 127 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses held on March 1, 1980 by growers, dealers and processors. This was 5 percent less than the record holdings last year but 5 percent above stocks on March 1, 1978.

POTATOES
March 1, 1979 and March 1, 1980

STATE	Crop of 1979		Crop of 1980	
	Prod.	Stocks 3/1/79	Prod.	Stocks 3/1/80
	1,000 Cwt.			
COLO	11,275	4,650	11,455	4,250
IDAHO	100,310	53,000	88,200	48,000
MAINE	25,960	12,100	28,750	16,400
MINN	14,910	7,600	12,920	6,800
MONT	2,088	1,750	1,800	1,500
N. DAK	22,400	9,900	18,240	6,900
OREG	28,488	9,900	25,310	9,800
WASH	50,685	19,300	48,925	19,000
WIS	17,325	4,100	17,010	3,700
23 STATE TOTAL 1/	318,058	133,247	296,678	126,530

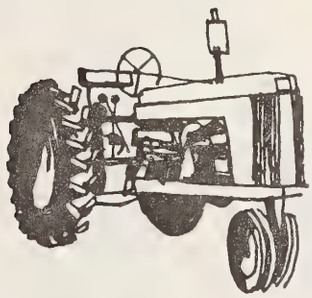
1/ Excluding Nev for which no stocks estimates are made. Nev 1978 production 5,440,000 cwt. and 1979 production 4,950,000 cwt.

TRACTOR SHIPMENTS

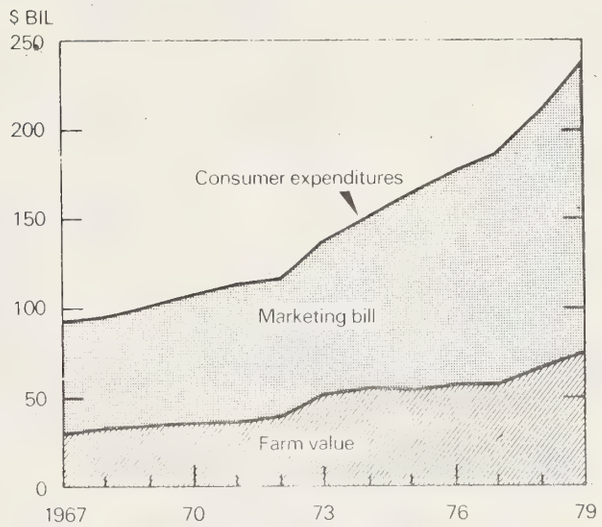
Farmers, ranchers and others closely connected with agriculture, frequently question the availability of statistics on commodities they buy, as well as on items they sell. The answer is--there are comprehensive statistics on the industrial production in the United States published periodically by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. These are in a series called"Current Industrial Reports". We recently got on their mailing list and received the first issue on tractor production and shipments. Tractors are a big item in farm production costs and some data on these are as follows:

Wheel-type tractors shipped by manufacturers for the last 6 months of 1979 were up 12 percent over the same period of 1978, and during December 1979 tractor shipments were up 10 percent from the same month in 1978, but about the same as December 1977. It looks as though tractor manufacturers have anticipated increased sales in early 1980. Just what this means to producers and other, I'm not sure. Perhaps that there will be an adequate supply of new tractors for the coming crop season and maybe some buys.

The chart below shows monthly cyclical patterns in wheel-type tractor shipments.



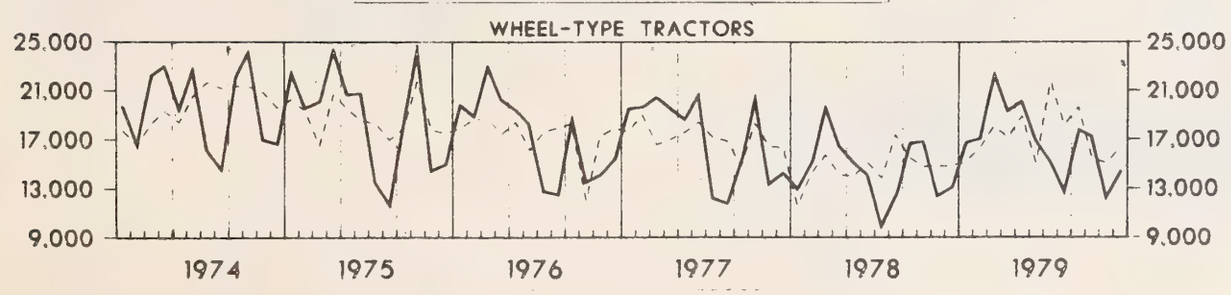
Marketing Bill, Farm Value, and Expenditures for Farm Foods



For domestic farm foods purchased by civilian consumers for consumption both at home and away from home. 1979 preliminary

Expenditures for farm foods based on the USDA figure were about 12 percent higher in 1979. The increase in spending was largely a result of higher food prices, as the volume of food purchases remained virtually unchanged. Spending for food in grocery stores for use at home rose nearly twice the rate of away-from-home food expenditures. This was largely attributed to a slump in away-from-home expenditures in the second quarter of the year when shortages and higher prices for gasoline limited travel to eating places.

SHIPMENTS OF TRACTORS
(Units Shipped)



FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 required that all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land report these holdings to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This program was organized as an interagency effort--the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) was responsible for collecting data and enforcing the Act, the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS) was responsible for analyzing the data and publishing the periodic reports.

Foreigners owned 5.2 million acres of U.S. agricultural land as of October 31, 1979. This is less than 0.5 percent of all privately-held agricultural land and less than 0.25 percent of all land in the U.S. This share is unlikely to have an impact on agriculture--positive or negative. However, some communities could be locally affected in areas of heaviest concentration.

A substantial percentage of the land held or acquired by foreigners is used for forest or timber. Forest lands account for 43 percent of the reported acreage; crop, pasture, and other agricultural land for 53 percent; and nonagricultural land or no response for 4 percent.

U.S. corporations with foreign interests reported owning 76 percent of all reported U.S. foreign-held agricultural land. The remaining 24 percent was reported as being owned by foreigners not affiliated with U.S. corporations. U.S. corporations with foreign interests from the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Luxembourg reported owning 52 percent of all reported U.S. foreign-held agricultural land.

Foreign holdings are concentrated in the South. Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina contain 25 percent of foreign-held U.S. agricultural land.

In Montana 261,736 acres were reported under foreign ownership--0.5 percent of the private land owned in the State.

Despite some reporting and perhaps enforcement problems, this procedure should measure the influence of foreign ownership over time.

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana's laying flocks produced 35 million eggs during the December 1, 1979 through February 29, 1980 quarter--down 24 percent from the same period a year ago. The average number of layers on hand during the quarter at 655,000 was down 19 percent and the average rate of lay at 59.5 eggs per 100 birds compares with 66.3 a year ago. Flocks have not fully built up since the PCB problems.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17,685 million eggs during the same quarter--up 3 percent from last year. The number of layers averaged 293.2 million--up less than 1 percent from a year ago. The rate of lay on March 1 was 66.5 eggs per 100 layer compared with 65.0 a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Wool Production
- Agricultural Prices
- Dairy Products Manufactured
- Pasture and Range
- Cash Receipts

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Agricultural Prices
Manufactured Dairy Products
Annual Crop Summary--1979
World Wheat Production

NOTABLE NUMBERS

The trend towards winter wheat in Montana has meant an added $325 million over the last 30 years.

PLEASE RETURN

ICE CREAM PRODUCTION UP, BUTTER DOWN

Montana dairy plants manufactured 124,000 gallons of ice cream during January--12 percent more than January 1979. Cream cottage cheese output at 418,000 pounds was up 9 percent from a year ago. Butter production at 215,000 pounds was down 10 percent from last year.

PROSPECTS OF RECORD WHEAT EXPORTS

Wheat: With the 1979/80 wheat marketing year more than half over, the prospect of a record export year is overshadowing this year's near-record supply. During June-December, overseas shipments totaled nearly 900 million bushels--up more than a tenth from a year earlier. In early January, U.S. wheat sales to the Soviet Union were suspended and the estimate of total 1979/80 wheat exports was lowered from 1,400 million bushels to 1,325 million. At this level, however, total exports will still exceed the previous record set in 1973/74 by more than 100 million bushels. Increased demand from other countries, including Egypt, Brazil, China, and Mexico, as well as some expanded shipments under food-aid programs are expected to offset some of the loss to the Soviet Union.

HIGHER PRICES FOR CATTLE BUT CROPS LOWER

Higher prices for cattle, hogs, and wool pushed the February index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers above a month earlier. The February Montana index of farm prices received at 275 (1967=100) was up 10 points from the January index and 23 points (9 percent) above a year ago. The index of all livestock and products was up 16 points from the previous month at 292, but the all crops index at 254 was 3 points below the January level.

Between mid-January and mid-February, prices for cattle, hogs and wool showed increases but sheep, milk and egg prices declined and lamb prices remained the same. Price drops were noted for all crop items. All wheat declined 2 cents per bushel, barley was down 8 cents, and oats was down 10 cents per bushel. Baled hay was down 2 dollars per ton.

The United States February index of prices received by farmers increased 2 points (.8 percent) to 238 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since January were higher prices for cattle, calves, hogs, rice, oranges, and cotton. Lower prices for eggs, corn, soybeans, and broilers were partially offsetting. The index was 3 points (1.2 percent) below a year ago.

The U. S. index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for mid-February was 271--up 2 points (.7 percent) from mid-January. Higher prices for feeder livestock, fuels and energy, farm supplies and building and fencing materials more than offset the lower feed prices. The February index was 32 points (13 percent) above a year earlier.

(Table inside)

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--FEBRUARY 15, 1980

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		February 15, 1979	January 1980 1/	February 15, 1980	February 15, 1980	February 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.73	$ 3.64	$ 3.50	$ 3.81	2/
Durum	Bu.	3.02	3.98	4.25	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.85	3.58	3.73	3.47	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.78	3.63	3.61	3.75	6.36
Barley	Bu.	1.63	2.16	2.08	2.29	4.03
Oats	Bu.	1.28	1.52	1.42	1.36	2.29
Alfalfa hay	Ton	50.50	56.00	54.50	66.60	2/
All other hay	Ton	43.00	52.00	49.50	49.40	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	47.50	54.50	52.50	60.80	2/
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	69.60	70.00	74.70	70.80	2/
Cows	Cwt.	51.80	48.00	50.30	52.70	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	63.90	60.10	65.70	66.80	80.40
Calves	Cwt.	91.10	85.00	91.50	91.80	95.90
Sheep	Cwt.	23.00	24.00	20.80	25.30	27.50
Lambs	Cwt.	87.70	66.20	66.20	63.10	89.20
Hogs	Cwt.	50.00	35.00	35.90	37.20	75.40
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.60	12.95	12.70	12.80	17.60
Eggs	Doz.	.600	.663	.599	.508	1.01
Wool 4/	Lb.	.800	.850	.930	.823	1.80
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		140.00	150.00	148.00	153.00	---

1/ Revised entire month except for hay, milk, eggs, wool, and mixed dairy feed. 2/ Not available.
3/ Composite average of "cows" and "steers and heifers". 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FEBRUARY 15, 1980 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA 1967 = 100				UNITED STATES 1967 = 100	
	1979		1980		1980	
	Feb. 15	Dec. 15	Jan. 15 2/	Feb. 15	January 15 2/	February 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Food grains	199	264	260	258	245	249
Feed grains	191	270	252	242	211	206
Feed grain and hay	192	260	246	237	216	211
ALL CROPS	198	264	257	254	220	219
Meat animals	305	288	281	303	265	276
Dairy products	216	236	239	235	254	254
Poultry products	175	200	192	174	192	176
Wool	188	215	201	220	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	293	279	276	292	252	256
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	252	271	265	275	236	238

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Feb. 15, 1979	Jan. 15, 1980	Feb. 15, 1980	Feb. 15, 1979	Jan. 15, 1980	Feb. 15, 1980
Prices Received	603	591	596	241	236	238
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	812	913	922	239	269	271
Ratio 1/	74	65	65	101	88	88

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

1979 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA Acreage Planted	MONTANA Acreage Harv.	MONTANA Production Unit	MONTANA Production Yield per Acre	MONTANA Production Total	MONTANA % Chg. from prev. year	MONTANA Season avg. price per unit	MONTANA Value of prod.	UNITED STATES PRODUCTION
		Thousands				Thous.		$	Thous.$	Thousands
Corn	1977	90	11	Bu.	68.0	748		2.27	1,698	6,425,457
for	1978	88	5		72.0	360		2.23	803	7,086,666
Grain 2/ 3/	1979	85	5		77.0	385	+ 7	2.40	924	7,763,771
Winter	1977	3,050	2,800	Bu.	29.0	81,200		2.30	186,760	1,537,113
Wheat 3/	1978	2,900	2,700		31.0	83,700		2.73	228,501	1,247,706
	1979	3,000	2,250		25.5	57,375	-31	3.50	200,813	1,608,897
Durum	1977	230	220	Bu.	22.0	4,840		2.69	13,020	79,964
Wheat 3/	1978	300	290		30.0	8,700		2.87	24,969	133,328
	1979	335	325		21.0	6,825	-22	4.30	29,348	106,654
Other	1977	2,120	2,040	Bu.	22.0	44,880		2.44	109,507	419,241
Spring	1978	1,900	1,850		29.0	53,650		2.77	148,611	416,494
Wheat 3/	1979	2,650	2,550		20.5	52,275	- 3	3.45	180,349	426,181
All	1977	5,400	5,060	Bu.	25.9	130,920		2.36	309,287	2,036,318
Wheat 3/	1978	5,100	4,840		30.2	146,050		2.75	402,081	1,797,528
	1979	5,985	5,125		22.7	116,475	-20	3.52	410,510	2,141,732
Oats 3/	1977	312	140	Bu.	40.0	5,600		1.28	7,168	750,901
	1978	400	208		51.0	10,608		1.23	13,048	595,882
	1979	360	140		39.0	5,460	-49	1.55	8,463	534,386
Barley 3/	1977	1,550	1,430	Bu.	36.5	52,195		1.68	87,688	420,159
	1978	1,500	1,375		43.0	59,125		1.70	100,513	449,177
	1979	1,100	1,040		39.0	40,560	-31	1.95	79,092	378,067
Potatoes	1977	8.5	8.4	Cwt.	240	2,016		4.75	9,576	354,576
	1978	8.8	8.7		240	2,088		4.00	8,352	365,249
	1979	7.5	7.5		240	1,800	-14	4.40	7,920	347,648
Dry	1977	6.7	6.5	Cwt.	16.0	104		18.80	1,955	16,610
Beans	1978	8.4	8.4		15.0	126		16.50	2,079	19,040
	1979	10.0	9.7		18.0	175	+39	25.00	4,375	20,665
Sugar-	1977	46.4	45.0	Tons	19.9	896		29.10	26,074	25,007
beets	1978	45.4	44.7		19.8	885		29.90	26,462	25,725
	1979	44.1	43.4		19.1	829	- 6	---	---	21,996
Alfalfa	1977	---	39	Lbs.	90	3,510		1.05	3,686	97,105
Seed	1978	---	26		85	2,210		1.00	2,210	92,495
	1979	---	42		140	5,880	+166	.80	4,704	103,575
All Hay 4/	1977	---	2,240	Tons	1.74	3,907		56.00	218,792	131,313
	1978	---	2,420		1.89	4,576		44.00	201,344	142,209
	1979	---	2,380		1.80	4,291	- 6	57.50	246,733	145,878
Sweet	1977	---	---	Tons	---	2,600		528.00	1,321	147,800
Cherries 5/	1978	---	---		---	1,850		701.00	1,297	155,050
	1979	---	---		---	2,950	+59	682.00	2,012	182,500
Safflower	1978	---	130	Lbs.	740	96,200		---	---	---
6/	1979	180	175		840	147,000	+53	---	---	---
Triticale	1978	---	---	Bu.	---	---		---	---	---
6/	1979	110	108		25.0	2,700	---	---	---	---
ALL	1977	---	---		---	---		---	667,245 7/	---
MAIN	1978	---	---		---	---		---	758,189 7/	---
CROPS	1979	---	---		---	---		---	764,733 8/	---

1/ All estimates for 1979 are preliminary. 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes. 3/ Includes allowance for loans outstanding and purchases by the Government valued at the average loan and purchase rate. 4/ Price of baled hay. 5/ Production in actual tons. 6/ Estimates available through cooperative agreement with Montana Department of Agriculture. 7/ Comparable value to 1979 by excluding sugarbeets, 1977--$641,171; 1978--$731,727. 8/ Excludes sugarbeets, safflower and triticale value.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES--1977-78

CONTINENT & COUNTRY	1977 Metric Tons	1977 Bushels	1978 Metric Tons	1978 Bushels
	(000)			
North America				
Canada	19,862	729,789	21,145	776,931
United States	55,412	2,036,003	48,962	1,799,011
Mexico	2,300	84,509	2,700	99,206
Other	60	2,205	66	2,425
TOTAL	77,634	2,852,506	72,873	2,677,573
South America				
Argentina	5,300	194,738	7,360	270,428
Brazil	2,000	73,486	2,530	92,960
Other	1,340	49,236	1,443	53,020
TOTAL	8,640	317,460	11,333	416,408
Europe				
France	17,450	641,165	20,664	759,257
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	7,235	265,836	8,124	298,500
Italy	6,218	228,468	8,900	327,013
United Kingdom	5,250	192,901	6,600	242,504
Other	2,312	84,950	2,528	92,886
TOTAL EC	38,465	1,413,320	46,816	1,720,160
Austria	1,072	39,388	1,081	39,719
Greece	1,716	63,051	2,625	96,450
Spain	4,020	147,707	4,837	177,726
Sweden	1,522	55,923	1,347	49,493
Other	880	32,334	855	31,415
TOTAL WESTERN EUROPE	47,675	1,751,723	57,561	2,114,963
Albania	390	14,330	390	14,330
Bulgaria	3,011	110,633	3,000	110,229
Czechoslovakia	5,214	191,578	5,000	183,715
German Dem.Rep	2,914	107,069	2,900	106,555
Hungary	5,319	195,436	5,665	208,149
Poland	5,310	195,105	6,000	220,458
Romania	6,465	237,543	6,112	224,573
Yugoslavia	5,595	205,577	5,373	197,420
TOTAL EASTERN EUROPE	34,218	1,257,271	34,440	1,265,429
TOTAL EUROPE	81,893	3,008,994	92,001	3,380,392
Soviet Union (Europe & Asia)	92.161	3.386.272	115.000	4.225.445

CONTINENT & COUNTRY	1977 Metric Tons	1977 Bushels	1978 Metric Tons	1978 Bushels
	(000)			
Africa				
Algeria	1,500	55,115	1,800	66,137
Egypt	1,697	62,353	1,850	67,975
Morocco	1,288	47,325	1,814	66,652
South Africa	1,860	68,342	2,000	73,486
Other	1,814	66,652	1,822	66,946
TOTAL	8,159	299,787	9,286	341,196
Asia				
Afghanistan	2,900	106,555	2,800	102,880
China, Mainland	40,500	1,488,092	44,000	1,616,692
India	29,010	1,065,914	31,328	1,151,085
Iran	5,000	183,715	5,300	194,738
Iraq	696	25,573	1,200	44,092
Pakistan	8,941	328,519	8,128	298,647
Syria	1,217	44,716	1,600	58,789
Turkey	13,500	496,031	13,300	488,682
Other	1,958	71,943	2,098	77,087
TOTAL	103,722	3,811,058	109,754	4,032,692
Oceania				
Australia	9,299	341,673	14,545	534,427
New Zealand	352	12,934	370	13,595
TOTAL	9,651	354,607	14,915	548,022
WORLD TOTAL	381,860	14,030,684	425,162	15,621,728

. COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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80-4 February 27, 1980

Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service USDA and Montana Department of Agriculture • ISSUED TWICE MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Wheat Utilization
Slaughter
Farm Labor
Potato Stocks

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NOTABLE NUMBERS

The current Montana cattle inventory is nearly three-quarters of a million head below the record high 6 years ago.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 31 percent more red meat during January this year than the same month one year ago. Total production at 16.0 million pounds compares with 12.2 million pounds last January and 13.6 million pounds during December 1979. The January 1980 cattlekill was 14,900 head compared with 14,200 head in January 1979. The hogkill at 44,400 was up from 25,900 head January last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in January 1980 totaled 3.39 billion pounds--up 3 percent from January 1979. Beef production at 1.88 billion pounds was down 9 percent from January 1979, while pork production at 1.45 billion pounds was up 26 percent.

JANUARY SLAUGHTER--1980

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Jan. 1979	Jan. 1980	Jan. 1979	Jan. 1980
	------ 1,000 head -------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	14.2	14.9	3304.5	2922.8
Calves	--	--	296.4	235.3
Hogs	25.9	44.4	6696.4	8415.8
Sheep & lambs	.1	.2	401.6	462.3
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	14,124	16,086	3,511	3,180
Calves	--	--	70	55
Hogs	5,921	10,588	1,611	2,044
Sheep & lambs	12	14	46	54
Red meat production	12,179	15,965	3,281	3,393

NUMBER OF CATTLE FEEDLOTS And FED CATTLE MARKETED--by SIZE OF FEEDLOT CAPACITY--MONTANA And 23 STATES 1/

Capacity of Fedlots	MONTANA				23 MAJOR FEEDING STATES			
	Lots		Cattle Marketed		Lots		Cattle Marketed	
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979
	No.		1,000 head		No.		1,000 head	
Under 1,000 head	75	29	4	2	125,523	121,330	8,542	6,999
1,000-1,999	13	12	10	5	845	971	1,374	1,353
2,000-3,999	13	14	16	12	412	466	1,300	1,356
4,000-7,999	18*	18*	88*	60*	230	249	1,568	1,658
8,000-15,999					217	208	3,626	3,071
16,000-31,999					133	144	5,081	5,031
32,000 and over					65	68	5,154	5,132
Total All Feedlots	119	73	118	79	127,425	123,436	26,645	24,600

1/ Number of feedlots with 1,000 head or more capacity is number of lots operating anytime during year. Number under 1,000 head capacity and total number of feedlots is number at end of year. * Lots and marketings from larger size groups in Montana are included to avoid disclosing individual operations.

FARM LABOR

The total number of workers on Montana farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 1980 was estimated at 25,000--17 percent less than January 1979. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were down 31 percent from last year, but hired workers were up 30 percent from January 1979.

FARM WORKERS
January 6-12, 1980

STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	Jan. 7-13 1979	Jan. 6-12 1980	Jan. 7-13 1979	Jan. 6-12 1980
	----------Thousands----------			
MONT	23.3	16.0	6.9	9.0
N.D.	43.0	36.0	4.0	5.0
S.D.	43.0	46.0	11.0	6.0
WYO	7.0	6.0	4.5	5.0
IDAHO	16.0	19.0	6.0	13.0
U. S.	2198.7	2111.9	797.8	909.6

FARM WAGE RATES
January 6-12, 1980

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	Jan. 7-13 1979	Jan. 6-12 1980	Jan. 7-13 1979	Jan. 6-12 1980
	---------Dollars per hour----------			
MONT	2.84	3.25	2.44	3.05
N.D.	3.55	3.75	3.10	3.26
S.D.	2.76	2.99	2.45	2.97
WYO	2.99	3.72	2.49	3.10
IDAHO	3.41	3.72	3.17	3.20
U.S.	3.38	3.69	2.89	3.26

WHEAT
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
One bushel of wheat equals 60 pounds

Weight		Equivalent
1 bushel	=	.030 Short tons
1 bushel	=	.0272155 Metric tons
1 bushel	=	.0267857 Long tons
1 bushel	=	27.21555 Kilograms
1 Short ton	=	33.333 bushels
1 Metric ton	=	36.7437 bushels
1 Long ton	=	37.333 bushels
1 Kilogram	=	.036744 bushels

WHEAT FLOUR

100 pounds = 2.30 bushels of wheat

1 barrel wheat flour = 196 pounds

4.51 bushels of wheat = 1 barrel of flour

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	RANK	DATE
Acres in strip cropping	1	1969 Census
Land in farms and ranches	2	1979
Income from cash receipts, excluding gov't payments		
Total	32	1978
Crops	33	1978
Livestock	29	1978
All cattle and calves	14	Jan. 1, 1980
All cows	10	Jan. 1, 1980
Milk cows	44	Jan. 1, 1980
Beef cows	8	Jan. 1, 1980
Cattle on feed	22	Jan. 1, 1980
Hogs and pigs	28	Dec. 1, 1979
Sheep and lambs	8	Jan. 1, 1980
Wool production (July prel.)	9	July 1, 1979
All chickens	42	Dec. 1, 1979
Honey production	6	Dec. 1, 1979
All wheat	6	1979
Winter	9	1979
Durum	2	1979
Spring wheat other than durum	3	1979
All hay	13	1979
Alfalfa hay	13	1979
Dry beans	10	1979
Barley	5	1979
Oats	14	1979
Potatoes--fall	20	1979
Sugarbeets	9	1979

WHEAT UTILIZATION

Montana wheat shipped to out-of State destinations during the 1978 wheat marketing year (June 1978-May 1979) is estimated at 140.2 million bushels--including unaccounted disappearance. This represents 89 percent of the available supply. Use in the State for feed, seed and flour amounted to 16.7 million bushels.

In the 1978 marketing year, 105.8 million bushels of Montana wheat were shipped to the Pacific Northwest--including an allowance for unaccounted disappearance. Pacific Northwest flour mills used 21.5 million bushels and 84.3 million were exported from Pacific Northwest ports. By comparison, in 1977 flour mills used 19.9 million bushels and 70.7 million were exported.

Montana wheat accounted for 48 percent of the Pacific Northwest exports in 1978--a decrease of 9 percentage points from 1977.

Funds for Wheat Utilization and Movement to the Pacific Northwest were furnished by the Montana Wheat Commission.

A[illegible] WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND UTILIZATI
1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, & 1978 Marketing Years

Supply	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
	Million bushels				
Beginning stocks 1/	18.3	24.3	50.1	87.8	97.9
Production	120.1	155.9	167.3	130.9	146.1
Total supply	138.4	180.2	217.4	218.7	244.0
Disposition					
Recorded movement out of State 2/	80.7	97.8	88.8	82.4	127.8
Milled for flour in Montana	7.2	7.1	8.1	7.9	8.3
Used for seed in Montana	5.2	4.9	4.8	5.2	5.4
Used for livestock feed 3/	1.1	1.6	5.4	5.1	3.0
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	19.9	18.7	22.5	20.2	12.4
Total disposition	114.1	130.1	129.6	120.8	156.9
Ending stocks 1/	24.3	50.1	87.8	97.9	87.1

1/ Farm, commercial--July 1 stocks 1974 & 1975 - June 1 stocks 1976 and on.
2/ Reported by elevators, licensed truckers, and special survey of truck destinations.
3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills, and purchased by other farmers for feed.
4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION AND EXPORTS 1/
By Marketing Year 1973-1978

ITEM	Marketing Year 2/ 1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
	Million bushels					
Beginning stocks 3/	31.5	18.3	24.3	50.1	87.8	97.9
Production	96.7	120.1	155.9	167.3	130.9	146.1
Ending stocks 3/	- 18.3	- 24.3	- 50.1	- 87.8	- 97.9	- 87.1
Available supply 4/	109.9	121.1	130.1	129.6	120.8	156.9
Shipments of wheat into Pacific Northwest (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance 5/	83.6	85.6	92.3 8/	84.5	90.6	105.8
Total wheat used for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar)	(30.6)	(29.9)	(25.9) 8/	(30.7)	(30.4)	(32.8)
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar) 6/	21.6	19.8	20.0 8/	21.0	19.9	21.5
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific Northwest ports 7/	62.0	65.8	72.3 8/	63.5	70.7	84.3
Percent of available supply	56%	54%	56%	49%	59%	54%
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter and Durum from Pacific N.W. ports	183.8	116.1	118.2 8/	108.0	123.7	175.1
Montana exports as percent of total HRS, HRW and Durum exports from P.N. ports	34%	57%	61%	59%	57%	48%

1/ Pacific Northwest - Oregon and Washington.
2/ July 1-June 30, 1973-1974; July 1-May 31, 1975; June 1-May 31, 1976-1977.
3/ July 1 stocks 1972-1975--June 1 stocks 1976 and on.
4/ Beginning stocks plus production minus ending stocks.
5/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project.
6/ Total Pacific Northwest wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington or other States.
7/ Estimated Montana wheat shipped to Pacific Northwest minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific Northwest.
8/ July 1-May 31.

MONTANA PRECIPITATION BY STATIONS
1978, 1979 & Normal

	April-July			August-December			April-December		
	1979	Normal	1979 Pct. of Normal	1978	Normal	1979 Pct. of Normal	1979	Normal	1979 Pct. of Normal
	Inches			Inches			Inches		
KALISPELL	4.68	5.75	81	4.94	6.13	81	9.62	11.88	81
POLSON	4.08	6.24	65	4.42	5.79	76	8.50	12.03	71
BELGRADE	6.03	6.51	93	3.06	4.94	62	9.09	11.45	79
CUT BANK	4.00	6.51	61	3.14	3.62	87	7.14	10.13	70
HAVRE	4.89	6.40	76	1.79	3.87	46	6.68	10.27	65
CONRAD	5.43	7.13	76	1.90	3.50	54	7.33	10.63	69
CHESTER	5.08	5.79	88	2.35	3.17	74	7.43	8.96	83
FT BENTON	7.47	7.49	100	2.23	4.51	49	9.70	12.00	81
HARLEM	4.50	6.62	68	1.96	3.75	52	6.46	10.37	62
MALTA	9.03	6.39	141	2.64	3.81	69	11.67	10.20	[illegible]
GT FALLS	5.51	6.99	79	2.12	4.54	47	7.63	11.53	66
HELENA	5.62	5.47	103	1.94	3.60	54	7.56	9.07	83
LEWISTOWN	5.67	8.73	65	3.26	5.44	60	8.93	14.17	[illegible]
AUGUSTA	4.50	7.33	61	2.58	4.38	59	7.08	11.71	60
HARLOWTON	6.44	7.03	92	2.15	3.85	56	8.59	10.88	79
STANFORD	7.89	8.14	97	2.73	4.75	57	10.62	12.89	82
BILLINGS	3.71	6.43	58	2.12	4.58	46	5.83	11.01	53
AYOLA	7.06	7.00	101	3.58	5.15	70	10.64	12.15	88
GLASGOW	4.92	6.66	74	1.75	4.01	44	6.67	10.67	63
GLENDIVE	4.90	7.31	67	.72	3.80	19	5.62	11.11	51
JORDAN	3.59	5.78	62	1.43	3.19	45	5.02	8.97	56
MEDICINE LAKE	6.39	7.54	85	2.11	4.00	53	8.50	11.54	74
POPLAR	5.77	7.40	91	.55	3.78	15	7.32	11.18	65
BROADUS	6.43	7.85	82	1.76	4.27	41	8.19	12.12	68
MILES CITY	5.44	6.65	82	1.65	3.87	43	7.09	10.52	67
EKALAKA	6.77	7.67	88	5.03	3.93	128	11.80	11.60	102
Average of Stations Listed	5.65	6.88	82	2.46	4.24	58	8.10	11.12	73

Precipitation from the National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana - 2/13/80

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Prices
Mfg. Dairy Products

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Montana producers had 1.6 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1980--13 percent below last year.

Nationally, there were 154 million cwt. of fall potatoes in storage on February 1, 1980. This is 6 percent below the record holdings a year earlier, but 3 percent more than on February 1, 1978.

Potatoes: Production and Total Stocks of Fall Potatoes Held by Growers, Processors, and Local Dealers on Feb. 1, 1979 and Feb. 1, 1980

STATE	Crop of 1978		Crop of 1979	
	PROD.	STOCKS 2/1/79	PROD.	STOCKS 2/1/80
	1,000 cwt.			
COLO	11,275	5,750	11,455	5,500
IDAHO	100,310	63,000	88,200	55,000
MAINE	25,960	14,600	28,750	19,200
MINN	14,910	9,400	12,920	8,100
MONT	2,088	1,830	1,800	1,600
N DAK	22,400	12,200	18,240	8,800
OREG	28,488	12,500	25,310	12,400
WASH	50,685	24,000	48,925	23,300
WIS	17,325	5,700	17,010	5,300
23 STATE TOTAL 1/	318,058	164,666	296,678	154,005

1/ Excluding Nev. for which no stocks estimates are made.

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

80-3 February 13 1980

Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service-USDA and Montana Department of Agriculture • ISSUED TWICE MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Cattle Inventory
Sheep Inventory
Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured
Chicken Inventory
Producer-Owned Grain Stocks

CATTLE INVENTORY UP

Montana's cattlemen had 2.64 million head of cattle and calves in their herds at the start of 1980--1 percent more than a year ago. This continues the uptrend which started last July but still 735 thousand or 22 percent less than the peek inventory reached in January 1, 1974. However, ranchers had 2 percent fewer beef cows on hand this January compared to a year earlier, partially offset by 7 percent more heifers being held for beef cow replacement.

Class inventory and changes from a year ago are: beef cows 1.4 million--down 2 percent; milk cows, 28 thousand--up 4 percent; all heifers over 500 pounds, 397 thousand--up 12 percent, including heifers for beef cow replacement, 275 thousand--up 7 percent; steers over 500 pounds, 127 thousand, down 6 percent; bulls, 87 thousand--up 1 percent; calves under 500 pounds, 579 thousand--up 5 percent. The 1979 calf crop was estimated at 1.49 million head--3 percent more than last year's total.

All cattle and calves in the United States on January 1, 1980 totaled 111 million head--a fractional increase from last year's level but down 5 percent from January 1, 1978. This breaks the downward trend of the cattle cycle.

All cows and heifers that have calved numbered 47.8 million head--practically the same as January 1, 1979. The number on July 1, 1979 was 47.7 million--down 2 percent from July 1, 1978. The January 1, 1980 beef cows at 37.0 million are virtually unchanged from last year but down 5 percent from January 1, 1978.

CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1979-1980

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	% Change 1980/79	1979	1980	% Change 1980/79
	1,000 head		Pct.	1,000 head		Pct.
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	2,607	2,645	+ 1	110,864	110,961	--
Cows & heifers that have calved	1,480	1,455	- 2	47,843	47,794	--
Beef cows	1,453	1,427	- 2	37,003	36,983	--
Milk cows	27	28	+ 4	10,839	10,810	--
Heifers 500 pounds and over	356	397	+12	16,887	17,227	+ 2
For beef cow replacement	257	275	+ 7	5,517	5,931	+ 8
For milk cow replacement	8	11	+38	3,936	4,166	+ 6
Other heifers	91	111	+22	7,433	7,130	- 4
Steers 500 pounds and over	135	127	- 6	16,321	15,908	- 3
Bulls 500 pounds and over	86	87	+ 1	2,401	2,490	+ 4
Calves less than 500 pounds	550	579	+ 5	27,413	27,543	--
All cattle value (000 $)	1,186,185	1,348,950	+14	44,661,338	55,723,774	+25
Value per head (Dollars)	455	510	+12	403	502	+25

I T E M	1978	1979	% Change 1979/78	1978	1979	% Change 1979/78
Calves born during year (000)	1,443	1,490	+ 3	43,839	42,752	- 2
Number cattle farms	17,500	17,000	- 3	1,715,270	1,650,660	- 4

PRODUCER CONTROLLED OFF-FARM WHEAT STOCKS

Montana wheat producers retained pricing control on 16.2 million bushels stored in off-farm facilities on January 1, 1980--74 percent of the total wheat stored off farm. A year ago, 15.0 bushels were producer-controlled--55 percent of the total off-farm stocks.

Producer-owned grain stored in commercial off-farm storage facilities is defined as grain for which the producer has some marketing control.

SHEEP NUMBERS INCREASE

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory increased 4 percent in 1979 and numbered 494,000 head as of January 1, 1980. Total stocksheep at 480,000 head were up 25,000 head from a year ago, but sheep and lambs on feed declined 30 percent to 14,000 head. The total value of all sheep and lambs in the State increased 7 percent to 45.2 million dollars. The average value per head at $91.50 compares with $89.00 per head in 1978.

Ewes one year old and older increased from 324,000 in 1978 to 343,000 head in 1979. Ewe lambs were also up at 117,000 head--a 5 percent increase from a year ago. Both ram and wether lambs and rams and wethers one year old and older were unchanged from a year ago at 9,000 and 11,000 head respectively. The 1979 lamb crop at 340,000 head was down 3 percent.

Nationally, the number of sheep and lambs on farms on January 1, 1980 totaled 12.5 million head. This is up 2 percent from the record low 12.2 million head a year earlier and the first increase in sheep numbers since 1960. The January 1, 1980 inventory value of all sheep and lambs climbed 11 percent to 974.1 million dollars.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Montana farmers and ranchers received slightly less for their products on January 15, 1980 compared with a month earlier. The January Montana index of farm prices received at 269 (1967=100) was down 2 points from the December index, but 24 points (10 percent) above a year ago. The all crops index at 246 was 18 points below the previous month but the index of all livestock and products was 288--up 9 points from a month earlier.

Between mid-December and mid-January, price drops were noted for all crop items except oats which remained the same. Most livestock items registered increases--except prices for steers and heifers, milk, eggs, and wool which declined.

Nationally, the January index of prices received by farmers decreased 4 points (2 percent) to 234 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since December were lower prices for corn, eggs, wheat, soybeans, turkeys, and cattle. Higher prices for broilers, rice and calves were partially offsetting. The index was 2 points (.9 percent) above a year ago.

MONTANA CHICKEN NUMBERS DOWN

The number of chickens on Montana farms December 1, 1979 totaled 890,000--down 4 percent from the 930,000 on farms a year earlier. The inventory included 599,000 hens and pullets of laying age and 286,000 pullets not of laying age. The inventory value of all Montana chickens December 1, 1979 increased 16 percent to $2,003,000. The average value per head at $2.25 was 40 cents more than the previous year.

Nationally, the number of chickens on December 1, 1979 at 400 million was up 1 percent. The inventory value rose 4 percent to $725 million.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FARMS & RANCHES--JANUARY 1, 1979-1980

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1979	1980	Pct. Change from 1979	1979	1980	Pct. Change from 1979
	Thous. head		Pct.	Thous. head		Pct.
All sheep and lambs	475	494	+ 4	12,220	12,513	+ 2
On feed	20	14	-30	1,579	1,622	+ 3
Stock sheep	455	480	+ 5	10,641	10,891	+ 2
Lambs						
Ewes	111	117	+ 5	1,650	1,770	+ 7
Wethers and rams	9	9	--	367	376	+ 2
One year old & older						
Ewes	324	343	+ 6	8,248	8,385	+ 2
Wethers and rams	11	11	--	376	360	- 4
All sheep value (000 $)	42,275	45,201	+ 7	875,927	974,142	+11
Value per head (Dollars)	89.00	91.50	+ 3	71.70	77.90	+ 9
ITEM	1978	1979	Pct. Change from 1978	1978	1979	Pct. Change from 1978
Lambs saved	349	340	- 3	8,020	8,043	--
Number of sheep farms	2,000	1,900	- 5	117,010	118,280	+ 1

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--JANUARY 15, 1980

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		January 15, 1979	December 15, 1979 1/	January 15, 1980	January 15, 1980	January 15th Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.76	$ 3.74	$ 3.36	$ 3.67	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.93	4.09	3.94	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.74	3.61	3.55	3.37	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.76	3.70	3.46	3.62	6.27
Barley	Bu.	1.69	2.32	2.07	2.29	3.97
Oats	Bu.	1.16	1.42	1.42	1.30	2.25
Alfalfa hay	Ton	48.00	57.50	56.00	65.10	2/
All other hay	Ton	42.50	52.50	52.00	50.40	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	46.00	55.50	54.50	60.50	2/
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	69.50	74.70	73.90	68.70	2/
Cows	Cwt.	48.20	47.20	48.10	47.70	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	61.20	61.60	63.80	64.30	79.30
Calves	Cwt.	86.70	88.40	91.30	86.00	94.50
Sheep	Cwt.	20.60	22.50	23.50	26.00	27.10
Lambs	Cwt.	80.00	68.10	73.10	67.70	88.00
Hogs	Cwt.	50.70	34.40	35.00	36.60	74.40
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.40	12.80	12.70	12.80	17.40
Eggs	Doz.	.624	.689	.663	.568	1.00
Wool 4/	Lb.	.800	.910	.850	.836	1.77
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		140.00	150.00	150.00	154.00	---

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls.
4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1980 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA 1967 = 100				UNITED STATES 1967 = 100	
	1979			1980	1979	1980
	Jan. 15	Nov. 15	Dec. 15 2/	Jan. 15	December 15 2/	January 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Food grains	197	267	264	247	247	239
Feed grains	197	236	270	241	205	196
Feed grains and hay	195	237	260	238	211	203
ALL CROPS	197	262	264	246	219	214
Meat animals	291	301	288	298	269	267
Dairy products	213	238	236	234	254	254
Poultry products	182	178	200	192	202	192
Wool	188	205	215	201	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	280	291	279	288	256	253
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	245	278	271	269	238	234

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Jan. 15, 1979	Dec. 15, 1979	Jan. 15, 1980	Jan. 15, 1979	Dec. 15, 1979	Jan. 15, 1980
Prices Received	580	595	586	232	238	234
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	800	883	909	235	260	267
Ratio 1/	73	67	64	99	92	88

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

CATTLE OUTLOOK

JOHN MARSH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS--MSU

January 1 total cattle and calf inventory shows a slight increase of 1 percent from 1979 to 1980 for Montana and roughly unchanged for the U. S. For Montana, cows and heifers that have calved declined during this time period by 2 percent and remained unchanged for the U.S.--indicating an expected calf crop of 1980 nearly equal to that in 1979. The figures are indicative that the latest cattle cycle has bottomed out and based on their respective 7 and 8 percent increase of heifers (500 Lbs. and over) kept for beef cow replacement, ranchers are in the process of herd rebuilding for the next few years. Montana's 38 percent increase in heifers kept for milk cow replacement reflects the increase in milk sales relative to production over the past few years; thus, providing the incentive for expansion.

For the U. S., the low of 110,864 (1,000 head) in 1979 corresponds to the previous low of 108,783 (1000head) in 1967, making the last cycle nearly 12 years in length. The previous low to 1967 was in 1958 at 91,176 (1,000 head), indicating that with cyclical inventories, the longrun trend in cattle numbers is increasing. From the trough of 1958 to the trough of 1967, cattle numbers increased 19 percent--yet slowed considerably from the trough of 1967 to the trough of 1979 at nearly 2 percent. For Montana, the cyclical aspects are not easily discerned, yet the growth rate has exceeded the national average. The previous low to 1979 was in 1962 at 2,133 (1,000 head); thus, indicating a growth from trough to trough of 22 percent. Prior to that, from the trough of 1950 to 1962, cattle numbers grew at a rate of 23 percent.

The next cattle cycle will be particularly critical for Montana and U. S. producers. This is in light of expected inflation and high energy costs. For the U. S., herd buildup from a point of low cattle numbers to its peak usually lasts 6-8 years under normal conditions, with the remaining 3-4 years consisting of cow herd liquidation. During the buildup stages of the 1958-1967 and 1967-1979 cattle cycles, cattle inventories increased at an average of 2.7 percent per year and peaked out in the mid-decades. Beef demand per capita increased about 1.7 percent annually during this period which apparently was sufficient to absorb increasing beef supplies at existing market prices. Feed grain supplies and prices, the impact of inflation and energy on production, and marketing costs plus ranchers' expectations about future cattle prices, will determine the buildup rate in the next few years. In order for beef demand to be brisk and meat sales to be adequate, the rate of growth of income, employment, and consumer confidence will be the key economic factors.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 97,000 gallons of ice cream during December--2 percent more than December 1978. Creamed cottage cheese output at 353,000 pounds was up 14 percent from a year ago. Butter production at 153,000 pounds was down 10 percent from last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Potato Stocks
Slaughter
Farm Labor
Wheat Utilization

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

80-2 January 26, 1980

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Prospective Plantings
Cattle on Feed
Grain Stocks
Honey Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Potato Stocks

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INTENDED PLANTINGS UP

Montana farmers and ranchers' current spring planting intentions indicate a 7 percent increase in the acreage of the main spring-planted crops for 1980. A January survey revealed intentions to plant 4 percent more hard spring wheat, 16 percent more durum, 18 percent more barley, but 11 percent less oats, 6 percent less corn, and 1 percent fewer sugarbeets than planted in 1979.

Acreages finally planted could vary from these early intentions because of weather, economic conditions, and farm program participation, etc. Response by farmers to the survey was centered around January 1 with most questionnaires filled out and returned prior to the announcement on January 4 of the suspension of sales to the USSR. No attempt has been made to adjust or interpret any changes in reported intentions caused by the suspension action.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS--JAN. 1

CROP	ACRES PLANTED			
	MONTANA		U. S.	
	1979	1980 *	1979	1980 *
	---------1,000 acres---------			
Corn	85	80	78,600	81,639
All spring wheat	2,985	3,140	19,559	20,579
Other spring	2,650	2,750	15,517	15,734
Durum	335	390	4,042	4,845
Oats	360	320	13,985	13,313
Barley	1,100	1,300	7,622	8,431
Sugarbeets	44.1	43.7	1,108	1,071

* Indicated

MONTANA HAS RECORD HONEY PRODUCTION

Montana's 1979 honey crop was a record high. Production estimated at 13,184,000 pounds was up 50 percent from 1978 and was over 3.6 million pounds above the previous record production of 9,520,000 pounds in 1976. The number of colonies in Montana at 103,000 was only 4 percent above last year but the yield per colony at 128 pounds tied the previous record set in 1942--the first year that records were kept. Montana ranked 6th among States in terms of production. Stocks of honey on hand for sale by Montana honey producers were 923,000 pounds on December 15, 1979--up 16 percent from the previous year on this same date.

The U. S. honey crop at 237 million pounds was up 3 percent from 1978. The number of colonies in the U. S. at 4.1 million was up 2 percent from 1978, while the yield per colony at 57.2 pounds was up less than a pound over the previous year. U. S. honey stocks were up 19 percent at 37.8 million pounds.

HONEY & BEESWAX PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1978	1979	1978	1979
HONEY					
Production	000 Lbs.	8,811	13,184	230,483	237,268
Price per Lb.	Dols.	.538	.577	.545	.590
Value of Prod.	000 $	4,740	7,607	125,693	140,043
BEESWAX					
Production	000 Lbs.	159	224	3,933	3,727
Price per Lb.	Dols.	1.78	1.64	1.74	1.75
Value of Prod.	000 $	283	367	6,829	6,536

Federal funding for honey production estimates has been discontinued. This will be the last honey production report unless resources other than Federal funds are provided

FEWER CATTLE ON FEED

Montana feedlots held 21 percent fewer cattle and calves this January 1 compared with a year earlier. There were 63,000 on feed for the slaughter market which broke down into 27,000 steers, 30,000 heifers, and 6,000 cows. Compared with last year, steers and heifers were each down 11 thousand, while cows being fattened for slaughter were up 5,000. Of the total steers and heifers, only 8,000 weighed over 900 pounds compared with 16,000 last year.

During the October-December 1979 quarter, 18,000 head were marketed for slaughter--5 percent under last year. Cattle and calves placed in lots during the quarter were down 19 percent at 58,000. Montana feeders expect to market 30,000 head in the January-March 1980 quarter, 9,000 more than this same period in 1979.

CATTLE ON FEED JANUARY 1, 1980

ITEM	MONTANA		23 Major States	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
	----- 1,000 head ------			
On feed Oct. 1	32	--	9,938	---
During period Oct. 1-Dec. 31				
Placed on feed 1/	72	58	8,673	8,103
Marketed 1/	19	18	6,730	5,731
Other disappearance 2/	3	9	609	571
On feed January 1	80	63	12,681	11,739
Kinds on feed Jan. 1				
Steers & steer calves	38	27	8,507	7,907
Under 500 Lbs.	1	2	690	642
500-699 Lbs.	14	13	1,562	1,529
700-899 Lbs.	12	7	2,801	2,350
900-1099 Lbs.	11	4	2,851	2,611
1100 Lbs. & over	0	1	603	775
Heifers & heifer calves	41	30	4,095	3,721
Under 500 Lbs.	1	2	576	518
500-699 Lbs.	20	10	1,339	1,164
700-899 Lbs.	15	15	1,489	1,301
900 Lbs. & over	5	3	691	738
Cows and other	1	6	79	111
Marketings--Jan.-March	21 3/	30 4/	6,747 3/	6,378 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movements from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 31. 4/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after January 1 and marketed before March 31.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN

On January 1, 1980 Montana producers had 1.63 million cwt. in storage--13 percent below last year at this time.

Nationally, there were 182 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1980. This was a 7 percent decline from the record 196 million cwt. on hand a year ago but 3 percent above the comparable 1978 total.

MONTANA GRAIN STOCKS DOWN

Montana's all wheat stocks January 1, 1980 stored both on farms and in mills and elevators were 18 percent under a year ago. The decrease was caused by a 20 percent smaller crop in 1979 and a 37 percent greater disappearance during the October-December quarter compared with the same period the previous year. Total wheat stocks in all positions were 129.2 million bushels. Winter wheat in storage at 69.3 million bushels was down 19 percent from last year. All spring wheat at 59.9 million was down 16 percent with the durum portion at 8.4 million, also down 16 percent. Total wheat disappearance during the October-December quarter was 38.9 million bushels. Of the total wheat stocks, 83 percent was on farms, with the remainder in off-farm positions.

Barley stocks in all positions at 35.6 million bushels were down 29 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks at 7.3 million were off 33 percent.

Nationally, wheat stored in all positions on January 1, 1980 totaled 1.71 billion bushels, 5 percent more than last year's 1.63 billion bushels, but 14 percent less than two years ago. Farm stocks amounted to 772 million bushels or 45 percent of the total wheat stocks. Off-farm wheat stocks totaled 941 million bushels--15 percent more than a year earlier.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS DECEMBER 31, 1979
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	40,863	33,747	1,304	617
Under loan	21,596	17,307	6,123	4,637

1/ These stocks are included in the respective January 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

NOTE TO SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Some farmers and ranchers who return our questionnaires have specifically requested a copy of the results of the different surveys. However, a few have indicated they have not received the survey results. The Montana "Crop and Livestock Reporter", initiated Jan. 1979, includes results of most surveys conducted by the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. Prior to 1979, these were published in individual commodity reports.

ERRATA

Issue 79-24, December 27, 1979. In the table "1979 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SMALL GRAINS", (Page 3)--barley production for 1979 should be 59,125 rather than 52,125.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JANUARY 1, 1980 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1979	Oct. 1, 1979 *	Jan. 1, 1980	% Chg. from '79	Jan. 1, 1979	Oct. 1, 1979 *	Jan. 1, 1980
	-- Thousand bushels --			Pct.	-- Thousand bushels --		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	131,445	140,935	107,157	-18	816,442	1,031,332	772,232
Off farms 1/	25,829	27,073	22,000	-15	816,364	1,240,745	940,582
TOTAL	157,274	168,008	129,157	-18	1,632,806	2,272,077	1,712,814
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	69,471	67,285	52,692	-24	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	16,526	19,666	16,600	--	---	---	---
TOTAL	85,997	86,951	69,292	-19	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	61,974	73,650	54,465	-12	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	9,303	7,407	5,400	-42	---	---	---
TOTAL	71,277	81,057	59,865	-16	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	--	98,694	122,621	87,384
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	18,312	30,870	20,258
TOTAL	9,936	11,420	8,367	-16	117,006	153,491	107,642
RYE							
On farms	---	---	---	--	11,087	18,467	12,317
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	5,178	8,165	6,697
TOTAL	---	---	---	--	16,265	26,632	19,014
CORN							
On farms	270	11	289	+ 7	4,521,129	776,256	4,928,348
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,681,483	509,460	1,843,412
TOTAL	4/	4/	4/	--	6,202,612	1,285,716	6,771,760
OATS							
On farms	10,608	7,664	7,098	-33	478,838	472,168	406,449
Off farms 1/	300	193	200	-33	80,570	102,310	75,625
TOTAL	10,908	7,857	7,298	-33	559,408	574,478	482,074
BARLEY							
On farms	45,100	46,644	31,231	-31	276,139	308,626	244,108
Off farms 1/	4,816	4,994	4,400	- 9	114,164	150,319	120,159
TOTAL	49,916	51,638	35,631	-29	390,303	458,945	364,267

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators.
2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee and the Montana Department of Agriculture. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat.
4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jan. 1, 1979	Oct. 1, 1979 *	Jan. 1, 1980	Jan. 1, 1979	Oct. 1, 1979 *	Jan. 1, 1980
	-------- Million bushels --------			------- Million bushels ------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	.9	1.4	.8	3.4	3.7	3.0
Northcentral	64.3	69.7	51.0	21.7	23.6	15.0
Northeast	55.8	53.9	45.8	7.2	5.4	4.9
Central	14.6	17.2	12.1	7.9	9.0	6.3
Southwest	3.1	3.0	2.3	3.5	3.7	2.1
Southcentral	8.2	10.3	7.7	4.5	4.5	3.0
Southeast	10.4	12.5	9.5	1.7	1.7	1.3
STATE	157.3	168.0	129.2	49.9	51.6	35.6

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee and the Montana Department of Agriculture. * Revised.

MILK PRODUCTION INCREAS

Montana milk production in the fourth quarter (October-December) increased 3 percent over the same quarter the previous year. Dairymen produced 73 million pounds of milk in the 3 months, October through December--2 million pounds more than the same quarter in 1978. Average amount of grain fed to all cows in the herd on January 1 was 12.5 pounds per day--up 0.5 pounds from January 1 a year ago.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Area	Dec. Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	-----Thousands---		---Million pounds---	
Calif.	860	897	2,912	3,124
Idaho	141	140	402	421
Minn.	850	825	2,016	2,014
MONT	27	27	71	73
N. Dak.	97	93	195	191
Oregon	93	93	250	260
S. Dak.	169	163	367	367
Wash.	190	195	653	689
Wis.	1,811	1,813	4,871	5,076
Wyo.	11.1	11.0	28.2	30.3
U. S.	10,853	10,761	28,984	29,689

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Cattle Inventory
Sheep Inventory
Agricultural Prices
Chicken Inventory
Dairy Products Manufactured
Montana's Rank

MONTANA SLAUGHTER UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 30 percent more red meat during December than the same month one year ago. Total production at 13.6 million pounds compares with 10.5 million pounds last December and 16.7 million pounds during November 1979. Production for all of 1979 at 161.9 million pounds was 11 percent more than the 1978 production of 145.9 million pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during December 1979 totaled 3.08 billion pounds--down 1 percent from December 1978. January-December 1979 red meat production at 37.2 billion pounds was 2 percent below last year. Changes by individual components: beef, down 11 percent; veal, down 31 percent; pork, up 16 percent; lamb and mutton, down 5 percent.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER--DECEMBER 1979

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979
	---- 1,000 head -------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	14.6	14.5	3047.0	2650.9
Calves	---	---	300.1	216.4
Hogs	16.7	35.2	6434.4	7637.3
Sheep & lambs	.1	.1	411.1	403.2
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	13,704	14,550	3,244	2,859
Calves	---	---	69	51
Hogs	3,876	8,275	1,590	1,877
Sheep & lambs	13	18	47	47
Red meat production	10,455	13,566	3,094	3,076

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Numbers
Agricultural Prices
Hay Stocks
Dairy Products Mfg.

FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE DECLINE

The number of farms and ranches in Montana during 1979 is estimated at 21,700--which indicates 300 operations have gone out of existence during the past year. For 1980, farm and ranch numbers are expected to decline about 200 to an estimated 21,500.

The amount of land in Montana farms and ranches during 1979 is estimated at 62.0 million acres--100,000 less than a year ago. Land in farms for 1980 is expected to remain unchanged.

The number of farms in the United States in 1979 is estimated at 2.33 million--down 1.6 percent from the 2.37 million in 1978. For 1980, farm numbers are expected to decline about 1 percent to 2.31 million.

Total land in farms was 1,049 million acres for 1979--a decline of 0.3 percent from a year earlier. The preliminary estimate for 1980 is 1,047 million acres--down 0.2 percent.

A farm is defined as a place which has annual sales of agricultural products of $1,000 or more. The estimates based on this definition are available beginning with 1975.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The December index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers decline 9 points (3 percent) from November. However, the index at 269 was still 39 points (17 percent) above December 1978. The reduction was mainly the result of a 12 point drop in the livestock and products index. Cow, steer and heifer prices were up slightly, but cows made up a larger share of the marketings and this pulled the composite price for all beef cattle down.

The all crops index at 258 dropped 4 points from November (1 percent) as grain and hay prices were down from the previous month.

(tables inside)

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 109,000 gallons of ice cream during November--2 percent less than November 1978. Creamed cottage cheese output at 383,000 pounds was up 12 percent from a year ago. Butter production at 166,000 pounds was down 3 percent from last year.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS--1978-80

STATE	FARMS			LAND IN FARMS		
	1978	1979	1980 1/	1978	1979	1980 1/
Colorado	26,900	26,300	25,500	38,300	38,000	37,700
Idaho	23,400	23,400	23,500	15,400	15,500	15,500
MONTANA	22,000	21,700	21,500	62,100	62,000	62,000
Nevada	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,990	8,990	8,990
North Dakota	41,000	40,500	40,000	41,690	41,690	41,690
Oregon	30,000	30,500	30,500	18,700	18,650	18,600
South Dakota	42,000	41,500	41,000	45,450	45,450	45,450
Utah	12,300	12,200	12,000	12,850	12,800	12,600
Washington	33,500	33,500	33,500	16,100	16,100	16,100
Wyoming	7,300	7,200	7,200	35,100	35,100	35,100
UNITED STATES	2,370,050	2,332,690	2,309,130	1,052,018	1,049,063	1,046,713

1/ Preliminary.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--DECEMBER 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		December 15, 1978	November 15, 1979 1/	December 15, 1979	December 15, 1979	December 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.76	$ 3.73	$ 3.69	$ 3.89	2/
Durum	Bu.	3.03	4.56	4.46	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.80	3.64	3.60	3.49	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.77	3.74	3.70	3.82	6.16
Barley	Bu.	1.70	2.01	1.98	2.27	3.88
Oats	Bu.	1.13	1.65	1.49	1.37	2.24
Alfalfa hay	Ton	44.00	59.50	57.50	65.20	2/
All other hay	Ton	39.50	55.00	52.50	50.10	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	42.50	58.00	55.50	60.50	2/
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	65.30	74.60	74.70	69.10	2/
Cows	Cwt.	42.50	47.10	47.20	47.50	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	54.30	65.20	61.60	64.70	74.50
Calves	Cwt.	79.10	90.70	88.40	84.40	86.20
Sheep	Cwt.	18.50	21.00	22.50	24.70	24.40
Lambs	Cwt.	74.00	68.70	68.10	66.30	85.40
Hogs	Cwt.	48.80	31.90	34.40	37.50	73.70
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.40	12.95	12.95	13.00	16.80
Eggs	Doz.	.643	.614	.689	.638	1.01
Wool 4/	Lb.	.81	.870	.910	.821	1.72
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		140.00	150.00	150.00	154.00	---

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS DECEMBER 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY	MONTANA 1967 = 100				UNITED STATES 1967 = 100	
	1978	1979			1979	
	Dec. 15	Oct. 15	Nov. 15 2/	Dec. 15	November 15 2/	December 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Food grains	198	271	267	264	256	250
Feed grains	198	264	236	232	200	209
Feed grains and hay	193	255	237	231	206	214
ALL CROPS	198	269	262	258	223	220
Meat animals	261	337	301	288	263	269
Dairy products	213	228	238	238	256	258
Poultry products	187	177	178	200	189	202
Wool	192	213	205	215	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	254	322	291	279	251	256
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	230	299	278	269	238	239

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Dec. 15, 1978	Nov. 15, 1979	Dec. 15, 1979	Dec. 15, 1978	Nov. 15, 1979	Dec. 15, 1979
Prices Received	556	594	598	222	238	239
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	770	872	880	226	256	259
Ratio 1/	72	68	68	98	93	92

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

CATTLE ON FEED REPORTS AND MARKET PRICES

Do USDA's Cattle on Feed reports affect cattle prices? Some cattlemen say prices typically fall because of the reports. However, the facts don't support that assumption. The only way to determine once and for all how prices have reacted after the reports is to examine the record, and that's just what the Crop Reporting Board did.

Of course, how often prices rise or fall doesn't settle how much of the credit or blame actually belongs to the reports, but it's a good start.

The table analyses changes in Choice steer prices at Omaha following each of the quarterly Cattle on Feed reports issued from 1975 to 1978. All prices are weekly average prices per cwt. By averaging out daily price fluctuations, weekly prices help differentiate fundamental price effects from the effects of daily supply disruptions due to weather, holidays, and other "spurious" factors.

CHOICE STEER PRICES:[1]
Price Reaction Following Quarterly Cattle on Feed Reports

Release date of report	Change in cattle on feed numbers from previous year	Weekly average price: Week before	Week of release	Week after	Change from: Week before to week of release	Week of release to week after
	Percent		*$ per cwt.*		*$ per cwt.*	
1975						
Jan. 20	-26	36.70	35.58	35.18	-1.12	-0.40
April 18	-31	41.20	42.10	43.82	+0.90	+1.72
July 18	-15	50.05	50.50	49.92	+0.45	-0.58
Oct. 20	+2	47.62	47.02	47.00	-0.60	-0.02
1976						
Jan. 20	+28	42.25	40.28	38.12	-1.97	-2.16
April 16	+28	41.10	43.50	44.60	+2.40	+1.10
July 19	+17	37.65	38.22	36.95	+0.57	-1.27
Oct. 19	0	38.02	38.48	39.42	+0.46	+0.94
1977						
Jan. 21	-3	38.75	37.40	37.78	-1.35	+0.38
April 19	-3	39.52	40.55	42.65	+1.03	+2.10
July 18	-3	41.12	40.35	40.52	-0.77	+0.17
Oct. 19	+6	42.25	42.22	42.38	-0.03	+0.16
1978						
Jan. 20	+7	43.55	43.60	43.62	+0.05	+0.02
April 18	+10	52.32	53.25	52.98	+0.93	-0.27
July 19	+12	54.80	54.00	54.30	-0.80	+0.30
Oct. 18	+16	55.62	55.38	53.75	-0.24	-1.63
No. of times prices increased:					8	9
No. of times prices decreased:					8	7
Total net change ($ per cwt.):					-0.09	+0.56

[1]Weekly average cash prices per cwt. for Choice slaughter steers, 900-1,100 pounds, at Omaha. (Source: AMS Market News)

Probably the first thing to note from the table is that prices increased as often, or more often, than prices decreased for the 16 reports combined.

Looking at price changes from the week before the reports were issued to the week of issuance, weekly average prices rose eight times and dropped eight times. From the week of release to the week after, prices went up nine times and dropped only seven times.

In dollar terms, the total net change for all the reports combined was a loss of 9 cents per cwt. from the week before to the week of release. However, the net change in price from the week of release to the week after was an increase of 56 cents. The table makes another important point: that no consistent relationship is apparent between the direction of change in cattle on feed numbers and the direction of change in prices. Of course, it is difficult to know what specific piece of information, if any, in each report may have had some effect on prices. However, in the absence of other market factors, it would seem reasonable that increases in reported inventories would result in price declines and that decreases in inventories would boost prices.

The evidence shows no such relationship. Looking at 1976 for example, the January 20 report showed the inventory of cattle on feed to be up 28 percent from the previous year. Assuming that markets were reacting only to this information, the price response following that report would seem logical. However, after the April 16 report, which showed the same 28 percent increase in cattle on feed numbers, prices reacted in the opposite way. Cash prices which had averaged $41.10 per cwt. the week before the report jumped $2.40 to $43.50 for the week the report came out. Then they rose another $1.10 the next week.

From the table, it's clear that cattle prices may either rise or fall after Cattle on Feed reports, regardless of whether the cattle on feed inventory is up or down. This suggests that the reports are not the sole and direct cause of price fluctuations--even on a very shortterm basis.

The conclusion: While the relative price influence of the reports among other market factors may be debatable, the record of how prices have responded following the reports isn't. At least for the quarterly reports, the record shows that prices have risen as much and as often, as they've declined after the reports were issued. It also shows that there's no reason to assume that reports indicating increased numbers of cattle on feed will mean a drop in prices.

Obviously, any information contributing to the overall picture--including cattle on feed numbers, placements, and marketings--can affect the relative bargaining positions of cattle buyers and sellers.

Consequently, because the price reaction after Cattle on Feed reports does not appear to follow a logical pattern (prices moving in the opposite direction of cattle on feed numbers) that does not mean that the reports have no effect on the market.

Many analysts describe the relationship between the reports and prices in terms of an "announcement effect".

(continued on back page)

The announcement effect theory suggests that price movements immediately following the release of a report indicate how accurately the private sector has anticipated the information that's in the report. In other words, the cattle market will react only to the degree to which it is surprised by what the report shows.

If the information released was correctly anticipated by market participants, prices might still respond to other factors but not to the report itself. Likewise, an increase in cattle on feed numbers could easily have the seemingly illogical effect of boosting prices if the increase was smaller than the trade expected.

Although the announcement effect might help analysts explain why prices frequently react in the same direction as reported cattle on feed numbers, the most important consideration for the cattleman is the actual record of price response.

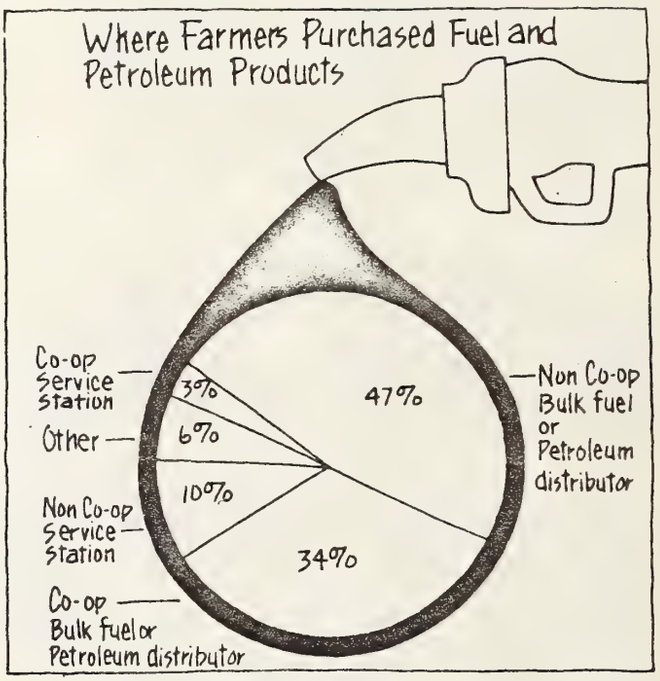
That record is clear: for whatever reasons over the last 4 years cattle prices have risen more often, and by a greater dollar amount, than they've fallen following USDA's Cattle on Feed reports.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Grain Stocks
Honey Production
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production
Prospective Plantings
Slaughter
Potato Stocks

HAY STOCKS

January 1 hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches totaled 3,819,000 tons--4 percent less than on the same date last year. Hay supplies appear ample and a mild open fall enabled some late grazing. However, many farmers and ranchers had to start early supplementary feeding, even though grazing was open. Late pasture and range conditions in most areas of the State were not too good due to lack of moisture during the past summer and fall.

The United States hay stocks on farms January 1 totaled 106.8 million tons--9 percent above a year earlier.



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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Annual Summary Small Grains
Winter Wheat Seedings
December 1 Hog Inventory
Quarterly Egg Production
Potato Stocks
Slaughter

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 26 percent more red meat during November than the same month one year ago. Total production at 16.7 million pounds compares with 13.3 million pounds last November and 17.5 million pounds during October 1979. Production for the first eleven months of 1979 at 148.3 million pounds is 10 percent more than for the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during November 1979 totaled 3.31 billion pounds--down 1 percent from November 1978. January-November red meat production at 34.2 billion pounds was 2 percent less than last year. Changes by individual components: beef, down 12 percent; veal, down 32 percent; pork, up 16 percent; lamb and mutton, down 5 percent.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Nov. 1978	Nov. 1979	Nov. 1978	Nov. 1979
	----- 1,000 head ------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	16.0	15.6	3268.8	2795.2
Calves	--	--	315.8	240.1
Hogs	24.6	51.6	7041.5	8495.9
Sheep & lambs	.2	.2	430.2	403.2
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	16,173	15,427	3,467	2,993
Calves	--	--	75	56
Hogs	5,747	11,974	1,742	2,082
Sheep & lambs	19	15	49	46
Red meat production	13,254	16,702	3,345	3,306

POTATO STOCKS

On December 1, 1979 Montana producers had 1.65 million cwt. in storage--13 percent below last year at this time.

Nationally, there were 209.2 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1979--6 percent less than a year earlier.

POTATOES
DEC. 1, 1978 and DEC. 1, 1979

STATE	Crop of 1978		Crop of 1979	
	Prod.	Stocks 12/1/78	Prod.	Stocks 12/1/79
	1,000 cwt.			
COLO	11,275	8,300	11,455	8,150
IDAHO	100,310	78,000	88,200	68,500
MAINE	25,960	19,700	28,750	24,000
MINN	14,910	12,000	12,920	10,500
MONT	2,088	1,900	1,800	1,650
N. DAK	22,400	17,000	18,240	12,500
OREG	28,488	17,700	25,310	16,900
WASH	50,685	32,000	48,925	30,800
WIS	17,325	10,100	17,010	9,450
23 STATE TOTAL	310,058	223,290	296,678	209,180

1/ Excluding NEV for which no stocks estimates are made. NEV 1978 production 5,440,000 cwt. and 1979 production 4,950,000 cwt.

EGG PRODUCTION

Layers in Montana produced 40 million eggs in the period September 1 through November 30. This is down 8 million from the same period last year. The number of layers on hand as of December 1 was 599,000--down 19 percent from last year. The main reason for the decline is that a large number of layers had to be destroyed becaused of PCB contamination during the September 1 to November 30 period. Approximately 5.8 million of the 40 million eggs produced during the quarter also had to be destroyed due to PCB contamination.

Nationally, 17.0 billion eggs were produced in the September-November quarter. This is a 1 percent increase over last year. Layers on hand December 1, at 291.9 thousand, were down slightly from the previous year.

MONTANA HOG NUMBERS DOWN

Montana producers had fewer hogs and pigs on hand December 1, 1979 than a year earlier. The Montana inventory of 209,000 was 6 percent below last year. Market hogs at 181,000 were also down 6 percent, while breeding hogs at 28,000 were down 3 percent. Part of the inventory reduction is due to PCB contaminated hogs that had to be destroyed. Approximately 4,000 head were destroyed during September 1, 1979 to December 1, 1979 period according to the Montana Department of Health.

The state pig crop for 1979 totaled 308,000--down 7 percent from the previous year. The spring pig crop (December-May) at 155,000 was down 10 percent from a year earlier, but was 8 percent above December-May 1977. The fall pig crop farrowed during June-November at 153,000 was down 3 percent from a year ago, but 6 percent above 1977.

Nationally, the December 1 hog inventory is estimated at 67.0 million head, an 11 percent increase from last year. Breeding stock was virtually unchanged, but market hogs were up 14 percent from last year. The spring pig crop (December-May) estimated at 50.7 million head is up 19 percent from a year earlier. The fall pig crop (June-November) estimated at 52.1 million head is 13 percent more than a year ago.

Nationally, hog producers intend to farrow 7.18 million sows during the December 1979-May 1980 period--about the same number as a year ago.

HOG AND PIGS: NUMBER ON FARMS, SOWS FARROWING AND PIG CROP

ITEM	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1977	1978	1979	Pct. Chg. 1979/1978	1977	1978	1979	1980
		1,000 head		Pct.		1,000 head		
Number on farms--December 1	211	222	209	- 6	57,587	60,100	66,950	
All hogs and pigs	30	29	28	- 3	8,604	9,584	9,551	
Kept for breeding	181	193	181	- 6	47,935	50,517	57,400	
Market								
Market hogs and pigs by weight groups								
Under 60 pounds	69	66	60	- 9	19,424	21,154	22,633	
60-119 pounds	49	57	51	-11	12,399	13,036	15,391	
120-179 pounds	32	45	45	--	9,110	9,378	11,238	
180 pounds and over	31	25	25	--	7,002	6,948	8,137	
Sows farrowing								
December 1/-February	9	11	9	-18	2,742	2,747	3,193	
March-May	10	12	12	--	3,308	3,283	3,999	
December 1/-May	19	23	21	- 9	6,050	6,030	7,192	2/ 7,176
June-August	9	11	11	--	3,087	3,168	3,772	
September-November	10	10	10	--	2,922	3,227	3,532	
June-November	19	21	21	--	6,009	6,395	7,304	
Pig crop								
December 1/-May	143	173	155	-10	42,960	42,452	50,669	3/ 50,950
June-November	144	158	153	- 3	43,202	45,990	52,084	
Year	287	331	308	- 7	86,162	88,442	102,753	
		Number				Number		
Pigs per litter								
December 1/-May	7.5	7.5	7.4	--	7.10	7.04	7.05	3/ 7.10
June-November	7.6	7.5	7.3	- 1	7.19	7.19	7.13	

1/ December preceding year. 2/ Intentions. 3/ Average number of pigs per litter allowance for trend used to compute indicated December-May pig crop.

HOGS AND PIGS: TOTAL VALUE, 1977-1979--MONTANA AND UNITED STATES

	TOTAL VALUE					
	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979
	1,000 dollars					
December 1 All Hogs & Pigs	12,027	15,984	11,182	3,575,279	5,004,260	3,769,706

1979 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SMALL GRAINS

Montana's total small grain production for the 1979 crop season totaled nearly 162.5 million bushels--25 percent less than a year ago according to final end-of-season figures. The smaller output was mostly because of lower yields per acre, as harvested acreage fell only 2 percent. Rainfall was below average in almost all locations in the state.

Total wheat production at 116.5 million bushels was down 20 percent. Winter wheat at 57.4 million fell 31 percent; durum at 6.8 million bushels was off 22 percent; and hard spring wheat at 52.3 million was down 3 percent. The relatively small decrease in spring wheat production was due to the large amount of winter wheat lost to "winter kill" and reseeded to spring wheat.

Barley production at 40.6 million bushels was down 31 percent and oats at 5.4 million was down 49 percent from 1978.

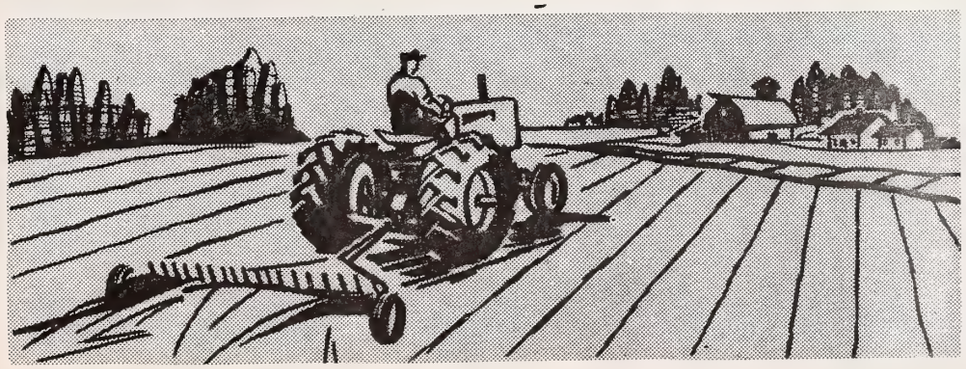
All wheat production for the nation totaled 2.1 billion bushels--up 19 percent from 1978. U. S. barley production at 378 million bushels was down 16 percent and oats production at 534 million bushels was down 10 percent from last year based on after harvest surveys.

End of season statistics for other crops will be released January 15, 1980.

1979 ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SMALL GRAINS

Crop	Year	MONTANA Acreage Planted	MONTANA Acreage Harvested	MONTANA Production Yield per acre	MONTANA Production Total	MONTANA % Change from prev year	UNITED STATES PRODUCTION
		---1,000 Acres---		Bu	1,000 Bu	Pct	1,000 Bu
Winter Wheat 1/	1977	3,050	2,800	29.0	81,200		1,537,113
	1978	2,900	2,700	31.0	83,700		1,247,706
	1979	3,000	2,250	25.5	57,375	- 31	1,608,897
Durum Wheat	1977	230	220	22.0	4,840		79,964
	1978	300	290	30.0	8,700		133,328
	1979	335	325	21.0	6,825	- 22	106,654
Other Spring Wheat	1977	2,120	2,040	22.0	44,880		419,241
	1978	1,900	1,850	29.0	53,650		416,494
	1979	2,650	2,550	20.5	52,275	- 3	426,181
All Wheat	1977	5,400	5,060	25.9	130,920		2,036,318
	1978	5,100	4,840	30.2	146,050		1,797,528
	1979	5,985	5,125	22.7	116,475	-20	2,141,732
Oats	1977	312	140	40.0	5,600		750,901
	1978	400	208	51.0	10,608		595,882
	1979	360	140	39.0	5,460	-49	534,386
Barley	1977	1,550	1,430	36.5	52,195		420,159
	1978	1,500	1,375	43.0	52,125		449,177
	1979	1,100	1,040	39.0	40,560	-31	378,067
Total Small Grains	1977	---	6,630	---	188,715		3,207,378
	1978	---	6,423	---	215,783		2,842,587
	1979	---	6,305	---	162,495	-25	3,054,185

1/ Acreage seeded in preceding fall.



MONTANA WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS DOWN

Montana farmers planted 2.6 million acres of winter wheat this past fall for harvest in 1980--a decrease of 13 percent from last year's seedings. Based upon farmer-reported condition of the crop on December 1, the estimate for 1980 production is 72.8 million bushels--up 27 percent from 1979. The low production level this past year was due to the large loss of acreage from winter kill and drought reduced yield. Winter wheat was seeded this past fall under generally dry conditions and good winter and spring moisture is needed for spring growth and development

Nationally, growers seeded 56.8 million acres of winter wheat in the fall of 1979 for the 1980 crop. This is 9 percent more than last year's 51.9 million acres and 19 percent more than the acreage planted two years ago. Winter wheat production for 1980 based on condition of the crop on December 1, 1979, is forecast at 1.57 billion bushels--3 percent less than the production in 1979. Seeded yield is forecast at 27.6 bushels per acre. In comparison, last year's average was 31.0 bushels per planted acre.

WINTER WHEAT--SELECTED STATES AND U. S.

STATE	ACREAGE SEEDED 1/				PRODUCTION		
	CROP OF			Percent change	CROP OF		
	1978	1979	1980	from 1979	1978	1979	1980 2/
	1,000 Acres			Pct.	1,000 Bushels		
California	650	820	1,100	+34	37,200	54,600	63,800
Colorado	3,000	3,200	3,500	+ 9	57,270	67,600	84,000
Idaho	870	980	980	-	44,010	35,700	38,220
Illinois	1,050	1,360	1,570	+15	35,340	55,900	59,660
Indiana	900	1,000	1,150	+15	31,785	44,415	43,700
Kansas	11,300	12,100	12,800	+ 6	306,000	410,400	332,800
Michigan	470	800	880	+10	18,000	33,755	35,200
Missouri	960	1,780	2,250	+26	28,560	70,400	72,000
MONTANA	2,900	3,000	2,600	-13	83,700	57,375	72,800
Nebraska	2,900	3,000	3,100	+ 3	81,600	86,700	93,000
Ohio	1,200	1,350	1,500	+11	43,875	63,360	55,500
Oklahoma	7,000	7,000	7,500	+ 7	145,800	216,600	180,000
Oregon	1,150	1,180	1,220	+ 3	47,300	48,000	51,240
S. Dakota	1,080	1,080	1,150	+ 6	18,200	10,450	16,100
Texas	5,700	5,800	6,800	+17	54,000	138,000	88,400
Washington	2,800	2,850	3,000	+ 5	119,600	94,600	126,000
U.S.	47,893	51,919	56,841	+ 9	1,247,706	1,608,897	1,567,817

1/ Total area seeded for all purposes

2/ Indicated December 1979

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Numbers
Agricultural Prices
Hay Stocks
Dairy Products Manufactured

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Mfg.
Farm Income
Pasture and Range

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Prices received by Montana farmers in November were down from October. The November index of all farm products at 278 (percent of 1967) was 7 percent below October but still 22 percent above last year. Declining livestock prices pulled the livestock price index down 10 percent from last month. The index of prices received for crops was down 1 percent. Compared with a year ago, the livestock index stands 19 percent higher and crops are up 30 percent.

Individual commodity prices averaged no change for wheat, feed grains were down, and hay was up from last month. Cattle and calf prices averaged $4 to $5 per cwt. lower. Hogs fell off about $2 and wool was also down. These lower prices were only slightly offset by higher sheep, lamb, milk, and egg prices.

Nationally, the November index of prices received by farmers increased 1 point (1/2 percent) to 237 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since October were higher prices for broilers, eggs, oranges, tomatoes, and milk. Lower prices for cattle, corn, grapefruit, lemons, and wheat were partially offsetting. The index was 21 points (10 percent) above a year ago.

The mid-month index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates was unchanged from October at 256. Lower prices for livestock feeds were offset by higher prices for other production items and the family living component. The index was 31 points (14 percent) above a year ago.

PASTURE AND RANGE

Most parts of the State had a reduced condition from November and grazing generally remained open in most areas. The December 1 condition averaged 66 percent--2 points below November and 23 points below a year ago.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION DEC. 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	78	93	62
Northcentral	66	90	64
Northeast	64	90	59
Central	70	88	67
Southwest	90	89	77
Southcentral	70	90	66
Southeast	66	88	68
STATE	71	89	66

1978 FARM INCOME UP

Montana farmers and ranchers received nearly $1.4 billion in cash receipts from farming and ranching in 1978. Cash receipts were up 33 percent from 1977. However, expenses were up 18 percent. After expenses, Montana farm and ranch families had $297.6 million left as realized net farm income. Divided between the 23,000 farms and ranches in Montana, net income amounted to $12,938 per farm. This compares with $5,572 per operator in 1977.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products accounted for more than half the total receipts and were 38 percent above 1977. Crops brought in 17 percent more than the previous year. Government payments were more than double 1977 but represented only 10 percent of cash receipts.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--NOVEMBER 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		November 15, 1978	October 15, 1979 1/	November 15, 1979	November 15, 1979	November 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.86	$ 3.66	$ 3.66	$ 3.90	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.89	4.44	4.62	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.89	3.74	3.75	3.62	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.88	3.80	3.80	3.90	6.10
Barley	Bu.	1.75	2.27	2.03	2.29	3.85
Oats	Bu.	1.20	1.41	1.37	1.32	2.21
Alfalfa hay	Ton	40.00	57.50	59.50	64.40	2/
All other hay	Ton	37.00	52.00	55.00	49.20	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	39.00	55.00	58.00	59.90	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	60.00	78.50	74.60	68.90	2/
Cows	Cwt.	39.80	51.20	47.10	46.50	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	53.20	75.40	65.20	64.20	73.90
Calves	Cwt.	73.00	95.70	90.70	85.10	85.50
Sheep	Cwt.	19.00	18.50	21.00	25.50	24.20
Lambs	Cwt.	69.60	68.00	68.70	64.70	84.60
Hogs	Cwt.	46.90	34.10	31.90	34.40	73.00
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.40	12.30	12.65	12.60	16.70
Eggs	Doz.	.557	.610	.614	.574	1.00
Wool 4/	Lb.	.840	.900	.870	.902	1.70
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		120.00	145.00	150.00	151.00	---

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls.
4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS NOVEMBER 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA 1967 = 100				UNITED STATES 1967 = 100	
	1978	1979			1979	
	Nov. 15	Sept. 15	Oct. 15 2/	Nov. 15	October 15 2/	November 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Food grains	206	263	271	271	260	256
Feed grains	204	252	264	237	208	201
Feed grains and hay	194	247	255	237	213	207
ALL CROPS	204	260	269	265	224	224
Meat animals	252	337	337	301	266	263
Dairy products	213	223	228	233	250	254
Poultry products	162	175	177	178	167	189
Wool	198	203	213	205	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	244	321	322	290	248	250
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	227	295	299	278	236	237

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Nov. 15, 1978	Oct. 15, 1979	Nov. 15, 1979	Nov. 15, 1978	Oct. 15, 1979	Nov. 15, 1979
Prices Received	541	591	593	216	236	237
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	764	870	872	225	256	256
Ratio 1/	71	68	68	96	92	93

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FARM INCOME -- 1977-1978 1/

	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
	Million dollars			
1. Cash receipts from livestock and crops	965.4	1,231.6	95,654	111,042
2. Government payments	61.4	137.2	1,819	3,030
3. CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARMING (1 + 2)	1,026.8	1,368.8	97,473	114,072
4. Non-money income 2/	106.2	119.1	8,444	9,141
5. Other farm income	19.0	20.7	1,561	1,701
6. REALIZED GROSS FARM INCOME (3 + 4 + 5)	1,152.0	1,508.7	107,478	124,914
7. Farm production expense	1,022.2	1,211.1	88,776	98,095
8. REALIZED NET FARM INCOME (6 - 7)	129.8	297.6	18,703	26,819
	UNIT			
9. Number farms	23,300	23,000	2,706,450	2,671,970
10. Realized gross income per farm (6 ÷ 9)	49,442	65,596	39,712	46,750
11. Realized net income per farm (8 ÷ 9)	5,572	12,938	6,910	10,037

1/ Details may not add or calculate exactly due to rounding.
2/ Largely value of home consumptions and gross rental value of farm dwellings.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES AND COMMODITY GROUPS, MONTANA--1977-1978

COMMODITIES	VALUE		Percentage of all commodities	
	1977 1/	1978 2/	1977 1/	1978 2/
	1,000 dollars		1,000 dollars	
Cattle and calves	412,820	582,260	42.8	47.3
Dairy products	27,092	29,775	2.8	2.4
Sheep and lambs	10,749	15,340	1.1	1.2
Wool	3,332	3,380	.3	.3
Hogs	23,399	34,348	2.4	2.8
Farm chickens and eggs	8,371	8,456	.9	.7
Honey and beeswax	3,293	4,825	.3	.4
Other 3/	5,397	4,390	.6	.3
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	494,453	682,774	51.2	55.4
Wheat	328,917	387,875	34.1	31.5
Barley	70,181	71,122	7.3	5.8
Sugarbeets	21,504	25,753	2.2	2.1
Hay	25,740	27,961	2.7	2.3
Potatoes	6,422	7,962	.7	.7
Oats	2,410	2,783	.2	.2
Dry edible beans	1,840	1,998	.2	.2
Alfalfa seed	2,705	2,854	.3	.2
Flaxseed	212	58	5/	5/
Other crops 4/	4,651	12,983	.5	1.0
Cherries	1,300	1,276	.1	.1
Other fruits 6/	34	41	5/	5/
Forest products	3,200	4,200	.3	.3
Greenhouse and nursery	1,827	2,010	.2	.2
CROPS	470,943	548,876	48.8	44.6
ALL COMMODITIES	965,396	1,231,650	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Turkeys, turkey eggs, other poultry, other livestock.
4/ Miscellaneous vegetables, rye, corn, safflower, sweet clover seed, mustard seed, wheat grass seed, other seeds, and other field crops. 5/ Less than .1 of a percent.
6/ Apples, strawberries, raspberries, and other fruits.

GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS BY PROGRAM

	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1977 1/	1978 2/	1977 1/	1978 2/
	-------1,000 dollars-------		---------1,000 dollars---------	
Government payments				
Conservation 3/	5,838	5,099	197,183	193,755
Sugar Act	---	---	65,439	---
Feed grain program	287	29,432	187,288	1,172,016
Wheat program	48,908	79,111	887,307	962,645
Cotton	---	---	88,991	126,723
Drought & flood program	4,485	1,845	116,148	45,220
Rice program	---	---	130,253	2,623
Misc. programs 4/	1,925	21,750	146,270	527,022
TOTAL	61,443	137,237	1,818,879	3,030,004

1/ Revised.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Includes amounts paid under agricultural conservation programs.
4/ Includes wool, milk indemnity program, beekeepers' indemnity program, forest incentive program, emergency livestock feed program, feed grain reserve program, water bank program, and other miscellaneous programs.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Dec. 1 Hog Inventory
Quarterly Egg Production
Annual Summary Small Grains
Winter Wheat Seedings
Potato Stocks
Slaughter

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

. Montana dairy plants manufactured 148,000 gallons of ice cream during October--6 percent more than October 1978. Creamed cottage cheese output at 448,000 pounds was up 26 percent from a year ago. Butter production at 175,000 pounds was up 12 percent from last year.

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Slaughter
Farm Labor
Hog Slaughter & Prices

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 33 percent more red meat during October than the same month one year ago. Total production at 17.5 million pounds compares with 13.2 million pounds last October and 15.3 million pounds during September 1979. Production for the first ten months of 1979 at 131.6 million pounds is 8 percent more than for the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during October 1979 totaled 3.56 billion pounds--up 6 percent from October 1978. January-October meat production at 30.9 billion pounds was 3 percent less than last year. Change by individual components: beef, down 11 percent; veal, down 32 percent; pork, up 15 percent; lamb and mutton, down 6 percent.

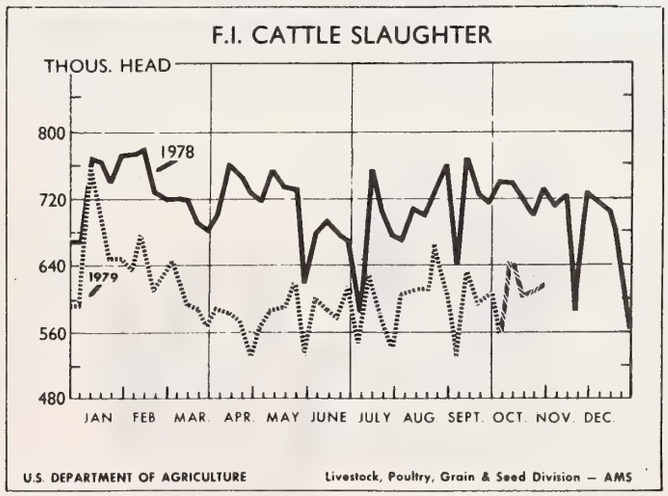
OCTOBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1979	Oct. 1978	Oct. 1979
	---------1,000 head---------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	14.6	14.9	3408.1	3034.1
Calves	--	--	331.2	253.7
Hogs	27.5	56.0	6840.5	9097.9
Sheep & lambs	.2	.3	475.7	473.9
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	15,570	16,044	3,562	3,237
Calves	--	--	80	61
Hogs	6,423	12,774	1,659	2,199
Sheep & lambs	25	39	54	53
Red meat production	13,177	17,531	3,355	3,556

FEED GRAIN PRICES STRONG DESPITE RECORD SUPPLY

Feed grain prices in 1979/80 are expected to average higher than last year despite the record large supply. The total of domestic use and exports likely will be more than the record 1979 feed grain production, which will reduce stocks moderately by the end of the 1979/80 marketing year. Current estimates indicate domestic use of feed grains will be about 157 million tons--an increase of 3 percent from last year. This volume would be near the all-time high domestic use of feed grains in 1972/73. The increase over last year will be due mainly to continued heavy hog and poultry feeding.

Exports are expected to total about 71 million metric tons--11 million tons (18 percent) more than the record exports of 60 million tons in 1978/79. The export market is strong because total world grain production (wheat, coarse grains, and rough rice) this year is about 4 percent below last year's record harvest. World production of coarse grains outside of the United States is down 5 percent from 1978/79--mainly reflecting the much smaller Soviet crop. Some countries are maintaining or expanding their feeding operations by importing grain to make up for shortfalls in their crops. The large U.S. grain supplies, along with the smaller supplies and logistical difficulties that hinder exports in some other grain exporting countries, and favorable rates for some foreign currencies in exchange for the U.S. dollar are making U.S. crops attractive to foreign grain buyers.



SPRING WHEAT VERSUS WINTER WHEAT IN MONTANA

Montana is rather unique among States in producing large amounts of both winter wheat and spring wheat. And some of our southern neighbors are quite surprised that winter wheat can be grown successfully this far north. South Dakota is the only other State growing nearly equal amounts of these two wheats, but in smaller quantities. There have been changes in the proportions of winter wheat and spring wheat grown in Montana over the years. Up to the late 1950s, spring wheat acreage was usually double that of winter wheat, but they were nearly equal in 1958, and for several years "seesawed" back and forth. Since 1973, fall-seeded wheat has exceeded the spring in Montana--by 46 percent in 1978.

The traditional wheat class areas (spring wheat, northeast and northern Triangle; winter wheat, "Triangle", central Montana and south-central) continue, but winter varieties have crept further north and east over the years. In the early 1950s, the area north of the Marias River was "spring wheat country" but that's no longer true--winter wheat is now grown to the Canadian line. The change has been dramatic in several counties. The northern Triangle counties of Toole, Liberty, Hill, and Blaine were almost entirely spring wheat in 1950--only 2 percent winter wheat in Toole, 8 percent in Liberty, and less than 1 percent in Hill and Blaine counties. However, by 1978 winter varieties predominated, with 51 percent in Toole, 72 percent in Liberty, 81 percent in Hill, and 65 percent in Blaine. The rise in winter wheat acreage has not been constant--the late 1960s saw a rise in the percent winter wheat in these counties, but this slipped in the early 1970s. Perhaps weather was a factor.

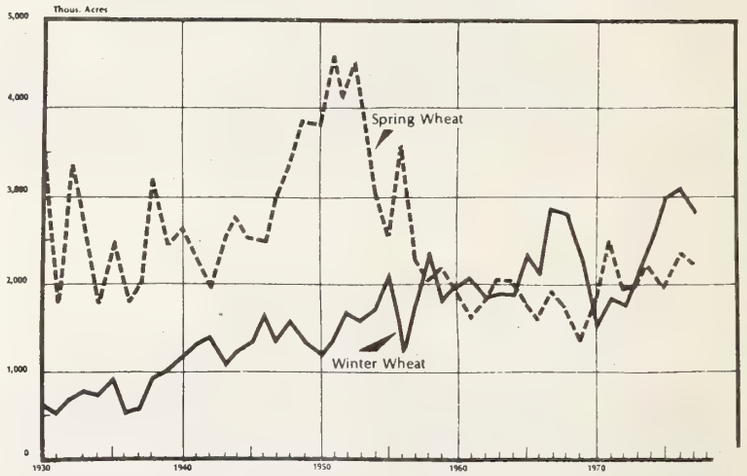
Five other counties in eastern Montana, Phillips, McCone, Dawson, Fallon, and Richland, also show significant increases in percent winter wheat the past 29 years. These all had minor amounts of winter wheat in the early 1950s but had increased to over 40 percent by 1977 or 1978.

The large winter wheat winterkill in 1979 in Montana and the dry fall of 1979 for the 1980 crop may mean some temporary shifting back towards spring wheat; but probably not in the longrun. Winter wheat yields averaged nearly 25 percent higher than spring wheat for the State the past 10 years and greater in some counties. When and where possible, growers mostly prefer winter wheat.

There are a number of reasons for this shift toward winter wheat including improved wheat varieties, fertilizer, better tillage practices, etc. These can be credited to research by plant breeders and agronomists, and a willingness by producers to accept new varieties and practices. The net effect has been a significant increase in value of wheat production just due to this shift in varieties--approximately 325 million dollars over the last 30 years or an average of about 11 million dollars per year. The dollar effect was, of course, smaller in earlier years and largest recently.

ACRES HARVESTED

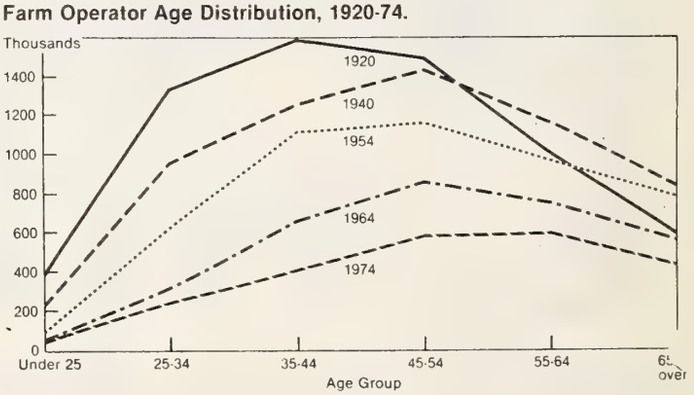
All Spring and Winter Wheat, 1930-1977



FARM OPERATOR ENTRY AND EXIT

Farm numbers and sizes adjust as individuals choose to enter or leave farming and as existing operators focus decisions on changes in size. These decisions are importantly related to the aging of existing operators. Historically, most people have begun farming before their 35th birthday, expanded the size of their operations over time, and then after age 55 begun to decrease the size, or at least stopped growth. They quit farming at some later point either through retirement or death.

Farm Operator Age Distribution, 1920-74.



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The October CPI for all urban consumers 1967 base was 225.4. This was up 0.9 percent (2.0 points) from September and up 12.2 percent (24.5 points) from October 1978.

HOG SLAUGHTER AND PRICES

For the past eight months, hog prices have been disastrously depressed. The reasons are known by most--large supply and slaughter of hogs and some competition from poultry. There is a noticeable inverse correlation between hog prices and slaughter--as slaughter goes up, prices react downward.

Sharp changes in slaughter and prices have happened in 1979 in contrast to the prior two years when slaughter and prices were more stable. In fact, some observers had questioned whether hog cycles would disappear--obviously they haven't. The following chart points out the relationship of prices to slaughter for the past two years.

LAND USE

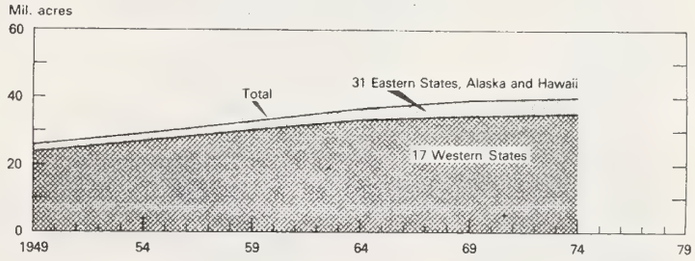
As indicated by the chart below, most of the irrigation in the United States is in the 17 Western States.

Approximately 12 percent of the nation's harvested cropland is irrigated, and that acreage accounts for about 27 percent of the value of total harvested crop production. In addition several million acres of pastureland are irrigated.

In irrigated agriculture, the cost of energy for pumping is a large and continually increasing expense. The latest data show that electricity is the leading source of power for pumping (42 percent)--followed by natural gas (32 percent).

Chart 54

Irrigated Land in Farms



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December 7,8,9	- Dairy Situation
December 10	- Sugar & Sweeteners
December 11	- Crop Prospects
December 12	- Crop Report Analysis
December 13	- Retail Meat Prices
December 14,15,16	- Cattle on Feed
December 17	- Cattle on Feed Analysis
December 18	- Potato Stocks
December 19	- Tobacco Situation
December 20	- Red Meat Production
December 21,22,23	- Hogs & Pigs & Winter Wheat
December 24,25	- Farm News Special
December 26	- Hogs & Pigs Analysis
December 27	- Farm Numbers
December 28,29,30	- Winter Wheat Analysis
December 31	- Farmers' Prices

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices Dairy Products Manufactured Pasture and Range

FARM LABOR

The total number of workers on Montana farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 1979 was estimated at 26,000--18 percent below October 1978. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were down 35 percent from last year, but hired workers at 9,000 were up considerably from October 1978.

WORKERS ON FARMS
October 7-13 1979

STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	Oct. 8-14 1978	Oct. 7-13 1979	Oct. 8-14 1978	Oct. 7-13 1979
	---------- Thousands ----------			
MONT	26.0	17.0	5.6	9.0
N.D.	59.0	14.0	56.0	11.0
S.D.	52.0	10.0	49.0	15.0
WYO	7.0	5.0	6.0	6.0
IDAHO	31.0	33.0	23.0	24.0
U.S.	2762.6	1317.4	2525.1	1418.4

FARM WAGE RATES
October 7-13, 1979

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	Oct. 8-14 1978	Oct. 7-13 1979	Oct. 8-14 1978	Oct. 7-13 1979
	----------Dollars per hour----------			
MONT	2.53	2.93	1/	2.50
N.D.	3.56	3.88	3.10	1/
S.D.	2.67	3.01	1/	2.70
WYO	2.61	3.28	2.27	2.90
IDAHO	3.16	3.70	2.69	3.16
U.S.	3.19	3.56	2.77	3.04

1/ Insufficient data for this category.

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured
Commercial Fertilizer
Pasture and Range

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana's average all wheat yield in 1945 was 15.1 bushels. Thirty-three years later in 1978, it had climbed to 30.2 bushels.

PASTURE AND RANGE

Light, but general precipitation the last half of October helped pasture and range conditions. The November 1 condition averaged 68 percent--2 points above the October 1 condition, but still 28 points below last year's unusually good condition. The November 1 condition is 13 points below the 10-year average.

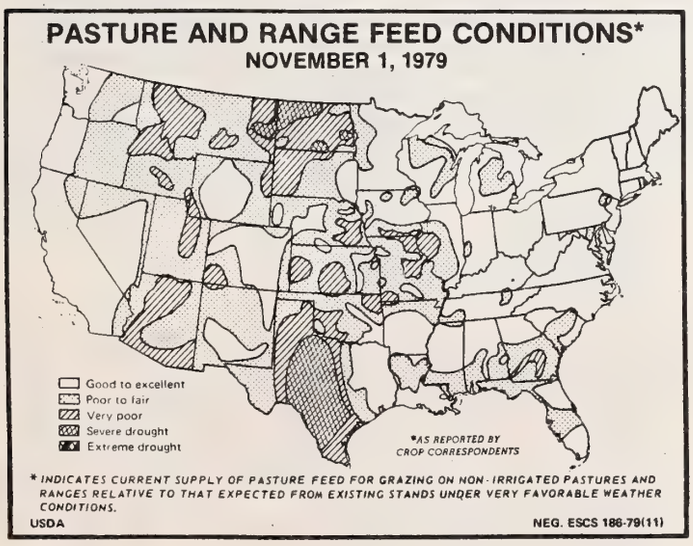
MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION NOV. 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

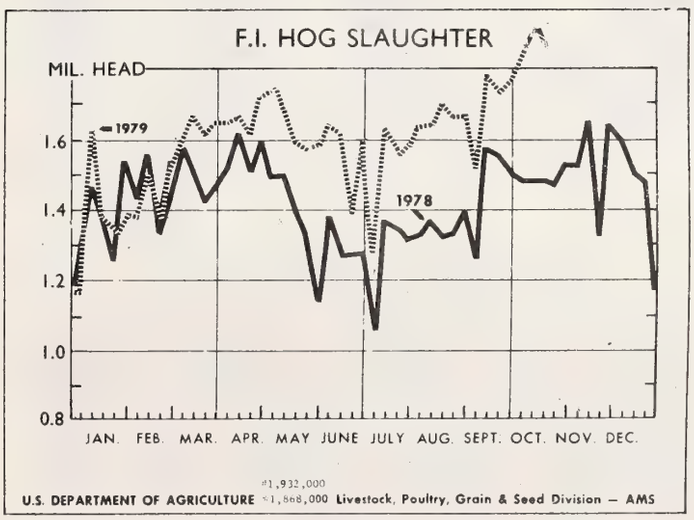
	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	72	92	62
Northcentral	63	101	69
Northeast	60	100	68
Central	71	97	67
Southwest	87	90	84
Southcentral	69	95	69
Southeast	63	97	63
STATE	69	96	68

LOWER PORK AND POULTRY PRICES FORECAST

Retail pork and poultry prices are expected to average well below year-earlier levels during the first half of 1980, but beef prices will be slightly higher. At the same time, lower hog and broiler prices will squeeze producer profits. These price forecasts are based on anticipated record-high levels of red meat and poultry production, very large feed grain supplies, and a slowing in the growth of consumers' incomes.

Current prospects suggest a substantial increase--possibly to record levels--in both pork and broiler production this fall and during the first half of 1980. Beef production is expected to be well below 1978 levels during the fall but will probably average near year-earlier production in the first half of 1980. Retail pork and broiler prices are expected to continue to decline this fall, while beef prices may average near the summer quarter level.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
NOVEMBER 1, 1979
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 186-79(11)



WHEAT CARRYOVER NOW ESTIMATED SLIGHTLY HIGHER

The national estimates of domestic and export utilization of wheat during this current crop year are shown in the table below.

These latest data indicate a carryover of about 850 million bushels of wheat as of May 30, 1980. This carryover estimate is slightly higher than estimated several months ago due to a downward change in the amount of domestic use. Current indications are that less will be used for feed this year because of the level of wheat prices and availability of other feeds.

A brief explanation of the data which form this supply and utilization summary may be appropriate---(1) beginning stocks, based upon surveys of producers and elevators June 1, 1979, (2) production, latest U.S. forecast on national wheat production based upon producer reports and Objective Yield measurements (this could be changed slightly when final 1979 wheat figures are released in late December), (3) imports, recorded and projected from custom inspections, (4) domestic use, the department's best estimate of use for feed, seed, and flour based upon past history and utilization to date, (5) exports, the department's best estimate based upon shipments to date and projected orders and shipments, and (6) the projected ending stocks are based on the total supply less the total of expected use.

Although these components are subject to change, they represent the best data at the present time on the expected carryout. In the past, the expected carryout and actual carryout were an important factor in current and future wheat prices.

ITEM	1977/78	1978/79 Estimated	1979/80 Projected
	Million bushels		
Beginning stocks	1,112	1,177	925
Production	2,036	1,799	2,114
Imports	2	1	2
Supply, total	3,150	2,977	3,041
Domestic	849	861	790
Exports	1,124	1,194	1,400
Use, total	1,973	2,055	2,190
Ending stocks	1,177	922	851

FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION UP

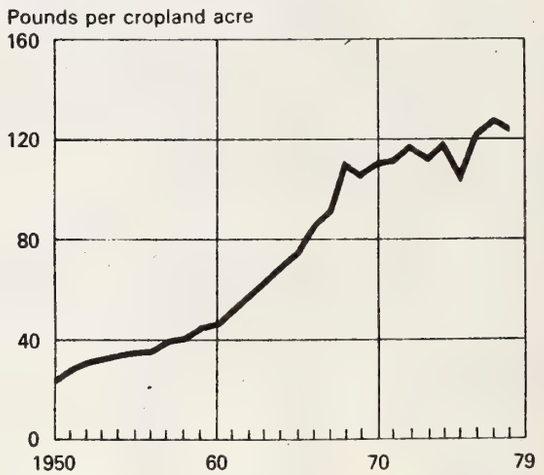
Fertilizer consumption in Montana totaled 333,834 tons for the July '78 - June '79 period, up 34 percent from the previous year. Of this total, mixed fertilizer accounted for 166,565 tons, while 160,131 tons was primary nutrients and 7,138 was secondary and micronutrients used in direct application materials.

Fertilizer consumption in the U.S. and Puerto Rico during the year ended June 30, 1979 is placed at 51.0 million tons--up 7 percent from the 47.5 million tons consumed during the 1977-78 year. Primary nutrient content (nitrogen, N; phosphate, P_{205}; and potash, K_{20}) was 22.4 million tons--up 9 percent from a year earlier. Nitrogen consumption increased 7 percent to 10.6 million tons; phosphate usage increased 9 percent to 5.5 million tons; and potash at 6.2 million tons was up 12 percent.

The five leading States in order of total consumption and the change in consumption from last year were: Illinois, up 17 percent; Iowa, up 20 percent; California, down 6 percent; Indiana, up 3 percent; and Texas, up 8 percent.

Fertilizer consumption represents all commercial fertilizer tonnage sold or shipped for farm and non-farm use as fertilizer. Materials used in the manufacture of registered mixes or for use in other fertilizers are excluded.

Fertilizer Nutrients Used per Acre



AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The October 1979 index of prices received by Montana farmers declined 1 point (less than 1 percent) from September. The index at 294 percent was still 62 points (27 percent) above last year. The reduction was caused by a 4-point drop in the all crops index. Barley averaged 23 cents per bushel below last month and winter wheat was off 7 cents. Durum wheat moved strongly upward and registered 33 cents above September. Other spring wheat was up 13 cents. But these increases only partially offset the barley and winter wheat decreases.

The livestock and livestock products index edged up 1 point from September. Meat animals averaged no change, but dairy products, poultry, eggs, and wool advanced. Within the meat animal index, changes were mixed as cattle and calf prices moved higher--but sheep, lambs, and hogs moved down from September. Compared with a year ago, hog prices were 30 percent lower but beef cattle were up 32 percent.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--OCTOBER 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		October 15, 1978	September 15, 1979 1/	October 15, 1979	October 15, 1979	October 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.81	$ 3.62	$ 3.55	$ 3.83	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.82	4.39	4.72	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.79	3.64	3.77	3.70	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.81	3.67	3.69	3.90	6.09
Barley	Bu.	1.75	2.17	1.94	2.34	3.84
Oats	Bu.	1.21	1.28	1.25	1.30	2.21
Alfalfa hay	Ton	40.00	57.00	57.50	65.80	2/
All other hay	Ton	37.50	52.50	52.00	47.80	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	39.00	55.50	55.50	60.50	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	60.20	78.10	78.50	68.70	2/
Cows	Cwt.	41.00	51.00	51.20	47.80	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	57.30	75.20	75.40	65 10	73.70
Calves	Cwt.	72.00	95.40	95.70	86 70	85.30
Sheep	Cwt.	22.50	21.00	18.50	25.10	24.10
Lambs	Cwt.	67.70	69.40	68.00	65.40	84.40
Hogs	Cwt.	48.60	35.60	34.10	34.00	72.80
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.30	12.00	12.15	12.60	16.60
Eggs	Doz.	.545	.603	.610	.522	1.00
Wool 4/	Lb.	.870	.860	.900	.896	1.70
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		125.00	140.00	145.00	152.00	---

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls.
4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS OCTOBER 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA 1967 = 100				UNITED STATES 1967 = 100	
	1978	1979			1979	
	Oct. 15	Aug. 15	Sept. 15 2/	Oct. 15	September 15 2/	October 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Food grains	201	245	263	263	252	255
Feed grains	204	231	252	226	216	209
Feed grains and hay	194	229	247	226	220	214
ALL CROPS	200	243	260	256	225	222
Meat animals	264	272	337	337	277	266
Dairy products	211	217	223	225	246	250
Poultry products	159	168	175	177	177	167
Wool	205	203	203	213	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	256	264	321	322	255	248
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	232	254	295	294	241	236

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Oct. 15, 1978	Sept. 15, 1979	Oct. 15, 1979	Oct. 15, 1978	Sept. 15, 1979	Oct. 15, 1979
Prices Received	544	602	589	218	241	236
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	761	862	870	224	254	256
Ratio 1/	71	70	68	97	95	92

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.

WHO'S BUYING WHAT

Our top market, Japan, will take more feed grains, soybeans, beef, and poultry, but probably less cotton next year. A bigger Japanese wheat crop could hold U.S. wheat shipments near this year's levels.

Led by wheat and feed grains, our export sales will notch some of their biggest gains in the USSR, where total food and feed grain production may be down about a fourth from last year.

While grain production may be down 7 percent in Eastern Europe this year, the Soviet bloc countries are committed to expanding meat production. This augurs well for U.S. feed grain exports to this region--particularly Poland.

China, on the other hand, produced a record grain crop this year. China also faces massive bills for imported industrial products. Therefore, look for the Chinese to buy less U.S. grain in coming months.

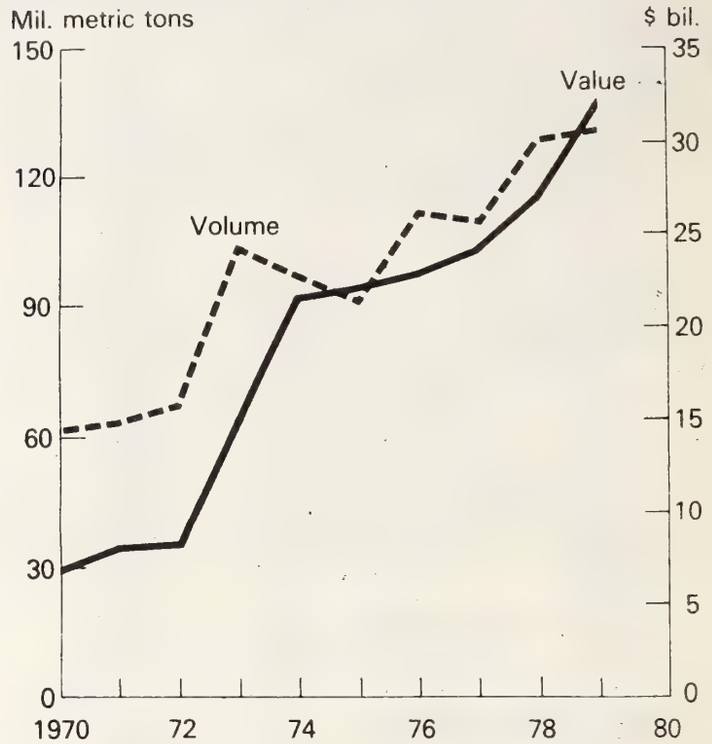
Western Europe, traditionally a top U.S. farm market, will import more wheat, feed grains, cotton, beef, and poultry meat.

The oil-rich OPEC countries are a growing market for our farm products, and their agricultural purchases from us should hit a record $2.6 billion this year and continue climbing in 1980. Leading OPEC imports include food and feed grains, soybeans, inedible tallow, and poultry.

But as rising oil prices expand our OPEC markets, they lower export prospects in a number of fast developing but oil-dependent nations like South Korea, Taiwan, and Brazil.

Escalating petroleum prices could push other developing countries to seek more food aid from the United States. Bear in mind, however, that a farmer gets the same price for his products whether they're exported commercially or shipped abroad under P.L.480.

AG EXPORTS RISING SHARPLY



October-September years. 1979 forecast.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Farm Labor
Slaughter

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Alfalfa Seed
Cattle on Feed
Grain Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter

SEPTEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 18 percent more red meat during September than the same month one year ago. Total production at 15.3 million pounds compares with 12.9 million pounds last September and 16.4 million pounds during August of 1979. Production for the first nine months of 1979 at 114.1 million pounds is 5 percent more than for the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during September 1979 totaled 2.88 billion pounds--down 8 percent from September 1978. January-September red meat production at 27.3 billion pounds was 4 percent below last year. Change by individual components: beef, down 12 12 percent; veal, down 33 percent; pork, up 13 percent; lamb and mutton, down 6 percent.

SEPTEMBER LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1979	Sept. 1978	Sept. 1979
	---- 1,000 head -------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	13.1	11.7	3223.1	2548.9
Calves	--	--	315.6	217.2
Hogs	30.6	46.4	6440.8	7118.1
Sheep & lambs	.4	.3	454.6	427.9
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	14,192	12,940	3,353	2,695
Calves	--	--	75	51
Hogs	6,761	11,753	1,537	1,709
Sheep & lambs	40	35	50	48
Red meat production	12,893	15,276	3,139	2,879

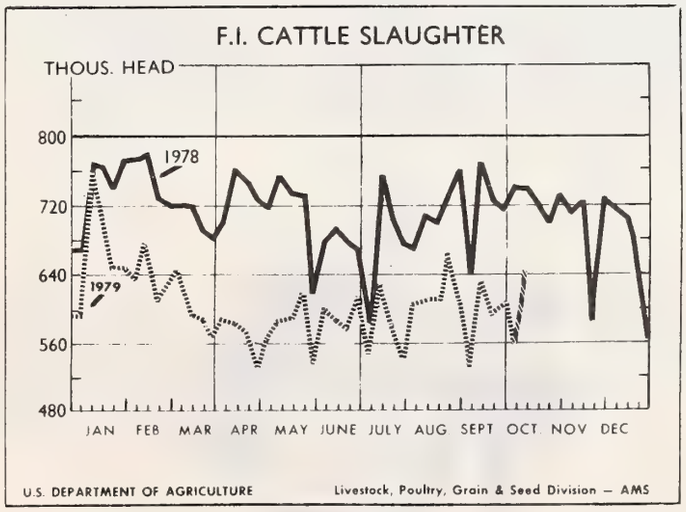
MILK PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana milk production in the third quarter (July-September) increased over the previous quarter but failed to reach last year's level. Dairymen produced 79 million pounds of milk in the 3 months July through September--1 percent less than the same quarter last year. Average amount of grain fed to all cows in the herd on October 1 was 12.0 pounds per day--the same as last October.

JULY-SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

AREA	Sept. Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	---Thousands----		--Million pounds--	
Calif.	849	884	3,096	3,290
Idaho	141	142	440	447
Minn.	835	830	2,083	2,084
MONT	27	26	80	79
N.Dak.	99	94	242	235
Oregon	93	92	279	281
S.Dak	169	166	400	407
Wash.	189	192	689	730
Wis.	1,811	1,814	5,234	5,540
Wyo.	10.9	11.0	30.0	31.4
U. S.	10,832	10,779	30,480	31,121

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.



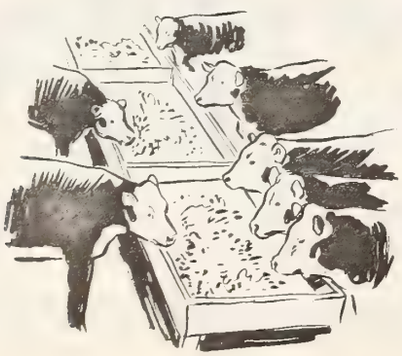
MORE CATTLE ON FEED

Montana feedlots had slightly more cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market on October 1 than on the same date last year. This year's number at 32,000 compares with 30,000 a year ago. Steers on feed were up 27 percent, while heifers were down 6 percent. Seventy-five percent of the feedlot cattle weighed 900 pounds or more compared with 63 percent last year. Fall calf marketings were not yet active before October 1 so few calves from the current calf crop had been placed in feedlots. Only about 1,000 head in current lots weighed less than 700 pounds. Placements the last 3 months at 11,000 head were 5,000 less than last year. Marketings during the same period at 25,000 head were down 11,000. Montana feeders expect to market 22,000 head during the October-December quarter--up 16 percent from the same period last year.

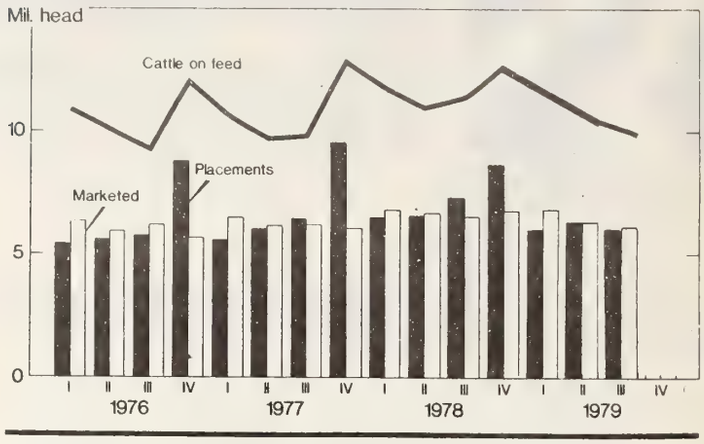
CATTLE ON FEED OCTOBER 1, 1978-1979

ITEM	Montana		23 Major States	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	------- 1,000 head ---------			
On feed July 1	52	48	10,924	10,309
During period July 1-Sept. 30				
Placed on feed 1/	16	11	1,352	5,952
Marketed 1/	36	25	6,523	5,981
Other disappearance 2/	2	2	406	352
On feed October 1	30	32	11,347	9,928
Kinds on feed Oct. 1				
Steers & steer calves	11	14	7,486	6,688
Under 500 Lbs.	--	--	577	493
500-699 Lbs.	1	--	1,236	904
700-899 Lbs.	3	3	2,593	2,246
900-1099 Lbs.	6	10	2,529	2,432
1100 Lbs. & over	1	1	551	613
Heifer & heifer calves	18	17	3,825	3,201
Under 500 Lbs.	--	--	375	286
500-699 Lbs.	1	1	1,124	864
700-899 Lbs.	6	4	1,573	1,307
900 Lbs. and over	11	12	753	744
Cows and other	1	1	36	39
Marketings----Oct-Dec.	19 3/	22 4/	6,734 3/	5,976 4/

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Marketings including those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31. 4/ Expected marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31.



Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, by Quarters for 23 States



MONTANA GRAIN STOCKS DOWN

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators on October 1 was 9 percent under the stocks in storage a year ago. The decrease, due to this year's 20 percent smaller wheat crop, was partially offset by more of the current crop going into storage than last year. Transportation has been a problem.

Total wheat stocks in all positions totaled 168.2 million bushels. Winter wheat in storage at 85.1 million bushels was down 15 percent from last year; all spring wheat stocks at 83.0 million bushels were off 3 percent; with the durum portion at 8.9 million bushels, down 35 percent. Disappearance of wheat since June 1 totaled 36.2 million bushels--38 percent less than the same period a year ago. Of the total State wheat stocks, 84 percent were stored on farms--with the remainder in mills and elevators.

Barley stocks in all positions at 47.7 million bushels were down 18 percent from last year and oats stocks at 10.6 million were off 14 percent; both due to reduced 1979 production.

Nationally, wheat stocks in all storage positions on October 1, 1979 totaled 2.29 billion bushels--7 percent larger than last year. Farm storages contained 1.01 billion bushels of wheat, 44 percent of the total 1979 stocks, while the remainder in off-farm storage amounted to 1.28 billion bushels. Last year, farm storage held 1.03 billion bushels, and off farm storage had 1.10 billion bushels. Disappearance of all wheat during the June-September period totaled 749 million bushels compared with 838 million bushels last year.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS--SEPTEMBER 30
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	38,219	36,523	984	1,079
Under loan	17,388	12,293	2,367	4,047

1/ These stocks are included in the respective October 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

STOCKS OF GRAIN OCTOBER 1, 1979 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Oct. 1, 1978	June 1, 1979 *	Oct. 1, 1979	% Change from 1978	Oct. 1, 1978	June 1, 1979 *	Oct. 1, 1979
	---- Thousand bushels -----			Pct.	---------- Thousand bushels ----------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	156,274	71,565	141,860	- 9	1,032,852	484,250	1,013,144
Off farms 1/	29,293	15,551	26,290	-10	1,104,169	440,262	1,275,772
T O T A L	185,567	87,116	168,150	- 9	2,136,021	924,512	2,288,916
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	81,189	38,502	69,696	-14	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	18,616	10,756	15,450	-17	---	---	---
T O T A L	99,805	49,258	85,146	-15	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	75,085	33,063	72,164	- 4	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	10,677	4,795	10,840	+ 2	---	---	---
T O T A L	85,762	37,858	83,004	- 3	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	---	120,309	70,381	119,648
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	30,012	16,084	34,815
T O T A L	13,795	6,947	8,904	-35	150,321	86,465	154,463
RYE							
On farms	---	---	---	---	17,120	6,724	17,540
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	6,877	2,947	8,333
T O T A L	---	---	---	---	23,997	9,671	25,873
CORN							
On farms	22	54	11	-50	659,285	2,262,013	775,702
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	27	---	444,708	969,208	509,438
T O T A L	4/	4/	38	---	1,103,993	3,231,221	1,285,140
OATS							
On farms	11,881	5,940	10,360	-13	550,727	237,967	474,028
Off farms 1/	412	220	225	-45	115,008	50,703	102,277
T O T A L	12,293	6,160	10,585	-14	665,735	288,670	576,305
BARLEY							
On farms	52,993	23,114	43,470	-18	338,701	148,845	298,289
Off farms 1/	5,278	2,623	4,270	-19	129,611	78,615	149,066
T O T A L	58,271	25,737	47,740	-18	468,312	227,460	447,355

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.
* Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Oct. 1, 1978 *	June 1, 1979 *	Oct. 1, 1979	Oct. 1, 1978 *	June 1 1979 *	Oct. 1, 1979
	---------- Million bushels ---------			---------- Million bushels ----------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	1.7	.4	1.4	3.5	1.4	3.3
Northcentral	74.6	37.1	66.4	23.5	12.4	20.8
Northeast	69.0	32.0	58.2	9.5	3.7	6.5
Central	15.0	6.5	16.7	9.5	3.7	7.3
Southwest	3.1	1.2	3.6	4.3	1.5	3.4
Southcentral	9.5	4.2	10.4	5.4	2.0	4.6
Southeast	12.7	5.7	11.5	2.6	1.0	1.8
STATE	185.6	87.1	168.2	58.3	25.7	47.7

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Some data revised.

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION UP

Montana's 1979 alfalfa seed crop is forecast at 3.2 million pounds--up 44 percent from last year's reduced crop. Acres for harvest at 29,000 are up 12 percent and yield per acre at 110 pounds is up 25 pounds from last year. Weather conditions were good for alfalfa seed production and a dry, frost-free harvest season helped boost yields. More growers are using leafcutter bees for pollination, which can influence yields.

The United States alfalfa seed crop forecast at 105.5 million pounds is 14 percent above last year. Acreage for harvest at 526 thousand acres is down 1 percent from 1978. Yields are expected to average 201 pounds per acre--up 26 pounds from last year.

ALFALFA SEED: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD AND PRODUCTION
1977, 1978 and 1979

STATE	Area Harvested			Yield per Acre			Production (Clean Seed)		
	1977	1978	1979 1/	1977	1978	1979 1/	1977	1978	1979 1/
	Acres			Pounds			1,000 Pounds		
ARIZ 2/	1,000			150			150		
CALIF	47,000	64,000	84,000	660	295	465	31,020	18,800	39,060
IDAHO	33,000	43,000	45,000	430	350	340	14,190	15,050	15,300
KANSAS	42,000	60,000	55,000	95	115	90	3,990	6,900	4,950
MONT	39,000	26,000	29,000	90	85	110	3,510	2,210	3,190
NEBR	28,000	32,000	29,000	75	75	65	2,100	2,400	1,885
NEVADA	15,500	17,000	18,000	520	365	375	8,060	6,205	6,750
N. DAK	8,000	17,000	14,000	40	45	45	320	765	630
OKLA	32,000	55,000	55,000	140	145	125	4,480	7,975	6,875
OREGON	13,000	14,000	15,000	470	345	330	6,110	4,830	4,950
S. DAK	105,000	150,000	130,000	65	85	60	6,825	12,750	7,800
UTAH	14,000	15,000	17,000	260	290	275	3,640	4,350	4,675
WASH	31,000	36,000	35,000	410	285	270	12,710	10,260	9,450
TOTAL ABOVE STATES	408,500	529,000	526,000	238	175	201	97,105	92,495	105,515

1/ Indicated. 2/ Estimates discontinued after the 1977 crop.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices Dairy Products Manufactured Pasture and Range Commercial Fertilizer

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
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and Editor

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79-19 OCTOBER 16, 1979

Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service-USDA and Montana Department of Agriculture • ISSUED TWICE MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

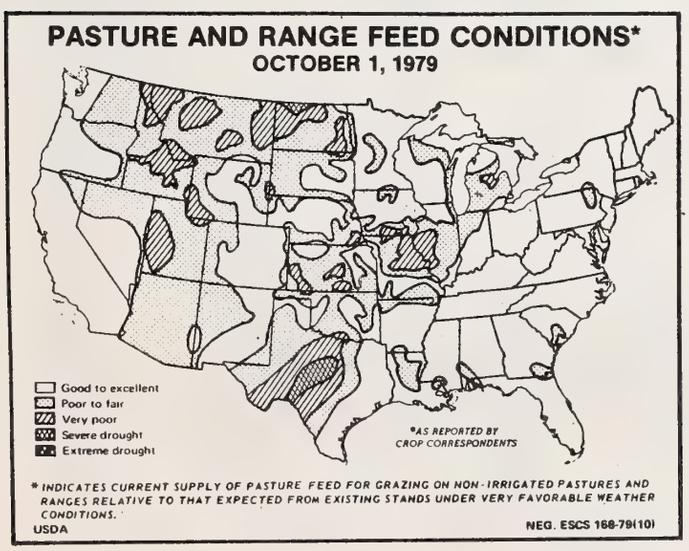
October 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Agricultural Prices
Honey Production
Dairy Products Manufactured

PASTURE AND RANGE

September precipitation was below normal and temperatures were above normal--resulting in poor pasture and range conditions across the State. The October 1 condition of 66 was 3 points below last month and 31 points below last year's unusually favorable conditions.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION OCTOBER 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	71	94	64
Northcentral	59	101	62
Northeast	55	100	63
Central	69	95	66
Southwest	90	90	71
Southcentral	65	96	67
Southeast	62	100	68
STATE	66	97	66


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
OCTOBER 1, 1979
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 168-79(10)

HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN

Honey production from apiaries with 300 or more colonies in 20 selected States is expected to decline 2 percent to 144 million pounds in 1979. The estimated 1.95 million colonies of bees held by the apiaries in 1979 are 2 percent above the 1978 level of 1.92 million colonies.

Colony yield is expected to decline an average of 2.8 pounds for the 20 States compared with last season. California yield declined to a more normal level from last year's unusually good yield. Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota honey flows were reduced by cooler summer temperatures and aerial grasshopper spraying. In addition, Nebraska honey flow was reduced by poorer alfalfa bloom. Florida orange blossom flow was very good again in 1979 providing good yields and quality. Montana yields came from an above average sweet clover nectar flow.

Number of Colonies and Honey Production
Selected States & U. S.--1978-1979

STATE	Colonies of bees		Honey Production	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	1,000		1,000	
CALIF	390	385	25,740	16,170
FLA	208	204	16,640	18,360
GA	115	120	3,220	3,360
IDAHO	91	90	4,186	5,400
MINN	120	125	12,600	12,500
MONT	94	94	8,460	11,750
NEBR	117	115	7,605	4,600
N DAK	152	182	19,456	21,476
S DAK	165	190	19,965	15,770
TEX	97	100	5,820	7,500
20 STATES	1,915	1,946	147,359	144,292

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 217,000 gallons of ice cream during August--7 percent more than August 1978. Creamed cottage cheese output at 488,000 pounds was up 45 percent from last year. Butter production at 101,000 pounds was down 19 percent from last year.

OCTOBER 1 CROP REPORT

Montana's all wheat crop should total 117.2 million bushels--20 percent less than last year. This estimate based on an October 1 survey is 2 percent above the September 1 forecast. Ideal fall weather helped move the harvest along and combining of most of the spring wheat, oats, and barley was finished by the first of October. Final production figures for the state based upon a much larger survey, will be released in December.

Montana's winter wheat production at 58.0 million bushels is off 30 percent from a year ago, spring wheat at 53.6 million bushels is essentially unchanged, durum at 4.9 million bushels is down 43 percent, barley at 37.8 million is down 33 percent, and oats at 7.4 million is down 30 percent.

The season's first production forecast for potatoes indicates a total of 1,656 thousand hundredweight, down 21 percent from last year--mainly because of fewer acres for harvest. Sugarbeet production at 825 thousand tons is down 7 percent. Dry bean production is expected to total 155 thousand hundredweight--up 23 percent from last year. All hay production forecast at 4.2 million tons October 1 is down 9 percent from a year ago. These forecasts are all unchanged from September 1.

Sweet cherry production for 1979 is now estimated at 2,950 tons based upon shipments--59 percent more than last year.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--OCTOBER 1, 1979

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres harvested			Yield per harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change	1978	Indic. 1979	1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	2,700	2,350	-13	31.0	25.0	83,700	58,750	-30
Durum wheat	"	290	260	-10	30.0	19.0	8,700	4,940	-43
Other spring wheat	"	1,850	2,550	+38	29.0	21.0	53,650	53,550	--
ALL WHEAT	"	4,840	5,160	+ 7	30.2	22.7	146,050	117,240	-20
Corn for grain	"	5.0	7.0	+40	72.0	72.0	360	504	+40
Oats	"	208	200	- 4	51.0	37.0	10,608	7,400	-30
Barley	"	1,375	1,050	-24	41.0	36.0	56,375	37,800	-33
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	8.7	6.9	-21	240.0	240.0	2,088	1,656	-21
Dry beans (cleaned)	"	8.4	9.1	+ 8	15.0	17.0	126	155	+23
Sugarbeets	Tons	44.7	43.4	- 3	19.8	19.0	885	825	- 7
Alfalfa hay	Tons	1,250	1,260	+ 1	2.35	2.15	2,938	2,709	- 8
All other hay	"	1,170	1,120	- 4	1.40	1.30	1,638	1,456	-11
All hay	"	2,420	2,380	- 2	1.89	1.75	4,576	4,165	- 9
Sweet cherries	"	---	---	--	---	---	1,850 1/	2,950 1/	+59

1/ Actual tons.

U. S. CROP PRODUCTION--OCTOBER 1, 1979

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres harvested			Yield per harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change	1978	Indic. 1979	1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	38,909	43,496	+12	32.1	36.7	1,248,272	1,595,591	+27
Durum wheat	"	4,024	3,865	- 4	33.1	26.9	133,328	104,052	-22
Other spring wheat	"	13,906	14,866	+ 7	30.0	27.9	417,112	414,254	- 1
ALL WHEAT	"	56,839	62,227	+ 9	31.6	34.0	1,798,712	2,113,897	+17
Corn for grain	"	69,970	69,476	- 1	101.2	106.4	7,081,849	7,390,365	+ 4
Oats	"	11,531	10,002	-14	52.2	53.1	601,477	531,232	-12
Barley	"	9,233	7,445	-19	48.4	48.9	447,008	364,237	-19
Rye	"	995	936	- 6	26.3	25.4	26,160	23,736	-10
Flaxseed	"	860	1,009	+17	12.7	13.1	10,921	13,255	+21
Dry beans (cleaned)	Cwt	1,494.4	1,384.1	- 7	12.79	14.34	19,117	19,854	+ 3
Potatoes (fall)	"	1,155.1	1,072.8	- 8	280	280	323,498	300,330	- 8
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,272.0	1,121.3	-12	20.3	19.9	25,773	22,310	-14
Alfalfa hay	"	27,707	27,259	- 2	3.13	3.16	86,745	86,210	- 1
All other hay	"	33,788	33,601	- 1	1.64	1.69	55,519	56,825	+ 2
All hay	"	61,495	60,860	- 1	2.31	2.35	142,264	143,035	--

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS SEPTEMBER 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		Sept. 15, 1978	Aug. 15, 1979 1/	Sept. 15, 1979	Sept. 15, 1979	September 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.70	$ 3.41	$ 3.56	$ 3.88	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.82	3.75	4.22	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.68	3.43	3.66	3.64	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.69	3.43	3.63	3.84	6.03
Barley	Bu.	1.65	1.98	1.88	2.32	3.80
Oats	Bu.	1.10	1.38	1.23	1.28	2.19
Alfalfa hay	Ton	42.50	55.50	57.00	63.90	2/
All other hay	Ton	39.50	49.50	52.50	46.60	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	41.50	53.50	55.50	58.80	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	59.80	63.80	78.10	70.70	2/
Cows	Cwt.	39.90	46.60	51.00	48.80	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	57.70	59.50	75.20	66.90	73.00
Calves	Cwt.	70.10	78.80	95.40	91.60	84.50
Sheep	Cwt.	19.50	21.00	21.00	26.10	23.90
Lambs	Cwt.	68.70	62.40	69.40	67.00	83.60
Hogs	Cwt.	47.20	35.00	35.60	37.50	72.10
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	11.00	11.65	11.90	12.30	16.50
Eggs	Doz.	.548	.580	.603	.548	.991
Wool 4/	Lb.	.830	.860	.860	.802	1.680
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		135.00	140.00	140.00	151.00	---

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls.
4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS SEPTEMBER 15, 1979

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA 1967 = 100				UNITED STATES 1967 = 100	
	1978	1979			1979	
	Sept. 15	July 15	Aug. 15 2/	Sept. 15	August 15 2/	September 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Food grains	192	222	245	260	245	250
Feed grains	192	206	231	219	217	214
Feed grains and hay	187	201	229	221	220	217
ALL CROPS	192	218	243	252	235	224
Meat animals	264	314	272	337	256	277
Dairy products	206	211	217	221	238	244
Poultry and eggs	160	197	168	175	173	177
Wool	196	220	203	203	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	256	301	264	321	239	255
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	229	265	254	291	237	240

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Sept. 15, 1978	Aug. 15, 1979	Sept. 15, 1979	Sept. 15, 1978	Aug. 15, 1979	Sept. 15, 1979
Prices Received	542	592	601	217	237	240
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	757	852	862	223	251	254
Ratio 1/	72	69	70	97	94	94

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

WHO OWNS THE LAND?

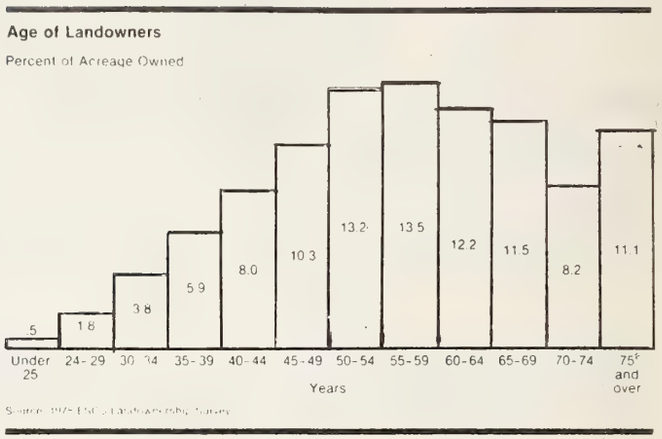
Just who is in control--particularly of farm and ranch land. The preliminary results of a recent USDA survey provide some answers.

The total U.S. land area excluding Alaska is approximately 2.3 billion acres--about 60 percent of this is in private hands and 40 percent is owned by Federal, State, or local governments. I assume the concentration of government land is highest in the western States. Farm and ranch operators are the largest single group owning private land, accounting for nearly 40 percent. Ownership by other occupations shows retired persons with 15 percent; white collar employees 13 percent; blue collar workers 8 percent; and 9 percent classified as other. Corporations and large partnerships which may include occupations listed account for 15 percent of the land owned. This breakdown does not determine foreign ownership.

Farm and ranch land which totals about 871 million acres comprises 70 percent of all private land. The ownership of land in farms and ranches by occupation shows 50 percent of the acreage owned by farm and ranch operators; 12 percent by white collar workers; 7 percent by blue collar workers; 15 percent by retired persons; 12 percent by corporations and large partnerships; and 4 percent by others. By regions, farm and ranch operator ownership is highest in the mountain and western States and lowest in the Apalachian and southeast States.

Ownership of farm and ranch land by type of owner shows sole proprietors and husband and wife 74 percent; family partnerships and family corporations 18 percent; nonfamily partnerships and corporations 4 percent, with 3 percent classified as miscellaneous.

The breakdown of farm and ranch land by size of holdings shows 1 percent of the owners with 29 percent of the farm and ranch acreage and 5 percent of the owners with 51 percent of the acreage. So a sizable acreage is in the hand of large operators.



AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Montana farmers received higher prices for most crop and livestock items at mid-September compared with a month earlier. The overall September index of prices received by Montana farmers at 291 (1967=100) compares with 254 for August and 229 a year ago.

(Tables inside)

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
Alfalfa Seed
Cattle on Feed
Grain Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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79-18 SEPTEMBER 25, 1979

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

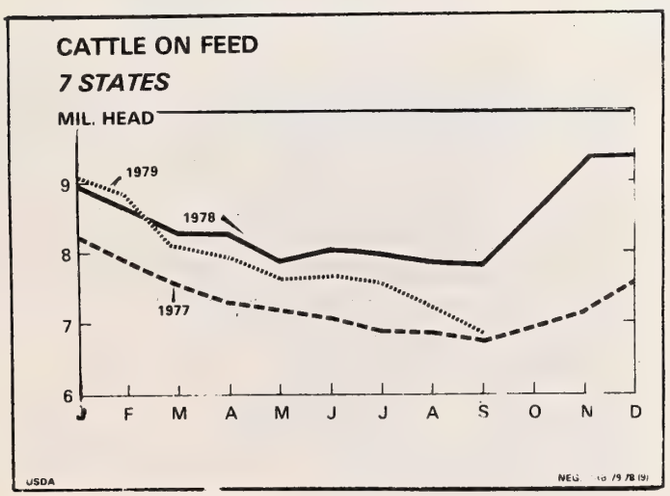
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Sept 1 Hog & Pig Inventory

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana ranked fifth nationally in acreage of winter wheat seeded for the 1979 crop--exceeded only by Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed September 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.84 million head--down 13 percent from a year ago but 2 percent more than September 1, 1977. Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.63 million--down 3 percent from last year but 2 percent above August 1977. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August were 1.34 million, down 24 percent from last year and 11 percent less than August 2 years ago. August placements are the lowest since 1975. Net placements of 1.26 million were off 23 percent from last year and 13 percent from 2 years ago. Other disappearance totaled 82 thousand compared with 115 thousand in August 1978 and 58 thousand in 1977.



LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Red meat production by Montana slaughter plants totaled 16.4 million pounds during August 1979. This is 14 percent more than August 1978 production and 16 percent more than the July 1979 figure. Production for the first eight months of 1979 at 98.8 million pounds is 3 percent more than for the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States during August 1979 totaled 3.33 billion pounds--up 2 percent from August 1978. January-August red meat production at 24.4 billion pounds was 3 percent below last year... change by individual components: beef, down 11 percent; veal, down 33; pork, up 14; lamb and mutton, down 6 percent.

AUGUST 1979 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Aug. 1978	Aug. 1979	Aug. 1978	Aug. 1979
	----------1,000 head----------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	14.1	13.8	3457.6	3029.7
Calves	--	--	347.1	240.7
Hogs	37.7	52.1	6481.4	7956.3
Sheep & lambs	.5	.5	458.8	434.7
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	14,774	15,191	3,566	3,193
Calves	--	--	84	57
Hogs	8,440	11,684	1,546	1,904
Sheep & lambs	55	51	50	48
Red meat production	14,365	16,432	3,274	3,328

HOGS AND PIGS

SEPTEMBER 1 INVENTORY--Inventory of hogs and pigs on September 1, 1979 in the 14 States conducting quarterly hog surveys was estimated at 57.0 million head--up 16 percent from a year ago according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is the largest September 1 inventory since 1970.

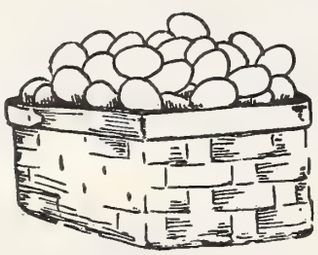
---Breeding inventory at 8.24 million head was up 10 percent from 1978 and up 15 percent from 1977.

---Market hog inventory totaled 48.8 million head--17 percent above last year and 16 percent more than 1977.

The 14 Quarterly States account for about 86 percent of the U.S. hog and pig inventory.

PIG CROP (JUNE-AUGUST 1979)--The June-August 1979 pig crop in the 14 States totaled 22.3 million head--16 percent higher than 1978 and 19 percent above 1977. A total of 3.11 million sows farrowed in these States--up 17 percent from last year. Pigs saved averaged 7.16 for the quarter compared with 7.22 pigs per litter for both 1978 and 1977.

FARROWING INTENTIONS--Producers in the 14 States intend to farrow 3.16 million sows during the September-November 1979 period--13 percent more than 1978 and 23 percent above 1977. Farrowing intentions reported for the December 1979-February 1980 period are 2.93 million sows--10 percent more than a year earlier and 28 percent more than two years ago.



EGG PRODUCTION

Montana's laying flocks produced 45 million eggs during the June 1 - August 31, 1979 quarter--down 10 percent from the same period a year ago. The number of layers on September 1 at 790,000 was down 2 percent from last year. Rate of lay on September 1 averaged 64.0 eggs per 100 layers compared with 70.0 a year earlier.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17.0 billion eggs during the June 1 - August 31, 1979 period--up 3 percent from the same quarter a year ago. The number of layers on September 1 at 281 million compares with 278 million a year earlier. Rate of lay on September 1 averaged 65.5 eggs per 100 layers compared with 65.2 on the same date a year ago

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON "STRUCTURE DIALOGUE"..... Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland, along with other top USDA officials, will attend 10 public meetings across the country later this year to hear from farmers, ranchers and others with a stake in agriculture. The purpose: to obtain comments and suggestions on the economic and social issues affecting the structure of American agriculture and rural life. The meetings are a part of the "national dialogue on agricultural structure" announced by Secretary Bergland in March. Here's the schedule: Montpelier, Vt., Nov. 27; Fayetteville, N.C., Nov. 28; Huntsville, Ala., Nov. 29; Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 4; Sedalia, Mo., Dec. 5; Wichita falls, Texas, Dec. 6; Boulder, Colo., Dec. 11; Spokane, Wash., Dec. 12; Fresno, Calif., Dec. 13; and Lafayette, Ind., Dec. 18. For further details--or to submit comments for those who cannot attend any of the meetings--write: Project Coordinator, Structure of Agriculture, USDA, Washington D.C. 20250.

MONTANA BARLEY FOR MALT

A report covering the 1978 crop year showing amounts utilized for malt--by variety, crop reporting districts, and average protein is available by requesting a copy from our office.

NEW REASONS FOR CROP ROTATION....Rising fuel costs and other farm expenses may help make crop rotation popular again according to USDA's Soil Conservation Service. Crop rotation acreage declined some 40 percent in the last decade as cheap plentiful fuel and fertilizers allowed many farmers to switch to planting cash crops year after year. Planting grasses, legumes, or small grains in rotation with row crops can cut nitrogen application, mean fewer tractor runs over the field, and improve soil tilth and water absorption. This could mean lower fertilizer and fuel bills, less fertilizer and pesticide runoff into streams, and--over the longrun--higher crop yields.

1979/80 WORLD GRAIN PROSPECTS DOWN; OILSEEDS UNCHANGED

Region	Total grains			Oilseeds			Cotton		
	1978/79	1979/80 Aug.	1979/80 Sept.	1978/79	1979/80 Aug.	1979/80 Sept.	1978/79	1979/80 Aug.	1979/80 Sept.
	Million metric tons						Million bales		
World	1573.3	1512.9	1505.2	158.6	176.7	176.8	59.7	63.6	64.1
United States	273.1	280.7	285.4	57.6	67.9	69.4	10.9	13.7	14.2
Rest of World	1300.3	1232.2	1219.8	101.0	108.8	107.5	48.8	49.9	49.9

* The world total grain forecast for 1979/80 has been lowered slightly from last month's estimate to 1505 million metric tons. Lower estimates for Soviet wheat and Indian rice crops offset a higher forecast for U.S. coarse grains. World production still is expected to be about 4 percent below record 1978/79 levels, but the second largest harvest on record.

  * The 1979/80 world wheat crop forecast has been lowered 2 percent from last month's estimate and could be 9 percent smaller than last year. The Soviet forecast has been lowered 5 million tons mainly because of reduced area estimates. Continued unfavorable weather has reduced yield prospects in Canada. The U.S. production forecast is slightly lower than last month's.

  * The September estimate of the 1979/80 world coarse grain crop is slightly above last month's but still about 3 percent below last year's record. The U.S. corn crop forecast has been raised because of continued good weather, while the coarse grain crop in India is suffering from dryness.

  * The world rice forecast has been lowered about 2 percent from last month because of sharply deteriorating conditions in India and dryness in Indonesia. The world crop should be about 3 percent smaller than last year's.

* World production of major oilseeds and copra in 1979/80 is projected at 176.8 million tons, slightly above the August forecast. Gains in the United States, particularly for soybeans, were offset by declines in the rest of the world.

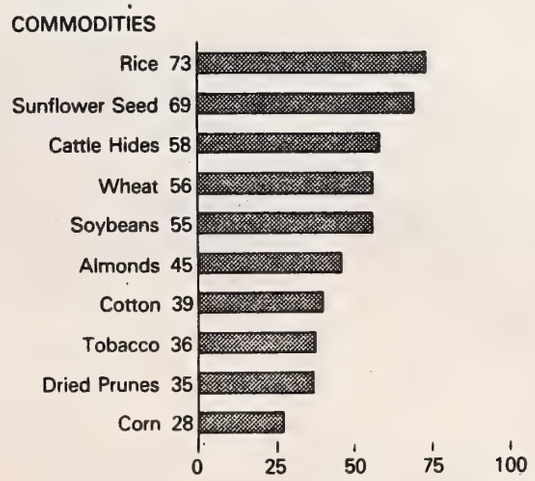
  * Soybean production is projected at a record of around 93 million tons, about 13 million above 1978/79, and 1 million above the August estimate. Larger U.S. production, because of favorable weather, accounts for the increase.

  * The forecast of world sunflowerseed production has been lowered slightly from last month's, but should still be record large. The world rapeseed crop is still projected to be record high: the Canadian rapeseed forecast has been lowered from last month's, but should still be up from last year.

* The 1979/80 world cotton crop is estimated at 64.1 million bales, marginally above month-earlier indications, and 7 percent above last season's production. A higher U.S. production forecast accounts for the increase, with the U.S. harvest expected to be substantially above last year's.

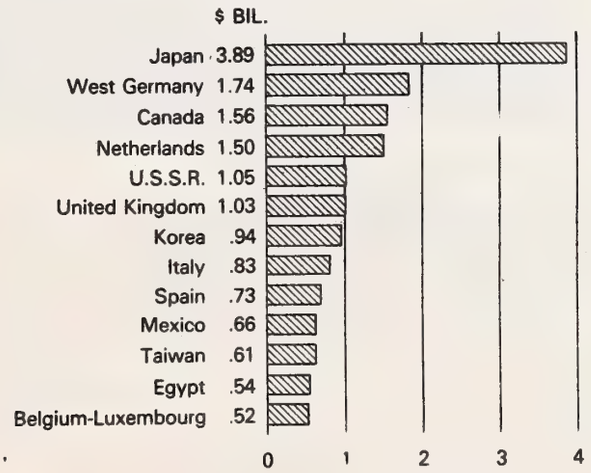
Reprint from FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL
CIRCULAR--World Crop Production
September 12, 1979

PERCENT OF U.S. FARM PRODUCTION EXPORTED



Year ending September 30 1978 partially estimated Soybeans include bean equivalent of meal and oil

WHERE WE SHIP OUR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS



1977 data. Adjusted for transshipments through Canada and Western Europe.

FOURTH FORECAST POINTS TO LOWER 1979 USSR GRAIN CROP

Information available through early September suggests a total 1979 USSR grain crop of 180 million tons, 5 million less than the August forecast. Wheat production is estimated at 85 million tons--5 million less than a month earlier, while the estimates of coarse grains and other miscellaneous grains remain unchanged at 85 million and 10 million tons respectively. The September forecast of total grain production mainly reflects a reduction in the estimates of wheat and total grain area.

Grain harvesting is nearing completion throughout the country with some spring grains in the regions east of the Volga Valley and corn in the southern European areas yet to be cut. As of September 3, grains and pulses had been cut on 88.3 million hectares--71 percent of plan. Of the area cut, 74.2 million hectares had been threshed, leaving over 14 million hectares in windrows.

Harvesting in the Ukraine of small grains and pulses was completed near the end of August. At last report, a total of 13.3 million hectares had been cut--far short of the plan goal of over 15 million. This shortfall in harvested grain area in the Ukraine reflects the effect of drought and sukhovey conditions on spring grains.

Harvesting in Kazakhstan has been behind last year's pace due to late maturing grain this season. In addition, some harvesting difficulties have been experienced as is evident from the record area of grain lying in windrows. On September 3, a total of 7 million hectares was in windrows which may have an adverse effect on grain quality should the Soviets not be able to quickly pick up and dry this grain. Frequent press reports have expressed concern in maintaining grain quality.

Both wheat area and total grain area were reduced to reflect preliminary data supplied since the August report by the Soviets under US-USSR Agricultural Agreement. These preliminary grain area data support the earlier estimate of winterkill at about 20 percent. At the same time, the data indicated a lower spring wheat area than expected. The total preliminary grain area was 130.2 million hectares--down from last year's preliminary figure of 131.7 million hectares. The final grain area level last year was 128.5 million hectares compared to the 1979 estimate of 127.5 million hectares.

August 1 livestock and poultry inventory levels in the socialized sector did not reflect any adverse herd liquidation in an attempt to align grain for feed demand with availabilities. Also, both the marketing of hogs and cattle for slaughter in July did not display any unexpected increases in number slaughtered and slaughter weights remained near last year's levels.

The forecast of total USSR grain requirements for 1979/80 remain basically the same compared with a month earlier and the projected volume of grain imports also remains unchanged. The reduction in the crop estimate is reflected in a further drawdown in stocks.

Reprint from FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL CIRCULAR--GRAINS,
September 12, 1979

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
October 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Agricultural Prices
Honey Production
Dairy Products Manufactured

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C. R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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79-17 SEPTEMBER 14, 1979

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

September 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured
Barley for Malt

PASTURE AND RANGE

Near-normal temperatures and significant rainfall in many areas of Montana improve range conditions over last month. The September 1 condition averaged 69 percent--up 2 points from August 1 but was 28 points below last year's September 1 condition. Range grass supplies for fall grazing are fair. The September 1 condition was 11 points below the 10-year average.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION SEPT. 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	62	98	61
Northcentral	54	100	66
Northeast	46	98	68
Central	63	96	68
Southwest	86	87	74
Southcentral	63	93	73
Southeast	53	104	72
STATE	60	97	69

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Montana farmers received higher prices for durum, other spring wheat, and hay--but lower prices for most livestock items at mid-August compared with a month earlier. The August index of prices received by farmers at 253 (1967=100) was 5 points below last month--but 40 points (19 percent) above a year ago.

(Tables on inside)

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Montana ranchers had an inventory of 2.6 million head of cattle and calves on January 1 this year--the lowest number in 16 years.

MONTANA BARLEY FOR MALT

Domestic maltsters and brewers purchased 6.8 million bushels of Montana's 1978 malting barley crop for use in making malt--a 21 percent increase from 1977.

Approximately 56 percent of all Montana barley acreage was seeded to malting types in 1978. However, only about 12 percent of the entire malting and feed barley production was utilized in producing malt during the year. This indicates substantial portions of the malting barley varieties are used for feed. Piroline, the State's leading planted barley variety is largely used for feed. Conversely, Klages, Moravian, and Karl are mostly used for malting purposes.

(Table on back side)

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 212,000 gallons of ice cream during July--18 percent more than July 1978. Creamed cottage cheese at 472,000 pounds was up 47 percent from last year. Butter production at 105,000 pounds was down 8 percent from last year.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Honey Production

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP REPORT

Montana's 1979 small grain production is forecast at 159.9 million bushels based on conditions as of September 1--a decrease of 25 percent from last year. All wheat is expected to total 114.7 million bushels, 21 percent less than last year. Barley production at 37.8 million bushels is down 33 percent from a year ago and oats production at 7.4 million bushels is down 30 percent.

Winter wheat production at 58.8 million bushels is down 30 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below the August 1 forecast. The September 1 yield per acre forecast dropped 2 bushels from August 1 as harvest revealed lower yields than expected earlier

Spring wheat production at 51 million bushels compares with 53.7 million bushels produced in 1978. The Montana durum wheat crop is forecast at 4.9 million bushels--down from 8.7 million bushels a year ago.

The State's all wheat yield at 22.2 bushels per acre is down 8 bushels from last year and down 1 bushel from last month's forecast. The expected barley yield at 36 bushels per acre compares with 41 bushels in 1978. The expected yield on oats at 37 bushels per acre is 14 bushels below a year ago. Yields for small grains are based on farmers' reports, with nearly all the winter wheat and half the spring grains combined.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres harvested			Yield per harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change	1978	Indic. 1979	1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	2,700	2,350	-13	31.0	25.0	83,700	58,750	-30
Durum wheat	"	290	260	-10	30.0	19.0	8,700	4,940	-43
Other spring wheat	"	1,850	2,550	+38	29.0	20.0	53,650	51,000	- 5
ALL WHEAT	"	4,840	5,160	+ 7	30.2	22.2	146,050	114,690	-21
Corn for grain	"	5.0	7.0	+40	72.0	72.0	360	504	+40
Oats	"	208	200	- 4	51.0	37.0	10,608	7,400	-30
Barley	"	1,375	1,050	-24	41.0	36.0	56,375	37,800	-33
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	8.7	6.9	-21	240.0	1/	2,088	1/	--
Dry beans (clnd.)	"	8.4	9.1	+ 8	15.0	17.0	126	155	+23
Sugarbeets	Tons	44.7	43.4	- 3	19.8	19.0	885	825	- 7
Alfalfa hay	"	1,250	1,260	+ 1	2.35	2.15	2,938	2,709	- 8
All other hay	"	1,170	1,120	- 4	1.40	1.30	1,638	1,456	-11
All hay	"	2,420	2,380	- 2	1.89	1.75	4,576	4,165	- 9
Sweet cherries	"	---	---	---	---	---	1,850 2/	2,300 2/	+24

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 12. 2/ Actual tons.

U. S. CROP PRODUCTION--SEPTEMBER 1, 1979

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres harvested			Yield per harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change	1978	Indic. 1979	1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	38,909	43,496	+12	32.1	36.7	1,248,272	1,595,591	+28
Durum wheat	"	4,024	3,865	- 4	33.1	27.8	133,328	107,379	-19
Other spr. wht.	"	13,906	14,866	+ 7	30.0	28.3	417,112	420,204	+ 1
ALL WHEAT	"	56,839	62,227	+ 9	31.6	34.1	1,798,712	2,123,174	+18
Corn for grain	"	69,970	69,626	--	101.2	104.6	7,081,849	7,268,175	+ 3
Oats	"	11,531	10,037	-13	52.2	53.1	601,477	531,232	-22
Barley	"	9,233	7,445	-19	48.4	48.9	447,008	364,237	-19
Rye	"	995	936	- 6	26.3	25.4	26,160	23,736	- 9
Flaxseed	"	860	1,009	+17	12.7	12.4	10,921	12,501	+14
Dry beans (clnd.)	Cwt.	1,494.4	1,384.1	- 7	12.79	13.48	19,117	18,657	- 2
Potatoes (fall)	"	1,152.4	1,082.8	- 6	277.	1/	318,702	1/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,272.0	1,122.3	-12	20.3	19.6	25,773	21,937	-15
Alfalfa hay	"	27,707	27,259	- 2	3.13	3.10	86,745	84,477	- 3
All other hay	"	33,788	33,601	- 1	1.64	1.66	55,519	55,736	--
All hay	"	61,495	60,860	- 1	2.31	2.30	142,264	140,213	- 1

1/ First forecasts on yield and production will be released October 12.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--AUGUST 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		August 15, 1978	July 15, 1979 1/	August 15, 1979	August 15, 1979	August 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.66	$ 3.34	$ 3.30	$ 3.75	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.71	3.40	3.75	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.70	3.27	3.65	3.53	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.67	3.32	3.43	3.71	5.96
Barley	Bu.	1.67	1.88	1.86	2.13	3.76
Oats	Bu.	1.09	1.36	1.25	1.24	2.16
Alfalfa hay	Ton	44.00	50.00	55.50	62.20	2/
All other hay	Ton	40.50	45.50	49.50	46.80	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	42.50	48.50	53.50	57.60	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	55.50	72.90	63.80	64.30	2/
Cows	Cwt.	39.00	51.70	46.60	47.90	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	51.40	61.40	59.50	61.30	72.20
Calves	Cwt.	64.50	87.90	78.80	84.60	83.50
Sheep	Cwt.	16.00	19.00	21.00	26.20	23.60
Lambs	Cwt.	63.50	67.00	62.40	61.10	82.60
Hogs	Cwt.	46.10	38.50	35.00	35.50	71.30
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.50	11.45	11.60	11.90	16.30
Eggs	Doz.	.552	.640	.580	.523	.980
Wool 4/	Lb.	.810	.860	.860	.831	1.660
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		130.00	145.00	140.00	148.00	---

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls.
4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AUGUST 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA 1967 = 100				UNITED STATES 1967 = 100	
	1978	1979			1979	
	Aug. 15	June 15	July 15 2/	August 15	July 15 2/	August 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Food grains	190	222	238	245	251	240
Feed grains	194	206	220	217	226	214
Feed grains and hay	190	201	215	218	226	217
ALL CROPS	191	218	234	241	240	230
Meat animals	238	314	288	272	273	256
Dairy products	198	211	213	216	230	236
Poultry products	161	197	186	168	181	173
Wool	192	220	203	203	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	230	301	277	264	250	239
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	213	265	258	253	244	234

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	August 15, 1978	July 15, 1979	August 15, 1979	August 15, 1978	July 15, 1979	August 15, 1979
Prices Received	528	611	586	211	244	234
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	750	853	852	221	251	251
Ratio 1/	70	72	69	95	97	93

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

MONTANA BARLEY UTILIZED TO PRODUCE MALT BY CROP REPORTING DISTRICT
1975-1978, JULY 1 - JUNE 30 CROP YEAR

VARIETY	CROP YEAR	N.WEST	N.CENT	N.EAST	CENTRAL	S.WEST	S.CENT	STATE
		Bushels						
Piroline	1975	15,589	2,148,740	--	303,689	23,589	---	2,491,607
	1976	---	2,461,000	62,000	318,000	20,000	25,000	2,886,000
	1977	10,000	440,000	---	250,000	---	---	700,000
	1978	---	940,000	100,000	255,000	---	---	1,295,000
Klages	1975	5,790	84,271	---	17,370	33,249	---	140,680
	1976	40,000	750,000	---	330,000	85,000	60,000	1,265,000
	1977	5,000	1,650,000	---	475,000	55,000	200,000	2,385,000
	1978	---	1,940,000	---	1,160,000	425,000	100,000	3,625,000
Firlbeck III	1975	---	106,000	---	---	100,000	671,896	877,896
	1976	---	325,000	---	---	---	769,000	1,094,000
	1977	---	---	---	---	---	835,000	835,000
	1978	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Karl	1975	10,455	167,280	---	10,455	20,910	---	209,100
	1976	20,000	150,000	---	70,000	135,000	---	375,000
	1977	---	360,000	---	---	---	125,000	485,000
	1978	---	200,000	---	---	35,000	---	235,000
Shabet	1975	15,697	1,484,498	---	55,781	115,697	---	1,671,673
	1976	---	1,925,000	---	20,000	36,000	---	1,981,000
	1977	10,000	375,000	---	30,000	---	---	415,000
	1978	---	1,110,000	---	---	10,000	100,000	1,220,000
Other 1/	1975	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,335,245
	1976	15,000	449,000	120,000	75,000	51,000	82,000	792,000
	1977	95,000	230,000	330,000	40,000	---	100,000	795,000
	1978	---	330,000	---	---	30,000	65,000	425,000
Total	1975	47,531	3,990,789	---	387,295	293,445	671,896	6,726,201
	1976	75,000	6,060,000	182,000	813,000	327,000	936,000	8,393,000
	1977	120,000	3,055,000	330,000	795,000	55,000	1,260,000	5,615,000
	1978	---	4,520,000	100,000	1,415,000	500,000	265,000	6,800,000
Average Protein Pct.	1975	12.85	12.68	---	13.23	12.83	13.01	12.68
	1976	---	12.02	11.65	12.16	11.89	11.91	12.01
	1977	12.89	11.43	13.02	11.54	11.18	12.35	11.70
	1978	---	12.31	12.10	12.28	11.93	11.65	12.25

Percent of total State crop (both feed and malting types) sold for malt	1975	13.3
	1976	16.1
	1977	10.0
	1978	12.1

1/ Includes Betzes, Moravian and Larker not shown in order not to disclose individual operations.

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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79-16 AUGUST 28, 1979

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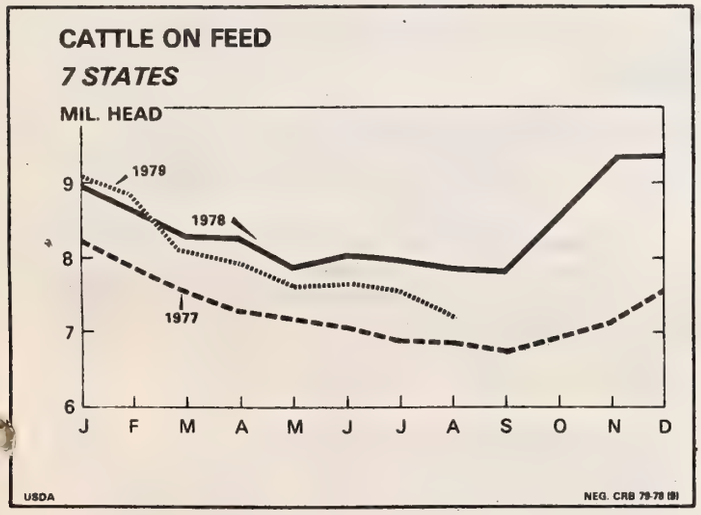
HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Slaughter
Farm Labor
Potato Disposition
Barley Varieties
Cattle on Feed

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed August 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.20 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago but 5 percent more than August 1, 1977. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.48 million down 8 percent from last year but 2 percent more than July 1977. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during July were 1.22 million, down 22 percent from last year and 18 percent less than July 2 years ago. Net placements of 1.12 million were off 25 percent from last year and 22 percent from 2 years ago. Other disappearance totaled 108 thousand compared with 78 thousand in July 1978 and 55 thousand in 1977.



NOTABLE NUMBERS

Nearly one-third of all U.S. crop production was exported in Fiscal 1978--up from about one-fourth in 1970.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Red meat production by Montana slaughter plants totaled 14.2 million pounds during July 1979. This is 18 percent more than July 1978 production and 9 percent more than the June 1979 figure. Production for the first seven months of 1979 at 82.4 million pounds is 1 percent more than for the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in July 1979 totaled 2.96 billion pounds, up 3 percent from July 1978. January-July red meat production at 21.1 billion pounds was 4 percent below last year. Change by individual components: beef, down 11 percent; veal, down 33; pork, up 12; lamb and mutton, down 5 percent.

JULY 1979 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	July 1978	July 1979	July 1978	July 1979
	------ 1,000 head ---------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	11.3	12.7	3061.8	2659.2
Calves	--	--	304.3	218.0
Hogs	32.8	39.7	5631.3	7001.9
Sheep & lambs	.2	.2	423.0	400.0
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	11,746	13,832	3,143	2,802
Calves	--	--	74	57
Hogs	7,416	9,448	1,357	1,719
Sheep & lambs	18	29	47	45
Red meat production	11,976	14,156	2,883	2,960

FARM LABOR

The total number of workers on Montana farms during the week of July 9-15, 1979 was estimated at 43,000--5 percent more than July 1978. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were up 19 percent from last year, but hired workers at 11,000 were down considerably from July 1978.

FAMILY AND HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS
Week of July 8-14, 1979 with Comparisons
Selected States and United States

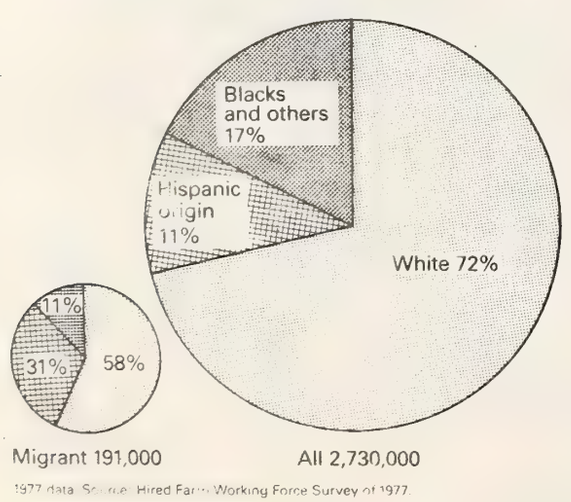
STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	July 9-15 1978	July 8-14 1979	July 9-15 1978	July 8-14 1979
	----------Thousands----------			
MONT	27.0	32.0	14.0	11.0
N.D.	71.0	66.0	14.0	13.0
S.D.	63.0	56.0	13.0	8.0
WYO.	12.0	12.0	8.0	9.0
IDAHO	31.0	33.0	27.0	26.0
U.S.	3,119.8	2,831.9	1,848.0	1,812.4

FARM WAGE RATES
Week of July 8-14, 1979 with Comparisons
Selected States and United States

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	July 9-15 1978	July 8-14 1979	July 9-15 1978	July 8-14 1979
	------- Dollars per hour ----------			
MONT	2.38	2.52	2.35	2.49
N.D.	3.27	3.21	1/	1/
S.D.	2.50	2.79	2.42	2.70
WYO	2.89	2.80	2.49	2.67
IDAHO	3.13	3.35	2.63	2.61
U. S.	2.94	3.23	2.70	2.99

1/ Insufficient data for this category--data included in all hired farm workers and in U. S. wage rates.

RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF HIRED FARMWORKERS



1977 data. Source: Hired Farm Working Force Survey of 1977.

SUNFLOWERS: UP AND COMING OILSEED

Despite a 75 percent increase in prospective acreage this year, sunflowers are not a contender for the top oilseed spot yet. But soybeans, which are No. 1, will face some stiff competition in the years ahead.

In fact, the time may come when the two will split the market honors--with sunflowers taking over as the premier oil crop and soybeans serving as the protein crop.

Although the sunflower is native to the Americas, sustained production of oilseed varieties began in the U.S. only 13 years ago. Since then, acreage has soared.

Plantings last year totaled over 3 million acres--more than the area planted to such oilseed crops as peanuts or safflowers, or to grains such as rice or rye. The 75 percent increase in acreage planned for this year would push the sunflower total more than 5 million acres.

Leading producers---The big sunflower States currently are North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and Texas. In the northern production area, the acreage gains have come at the expense of flax, wheat, barley, and other small grains.

In the future, the crop may gain ground in other areas too--especially on the fringes of soybean, corn, and cotton areas where yields of these crops are comparatively low.

For the four major sunflower-producing States farmers received an average of 10.7 cents a pound on last year's crop (oil varieties). Based on an average yield of 1,383 pounds per acre, sunflowers earned nearly $148 an acre.

Although soybeans offered a higher U.S. average return per acre, each producer faced a different situation.

Sunflowers compete just as well with soybeans because they have a shorter growing season and usually do better under drought conditions.

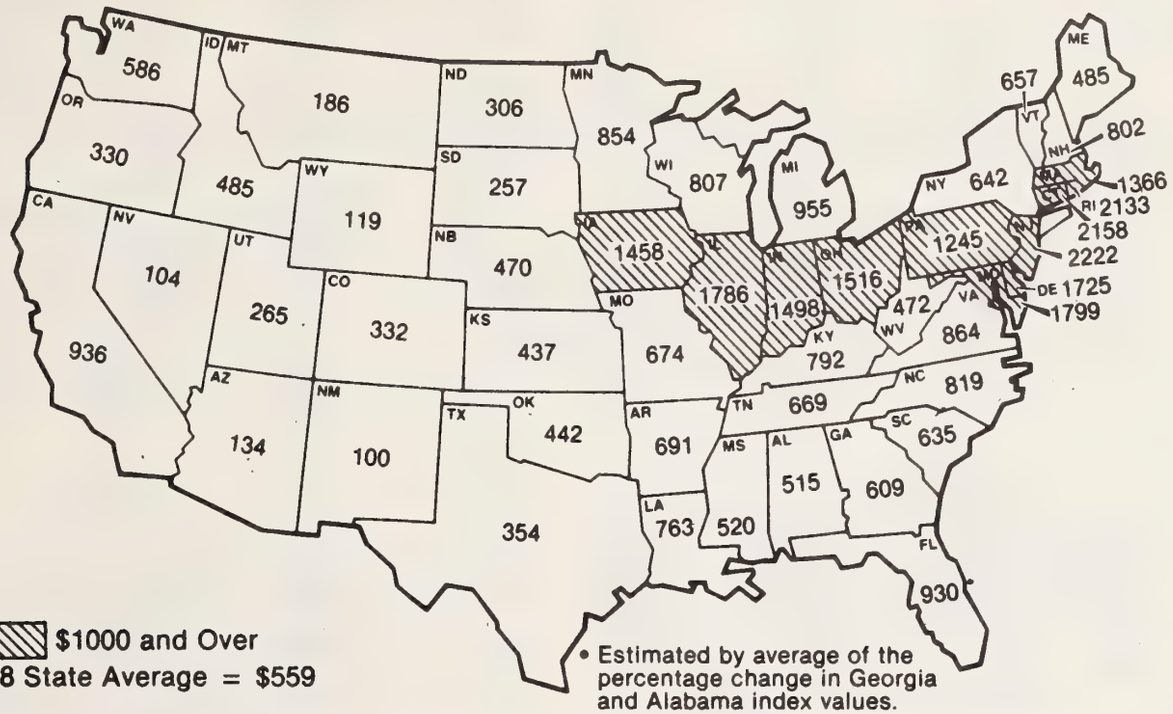
In the South, too, sunflower plantings have caught on rapidly as a result of cutbacks in cotton allotments several years ago.

Sunflowers have served not only as another cash crop for Southern farmers, but have also filled some slack in cottonseed mills left with excess crushing capacity.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The June 1979 Consumer Price Index (U. S. basis) for all urban consumers was 216.6. This is up 1.2 percent from May and 10.9 percent above June a year ago.

Average Dollar Value of Farm Real Estate Per Acre — February 1979



POTATO PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

The nation's 1978 crop of potatoes totaled a record high 365 million cwt. This is 3 percent more than the 1977 crop and 2 percent above the 1976 output--the previous record. The 1978 crop was harvested from 1.37 million acres--up 1 percent from 1977's 1.36 million acres, but down slightly from the 1976 crop acreage. Yields averaged a record 266 cwt. per acre compared with 261 cwt. per acre in 1977 and 260 cwt. per acre for the 1976 season.

Total sales from the record 1978 potato crop accounted for 325 million cwt.--2 percent above 1977, but slightly less than the record sales volume from the 1976 crop. Fresh market sales totaled 30 percent of the 1978 production--down from 33 percent a year earlier. Sales for processing accounted for 48 percent of total production--unchanged from the 1977 crop. Other sales rose to 11 percent of the 1978 crop compared with 8 percent a year ago, due primarily to sales under the USDA diversion program. Use of potatoes on farms where grown and shrinkage and loss accounted for the remaining 11 percent of total production--the same as from the 1977 crop.

POTATOES: PRODUCTION, FARM DISPOSITION, SEASON AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, AND VALUE, BY STATES, 1978 1/

STATE	PRODUCTION	TOTAL USED FOR SEED	FARM DISPOSITION			PRICE PER CWT. 2/	VALUE OF -- 2/	
			USED ON FARMS WHERE GROWN		SOLD		PRODUCTION	SALES
			FOR SEED, FEED, AND HOUSEHOLD USE	SHRINKAGE AND LOSS				
			1,000 Cwt.			Dollars	1,000 Dollars	
CALIF	17,854	1,052	92	863	16,899	6.69	118,630	113,024
COLO	13,009	1,009	596	1,003	11,410	2.34	30,310	26,718
IDAHO	100,310	6,630	1,463	10,395	88,452	2.25	225,698	199,017
MINN	16,870	1,131	276	1,660	14,934	2.95	49,461	44,024
MONT	2,088	133	167	170	1,751	4.00	8,352	7,004
N.D.	22,400	1,755	448	3,360	18,592	2.60	58,240	48,339
OREG	28,488	1,271	48	3,155	25,285	2.76	78,607	69,773
WASH	50,685	2,100	450	4,134	46,101	2.45	124,178	112,947
U. S.	365,249	24,751	6,350	34,273	324,626	3.38	1,222,315	1,096,895

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Excludes USDA diversion program payments; quantities diverted are priced at prevailing livestock feed and starch levels.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1972 - 1979

VARIETIES	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE							
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
	Percent							
Piroline	32.0	34.1	35.8	25.2	24.8	37.8	31.9	29.1
Hector	--	--	.2	9.1	11.2	14.3	14.9	16.7
Klages	--	--	.2	.6	2.5	6.1	12.7	13.9
Shabet	4.9	8.6	8.4	8.4	17.0	5.0	4.4	5.2
Unitan	17.8	19.0	16.5	10.0	8.9	7.9	6.1	5.0
Summit	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.0	3.9
Steptoe	--	.6	6.8	11.0	9.0	4.7	4.8	3.6
Compana	11.8	9.5	8.0	13.3	5.5	3.0	6.0	2.8
Horsford	.5	.4	.9	.9	1.0	.5	1.4	2.7
Betzes	11.5	7.7	6.0	4.5	5.1	2.8	2.8	2.7
Ingrid	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.3
Hypana	3.8	3.6	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.6	3.1	1.7
Fairfield	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.7
Larker	2.1	1.7	.8	1.3	.9	3.7	2.5	1.6
Karl	--	--	--	--	.6	.9	1.0	.7
Vireo	--	--	--	--	--	--	.2	.6
Vanguard	.3	1.2	2.7	2.1	.9	.5	.9	.4
Moravian III	--	--	--	--	--	.4	.3	.3
Freja	--	--	--	--	--	--	.2	.2
Palliser	3.1	3.7	2.4	2.0	1.6	.7	.5	.1
Firlbeck III	--	.4	.2	1.0	1.5	1.3	.4	.1
Other	10.1	7.2	6.1	6.6	5.6	5.3	2.9	4.7
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

September 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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79-15 AUGUST 14, 1979

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Agricultural Prices
Dairy Products Manufactured
August 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Wheat Varieties

NOTABLE NUMBERS

In 1977, the world's leading exporter of agricultural products was the United States, with exports valued at 24.8 billion, followed by Netherlands with 10.0 billion, France with 9.3 billion, and Brazil with 7.2 billion.

PASTURE AND RANGE

Hot temperatures and little July rainfall caused Montana pasture and range conditions to decline. The average condition on August 1 was 67 percent compared with 79 last month. Last year on August 1, pastures and ranges were a lush 100 percent. The August 1 conditon was 6 points below the 10-year average.

ONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION AUGUST 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	61	95	55
Northcentral	53	102	66
Northeast	49	102	73
Central	65	101	68
Southwest	91	88	69
Southcentral	66	99	72
Southeast	61	108	65
STATE	62	100	67

For the nation, pasture and range feed condition on August 1 averaged 84 percent for the 48 contiguous States. This is 7 points above August 1, 1978, 8 points above the 1968-77 average for the date, and is equal to the record high attained in 1967.

Most of the nation reported good to excellent pasture conditions. The major exceptions were the Northeastern States and from North Dakota westward. These areas generally had high temperatures and below normal rainfall during July, which caused pasture and range conditions to decline.

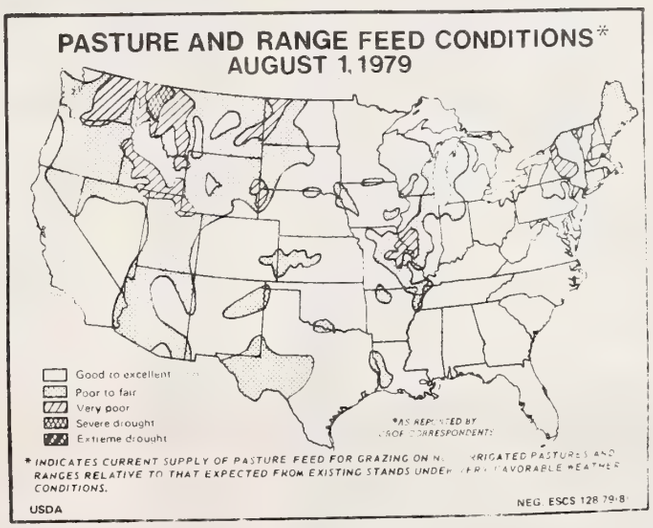
AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers at 267 percent of the 1967 base period was up slightly from mid-June to mid-July. Higher crop prices were offset by reduced livestock prices. This index is up 29 percent from a year earlier.

(see inside page for tables)

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 177,000 gallons of ice cream during June--4 percent less than June 1978. Creamed cottage cheese at 432,000 pounds was up 21 percent from last year. Butter production dropped to 111,000 pounds--a 24 percent decline from June 1978.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
AUGUST 1, 1979
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY USDA CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON N... IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER ... FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
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AUGUST 1 CROP PROSPECTS DOWN

Montana's major grain crops, under stress from heat and drought, suffered reductions in yield prospects during July. However, crop prospects vary between localities, with some farmers reporting winter wheat better than expected, considering the hot weather and reduced rainfall. Based upon current prices and prospects, July weather apparently cost Montana grain producers over $60 million. This year's hot, dry weather has reduced hay yields but helped quality and boosted yields on irrigated corn, dry beans, and sweet cherries.

August 1 yield prospects were based upon reports from a sample of about 500 farmers throughout Montana and 210 wheat objective yield plots.

The 1979 all wheat crop is expected to total 119.7 million bushels--18 percent less than last year and down 12 percent from the July 1 forecast. The State's all wheat acres for harvest is up 7 percent from last year but the overall yield at 23.2 bushels per acre is down from 30.2 last year. Winter wheat production at 63.5 million bushels is down 24 percent, hard spring wheat at 51.0 million is down 5 percent, and durum at 5.2 million is down 40 percent from last year's levels. Hard spring wheat production would have been lower, but acreage was much higher due to reseeding of winter wheat acreage. Compared to a month ago, winter wheat is off 4 percent, hard spring off 20 percent, and durum down 13 percent. Expected average yield per acre on hard spring wheat at 20 bushels per acre is 5 bushels lower than a month earlier.

The State's barley crop at 36.8 million bushels is down 35 percent from a year ago. Oats production at 7.4 million is down 30 percent. Yield per acre prospects for both crops was lowered significantly during July--each down 3 bushels.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--AUGUST 1, 1979

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres harvested			Yield per harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change	1978	Indic. 1979	1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	2,700	2,350	-13	31.0	27.0	83,700	63,450	-24
Durum wheat	"	290	260	-10	30.0	20.0	8,700	5,200	-40
Other spring wheat	"	1,850	2,550	+38	29.0	20.0	53,650	51,000	- 5
ALL WHEAT	"	4,840	5,160	+ 7	30.2	23.2	146,050	119,650	-18
Corn for grain	"	5.0	7.0	+40	72.0	72.0	360	504	+40
Oats	"	208	200.	- 4	51.0	37.0	10,608	7,400	-30
Barley	"	1,375	1,050	-24	41.0	35.0	56,375	36,750	-35
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	8.7	6.9	-21	240.0	1/	2,088	1/	--
Dry beans (clnd.)	"	8.4	9.1	+ 8	15.0	17.0	126	155	+23
Sugarbeets	Tons	44.7	43.4	- 3	19.8	18.5	885	803	- 9
Alfalfa hay	"	1,250	1,260	+ 1	2.35	2.15	2,938	2,709	- 8
All other hay	"	1,170	1,120	- 4	1.40	1.30	1,638	1,456	-11
All hay	"	2,420	2,380	- 2	1.89	1.75	4,576	4,165	- 9
Sweet cherries	"	---	---	---	---	---	1,850 2/	2,300 2/	+24

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 12. 2/ Actual tons.

U. S. CROP PRODUCTION--AUGUST 1, 1979

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	Acres harvested			Yield per harvested acre		PRODUCTION		
		1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change	1978	Indic. 1979	1978	Indic. 1979	Pct. change
		(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	38,909	43,496	+12	32.1	36.9	1,248,272	1,602,901	+28
Durum wheat	"	4,024	3,865	- 4	33.1	27.8	133,328	107,546	-19
Other spr. wht.	"	13,906	14,866	+ 7	30.0	28.4	417,112	422,594	+ 1
ALL WHEAT	"	56,839	62,227	+ 9	31.6	34.3	1,798,712	2,133,041	+19
Corn for grain	"	69,970	69,626	--	101.2	102.1	7,081,849	7,108,938	--
Oats	"	11,531	10,037	-13	52.2	52.9	601,477	530,967	-12
Barley	"	9,233	7,445	-19	48.4	47.9	447,008	356,491	-20
Rye	"	995	936	- 6	26.3	25.4	26,160	23,736	- 9
Flaxseed	"	860	1,009	+17	12.7	11.7	10,921	11,847	+ 8
Dry beans (clnd.)	Cwt.	1,494.4	1,384.1	- 7	12.79	13.21	19,117	18,284	- 4
Potatoes (fall)	"	1,152.4	1,082.8	- 6	277.	1/	318,702	1/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,272.0	1,122.3	-12	20.3	19.4	25,773	21,789	-15
Alfalfa hay	"	27,707	27,259	- 2	3.13	3.10	86,745	84,477	- 3
All other hay	"	33,788	33,601	- 1	1.64	1.66	55,519	55,736	--
All hay	"	61,495	60,860	- 1	2.31	2.30	142,264	140,213	- 1

1/ First forecasts on yield and production will be released October 11.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--JULY 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		July 15, 1978	June 15, 1979 1/	July 15, 1979	July 15, 1979	July 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.70	$ 3.09	$ 3.54	$ 3.95	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.76	3.20	4.12	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.75	3.14	3.91	3.83	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.72	3.11	3.70	3.95	5.98
Barley	Bu.	1.88	1.76	1.90	2.31	3.77
Oats	Bu.	1.23	1.41	1.29	1.38	2.17
Alfalfa hay	Ton	45.50	45.00	50.00	60.80	2/
All other hay	Ton	43.00	42.00	45.50	46.00	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	44.50	44.00	48.50	56.30	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	54.90	72.80	72.90	69.40	2/
Cows	Cwt.	40.00	53.40	51.70	50.30	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	46.80	69.10	61.40	65.60	72.30
Calves	Cwt.	61.00	90.90	87.90	90.00	83.70
Sheep	Cwt.	15.30	19.70	19.00	25.80	23.70
Lambs	Cwt.	63.20	66.70	67.00	65.00	82.80
Hogs	Cwt.	46.40	39.00	38.50	37.90	71.50
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.50	11.30	11.35	11.60	16.30
Eggs	Doz.	.494	.679	.640	.534	.982
Wool 4/	Lb.	.800	.930	.860	.837	1.670
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		130.00	140.00	145.00	151.00	---

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls.
4/ Average market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA 1967 = 100				UNITED STATES 1967 = 100	
	1978	1979			1979	
	July 15	May 15	June 15 2/	July 15	June 15 2/	July 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Food grains	194	203	222	264	240	253
Feed grains	219	205	206	221	216	234
Feed grains and hay	211	201	201	217	218	234
ALL CROPS	198	203	218	255	233	243
Meat animals	220	342	314	288	280	273
Dairy products	198	215	211	212	229	230
Poultry and eggs	145	174	197	186	188	181
Wool	188	226	220	203	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	215	326	301	277	255	250
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	207	273	265	267	244	246

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	July 15, 1978	June 15, 1979	July 15, 1979	July 15, 1978	June 15, 1979	July 15, 1979
Prices Received	539	610	615	216	244	246
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	749	845	854	220	249	251
Ratio 1/	72	72	72	98	98	98

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

MONTANA WHEAT VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1975 - 1979

Class and Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
	Percent				
WINTER WHEAT					
Winalta	34.0	35.3	31.1	29.1	27.7
Centurk	3.5	12.0	25.7	28.1	27.1
Cheyenne	33.7	30.0	23.0	26.2	23.5
Warrior	5.8	6.1	3.9	3.2	4.6
Winoka	7.5	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4
Rough Rider	--	--	--	--	2.6
Sundance	1.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	1.7
Nugaines	.5	.7	.8	.5	1.1
Trapper	3.5	2.4	2.0	.7	.6
Lancer	1.3	.6	1.3	.4	.5
Gent	--	--	--	--	.5
Wanser	.6	.4	.4	.2	.2
Other & unknown	7.9	6.4	6.0	6.0	6.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT EXCLUDING DURUM					
Fortuna	48.4	35.2	34.1	21.6	23.4
Olaf	8.0	26.0	24.1	22.8	17.1
Prodax	--	1.1	6.3	9.0	9.9
Tioga	.9	6.1	7.9	8.9	8.5
Newana	--	--	--	1.0	5.8
Lew	--	--	1.4	3.8	5.2
Wared	.2	1.0	4.9	6.1	4.7
Butte	--	--	--	--	4.5
Thatcher	9.0	8.1	4.4	6.8	3.3
Norana	2.5	8.2	3.4	3.4	3.2
Red River 68	4.3	2.4	1.1	5.5	3.0
Canthatch	--	--	--	--	1.3
Bounty 309	--	--	--	--	1.2
Other & unknown	26.7	11.9	12.4	11.1	8.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Class and Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
	Percent				
DURUM WHEAT					
Rolette	--	--	--	3.4	18.5
Ward	14.1	16.0	25.5	30.8	18.4
Wells	39.6	38.4	21.5	5.7	18.3
Cando	--	--	--	7.2	17.7
Crosby	.9	2.9	16.1	19.2	12.2
Edmore	--	--	--	--	.9
Calvin	--	--	--	--	.5
Other & unknown	45.4	42.7	36.9	33.7	13.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

For a more detailed county breakdown of wheat varieties, request a copy from our office.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Farm Labor
Potato Disposition

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician
and Editor

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

79-14 JULY 26, 1979

Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service-USDA and Montana Department of Agriculture • ISSUED TWICE MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

July 1 Cattle Inventory
Calf Crop
Cattle on Feed
Lamb Crop & Wool Production
Quarterly Milk Production
New Cropland
Slaughter

NOTABLE NUMBERS

In 1978, Montana ranchers marketed 1,571,000 head of cattle---of this total, only 171,000 (11 percent) were slaughtered in Montana. Thus, about 1,400,000 head of cattle were shipped out of Montana last year.

MONTANA CATTLE HERD REBUILDING

Montana cattlemen have started to expand their herds after a 5-year decline. The total of all cattle and calves on the State's farms and ranches on July 1, 1979 at 3.75 million head was 3 percent more than a year earlier but still 14 percent under the peak number for this date in 1974. This increase is a turnaround from the January 1, 1979 Montana all cattle inventory decline. The July 1 beef cow inventory at 1.55 million was up 3 percent and beef replacement heifers at 307 thousand were up 24 percent. Other heifers weighing over 500 pounds (not for replacement) were down 23 percent.

NATIONAL CATTLE HERD CONTINUES DOWN

The national cattle inventory is estimated at 118 million head on July 1 this year--down 3 percent from a year earlier. This is the fourth consecutive year of herd reduction for July 1 estimates in the current cattle cycle. All classes are down except herd replacement heifers.

Cows at 47.7 million head are down 2 percent; but beef replacement heifers are up 8 percent and milk cow replacement heifers are up 4 percent. Steers are down 6 percent and calves on hand July 1 are down 3 percent.

The 1979 calf crop is expected to be 43.5 million head--1 percent less than 1978. This would be the lowest calf crop since 1963.

CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY--JULY 1, 1978-79

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1978	1979	1979 as % of 1978	1978	1979	1979 as % of 1978
	1,000 head		Pct.	1,000 head		Pct.
Cows & heifers that have calved	1,535	1,580	+ 3	48,477	47,733	- 2
Beef cows	1,508	1,552	+ 3	37,654	36,997	- 2
Milk cows	27	28	+ 4	10,823	10,736	- 1
Heifers 500 pounds and over	389	418	+ 7	18,086	17,646	- 2
For beef cow replacement	247	307	+24	5,369	5,778	+ 8
For milk cow replacement	12	11	- 8	3,957	4,117	+ 4
Other heifers	130	100	-23	8,760	7,751	-12
Steers 500 pounds and over	254	259	+ 2	17,869	16,860	- 6
Bulls 500 pounds and over	83	85	+ 2	2,458	2,455	--
Calves under 500 pounds on hand	1,369	1,408	+ 3	34,805	33,793	- 3
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	3,630	3,750	+ 3	121,695	118,487	- 3
Calf crop 1/	1,443	1,490	+ 3	43,839	43,458	- 1

1/ Calves born before July 1 plus number expected to be born after July 1.

FARMLAND VALUE UP 14 PERCENT LAST YEAR

Farmland prices increased an average of 14 percent for the year ending February 1, 1979--up from 9 percent the year before but near the average annual rate since 1972. Combining this with a slight increase in farm size, the average value per operating unit increased 16 percent to $251,000.

In a summary of the Farm Real Estate Market Developments report released today by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, USDA economists indicated that through February 1, 1980, the value of farmland is likely to rise at about last year's rate of 14 percent. This forecast in part reflects further improvement in farm income and a higher general inflation rate.

The total value of farm real estate was $584 billion on February 1--up $72 billion from last year. Building values accounted for $98 billion or 17 percent of the total value. The national average value per acre was $559, with State averages ranging from $100 an acre in New Mexico to $2,222 in New Jersey.

Major increases in land value during the survey year were not confined to any particular region. States scoring the sharpest gains--20 percent or more--included Nebraska, Arkansas, Colorado, Ohio, and California.

The rate of farm transfers dropped 5 percent to 39.6 tracts per 1,000 farms. Combining this with 2 percent fewer farms, the total number of transfers declined 7 percent--from 91,800 to 85,600. In light of the rising level of farm income, the rate of transfers could increase in the current year. Farm enlargement accounted for 63 percent of all farmland purchases in the last survey year compared with 58 percent the year before.

With interest rates increasing prior to March of this year, longterm lenders were quite willing to provide real estate financing. A record high 90 percent of all transfers last year were credit financed. Sellers and Federal land banks supplied 67 percent of this credit financing. Life insurance companies dropped their market share this year by financing only 10 percent of new loan funds compared with 15 percent last year.

Transfers of farmland expected to remain in agricultural use 5 years after the date of purchase accounted for 84 percent of all purchases, 93 percent of the total acres, and 91 percent of the total value transferred. Expected use as a rural residence was the most common form of competition, accounting for 8 percent of the purchases. For most uses, the average price per acre for tracts under 100 acres typically was nearly twice as high as the overall average price.

Cash rents generally continued upward, but the rate of increase slowed. Because land values continued to climb at a faster rate, the ratio of gross cash rents to land prices dropped.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Montana feedlots held 8 percent fewer cattle and calves on July 1 compared with the same date last year. The July 1 survey of feedlots shows 48,000 on feed for the slaughter market--the lowest figure on this date since 1964. Steers numbering 23,000 were up 5 percent but heifers at 24,000 were down 17 percent from a year earlier. About 48 percent of all steers and heifers on feed weighed 900 pounds or more compared with 35 percent last July 1. An estimated 15,000 were marketed from feedlots during the April-June quarter--25 percent less than last year. Placements the past 3 months at 15,000 were unchanged from a year ago. Montana feeders expect to market 36,000 during the July-September quarter--down 5 percent from the same period last year.

CATTLE ON FEED JULY 1, 1978-79

ITEM	Montana		23 Major States	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	----- 1,000 head -----			
On feed April 1	60	58	11,741	11,074
Placed on feed 1/	15	15	6,558	6,113
Marketed 1/	20	15	6,621	6,110
Other disappearance 2/	3	10	754	768
On feed July 1	52	48	10,924	10,309
Number on feed by Kind & weight July 1				
Steers & steer calves	22	23	6,858	6,818
Under 500 Lbs.	--	--	319	321
500-699 Lbs.	2	1	1,168	1,025
700-899 Lbs.	9	9	2,760	2,487
900-1099 Lbs.	11	12	2,238	2,429
1100 Lbs. & over	--	1	373	560
Heifer & heifer calves	29	24	4,012	3,448
Under 500 Lbs.	--	--	335	233
500-699 Lbs.	3	1	1,279	1,057
700-899 Lbs.	20	13	1,831	1,597
900 Lbs. & over	6	10	567	561
Cows and other	1	1	54	43
Total marketings 3/ July-September	36	36	6,523	6,226

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings (1978) including those placed on feed after July 1 and marketed before September 30. Expected total marketings (1979) including an allowance for those placed on feed after July 1 and marketed before September 30.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The May 1979 Consumer Price Index (U.S. basis) for all urban consumers was 214.1. This is up 1.2 percent from April and 10.8 percent above May a year earlier.

LAMB CROP And WOOL

Montana's lamb crop is estimated at 340,000 head--down 3 percent from 1978. Lambs saved per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1 is 105--7 more than last year.

Wool production in Montana is placed at 4.0 million pounds--down 4 percent from last year. The total number of sheep shorn at 412,000 head was down 1 percent from 1978.

LAMB CROP And WOOL

ITEM	Montana		U.S.	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Breeding ewes 1 year & older (000 head)	356	324	8,540	8,243
Lamb crop per 100 ewes 1 year & older (000 head)	98	105	94	97
Lamb crop (000 head)	349	340	8,020	8,019
Number sheep shorn (000 head)	415	412	12,546	12,550
Weight per fleece (Lbs.)	10.1	9.8	8.08	7.99
Wool production (000 Lbs.)	4,173	4,017	101,277	100,294

MILK PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana milk production in the second quarter (April-June) increased seasonally over the first quarter but failed to reach last year's level. Dairymen produced 78 million pounds of milk in the 3 months--April through June 1979--2 percent less than the same quarter last year. Average grain fed to all cows in the herd was 11.5 pounds per day--down 1.0 from last July.

JUNE MILK COWS & APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION

State	June Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	--- Thousands ---		-- Million pounds --	
Calif.	839	871	3,022	3,135
Idaho	140	142	412	427
Minn.	825	830	2,596	2,554
MONT.	27	27	80	78
N.Dak.	100	95	269	255
Oreg.	93	93	290	289
S. Dak.	170	168	439	442
Wash.	185	191	703	724
Wis.	1,812	1,813	5,915	5,973
Wyo.	11.0	11.0	30.3	30.0
U.S.	10,808	10.735	32,660	32,766

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Red meat production by Montana slaughter plants totaled 12.9 million pounds during June 1979--11 percent more than 1978 June production and 10 percent more than the 1979 May figure. Production for the first six months of 1979 at 68.2 million pounds is 2 percent less than the production for the first half of 1978. The June 1979 cattle kill was 11,500 head compared with 11,800 head in June 1978. The hog kill at 36,600 head was up 26 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in June 1979 totaled 2.99 billion pounds--down 3 percent from June 1978. January-June red meat production at 18.1 billion pounds was 5 percent below last year. Change by individual components: beef, down 12 percent; veal, down 35; pork, up 10; lamb and mutton, down 5 percent.

JUNE 1979 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	June 1978	June 1979	June 1978	June 1979
	-------1,000 head--------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	11.8	11.5	3260.5	2714.9
Calves	--	--	317.7	193.2
Hogs	29.1	36.6	6026.6	6939.9
Sheep & lambs	.1	.2	457.2	385.3
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	12,020	12,569	3,345	2,870
Calves	--	--	79	53
Hogs	6,707	8,501	1,468	1,705
Sheep & lambs	9	17	51	43
Red meat production	11,641	12,940	3,081	2,990

National levels of livestock slaughter explain price movements and levels. The following table summarizes U.S. slaughter the first 6 months of 1979 compared with the same period of 1978. Cattle slaughter has been down (prices up), hog slaughter up (prices down).

JAN.-JUNE LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	UNITED STATES		
	Jan.-June 1978	Jan.-June 1979	Percent change
	--- 1,000 head ---		
Number slaughtered			
Cattle	20,085.6	16,931.7	-16
Calves	2,256.2	1,438.1	-36
Hogs	38,445.4	41,781.4	+ 9
Sheep & lambs	2,715.5	2,473.6	- 9
Total liveweight	Million pounds		
Cattle	20,651	17,902	-13
Calves	555	356	-36
Hogs	9,124	10,060	+10
Sheep & lambs	303	285	- 6

LAND BROKEN UP FOR CROPPING

Our definition of "New Cropland" is land broken up for cropping which was previously native sod, improved pasture and the other land not tilled in the past 3 years. The Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service has been collecting data on new lands broken up for the past 5 years. New land broken up in Montana for cropping totaled 150,000 acres during the July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979 period. Of this amount, 145,000 acres were actually cropped. These amounts are significantly less than the acreages broken up during each of the previous 4 years and reflect the effect of the Federal farm program which restricts planting of wheat and barley. The 5-year total is slightly more than 1.15 million acres--or about 231,000 each year.

The second table shows the total of planted acreage estimates for 1975-79 and the change in acreage each year. The results from these two approaches do not agree exactly and probably shouldn't since summerfallow practices can change and some crop land may be withdrawn and put into permanent pasture, new hay seedings or other uses.

USDA SURVEY INDICATED NEW CROPLAND

ITEM	July 1, '74-June 30, '75	July 1, '75-June 30, '76	July 1, '76-June 30, '77	July 1, '77 June 30,'78	July 1, '78-June 30, '79	5-year TOTAL
	Thousand acres					
New land broken up	240	325	260	180	150	1,155
New land seeded to crops	160	225	165	110	145	805

USDA PLANTED ACREAGE ESTIMATES ADDED FOR TOTAL CROPLAND

I T E M	1975 Crop Year	1976 Crop Year	1977 Crop Year	1978 Crop Year	1979 Crop Year
	Thousand acres				
Cropland acres planted (includes spring planted crops and harvested acres of winter wheat and alfalfa hay)	8,040	8,265	8,341	8,201	8,142
Change from previous year	+68	+225	+76	-140	-59

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

- Agricultural Prices
- Crop Production Forecasts
- Pasture and Range
- Dairy Products Manufactured

Daniel L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE
Agricultural Prices
June Acreage
July 1 Crop Production
Pasture and Range
Dairy Products Manufactured

PASTURE And RANGE CONDITION

Montana range and pasture condition declined in June because of topsoil moisture shortages. However, conditions were variable with mid-June rains in some sections, stimulating grass development.

The reported condition as of July 1 was 79 percent--4 points below June 1. In the past 15 years, the condition has fallen from June 1 to July 1 only 3 times--the usual movement is up 5 to 6 points. Compared with July 1 last year, the present condition is down 29 points.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION JULY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	69	98	74
Northcentral	55	98	78
Northeast	55	105	80
Central	67	98	79
Southwest	91	88	86
Southcentral	69	99	81
Southeast	63	109	74
STATE	66	100	79

For the nation, all States except North Dakota and those in the northwest and southeast recorded good to excellent conditions. Conditions improved from a month ago in 12 States and from a year ago in 18 States. Most of the improvement during the month occurred in the Plains States where excellent growing conditions existed following cool spring weather.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

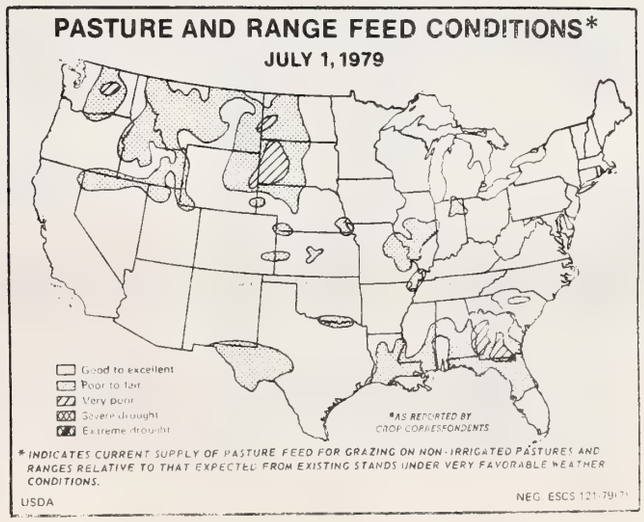
Montana farmers received higher prices for wheat on June 15 compared with mid-May, but mostly lower prices for feed grains, hay, and livestock. The index of prices received by farmers for mid-June at 272 (1967=100) was 1 point below mid-May but 61 points (30 percent) above a year ago. The all crops index at 234 points was 31 points above last month and 35 points above June 1978. The livestock index at 302 points was down 24 points from mid-May, but up 85 points from June 1978.

Nationally, the June Index of Prices Received by Farmers decreased 3 points (1 percent) to 243 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since May were lower prices for cattle, hogs, broilers, calves, and hay. Higher prices for wheat, corn, soybeans, and oranges were partially offsetting. The index was 26 points (12 percent) above June 1978.

(Tables Inside Page)

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 162,000 gallons of ice cream during May--10 percent more than May 1978. Creamed cottage cheese at 454,000 pounds was up 31 percent from last year. Butter production dropped to 147,000 pounds--a 10 percent decline from last year.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
JULY 1, 1979
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 121-79(7)

GRAIN CROPS REDUCED

Production of spring wheat other than durum will be up considerably but output of most other 1979 Montana crops is expected to be below last year's levels. Grain crops progressed rapidly despite a slow start, but most were only in fair condition on July 1 and showing stress due to lack of moisture.

The 1979 all wheat crop is expected to total 135.5 million bushels--7 percent less than last year's total output of 146.1 million bushels. Winter wheat is expected to yield 28.0 bushels per acre--which would place production at 65.8 million bushels--down 21 percent from 1978 (unchanged from June). The decrease in production is mainly the result of a reduced acreage due to heavy winterkill. Durum at 6.0 million bushels is down 31 percent as a result of decreases in both yield and acreage. Production of other spring wheat at 63.8 million bushels is up 19 percent from 1978. The increase is a result of a larger acreage due to extensive reseeding of winter wheat.

The State's barley crop at 39.9 million bushels is down 29 percent and oats production at 8.0 million bushels is down 25 percent. The lower production for both crops is a result of decreases in both yield and acreage.

Sweet cherry production is forecast at 2,300 tons compared with 1,850 tons last year. Pollination conditions were ideal and the June drop was about normal.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION--JULY 1, 1979

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1978	1979	Pct. Change	1978	Ind. 1979	Pct. Change	1978	Ind. 1979	1978	Ind. 1979	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	2,900	3,000	+ 3	2,700	2,350	-13	31.0	28.0	83,700	65,800	-21
Durum wheat	"	300	275	- 8	290	260	-10	30.0	23.0	8,700	5,980	-31
Other spring wht.	"	1,900	2,650	+39	1,850	2,550	+38	29.0	25.0	53,650	63,750	+19
All wheat	"	5,100	5,925	+16	4,840	5,160	+ 7	30.2	26.3	146,050	135,530	- 7
Corn for grain	"	88	85	- 3	5	7	+40	72.0	72.0	360	504	+40
Oats	"	400	360	-10	208	200	- 4	51.0	40.0	10,608	8,000	-25
Barley	"	1,500	1,100	-27	1,375	1,050	-24	41.0	38.0	56,375	39,900	-29
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	8.8	7.0	-20	8.7	6.9	-21	240.	1/	2,088	1/	--
Dry beans	"	8.4	9.3	+11	8.4	9.1	+ 8	15.0	2/	126	2/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	45.4	44.1	- 3	44.7	43.4	- 3	19.8	2/	885	2/	--
Alfalfa hay	"	--	--	--	1,250	1,260	+ 1	2.35	2/	2,938	2/	--
All other hay	"	--	--	--	1,170	1,120	- 4	1.40	2/	1,638	2/	--
All hay	"	--	--	--	2,420	2,380	- 2	1.89	2/	4,576	2/	--
Sweet cherries	"	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,850 3/	2,300 3/	+24
Safflower 4/	Lbs.	--	150	--	130	--	--	740.	--	96,200	--	--
Triticale 4/	"	--	90	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 12.
2/ First forecast on yield and production will be released August 10.
3/ Actual tons
4/ Estimates available through cooperative agreement with Montana Department of Agriculture.

UNITED STATES CROP PRODUCTION--JULY 1, 1979

CROP	Yield and Prod. Unit	ACRES PLANTED			ACRES HARVESTED			YIELD		PRODUCTION		
		1978	1979	Pct. Change	1978	Ind. 1979	Pct. Change	1978	1979	1978	Ind. 1979	Pct. Change
		(000)			(000)					(000)		
Winter wheat	Bu.	47,730	51,695	+ 8	38,909	43,421	+12	32.1	35.9	1,248,272	1,560,768	+25
Durum wheat	"	4,110	3,982	- 3	4,024	3,865	- 4	33.1	28.8	133,328	111,175	-17
Other spring wht.	"	14,254	15,550	+ 9	13,906	14,966	+ 8	30.0	28.7	417,112	429,234	+ 3
All wheat	"	66,094	71,227	+ 8	56,839	62,252	+10	31.6	33.8	1,798,712	2,101,177	+17
Corn for grain	"	79,719	79,751	--	69,970	69,526	- 1	101.2	95.8	7,081,849	6,662,681	- 6
Oats	"	16,385	14,082	-14	11,531	10,043	-13	52.2	50.8	601,477	509,761	-15
Barley	"	9,987	8,060	-19	9,233	7,450	-19	48.4	46.3	447,008	345,115	-23
Potatoes (fall)	Cwt.	1,173.6	1,102.5	- 6	1,152.4	1,082.8	- 6	277	1/	318,702	1/	--
Dry beans	"	1,543.9	1,456.3	- 6	1,494.4	1,403.1	- 6	12.8	2/	19,117	2/	--
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,309.8	1,157.1	-12	1,272.0	1,122.7	-12	20.3	2/	25,773	2/	--
Alfalfa hay	"	--	--	--	27,707	27,259	- 2	3.13	2/	86,745	2/	--
All other hay	"	--	--	--	33,788	33,601	- 1	1.64	2/	55,519	2/	--
All hay	"	--	--	--	61,495	60,860	- 1	2.31	2/	142,264	2/	--
Sweet cherries	"	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	154,940 3/	176,750 3/	+14

1/ First forecast on yield and production will be released October 12.
2/ First forecast on yield and production will be released August 10.
3/ Actual tons.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--JUNE 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		June 15, 1978	May 15, 1979 1/	June 15, 1979	June, 15 1979	June 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.66	$ 2.81	$ 3.33	$ 3.69	2/
Durum	Bu.	3.09	2.94	3.72	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.76	2.86	3.67	3.66	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.72	2.84	3.47	3.73	5.98
Barley	Bu.	1.85	1.76	1.68	2.29	3.94
Oats	Bu.	1.34	1.25	1.27	1.38	2.16
Alfalfa hay	Ton	49.00	47.50	45.00	62.90	2/
All other hay	Ton	46.50	41.50	42.00	45.30	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	48.00	45.50	44.00	58.00	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	55.50	79.60	72.80	70.80	2/
Cows	Cwt.	39.50	58.40	53.40	50.40	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	47.50	75.60	69.10	66.90	72.20
Calves	Cwt.	63.00	96.50	90.90	90.20	83.90
Sheep	Cwt.	15.00	24.00	19.70	24.80	23.70
Lambs	Cwt.	65.00	74.00	66.70	67.00	82.80
Hogs	Cwt.	45.20	42.40	39.00	39.70	71.70
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.50	11.55	11.60	11.50	16.30
Eggs	Doz.	.483	.596	.679	.556	.980
Wool 4/	Lb.	.810	.960	.930	.871	1.66
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		135.00	140.00	140.00	143.00	---

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JUNE 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA					UNITED STATES	
	1947-49=100	1967=100				1967 = 100	
	1979	1978	1979			1979	
	June 15	June 15	Apr. 15	May 15 2/	June 15	May 15 2/	June 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Food grains	164	194	202	203	244	210	241
Feed grains	150	216	199	205	197	200	212
Feed grains and hay	161	212	197	201	193	208	215
ALL CROPS	160	199	202	203	234	220	231
Meat animals	332	224	345	342	314	301	280
Dairy products	241	177	213	215	216	229	229
Poultry and eggs	121	141	200	174	197	199	188
Wool	182	192	217	226	220	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	319	217	329	326	302	269	255
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	237	209	275	273	272	246	243

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	June 15, 1978	May 15, 1979	June 15, 1979	June 15, 1978	May 15, 1979	June 15, 1979
Prices Received	543	615	608	217	246	243
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	747	842	845	220	248	249
Ratio 1/	73	73	72	99	99	98

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

Global Wheat Production Down

World wheat production will range from 385 to 420 million tons, down from 438 million in 1978/79. Among the major developments other than weather affecting the production and trade outlook in 1979/80 are:

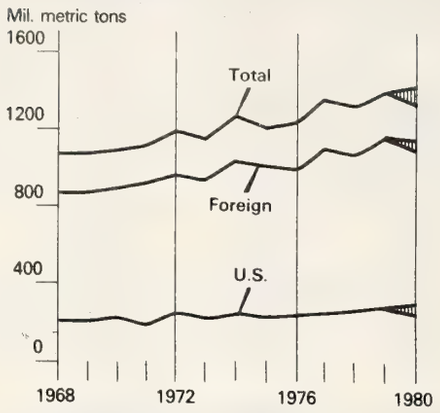
- Transportation bottlenecks faced by our major competitors, which may limit exports to only about 30 million tons, despite potential availabilities of 40 to 45 million tons.
- Larger import requirements, due to bad weather in Europe and the winter wheat areas of the Soviet Union and continued population and economic growth which increase import requirements in the developing countries 5 to 10 percent a year, coupled with a little growth in agricultural production in the poorer developing countries.
- Sizable import requirements by China, despite improved production prospects.
- Foreign exchange shortages, for some countries which will be more of a problem in 1979/80 because of prospects for lower export earnings and higher costs of imports.

Coarse Grain Demand Strengthens

World coarse grain production in 1979/80 will range from a low of 687 million tons with generally unfavorable weather to a high of 731 million with favorable weather. Among the major factors influencing world trade prospects are:

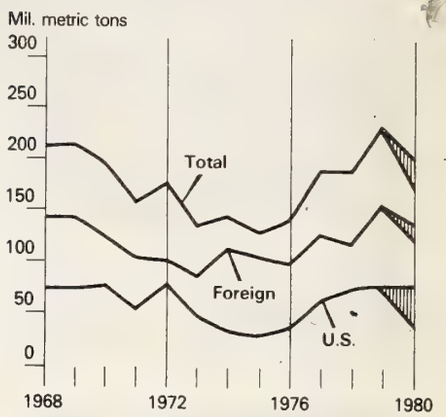
- Carryin stocks are estimated at 97 million tons, 14 percent above a year earlier.
- Import requirements are expected to be up sharply in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.
- Growth in livestock production in major foreign markets is likely to be only around 2 percent in 1979/80.
- Production and use of cereal substitutes likely will decline during 1979/80.

World Grain Production



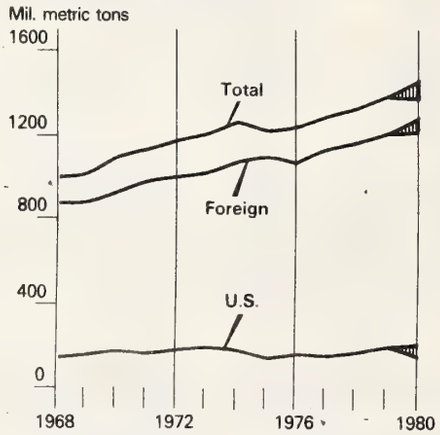
Includes wheat, coarse grains, and milled rice.

World Grain Stocks



Includes wheat, coarse grains, and milled rice.

World Grain Consumption



Includes wheat, coarse grains, and milled rice.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Lamb Crop & Wool Production
July 1 Cattle Inventory & Calf Crop
New Cropland
Slaughter

D. L. Herbert, State Statistician
C. R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Grain Stocks
Hogs and Pigs
Egg Production
Slaughter

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS MAY 31--MONTANA 1/

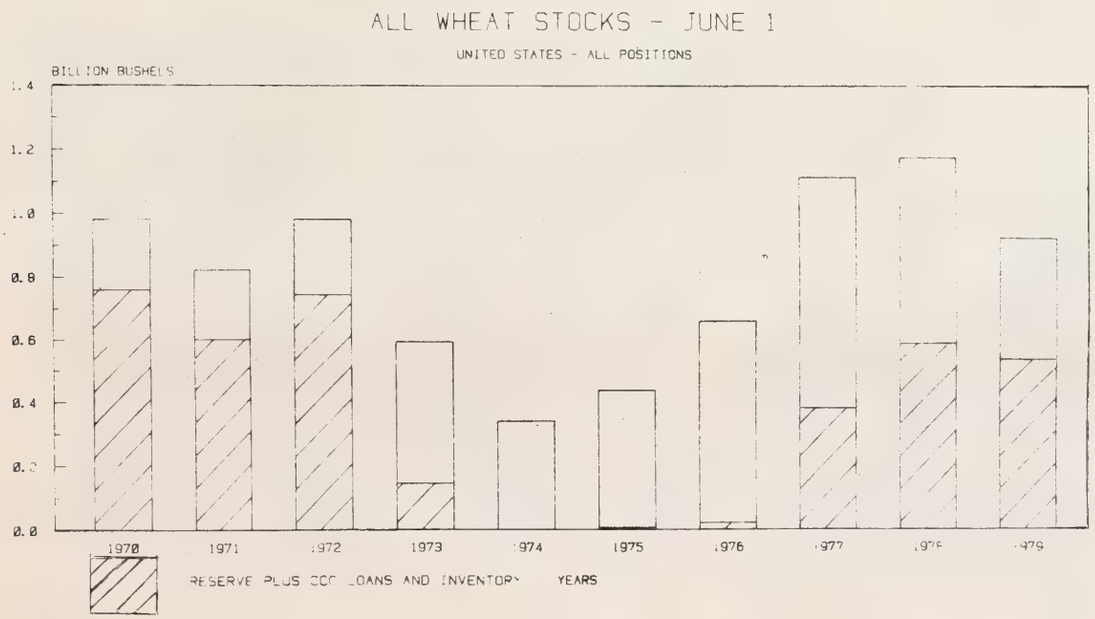
PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	35,021	41,932	733	1,483
Under loan	20,747	20,823	3,458	7,087

1/ These stocks are included in the respective June 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators on June 1, 1979 totaled 86.4 million bushels, 12 percent less than the same date a year ago. This is old-crop wheat to be carried over to the 1979 marketing year. Disappearance since April 1 reached 35.3 million bushels. Farm storage held 71.6 million bushels, 15 percent less than a year ago, while off-farm storage held 14.8 million--up 5 percent. Winter wheat in all positions totaled 49.0 million bushels--10 percent below last year. Spring wheat stocks including durum were 37.4 million bushels--14 percent below last year. Durum in storage totaled 7.0 million, 10 percent more than last year. Barley stocks in all positions were 25.8 million bushels--up 63 percent from last year and oats stocks at 6.2 million were up 102 percent.

Nationally, old crop all wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 1979 totaled 922 million bushels--22 percent less than last year's 1.18 billion bushels. Farm stocks amounted to 484 million bushels and off-farm stocks were over 437 million bushels. By comparison, last year's June 1 on-farm stocks were 493 million bushels and off-farm stocks were 684 million bushels. April-May disappearance this year was 303 million bushels compared with 351 million bushels last year.



STOCKS OF GRAIN JUNE 1, 1979 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1978	Apr. 1, 1979 *	June 1, 1979	% Chg. from '78	June 1, 1978	Apr. 1, 1979 *	June 1, 1979
	--- Thousand bushels ---			Pct.	-------- Thousand bushels ------		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	83,789	102,235	71,565	- 15	492,937	628,716	484,250
Off farms 1/	14,083	19,472	14,800	+ 5	683,790	596,172	437,349
T O T A L	97,872	121,707	86,365	- 12	1,176,727	1,224,888	921,599
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	45,472	53,568	38,502	- 15	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	8,972	12,222	10,500	+ 17	---	---	---
T O T A L	54,444	65,790	49,002	- 10	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	38,317	48,667	33,063	- 14	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	5,111	7,250	4,300	- 16	---	---	---
T O T A L	43,428	55,917	37,363	- 14	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	--	49,626	83,662	70,381
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	17,265	21,519	15,141
T O T A L	6,387	9,045	7,025	+ 10	66,891	105,181	85,522
RYE							
On farms	---	---	---	--	2,706	8,662	6,724
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	1,431	3,895	2,885
T O T A L	---	---	---	--	4,137	12,557	9,609
CORN							
On farms	187	108	54	- 71	1,848,608	3,098,247	2,262,013
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	988,779	1,322,484	968,491
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	--	2,837,387	4,420,731	3,230,504
OATS							
On farms	2,800	7,320	5,940	+112	257,067	329,231	237,967
Off farms 1/	246	237	215	- 13	53,556	64,291	50,783
T O T A L	3,046	7,557	6,155	+102	310,623	393,522	288,750
BARLEY							
On farms	13,571	28,751	23,114	+ 70	104,741	196,699	148,845
Off farms 1/	2,242	4,087	2,650	+ 18	67,377	97,753	79,105
T O T A L	15,813	32,838	25,764	+ 63	172,118	294,452	227,950

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, * 1978	April 1,* 1979	June 1, 1979	June 1, * 1978	April 1, * 1979	June 1, 1979
	------- Million bushels -------			------ Million bushels -------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	.4	.5	.5	.8	1.9	1.4
Northcentral	38.2	49.7	36.8	7.7	15.9	12.8
Northeast	37.9	43.0	31.8	2.1	3.7	3.0
Central	7.3	10.9	6.4	2.3	5.1	3.7
Southwest	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.0	2.2	1.6
Southcentral	5.7	6.2	4.2	1.3	3.0	2.0
Southeast	7.1	10.0	5.6	.6	1.0	.9
STATE	97.9	121.7	86.4	15.8	32.8	25.8

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee. * Some data revised.

EGG PRODUCTION

Layers in Montana produced 47 million eggs in the period March 1 through May 31. This is down one million from the same period last year. The number of layers on hand as of June 1 was 745 thousand--down 6 percent from last year. Rate of lay also showed a decrease from 67 percent to 63 percent.

Nationally, 17.4 billion eggs were produced in the March-May quarter. This is a 2 percent increase over last year. Layers on hand June 1 were up 1 percent at 279.9 thousand. The rate of lay per 100 birds was up slightly from 66.5 last year to the June 1 figure of 66.7

HOGS AND PIGS UP

Hogs and pigs on farms in the U.S. June 1, 1979 were 18 percent above last year--19 percent larger than 1977 and the largest June inventory since 1971. According to the latest USDA survey of farmers and ranchers, the hog and pig inventory totaled 64.9 million head. Breeding inventory at 10.4 million was 17 percent higher than a year ago and 19 percent above 2 years earlier. Market hog inventory at 54.5 million head was 18 percent larger than 1978 and 19 percent greater than 1977.

Spring farrowings December 1978-May 1979 were 19 percent above last year. Pigs saved per litter at 7.05 were about the same as last year's low level and the resulting pig crop moved up 19 percent from a year ago.

U. S. hog producers intend to farrow 7.42 million sows in the fall period June-November, up 16 percent from that same time period last year.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

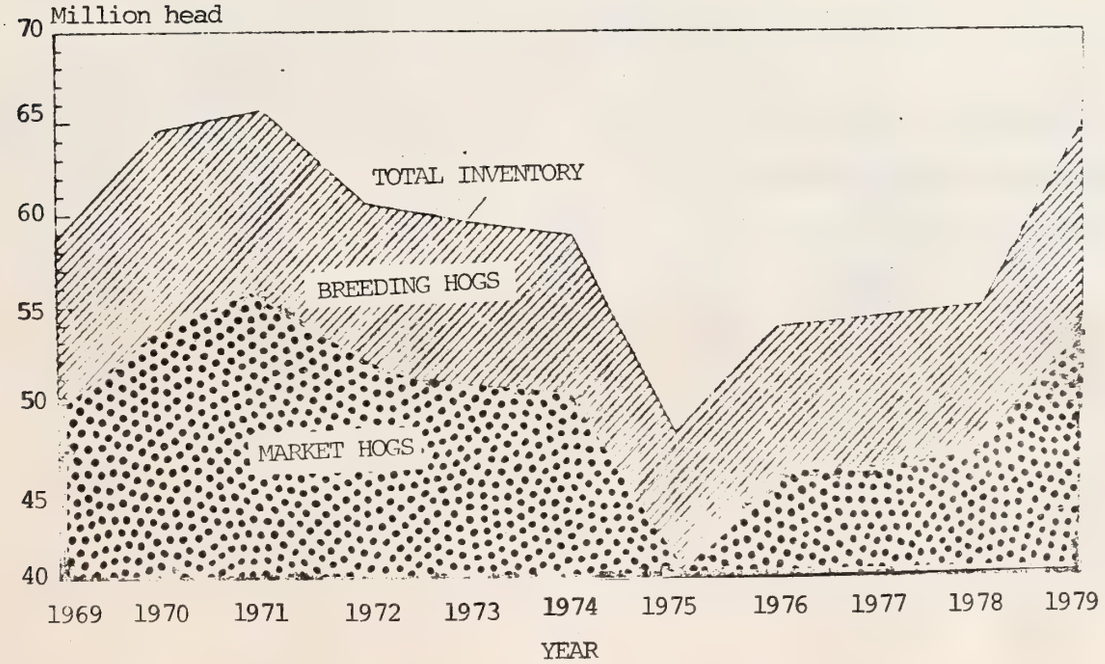
Montana slaughter plants produced 3 percent more red meat during May 1979 than during the same month a year ago. Total production for May at 11.8 million pounds compares with 11.5 million pounds produced last May and 10.3 million pounds produced during April 1979. The January-May 1979 production of 55.3 million pounds is 5 percent less than the same period a year ago. The May 1979 cattle kill was 11,000 head compared with 11,200 head last year. The hog kill at 34,000 head was up 13 percent from a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in May 1979 totaled 3.13 billion pounds--down 4 percent from May 1978. The May 1979 production is 9 percent above last month. January-May 1979 red meat production at 15.1 billion pounds was 5 percent below last year... change by individual components: beef, down 12 percent; veal, down 35; pork, up 9; lamb and mutton, down 3 percent.

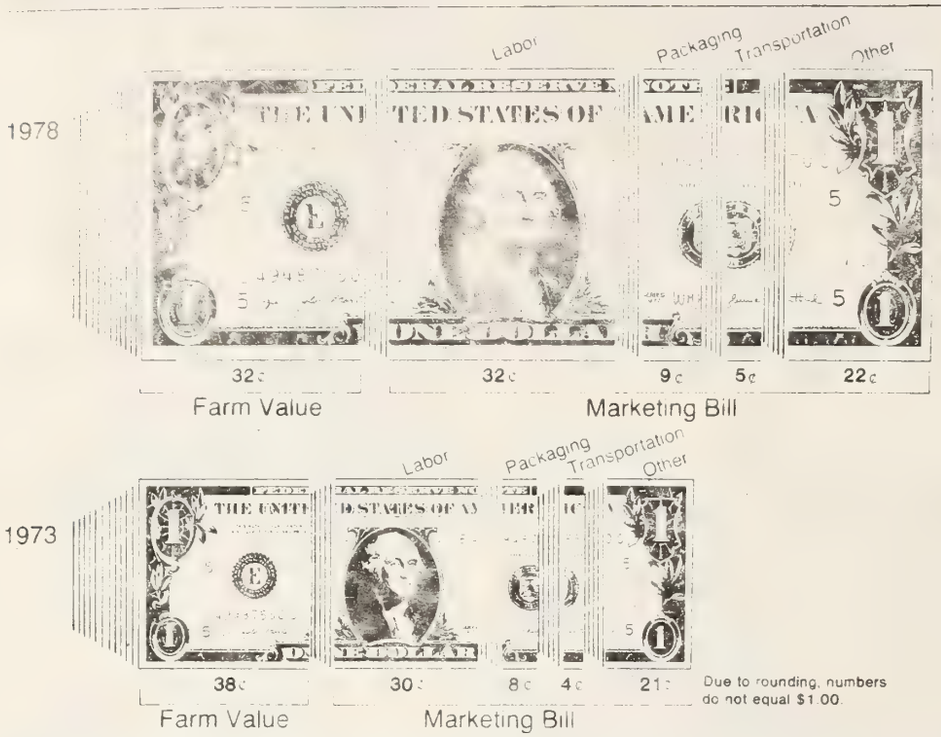
MAY 1979 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	May 1978	May 1979	May 1978	May 1979
	------- 1,000 head -------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	11.2	11.0	3436.2	2792.4
Calves	--	--	336.3	214.3
Hogs	30.0	34.0	6557.4	7564.0
Sheep & lambs	.1	.1	467.7	434.4
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	11,538	11,396	3,527	2,955
Calves	---	---	87	56
Hogs	6,927	7,678	1,578	1,837
Sheep & lambs	9	8	52	50
Red meat production	11,458	11,817	3,269	3,133

U. S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY
JUNE 1, 1969-1979



Where The U.S. Food Dollar Goes



Other expenditures include business taxes, corporate profits, energy, depreciation, rent, advertising, and numerous other costs.

STORED SEED SURVIVE

Grass and clover seeds can be stored at sub-freezing temperatures for long periods of time and still produce as much forage when planted as fresh seed, a SEA researcher has proven. For years, researchers have been storing seeds to assure future generations of forage resources without any real knowledge as to whether or not the seed would perform following prolonged periods of storage. Clarence M. Rincker, SEA agronomist at Prosser, Washington, has demonstrated that forage seed can be frozen, thawed, refrozen, and rethawed over long periods of time without a loss of productive ability providing the stored seed was of high quality to begin with.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
Crop Production Forecasts
Prices Received

D. L. Herbert, State Statistician
C. R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Agricultural Prices
Alfalfa Seed Production
Cattle on Feed
Cherry Production
Pasture and Range
Winter Wheat Production
Dairy Products Manufactured

CHERRY PRODUCTION UP

This year's cherry crop in Montana is forecast at 2,200 tons--up 19 percent from last year. Pollination conditions were ideal but effects of last winter's harsh temperatures to trees have not been fully assessed.

In the six western States, production is forecast at 147 thousand tons--up 27 percent from last year.

MONTANA WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Prospects for the 1979 Montana winter wheat crop continue to decline and production is forecast at 65.8 million bushels as of June 1--down 21 percent from last year and down 15 percent from last month's forecast. Grower reports indicate that along with substantial loss of acreage to winterkill, many remaining stands are thin and spotty and will yield less than normal. Subsoil moisture remains adequate--but windy, dry conditions caused surface moisture to become short. Cool weather has also slowed development.

Nationally, production of winter wheat is forecast at 1.43 billion bushels based on June 1 conditions. This is 14 percent greater than last year's crop of 1.25 billion bushels and 3 percent above last month's forecast. A larger acreage for harvest this year plus prospects for a higher yield results in the higher production forecast. Farmers expect to harvest 42.9 million acres for grain--10 percent more than last year.

Growers expect a yield of 33.3 bushels per harvested acre this year compared with 32.1 bushels last year and last month's forecast of 32.4 bushels. Generally cool temperatures plus adequate moisture contributed to the increased yield prospects in most of the wheat growing area.

Winter wheat rated fair to mostly good during early May, with development in the heading stage as far north as southern Kansas. By end of month, the crop rated good in most areas. Wheat maturity advanced to the heading stage as far north as Nebraska by June 1 but generally is lagging behind last year. Harvesting in southern areas has been slowed by rains, with Texas progress less than 5 percent complete.

WINTER WHEAT, ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION--JUNE 1, 1979

SELECTED STATES	AREA HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		
	1978	Ind.1979	% Change	1978	Ind.1979	1978	Ind. 1979	% Change
	1000 Acres			Bushels		100 Bushels		
COLO	2,400	2,550	+ 6	23.0	23.0	55,200	58,650	+ 6
ILL	930	1,210	+30	38.0	40.0	35,340	48,400	+ 37
KANS	10,200	10,700	+ 5	30.0	31.0	306,000	331,700	+ 8
MONT	2,700	2,350	-13	29.0	28.0	83,700	65,800	- 21
NEBR	2,550	2,600	+ 2	32.0	30.0	81,600	78,000	- 4
OHIO	1,125	1,300	+16	39.0	48.0	43,875	62,400	+ 42
OKLA	5,400	5,700	+ 6	27.0	33.0	145.800	188,100	+ 29
S DAK	700	600	-14	26.0	22.0	18,200	13,200	- 27
TEXAS	2,700	4,100	+52	20.0	28.0	54,000	114,800	+113
WASH	2,600	2,310	-11	47.0	40.0	122,200	92,400	- 24
U.S.	38,909	42,872	+10	32.1	33.3	1.248,272	1,427,150	+ 14

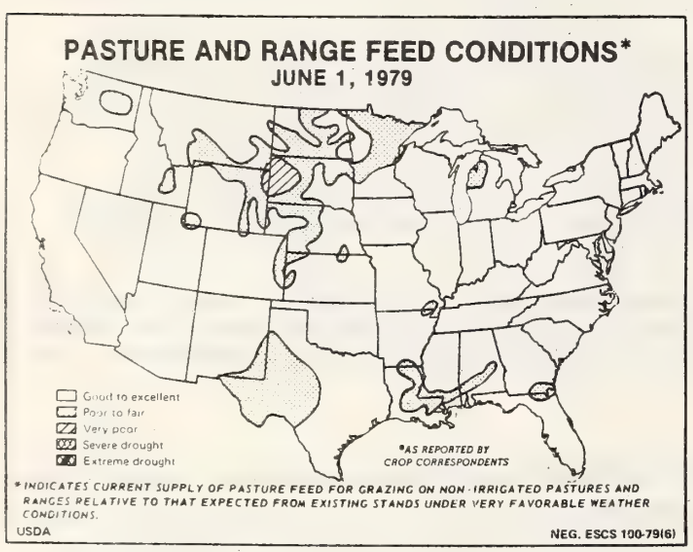
PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pastures and ranges developed slowly in early May with mostly cool days and cold nights. After mid-May temperatures moved up but topsoil moisture became short in some areas of the State as rain came only in the form of widely scattered showers. Early grass made very limited growth.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION JUNE 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	76	97	85
Northcentral	60	97	87
Northeast	53	93	88
Central	71	95	85
Southwest	85	90	81
Southcentral	75	98	78
Southeast	61	95	76
STATE	68	95	83

Pastures and ranges across the nation continue to improve with generally ample rainfall and higher temperatures. All States except North Dakota and South Dakota recorded good to excellent conditions. Conditions declined from a month ago in 12 States and from a year ago in 15 States.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
JUNE 1, 1979
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
*INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 100-79(6)

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed June 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.70 million head--down 4 percent from a year ago but 9 percent more than June 1, 1977. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.60 million--down 4 percent from last year but 8 percent more than May 1977. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during May were 1.85 million--9 percent less than last year but 16 percent larger than May 1977. Net placements of 1.63 million were off 11 percent from last year but up 22 percent from 2 years ago. Other disappearance totaled 218 thousand head compared with 205 thousand in May 1978 and 254 thousand in 1977.

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana alfalfa seed produced in 1978 totaled 2.2 million pounds--down 37 percent from 1977. Harvested acreage at 26,000 was down 33 percent and yield at 85 pounds per acre was off 5 pounds from the previous year. The value of the State's production at $2.2 million was 40 percent less than the 1977 value. Price per pound of seed at $1.00 in 1978 compares with $1.05 for 1977.

The U.S. production of alfalfa seed in 1978 is estimated at 92.5 million pounds--down 5 percent from last year. Most of the decline occurred in California--the major producing State. Heavy rains at harvest time reduced California's yield to less than half of the previous year. The U.S. farm value of alfalfa seed production is estimated at $107 million compared with $103 million in 1977. Average price per cwt. was $117.00--an increase of $9.00 from last year.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Montana farmers received higher prices for wheat on May 15 compared with mid-April but mostly lower prices for feed grains, hay, and livestock. The index of prices received by farmers for mid-May at 276 (1967=100) was only 1 point above mid-April but 63 points (30 percent) above a year ago. The all crops index at 211 was 9 points above last month but the all livestock and products index at 325 was 4 points below the previous month. However, the livestock index was 101 points (45 percent) above a year ago, while the crops index was up only 11 points (6 percent). The only items in the index showing an increase during the month were wheat, beef cows, and wool. All other items decreased, with barley, oats and eggs, showing the sharpest declines.

Nationally, the May index of prices received by farmers increased 2 points (3/4 percent) to 246 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since April were higher prices for hay, wheat, citrus, corn, potatoes, and broilers. Lower prices for cattle, tomatoes, eggs, hogs, and soybeans, were partially offsetting. The index was 31 points (14 percent) above a year ago.

The index of prices paid by the nation's farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for May 15 was 247--up 1 point (1/2 percent) from mid-April. Lower prices for feeder livestock were more than offset by higher prices for feed, fuels and energy, autos and trucks, and family living items. The May index was 28 points (13 percent) above a year ago.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--MAY 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		May 15, 1978	Apr. 15, 1979 1/	May 15, 1979	May 15, 1979	May 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.67	$ 2.81	$ 2.93	$ 3.25	2/
Durum	Bu.	3.05	2.92	3.22	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.77	2.79	3.17	3.12	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.70	2.82	3.03	3.22	5.95
Barley	Bu.	1.88	1.70	1.59	2.03	3.92
Oats	Bu.	1.34	1.35	1.21	1.29	2.15
Alfalfa hay	Ton	56.00	48.50	47.50	71.00	2/
All other hay	Ton	52.00	43.50	41.50	48.20	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	54.50	46.50	45.50	65.10	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	53.40	80.40	79.60	75.40	2/
Cows	Cwt.	40.10	57.60	58.40	56.10	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	50.00	76.00	75.60	71.50	71.90
Calves	Cwt.	60.00	97.80	96.50	96.70	83.50
Sheep	Cwt.	13.50	27.80	24.00	26.60	23.50
Lambs	Cwt.	65.50	75.40	74.00	70.10	82.40
Hogs	Cwt.	46.70	43.70	42.40	43.60	71.30
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.50	11.55	11.35	11.50	16.20
Eggs	Doz.	.545	.688	.596	.567	.976
Wool 4/	Lb.	.820	.920	.960	.883	1.66
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		135.00	140.00	140.00	139.00	---

Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS MAY 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA					UNITED STATES	
	1947-49=100	1967=100				1967 = 100	
	1979	1978	1979			1979	
	May 15	May 15	Mar. 15	Apr. 15 2/	Mar. 15	April 15 2/	May 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Food grains	145	193	202	202	216	199	210
Feed grains	142	220	197	199	186	194	198
Feed grains and hay	155	221	197	197	186	195	207
ALL CROPS	144	200	202	202	211	212	220
Meat animals	359	231	330	345	341	304	301
Dairy products	233	195	216	213	209	230	229
Poultry and eggs	107	160	202	200	174	202	199
Wool	187	194	201	217	226	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	344	224	315	329	325	272	269
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	240	213	267	275	276	244	246

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	May 15, 1978	Apr. 15, 1979	May 15, 1979	May 15, 1978	Apr. 15, 1979	May 15, 1978
Prices Received	537	609	615	215	244	246
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	744	837	841	219	246	247
Ratio 1/	72	73	73	98	99	100

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

CASH RENTAL RATES UP FROM LAST YEAR

As of March 1, 1979, average cash rents for agricultural land were up from a year earlier, reflecting 1979's increase in net farm income and optimism about income this year.

According to USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, the average rate per head per month for pasturing cattle in the nine Western States rose 9 percent. Pasture cash rents per acre generally showed the largest percentage increases, followed by whole farms and cropland.

AVERAGE MONTHLY RATE PER HEAD FOR PASTURING CATTLE ON PRIVATELY OWNED LAND IN SELECTED WESTERN STATES, MARCH 1, 1972-1979 1/

	Monthly Rate per Head							
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Montana	4.30	4.80	6.60	7.00	7.40	7.30	7.40	8.40
Idaho.....	4.00	4.40	5.40	5.60	6.10	6.20	6.60	7.70
Wyoming.....	4.40	5.00	5.80	6.30	7.10	7.70	7.50	7.80
Colorado.....	4.40	5.10	5.50	5.80	6.30	6.60	6.80	7.60
New Mexico.....	3.90	4.10	4.40	4.90	5.20	5.80	5.20	6.70
Utah.....	4.30	4.80	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.90	6.40	7.50
Washington.....	3.50	4.40	5.30	5.30	5.80	5.80	5.60	5.60
Oregon.....	3.80	4.20	5.10	5.10	5.20	5.30	5.30	5.80
California.....	4.50	4.70	5.20	5.70	7.00	8.50	7.70	8.10
9 State Avg....	4.30	4.70	5.40	5.80	6.50	7.20	6.90	7.50

1/ Based on data obtained from crop reporters, Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, USDA. Selection of States is based upon adequacy of data.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

Grain Stocks
Quarterly Egg Production
Hogs and Pigs
Slaughter

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 143,000 gallons of ice cream during April, 1 percent more than April 1978. Creamed cottage cheese at 411,000 pounds was up 37 percent from last year. Butter production dropped to 142,000 pounds--a 10 percent decline from last year.

D. L. Herbert, State Statistician
C. R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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79-10 MAY 30, 1979

Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service-USDA and Montana Department of Agriculture • ISSUED TWICE MONTHLY

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Slaughter
Farm Labor
Milk--Production, Disposition & Income
Accuracy of Winter Wheat Forecasts
A Sketch of Montana's Agriculture

NEW LOOK

We are pleased to present the "Montana Crop and Livestock Reporter" in this new larger format. The new larger size was made possible by an improvement in our offset press which allows us to print on the larger size paper.

The format will not be greatly different, but should make the reporter more readable and allow additional use of charts and graphs as space and need make them appropriate. Much of the report will continue to be narrative, with tables containing basic crop, livestock and price information for Montana and the United States. Space is still limited, so some available detail may be omitted, as well as data for other States--but this will be provided upon request.

We do, however, want to present the information in a way to make it most useful to you. If you have suggestions for improving the usefulness of the reports, please give us the benefit of your ideas.

Daniel L. Herbert,
State Statistician

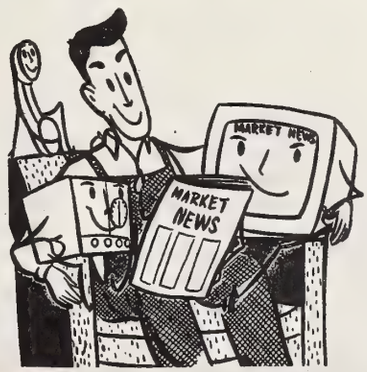
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 3 percent more red meat during April 1979 than during the same month a year ago. Total production for April at 10.3 million pounds compares with 10.0 million pounds produced last April and 11.1 million pounds produced during March 1979. The January-April 1979 red meat production at 43.5 million pounds is 7 percent less than the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in April 1979 totaled 2.88 billion pounds--down 6 percent from April 1978. January-April red meat production at 12.0 billion pounds was 5 percent below last year....change by individual components: beef, down 11 percent; veal, down 35; pork, up 7; lamb and mutton, down 3 percent.

APRIL 1979 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	April 1978	April 1979	April 1978	April 1979
	-------1,000 head---------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	10.4	9.3	3,180.2	2,532.8
Calves	--	--	351.5	223.1
Hogs	23.0	31.0	6,457.6	7,237.1
Sheep & lambs	.1	.1	449.4	444.2
	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Total liveweight				
Cattle	10,737	9,669	3,262.6	2,676.2
Calves	--	--	85.1	55.2
Hogs	5,511	7,113	1,532.5	1,738.1
Sheep & lambs	6	12	50.3	50.5
Red meat production	10,031	10,324	3,078.7	2,881.6



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The April CPI for all urban consumers, 1967 base, was 211.5. This was up 1.1 percent (2.4 points) from March and up 10.4 percent (20 points) from April 1978.

WINTER WHEAT FORECASTS: A GLANCE AT THE TRACK RECORD

"Crop estimates are always too high. The estimates are never right".

Farmers sometimes direct these remarks at the accuracy of estimates prepared by the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service and the Crop Reporting Board. How valid are these statements?

The accompanying tables for Montana and the U. S. illustrate how the forecasts for winter wheat from 1972 to 1978 reflected changing prospects during the growing seasons. Changes in the forecasts from one month to the next result from changes in growing conditions caused by factors that normally can't be anticipated--such as insect damage, disease and drought, which lower prospects or badly needed rains that sharply improve the outlook.

The tables depict just how close the forecasts during the growing season were to the eventual crop size. The widest variance generally occurs early in the season and narrows toward harvest as the crop gets more fully developed and reveals more about its yield potential.

MONTANA WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION
COMPARISON OF FORECAST & FINAL ESTIMATES

YEAR	Dec. 1 Prev. Yr.		MAY	% FINAL	JUNE	% FINAL	JULY	% FINAL	AUG.	% FINAL	SEPT.	% FINAL	FINAL ESTIMATE
	Bushels	% Final											
							Thousand bushels						
1972	57,861	120	45,500	94	49,000	101	47,250	98	47,250	98	49,000	101	48,330
1973	60,760	110	61,860	112	61,860	112	60,320	109	58,240	106	58,240	106	55,120
1974	72,580	93	71,630	92	74,100	95	76,850	98	79,500	102	79,500	102	78,175
1975	83,700	80	79,110	75	82,040	78	90,000	86	96,000	91	108,000	103	105,000
1976	92,800	94	90,600	92	90,600	92	93,620	95	96,640	98	96,640	98	98,560
1977	79,300	98	75,600	93	75,600	93	75,600	93	75,600	93	78,400	97	81,200
1978	84,100	100	88,000	105	99,000	118	93,600	112	91,000	109	88,400	106	83,700

U. S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION
COMPARISON OF FORECAST AND FINAL ESTIMATES

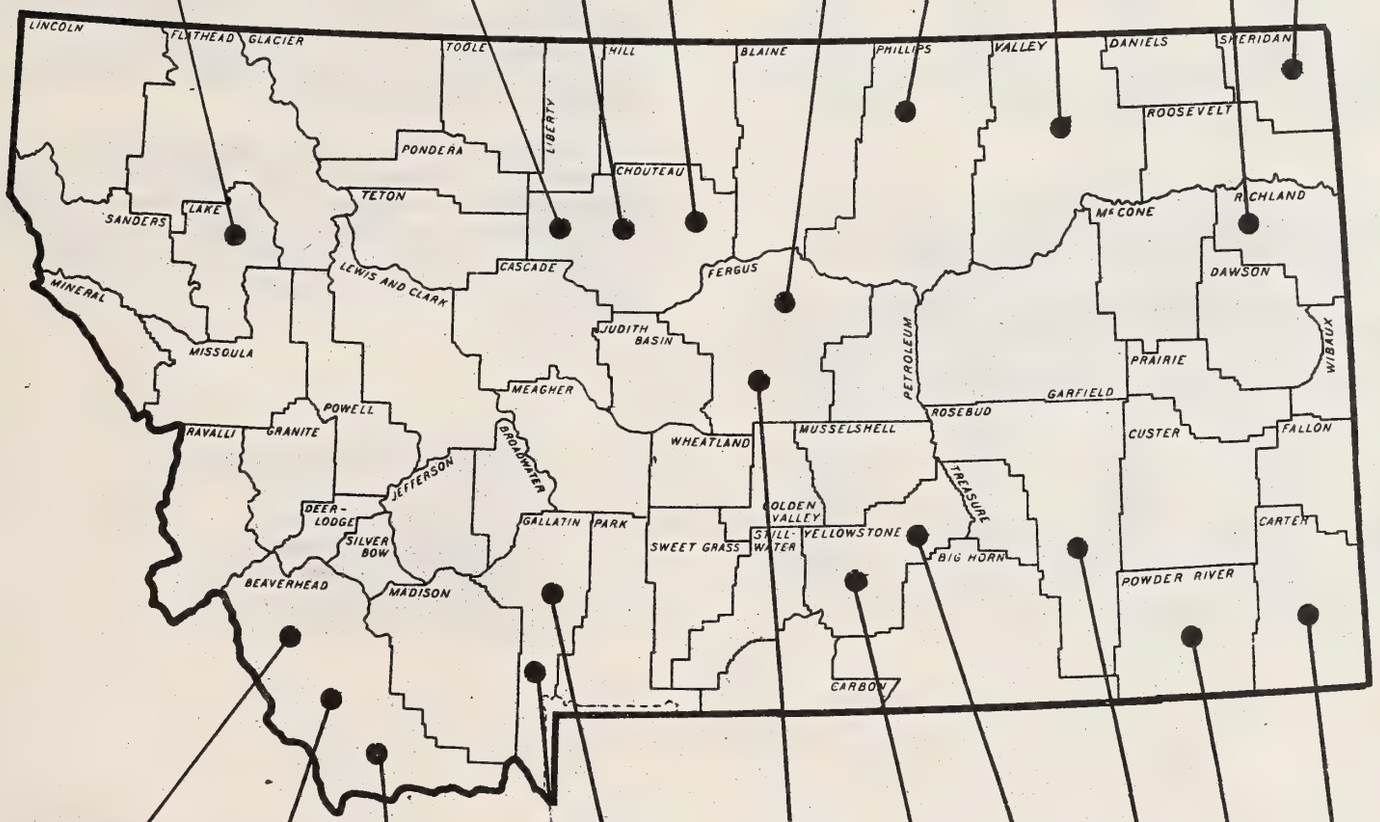
YEAR	Dec. 1 Prev. Yr.		April 1		May 1		June 1		July 1		Aug. 1		Final Estimate
	Bushels	% of Final	Bushels	% of Final	Bushels	% of Final	Bushels	% of Final	Bushels	% of Final	Bushels	% of Final	
						(Millions of Bushels)							
1972	1,201	108.9	--	--	1,149	96.9	1,192	100.5	1,195	100.8	1,196	100.8	1,186
1973	1,278	100.0			1,282	100.3	1,316	103.0	1,320	103.3	1,293	101.2	1,278
1974	1,513	110.0			1,612	117.2	1,531	111.3	1,403	102.0	1,393	101.2	1,376
1975	1,600	97.6			1,620	98.8	1,619	98.7	1,637	99.8	1,634	99.6	1,640
1976	1,496	95.9			1,459	93.5	1,416	90.8	1,530	98.1	1,543	98.9	1,560
1977	1,438	93.6			1,477	96.1	1,526	99.3	1,539	100.1	1,526	99.3	1,537
1978	1,321	105.8			1,284	102.9	1,308	104.8	1,277	102.3	1,248	100.0	1,248

MILK: Production, Disposition, Cash Receipts, and Gross Income, 1977-1978 1/

		MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1977	1978	1977	1978 2/
Milk cows on farms 3/	(000) head	27	27	10,974	10,848
Milk produced per cow 4/	Lbs.	10,963	11,148	11,181	11,240
Total milk production	Mil. Lbs.	296	301	122,698	121,928
Milk used on farms where prod.	Mil. Lbs.	19	18	2,843	2,654
Milk marketed by farmers	Mil. Lbs.	277	283	119,856	119,273
Milk sold to plants and dealers	Mil. Lbs.	266	272	118,172	117,644
Percent fluid grade 5/		72	95	82	83
Price per 100 pounds 6/	Dollars	9.30	10.70	9.72	10.58
Cash receipts from milk sold	(000) Dol.	26,467	29,104	11,489,633	12,445,204
Cash receipts from all mktgs 7/	(000) Dol.	27,092	29,775	11,751,730	12,722,428
Farm value of milk produced 8/	(000) Dol.	28,949	31,665	12,027,741	13,004,082
Gross farm income from dairy products 9/	(000) Dol.	28,266	29,775	11,879,429	12,722,428

1/ 1978 preliminary. 2/ Includes Alaska and Hawaii. 3/ Average number during year excluding heifers not yet fresh. 4/ Excludes milk sucked by calves. 5/ Percentage of milk sold to plants and dealers that is eligible for fluid use (Grade A in most States). Includes fluid-grade milk used in manufactured dairy products. 6/ Price of milk sold to plants and dealers. 7/ Combined milk and cream. 8/ Valued at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. Includes value of milk fed to calves in addition to gross income. 9/ Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home consumption and producer-churned butter.

A SKETCH OF MONTANA'S AGRICULTURE



LARGEST OATS PRODUCTION

MOST POTATOES AND CHERRIES GROWN HERE

GREATEST NON-IRRIGATED HARVESTED ACRES

TOPS IN SUGARBEETS, DRY BEANS, AND CORN SILAGE

TOPS IN ALL CASH RECEIPTS

HIGHEST PRODUCER OF WINTER WHEAT AND BARLEY

BIGGEST DURUM PRODUCER

MOST HOGS HERE

HIGHEST HARD SPRING WHEAT PRODUCTION IN THIS COUNTY

MOST CORN FOR GRAIN HERE

HIGHEST HAY PRODUCTION IN THIS COUNTY

COUNTY WITH MOST POPULATION

SHEEP NOS. PEAK HERE

BEEF CATTLE NOS. HIGHEST IN STATE

MOST ALFALFA HAY PRODUCTION IN THIS COUNTY

TOP ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

GREATEST IRRIGATED HARVESTED ACRES

TOPS IN MILK COWS

MOST CATTLE IN FEEDLOTS

LARGEST NUMBER OF CHICKENS

MOST CORN FOR GRAIN HERE

FARM LABOR

The total number of workers on Montana farms during the week of April 8-14, 1979 was estimated at 34,000--about the same as April 1978. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were down 15 percent from last year, while hired workers at 11,000 were up considerably from April 1978.

FAMILY AND HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS
Week of April 8-14, 1979 with Comparisons
Selected States and United States

STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	Apr.9-15 1978	Apr.8-14 1979	Apr. 9-15 1978	Apr. 8-14 1979
	----------Thousands----------			
MONT	27.0	23.0	7.1	11.0
N.D.	54.0	53.0	7.0	7.0
S.D.	49.0	47.0	9.0	9.0
WYO.	8.0	8.5	4.0	4.0
IDAHO	24.0	21.0	18.0	16.0
U.S.	2,593.4	2,420.4	1,095.1	1,045.9

FARM WAGE RATES
Week of April 8-14, 1979 with Comparisons
Selected States & United States

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	Apr.9-15 1978	Apr.8-14 1979	Apr.9-15 1978	Apr. 8-14 1979
	-------- Dollars per hour ----------			
MONT	2.72	2.80	2.43	2.45
N.D.	3.40	3.22	2.98	3.13
S.D.	2.36	2.44	2.31	2.40
WYO.	2.52	2.80	2.22	2.47
IDAHO	3.29	3.31	2.75	2.71
U. S.	3.09	3.39	2.61	2.90

ACTUAL WHEAT COUNTS TO BE TAKEN

Wheat production forecasts are watched throughout the summer with great interest. Several pieces of information are used to arrive at a Montana and a U.S. production estimate each month during the growing season. In addition to individual farmer reports, an objective yield survey is done each month. In Montana, about 400 randomly-selected plots of winter wheat, spring wheat and durum are located on farms with the permission of farmers. These plots are visited each month by trained enumerators who count stalks and heads and make clippings. The clippings are sent to a lab where kernel counts and weights are taken. From all plots the information is combined and expanded to make an estimate of potential yield for the State, region, and U. S. Just before harvest, a portion of each plot is harvested with appropriate counts and weights made. These data provide an indication of harvest yield. After the field is harvested, counts of harvest loss are made to determine a final net yield.

Seventeen other States participate in similar wheat objective yield surveys. By combining producer reports and objective yield data, more reliable production forecasts can be made. In addition to wheat objective yield, other States have objective yield for corn, cotton and soybeans.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices Winter Wheat Production Pasture and Range Dairy Products Mfg.

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Winter Wheat Production
Cattle on Feed
Hay Stocks
Pasture and Range
Agricultural Prices

HOGS AND PIGS

Inventory of hogs and pigs on March 1, 1979 in the 14 States conducting quarterly hog surveys was estimated at 50.5 million head--up 13 percent from a year earlier. This is the largest March 1 inventory since 1971. The number kept for breeding at 8.34 million was up 20 percent from 1978 and 19 percent above 1977. The number for market at 42.2 million was 12 percent above 1978 and 14 percent more than 1977. Survey results indicate producers incurred death losses during the December-February quarter about 25 percent greater than last year. This was due to disease and severe winter weather--especially in the Western Corn Belt States.

The 14 quarterly States account for about 85 percent of the U.S. hog and pig inventory.

The December 1978-February 1979 pig crop in the 14 States totaled 18.3 million--17 percent more than both 1977 and 1978. There were 2.66 million sows farrowed in these States--up 16 percent from the previous year and 15 percent more than two years ago.

Producers in the 14 quarterly States intend to have 3.55 million sows farrow in the March-May 1979 period--24 percent more than last year and 23 percent above 1977. Farrowing intentions reported for the June-August 1979 period are 3.16 million sows--19 percent above 1978 and 22 percent more than 1977.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

Loss of winter wheat acreage to winter kill in Montana has reduced 1979 production prospects. Production is forecast at 78 million bushels as of May 1 based on producer reports of winter kill and crop condition. This is down 7 percent from last year and 22 percent below the December 1 forecast. Although yields per acre are expected to remain near the December 1 estimate level, acreage expected for harvest is off sharply. Soil moisture has been adequate this spring but cool weather has retarded growth. Winter kill has varied from light to heavy in major growing areas, with the heaviest loss in the important "Triangle" area. Much of the winter kill acreage will probably be reseeded to spring grains--later surveys will determine replanted acres. In only two previous years--1950 and 1956--has Montana shown similar high abandonment due to winter kill. In 1950, 19 percent of the acreage was not harvested and in 1956, 35 percent was lost--most because of winter damage.

WINTER WHEAT

SELECTED STATES	AREA HARVESTED		PRODUCTION	
	1978	Ind. 1979	1978	Ind. 1979
	----------1,000 Acres----------			
COLO	2,400	2,550	55,200	58,650
ILL	930	1,210	35,340	44,770
KANS	10,200	10,700	306,000	321,000
MONT	2,700	2,350	83,700	77,550
NEBR	2,550	2,600	81,600	78,000
OHIO	1,125	1,300	43,875	59,800
OKLA	5,400	5,700	145,800	171,000
S DAK	700	600	18,200	13,200
TEXAS	2,700	4,100	54,000	110,700
WASH	2,600	2,310	122,200	85,470
U. S.	38,909	42,872	1,248,272	1,390,848

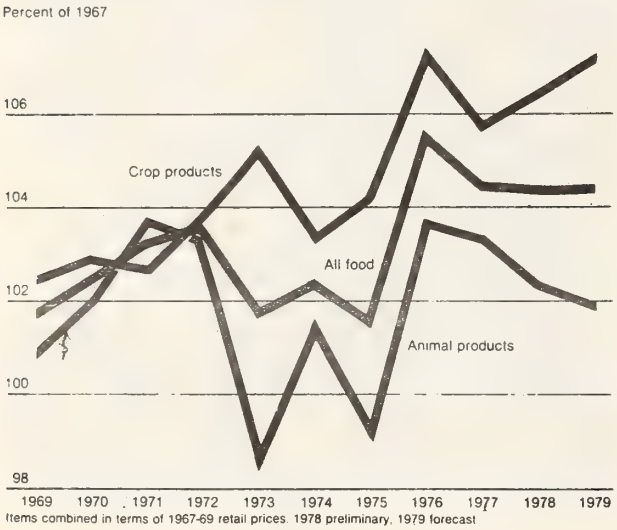
HAY STOCKS

Despite the long feeding season, hay stocks on Montana farms are up sharply from last year. May 1 stocks are estimated at 869,000 tons--71 percent over last year. The higher stocks are the result of a very good hay crop in 1978 and last May's low stocks level. The United States hay stocks on farms May 1 totaled a record high 29.9 million tons--24 percent above last year and 53 percent above 1977.

PER CAPITA FOOD CONSUMPTION TRENDS

Significant changes took place in food consumption during the last 10 years. While annual total food consumption remained relatively stable at 1,440 pounds per person, preferences for individual food commodities changed.

Per Capita Food Consumption



Items combined in terms of 1967-69 retail prices. 1978 preliminary, 1979 forecast

Per Capita Consumption of Selected Foods

Food item	1968	1978	Percentage change
	Pounds		
Beef and veal	84.2	91.7	8.9
Pork	61.4	56.5	-8.0
Fish	11.0	12.9	17.3
Poultry (chicken and turkey)	44.6	57.1	28.0
Eggs	40.1	34.6	-13.7
Fluid milk and cream	304.0	288.9	-5.0
Cheese	10.6	17.4	64.2
Condensed and evaporated milk	8.9	2.9	-67.4
Fats and oils—total fat content	51.2	56.0	9.4
Fresh fruit	76.9	80.3	4.4
Processed fruit	50.9	55.2	8.4
Fresh vegetables	93.6	95.2	+1.7
Canned vegetables	50.5	53.0	5.0
Frozen vegetables	9.6	10.9	13.5
Wheat flour	112.0	107.6	-3.9
Coffee	11.2	7.3	34.8
Sugar	99.0	2.7	-6.4

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed May 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7 67 million head, down 2 percent from a year ago but 7 percent more than May 1, 1977. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.54 million--down 10 percent from last year and 1 percent less than April 1977. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April were 1.48 million--4 percent lower than last year and 10 percent below April 1977. Net placements of 1.26 million were down 3 percent from last year and off 15 percent from 2 years ago. Other disappearance totaled 220 thousand head compared with 235 thousand in April 1978 and 178 thousand in 1977.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

March ice cream production in Montana at 166,000 gallons was up 3 percent from last year. Butter production at 158,000 pounds was down 8 percent. Production of creamed cottage cheese showed the largest gain. Montana dairy plants produced 419,000 pounds of cottage cheese--a 25 percent increase from a year earlier.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Hog prices dropped substantially but Montana farmers and ranchers received higher prices for most other livestock on April 15 compared with a month earlier. The All Farm Products Index at mid-April was 273 (1967=100)--up 2 percent from mid-March and 31 percent above a year ago. Hog prices registered a drop of 11 percent but cattle prices continued to make gains during the month, with steer and heifer prices up 5 percent and cow prices up 2 percent. Spring wheat and durum were the only crops showing an increase during the month, while prices of most other crop items declined from the previous month.

Nationally, the April Index of Prices Received by farmers decreased 2 points (1 percent) to 244 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the decrease since March were lower prices for hogs, oranges, eggs, lettuce, and milk. Higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, and calves were partially offsetting. The index was 36 points (17 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by the nation's farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for April 15 was 245--up 2 points (3/4 percent) from mid-March. Higher prices for feeder livestock, fuels and energy, seed, building and fencing materials, feed and family living items accounted for most of the increase. The April index was 29 points (13 percent) above a year ago.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--APRIL 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		Apr. 15, 1978	Mar. 15, 1979 1/	Apr. 15, 1979	April 15, 1979	April 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.61	$ 2.80	$ 2.75	$ 3.06	2/
Durum	Bu.	3.03	2.94	2.97	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.80	2.82	2.89	2.80	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.68	2.82	2.81	2.98	5.90
Barley	Bu.	1.96	1.68	1.57	1.89	3.89
Oats	Bu.	1.54	1.35	1.22	1.27	2.14
Alfalfa hay	Ton	60.50	50.00	48.50	52.20	2/
All other hay	Ton	56.50	43.00	43.50	43.30	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	59.00	47.50	46.50	49.50	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	50.70	76.30	80.40	76.40	2/
Cows	Cwt.	35.90	56.30	57.60	56.20	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	48.00	71.70	76.00	72.40	71.30
Calves	Cwt.	56.50	94.20	97.80	96.40	82.80
Sheep	Cwt.	13.50	24.80	27.80	29.90	23.40
Lambs	Cwt.	65.00	73.30	75.40	69.80	81.70
Hogs	Cwt.	44.40	49.10	43.70	44.30	70.70
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.50	11.60	11.60	11.60	16.10
Eggs	Doz.	.508	.696	.688	.602	.967
Wool 4/	Lb.	.830	.850	.920	.841	1.640
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS		135.00	140.00	140.00	139.00	---
Mixed dairy feed 14%						

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS APRIL 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA					UNITED STATES	
	1947-49=100	1967 = 100				1967 = 100	
	1979	1978	1979			1979	
	April 15	April 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15 2/	Apr. 15	March 15 2/	April 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Food grains	135	191	199	202	201	195	196
Feed grains	140	230	191	197	184	190	191
Feed grains and hay	154	233	192	197	185	192	193
ALL CROPS	136	201	198	202	198	214	211
Meat animals	364	220	305	330	345	304	304
Dairy products	241	198	216	216	216	234	230
Poultry and eggs	123	148	175	202	200	211	202
Wool	180	196	188	201	217	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	348	215	293	315	329	274	272
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	238	209	252	267	273	246	244

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Apr. 15, 1978	Mar. 15, 1979	Apr. 15, 1979	Apr. 15, 1978	Mar. 15, 1979	Apr. 15, 1979
Prices Received	521	615	609	208	246	244
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	736	826	834	216	243	245
Ratio 1/	71	74	73	96	101	100

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

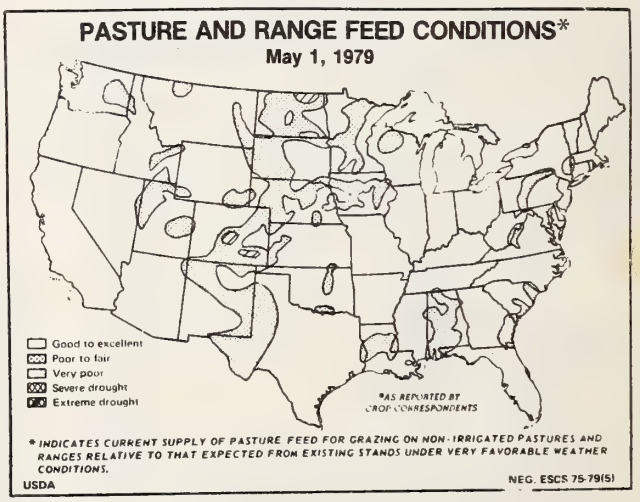
PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pastures and ranges started slow because of wet, cold weather in April. Soil moisture in most areas is good, but growth has been limited by cold temperatures. Cattle have been picking some old grass on low elevation ranges but new grass is not providing much feed.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION MAY 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	76	85	87
Northcentral	61	81	83
Northeast	60	63	87
Central	72	82	85
Southwest	81	92	89
Southcentral	78	79	86
Southeast	73	72	81
STATE	71	79	85

The U.S. pasture and range feed condition as of May 1 averaged 84 percent--9 points above a year earlier and the highest since 1973.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
May 1, 1979
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 75-79(5)

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
Slaughter Farm Labor Milk--Production, Disposition and Income

D. L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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79-8 | Issued Twice Monthly | April 26, 1979

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Prospective Plantings
Cattle on Feed
Meat Animal Production and Income
Grain Stocks
Slaughter

APRIL PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Montana farmers intend to plant more other spring wheat but fewer acres of most other spring planted crops. Total acreage seeded to all spring crops (excluding hay) is expected to be down 5 percent from a year ago. Montana 1979 all wheat acreage including winter wheat seeded last fall is now expected to be 5,290,000 acres--up 4 percent from last year. Growers seeded 3,000,000 acres of winter wheat last fall--3 percent more than a year earlier.

Acreages actually planted may vary from those indicated as a result of weather, economic conditions, availability of production inputs, and the effects of this report itself on farmers' intentions.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS--APRIL 1
MONTANA AND U. S.--1978-79

CROP	ACRES PLANTED			
	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1978	1979 1/	1978	1979 1/
	----------1,000 acres----------			
Corn	88	80	79,719	79,209
All spring wheat	2,200	2,290	18,364	19,158
Other spring	1,900	2,000	14,254	14,778
Durum	300	290	4,110	4,380
Oats	400	340	16,385	15,038
Barley	1,500	1,280	9,987	8,639
Sugarbeets	45.4	44.7	1,312.0	1,170.7
Dry beans	8.4	7.6	1,543.9	1,396.6
Potatoes	8.8	8.8	1,394.9	1,334.3
All hay 2/	2,420	2,370	61,495	61,259

1/ Indicated. 2/ Acres for harvest.

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Montana feedlots April 1, 1979 totaled 58,000 head--27 percent less than January and 3 percent less than April last year. An estimated 21,000 head were marketed from feedlots from January 1 through March 31--51 percent less than the same quarter in 1978. Placements in lots during the January-March period totaled 14,000 head--61 percent less than last year. Montana feeders expect to market 28,000 head during the April-June period--40 percent more than the same period last year.

CATTLE ON FEED APRIL 1, 1978-79

ITEM	MONTANA		23 MAJOR STATES	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	---- 1,000 head ------			
On feed Jan. 1	81	80	12,811	12,681
Placed on feed 1/	36	14	6,490	5,876
Marketed 1/	43	21	6,771	6,770
Other disappearance 2/	14	15	789	713
On feed April 1	60	58	11,741	11,074
Number on feed by Kind & Weight Apr. 1				
Steers & steer calves	24	28	7,414	7,333
Under 500 Lbs.	--	--	429	406
500-699 Lbs.	7	8	1,684	1,553
700-899 Lbs.	12	11	2,459	2,302
900-1099 Lbs.	4	8	2,361	2,415
1100 Lbs. & over	1	1	481	657
Heifer & heifer calves	35	29	4,283	3,695
Under 500 Lbs.	1	--	488	354
500-699 Lbs.	19	13	1,795	1,505
700-899 Lbs.	11	10	1,460	1,307
900 Lbs. & over	4	6	540	529
Cows and other	1	1	44	46
Total marketings 3/ April-June	20	28	6,621	6,346

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings (1978) including those placed on feed after April 1 and marketed before June 30. Expected total marketings (1979) including an allowance for those placed on feed after April 1 amd marketed before June 30.

1978 MEAT ANIMAL RECEIPTS UP

Higher marketings and increased prices for Montana's livestock in 1978 brought meat animal cash receipts to a record-high 628.3 million dollars--41 percent above the previous year. Cattle and calves contributed 92.2 percent of the total cash receipts in 1978, while hogs represented 5.4 percent and sheep and lambs 2.4 percent of the total.

MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND INCOME--1977-78

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1977	1978	1977	1978
Cattle and Calves					
Production	Million Lbs.	880.6	941.6	40,829.0	39,812.1
Marketings	Million Lbs.	1,169.4	1,051.0	58,426.9	57,185.8
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt.	33.70	51.50	34.50	48.50
Calves	Dols./Cwt.	41.40	70.30	36.90	59.10
Value of Production	Million Dols.	313.2	515.3	14,010.7	19,481.9
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	412.8	582.3	20,221.5	28,109.5
Gross Income 1/	Million Dols.	420.3	592.4	20,703.8	28,652.9
Hogs and Pigs					
Production	Million Lbs.	67.7	78.6	19,124.4	19,557.6
Marketings	Million Lbs.	64.2	76.7	18,409.4	18,704.6
Average Price	Dols./Cwt.	37.50	44.80	39.40	46.60
Value of Production	Million Dols.	25.4	35.2	7,536.3	9,111.3
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	24.1	34.3	7,258.0	8,715.4
Gross Income 1/	Million Dols.	25.3	35.9	7,520.5	9,010.3
Sheep and Lambs					
Production	Million Lbs.	22.1	21.8	703.9	698.5
Marketings	Million Lbs.	27.4	31.4	896.6	854.5
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt.	11.50	18.20	13.40	21.70
Lambs	Dols./Cwt.	50.70	67.10	51.30	62.70
Value of Production	Million Dols.	8.9	11.7	321.1	390.3
Cash Receipts	Million Dols.	10.7	15.3	390.5	461.4
Gross Income 1/	Million Dols.	10.9	15.6	400.4	472.7

1/ Difference between gross income and cash receipts equals value of home consumption.

POULTRY INCOME UP IN 1978

Montana egg producers grossed 3 percent more income from eggs during 1978 compared with 1977 due to higher egg production. Gross income from eggs accounts for 98 percent of the State's poultry income. The average price received for eggs during 1978 at 54.3 cents per dozen was 2.7 cents below 1977. Eggs sold rose to 185 million from 171 million the previous year. Poultrymen sold 6 percent more pounds of chicken in 1978 than in 1977. The average price per pound at 7.0 cents was 1.0 cent less than the previous year. Gross income from chickens at 198,000 dollars was 9 percent below 1977.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS MARCH 31, 1978-79
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	24,793	41,772	305	1,231
Under loan	37,183	24,825	4,533	7,814

1/ These stocks are included in the respective April 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

APRIL 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators on April 1, 1979 totaled 121.1 million bushels--2 percent above the same date a year ago. Disappearance since January 1, reached 36.1 million bushels. Farm storage held 102.2 million bushels--about the same as a year ago, while off-farm storage held 18.9 million--up 15 percent. Winter wheat in all positions totaled 64.9 million bushels--6 percent below last year. Spring wheat stocks including durum were 56.3 million bushels--14 percent above last year. Durum in storage totaled 9.0 million--up 31 percent from April 1978. Barley stocks in all positions were 33.0 million bushels--up 27 percent from last year, and oats stocks at 7.6 million were up 76 percent.

Nationally, all wheat stocks in all positions on April 1, 1979 totaled 1.22 billion bushels--20 percent less than last year's April 1 stocks of 1.53 billion bushels. About 51 percent of the stocks or 629 million bushels were on-farm, while 595 million bushels were in off-farm facilities. Barley stocks in all positions on April 1, 1979 totaled 295 million bushels--24 percent above last year.

STOCKS OF GRAIN APRIL 1, 1979 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	April 1, 1978 *	Jan. 1, 1978 *	April 1, 1979	% Chg. from '78	April 1, 1978 *	Jan. 1, 1979 *	April 1, 1979
	Thousand bushels			Pct.	Thousand bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	102,118	131,445	102,235	--	639,851	815,447	628,716
Off farms 1/	16,399	25,829	18,900	+15	887,832	816,364	595,470
TOTAL	118,517	157,274	121,135	+ 2	1,527,683	1,631,811	1,224,186
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	58,464	69,471	53,568	- 8	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	10,654	16,526	11,300	+ 6	---	---	---
TOTAL	69,118	85,997	64,868	- 6	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	43,654	61,974	48,667	+11	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	5,745	9,303	7,600	+32	---	---	---
TOTAL	49,399	71,277	56,267	+14	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	--	61,635	98,694	83,662
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	29,754	18,312	21,741
TOTAL	6,833	9,936	8,965	+31	91,389	117,006	105,403
RYE							
On farms	---	---	---	--	4,159	11,087	8,662
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	--	1,963	5,178	3,906
TOTAL	---	---	---	--	6,122	16,265	12,568
CORN							
On farms	224	270	108	-52	2,516,998	4,517,453	3,098,247
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	--	1,360,245	1,681,483	1,322,321
TOTAL	4/	4/	4/	--	3,877,243	6,198,936	4,420,568
OATS							
On farms	4,032	10,608	7,320	+82	357,348	483,167	329,231
Off farms 1/	269	300	270	--	61,317	80,570	64,395
TOTAL	4,301	10,908	7,590	+76	418,665	563,737	393,626
BARLEY							
On farms	23,302	45,100	28,751	+23	148,919	273,796	196,584
Off farms 1/	2,666	4,816	4,200	+58	89,043	114,164	98,076
TOTAL	25,968	49,916	32,951	+27	237,962	387,960	294,660

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee and the Montana Department of Agriculture. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Apr. 1, 1978 *	Jan. 1, 1979 *	Apr. 1, 1979	Apr. 1, 1978 *	Jan. 1, 1979 *	Apr. 1, 1979
	Million bushels			Million bushels		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	1.0	.9	.5	1.6	3.4	1.9
Northcentral	48.3	64.3	49.4	12.7	21.7	16.0
Northeast	40.1	55.8	42.8	2.5	7.2	3.8
Central	10.5	14.6	10.8	5.2	7.9	5.1
Southwest	1.9	3.1	1.4	1.4	3.5	2.2
Southcentral	9.2	8.2	6.2	1.9	4.5	3.0
Southeast	7.5	10.4	10.0	.7	1.7	1.0
STATE	118.5	157.3	121.1	26.0	49.9	33.0

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee and the Montana Department of Agriculture
* Revised.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 3 percent less red meat during March of 1979 than during the same month a year ago. Total production for March at 11.1 million pounds compares with 11.4 million pounds last March and 9.8 million pounds during February 1979. The January-March 1979 total red meat production at 33.1 million pounds is 9 percent less than the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in March 1979 totaled 3.09 billion pounds--down 7 percent from March 1978. January-March red meat production at 9.13 billion pounds was 5 percent below last year---change by individual components: beef, down 9 percent; veal, down 35; pork, up 5; lamb and mutton, down 4 percent.

MARCH 1979 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1978	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1978	Mar. 1979
	----- 1,000 head -------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	12.2	11.0	3470.1	2851.5
Calves	.1	.1	438.9	271.6
Hogs	29.1	30.0	7069.8	7397.3
Sheep & lambs	.1	.1	501.9	444.1
	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Total liveweight				
Cattle	11,812	11,089	3,563	3,013
Calves	23	29	103	63
Hogs	6,558	6,915	1,653	1,760
Sheep & lambs	6	12	56	53
Red meat production	11,440	11,111	3,342	3,093

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

Agricultural Prices
Winter Wheat Production
Hay Stocks
Pasture and Range

D. L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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79-7 | Issued Twice Monthly | April 16, 1979

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Cash Receipts
Agricultural Prices
Wool Production
Qarterly Milk Production
Pasture and Range
Potato Stocks

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana dairymen produced 67 million pounds of milk in the 3 months, January through March 1979. Production was 4 percent below the same quarter last year--mainly because of unusually cold weather in January and February. Milk production fell in spite of a 1,000 cow expansion in the herd from 27,000 in 1978 to 28,000 as of April 1, 1979. Milk from each cow in the herd averaged almost 27 pounds per day compared with nearly 29 pounds the previous year. Average grain fed to all cows in the herd was 12.5 pounds per day, down .5 from last April.

U. S. milk production, Jan.-March, totaled 30.0 billion pounds, 1 percent above the same period last year.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

Area	Mar. Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	--Thousands--		--Million pounds--	
Calif.	844	862	2,837	2,797
Idaho	139	140	379	386
Minn.	839	840	2,394	2,396
MONT.	27	28	70	67
N.Dak.	101	96	215	216
Oreg.	93	93	246	244
S.Dak.	170	168	394	389
Wash.	185	191	637	664
Wisc.	1,811	1,811	5,232	5,361
Wyo.	11.5	11.0	28.5	27.9
U. S.	10,877	10,779	29,804	29,969

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

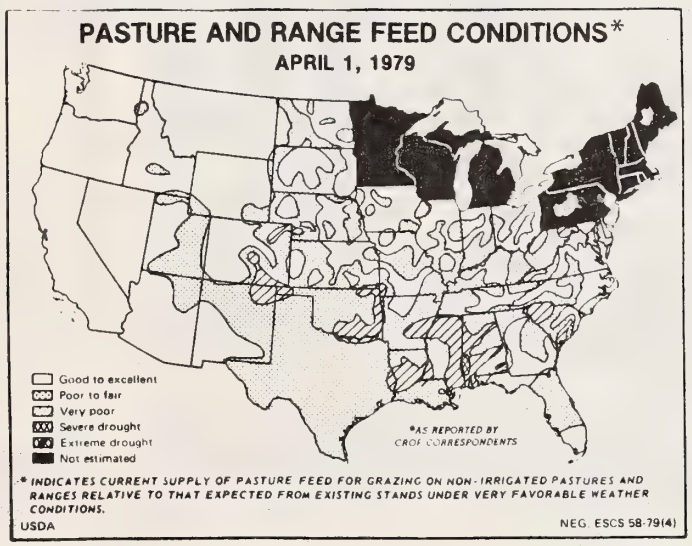
PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pastures and ranges were preserved beneath snowcover the entire winter. When snowcover left in March, good supplies of old grass were uncovered in most areas. Ranges are still essentially dormant but soil moisture promises new grass a good start.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION APRIL 1
by District as a Percent of Normal

DISTRICT	1977	1978	1979
Northwest	81	95	91
Northcentral	59	78	87
Northeast	67	63	88
Central	72	74	87
Southwest	86	94	89
Southcentral	77	79	85
Southeast	76	69	86
STATE	73	78	87

Pasture and range feed condition in the 37 States reporting on April 1 averaged 77 percent, 6 points higher than a year earlier.


PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS*
APRIL 1, 1979
Good to excellent
Poor to fair
Very poor
Severe drought
Extreme drought
Not estimated
*AS REPORTED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS
* INDICATES CURRENT SUPPLY OF PASTURE FEED FOR GRAZING ON NON-IRRIGATED PASTURES AND RANGES RELATIVE TO THAT EXPECTED FROM EXISTING STANDS UNDER VERY FAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 58-79(4)

CASH RECEIPTS
1978 Preliminary

Montana farmers and ranchers received 1,278 million dollars for crops and livestock marketed in Calendar Year 1978 according to preliminary USDA estimates. This is 34 percent more than 1977 and establishes a new record, exceeding by 11 percent the old record set in 1974. Income from the sale of livestock and products is 51 percent above 1977, while crops are up 14 percent.

Government payments to the State's farm and ranch operators added $137 million to Montana agricultural income. The major portion went through the wheat and feed grain programs to augment income from crops.

CASH FARM RECEIPTS AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS
1977 and 1978

	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	1977 1/	1978 2/	1977 1/	1978 2/
	------Million dollars------			
Cash receipts from marketings				
Livestock & products	513.8	774.6	47,565	58,041
Crops	443.4	503.5	48,519	52,180
TOTAL	957.2	1278.1	96,084	110,221
Government payments	61.4	137.2	1,819	3,000
Total cash Receipts	1018.6	1415.3	7,903	113,221

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary

WHO OWNS THE LAND?

Private individuals and corporations own about 60 percent of the 2.3 billion acres of U. S. land, while the rest is owned by Federal, State and local governments and American Indians according to a recent USDA report.

About 7 to 8 million farm, ranch, and forest owners control close to 95 percent of all privately-held land, while the 2 percent of U.S. land used for housing is owned by between 47 and 58 million people. Commercial, industrial, recreational, and other uses account for the remaining 3 percent.

Single copies of *Facts About U.S. Landownership* (AIB-422) are available free by writing ESCS Publications, Room 0054, South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

WOOL PRODUCTION

Montana's wool production during 1978 fell 6 percent to 4.2 million pounds--the result of 10 percent fewer sheep and lambs shorn. The total number of sheep and lambs shorn at 415,000 was the lowest number since the early 1880s when the sheep industry began to become important in Montana. The average fleece weight for 1978 10.1 pounds compared with 9.7 pounds last year.

The average price received by Montana sheepmen for wool in 1978 was 81 cents per pound--up 6 cents from the previous year. The value of the clip was 3.4 million dollars--almost the same as last year.

Shorn wool production during 1978 for the United States totaled 101 million pounds--down 5 percent from 1977. The total 1978 wool production of 102 million pounds included 550 thousand pounds of pulled wool. Sheep and lambs shorn in 1978 at 12.5 million head, declined 5 percent from the previous year. Average fleece weight of shorn wool was 8.08 pounds--essentially unchanged from 1977.

Total value of shorn wool was $75.4 million, down 2 percent from $77.1 million in 1977. The average price per pound was 74.5 cents for 1978 compared with 72.0 in 1977.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The March Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers at 265 (1967=100) was 13 points (5 percent) above last month and 69 points (35 percent) above last year. Price increases for All Livestock Items except hogs and lambs were responsible for most of the increase in the Index. The only crop item in the index to increase during the month was spring wheat. The price of all other items either went down or held steady.

The Index of Prices Paid by U. S. farmers increased 5 points (2 percent) to 246 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since February were higher prices for cattle, calves, and eggs. Lower prices for hogs and lettuce were partially offsetting. The index was 46 points (23 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by U. S. farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for March 15 was 243--up 5 points (2 percent) from mid-February. Higher prices for feeder livestock, tractors and self-propelled machinery, fertilizer, other farm machinery and family living items accounted for most of the increase. The March Index was 29 points (14 percent) above a year earlier.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--MARCH 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		Mar. 15, 1978	Feb. 15, 1979 1/	Mar. 15, 1979	March 15, 1979	March 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.47	$ 2.73	$ 2.73	$ 3.07	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.96	3.02	3.02	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.64	2.85	2.97	2.85	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.53	2.78	2.83	3.01	5.84
Barley	Bu.	1.87	1.63	1.54	1.85	3.84
Oats	Bu.	1.29	1.28	1.28	1.28	2.11
Alfalfa hay	Ton	62.00	50.50	50.00	53.00	2/
All other hay	Ton	59.00	43.00	43.00	43.70	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	61.00	47.50	47.50	50.20	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	46.50	69.60	76.30	73.80	2/
Cows	Cwt.	33.20	51.80	56.30	53.70	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	43.50	63.90	71.70	70.20	70.50
Calves	Cwt.	54.00	91.10	94.20	93.80	81.90
Sheep	Cwt.	13.30	23.00	24.80	31.00	23.10
Lambs	Cwt.	68.50	87.70	73.30	64.20	80.90
Hogs	Cwt.	44.30	50.00	49.10	49.40	70.00
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.50	11.60	11.60	11.80	15.90
Eggs	Doz.	.580	.600	.696	.643	.957
Wool 4/	Lb.	.720	.800	.850	.775	1.630
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		140.00	140.00	140.00	139.00	--

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS MARCH 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA					UNITED STATES	
	1947-49=100	1967 = 100				1967 = 100	
	1979	1978	1979			1979	
	Mar. 15	Mar. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 15 2/	Mar. 15	February 15 2/	March 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Food grains	136	181	197	199	202	196	197
Feed grains	138	218	197	191	181	187	185
Feed grains and hay	153	225	195	192	184	190	188
ALL CROPS	136	190	197	198	199	216	214
Meat animals	348	205	291	305	330	288	304
Dairy products	241	198	213	216	216	236	234
Poultry and eggs	124	168	182	175	202	205	211
Wool	167	169	188	188	201	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	333	201	280	293	315	264	274
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	231	196	245	252	265	241	246

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	March 15, 1978	Feb. 15, 1979	March 15, 1979	March 15, 1978	Feb. 15, 1979	March 15, 1979
Prices Received	501	602	615	200	241	246
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	728	808	825	214	238	243
Ratio 1/	69	75	75	93	101	101

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

POTATO STOCKS

On April 1, 1979 Montana potato producers had 1.10 million cwt. in storage--21 percent below last year at this time.

Nationally, there were 95.3 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1979. This was 7 percent above a year earlier and 16 percent more than 1977.

Potatoes: Production and Total Stocks of Fall Potatoes Held by Growers, Processors, and Local Dealers on April 1, 1978 and April 1, 1979

STATE	CROP OF 1977		CROP OF 1978	
	PROD.	STOCKS 4/1/78	PROD.	STOCKS 4/1/79
	1,000 cwt.			
COLO	9,490	2,300	9,750	1,800
IDAHO	88,200	37,500	96,980	41,000
MAINE	28,320	10,500	26,180	9,000
MINN	12,960	3,600	14,910	4,800
MONT	2,016	1,400	2,088	1,100
N DAK	21,600	6,100	22,400	6,100
OREG	25,550	8,400	28,488	7,700
WASH	50,600	11,300	50,685	14,500
WIS	18,038	2,500	17,325	2,300
23 STATE TOTAL 1/	302,304	89,215	313,262	95,263

1/ Excluding Nev. for which no stocks estimates are made. Nev. 1977 production 4,760,000 cwt. and 1978 production 5,440,000 cwt.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER

Prospective Plantings
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Grain Stocks

D. L. Herbert, State Statistician

C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Slaughter
Hogs and Pigs
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Egg Production
Potato Stocks

HOGS AND PIGS

MARCH 1 INVENTORY: Inventory of hogs and pigs on March 1, 1979 in the 14 States conducting quarterly hog surveys was estimated at 50.5 million head--up 13 percent from a year earlier. This is the largest March 1 inventory since 1971. The number kept for breeding at 8.34 million was up 20 percent from 1978 and 19 percent above 1977. The number for market at 42.2 million was 12 percent above 1978 and 14 percent more than 1977. Survey results indicate producers incurred death losses during the December-February quarter about 25 percent greater than last year. This was due to disease and severe winter weather--especially in the western Corn Belt States. The 14 quarterly States account for about 85 percent of the U. S. hog and pig inventory.

PIG CROP (DECEMBER 1978-FEBRUARY 1979: The December 1978-February 1979 pig crop in the 14 States totaled 18.3 million--17 percent more than both 1977 and 1978. There were 2.66 million sows farrowed in these States--up 16 percent from the previous year and 15 percent more than two years ago. Litter size averaged 6.87 pigs for the December 1978-February 1979 period compared with 6.84 a year earlier and 6.76 two years ago.

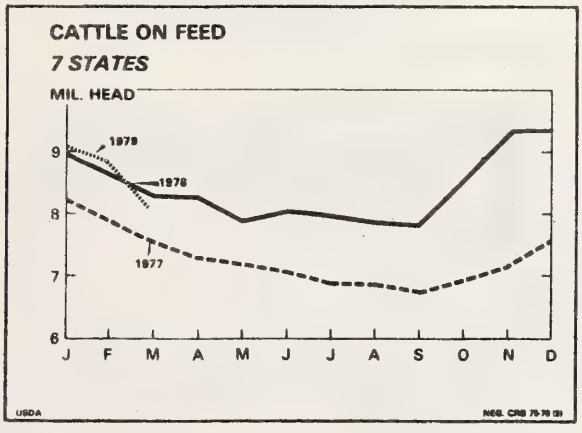
FARROWING INTENTIONS: Producers in the 14 quarterly States intend to have 3.55 million sows farrow in the March-May 1979 period--24 percent more than last year and 23 percent above 1977. Farrowing intentions reported for the June-August 1979 period are 3.16 million sows--19 percent above 1978 and 22 percent more than 1977.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The February CPI for all urban consumers, 1967 base, was 207.1. This was up 1.2 percent (2.4 points) from January and up 9.9 percent (18.7 points) from February 1978.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed March 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates (Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas) totaled 8.21 million head--down 1 percent from a year ago but 9 percent more than March 1, 1977. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.65 million--down 2 percent from last year but 5 percent more than February 1977. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during February were 1.31 million--down 14 percent from last year and 4 percent less than February 1977. Net placements of 1.14 million were down 15 percent from last year and off 9 percent from February 1977. Other disappearance totaled 170 thousand compared with 181 thousand in February 1978 and 112 thousand in 1977.



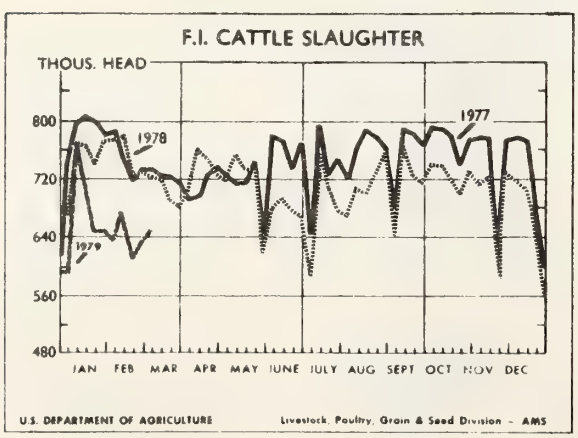
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 19 percent less red meat during February 1979 than during the same month a year ago. Total production for February at 9.8 million pounds compares with 12.1 million pounds last February and 12.2 million pounds during January 1979. The total red meat production at 22.0 million pounds for the first two months of 1979 is 13 percent less than the same period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in February 1979 totaled 2.76 billion pounds--down 9 percent from February 1978. January-February red meat production at 6.04 billion pounds was 4 percent below last year... change by individual components: beef, down 6 percent; veal down 35; pork, up 4; lamb and mutton, down 4 percent.

FEBRUARY 1979 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Feb. 1978	Feb. 1979	Feb. 1978	Feb. 1979
	---- 1,000 head ------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	13.4	10.6	3269.7	2735.6
Calves	.1	0	387.1	239.6
Hogs	30.8	23.4	6091.5	5946.8
Sheep & lambs	.1	.1	401.7	363.9
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	12,589	10,706	3,368	2,878
Calves	24	0	94	59
Hogs	6,922	5,380	1,421	1,409
Sheep & lambs	8	10	45	43
Red meat production	12,133	9,848	3,045	2,758



SPOTLIGHT ON HAMBURGER

Because more hamburger (including ground beef) is consumed than any other type of meat, it is noteworthy when its price nearly doubles in 2 years. In fact, an estimated 27 percent of consumers' expenditures for beef products is for hamburger.

Retail prices of hamburger, already at record highs, are likely to continue climbing in 1979 since prices for nonfed cattle are predicted to increase through the remainder of the year. Also, estimated marketing margins for hamburger from utility cows are the lowest percentage of retail cost since 1973. Processors, wholesalers, and retailers may attempt to restore previous margins which would also act to push up prices.

Boneless cow meat is one of the major sources of meat for use in hamburger--and the recent decline in cow and other nonfed beef slaughter is a major reason for the price increase. However, a variety of fat and lean cuts can be used, providing the end product is at least 70 percent lean.

MARKETING MARGINS FOR HAMBURGER

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979 1/
	Cents per pound				
Gross farm value 2/	54	65	65	95	128
Value of by-products	10	10	12	15	18
Net farm value	44	55	53	80	110
Retail hamburger price	85	83	81	118	155
Farm-to-retail price spread	41	28	28	38	45
	Percent				
Marketing margin	48	34	35	32	29

1/ Estimates for week ending February 9.
2/ Assumed to be 2.58 times the price of utility cows at Omaha.

EGG PRODUCTION

Montana's laying flocks produced 46 million eggs during the December 1, 1978 to February 28, 1979 quarter--down 2 percent from the same period a year ago. The number of layers on March 1 at 810,000 was down 2 percent from last year. The reduction in layers was partially offset by a higher rate of lay--67.0 compared with 62.8 on March 1, 1978.

The nation's laying flocks produced 17.1 billion eggs during the December 1, 1978 to February 28, 1979 period--up 3 percent from the same quarter a year ago. The number of layers on March 1 at 289 million compares with 281 million a year earlier. Rate of lay on March 1 averaged 65.0 eggs per 100 layers compared with 64.7 on the same date a year ago.

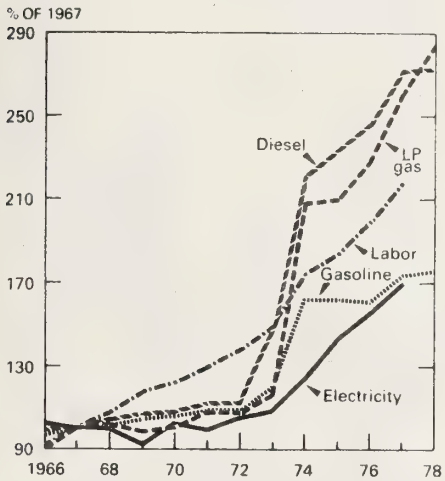
ENERGY

The dramatic increase in energy prices during 1973-74 slowed considerably for gasoline and diesel fuel in 1978. LP gas, electricity and natural gas prices however continue to rise. Although energy costs make up only 8 to 12 percent of farmers' production costs, farming is becoming increasingly energy intensive--partially as a reaction to high labor costs. Despite increasing energy costs, a move back to labor-intensive agriculture is unlikely, since labor is over 880 times as expensive as electricity per hour of work performed.

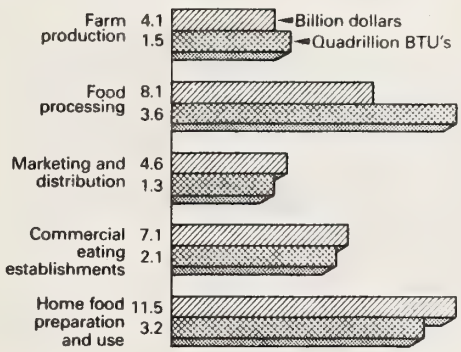
The food system uses one-sixth of all energy used in the United States. Because of all the special forms and processing of foods that have been developed, as well as the increase in eating outside the home, actual production accounts for only a fifth of the food systems' total energy use.

The use of pesticides and fertilizers which account for more than a third of the energy used in actual agricultural production has trended upward. Fertilizer nutrient use per acre is 5 times the 1950 rate and is a main reason for increased crop yields. However, increasing energy costs tend to restrain the use of some agricultural chemicals.

ENERGY PRICES PAID BY FARMERS



ENERGY USED IN U.S. FOOD SYSTEM


Billion dollars
Quadrillion BTU's
Farm production 4.1 1.5
Food processing 8.1 3.6
Marketing and distribution 4.6 1.3
Commercial eating establishments 7.1 2.1
Home food preparation and use 11.5 3.2

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED DOWN

The number of sheep and lambs on feed in seven selected States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Texas, and Wyoming) on March 1, 1979 totaled 604 thousand head--down 8 percent from the 659 thousand head on feed a year ago. There were 306 thousand placed on feed during January and February this year--up 1 percent from the 302 thousand placed during the same period a year ago. Of the total number on feed March 1, 1979, 8 percent weighed less than 70 pounds, 6 percent weighed 70-79 pounds, 14 percent weighed 80-89 pounds, 30 percent weighed 90-99 pounds, and 42 percent were 100 pounds and over.

POTATO STOCKS

On March 1, 1979 Montana potato farmers [illegible] 1.75 million cwt. in storage--1 percent below last year. The majority of these potatoes will be shipped during March.

Nationally, there were 129 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1979. This was 6 percent above last year and 13 percent more than 1977.

Potatoes: Production and Total Stocks of Fall Potatoes Held by Growers, Processors, and Local Dealers on March 1, 1978 and March 1, 1979

STATE	CROP OF 1977		CROP OF 1978	
	PROD.	STOCKS 3/1/78	PROD.	STOCKS 3/1/79
		1,000 cwt.		
COLO	9,490	3,400	9,750	3,050
IDAHO	88,200	46,500	96,980	50,000
MAINE	28,320	14,400	26,180	12,300
MINN	12,960	5,700	14,910	7,600
MONT	2,016	1,770	2,088	1,750
N DAK	21,600	8,800	22,400	9,900
OREG	25,550	10,800	28,488	9,900
WASH	50,600	15,900	50,685	19,300
WIS	18,038	4,000	17,325	4,000
23 STATE TOTAL 1/	302,304	120,970	313,262	128,524

1/ Excluding Nev. for which no stocks estimates are made. Nev. 1977 production 4,760,000 cwt. and 1978 production 5,440,000 cwt.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana dairy plants manufactured 350,[illegible] pounds of creamed cottage cheese during Feb[illegible]y, a 22 percent increase over last year. Ice cream production at 106,000 gallons was up 4 percent. Butter production showed a 4 percent decline to 180,000 pounds; however, this was 2 percent above the 1977 production.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
Agricultural Prices Cash Receipts Pasture and Range Quarterly Milk Production Wool Production

D. L. Herbert, State Statistician
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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Agricultural Prices
Manufactured Dairy Products
Cattle Outlook
Wheat Outlook

A REMINDER

Many of you are on our mailing list to receive reports of various commodities which are available in the "Montana Crop and Livestock Reporter" this year. Under provisions of law, these reports can be sent only to those who specifically request them each year. If you receive a letter from our office asking you to check the reports you desire, please do so and return it by the specified date or your name will be removed from our mailing list.

This brings up another point--our mailing lists are very large and we spend considerable time updating our name and address records. Occasionally we may slip up on this and end up offending someone. We may misspell a name or have more than one version of the same address. If this ever happens to your address, please let us know. Sending us a corrected version and the incorrect address label from a report we have sent you makes it easier for us to correct the problem. Your help in this is appreciated.

CATTLE--1979 AT A GLANCE
(Reprint from the February 1979 Livestock and Meat Situation)

Beef production during 1979 may be down 6 percent from a year ago and 12 percent below the peak production of 1976. In 1976, per capita beef consumption exceeded 129 pounds, carcass weight. Consumption was reduced to 120.4 pounds per person in 1978. This year, it will be less than 115 pounds--a 6-year low.

As the liquidation phase of the cattle cycle winds down, a larger percentage of the U.S. cattle slaughter will come from feedlots. Despite the 7 percent smaller inventory of calves and yearlings (excluding replacement heifers) outside feedlots January 1, placements on feed are expected to about match those of a year ago.

Net imports of live cattle from Canada and Mexico were about 1.1 million head in 1978. Mexico accounted for about 700,000 of this total with the majority in the 200-700-pound feeder cattle category. Live cattle imports from Mexico since 1972 have ranged from a high of almost 916,000 head in 1972 to a low of 196,000 in 1974. The high level of 1978 shipments of feeder cattle was due in part to a drought in the 10 northern cattle-raising States of Mexico. For 1979, a substantial drop in live cattle exports to the United States is expected since most ranchers in the northern States of Mexico will be rebuilding herds.

Substantial increases in yearling and calf prices as a result of both increased feedlot demand and smaller numbers will sharply curtail slaughter of these animals. Calf slaughter may be reduced about 40 percent from last year, whi slaughter of steers and heifers off grass could be cut back 50 to 60 percent. These reductions would add about 4 million head to available feeder cattle inventories. Projected marketings of fed cattle are maintained at approximately the 1978 level. Feedlot cattle would then account for 75 percent or more of this year's cattle slaughter--up from 69 percent in 1978. This wil support prices of slaughter animals associated with processed items such as hamburger.

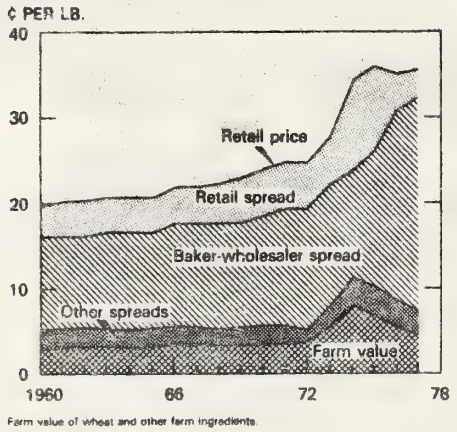
FOOD MARKETING COSTS

By type of business, marketing functions performed by retailers account for 27 percent of the marketing bill; processors, 26 percent; restaurants and other away-from-home eating places, 24 percent; wholesalers, 15 percent; and transportation, 8 percent.

Increases in farm-retail price spreads and the food marketing bill are largely due to inflation in the costs of inputs used in marketing food products. In recent years, substantial cost increases have occurred for nearly every input--particularly labor and energy-related items.

White pan bread illustrates the impact of marketing charges on the retail price of highly processed foods--baking and distribution costs have accounted for most of the bread price rise.

CONSUMER'S BREAD PRICE AND WHERE IT GOES



Farm value of wheat and other farm ingredients.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

January ice cream production in Montana at 11,000 gallons was down 9 percent from last year. Other major dairy products showed good gains. Butter production at 240,000 pounds was up 3 percent and production of creamed cottage cheese at 384,000 pounds was up 23 percent from a year earlier.

WHEAT OUTLOOK FOR 1979/80

(Reprint from the February 1979 Wheat Situation)

Preliminary indications point to reduced 1978 crop carryover and larger wheat production in 1979. Based on the winter wheat production forecast and increased planting intentions of spring wheat growers, total 1979/80 supplies could be between 2.8 and 3.1 billion bushels. As of December 1, 1978, winter wheat production for 1979 was estimated at 1.44 billion bushels but there are always uncertainties which remain until the crop is harvested. Analysis of past differences between the December and the final estimates indicate that the winter wheat crop should vary from the December forecast by less than 110 million bushels in 2 out of 3 years.

With larger U.S. wheat production a strong prospect for 1979, expanded demand will be required if current market prices are to be maintained. A small increase in domestic food use seems probable, but the demand outlook depends mostly on the world grain situation. With large wheat crops in most countries, including other exporting countries during 1978/79, U. S. exports will weaken until mid-1979. After that, the outlook depends largely on the size of Northern Hemisphere wheat and coarse grain crops outside of the United States--particularly in the USSR, China, Europe, Canada, and India.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers for all farm products on February 15 at 252 (1967=100) was up 7 points (3 percent) compared with the previous month. The Index was 68 points (37 percent) above the previous year. The February All Crops Index at 200 was 2 percent above last month. The February Livestock and Products Index at 292 was up 4 percent. Price increases were noted for most products but declines occurred for barley, hogs, milk, and eggs. Wool prices remained unchanged.

The February Index of Prices Received by U.S. Farmers increased 8 points (3 percent) to 240 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since January were higher prices for cattle, soybeans, hogs, calves, oranges, and broilers. Lower prices for cotton, potatoes, turkeys and barley were partially offsetting. The Index was 47 points (24 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for February 15 was 238--up 4 points (2 percent) from mid-January. Higher prices for feeder livestock, feed, building and fencing materials, fuels and energy, and family living items accounted for most of the increase.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--FEBRUARY 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		Feb. 15, 1978	Jan. 15, 1979 1/	Feb. 15, 1979	Feb. 15, 1979	February 15, Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.39	$ 2.76	$ 2.78	$ 3.11	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.79	2.93	2.96	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.57	2.74	2.85	2.80	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.48	2.76	2.81	3.02	5.72
Barley	Bu.	1.72	1.69	1.63	1.84	3.77
Oats	Bu.	1.30	1.16	1.21	1.26	2.07
Alfalfa hay	Ton	59.00	48.00	50.50	53.60	2/
All other hay	Ton	57.50	42.50	43.00	44.60	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	58.50	46.00	47.50	50.70	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	43.90	69.50	69.60	67.00	2/
Cows	Cwt.	30.30	48.20	51.80	51.00	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	39.70	61.20	63.90	64.10	69.00
Calves	Cwt.	49.70	86.70	91.10	85.50	80.20
Sheep	Cwt.	12.50	20.60	23.00	28.50	22.60
Lambs	Cwt.	64.20	80.00	87.70	71.80	79.20
Hogs	Cwt.	44.90	50.70	50.00	52.80	68.50
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.05	11.40	11.35	11.90	15.60
Eggs	Doz.	.541	.624	.600	.601	.937
Wool 4/	Lb.	.710	.800	.800	.770	1.590
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		130.00	140.00	140.00	137.00	140.00

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FEBRUARY 15, 1979 1/

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA					UNITED STATES	
	1947-49=100	1967 = 100				1967 = 100	
	1979	1978		1979		1979	
	Feb. 15	Feb. 15	Dec. 15	Jan. 15 2/	Feb. 15	January 15 2/	February 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Food grains	135	177	198	197	201	197	197
Feed grains	146	201	198	197	191	183	183
Feed grains and hay	159	210	193	195	191	185	186
ALL CROPS	137	184	198	197	200	209	214
Meat animals	322	189	262	291	305	270	288
Dairy products	236	188	209	213	212	236	236
Poultry and eggs	108	159	187	182	175	202	205
Wool	156	167	192	188	188	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	309	186	254	280	292	252	264
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	220	184	230	245	252	232	240

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910 - 14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Feb. 15, 1978	Jan. 15, 1979	Dec. 15, 1978	Feb. 15, 1978	Jan. 15, 1979	Feb. 15, 1979
Prices Received	482	579	601	193	232	240
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	717	796	808	211	234	238
Ratio 1/	67	73	74	91	99	101

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

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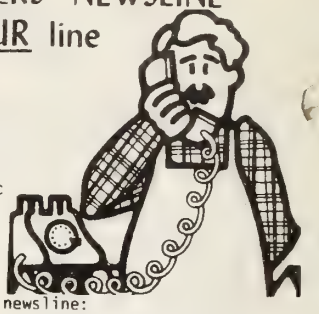

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COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
Potato Stocks Slaughter Quarterly Egg Production

D. L. Herbert, State Statistician
C.R. (Bud) Lies, Asst State Statistician and Editor

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79-4 Issued Twice Monthly February 28, 1979

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Wheat Utilization
Producer-owned Grain Stocks
Slaughter
Farm Labor
Number of Cattle Feedlots
Potato Stocks

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The January CPI for all Urban consumers, 1967 base, was 204.7. This was up 0.9 percent (18 points) from December and up 9.3 percent (17.5 points) from January 1978.

WHEAT UTILIZATION

Montana wheat shipped to out of State destinations during the 1977 wheat marketing year (June 1977-May 1978) totaled 102.6 million bushels--including unaccounted disappearance. This represents 85 percent of the available supply. Use in the State for feed, seed and flour amounted to 18.2 million bushels.

In the 1977 marketing year, 90.6 million bushels of Montana wheat were shipped to the Pacific Northwest--including an allowance for unaccounted disappearance. Pacific Northwest flour mills used 19.9 million bushels and 70.7 million were exported from Pacific Northwest ports. By comparison, in 1976 flour mills used 21.0 million bushels and 63.5 million were exported. Montana wheat accounted for 57 percent of the Pacific Northwest exports in 1977--down slightly from 1976.

ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND UTILIZATION
1974, 1975, 1976 & 1977 Marketing Years

Supply	1974	1975	1976	1977
	million bushels			
Beginning stocks 1/	18.3	24.3	50.1	87.8
Production	120.1	155.9	167.3	130.9
Total supply	138.4	180.2	217.4	218.7
Disposition				
Recorded movement out of State 2/	80.7	97.8	88.8	82.4
Milled for flour in Montana	7.2	7.1	8.1	7.9
Used for seed in Montana	5.2	4.9	4.8	5.2
Used for livestock feed 3/	1.1	1.6	5.4	5.1
Unaccounted disappearance (to balance) 4/	19.9	18.7	22.5	20.2
Total disposition	114.1	130.1	129.6	120.8
Ending stocks 1/	24.3	50.1	87.8	97.9

1/ Farm, commercial--July 1 stocks 1974 & 1975; June 1 stocks 1976 and on. 2/ Reported by elevators and licensed truckers--adjusted for known incompleteness. 3/ Utilization for feed--on farms where grown, cattle feeders, feed mills, and purchased by other farmers for feed. 4/ Due to unknowns in components, probably most is unrecorded truck movement.

MONTANA WHEAT MOVEMENT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST, UTILIZATION AND EXPORTS 1/
By Marketing Year 1972-1977

ITEM	Marketing Year 2/ 1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	Million bushels					
Beginning stocks 3/	60.4	31.5	18.3	24.3	50.1	87.8
Production	98.8	96.7	120.1	155.9	167.3	130.9
Ending stocks 3/	-31.5	-18.3	- 24.3	- 50.1	- 87.8	- 97.9
Available supply 4/	127.7	109.9	121.1	130.1	129.6	120.8
Shipments of wheat into Pacific Northwest (adjusted for unaccounted disappearance 5/	96.9	83.6	85.6	92.3 8/	84.5	90.6
Total wheat used for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar)	(31.8)	(30.6)	(29.9)	(25.9) 8/	(30.7)	(30.4)
Estimated Montana wheat milled for flour in Pacific Northwest (includes bulgar) 6/	21.5	21.6	19.8	20.0 8/	21.0	19.9
Estimated Montana wheat exported from Pacific Northwest ports 7/	75.4	62.0	65.8	72.3 8/	63.5	70.7
Percent of available supply	59%	56%	54%	56%	49%	59%

1/ Pacific Northwest--Oregon and Washington. 2/ July 1-June 30, 1972-1974; July1-May 31, 1975; June 1-May 31, 1976-1977. 3/ July 1 stocks 1972-1975--June 1 stocks 1976 and on. 4/ Beginning stocks plus production minus ending stocks. 5/ Source: Montana Grain Movement project. 6/ Total Pacific Northwest wheat millings minus estimated wheat originating from Oregon, Washington, or other States. 7/ Recorded Montana wheat shipped to Pacific Northwest minus estimated Montana wheat milled in Pacific Northwest. 8/ July 1-May 31.

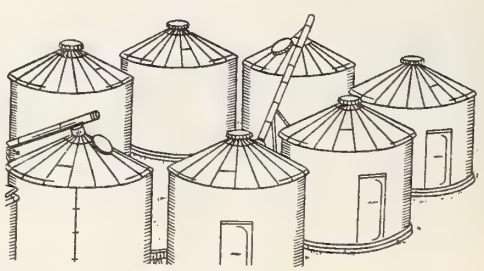
MEAT IMPORT LIMIT

President Carter directed USDA and the State Department to negotiate agreements with meat exporting countries to limit total 1979 U.S. imports of fresh, chilled, and frozen beef veal, mutton, and goat meat to 1,570 million pounds. The decision is consistent with the President's statement to cattle producer representatives July 25 that he would not permit unlimited beef imports in 1979. The allowable import level during 1978 was 1,492 million pounds, with a slight increase in actual shipments coming in the second half of the year. Prorated on a monthly basis, the new level will permit meat imports at the same rate as during the last 6 months of 1978.

MONTANA PRODUCER-OWNED GRAIN STOCKS

Wheat producers retained pricing control on 15 million bushels stored off farm on January 1, 1979 or 63 percent of the total. This was slightly below a year ago when producers controlled 64 percent of the off-farm stocks. Producer control of off-farm stored barley amounted to 2.4 million bushels or 52 percent of all off-farm stored barley on January 1, 1979. A year ago, growers controlled 45 percent of total off-farm storage.

Producer-owned grain in commercial off-farm storage facilities is defined as grain for which the producer has some marketing control.



LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 7 percent less red meat during January 1979 than during the same month a year ago. Total production for January at 12.2 million pounds compares with 13.0 million pounds last January and 10.5 million pounds during December 1978.

National slaughter data which determine meat supplies and affect prices shows: red meat production in January 1979 totaled 3.28 billion pounds--up 2 percent from January 1978. Change by individual components were as follows: beef, virtually unchanged from January 1978; veal, down 34 percent; pork, up 9 percent; lamb and mutton, down 8 percent.

JANUARY 1979 LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979	Jan. 1978	Jan. 1979
	------ 1,000 head -------			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	15.2	14.2	3468.3	3304.5
Calves	.1	.0	424.6	296.4
Hogs	31.1	25.9	6240.4	6696.4
Sheep & lambs	.1	.1	437.6	401.6
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	13,966	14,124	3583.9	3510.6
Calves	21	--	105.2	69.6
Hogs	7,154	5,921	1472.1	1611.3
Sheep & lambs	9	12	48.6	46.0
Red meat production	13,042	12,179	3214.2	3281.1

FARM LABOR

Total workers on Montana farms during the week of January 7-13, 1979 was estimated at 22,000--15 percent less than January 1978. Farm operators plus unpaid family members working 15 hours or more per week were down 20 percent, while hired workers remained unchanged from January 1978.

FAMILY AND HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS
Week of January 7-13, 1979 with Comparisons
Selected States and United States

STATE	FAMILY		HIRED	
	Jan. 8-14 1978	Jan. 7-13 1979	Jan. 8-14 1978	Jan. 7-13 1979
	---------- Thousands ---------			
MONT	20.0	23.3	4.5	6.9
N.D.	40.0	43.0	2.0	4.0
S.D.	46.0	43.0	8.0	11.0
WYO.	8.5	7.0	3.5	4.5
IDAHO	20.0	16.0	6.0	6.0
U.S.	2245.2	2195.1	764.3	784.6

FARM WAGE RATES
Week of January 7-13, 1979 with Comparisons
Selected States & United States

STATE	All Hired Farm Workers		Livestock Workers	
	Jan. 8-14 1978	Jan. 7-13 1979	Jan. 8-14 1978	Jan. 7-13 1979
	-------- Dollars per hour --------			
MONT	2.50	2.84	2.32	2.44
N.D.	3.30	3.55	3.10	3.10
S.D.	2.25	2.76	2.19	2.45
WYO.	2.83	2.99	2.67	2.49
IDAHO	3.19	3.41	2.75	3.17
U.S.	3.18	3.37	2.67	2.89

NUMBER OF CATTLE FEEDLOTS And FED CATTLE MARKETED--by SIZE OF FEEDLOT CAPACITY--MONTANA And 23 STATES 1/

Capacity of Feedlots	MONTANA				23 Major Feeding States			
	Lots		Cattle Marketed		Lots		Cattle Marketed	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
	No.		1,000 head		No.		1,000 head	
Under 1,000 head	61	75	6	4	130,018	125,523	7,917	8,542
1,000-1,999	8	13	5	10	824	845	1,177	1,374
2,000-3,999	13	13	21	16	401	412	1,186	1,300
4,000-7,999	15	18*	65	88*	239	230	1,654	1,568
8,000-15,999	4*	--	37*	--	221	217	3,583	3,626
16,000-31,999	--	--	--	--	140	133	4,846	5,081
32,000 and over	--	--	--	--	61	65	4,490	5,154
Total All Feedlots	101	119	134	118	131,904	127,425	24,853	26,645

1/ Number of feedlots with 1,000 head or more capacity is number of lots operating any time during year. Number under 1,000 head capacity and total number of feedlots is number at end of year.
* Lots and marketings from larger size groups in Montana are included to avoid disclosing individual operations.

POTATO STOCKS UP

Montana potato growers and local dealers had 1.83 million cwt. of potatoes in storage as of February 1, 1979. This is 2 percent above last year. Disappearance since harvest amounted to 258,000 cwt.

Nationally, 159 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage on February 1, 1979. This was 6 percent above a year earlier and 11 percent more than 1977. Disappearance of the 1978 fall crop as of February 1, 1979 was 154 million cwt., which includes potatoes diverted to February 1 under the USDA division program. The total disappearance includes 22.6 million cwt. of potatoes that were dumped, fed to livestock on potato farms, or loss due to shrinkage.

Potatoes: Production and Total Stocks of Fall Potatoes Held by Growers, Processors, and Local Dealers on Feb. 1, 1978 and Feb. 1, 1979

STATE	CROP OF 1977		CROP OF 1978	
	PROD.	STOCKS 2/1/78	PROD.	STOCKS 2/1/79
	1,000 cwt.			
COLO	9,490	4,450	9,750	4,150
IDAHO	88,200	53,500	96,980	59,500
MAINE	28,320	17,400	26,180	14,900
MINN	12,960	7,400	14,910	9,400
MONT	2,016	1,800	2,088	1,830
N DAK	21,600	11,200	22,400	12,200
OREG	25,550	12,500	28,488	12,500
WASH	50,600	20,800	50,685	24,000
WIS	18,038	6,000	17,325	5,500
23 STATE TOTAL 1/	302,304	149,690	313,262	159,141

1/ Excluding Nev. for which no stocks estimates are made. Nev. 1977 production 4,760,000 cwt. and 1978 production 5,440,000 cwt.

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MONTANA CATTLE NUMBERS DECLINE

Despite abundant range and hay for feed, Montana ranchers continued to reduce their cattle herds during 1978. As of January 1, 1979 there was an estimated 2,607,000 head on Montana farms and ranches. This is down 3 percent from January 1, 1978 and represents the fifth year of inventory reduction.

By class, steers were down 7 percent, calves less than 500 Lbs. were down 21 percent, and other heifers (not for replacement) were down 3 percent. The sharp reduction in calves reflects a smaller calf crop (1,433,000--down 6%) and a very strong demand for feeders. Classes showing gains were beef cows and beef replacement heifers. Beef cows that have calved were up 3 percent from January 1, 1978 and heifers being held for replacement stock showed an 18 percent increase over last year.

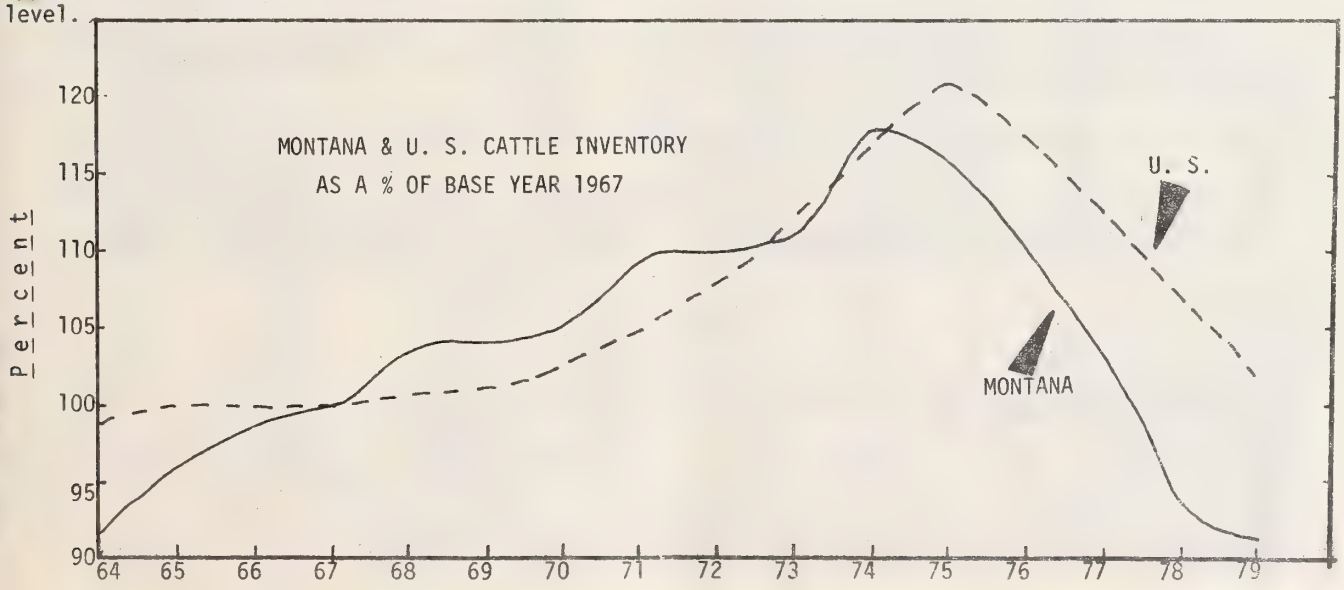
Nationally, the total cattle inventory also continues to decline. There was an estimated 110.9 million head of cattle on January 1, 1979, down 5 percent from last year. In the U. S., this is the fourth year of herd reduction in the current cattle cycle. All classes of cattle except dairy replacement heifers showed declines at the U. S. level.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers was up 15 points (7 percent) at 245 on January 15 compared with the previous month. Compared with last year, the Index was up 74 points. The primary reason for the sharp increase was improved prices for meat animals.

The January Index of Prices Received by U.S. farmers increased 10 points (5 percent) to 232 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since December were higher prices for cattle, lettuce, hogs, broilers, and soybeans. Lower prices for cotton, eggs, and oranges were partially offsetting. The index was 46 points (25 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for January 15 was 233--up 7 point (3 percent) from mid-December. Higher prices for feeder livestock and family living items plus the annual updating of the indexes for interest, taxes and farm services and cash rent accounted for most of the index rise. The January index was 24 point (11 percent) above a year earlier.



CATTLE & CALF INVENTORY, JANUARY 1, 1978-1979

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1978	1979	1979 as % of 1978	1978	1979	1979 as % of 1978
	1,000 head		Pct.	1,000 head		Pct.
Cows & heifers that have calved	1,436	1,480	+ 3	49,748	47,843	- 4
Beef cows	1,409	1,453	+ 3	38,809	36,989	- 5
Milk cows	27	27	---	10,939	10,853	- 1
Heifers 500 pounds and over	319	356	+12	17,710	16,885	- 5
For beef cow replacement	217	257	+18	5,845	5,519	- 6
For milk cow replacement	8	8	---	3,896	3,936	+ 1
Other heifers	94	91	- 3	7,970	7,431	- 7
Steers 500 pounds and over	145	135	- 7	16,779	16,321	- 3
Bulls 500 pounds and over	86	86	---	2,544	2,401	- 6
Calves less than 500 pounds	694	550	-21	29,595	27,413	- 7
ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	2,680	2,607	- 3	116,375	110,864	- 5
Calves born during year	1,443	---	---	43,839	---	---
Total value (000 Dollars)	643,200	1,186,185	---	27,055,060	44,661,338	---
Value per head (Dollars)	240	455	---	232	403	---
Number cattle farms	17,500	---	---	1,723,470	---	---

SHEEP LONGTERM DECLINE CONTINUES

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory dropped 10 percent in 1978, but stock sheep and lambs registered only a 3 percent decline. The total sheep and lamb inventory at 475,000 head on January 1, 1979 was at about the same level the State had in the early 1880s. However, in those early years sheep numbers were climbing steadily--reaching a peak in 1903 with 5,736,000 head. Numbers then started down but revived in the late twenties and then stabilized during the thirties and early forties near 3.5 million head. Since 1943 it's been mostly downhill.

Although much smaller, the sheep industry in Montana today is healthy and showing signs that may be signaling growth. The total value of all sheep and lambs in the State increased 40 percent in 1978 to 42.3 million dollars--inspite of the fewer numbers. Also, ewe lambs on Montana farms and ranches increased 26 percent to 111,000 head--pointing to a possible flock buildup. However, the number of lambs saved in 1978 as a percent of ewes over one year of age on hand at the beginning of the year was only 98 percent--down 3 points from 1977. This means sheepmen are still having a problem with predator losses and disease. The total lamb crop for 1978 at 349,000 head was down 7 percent.

There was an estimated 2,000 operations with sheep in Montana during 1978--100 less than the previous year.

Nationally, the number of sheep and lambs on farms January 1, 1979 was 12.2 million head, 1 percent less than last year--almost leveling off. This is the smallest inventory since records were begun in 1867.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FARMS & RANCHES JANUARY 1, 1978-1979

CLASS	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1978	1979	Chg. from 1978	1978	1979	Chg. from 1978
	Thousand head		Pct.	Thousand head		Pct.
Ewe lambs 1 yr. & older	356	324	- 9	8,540	8,243	- 3
Wethers & rams 1 year +	13	11	-15	370	378	+ 2
Ewe lambs	88	111	+26	1,489	1,667	+12
Wethers & rams	13	9	-31	326	369	+13
Total stock sheep & lambs	470	455	- 3	10,725	10,657	- 1
Sheep and lambs on feed	60	20	-67	1,623	1,567	- 3
Total all sheep and lambs	530	475	-10	12,348	12,224	- 1
Lambs saved	349	---	---	8,020	---	---
Total value (000 Dollars)	30,210	42,275	---	636,088	876,240	---
Value per head (Dollars)	57.00	89.00	---	51.50	71.70	---
Number of sheep farms	2,000	---	---	116,360	---	---

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--JANUARY 15, 1979

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		Jan. 15, 1978	Dec. 15, 1978 1/	Jan. 15, 1979	Jan. 15, 1979	January 15th Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	$ 2.33	$ 2.76	$ 2.77	$ 3.10	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.82	3.03	2.95	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.57	2.80	2.93	2.83	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.41	2.77	2.83	3.02	5.61
Barley	Bu.	1.71	1.70	1.63	1.83	3.70
Oats	Bu.	1.33	1.13	1.19	1.23	2.03
Alfalfa hay	Ton	57.00	44.00	48.00	51.20	2/
All other hay	Ton	54.00	39.50	42.50	44.30	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	56.00	42.50	46.00	48.90	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	39.80	65.30	69.50	63.00	2/
Cows	Cwt.	26.60	43.00	48.20	48.10	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	34.70	54.60	61.20	59.80	67.80
Calves	Cwt.	44.40	79.10	86.70	78.10	78.70
Sheep	Cwt.	14.30	18.70	20.60	27.80	22.20
Lambs	Cwt.	61.00	73.90	80.00	73.10	77.70
Hogs	Cwt.	36.60	48.80	50.70	50.60	67.20
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.20	11.10	10.90	11.80	15.30
Eggs	Doz.	.561	.643	.624	.605	.920
Wool 4/	Lb.	.710	.810	.800	.777	1.56
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		130.00	140.00	140.00	137.00	

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows and slaughter bul
4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1979

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA					UNITED STATES	
	1947-49=100	1967 = 100				1967 = 100	
	1979	1978			1979	1978	1979
	Jan. 15	Jan. 15	Nov 15 2/	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	December 15 2/	January 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Food grains	136	172	206	198	202	197	198
Feed grains	145	200	204	198	190	181	181
Feed grains and hay	168	207	194	193	190	183	183
ALL CROPS	137	180	204	198	200	205	210
Meat animals	307	166	253	262	291	247	270
Dairy products	225	190	204	205	202	234	234
Poultry and eggs	112	164	163	187	182	198	202
Wool	156	167	192	192	188	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	295	166	244	254	279	237	252
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	213	171	227	230	245	222	232

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 199			1967 = 100		
	Jan. 15, 1978	Dec. 15, 1978	Jan. 15, 1979	Jan. 15, 1978	Dec. 15, 1978	Jan. 15, 1979
Prices Received	466	555	580	186	222	232
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	711	770	793	209	226	233
Ratio 1/	66	72	73	89	98	100

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	RANK	DATE
Acres in strip cropping	1	1969 Census
Land in farms and ranches	2	1979
Income from cash receipts, excluding gov't payments		
Total	33	1977
Crops	34	1977
Livestock	28	1977
All cattle and calves	13	Jan. 1, 1979
All cows	10	Jan. 1, 1979
Milk cows	44	Jan. 1, 1979
Beef cows	7	Jan. 1, 1979
Cattle on feed	21	Jan. 1, 1979
Hogs and pigs	27	Dec. 1, 1978
Sheep and lambs	8	Jan. 1, 1979
Wool production (July prel.)	9	1978
All chickens	43	Dec. 1, 1978
Honey production	6	1978
All wheat	3	1978
Winter	4	1978
Durum wheat	2	1978
Spring wheat other than durum	3	1978
All hay	12	1978
Alfalfa hay	11	1978
Dry beans	12	1978
Barley	2	1978
Oats	13	1978
Potatoes--fall	18	1978
Sugarbeets	10	1978

MONTANA CHICKEN NUMBERS DOWN

The number of chickens on Montana farms December 1, 1978 totaled 930,000--down 8 percent from the 1,015,000 on farms a year earlier. The inventory included 740,000 hens and pullets of laying age and 186,000 pullets not of laying age. The inventory value of all Montana chickens December 1, 1978 dropped 13 percent to $1,721,000. The average value per head at $1.85 was 10 cents less than the previous year.

Nationally, the number of chickens on December 1, 1978 at 395 million was up 2 percent. The inventory value rose 6 percent to $691 million.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
Potato Stocks Slaughter Farm Labor

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79-2 Issued Twice Monthly January 29, 1979

This is the second issue of the "Reporter" covering statistics released during the last two weeks (since the first issue was published). In the near future, we expect receipt of equipment enabling us to publish the "Reporter" to an 8½ X 11" size. This will provide more room for material and charts, larger print, and match the size of most other publications. In condensing material for this release, formerly carried in separate commodity reports, we find it necessary to eliminate some data--mostly national figures and statistics for other States. Those interested in more detail, etc., can write---P. O. Box 4369, Helena, Montana or call 449-5303 for additional information. As expressed in the first issue, we are also anxious to hear from data users on suggestions for improvement, etc. Many will receive only those issues of the "Reporter" covering commodities you have requested--if you require all issues, let us know.

Daniel L. Herbert,
State Statistician

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Montana's farmers and ranchers current spring planting intentions plus winter wheat acreage planted in the fall of 1978 indicate a 1 percent increase in the acreage of the main crops for 1979. A January survey revealed intentions of 5 percent more hard spring wheat, 6 percent more corn, but 13 percent less durum, 12 percent less oats, 3 percent less barley, and 2 percent less sugarbeets than planted in 1978.

Acreages actually planted this year may vary from those indicated for such reasons as weather, economic conditions and participation in farm programs.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS--JAN. 1
MONTANA AND U. S.--1978-79

CROP	ACRES PLANTED			
	MONTANA		U. S.	
	1978	1979 *	1978	1979 *
	--------1,000 acres--------			
Corn	88	93	78,316	79,218
All spring wheat	2,200	2,260	18,298	18,702
Other spring	1,900	2,000	14,188	14,452
Durum	300	260	4,110	4,250
Oats	400	350	16,227	15,592
Barley	1,500	1,450	9,556	8,815
Sugarbeets	45.4	44.7	1,246	1,107

* Indicated.

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana dairy farmers produced 69 million pounds of milk during the October-December quarter. This was 3 percent less than the same quarter in 1977. Based on 27,000 dairy cows, this amounts to 2,540 pounds of milk per cow for the quarter. As of January 1, dairy farmers were feeding milk cows about 12 pounds of grain and other concentrates daily.

The U. S. October-December milk production totaled 29.0 million pounds--about the same as the previous year.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Area	Dec. Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
	-- Thousands --		- Million pounds -	
Calif.	842	843	2,954	2,914
Idaho	139	141	396	402
Minn.	850	800	2,026	1,920
MONT	27	27	71	69
N. Dak.	104	97	187	191
Oreg.	93	93	250	252
S. Dak.	170	169	371	367
Wash.	176	190	633	651
Wis.	1,809	1,811	4,808	4,871
Wyo.	11.5	11.1	28.6	29.2
U. S.	10,939	10,829	29,043	28,986

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

HONEY PRODUCTION ABOVE NORMAL

Montana's 1978 honey crop is 61 percent above last year's very poor crop. The 1978 production of 8.8 million pounds was exceeded only in 1969 and 1976 during the last 15 years. The number of colonies at 99,000 was only 3 percent above last year, but the yield per colony was 89 pounds in 1978 compared with last year's 57 pounds per colony. In 1978 Montana ranked 6th in the U. S. honey production. Stocks of honey on hand for sale in Montana by honey producers were 793,000 pounds on December 15, 1978--up considerably from 383,000 pounds last year on this same date.

The U. S. honey crop at 230 million pounds was up 29 percent from last year. The number of colonies at 4.1 million was down 6 percent, but the yield at 56.4 pounds was up 15.3 pounds from last year. Honey stocks on hand totaled 32 million pounds--6 percent above last year.

Number of Colonies and Honey Production
Selected States & U. S.--1977-1978

STATE	Colonies of bees		Honey Production	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
	1,000		1,000 pounds	
Calif.	525	504	13,650	31,248
Idaho	103	100	4,738	4,500
Iowa	82	86	6,068	4,558
MONT	96	99	5,472	8,811
N.Dak.	136	160	11,968	20,480
Oreg.	58	60	2,146	1,920
S.Dak.	165	171	9,570	20,520
Wash.	91	82	4,004	2,788
Wyo.	41	41	2,624	2,255
U. S.	4,346	4,084	178,499	230,309

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GOVERNMENT PROGRAM STOCKS DECEMBER 29, 1978
MONTANA 1/

PROGRAM	WHEAT		BARLEY	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
	(000 bushels)			
Reserve	---	40,863	---	1,304
Under loan	63,042	21,596	4,460	6,123

1/ These stocks are included in the respective January 1 farm and off-farm stocks.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Montana slaughter plants produced 22 percent less red meat during December 1978 than during the same month a year ago. The Calendar Year 1978 Montana red meat production at 145.9 million pounds is 13 percent less than the 1977 red meat production.

National slaughter data which determine meat supplies and affects prices shows: red meat production in December 1978 totaled 3.09 billion pounds--down 5 percent from December 1977. January-December red meat production at 38.1 billion pounds was 3 percent below last year...change by individual components: beef, down 4 percent; veal, down 24; pork, up 1; lamb and mutton, down 12 percent.

December 1978 Livestock Slaughter

ITEM	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
	Dec. 1977	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977	Dec. 1978
	1,000 head			
Number slaughtered				
Cattle	14.9	14.6	3470.1	3045.7
Calves	.1	--	449.7	300.2
Hogs	35.2	16.7	6527.7	6430.1
Sheep & lambs	.1	.1	455.4	411.1
Total liveweight	Thous. Lbs.		Million Lbs.	
Cattle	13,441	13,704	3553.9	3243.4
Calves	32	--	107.3	68.6
Hogs	8,235	3,876	1559.9	1589.0
Sheep & lambs	11	13	49.7	47.3
Red meat production	13,418	10,445	3241.1	3092.5

JANUARY GRAIN STOCKS

Wheat stored on Montana farms and in mills and elevators January 1, 1979 totaled 155.2 million bushels--4 percent above last year. Record-high disappearance since October 1 of 36.2 million bushels reduced the buildup of stocks. Farm storages held 131.4 million, nearly 4 percent above a year ago and commercial storages held 23.8 million--9 percent more than January 1, 1978. Winter wheat in all positions totaled 84.8 million bushels--4 percent below last year. Spring wheat excluding durum was 60.6 million bushels--15 percent above one year ago. Durum in storage amounted to 9.8 million bushels--up 30 percent. Barley stocks were up 19 percent at 49.8 million and oats stocks at 10.8 million were up 76 percent.

Nationally, all wheat in storage totaled 1.63 billion bushels--18 percent less than last year's 1.99 billion. U. S. barley stocks in all positions totaled 38.7 million bushels--17 percent above a year earlier and the highest January 1 stocks since 1972.

STOCKS OF GRAIN JANUARY 1, 1979 WITH COMPARISONS

GRAIN AND POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jan. 1, 1978 *	Oct. 1, 1978 *	Jan. 1, 1979	% Chg. from 1978	Jan. 1, 1978 *	Oct. 1, 1978 *	Jan. 1, 1979
	----Thousand bushels----			Pct.	-----Thousand bushels-----		
ALL WHEAT							
On farms	126,992	156,274	131,445	+ 4	831,294	1,032,852	815,477
Off farms 1/	21,858	29,293	23,800	+ 9	1,162,459	1,104,169	815,283
T O T A L	148,850	185,567	155,245	+ 4	1,993,753	2,137,021	1,630,730
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On farms	74,704	81,189	69,471	- 7	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	14,014	18,616	15,350	+10	---	---	---
T O T A L	88,718	99,805	84,821	- 4	---	---	---
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On farms	52,288	75,085	61,974	+19	---	---	---
Off farms 1/	7,844	10,677	8,450	+ 8	---	---	---
T O T A L	60,132	85,762	70,424	+17	---	---	---
DURUM 3/							
On farms	---	---	---	---	81,891	120,309	98,694
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	26,524	30,012	18,895
T O T A L	7,530	13,795	9,785	+30	108,415	150,321	117,589
RYE							
On farms	---	---	---	---	6,382	17,120	11,049
Off farms 1/	---	---	---	---	2,910	6,877	5,104
T O T A L	---	---	---	---	9,292	23,997	16,153
CORN							
On farms	486	22	270	-44	3,824,347	659,285	4,517,453
Off farms 1/	4/	4/	4/	---	1,678,678	444,708	1,679,757
T O T A L	4/	4/	4/	---	5,503,025	1,103,993	6,197,210
OATS							
On farms	5,824	11,881	10,608	+82	482,291	550,727	483,167
Off farms 1/	319	412	220	-31	82,707	115,008	79,726
T O T A L	6,143	12,293	10,828	+76	564,998	665,735	562,893
BARLEY							
On farms	37,580	52,993	45,100	+20	218,947	338,701	272,124
Off farms 1/	4,261	5,278	4,650	+ 9	110,266	129,611	114,448
T O T A L	41,841	58,271	49,750	+19	329,213	468,312	386,572

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee and the Montana Department of Agriculture. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICT 1/

	WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jan. 1, 1978*	Oct. 1, 1978*	Jan. 1, 1979	Jan. 1, 1978*	Oct. 1, 1978*	Jan. 1, 1979
	------- Million bushels -----			------ Million bushels ------		
DISTRICT						
Northwest	1.3	1.7	1.0	2.3	3.5	3.0
Northcentral	65.8	74.6	63.9	17.0	23.5	19.8
Northeast	47.0	69.0	55.2	7.8	9.5	8.2
Central	14.6	15.0	12.8	7.9	9.5	8.5
Southwest	2.4	3.1	2.6	2.2	4.3	3.3
Southcentral	10.3	9.5	8.1	2.7	5.4	4.8
Southeast	7.4	12.7	11.6	1.9	2.6	2.2
STATE	148.8	185.6	155.2	41.8	58.3	49.8

1/ These district estimates of wheat and barley stocks are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat Research & Marketing Committee and the Montana Department of Agriculture.
* Revised.

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Montana feedlots on January 1 totaled 80,000 head--1 percent less than last January but over 2½ times the number on feed October 1978. An estimated 19,000 head were marketed from feedlots from October 1 through December 31--a 19 percent increase from the same quarter in 1977. Placements in lots during the October-December period totaled 72,000 head--up 22 percent from last year. Montana feeders expect to market 35,000 head during the January-March period--19 percent less than the same period last year.

For the 23 major feeding States, cattle and calves on feed totaled 12.7 million head--1 percent less than in feedlots a year ago, but 12 percent above the October 1, 1978 number. Placements during the last three months at 8.7 million head are down 9 percent from a year ago. Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter the past quarter totaled 6.7 million--up 11 percent from last year.

CATTLE ON FEED JANUARY 1, 1978-79

ITEM	MONTANA		23 MAJOR STATES	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
	-----1,000 head---------			
On feed Oct. 1	30	--	11,347	---
Placed on feed 1/	72	--	8,656	---
Marketed 1/	19	--	6,730	---
Other disappearance 2/	3	--	608	---
On feed Jan. 1	81	80	12,811	12,665
Number on feed by Kind & Weight Jan. 1				
Steers & steer calves	40	38	8,343	8,501
Under 500 Lbs.	3	1	781	689
500-699 Lbs.	17	14	1,869	1,562
700-899 Lbs.	10	12	2,936	2,799
900-1099 Lbs.	9	11	2,344	2,846
1100 Lbs. & over	1	0	413	605
Heifer & heifer calves	38	41	4,410	4,085
Under 500 Lbs.	3	1	755	575
500-699 Lbs.	17	20	1,522	1,335
700-899 Lbs.	10	15	1,543	1,483
900 Lbs. & over	8	5	590	692
Cows and other	3	1	58	79
Total marketings 3/ January-March	43	35	6,771	6,827

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter. 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. 3/ Total marketings (1978) including those placed on feed after Jan. 1 and marketed before March 31. Expected total marketings (1979) including an allowance for those placed on feed after Jan. 1 and marketed before March 31.

COMING UP IN NEXT REPORTER
Jan. 1 Cattle Inventory Jan. 1 Sheep Inventory Agricultural Prices

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79-1 | Issued Twice Monthly | January 16, 1979

"NEW BI-MONTHLY REPORT FOR 1979"

This is the first issue of the new 'Montana Crop and Livestock Reporter", in which we plan on consolidating statistical material previously published in individual commodity reports. It will be issued twice each month and should provide a comprehensive compilation of various agricultural statistics. Combining reports should benefit both the government and the taxpayer, as savings can be realized in printing, paper and especially postage. The consolidated report will contain both narrative and tables pertaining to crop, livestock, and price information released the previous two weeks for Montana and the United States--similar to individual reports in the past. However, space may be short in some issues and detail may be limited for some commodities but this can be provided upon request.

Press releases will be sent to the news media for indivudal reports as they are released, so producers and the public can continue receiving the information in a timely manner.

As with any new venture, we may make a few slipups. However, we do want to continue presenting the information in a way most useful to you. As we go along, if you have suggestions for improving our report, please give us the benefit of your ideas.

HAY STOCKS

January 1 Hay Stocks on Montana farms and ranches totaled 3,981,000 tons--8 percent more than on the same date last year. Ample supplies of hay are available but heavy feeding caused by below-normal temperatures could influence late winter supplies.

The United States Hay Stocks on farms January 1 totaled 98.1 million tons--7 percent above a year earlier.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

MONTANA

The Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers was up 2 points (1 percent) on December 15 compared with the previous month. The December 1978 index at 229 (1967=100) compares with 164 in December 1977. The monthly increase in the index was mostly due to increases in meat animal prices. The December All Crops Index at 197 was down 7 points (3 percent) from the November index. Price declines occurred for winter wheat, durum, barley, and oats. Prices went up for hay. Spring wheat remained the same. The December Livestock and Products Index at 254 was up 10 points (4 percent from November. Prices increased for beef, cattle, calves, lambs, hogs, and eggs. Prices went down for sheep and milk. Wool remained steady.

UNITED STATES

The December Index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers increased 6 point (3 percent) to 221 percent of its January-December 1967 average. Contributing most to the increase since November were higher prices for cattle, hogs, eggs, calves, corn, and soybeans. Lower prices for wheat, citrus and barley were partially offsetting. The index was 40 points (22 percent) above a year ago.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates for December 15 was 226--up 2 points (1 percent) from mid-November. Higher prices for feeder livestock, feed and family living items were the major contributors to the index rise. The index was 23 points (11 percent) higher than a year earlier.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PAID FOR FEED--DECEMBER 15, 1978

		MONTANA			UNITED STATES	
		Dec. 15, 1977	Nov. 15, 1978 1/	Dec. 15, 1978	Dec. 15, 1978	December 15th Parity Price
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS						
Winter wheat	Bu.	2.33	2.87	2.74	3.06	2/
Durum	Bu.	2.66	2.98	2.92	2/	2/
Spring wheat other than durum	Bu.	2.53	2.89	2.89	2.82	2/
Wheat, all	Bu.	2.41	2.88	2.80	2.99	5.45
Barley	Bu.	1.65	1.75	1.60	1.83	3.36
Oats	Bu.	1.23	1.20	1.16	1.19	1.97
Alfalfa hay	Ton	55.00	40.00	44.00	49.50	2/
All other hay	Ton	51.50	37.00	39.50	42.60	2/
All hay, baled	Ton	53.50	39.00	42.50	47.30	2/
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	37.50	60.00	65.30	57.90	2/
Cows	Cwt.	23.50	40.80	43.00	41.60	2/
Beef cattle 3/	Cwt.	30.90	53.50	54.60	54.10	64.40
Calves	Cwt.	41.00	73.20	79.10	71.90	74.50
Sheep	Cwt.	12.50	18.80	18.70	25.50	19.90
Lambs	Cwt.	57.50	69.60	73.90	65.10	71.80
Hogs	Cwt.	37.80	46.90	48.80	48.00	63.20
All milk, wholesale	Cwt.	10.40	11.00	10.90	11.80	14.60
Eggs	Doz.	.596	.537	.643	.616	.909
Wool 4/	Lb.	.730	.810	.810	.768	1.52
PRICES PAID BY FARMERS						
Mixed dairy feed 14%		170.00	120.00	140.00	136.00	

1/ Revised. 2/ Not available. 3/ Composite average of steers, heifers, cows, and slaughter bulls. 4/ Average local market price excluding incentive payments.

INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS DECEMBER 15, 1978

COMMODITY GROUP	MONTANA					UNITED STATES	
	1947-49=100	1967 = 100				1967 = 100	
	1978	1977	1978			1978	
	Dec. 15	Dec. 15	Oct. 15	Nov. 15 2/	Dec. 15	November 15 2/	December 15
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS							
Food grains	134	172	201	206	200	198	196
Feed grains	143	193	204	204	187	175	179
Feed grains and hay	153	199	194	194	184	178	181
ALL CROPS	135	179	200	204	197	200	203
Meat animals	277	155	267	253	262	236	247
Dairy products	225	193	207	204	202	230	234
Poultry and eggs	115	174	160	163	187	189	198
Wool	159	161	186	192	192	3/	3/
ALL LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS	268	156	258	244	254	228	237
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	199	164	233	227	229	215	221

1/ Not adjusted for seasonal variation. 2/ Revised for some items. 3/ Not available.

UNITED STATES SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX	1910-14 = 100			1967 = 100		
	Dec. 15, 1977	Nov. 15, 1978	Dec. 15, 1978	Dec. 15, 1977	Nov. 15, 1978	Dec. 15, 1978
Prices Received	452	537	552	181	215	221
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes & Farm Wage Rates	690	765	770	203	224	226
Ratio 1/	66	70	89	89	96	98

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FARM AND RANCH NUMBERS

Montana farm numbers continue to decline with the 1978 count at 23,000--down 300 from a year ago. Land in Montana farms at 62.3 million acres was the same as the previous year.

Starting in 1978, a new series of farm numbers is being initiated based on a new farm definition. The "New Definition" of a farm includes places which had annual sales of agricultural products of $1,000 or more. This definition is also being used by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, for 1978 Census of Agriculture.

Under the "New Definition", Montana had 22,000 farms in 1978, with a preliminary estimate of 21,700 for 1979. Total land in farms for 1978 was 62.1 million acres and a preliminary estimate of 62.0 million acres for 1979.

The United States farm numbers dropped 34,000 to 2.67 million in 1978. Land in farms at 1,072 million acres decreased 3 million acres from the previous year.

Under the "New Definition" there were 2.37 million farms in the U. S. in 1978, with a 1979 preliminary estimate of 2.33 million. Total land in farms for 1978 was 1,052 million acres and the preliminary estimate for 1979 is 1,049 million acres. The change in farm definition reduced the number of farms by 11 percent for 1978. Land in farms estimates were reduced 2 percent under the new definition.

HOG NUMBERS UP

On December 1, 1978 Montana pork producers had 5 percent more hogs and pigs on hand than a year earlier. An estimated 222,000 head were on Montana farms this December 1. Market hogs at 193,000 were up 7 percent but breeding hogs at 29,000 were down 3 percent from last year.

The fall pig crop farrowed during June-November at 158,000 was up 10 percent and the spring pig crop (Dec.-May) at 173,000 was up 21 percent.

Nationally, the December 1 hog inventory at 59.9 million hogs and pigs is 6 percent above last year--9 percent more than December 1, 1976 and the largest December 1 inventory since 1974. Breeding stock was up 11 percent and market hogs were up 5 percent from last year. The spring pig crop (Dec.-May) was down 1 percent but the fall pig crop (June-November) was up 6 percent from last year.

Hog producers in the U.S. intend to farrow 6.9 million hogs during December 1978-June 1979, an increase of 15 percent from last year.

MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Montana butter production during November totaled 172,000 pounds--4 percent less than November 1977. The U. S. November butter production at 66.7 million pounds was 18 percent less than last year. Ice cream plants in Montana produced 108,000 gallons during November--4 percent less than last year. The U. S. ice cream production was 58.2 million gallons--3 percent more than November 1977.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS--1977-1979

STATE	OLD DEFINITION 1/				NEW DEFINITION 2/					
	FARMS		LAND IN FARMS		FARMS			LAND IN FARMS		
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1979 3/	1977	1978	1979 3/
	Number		1,000 Acres		Number			1,000 Acres		
COLO	29,000	28,600	39,000	38,700	27,300	26,900	26,500	38,600	38,300	38,000
IDAHO	27,000	26,900	15,600	15,600	23,600	23,400	23,300	15,400	15,400	15,400
MONT	23,300	23,000	62,300	62,300	22,300	22,000	21,700	62,100	62,100	62,000
NEV	2,100	2,100	9,000	9,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,990	8,990	8,990
N DAK	41,500	41,500	41,700	41,700	41,000	41,000	41,000	41,690	41,690	41,690
OREG	34,000	34,000	19,300	19,200	30,000	30,000	30,000	18,750	18,700	18,650
S DAK	43,500	43,000	45,500	45,500	42,500	42,000	41,500	45,450	45,450	45,450
UTAH	13,400	13,400	12,900	12,900	12,400	12,300	12,200	12,850	12,850	12,800
WASH	36,500	36,500	16,200	16,200	32,500	33,500	33,000	16,000	16,100	16,100
WYO	8,100	8,000	35,300	35,300	7,500	7,300	7,200	35,100	35,100	35,100
U S	2706,450	2671,970	1075,003	1072,053	2409,130	2370,050	2330,070	1054,798	1052,018	1048,768

1/ Places of 10 or more acres that had annual sales of agricultural products of $50 or more and places of less than 10 acres that had annual sales of $250 or more. 2/ Places with annual sales of agricultural products of $1,000 or more. 3/ Preliminary

POTATO STOCKS UP

Montana potato growers and local dealers had 1.87 million cwt. of potatoes in storage as of January 1, 1979. This is 3 percent above last year. Disappearance since harvest (including sales, shrink, home consumption, etc.), amounted to 218,000 cwt.

Nationally, an estimated 190 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall-producing areas on January 1, 1979. This was 7 percent above a year earlier and 9 percent more than 1977.

Disappearance of the 1978 fall crop to January 1, 1979 was 123 million cwt. (excluding Nevada)--a decrease of 1 percent from last year. The total disappearance of 19.6 million cwt. includes potatoes that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and loss due to shrinkage (moisture loss).

Potatoes, Production, and Total Stocks of Fall Potatoes Held by Growers, Processors, and Local Dealers

STATE	Jan. 1 Stocks 1977	Jan. 1 Stocks 1978	Production 1978
	1,000 cwt.		
COLO	5,650	5,550	9,750
IDAHO	61,000	67,500	96,980
MAINE	20,200	17,500	26,180
MINN	8,600	10,700	14,910
MONT	1,820	1,870	2,088
N DAK	13,800	14,700	22,400
OREG	14,100	15,400	28,488
WASH	24,700	28,800	50,685
WIS	8,300	7,700	17,325
23 STATE TOTAL 1/	178,205	190,480	313,262

1/ Excluding Nevada for which no stocks estimates are made. Nev. 1978 production 5,440,000 cwt.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Egg Production
December 1 Potato Stocks
Final Acreage and Grain Stocks for 1993-1997
December 1 Hog & Pig Inventory

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.03 million head on December 1, 1998. The inventory was 4 percent below December 1, 1997 but 4 percent above December 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.05 million, 7 percent below 1997 and 13 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.97 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 740,000, 600-699 pounds were 557,000, 700-799 pounds were 437,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 317,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.70 million, 2 percent above 1997 and slightly above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 78,000 during November, 8 percent below 1997 and 16 percent below 1996.

Montana Red Meat Production Down, United States Up

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight of red meat during November, up 18 percent from November 1997, but down 10 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,128 pounds, was up 21 pounds from last year ago. The average live weight, at 227 pounds, was up 1 pound from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds from last year to 122 pounds.

During November, there were 2,200 hogs slaughtered, 700 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 227 pounds, was up 1 pound from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds from last year to 122 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.73 billion pounds in November, up 8 percent from the 3.45 billion pounds produced in November 1997. January - November red meat production was 41.2 billion pounds, 4 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year, veal was down 23 percent, pork was up 10 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 4 percent.

U.S. beef production, at 2.00 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, up 1 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,211 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19.0 million pounds, 19 percent below a year ago and 17 percent below the previous record low for November set in 1992. Calf slaughter totaled 112 thousand head, down 10 percent from November 1997. The average live weight was 28 pounds below last year, at 285 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.68 billion pounds, up 14 percent from the previous year and 3 percent above the previous record high for November set in 1994. This marked the fifth successive month and the eighth month overall in 1998 for record high pork production. Hog kill totaled 8.81 million head, 14 percent above 1997. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 261 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.0 million pounds, was down 5 percent from the previous record low for November set in 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 298 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, down 4 pounds from November a year ago.

November Milk Production Up 3 Percent in 20 Major States

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 10.9 billion pounds, up 3.0 percent from production in these same States in November 1997. October revised production, at 11.2 billion pounds was up 1.7 percent from October 1997.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,408 pounds for November, 39 pounds above November 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 9,000 head more than November 1997 and unchanged from October 1998.

U.S. November Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.71 billion during November 1998, up 2 percent from the 6.57 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.69 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 965 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1998 averaged 318 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during November 1997. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,109 eggs, down one percent from 2,122 eggs in November 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1998, totaled 320 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 320 million layers consisted of 263 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1998, averaged 70.7 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 71.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.34 billion eggs during November, up 2 percent from November 1997. The average number of layers during November, at 301 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

PLEASE RETURN

Montana Potato Production and December 1 Stocks Down 4 Percent

Montana potato growers produced 3,180,000 cwt of potatoes in 1998, 4 percent less than last year. The 1998 acreage was up 200 acres from last year, but the average yield was 20 cwt less. There were 10,600 acres harvested with an average yield of 300 cwt per acre compared with 10,400 acres and an average yield of 320 cwt in 1997.

Producers held 3,050,000 cwt in storage on December 1, 4 percent less than stocks on hand a year earlier. December 1 stocks represented 96 percent of the 1998 production, the same as a year earlier.

The 15 major potato States held 281 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1998, up 1 percent from last year but 5 percent below 1996. Storage accounted for 66 percent of 1998 fall production, two percentage points below last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 11 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody), and 82 percent russet; more russets and fewer long whites are in storage than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1 was 144 million cwt of potatoes, up 7 percent from the same period last year but 2 percent less than the record in 1996. Shrink and loss so far this year was increased almost 10 percent from 1997 to 17.1 million cwt, up from the 15.6 million cwt lost a year ago but 6 percent below the 18.1 million cwt lost in 1996.

Processing of 1998 potatoes totaled 74.0 million cwt used so far this season. This is up 8 percent from a year ago but 5 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 195 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, slightly above a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago. California and Washington had more potatoes on hand than a year ago but the other Western States had less. Washington's stocks were up 4 percent and California gained 11 percent. Idaho had 1 percent fewer stocks, Oregon was down 2 percent. Colorado was down 3 percent and Montana dropped 4 percent.

Total U.S. production of fall potatoes for 1998 is forecast at 434 million cwt, up 3 percent from last year but 4 percent below 1996. Area harvested, at 1.22 million acres, is up 4 percent from last year but 2 percent below 1996. The average yield is forecast at 356 cwt per acre, down 3 cwt from last year and 8 cwt below two years ago. Planting started on time this year and most States had good early weather. A hotter than normal summer in Western States caused rougher and smaller potatoes and lower yields. Harvest in the West was delayed as long as possible to gain more size. Central and Eastern States had good size and yields. Compared with last month, an increase in production was indicated in Idaho, Washington, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Total potato production from all four seasons is estimated at 476 million cwt in 1998, up 2 percent from last year but 4 percent below the record large crop of 1996.

The ten Western States produced 297.2 million cwt in 1998, up 1 percent from last year but 5 percent below two years ago. Acreage harvested, at 748,500 acres, increased 4 percent, while the average yield of 397 cwt per acre was down 14 cwt from a year ago. Summer heat led to smaller sizes, lower solids, and rougher potatoes in the Western States. Higher acreage gave Washington a 6 percent larger crop even though yields were down. Good yields in Colorado increased production by 1 percent and Wyoming by more than 7 percent. Production is down in all other Western States primarily because of lower yields. Production in Idaho slid less than 1 percent from last year, Oregon is off 3 percent, and California dropped 12 percent. New Mexico and Utah production fell 15 and 20 percent respectively. Nevada's production dropped 8 percent and Montana lost 4 percent from last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on December 1, 1997-98 1/

STATE	CROP OF 1997			CROP OF 1998		
	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1997	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1998	% of PROD
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
CA	4,200	2,700	64	3,708	3,000	81
CO	24,993	19,400	78	25,360	18,800	74
ID	140,314	102,000	73	139,650	101,000	72
ME	19,170	15,600	81	18,060	14,100	78
MI	14,250	8,500	60	14,725	8,800	60
MN	20,440	13,500	66	21,170	13,500	64
MT	**3,328**	**3,180**	**96**	**3,180**	**3,050**	**96**
NE	7,527	5,300	70	8,393	5,000	60
NY	7,700	3,600	47	7,290	3,800	52
ND	21,525	16,000	74	28,670	20,500	72
OH	1,175	350	30	1,200	270	23
OR	27,161	20,500	75	26,229	20,000	76
PA	3,190	2,000	63	3,360	1,400	42
WA	88,160	47,000	53	93,225	49,000	53
WI	29,643	19,000	64	30,895	18,800	61
15 States	412,776	278,630	68	425,115	281,020	66

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1999 crop. 1998 crop seed usage totaled 29.6 million cwt.

Final Acreage and Grain Stocks Estimates for 1993-1997

The acreage and grain stocks estimates were reviewed by the National Agricultural Statistics Service for the1993 through 1997 crop years. Revisions were made after a thorough review of the original survey data and all additional available data including the 1997 Census of Agriculture. The Agricultural Statistics Board evaluated the current acreage with historic totals to ensure comparability with past Census relationships. The estimates are considered final and will not be revised again.

Montana's 1996 barley planted and harvested acreage was reduced 50,000 acres to 1,250,000 acres and 1,150,000 acres, respectively. The yield remained unchanged at 43 bushels per acre and total production was revised to 49.45 million bushels. The 1997 barley planted and harvested acreage was also reduced 50,000 acres to 1,250,000 and 1,150,000, respectively. The yield remained unchanged at 53 bushels per acre and total production was revised to 60.95 million bushels. The 1996 and 1997 winter wheat yields were lowered by one bushel. The average yield for 1996 was revised to 31 bushels and total production was revised to 61.38 million bushels. The 1997 winter wheat average yield was revised to 38 bushels and production to 55.1 million bushels. The 1997 spring wheat planted and harvested acreage was reduced 100,000 acres to 4,250,000 acres and 4,100,000 acres, respectively. The yield remained unchanged at 29 bushels per acre and total production was revised to 118.9 million bushels. The 1997 durum wheat planted and harvested acreage was increased 10,000 acres to 300,000 acres and 290,000 acres, respectively. The yield remained unchanged at 26 bushels per acre and total production was revised to 7.54 million bushels.

Grain stock revisions for Montana were made only for barley. The September 1996 on farm barley stocks were reduced by 2 million to 40 million bushels. The December 1996 on farm barley stocks were also reduced by 2 million to 26 million bushels. This reduced both the September and December 1996 U.S. stocks by the same amount. No other revisions to Montana grain stocks were made.

For the U.S. all wheat production estimates for 1997 were revised down 1.8 percent and the 1996 production was revised down 0.3 percent. Changes in harvested acres and yields were made to both large and small states. The 1995 production was revised up slightly.

The U.S. barley acreage for 1996 was revised down 0.8 percent, and total production of 392.4 million bushels. The 1997 U.S. barley acreage estimates were revised down 3.9 percent, and a total production of 359.9 million bushels.

The June 1, 1998 U.S. on farm barley stocks were reduced by 1 million bushels to 43.7 million and the total U.S. stocks were reduced by 1 million bushels to119.233 million. The June 1,1998 all wheat stocks remained unchanged.

At the National level, all revisions to estimates of major crops (corn, soybeans, and all wheat) were less than 2 percent. Revisions were made in the 1993 through 1997 corn estimates. The 1997 production was revised down 1.7 percent with most of the decrease being attributed to the medium and smaller producing States. The 1996 and 1994 production estimates were revised down 0.7 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. The 1995 production was revised up 0.4 percent. As was the case with 1997, most of the revisions were made in the smaller producing states. The 1993 production was revised up fractionally.

Montana Hog Inventory Up 6 Percent, U.S. Hog Inventory Up 2 Percent

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 1998 was 190,000 head, a 6 percent increase from a year ago. Breeding stock was down 5 percent from December 1997 to 19,000 head. Market hog numbers increased to 171,000 head, up 7 percent from a year ago.

From December 1997 to December 1998, 38,500 sows farrowed in Montana. This was an increase of 7 percent from a year ago. The number of pigs saved per litter increased by 1 percent to 8.94 and resulted in a pig crop of 344,000 head, an 8 percent increase over last year. There were 650 farms with one or more hogs in Montana in 1998, unchanged from last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1998, was 62.2 million head. This was 2 percent above December 1997, but 2 percent below September 1, 1998. Breeding inventory, at 6.67 million head, was down 4 percent from December 1, 1997 and down 3 percent from September 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 55.5 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 1998 U.S. pig crop, at 25.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 1997 and 11 percent more than 1996. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter fell to an average of 8.65 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.67 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.20 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.89 million sows farrow during the December 1998-February 1999 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998, but 8 percent above 1997. Intended farrowings for March-May 1999, at 2.88 million sows, are 7 percent below the same period last year and 1 percent below 1997.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 114,380 during 1998, down 6 percent from last year and 20 percent below 1996. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 6 percent of the operations and 64 percent of the inventory. This is the third time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 1,915, accounted for 42 percent of the total inventory. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 23 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

See table on back page.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 1996-98

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1996	1997	1998	'98/'97	1996	1997	1998	'98/'97
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	150	180	190	106	56,124	61,158	62,156	102
Breeding Hogs	16	20	19	95	6,578	6,957	6,672	96
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	47	58	68	117	18,503	20,237	20,000	99
60-119 lbs.	35	43	43	100	12,193	13,319	13,641	102
120-170 lbs.	30	33	33	100	10,209	11,188	11,640	104
180 lbs. & over	22	26	27	104	8,641	9,457	10,203	108
Total	134	160	171	107	49,546	54,200	55,483	102
Sows Farrowed								
Dec. 1/Nov.	37	36	38.5	107	11,114	11,479	12,058	105
Pig Crop								
Dec. 1/Nov.	323	320	344	108	94,459	99,584	104,980	105
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec. 1/Nov.	8.73	8.89	8.94	101	8.50	8.68	8.71	100
Operations with Hogs	750	650	650	100	156,250	122,160	114,380	94

1/ Previous year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Grain Stocks
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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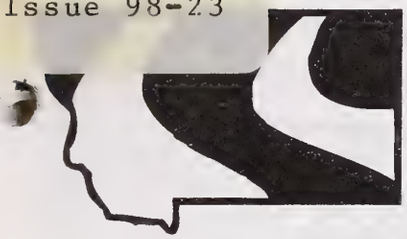

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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"Season Greetings"

From all of us at Montana Agricultural Statistics Service! As 1998 comes to a close we should take a minute to look back on what has happened this year. Dry conditions and low prices during the fall of 1997 led winter wheat producers to plant the smallest winter wheat crop since 1941. Only 1.4 million acres of winter wheat were planted and 1.25 million acres were harvested.

In response to low prices, Montana producers seeded the smallest spring wheat acreage since 1994. Precipitation came at just the right time for spring wheat yields to average 30 bushels per acre. Montana farmers produced the third largest spring wheat crop on record behind 1995 and 1997 productions.

Montana durum wheat growers planted 450,000 acres and harvested 430,000 acres, both significantly higher than last year and the largest planted acreage since 1981. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, 2 bushels more than last year. Total production was estimated at 12.04 million bushels, up nearly 65 percent from last year and the largest durum production since 1956.

The winter of 1997-1998 was very open for livestock producers. Temperatures were above normal and ranchers had excellent conditions for calving. Losses were minimal because of the warm, open winter.

As we look to 1999, Montana Agricultural Statistics Service will release the 1997 Census of Agriculture on February 1, 1999. The Census data is compiled every five years and is vital to Montana's agricultural industry. Census data will be used for many purposes such as developing agricultural policy, funding for agriculture, agricultural research, rural development planning and industry analysis for locating processing and manufacturing plants. Even those people working to implement the Governor's Vision 2005 Task Force for Agriculture will use Census data to help increase the value of Montana's agriculture.

To everyone involved in Montana's agriculture, thanks for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of Montana's Number One Industry--Agriculture. We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season. We hope 1999 will be a great year for Montana agriculture!

PLEASE RETURN

ERS Economist Says Beef Production Declining Cyclically

According to an economicst at Economic Research service, large female slaughter continues to point toward lower cattle inventories over the next couple of years. Although feedlot placements have been below year-earlier levels since midyear, on feed inventories remain well above average and fed cattle marketings will continue large through mid-winter with weights remaining seasonally heavy. However, the prospects of reduced beef production over the next 2 to 3 years and the recent concessional beef sales to Russia will help support prices during the transition to lower supplies. Profitability will return to the industry in 1999, but record pork and poultry supplies will hold down price gains.

Female Slaughter Remains Cyclically Large

Drought has affected female retention over the past couple of years, with large numbers of heifers again placed on feed this past spring and summer. Thus even as cattle inventories declined beef supplies increased. Beef cow and heifer slaughter remain large, reflecting continued poor forage prospects in most of the southern States. Although moisture conditions are much improved, pasture and hay prospects remain poor for the 1998/99 winter supplemental feeding period.

Total hay production in 1998 is essentially unchanged from a year earlier. Alfalfa hay production is expected to rise 4 percent from last year, but all other hays are forecast down 5 percent. Hay prices remain relatively high with reduced supplies available for sale in most areas as producers hold stocks to get their own cattle through the winter feeding season. Many producers simply cannot afford to risk buying expensive hay this winter if harsh winter conditions force heavier supplemental feeding.

Beef cow slaughter remains cyclically large. Third-quarter cow slaughter was nearly 1 percent above a year earlier, but down 16 percent from the large summer-quarter 1997 slaughter, and the second largest since 1987. Third-quarter heifer slaughter, while down 2 percent from 1997, was the second largest summer slaughter since 1988. Initial signs of herd expansion-- sharply reduced beef cow slaughter and increased heifer retention--are not going to begin until forage supplies are much improved and cattlemen are much more confident in future price directions. Forage improvement and higher returns are not likely to come together before next spring and summer.

Feeder Cattle Supplies Down

The supply of feeder cattle outside feedlots on October 1 was down 1 percent from a year earlier, but will tighten sharply over the next couple of years as calf crops decline and fewer heifers are available for feeding. Another disappointing wheat grazing year and poor forage supplies in general will cause feedlot placements to decline only 5 to 7 percent from a year earlier this fall and winter before dropping nearly 15 percent next spring and summer as the new grazing season begins.

Cyclical Production Declines Begin in 1999

Beef output in 1998 will be near record large, largely the result of dry conditions in much of the southern half of the country. This will be the largest production since 1976, when massive herd liquidation was beginning from the record 1975 cattle inventory of 132 million head. A slow pace of fed cattle marketings in second-half 1998 has resulted in larger numbers of heavy weight fed cattle being carried into 1999. This backlog of cattle will largely be cleaned up by mid-winter, beginning a fairly sharp dropoff in beef production over the next couple of years. Beef production is expected to be down about 5 percent from a year earlier in first-quarter 1999 and decline 7 to 8 percent during the remainder of the year. Beef production for all of 1999 is expected to decline 6 to 7 percent.

U.S. LIVESTOCK & MEAT IMPORTS & EXPORTS

	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1998	Jan-Sept 1997	Jan-Sept. 1998
Beef & Veal Imports	**Carcass wt.,thousand lb.**			
Australia	88,208	88,072	508,178	632,208
New Zealand	35,610	2,354	496,997	520,262
Canada	70,564	68,603	512,168	603,122
Brazil	14,685	11,771	72,362	99,072
Argentina	7,798	9,236	101,873	78,513
Central America	3,983	3,818	70,917	38,006
Other	3,976	3,563	65,106	41,013
Total	224,824	208,606	1,827,600	2,012,195
Beef & Veal Exports				
Japan	96,221	87,079	784,385	857,505
Canada	21,349	21,827	213,433	190,618
Mexico	40,662	38,086	214,479	298,478
Korea, Rep.	11,447	15,937	198,196	88,000
Caribbean	1,103	1,444	9,081	14,955
Other	14,531	11,942	148,183	150,109
Total	185,312	176,315	1,567,757	1,599,665
Cattle Imports		**Head**		
Mexico	3,655	10,359	364,251	385,679
Canada	129,789	135,189	1,054,258	1,029,252
Over 700 lbs.	120,482	125,023	925,703	925,719
500-700 lbs.	1,398	2,295	83,222	41,253
Total	133,444	145,548	1,418,527	1,415,016
Cattle Exports				
Mexico	15,250	12,671	170,761	129,501
Canada	3,326	3,206	27,494	51,436
Total	18,828	16,167	202,465	186,428

U.S. LIVESTOCK & MEAT IMPORTS & EXPORTS

	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1998	Jan-Sept. 1997	Jan-Sept 1998
Lamb Imports	**Carcass wt., thousand lb.**			
Australia	1,518	1,847	24,450	25,688
New Zealand	429	445	20,955	22,660
Total	1,953	2,387	46,099	48,732
Mutton Imports	1,256	1,527	17,730	27,088
Pork Imports				
Canada	43,683	44,041	317,042	337,333
Denmark	12,062	11,986	95,275	97,203
Poland	1,442	1,728	9,901	13,708
Hungary	1,405	916	6,782	7,613
Netherlands	405	422	5,663	6,707
Other	2,097	3,121	29,812	27,626
Total	61,093	62,213	464,475	490,190
Pork Exports				
Japan	41,144	37,560	340,908	370,658
Canada	8,217	10,791	89,792	99,952
Mexico	10,937	10,677	59,417	99,411
Caribbean	2,503	2,567	8,211	14,261
Other	35,351	27,402	241,495	348,377
Total	98,152	88,998	739,822	932,659
Hog Imports		**Head**		
Canada	342,422	339,352	2,247,107	3,108,539
Under 110 lb	134,383	138,287	740,694	1,046,716
Total	342,422	339,611	2,248,275	3,109,032
Hog Exports				
Total	18,697	16,736	35,906	110,264

SOURCE for the above information: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 18, 1998.

Agricultural Prices Received for October

The Montana winter wheat average price increased 48 cents from September 1998 to $3.03 per bushel, durum wheat increased 33 cents to $4.02 per bushel, and spring wheat increased 53 cents to $3.50 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-November averaged $3.40 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-November was $2.16. October feed barley was up 5 cents per bushel to $1.31, but malt barley declined 22 cents to $2.64 per bushel. The price for alfalfa hay in mid-November, was $74.00 per ton, unchanged from last month. The mid-November other hay price of $64.00 increased $2.00 from October.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were mostly lower. Steer and heifer prices increased $4.60 to $69.30 per cwt. Cows were down $1.50 to $31.40 and the average price for calves decreased $1.00 to $75.80 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased 60 cents to $24.80 per cwt and lambs decreased $2.00 to $67.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased 40 cents from last month to $16.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November averaged $71.80 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for mid-November, at $2.97 per bushel, was up 18 cents from the October entire month price. The mid-November all barley price was $2.01 per bushel, up 15 cents from October. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November were up 40 cents from October at $61.80 per cwt. Cow prices were $29.90 and all hog prices were $19.20 per cwt. Market egg prices were 61.0 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 100 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from October. Price decreases from October for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and peanuts more than offset price increases for soybeans, milk, eggs, and wheat. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of cotton, milk, cattle, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflowers. These marketing changes more than offset a decrease in prices and accounted for the one point increase in the overall index.

Compared with November 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (6.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from November 1997 for hogs, corn, soybeans, and lettuce more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, oranges, and tomatoes.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1998
Prices Received	107	107	99	100
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	114	114
Ratio 2/	91	91	87	88

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

Base Month: October 1998 Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct. 1997	Sept. 1998	Oct. 1998	Oct. 1998	Sept. 1998	Oct. 1997	Nov. 15, 1998	Nov. 15, 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.58	2.55	3.03	2.66	+0.48	-0.55	3.00	2.78
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5.62	3.69	4.02	3.16	+0.33	-1.60	4.00	3.14
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.58	2.97	3.50	3.12	+0.53	-0.08	3.50	3.26
All Wheat	Bu.	3.73	2.91	3.40	2.79	+0.49	-0.33	3.40	2.97
Barley, All	Bu.	2.76	2.23	2.00	1.86	-0.23	-0.76	2.16	2.01
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.13	1.26	1.31	1.46	+0.05	-0.82	1.35	1.45
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.07	2.86	2.64	2.42	-0.22	-0.43	2.70	2.44
Oats	Bu.	1.22	1.40	1.23	1.10	-0.17	+0.01	1.30	1.12
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	85.00	74.00	74.00	88.10	0.00	-11.00	74.00	85.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	65.00	62.00	72.50	-3.00	-9.00	64.00	69.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	84.00	73.00	73.00	85.20	0.00	-11.00	73.00	81.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	80.50	64.70	69.30	61.40	+4.60	-11.20	71.80	61.80
Cows	Cwt	33.40	32.90	31.40	30.50	-1.50	-2.00	30.40	29.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	68.70	59.90	61.30	58.00	+1.40	-7.40	61.50	57.90
Calves	Cwt	87.70	76.80	75.80	75.70	-1.00	-11.90	75.80	77.60
Sheep 2/	Cwt	34.10	25.40	24.80	26.60	-0.60	-9.30	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	96.80	69.00	67.00	67.30	-2.00	-29.80	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.80	16.30	16.70	17.60	+0.40	+2.90	17.50	17.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. MEATS SUPPLY AND USE, 1997 AND PROJECTED 1998 AND 1999

Item	Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption	
							Total	Per capita
BEEF			Million pounds 3/					
1997	377	25,490	2,343	28,210	2,136	465	25,609	66.9
1998 Proj. Oct:	465	25,719	2,536	28,720	2,110	400	26,210	67.9
Nov:	465	25,695	2,626	28,786	2,135	400	26,251	68.0
1999 Proj. Oct:	400	24,031	2,760	27,191	2,135	350	24,706	63.4
Nov:	400	24,031	2,790	27,221	2,315	350	24,556	63.0
PORK:								
1997	366	17,274	633	18,273	1,044	408	16,821	48.7
1998 Proj. Oct:	408	18,772	660	19,840	1,245	475	18,120	52.0
Nov:	408	18,874	660	19,942	1,260	475	18,207	52.3
1999 Proj. Oct:	475	19,455	700	20,630	1,260	490	18,880	53.7
Nov:	475	19,455	700	20,630	1,340	490	18,800	53.5
BROILERS								
1997	641	27,041	5	27,687	4,664	607	22,416	72.7
1998 Proj. Oct:	607	27,522	5	28,133	4,683	600	22,850	73.5
Nov:	607	27,531	5	28,142	4,683	625	22,834	73.4
1999 Proj. Oct:	600	28,943	4	29,547	4,525	650	24,372	77.7
Nov:	625	28,943	4	29,572	4,525	650	24,397	77.7
TURKEYS:								
1997	328	5,412	1	5,741	598	415	4,727	17.6
1998 Proj. Oct:	415	5,222	1	5,638	421	350	4,866	18.0
Nov:	415	5,173	1	5,589	421	300	4,867	18.0
1999 Proj. Oct:	350	5,235	1	5,586	430	300	4,855	17.8
Nov:	300	5,186	1	5,487	430	275	4,781	17.5

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis. 3/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry. Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, November 10, 1998.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Egg Production
Potato Stocks	Slaughter
Cattle on Feed	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Hogs & Pigs County Estimates
Egg Production
Farm Labor
Get That Y2K Bug

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.76 million head on November 1, 1998. The inventory was 2 percent below November 1, 1997, but 7 percent above November 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.83 million, 3 percent below 1997 and 6 percent below 1996. Net placements were 2.78 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 776,000, 600-699 pounds were 649,000, 700-799 pounds were 685,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 719,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.77 million, 2 percent below 1997 but 4 percent above 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 52,000 during October, 43 percent below 1997 and 33 percent below 1996.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Down 2 Percent

Cattle on feed November 1, 1998, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity [illegible],000 or more head totaled 9.20 million, down 2 percent from the previous year but 8 percent above November 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.40 million, 2 percent below 1997 and 6 percent below 1996. **Marketings** during October totaled 1.53 million, 1 percent below 1997 but 7 percent above 1996. **Other disappearance** during October was 45,000 head, 42 percent below 1997 and 21 percent below 1996.

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production Up for October

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 1998, up 1 percent from October 1997, and 13 percent above the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,800 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,133 pounds, was up 16 pounds from last year.

During October, there were 1,900 hogs slaughtered, 200 head more than last year. The average live weight, at 226 pounds, increased 4 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered came in at 300 head, 100 head less than last year. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds from a year ago to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.03 billion pounds in October, up 1 percent from the previous record high for October of 4.00 billion pounds produced in October 1997.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.05 million head, down 5 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,214 pounds.

Veal production totaled 21 million pounds, 25 percent below October a year ago and 5 percent below the previous record low for October set in 1993. Calf slaughter totaled 125 thousand head, down 11 percent from October 1997. The average live weight was 283 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous record high for October set one year ago. Hog kill totaled 9.35 million head, 7 percent above 1997. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 257 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20 million pounds, was down 6 percent from the previous record low for October set last year.. Sheep slaughter totaled 323 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 127 pounds, down 5 pounds from October a year ago.

January - October red meat production was 37.5 billion pounds, 4 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year, veal was down 23 percent, pork was up 10 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

October Milk Production Up 1.3 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during October totaled 11.1 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from production in these same States in October 1997. September revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds was up 0.3 percent from September 1997.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,436 pounds for October, 20 pounds above October 1997.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 3,000 head less than October 1997 and 2,000 head less than September 1998.

PLEASE RETURN

LIVESTOCK: Hogs and Pigs Inventory by Counties, December 1, 1995-97 1/

County & District	1995	1996	1997	Rank
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--
Flathead	6,900	3,400	2,400	15
Granite	--	--	--	--
Lake	2,300	1,800	2,100	18
Lincoln	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--
Missoula	--	--	--	--
Powell	--	--	700	31
Ravalli	600	--	500	36
Sanders	--	--	--	--
Other	1,600	1,400	400	--
NORTHWEST	**11,400**	**6,600**	**6,100**	--
Blaine	5,700	5,000	3,500	12
Chouteau	4,500	2,300	2,100	20
Glacier	14,200	14,800	21,400	1
Hill	12,100	9,700	9,400	7
Liberty	15,700	13,500	17,200	4
Phillips	4,200	4,100	3,000	13
Pondera	11,800	11,500	13,000	5
Teton	11,900	13,000	19,100	2
Toole	11,900	6,100	12,300	6
Other	--	--	--	--
N. CENTRAL	**92,000**	**80,000**	**101,000**	--
Daniels	4,500	4,300	4,900	10
Dawson	1,200	1,000	1,200	27
Garfield	--	--	--	--
McCone	--	--	--	--
Richland	2,000	1,000	500	35
Roosevelt	1,500	900	700	30
Sheridan	2,100	1,400	1,500	24
Valley	1,100	700	--	--
Other	900	700	800	--
NORTHEAST	**13,300**	**10,000**	**9,600**	--
Broadwater	1,100	900	600	33
Cascade	13,100	14,700	17,300	3
Fergus	5,100	2,500	2,300	16
Golden Valley	6,100	4,400	2,100	17
Judith Basin	--	700	1,200	26
Lewis & Clark	--	2,900	2,900	14
Meagher	--	4,800	6,100	9
Musselshell	800	--	--	--
Petroleum	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	10,700	8,600	8,300	--
Other	7,000	500	500	--
CENTRAL	**43,900**	**40,000**	**41,300**	--
Beaverhead	--	--	--	--
Gallatin	2,400	2,500	3,600	11
Jefferson	900	500	2,100	19
Madison	1,200	500	--	--
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--
Other	200	100	300	--
SOUTHWEST	**4,700**	**3,600**	**6,000**	--
Big Horn	700	600	1,800	23
Carbon	--	--	--	--
Park	--	--	--	--
Stillwater	5,000	2,800	2,000	22
Sweetgrass	2,300	2,100	2,000	21
Treasure	--	--	--	--
Yellowstone	--	--	--	--
Other	1,100	500	600	--
S. CENTRAL	**9,100**	**6,000**	**6,400**	--
Carter	900	500	900	28
Custer	600	--	500	34
Fallon	1,100	900	600	32
Powder River	--	--	--	--
Prairie	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	--	1,100	1,400	25
Wibaux	700	--	900	29
Other	2,300	1,300	300	--
SOUTHEAST	**5,600**	**3,800**	**4,600**	--
MONTANA	**180,000**	**150,000**	**175,000**	--

1/ Counties with less than 500 head or individual operations having 60 percent or more of the head are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Montana Wage Rates Up 4 Percent, U.S. Up 2 Percent From A Year Ago

The average wage received by all hired agricultural workers in Montana during 1998 was $6.42 per hour compared with the $6.20 per hour received in 1997. Field workers increased their wages by $.22 per hour from last year to earn $6.43 per hour. Field and livestock workers combined wages increased $.29 per hour from a year ago to $6.20 per hour.

There were 1.25 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 11-17, 1998, down 3 percent from a year ago. Farm operators directly hired 983,000 workers. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 263,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.0 percent of the hired workforce compared to 11.2 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $7.60 per hour during the October 1998 survey week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.15 per hour, up 21 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned $7.28 per hour compared with $6.80 a year earlier.

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 263,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 1998. Service workers in California numbered 95,000 compared with 85,000 during the October 1997 survey week. Florida's number of service workers was 5,900 compared with 6,000 last year.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates By State and United States, 1997-98 1/ 2/

	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	Dollars per Hour					
CO	6.91	7.39	6.36	6.50	6.45	6.78
ID	6.80	6.98	6.25	6.62	6.54	6.80
MT	**6.20**	**6.42**	**6.21**	**6.43**	**5.91**	**6.20**
[illegible]	7.34	7.85	7.63	7.70	7.40	7.67
OR	7.46	8.08	6.82	7.29	6.85	7.29
SD	6.39	6.57	5.93	6.31	6.06	6.06
UT	6.60	7.07	6.08	6.22	6.16	6.73
WA	7.64	7.76	7.10	7.13	7.23	7.37
WY	5.59	6.25	5.89	5.91	5.20	5.75
US 3/	7.35	7.47	6.66	6.97	6.64	6.98

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January. 3/ Excludes AK.

October Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.76 billion during October 1998, up 2 percent from the 6.65 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.72 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 984 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 1998 averaged 314 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during October 1997. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,156 eggs, down one percent from 2,172 eggs in October 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1998, totaled 315 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 315 million layers consisted of 258 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.53 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1998, averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.4 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.39 billion eggs during October, up 1 percent from October 1997. The average number of layers during October, at 296 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Getting That Year 2000 Bug

The Year 2000 problem could cause serious problems for commerce and communications all over the world if we're not serious about fixing it. Computer systems managers and programmers tried to save memory and money by representing the date with only two digits instead of four. So 1981 became 81 and 1998 just 98. The problem is that, when we reach the year 2000 some computers will recognize "double zero" not as 2000 but as 1900. This glitch could cause them to generate false data, possibly stop running.

This can affect all of us because our own computers or computerized systems may be at risk, and even if our own systems might be "year 2000 compliant" and therefore okay--our economy depends on the electronic processing and exchange of financial and other data. We might be affected by: inability of a stock market in another country to open; difficulties a bank may have in completing transactions;slowdowns in the railroads or in truck traffic due to malfunctioning signals; interruptions of power supply; food spoilage resulting from failure of computer-operated food storage or refrigeration systems; any number of other difficulties associated with failure of computerized systems to accurately process data.

In the Federal government alone we have more than 7,000 mission critical systems, carrying out everything from food stamps to food safety to air traffic control. It is a challenge to state and local governments, which use computers to run vital public health and safety systems from unemployment to water treatment. It is a challenge to virtually every American business, whether large or small. Everyone has a stake in this, and--though their own computer systems may be Y2K compliant--they need to do the following: (1) be sure that their systems are compliant. (2) take an inventory of all their data exchanges with outside partners--some may **not** be Y2K compliant. (3) develop an action plan.

We are especially concerned about rural communities and small businesses and the farms that they depend upon. We want to be sure that Rural America is Y2K compliant.

We have three suggestions for every farmer or small business owner: **1) Self-assessment.** Figure out if you have a Y2K problem. No farmer or small business owner should assume that he or she is home free on this issue. **2) Be informed.** Study the problem. Make realistic assessments based on what is central to your farm or company's operations. Don't be pushed into paying for remedies you don't need.

Logging on to various Internet Y2K sites is an excellent way to stay current. Sign up with an Internet Service Provider, and get online. There are several Y2K Internet sites on the World Wide Web, but I'll list two: (1) USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Website: http://www.reeusda.gov/y2k (2) The Small Business Administration has an excellent Website at http://www.sba.gov/y2k/

3) Act now. Fixing most Y2K problems is not particularly complicated. But it can be labor intensive and time consuming. The clock is ticking and we are all facing a deadline that truly cannot be moved.

Last minute fixes won't work. Businesses need time to test their systems to ensure that the "fix" they've installed is working. No one has the luxury of time in facing this problem. Y2K needs to be at the top, not the bottom, of their "To Do" list.

Peggy Stringer, State Statistician
Curtis E. Lund, Deputy State Statistician
Wendy Bruski, Editor

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Christmas Letter	Ag Prices Received
US Livestock and Meat Imports and Exports	U.S. Meat Supply and Use

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Production Highlights
1998 Crop Year Summary
Ag Prices Received

November 1 Montana and U.S. Crop Production Highlights

Montana sugar beet production was forecast at 1.405 million tons on November 1, up 3 percent from last month's forecast and up 15 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, of 22.3 tons per acre, is up 0.7 tons per acre from last month and is 1.3 tons per acre higher than last year. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month at 63,000 acres, but is 4,700 acres higher than last year. As of November 1, 88 percent of the crop had been harvested which is 6 percent lower than the five-year average.

U.S. sugar beet production is forecast at 32.4 million tons, 9 percent above the 1997 final production estimate, and 3 percent above the October 1 estimate. If realized production would be the largest on record, exceeding the previous record of 31.9 million tons set in 1994. Acres to be harvested in the 12 sugar beet producing states was estimated at slightly less than 1.46 million acres, 2 percent above 1997, but 1,000 acres below the October estimate. Yield is estimated at 22.3 tons per acre, nearly 1.0 ton above October 1 and just 0.1 ton below the record set in 1981 and tied in 1987.

Montana fall potato production is forecast at 3.286 million hundredweight, down 1 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 10,600 acres, up 200 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 310 cwt per acre, 10 cwt per acre lower than last year. As of November 1, ninety five percent of the crop has been harvested which is the same as the five-year average.

Nationally, fall potato production for 1998 is forecast at 429 million cwt, up 1 percent from last year, but 5 percent below 1996. Area harvested, at 1.22 million acres, is up 3 percent from last year, but 2 percent below 1996. The average yield is forecast at 352 cwt per acre, down 7 cwt from last year and 12 cwt below two years ago. Planting started on time this year and most States had good early weather. A hotter than normal summer caused rougher and smaller potatoes and lower yields in Western States. Harvest in the West was delayed as long as possible to gain more size. Central and Eastern States, on the other hand, had good size and yields. Total potato production from all four seasons is estimated at 471 million cwt in 1998, up 1 percent from last year, but 6 percent below the record large crop of 1996.

See crop production table on back page.

1998 Crop Year Summary

Low moisture conditions last fall caused Montana winter wheat producers to seed the smallest winter wheat crop since 1941. Winter wheat seeding totaled 1.4 million acres down 12 percent from last year's 1.6 million and 100,000 acres below 1995 when similar conditions existed. November was cool and dry. Precipitation was below normal for the Southwestern and Central regions of the state. For the month of December precipitation was below to much below average. Southern Montana received more moisture than other regions of the state but even in this region precipitation was only about 75 percent of normal. The Northeastern region received about nine percent of their average precipitation for December. With the dry conditions there were concerns about the lack of snow cover during the winter and as of December 31 eighty-seven percent of the seeded acreage had poor to very poor coverage.

During February snow finally fell on most of the state bringing much needed precipitation. Temperatures were above normal for the state during the month. March brought near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for most portions of the state. During April most locations reported some precipitation and by the end of the month winter wheat was rated at only 50% good and 11% excellent. The planting of all crops was ahead of the five-year average. Spring wheat was 40 percent seeded as of April 26 and the five-year average for this date was 22 percent.

There was little precipitation the first ten days of May so seeding continued ahead of the average, and crop conditions were rated mostly fair. By the end of the month rainfall at most reporting stations was still below normal. The crop conditions by the end of the month were still reported mostly fair.

Crop conditions improved slightly during June with most stations reporting higher than normal rainfall by the end of the month. Yield prospects improved for the winter wheat crop during the month but as of June 28 only 35 percent of the crop was reported in good to excellent condition. Spring wheat and barley conditions were similar and oats was rated at 48 percent good to excellent. Progress for all crops was ahead of average normal at the end of the month.

Temperatures during July were mostly above normal and soil moisture conditions deteriorated. By the end of the month only 30 percent of the topsoil moisture was rated adequate and none surplus. The Northeast, Southeast, and South Central regions reported below normal precipitation by the end of the month. Winter wheat condition for the state improved slightly with yield expectations improving one bushel, to 37 bushels per acre, by the August 1 crop forecast. By the third of August 61 percent of the winter wheat crop was harvested compared to 14 percent for the five-year average. Progress of hay harvested was also ahead of normal by the end of the month.

Continued on next page.

PLEASE RETURN

1998 Crop Year Summary (continued from front page)

Most of the state received little precipitation during August. Harvest progress was ahead of normal for all the small grains by the end of the month about 98 percent of the winter wheat, 87 percent of the spring wheat, 88 percent of the barley, and 85 percent of the oats were harvested. The second cutting of alfalfa was 79 percent complete by August 30 compared with 68 percent for the average. Other hay was 96 percent complete compared with the average of 90 percent.

In September, Montana's 1998 winter wheat production was estimated at 48.75 million bushels, down 14% from 1997 and the lowest production since the severe drought of 1988. Low yields were not the problem in 1998, but rather a seeded acreage of 1.4 million acres which was the smallest since 1941. The 1998 average yield was 39 bushels per acre, which matched last year's average and was fourth highest on record. The yield was raised 2 bushels from the August forecast.

Spring wheat production was estimated at 108 million bushels, down 11% from last year, but the third largest crop on record only behind 1995 and 1997 production. The seeded acreage was 3.8 million acres, 550,000 acres less than 1997 and the smallest acreage seeded since 1994. Yields averaged 30 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from 1997, but 1.4 bushels below the last five-year average which includes the exceptional yields produced in 1993 and 1995 in North Central Montana.

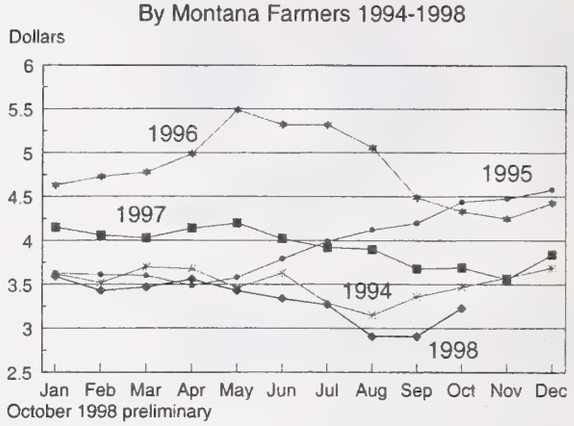
Montana durum wheat growers planted 450,000 acres and harvested 430,000 acres, both significantly higher than last year and the largest planted acreage since 1981. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, 2 bushels more than last year. Total production was estimated at 12.04 million bushels, up nearly 65 percent from last year and the largest durum production since 1956.

The October 1 sugar beet production forecast was 1.36 million tons, up 11 percent from last year. Harvested acreage remained unchanged from September at 63,000 acres but this is 4,700 acres higher than last year. As of October 4 , 15 percent of the crop had been harvested which is 1 only percent lower than the five-year average. Total production of alfalfa hay was estimated at 3.45 million tons down 13 percent from last year due to a decrease in harvested acreage and lower yields. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.50 million acres, down 150,000 acres from last year. Other hay yields remain unchanged from August at 1.7 tons per acre but are up 0.1 ton from 1997. Total production was set a 1.275 million tons, down 16 percent from last year. All hay production was estimated at 4.725 million tons, down 14 percent from last year.

By November 1 winter wheat seeding was nearly complete and sugar beets were slightly behind average and potato harvest was equal to the five-year average. Winter wheat condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 50 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Topsoil moisture was rated at mostly adequate and subsoil moisture supplies were rated at only 45 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus.

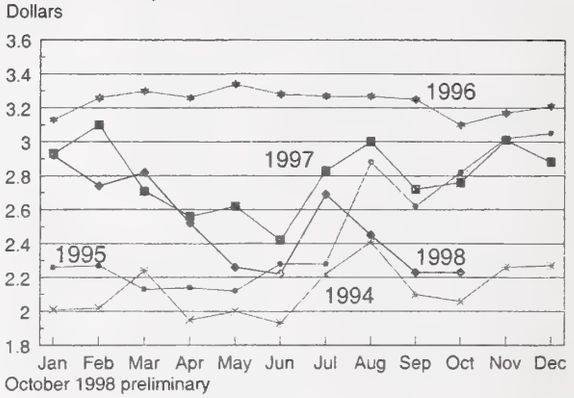
The November 1 sugar beet production forecast is 1.405 million tons, up 3 percent from last month's forecast and up 15 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, at 22.3 tons per acre, is up 0.7 tons per acre from last month and is 1.3 tons per acre higher than last year. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month at 63,000 acres but this is 4,700 acres higher than last year. As of November 1, 88 percent of the crop had been harvested which is 6 percent lower than the five-year average.

All Wheat Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1994-1998



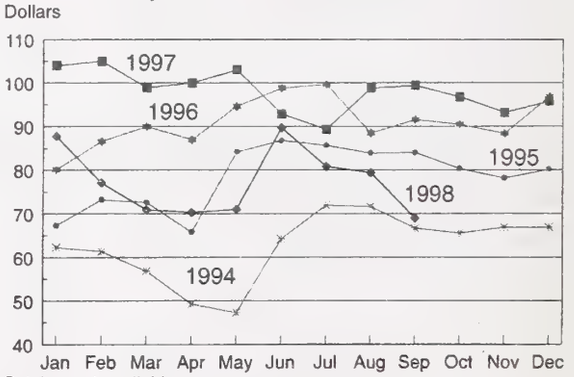
October 1998 preliminary

Barley Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1994-1998



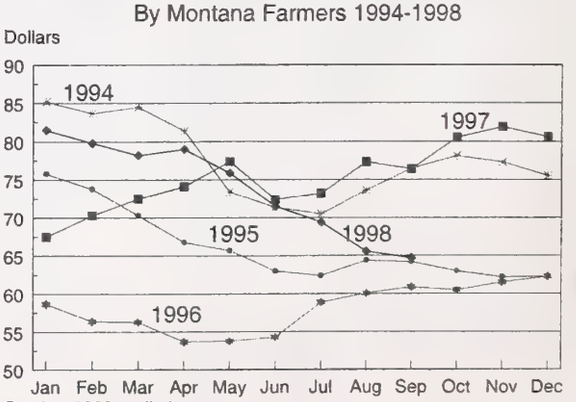
October 1998 preliminary

Lamb Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1994-1998



October not available

Steers and Heifers Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1994-1998



October 1998 preliminary

Agricultural Prices Received for September

The average price for Montana winter wheat decreased 5 cents from August 1998 to $2.55 per bushel, durum wheat was down 50 cents to $3.69 per bushel, and spring wheat was 9 cents lower than August, at $2.97 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-October averaged $3.23 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-October was $2.23. Feed barley is down 7 cents per bushel from August to $1.26 and malt barley declined 2 cents to $2.86 per bushel. The price for alfalfa hay in mid-October was $74.00 per ton, unchanged from last month. The mid-October other hay price, of $62.00, declined $3.00 from September.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mostly lower. Steer and heifer prices decreased 90 cents to $64.70 per cwt. Cows were down $4.30 to $32.90 and the average price for calves increased 20 cents to $76.80 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $3.10 to $25.40 per cwt and lambs decreased $10.40 cents to $69.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $1.80 from last month to $16.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October averaged $67.80 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for mid-October, at $2.72 per bushel, was up 31 cents from the September entire month price. The mid-October all barley price was $1.85 per bushel, down 16 cents from September. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October were up $2.60 from September at $61.50 per cwt. Cow prices were $30.70 and hog prices were $28.50 per cwt. Market egg prices were 53.2 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in October was 99 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from September. Price increases from September for wheat, milk, tomatoes, and lettuce more than offset price decreases for potatoes, hogs, broilers, and peanuts. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of milk, wheat, tobacco, and grapes more than offset the relatively higher marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and cottonseed. These marketing changes completely offset the increase in prices.

Compared with October 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 8 points (7.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from October 1997 for soybeans, corn, hogs, and cattle more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, tomatoes, and onions.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Sept. 1997	Oct. 1997	Sept. 1998	Oct. 1998
Prices Received	107	107	99	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	113	113
Ratio 2/	91	91	88	88

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		Sept. 1997	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1998	Sept. 1998	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1997	Oct. 15, 1998	Oct. 15, 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.37	2.60	2.55	2.32	-0.05	-0.82	3.00	2.56
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5.51	4.19	3.69	3.08	-0.50	-1.82	3.50	3.16
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.06	2.97	2.65	-0.09	-0.65	3.30	2.96
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.68	2.91	2.91	2.41	0.00	-0.77	3.23	2.72
Barley	Bu.	2.72	2.45	2.23	2.01	-0.22	-0.49	2.23	1.85
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.03	1.33	1.26	1.40	-0.07	-0.77	1.30	1.39
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.14	2.88	2.86	2.50	-0.02	-0.28	2.85	2.35
Oats 1/	Bu.	1.22	n/a	1.40	1.06	n/a	+0.18	1.40	1.07
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	84.00	77.00	74.00	89.10	-3.00	-10.00	74.00	88.10
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	67.00	65.00	74.00	-2.00	-7.00	62.00	72.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	84.00	76.00	73.00	86.50	-3.00	-11.00	73.00	85.20
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	76.40	65.60	64.70	58.90	-0.90	-11.70	67.80	61.50
Cows	Cwt.	34.80	37.20	32.90	32.60	-4.30	-1.90	31.60	30.70
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	69.30	58.50	59.90	56.10	+1.40	-9.40	58.80	57.90
Calves	Cwt.	87.30	76.60	76.80	74.10	+0.20	-10.50	75.00	74.70
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	33.10	28.50	25.40	27.70	-3.10	-7.70	n/a	n/a
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	99.40	79.40	69.00	71.40	-10.40	-30.40	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt.	12.90	14.50	16.30	16.60	+1.80	+3.40	16.50	17.30

1/ n/a = insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Crop Production Forecast, November 1, 1998

CROP	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/
MONTANA		1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,600	1,400	1,450	1,250	39.0	39.0	56,550	48,750
Durum Wheat	Bu.	290	450	280	440	26.0	28.0	7,280	12,040
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,350	3,800	4,200	3,500	29.0	30.0	121,800	108,000
All Wheat	Bu.	6,240	5,650	5,930	5,190	31.3	32.0	185,630	168,790
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	50	14	15	135.0	130.0	1,890	1,950
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	80	55.0	54.0	3,850	3,240
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,400	1,200	1,300	53.0	48.0	63,600	60,000
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.2	12.2	11.7	12.0	22.0	22.0	257	264
Sugar Beets	Ton	59.9	64.3	58.3	63.0	21.0	22.3	1,224	1,405
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	10.6	10.4	10.6	320.0	310.0	3,328	3,286
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,500	2.40	2.30	3,960	3,450
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	750	1.60	1.70	1,520	1,275
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,250	2.11	2.10	5,480	4,725
UNITED STATES		1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,342	46,759	41,813	40,231	45.0	46.9	1,882,609	1,887,395
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,250	3,805	3,107	3,728	27.7	37.8	86,193	141,069
Spring Wheat	Bu.	19,397	15,621	18,657	15,153	29.9	34.9	691,985	529,033
All Wheat	Bu.	70,989	66,185	63,577	59,112	39.7	43.3	2,526,552	2,557,497
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,227	80,798	73,720	73,789	127.0	132.0	9,365,574	9,836,069
Oats	Bu.	5,169	4,932	2,911	2,807	60.5	60.5	176,104	169,922
Barley	Bu.	6,910	6,456	6,425	5,984	58.3	59.9	374,478	358,201
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,851.8	2,024.0	1,720.2	1,905.9	17.0	16.3	29,156	31,070
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,459.3	1,495.2	1,428.3	1,456.2	20.9	22.3	29,886	32,438
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,380.6	1,418.4	1,345.1	1,394.0	346.0	338.0	465,537	470,965
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,673	23,437	3.35	3.52	79,242	82,442
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,142	36,382	1.96	1.91	72,878	69,312
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,815	59,819	2.50	2.54	152,120	151,754

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Farm Labor
Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1998 Small Grains Summary
September 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

September 1998 Small Grain Summary

Montana's 1998 **winter wheat** production was estimated at 48.75 million bushels, down 14% from 1997 and the lowest production since the severe drought of 1988. Low yields were not the problem in 1998, but rather a seeded acreage of 1.4 million acres which was the smallest since 1941. A dry fall in 1997 and economic considerations prompted the low acreage. Producers harvested 1.25 million acres, down 200,000 acres from the 1997 harvest. The 1998 average yield was 39 bushels per acre, which matched last year's average and was fourth highest on record. The yield was raised 2 bushels from the August forecast.

Spring wheat production was estimated at 108 million bushels, down 11% from last year, but the third largest crop on record only behind 1995 and 1997 production. The seeded acreage was 3.8 million acres, 550,000 acres less than1997 and the smallest acreage seeded since 1994. Producers chose not to plant re-crop acres and planted alternative crops when thought desirable. The crop was quickly seeded in 1998. Warm, dry weather prevailed through mid-May when nearly 95 percent of the acreage was seeded, a full 20 percentage points ahead of the five-year average. Much needed rain soon followed and got the wheat off to an excellent start. Producers harvested 3.6 million acres, 600,000 acres less than a year earlier. Yields averaged 30 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from 1997, but 1.4 bushels below the five-year average which includes the exceptional yields produced in 1993 and 1995 in North Central Montana.

Montana **durum wheat** growers planted 450,000 acres and harvested 430,000 acres, both significantly higher than last year and the largest planted acreage since 1981. Favorable conditions got the crop planted earlier and timely precipitation allowed producers to obtain their highest yield in the last three years. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, 2 bushels more than averaged in 1997. Total production was estimated at 12.04 million bushels, up nearly 65 percent from last year and the largest durum production since 1956.

Barley acreage in Montana increased for the first time in several years to1.4 million acres, 8 percent more than1997 and the largest planted acreage since 1991. Producers harvested 1.25 million acres, 50,000 acres more than were harvested for grain in 1997. Yields averaged 48 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year and down 4 bushels from our previous forecast. Production was estimated at 60.0 million bushels, down 6 percent from last year.

Oat production was estimated at 3.24 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 140,000 acres, the same as a year earlier. Harvested acreage was set at 60,000 acres, down 10,000 from 1997. Yields averaged 54 bushels per acre, one bushel below last year.

Nationally, the 1998 **winter wheat** crop production was estimated at 1.89 billion bushels. This is down 1 percent from the August forecast, but fractionally higher than the 1997 level. The U.S. yield dropped a tenth from August to 46.9 bushels per acre, but is still a new record high average, nearly two bushels better than last year's former record. Acreage for grain was estimated at 40.2 million acres, down 1 and 4 percent from last month and last year, respectively. Almost all the net change in grain area comes from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas drops.

Other Spring Wheat production in 1998 was estimated at 529 million bushels, up 2 percent from the last forecast, but 5 percent less than in 1997. An increase in area fostered the production change. Harvested area is now 15.2 million acres, down 19 percent from last year. The U.S. yield was 34.9 bushels per acre, equaling last forecast and 5.0 bushels better than in 1997.

Durum wheat production for 1998 totaled 141 million bushels, up 7 percent from September 1 and 64 percent better than last year. This is the biggest Durum crop since 1982. Grain area now totals 3.73 million acres, up 20 percent from last year. The U.S. yield was placed at 37.8 bushels per acre, up a bushel from the last forecast to the second highest on record.

U.S. **Barley** production in 1998 was estimated at 358 million bushels, down 4 percent from last year's estimate. Average yield per acre, at 59.9 bushels, was up 1.6 bushels from 1997. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 5.98 million acres, 7 percent less than a year ago. Production was 4 percent below the September 1 forecast. Area harvested decreased 2 percent from the previous forecast, and the average yield per acre declined 1.4 bushel.

Oat production for the 1998 crop year was estimated at 169.9 million bushels, 4 percent below the August 1 forecast, and 3 percent smaller than the 1997 production. This is the third smallest crop since records were first kept in 1866, exceeding the 1995 production by 5 percent and the 1996 production by 9 percent. The forecasted yield, at 60.5 bushels per acre, is up 0.1 bushels from the August forecast and equal to last year. Area harvested and to be harvested for grain in 1998 is 2.81 million acres, 4 percent below the previous month and 3 percent below 1997. If realized, this would be the second smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, exceeding only the 1996 harvested acreage.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,400 Montana farmers and ranchers during September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

September 1, 1998 Grain Stocks

Montana **all wheat** stocks were estimated at 200.0 million bushels on September 1, 1998, up 6 percent from stock levels at this time a year ago. Disappearance since June 1, 1998 totaled 35.79 million bushels, up 9 percent from the disappearance level for this period last year. **Winter wheat** stocks were estimated at 65.6 million bushels, up 21 percent from last year. **All spring wheat** stocks were estimated at 134.4 million bushels compared with135.0 bushels a year ago. **Durum wheat** stocks totaled 10.8 million bushels, up from 6.5 million bushels the previous year.

Montana **barley** stocks on September 1 were estimated at 50.3 million bushels, down 7 percent from September 1,1997. **Oat** stocks, at 3.19 million bushels, are 19 percent less than last September 1.

All wheat in all storage positions in the U.S. on September 1, 1998 is estimated at 2.38 billion bushels, up 15 percent from September 1, 1997 and the highest September 1 level since 1990. Farm stocks total 886 million bushels and off- farm stocks are 1.50 billion bushels. The on-farm total is up 12 percent from a year ago and the off-farm level is up 17 percent. Off-farm wheat stocks are at the largest September 1 total since 1987. All wheat disappearance for the first quarter of the 1998-99 marketing year is an apparent 899 million bushels, up 1 percent from the same period a year ago.

Durum wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 1998 totaled 125 million bushels, up 43 percent from last September. This is the largest first quarter inventory since 1991. On farm stocks, at 88.0 million bushels, are up 58 percent from last year. Disappearance from all positions is 42.0 million bushels, up 44 percent from June-August 1997.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 1998 are estimated at 327 million bushels, slightly below the stocks of September 1, 1997. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 195 million bushels are stored on farms, 1 percent below a year ago. September 1, 1998 off-farm stocks are 1 percent above last year at 132 million bushels. Indicated disappearance during the June-August quarter totaled 151 million bushels, 3 percent below the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on September 1, 1998 totaled nearly 162 million bushels, 3 percent above the stocks on September 1, 1997. Of the total stocks on hand, 110 million bushels were stored on farm, 2 percent above this quarter last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 51.5 million bushels, 5 percent above a year earlier. Indicated disappearance from all positions during the June-August quarter totaled 82.2 million bushels, 4 percent less than the same period a year ago.

Old crop **corn** stored in all positions on September 1, 1998 is estimated at 1.31 billion bushels, up 48 percent from September 1, 1997. This is more than 3 times the corn stored on September 1, 1996, which was the lowest stocks on record since 1976.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1997	June 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1998	'98/'97	Sept. 1, 1997	June 1, 1998	Sept 1, 1998
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	161,000	53,000	171,000	106%	794,350	224,210	885,720
Off Farms 1/	28,400	14,000	29,000	102%	1,281,998	498,268	1,495,457
TOTAL	189,400	67,000	200,000	106%	2,076,348	722,478	2,381,177
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	45,000	19,000	54,000	120%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	9,400	5,000	11,600	123%	--	--	--
TOTAL	54,400	24,000	65,600	121%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	116,000	34,000	117,000	101%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	19,000	9,000	17,400	92%	--	--	--
TOTAL	135,000	43,000	134,400	100%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	51,000	13,380	88,000
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	36,712	12,660	37,068
TOTAL	6,500	2,700	10,800	166%	87,712	26,040	125,068
BARLEY							
On Farms	47,000	5,000	43,000	91%	196,500	44,700	195,000
Off Farms 1/	7,200	4,000	7,300	101%	131,347	75,533	132,152
TOTAL	54,200	9,000	50,300	93%	327,847	120,233	327,152
OATS							
On Farms	3,600	700	3,000	83%	15,487	34,500	110,300
Off Farms 1/	350	90	190	54%	31,974	39,501	51,525
TOTAL	3,950	790	3,190	81%	47,461	74,001	161,825
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	475,000	1,830,000	640,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	408,161	1,209,757	667,803
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	883,161	3,039,757	1,307,803

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Agricultural Prices Received for August

Prices Montana farmers received for their crops in August were once again below the previous month. The August winter wheat average price of $2.60 per bushel dropped 34 cents from July 1998, spring wheat was down 26 cents to $3.06 per bushel, but durum wheat, the only crop to show improvement, was up 10 cents to $4.19 per bushel. The August all wheat price of $2.91 is the lowest average price since October 1991. August feed barley averaged $1.33 per bushel, 35 cents below last month's average, and malt barley is down 27 cents to $2.88 per bushel. The all barley average price for August, at $2.45, is 24 cents below July, but is above average price received in May and June of 1998. The mid-September price for alfalfa hay was $74.00 per ton, down $3.00 per ton from the August average. The mid-September other hay price was $65.00, two dollars less than last month. The all wheat price for mid-September averaged $2.84 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-September was $1.78.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were generally lower. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds were higher than last month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $3.80 to $65.60 per cwt. Cows were down 40 cents to $37.20, but the average price for calves were up $1.80 to $76.60 per cwt. Sheep prices declined to $28.50 per cwt, $1.40 lower than July, and lamb prices fell $1.40 to $79.40 per cwt. Sheep and lamb prices are significantly lower than August 1997 when sheep averaged $40.50 and lambs were bringing $98.80. Milk prices are up sharply at $14.50 per cwt, $1.50 above last month and $2.20 higher than August 1997. Steer and heifer prices for mid-September averaged $64.00 per cwt.

Nationally, the September all wheat price, at $2.37 per bushel, was down 2 cents from August and $1.29 below September 1997. This is the lowest monthly all wheat price since August 1987. The mid-September all barley price was $1.79, down sharply from $2.06 received in August. September U.S. beef cattle price of $55.80 was down $1.60 from last month and $7.80 below September 1997. The August average price received for cows was $34.20. The September hog price was $29.40 per cwt, down $5.70 from August and $21.00 below a year ago. The August price for eggs was $.649 per dozen and the mid-September price was $.634.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 3 points (3.0 percent) from August. Price decreases from August for hogs, cattle, corn, and grapes more than offset price increases for milk, tobacco, tomatoes, and apples. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, broilers, wheat, and grapes more than offset the relatively higher marketings of soybeans, peanuts, corn, and cotton. These changes contributed one point of the three point decline in the overall index. Compared with September 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 9 points (8.4 percent) lower. Price decreases from September 1997 for hogs, corn, cattle, and wheat more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, grapes, and onions.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1997	Aug. 1998	Sept. 1998
Prices Received	108	107	101	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	114	113
Ratio 2/	92	91	89	87

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		Aug. 1997	July 1998	Aug. 1998	Aug. 1998	July 1998	Aug. 1997	Sept. 15 1998	Sept. 15 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.86	2.94	2.60	2.25	-0.34	-1.26	2.55	2.22
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.96	4.09	4.19	3.25	+0.10	-0.77	3.75	3.05
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.85	3.32	3.06	2.71	-0.26	-0.79	3.00	2.62
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.94	3.27	2.91	2.39	-0.36	-1.03	2.84	2.37
Barley	Bu.	3.00	2.69	2.45	2.06	-0.24	-0.55	1.78	1.79
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.06	1.68	1.33	1.49	-0.35	-0.73	1.25	1.40
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.23	3.15	2.88	2.60	-0.27	-0.35	3.00	2.41
Oats 1/	Bu.	1.32	N/A	N/A	1.02	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.05
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	82.00	80.00	77.00	90.50	-3.00	-5.00	74.00	89.10
All Other Hay	Ton	73.00	68.00	67.00	79.00	-1.00	-6.00	65.00	74.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	82.00	79.00	76.00	88.50	-3.00	-6.00	73.00	86.50
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	77.30	69.40	65.60	59.70	-3.80	-11.70	64.00	58.20
Cows	Cwt.	39.20	37.60	37.20	34.20	-0.40	-2.00	34.60	33.40
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	63.60	48.40	58.50	57.40	+10.10	-5.10	61.10	55.80
Calves	Cwt.	85.80	74.80	76.60	76.90	+1.80	-9.20	76.80	73.80
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	40.50	29.90	28.50	28.90	-1.40	-12.00	N/A	N/A
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	98.80	80.80	79.40	79.90	-1.40	-19.40	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt.	12.30	13.00	14.50	15.40	+1.50	+2.20	15.60	16.20

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Montana Annual Small Grains Summary, Production by District 1/

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1997	1998	98/97	1997	1998	98/97	1997	1998	98/97
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	720	812	113	1,825	2,020	111	2,131	1,632	77
N Central	27,290	20,472	75	58,052	52,113	90	32,765	32,567	99
Northeast	2,390	2,208	92	45,870	47,289	103	3,907	3,731	95
Central	13,680	12,255	90	11,654	7,885	68	14,095	11,880	84
Southwest	1,530	1,593	104	2,144	2,033	95	4,043	3,886	96
S Central	8,790	9,310	106	3,650	2,308	63	5,138	4,672	91
Southeast	2,150	2,100	98	5,885	6,392	109	1,521	1,632	107
Montana	56,550	48,750	86	129,080	120,040	93	63,600	60,000	94

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, In All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	Sept. 1, 1997	June 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1997	June 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1998
			Million Bushels			
Northwest	3.4	0.5	2.5	1.9	0.5	2.3
North Central	87.0	30.1	89.4	29.5	3.9	27.2
Northeast	52.7	18.7	56.5	3.6	0.6	3.8
Central	26.6	9.2	29.5	10.0	1.7	8.0
Southwest	3.7	1.5	5.0	2.7	0.5	4.4
South Central	8.0	4.3	11.0	5.7	1.6	3.3
Southeast	8.0	2.7	6.1	0.8	0.2	1.3
Montana	189.4	67.0	200.0	54.2	9.0	50.3

1/ District estimates of production and stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle & Beef Cow County Estimates	Crop Production
	Quarterly Milk Production
Breeding Sheep & Lambs	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Egg Production
Hogs & Pigs Inventory
Potato Disposition
Cash Receipts

August Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 1998, down 4 percent from August 1997, but up 21 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, down100 head from a year ago. The average live weight was 1,111 pounds, 5 pounds lighter than last August.

There were 2,300 hogs slaughtered during August, 300 more than in August 1997. The average live weight was 223 pounds, up 3 pounds from a year earlier. Sheep slaughtered were up 100 head from last August and totaled 500 head. The average live weight increased 7 pounds from last August to 125 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in August, up 4 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in August 1997. Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. January - August red meat production was 29.6 billion pounds, 4 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year, veal was down 23 percent, pork was up 11 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

Cattle slaughter totaled 3.04 million head, down 2 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 22 pounds from the previous year, at 1,209 pounds. Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 21 percent below August a year ago and 9 percent below the previous record low for August set in 1991. Calf slaughter totaled 125 thousand head, down slightly from August 1997. The average live weight was 266 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.50 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year and just above the previous record high for August set in 1995. Hog kill totaled 8.17 million head, 11 percent above 1997. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 252 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 11 percent from the previous record low for August set in 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 275 thousand head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 123 pounds, down 4 pounds from August a year ago.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.02 million head on September 1, 1998. The inventory was 1 percent below September 1, 1997 but 15 percent above September 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.03 million, 16 percent below 1997 and 10 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.98 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 378,000, 600-699 pounds were 406,000, 700-799 pounds were 630,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 617,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.94 million, 4 percent below 1997 but 1 percent above 1996. The year-to-year relationship between fed cattle marketings and commercial slaughter was affected by an increase in cattle imported from Canada that are going directly to slaughter. Other disappearance totaled 52,000 during August, 16 percent above 1997 and 4 percent above 1996.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Down 1 Percent

Cattle on feed September 1, 1998, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 7.75 million, down 1 percent from the previous year but 17 percent above September 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during August totaled 1.75 million, 17 percent below 1997 and 11 percent below 1996. Marketings during August totaled 1.67 million, 5 percent below 1997 but 1 percent above 1996. Other disappearance during August was 42,000 head, the same as 1997 but 14 percent above 1996.

U.S. August Milk Production Down 0.4 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during August totaled 11.2 billion pounds, down 0.4 percent from production in these same States in August 1997. July revised production, at 11.3 billion pounds was down 0.8 percent from July 1997.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,441 pounds for August, 5 pounds below August 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 6,000 head less than August 1997 but 1,000 head more than July 1998.

PLEASE RETURN

August Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.67 billion during August 1998, up 3 percent from the 6.48 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.64 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 979 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 1998 averaged 308 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during August 1997. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,162 eggs, down slightly from 2,165 eggs in August 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1998, totaled 309 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 309 million layers consisted of 252 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.54 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1998, averaged 69.3 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.30 billion eggs during August, up 2 percent from August 1997. The average number of layers during August, at 291 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

September 1 U.S. Hog and Pig Inventory

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1998, was 62.9 million head. This was 3 percent above September 1997, and 2 percent above June 1, 1998. Breeding inventory, at 6.94 million head, was down slightly from September 1, 1997 and down 1 percent from June 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 56.0 million head, was 3 percent above last year and 2 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 1998 U.S. pig crop, at 26.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 1997 and 11 percent more than 1996. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.02 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter fell to an average of 8.70 pigs saved per litter for the June-August period, compared with 8.72 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.99 million sows farrow during the September-November 1998 quarter, 2 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 1997 and 10 percent above 1996. Intended farrowings for December 1998-February 1999, at 3.00 million sows, are 3 percent above the same period last year and 11 percent above 1997.

1997 Potato Production and Disposition

Montana's 1997 potato production totaled 3.33 million cwt, 4 percent above last year and 13 percent higher than 1995. Producers harvested 10,400 acres, 200 more than a year ago and 600 acres more than two years ago. Potato yields averaged 320 cwt per acre compared with 315 cwt in 1996.

Value of production from the 1997 crop was 23.5 million, up 11 percent from 1996. The average price was $7.05 per cwt, up 45 cents from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 1997 potato crop totaled $20.9 million which is 11 percent higher from last year's crop. Producers sold 3.0 million cwt from the 1997 crop compared with 2.9 million cwt a year ago.

Total 1997 potato production is estimated at 466 million cwt, down 7 percent from 1996, but 5 percent above 1995. Harvested area, at 1.35 million acres, was down 6 percent from 1996 and 2 percent below 1995. The average yield of 346 cwt per acre was down 4 cwt from 1996, but 23 cwt above 1995. In 1997, all seasonal groups had production below the previous year: Winter fell 5 percent; spring decreased 3 percent; summer dropped 8 percent; and fall potatoes declined 7 percent. This is the third largest total potato production in the United States.

Summer potato production was revised to 17.9 million cwt for 1997, down 8 percent from 1996 and less than 1 percent below 1995. Harvested area of 65,900 acres fell 12 percent from 1996, while the average yield of 271 cwt per acre gained 10 cwt from a year earlier. The revised production estimate places the summer potato crop 9 percent above the July 1997 forecast.

Fall potatoes were finalized at 423 million cwt, down 7 percent from 1996, but 5 percent above 1995. This is the second largest production of fall potatoes in the United States, exceeded only by the record large crop of 1996. Area harvested in 1997 was estimated at 1.18 million acres, down 6 percent from 1996 and 3 percent below two years ago. The average yield, at 359 cwt per acre, was down 5 cwt from 1996. Final production of fall potatoes was 1 percent above the first forecast made in November 1997.

Value of all potato production was estimated at $2.60 billion, up 7 percent from last year, but 13 percent below the record high value in 1995. The average price, at $5.62 per cwt, gained 70 cents from a year earlier, but was $1.15 short of 1995.

Sales from the 1997 potato crop totaled 428 million cwt, down 5 percent from 1996, but 5 percent above 1995. Non sales accounted for 37.4 million cwt of 1997 potatoes, down 21 percent from 1996, but 7 percent above 1995. Over the past five years, an average of 90.7 percent of the potatoes produced have been sold. The other 9.3 percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used for seed, home use, and livestock feed on farms where grown. In the 1997 season, farmers sold 91.9 percent of their crop and kept or lost 8.1 percent.

Processors used 268 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 1997 crop, down 5 percent from 1996, but 5 percent above 1995. Table stock sales totaled 131 million cwt, less than 1 percent below last year. Seed sales of 25.4 million cwt were up 5 percent. Sales for livestock feed, at 3.60 million cwt, backed off sharply from the 1996 diversion program, but were 12 percent above 1995.

Chip potato use totaled 48.1 million cwt, slightly below a year earlier. Freezers took 165 million cwt of raw potatoes, down 5 percent, while dehydrating claimed 48.4 million cwt, down 11 percent. Canning use, at 5.50 million cwt, gained 10 percent. Starch, flour and other products were made from 1.31 million cwt of potatoes, a drop of 33 percent from last year.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 32.2 million cwt, down 22 percent from last year, but 9 percent above 1995. Livestock feed and home use totaled 1.33 million cwt, down 7 percent. Growers kept an additional 4.14 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 14 percent from last year.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Sale of Principal Products and Government Payments, 1996 1/ 2/

County & District	Livestock & Livestock Products		Crops		Total Cash Receipts		Government Payments	All Cash Receipts
	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols.	(000) Dols.
Deer Lodge	2,343	54	2,354	50	4,697	53	95	4,792
Flathead	10,269	37	19,642	23	29,911	29	835	30,746
Granite	6,721	47	1,370	53	8,091	51	113	8,204
Lake	20,865	15	17,682	24	38,547	23	975	39,522
Lincoln	1,438	55	598	54	2,036	55	(L)	2,036
Mineral	,631	56	390	55	1,021	56	(L)	1,021
Missoula	5,613	50	2,225	51	7,838	52	193	8,031
Powell	8,751	38	10,018	32	18,769	40	2,199	20,968
Ravalli	18,848	17	41,029	7	59,877	12	6,115	65,992
Sanders	6,127	49	29,563	17	35,690	24	10,002	45,692
NORTHWEST	**81,606**		**124,871**		**206,477**		**20,527**	**227,004**
Blaine	25,032	10	24,335	18	49,367	17	9,565	58,932
Chouteau	11,982	31	120,449	1	132,431	1	22,025	154,456
Glacier	15,254	22	38,678	9	53,932	14	6,364	60,296
Hill	10,556	35	96,010	2	106,566	3	17,484	124,050
Liberty	8,213	40	58,373	5	66,586	9	8,505	75,091
Phillips	11,941	32	66,385	4	78,326	6	8,680	87,006
Pondera	18,186	18	4,931	43	23,117	33	2,049	25,166
Teton	7,273	43	54,151	6	61,424	11	11,028	72,452
Toole	10,935	34	10,290	31	21,225	35	543	21,768
NORTH CENTRAL	**119,372**		**473,602**		**592,974**		**86,243**	**679,217**
Daniels	5,364	51	23,342	19	28,706	30	8,121	36,827
Dawson	14,634	23	31,263	14	45,897	19	5,730	51,627
Garfield	14,561	24	9,974	33	24,535	31	5,363	29,898
McCone	11,239	33	20,949	21	32,188	28	8,500	40,688
Richland	7,543	41	36,225	13	43,768	21	9,686	53,454
Roosevelt	31,512	8	14,734	26	46,246	18	3,300	49,546
Sheridan	2,539	53	102	56	2,641	54	(L)	2,641
Valley	14,104	27	5,808	38	19,912	37	2,298	22,210
NORTHEAST	**101,496**		**142,397**		**243,893**		**42,998**	**286,891**
Broadwater	6,982	45	13,185	28	20,167	36	2,687	22,854
Cascade	35,167	6	38,008	11	73,175	7	7,275	80,450
Fergus	31,794	7	30,811	15	62,605	10	7,415	70,020
Golden Valley	7,422	42	2,188	52	9,610	49	2,447	12,057
Judith Basin	20,827	16	11,930	30	32,757	27	3,524	36,281
Lewis & Clark	14,106	26	5,686	39	19,792	38	916	20,708
Meagher	12,083	30	6,567	37	18,650	41	871	19,521
Musselshell	8,384	39	7,209	35	15,593	45	2,149	17,742
Petroleum	23,427	12	19,933	22	43,360	22	8,418	51,778
Wheatland	3,922	52	5,382	41	9,304	50	2,306	11,610
CENTRAL	**164,114**		**140,899**		**305,013**		**38,008**	**343,021**
Beaverhead	41,949	3	15,135	25	57,084	13	1,012	58,096
Gallatin	28,500	9	38,319	10	66,819	8	2,732	69,551
Jefferson	6,877	46	3,370	46	10,247	47	478	10,725
Madison	20,884	14	13,749	27	34,633	25	1,079	35,712
Silver Bow	21,402	13	12,246	29	33,648	26	3,886	37,534
SOUTHWEST	**119,612**		**82,819**		**202,431**		**9,187**	**211,618**
Big Horn	51,340	2	30,009	16	81,349	5	3,909	85,258
Carbon	23,787	11	21,049	20	44,836	20	1,844	46,680
Park	7,264	44	2,558	49	9,822	48	1,032	10,854
Stillwater	15,834	21	2,601	48	18,435	42	466	18,901
Sweetgrass	35,632	5	77,105	3	112,737	2	9,513	122,250
Treasure	12,204	29	38,811	8	51,015	15	12,019	63,034
Yellowstone	14,189	25	4,876	44	19,065	39	1,178	20,243
SOUTH CENTRAL	**160,250**		**177,009**		**337,259**		**29,961**	**367,220**
Carter	17,573	19	5,659	40	23,232	32	2,869	26,101
Custer	40,239	4	9,213	34	49,452	16	2,206	51,658
Fallon	10,442	36	6,826	36	17,268	43	3,253	20,521
Powder River	13,803	28	3,023	47	16,826	44	201	17,027
Prairie	17,393	20	5,209	42	22,602	34	273	22,875
Rosebud	6,513	48	4,580	45	11,093	46	222	11,315
Wibaux	52,472	1	37,439	12	89,911	4	4,862	94,773
SOUTHEAST	**158,435**		**71,949**		**230,384**		**13,886**	**244,270**
MONTANA	**904,885**		**1,213,546**		**2,118,431**		**240,874**	**2,359,305**

1/ Includes estimates of inter-farm sales and intra-state sales resulting in larger total cash receipts than shown in USDA estimates on other pages.
2/ Payments of less than $50,000 included in State totals.

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

Cash Receipts: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1993-1997 1/

ITEM	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
	(000) Dollars				
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	818,162	728,590	667,838	655,770	856,677
Dairy products	39,026	40,478	40,299	44,688	37,488
Sheep and lambs	25,093	24,219	25,683	28,797	30,184
Wool	2,993	4,379	5,428	3,901	3,851
Hogs and pigs	40,503	33,332	33,634	37,065	34,328
Eggs	6,563	4,538	4,988	5,940	4,180
Honey	5,027	6,497	6,106	6,178	9,502
Other 2/	11,950	13,697	12,275	14,588	15,284
TOTAL	949,317	855,660	796,251	796,927	991,494
CROPS					
Wheat	561,062	705,597	726,894	813,239	699,280
Barley	86,439	121,117	141,945	151,413	140,923
Sugar beets	50,968	54,763	47,601	62,530	58,874
Hay	101,086	77,568	86,372	100,014	101,122
Potatoes	18,967	21,382	20,069	24,572	19,447
Oil crops	6,463	8,452	9,919	7,430	10,022
Oats	4,100	3,819	3,092	3,961	2,206
Dry beans	3,744	4,013	3,531	4,283	5,356
Corn	3,805	3,946	5,425	4,623	4,628
Cherries	167	770	916	893	936
All other 3/	20,123	27,527	28,132	29,564	29,054
TOTAL	856,924	1,028,954	1,073,896	1,202,522	1,071,848
ALL COMMODITIES	**1,806,241**	**1,884,614**	**1,870,147**	**1,999,449**	2,063,342

1/ Revised. 2/ Includes beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others. 3/ Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse, and nursery products.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Small Grains Summary
Grain Stocks

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- September 1 Crop Production Forecast
- Ag Cash Rents
- Ag Prices Received
- Wheat & Barley Movement

September 1, 1998 Crop Production Forecast

Montana's other spring wheat production forecast is unchanged from last month. The production forecast as of September 1, is 105.0 million bushels. If realized this would be 14 percent lower than last year. The average yield, at 30 bushels per acre, remained unchanged from the August 1 forecast and is 1 bushel per acre higher than last year. Harvested acres are also unchanged from last month and are forecast at 3.5 million acres which is 300,000 acres less than last year. With [illegible] harvest conditions, harvest is progressing well ahead of average with 95 percent harvested as of September 6 while the average is 72 percent.

Durum wheat production is also unchanged from last month at 11.4 million bushels, up 57 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 26 bushels per acre which is the same as last month and last year. Harvested acreage increased from 280,000 acres last year to 440,000 acres this year.

Even though winter wheat production is not forecast on September 1, by adding the August winter wheat production forecast with current spring wheat and durum forecasts the total wheat crop would be estimated at 162.69 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year.

Barley production remains unchanged from last month and is forecast at 67.6 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. Yields are forecast at 52 bushels per acre compared with 53 bushels per acre last year. Harvested acreage is up 100,000 from last year and is forecast at 1.3 million acres.

[illegible]gar beet yield remain unchanged from last month, at 21.6 tons per acre, but harvested acreage was adjusted up to 63,000 acres from last month's 60,200 acres. Total production is forecast at 1.3 million tons, up 6 percent from last year.

At the **U.S.** level all wheat production is placed at 2.56 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the August forecast and up 2 percent from 1997. The U.S. yield is forecast at 43.3 bushels per acre. This is up 0.3 bushels from last month and is a new record high yield. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 519 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month, but down 7 percent from last season. The final forecast of U.S. average yield is 34.9 bushels per acre. This is 0.7 bushels per acre better than a month ago. There were no area changes. Hard Red Spring production is up 2 percent from August at 467 million bushels. White Spring production is down about 2 percent. Minnesota growers have harvested a better yielding crop than previously expected. Both the Montana and North Dakota crops are nearing harvest completion. The South Dakota harvest is finished.

U.S. durum wheat production is forecast at 132 million bushels, up 4 percent from last month and 53 percent more than in 1997. This is the biggest durum crop since 1982. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 36.8 bushels per acre, up 1.6 from last month and second only to the record high set in 1992. Area for harvest is unchanged from the last forecast at 3.58 million acres. As of September 6, 83 percent of North Dakota's crop was harvested. This is about 3 weeks ahead of average.

U.S. barley production for 1998 is forecast at 372 million bushels, down slightly from both August 1998 and the 1997 final production. Yields are expected to average 61.3 bushels per acre, a decrease of 0.3 bushels from August, but still 3.0 bushels higher than last year. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 6.08 million acres, remained unchanged from August but is 5 percent below the 6.43 million acres harvested in 1997.

Planted acres for sugar beets were updated from the August crop report in Montana and North Dakota. Acres to be harvested in the 12 sugar beet-producing states were forecasted at just under 1.46 million acres, 27,200 acres above 1997, but 5,300 acres below the previous forecast. Heavy rains drowned several thousand acres in the southern Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota and accounts for most of the increase in abandonment.

U.S. corn grain production is forecast at 9.74 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and up 4 percent from 1997. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 132.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from last month and up 5 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would be the second largest production and the second highest yield on record. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 73.8 million acres, unchanged from last month and virtually unchanged from 1997.

See tables on following page.

1998 United States Cash Rents Generally Higher, Montana Slightly Lower

Cash rents for agricultural cropland were mixed with most States showing increases while other States held at the same level or dropped slightly. Cropland cash rent estimates were made for 40 States. California again had the highest cash rent for irrigated land at $235 per acre. The major corn producing States of Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska all had cropland rents exceeding $100 per acre. Western States showing Irrigated cropland over $100 per acre, included Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The average rent for irrigated cropland in Montana was $51.80 per acre, while non-irrigated rents averaged $16.50 per acre down 50 cents from 1997. States in the Corn Belt and Appalachian regions showed little to no change from last year with percentage changes that ranged from a 2.9 percent decrease to a 3.6 percent increase.

Pasture cash rents for 1998 increased from the previous year for most of the 25 States estimated. Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Iowa had the highest pasture rents at $42, $37, and $35 respectively. States with the lowest cash rents included Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Montana, and New Mexico all with rents under $8 per acre. Pasture rents in Montana averaged $4.00 per acre, down $1.00 from 1997.

PLEASE RETU

Crop Production Forecast September 1, 1998

CROP	UNIT	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/
MONTANA		1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000 Unit	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,600	1,400	1,450	1,250	39.0	37.0	56,550	46,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	290	450	280	440	26.0	26.0	7,280	11,440
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,350	3,600	4,200	3,500	29.0	30.0	121,800	105,000
All Wheat	Bu.	6,240	5,450	5,930	5,190	31.3	31.3	185,630	162,690
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	50	14	15	135.0	130.0	1,890	1,950
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	80	55.0	60.0	3,850	4,800
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,400	1,200	1,300	53.0	52.0	63,600	67,600
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.2	12.2	11.7	12.0	22.0	22.0	257	264
Sugar Beets	Ton	59.9	64.3	58.3	63.0	21.0	21.6	1,224	1,361
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	10.6	10.4	10.6	320.0	3/	3,328	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,500	2.40	2.20	3,960	3,300
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	750	1.60	1.70	1,520	1,275
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,250	2.11	2.03	5,480	4,575
UNITED STATES		1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,342	46,850	41,813	40,757	45.0	47.0	1,882,609	1,914,359
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,250	3,700	3,107	3,583	27.7	36.8	86,193	131,694
Spring Wheat	Bu.	19,397	15,249	18,657	14,871	29.9	34.5	557,750	518,716
All Wheat	Bu.	70,989	65,799	63,577	59,211	39.7	43.3	2,526,552	2,564,769
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,227	80,798	73,720	73,789	127.0	132.0	9,365,574	9,737,949
Oats	Bu.	5,169	4,992	2,911	2,936	60.5	60.4	176,104	177,211
Barley	Bu.	6,910	6,446	6,425	6,078	58.3	61.3	374,478	372,379
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,851.8	2,024.0	1,720.2	1,903.9	17.0	15.7	29,156	29,886
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,459.3	1,495.2	1,428.3	1,455.5	20.9	21.4	29,886	31,134
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,208.1	1,218.0	1,177.6	1,198.4	359.0	3/	422,789	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,673	23,437	3.35	3.43	79,242	80,290
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,142	36,382	1.96	1.87	72,878	67,997
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,815	59,819	2.50	2.48	152,120	148,287

1/ Preliminary. 2/Planted for all purposes. 3/Production forecast available November 10, 1998.

All Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, Selected & U.S., 1997 & Forecasted Sept. 1, 1998

State	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1997	1998	1997	Aug. 1, '98	Sept. 1, '98	1997	1998
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO 1/	2,900	2,798	32.7	39.6	39.6	94,700	110,898
ID	1,440	1,290	79.2	80.8	80.0	114,060	103,180
KS 1/	11,000	10,100	46.0	49.0	49.0	506,000	494,900
MN	2,465	1,780	32.0	36.8	39.7	78,890	70,635
MT	5,930	5,190	31.3	31.3	31.3	185,630	162,690
NE 1/	1,900	1,830	37.0	46.0	46.0	70,300	84,180
ND	11,025	9,465	24.3	30.4	31.7	267,695	300,080
OK 1/	5,400	5,400	33.0	38.0	38.0	178,200	205,200
OR 1/	970	905	65.4	67.8	67.8	63,430	61,395
SD	3,469	3,289	28.6	36.7	36.7	99,213	120,754
TX 1/	4,100	4,000	29.0	36.0	36.0	118,900	144,000
WA	2,595	2,565	64.8	63.6	63.4	168,080	162,555
US	63,577	59,211	39.7	43.0	43.3	2,526,552	2,564,769

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

Montana Production Forecast by District, September 1, 1998 1/

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1997	1998	98/97	1997	1998	98/97	1997	1998	98/97
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	720	580	81	1,825	1,537	84	2,131	2,040	96
N Central	27,290	21,000	77	58,052	50,300	87	32,765	39,960	122
Northeast	2,390	2,750	115	45,870	43,611	95	3,907	3,300	84
Central	13,680	11,650	85	11,654	10,123	87	14,095	11,280	80
Southwest	1,530	1,750	114	2,144	2,458	115	4,043	4,280	106
S Central	8,790	6,670	76	3,650	3,868	106	5,138	5,260	102
Southeast	2,150	1,850	86	5885	4,543	77	1,521	1,480	97
Montana	56,550	46,250	82	129,080	116,440	90	63,600	67,600	106

1/ Estimates for current month carried forward from an earlier forecast.

Agricultural Prices Received for June

The Montana winter wheat average price decreased 25 cents from May 1998 to $2.81 per bushel, durum wheat dropped 47 cents to $4.30 per bushel, and spring wheat was down 14 cents to 3.41 per bushel. Feed barley increased 14 cents per bushel to $2.06, and malt barley decreased 2 cents to $2.75 per bushel. The price for alfalfa hay in July, was $80.00 per ton, up $4.00 per ton from last month. The July other hay price of $68.00 is unchanged from June. The all wheat price for mid-July averaged $3.21 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-July was $2.45.

With the exception of lambs, livestock prices for the full month of June were below May prices. Steer and heifer prices decreased $4.40 to $71.50 per cwt. Cows were down 10 cents to $37.10 and the average price for calves fell $7.30 to $79.70 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased 10 cents to $26.60 per cwt, but lambs increased $18.70 to $89.70 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 40 cents from last month to $13.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $71.70 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for June, at $2.77 per bushel, was down 29 cents from May. The all barley price also decreased to $1.95 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were down at $64.50 per cwt. Cow prices were $36.10 and hog prices were $42.20 per cwt. Egg prices were 60 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in July was 102 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from June. Price increases from June for broilers, tomatoes, lettuce, and milk offset price decreases for cattle, hogs, wheat, and corn. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in July.

Compared with July 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.7 percent) lower. Price decreases from July 1997 for hogs, wheat, cattle, and soybeans more than offset price increases for milk, tomatoes, broilers, and peaches.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	June 1997	July 1997	June 1998	July 1998
Prices Received	107	107	102	102
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	115	115
Ratio 2/	91	91	89	89

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		June 1997	May 1998	June 1998	June 1998	May 1998	June 1997	July 15 1998	July 15 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.04	3.06	2.81	2.68	-0.25	-1.23	2.70	2.50
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.20	4.77	4.30	3.98	-0.47	+0.10	4.10	3.56
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.99	3.55	3.41	3.22	-0.14	-0.58	3.30	3.20
Wheat, All	Bu.	4.02	3.44	3.34	2.77	-0.10	-0.68	3.21	2.57
Barley	Bu.	2.42	2.26	2.20	1.95	-0.06	-0.22	2.45	2.00
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.27	1.92	2.06	1.82	+0.14	-0.21	1.80	1.86
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.97	2.77	2.75	2.14	-0.02	-0.22	2.80	2.21
Oats 1/	Bu.	1.65	N/A	N/A	1.39	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.34
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	84.00	71.00	76.00	96.50	+5.00	-8.00	80.00	93.40
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	61.00	68.00	74.10	+7.00	-3.00	68.00	72.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	84.00	70.00	76.00	91.80	+6.00	-8.00	79.00	88.60
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	72.40	75.90	71.50	64.50	-4.40	-0.90	71.70	60.70
Cows	Cwt.	39.60	37.20	37.10	36.10	-0.10	-2.50	37.10	34.40
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	48.80	54.60	47.40	61.80	-7.20	-1.40	47.50	58.20
Calves	Cwt.	79.30	87.00	79.70	81.70	-7.30	+0.40	80.70	78.10
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	37.20	26.70	26.60	30.70	-0.10	-10.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	92.9	71.00	89.70	88.70	+18.70	-3.20	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt.	12.10	13.80	13.40	14.00	-0.40	+1.30	13.20	14.30

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat & Barley Movement 6% Lower Than Last Year

Wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the December 1997-May 1998 period, at 67.8 million bushels, was 6% lower than the same period a year ago. Ninety percent of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 61 million bushels, down 9% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations more than doubled for this period, totaling 3.4 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly to the south, received 3.5 million bushels up 6% from last year.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1997-May 1998, was 14.3 million bushels, up 25% from the same period last year. Fifty-two percent of barley shipped out of Montana headed for destinations other than the west coast. Shipments to western destinations were up slightly from the same period last year, at 6.9 million bushels. Eastern destination shipments totaled 5.9 million bushels up 42% from last year. Shipments to other destinations were up from last year's at 0.4 million bushels to 1.5 million bushels this year.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY: Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/] *

Shipments Out of State	December 1996 - May 1997				December 1997 - May 1998			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin			(000) Bushels					
West [3/]	630	2,547	3,177	3,230	194	2,927	3,121	2,999
North Central	16,571	20,902	37,473	7,142	10,183	22,608	32,791	9,096
Northeast	1,469	16,333	17,802	225	446	16,220	16,666	104
Central	4,131	2,725	6,856	812	3,631	3,794	7,425	1,984
South Central	3,259	940	4,199	30	3,686	2,343	6,029	152
Southeast	904	1,427	2,331	1	415	1,385	1,800	14
Total Shipped	26,964	44,874	71,838	11,440	18,555	49,277	67,832	14,349
Mode & Destination			(000) Bushels					
Trucked East	20	152	172	21	0	475	475	117
Trucked West	2,161	1,610	3,771	1,391	1,884	2,091	3,975	1,116
Trucked Other [4/]	78	373	451	218	68	890	958	147
Total By Truck	2,259	2,135	4,394	1,630	1,952	3,456	5,408	1,380
Rail East	447	961	1,408	4,158	0	2,932	2,932	5,805
Rail West	23,373	39,847	63,220	5,448	16,586	40,398	56,984	5,791
Rail Other [4/]	885	1,931	2,816	204	17	2,491	2,508	1,373
Total By Rail	24,705	42,739	67,444	9,810	16,603	45,821	62,424	12,969
Total Shipped	26,964	44,874	71,838	11,440	18,555	49,277	67,832	14,349

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown. * This data made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Egg Production
Cattle on Feed	Potato Disposition
Montana Malt Barley	Slaughter
Cash Receipts	Hogs & Pigs

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

August 1Crop Production Forecast
Ag Prices Received
Farm Production Expenditures

Spring and Winter Wheat Production Forecast Higher

Montana producers expect to harvest 46.25 million bushels of winter wheat. Expected yields are up 1 bushel per acre from last month to 37 bushels per acre. If realized, total production would be down over 18 percent from last year due to reduced harvested acreage and yield. Hot, dry weather has prompted an early harvest and 67 percent of the crop combined by August 9 compared to a 5-year average of 33 percent harvested.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 105.0 million bushels with a yield of 30 bushels per acre. If realized, the yield would be 1 bushel per acre above last year, but total production would be 14 percent below 1997. As of August 9 harvest is 14 percent complete compared to 4 percent for the average with 43 percent of the crop rated good to excellent and 40 percent rated in fair condition.

The durum wheat estimate increased 1 bushel from last month to 26 bushels per acre with expected production of 11.4 million bushels. This is the largest production since 1981 and up 57 percent from last year.

Barley producers are also expecting a slightly larger crop with yields expected to be 52 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last month. Total production is expected to be 97.6 million bushels, up 4 percent from last month and up 6 percent from last year. Oat production is forecast at 4.8 million bushels, up 7 percent from last month and up 25 percent from last year. The yield is up 4 bushels per acre from last month and up 5 bushels from last year. Harvested acreage is up 10,000 acres from 1997 to 80,000 acres.

At 2.2 tons per acre, Montana hay producers are expecting lower alfalfa yields than last year, while expected yields for other hay at 1.7 tons per acre are higher than last year. Both types of hay are expected to have lower harvested acres than last year. Total production is forecast at 4.6 million tons compared with 5.5 million tons last year.

Montana corn production is estimated at 1.95 million bushels, up 3 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 130 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year. Forecasted dry bean yield is set at 2,200 pounds per acre with total production set at 264,000 cwt, up 3 percent from last year. Sugar beet production is forecast at 1.3 million tons, up 6 percent from last year.

At the U.S. level, all wheat production is placed at 2.55 billion bushels, up 1 percent from both the July forecast and 1997. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.0 bushels per acre. This is up 0.4 bushels from last month and is a new record high yield. The final winter wheat production forecast is 1.91 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 2 percent higher than 1997. The U.S. yield is forecast at a record high 47.0 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from July 1. Grain area was not changed from last month.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 126 million bushels, up less than 1 percent from last month and 46 percent more than 1997. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 35.2 bushels per acre, up a tenth of a bushel per acre from July 1.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 508 million bushels, up 2 percent from July 1. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 34.2 bushels per acre. This is 0.7 bushels per acre better than a month ago. There were no area changes. Hard Red Spring production is up 2 percent from July at 456 million bushels. White Spring production is up less than 1 percent.

U.S. barley production for 1998 is forecast at 374 million bushels, down only fractionally from both July 1998 and from 1997 final production. Yields are expected to average 61.6 bushels per acre, a decrease of 0.3 bushels from July but still 3.3 bushels higher than last year. Yield changes from the July forecast were made in eight States. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 6.08 million acres, remained unchanged from July, but is 5 percent below the 6.43 million acres harvested in 1997.

Production of dry edible beans is forecast at 29.9 million cwt for 1998, up 3 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent above two years ago. Harvested acres, at 1.90 million acres, are expected to be the highest since 1991's 1.91 million acres, but average yields are 125 pounds per acre below last year.

All hay production for 1998 is forecast at 148 million tons, down 3 percent from 1997 and down 1 percent from 1996. All hay yields are forecasted at 2.48 tons per acre, down slightly from last year. Acreage for harvest of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures and other hay is unchanged from June at 59.8 million acres which is down 2 percent from 1997.

See the tables on the following page.

CROP	UNIT	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/
MONTANA		1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000 Unit	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,600	1,400	1,450	1,250	39.0	37.0	56,550	46,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	290	450	280	440	26.0	26.0	7,280	11,440
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,350	3,600	4,200	3,500	29.0	30.0	121,800	105,000
All Wheat	Bu.	6,240	5,450	5,930	5,190	31.3	31.3	185,630	162,690
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	50	14	15	135.0	130.0	1,890	1,950
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	80	55.0	60.0	3,850	4,800
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,400	1,200	1,300	53.0	52.0	63,600	67,600
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.2	12.2	11.7	12.0	22.0	22.0	257	264
Sugar Beets	Ton	59.9	64.3	58.3	60.2	21.0	21.6	1,224	1,300
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	10.6	10.4	10.6	320.0	3/	3,328	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,500	2.40	2.20	3,960	3,300
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	750	1.60	1.70	1,520	1,275
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,250	2.11	2.03	5,480	4,575
UNITED STATES		1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,342	46,850	41,813	40,757	45.0	47.0	1,882,609	1,914,359
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,250	3,700	3,107	3,583	27.7	35.2	86,193	126,046
Spring Wheat	Bu.	19,397	15,249	18,657	14,871	29.9	34.2	557,750	508,461
All Wheat	Bu.	70,989	65,799	63,577	59,211	39.7	43.0	2,526,552	2,548,866
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,227	80,798	73,720	73,789	127.0	130.0	9,365,574	9,592,089
Oats	Bu.	5,169	4,992	2,911	2,936	60.5	60.4	176,104	177,211
Barley	Bu.	6,910	6,446	6,425	6,078	58.3	61.6	374,478	374,444
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,851.8	2,047.2	1,720.2	1,903.9	17.0	16.0	29,156	29,886
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,459.3	1,493.7	1,428.3	1,460.8	20.9	21.4	29,886	31,303
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,189.5	1,218.0	1,158.0	1,198.4	360.0	3/	417,088	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,673	23,437	3.35	3.43	79,242	80,290
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,142	36,382	1.96	1.87	72,878	67,997
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,815	59,819	2.50	2.48	152,120	148,287

1/ Preliminary. 2/Planted for all purposes. 3/Production forecast available November 10, 1998.

All Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, Selected & U.S., 1997 & Forecasted August 1, 1998

State	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1997	1998	1997	July 1, '98	Aug. 1, '98	1997	1998
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,900	2,798	32.7	37.7	39.6	94,700	110,898
ID	1,440	1,290	79.2	80.8	80.8	114,060	104,220
KS	11,000	10,100	46.0	49.0	49.0	506,000	494,900
MN	2,465	1,780	32.0	32.9	36.8	78,890	65,465
MT	**5,930**	**5,190**	**31.3**	**30.3**	**31.3**	**185,630**	**162,690**
NE	1,900	1,830	37.0	43.0	46.0	70,300	84,180
ND	11,025	9,465	24.3	30.4	30.4	267,695	287,880
OK	5,400	5,400	33.0	38.0	38.0	178,200	205,200
OR	970	905	65.4	67.0	67.8	63,430	61,395
SD	3,469	3,289	28.6	34.1	36.7	99,213	120,716
TX	4,100	4,000	29.0	36.0	36.0	118,900	144,000
WA	2,595	2,565	64.8	65.2	63.6	168,080	163,020
WY 1/	256	236	32.3	30.0	30.0	8,276	7,091
US	63,577	59,211	39.7	42.6	43.0	2,526,552	2,548,866

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

Montana Production Forecast by District, August 1, 1998

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1997	1998	98/97	1997	1998	98/97	1997	1998	98/97
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	720	580	81	1,825	1,537	84	2,131	2,040	96
N Central	27,290	21,000	77	58,052	50,300	87	32,765	39,960	122
Northeast	2,390	2,750	115	45,870	43,611	95	3,907	3,300	84
Central	13,680	11,650	85	11,654	10,123	87	14,095	11,280	80
Southwest	1,530	1,750	114	2,144	2,458	115	4,043	4,280	106
S Central	8,790	6,670	76	3,650	3,868	106	5,138	5,260	102
Southeast	2,150	1,850	86	5885	4,543	77	1,521	1,480	97
Montana	56,550	46,250	82	129,080	116,440	90	63,600	67,600	106

May Ag Prices Received Mostly Mixed

The Montana winter wheat average price decreased 22 cents from April 1998 to $3.06 per bushel, durum wheat was down 10 cents to $4.77 per bushel, and spring wheat was unchanged at $3.55 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-June averaged $3.24 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-June was $2.26. Feed barley is down 4 cents per bushel to $1.92, but malt barley increased 3 cents to $2.77 per bushel. The price for alfalfa hay in May, was $71.00 per ton, unchanged from last month. The May other hay price of $61.00 rose $1.00 from April.

With the exception of lambs, livestock prices for the full month of May were below April prices. Steer and heifer prices decreased $3.10 to $75.90 per cwt. Cows were down $2.70 to $37.20 and the average price for calves fell $1.90 to $87.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $8.40 to $26.70 per cwt, but lambs increased 70 cents to $71.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 70 cents from last month to $13.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $70.20 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for May at $3.06 per bushel, was down 9 cents from April. The all barley price was unchanged at $2.14 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were the same at $66.30 per cwt. Cow prices were $36.40 and hog prices were $42.20 per cwt. Egg prices were 54.8 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 101 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (1.9 percent) from May. Price decreases from May for cantaloupes, lettuce, corn, and tomatoes more than offset price increases for broilers, milk, oranges, and eggs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in June.

Compared with June 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (5.6 percent) lower. Price decreases from June 1997 for wheat, hogs, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, potatoes, and peaches.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	May 1997	June 1997	May 1998	June 1998
Prices Received	108	107	103	101
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	118	117	116	115
Ratio 2/	92	91	89	88

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		May 1997	Apr. 1998	May 1998	May 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	June 15 1998	June 15 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.23	3.28	3.06	2.90	-0.22	-1.17	3.00	2.63
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.41	4.87	4.77	4.29	-0.10	+0.36	4.60	4.18
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.17	3.55	3.55	3.31	0.00	-0.62	3.30	3.21
Wheat, All	Bu.	4.20	3.53	3.44	3.06	-0.09	-0.76	3.24	2.72
Barley	Bu.	2.62	2.51	2.26	2.14	-0.25	-0.36	2.26	2.04
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.23	1.96	1.92	1.93	-0.04	-0.31	1.90	1.90
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.30	2.74	2.77	2.53	+0.03	-0.53	2.80	2.29
Oats 1/	Bu.	1.80	N/A	N/A	1.53	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.50
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	101.00	71.00	71.00	108.00	0.00	-30.00	76.00	96.50
All Other Hay	Ton	89.00	60.00	61.00	78.00	+1.00	-28.00	68.00	74.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	98.00	70.00	70.00	103.00	0.00	-28.00	76.00	91.80
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	77.40	79.00	75.90	66.30	-3.10	-1.50	70.20	64.50
Cows	Cwt.	41.70	39.90	37.20	36.40	-2.70	-4.50	36.60	36.00
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	56.70	72.00	54.60	63.00	-17.40	-2.10	48.40	61.70
Calves	Cwt.	84.30	88.90	87.00	88.90	-1.90	+2.70	80.00	85.00
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	33.40	35.10	26.70	30.70	-8.40	-6.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	103.00	70.30	71.00	63.30	+0.70	-32.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt.	13.40	14.50	13.80	13.20	-0.70	+0.40	13.50	13.50

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Production Expenditures Up More than 3 Percent in 1997

U.S. farm production expenditures totaled $181.1 billion in 1997, up 3.5 percent from the revised 1996 total of $175.0 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were: livestock purchases, up 10.9 percent; seeds and plants, up 8.1 percent; tractors and self propelled farm machinery, up 8.0 percent; and labor, up 7.0 percent. The largest two expenditure categories were feed, which accounted for 13.9 percent of the U.S. total production expenses and farm services which accounted for 13.4 percent of the total. The farm services category includes expense items such as custom work, utilities, marketing charges, veterinary services, transportation costs, and miscellaneous business expenses.

The average expenditures per U.S. farm in 1997 were $88,216 compared to $84,977, as revised for 1996. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 1997 spent $12,276 on feed; $11,794 on farm services; $8,997 on rent; $8,915 on labor; and $6,917 on livestock and poultry purchases. Revised estimates for 1996 indicated that U.S. farms spent an average of $12,240 on feed; $11,414 on farm services; $8,889 on rent; $8,306 on labor; and $6,217 for livestock and poultry purchases.

The Farm Production Region contributing most to the total 1997 U.S. farm production expenditures was the Corn Belt with expenses of $33.4 billion, 18.5 percent of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the Corn Belt were down 1 percent from the 1996 level of $33.8 billion. For total expenditures, the Corn Belt was followed by the Pacific Region at $29.8 billion (1996 - $27.4 billion); Northern Plains $22.4 billion (1996 - $20.9 billion); Lake States $19.1 billion (1996 - $17.7 billion); and the Southern Plains at $15.8 billion (1996 - $15.8 billion).

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All Hay County Estimates	Farm Labor
Milk Production	Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Cattle & Calf Inventory
July 1 Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Mink Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Milk Production
Egg Production

United States July 1 Cattle Inventory Down 2 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1998, totaled 107.0 million head, 2 percent below the 109.0 million on July 1, 1997 and 4 percent below the 111.5 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at [illegible] million, were 2 percent below the 44.0 million on July 1, 1997 and 4 percent below the 45.0 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 34.1 million, were down 2 percent from July 1, 1997 and 4 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.2 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1997 and 2 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1998, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.7 million, down 2 percent and down 3 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.0 million, down 6 percent and down 9 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.6 million, no change and down 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.1 million, down 1 percent and no change.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.5 million, down 2 percent and down 4 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.2 million, down 4 percent and down 8 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.3 million, down 2 percent and down 4 [illegible]ent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.0 million, up 1 percent and up 12 percent.

The 1998 calf crop is expected to be 37.9 million, down 2 percent from 1997 and down 5 percent from 1996. This would be the smallest calf crop since 1951. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.9 million, down 2 percent from 1997 and down 5 percent from 1996.

July U.S. All Sheep and Lambs Totals 9.40 Million Head

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 1998, totaled 9.40 million head, 5 percent below July 1, 1997. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.58 million head on July 1, 1998, 3 percent below July 1997. Of the July 1, 1998 breeding herd, 4.56 million head were ewes one year old and older, 220,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 800,000 head were replacement lambs.

Market sheep and lambs, at 3.83 million head, were 7 percent below last July. Of the total market lambs, 62.3 percent were under 65 pounds, 19.3 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 11.2 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remainder, 7.2 percent, were over 105 pounds on July 1.

The 1998 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.87 million head, down 7 percent from the 1997 lamb crop of 5.24 million head. Lambs born during January through June 1998 reached 4.25 million head or 87 percent of the yearly total. An additional 620,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 1998.

The July 1 sheep and lamb numbers are published by regions. Montana is included with Colorado, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The total number of sheep and lambs in the region was 3.1 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago. This region accounted for 33.4 percent of the total U.S. sheep and lambs.

The region's breeding sheep and lambs inventory was 1.7 million head, down 8 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep and lambs, 1.4 million head were ewes one year old and older, 50,000 head were rams one year and older, and 230,000 head were replacement lambs.

All market sheep and lambs for the region totaled 1.4 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago. Of the total market lambs, 75.2 percent were under 65 pounds, 13.1 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 4.6 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remaining 7.1 percent were over 105 pounds.

Lambs born during January and June 1998 in the region reached 1.5 million head. An additional 25,000 are expected to be born during the period July through December 1998.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.16 million head on July 1, 1998. The inventory was 2 percent above July 1, 1997 and 17 percent above July 1, 1996. The inventory included 5.45 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 59 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.68 million head, up 5 percent from 1997.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.56 million, 8 percent above 1997 and 20 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.49 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 262,000, 600-699 pounds were 374,000, 700-799 pounds were 487,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 440,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.03 million, slightly below 1997 but 2 percent above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 72,000 during June, 20 percent above 1997 and 3 percent above 1996.

Montana & U.S. Red Meat Production Up For June

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 1998, up 21 percent from last month and 7 percent higher than this same time frame last year. Cattle slaughter at 1,400 head, was 100 higher than last year. The average live weight of 1,107 pounds was down 43 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,800 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during June, up 300 head from a year ago. The average live weight, 196 pounds, dropped 23 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 200 head, up 100 head from last year. The average live weight of 127 pounds was up 3 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.73 billion pounds in June, up 7 percent from the 3.49 billion pounds produced in June 1997. This was the second highest level for June, exceeded only by 3.80 billion pounds in June 1995. Beef production, at 2.25 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.11 million head, up 2 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 37 pounds from the previous year, at 1,197 pounds.

Veal production totaled 20 million pounds, 24 percent below June a year ago and equaling the previous record low for June set in 1991. Calf slaughter totaled 116 thousand head, down 2 percent from June 1997. The average live weight was 284 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.44 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.73 million head, 10 percent above 1997. The average live weight was 1 pound below the previous year, at 255 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19 million pounds, was down 6 percent from June 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 294 thousand head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, down 4 pounds from June a year ago.

January - June red meat production was 22.1 million pounds, 5 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 23 percent, pork was up 10 percent, and lamb and mutton was unchanged.

Pelt Production Up 7 Percent

Mink pelt production in the U.S. in 1997 totaled 2.84 million pelts, up 7 percent from 1996. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 701,400 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 42.2 percent; Mahogany - 22.4 percent; Gunmetal - 16.2 percent; Ranch Wild - 6.6 percent; Sapphire - 4.5 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.1 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1997 crop year were valued at $94.1 million dollars, up slightly from $93.9 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1997 crop year was $33.10, down 6 percent from the price of $35.30 in 1996.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1998 totaled 705,200, down 1 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1998 by color class are: Standard - 40.5 percent; Mahogany - 21.5 percent; Gunmetal - 16.4 percent; Ranch Wild - 5.9 percent; Sapphire - 5.7 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.0 percent.

There were 401 mink farms producing pelts in 1997, down 3 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 125 farms, Wisconsin with 69 farms and Minnesota with 39. There were 29 mink farms which also raised fox in 1997, compared to 40 for the previous year.

1998 Montana Wheat and Barley Varieties Survey

Neeley remained the leading winter wheat variety seeded in Montana for the eleventh consecutive year with 272 thousand acres planted in the state.

Rocky maintained its position of the second most popular winter wheat variety for the second consecutive year. Montana farmers planted 194 thousand acres of Rocky this year, a decrease from the 305 thousand acres planted last year.

Tiber remained in the third place position for the second consecutive year, accounting for 191 thousand acres of winter wheat planted in the state.

McNeal was the leading spring wheat variety planted this year. This hard red spring wheat accounted for 27 percent of seeded acreage with over 964 thousand acres planted.

Amidon dropped to the second place position this year after a significant decrease in planted acreage. Montana farmers planted only 621 thousand acres, compared to 1.07 million acres planted last year.

Westbred Rambo remained the third most popular variety with 277 thousand acres planted this year in the state. This is a drop from last year's 436 thousand acres seeded.

Kyle continued to be the leading durum variety for the fifth consecutive year. Over 172 thousand acres of Kyle were planted in the state, accounting for 38 percent of the total seeded acres.

Sceptre moved up from the sixth place position last year to become the second most popular durum variety with nearly 56 thousand acres planted.

Vic is another variety to move up in position from fifth place last year. Now the third highest variety, 32 thousand acres were seeded in the state compared to 22 thousand acres in 1997.

Harrington remained the top malting barley variety planted in the state. It accounted for 43 percent of total seeded acreage with 603 thousand acres planted and is recommended by the American Malting Barley Association for planting in Montana.

Baronesse remained the leading feed-type barley for the third consecutive year. Over 163 thousand acres of Baronesse were planted this year.

The Montana Wheat and Barley Varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee and the American Malting Barley Association, Inc. A more detailed report may be obtained from our office upon request.

Montana Wheat & Barley Varieties: Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1993-1998

Variety	Winter Wheat					
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 [1/]	1998
Neeley	18.4	23.3	23.6	24.6	24.3	19.4
Rocky	14.8	13.3	16.5	14.6	19.1	13.9
Tiber	10.7	16.2	12.4	16.5	13.4	13.7
Vangard	--	--	--	--	0.8	10.3
Redwin	10.8	10.0	8.9	11.4	10.6	5.5
Judith	9.8	10.2	8.2	3.7	3.4	4.4
Big Horn	1.0	1.3	0.7	4.0	2.3	3.5
Winalta	5.8	4.4	2.8	3.5	1.9	3.4
Morgan	--	--	--	--	--	2.3
Norstar	6.4	2.0	4.0	1.8	1.8	2.1
Roughrider	2.0	1.8	1.0	2.1	2.3	1.8
Rampart	--	--	--	--	--	1.8
Kestrel	--	0.1	0.4	1.4	4.0	1.3
Hawk	1.0	0.9	2.4	0.9	1.7	1.3
Quantum 542	0.3	1.1	1.8	0.6	1.2	1.0
Centurk	2.4	2.6	3.1	3.1	1.5	1.0
Siouxland	--	--	--	--	--	0.9
Warrior	1.1	1.7	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7
Promontory	--	--	--	0.3	--	0.7
Cheyenne	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.6
Stephens [2/]	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.5
Weston	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
Rose	0.1	0.8	--	0.3	0.2	0.4
Yuma	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.4
Other & Unknown	13.6	8.4	11.2	9.5	9.3	8.6
State	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Other Spring Wheat					
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 [1]	1998
McNeal	--	--	--	1.3	16.2	26.8
Amidon	29.0	27.9	29.9	28.0	24.7	17.3
Westbred Rambo	15.5	11.9	10.5	9.9	10.0	7.7
Ernest	--	--	--	0.2	3.2	7.6
Fortuna	6.6	8.0	8.3	5.9	6.3	6.4
Grandin	3.4	8.5	7.3	8.8	8.9	6.2
Stoa	5.9	5.7	3.6	6.1	4.5	3.4
Hi-Line	0.4	2.4	4.3	5.6	3.1	2.9
Newana	8.2	6.9	5.8	5.0	2.4	1.9
Kulm	--	--	--	0.5	0.4	1.9
Westbred 926	1.5	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.7	1.9
Lew	5.0	7.2	4.9	4.4	2.5	1.8
Len	6.6	6.3	6.3	3.6	3.1	1.8
Westbred 936	--	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.0	1.6
Fergus	--	--	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.6
Bergen	--	--	--	0.6	0.4	0.5
Westbred Express	--	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5
Gus	--	0.1	0.6	1.3	0.6	0.4
Butte 86	0.4	0.1	0.9	0.7	1.4	0.4
Tioga	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.4
Sonja	--	--	--	0.1	0.3	0.3
Bounty 309	--	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2
Olaf	2.8	2.2	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.2
Penawawa [2/]	--	--	--	0.4	0.2	0.2
Other & Unknown	14.7	10.1	12.1	12.1	5.5	7.1
State	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Durum Wheat					
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 [1/]	1998
Kyle	7.0	23.6	23.4	20.4	38.4	38.2
Sceptre	--	--	3.8	3.1	5.1	12.4
Vic	7.7	9.3	17.7	13.9	7.4	7.2
Monroe	24.2	22.5	11.1	20.5	14.1	6.6
Renville	2.8	7.4	10.0	9.0	8.4	5.8
Medora	18.0	3.4	6.0	2.4	8.7	5.5
Voss	--	--	--	--	1.0	4.2
Westbred Laker	23.5	14.5	3.8	3.1	2.7	3.2
Coyote	--	--	--	--	--	2.1
Ward	1.3	4.6	4.7	5.4	1.9	1.6
Kronos	--	--	--	--	--	1.5
Crosby	2.8	6.4	3.5	7.8	5.1	0.6
Stockholm	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Durex	--	--	--	0.8	1.0	0.2
Westbred 881	--	--	--	0.2	0.1	0.2
Ben	--	--	--	--	--	0.2
Cando	--	--	--	--	--	0.1
Kemut	--	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.1
Other & Unknown	12.7	7.2	15.7	12.9	5.4	9.9
State	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Barley					
	1993	1994	1995	1996	[illegible]	1998
Harrington [3/]	22.0	28.0	24.9	32.6	33.4	43.1
Baronesse	1.5	7.2	11.9	12.2	15.6	11.7
Hector	22.5	14.7	13.5	10.2	8.8	6.7
B 1202 [3/]	5.7	3.7	6.1	5.4	5.1	4.9
Gallatin	8.4	8.8	6.9	5.7	5.8	4.4
Bowman	7.3	5.8	6.9	6.0	4.7	3.1
Haybet	–	0.7	1.5	1.4	2.1	2.9
Galena	–	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.4	2.8
Lewis	5.1	5.2	2.5	2.4	1.5	2.1
Piroline	7.4	5.6	4.3	3.0	3.4	2.1
Horsford	1.9	1.3	1.2	2.3	1.7	2.1
Chinook [3/]	–	–	–	0.5	0.8	1.7
Morex [3/]	2.4	2.0	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.5
Clark	2.1	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.1
Stark	–	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9
B 2601 [3/]	0.6	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.8	0.9
Menuet	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.8
Nebula	–	–	–	–	–	0.3
B Merit	–	–	–	–	–	0.3
Moravian III	1.9	0.8	1.0	1.8	0.9	0.3
Unitan	0.5	0.3	0.2	–	0.5	0.2
Klages	0.6	–	0.1	0.8	0.3	0.2
Excel [3/]	0.2	0.4	1.3	–	0.3	0.1
Larker	–	–	–	–	–	0.1
Other & Unknown	9.1	10.2	11.6	9.1	8.1	5.7
State	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1/] Revised. [2/] Soft White Wheat. [3/] American Malting Barley Association, Inc. recommended for malting and brewing for Montana, 1998.

June Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.42 billion during June 1998, up 2 percent from the 6.28 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.40 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 960 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 1998 averaged 308 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during June 1997. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,086 eggs, down sightly from 2,093 eggs in June 1997.

Montana April-June Milk Production Down, U.S. Up

Montana milk cows produced 74 million pounds of milk during the period of April-June 1998, compared with 76 million pounds the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow inventory declined from 19,000 head a year ago to 18,000 head this year.

During the April-June period, the U.S. produced 41.0 billion pounds, 0.8 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.20 million head, 81,000 head less than the same period last year.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
Potato Acreage
Ag Prices Received
U.S. Wheat Supply, Disappearance, and Price

Crop Forecast Improves During June

Montana wheat production is expected to be the smallest since 1992. As of July 1, producers expect to harvest 157.5 million bushels of all wheat this year, 15 percent less than last year's crop. Growers expect to harvest 5.19 million acres of wheat, which is 12 percent less than a year ago and the smallest harvested acreage since 1992. Yield prospects have improved with excellent rainfalls during June.

Most of the state received above normal precipitation during June when grain formation occurred, significantly improving the condition of the crop. Forecasted yield for winter wheat is up 5 bushels from last month's forecast to 36 bushels per acre, if realized, this would be 3 bushels less than last year. Total winter wheat production is estimated at 45.0 million bushels, down 20 percent from last year due to the decrease in acreage for harvest and lower yield, but up 12 percent from last month's forecast. Growers intend to harvest 1.25 million acres of winter wheat, down 14 percent from last year and unchanged from last month.

Spring wheat producers plan to harvest 3.5 million acres, down 700,000 acres or 17 percent from last year. Forecasted yield is set at 29 bushels per acre, the same yield as a year ago. Total production is estimated at 101.5 million bushels, which is also down 17 percent from 1997. If realized, this would be the smallest spring wheat production since 1994. Durum wheat production is forecast at 11.0 million bushels, up 51 percent from a year ago and the largest durum wheat crop since 1981. Yield is estimated at 25 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel per acre from last year. Producers plan to harvest 440,000 acres, up 160,000 acres from 1997 and also the largest harvested acreage since 1981.

Barley yields are estimated at 50 bushels per acre, 3 bushels per acre less than last year. Total production is forecast at 65.0 million bushels, up 2 percent from 1997. Growers expect to harvest 1.3 million acres, up 100,000 acres from a year ago. Oat production is forecast at 4.48 million bushels, up 16 percent from 1997. The forecasted yield of 56 bushels per acre is up 1 bushel from last year's yield. At 80,000 acres, growers intend to harvest 10,000 acres more than 1997 and the same amount as 1995.

At the U.S. level, all wheat production is placed at 2.52 billion bushels, slightly less than 1997, but 10 percent more than in 1996. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.6 bushels per acre. This is up 2.9 bushels from a year ago to a new record high yield. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.9 billion bushels, up 9 percent from last month and 1 percent higher than 1997. The U.S. yield is forecast at a record high 46.6 bushels per acre. This is up 3.7 bushels from June 1. Grain area was not changed from last month.

Nationally, other spring wheat production is forecast at 498 million bushels, down 11 percent from 1997. A 20 percent drop in grain area is the main cause of the decline. The U.S. yield is forecast at 33.5 bushels per acre, up 3.6 bushels per acre from last year. Hard Red Spring production is down 11 percent to 445 million bushels. White Spring production is down about 8 percent. Durum wheat production is forecast at 126 million bushels, up 46 percent from 1997. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 35.1 bushels per acre, up 7.4 bushels per acre from last year. This yield increase, along with a 15 percent increase in harvested acres, results in the largest crop since 1982.

U.S. barley production for 1998 is forecast at 376 million bushels, up only fractionally from a year ago and up 5 percent from 1996. The first forecast for 1998 indicates that producers expect yields to average 61.9 bushels per acre, an increase of 3.6 bushels from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 6.08 million acres, is 5 percent below the 6.43 million acres harvested the previous year. The higher expected yields in 1998 have offset the acreage declines from last year to keep production nearly the same as 1997.

U.S. oat production for the 1998 crop year is forecast at 183 million bushels, 4 percent above 1997 production. If realized, this would be the fourth smallest crop since records were first kept in 1866. The forecasted yield, at 62.4 bushels per acre, is up 1.9 bushels from last year's 60.5 bushels per acre and the highest average yield since 1992. Area harvested and to be harvested for grain in 1998 is 2.94 million acres, up 1 percent from 1997. If realized, this would be the third smallest acreage harvested for grain on record.

July 1, 1998 Potato Planted and Harvested Acreage

Montana potato producers planted an estimated 10,600 acres this year, up 200 acres from last year. Currently, producers intend to harvest all of these acres. This is the largest planted and harvested acreage since 1950.

U.S. potato farmers have planted an estimated 1.40 million acres in all four 1997 seasons, up 3 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 1.38 million acres, up 4 percent from last year.

Crop Production Forecast, July 1, 1998

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/
MONTANA		000 Acres						000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,600	1,400	1,450	1,250	39.0	36.0	56,550	45,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	290	450	280	440	26.0	25.0	7,280	11,000
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,350	3,600	4,200	3,500	29.0	29.0	121,800	101,500
All Wheat	Bu.	6,240	5,450	5,930	5,190	31.3	30.3	185,630	157,500
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	50	14	15	135.0	3/	1,890	3/
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	80	55.0	56.0	3,850	4,480
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,400	1,200	1,300	53.0	50.0	63,600	65,000
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.2	12.2	11.7	12.0	22.0	3/	257	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	59.9	64.3	58.3	64.0	21.0	3/	1,224	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	10.6	10.4	10.6	320.0	4/	3,328	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,500	2.4	3/	3,960	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	750	1.6	3/	1,520	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,250	2.1	3/	5,480	3/
UNITED STATES		000 Acres						000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,342	46,850	41,813	40,757	45.0	46.6	1,882,609	1,898,719
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,250	3,700	3,107	3,583	27.7	35.1	86,193	125,644
Spring Wheat	Bu.	19,397	15,249	18,657	14,871	29.9	33.5	557,750	498,081
All Wheat	Bu.	70,989	65,799	63,577	59,211	39.7	42.6	2,526,552	2,522,444
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,227	80,798	73,720	74,284	127.0	3/	9,365,574	3/
Oats	Bu.	5,169	4,992	2,911	2,936	60.5	62.4	176,104	183,201
Barley	Bu.	6,910	6,446	6,425	6,078	58.3	61.9	374,478	375,962
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,851.8	2,047.2	1,720.2	1,943.7	17.0	3/	29,156	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,459.3	1,493.7	1,428.3	1,473.2	20.9	3/	29,886	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,189.5	1,218.0	1,158.0	1,198.4	360.0	4/	417,088	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,673	23,437	3.35	3/	79,242	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,142	36,382	1.96	3/	72,878	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,815	59,819	2.50	3/	152,120	3/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available August 12, 1998. 4/ Production forecast available November 10, 1998.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1998 1/

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1997	1998	98/97	1997	1998	98/97	1997	1998	98/97
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	720	580	81	1,825	1,537	84	2,131	2,040	96
N Central	27,290	20,000	73	58,052	47,186	81	32,765	37,360	114
Northeast	2,390	2,750	115	45,870	42,800	93	3,907	3,300	84
Central	13,680	11,400	83	11,654	10,123	87	14,095	11,280	80
Southwest	1,530	1,750	114	2,144	2,480	116	4,043	4,280	106
S Central	8,790	6,670	76	3,650	3,830	105	5,138	5,260	102
Southeast	2,150	1,850	86	5,885	4,544	77	1,521	1,480	97
Montana	56,550	45,000	80	129,080	112,500	87	63,600	65,000	102

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

May Ag Prices Received Mostly Mixed

The Montana winter wheat average price decreased 22 cents from April 1998 to $3.06 per bushel, durum wheat was down 10 cents to $4.77 per bushel, and spring wheat was unchanged at $3.55 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-June averaged $3.24 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-June was $2.26. Feed barley is down 4 cents per bushel to $1.92, but malt barley increased 3 cents to $2.77 per bushel. The price for alfalfa hay in May, was $71.00 per ton, unchanged from last month. The May other hay price of $61.00 rose $1.00 from April.

With the exception of lambs, livestock prices for the full month of May were below April prices. Steer and heifer prices decreased $3.10 to $75.90 per cwt. Cows were down $2.70 to $37.20 and the average price for calves fell $1.90 to $87.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $8.40 to $26.70 per cwt, but lambs increased 70 cents to $71.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 70 cents from last month to $13.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $70.20 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for May at $3.06 per bushel, was down 9 cents from April. The all barley price was unchanged at $2.14 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were the same at $66.30 per cwt. Cow prices were $36.40 and hog prices were $42.20 per cwt. Egg prices were 54.8 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 101 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (1.9 percent) from May. Price decreases from May for cantaloupes, lettuce, corn, and tomatoes more than offset price increases for broilers, milk, oranges, and eggs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in June.

Compared with June 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (5.6 percent) lower. Price decreases from June 1997 for wheat, hogs, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, potatoes, and peaches.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	May 1997	June 1997	May 1998	June 1998
Prices Received	108	107	103	101
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	118	117	116	115
Ratio 2/	92	91	89	88

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Base Month May 1998	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		May 1997	Apr. 1998	May 1998	May 1998	Apr. 1998	May 1997	June 15 1998	June 15 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.23	3.28	3.06	2.90	-0.22	-1.17	3.00	2.63
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.41	4.87	4.77	4.29	-0.10	+0.36	4.60	4.18
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.17	3.55	3.55	3.31	0.00	-0.62	3.30	3.21
Wheat, All	Bu.	4.20	3.53	3.44	3.06	-0.09	-0.76	3.24	2.72
Barley	Bu.	2.62	2.51	2.26	2.14	-0.25	-0.36	2.26	2.04
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.23	1.96	1.92	1.93	-0.04	-0.31	1.90	1.90
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.30	2.74	2.77	2.53	+0.03	-0.53	2.80	2.29
Oats 1/	Bu.	1.80	N/A	N/A	1.53	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.50
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	101.00	71.00	71.00	108.00	0.00	-30.00	76.00	96.50
All Other Hay	Ton	89.00	60.00	61.00	78.00	+1.00	-28.00	68.00	74.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	98.00	70.00	70.00	103.00	0.00	-28.00	76.00	91.80
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	77.40	79.00	75.90	66.30	-3.10	-1.50	70.20	64.50
Cows	Cwt.	41.70	39.90	37.20	36.40	-2.70	-4.50	36.60	36.00
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	56.70	72.00	54.60	63.00	-17.40	-2.10	48.40	61.70
Calves	Cwt.	84.30	88.90	87.00	88.90	-1.90	+2.70	80.00	85.00
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	33.40	35.10	26.70	30.70	-8.40	-6.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	103.00	70.30	71.00	63.30	+0.70	-32.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt.	13.40	14.50	13.80	13.20	-0.70	+0.40	13.50	13.50

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Projected U.S. Wheat Stocks up

Projected U.S. 1998/99 ending stocks are up 41 million bushels from last month as larger production more than offsets reduced carryin stocks and expanding use. Winter wheat production is forecast up 155 million bushels from last month because of larger area and higher yields. However, the first survey-based forecast of spring wheat production (including durum) is down. Projected domestic feed and residual use is up 100 million bushels from last month because of large supplies in the Great Plains and weak export demand for soft wheat. Export prospects for U.S. white wheat and soft red winter wheat are weak because of ample supplies in competing exporters and reduced demand in several importing countries. The projected price range is down 20 cents on each end to $2.70 to $3.10 per bushel.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1983-1999

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1983 . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,285	92	2,753	891	103	314	1,308	1,001	2,310	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,527	93	3,063	915	92	293	1,300	1,040	2,340	723	3.40
1998 . .	723	2,522	90	3,336	925	93	400	1,418	1,050	2,468	868	2.70-3.10
1999 . 3/	868											

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, June 1998--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production	Wheat & Barley Varieties
U.S. Cattle Inventory	Egg Production
Cattle on Feed	Mink Production
Sheep Inventory	Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- June Planted Acreages
- June 1 Grain Stocks
- May Red Meat Production
- Milk Production
- U.S. Cattle on Feed
- U.S. Hogs & Pigs
- U.S. Egg Production
- Sweet Cherry Production

Montana's Wheat Acreage the Smallest Since 1991

Montana spring wheat producers planted 3.6 million acres of spring wheat this year, down just over 17 percent from last year and down 8 percent from what they intended to plant March 1. Lower prices and drought-like conditions in many areas of the state held back producers from seeding on marginal and recrop land. Producers intend to harvest 3.5 million acres. Better prices for **durum** led producers to plant 450,000 acres of durum this spring, up 55 percent from a year ago. If conditions permit, producers will harvest 440,000 acres. **Winter wheat** seeded acreage was estimated at 1.4 million acres, down 12 percent from 1997 and the smallest planted acreage of winter wheat since 1941. Winter wheat acreage for harvest has been revised down to 1.25 million acres. Dry conditions and more winterkill than earlier identified led to the lowered harvest estimate. All wheat planted acreage estimated at 5.45 million acres is the smallest crop since 1991.

Barley producers seeded 1.4 million acres this year, up 100,000 acres from a year ago. Harvested barley acreage was estimated at 1.3 million acres. **Oat** acreage remained the same as last year at 140,000 acres with 80,000 acres intended to be harvested for grain. **Corn** producers seeded 50,000 acres for all purposes, down 10,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to harvest 15,000 acres for grain, up 5,000 acres from 1997. **Dry bean** planted acreage is unchanged from last year at 12,200 acres. **Sugar beet** acreage increased 4,400 acres to 64,300. **Hay** harvested acreage is expected to decline 13 percent from last year with alfalfa acreage decreasing to 1.5 million acres and other hay decreasing to 750,000 acres. Low moisture supplies early on have caused most of the decrease in acreage.

At the **U.S.** level, the 1998 **all wheat** planted area is estimated at 65.8 million acres while grain area is placed at 59.2 million acres. Both levels are down 7 percent from 1997. This is the lowest planted area in ten years and the lowest grain area since 1991. Winter wheat area for grain is now estimated at 40.8 million acres, up somewhat from the June 1 forecast, but 3 percent less than last year. Planted acres at 46.9 million acres are also down 3 percent from last year, but fractionally higher than the previously published level. **Durum wheat** planted area is estimated at 3.70 million acres, up 14 percent from 1997. Intentions are to harvest 3.58 million acres for grain, up 13 percent from last year. The planted acreage is down 9 percent from the "Prospective Plantings" report, but is still the highest since 1989. **Other spring wheat** area planted for 1998 is estimated at 15.2 million acres, down 21 percent from 1997 and 7 percent from the "Prospective Plantings" report. Grain area is expected to total 14.9 million acres, down 20 percent from last year. Both levels are the lowest in ten years.

U.S. barley growers seeded 6.45 million acres of barley for 1998, down 7 percent from the 6.91 million acres seeded a year ago. This year's barley crop is the lowest acreage planted since records were first kept. Acreage expected for grain harvest in 1998 at 6.08 million acres is down 5 percent from the 1997 harvested grain acreage. **Oats** planted last fall and this spring totaled 4.99 million acres, down 3 percent from last year's final seeded acres. If producers meet their expectations, acreage seeded would be the second lowest recorded since 1866, exceeding only the 1996 acreage of 4.66 million acres. Growers expect to harvest 2.94 million acres for grain in 1998, up 1 percent from 1997. If realized, this would be the third smallest acreage harvested for grain on record.

Corn planted, at the U.S. level, for all purposes is estimated at 80.8 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. This is the largest planted acreage since 1985. Growers expect to harvest 74.3 million acres for grain, up 1 percent from 1997. Planted acreage of **dry beans** for the 1998 crop is estimated at 2.05 million acres this year, up 11 percent from both last year and two years ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 1.94 million acres, 13 percent above a year ago and 11 percent above 1996. Area planted to sugar beets is expected to total 1.49 million acres in the 12 producing states.

Hay producers, at the U.S. level, expect to harvest 59.8 million acres of hay in 1998, down 2 percent from the 60.8 million acres harvested the previous year. **Alfalfa** and alfalfa mixtures are expected to total 23.4 million acres, down 1 percent from 1997. All other hay is estimated at 36.4 million acres, 2 percent below last year. With higher hay prices than normal and depleted hay stocks, the demand for hay remained high. Weather related problems have reduced the availability of hay land in many areas.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

June 1, 1998 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on June 1 ,1998 totaled 67.0 million bushels, up 80 percent from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 53.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 14.0 million bushels stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 43.0 million bushels, was up 52 percent from last year and accounted for 64 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 24.0 million bushels, up from 8.8 million bushels last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 2.6 million bushels, down 20 percent from last year. All wheat disappearance for the March-May quarter was 37.0 million bushels, compared with 41.4 million for the same quarter last year. Barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 1998 were up 23 percent from last year and were set at 9.0 million bushels. Oat stocks were down 28 percent from a year ago and were estimated at 790,000 bushels.

March 1, 1998 barley stocks were revised to 21.6 million bushels, 1.0 million bushels above the previous estimate. March-May disappearance of barley was 12.6 million bushels, 3.1 million bushels more than the same quarter in 1997.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1997	Mar 1, 1998*	June 1, 1998	'98/'97	June 1, 1997	Mar 1, 1998*	June 1, 1998
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	26,500	85,000	53,000	200%	154,560	399,920	224,210
Off Farms 1/	10,700	19,000	14,000	131%	289,047	766,644	499,122
TOTAL	37,200	104,000	67,000	180%	443,607	1,166,564	723,332
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	6,000	24,000	19,000	317%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	2,830	6,400	5,000	177%	--	--	--
TOTAL	8,830	30,400	24,000	272%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	20,500	61,000	34,000	166%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	7,870	12,600	9,000	114%	--	--	--
TOTAL	28,370	73,600	43,000	152%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	17,800	22,000	13,380
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	12,938	20,685	12,460
TOTAL	3,270	3,950	2,600	80%	30,738	42,685	25,840
BARLEY							
On Farms	5,000	14,000	5,000	100%	43,715	81,300	44,700
Off Farms 1/	2,300	7,600	4,000	174%	65,735	98,299	75,535
TOTAL	7,300	21,600	9,000	123%	109,450	179,599	120,235
OATS							
On Farms	600	1,600	700	117%	33,100	58,800	34,500
Off Farms 1/	500	150	90	18%	33,576	52,653	39,503
TOTAL	1,100	1,750	790	72%	66,676	111,453	74,003
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,501,000	2,975,000	1,830,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	995,550	1,964,898	1,209,122
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	2,496,550	4,939,898	3,039,122

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1997	March 1, 1998*	June 1, 1998	June 1, 1997	March 1, 1998*	June 1, 1998
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.2	1.6	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.6
North Central	15.8	43.3	30.1	3.4	8.9	3.8
Northeast	13.6	29.6	18.7	0.7	1.4	0.5
Central	2.9	18.0	9.2	1.1	5.5	1.7
Southwest	0.9	2.3	1.5	0.5	1.6	0.6
South Central	1.9	4.7	4.3	0.7	2.4	1.6
Southeast	1.9	4.5	2.7	0.2	0.6	0.2
MONTANA	37.2	104.0	67.0	7.3	21.6	9.0

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES, JUNE 1, 1998

CROP	UNIT	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/	1997	1998 1/
MONTANA		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,600	1,400	1,450	1,250	39.0	3/	56,550	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	290	450	280	440	26.0	3/	7,280	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,350	3,600	4,200	3,500	29.0	3/	121,800	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	6,240	5,450	5,930	5,190	31.3	3/	185,630	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	50	14	15	135.0	4/	1,890	4/
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	80	55.0	3/	3,850	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,400	1,200	1,300	53.0	3/	63,600	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.2	12.2	11.7	12.0	22.0	4/	257	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	59.9	64.3	58.3	64.0	21.0	4/	1,224	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	6/	10.4	6/	320.0	5/	3,328	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,500	2.4	4/	3,960	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	750	1.6	4/	1,520	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,250	2.1	4/	5,480	4/
UNITED STATES		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,342	46,850	41,813	40,757	45.0	3/	1,882,609	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,250	3,700	3,107	3,583	27.7	3/	86,193	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	19,397	15,249	18,657	14,901	29.9	3/	557,750	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	70,989	65,799	63,577	59,241	39.7	3/	2,526,552	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,227	80,798	73,720	74,284	127.0	4/	9,365,574	4/
Oats	Bu.	5,169	4,992	2,911	2,936	60.5	3/	176,104	3/
Barley	Bu.	6,910	6,446	6,425	6,078	58.3	3/	374,478	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,851.8	2,047.2	1,720.2	1,943.7	17.0	4/	29,156	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,459.3	1,493.7	1,428.3	1,473.2	20.9	4/	29,874	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,189.5	6/	1,158.0	6/	360.0	5/	417,088	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,673	23,437	3.35	4/	79,242	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,142	36,382	1.96	4/	72,878	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,815	59,819	2.50	4/	152,120	4/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available July 10, 1998. 4/ Production forecast available August 12, 1998. 5/ Production forecast available November 10, 1998. 6/ Planted and harvested acreage available July 10, 1998.

Red Meat Production Down For Montana

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.0 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 1998, down 12 percent from last year, and down 3 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,200 head, was 200 head less than from last year. The average live weight of 1,098 pounds was down 38 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,500 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during May, up 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 204 pounds, dropped 18 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 100 head, unchanged from last year. The average live weight of 128 pounds was up 3 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.58 billion pounds in May, up slightly from the 3.57 billion pounds produced in May 1997. Beef production, at 2.12 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, down 7 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 39 pounds from the previous year, at 1,188 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19 million pounds, 27 percent below May a year ago and 5 percent below the previous record low for May set in 1993. Calf slaughter totaled 102 thousand head, down 13 percent from May 1997. The average live weight was 302 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.42 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.57 million head, 7 percent above 1997. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 256 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19 million pounds, was down 11 percent from May 1997 and 10 percent below the previous record low for May set in 1996. Sheep slaughter totaled 281 thousand head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, unchanged from May a year ago.

U.S. May Milk Production Up 2.1 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during May totaled 12.1 billion pounds, up 2.1 percent from production in these same States in May 1997. April revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds was up 1.3 percent from April 1997.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,564 pounds for May, 35 pounds above May 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 16,000 head less than May 1997 but 14,000 head more than April 1998.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.70 million head on June 1, 1998. The inventory was 1 percent above June 1, 1997 and 13 percent above June 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.03 million, 9 percent above 1997 and 30 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.94 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 305,000, 600-699 pounds were 392,000, 700-799 pounds were 707,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 627,000. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.95 million, 5 percent below both 1997 and 1996. Other disappearance totaled 93,000 during May, 21 percent below 1997 but 11 percent above 1996.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 6 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1998, was 61.6 million head. This was 6 percent above June 1997, and 3 percent above March 1, 1998.

Breeding inventory, at 7.02 million head, was up 1 percent from June 1, 1997 and up slightly from March 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 54.6 million head, was 6 percent above last year, and 3 percent above last quarter.

The March-May 1998 U.S. pig crop, at 26.7 million head, was 5 percent more than 1997 and 7 percent more than 1996. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.06 million head, 4 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 44 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter continues to increase, with an average of 8.74 pigs saved per litter for the March-May period. Last year the litter rate averaged 8.65 pigs. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.03 million sows farrow during the June-August 1998 quarter, 3 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 1997 and 10 percent above 1996. Intended farrowings for September-November 1998, at 3.04 million sows, are 4 percent above the same period last year and 12 percent above 1996.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 27 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

May Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.63 billion during May 1998, up 2 percent from the 6.51 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.56 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 1998 averaged 308 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during May 1997. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,150 eggs, down sightly from May 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 1998, totaled 308 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 308 million layers consisted of 251 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1998, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.27 billion eggs during May, up 1 percent from May 1997. The average number of layers during May, at 291 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

June 1, 1998 Cherry Production Forecast

Montana sweet cherry producers expect total production to increase by 15 percent to 3.0 million pounds. Most growers noted good pollinating weather and good drop weather. Most the of the trees replanted after the 1989 frost are producing now. If expectations are met this will be the largest cherry crop since 1988, the last year before the frost.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 192,900 tons, down 13 percent from 1997, but 25 percent above 1996. California and Washington expect declines, but Oregon will stay even with a year ago.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Wheat Supply & Demand
Potato Acreages
Small Grain Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production, Disposition, and Income
Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Agricultural Chemical Usage

1997 Milk Production, Disposition, and Income

Montana's 1997 milk production of 295 million pounds decreased 4 percent from 1996. An average of 19,000 milk cows were on farms and ranches during the year, 1,000 less than a year ago. The rate per cow averaged 15,526 pounds, 176 pounds more than 1996.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were 37.5 million dollars, down 16 percent from 1996. Producer returns averaged $13.20 per cwt, a decrease of $2.00 from last year. Marketings totaled 284 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year ago. A total of 11 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 7 million pounds were fed to calves, and 4 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 2 percent in 1997 to 157 billion pounds. The rate per cow at 16,915 pounds, was 436 pounds above 1996. The annual average number of cows on farms at 9.26 million head, was 103,000 less than 1996.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1997 were $21.0 billion dollars, 8 percent below 1996. Producer returns averaged $13.53 per hundredweight, $1.41 per hundredweight below 1996. Marketings totaled 155 billion pounds, 2 percent above 1996. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.43 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 4 percent less than 1996. Calves were fed 82 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households.

U.S. April Milk Production Up 1.0 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from production in these same States in April 1997. March revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds was up 0.7 percent from March 1997.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,496 pounds for April, 22 pounds above April 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 32,000 head less than April 1997 but 6,000 head more than March 1998.

Montana Red Meat Production Down, While U.S. Red Meat Production Sets Record High

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.0 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 1998, down 6 percent from April 1997. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,100 head, 200 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,140, was down 4 pounds from a year ago.

During April, there were 1,600 head of hogs slaughtered, 100 more than last year. The average live weight decreased 10 pounds to 211 pounds. Sheep slaughter was the same as a year earlier at 100 head, however, the average live weight increased 3 pounds to 129 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.70 billion pounds in April, up 3 percent from the 3.59 billion pounds produced in April 1997 and just above the previous record high for April set in 1996.

Beef production, at 2.09 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.93 million head, down 4 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 37 pounds from the previous year, at 1,189 pounds.

Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 28 percent below April a year ago and 9 percent below the previous record low for April. Calf slaughter totaled 109 thousand head, down 15 percent from April 1997. The average live weight was 299 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year and 3 percent higher than the previous record high for April set in 1980. Hog kill totaled 8.33 million head, 8 percent above 1997. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 257 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 25.0 million pounds, was up 14 percent from April 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 384 thousand head, 14 percent above last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, unchanged from April a year ago.

PLEASE RETURN

April Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.57 billion during April 1998, up 3 percent from the 6.35 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.53 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 979 million were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 1998 averaged 311 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during April 1997. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,116 eggs, up 1 percent from April 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1998, totaled 309 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 309 million layers consisted of 251 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1998, averaged 69.7 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.1 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 622 billion eggs during April, up 3 percent from April 1997. The average number of layers during April, at 294 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.72 million head on May 1, 1998. The inventory was 2 percent below May 1, 1997 but 6 percent above May 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.58 million, 2 percent above 1997 and 16 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.49 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 232,000, 600-699 pounds were 349,000, 700-799 pounds were 566,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 436,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.88 million, 2 percent below 1997 and 1 percent below 1996. Other disappearance totaled 92,000 during April, 6 percent below 1997 and 14 percent below 1996.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Down 2 Percent

Cattle on feed May 1, 1998, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.30 million, down 2 percent from the previous year but 7 percent above May 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.36 million, 5 percent above 1997 and 18 percent above 1996. Marketings during April totaled 1.61 million, 2 percent below 1997 and slightly below 1996. Other disappearance during April was 61,000 head, 10 percent below 1997 and 6 percent below 1996.

Montana Potato Stocks Up 17 Percent, U.S. Stocks Down 15 Percent

Montana potato producers held 350,000 cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, compared with the 300,000 held in storage last year. The stocks account for 11 percent of the total production from the 1997 crop. Last year's May 1 inventory accounted for 9 percent of the 1996 crop.

Stocks are the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes for the past 5 years averaged 90.5 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss, and home use accounted for the remaining 9.5 percent.

U.S. potato stocks on May 1, 1998, totaled 87.1 million cwt, down 15 percent from a year earlier but 14 percent above two years ago. Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 was 320 million cwt, 6 percent below a year ago but 1 percent above two years ago. Disappearance during April was 42.2 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss was estimated at 26.6 million cwt, down 14 percent from last year and 9 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1997 crop potatoes totaled 155 million cwt so far this season, down 7 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. April processing claimed 17.7 million cwt of potatoes, down 4 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 68.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, down 12 percent from last year but up 13 percent from 1996. Idaho's stocks fell 11 percent from a year ago but were 1 percent above two years ago. Idaho's storage held 53 percent of the western stocks. Colorado's storages were down 17 percent, Oregon's stocks were off 29 percent year, and Washington's stocks were off 3 percent from last year. California's stocks stayed the same as the last two years. Each of the Western States, except California, had more potatoes in storage than two years ago.

1997 Agricultural Chemical Use Estimates for Winter and Spring Wheat

Montana winter wheat producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 95 percent of the harvested winter wheat acreage in 1997. A total of 64.5 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer was applied to the 1.45 million acres of winter wheat harvested in Montana. Of the harvested area, 78 percent received phosphate fertilizer while potash was used on 23 percent of the acres. Total application of phosphate was 31.4 million pounds and potash was 4.3 million pounds.

Montana winter wheat producers applied 1.09 million pounds of herbicides to 88 percent of the harvested winter wheat acres in 1997. The most common herbicide used was 2, 4-D with 72 percent of the acreage being sprayed. Dicamba and Glyphosate were the next popular herbicides used at 38 and 35 percent respectively. (Continued on back)

U.S. Hired Workers Down 1 Percent, Wages Up 7 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,005,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 12-18, 1998, down 1 percent from a year ago. There were 803,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 202,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 6.6 percent of the April hired workforce compared to 6.3 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $7.50 per hour during the April 1998 survey week, up 47 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.00 per hour, up 36 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.99 per hour compared with $6.40 a year earlier.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY REGION & U.S., April 6-12, 1997 & April 12-18, 1998 1/

U.S. AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	FIELD		LIVESTOCK		FIELD & LIVESTOCK			
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	7.11	7.76	5.67	6.09	6.59	7.13	7.22	7.42
Northeast II	6.62	7.23	5.81	6.20	6.27	7.00	6.99	7.53
Appalachian I	6.04	6.51	6.85	6.96	6.28	6.65	6.49	7.13
Appalachian II	5.69	6.47	6.28	6.09	*5.85	6.35	*6.27	6.53
Southeast	6.14	6.20	5.70	6.26	6.02	6.21	*6.40	6.48
FL	6.51	6.75	6.30	7.20	6.49	6.78	7.19	7.57
Lake	7.50	7.39	6.56	7.43	6.91	7.41	7.31	8.06
Cornbelt I	7.28	7.39	7.47	8.13	7.33	7.62	7.91	8.14
Cornbelt II	6.76	7.49	6.43	7.23	6.57	7.37	6.64	7.64
Delta	5.91	5.87	6.33	6.74	6.02	6.04	6.50	6.30
Northern Plains	7.96	7.55	6.61	6.62	7.07	7.15	7.72	7.60
Southern Plains	5.37	6.20	5.78	6.29	5.57	6.25	5.98	6.72
Mountain I	6.59	6.51	4.95	5.92	5.65	6.21	5.94	6.46
Mountain II	6.58	6.80	5.99	7.12	6.40	6.95	6.95	7.46
Mountain III	5.78	6.32	5.90	6.52	5.81	6.36	6.24	7.02
Pacific	6.71	7.00	7.64	8.49	6.88	7.21	7.36	7.89
CA	6.90	7.30	8.06	8.08	6.99	7.39	7.35	7.87
HI 3/	8.81	9.06	--	--	8.82	8.95	9.98	10.43
US 4/	6.64	7.00	6.40	6.99	*6.57	7.00	*7.03	7.50

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data.
4/ Excludes AK. * Revised.

The June Agricultural Survey is Underway

You may be part of a sample of Montana producers that will be asked by interviewers to participate in the survey between May 25 and June 12. **Please say yes!** This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 1998.

The information gathered is widely used. Producers rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Industry analysts, extension agents and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses. Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data. Montana Agricultural Statistics Service works with all farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep Montana's and the Nation's agriculture informed.

1997 Agricultural Chemical Use (Continued)

Montana spring wheat producers planted 4.35 million acres of spring wheat in 1997. Seventy nine percent of these acres had nitrogen fertilizer applied to them. A total of 153.5 million pounds of nitrogen was applied. Phosphate was applied to 66 percent and potash to 15 percent of the planted spring wheat acreage. Total application of phosphate was 68.2 million pounds and potash was 10.2 million pounds.

Montana spring wheat producers applied 1.43 million pounds of herbicides to 94 percent of the total planted spring wheat acres in 1997. The most widely used herbicide was 2, 4-D with 83 percent of the acreage being sprayed. Dicamba was the second most common herbicide used on 31 percent. Glyphosate and triallate were each used on 23 percent of the planted acres.

Winter wheat producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 84 percent of the winter wheat harvested acres in the fourteen surveyed States. Of the harvested area, 53 percent received phosphate fertilizer and potash was used on 15 percent of the fourteen State area. All surveyed States treated at least a portion of the harvested area with herbicides with 2,4-D again the most widely used in area applied and quantity.

Most of the planted acres of North Dakota's durum and the collective 4-state other spring wheat plantings (MT, MN, ND, and SD) had primary fertilizer percent coverages similar to that of 1996. The three most popular herbicides, in terms of area covered for spring wheat other than durum were 2,4-D, MCPA, and dicamba.

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report are based on data compiled from the Agricultural Resources Management Study conducted during the Fall of 1997. All results refer to on-farm use of fertilizers and pesticides on the targeted crops for the 1997 crop year. Data were collected late in the growing season or after the farm operator has indicated that planned applications were completed.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Winter Wheat Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- 1997 Annual Dairy Products
- Poultry Production and Value
- Ag Prices Received

May 1 Crop Production

As of May 1, **Montana winter wheat** producers were expecting a yield of 34 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year. If realized, total production of 44.2 million bushels would be 22 percent less than a year ago due to both lowered expected yields and a decrease of acreage.

Dry conditions last fall led producers to plant 1.4 million acres, the smallest winter wheat crop since 1941. Producers expect to harvest 1.3 million acres which would be the smallest harvested acreage since 1956. There are many concerns about the lack of moisture. Most areas of the state have experienced less than normal precipitation last fall and winter and the spring months to date. Reporters say that if rain doesn't come very soon average yields will fall more. The condition of the winter wheat crop was rated at 7 percent very poor, 18 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 2 percent excellent for the week ending May 11.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.71 billion bushels, down 9 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of May 1, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.9 bushels per acre. This is down 3.1 bushels from last year's record high average but, if realized, would still be the second highest U.S. average. Grain area totals 40.7 million acres, down 3 percent from 1997. All classes of wheat are down from last year with Hard Red showing the largest percentage drop.

PLEASE RETURN

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1997 & Forecasted May 1, 1998

State	Planted		Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	1,000 Acres				Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	3,100	2,950	2,850	2,750	32.0	36.0	91,200	99,000
ID	920	820	870	770	80.0	80.0	69,600	61,600
KS	11,400	10,700	11,000	10,200	46.0	37.0	506,000	377,400
MT	**1,600**	**1,400**	**1,450**	**1,300**	**39.0**	**34.0**	**56,550**	**44,200**
NE	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,850	37.0	37.0	70,300	68,450
OK	6,800	6,800	5,400	5,400	33.0	32.0	178,200	172,800
OR	870	820	840	790	67.0	65.0	56,280	51,350
SD	1,650	1,450	1,050	1,350	30.0	35.0	31,500	47,250
TX	6,300	6,100	4,100	4,000	29.0	30.0	118,900	120,000
UT	170	155	160	150	49.0	50.0	7,840	7,500
WA	2,250	2,200	2,150	2,100	67.0	64.0	44,050	134,400
WY	250	240	235	225	32.0	30.0	7,520	6,750
US	48,342	46,637	41,813	40,715	45.0	41.9	1,882,609	1,705,784

WINTER WHEAT: Production Forecast by Districts--May 1,1998 1/

District	1996	1997	1998	% chg. 98/97
		1,000 bushels		
NW	960	720	550	76
NC	36,900	27,290	20,900	77
NE	3,300	2,390	2,700	113
C	10,800	13,680	11,200	82
SW	1,600	1,530	1,800	118
SC	6,500	8,790	5,600	64
SE	3,300	2,150	1,450	67
MT	63,360	56,550	44,200	78

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

May 1 Hay Stocks

Montana hay producers had an estimated 1.15 million tons of hay on hand as of May 1, over twice the amount during the same time last year. Good production last year and a mild winter led to the increase in stocks. Disappearance from December 1997 to May 1 totaled 3.89 million tons.

U.S. stocks of **all hay** on farms totaled 21.7 million tons on May 1, 1998, up 25 percent from May 1 of the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 1997 - May 1, 1998, totaled 80.9 million tons, 7.5 percent lower than the 1996 crop disappearance of 87.5 million tons for the same period. Stocks of hay on May 1, 1998 were higher or unchanged compared to last year in 31 of the 48 estimating states. Mild winter conditions and adequate spring rains across the United States revitalized pasture lands and allowed livestock producers to reduce feeding of hay.

1997 Manufactured Dairy Products

Montana dairy plants produced 182,000 gallons of lowfat, hard ice cream during 1997, 2 percent more than the 1996 production. Lowfat, soft ice cream production totaled 1.3 million gallons, down slightly from last year. Lowfat ice cream mix production totaled 760,000 gallons, 2 percent less than last year.

Nationally, total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 7.33 billion pounds, 2 percent above the 1996 production. Wisconsin was the leading State with 29 percent of the production. American type cheese production, at 3.29 billion pounds, was slightly above 1996 and accounted for 45 percent of total cheese in 1997.

Italian varieties, with 2.88 billion pounds produced, were 2 percent above the 1996 production. Mozzarella accounted for 78 percent of the Italian production followed by Ricotta with 8 percent and Provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading State in Italian cheese production with 30 percent of the production.

Production of butter in the United States during 1997 totaled 1.15 billion pounds, 2 percent less than 1996. California accounted for 27 percent of the production, followed by Wisconsin with 26 percent and Washington with 8 percent. Ice cream production increased in 1997. Regular ice cream production totaled 906 million gallons, up 3 percent from 1996. Lowfat ice cream, at 386 million gallons, was up 5 percent.

Nonfat dry milk for human food production, at 1.22 billion pounds, was up 15 percent from 1996. Dry whole milk, at 122 million pounds, was down 9 percent.

1997 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's 1997 value of egg sales of $4.2 million was 30 percent lower than last year due to decreased production and lower average price. Egg production was 19 percent lower than last year. The average price was 57 cents per dozen, down 9 cents.

Montana's value of sales from chickens, excluding broilers, was $26,000. Chickens sold for an average price of 2 cents per pound which is the same as last year. The number of pounds sold decreased 20 percent from 1996.

The national combined value of production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1997, was $21.6 billion, down 1 percent from the $21.9 billion in 1996. Of the combined total, 65 percent was from broilers, 21 percent from eggs, 13 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The U.S. value of broilers produced during 1997 was $14.2 billion, up 2 percent from the $13.9 billion in 1996. The total number of broilers produced in 1997 was 7.76 billion, up 2 percent from 1996. The total live weight of broilers produced in 1997 was 37.5 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 1996. The 1997 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 37.7 cents per pound, compared to 38.1 cents per pound in 1996.

Value of egg production in 1997 was $4.53 billion, down 5 percent from the $4.76 billion in 1996. Egg production totaled 77.4 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 76.3 billion eggs produced in 1996. In 1997, eggs averaged 70.2 cents per dozen, compared with 74.9 cents in 1996.

The value of turkeys produced during 1997 was $2.88 billion, down 8 percent from the $3.13 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1997 totaled 7.22 billion pounds live weight, compared with 7.23 billion pounds in 1996. The average price received by producers during 1997 was 39.9 cents per pound, compared with 43.3 cents in 1996.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 1997 was $72.5 million, up 18 percent from the $61.5 million a year ago. Prices averaged 7.7 cents per pound, compared with 6.7 cents in 1996. The number of chickens sold in 1997 totaled 191 million, up 10 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

See the chicken and egg table on the back page.

Ag Prices Received for March

The Montana winter wheat average price decreased 9 cents from February 1998 to $3.17 per bushel, durum wheat was down 5 cents to $4.93 per bushel, and spring wheat increased 11 cents to $3.52 per bushel. Feed barley is down 7 cents per bushel to $2.00, but malt barley increased 8 cents to $3.10 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-April averaged $3.38 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-April was $2.76. The price for alfalfa hay in April, was $71.00 per ton, unchanged from last month. The April other hay price of $60.00 dropped $3.00 from March. This is the lowest price for other hay since November 1996.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mixed. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.60 to $78.20 per cwt. Cows increased 80 cents to $38.10 and the average price for calves fell 60 cents to $89.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $2.00 to $41.90 per cwt., but lambs decreased $6.20 to $70.90 per cwt. Milk prices increased 10 cents from last month to $14.50 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $78.50 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for March, at $3.32 per bushel, is up 5 cents from February. The all barley price averaged $2.42 per bushel, up 3 cents. Steer and heifer prices were up $1.00 to $64.30 per cwt. Cow prices were $36.00 and hog prices were $34.80 per cwt. Egg prices were 69.9 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 105 based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (2.9 percent) from March. Price increases from March for lettuce, cattle, broilers, and oranges more than offset price decreases for corn, milk, eggs, and soybeans. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, milk, strawberries, and oranges more than offset the relatively lower marketings of wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton. These changes contributed one point of the three point increase in the overall index.

Compared with April 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 1 point (0.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from April 1997 for hogs, wheat, corn, and soybeans more than offset price increases for milk, lettuce, strawberries, and tomatoes.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Mar. 1997	Arp. 1997	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1998
Prices Received	108	106	102	105
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	116	116
Ratio 2/	92	91	88	91

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

Base Month March 1998	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1997	Apr. 15 1998	Apr. 15 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.01	3.26	3.17	3.15	-0.09	-0.84	3.00	2.95
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.28	5.08	4.93	4.68	-0.15	+0.65	4.50	4.31
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.03	3.41	3.52	3.42	+0.11	-0.51	3.50	3.41
Wheat, All	Bu.	4.03	3.44	3.46	3.32	+0.02	-0.57	3.38	3.23
Barley	Bu.	2.68	2.73	2.90	2.42	+0.17	+0.22	2.76	2.23
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.42	2.07	2.00	1.98	-0.07	-0.42	1.80	1.87
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.16	3.02	3.10	2.77	+0.08	-0.06	3.00	2.65
Oats 1/	Bu.	2.05	n/a	n/a	1.63	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.54
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	114.00	74.00	71.00	104.00	-3.00	-43.00	71.00	105.00
All Other Hay	Ton	93.00	66.00	63.00	77.40	-3.00	-30.00	60.00	78.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	112.00	73.00	70.00	97.50	-3.00	-42.00	70.00	101.00
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	72.50	79.80	78.20	64.30	-1.60	+5.70	78.50	66.40
Cows	Cwt.	40.30	37.30	38.10	36.00	+0.80	-2.20	39.70	36.50
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	64.80	66.60	69.80	61.30	+3.20	+5.00	69.60	63.20
Calves	Cwt.	80.40	89.60	89.00	89.80	-0.60	+8.60	87.50	90.70
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	42.50	39.90	41.90	42.20	+2.00	-0.60	n/a	n/a
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	98.90	77.10	70.90	70.00	-6.20	-28.00	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt.	13.40	14.40	14.50	14.40	+0.10	+1.10	14.30	14.10

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1996-1997 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		1996	1997	1996	1997
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	65	39	65,635	49,860
Sold	1,000 Head	400	319	174,314	190,989
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	1,600	1,276	923,590	935,383
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	0.020	0.020	0.067	0.077
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	32	26	61,465	72,474
EGGS					
Produced	Million	108	88	76,281	77,401
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	0.660	0.570	0.749	0.702
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	5,940	4,180	4,762,131	4,530,522

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death, rendered, and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Milk Production
Cattle on Feed	Ag Chemical Use
Milk PDI	Farm Labor
Slaughter	Egg Produciton

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Meat Animal Production, Disposition and Income
Cattle on Feed
Montana's Rank
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production

1997 Meat Animal Production, Disposition and Income

Cash receipts from 1997 marketings of cattle, sheep, and hogs in Montana totaled $921 million, up 26 percent from 1996. The increase in cash receipts over the previous year is mainly due to higher prices received for cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, and hogs and pigs. Increased marketings of cattle and calves also contributed to higher cash receipts for the state. Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves rose 31 percent from 1996 to $857 million.

Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more at 1.44 million head were up slightly from the 1.435 million head last year, while marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs were up 32 percent to 270,000 head. The average price received for cattle over 500 lbs increased $10.70 from 1996 to $64.50 per cwt, while calf prices rebounded $22.50 to average $84.70 per cwt in 1997. The average price received for cattle over 500 lbs was still below the 1994 average price of $71.60 per cwt while calves are slightly higher than the $83.30 received in 1994.

Hog and pig cash receipts decreased 7 percent from 1996 to $34 million. The decrease was mainly due to lower hog marketings that totaled 277,000 head in 1997, down 19 percent from the previous year. Hog prices for 1997 were $5.60 higher at $55.30 per cwt. Cash receipts from the sales sheep and lambs was $30 million, up 5 percent from 1996. Marketings for sheep and lambs in 1997 were 68,000 and 300,000 head, respectively. The average price for sheep rose $6.20 per cwt to $37.40 per cwt and the average lamb price increased $6.70 to $97.80.

United States total 1997 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals rose 12 percent to $49.9 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 72 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 27 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs, but declined slightly for cattle and calves. Average prices rose from 1996 levels for all three species.

Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves in the United States increased from $31.1 billion in 1996 to $36.1 in 1997, a 16 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 57.2 billion pounds in 1997, up 2 percent from last year. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $63.10, an increase of $4.40 from the $58.70 in 1996. For calves, the annual average price increased $20.50 to $78.90.

United States hog and pig cash receipts totaled $13.2 billion during 1997, up 4 percent from 1996. Marketings increased to 24.3 billion pounds in 1997, up 1 percent from 1996. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight rose from $51.90 in 1996 to $52.90 in 1997.

Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in United States during 1997 were $635 million, up 4 percent from 1996. Marketings declined slightly to 782 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for lambs increased from $82.20 in 1996 to $90.30 in 1997 while for sheep, the annual average price increased $8.00 to $37.90.

PLEASE RETURN

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.11 million head on April 1, 1998. The inventory was 3 percent below April 1, 1997, but 3 percent above April 1, 1996. The inventory included 6.18 million steers and steer calves, down 3 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.88 million head, down 2 percent from 1997.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.71 million, 13 percent below 1997 and 12 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.61 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 223,000, 600-699 pounds were 447,000, 700-799 pounds were 606,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 432,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.87 million, 6 percent above 1997 and 7 percent above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 94,000 during March, 9 percent above 1997 and 24 percent above 1996.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM		UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	59,600,000	acres	1997	2	6.2
Number of farms and ranches	24,000	farms/ranches	1997	31	1.2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	2,027	million dollars	1996	33	1.0
Crops	1,230	million dollars	1996	29	1.1
Livestock	797	million dollars	1996	32	0.9
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,600,000	head	Jan. 1, 1998	12	2.6
All Cows	1,560,000	head	Jan. 1, 1998	8	3.6
Beef Cows	1,542,000	head	Jan. 1, 1998	6	4.6
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 1998	44	0.2
Cattle on Feed	80,000	head	Jan. 1, 1998	21	0.6
Hogs and Pigs	175,000	head	Dec. 1, 1997	27	0.3
Sheep and Lambs	410,000	head	Jan. 1, 1998	5	5.4
All Chickens	390,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1997	42	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,510,000	head	1997	7	3.9
Lamb Crop	380,000	head	1997	3	7.2
Pig Crop	315,000	head	1997	26	0.3
Wool Production	3,813,000	pounds	1997	5	7.1
Egg Production	88,000,000	eggs	1997	42	0.1
Honey Production	12,840,000	pounds	1997	5	6.7
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	185,630,000	bushels	1997	3	7.3
Winter Wheat	56,550,000	bushels	1997	11	3.0
Durum Wheat	7,280,000	bushels	1997	4	8.4
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	121,800,000	bushels	1997	2	21.8
Barley	63,600,000	bushels	1997	2	17.0
Oats	3,850,000	bushels	1997	14	2.2
All Hay	5,480,000	tons	1997	10	3.6
Alfalfa Hay	3,960,000	tons	1997	8	5.0
Dry Beans	257,000	cwt	1997	12	0.9
Potatoes--fall	3,328,000	cwt	1997	13	0.8
Sugar Beets	1,012,000	tons	1997	9	3.4
Corn for Grain	1,809,000	bushels	1997	41	1/
Corn for Silage	945,000	tons	1997	27	1.0
1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.					

Montana March Red Meat Production Unchanged, But U.S. Red Meat Production Up

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March, the same as March 1997, but 3 percent less than last month. There were 1,200 head of cattle slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight of cattle slaughtered increased 17 pounds to 1,160 pounds.

Hog kill in March totaled 1,800 head, 100 head more than March 1997. The average live weight decreased 10 pounds to 210 pounds. There were 100 head of sheep slaughtered in March, the same as a year ago at this time. The average live weight of sheep slaughtered increased 2 pounds to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.73 billion pounds in March, up 8 percent from the 3.44 billion pounds produced in March 1997. Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.89 million head, up 1 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 39 pounds from the previous year at 1,200 pounds.

Veal production totaled 23.0 million pounds, 18 percent below March a year ago and 8 percent below the previous record low for March set in 1991. Calf slaughter totaled 127 thousand head, down 3 percent from March 1997. The average live weight was 295 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.60 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.48 million head, 12 percent above 1997. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year at 257 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 26.0 million pounds, was up slightly from March 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 386 thousand head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 4 pounds from March a year ago.

January-March red meat production was 11.0 billion pounds, 6 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 20 percent, pork was up 12 percent, and lamb and mutton was up 1 percent.

Montana Potato Stocks Up 5 Percent, U.S. Down 13 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 5 percent from the same time period last year. The amount in storage accounts for 60 percent of 1997 production compared with 59 percent held a year earlier.

Stocks are the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes not yet moved and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes for the past 5 years averaged 90.5 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss, and home use account for the remaining 9.5 percent. Most seed for use the following year is on hand but remains as part of stocks until planted.

United States April 1, 1998, potato stocks totaled 129 million cwt, down 13 percent from a year earlier but 11 percent above two years ago. Disappearance was 278 million cwt, 6 percent below a year ago but up less than 1 percent from two years ago. Processing accounted for 137 million cwt through March, 8 percent less than last year and 2 percent short of two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss of 24.5 million cwt was down 14 percent from last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 was 278 million cwt this season, down 6 percent from the same period a year earlier and less than 1 percent above two years ago. Disappearance during March was 41.0 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss was estimated at 24.5 million cwt, down 14 percent from last year and 9 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1997 crop potatoes totaled 137 million cwt so far this season, down 8 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. March processing claimed 19.5 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 97.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1998, down 10 percent from last year but 12 percent above 1996. Idaho's stocks fell 9 percent from a year ago but were 3 percent above two years ago. Idaho's storage held more than half of the western stocks. Colorado's stocks were down 15 percent, Oregon's stocks were off 26 percent from last year, and California's stocks dropped 6 percent. Washington's stocks were off 2 percent from last year. Each of the Western States, except California, had more potatoes in storage than two years ago.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production Down, While U.S. March Milk Production Up

During the January-March quarter, Montana milk cows produced 72 million pounds of milk, down 2 million from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers are down 1,000 head from last year to 18,000 head.

Grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on April 1 averaged 18.2 pounds per day, up 1.7 lbs. from a year earlier. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1 averaged $8.10 per cwt, up 20 cents from April 1, 1997.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from production in these same States in March 1997. February revised production, at 10.4 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from February 1997.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,529 pounds for March, 29 pounds above March 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 38,000 head less than March 1997 and 1,000 head less than February 1997.

The January-March quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 39.3 billion pounds, 0.8 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.18 million head, 111,000 head less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1998, averaged 19.8 pounds, up 0.3 pounds from April 1, 1997, and unchanged from January 1, 1998. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1998, averaged $8.36 per hundredweight, $0.43 less than April 1, 1997.

March Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.83 billion during March 1998, up 3 percent from the 6.62 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.77 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 999 million were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 1998 averaged 313 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during March 1997. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,183 eggs, up slightly from March 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1998, totaled 313 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 313 million layers consisted of 255 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.66 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1998, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 70.4 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.47 billion eggs during March, up 3 percent from March 1997. The average number of layers during March, at 296 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Dairy Products	Crop Production
Poultry PDI	
Ag Prices Received	

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
Quarterly Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received Hogs & Pigs

March 1998 Prospective Plantings

Montana spring wheat producers expect to seed 3.9 million acres. If expectations hold this would be down 10% from last year, but would still be the fourth largest seeding on record. Lower prices and lack of moisture are holding producers back from seeding as many acres as the last couple of years. **Winter wheat** seedings remained unchanged from December at 1.4 million acres, down 200,000 from last year and the smallest plantings since 1941. Better prices are expected to cause **durum wheat** acreage to increase to 450,000 acres. If realized, this would be up 55% from last year and the largest durum wheat acreage seeded since 1981. Adding the winter wheat that has been seeded with other spring wheat and durum intentions would total 5.75 million acres of all wheat planted, down 8% from 1997's crop.

Barley intentions are estimated at 1.4 million acres, up 8% from last year, but intended **oats** acreage is estimated at 140,000 acres, unchanged from 1997. **Corn** intentions are estimated at 60,000 acres unchanged from last year. **Sugar beet** acreage is estimated at 63,200 acres, up 6% from 1997. **Dry bean** intentions are down 18% at 10,000 acres. An estimated 2.4 million acres of **hay** are to harvested, down 8% from 1997.

At the **U.S.** level, **winter wheat** seeded area for this year remains at 46.6 million acres, down 4% from 1997. Of the total, about 32.6 million acres are hard red winter, 10.0 are soft red and 4.0 are white winter. Several states ranging from Arkansas to South Carolina did not get all of the previously intended winter wheat in because of wet weather, but a few soft red states got a little more planted than originally expected.

Durum wheat seeded area for 1998 should total 4.08 million acres, up 25% from 1997 to the highest level since 1982. Favorable prices relative to other spring wheat have pushed acreage expectations in both North Dakota and Montana. **Other spring wheat** producers plan to seed 16.3 million acres this year, down 16% from last year's high level and at the lowest total since 1988. About 15.4 million of the prospective acres are hard red spring and white spring would be about 910,000 acres. Scab has plagued Minnesota fields five of the last six years. With the low prices growers are turning to other crops. North Dakota's acreage is down dramatically from last year. Downward price pressure has all but removed spring wheat from the Red River Valley. The 1997 South Dakota hard red spring acreage included more than 200,000 acres of abandoned winter wheat seeded to spring; this year's intentions are in the low-normal acreage range.

U.S. barley growers intend to seed 6.78 million acres for 1998, down 2% from the 6.91 million acres seeded a year ago. Barley growers in Minnesota and North Dakota who have in recent years suffered with scab disease problem are decreasing seedings by 120,000 and 100,000 acres respectively.

Oats acreage seeded and to be seeded by U.S. farmers for the 1998 crop year is expected to total 5.15 million acres, down fractionally from last year's final seeded acres. If producers meet their expectations, acreage seeded would be the second lowest recorded since 1866, exceeding only the 1996 acreage of 4.66 million acres. Growers expect to harvest 3.06 million acres for grain in 1998, up 5% from 1997. If intentions are realized, this would be the fourth smallest acreage harvested for grain on record.

U.S. dry bean farmers intend to plant 1.94 million acres of dry beans in 1998, up 5% from both last year and two years ago.

Area planted to **sugar beets** nationwide is expected to total 1.5 million acres in the 12 producing states. If growers' intentions are realized, planted acreage will be 2.6% above last year.

U.S. corn growers intend to plant 80.8 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1998, up 1% from last year and 2% from 1996. If these intentions materialize, this would be the largest planted acreage since 1985.

All hay producers expect to harvest 60.7 million acres of hay in 1998, compared with 60.8 million acres in 1997.

PLEASE RETURN

PLANTED ACREAGE, 1996-1997 and INTENDED 1998 MONTANA and UNITED STATES

	Montana				U. S.			
	1996	1997	1998	98/97	1996	1997	1998	98/97
	Thousand Acres			Pct	Thousand Acres			Pct
All Wheat	6,640.0	6,240.0	5,750.0	92	75,621.0	70,989.0	67,027.0	94
Winter Wheat	2,150.0	1,600.0	1,400.0	88	51,958.0	48,342.0	46,637.0	96
Durum Wheat	290.0	290.0	450.0	155	3,630.0	3,250.0	4,075.0	125
Other Spring Wheat	4,200.0	4,350.0	3,900.0	90	20,033.0	19,397.0	16,315.0	84
Barley	1,300.0	1,300.0	1,400.0	108	7,144.0	6,910.0	6,780.0	98
Oats	100.0	140.0	140.0	100	4,661.0	5,169.0	5,154.0	100
Corn	55.0	60.0	60.0	100	79,507.0	80,227.0	80,781.0	101
Sugar Beets	57.7	59.9	63.2	106	1,368.4	1,459.2	1,496.7	103
Dry Beans	10.5	12.2	10.0	82	1,843.0	1,851.8	1,940.3	105
All Hay Harvested	2,600.0	2,600.0	2,400.0	92	60,879.0	60,815.0	60,735.0	100

Montana Wheat and Barley Stocks: In All Positions By Districts, March 1, 1998 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1 1997	Dec. 1 1997	Mar. 1 1998	Mar. 1 1997	Dec. 1 1997	Mar. 1 1998
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	0.7	1.0	1.6	0.9	1.2	1.1
North Central	38.2	69.3	43.3	7.7	16.5	8.5
Northeast	23.9	38.6	29.6	1.7	2.8	1.3
Central	7.0	24.3	18.0	3.0	7.8	5.2
Southwest	2.0	4.2	2.3	1.1	2.9	1.5
South Central	1.8	5.3	4.7	1.7	4.5	2.4
Southeast	5.0	6.6	4.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
STATE	78.6	149.3	104.0	16.8	36.3	20.6

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

March 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar 1, 1997	Dec 1, 1997	Mar 1, 1998	'98/'97	Mar 1, 1997	Dec 1, 1997	Mar 1, 1998
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	64,000	126,000	85,000	133%	320,750	604,000	399,920
Off Farms 1/	14,600	23,300	19,000	130%	501,069	1,015,242	766,342
TOTAL	78,600	149,300	104,000	132%	821,819	1,619,242	1,166,262
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	19,000	40,000	24,000	126%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	4,200	8,400	6,400	152%	--	--	--
TOTAL	23,200	48,400	30,400	131%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	45,000	86,000	61,000	136%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,400	14,900	12,600	121%	--	--	--
TOTAL	55,400	100,900	73,600	133%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	33,100	37,000	22,000
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	21,956	30,280	20,474
TOTAL	4,600	5,600	3,950	86%	55,056	67,280	42,474
BARLEY							
On Farms	12,000	29,000	13,000	108%	82,060	135,700	78,800
Off Farms 1/	4,800	7,300	7,600	158%	90,840	109,561	98,320
TOTAL	16,800	36,300	20,600	123%	172,900	245,261	177,120
OATS							
On Farms	1,500	3,200	1,600	107%	56,200	83,400	58,800
Off Farms 1/	450	270	150	33%	39,362	61,051	52,692
TOTAL	1,950	3,470	1,750	90%	95,562	144,451	111,492
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,870,000	4,822,000	2,975,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,624,128	2,424,756	1,962,130
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	4,494,128	7,246,756	4,937,130

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Agricultural Prices Received for February

The Montana winter wheat average price decreased 9 cents from January 1998 to $3.26 per bushel, durum wheat was down 23 cents to $5.08 per bushel, and spring wheat decreased 9 cents to $3.41 per bushel. Feed barley is down 7 cents per bushel to $2.07, but malt barley increased 7 cents to $3.02 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-March averaged $3.53 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-March was $2.54. The price for alfalfa hay in March, was $71.00 per ton, down $3.00 from last month. The March other hay price of $63.00 also dropped $3.00 from February.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mixed. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.70 to $79.80 per cwt. Cows increased $2.00 to $37.30 and the average price for calves fell $1.50 to $89.60 per cwt. Sheep prices increased 90 cents to $39.90 per cwt but, lambs decreased $10.70 to $77.10 per cwt. Milk prices increased 10 cents from last month to $14.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $78.70 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for February averaged $3.27 per bushel, down 6 cents from January. The all barley price averaged $2.39 per bushel, down 2 cents. Steer and heifer prices were down $2.80 to $63.30 per cwt. Cow prices were $36.00 and hog prices were $35.70 per cwt. Egg prices were 64.7 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 103 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.0 percent) from February. Price increases from February for oranges, onions, lettuce, and cattle more than offset price decreases for tomatoes, strawberries, milk, and soybeans. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of tomatoes, soybeans, asparagus, and broilers more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges. These changes contributed one point of the two point increase in the overall index.

Compared with March 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.6 percent) lower. Price decreases from March 1997 for hogs, soybeans, cattle, and corn more than offset price increases for milk, onions, cauliflower, and calves.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Feb. 1997	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998
Prices Received	105	108	101	103
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	116	117	116	115
Ratio 2/	91	92	87	90

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

Base Month February 1998	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		Feb. 1997	Jan 1998	Feb. 1998	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1997	Mar. 15 1998	Mar. 15 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.07	3.35	3.26	3.16	-0.09	-0.81	3.35	3.18
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.41	5.31	5.08	4.71	-0.23	+0.67	5.10	4.84
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.05	3.50	3.41	3.34	-0.09	-0.64	3.50	3.45
Wheat, All	Bu.	4.06	3.59	3.44	3.27	-0.15	-0.62	3.53	3.34
Barley	Bu.	3.09	2.79	2.73	2.39	-0.06	-0.36	2.54	2.20
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.34	2.14	2.07	2.02	-0.07	-0.27	2.00	1.89
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.50	2.95	3.02	2.81	+0.07	-0.48	2.90	2.67
Oats 1/	Bu.	1.92	N/A	N/A	1.62	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.61
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	117.00	78.00	74.00	106.00	-4.00	-43.00	71.00	104.00
All Other Hay	Ton	93.00	66.00	66.00	74.10	0.00	-27.00	63.00	77.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	113.00	77.00	73.00	97.20	-4.00	-40.00	70.00	97.50
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	70.30	81.50	79.80	63.30	-1.70	+9.50	78.70	64.20
Cows	Cwt.	38.00	35.30	37.30	36.00	+2.00	-0.70	36.00	35.60
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	64.80	66.30	66.60	60.40	+0.30	+1.80	70.20	61.20
Calves	Cwt.	77.30	91.10	89.60	88.70	-1.50	+12.30	87.60	89.70
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	41.80	39.00	39.90	40.70	+0.90	-1.90	N/A	N/A
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	105.00	87.80	77.10	73.40	-10.70	-27.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt.	13.00	14.30	14.40	14.70	+0.10	+1.40	14.50	14.50

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 8 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1998, was 60.1 million head. This was 8 percent above March 1997, but 1 percent below December 1, 1997. Breeding inventory, at 6.99 million head, was up 2 percent from March 1, 1997 and unchanged from December 1, 1997. Market hog inventory, at 53.1 million head, was 8 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 1997-February 1998 U.S. pig crop, at 25.2 million head, was 8 percent more than 1997 and 9 percent more than 1996. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, 7 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 41 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter continues to increase, with an average of 8.68 pigs saved per litter for the December-February period. Last year the litter rate averaged 8.61 pigs. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.10 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.04 million sows farrow during the March-May 1998 quarter, 3 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in both 1997 and 1996. Intended farrowings for June-August 1998, at 3.00 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period last year and 9 percent above 1996.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 26 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Montana's Rank	Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks	Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production	Slaughter
Meat Animals PDI	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Ag Land Values
1997 Red Meat Production
February Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
1997 Sheep & Lamb Losses
Milk Production — Egg Production
Wool & Mohair — Potato Stocks

Montana Farm Real Estate Values Rise 5 Percent

The January 1, 1998 Montana farm real estate values, including land and buildings, were estimated at $320 per acre. This is a 5 percent increase over the previous year's value of $305 per acre. In the last 10 years the average Montana farm real estate value has grown from $200 to $320 per acre, an increase of 60 percent.

The January 1, 1998 U.S. farm real estate value, including land and buildings, reached a new record high of $1,000 per acre. For the second straight year farm real estate value rose 6 percent, continuing the climb that began in 1987. Since 1987 the average U.S. farm real estate value has grown from $599 to $1,000 per acre, an increase of 67 percent.

Regional increases in the values of farm real estate during 1997 ranged from 3 to 9 percent. The Northeast region with its urban influences had the highest average value of land and buildings, at $2,676 per acre, up 3 percent over the previous year. The Corn Belt, at $1,869 per acre, showed the largest percentage gain at 9 percent from 1997 and surpassed the prior all time high of $1,776 for the region set back in 1981. The Lake region also exceeded its previous high of $1,243 set back in 1981 with a new high of $1,288 per acre. The Southeast and Northeast regions showed the lowest increase at 3 percent each, while the remaining regions rose 4 to 8 percent. All states showed increases from the previous year except for Vermont and New York which remained steady.

Since 1990, the Corn Belt and Mountain regions have shown the largest real estate value gains at 68 and 59 percent, respectively. The Southern Plains, at 27 percent, had the least amount of gain during the decade. However, the 1998 Southern Plains $640 per acre is at the second highest level behind the $675 per acre set in 1985.

1997 Montana Red Meat Production Down

Montana slaughter plants produced 15.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 1997, compared with 18.1 million pounds in 1996. There were 17,900 cattle slaughtered during 1997, down 14 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 20.2 million pounds was down 16 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 39 pounds to 1,126 pounds.

There were 20,100 hogs slaughtered in Montana, a decrease of 2,400 head from 1996. Total live weight of 4.4 million pounds was down 13 percent from 1996. The average live weight was 220 pounds per head compared with 227 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 2,800 head, a decrease of 100 head from a year earlier. The average live weight of 124 pounds was 9 pounds higher than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1997 increased 14,000 pounds from 1996 to 346,000 pounds.

The number of Montana federally inspected slaughter plants on January 1, 1998 was 14, down 1 from 1997. There were 34 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 1998, down 2 from the same date a year ago.

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the United States during 1997 totaled 43.4 billion pounds, just above last year's figure and 1 percent below the record high set in 1995. Production included beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton slaughtered in commercial plants and on farms. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 43.2 billion pounds. Lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent from the previous record low set in 1996. Beef production, at 25.5 billion pounds, was just below last year's figure. Veal production was down 12 percent at 333 million pounds. Pork production rose 1 percent to 17.3 billion pounds, while lamb and mutton production fell 3 percent to 260 million pounds.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1997 totaled 36.3 million head, down 1 percent from 1996, with federal inspection comprising 97.9 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,173 pounds, up 4 pounds from last year. Steers comprised 48.3 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 31.7 percent, dairy cows 8.2 percent, other cows 9.8 percent, and bulls 1.9 percent. Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.58 million head, down 11 percent from a year ago with 97.4 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 338 pounds, down 5 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 92.0 million head, down slightly from a year earlier, with 98.1 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight rose 2 pounds from the previous year to 256 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.0 percent of the total federally inspected total. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 3.91 million head, was down 7 percent from 1996 with 96.5 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight rose 5 pounds from 1996 to 133 pounds.

There were 966 slaughtering plants under federal inspection included in this report compared with 954 last year. Of these, 822 slaughtered at least one head of cattle and 14 slaughtered 50 percent of the total head. There were 770 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 10 accounting for over 40 percent of the total. Likewise, 11 of the 355 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for over 50 percent of the total and 3 of the 571 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 1997 comprised 50 percent of the total head.

PLEASE RETURN

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 1998, down 6 percent from February 1997, and down 12 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, 100 head less that a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,144 pounds, was up 29 pounds from last year.

During February, there were 1,500 hogs slaughtered, the same as a year ago. The average live weight, at 206 pounds was 18 pounds less than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 100 head was the same as the previous year. The average live weight increased 7 pounds from last February to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 6 percent from the 3.28 billion pounds produced in February 1997. Beef production, at 1.98 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 2 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 42 pounds from the previous year, at 1,204 pounds.

Veal production totaled 21.0 million pounds, 21 percent below a year ago and 5 percent below the previous record low for February set in 1993. Calf slaughter totaled 113 thousand head, down 10 percent from February 1997. The average live weight was 40 pounds below last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.46 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year and up 3 percent from the previous record high for February set in 1996. Hog kill totaled 7.7 million head, 11 percent above 1997 . The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 258 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 21.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 1997 and equaled the previous record low for February set in 1979 and 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 309 thousand head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January-February red meat production was 7.31 billion pounds, 4 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was unchanged from last year, veal was down 22 percent, pork was up 12 percent, and lamb and mutton was up 2 percent.

1997 Montana and U.S. Wool Production Down

Montana wool growers produced 3.8 million pounds of wool during 1997, down 8 percent from 1996. The 1997 average price per pound of wool increased 7 cents to $1.01 per pound. The value of all wool produced was $3.9 million, a slight decrease from the previous year. The total head shorn decreased 7 percent to 402,000 head. The average fleece weight dropped from 9.6 pounds in 1996 to 9.5 pounds in 1997.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1997 was 53.9 million pounds, down 5 percent from 1996. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 7.03 million head, a decrease of 3 percent from 1996. The average price paid for wool sold in 1997 was $0.84 per pound for a total value of $45.2 million, up 14 percent from $39.7 million in 1996. The average fleece weight dropped from 7.8 pounds in 1996 to 7.7 pounds in 1997.

U.S. February Milk Production Up 1.3 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 10.5 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from production in these same States in February 1997. January revised production, at 11.3 billion pounds was up 1.4 percent from January 1997.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,353 pounds for February, 25 pounds above February 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 45,000 head less than February 1997 and 1,000 head less than January 1997.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.37 million head on March 1, 1998. The inventory was 1 percent above March 1, 1997 and 7 percent above March 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.45 million, 19 percent below 1997 and 15 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.39 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 210,000, 600-699 pounds were 434,000, 700-799 pounds were 501,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 309,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.81 million, slightly above 1997 but 2 percent below 1996. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during February, 13 percent above 1997 but 4 percent below 1996.

Montana Potato Stocks Up 7 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.89 million cwt in storage on March 1, 7 percent more than held a year earlier. The March 1 stocks represented 87 percent of the 1997 production compared with 84 percent of the crop held a year earlier. This season's disappearance from the start of harvest to March 1 was 438,000 cwt, down 15 percent from the same period last year.

March 1, potato stocks held by U.S. producers were estimated at 170 million cwt, down 10 percent from a year earlier, but 9 percent above two years ago. Disappearance was 237 million cwt, 7 percent below a year ago. Processing accounted for 118 million cwt through February, 9 percent less than last year and 3 percent short of two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss of 22.4 million cwt was down 14 percent from last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to March 1 was 237 million cwt this season, down 7 percent from the same period a year earlier and less than 1 percent below two years ago. Disappearance during February was 35.5 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year but 7 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss was estimated at 22.4 million cwt, down 14 percent from last year and 10 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1997 crop potatoes totaled 118 million cwt so far this season, down 9 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. February processing claimed 19.3 million cwt of potatoes, down 4 percent from last year but 9 percent above two years ago.
(Continued on back page)

1997 Montana Sheep and Lamb Losses Totaled $6 Million

Montana sheep & lamb producers lost 85,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 1997, representing a total value of $6.0 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost increased 2 percent from 1996 and the total value of inventory lost in 1997 rose 12 percent. High market prices in 1997 increased the value of sheep and lambs. The increase in sheep and lamb losses is due partly to severe spring snow storms that hit the eastern part of the state. To measure the impact of the sheep and lamb losses the January 1, 1997 inventory is added to the number of lambs born during 1997. Sheep and lamb death losses represented 10.1 percent of the January 1, 1997 inventory plus the lambs born during 1997 -- a slightly higher death loss percentage than the previous year.

Predators caused an estimated $1.8 million in losses in 1997 down from $1.9 million in 1996. Losses due to predators amounted to 3.2 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 32 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 74 percent of the predator losses and 23 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $1.3 million, compared with 1.4 million last year. The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 27,000 head, down 4,200 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 22,400 head, down 15 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 4,600, down 400 head from a year ago.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $3.6 million in 1997 compared with $2.6 million the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 58 percent of all losses, compared with 47 percent in 1996. The largest non-predatory cause of losses was weather conditions at 26,200 head. Some producers commented that they lost a large portion of their flocks in April storms. Sheep losses to non-predatory factors totaled 17,800, 51 percent higher than 1996. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 31,300 head, 14 percent higher than a year ago.

Fewer producers reported sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. This resulted in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes to decrease 29 percent from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 6,300 head, 2,100 head lower than 1996. Unknown causes claimed 2,600 sheep, 1,600 less head than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes decreased $.3 million to $.6 million.

Of the livestock producers surveyed, 26 percent reported receiving assistance from a government trapper during 1997. Producers reported that 61.9 percent used some forms of non-lethal predator control practices. Guard animals were the most popular practice reported. The survey found that 70.8 percent of these producers used guard animals and 82.6 percent of them reported the guard animals as very effective.

Montana Wool Growers Association provided funding for the 1997 sheep and lamb loss survey.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Losses by Cause, Montana, 1996-1997

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
Predators												
Fox	100	--	9.4	--	2,600	2,200	142.1	129.1	2,700	2,200	151.5	129.1
Dog	400	400	37.6	39.6	1,000	600	54.7	35.2	1,400	1,000	92.3	74.8
Coyote	3,500	3,500	329.0	346.5	19,100	16,400	1,044.0	962.4	22,600	19,900	1,373.0	1,308.9
Eagle	200	100	18.8	9.9	2,000	2,300	109.3	135.0	2,200	2,400	128.1	144.9
Bobcat	100	--	9.4	--	100	100	5.5	5.9	200	100	14.9	5.9
Bear	300	200	28.2	19.8	500	200	27.3	11.7	800	400	55.5	31.5
Mountain Lion	200	300	18.8	29.7	300	200	16.4	11.7	500	500	35.2	41.4
Other Animals	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown Predators	200	100	18.8	9.9	600	400	32.8	23.5	800	500	51.6	33.4
Total Predators	**5,000**	**4,600**	**470.0**	**455.4**	**26,200**	**22,400**	**1,432.1**	**1,314.4**	**31,200**	**27,000**	**1,902.1**	**1,769.8**
Non-Predators												
All Diseases	1,800	3,000	169.2	297.0	4,900	4,800	267.8	281.7	6,700	7,800	437.0	578.7
Weather Conditions	1,600	7,100	150.4	702.9	12,900	19,100	705.1	1,120.8	14,500	26,200	855.5	1,823.7
Poison	600	900	56.4	89.1	700	600	38.3	35.2	1,300	1,500	94.7	124.3
Lambing Complications	1,100	900	103.4	89.1	5,500	5,600	300.6	328.6	6,600	6,500	404.0	417.7
On Back	1,200	800	112.8	79.2	--	--	--	--	1,200	800	112.8	79.2
Old Age	4,500	4,100	423.0	405.9					4,500	4,100	423.0	405.9
Theft	600	800	56.4	79.2	1,800	500	98.4	29.3	2,400	1,300	154.8	108.5
Other	400	200	37.6	19.8	1,600	700	87.5	41.1	2,000	900	125.1	60.9
Total Non-Predators	**11,800**	**17,800**	**1,109.2**	**1,762.2**	**27,400**	**31,300**	**1,497.7**	**1,836.7**	**39,200**	**49,100**	**2,606.9**	**3,598.9**
Unknown Causes	**4,200**	**2,600**	**394.8**	**257.4**	**8,400**	**6,300**	**459.1**	**369.7**	**12,600**	**8,900**	**853.9**	**627.1**
Total Loss	**21,000**	**25,000**	**1,974.0**	**2,475.0**	**62,000**	**60,000**	**3,388.9**	**3,520.8**	**83,000**	**85,000**	**5,362.9**	**5,995.8**

1/ Average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

Montana Potato Stocks Up 7 Percent (continued from page 2)

Western States held 125 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1998, down 8 percent from last year but 10 percent above 1996. Idaho's stocks fell 8 percent from a year ago but were 3 percent above two years ago.

Idaho's storage held more than half of the western stocks. Colorado's stocks were down 14 percent and Oregon's stocks were off 19 percent from last year, while California's stocks dropped 9 percent. Washington's stocks were off 2 percent from last year, while Montana's seed growers gained 7 percent. Each of the Western States, except California, had more potatoes in storage than two years ago.

February Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production was 6.07 billion during February 1998, up 3 percent from the 5.90 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.12 billion table eggs and 950 million hatching eggs, of which 893 million were broiler-type an 57.0 million were egg-type. The average number of layers during February 1998 was 312 million, up 3 percent from the average number of layers during February 1997. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,946 eggs, up slightly from February 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1998, totaled 313 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 313 million layers consisted of 256 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1998, averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 69.9 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.76 billion eggs during February, up 3 percent from February 1997. The average number of layers during February, at 295 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs
Ag Prices Received
Grain Stocks
Prospective Plantings

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

MT Wheat & Barley Movement
All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Alfalfa Seed Production

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY MOVEMENT

Wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June-November 1997 period, at 56.9 million bushels, was 2 percent higher than the same period last year.

Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 3.8 million bushels, up 31 percent from the 2.9 million bushels last year. Movement to the west was 51.8 million bushels compared with 52.0 million from a year earlier. Other destinations, mostly to the south, received 1.2 million bushels up 2 percent from last year.

Rail movement amounted to 53.1 million bushels, 93 percent of total shipments, compared with 94 percent last year.

Barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, June-November 1997, was 11.9 million bushels, down 9 percent from the same period last year.

Eastern destination shipments totaled 2.3 million bushels down 14 percent from last year. Shipments to western destinations did not change from last year at 8.6 million bushels. Shipments to other destinations were down from last year's 1.9 million bushels to 1.1 million bushels this year.

Barley hauled by rail was 90 percent of total movement up from 85 percent for the same period last year.

Montana Wheat & Barley Shipped Out of State by Class, District, Mode, & Destination, June-November 1996-97

Shipments Out-of-State	June - November 1996 1/				June - November 1997 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	(000) Bushels							
West 3/	345	1,434	1,799	3,757	412	1,582	1,994	3,195
North Central	10,891	17,848	28,739	8,099	6,884	18,208	25,092	6,624
Northeast	711	13,047	13,758	377	984	15,541	16,525	48
Central	3,106	2,193	5,299	808	2,601	3,419	6,020	2,018
South Central	2,540	1,697	4,237	1	3,313	2,198	5,511	35
Southeast	1,101	933	2,034	64	490	1,243	1,733	24
TOTAL SHIPPED	18,694	37,152	55,846	13,106	14,684	42,191	56,875	11,944
Mode & Destination	(000) Bushels							
Trucked East	4	47	51	43	5	251	256	65
Trucked West	1,441	1,779	3,220	1,859	1,536	1,578	3,114	1,154
Trucked Other 4/	38	155	193	86	33	344	377	10
Total By Truck	1,483	1,981	3,464	1,988	1,574	2,173	3,747	1,229
Rail East	59	2,778	2,837	2,582	592	2,949	3,541	2,199
Rail West	17,115	31,670	48,785	6,731	12,421	36,310	48,731	7,435
Rail Other 4/	37	723	760	1,805	97	759	856	1,081
Total by Rail	17,211	35,171	52,382	11,118	13,110	40,018	53,128	10,715
TOTAL SHIPPED	18,694	37,152	55,846	13,106	14,684	42,191	56,875	11,944

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest agricultural statistics districts were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

PLEASE RETURN

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, & Production, by Counties & Districts, 1997

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bushels	Production	
					Bushels	Rank
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	18,000	17,800	17,100	61.9	1,058,000	33
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	16,900	15,700	15,300	62.5	956,000	35
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	55
Mineral	700	700	700	54.3	38,000	52
Missoula	2,800	2,800	2,600	46.9	122,000	49
Powell	1,600	1,600	1,600	79.4	127,000	48
Ravalli	1,800	1,800	1,800	45.6	82,000	51
Sanders	2,700	2,600	2,400	50.4	121,000	50
Other	600	600	600	68.3	41,000	--
NORTHWEST	**45,100**	**43,600**	**42,100**	**60.5**	**2,545,000**	--
Blaine	223,000	217,000	210,800	30.2	6,373,000	11
Chouteau	632,300	615,300	602,100	37.4	22,505,000	1
Glacier	160,500	160,200	156,100	32.6	5,088,000	16
Hill	531,700	521,700	510,600	32.1	16,390,000	2
Liberty	287,000	286,500	279,300	28.1	7,852,000	5
Phillips	179,700	179,100	172,100	27.8	4,787,000	18
Pondera	214,600	208,000	203,100	38.1	7,731,000	6
Teton	189,500	186,200	181,600	42.2	7,657,000	7
Toole	256,200	253,400	247,300	28.1	6,959,000	10
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
N. CENTRAL	**2,674,500**	**2,627,400**	**2,563,000**	**33.3**	**85,342,000**	--
Daniels	288,000	288,000	266,000	23.2	6,179,000	13
Dawson	187,700	183,400	177,600	24.7	4,392,000	19
Garfield	136,000	129,900	117,900	26.0	3,060,000	22
McCone	239,500	234,700	225,300	24.3	5,475,000	15
Richland	212,500	210,700	202,800	25.0	5,063,000	17
Roosevelt	365,500	365,000	351,100	24.1	8,470,000	3
Sheridan	321,800	321,700	312,000	23.5	7,339,000	8
Valley	339,000	338,500	330,300	25.1	8,282,000	4
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**2,090,000**	**2,071,900**	**1,983,000**	**24.3**	**48,260,000**	--
Broadwater	50,000	49,200	48,200	50.7	2,446,000	23
Cascade	149,700	146,700	141,000	44.8	6,311,000	12
Fergus	198,200	192,800	187,700	37.4	7,017,000	9
Golden Valley	44,200	43,200	42,200	33.4	1,411,000	28
Judith Basin	86,300	79,800	78,700	40.7	3,203,000	21
Lewis & Clark	17,500	17,500	17,000	38.6	656,000	39
Meagher	11,000	11,000	10,300	39.8	410,000	42
Musselshell	41,500	41,100	39,600	35.2	1,393,000	30
Petroleum	21,000	16,600	16,200	37.0	599,000	40
Wheatland	48,700	48,200	46,900	40.3	1,888,000	25
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**668,100**	**646,100**	**627,800**	**40.4**	**25,334,000**	--
Beaverhead	11,700	11,700	11,500	66.3	762,000	38
Gallatin	42,100	41,300	40,100	56.2	2,255,000	24
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	47
Madison	7,900	7,900	7,600	62.0	471,000	41
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	54
Other	3,800	3,300	3,300	56.4	186,000	--
SOUTHWEST	**65,500**	**64,200**	**62,500**	**58.8**	**3,674,000**	--
Big Horn	144,000	141,900	138,000	40.8	5,625,000	14
Carbon	12,800	12,800	12,200	33.4	408,000	43
Park	9,000	9,000	8,800	37.2	327,000	45
Stillwater	51,500	50,800	49,800	32.0	1,594,000	26
Sweetgrass	5,400	5,400	5,100	40.4	206,000	46
Treasure	8,300	8,300	7,800	50.3	392,000	44
Yellowstone	109,000	104,800	101,300	38.4	3,888,000	20
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
S. CENTRAL	**340,000**	**333,000**	**323,000**	**38.5**	**12,440,000**	--
Carter	53,100	49,600	44,100	23.2	1,025,000	34
Custer	42,000	38,700	37,800	24.0	906,000	36
Fallon	62,300	59,900	58,300	24.1	1,406,000	29
Powder River	30,000	29,400	28,600	27.1	774,000	37
Prairie	49,000	47,900	46,600	27.3	1,272,000	31
Rosebud	67,500	65,900	63,200	23.8	1,502,000	27
Wibaux	52,900	52,400	50,000	23.0	1,150,000	32
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**356,800**	**343,800**	**328,600**	**24.5**	**8,035,000**	--
MONTANA	**6,240,000**	**6,130,000**	**5,930,000**	**31.3**	**185,630,000**	--

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of wheat are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acres less winter wheat acres replanted to spring wheat.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR JANUARY

The Montana winter wheat average price decreased 24 cents from December 1997 to $3.35 per bushel, durum wheat was down 26 cents to $5.31 per bushel, and spring wheat decreased 25 cents to $3.50 per bushel. Feed barley was up 13 cents per bushel to $2.14, but malt barley decreased 19 cents to $2.95 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-February averaged $3.61 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-February was $2.66. The price for alfalfa hay in February, at $74.00 per ton, was down $4.00 from last month. The February other hay price of $66.00 is unchanged from January.

Cattle prices for the full month of January were higher. Sheep and lamb prices were lower. Steer and heifer prices increased 90 cents to $81.50 per cwt. Cows increased $2.50 to $35.30 and the average price for calves rose $2.90 to $91.10 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.50 to $39.00 per cwt and lambs decreased $8.00 to $87.80 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 20 cents from last month to $14.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $80.20 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for January averaged $3.33 per bushel, down 12 cents from December. The all barley price averaged $2.37 per bushel, down 6 cents. Steer and heifer prices were down 70 cents to $66.10 per cwt. Cow prices were $34.50 and hog prices were $36.00 per cwt. Egg prices were 51.1 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 100 based on 1990-92=100, down 3 points (2.9 percent) from January. Price decreases from January for cattle, eggs, corn, and lettuce more than offset price increases for broilers, tomatoes, onions, and oranges. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton more than offset the relatively higher marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs. These changes contributed one point of the three point decrease in the overall index.

Compared with February 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.8 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1997 for hogs, broilers, cattle, and corn more than offset price increases for milk, onions, potatoes, and calves.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Jan. 1997	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1998
Prices Received	108	105	103	100
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	116	116	116	115
Ratio 2/	93	91	89	87

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 1997	Dec 1997	Jan 1998	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan 1997	Feb. 15 1998	Feb. 15 1998
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.14	3.59	3.35	3.16	-0.24	-0.79	3.40	3.15
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.19	5.57	5.31	5.02	-0.26	+1.12	4.90	4.55
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.15	3.75	3.50	3.45	-0.25	-0.65	3.55	3.48
Wheat, All	Bu.	4.15	3.84	3.59	3.33	-0.25	-0.56	3.61	3.36
Barley	Bu.	2.94	2.88	2.79	2.37	-0.09	-0.15	2.66	2.27
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.33	2.01	2.14	2.05	+0.13	-0.19	2.10	2.01
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.37	3.14	2.95	2.61	-0.19	-0.42	2.90	2.55
Oats 1/	Bu.	1.52	N/A	N/A	1.59	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.59
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	106.00	82.00	78.00	105.00	-4.00	-28.00	74.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	88.00	70.00	66.00	79.20	-4.00	-22.00	66.00	74.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	104.00	81.00	77.00	98.10	-4.00	-27.00	73.00	97.20
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	67.50	80.60	81.50	66.10	+0.90	+14.00	80.20	62.70
Cows	Cwt.	33.30	32.80	35.30	34.50	+2.50	+2.00	36.80	35.90
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	62.00	59.10	66.30	62.50	+7.20	+4.30	66.70	60.00
Calves	Cwt.	70.10	88.20	91.10	86.60	+2.90	+21.00	90.10	88.10
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	41.80	40.50	39.00	42.00	-1.50	-2.80	N/A	N/A
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	104.00	95.80	87.80	78.40	-8.00	-16.20	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt.	13.50	14.50	14.30	14.70	-0.20	+0.80	14.20	14.70

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

MONTANA 1997 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Montana's 1997 alfalfa seed production was estimated at 3.54 million pounds, down 30% from 1996. Producers harvested 12,000 acres in 1997, up 500 acres from last year. Unfortunately, yields were much lower than a year ago. The state average yield was estimated at 295 pounds per acre, down from 440 pounds a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 358 pounds per acre and non-irrigated yields averaged 80 pounds per acre. Producers used an average of 2 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre on all acres harvested for alfalfa seed in 1997.

Proprietary varieties made up 72 percent of this year's production, up 11 points from 1996. Common uncertified varieties accounted for 25 percent of the production and common certified varieties made up the remaining 3 percent.

The average price received for the 1997 crop was $1.25 per pound, up 7 cents from 1996's average price.

ALFALFA SEED: Estimates by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 1997

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield (Lbs.)	Production (Lbs.)	Acres	Yield (Lbs.)	Production (Lbs.)	Acres	Yield (Lbs.)	Production (Lbs.)
NW+SW	300	210	63,000	100	350	35,000	200	140	28,000
NC	1,600	430	688,000	1,500	453	680,000	100	80	8,000
NE	1,400	333	466,000	1,300	354	460,000	100	60	6,000
C	600	197	118,000	500	220	110,000	100	80	8,000
SC	4,800	371	1,779,000	4,600	383	1,760,000	200	95	19,000
SE	3,300	129	426,000	1,300	215	280,000	2,000	73	146,000
MT	**12,000**	**295**	**3,540,000**	**9,300**	**358**	**3,325,000**	**2,700**	**80**	**215,000**

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	Milk Production
Potato Stocks	Ag Land Values
Wool and Mohair Prod.	Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

1997 Crop Values
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms
January Red Meat Production
Farm Labor — Cattle on Feed
Milk Produciton — Egg Production
Honey Production — Potato Stocks

1997 CROP VALUES FALL

The value of Montana's 1997 all wheat crop fell more than 9 percent from 1996 to $682.5 million. Although total production was up nearly five percent, the season average price was down 44 cents per bushel. The 1997 season average price for all wheat was set at $3.80 per bushel compared with the 1996 price of $4.24.

The estimated value of Montana's winter wheat crop fell 27 percent from the previous year to $195.1 million. One of the smaller crops in recent history and a lower season average price resulted in the large decrease. Spring wheat's value of production, estimated at $450.7 million, was up just slightly from 1996. Although the season average price fell 52 cents to $3.70, increased production caused the total value of the crop to be higher. Durum wheat's season average price increased 40 cents from 1996 to $5.05. Total 1997 value of production was estimated at $36.8 million, up 13 percent from 1996.

Total value of production for barley was estimated at $181.3 million, up 14 percent from the previous year. The 1997 season average price, at $2.85, was down 22 cents from 1996. Much better production in 1997 resulted in the higher production value.

The season average price for all hay increased $1.00 from last year to $81.00 per ton. Increased production and a higher price resulted in the value of production increasing 14 percent to $431.9 million. Alfalfa hay's 1997 season average price was estimated at $82.00, up $1.00 from last year while other hay's season average price rose $3.50 to $70.50.

MONTANA 1997 FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

Montana's number of farms for 1997 was estimated at 24,000, up 1,000 from 1996's revised estimate of 23,000. Land in farms fell 100,000 acres to 59.6 million acres. The average size of farm is 2,483 acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 1997 is estimated at 2.06 million, down less than one percent from 1996. Total land in farms is 968 million acres, also down less than one percent from last year. This decline in farm numbers and land in farms continues to follow historical trends. The average farm size increased from 1996 to 471 acres.

The West and Northeast Regions were both up in farm numbers from 1996. The West Region showed the largest increase, up 2,000 farms or 0.7 percent, while the Northeast Region was up 300 farms or 0.2 percent from 1996. The largest decrease was in the North Central Region with a loss of 5,500 farms or 0.7 percent. The South Region was down 2,800 farms or 0.3 percent.

Texas remained the State with the most farms at 205,000, the same as a year earlier. Missouri was second with 102,000 farms, down 2,000 from last year, followed by Iowa with 98,000 farms, the same as 1996.

Eight States increased in farm numbers while 13 states decreased from a year ago. California showed the largest increase with 2,000 farms while Indiana, Montana, Ohio, and Oklahoma showed increases of 1,000 farms from last year. Missouri, Michigan, and Kansas showed the largest decreases, of 2,000 farms. Texas continued to lead the nation in land in farms and ranches with 129.0 million acres, the same as 1996. Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina and New Mexico all showed the largest decrease in agricultural land from a year ago, each decreasing 200,000 acres. There were nine states with decreases of 100,000 acres in agricultural land from a year ago. There were no states that increased acres in agricultural land in farms from a year ago.

The number of U.S. farms in the economic sales class between $1,000 and $9,999 increased from 1,020,110 in 1996 to 1,030,510 in 1997. Those with sales in the $10,000 - $99,999 group decreased from 705,100 in 1996 to 678,500 in 1997. The $100,000 and over sales group increased from 338,700 in 1996 to 348,900 farms in 1997.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FOR MONTANA

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 1998, down 8 percent from last year, and down 5 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,500 head, was 200 head less than from last year. The average live weight of 1,142 pounds was up 34 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,600 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during December, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 208 pounds, dropped 16 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 200 head, unchanged from last year. The average live weight of 124 pounds was down 5 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.84 billion pounds in January, just above January's previous record of 3.82 billion pounds, set in 1996. Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.04 million head, down 6 percent from 1996.

Continued on the next page

PLEASE RETURN

RED MEAT PRODUCTION (continued)

The average live weight was up 37 pounds from the previous year at 1,197 pounds.

Veal production totaled 24.0 million pounds, down 23 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 128,000 head, down 13 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was down 39 pounds from last year to 305 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year and 5 percent higher than the previous high for January set in 1996. Hog kill totaled 8.59 million head, up 11 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 21.0 million pounds, was up 6 percent from the previous year. Sheep slaughter totaled 309,500 head, up 2 percent from last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, 5 pounds heavier than a year ago.

JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.74 billion during January 1998, up 2 percent from the 6.57 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.69 billion table eggs and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 987 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total average number of layers during January 1998 averaged 310 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during January 1997. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,171 eggs, up slightly from January 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 1998, totaled 310 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 310 million layers consisted of 253 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.59 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1998, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 68.8 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.38 billion eggs during January, up 2 percent from January 1997. The average number of layers during January, at 293 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. HIRED WORKERS AND WAGES 6 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

There were 802,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 1998, up 6 percent from a year ago. There were 661,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 141,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.3 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 9.5 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $7.61 per hour during the January 1998 survey week, up 41 cents or 6 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $6.99 per hour, up 39 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.97 per hour compared with $6.52 a year earlier.

During the survey week of January 11-17, 1998, mild temperatures prevailed over most of the United States, except for early-week bitterly cold temperatures along the Northern Plains. New England farmers, especially dairymen, worked extended hours to recover from the previous week's severe ice storm. Field activities along the Pacific Coast were hampered again this week by an onslaught of storms bringing snow, ice, and rain. In northern California, over 4 inches of rain fell in many locations, halting fieldwork. However, spring vegetable crop seedbed preparation and planting continued where weather and soils permitted. The storms tracked eastward, bringing precipitation into the central and northern Rocky Mountains States.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY REGION & U.S., JAN. 12-18, 1997 & JAN. 11-17, 1998 1/

U.S. AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	FIELD		LIVESTOCK		FIELD & LIVESTOCK			
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	7.78	8.60	6.28	6.22	6.82	6.96	*7.46	7.54
Northeast II	7.38	7.45	6.12	6.08	6.66	6.80	7.40	7.51
Appalachian I	6.24	6.50	6.91	6.66	6.45	6.57	6.85	6.97
Appalachian II	5.87	6.44	6.27	5.71	6.08	6.10	*6.81	6.33
Southeast	7.36	7.13	6.14	6.09	7.01	6.70	7.43	7.23
FL	6.80	7.45	6.80	8.00	6.80	7.49	*7.45	8.22
Lake	7.74	7.74	6.20	7.16	6.66	7.35	7.28	8.32
Cornbelt I	7.13	7.51	7.42	7.62	7.27	7.57	7.88	8.31
Cornbelt II	7.35	6.82	6.32	6.43	*6.73	6.50	7.22	7.08
Delta	6.26	6.94	6.16	6.30	6.21	6.70	*6.83	7.21
Northern Plains	7.80	8.34	7.16	7.38	*7.34	7.65	*7.56	8.22
Southern Plains	5.56	6.59	5.97	6.65	5.81	6.61	*6.12	7.04
Mountain I	**6.19**	**6.53**	**6.59**	**6.80**	**6.48**	**6.74**	**6.91**	**7.26**
Mountain II	6.75	7.22	6.64	6.89	6.67	7.00	7.37	7.65
Mountain III	5.82	6.63	5.90	6.61	*5.85	6.63	*6.37	7.34
Pacific	6.71	7.67	6.92	8.16	6.78	7.81	*7.43	8.86
CA	6.04	6.62	7.50	8.36	6.25	6.85	7.10	7.38
HI	8.85	8.88	3/	3/	8.87	8.84	10.32	10.24
US 4/	6.60	6.99	6.52	6.97	6.57	6.98	*7.20	7.61

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data. 4/ Excludes AK.
* Revised.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS UP 5 PERCENT

Montana potato producers held 3.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, up 5 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 90 percent of the 1997 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 89 percent of the 1996 total production.

Nationally, February 1, 1998, potato stocks totaled 206 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year earlier but 9 percent above two years ago. Disappearance was 201 million cwt, 7 percent below a year ago and off 1 percent from two years ago. Processing accounted for 98.6 million cwt through January, 10 percent less than last year and 5 percent short of two years ago. Shrink and loss of 20.5 million cwt was down 14 percent from last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent reds, 13 percent whites, and 85 percent russets, with more russets but fewer reds and whites than a year ago.

U.S. disappearance from the start of harvest to February 1 was 201 million cwt this season, down 7 percent from the same period a year earlier and 1 percent below two years ago. Disappearance during January was 35.0 million cwt, down fractionally from last year but 2 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss was estimated at 20.5 million cwt, down 14 percent from last year and 10 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1997 crop potatoes totaled 98.6 million cwt so far this season, down 10 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. January processing claimed 15.5 million cwt of potatoes, down 6 percent from last year and 5 percent short of two years ago.

Western States held 149 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1998, down 7 percent from last year but 10 percent above 1996. Idaho's stocks fell 7 percent from a year ago but were 3 percent above two years ago. Idaho's storage held more than half of the western stocks. Colorado and Oregon stocks were each off 16 percent from last year, while California's stocks dropped 4 percent. Washington's stocks were the same as last year and Montana's seed growers gained 5 percent. Each of the Western States, except California, had more potatoes in storage than two years ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1997-98

STATE	CROP OF 1996			CROP OF 1997		
	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1997	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1998	% of PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	4,600	2,500	54	4,200	2,400	57
CO	29,175	18,100	62	25,377	15,200	60
ID	142,800	82,000	57	135,430	76,000	56
ME	21,175	13,100	62	19,170	12,100	63
MI	13,800	4,600	33	14,250	5,500	39
MN	24,600	13,200	54	20,440	10,500	51
MT	**3,213**	**2,850**	**89**	**3,328**	**2,980**	**90**
NE	4,402	2,440	55	7,527	3,800	50
NY	7,980	1,400	18	8,408	1,400	17
ND	28,820	15,000	52	21,525	11,500	53
OH	1,275	90	7	1,175	70	6
OR	30,124	19,000	63	27,161	16,000	59
PA	4,208	1,300	31	3,190	1,000	31
WA	94,990	36,500	38	88,060	36,500	41
WI	31,590	15,000	47	27,923	10,900	39
15 States	442,752	227,080	51	407,164	205,850	51

MONTANA HONEY PRODUCTION UP 83 PERCENT

Montana's honey producers with five or more colonies produced 12.8 million pounds of honey in 1997, up 83 percent from the previous year. There were 107,000 colonies producing honey in 1997, compared with 117,000 colonies in 1996. The yield per colony increased 60 pounds from last year to 120 pounds per colony. The mild spring and summer contributed to the higher yield in contrast to the poor producing years of 1995 and 1996. Stocks on hand December 16, 1997, totaled 4.24 million pounds, up 132 percent from 1996.

Prices for the Montana honey crop averaged 74 cents per pound in 1997 compared with 88 cents per pound in 1996. The value of honey in 1997 was 9.5 million dollars, up 3.3 million dollars from the 1996 honey crop.

The **Nation's** honey production in 1997 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 192 million pounds, down 3 percent from 1996. There were 2.58 million colonies producing honey in 1997, compared with 2.56 million in 1996. Yield per colony averaged 74.6 pounds, down 2.7 pounds from the 77.3 pounds in 1996. Colonies which produced in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may, therefore, be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 69.1 million pounds on December 15, 1997, up 47 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1997 crop averaged 75.2 cents per pound, down 15 percent from the previous record price of 88.8 cents in 1996. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the State level, prices reflect the portions of honey sold retail, co-op and private. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting State average prices by the State quantities sold for each marketing channel. Co-op and Private prices were lower for all color classes in 1997. Prices for 1996 reflect sales of the 1996 honey crop in 1996 and 1997.

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 11.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from production in these same States in January 1997. December revised production, at 11.1 billion pounds was up 1 percent from December 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,473 pounds for January, 40 pounds above January 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 58,000 head less than January 1997 and 3,000 head less than December 1997.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 4 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.79 million head on February 1, 1998. The inventory was 4 percent above February 1, 1997 and 9 percent above February 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.73 million, 9 percent below 1997 but 11 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.63 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 317,000, 600-699 pounds were 560,000, 700-799 pounds were 550,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 298,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.00 million, 1 percent below 1997 but 3 percent above 1996. The year-to-year relationship between fed cattle marketed and commercial slaughter was affected by the decrease in cattle imported from Canada that are going directly to slaughter.

Other disappearance totaled 99,000 during January, 8 percent above 1997 and 52 percent above 1996.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Alfalfa Seed Production	Ag Prices Received
All Wheat County Estimates	Wheat & Barley Movement

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle & Calf Inventory
Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Ag Prices Received
Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production

CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was 2.6 million head on January 1, 1998, down 4 percent from a year ago. This is the lowest inventory since 2.55 million head were on hand January 1, 1994. The largest declines in inventory numbers came from a 23 percent drop in calves weighing less than [illegible] lbs, a 13 percent drop in steer numbers, and a 2 percent decline in cows.

The number of beef cows that had calved, at 1.542 million head, was down 2 percent from January 1, 1997. The number of milk cows in the state dropped 10 percent from last year to 18,000 head. Some of the decrease in cow inventories can be attributed to higher cow prices in the spring and summer months. Some ranchers indicated they were getting out of the business or downsizing their herds. While cow inventories declined during the year, inventories of beef cow replacements, milk cow replacements, and other heifers were equal to or higher than a year earlier. Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, were unchanged from the previous year at 350,000 head. Milk heifer replacements rose 1,000 head from the previous year to 8,000 head. Other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more, increased 2 percent from last year to 210,000 head.

Calves weighing less than 500 lbs, at 115,000 head dropped 23 percent from last year to a record low inventory for the state. Higher prices for calves and good to excellent grazing conditions during most of the year reduced the number of calves that weighed less than 500 pounds on January 1 compared with a year ago. Bulls weighing 500 pounds or more decreased 1 percent to 97,000 head. Cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter were estimated at 80,000 head, down 6 percent from the last year.

During 1997, 1.51 million calves were born in Montana, down 2 percent from 1996. Calving conditions were not much better than the previous year as spring snowstorms contributed to higher than normal calf death losses. Cattle and calf death losses for 1997 will be published in the Meat Animal Production, Disposition and Income Report issued April 24, 1998.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1998, totaled 99.5 million head, 2 percent below the 101.5 million on January 1, 1997 and 4 percent below the 103.5 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.9 million, were 2 percent below the 43.6 million on January 1, 1997 and 4 percent below the 44.6 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.7 million, were down 2 percent from January 1, 1997 and 4 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.19 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1997 and 2 percent below two years ago.

The 1997 calf crop was estimated at 38.7 million, down 3 percent from 1996 and down 4 percent from 1995. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.5 million, down 3 percent from both 1996 and 1995. The number of operations with cattle totaled 1,167,910 during 1997, down 2 percent from 1996 and 4 percent below 1995. Beef cow operations in 1997 were down 2 percent from 1996 and 3 percent below 1995. Milk cow operations were 8 percent below last year and 15 percent below two years ago.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 6 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.16 million head on January 1, 1998. The inventory was 6 percent above January 1, 1997 and 8 percent above January 1, 1996. The inventory included 6.80 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.30 million head, up 6 percent from 1997.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.55 million, 8 percent below 1996 and 10 percent below 1995. Net placements were 1.47 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 366,000, 600-699 pounds were 519,000, 700-799 pounds were 390,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 277,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.75 million, 4 percent above 1996 and 5 percent above 1995. Other disappearance totaled 85,000 during December, 1 percent below 1996 but 25 percent above 1995.

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January 1 cattle and sheep inventory surveys. Field and telephone interviewers contacted about 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers early in January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1996-98

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1996	MONTANA 1997	MONTANA 1998	MONTANA '98/'97	UNITED STATES 1996	UNITED STATES 1997	UNITED STATES 1998	UNITED STATES '98/'97
		1,000 head				1,000 head		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,750	2,700	2,600	96%	102,487	101,460	99,501	98%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,590	1,590	1,560	98%	44,644	43,580	42,874	98%
Beef Cows	1,570	1,570	1,542	98%	35,228	34,271	33,683	98%
Milk Cows	20	20	18	90%	9,416	9,309	9,200	99%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	602	562	568	101%	20,232	20,312	19,745	97%
For beef cow replacement	330	350	350	100%	6,179	6,056	5,745	95%
For milk cow replacement	7	7	8	114%	4,104	4,057	3,982	98%
Other heifers	265	205	210	102%	9,949	10,199	10,018	98%
Steers 500 pounds and over	330	300	260	87%	17,732	17,320	17,197	99%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	93	98	97	99%	2,392	2,339	2,266	97%
Calves less than 500 pounds	135	150	115	77%	18,488	17,909	17,418	97%
Cattle on Feed	105	85	80	94%	12,968	13,216	13,618	103%

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS, 1995-97

ITEM	1995	1996	1997	'97/'96	1995	1996	1997	'97/'96
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,540	1,540	1,510	98%	40,211	39,776	38,718	97%
Number cattle farms 1/	12,700	13,200	12,800	97%	1,210,310	1,192,520	1,167,910	98%
Operations with beef cattle 1/	11,500	11,700	11,800	101%	910,130	898,680	882,600	98%
Operations with milk cows 1/	900	800	750	94%	137,030	126,800	116,680	92%

1/ Actual number.

SHEEP and LAMBS INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1996-98

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1996	MONTANA 1997	MONTANA 1998	MONTANA '98/'97	UNITED STATES 1996	UNITED STATES 1997	UNITED STATES 1998	UNITED STATES '98/'97
		1,000 head				1,000 head		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	465	432	410	95%	8,461	7,937	7,616	96%
Market Sheep & Lambs	35	32	25	78%	2,234	2,087	2,079	100%
Sheep	2	2	1	50%	82	85	84	99%
Lambs	33	30	24	80%	2,152	2,002	1,995	100%
Breeding sheep	430	400	385	96%	6,228	5,850	5,537	95%
One year old & older								
Ewes	347	330	315	95%	5,128	4,836	4,527	94%
Rams	11	11	10	91%	236	220	206	94%
Replacement Lambs	72	59	60	102%	863	794	804	101%

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS, 1995-98

ITEM	1995	1996	1997	'97/'96	1995	1996	1997	'97/'96
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	410	390	380	97%	5,606	5,282	5,245	99%
Number of sheep farms 3/	2,200	2,200	2,200	100%	81,070	77,510	74,710	96%

1/ Actual number.

JANUARY 1, 1998 SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN

Montana's sheep and lambs inventory set a new record low at 410,000 head, down 5 percent from last year. Producers continue to adjust inventories, but not as significantly as recent years. Predators and last spring's severe snow storms caused the industry considerable losses and reduced inventories in 1997. A detailed report on sheep and lamb losses will be published in mid-February.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers declined 15,000 head from last year to 385,000 head. Producers seem to be stabilizing their flock sizes at about the same levels as last year. Ewes one year and older were down 5 percent to 315,000 head. The 1997 lamb crop was 380,000 head, a drop of 5 percent from January 1, 1997.

There were 25,000 market sheep and lambs on hand January 1--all but 1,000 head were market lambs. Of the total market lambs, 4 percent weighed less than 65 pounds, 17 percent weighed 65-84 pounds, 58 percent were in the 85-105 pounds weight group, and 21 percent were over 105 pounds. There were 2,200 sheep and lamb operations in Montana during 1997, unchanged from 1996.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1998 totaled 7.62 million head, down 4 percent from 1997 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has slowly declined since 1942 when all sheep and lambs inventory reached it's peak of 56.2 million head.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.54 million head on January 1, 1998, down 5 percent from January 1, 1997's 5.85 million head. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.53 million head, were 6 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1998, totaled 2.08 million head, down slightly from January 1, 1997. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-three percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 15 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 30 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 28 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 1997 lamb crop of 5.24 million head was down 1 percent from 1996. This compares with the previous record low of 5.28 million head set a year ago. The 1997 lambing rate was 108 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1997, compared with 103 in 1996.

The number of operations with sheep during 1997 totaled 74,710, down 4 percent from 1996 and 8 percent from 1995.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR DECEMBER

The Montana winter wheat average price increased 16 cents from November 1997 to $3.59 per bushel, durum wheat was down 21 cents to $5.57 per bushel, and spring wheat increased 18 cents to $3.75 per bushel. Feed barley dropped 28 cents per bushel to $2.01, but malt barley increased 2 cents to $3.14 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-January averaged $3.52 per bushel and the all barley price for mid-January was $2.77. The price for alfalfa hay in January, at $78.00 per ton, is down $4.00 from last month. The January other hay price of $66.00 is down $4.00 from December.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were mixed. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.30 to $80.60 per cwt. Cows increased 70 cents to $32.80 and the average price for calves rose $2.90 to $88.20 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $3.30 to $40.50 per cwt., while lambs increased $2.60 to $95.80 per cwt. Milk prices increased 30 cents from last month to $14.50 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $79.50 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for December averaged $3.45 per bushel, down 5 cents from November. The all barley price averaged $2.43 per bushel, down 15 cents. Steer and heifer prices were down $1.20 cents to $66.80 per cwt. Cow prices were $33.00 and hog prices were $41.60 per cwt. Egg prices were 68.0 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 103 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points from December. Price decreases from December for hogs, tomatoes, cattle, and eggs more than offset price increases for corn, lettuce, broilers, and snap beans. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in January.

Compared with January 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.6 percent) lower. Price decreases from January 1997 for hogs, wheat, broilers, and soybeans more than offset price increases for milk, calves, potatoes, and lettuce.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Dec. 1996	Jan. 1997	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1998
Prices Received	109	108	105	103
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	115	116	116	116
Ratio 2/	95	93	91	89

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

BASE MONTH: December 1997	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Prev Mo	Prev Yr	Montana	U.S.
		Dec 1996	Nov 1997	Dec 1997	Dec 1997	Nov 1997	Dec 1996	Jan 15 1998	Jan 15 1998
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.35	3.43	3.59	3.25	0.16	-0.76	3.20	3.13
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5.34	5.78	5.57	5.17	-0.21	0.23	5.10	4.96
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.42	3.57	3.75	3.51	0.18	-0.67	3.50	3.41
Wheat, All	Bu.	4.43	3.56	3.84	3.45	0.28	-0.59	3.52	3.33
Barley	Bu.	3.21	2.93	2.88	2.43	-0.05	-0.33	2.77	2.39
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.39	2.29	2.01	2.02	-0.28	-0.38	2.00	2.00
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.44	3.12	3.14	2.75	0.02	-0.30	3.10	2.76
Oats 1/	Bu.	1.85	1.21	N/A	1.56	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.55
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	85.00	81.00	82.00	106.00	1.00	-3.00	78.00	105.00
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	71.00	70.00	76.30	-1.00	-2.00	66.00	79.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	84.00	80.00	81.00	97.70	1.00	-3.00	77.00	98.10
Steer & Heifers	Cwt.	62.30	81.90	80.60	66.80	-1.30	18.30	79.50	65.30
Cows	Cwt.	32.60	32.10	32.80	33.00	0.70	0.20	33.70	34.00
Beef Cattle 2/	Cwt.	57.30	67.00	59.10	62.90	-7.90	1.80	61.20	61.80
Calves	Cwt.	64.70	85.30	88.20	83.30	2.90	23.50	89.80	83.20
Sheep 3/	Cwt.	37.80	37.20	40.50	37.80	3.30	2.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 3/	Cwt.	96.90	93.20	95.80	84.10	2.60	-1.10	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt.	15.50	14.20	14.50	14.60	0.30	-1.00	15.20	14.60

1/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 2/Composit of steers, heifers, and cows. 3/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

MONTANA 1997 EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 19 PERCENT

Montana chickens produced 88 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 1997, down 19 percent from last year. Our state averaged 293,000 layers in 1997, compared with 378,000 the previous year. The average production per layer on hand was 300 egg, up five percent from a year ago.

There were 390,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 1997, compared with 470,000 on hand last year. The December 1, 1997 inventory included 240,000 layers 20 weeks old, 45,000 between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 69,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1997, was $1.25 million, down 17 percent from the previous December. The decline was due to the decline in inventory since the average value per bird was the same as last year at $3.20.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1997 totaled 77.4 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year's total of 76.3 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 65.4 billion eggs, increased 1 percent from 1996. Hatching egg production, at 12.0 billion eggs, increased 4 percent. Average Number of Layers Up 2 Percent: Layer numbers during 1997 averaged 303 million, up 2 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1997 was 255 eggs, compared with the 1996 average of 256 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 1997 (excluding commercial broilers) was 403 million birds, up 4 percent from last year. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 1997, totaled 345 million, up 3 percent from December 1, 1996. Of the 345 million potential layers, 90 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1996 was $1.10 billion, up 7 percent from December 1,1996. The average value increased from $2.65 per bird on December 1, 1996 to $2.72 per bird on December 1, 1997.

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Farms and Land in Farms	Crop Values
Potato Stocks	Milk Production
Cattle on Feed	Slaughter
Honey	Farm Labor
Egg Production	

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Annual Crop Production
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Red Meat Production
- Wheat: Supply, Disappearance and Price

ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION --1997

Dry conditions during the fall of 1996 led winter wheat producers to plant the second smallest winter wheat crop since 1951. Montana's winter wheat acreage was estimated at 1.6 million acres, down 26 percent from last year. Winter kill caused many acres to be reseeded, but producers were able to harvest 1.45 million acres, down 27 percent from 1996. Adequate moisture at the beginning of the season and timely rains in most of the winter wheat producing areas set the stage for the fourth highest yield on record. Average yield was estimated at 39 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year, for a total production of 56.55 million bushels which is down 11 percent from 1996.

Spring wheat acreage made up for the lost winter wheat acreage. Montana producers planted an estimated 4.35 million acres, up 150,000 from last year, and the largest spring wheat acreage planted since 1953 when other spring and durum wheat records were combined. The eastern third of the state suffered from some drought-like conditions early in the year, but the rest of the state had a fair growing season with timely moisture. Producers were able to harvest 4.2 million acres, up 100,000 from last year. Yields averaged 29 bushels per acre across the state, up 3 bushels from 1996, but down nearly 3 bushels from the last five-year average due mainly to lower yields in the eastern third of the state. Total production was estimated at 121.8 million bushels, up 14 percent from last year. This is the second largest crop on record only behind 1995's production, because of the large number of acres harvested.

Montana durum wheat growers planted 290,000 acres and harvested 280,000 acres, both unchanged from last year's revised acreage estimates. Droughty conditions reduced yields to an average 26 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year, when drought-like conditions also occurred. Total production was estimated at 7.28 million bushels, up nearly 4 percent from last year.

Barley acreage in Montana was estimated at 1.3 million acres with harvested acreage set at 1.2 million acres, both unchanged from 1996. Average yields were set at 53 bushels per acre, up 10 bushels from last year. This is the second highest yield on record. Not as much barley is grown in the eastern portion of the state which kept yields up unlike spring wheat. Total production was estimated at 63.6 million bushels, up 23 percent from last year.

Oat production was estimated at 3.85 million bushels, nearly twice the amount produced last year. Producers harvested more acreage and had better yields than 1996. Planted acreage was estimated at 140,000 acres, up 40,000 from last year. Harvested acreage was set at 70,000 acres, up 20,000 from last year. Yields averaged 55 bushels per acre, up 15 bushels from last year.

Montana producers harvested 14,000 acres of corn for grain in 1997, down 1,000 acres from last year. The average yield was 135 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last year's record. Production decreased 8 percent from last year to 1.89 million bushels. Corn for silage acreage was estimated at 45,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from 1996. Yields averaged 21 tons per acre, the same as a year ago.

Sugar beet producers in Montana harvested an estimated 58,300 acres of beets this year, up 800 acres from a year ago. Yields decreased 1.6 tons from last year to average 21.0 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.2 million tons, down 8 percent from 1996.

Montana dry bean growers produced an estimated 257,000 cwt. of dry beans in 1997. Production was up 22,000 cwt. from 1996. Growers harvested 11,700 acres with a yield of 22.0 cwt. per acre compared with last year's 10,300 acres harvested with a yield of 22.8 cwt. per acre.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.33 million cwt., up 4 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,400 acres compared with 10,200 in 1996. Yields increased 5 cwt. per acre from a year ago to 320 cwt.

All hay harvested in Montana was the same as last year at 2.6 million acres. All hay production was 5.48 million tons, up 11 percent or 560,000 tons from a year ago. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage was 1.65 million acres, down 50,000 acres from last season . The average yield was 2.4 tons per acre compared with 2.1 tons per acre in 1996. Other hay harvested acreage was 950,000 acres and the average yield was 1.6 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above last year.

Montana hay growers seeded an estimated 150,000 acres of alfalfa during 1997. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

1997 SWEET CHERRY PRODUCTION

Montana production of sweet cherries in 1997 was estimated at 1,300 tons, up 600 tons from last year's crop. This year's crop was larger than previous years as some trees that were replanted after the 1989 freeze are now coming into production. Utilized production totaled 970 tons. The large crop was a factor on the amount culled. The average price was $965 per ton, down $455 from a year ago.

U.S. sweet cherry production in 1997 was estimated at 222,800 tons, up 44 percent from 1996. Utilized production totaled 220,400 tons. The U.S. average price was $1250 per ton, down $220 from a year ago.

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MONTANA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY, 1994-97 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg Price	Value of Production	US Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		Thousands		Bushels	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Winter Wheat	1994	1,950	1,850	35.0	64,750	$3.45	$223,388	1,661,943
	1995	1,500	1,370	40.0	54,800	**4.62	253,176	1,544,653
	1996	2,150	1,980	32.0	63,360	3.80	240,768	1,477,058
	1997	1,600	1,450	39.0	56,550			1,882,609
Durum Wheat	1994	180	178	30.0	5,340	$4.83	$25,792	96,747
	1995	270	265	30.0	7,950	5.09	40,466	102,280
	1996	290	280	25.0	7,000	4.20	29,400	116,090
	1997	290	280	26.0	7,280			86,193
Other Spring Wheat	1994	3,450	3,350	30.0	100,500	$3.51	$352,755	562,291
	1995	3,950	3,800	35.0	**133,000	**4.59	**610,470	535,658
	1996	4,200	4,100	26.0	106,600	4.15	442,390	691,985
	1997	**4,350	**4,200	29.0	121,800			557,750
All Wheat	1994	5,580	5,378	31.7	170,590	$3.54	$601,935	2,320,981
	1995	5,720	5,435	36.0	195,750	**4.63	**904,112	2,182,591
	1996	**6,640	**6,360	27.8	176,960	4.00	712,558	2,285,133
	1997	6,240	5,930	31.3	185,630			2,526,552
Barley	1994	1,300	1,200	44.0	52,800	$2.22	$117,216	374,862
	1995	1,300	1,200	52.0	62,400	3.00	187,200	359,562
	1996	1,300	1,200	43.0	51,600	**3.00	154,800	395,751
	1997	1,300	1,200	53.0	63,600			374,478
Oats	1994	140	75	48.0	3,600	$1.30	$4,680	229,008
	1995	145	80	59.0	4,720	1.75	8,260	162,027
	1996	*100	*50	40.0	2,000	1.70	3,400	155,273
	1997	140	70	55.0	3,850			176,104
Corn for Grain 2/	1994	60	20	135.0	2,700	$2.65	$7,155	10,102,735
	1995	*55	16	120.0	1,920	3.00	5,760	7,373,876
	1996	*55	15	**137.0	2,055	2.60	5,343	9,293,435
	1997	60	14	135.0	1,890			9,365,574
		Thousands		Tons	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Corn for Silage	1994	--	39	**21.0	819	--	--	88,588
	1995	--	38	20.0	760	--	--	77,867
	1996	--	39	**21.0	819	--	--	83,594
	1997	--	45	21.0	945	--	--	91,903
Sugar Beets	1994	54.3	54.0	**24.2	1,307	$41.90	$54,763	31,853
	1995	55.7	55.5	21.5	1,193	39.90	47,601	28,065
	1996	57.7	57.5	22.6	1,300	--	--	26,680
	1997	59.9	58.3	21.0	1,224	--	--	29,874
Alfalfa Hay	1994	--	1,550	2.30	3,565	$71.50	$254,898	81,336
	1995	--	1,600	2.50	**4,000	67.50	270,000	84,515
	1996	--	**1,700	2.10	3,570	70.00	249,900	79,517
	1997	--	1,650	2.40	3,960			79,242
Other Hay	1994	--	*650	1.50	975	$62.50	$60,938	68,724
	1995	--	800	**1.70	1,360	56.50	76,840	69,651
	1996	--	900	1.50	1,350	57.00	76,950	69,940
	1997	--	950	1.60	1,520			72,878
All Hay 3/	1994	--	2,200	2.06	4,540	$71.00	$315,836	150,060
	1995	--	2,400	**2.23	5,360	66.00	**346,840	154,166
	1996	--	2,600	1.89	4,920	69.00	326,850	149,457
	1997	--	**2,600	2.11	**5,480			152,120
Sweet Cherries 4/	1994	--	--	--	640	$1,200.00	$770	192,910
	1995	--	--	--	760	1,210.00	916	153,070
	1996	--	--	--	630	1,420.00	893	151,880
	1997	--	--	--	970	965.00	936	220,370
		Thousands		Cwt.	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Fall Potatoes	1994	10.0	10.0	320.0	3,200	$6.90	$22,080	424,655
	1995	9.8	9.8	300.0	2,940	9.35	27,489	403,009
	1996	10.4	10.2	315.0	3,213	6.45	20,724	453,436
	1997	10.4	10.4	**320.0	**3,328			417,088
Dry Beans	1994	10.2	10.0	22.0	220	$16.90	$3,718	29,028
	1995	11.0	10.8	19.0	205	16.10	3,301	30,812
	1996	10.5	10.3	**22.8	235	24.50	5,758	27,960
	1997	12.2	11.7	22.0	257			29,156

1/ All estimates for 1997 are preliminary, and season average price and value of production are not available. 2/ Planted for all purposes 3/ Price per ton for baled hay 4/ Utilized production in actual tons *Record low **Record high

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1981-1997

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	—Million Bushels—											$
1981 ...	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 ...	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 ...	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 ...	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 ...	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 ...	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 ...	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 ...	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ...	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 ...	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 ...	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 ...	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 ...	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 ...	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 ...	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 ...	376	2,285	92	2,753	892	103	314	1,308	1,001	2,310	444	4.30
1997 . 3/	444	2,527	90	3,060	910	96	300	1,306	1,075	2,381	679	3.40-3.50

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 1998--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN WHILE U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 1997, down 5 percent from last year, but up 12 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,600 head, was unchanged from last year. The average live weight of 1,123 pounds was down 21 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,800 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during December, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 212 pounds, dropped 16 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 300 head, up 100 head from last year. The average live weight of 122 pounds was up 7 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.72 billion pounds in December, equaling the record high for the month set in 1994. Beef production, at 2.03 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.88 million head, virtually unchanged from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 34 pounds from the previous year at 1,193 pounds.

Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds, down 16 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 144,900 head, down 5 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was down 35 pounds from last year to 301 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.64 billion pounds, was up 15 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.62 million head, up 13 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year at 260 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 23.0 million pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Sheep slaughter totaled 348,500 head, matching last year's number. The average live weight was 136 pounds, 6 pounds heavier than a year ago.

January - December red meat production was 43.2 billion pounds, essentially unchanged at 100 percent of the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was unchanged from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

MONTANA JANUARY POTATO STOCKS UP 4 PERCENT, U.S. DOWN 8 PERCENT

Montana potato producers held 3.1 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, up 4 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 93 percent of the 1997 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 92 percent of the 1996 total production.

January 1, 1998 **U.S.** potato stocks totaled 241 million cwt, down 8 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago. Storage accounted for 59 percent of fall production, the same as a year earlier. Stocks by type were 2 percent reds, 15 percent whites, and 83 percent russets, with more russets and fewer whites and reds than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1 totaled 166 million cwt this season, down 8 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Carry-over from last year's record large crop and a shift to later maturing varieties for processing resulted in lighter disappearance. December's disappearance of 33.4 million cwt was 1 percent above the last 2 years. Shrink and loss of 18.2 million cwt was 14 percent below last year and 9 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1997 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 83.1 million cwt, down 11 percent from the 1996 crop and 5 percent below the 1995 crop. In December, processors claimed 15.1 cwt of potatoes, down 2 percent from last year and 7 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 170 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1998, down 6 percent from last year but 9 percent above 1996. Every State was below last year except Montana. Idaho's stocks declined 6 percent, Washington was off 1 percent, and Oregon dropped 12 percent from a year ago. Colorado's storage fell 15 percent, and California's stocks were down 7 percent.

MONTANA QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION DOWN, U.S. DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UP

During the October-December quarter, Montana milk cows produced 70 million pounds of milk, 7 million pounds less than the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers, at 18,000 head, were 2,000 head less than a year ago.

Grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on January 1 averaged 17.5 pounds per day, slightly lower than the 17.7 pounds per day a year earlier. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $7.70 per cwt, down 70 cents from January 1, 1997.

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 11.1 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from production in these same States in December 1996. November revised production, at 10.6 billion pounds was up 1.0 percent from November 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,440 pounds for December, 22 pounds above December 1996. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 46,000 head less than December 1996 and 2,000 head less than November 1997.

During the October-December period, milk produced in the U.S. was 38.2 billion pounds, 0.7 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.20 million head, 98,000 head less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1998, averaged 19.8 pounds, up 0.6 pounds from January 1, 1997, and up 1.1 pounds from October 1, 1997. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1998, averaged $8.47 per hundredweight, 32 cents less than January 1, 1997.

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Cattle on Feed
Chicken Inventory and
Annual Egg Production
Cattle Inventory
Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Ag Prices Received
Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Late Season Crops
Hay Stocks
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

MONTANA SEEDED SMALLEST WINTER WHEAT CROP SINCE 1941

Low moisture conditions last fall caused Montana winter wheat producers to seed the smallest winter wheat crop since 1941. Winter wheat seedings totaled 1.4 million acres down 12 percent from last year's 1.6 million and 100,000 acres below 1995 when similar conditions existed. There have been concerns about the lack of snow cover this winter, as of December 31 eighty-seven percent of the seeded acreage had poor to very poor coverage.

Nationally, winter wheat planted area for 1998 harvest is estimated at 46.6 million acres. This is down 4 percent from last year to the lowest level since 1973. Planting got underway last August in the Pacific Northwest and several Mountain States. Progress moved forward at widely varying paces throughout the fall and should finish sometime next month in California. About 98 percent of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1.

Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is estimated at 32.5 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. Virtually all HRW states have planted less wheat. Oklahoma is the notable exception, unchanged from last season. In the rest of the Great Plains through Montana the declines total nearly 1.7 million acres. Emergence is spotty and lack of snow cover is raising fears of winterkill. Nebraska farmers have apparently planted the smallest crop in the state's history this fall. Wetness delayed Texas seeding; emergence and growth have been slow. Heavy winterkill the last two years has prompted some South Dakota growers to make other plans this year. What did get in is rated in good to excellent condition, but lack of snow cover is a concern. Colorado's crop entered dormancy in good condition. The Wyoming crop has felt minimal freeze and wind damage but snow cover is needed.

1997 LATE SEASON CROPS

Montana producers harvested 14,000 acres of **corn for grain** in 1997, down 1,000 acres from last year. The average yield was 135 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last year's record. Production decreased 8 percent from 1996 to 1.89 million bushels. Corn for silage acreage was estimated at 45,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from 1996. Yields averaged 21 tons per acre, the same as a year ago.

U.S. corn for grain production was estimated at 9.37 billion bushels, up less than 1 percent from the 1996 crop and virtually unchanged from the November 1 forecast. The 1997 production level ranks third behind 1994 and 1992, respectively. The U.S. yield of 127.0 bushels per acre was virtually the same as the 127.1 bushel yield of a year earlier.

Sugar beet producers in **Montana** harvested an estimated 58,300 acres this year, up 800 acres from a year ago. Yields decreased 1.6 tons from last year to average 21.0 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.2 million tons, down 8 percent from the previous year.

U.S. production of sugar beets is expected to total 29.9 million tons in 1997, an increase of 12 percent from 1996 but a decrease of less than 1 percent from November. Area for harvest, at 1.43 million acres, is up 8 percent from last year but down fractionally from November. The average yield, at 20.9 tons per acre, is up 0.7 ton from 1996 but down 0.1 tons from November.

Montana dry bean growers produced an estimated 257,000 cwt. in 1997, up 22,000 cwt. from 1996. Growers harvested 11,700 acres with a yield of 22.0 cwt. per acre compared with last year's 10,300 acres harvested with a yield of 22.8 cwt. per acre.

U.S. production of dry edible beans is estimated at 29.2 million cwt for 1997, 4 percent above 1996 but 5 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.72 million acres, down 2 percent from 1996 and 9 percent below 1995. The average yield, at 1,695 pounds per acre, rose 100 pounds from 1996 and was the second highest yield on record. The record high yield of 1,764 pounds was set in 1991.

Fall potato production in **Montana** totaled 3.33 million cwt., up 4 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,400 acres compared with 10,200 in 1996. Yields increased 5 cwt. per acre from a year ago to 320 cwt.

U.S. Production of fall potatoes in 1997 is estimated at 417 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year but 3 percent above two years ago. Area harvested, at 1.16 million acres, is off 7 percent from last year and 4 percent short of 1995. The average yield is estimated at 360 cwt per acre, down 4 cwt from last year but 26 cwt above two years ago.

All hay harvested in Montana was the same as last year at 2.6 million acres. All hay production was 5.48 million tons, up 11 percent or 560,000 tons from a year ago. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage was 1.65 million acres, down 50,000 acres from last season . The average yield was 2.4 tons per acre compared with 2.1 tons per acre in 1996. Other hay harvested acreage was 950,000 acres and the average yield was 1.6 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above last year.

Continued on back page.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 2,500 Montana farmers and ranchers during December. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

DECEMBER 1, 1997 GRAIN STOCKS

All wheat stocks in Montana on December 1, 1997 totaled 149.3 million bushels, up 18% from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 126.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 23.3 million stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 100.9 million bushels, was up 18% from last year and accounted for 68% of the total. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 48.4 million, up 16% from last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 5.6 million bushels, down 2% from last year. Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 1997 were up 10% from last year and were set at 36.3 million bushels. Oat stocks on December 1, 1997 were up 36% from a year ago and were estimated at 3.47 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 1997 total 1.61 billion bushels, up 32 percent from a year ago. On farm stocks are 604 million bushels, up 3 percent from last December. Stocks off farm, at 1.01 billion bushels, are up 59 percent from last year. The indicated second quarter disappearance of 461 million bushels is down 9 percent from September-November, 1996.

U.S. durum wheat in all storage positions on December 1, 1997 was placed at 67.3 million bushels, down 22 percent from last December 1. The decrease is due to a much lower on-farm stocks total than last year. Off-farm stocks are up 51 percent. The indicated disappearance for the period September-November, 1997 was 20.4 million bushels.

Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 1997 totaled 245 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 136 million bushels were stored on farms, 1 percent below a year ago. December 1, 1997 off-farm stocks, at 109 million bushels, were 1 percent below last year. Indicated disappearance during the September-November quarter totaled 83 million bushels, 22 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on December 1, 1997 is estimated at 144 million bushels, up 14 percent from the stocks December 1, 1996. Of the total stocks on hand, 83.4 million bushels were stored on farm, 3 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 60.8 million bushels, 34 percent above a last year. Indicated disappearance during the September-November quarter totaled 12.8 million bushels, compare to 6.2 million bushels for the same period in 1996.

See the District table on the back page.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1996	Sept 1, 1997*	Dec. 1, 1997	'97/'96	Dec. 1, 1996	Sept 1, 1997*	Dec 1, 1997
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	110,000	161,000	126,000	115%	584,150	794,350	604,000
Off Farms 1/	16,800	28,400	23,300	139%	634,660	1,281,998	1,010,891
TOTAL	126,800	189,400	149,300	118%	1,218,810	2,076,348	1,614,891
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	35,000	45,000	40,000	114%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	6,600	9,400	8,400	127%	--	--	--
TOTAL	41,600	54,400	48,400	116%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	75,000	116,000	86,000	115%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,200	19,000	14,900	146%	--	--	--
TOTAL	85,200	135,000	100,900	118%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	66,100	51,000	37,000
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	20,011	36,712	30,280
TOTAL	5,700	6,500	5,600	98%	86,111	87,712	67,280
BARLEY							
On Farms	28,000	47,000	29,000	104%	137,700	196,500	135,700
Off Farms 1/	5,000	7,200	7,300	146%	110,522	131,347	109,460
TOTAL	33,000	54,200	36,300	110%	248,222	327,847	245,160
OATS							
On Farms	2,300	3,600	3,200	139%	80,650	107,950	83,400
Off Farms 1/	250	350	270	108%	45,218	48,972	60,679
TOTAL	2,550	3,950	3,470	136%	125,868	156,922	144,079
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,800,000	475,000	4,822,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,102,974	408,161	2,407,825
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	6,902,974	883,161	7,229,825

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR NOVEMBER

Montana winter wheat increased 10 cents to $3.43 per bushel, durum wheat increased 16 cents to $5.78 per bushel. Spring wheat went up 1 cent to $3.57 per bushel. Feed barley increased 19 cents per bushel to $2.29 and malt barley decreased 7 cents to $3.12 per bushel. The oats price is down 3 cents to $1.21 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-December averaged $3.46 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.76. The price for alfalfa hay in December, at $82.00 per ton is up $1.00 from last month. The December other hay price is down $1.00 from November at $70.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were mixed. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.40 to $81.90 per cwt. Cows decreased $1.30 to $32.10 and the average price for calves fell $2.40 to $85.30 per cwt. Sheep increased $3.10 to $37.20 per cwt while lambs decreased $3.60 to $93.20 per cwt. Milk prices increased 40 cents from last month to $14.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $81.20 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for November averaged $3.40 per bushel, down 15 cents from October. The all barley price averaged $2.41 per bushel, down 4 cents. Steer and heifer prices were up 20 cents to $67.50 per cwt. Cow prices were $31.90 and hog prices were $45.10 per cwt. Egg prices were 80.6 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 104 based on 1990-92=100, down 3 points from November. Price decreases from November for wheat, corn, cotton, soybeans, lettuce, hogs, eggs, and poultry more than offset price increases for peanuts, rice, and strawberries. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of corn, peanuts, soybeans, grapes, cattle, and calves more than offset the relatively higher marketings of wheat, hay, tobacco, oranges, lettuce, hogs, and poultry.

Compared with December 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (5.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1996 for wheat, corn, cotton, soybeans, oranges, lettuce, hogs, and poultry more than offset price increases for cattle, calves, strawberries, tomatoes, and potatoes.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

Base Month: November 1997 Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1996	Dec. 15, 1997	Dec. 15, 1997
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.15	3.33	3.43	3.31	+0.10	-0.72	3.40	3.25
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.74	5.62	5.78	5.25	+0.16	+1.04	5.35	5.00
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.26	3.56	3.57	3.55	+0.01	-0.69	3.45	3.45
All Wheat	Bu.	4.25	3.69	3.56	3.50	-0.13	-0.69	3.46	3.40
Barley, All	Bu.	3.17	2.76	2.93	2.58	+0.17	-0.24	2.76	2.41
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.32	2.10	2.29	2.16	+0.19	-0.03	2.20	2.05
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.54	3.05	3.12	2.87	+0.07	-0.42	3.10	2.77
Oats	Bu.	1.54	1.24	1.21	1.62	-0.03	-0.33	1.20	1.54
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	76.00	84.00	81.00	108.00	-3.00	+5.00	82.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	72.00	71.00	77.50	-1.00	+11.00	70.00	76.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	84.00	80.00	101.00	-4.00	+5.00	81.00	97.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	61.50	80.50	81.90	68.00	+1.40	+20.40	81.20	67.50
Cows	Cwt	32.40	33.40	32.10	31.90	-1.30	-0.30	31.70	32.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	58.90	68.70	67.00	63.30	-1.70	+8.10	61.40	63.20
Calves	Cwt	62.50	87.70	85.30	82.90	-2.40	+22.80	87.50	83.70
Sheep 2/	Cwt	31.40	34.10	37.20	39.20	+3.10	+5.80	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	88.40	96.80	93.20	83.50	-3.60	+4.80	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	17.20	13.80	14.20	14.60	+0.40	-3.00	14.90	14.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

LATE SEASON CROPS (Continued from front page)

U.S. all hay production for 1997 was estimated at 152 million tons, down sightly from the October 1 forecast but 2 percent above the revised 1996 total. U.S. alfalfa hay production in 1997 totaled 79.2 million tons, up 1 percent from the October 1 forecast and essentially unchanged from the revised 1996 total. Declines in harvested acreage from the previous year were offset by higher yields in 1997.

All other hay production in the U.S. in 1997 totaled 72.9 million tons, down 1 percent from the October 1 forecast but up 4 percent from the revised 1996 total. An increase in both harvested acreage and average yields lead to the increased production.

MONTANA HAY STOCKS

Montana hay stocks were estimated at 5.04 million tons on December 1, up 8 percent from last year. Warmer temperatures and less snow led to reduced feeding of hay to livestock this fall. Stocks of all hay on farms in the U.S. on December 1, 1997 totaled 103 million tons, 2 percent below the stocks on farms December 1, 1996.

Montana hay growers seeded an estimated 150,000 acres of alfalfa during 1997. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings. At the U.S. level, 3.74 million acres of alfalfa was newly seeded in 1997.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	Dec. 1, 1996	Sept 1, 1997*	Dec. 1, 1997	Dec. 1, 1996	Sept 1, 1997*	Dec. 1, 1997
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	2.0	3.4	1.0	1.6	1.9	1.2
North Central	59.0	87.0	69.3	16.0	29.5	16.5
Northeast	34.4	52.7	38.6	2.7	3.6	2.8
Central	13.3	26.6	24.3	7.4	10.0	7.8
Southwest	4.8	3.7	4.2	2.1	2.7	2.9
South Central	5.8	8.0	5.3	2.7	5.7	4.5
Southeast	7.5	8.0	6.6	0.5	0.8	0.6
Montana	126.8	189.4	149.3	33.0	54.2	36.3

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Crop Production	Slaughter
Potato Stocks	Wheat: Supply,
Quarterly Milk Production	Disappearance & Price

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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
December 1 Hog & Pig Inventory

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.44 million head on December 1, 1997. The inventory was 8 percent above December 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.21 million, 6 percent below 1996. Net placements were 2.12 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 656,000, 600-699 pounds were 674,000, 700-799 pounds were 499,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 378,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.67 million, 1 percent below 1996. Other disappearance totaled 85,000 during November, 9 percent below the previous year.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 8 Percent

Cattle on feed December 1, 1997, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.72 million, up 8 percent from the previous year and 12 percent above December 1, 1995.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.83 million, 7 percent below 1996 but 1 percent above 1995. Marketings during November totaled 1.43 million, 1 percent above 1996 but 3 percent below 1995. Other disappearance during November was 69,000 head, 5 percent above 1996 and 13 percent above 1995.

20 STATE NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UP 1.3 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 10.6 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from production in these same States in November 1996. October revised production, at 11.0 billion pounds was up 1.4 percent from October 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,377 pounds for November, 27 pounds above November 1996. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 51,000 head less than November 1996 and 7,000 head less than October 1997.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN, UNITED STATES UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight of red meat during November, down 9 percent from November 1996, and down 23 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, 100 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,107 pounds, was down 30 pounds from last year.

During November, there were 1,500 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 226 pounds, was down 9 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was 100 head less than the previous year. The average live weight increased 10 pounds from last year to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.45 billion pounds in November, up 1 percent from the previous year. January - November red meat production was 39.5 billion pounds, essentially unchanged from a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was unchanged from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was equal to a year ago, and lamb and mutton was down 4 percent.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.76 million head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,188 pounds.

Veal production totaled 24.0 million pounds, down 21 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 125,300 head, down 13 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was down 28 pounds from last year to 313 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.47 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.74 million head, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year at 260 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 20.0 million pounds, down 4 percent from the previous record low for November set in 1996. Sheep slaughter totaled 309,900 head, 8 percent below the previous year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, 7 pounds heavier than a year ago.

MONTANA POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS UP 4 PERCENT

Montana producers planted and harvested 10,400 acres of potatoes during 1997. The planted acreage was the same as last year, but harvested acreage was up 200 from a year ago. The average yield was 320 cwt. per acre, 5 cwt. more than the 1996 average. Total production was 3,328,000 cwt, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Potato producers held 3,180,000 cwt. of potatoes in storage on December 1, 96 percent of total production, and 4 percent above last year. Last year's December 1 stocks accounted for 95 percent of total production.

The 15 major potato States held 274 million cwt. of potatoes on December 1, 1997, down 7 percent from last year but 7 percent above 1995. Storage accounted for 67 percent of 1997 fall production, the same as last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 16 percent white, and 81 percent russet; more russets and fewer reds and whites are in storage than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1 was 133 million cwt. of potatoes, down 10 percent from the same period in 1996 and 3 percent less than 1995. Shrink and loss so far was estimated at 15.9 million cwt, down 14 percent from the 18.5 million cwt. lost in 1996 and 9 percent below the 17.4 million cwt. lost from the 1995 crop.

Processing of 1997 potatoes, to December 1, totaled 68.0 million cwt. This is down 13 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 192 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on December 1, down 6 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago. Montana was alone among Western States with an increase in storage over last year. Colorado was down 14 percent, Oregon's storage was off 9 percent, Idaho's storage decreased 5 percent, California dropped 3 percent, and Washington stored 2 percent fewer potatoes than last year.

U.S. Production of fall potatoes in 1997 is estimated at 417 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year but 3 percent above two years ago. The December 1 forecast is down less than 1 percent from the November forecast. Area harvested, at 1.16 million acres, is off 7 percent from last year and 4 percent short of 1995. The average yield is estimated at 360 cwt. per acre, down 4 cwt. from last year but 26 cwt. above two years ago.

Total U.S. potato production from all four seasons was 459 million cwt. in 1997, a downturn of 8 percent from a year earlier but 3 percent above 1995.

Ten Western States produced 290 million cwt. in 1997, down 7 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Acreage for harvest, at 704,100 acres, was down 7 percent, while the average yield of 412 cwt. per acre was off 2 cwt. from a year ago. Lower harvested acreage from last year dropped total production in most Western States below last year's levels.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1996-97

STATE	CROP OF 1996			CROP OF 1997		
	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1996	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1997	% of PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	4,600	3,500	76	4,200	3,400	81
CO	29,175	23,100	79	25,377	19,900	78
ID	142,800	102,000	71	135,430	97,000	72
ME	21,175	16,900	80	19,170	15,600	81
MI	13,800	8,000	58	14,250	8,500	60
MN	24,600	16,500	67	20,440	13,500	66
MT	**3,213**	**3,050**	**95**	**3,328**	**3,180**	**96**
NE	4,402	3,160	72	7,431	5,580	75
NY	7,980	3,700	46	8,408	4,000	48
ND	28,820	20,500	71	21,525	16,000	74
OH	1,275	290	23	1,175	290	25
OR	30,124	23,600	78	27,057	21,500	79
PA	4,208	2,800	67	3,190	1,600	50
WA	94,990	48,000	51	88,060	47,000	53
WI	31,590	20,000	63	27,923	17,200	62
15 State Total	442,752	295,100	67	406,964	274,250	67

MONTANA HOG INVENTORY UP 17 PERCENT, U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 7 PERCENT

Montana hog producers increased their inventory to 175,000 head, up 17 percent from December 1, 1996. Of the total hogs, 150,000 were market hogs , up 12 percent and 25,000 were breeding stock up 9,000 head from last year.

The number of sows farrowing from December 1996 through November 1997, at 36,000 head, were down 3 percent from the previous year. The pig crop from these farrowings also decreased, but only by 2 percent, to 315,000 pigs. The average litter rate was 8.75 compared with 8.73 last year.

There were 650 farms with pigs in Montana during 1997, down 100 farms from 1996.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1997, was 59.9 million head. This was 7 percent above December 1996 but 1 percent below September 1, 1997. Breeding inventory, at 6.98 million head, is up 5 percent from December 1, 1996 and up 1 percent from September 1, 1997. Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head was 7 percent above last year but 1 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 1997 U.S. pig crop, at 25.3 million head, was 9 percent more than 1996 and 8 percent more than 1995. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.93 million head, 8 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 42 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter continues to increase at a rapid pace, with an average of 8.63 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period. Last year the litter rate averaged 8.52 pigs per litter. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the December 1997-February 1998 quarter, 9 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period last year, and 6 percent higher than 1996. Intended farrowings for March-May 1998, at 3.04 million sows, are 3 percent above both the 1997 and the 1996 period.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 138,690 during 1997, down 11 percent from last year and 24 percent below 1995. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 4 percent of the operations and 55 percent of the inventory. This is the second time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 1,520, accounted for 35 percent of the total inventory. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 25 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

HOGS & PIGS INVENTORY DECEMBER 1, 1995-97

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1995	1996	1997	'97/'96	1995	1996	1997	'97/'96
		1,000 Head		%		1,000 Head		%
All Hogs & Pigs								
Kept for Breeding	19	16	25	156	6,839	6,667	6,979	108
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs	52	47	54	115	18,881	18,440	19,922	108
60-119 lbs	44	35	39	111	12,808	12,221	13,028	107
120-170 lbs	36	30	33	110	10,702	10,291	10,884	106
180 lbs & over	29	22	24	109	9,034	8,522	9,107	107
Total	161	134	150	112	51,425	49,474	52,941	107
All Hogs & Pigs	180	150	175	117	58,264	56,141	59,920	107
Sows Farrowing	1995	1996	1997	'97/'96	1995	1996	1997	'97/'96
Dec 1-Nov 30	41	37	36	97	11,847	11,187	11,440	102
Pig Crop								
Dec 1-Nov 30	346	323	315	98	98,516	94,956	98,972	104
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec 1-Nov 30	8.45	8.73	8.75	100	8.32	8.49	8.65	102
Operations with Hogs	900	750	650	87	181,750	156,250	138,690	89

NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.56 billion during November 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.41 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.56 billion table eggs and 997 million hatching eggs, of which 940 million were broiler-type and 57.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1997 averaged 309 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during November 1996. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,122 eggs, down slightly from November 1996. All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1997, totaled 311 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 311 million layers consisted of 256 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.50 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1997, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 71.3 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.21 billion eggs during November, up 2 percent from November 1996. The average number of layers during November, at 293 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States account for approximately 95 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate. Individual State estimates' for "Other States" are available annually in the "Layers and Egg Production" report.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Grain Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Hay Stocks

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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PLEASE RETURN

"Happy Holidays"

From all of us at Montana Agricultural Statistics Service! As 1997 comes to a close we should take a minute to look back on what has happened this year. Dry conditions during the fall of 1996 led winter wheat producers to plant the second smallest winter wheat crop since 1951.

Spring wheat acreage made up for the lost winter wheat acreage. Montana producers planted the largest spring wheat acreage since 1953. The eastern third of the state suffered from some drought-like conditions early in the year, but the rest of the state had a fair growing season with timely moisture. In 1997 farmers produced the second largest spring wheat crop on record only behind 1995's production, due mainly to the large number of acres harvested.

Montana durum wheat growers planted and harvested acres remained unchanged from last year's acreage estimates. Barley planted and harvested acreage in Montana was unchanged from 1996.

The winter of 1996-1997 was hard on livestock producers. The snow came and ranchers fed cattle all winter. Significant loses due to an extremely cold, harsh winter were felt by ranchers across Montana. El Niño has improved the prospects for the winter of 1997-1998. Things are looking up with the hope for better prices and fewer losses. Good news for cattle producers!

As we look to 1998, our role at Montana Agricultural Statistics Service is changing. Congress has charged us with the task of conducting the Census of Agriculture. Look for the Census form in your mailbox just before Christmas. Please fill it out and return it to us by February 2, 1998. If you have any questions about the Census, please call us at 1-888-4AG-STAT or 1-888-424-7828.

To everyone involved in Montana's agriculture, thanks for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of ***Montana's Number One Industry--Agriculture****. We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season. We expect 1998 will be a great year for Montana agriculture!*

ERS SAYS CATTLE CYCLE UNLIKELY TO TURN BEFORE 2000

According to an economist from the Economic Research Service, the cattle cycle is unlikely to turn before 2000. For the second year in a row, the January 1 Cattle report indicated that U.S. cattle producers were retaining a larger number of heifers for breeding the following summer than actually entered the herd. However, in each of the last 2 years, conditions deteriorated and a large proportion of the heifers were marketed as feeder animals rather than being retained for the breeding herd. On January 1, 1997, producers indicated they were retaining 2 percent fewer beef replacement heifers to be bred in the late-spring-early-summer breeding season. However, in the July 1 inventory report, producers indicated they were retaining 4 percent fewer heifers than a year earlier.

Although feed grain prices were well below a year earlier in the spring and summer of 1997, pasture and range conditions once again were disappointing and hay prices were at record levels, indicating very tight forage supplies. The number of heifers on feed in the 7-monthly reporting States on July 1 were up 28 percent from a year earlier. However, large placements of heavier cattle in each of the summer quarter months raised the specter of even more heifers being placed on feed. This scenario was verified by the October Cattle on Feed report indicating 21 percent more heifers on feed than a year earlier. In addition, heifer slaughter for the first 9 months of the year was at a near-record pace, second only to the major liquidation years of the mid-1970's.

The present cycle entered the liquidation phase in late 1995 and intensified in 1996 as grain stocks declined and prices set new records due to a sharp decline in the 1995/96 grain harvest. Conditions for cow-calf producers were further exacerbated by a severe drought which spread from the Southwest in late spring into the Central Plains, the heart of the cattle raising sector of the industry, by mid-summer. Drought resulted in sharply reduced grazing prospects and higher hay prices forcing cattlemen to cull herds sharply and retain fewer stocker cattle. Reduced forage supplies lowered the demand for stocker cattle to be retained for pasture gain and, at the same time, rapidly rising grain prices reduced the break-even prices cattle feeders could pay for feeder cattle to be placed on feed.

Feeder cattle weighing 750 to 800 pounds declined from a range of $67 to $74 per cwt in first-half 1995 to $55 to $59 in first-half 1996. Even as feeder cattle prices plummeted, cattle feeders sharply reduced feedlot placements in first-half 1996 to 7.567 million head, down 14 percent from a year earlier. The end result was a year of large losses for feeder cattle producers, and consequently, liquidation of the beef cow herd and sharply reduced heifer retention. Cow slaughter rose from 6.3 million head in 1995 to 7.3 million in 1996. Beef production rose to 25.4 billion pounds, second only to the 25.7 billion pounds produced in 1976 when the cattle inventory was 132 million head and the industry was in the largest liquidation in history.

Beef cow slaughter remained large during the first quarter of 1997, but has been down about 20 percent from a year earlier since spring. Although down, beef cow slaughter remains somewhat large as less efficient cows are culled due to continued tight forage supplies. Cow slaughter is expected to decline even further over the next couple of years. Without larger numbers of heifers being retained and bred, beef cow numbers will continue to decline, and thus, calf crops will decline at least through 1998.

U.S. LIVESTOCK & MEAT IMPORTS & EXPORTS

	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Jan-Aug 1996	Jan-Aug 1997
Beef & Veal Imports	**Carcass wt.,thousand lb.**			
Australia	56,069	70,247	354,326	444,817
New Zealand	59,673	44,385	410,158	469,658
Canada	44,449	54,741	380,184	452,413
Brazil	8,878	7,425	60,157	65,740
Argentina	12,614	11,558	100,624	93,490
Central America	4,031	8,364	70,672	59,240
Other	6,793	4,211	50,287	60,043
Total	192,509	200,930	1,426,409	1,645,402
Beef & Veal Exports				
Japan	91,224	93,797	739,193	689,752
Canada	37,274	27,703	200,757	191,652
Mexico	28,905	29,393	102,223	183,981
Korea, Rep.	26,064	28,472	136,099	172,783
Caribbean	1,072	811	7,971	8,291
Other	16,645	22,301	109,930	124,987
Total	201,183	202,476	1,296,173	1,371,446
Cattle Imports		**Head**		
Mexico	20,543	23,149	230,516	337,570
Canada	108,286	99,663	1,106,753	908,753
Over 700 lbs.	103,471	91,782	1,008,481	799,110
500-700 lbs.	1,744	3,635	56,952	74,025
Total	128,829	122,823	1,337,306	1,246,341
Cattle Exports				
Mexico	22,479	25,874	64,513	148,631
Canada	3,296	3,224	24,006	24,250
Total	25,937	29,330	105,038	176,637

U.S. LIVESTOCK & MEAT IMPORTS & EXPORTS

	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Jan-Aug 1996	Jan-Aug 1997
Lamb Imports	**Carcass wt., thousand lb.**			
Australia	2,288	1,860	17,342	22,375
New Zealand	1,711	1,899	17,245	19,418
Total	4,074	3,784	34,883	42,429
Mutton Imports	1,470	1,293	15,202	16,650
Pork Imports				
Canada	35,982	37,201	282,135	277,382
Denmark	8,689	9,021	83,576	85,512
Poland	1,388	740	6,592	8,851
Hungary	616	805	6,504	6,239
Netherlands	790	84	6,336	4,687
Other	3,933	2,281	19,666	26,524
Total	51,397	50,131	404,808	409,194
Pork Exports				
Japan	42,856	44,292	371,237	304,644
Canada	9,754	9,020	64,154	79,722
Mexico	7,467	6,983	30,704	47,508
Caribbean	716	920	6,554	7,084
Other	27,974	32,374	180,153	206,625
Total	88,767	93,589	652,802	645,583
Hog Imports		**Head**		
Canada	261,223	227,802	1,780,028	1,998,921
Under 110 lb	89,110	71,152	518,510	652,845
Total	261,683	227,802	1,780,192	2,000,089
Hog Exports				
Total	3,170	1,777	42,375	32,593

SOURCE for the above information: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 19, 1997.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR OCTOBER

Montana winter wheat decreased 4 cents to $3.33 per bushel, but durum wheat increased 11 cents to $5.62 per bushel. Spring wheat went down 6 cents to $3.56 per bushel. Feed barley increased 7 cents per bushel to $2.10, but malt barley decreased 9 cents to $3.05 per bushel. The oats price is up 2 cents per bushel to $1.24 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-November averaged $3.70 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.50. The price for alfalfa hay in November, at $81.00 per ton, is down $3.00 from last month. The November other hay price is down $1.00 from October at $72.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were mixed. Steer and heifer prices increased $4.10 to $80.50 per cwt. Cows decreased $1.40 to $33.40, but the average price for calves rose 40 cents to $87.70 per cwt. Sheep increased $1.00 to $34.10 per cwt, while lambs decreased $2.60 to $96.80 per cwt. Milk prices increased 90 cents from last month to $13.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November averaged $81.70 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for October averaged $3.55 per bushel, down 35 cents from September. The all barley price averaged $2.45 per bushel, up 6 cents. Steer and heifer prices were up 30 cents to $67.30 per cwt. Cow prices were $33.10 and hog prices were $47.30 per cwt. Egg prices were 65.8 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 107 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from October. Price increases from October for soybeans, eggs, tomatoes, and grapes more than offset price decreases for hogs, corn, peanuts, and lettuce. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and lettuce more than offset the relatively higher marketings of cotton lint, milk, cattle, and cottonseed. These marketing changes offset the slight increase in prices.

Compared with November 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (2.7 percent) lower. Price decreases from November 1996 for hogs, broilers, corn, and milk more than offset price increases for calves, tomatoes, lettuce, and potatoes.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1997	Nov. 1997
Prices Received	112	110	107	107
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	115	115	116	116
Ratio 2/	97	96	92	92

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

Base Month: October 1997 Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct. 1996	Sept. 1997	Oct. 1997	Oct. 1997	Sept. 1997	Oct. 1996	Nov. 15, 1997	Nov. 15, 1997
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.30	3.37	3.33	3.42	-0.04	-0.97	3.45	3.32
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.40	5.51	5.62	5.09	+0.11	+1.22	5.70	5.15
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.35	3.62	3.56	3.49	-0.06	-0.79	3.55	3.52
All Wheat	Bu.	4.33	3.68	3.69	3.55	+0.01	-0.64	3.70	3.54
Barley, All	Bu.	3.10	2.72	2.76	2.45	+0.04	-0.34	2.50	2.44
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.48	2.03	2.10	2.21	+0.07	-0.38	2.10	2.19
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.50	3.14	3.05	2.76	-0.09	-0.45	2.90	2.73
Oats	Bu.	1.94	1.22	1.24	1.57	+0.02	-0.70	1.30	1.57
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	84.00	84.00	109.00	0.00	+11.00	81.00	108.00
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	72.00	72.00	78.40	0.00	+14.00	71.00	77.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	71.00	84.00	84.00	103.00	0.00	+13.00	80.00	101.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	60.50	76.40	80.50	67.30	+4.10	+20.00	81.70	67.80
Cows	Cwt	33.00	34.80	33.40	33.10	-1.40	+0.40	31.60	31.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	56.10	69.30	68.70	63.30	-0.60	+12.60	67.70	63.10
Calves	Cwt	61.00	87.30	87.70	84.30	+0.40	+26.70	85.20	82.70
Sheep 2/	Cwt	27.00	33.10	34.10	35.90	+1.00	+7.10	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	90.50	99.40	96.80	87.40	-2.60	+6.30	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	16.40	12.90	13.80	14.00	+0.90	-2.60	14.90	14.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. MEATS SUPPLY AND USE, 1996 AND PROJECTED 1997 AND 1998

Item	Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption	
							Total	Per capita
BEEF			Million pounds 3/					
1996	519	25,525	2,073	28,117	1,877	377	25,863	67.7
1997 Proj. Oct	377	25,407	2,467	28,251	1,918	400	25,933	67.2
Nov	377	25,419	2,387	28,183	1,978	400	25,805	66.9
1998 Proj. Oct	400	24,931	2,680	28,011	2,095	350	25,566	65.7
Nov	400	24,856	2,680	27,936	2,095	350	25,491	65.5
PORK								
1996	396	17,117	618	18,131	951	366	16,814	49.1
1997 Proj. Oct	366	17,067	620	18,053	1,064	400	16,589	48.0
Nov	366	17,061	620	18,047	1,064	400	16,583	48.0
1998 Proj. Oct	400	18,532	615	19,547	1,150	380	18,017	51.7
Nov	400	18,532	615	19,547	1,150	380	18,017	51.7
BROILERS								
1996	560	26,124	4	26,688	4,420	641	21,626	70.8
1997 Proj. Oct	641	27,174	4	27,820	4,630	650	22,540	73.1
Nov	641	27,055	4	27,701	4,655	625	22,421	72.7
1998 Proj. Oct	650	28,953	3	29,606	4,750	750	24,106	77.5
Nov	625	28,953	3	29,581	4,750	750	24,081	77.4
TURKEYS								
1996	271	5,401	1	5,673	438	328	4,906	18.5
1997 Proj. Oct	328	5,399	1	5,728	547	325	4,856	18.1
Nov	328	5,409	1	5,738	567	350	4,821	18.0
1998 Proj. Oct	325	5,656	1	5,982	575	325	5,081	18.8
Nov	350	5,656	1	6,007	575	325	5,106	18.9

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis. 3/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Egg Production
Potato Stocks	Slaughter
Cattle on Feed	Hogs & Pigs

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

October Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
October Farm Labor
October Egg Production
October Milk Production
November 1 Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Ag Chemical Use

MONTANA AND U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR OCTOBER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 1997, down 10 percent from October 1996, but 9 percent above the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,800 head, down 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,117 pounds, was down 27 pounds from last year.

During October, there were 1,700 hogs slaughtered, 200 head less than last year. The average live weight, at 222 pounds, was the same as a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, remained unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight increased 8 pounds from last year to 125 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled 4.01 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous record high for October set in 1996. January - October red meat production was 36.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the comparable total a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was just below last year's figure, veal fell 11 percent, pork was down 1 percent, and lamb and mutton dropped 4 percent.

Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was up 6 percent from the previous year and up 1 percent from the previous high for October set in 1975. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.23 million head, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 22 pounds from the previous year to 1,195 pounds.

Veal production totaled 28.0 million pounds, down 16 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 140,800 head, down 15 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was down 5 pounds to 333 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.65 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from the previous year and up 1 percent from the previous record high for October set in 1994. Hog kill totaled 8.78 million head, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year at 257 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 22.0 million pounds--dropping 7 percent from a year earlier, but equaling the record low for October set in 1995. Sheep slaughter totaled 335,400 head, 11 percent below the previous year. The average live weight was up 7 pounds to 132 pounds.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 9 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.99 million head on November 1, 1997. The inventory was 9 percent above November 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.90 million, 4 percent below 1996. Net placements were 2.81 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 816,000, 600-699 pounds were 715,000, 700-799 pounds were 745,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 620,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.78 million, 5 percent above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 91,000 during October, 17 percent above the previous year.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 10 Percent

Cattle on feed November 1, 1997, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.39 million, up 10 percent from the previous year and 12 percent above November 1, 1995. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.43 million, 4 percent below 1996 but 7 percent above 1995. Marketings during October totaled 1.53 million, 7 percent above 1996 but slightly below 1995. Other disappearance during October was 77,000 head, 35 percent above 1996 and 51 percent above 1995.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USE

A portion of the 1996 Ag Chemical Usage report issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is included in this Reporter. The full report and/or additional information can be obtained by calling our office at 1-800-835-2612. The data presented in the report are part of the data series on chemical use funded through the 1990 Water Quality Assurance Initiative.

Wheat Highlights

Nitrogen fertilizer was applied to 86 percent of the harvested area in the ten surveyed states; growers in all ten treated at least 75 percent of the grain area. Phosphate fertilizers were applied to 51 percent of the collective acreage in the ten states, ranging from just 10 percent in Oregon to Montana's 80 percent. All surveyed States treated at least a portion of the acreage with herbicides; 2,4-D was again the most prevalent in terms of area and total application.

Most of the planted acres of North Dakota's Durum and the collective 3-state other spring plantings had primary fertilizer percent coverages similar to that of 1995. Minnesota had the highest percent coverage for all three primary nutrients. The three most popular herbicides in terms of all spring wheat area covered were 2,4-D, MCPA and Dicamba in that order. However, Durum growers applied Dicamba to a larger area than they did MCPA.
See table on back page.

U.S. ALL SHEEP & LAMBS INVENTORY TOTALS 7.86 MILLION HEAD ON NOVEMBER 1, 1997

All sheep and lambs in the United States on November 1, 1997 totaled 7.86 million head, 7 percent below November 1, 1996. The number of breeding sheep and lambs on hand November 1, 1997 reached 5.42 million head, 8 percent below November 1, 1996. Market sheep and lambs (including newborns), at 2.45 million head, were 4 percent below November 1, 1996.

Of the November 1 breeding herd 4.47 million head were ewes one year old and older, 195,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 750,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

Of the total market lambs (including newborn lambs), 16.9 percent were under 65 pounds, 28.7 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 31.4 percent were 85 to 105 pounds and 23.0 percent were over 105 pounds on November 1.

The November 1 sheep and lamb numbers are published by regions. Montana is included with Colorado, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The total number of sheep and lambs in the region was 2.5 million head, down 10 percent from a year ago. This region accounted for 31.6 percent of the total sheep and lambs.

SHEEP AND LAMBS INVENTORY: By Region and United States, November 1, 1997

Regions 1/	All Sheep and Lambs	Market Sheep and Lambs	Breeding Sheep One Year Old and Older		Replacement Lambs	Total Breeding Sheep & Lambs
			Ewes	Rams		
			(000) Head			
Region 1	1,690	630	860	40	160	1,060
Region 2	1,670	390	1,060	50	170	1,280
Region 3	2,485	800	1,425	45	215	1,685
Region 4	995	360	540	20	75	635
Region 5	1,020	265	585	40	130	755
US	7,860	2,445	4,470	195	750	5,415

1/ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - All other States.

MARKET SHEEP AND LAMBS: By Weight Groups, Regions and United States, November 1, 1997

Regions 1/	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	60 to 84 lbs.	85 to 105 lbs.	Over 105 lbs.	Total		
				(000) Head			
Region 1	140	195	250	60	645	30	675
Region 2	50	160	60	30	300	5	305
Region 3	40	245	380	220	885	15	900
Region 4	95	135	100	90	420	5	425
Region 5	55	85	70	20	230	25	255
US	380	820	860	420	2,480	80	2,560

1/ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - All other States.

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION UP 1.8 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during October totaled 11.0 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from production in these same States in October 1996. September revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds was up 2.2 percent from September 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,426 pounds for October, 35 pounds above October 1996.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 51,000 head less than October 1996 but 1,000 head more than September 1997.

MONTANA WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT, U.S. UP 5 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

The average wage received by all hired agricultural workers in Montana during 1997 was $6.15 per hour compared with the $5.99 per hour received in 1996. Field workers increased their wages by $.51 per hour from last year to earn $6.21 per hour. Field and livestock workers combined wages increased $.24 per hour from a year ago to $5.91 per hour.

There were 1.29 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 1997, up 5 percent from a year ago. Farm operators directly hired 1,003,000 workers. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 283,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.2 percent of the hired workforce.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $7.31 per hour during the October 1997 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $6.94 per hour, up 36 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.80 per hour compared with $6.57 a year earlier.

Crew leaders and custom crews provided 283,000 workers for the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 1997. Service workers in California numbered 85,000 compared with 88,000 during the October 1996 survey week. Florida's number of service workers was 5,700 compared with 7,000 last year.

HIRED WORKERS: Annual Average Wage Rates By Selected States and United States, 1996-97 1/ 2/

	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	Dollars per Hour					
CO	6.59	7.02	5.83	6.47	5.98	6.59
ID	6.64	6.80	6.02	6.25	6.53	6.54
MT	5.99	6.15	5.70	6.21	5.67	5.91
ND	6.82	7.38	7.27	7.63	6.74	7.43
OR	6.95	7.46	6.40	6.82	6.39	6.85
SD	6.24	6.33	6.12	5.82	5.81	5.99
UT	6.96	6.58	6.58	6.15	6.42	6.19
WA	7.43	7.64	7.02	7.10	7.15	7.23
WY	5.09	5.69	6.15	5.89	5.00	5.33
US 3/	6.78	7.36	6.34	6.66	6.33	6.64

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January. 3/ Excludes AK.

OCTOBER U.S. EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.65 billion during October 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.50 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.61 billion table eggs and 1.03 billion hatching eggs, of which 975 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 1997 averaged 306 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during October 1996. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,171 eggs, the same as in October 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1997, totaled 306 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 306 million layers consisted of 251 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 52.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1997, averaged 70.4 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from the 70.2 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.30 billion eggs during October, up 2 percent from October 1996. The average number of layers during October, at 290 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States account for approximately 95 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate. Individual State estimates' for "Other States" are available annually in the "Layers and Egg Production" report.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USE: Winter Wheat and Other Spring Wheat, Montana 1995-96

Crop/ Chemical	Area Applied 1/		Application		Rate Per Application		Rate Per Crop Year		Total Applied	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	Percent		Number		Pounds per Acre		Pounds per Acre		(000) Lbs.	
WINTER WHEAT										
Fertilizers:										
Nitrogen	89	82	1.6	1.6	35	32	57	53	69,700	84,700
Phosphate	82	80	1.0	1.0	27	30	28	30	31,300	46,900
Potash	29	12	1.0	1.1	12	16	12	17	4,700	4,300
Herbicides:										
2,4-D	88	72	1.1	1.1	.34	.41	.37	.44	449	626
Bromoxynil	--	19	--	1.0	--	.22	--	.22	--	82
Dicamba	28	34	1.0	1.2	.08	.10	.08	.12	32	79
Glyphosate	--	30	--	1.0	--	.50	--	.52	--	310
MCPA	--	22	--	1.0	--	.23	--	.23	--	97
Metsulfuron-methyl	44	64	1.0	1.0	.004	.004	.004	.004	2	5
Triallate	--	7	--	1.0	--	1.46	--	1.46	--	203
OTHER SPRING WHEAT										
Fertilizers:										
Nitrogen	78	83	1.3	1.6	30	32	38	50	118,200	173,500
Phosphate	72	78	1.0	1.0	23	27	23	27	64,800	89,600
Potash	17	9	1.0	1.0	16	9	16	9	10,800	3,600
Herbicides:										
2,4-D	76	58	1.0	1.0	.39	.35	.41	.35	1,223	864
Dicamba	63	35	1.0	1.1	.06	.06	.06	.06	153	94
MCPA	--	16	--	1.1	--	.34	--	.35	--	232
Glyphosate	8	11	1.0	1.0	.32	.36	.32	.36	108	169
Metusulfuron-methyl	8	17	1.0	1.0	.004	.003	.004	.003	1	2
Triallate	11	12	1.0	1.0	.99	1.19	.99	1.19	423	597
Trialsulfuron	18	9	1.0	1.0	.01	.009	.01	.009	10	4

1/ Winter wheat area harvested in 1995 for Montana was 1.37 million acres and 1.98 million acres in 1996. Spring wheat area planted in 1995 for Montana was 3.95 million acres and 4.2 million acres in 1996. Refers to acres receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical. -- Insufficient reports to publish data.
NOTE: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	U.S. Livestock & Meat
U.S. Meat Supply & Use	Imports and Exports

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Hay Production
Sugar Beet Production
U.S. Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
All Cattle and Calves by County
Beef Cattle by County
Red Meat Production

OCTOBER 1, 1997 SUGAR BEET AND HAY PRODUCTION

Montana sugar beet production is forecast at 1.31 million tons, up slightly from last year and up 6 percent from last month's forecast. Forecasted yield was raised 1.2 tons per acre from last month to 2.4 tons per acre which is down 0.2 ton per acre from last year. Harvested acreage remains unchanged at 58,500 acres, up 1,000 acres from last year. As of October 5th, 17 percent of the crop had been harvested equal to the five-year average.

Sugar beet production for the U.S. is expected to total 29.6 million tons, an increase of 11 percent from 1996 and up 1 percent from September. Area for harvest, at 1.43 million acres, is up 8 percent from last year, but equal to the September forecast. The average yield, at 20.7 tons per acre, is 0.5 tons above 1996 and 0.2 tons above the yield forecasted in September.

Forecasted hay yields for Montana were increased from the August forecast. Alfalfa hay yields rose 0.1 ton per acre to 2.6, which is 0.5 tons higher than 1996. Total production of alfalfa hay is estimated at 4.55 million tons up 27 percent from last year due to both increased acreage harvested and higher yields. If realized this would be a record production of alfalfa. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.75 million acres, up 50,000 from last year and is the largest acreage on record. Other hay yields also rose 0.1 tons to 1.7 tons per acre, up 0.2 tons from 1996. Total production is set at 1.445 million tons, up 7 percent from last year. Acreage harvested is unchanged at 850,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from last year. All hay production is estimated to be a record 5.995 million tons, up 22 percent from last year and up 12 percent from the previous record set in 1995.

U.S. all hay production for 1997 is forecast at 152 million tons, down 1 percent from the August forecast, but up 2 percent from 1996. Area harvested and to be harvested for alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures and other hay was unchanged from August at 60.8 million acres, down slightly from the previous year. All hay yields are forecast at 2.50 tons per acre, down slightly from August, but up 0.05 tons from the previous year. Expected production declines from August in Texas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Kentucky more than offset expected increases in California, South Dakota, Kansas, and Montana. Below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures during the late summer months were the main reasons given for the drop in expected yields from the previous forecast.

U.S. production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is forecast at 78.2 million tons, up slightly from the August forecast, but down 2 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 3.32 tons per acre, up 0.02 tons from the previous forecast and 0.05 tons above last year. Area harvested and to be harvested was unchanged from August at 23.6 million acres, down 3 percent from 1996. Yield increases from August were common across the western half of the country, while decreases were common in the Lake States (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan) and the Northeast (New York, Pennsylvania).

U.S. all other hay production is 74.0 million tons, 3 percent below the August forecast, but 6 percent above the year earlier. Despite the reduction in expected yields from August, the current forecast still represents a record other hay production. Other hay yields are expected to average 1.99 tons per acre, down 0.05 tons from August, but up 0.08 ton from 1996. Area harvested and to be harvested was unchanged from August at 37.3 million acres, up 1 percent from last year.

U.S. SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION

U.S. egg production totaled 6.33 billion during September 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.24 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.34 billion table eggs and 990 million hatching eggs, of which 934 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 1997 averaged 302 million, up 1 percent from the average number of layers during September 1996. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,097 eggs, compared with 2,094 in September 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1997, totaled 305 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 305 million layers consisted of 250 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 52.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.57 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1997, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from the 69.7 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.00 billion eggs during September, up 2 percent from September 1996. The average number of layers during September, at 286 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

PLEASE RETURN

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, OCTOBER 1, 1997

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997[1/]	1996	1997 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,150	1,600	1,980	1,450	32.0	39.0	63,360	56,550
Durum Wheat	Bu.	290	290	280	280	25.0	26.0	7,000	7,280
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,200	4,350	4,100	4,200	26.0	29.0	106,600	121,800
All Wheat	Bu.	6,640	6,240	6,360	5,930	27.8	31.3	176,960	185,630
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	55	50	15	15	137.0	130.0	2,055	1,950
Oats	Bu.	100	140	50	70	40.0	55.0	2,000	3,850
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	43.0	53.0	51,600	63,600
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.5	12.2	10.3	11.7	22.8	22.0	235	257
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.7	59.7	57.5	58.5	22.6	22.4	1,300	1,310
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.4	315.0	3/	3,213	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.10	2.60	3,570	4,550
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.50	1.70	1,350	1,445
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,600	1.89	2.31	4,920	5,995
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,958	48,342	39,679	41,813	37.2	45.0	1,477,058	1,882,609
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,630	3,250	3,556	3,107	32.6	27.7	116,090	86,193
Spring Wheat	Bu.	20,033	19,397	19,692	18,657	35.1	29.9	691,985	557,750
All Wheat	Bu.	75,621	70,989	62,927	63,577	36.3	39.7	2,285,133	2,526,552
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	79,487	80,227	73,147	74,049	127.1	125.8	9,293,435	9,311,705
Oats	Bu.	4,661	5,169	2,685	2,911	57.8	60.5	155,273	176,104
Barley	Bu.	7,144	6,910	6,767	6,425	58.5	58.3	395,751	374,478
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,813.0	1,913.6	1,717.7	1,743.1	1,592.0	1,678.0	27,354	29,255
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,368.4	1,464.8	1,323.3	1,433.0	20.2	20.7	26,680	29,638
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,269.9	1,198.6	1,246.7	1,181.5	364.0	3/	453,436	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,291	23,556	3.27	3.32	79,377	78,168
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,738	37,251	1.91	1.99	70,080	73,973
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,029	60,807	2.45	2.50	149,457	152,141

[1/] Preliminary. [2/] Planted for all purposes. [3/]Production forecast available November 10, 1997.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 13 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.96 million head on October 1, 1997. The inventory was 13 percent above October 1, 1996. The inventory included 6.04 million steers and steer calves, up 9 percent from the previous year. This group accounts for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.89 million head, up 20 percent from 1996.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.71 million, 2 percent above 1996. Net placements were 2.66 million. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 480,000, 600-699 pounds were 498,000, 700-799 pounds were 817,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 916,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.82 million, 15 percent above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 53,000 during September, 24 percent below the previous year.

MONTANA JULY-SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana milk cows produced 76 million pounds of milk during the period of July-September 1997, compared with 78 million the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow inventory declined from 20,000 head a year ago to 19,000 head this year.

The daily amount of grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on September 1, averaged 16.0 pounds per cow, down 0.5 pounds from last year. The value of the grains and other concentrates fed, at $7.70 decreased 70 cents from a year ago.

During the July-September period, the U.S. produced 39.0 billion pounds of milk, 3.5 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.25 million head, 91,000 head less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1997 averaged 18.7 pounds, up 0.7 pounds from October 1, 1996, but down 0.3 pounds from Jul 1, 1997. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1997 averaged $8.51 per cwt., $1.02 less than October 1, 1996.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1995-97

COUNTY & DISTRICT	All Cattle and Calves				Beef Cows and Heifers That Have Calved		
	1995	1996	1997	Rank	1995	1996	1997
Deer Lodge	8,500	8,500	7,700	54	4,500	4,800	4,400
Flathead	20,300	20,300	18,000	48	9,200	8,900	8,000
Granite	24,800	26,600	24,600	42	17,500	18,100	17,400
Lake	62,000	58,000	57,000	19	34,000	33,500	31,400
Lincoln	5,100	5,000	4,600	55	3,400	3,200	3,000
Mineral	1,300	1,400	1,300	56	600	700	700
Missoula	14,500	15,000	13,700	51	9,000	8,900	8,300
Powell	44,000	51,000	51,000	25	26,500	30,100	30,400
Ravalli	37,600	40,000	38,300	32	19,000	21,200	19,900
Sanders	18,900	20,200	19,800	46	11,300	12,600	12,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	237,000	246,000	236,000	--	135,000	142,000	136,000
Blaine	75,000	82,000	78,000	10	45,000	46,800	46,000
Chouteau	41,000	42,000	45,000	27	28,700	29,500	30,600
Glacier	36,000	36,500	39,400	31	23,100	23,400	24,000
Hill	27,000	25,200	26,500	38	16,800	15,700	16,000
Liberty	14,100	13,500	13,600	52	7,600	7,700	8,200
Phillips	79,000	80,000	80,000	9	46,700	47,500	48,100
Pondera	27,300	24,600	26,000	40	19,100	17,300	16,600
Teton	67,000	69,000	70,000	12	33,600	36,000	36,200
Toole	19,600	19,200	19,500	47	13,400	12,100	12,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
N. CENTRAL	386,000	392,000	398,000	--	234,000	236,000	238,000
Daniels	14,700	15,800	16,300	50	10,000	10,200	10,500
Dawson	47,300	46,700	47,500	26	27,100	28,400	28,900
Garfield	51,000	55,000	53,000	21	36,500	36,100	35,600
McCone	37,700	41,500	40,300	29	22,500	24,500	24,300
Richland	59,000	58,000	57,000	18	28,200	27,600	28,200
Roosevelt	26,700	25,400	25,800	41	18,600	17,400	18,100
Sheridan	21,600	20,600	22,100	45	14,500	13,900	14,700
Valley	57,000	62,000	64,000	15	36,600	36,900	37,700
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	315,000	325,000	326,000	--	194,000	195,000	198,000
Broadwater	24,700	25,300	24,300	43	15,700	15,600	15,900
Cascade	86,000	90,000	86,000	7	50,000	53,000	52,000
Fergus	114,000	114,000	115,000	3	73,000	72,000	73,000
Golden Valley	24,000	24,600	22,600	44	14,600	14,700	14,000
Judith Basin	65,000	68,000	67,000	13	37,200	39,300	39,300
Lewis & Clark	42,000	45,800	44,700	28	23,700	25,000	25,200
Meagher	51,000	53,000	53,000	22	31,100	32,200	33,400
Musselshell	35,100	34,700	34,000	36	20,400	21,300	21,400
Petroleum	27,700	28,700	28,400	37	19,400	19,200	19,500
Wheatland	36,500	37,900	37,000	34	21,900	21,700	22,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	506,000	522,000	512,000	--	307,000	314,000	316,000
Beaverhead	145,000	148,000	141,000	1	88,000	89,000	85,000
Gallatin	63,000	62,000	62,000	16	30,000	27,700	29,000
Jefferson	25,000	28,500	26,200	39	15,100	15,700	16,000
Madison	93,000	94,000	87,000	6	55,500	56,000	54,000
Silver Bow	9,000	9,500	9,800	53	5,400	5,600	6,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	335,000	342,000	326,000	--	194,000	194,000	190,000
Big Horn	127,000	128,000	127,000	2	74,000	70,000	70,000
Carbon	60,000	60,000	59,000	17	32,500	32,100	33,300
Park	57,000	58,000	55,000	20	34,800	35,700	34,800
Stillwater	65,000	64,000	64,000	14	31,500	31,800	30,000
Sweetgrass	55,000	55,000	52,000	24	33,600	34,300	33,600
Treasure	35,000	38,000	38,000	33	15,300	15,600	16,300
Yellowstone	132,000	122,000	115,000	3	46,300	44,500	44,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S. CENTRAL	531,000	525,000	510,000	--	268,000	264,000	262,000
Carter	52,000	53,000	53,000	23	34,500	33,900	34,500
Custer	83,000	82,000	84,000	8	43,100	42,200	45,200
Fallon	44,000	42,800	40,200	30	27,400	25,700	24,500
Powder River	72,000	78,000	73,000	11	41,400	43,300	43,000
Prairie	34,000	35,500	34,500	35	18,200	18,800	19,500
Rosebud	86,000	90,000	90,000	5	50,400	50,000	52,000
Wibaux	19,000	16,700	17,300	49	12,000	11,100	11,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	390,000	398,000	392,000	--	227,000	225,000	230,000
MONTANA	**2,700,000**	**2,750,000**	**2,700,000**	--	**1,559,000**	**1,570,000**	**1,570,000**

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 1997, down 5 percent from September 1996, and down 12 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average liveweight, at 1,121 pounds, was down 44 pounds from last year.

During September, there were 2,100 hogs slaughtered, 100 head less than last year. The average liveweight, at 218 pounds, was down 6 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, was 100 head more than the previous year. The average liveweight increased 12 pounds from last year to 127 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled 3.67 billion pounds during September, up 8 percent from the previous year. January - September red meat production was 32.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent, veal was down 10 percent, pork was down 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

Beef production, at 2.13 billion pounds, was up 10 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.97 million head, up 8 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,193 pounds.

Veal production totaled 28.0 million pounds, down 11 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 136,400 head, down 9 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was down 3 pounds to 334 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.49 billion pounds, was up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.02 million head, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year at 254 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 21.0 million pounds, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Sheep slaughter totaled 322,800 head, 1 percent below the previous year. The average live weight was up 7 pounds to 129 pounds.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Monthly Average Prices
Crop Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1997 Small Grain Summary
Quarterly Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

SEPTEMBER 1997 SMALL GRAIN SUMMARY

Dry conditions during the fall of 1996 led winter wheat producers to plant the second smallest winter wheat crop since 1951. Montana's winter wheat acreage was estimated at 1.6 million acres, down 26% from last year. Winter kill caused many acres to be reseeded, but producers were able to harvest 1.45 million acres, down 27% from 1996. Adequate moisture at the beginning of the season and timely rains in most of the winter wheat producing areas set the stage for the fourth highest yield on record. Average yield was estimated at 39 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year, for a total production of 56.55 million bushels which is down 11% from 1996.

Spring wheat acreage made up for the lost winter wheat acreage. Montana producers planted an estimated 4.35 million acres, up 150,000 from last year, and the largest spring wheat acreage planted since 1953 when other spring and durum wheat records were combined. The eastern third of the state suffered from some drought-like conditions early in the year, but the rest of the state had a fair growing season with timely moisture. Producers were able to harvest 4.2 million acres, up 100,000 from last year. Yields averaged 29 bushels per acre across the state, up 3 bushels from 1996, but down nearly 3 bushels from the five-year average due mainly to lower yields in the eastern third of the state. Total production was estimated at 121.8 million bushels, up 14% from last year. This is the second largest crop on record only behind 1995's production, due mainly to the large number of acres harvested.

Montana durum wheat growers planted 290,000 acres and harvested 280,000 acres, both unchanged from last year's revised acreage estimates. Droughty conditions held back average yield and was estimated at 26 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year, when drought-like conditions also occurred. Total production was estimated at 7.28 million bushels, up nearly 4 percent from last year.

Barley acreage in Montana was estimated at 1.3 million acres with harvested acreage set at 1.2 million acres, both unchanged from 1996. Average yields were set at 53 bushels per acre, up 10 bushels from last year. This is the second highest yield on record. Not as much barley is grown in the eastern portion of the state which kept yields up unlike spring wheat. Total production was estimated at 63.6 million bushels, up 23 percent from last year.

Oat production was estimated at 3.85 million bushels, up nearly twice the amount produced last year. Producers harvested more acreage and had better yields than 1996. Planted acreage was estimated at 140,000 acres, up 40,000 from last year. Harvested acreage was set at 70,000 acres, up 20,000 from last year. Yields averaged 55 bushels per acre, up 15 bushels from last year.

At the National level, the 1997 winter wheat production was estimated at 1.88 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the August forecast and 27 percent more than 1996. This is the largest production level since 1990. Yields averaged a record high 45.0 bushels per acre. This is up 0.4 bushels from the last forecast and nearly eight bushels per acre better than the 1996 average. Harvested area was estimated at 41.8 million acres, up 1 and 5 percent from August and last year, respectively, and was largely due to an increase in the Kansas harvested area.

U.S. other spring wheat production in 1997 was estimated at 558 million bushels, down 1 percent from the September forecast and 19 percent less than in 1996. Harvested area was 18.7 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. Decreased North Dakota acreage more than offset the increased Minnesota grain area. The U.S. yield was 29.9 bushels per acre, down a tenth of a bushel from September, and 5.2 bushels per acre below last season's average. This is the lowest U.S. yield since 1989.

Durum production, at the National level, for 1997 was estimated to total 86.2 million bushels, down 4 percent from the last forecast and 26 percent less than in 1996. The U.S. yield was placed at 27.7 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushels from the last forecast to the lowest average in eight years. Area for grain now totals 3.11 million acres, down 3 and 13 percent from the last forecast and 1996, respectively.

U.S. barley production in 1997 was estimated at 374 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year's estimate. Average yield per acre, at 58.3 bushels, was down 0.2 bushels from 1996. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 6.43 million acres, 5 percent less than a year ago. Production was 1 percent below the September 1 forecast.

U.S. production of oats in 1997 totaled 176 million bushels, 13 percent above last year's record low crop. Despite the increased production over 1996, the 1997 crop is still the third lowest production on record since 1866. Grain yield per harvested acre averaged 60.5 bushels, up 2.7 bushels from 1996 and the third highest yield on record. Area harvested for grain, at 2.91 million acres, was up 8 percent from last year, and is the second lowest harvested acreage since estimates were first made.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1997 GRAIN STOCKS

All wheat stocks in Montana on September 1, 1997 totaled 190.2 million bushels, up 12% from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 161.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 29.2 million stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 135.6 million bushels, was up 15% from last year and accounted for 71% of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 54.6 million, up 4% from last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 6.6 million bushels, up 10% from last year. Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 1997 were up 11% from last year and were set at 54.5 million bushels. Oat stocks on September 1, 1997 were up 56% from a year ago and were estimated at 3.98 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat stocks in all storage positions September 1, 1997 were estimated at 2.07 billion bushels, up 20 percent from September 1, 1996. Farm stocks totaled 794 million bushels, and off-farm stocks were 1.28 billion bushels. The on-farm total was down 4 percent from a year ago, but the off-farm level was up 42 percent. All wheat disappearance for the first quarter of the 1997-98 marketing year totals 897 million bushels, down 4 percent from the same period a year ago.

U.S. durum wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 1997 totaled 87.8 million bushels, down 14 percent from last September. On farm stocks, at 51.0 million bushels, were down 36 percent from last year. Disappearance from all positions was 29.1 million bushels, down 26 percent from June-August 1996.

Barley stocks, at the national level, in all positions on September 1, 1997 were estimated at 326 million bushels, 3 percent above the stocks of September 1, 1996. Indicated disappearance during the June-August quarter totaled 158 million bushels, 12 percent below the same period a year earlier. Oats stored nationally in all positions on September 1, 1997 totaled 155 million bushels, 16 percent above the stocks on September 1, 1996. Indicated disappearance during the June-August quarter totaled 88 million bushels, fractionally below the same period a year ago. Old crop corn, at the U.S. level, stored in all positions on September 1, 1997, was estimated at 884 million bushels, up 108 percent from September 1, 1996, but still 43 percent below the September 1, 1995 level.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1996	June 1, 1997*	Sept. 1, 1997	'97/'96	Sept. 1, 1996	June 1, 1997*	Sept 1, 1997
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	150,000	26,500	161,000	107%	824,500	154,560	794,350
Off Farms 1/	20,300	10,700	29,200	144%	899,696	289,047	1,279,099
TOTAL	170,300	37,200	190,200	112%	1,724,196	443,607	2,073,449
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	46,000	6,000	45,000	98%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	6,500	2,830	9,600	148%	--	--	--
TOTAL	52,500	8,830	54,600	104%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	104,000	20,500	116,000	112%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,800	7,870	19,600	142%	--	--	--
TOTAL	117,800	28,370	135,600	115%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	79,700	17,800	51,000
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	22,687	12,938	36,812
TOTAL	6,000	3,270	6,600	110%	102,387	30,738	87,812
BARLEY							
On Farms	42,000	5,000	47,000	112%	193,700	43,715	195,500
Off Farms 1/	7,000	2,300	7,500	107%	122,078	66,235	130,975
TOTAL	49,000	7,300	54,500	111%	315,778	109,950	326,475
OATS							
On Farms	2,400	600	3,600	150%	93,400	33,100	105,500
Off Farms 1/	150	500	380	253%	39,532	33,576	49,051
TOTAL	2,550	1,100	3,980	156%	132,932	66,676	154,551
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	196,600	1,501,000	475,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	229,342	995,550	408,997
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	425,942	2,496,550	883,997

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR AUGUST

Montana wheat prices, with the exception of durum, fell slightly from July. Winter wheat fell 4 cents to $3.72 per bushel, spring wheat fell 5 cents to $3.84 per bushel, but durum rose 55 cents to $4.97 per bushel. The all wheat average price was $3.90 for August, down 2 cents from July. Barley prices also showed a decrease from a month ago with feed barley averaging $2.06 per bushel, down 10 cents, and malt barley fell one cent to $3.28 per bushel. Oats averaged $1.32 per bushel. August alfalfa hay prices were up $3.00 from July to $82.00 per ton and other hay prices went up $2.00 to $73.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were higher except for cows and sheep. Steer and heifer prices, at $77.30 per cwt, were up $4.10. Cow prices fell $1.20 to $39.20 per cwt and the average price of calves rose $6.00 to $85.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-September averaged $77.00 per cwt. August sheep prices, at $40.50, were down $3.40 per cwt, while lamb prices rose $9.50 per cwt to $98.80. August milk prices increased 20 cents to $12.30 per cwt.

Nationally, the all wheat price for August averaged $3.56 per bushel, up 33 cents from July. The all barley price averaged $2.37 per bushel, up 10 cents. Steer and heifer prices were up $1.20 to $66.60 per cwt. Cow prices were $36.40 and hog prices were $55.30 per cwt. Egg prices were 63.5 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 108 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from August. Price increases from August for tobacco, milk, eggs, and grapes offset price decreases for hogs, broilers, soybeans, and onions. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level, however, these changes were essentially offsetting in September.

Compared with September 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 8 points (6.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from September 1996 for corn, milk, wheat, and soybeans more than offset price increases for lettuce, calves, potatoes, and hay.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Aug. 1996	Sept. 1996	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1997
Prices Received	117	116	108	108
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	115	116	116	116
Ratio [2/]	102	100	93	93

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	Sept. 15, 1997	Sept. 15, 1997
		Aug. 1996	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Aug. 1997		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	5.15	3.76	3.72	3.39	3.65	3.44
Durum	Bu.	5.55	4.42	4.97	5.23	5.75	5.39
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.81	3.89	3.84	3.75	3.70	3.71
All Wheat	Bu.	5.06	3.92	3.90	3.56	3.87	3.62
Barley, All	Bu.	3.27	2.87	3.03	2.37	2.80	2.44
Feed	Bu.	2.76	2.16	2.06	1.96	2.10	2.12
Malt	Bu.	3.36	3.29	3.28	2.78	3.10	2.86
Oats	Bu.	1.91	n.a.	1.32	1.55	1.40	1.55
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	79.00	82.00	106.00	84.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	71.00	73.00	74.70	72.00	75.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	68.00	78.00	82.00	101.00	84.00	101.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	60.10	73.20	77.30	66.60	77.00	66.90
Cows	Cwt.	37.60	40.40	39.20	36.40	36.50	34.90
Beef Cattle [1/]	Cwt	57.00	50.90	63.60	63.90	70.90	63.80
Calves	Cwt.	59.80	79.80	85.80	88.00	86.10	86.60
Sheep [2/]	Cwt.	31.70	43.90	40.50	38.60	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs [2/]	Cwt.	88.50	89.30	98.80	92.70	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	16.20	12.10	12.30	12.70	13.00	13.00

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. [2/] Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996. n.a. - not available.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

District	All Wheat			Barley		
	Sept. 1, 1996	June 1, 1997*	Sept. 1, 1997	Sept. 1, 1996	June 1, 1997*	Sept. 1, 1997
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	2.5	0.2	3.4	2.8	0.7	1.9
North Central	86.5	15.8	87.2	26.2	3.4	29.7
Northeast	44.1	13.6	53.2	3.1	0.7	3.6
Central	16.6	2.9	26.6	8.3	1.1	10.0
Southwest	6.2	0.9	3.7	5.0	0.5	2.7
South Central	5.5	1.9	8.1	2.8	0.7	5.8
Southeast	8.9	1.9	8.0	0.8	0.2	0.8
MONTANA	170.3	37.2	190.2	49.0	7.3	54.5

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES BY DISTRICT, 1997 PRELIMINARY [1/]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1996	1997 [2/]	97/96	1996	1997 [2/]	97/96	1996	1997 [2/]	97/96
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	960	850	89	1,950	2,006	103	2,550	1,750	69
N Central	36,900	27,700	75	47,248	57,975	123	27,600	35,000	127
Northeast	3,300	2,800	85	45,780	44,412	97	3,400	4,800	141
Central	10,800	13,000	120	7,599	11,950	157	8,800	11,650	132
Southwest	1,600	1,500	94	2,627	3,225	123	3,750	3,640	97
S Central	6,500	7,500	115	2,400	3,735	156	4,100	5,060	123
Southeast	3,300	3,200	97	5,996	5,777	96	1,400	1,700	121
Montana	63,360	56,550	89	113,600	129,080	114	51,600	63,600	123

District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2/] Preliminary.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle and Beef Cow	Quarterly Milk Production
County Estimates	Cattle on Feed
Hay Production	Egg Production
Sugar Beet Production	Slaughter

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Hogs & Pigs
Potato Disposition
Egg Production
Cash Receipts

MONTANA AND US RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August, down 13 percent from last year. However, red meat production was up 17 percent from last month. There were 1,800 head of cattle slaughtered during August, 200 head fewer than August 1996. The average live weight of cattle slaughtered dropped 38 pounds from a year ago to 1,116 pounds.

The number of hogs slaughtered dropped 400 head from last year to 2,000 head. The average live weight, at 220 pounds, was the same as a year earlier. There were 400 sheep slaughtered during August, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight of sheep slaughtered was up 1 pound to 118 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds during August, down 2 percent from the previous year. Beef production, at 2.22 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.11 million head, down 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 12 pounds from the previous year, at 1,187 pounds.

Veal production totaled 25.0 million pounds, down 20 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 125,500 head, down 20 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was down 2 pounds to 334 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.35 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.35 million head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year at 251 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 19.0 million pounds, down 5 percent from the previous record low for August set in 1996. Sheep slaughter totaled 301,900 head, 9 percent below the previous year. The average live weight was up 5 pounds to 127 pounds.

January - August red meat production was 28.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent, veal was down 10 percent, pork was down 2 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 4 percent.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 16 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.12 million head on September 1, 1997. The inventory was 16 percent above September 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.43 million, 7 percent above 1996. Net placements were 2.38 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 461,000, 600-699 pounds were 474,000, 700-799 pounds were 725,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 769,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 2.03 million, 5 percent above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 45,000 during August, 10 percent below the previous year.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 19 Percent

Cattle on feed September 1, 1997, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 7.85 million, up 19 percent from the previous year and up 9 percent from September 1, 1995.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.11 million, 7 percent above 1996 and 28 percent above 1995. Marketings during August totaled 1.76 million, 6 percent above 1996 but 3 percent below 1995.

Other disappearance during August was 42,000 head, 14 percent above 1996 and 5 percent above 1995.

U.S. AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION UP 4.4 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during August totaled 11.3 billion pounds, up 4.4 percent from production in these same States in August 1996. July revised production, at 11.4 billion pounds was up 4.6 percent from July 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,454 pounds for August, 72 pounds above August 1996. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 58,000 head less than August 1996 and 3,000 head less than July 1997.

EGG PRODUCTION

U.S. egg production totaled 6.47 billion during August 1997, up fractionally from the 6.45 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.45 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 962 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 1997 averaged 299 million, up 1 percent from the average number of layers during August 1996. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,164 eggs, compared with 2,172 in August 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1997, totaled 300 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 300 million layers consisted of 245 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 52.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.43 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1997, averaged 70.0 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from the 69.9 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.14 billion eggs during August, up 1 percent from August 1996. The average number of layers during August, at 283 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

HOGS AND PIGS

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1997, was 60.3 million head. This was 4 percent above both the September 1996 and June 1, 1997, inventories. Breeding inventory, at 6.95 million head is up 3 percent from September 1, 1996 and virtually unchanged from June 1, 1997. Market hog inventory, at 53.3 million head was 4 percent above last year and last quarter.

The June-August 1997 U.S. pig crop at 25.2 million head was 7 percent more than 1996 and 2 percent more than 1995. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, 5 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 42 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter continues to increases at a rapid pace, with an average of 8.70 pigs saved per litter for the June-August period. Last year the litter rate averaged 8.57 pigs per litter. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 2,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.89 million sows farrow during the September-November 1997 quarter, 7 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period last year, and 3 percent higher than 1995. The intentions for September-November represent 42 percent of the September 1 breeding herd. Intended farrowings for December 1997-February 1998, at 2.88 million sows are 8 percent above 1997 and 5 percent above the 1996 period. This represents 41 percent of the breeding herd.

1996 POTATO PRODUCTION AND DISPOSITION

Montana's 1996 potato production totaled 3.21 million cwt., 9 percent above last year and just slightly higher than 1994. Producers harvested 10,200 acres, 400 acres more than a year ago and 200 acres more than two years ago. Potato yields averaged 315 cwt. per acre compared with 300 cwt. in 1995.

Value of production from the 1996 crop was $21.2 million, down 23 percent from 1995. The average price was $6.60 per cwt. down $2.75 from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 1996 potato crop totaled $18.8 million which is a 24 percent decrease from last year's crop. Producers sold 2.8 million cwt. from the 1996 crop compared with 2.7 million cwt. a year ago.

Total U.S. 1996 potato production is estimated at a record large 499 million cwt, up 12 percent from 1995 and 7 percent above the previous record in 1994. Harvested area, at 1.43 million acres, gained 4 percent from 1995 was 3 percent above 1994. The average yield of 350 cwt per acre was also record high, 27 cwt above 1995 and 11 cwt above 1994. In 1996, all seasonal groups increased in production from the previous year: Winter jumped 32 percent; spring increased 11 percent; summer rose 9 percent; and fall potatoes gained 13 percent.

Summer potato production was revised to 19.5 million cwt in 1996, up 9 percent from 1995 and 12 percent above comparable totals in 1994. Harvested area of 74,800 acres increased 6 percent from 1995, while the average yield of 261 cwt per acre gained 7 cwt from a year earlier. The revised production estimate places the summer potato crop 3 percent above the July 1996 forecast.

Fall potatoes were finalized at a record large 453 million cwt, 13 percent above 1995 and 7 percent above 1994. Area harvested in 1996 was estimated at 1.25 million acres, up 3 percent from the last two years. The average yield, at 364 cwt per acre, gained 30 cwt from 1995. The final production of fall potatoes is 1 percent above the first forecast made in November 1996. Planting started late, but good weather in June led to high production in many States. Record large potato crops were produced in Idaho, Washington, Wisconsin, Oregon, and Colorado.

Value of all potato production was estimated at $2.43 billion, a 19 percent drop from the record high value in 1995 and the lowest value since 1992. The average price dropped to $4.93 per cwt compared with $6.77 in 1995 and $5.58 in 1994. This was the lowest average price since 1987.

Sales from the 1996 potato crop totaled a record large 451 million cwt, up 10 percent from 1995 and 6 percent above 1994. Non sales accounted for 47.5 million cwt of 1996 potatoes, 35 percent above the previous year and 10 percent above 1994. Over the past 5 years, an average of 91 percent of the potatoes produced have been sold. The other 9 percent was either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used for seed, home use, and livestock feed on farms where grown. In the 1996 season, farmers sold 90.5 percent of their crop and kept or lost 9.5 percent.

Processors used a record large 283 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 1996 crop, up 11 percent from 1995 and 8 percent above 1994. Table stock sales totaled 131 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year. Seed sales of 24.3 million cwt were down 6 percent. Sales for livestock feed, at 12.1 million cwt, almost quadrupled from 1995 and included about 7 million cwt diverted under a Government program.

Chip potato use totaled 48.0 million cwt, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Freezers took a record 174 million cwt of raw potatoes, a gain of 12 percent, while dehydrating claimed a record high 54.3 million cwt, up 20 percent. Canning use totaled 5.04 million cwt, off 12 percent. Starch, flour and other products were made from 1.96 million cwt of potatoes, up 17 percent.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 41.2 million cwt, the highest since 1985 and 40 percent above 1995. Livestock feed and home use totaled 1.54 million cwt, up 60 percent. Growers kept 4.69 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 2 percent from the previous year.

CASH RECEIPTS: FROM SALE OF PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS, MONTANA,1995 1/

County & District	Livestock & Livestock Products		Crops		Total Cash Receipts		Government Payments	All Cash Receipts
	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols.	(000) Dols.
Deer Lodge	2,607	53	2,114	48	4,721	53	59	4,780
Flathead	11,895	31	16,460	20	28,355	28	416	28,771
Granite	7,295	45	899	53	8,194	50	2/	8,194
Lake	20,625	16	14,058	23	34,683	24	660	35,343
Lincoln	1,507	55	497	54	2,004	55	2/	2,004
Mineral	628	56	271	55	899	56	2/	899
Missoula	6,060	49	1,913	50	7,973	51	122	8,095
Powell	13,828	27	1,999	49	15,827	44	186	16,013
Ravalli	17,385	19	4,202	41	21,587	33	224	21,811
Sanders	6,604	48	4,146	42	10,750	46	357	11,107
NORTHWEST	88,434		46,559		134,993		2,024	137,017
Blaine	26,248	10	16,452	21	42,700	17	7,627	50,327
Chouteau	11,468	33	123,896	1	135,364	1	15,808	151,172
Glacier	13,871	26	35,483	10	49,354	14	5,330	54,684
Hill	10,388	37	96,964	2	107,352	2	12,279	119,631
Liberty	7,910	41	52,784	5	60,694	10	6,147	66,841
Phillips	23,262	12	14,705	22	37,967	22	6,726	44,693
Pondera	11,289	34	57,806	4	69,095	7	6,274	75,369
Teton	34,281	6	59,275	3	93,556	3	7,748	101,304
Toole	8,400	40	49,262	6	57,662	11	8,299	65,961
NORTH CENTRAL	147,117		506,627		653,744		76,238	729,982
Daniels	4,947	51	20,564	18	25,511	29	6,497	32,008
Dawson	14,493	24	25,043	17	39,536	20	4,239	43,775
Garfield	14,731	23	7,487	32	22,218	32	4,609	26,827
McCone	11,577	32	13,889	24	25,466	30	6,647	32,113
Richland	19,455	17	31,843	14	51,298	13	4,348	55,646
Roosevelt	7,485	43	28,502	16	35,987	23	7,148	43,135
Sheridan	5,743	50	32,413	13	38,156	21	7,986	46,142
Valley	11,962	30	33,081	11	45,043	16	9,568	54,611
NORTHEAST	90,393		192,822		283,215		51,042	334,257
Broadwater	7,000	47	10,844	26	17,844	40	1,821	19,665
Cascade	35,176	5	36,322	7	71,498	6	5,720	77,218
Fergus	32,219	7	30,734	15	62,953	9	5,174	68,127
Golden Valley	7,273	46	2,143	47	9,416	48	2,141	11,557
Judith Basin	21,250	15	12,033	25	33,283	25	2,517	35,800
Lewis & Clark	13,725	28	5,654	36	19,379	38	576	19,955
Meagher	11,977	29	5,067	39	17,044	41	689	17,733
Musselshell	8,645	39	5,275	37	13,920	45	1,851	15,771
Petroleum	7,398	44	1,854	51	9,252	49	992	10,244
Wheatland	14,370	25	6,980	34	21,350	34	2,138	23,488
CENTRAL	159,033		116,906		275,939		23,619	299,558
Beaverhead	44,350	3	10,772	27	55,122	12	756	55,878
Gallatin	26,745	9	36,288	8	63,033	8	1,489	64,522
Jefferson	7,807	42	2,759	46	10,566	47	375	10,941
Madison	22,686	13	10,582	28	33,268	26	765	34,033
Silver Bow	2,489	54	81	56	2,570	54	2/	2,570
SOUTHWEST	104,077		60,482		164,559		3,385	167,944
Bighorn	52,240	2	32,571	12	84,811	5	3,066	87,877
Carbon	24,352	11	17,440	19	41,792	19	1,264	43,056
Park	15,008	22	4,782	40	19,790	37	845	20,635
Stillwater	21,621	14	10,377	29	31,998	27	3,231	35,229
Sweetgrass	16,531	21	1,541	52	18,072	39	574	18,646
Treasure	11,076	35	9,135	31	20,211	36	403	20,614
Yellowstone	55,371	1	35,886	9	91,257	4	3,889	95,146
SOUTH CENTRAL	196,199		111,732		307,931		13,272	321,203
Carter	17,308	20	3,134	44	20,442	35	3,137	23,579
Custer	39,787	4	5,809	35	45,596	15	1,497	47,093
Fallon	11,047	36	5,249	38	16,296	43	2,844	19,140
Powder River	19,375	18	3,445	43	22,820	31	1,791	24,611
Prairie	9,079	38	7,330	33	16,409	42	1,613	18,022
Rosebud	31,785	8	10,189	30	41,974	18	2,679	44,653
Wibaux	3,906	52	2,776	45	6,682	52	2,074	8,756
SOUTHEAST	132,287		37,932		170,219		15,635	185,854
MONTANA	917,540		1,073,060		1,990,600		185,331	2,175,931

1/ Includes estimates of inter-farm sales and intra-state sales resulting in larger total cash receipts than shown in USDA estimates on back page. 2/ Payments of less than 50,000 included in State totals. SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

CASH RECEIPTS: FROM MARKETINGS BY COMMODITIES, MONTANA, 1992-1996

Item	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Livestock and Products			(000) Dollars		
Cattle and Calves	779,958	818,162	728,590	667,838	655,770
Dairy Products	41,695	39,026	40,478	40,299	44,688
Sheep and Lambs	25,226	25,093	24,219	25,683	28,797
Wool	5,072	2,993	4,379	5,428	3,901
Hogs and Pigs	33,681	40,503	33,332	33,634	37,065
Eggs	6,533	6,563	4,538	4,988	5,940
Chickens	56	87	37	64	32
Honey	5,264	5,027	6,497	6,106	6,178
All Other 1/	13,765	11,863	13,590	12,211	14,556
Total	911,250	949,317	855,660	796,251	796,927
Crops			(000) Dollars		
Wheat	480,123	561,062	705,597	726,894	860,646
Barley	152,739	86,439	121,117	141,945	152,889
Sugar Beets	55,714	50,968	54,763	47,601	51,870
Hay	131,398	101,086	77,568	86,372	88,979
Potatoes	15,908	18,967	21,382	20,069	24,706
Oil Crops	5,013	6,463	8,452	9,919	8,205
Oats	2,881	4,100	3,819	3,092	3,693
Dry Beans	2,604	3,744	4,013	3,518	4,245
Corn	4,854	3,805	3,946	5,419	4,609
Cherries	336	167	770	916	893
All Other 2/	17,979	20,123	27,527	28,132	29,564
Total	869,549	856,924	1,028,954	1,073,877	1,230,299
All Commodities	1,780,799	1,806,241	1,884,614	1,870,128	2,027,226

1/ All other livestock and products including: bees, beeswax; turkeys & turkey eggs; rabbits and mink. 2/ All other field crops; fruits; vegetables; seeds; greenhouse and nursery products.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Grain Stocks
Small Grains Summary

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

September 1 Crop Production
Montana Wheat & Barley Movement
Ag Prices Received

SEPTEMBER 1, 1997 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's other spring wheat production forecast was raised from last month. As of September 1, production is forecast at 121.8 million bushels. If realized, this would be 14 percent more than last year and the second largest other spring wheat crop on record. The large crop is due mainly to the increased planted acreage. Average yield was increased one bushel from last month to 29 bushels per acre which is 3 bushels higher than 1996. Harvested acreage remains unchanged at 4.2 million acres. So far the weather has cooperated and by September 7th, 75 percent of the crop had been harvested. There have been few problems reported, except for wheat stem sawfly.

Durum wheat production remains unchanged from a month ago at 7.75 million bushels, up 15% from last year. Yields are expected to average 25 bushels per acre--the same as last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 310,000 acres.

Winter wheat production is not forecast as of September 1. However, if you add this month's spring and durum wheat production to the August winter wheat production, it gives an all wheat production total of 185.05 million bushels. That's up nearly 5 percent from last year and the third largest wheat crop on record.

Barley production also remains unchanged from a month ago and is forecast at 64.8 million bushels, up nearly 26 percent from 1996. Yields are expected to average 54 bushels per acre compared with 43 bushels last year. If realized this would be the second highest yield on record. Harvested acreage remains at 1.2 million acres.

Forecasted **sugar beet** yields remain unchanged from a month ago at 21.2 tons per acre, down 1.4 tons from last year. Total production is forecast at 1.24 million tons, down 5 percent from last year.

New **hay** production estimates will be available October 10. The August 1 all hay production estimate was set at 5.735 million tons, up 17 percent from 1996.

At the U.S. level, all wheat production is placed at 2.51 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the last forecast, but 10 percent more than in 1996. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 39.5 bushels per acre. This is 0.4 bushels less than last month, but equals the record high yield. Other spring wheat production is now forecast at 562 million bushels, down 4 percent from last month. The U.S. yield is forecast at 30.0 bushels per acre. This is 1.3 bushels per acre lower than August 1. There were no acreage changes. Hard Red Spring production is down from last month as declines in Minnesota and the Dakotas more than offset improved Montana prospects. White Spring production is up again because of the improved Washington crop. Durum wheat production is forecast at 90.2 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but still well below last year. Yields are expected to average 28.1 bushels per acre, down 4.6 bushels from last year.

U.S. barley production is forecast at 379 million bushels, down slightly from August and 4 percent below the 1996 production. The expected yield per acre is forecasted at 59.3 bushels, down 0.1 bushels from last month, but 0.8 bushels above 1996. Area harvested and to be harvested was unchanged from August at 6.40 million acres, down 6 percent from the previous year.

Sugar beet production for the U.S. is expected to total 29.4 million tons, an increase of 10 percent from 1996, but down 1 percent from the August "Crop Report". Area for harvest, at 1.43 million acres, is up 8 percent from last year, but down slightly from the August forecast. The average yield, at 20.5 tons per acre, is 0.3 tons above 1996, but 0.1 tons below the yield forecasted in August.

Corn production is forecast at 9.27 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from last month and 1996. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 125.2 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushels from last month and 1.9 bushels from 1996. Acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 74.0 million acres, unchanged from last month. Yield prospects in Indiana and Wisconsin decreased. Forecasted yields in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Ohio were unchanged.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR JULY

Montana winter wheat decreased 28 cents to $3.76 per bushel, but durum wheat increased 22 cents to $4.42 per bushel. Spring wheat went down 10 cents to $3.89 per bushel. Feed barley decreased 11 cents per bushel to $2.16 and malt barley increased 32 cents to $3.29 per bushel. The oats price was not published this month because of insufficient movement. The all wheat price for mid-August averaged $4.00 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.25. The price for alfalfa hay in August, at $82.00 per ton, is up $3.00 from last month. The August other hay price increased $2.00 since July to $73.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were higher except for lambs. Steers and heifers prices increased 80 cents to $73.20 per cwt. Cows increased 80 cents to $40.40 and the average price for calves rose 50 cents to $79.80 per cwt. Sheep increased $6.70 to $43.90 per cwt, but lambs decreased $3.60 to $89.30 per cwt. Milk prices were unchanged from last month at $12.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $76.60 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $65.40 per cwt for the full month of July. Cow prices came in at $38.20 and hogs were $58.90 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.23 per bushel and $2.27 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 65.7 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 107 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from July. Price increases from July for wheat, lettuce, milk, and peaches more than offset price decreases for hogs, soybeans, strawberries, and cauliflower. However, the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower relative seasonal marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers more than offset the effect of relatively higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn, resulting in no change in the overall index.

Compared with August 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 10 points (8.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from August 1996 for corn, milk, wheat, and soybeans more than offset price increases for calves, cattle, hay, and lemons.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	July 1996	Aug. 1996	July 1997	Aug. 1997
Prices Received	119	117	107	107
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	115	115	116	116
Ratio [2/]	103	102	92	92

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	Aug. 15, 1997	Aug. 15, 1997
		July 1996	June 1997	July 1997	July 1997		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	5.25	4.04	3.76	3.16	3.80	3.39
Durum	Bu.	5.33	4.20	4.42	4.61	5.00	4.77
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	5.34	3.99	3.89	3.66	3.90	3.68
All Wheat	Bu.	5.32	4.02	3.92	3.23	4.00	3.49
Barley, All	Bu.	3.27	2.42	2.87	2.27	2.25	2.34
Feed	Bu.	3.27	2.27	2.16	1.96	2.00	1.94
Malt	Bu.	3.27	2.97	3.29	2.47	3.00	2.61
Oats	Bu.	2.02	1.65	n.a.	1.68	n.a.	1.63
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	84.00	79.00	106.00	82.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	71.00	71.00	72.40	73.00	74.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	64.00	84.00	78.00	98.40	82.00	101.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	58.90	72.40	73.20	65.40	76.60	65.80
Cows	Cwt.	33.30	39.60	40.40	38.20	39.90	36.30
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt	45.60	48.80	50.90	62.80	54.60	63.10
Calves	Cwt.	54.90	79.30	79.80	86.90	83.00	88.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	33.50	37.20	43.90	40.20	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	99.60	92.90	89.30	81.30	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	15.40	12.10	12.10	12.20	12.60	12.70

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, SEPTEMBER 1, 1997

CROP	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		1996	1997 [1]	1996	1997 [1]	1996	1997 [1]	1996	1997 [1]
Montana		(000) Acres						(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,150	1,600	1,980	1,500	32.0	37.0	63,360	55,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	320	270	310	25.0	25.0	6,750	7,750
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,200	4,350	4,100	4,200	26.0	29.0	106,600	121,800
All Wheat	Bu.	6,630	6,270	6,350	6,010	27.8	30.8	176,710	185,050
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	55	50	15	15	137.0	130.0	2,055	1,950
Oats	Bu.	100	140	50	70	40.0	55.0	2,000	3,850
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	43.0	54.0	51,600	64,800
Dry Beans	Cwt	10.5	12.2	10.3	11.7	22.8	22.0	235	257
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.7	59.7	57.5	58.5	22.6	21.2	1,300	1,240
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.4	315.0	3/	3,213	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.10	2.50	3,570	4,375
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.50	1.60	1,350	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,600	1.89	2.21	4,920	5,735
United States	Unit	(000) Acres				1996	1997	(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,983	48,342	39,709	41,583	37.2	44.6	1,478,048	1,855,474
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,620	3,270	3,546	3,208	32.7	28.1	115,840	90,155
Spring Wheat	Bu.	20,036	19,155	19,595	18,704	35.1	30.0	687,875	561,540
All Wheat	Bu.	75,639	70,767	62,850	63,495	36.3	39.5	2,281,763	2,507,169
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	79,487	80,227	73,147	74,049	127.1	125.2	9,293,435	9,267,655
Oats	Bu.	4,661	5,264	2,687	3,222	57.8	58.1	155,225	187,127
Barley	Bu.	7,174	6,769	6,787	6,397	58.5	59.3	396,851	379,395
Dry Beans	Cwt	1,813.0	1,913.6	1,717.7	1,750.1	1,592.0	1,666.0	27,354	29,163
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,368.4	1,464.4	1,323.3	1,433.0	20.2	20.5	26,680	29,358
Fall Potatoes	Cwt	1,269.9	1,198.6	1,246.7	1,181.5	364.0	3/	453,436	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,291	23,556	3.27	3.30	79,377	77,817
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,738	37,251	1.91	2.04	70,080	76,069
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,029	60,807	2.45	2.53	149,457	153,886

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 10, 1997.

ALL WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, Selected States & U.S., 1996 & Forecasted September 1, 1997

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1996	1997	1996	Aug. 1, 1997	Sept. 1, 1997	1996	1997
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO 1/	2,268	2,912	33.3	34.0	34.0	75,500	99,010
ID	1,560	1,430	76.4	77.3	77.3	119,200	110,480
KS 1/	8,800	10,700	29.0	46.0	46.0	255,200	492,200
MN	2,442	2,405	41.9	35.0	33.0	102,382	79,480
MT	**6,350**	**6,010**	**27.8**	**30.1**	**30.8**	**176,710**	**185,050**
NE 1/	2,100	1,900	35.0	37.0	37.0	73,500	70,300
ND	12,515	11,188	31.6	26.0	24.5	395,130	274,438
OK 1/	4,900	5,400	19.0	33.0	33.0	93,100	178,200
OR 1/	955	965	70.8	69.0	69.0	67,605	66,550
SD	3,854	3,574	36.1	31.6	29.6	139,270	105,898
TX 1/	2,900	4,100	26.0	29.0	29.0	75,400	118,900
WA	2,745	2,595	66.5	62.4	62.9	182,670	163,335
US	62,850	63,495	36.3	39.9	39.5	2,281,763	2,507,169

[1] Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1997 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1996	1997 [2]	97/96	1996	1997 [2]	97/96	1996	1997 [2]	97/96
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	960	900	94	1,950	1,804	93	2,550	1,900	75
N Central	36,900	28,200	76	47,244	56,100	119	27,600	35,600	129
Northeast	3,300	2,700	82	45,569	44,618	98	3,400	4,100	121
Central	10,800	12,300	114	7,582	12,800	169	8,800	12,000	136
Southwest	1,600	1,500	94	2,625	3,842	146	3,750	4,400	117
S Central	6,500	7,000	108	2,400	4,606	192	4,100	5,200	127
Southeast	3,300	2,900	88	5,980	5,780	97	1,400	1,600	114
Montana	63,360	55,500	88	113,350	129,550	114	51,600	64,800	126

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT DECREASED 31% FROM LAST YEAR

Wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the December 1996-May 1997 period, at 72.1 million bushels, was 31% lower than the same period last year.

Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 1.6 million bushels, compared with 9.1 million bushels last year.

Movement to the west was 67.3 million bushels down 23% from a year earlier. Other destinations, mostly to the south, received 3.3 million bushels down 54% from last year. Rail movement amounted to 67.7 million bushels, 94% of total shipments.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1996-May 1997, was 11.4 million bushels, down 44% from the same period last year. Shipments to western destinations were down 55% from the same period last year, at 6.8 million bushels. Eastern destination shipments totaled 4.2 million bushels down 2% from last year.

Shipments to other destinations were down from last year's at 0.9 million bushels to 0.4 million bushels this year. Barley hauled by rail was 86% of total movement down from 93% for the same period last year.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY: Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/] *

Shipments Out of State	December 1995 - May 1996				December 1996 - May 1997			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	(000) Bushels							
West [3/]	583	2,658	3,241	3,896	628	2,515	3,143	3,173
North Central	12,867	44,175	57,042	12,106	16,670	21,023	37,693	7,182
Northeast	1,143	23,747	24,890	1,217	1,478	16,546	18,024	225
Central	6,875	4,987	11,862	2,987	4,216	2,749	6,965	824
South Central	3,475	839	4,314	51	3,093	884	3,977	30
Southeast	1,313	1,221	2,534	70	904	1,427	2,331	1
Total Shipped	26,256	77,627	103,883	20,327	26,989	45,144	72,133	11,435
Mode & Destination	(000) Bushels							
Trucked East	1	132	133	18	20	154	174	21
Trucked West	1,835	2,025	3,860	1,180	2,181	1,601	3,782	1,391
Trucked Other [4/]	29	1,169	1,198	128	78	368	446	206
Total By Truck	1,865	3,326	5,191	1,326	2,279	2,123	4,402	1,618
Rail East	33	8,950	8,983	4,271	447	976	1,423	4,184
Rail West	22,794	61,029	83,823	13,893	23,371	40,105	63,476	5,429
Rail Other [4/]	1,564	4,322	5,886	747	892	1,940	2,832	204
Total By Rail	24,391	74,301	98,692	19,001	24,710	43,021	67,731	9,817
Total Shipped	26,256	77,627	103,883	20,327	26,989	45,144	72,133	11,435

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown.

* This data made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Egg Production
Cattle on Feed	Potato Disposition
Malting Barley	Slaughter
Hogs & Pigs	Cash Receipts

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
July Milk Production
July Egg Production
July Red Meat Production
July Agricultural Labor
All Hay County Estimates
Computer Use by Farmers

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 16 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.79 million head on August 1, 1997. The inventory was 16 percent above August 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 2.0 million, 14 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.94 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000, 600-699 pounds were 379,000, 700-799 pounds were 644,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 612,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.11 million, 6 percent above 1996 Other disappearance totaled 57,000 during July, 8 percent below the previous year.

JULY EGG PRODUCTION

U.S. egg production totaled 6.45 billion during July 1997, up slightly from the 6.44 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.40 billion table eggs and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 989 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 1997 averaged 299 million, up 1 percent from the average number of layers during July 1996. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,155 eggs, compared with 2,180 in July 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 1997, totaled 300 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 300 million layers consisted of 243 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 1997, averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.2 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.11 billion eggs during July, up fractionally from July 1996. The average number of layers during July, at 284 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. JULY MILK PRODUCTION UP 4.8 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during July totaled 11.5 billion pounds, up 4.8 percent from production in these same States in July 1996. June revised production, at 11.4 billion pounds was up 4.4 percent from June 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,480 pounds for July, 80 pounds above July 1996. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 8,000 head less than July 1996 but 9,000 head more than June 1997.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN, U.S. BEEF PRODUCTION SET RECORD HIGHS

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 1997, down 13 percent from July 1996. However, meat production was up 21 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, 200 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,147 pounds, was down 31 pounds from last year.

During July, there were 2,000 hogs slaughtered, 100 less than last year. The average live weight, at 218 pounds, was equal to a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, was the same as the previous year. The average live weight increased 11 pounds from last year to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.66 billion pounds during July, up 2 percent from the previous record high set in 1996. Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from the previous record high set in 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.18 million head, up 1 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,178 pounds. Veal production totaled 27.0 million pounds, down 16 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 133,900 head, down 17 percent from last year. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 336 pounds.

U.S. pork production, at 1.35 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.31 million head, just below a year ago. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year at 253 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 20.0 million pounds, up 1 percent from last year. Sheep slaughter totaled 306,300 head, 6 percent below the previous year. The average live weight was up 9 pounds to 134 pounds.

January - July red meat production was 24.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent, veal was down 9 percent, pork was down 2 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 4 percent.

ALL HIRED WORKERS UP 5 PERCENT, WAGES UP 5 PERCENT FROM LAST JULY

U. S. farm and ranch operators had 1.41 million hired workers on their farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 1997 which is 5 percent more than last year. The number hired directly by farm operators amounted to 1.07 million. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 340,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 10.8 percent of the hired workforce, compared to 13.1 percent a year ago.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.90 per hour during the July 1997 survey week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $6.45 per hour, up 29 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.54 per hour compared with $6.20 a year earlier.

See table on inside page.

ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1996

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production Tons	Production Rank	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Pro-duction	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Pro-dustion
Deer Lodge	11,000	2.36	26,000	51	10,000	2.48	24,800	1,000	1.20	1,200
Flathead	35,000	2.37	83,000	28	16,500	2.97	49,000	18,500	1.84	34,000
Granite	31,000	2.68	83,000	27	29,500	2.71	80,000	1,500	2.00	3,000
Lake	62,000	2.65	164,000	5	46,000	3.04	140,000	16,000	1.50	24,000
Lincoln	11,000	1.53	16,800	55	6,000	1.67	10,000	5,000	1.36	6,800
Mineral	3,500	2.09	7,300	56	1,500	2.53	3,800	2,000	1.75	3,500
Missoula	22,500	2.56	57,700	38	17,500	2.88	50,400	5,000	1.46	7,300
Powell	54,000	2.59	139,800	7	48,500	2.72	132,000	5,500	1.42	7,800
Ravalli	43,000	3.07	131,900	9	40,000	3.20	128,000	3,000	1.30	3,900
Sanders	32,000	1.95	62,500	36	14,500	2.48	36,000	17,500	1.51	26,500
NORTHWEST	305,000	2.53	772,000	--	230,000	2.84	654,000	75,000	1.57	118,000
Blaine	66,000	1.86	123,000	12	37,000	2.46	91,000	29,000	1.10	32,000
Chouteau	43,000	1.26	54,000	40	5,500	3.09	17,000	37,500	0.99	37,000
Glacier	41,000	1.23	50,300	42	10,000	1.63	16,300	31,000	1.10	34,000
Hill	22,000	1.3	28,500	49	2,500	2.60	6,500	19,500	1.13	22,000
Liberty	14,000	1.46	20,500	54	3,500	2.00	7,000	10,500	1.29	13,500
Phillips	82,000	1.43	117,500	13	36,000	1.97	71,000	46,000	1.01	46,500
Pondera	35,000	2.07	72,600	31	15,500	3.09	47,900	19,500	1.27	24,700
Teton	62,000	2.52	156,500	6	41,000	3.24	133,000	21,000	1.12	23,500
Toole	15,000	1.41	21,100	53	3,000	2.43	7,300	12,000	1.15	13,800
N. CENTRAL	380,000	1.69	644,000	--	154,000	2.58	397,000	226,000	1.09	247,000
Daniels	22,000	1.45	31,800	48	2,500	2.12	5,300	19,500	1.36	26,500
Dawson	44,000	1.75	77,100	30	8,000	3.95	31,600	36,000	1.26	45,500
Garfield	35,000	1.24	43,400	45	4,500	2.53	11,400	30,500	1.05	32,000
McCone	32,000	1.54	49,300	43	6,500	2.43	15,800	25,500	1.31	33,500
Richland	50,000	1.59	79,300	29	9,000	3.81	34,300	41,000	1.10	45,000
Roosevelt	45,000	1.4	63,000	35	9,000	2.44	22,000	36,000	1.14	41,000
Sheridan	36,000	1.53	55,100	39	3,500	2.74	9,600	32,500	1.40	45,500
Valley	51,000	2.1	107,000	16	27,000	3.04	82,000	24,000	1.04	25,000
NORTHEAST	315,000	1.61	506,000	--	70,000	3.03	212,000	245,000	1.20	294,000
Broadwater	28,000	3.3	92,400	24	26,000	3.46	90,000	2,000	1.20	2,400
Cascade	85,000	1.45	123,500	11	18,000	2.94	53,000	67,000	1.05	70,500
Fergus	151,000	1.14	172,000	4	13,000	2.54	33,000	138,000	1.01	139,000
Golden Valley	28,000	1.9	53,100	41	10,500	3.05	32,000	17,500	1.21	21,100
Judith Basin	79,000	1.46	115,000	15	10,500	2.19	23,000	68,500	1.34	92,000
Lewis & Clark	44,000	2.33	102,300	19	30,000	2.97	89,000	14,000	0.95	13,300
Meagher	52,000	1.87	97,300	21	44,000	2.00	88,000	8,000	1.16	9,300
Musselshell	32,000	1.83	58,600	37	9,000	3.22	29,000	23,000	1.29	29,600
Petroleum	25,000	1.78	44,600	44	12,000	2.33	28,000	13,000	1.28	16,600
Wheatland	41,000	1.69	69,200	33	25,000	2.16	54,000	16,000	0.95	15,200
CENTRAL	565,000	1.64	928,000	--	198,000	2.62	519,000	367,000	1.11	409,000
Beaverhead	132,000	2.33	307,500	1	120,000	2.38	286,000	12,000	1.79	21,500
Gallatin	80,000	2.84	227,000	2	54,000	3.48	188,000	26,000	1.50	39,000
Jefferson	27,000	2.6	70,300	32	24,000	2.75	66,000	3,000	1.43	4,300
Madison	81,000	2.75	223,100	3	77,000	2.79	215,000	4,000	2.03	8,100
Silver Bow	10,000	2.81	28,100	50	8,000	3.13	25,000	2,000	1.55	3,100
SOUTHWEST	330,000	2.59	856,000	--	283,000	2.76	780,000	47,000	1.62	76,000
Big Horn	57,000	2.06	117,500	14	19,500	3.08	60,000	37,500	1.53	57,500
Carbon	60,000	2.2	132,000	8	42,500	2.68	114,000	17,500	1.03	18,000
Park	54,000	1.84	99,500	20	42,000	2.05	86,000	12,000	1.13	13,500
Stillwater	59,000	1.46	86,300	26	16,500	2.73	45,000	42,500	0.97	41,300
Sweetgrass	54,000	1.91	103,400	18	36,500	2.33	85,000	17,500	1.05	18,400
Treasure	14,000	2.84	39,800	46	7,000	4.29	30,000	7,000	1.40	9,800
Yellowstone	52,000	2.45	127,500	10	24,000	4.04	97,000	28,000	1.09	30,500
S. CENTRAL	350,000	2.02	706,000	--	188,000	2.75	517,000	162,000	1.17	189,000
Carter	82,000	1.29	105,800	17	5,000	1.76	8,800	77,000	1.26	97,000
Custer	51,000	1.83	93,200	23	17,000	3.54	60,200	34,000	0.97	33,000
Fallon	61,000	1.06	64,900	34	3,000	1.97	5,900	58,000	1.02	59,000
Powder River	71,000	1.36	96,400	22	8,000	2.80	22,400	63,000	1.17	74,000
Prairie	21,000	1.67	35,000	47	5,500	3.27	18,000	15,500	1.10	17,000
Rosebud	47,000	1.85	86,800	25	17,000	3.11	52,800	30,000	1.13	34,000
Wibaux	22,000	1.18	25,900	52	1,500	1.93	2,900	20,500	1.12	23,000
SOUTHEAST	355,000	1.43	508,000	--	57,000	3.00	171,000	298,000	1.13	337,000
MONTANA	**2,600,000**	**1.89**	**4,920,000**	--	**1,180,000**	**2.75**	**3,250,000**	**1,420,000**	**1.18**	**1,670,000**

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY REGION & U.S., JULY 7-13, 1996 & JULY 6-12, 1997 1/

U.S. AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	FIELD		LIVESTOCK		FIELD & LIVESTOCK			
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	6.80	6.99	5.97	6.41	6.55	6.81	6.98	7.15
Northeast II	6.28	6.29	5.94	5.71	6.16	6.10	6.51	6.56
Appalachian I	5.36	5.62	6.09	6.67	5.53	5.77	5.73	5.87
Appalachian II	5.35	5.65	6.04	5.45	5.46	5.60	5.90	5.80
Southeast	5.62	5.92	5.25	6.08	5.58	5.95	5.85	6.46
FL	*6.45	6.71	7.10	6.60	*6.52	6.69	*7.39	7.60
Lake	6.51	6.56	6.02	6.10	6.31	6.35	6.57	6.72
Cornbelt I	6.70	6.70	6.65	7.84	6.69	6.95	7.09	7.63
Cornbelt II	5.97	6.93	5.48	6.65	5.84	6.82	6.34	7.17
Delta	5.96	5.67	5.75	6.42	5.91	5.86	6.13	6.23
Northern Plains	6.30	6.95	5.78	6.99	6.20	6.96	6.46	7.48
Southern Plains	5.17	5.60	5.84	6.17	5.36	5.83	6.01	6.32
Mountain I	6.06	5.92	5.75	6.39	5.90	6.03	5.94	6.22
Mountain II	5.88	5.88	6.05	6.69	5.92	6.00	6.27	6.33
Mountain III	5.80	6.30	5.99	6.21	5.87	6.29	6.39	6.99
Pacific	6.30	6.83	8.20	8.54	6.43	6.93	6.78	7.33
CA	6.33	6.74	7.27	7.43	6.42	6.80	6.82	7.24
HI	8.74	9.11	3/	3/	8.74	9.10	9.85	10.34
US 4/	6.16	6.45	6.20	6.54	6.17	6.47	6.55	6.90

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data. 4/ Excludes AK. *Revised.

INTERNET ACCESS UTILIZED BY 15 PERCENT OF MONTANA FARMS

Montana producers are leading the way with both access to computers and usage of the Internet according to a recent Montana Agricultural Statistics survey. Fifty-four percent of Montana's 23,000 farms and ranches have access to a computer and 15 percent of the producers use the Internet. Forty-one percent of Montana farms own or lease computers, and 33 percent use a computer for their farm business.

Thirteen percent of U.S. farms have Internet access. Internet access ranges from 4 percent in Louisiana and Mississippi to 31 percent in New Jersey. Thirty-one percent of U.S. farms own or lease computers, and 20 percent use a computer for their farm business.

A nationwide survey is conducted every June to provide estimates of crop acres planted, grain in storage, livestock inventories, and land values. This year, questions were added to the survey form that asked the operator about access and use of computers. The computer usage estimates are based on responses from nearly 34,000 U.S. agricultural operations and represent all sizes and types of farms. Montana's sample size was about 750 producers.

Also, see table on back page.

Farm Computer Usage: Access, Ownership, and Use by Economic Class, Type of Farm 1/, West Region, and United States, 1997

Economic Class Type of Farm	Farms	Farms			
		With Computer Access	That Owned or Lease Computers	Using Computers for Farm Business	With Internet Access
	Number (000)	Percent of Farms			
West 2/	273,000	53	47	31	19
$1,000-9,999	132,000	47	40	18	16
$10,000-99,999	90,200	53	47	34	18
$100,000 & Over	50,800	70	66	62	30
Crop Farms	130,800	60	55	41	23
Livestock Farms	142,200	47	39	22	16
US 3/	2,053,800	38	31	20	13
$1,000-9,999	1,030,400	32	25	11	12
$10,000-99,999	676,600	36	29	20	12
$100,000 & Over	346,800	60	54	47	20
Crop Farms	916,100	41	34	24	14
Livestock Farms	1,137,700	36	28	17	12

1/ Crop and livestock farms are based on 1992 Census of Agriculture percentages by farm type. 2/ Includes AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY. 3/ Excludes AK and HI.

Farm Computer Usage: Access, Ownership, & Use by Selected States & United States, 1997

State	Farms	Farms			
		With Computer Access	That Owned or Lease Computers	Using Computers for Farm Business	With Internet Access
	Number (000)	Percent of Farms			
AZ	7,500	46	42	35	16
CA	84,000	51	47	30	23
CO	24,500	47	43	31	16
ID	22,000	48	36	21	12
MT	23,000	54	41	33	15
NE	55,000	45	38	29	14
NV	2,500	37	33	10	5
NM	13,500	47	39	27	14
ND	30,500	44	34	28	11
OR	37,500	61	52	30	22
SD	32,500	43	30	24	13
TX	205,000	41	32	21	18
UT	13,400	68	52	31	29
WA	36,000	58	55	41	20
WY	9,100	56	45	37	11
US 1/	2,053,800	38	31	20	13

1/ Excludes AK and HI.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Crop Production
Wheat & Barley
Movement

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

August 1 Crop Production
Ag Prices Received
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

PLEASE RETURN

AUGUST 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

The estimated August 1 production for spring wheat and winter wheat remains unchanged from a month ago. Montana producers expect to produce 55.5 million bushels of winter wheat with yields averaging 37 bushels per acre. If realized this would be a 5 bushel increase from last year, while total production would be down over 12% due to the decrease in acreage harvested. The crop condition was rated mostly fair to good as of August 1. Harvest is progressing ahead of normal with 61% of the crop combined by the 10th.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 117.6 million bushels, up 10% from last year, with yields expected to average 28 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last year. If realized this would be the second largest other spring wheat crop on record. Harvest has just begun on spring wheat with 4% of the crop combined by the 10th with the condition also rated mostly fair to good. Durum wheat producers have increased their expected yield to 25 bushels per acre, up 4 from the last forecast and equaling last year. Total durum production is forecast up 15% from a year ago totaling 7.75 million bushels. Some much needed rain fell since the last forecast helping yield potential in the Northeast where most of the durum is grown.

Barley producers are also expecting a slightly better crop with yields expected to be 54 bushels per acre, up 2 from last month and up 11 bushels from last year. Total production is set at 64.8 million bushels up nearly 26% from last year. Oat production is forecast slightly higher than last month with production forecast at 3.85 million bushels nearly doubling last year's production due to an increase in acreage and higher yields. Oat yields are expected to average 55 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from last month's forecast and up 15 from last year.

Corn production in Montana is estimated at 1.95 million bushels down 5% from last year. Yields are expected to average 130 bushels per acre, down 7 from last year. Forecasted dry bean yield is set at 2,200 pounds per acre with total production set at 257,000 cwt., up 9% from last year. Sugar beet production is forecast at 1.24 million tons, down 5% from last year.

Montana hay producers are expecting better alfalfa yields this year. The expected yield is 2.5 tons per acre, up from 2.1 tons last season. Total production is forecast at 4.375 million tons, up 23% from last year. Other hay production is estimated at 1.36 million tons, up slightly from last year.

At the U.S. level, all wheat production is placed at 2.53 billion bushels, up 4% from the last forecast and 11% more than in 1996. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 39.9 bushels per acre, up 1.6 bushels per acre from last month and a new record high. The final winter wheat production forecast is 1.86 billion bushels, up 4% from last month and 26% higher than 1996. The U.S. yield is forecast at a record high 44.6 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from July 1. Grain area was not changed from last month.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 90.2 million bushels, up 11% from last month, but still well below last year. August 1 conditions in the northern Durum states have increased yield expectations in the Dakotas and Montana. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 28.1 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels per acre from July 1. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 585 million bushels, up 3% from a month ago. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 31.3 bushels per acre. This is 0.9 bushels per acre better than July 1. There were no area changes. Hard Red Spring production is up 3% from July at 528 million bushels and White Spring production is up 1%.

U.S. barley production is forecast at 380 million bushels, up 2% from July, but down 4% from 1996. Yields are expected to average 59.4 bushels per acre, up 1.3 bushels from July and 0.9 bushels from 1996. U.S. oat production for 1997 is forecast at 187 million bushels, up 2% from the July "Crop Production" report and up 21% from 1996. If realized, this would be the third lowest oat production since records were first kept in 1866. The forecasted yield, at 58.1 bushels per acre, is up 1.4 bushels from July and up 0.3 bushels from the previous year. U.S. corn production is forecast at 9.28 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from last year but up 26% from 1995. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 125.3 bushels per acre, down 1.8 bushels from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 74.0 million acres, up 1% from 1996.

Production of dry edible beans is forecast at 29.2 million cwt for 1997, up 7% from a year earlier, but down 5% from two years ago. Production is expected to be at or above 1996 levels in all states except Nebraska and North Dakota. Planted area is estimated at 1.91 million acres, 6% above 1996, but 8% below 1995. Sugar beets production for the U.S. is expected to total 29.7 million tons, an increase of 11% from 1996.

All hay production for 1997 is forecast at 154 million tons, up 3% from 1996 ,but down slightly from 1995. U.S. alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production is forecast at 77.8 million tons, 2% below last year and 8% below 1995. All other hay production for the U.S. is forecast at 76.1 million tons, 9% above the year earlier.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, AUGUST 1, 1997

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,150	1,600	1,980	1,500	32.0	37.0	63,360	55,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	320	270	310	25.0	25.0	6,750	7,750
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,200	4,350	4,100	4,200	26.0	28.0	106,600	117,600
All Wheat	Bu.	6,630	6,270	6,350	6,010	27.8	30.1	176,710	180,850
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	55	50	15	15	137.0	130.0	2,055	1,950
Oats	Bu.	100	140	50	70	40.0	55.0	2,000	3,850
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	43.0	54.0	51,600	64,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.5	12.2	10.3	11.7	22.8	22.0	235	257
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.7	59.7	57.5	58.5	22.6	21.2	1,300	1,240
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.4	315.0	3/	3,213	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.10	2.50	3,570	4,375
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.50	1.60	1,350	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,600	1.89	2.21	4,920	5,735
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,983	48,342	39,709	41,583	37.2	44.6	1,478,048	1,855,474
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,620	3,270	3,546	3,208	32.7	28.1	115,840	90,155
Spring Wheat	Bu.	20,036	19,155	19,595	18,704	35.1	31.3	687,875	584,905
All Wheat	Bu.	75,639	70,767	62,850	63,495	36.3	39.9	2,281,763	2,530,534
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	79,487	80,227	73,147	74,049	127.1	125.3	9,293,435	9,275,870
Oats	Bu.	4,661	5,264	2,687	3,222	57.8	58.1	155,225	187,127
Barley	Bu.	7,174	6,769	6,787	6,397	58.5	59.4	396,851	380,015
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,813.0	1,913.6	1,717.7	1,750.1	1,592.0	1,666.0	27,354	29,163
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,368.4	1,464.4	1,323.3	1,438.5	20.2	20.6	26,680	29,688
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,268.9	1,198.6	1,245.6	1,181.6	363.0	3/	452,039	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,291	23,556	3.27	3.30	79,377	77,817
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,738	37,251	1.91	2.04	70,080	76,069
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,029	60,807	2.45	2.53	149,457	153,886

[1/] Preliminary. [2/] Planted for all purposes. [3/] Production forecast available November 10, 1997.

ALL WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, Selected States & U.S., 1996 & Forecasted August 1, 1997

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1996	1997	1996	July 1, 1997	Aug. 1, 1997	1996	1997
	1,000 Acres			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,268	2,912	33.3	34.0	34.0	75,500	99,010
ID	1,560	1,430	76.4	76.0	77.3	119,200	110,480
KS	8,800	10,700	29.0	42.0	46.0	255,200	492,200
MN	2,442	2,405	41.9	37.9	35.0	102,382	84,180
MT	**6,350**	**6,010**	**27.8**	**29.9**	**30.1**	**176,710**	**180,850**
NE	2,100	1,900	35.0	35.0	37.0	73,500	70,300
ND	12,515	11,188	31.6	23.8	26.0	395,130	291,438
OK	4,900	5,400	19.0	32.0	33.0	93,100	178,200
OR	955	965	70.8	66.4	69.0	67,605	66,550
SD	3,854	3,574	36.1	30.9	31.6	139,270	113,098
TX	2,900	4,100	26.0	29.0	29.0	75,400	118,900
WA	2,745	2,595	66.5	60.4	62.4	182,670	162,000
US	62,850	63,495	36.3	38.3	39.9	2,281,763	2,530,534

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1997 [1/]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1996	1997	97/96	1996	1997	97/96	1996	1997	97/96
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	960	900	94	1,950	1,804	93	2,550	1,900	75
N Central	36,900	28,200	76	47,244	55,250	117	27,600	35,600	129
Northeast	3,300	2,700	82	45,569	42,575	93	3,400	4,200	124
Central	10,800	12,300	114	7,582	12,300	162	8,800	12,000	136
Southwest	1,600	1,500	94	2,625	3,835	146	3,750	4,500	120
S Central	6,500	7,000	108	2,400	4,306	179	4,100	5,100	124
Southeast	3,300	2,900	88	5,980	5,280	88	1,400	1,500	107
Montana	63,360	55,500	88	113,350	125,350	111	51,600	64,800	126

[1/] District data funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR JUNE MOSTLY LOWER

Montana crop prices for the full month of June were lower with the exception of feed barley. Winter wheat dropped 19 cents to $4.04 per bushel, durum wheat declined 21 cents to $4.20 per bushel. Spring wheat went down 18 cents to $3.99 per bushel. Feed barley increased 4 cents per bushel to $2.27, but malt barley declined 33 cents to $2.97 per bushel. At $1.65 per bushel, oats averaged 15 cents lower than the previous month. The all wheat price for mid-July averaged $3.76 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.19. June full month prices for alfalfa hay fell $17.00 to average $84.00 per ton. Other hay, at $71.00, dropped $18.00 per ton from the previous month.

Livestock prices for the full month of June were mostly lower than the previous month with the exception of sheep. Steers and heifers saw a $5.00 decrease to $72.40 per cwt. Cows were down $2.10 to $39.60 and the average price for calves fell $5.00 to $79.30 per cwt. Sheep increased $3.80 to $37.20 per cwt, while lambs dropped $10.10 to $92.90 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $1.30 to $12.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $73.40 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $64.90 per cwt for the full month of June. Cow prices came in at $37.50 and hogs were $57.80 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.52 per bushel and $2.25 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 59.7 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in July was 107 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (0.9 percent) from June. Price decreases from June for wheat, hay, cantaloupes, and corn more than offset price increases for broilers, eggs, lettuce, and celery. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level, however, these changes were essentially offsetting in July.

Compared with July 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 12 points (10 percent) lower. Price decreases from July 1996 for corn, wheat, milk, and grain sorghum more than offset price increases for cattle, calves, hay, and lettuce.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	June 1996	July 1996	June 1997	July 1997
Prices Received	118	119	108	107
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	115	115	117	117
Ratio [2/]	103	103	92	91

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	July 15, 1997	July 15, 1997
		June 1996	May 1997	June 1997	June 1997		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	5.45	4.23	4.04	4.32	3.30	3.10
DurumWheat	Bu.	5.65	4.41	4.20	4.21	4.80	4.52
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	5.26	4.17	3.99	3.74	3.80	3.56
All Wheat	Bu.	5.32	4.20	4.02	3.52	3.76	3.18
Barley, All	Bu.	3.28	2.62	2.42	2.25	2.19	2.10
Feed	Bu.	3.27	2.23	2.27	2.14	1.95	2.03
Malt	Bu.	3.37	3.30	2.97	2.38	2.75	2.22
Oats	Bu.	2.23	1.80	1.65	1.81	1.60	1.75
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	64.00	101.00	84.00	115.00	79.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	89.00	71.00	79.40	71.00	72.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	64.00	98.00	84.00	108.00	78.00	98.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	54.30	77.40	72.40	64.90	73.40	65.30
Cows	Cwt.	32.90	41.70	39.60	37.50	40.10	38.10
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt	39.70	56.70	48.80	62.30	53.40	62.70
Calves	Cwt.	55.90	84.30	79.30	85.40	80.30	86.60
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	31.90	33.40	37.20	36.20	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	98.80	103.00	92.90	86.60	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	13.90	13.40	12.10	12.40	12.40	12.30

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

There are an estimated 23,000 farms in Montana, up 1,000 from a year ago. Virtually all the increase was made up by an increase in small sized farms. Land in farms fell 100,000 acres to 59.6 million acres. The average size of farm is 2,591 acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 1997 is estimated at 2.06 million, down less than one percent from 1996. Total land in farms is 968 million acres, also down less than one percent from last year. This decline in farm numbers and land in farms continues to follow historical trends. The average farm size was unchanged from 1996 at 470 acres.

The West and Northeast Regions were both up in farm numbers from 1996. The West Region showed the largest increase up 2,000 farms or 0.7%, while the Northeast was up 300 farms or 0.2% from 1996. The largest decrease was in the South with a loss of 3,800 farms or 0.4%. The North Central Region was down 3,500 farms or 0.4%.

Texas remained the State with the most farms at 205,000, the same as a year earlier. Missouri was second with 102,000 farms, down 2,000 from last year, followed by Iowa with 98,000 farms, the same as 1996.

Eight States increased in farm numbers while 14 states decreased from a year ago. California showed the largest increase with 2,000 farms while Indiana, Montana, Ohio, and Oklahoma showed increases of 1,000 farms from last year. Missouri showed the largest decrease, 2,000 farms.

Texas continued to lead the nation in land in farms and ranches with 129.0 million acres, the same as 1996. Four states with decreases of 200,000 acres in agricultural land from a year ago were Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, and New Mexico. There were nine states with decreases of 100,000 acres in agricultural land from a year ago. There were no states that increased acres in agricultural land in farms from a year ago.

The number of U.S. farms in the economic sales class between $1,000 and $9,999 increased from 1,021,110 in 1996 to 1,032,510 in 1997. Those with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 group decreased from 705,100 to 678,500. The $100,000 and over sales group increased from 337,700 to 347,900 farms.

Estimates for the number of farms and land in farms refer to June 1. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year."

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates	Cattle on Feed
Milk Production	Egg Production
Farm Labor	Slaughter

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Cattle & Calf Inventory
July 1 Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Mink Production
Milk Production
Egg Production

UNITED STATES JULY 1 CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1997, totaled 108.8 million head, 2 percent below the 111.5 million on July 1, 1996 and 4 percent below the 113.0 million two years ago. All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, at 10.9 million, were up 11 percent from last year, but down 3 percent from two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 44.0 million, were 2 percent below the 45.0 million on July 1, 1996 and 4 percent below the 45.6 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 34.7 million, were down 3 percent from July 1, 1996 and 4 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.30 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1996 and 2 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1997, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.1 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent. - Beef replacement heifers, 5.3 million, down 4 percent and down 7 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.6 million, down 3 percent and down 8 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.2 million, up 1 percent and up 3 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.6 million, down 3 percent and down 5 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.3 million, down 4 percent from both years.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.8 million, down 3 percent and down 4 percent.

The 1997 calf crop is expected to be 38.8 million, down 2 percent from 1996 and down 4 percent from 1995. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.5 million, down 2 percent from 1996 and down 3 percent from 1995.

JULY U.S. ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS TOTAL 9.90 MILLION HEAD

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 1997, totaled 9.90 million head, 4 percent below July 1, 1996. Total breeding sheep and lambs reached 5.78 million head, 6 percent below July 1996. Of the July 1, 1997 breeding herd, 4.80 million head were ewes one year old and older, 230,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 750,000 head were replacement lambs.

Market sheep and lambs, at 4.13 million head, were slightly below July 1996. Of the total market lambs, 61.7 percent were under 65 pounds, 20.3 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 11.4 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remainder, 6.6 percent, were over 105 pounds on July 1.

The 1997 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.95 million head, down 6 percent from the 1996 lamb crop of 5.30 million head. Lambs born during January through June 1997 reached 4.36 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 590,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 1997.

The July 1 sheep and lamb numbers are published by regions. Montana is included with Colorado, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The total number of sheep and lambs in the region was 3.4 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago. This region accounted for 34.3 percent of the total U.S. sheep and lambs.

The region's breeding sheep and lambs inventory was 1.9 million head, down 4 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep and lambs, 1.6 million head were ewes one year old and older, 55,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 225,000 head were replacement lambs.

All market sheep and lambs for the region totaled 1.6 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of the total market lambs, 72.1 percent were under 65 pounds, 13.1 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 6.6 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remaining 8.2 percent were over 105 pounds.

Lambs born during January and June 1997 in the region reached 1.6 million head. An additional 20,000 are expected to be born during the period July through December 1997.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 14 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.96 million head on July 1, 1997, 14 percent above July 1, 1996. The inventory included 5.41 million steers and steer calves, up 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounts for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.50 million head, up 26 percent from 1996.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.44 million, 11 percent above 1996. **Net placements** were 1.38 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 308,000, 600-699 pounds were 338,000, 700-799 pounds were 460,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 338,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.04 million, 2 percent above 1996. The year-to-year relationship between fed cattle marketed and commercial slaughter continues to be affected by the decrease in cattle imported from Canada that are going directly to slaughter. **Other disappearance** totaled 60,000 during June, 14 percent below the previous year.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN, BUT U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP FOR JUNE

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 1997, down 18 percent from June 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, 300 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,150 pounds, was down 47 pounds from a year ago.

During June, there were 1,500 head of hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight decreased a pound to 219 pounds. Sheep slaughter was the same as a year earlier at 100 head, however, the average live weight increased 12 pounds to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.49 billion pounds during June, up 2 percent from the previous year. Beef production, at 2.13 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, down 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was equal to last year, at 1,160 pounds.

Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 119,100 head, down 12 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was up 14 pounds to 361 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.31 billion pounds, was up 9 percent from a year ago. Hog kill totaled 7.00 million head, 7 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year at 256 pounds. Lamb and mutton production totaled 21.0 million pounds, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Sheep slaughter totaled 303,300 head, 7 percent above the previous year. The average live weight was up 9 pounds to 138 pounds.

U.S. PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1996 totaled 2.65 million pelts, down 1 percent from 1995. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 718,000 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 46.7 percent; Mahogany - 21.1 percent; Gunmetal - 12.8 percent; Ranch Wild - 7.4 percent; Demi-buff - 4.1 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7.9 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1996 crop year were valued at $93.5 million dollars, down 35 percent from $142.8 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1996 crop year was $35.30, down from the record high price of $53.10 in 1995.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1997 totaled 710,800, up 5 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1997 by color class are: Standard - 46.5 percent; Mahogany - 19.5 percent; Gunmetal - 12.8 percent; Ranch Wild - 6.7 percent; Sapphire - 4.5 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.0 percent.

There were 415 mink farms producing pelts in 1996, down 7 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 130 farms, Wisconsin with 74 farms and Minnesota with 40. There were 40 mink farms which also raised fox in 1996, compared to 49 for the previous year.

1997 MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY VARIETIES SURVEY

Neeley continued to be the leading variety of **winter wheat** seeded in Montana for the tenth consecutive year with over 375 thousand acres planted in the state. It is a hard red, semi-dwarf winter wheat that generally has 1 to 3 percent lower protein than most recommended hard red winter wheats. Neeley has satisfactory milling and baking qualities.

Rocky moved up to second place this year from its third place position a year ago with over 300 thousand acres planted.

Tiber traded places with Rocky to fall to third place this year. It accounted for slightly more than 13 percent of the winter wheat planted in the state, down more than 130 thousand acres from last year.

Amidon maintained its number one **spring wheat** position for the sixth consecutive year although producers planted 100 thousand fewer acres than in 1996. It accounts for almost 25 percent of the seeded spring wheat in Montana, and over half the Amidon acreage was seeded in the Northeast district. A hard red spring wheat, Amidon's baking qualities are rated as superior with satisfactory milling qualities.

McNeal was the most popular newly discovered variety, increasing its percent planted from 1.3 in 1996 to 16 percent this year. Developed in Montana and released in 1995, McNeal has superior yield and average protein levels.

Westbred Rambo dropped a place to third after seven consecutive years as the second most popular spring wheat in the state. Accounting for almost 10 percent of the statewide seeded spring wheat acreage, more than 85 percent of Westbred Rambo was seeded in the North Central district of the state.

Kyle maintained its position as the top **durum** variety for the fourth year, doubling its seeded acreage from last year with over 120 thousand acres planted. Developed in Canada and released in 1984, it is resistant to prevalent races of leaf and stem rust. It has an overall quality rating of good.

Monroe remained in the second place position this year, although acres seeded dropped by over 12 thousand acres. Monroe accounting for 14 percent of the durum acreage, down from 20 percent in 1996.

Medora increased its percent planted from 2 percent in 1996 to over 8 percent this year, making it the third most popular durum wheat.

Harrington was the top **malting-type barley variety** planted. It accounted for one third of all varieties planted and over three quarters of the varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association.

Baronesse stayed in the top position among **feed-type barleys** from last year. It accounted for over 15 percent of the barley seeded and over one fourth of the feed-type barley.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat and barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee and the American Malting Barley Association, Inc. A more detailed report may be obtained from our office upon request.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1992-1997

VARIETY	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 [1]	1997
WINTER WHEAT						
Neeley	25.0	18.4	23.3	23.6	24.6	23.4
Rocky	12.5	14.8	13.3	16.5	14.6	18.7
Tiber	13.5	10.7	16.2	12.4	16.5	13.6
Redwin	9.9	10.8	10.0	8.9	11.4	10.5
Kestrel	--	--	0.1	0.4	1.4	4.1
Judith	7.0	9.8	10.2	8.2	3.7	3.4
Roughrider	2.8	2.0	1.8	1.0	2.1	2.9
Winalta	6.1	5.8	4.4	2.8	3.5	2.3
Big Horn	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.7	4.0	2.2
Norstar	7.6	6.4	2.0	4.0	1.8	1.8
Hawk	1.0	1.0	0.9	2.4	0.9	1.6
Centurk	3.3	2.4	2.6	3.1	3.1	1.5
Quantum 542	--	0.3	1.1	1.8	0.6	1.2
Vangard	--	--	--	--	--	0.8
Sierra	--	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.7
Rose	0.1	0.1	0.8	--	0.3	0.6
Warrior	0.7	1.1	1.7	0.7	0.4	0.5
Arapahoe	--	--	--	0.2	0.3	0.5
Stephens [2]	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.5
Weston	0.6	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.4
Agassiz	0.1	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
Yuma	--	--	--	--	--	0.2
Cheyenne	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.2
Cashup [2]	--	--	--	--	--	0.1
Other & Unknown	8.5	12.7	7.8	10.7	8.6	8.0
State Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT						
Amidon	19.6	29.0	27.9	29.9	28.0	24.6
McNeal	--	--	--	--	1.3	16.1
Westbred Rambo	16.7	15.5	11.9	10.5	9.9	9.9
Grandin	0.7	3.4	8.5	7.3	8.8	8.9
Fortuna	6.6	6.6	8.0	8.3	5.9	6.3
Stoa	6.7	5.9	5.7	3.6	6.1	4.4
Ernest	--	--	--	--	0.2	3.1
Hi-Line	--	0.4	2.4	4.3	5.6	3.1
Len	8.1	6.6	6.3	6.3	3.6	3.1
Westbred 926	0.9	1.5	2.0	3.0	2.5	3.0
Lew	8.7	5.0	7.2	4.9	4.4	2.5
Newana	12.9	8.2	6.9	5.8	5.0	2.4
Butte 86	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.9	0.7	1.3
Westbred 936	--	--	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.1
Fergus	--	--	--	0.2	0.6	0.9
Westbred Express	--	--	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7
Gus	0.1	--	0.1	0.6	1.3	0.7
Olaf	2.7	2.8	2.2	1.1	0.5	0.6
Kulm	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.4
Bounty 309	--	--	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4
Bergen	--	--	--	--	0.6	0.3
Border	--	--	--	0.2	0.8	0.3
Glenman	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3
Sonja	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.3
Other & Unknown	14.4	13.4	9.2	11.2	11.4	5.3
State Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

VARIETY	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996 [1]	1997
DURUM WHEAT						
Kyle	2.4	7.0	23.6	23.4	20.4	38.4
Monroe	10.3	24.2	22.5	11.1	20.5	14.0
Medora	20.8	18.0	3.4	6.0	2.4	8.6
Renville	5.9	2.8	7.4	10.0	9.0	8.3
Vic	26.6	7.7	9.3	17.7	13.9	7.4
Sceptre	--	--	--	3.8	3.1	5.4
Crosby	4.8	2.8	6.4	3.5	7.8	5.0
Westbred Laker	8.9	23.5	14.5	3.8	3.1	2.8
Ward	5.8	1.3	4.6	4.7	5.4	1.9
Durex	--	--	--	--	0.8	1.0
Voss	--	--	--	--	--	1.0
Plenty	--	--	1.7	3.7	7.1	0.9
Kemut	--	--	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.6
Westbred 881	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.1
Other & Unknown	14.5	12.7	5.5	12.0	5.8	4.6
State Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
BARLEY						
Harrington [3]	23.5	22.0	28.0	24.9	32.6	33.3
Baronesse	0.1	1.5	7.2	11.9	12.2	15.2
Hector	23.9	22.5	14.7	13.5	10.2	9.0
Gallatin	8.0	8.4	8.8	6.9	5.7	5.7
B 1202 [3]	3.9	5.7	3.7	6.1	5.4	5.2
Bowman	7.1	7.3	5.8	6.9	6.0	5.0
Piroline	9.5	7.4	5.6	4.3	3.0	3.4
Haybet	--	--	0.7	1.5	1.4	2.0
Horsford	1.4	1.9	1.3	1.2	2.3	1.8
B 2601 [3]	1.4	0.6	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.7
Westford	--	--	0.1	0.5	0.5	1.5
Lewis	2.2	5.1	5.2	2.5	2.4	1.5
Galena	--	--	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.4
Morex [3]	3.0	2.4	2.0	0.5	0.7	1.3
Clark	2.5	2.1	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.1
Stark	--	--	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9
Moravian III [3]	1.8	1.9	0.8	1.0	1.8	0.9
Chinook [3]	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.8
Menuet	1.4	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.6
Unitan	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	--	0.5
Waxbar	--	--	--	0.3	0.3	0.4
Excel [3]	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.3	--	0.4
Klages [3]	0.3	0.6	--	0.1	0.8	0.3
Kimberly	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Other & Unknown	9.4	9.0	9.9	10.6	8.0	5.8
State Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Revised. [2] Soft White Wheat. [3] American Malting Barley Association, Inc. recommended for malting and brewing for Montana.

MONTANA AND U.S. APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION UP

Montana milk cows produced 78 million pounds of milk during the period of April-June 1997, compared with 77 million the same quarter a year ago. Even though there was a one percent increase in milk production, milk cow inventory declined from 20,000 head a year ago to 19,000 head this year.

The daily amount of grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on July 1, amounted to 17.2 pounds per cow, down 0.6 pounds from last year. The value of the grains and other concentrates fed, at $8.30 per cwt, decreased a dollar from last year.

During the April-June period, the U.S. produced 40.6 billion pounds of milk, 2 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.25 million head, 117,000 head less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1997, averaged 19.0 pounds, up 0.7 pounds from July 1, 1996, but down 0.5 pounds from April 1, 1997. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1997 averaged 8.73 per cwt, $1.14 less than the price on July 1, 1996.

U.S. JUNE EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.27 billion during June 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.17 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.25 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 958 million were broiler-type and 57.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 1997 averaged 299 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during June 1996. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,092 eggs, compared with 2,099 in June 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1997, totaled 299 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 299 million layers consisted of 243 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.52 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1997, averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.3 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.94 billion eggs during June, up 2 percent from June 1996. The average number of layers during June, at 284 million, was up 2 percent from the year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates	Cattle on Feed
Milk Production	Egg Production
Farm Labor	Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
Potato Production
Ag Prices Received
U.S. Wheat Supply, Disappearance, and Price

JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana wheat producers are expecting the third largest wheat crop on record. As of July 1, producers expect to harvest 179.61 million bushels of all wheat this year, 2 percent more than last year's crop. Growers expect to harvest 6.01 million acres of wheat, which would be the second largest harvested acreage on record. Forecasted yield for winter wheat is up 2 bushels from last month's forecast to 37 bushels per acre, this would be 5 bushels higher than last year. Good moisture throughout the main winter wheat production areas has led to a better crop condition and increased yields. Total winter wheat production is estimated at 55.5 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year due to the decrease in acreage for harvest. Growers intend to harvest 1.5 million acres of winter wheat down 24 percent from last year.

Spring wheat producers plan to harvest 4.2 million acres, up 100,000 acres from last year. This would be the most other spring wheat harvested since 1953 when durum and other spring wheat were combined. Forecasted yield is set at 28 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last year. The eastern third of the state, which has suffered from drought-like conditions, pulled the state average yield down. Total production is estimated at 117.6 million bushels, up 10 percent from last year. This would be the second largest other spring wheat crop on record due mainly to the large acreage harvested. Durum wheat production is forecast at 6.51 million bushels, down 4 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 21 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from last year. A lack of moisture through July 1 hurt yield potential in the Northeast district where most of the durum is produced. Producers plan to harvest 310,000 acres up from 270,000 last year.

Barley yields are estimated at 52 bushels per acre, which, if realized, would be 9 bushels higher than last year. Total production is forecast at 62.4 million bushels up 21 percent from 1996. Growers expect to harvest 1.2 million acres unchanged from 1996. Oat production is set at 3.64 million bushels, nearly twice last year's production of 2.0 million bushels. Yield is estimated at 52 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels per acre from 1996. Growers plan to harvest 70,000 acres up 20,000 acres from a year ago.

U.S. all wheat production is forecast at 2.43 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 1996. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 38.3 bushels per acre. This is up 2.0 bushels from last year, largely due to a tremendous increase in winter wheat production.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.78 billion bushels, up 11 percent from last month and 20 percent higher than 1996. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at a record high 42.8 bushels per acre. This is up 3.5 bushels from June 1 and 5.6 bushels per acre better than last year. Hard Red Winter wheat production is up 141 million bushels from last month largely due to increases in acreage to be harvested and improved yields. The Kansas yield is a new record. Soft Red Winter, at 455 million, is also up from a month ago and is near 1995 levels. Illinois and Missouri growers are now expecting record high yields.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 569 million bushels, down 17 percent from 1996. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 30.4 bushels per acre. This is 4.7 bushels per acre below last year. Grain area totals 18.7 million acres, down 5 percent. Hard Red Spring production is down 18 percent from last year at 513 million bushels. White Spring production is down 7 percent. Durum wheat production is forecast at 80.9 million bushels, down 30 percent from 1996. Lower expected yields are the main cause of the decline. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 25.2 bushels per acre. This is down 7.5 bushels per acre from last year and the lowest average since 1989.

U.S. oat production for 1997 is forecast at 183 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. If realized, this would be the third lowest oat production since records were first kept in 1866. The forecasted yield, at 56.7 bushels per acre, is down 1.1 bushels from last year's 57.8 bushels. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 3.22 million acres, is up 20 percent from 1996. This also would be the third lowest oat acreage harvested for grain on record.

Barley production is forecast at 372 million bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago, but up 3 percent from 1995. Yields are expected to average 58.1 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushels from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 6.40 million acres, is 6 percent below the 6.79 million acres harvested the previous year.

POTATO PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES - JULY 1, 1997

Montana potato producers planted an estimated 10,400 acres this year unchanged from a year ago. Currently, growers plan on harvesting all acres. Potato farmers across the United States have planted an estimated 1.37 million acres of potatoes in all four 1997 seasons, down 6 percent from last year and 2 percent below 1995. Area for harvest is forecast at 1.35 million acres, down 5 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below two years ago. Winter plantings were up 8 percent, spring dropped 6 percent, summer fell 13 percent, and fall, with 88 percent of total U.S. acreage, declined 6 percent. Area planted to fall potatoes in 1997 is estimated at 1.20 million acres, down 6 percent from last year's record high and 2 percent below 1995. Harvest is expected from 1.18 million acres, 5 percent less than a year ago and 2 percent under 1995.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, JULY 1, 1997

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,150	1,600	1,980	1,500	32.0	37.0	63,360	55,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	320	270	310	25.0	21.0	6,750	6,510
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,200	4,350	4,100	4,200	26.0	28.0	106,600	117,600
All Wheat	Bu.	6,630	6,270	6,350	6,010	27.8	29.9	176,710	179,610
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	55	50	15	15	137.0	3/	2,055	3/
Oats	Bu.	100	140	50	70	40.0	52.0	2,000	3,640
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	43.0	52.0	51,600	62,400
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.5	11.5	10.3	11.3	22.8	3/	235	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.7	59.7	57.5	59.4	22.6	3/	1,300	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.4	315.0	4/	3,213	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.10	3/	3,570	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.50	3/	1,350	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,600	1.89	3/	4,920	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,983	48,342	39,709	41,583	37.2	42.8	1,478,048	1,780,554
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,620	3,270	3,546	3,208	32.7	25.2	115,840	80,927
Spring Wheat	Bu.	20,036	19,155	19,595	18,704	35.1	30.4	687,875	569,265
All Wheat	Bu.	75,639	70,767	62,850	63,495	36.3	38.3	2,281,763	2,430,746
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	79,487	80,227	73,147	74,019	127.1	3/	9,293,435	3/
Oats	Bu.	4,661	5,264	2,687	3,222	57.8	56.7	155,225	182,672
Barley	Bu.	7,174	6,769	6,787	6,397	58.5	58.1	396,851	371,778
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,813.0	1,900.4	1,717.7	1,811.5	1,592.0	3/	27,354	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,368.4	1,464.4	1,323.3	1,443.4	20.2	3/	26,680	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,268.9	1,198.6	1,246.6	1,181.6	363.0	4/	452,039	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,291	23,556	3.27	3/	79,377	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,738	37,258	1.91	3/	70,080	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,029	60,814	2.45	3/	149,457	3/

[1/] Preliminary. [2/] Planted for all purposes. [3/] Acreage production forecast available August 12, 1997. [4/] Production forecast available November 10, 1997.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1997 [1/]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1996	1997	97/96	1996	1997	97/96	1996	1997	97/96
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	960	900	94	1,950	1,804	93	2,550	1,800	71
N Central	36,900	28,200	76	47,244	58,460	124	27,600	35,300	128
Northeast	3,300	3,000	91	45,569	38,750	85	3,400	3,400	100
Central	10,800	12,000	111	7,582	11,800	156	8,800	11,100	126
Southwest	1,600	1,500	94	2,625	3,730	142	3,750	4,500	120
S Central	6,500	7,000	108	2,400	4,306	179	4,100	5,100	124
Southeast	3,300	2,900	88	5,980	5,260	88	1,400	1,200	86
Montana	63,360	55,500	88	113,350	124,110	109	51,600	62,400	121

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR MAY

Montana winter wheat increased 12 cents to $4.23 per bushel, durum wheat increased 28 cents to $4.41 per bushel. Spring wheat went up 1 cent to $4.17 per bushel. Feed barley increased 1 cent per bushel to $2.23 and malt barley increased 17 cents to $3.30 per bushel. At $1.80 per bushel oats averaged 20 cents lower than the previous month on limited movement during May. The all wheat price for mid-June averaged $3.92 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.53. The price for alfalfa hay in June, at $84.00 per ton, is down $17.00 from last month. The June other hay price decreased $18.00 since May to $71.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mixed from last month. Steers and heifers saw a $3.30 increase to $77.40 per cwt. Cows increased 30 cents $41.70 and the average price for calves rose 40 cents to $84.30 per cwt. Sheep decreased $4.20 to $33.40 per cwt while lambs increased $3.00 to $103.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 40 cents to $13.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $74.90 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $68.30 per cwt for the full month of May. Cow prices came in at $38.20 and hogs were $58.20 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.09 per bushel and $2.31 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 64.3 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 107 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (0.9 percent) from May. Price decreases from May for cattle, milk, wheat, and cantaloupes more than offset price increases for lettuce, strawberries, lemons, and broilers. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of wheat, grapes, hay, and cantaloupes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of oranges, tomatoes, strawberries, and cattle. These changes in marketings limited the decline in the index.

Compared with June 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 11 points (9.3 percent) lower. Price decreases from June 1996 for corn, wheat, milk, and broilers more than offset price increases for cattle, soybeans, hay, and calves.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	May 1996	June 1996	May 1997	June 1997
Prices Received	112	118	108	107
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	115	115	117	117
Ratio 2/	103	103	92	91

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	June 15, 1997	June 15, 1997
		May 1996	Apr. 1997	May 1997	May 1997		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	5.62	4.11	4.23	4.10	3.85	3.54
Durum	Bu.	5.32	4.13	4.41	4.41	4.15	4.37
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	5.46	4.16	4.17	3.98	3.95	3.85
All Wheat	Bu.	5.49	4.14	4.20	4.09	3.92	3.66
Barley, All	Bu.	3.34	2.55	2.62	2.31	2.53	2.30
Feed	Bu.	3.27	2.22	2.23	2.33	2.15	2.25
Malt	Bu.	3.40	3.13	3.30	2.30	3.10	2.36
Oats	Bu.	1.94	2.00	1.80	1.86	1.80	1.80
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	65.00	114.00	101.00	127.00	84.00	115.00
All Other Hay	Ton	56.00	95.00	89.00	84.80	71.00	79.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	63.00	112.00	98.00	118.00	84.00	108.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	53.80	74.10	77.40	68.30	74.90	64.90
Cows	Cwt.	32.70	41.40	41.70	38.70	39.70	36.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	44.30	62.30	56.70	65.10	52.00	61.90
Calves	Cwt.	59.40	83.90	84.30	84.30	80.20	85.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	25.20	37.60	33.40	33.40	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	94.60	100.00	103.00	90.90	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	14.10	13.80	13.40	13.00	12.90	12.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

PROJECTED U.S. WHEAT STOCKS

Projected U.S. 1997/98 ending stocks are up 71 million bushels from last month as a 127-million-bushel rise in the crop more than offsets expanding use. Winter wheat production is forecast up 177 million bushels from last month because of higher area and yields. The forecast for spring wheat (including durum), however, is lower. Also, with the U.S. durum crop down 30 percent from last year, projected imports are up 10 million bushels from last month. Partially offsetting the larger all-wheat supplies are lower reported carryin stocks than forecast last month, and a rise of 25 million bushels each for domestic use and exports. Still, ending stocks are substantially higher and the projected price range is reduced 35 cents on each end to $3.10 to $3.70 per bushel.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1981-1998

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1981 . . .	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 . . .	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 . . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . . .	376	2,282	90	2,748	890	103	316	1,309	995	2,304	444	4.35
1997 . . .	444	2,431	100	2,975	900	100	275	1,275	1,050	2,325	650	3.10-3.70
1998 . 3/	650											

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 1997--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

U.S. Cattle Inventory	Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed	Wheat & Barley Varieties
Sheep Inventory	Mink Production
Red Meat Production	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

June Planted Acreage
June 1 Grain Stocks
Sweet Cherry Production
U.S. Egg Production
May Red Meat Production
U.S. Cattle on Feed
U.S.Hogs & Pigs
Milk Production

JUNE 1, 1997 PLANTED ACREAGE

Montana producers planted a record 4.35 million acres of spring wheat this year, up 150,000 acres from last year. The decrease in winter wheat acreage lead to this record spring wheat crop. Producers plan to harvest 4.2 million acres. Most areas of the state have adequate moisture for the crop except for some areas in the eastern part of the state. A lack of good moisture last fall held winter wheat seedings back. Winter wheat planted acreage is estimated at 1.6 million acres down 450,000 acres from the previous year. Winter kill caused quite a few acres to have to be reseeded. Currently, producers plan to harvest 1.5 million acres. Durum wheat planted acreage is estimated at 320,000 acres with 310,000 acres for harvest. This is a slight increase from a year ago. For the fifth year in a row barley growers seeded 1.3 million acres. Harvested acreage is set at 1.2 million acres, unchanged from a year ago. There are an estimated 140,000 acres of oats seeded, up 40,000 acres from last year. Producers plan to harvest 70,000 acres, up 20,000 from a year ago.

Corn growers planted 50,000 acres of corn, down 5,000 from last year. Dry bean seedings are set at 11,500 acres, up from 10,500 last year with harvested acreage set at 11,300. There were 59,700 acres of sugar beets planted, 2,000 acres more than a year ago. Hay producers plan to harvest 1.75 million acres of alfalfa hay mixtures this year. Harvested acreage of other hay is set at 850,000 acres down slightly from a year ago. At the time of the June 1 Agricultural Survey CRP land had not been approved for haying.

At the U.S. level, winter wheat area for grain is now estimated at 41.6 million acres, up 2 percent from the June 1 forecast and 5 percent more than 1996. Planted acres are 48.3 million acres, still down 7 percent from last year, but fractionally higher than the previously published level. Other spring wheat area planted for 1997 is estimated at 19.2 million acres, down 4 percent from 1996. Area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 18.7 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. The 1997 durum wheat planted area is estimated at 3.27 million acres; grain area is expected to total 3.21 million acres. Both acreages are down 10 percent from 1996.

Barley seedings nationwide totaled 6.77 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. This is the second lowest acreage planted since records were first kept in 1926. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 6.40 million acres, also down 5 percent from the year earlier. Over half of the 27 barley estimating States showed a decline in planted acres from the previous year.

Oats planted nationwide totaled 5.26 million acres, up 13 percent from last year. Planted acreage rebounded somewhat from last year's record low, but this is still the second lowest acreage on record. Planted oats acreage has dropped in recent years as a result of oats not being needed as a cover crop for set aside acreage. Growers intend to harvest 3.22 million acres, up 20 percent from the 2.69 million acres harvested in 1996. If realized, this would be the third lowest oat harvested acreage on record.

Corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 80.2 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. This is the largest planted acreage since 1985. Growers expect to harvest 74.0 million acres for grain, up 1 percent from 1996. If realized, this will also be the largest harvested acreage since 1985. Planted acreage of dry edible beans is estimated at 1.90 million acres this year, up 5 percent from last year, but 8 percent below two years ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 1.81 million acres, 5 percent above a year ago, but 5 percent below 1995.

Sugar beet growers planted an estimated 1.46 million acres of sugar beets for 1997, up 7 percent from last year. Planted acres increased in almost all of the major sugar beet-producing States. Nationwide, growers plan to harvest an estimated [illegible] million acres, up 9 percent from last year.

Producers in the U.S. expect to harvest 60.8 million acres of hay in 1997, down slightly from the 61.0 million acres harvested the previous year. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures are expected to total 23.6 million acres, down 3 percent from 1996. All other hay is estimated at 37.3 million acres, 1 percent above last year. With record level hay prices and depleted hay stocks, the demand for hay has remained high. Weather related problems have reduced the availability of hay land in many areas.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

JUNE 1, 1997 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana's June 1 all wheat stocks were estimated at 37.2 million bushels, up 35 percent from stock levels at this time in 1996. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 8.83 million bushels, up 26 percent from last year. All spring wheat stocks were estimated at 28.37 million bushels, up 38 percent from a year ago, but down 14 percent from the 10-year average for this time. Durum wheat stocks totaled 3.27 million bushels, up from 800,000 bushels the previous year. Montana barley stocks on June 1 were estimated at 7.3 million bushels, down 700,000 bushels from June 1, 1996. Oat stocks, at 1.1 million bushels, are up 26 percent from last year.

U.S. old crop all wheat stored in all positions June 1, 1997 totaled 444 million bushels, up 18 percent from June 1, 1996. Durum wheat in all storage positions on June 1, 1997 totaled 31.6 million bushels, up 23 percent from last June 1. Barley stored in all positions on June 1, 1997, totaled 110 million bushels, 10 percent above stocks of June 1, 1996. Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 1997 totaled 66.6 million bushels, fractionally above the stocks of June 1, 1996.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1996	Mar. 1, 1997	June 1, 1997	'97/'96	June 1, 1996	Mar. 1, 1997	June 1, 1997
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	16,000	64,000	26,500	166%	74,610	320,750	154,560
Off Farms 1/	11,500	14,600	10,700	93%	301,410	501,069	289,655
TOTAL	27,500	78,600	37,200	135%	376,020	821,819	444,215
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	3,000	19,000	6,000	200%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	4,000	4,200	2,830	71%	--	--	--
TOTAL	7,000	23,200	8,830	126%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	13,000	45,000	20,500	158%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	7,500	10,400	7,870	105%	--	--	--
TOTAL	20,500	55,400	28,370	138%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	12,470	33,100	17,800
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	13,275	21,956	13,838
TOTAL	800	4,600	3,270	409%	25,745	55,056	31,638
BARLEY							
On Farms	5,000	12,000	5,000	100%	25,600	82,060	43,715
Off Farms 1/	3,000	4,800	2,300	77%	73,993	90,840	66,235
TOTAL	8,000	16,800	7,300	91%	99,593	172,900	109,950
OATS							
On Farms	700	1,500	600	86%	32,600	56,200	33,100
Off Farms 1/	170	450	500	294%	33,708	39,362	33,489
TOTAL	870	1,950	1,100	126%	66,308	95,562	66,589
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	780,100	2,870,000	1,501,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	937,794	1,624,128	993,925
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,717,894	4,494,128	2,494,925

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1996	Mar. 1, 1997*	June 1, 1997	June 1, 1996	Mar. 1, 1997*	June 1, 1997
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.7
North Central	13.7	38.2	15.8	3.2	7.7	3.4
Northeast	7.4	23.9	13.6	0.9	1.7	0.7
Central	3.5	7.0	2.9	0.8	3.0	1.1
Southwest	0.4	2.0	0.9	0.4	1.1	0.5
South Central	1.3	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7	0.7
Southeast	1.1	5.0	1.9	0.6	0.7	0.2
MONTANA	27.5	78.6	37.2	8.0	16.8	7.3

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES, JUNE 1, 1997

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]	1996	1997 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,150	1,600	1,980	1,500	32.0	3/	63,360	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	320	270	310	25.0	3/	6,750	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,200	4,350	4,100	4,200	26.0	3/	106,600	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	6,630	6,270	6,350	6,010	27.8	3/	176,710	3/
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	55	50	15	15	137.0	4/	2,055	4/
Oats	Bu.	100	140	50	70	40.0	3/	2,000	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	43.0	3/	51,600	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.5	11.5	10.3	11.3	22.8	4/	235	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.7	59.7	57.5	59.4	22.6	4/	1,300	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.4	--	10.2	--	315.0	5/	3,213	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.10	4/	3,570	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.50	4/	1,350	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,600	1.89	4/	4,920	4/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,983	48,342	39,709	41,583	37.2	3/	1,478,048	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,620	3,270	3,546	3,208	32.7	3/	115,840	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	20,036	19,155	19,595	18,704	35.1	3/	687,875	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	75,639	70,767	62,850	63,495	36.3	3/	2,281,763	3/
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	79,487	80,227	73,147	74,019	127.1	4/	9,293,435	4/
Oats	Bu.	4,661	5,264	2,687	3,222	57.8	3/	155,225	3/
Barley	Bu.	7,174	6,769	6,787	6,397	58.5	3/	396,851	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,813.0	1,900.4	1,717.7	1,811.5	1592	4/	27,354	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,368.4	1,464.4	1,323.3	1,443.4	20.2	4/	26,680	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,268.0	--	1,246.6	--	363	5/	452,039	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,291	23,556	3.27	4/	79,377	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,738	37,258	1.91	4/	70,080	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,029	60,814	2.45	4/	149,457	4/

[1/] Preliminary. [2/] Planted for all purposes. [3/] Acreage production forecast available July 11, 1997. [4/] Production forecast available August 12, 1997. [5/] Production forecast available November 10, 1997.

MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May, 21 percent below last year, but 4 percent above last month. There were 1,400 head of cattle slaughtered last month, 200 head less than a year ago. The average live weight decreased 66 pounds from a year ago to 1,136 pounds.

The number of hogs slaughtered by Montana slaughter plants dropped 300 head from May 1996 to 1,300 head. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 222 pounds. There were 100 head of sheep and lambs slaughtered last month, the same as a year ago. Sheep and lambs averaged 125 pounds live weight, up 7 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. totaled 3.57 billion pounds during May, down 5 percent from the previous year.

Beef production, at 2.19 billion pounds, was down 5 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.18 million head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from the previous year, at 1,149 pounds. Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds, down 14 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 116,400 head, down 15 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was up 6 pounds to 361 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.33 billion pounds, was down 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.10 million head, 7 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year at 256 pounds. Lamb and mutton production totaled 22.0 million pounds, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Sheep slaughter totaled 316,600 head, 2 percent below the previous year. The average live weight was up 7 pounds to 139 pounds.

MAY EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.50 billion during May 1997, up 3 percent from the 6.34 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.46 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 978 million were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 1997 averaged 301 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during May 1996. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,157 eggs, compared with 2,153 in May 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 1997, totaled 301 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 301 million layers consisted of 245 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1997, averaged 70.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.5 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.17 billion eggs during May, up 3 percent from May 1996. The average number of layers during May, at 286 million, was up 3 percent from the year earlier.

JUNE SWEET CHERRY FORECAST

On June 1, 1997 Montana's sweet cherry crop was forecast at 1,000 tons up 300 tons from last year. There was favorable weather this spring and not much loss of fruit during the June drop.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 191,250 tons, up 24 percent from 1996 and 16 percent above 1995. The three largest states, California, Oregon, and Washington expect an increase in production from last year.

The Washington crop, at 85,000 tons, is 23 percent more than last year. All major areas forecasted an increase from last year, and a good quality crop is expected. Weather was favorable for growing conditions in Washington and Oregon. Production in Oregon is forecast at 43,000 tons, up 34 percent from last year. The sweet cherry crop in California is forecast at 35,000 tons, up 42 percent from 1996. Good weather throughout the growing season resulted in better yields. The Michigan sweet cherry crop is forecast at 24,000 tons, up 9 percent from 1996, but down 11 percent from 1995. Bloom population was adequate, but cold weather hampered pollination. Cooler than normal temperatures also affected crop development in New York and Pennsylvania. Both states expect slight declines from a year ago.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 2%

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1997, was 58.2 million head. This was 2 percent above June 1996 and 4 percent above the March 1, 1997 inventory. Breeding inventory, at 6.95 million head is up 1 percent from June 1, 1996 and up 2 percent from March 1, 1997. Market hog inventory, at 51.2 million head was 2 percent above last year and 4 percent above last quarter.

The March-May 1997 U.S. pig crop at 25.5 million head was 2 percent more than 1996 but 3 percent less than 1995. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.95 million head, slightly below last year. Litter rate increases continue at a record level, with an average of 8.65 pigs saved per litter for the March-May period. Last year the litter rate averaged 8.47 pigs per litter. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.80 for operations with more than 2,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the June-August 1997 quarter, 5 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period last year, but 2 percent lower than 1995. Intended farrowings for September-November 1997, at 2.89 million sows are 6 percent above 1996 and 3 percent above the 1995 period.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head total inventory, but raised by contractees, accounted for 26 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 12 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.61 million head on June 1, 1997. The inventory was 12 percent above June 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.89 million, 22 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.78 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 332,000, 600-699 pounds were 406,000, 700-799 pounds were 640,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 514,000. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.09 million, 2 percent above 1996. The year-to-year relationship between fed cattle marketed and commercial slaughter continues to be affected by the decrease in cattle imported from Canada that are going directly to slaughter. Other disappearance totaled 117,000 during May, 39 percent above the previous year.

U.S. MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 20 major States during May totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 2.1 percent from production in these same states in May 1996. April revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds was up 1.7 percent from April 1996. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,526 pounds for May, 47 pounds above May 1996. The number of cows on farms and ranches in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 84,000 head less than May 1996 but 1,000 head more than April 1997.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Crop Production
Wheat Supply and Demand	

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
featuring...Rosebud County

MONTANA WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST UNCHANGED FROM MAY; U.S. UP 3 PERCENT

Montana winter wheat production, as of June 1, is estimated at 57.75 million bushels, unchanged from the May forecast. If realized, this year's winter wheat production will be down nearly 9 percent from 1996. Some much needed rain came in the last few weeks in the major winter wheat growing areas. Average yield is estimated at 35 bushels per acre, also unchanged from last month and, if realized, up 3 bushels from last year. Producers still plan to harvest 1.65 million acres, unchanged from last month but, if realized, acreage would be down nearly 17 percent from last year. As of June 7 the condition of the crop was rated 2% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 53% good, and 4% excellent.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.60 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 8 percent higher than 1996. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 39.3 bushels per acre. This is up 1.1 bushels from May 1 and 2.1 bushels per acre better than last year. Grain area totals 40.8 million acres, unchanged from last month.

U.S. hard red winter wheat production is up 3 percent from last month's forecast at 921 million bushels. Improved Kansas and Oklahoma yields more than offset hard red winter wheat declines elsewhere. Soft red winter, at 422 million, is also up 3 percent and now about equal to last year's total. White winter wheat production is up from last month due to improved Washington yield expectations.

WINTER WHEAT: Production Forecast by Districts--June 1,1997 1/

District	1995	1996	1997	% chg. 97/96
	1,000 Bushels			
NW	933	960	1,000	104
NC	25,164	36,900	28,700	78
NE	2,268	3,300	3,400	103
C	12,340	10,800	11,900	110
SW	1,410	1,600	1,450	91
SC	9,669	6,500	7,500	115
SE	3,016	3,300	3,800	115
MT	54,800	63,360	57,750	91

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

WINTER WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1996 & Forecasted June 1, 1997

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1996	1997	1996	May 1, '97	June 1, '97	1996	1997
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,200	2,750	32.0	33.0	33.0	70,400	90,750
ID	860	870	80.0	76.0	76.0	68,800	66,120
KS	8,800	10,700	29.0	32.0	34.0	255,200	363,800
MT	**1,980**	**1,650**	**32.0**	**35.0**	**35.0**	**63,360**	**57,750**
NE	2,100	1,900	35.0	36.0	35.0	73,500	66,500
ND 1/	75	38	30.0	31.0	31.0	2,250	1,178
OK	4,900	5,000	19.0	25.0	27.0	93,100	135,000
OR	850	840	72.0	68.0	65.0	61,200	54,600
SD	1,580	1,250	35.0	35.0	33.0	55,300	41,250
TX	2,900	3,700	26.0	28.0	28.0	75,400	103,600
UT 1/	160	160	38.0	45.0	45.0	6,080	7,200
WA	2,350	2,150	70.0	61.0	63.0	164,500	135,450
WI 1/	125	135	43.0	50.0	50.0	5,375	6,750
WY 1/	240	235	26.0	30.0	30.0	6,240	7,050
US	39,709	40,847	37.2	38.2	39.3	1,478,048	1,603,580

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1996

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				
	Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production	
				Bushels	Rank
Deer Lodge	1,600	1,100	55	60,000	52
Flathead	20,000	19,200	68	1,303,000	11
Granite	2,000	1,000	86	86,000	49
Lake	9,600	7,800	62	483,000	26
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,300	1,800	47	85,000	50
Powell	5,000	3,300	82	269,000	35
Ravalli	2,800	2,600	78	202,000	41
Sanders	1,300	800	44	35,000	53
Other	400	400	68	27,000	--
NORTHWEST	**45,000**	**38,000**	**67**	**2,550,000**	--
Blaine	25,900	24,200	46	1,119,000	13
Chouteau	115,000	109,000	32	3,486,000	4
Glacier	98,000	91,500	48	4,383,000	3
Hill	34,000	32,000	37	1,191,000	12
Liberty	28,000	26,800	39	1,046,000	14
Phillips	25,100	21,500	27	571,000	22
Pondera	117,000	113,000	57	6,433,000	2
Teton	116,000	113,000	60	6,791,000	1
Toole	61,000	59,000	44	2,580,000	5
Other	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**620,000**	**590,000**	**47**	**27,600,000**	--
Daniels	7,500	7,000	32	223,000	39
Dawson	21,600	19,000	37	711,000	18
Garfield	15,700	12,700	22	274,000	34
McCone	21,200	15,900	20	315,000	31
Richland	25,200	20,900	31	639,000	21
Roosevelt	16,800	14,000	24	332,000	30
Sheridan	14,700	12,500	28	352,000	28
Valley	20,300	18,000	31	554,000	23
Other	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**143,000**	**120,000**	**28**	**3,400,000**	--
Broadwater	11,000	10,400	62	642,000	19
Cascade	69,600	66,300	37	2,474,000	6
Fergus	90,500	85,000	26	2,220,000	7
Golden Valley	6,400	5,400	20	110,000	47
Judith Basin	65,000	60,800	25	1,519,000	9
Lewis & Clark	11,400	10,800	48	516,000	25
Meagher	20,400	18,400	44	815,000	16
Musselshell	3,900	2,700	31	85,000	51
Petroleum	3,900	3,000	39	116,000	46
Wheatland	17,900	17,200	18	303,000	32
Other	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**300,000**	**280,000**	**31**	**8,800,000**	--
Beaverhead	1,000	8,900	89	788,000	17
Gallatin	40,500	37,700	57	2,138,000	8
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	10,000	8,600	75	642,000	20
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--
Other	3,500	2,800	65	182,000	--
SOUTHWEST	**65,000**	**58,000**	**65**	**3,750,000**	--
Big Horn	12,700	10,600	50	533,000	24
Carbon	14,100	13,600	74	1,013,000	15
Park	9,200	7,800	45	349,000	29
Stillwater	15,200	13,600	32	434,000	27
Sweetgrass	4,000	3,200	49	157,000	45
Treasure	3,500	3,300	81	268,000	36
Yellowstone	23,300	21,900	61	1,346,000	10
Other	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**82,000**	**74,000**	**55**	**4,100,000**	--
Carter	5,100	4,000	26	104,000	48
Custer	5,000	4,400	49	214,000	40
Fallon	10,700	9,600	24	229,000	38
Powder River	4,200	3,800	43	162,000	42
Prairie	8,200	7,800	36	281,000	33
Rosebud	5,600	5,200	48	251,000	37
Wibaux	6,200	5,200	31	159,000	43
Other	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**45,000**	**40,000**	**35**	**1,400,000**	--
MONTANA	**1,300,000**	**1,200,000**	**43**	**51,600,000**	--

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.0

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR APRIL

Montana winter wheat increased 10 cents to $4.11 per bushel and spring wheat went up 13 cents to $4.16 per bushel, but durum wheat declined 15 cents to $4.13 per bushel. Feed barley decreased 20 cents per bushel to $2.22 and malt barley declined 3 cents to $3.13 per bushel. At $2.00 per bushel oats averaged 5 cents lower than the previous month. The all wheat price for mid-May averaged $4.10 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.54. The price for alfalfa hay in May, at $101.00 per ton, is down $13.00 from last month. The May other hay price decreased $6.00 since April to $89.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were mostly higher than the previous month with the exception of beef cattle and sheep. Steers and heifers saw a $1.60 increase to $74.10 per cwt. Cows increased $1.10 to $41.40 and the average price for calves rose $3.50 to $83.90 per cwt. Sheep decreased $4.90 to $37.60 per cwt. while lambs increased $1.10 to $100.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased 40 cents to $13.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-May averaged $78.90 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $67.90 per cwt for the full month of April. Cow prices came in at $38.20 and hogs were $53.80 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.11 per bushel and $2.27 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 65.8 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 107 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (0.9 percent) from April. Price increases from April for hogs, cattle, strawberries, and lemons were offset by price decreases for milk, corn, broilers, and lettuce. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of cantaloupes, sweet corn, grapes, and wheat more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, milk, cotton, and corn. These changes contributed virtually all of the one point increase in the overall index.

Compared with May 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from May 1996 for corn, wheat, milk, and potatoes more than offset price increases for cattle, soybeans, hay, and calves.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Apr. 1996	Mar. 1996	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1997
Prices Received	108	112	106	107
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	114	115	117	117
Ratio [2/]	95	97	91	91

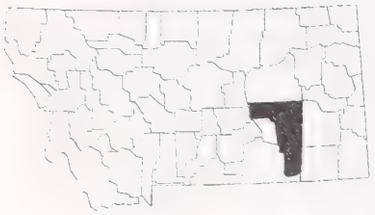
[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	May 15, 1997	May 15, 1997
		April 1996	March 1997	April 1997	April 1997		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	5.01	4.01	4.11	4.14	4.10	4.14
Durum	Bu.	5.27	4.28	4.13	4.40	4.30	4.50
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.94	4.03	4.16	4.04	4.10	3.94
All Wheat	Bu.	4.99	4.03	4.14	4.11	4.10	4.09
Barley, All	Bu.	3.26	2.68	2.55	2.27	2.54	2.37
Feed	Bu.	3.13	2.42	2.22	2.24	2.30	2.39
Malt	Bu.	3.48	3.16	3.13	2.30	3.10	2.34
Oats	Bu.	2.35	2.05	2.00	1.87	2.00	1.81
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	114.00	114.00	123.00	101.00	127.00
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	93.00	95.00	82.30	89.00	84.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	112.00	112.00	117.00	98.00	118.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	53.70	72.50	74.10	67.90	78.90	68.80
Cows	Cwt.	31.60	40.30	41.40	38.20	42.00	38.10
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt	48.60	64.80	62.30	64.80	61.90	65.60
Calves	Cwt.	56.80	80.40	83.90	82.20	84.40	83.40
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	28.70	42.50	37.60	37.60	na	na
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	87.00	98.90	100.00	96.60	na	na
All Milk	Cwt.	13.90	13.40	13.80	13.40	13.90	13.10

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

*featuring...*ROSEBUD COUNTY



Rosebud County was created in February 1901 and is located in the southeast corner of Montana. The Yellowstone River runs through the heart of the county. It is made up primarily of rangeland, both to the north and south of the River. However, the extreme southeastern corner is occupied by a portion of the Custer National Forest. The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation also occupies a portion of the southern tip of Rosebud County.

Because of its vast rangeland, the county is a prime livestock raising area. The county ranked 5th and 18th, respectively, for all cattle and calves and breeding sheep and lambs in the January 1, 1997 inventory. Hogs and pigs are also raised in the county.

Crops produced in the county include wheat, barley, oats, corn, and hay. Rosebud County ranked 5th in oats production, 25th in all wheat, and 37th in barley production for the 1996 crop year. All hay production ranked 26th for the 1995 crop year.

Cash receipts from livestock and livestock products amounted to $30,748,000. Crops returned $6,991,000 and government payments added $3,282,000 for a total cash receipts return of $41,021,000 in 1994.

Rosebud County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	3,207,929	Total Cropland	Acres	223,940
Land in Farms	Acres	2,585,834	Harvested Cropland	Acres	125,429
Number of Farms		357	Irrigated Land	Acres	28,993
Average size Farms	Acres	7,243			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	50,706	All Cattle &		
Wheat for Grain	Acres	58,207	Calves	No. Head	91,730
Barley for Grain	Acres	5,093	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	14,878
Oats for Grain	Acres	1,533	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,695

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Egg Production
Cattle on Feed	Hogs & Pigs
Slaughter	Sweet Cherry Production
Crop Acreage	Grain Stocks

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production, Disposition and Income
Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Montana Farm and Recreational Business Survey Results
Farm Labor
featuring...Roosevelt County

1996 MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Montana's 1996 milk production, of 307 million pounds, decreased 3 percent from 1995. An average of 20,000 milk cows were on farms and ranches during the year, 1,000 less than a year ago. The rate per cow averaged 15,350 pounds, 350 pounds more than 1995.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were 44.7 million dollars, up 11 percent from 1995. Producer returns averaged $15.20 per cwt, an increase of $1.90 from last year. Marketings totaled 294 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year ago. A total of 13 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 8 million pounds were fed to calves, and 5 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production decreased 1 percent in 1996 to 154 billion pounds. The rate per cow at 16,505 pounds, was 72 pounds above 1995. The annual average number of cows on farms and ranches at 9.35 million head, was 107,000 less than 1995.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1996 at $22.8 billion dollars, was 15 percent above 1995. Producer returns averaged $14.94 per cwt, $2.01 per cwt above 1995. Marketings totaled 153 billion pounds, 1 percent below 1995. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.49 billion pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 6 percent less than 1995. Calves were fed 80 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households.

U.S. APRIL MILK PRODUCTION UP 0.8 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 11.4 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from production in these same States in April 1996. March revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds was up 1.1 percent from March 1996. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,469 pounds for April, 28 pounds above April 1995. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 87,000 head less than April 1996 and 5,000 head less than March 1997.

MONTANA AND U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FOR APRIL

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 1997, down 15 percent from April 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, 200 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,144, was down 20 pounds from a year ago.

During April, there were 1,500 head of hogs slaughtered, 400 less than last year. The average live weight decreased 13 pounds to 221 pounds. Sheep slaughter was the same as a year earlier at 100 head, however, the average live weight increased 15 pounds to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.59 billion pounds during April, down 3 percent from the previous year. Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from a year ago. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,152 pounds.

Veal production totaled 28.0 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 129,100 head, 2 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was down 6 pounds to 351 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.45 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.73 million head, 4 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year at 256 pounds. Lamb and mutton production totaled 22.0 million pounds, down 15 percent from the previous record low set in 1996. Sheep slaughter totaled 331,300 head, down 16 percent from a year ago. The average live weight was up 2 pounds to 133 pounds.

ALL HIRED WORKERS UP 3 PERCENT, WAGES UP 5 PERCENT FROM LAST APRIL

There were 1.02 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 1997, 3 percent more than last year. Of those workers, 809,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 207,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 6.3 percent of the hired workforce, compared to 7.5 percent a year ago.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $7.10 per hour during the April 1997 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $6.72 per hour, up 41 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.41 per hour compared with $6.22 a year earlier.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY REGION & U.S., APR. 7-13, 1996 & APR. 6-12, 1997 1/

U.S. AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	FIELD		LIVESTOCK		FIELD & LIVESTOCK			
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	7.47	7.11	6.20	5.67	6.93	6.59	7.27	7.22
Northeast II	6.62	6.62	5.31	5.81	6.11	6.25	6.78	6..94
Appalachian I	5.60	6.45	6.21	6.85	5.78	6.57	6.03	6.76
Appalachian II	5.84	5.69	5.75	6.28	5.80	5.84	6.29	6.23
Southeast	5.52	7.50	5.63	5.70	5.56	7.02	5.96	7.62
FL	6.12	6.50	7.10	6.30	6.27	6.48	7.05	7.19
Lake	6.78	7.50	6.39	6.56	6.56	6.91	7.02	7.31
Cornbelt I	6.57	7.28	6.76	7.47	6.61	7.33	7.14	7.91
Cornbelt II	6.47	6.76	7.00	6.43	6.67	6.57	6.89	6.64
Delta	5.38	5.96	5.74	6.36	5.46	6.06	5.65	6.50
Northern Plains	6.76	7.96	5.79	6.61	6.32	7.08	6.51	7.73
Southern Plains	5.38	5.37	5.53	5.78	5.45	5.57	6.12	5.98
Mountain I	5.54	6.59	5.29	4.95	5.42	5.65	5.78	5.94
Mountain II	5.60	6.57	5.88	5.93	5.73	6.37	6.53	6.94
Mountain III	5.67	5.78	6.03	5.90	5.74	5.81	6.34	6.24
Pacific	6.83	6.71	7.22	7.54	6.87	6.89	7.44	7.36
CA	6.53	6.90	7.50	8.06	6.64	6.99	7.14	7.35
HI	8.79	8.81	3/	3/	8.76	8.82	10.13	9.97
US 4/	6.31	6.72	6.22	6.41	6.28	6.63	6.76	7.10

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data.
4/ Excludes AK.

THE AGRICULTURAL SURVEY IS NOW UNDERWAY.

You may be part of a sample of Montana producers that will be asked by interviewers to participate in the survey between May 29 and June 16. **Please say yes!** This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 1997.

The information gathered is widely used. Producers rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Industry analysts, extension agents, and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses. Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data. Montana Agriculture Statistics Service works with all farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep Montana's and the Nation's agriculture informed.

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.34 billion during April 1997, up 1 percent from the 6.24 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.34 billion table eggs and 998 million hatching eggs, of which 939 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 1997 averaged 303 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during April 1996. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,093 eggs, compared with 2,105 in April 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1997, totaled 302 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 302 million layers consisted of 247 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1997, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 69.4 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.01 billion eggs during April, up 2 percent from April 1996. The average number of layers during April, at 287 million, was up 2 percent from the year earlier.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS DOWN 35 PERCENT, U.S. POTATO STOCKS UP 32 PERCENT

Montana potato producers held stocks of 220 thousand cwt. on May 1, down from 340 thousand cwt. last year. Potatoes in storage amounted to 7 percent of the 1996 production, compared with 12 percent the previous year.

Nationally, May 1, 1997 stocks totaled 101 million cwt, up 32 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Stocks made up 23 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, up 4 points from a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled a record high 340 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. Processor usage was also record high at 166 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 32.8 million cwt, 9 percent above a year ago and 7 percent above losses two years ago.

Processors continued to move potatoes at a record pace for the season. April processor usage was 18.2 million cwt, up 8 percent from a year ago but 1 percent below two years ago.

Western States potato stocks totaled 76.6 million cwt in six States, up 26 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were up 6 percent. Washington's stocks gained 32 percent, and Oregon's stocks were more than double last year's level. These three States held 65 percent of U.S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 58 percent. California's stocks equaled a year ago.

1996 MONTANA FARM AND RECREATIONAL BUSINESS SURVEY

During the later half of 1996, Montana Agricultural Statistics Service conducted a recreational business survey of farms and ranches across Montana. The survey focused on finding out how many farms and ranches are currently involved in some form of recreational business. Reports were summarized for more than 7,500 respondents from nearly 16,000 farms and ranches sampled. There currently are 22,000 farms and ranches in Montana.

When asked, "Do you or a family member operate any form of recreational business on your property?" five percent of all respondents said yes. Approximately 1,100 farms and ranches have recreational businesses. Farms and ranches with more than 3,000 acres in their operation had the highest percentage of respondents saying yes with 9 percent saying they operate some form of recreational business.

Fee hunting/fishing was the most popular form of a recreational business reported and guiding/outfitting was the second most reported business. Other reported businesses included dude/guest ranch, working farm/ranch, bed and breakfast, cattle/wagon drives, and tours.

Of the farms and ranches that did not currently operate a recreational business, 7 percent, or about 1,500, responded they anticipated operating a recreational business on their property in the next five years. Again, the largest farms, or those with over 3,000 acres, had the highest rate with 7 percent saying they will operate some form of business in the next five years. The types of businesses the farms and ranches would operate were ranked nearly the same as those places currently operating a recreational business.

The survey was conducted with funds provided by Travel Montana.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.93 million head on May 1, 1997.

The inventory was 8 percent above May 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.54 million, 13 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.44 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 302,000, 600-699 pounds were 314,000, 700-799 pounds were 528,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 394,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.91 million, slightly above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 98,000 during April, 8 percent below the previous year.

featuring...ROOSEVELT COUNTY

Located in northeastern Montana, Roosevelt County has the lowest altitude in the state. The approximate land area of the county is 1,508,000 acres. According to the 1992 U.S. Census of Agriculture, 1,271,000 of those acres are in farmland. The Montana/North Dakota border marks the eastern boundary of Roosevelt County, while the Missouri River marks the entire southern boundary. The Poplar River traverses the county from north to south, emptying into the Missouri River at the southern border. The Fort Peck Indian Reservation occupies all but the eastern section of the county. The terrain is mainly rolling prairie.

Roosevelt County is a prominent agricultural area in the state. The cropland is largely non-irrigated and a variety of crops are raised there. In the 1995 crop production figures, the county ranked 3rd in durum wheat and oats production, and came in 6th among the other spring wheat producing counties. Barley ranked 24th, winter wheat ranked 43rd, and all hay holds 34th place in the rank among the counties. Sugar beets and corn are also grown.

Although crops are the main source of agricultural income, livestock are also an important part of the county's economy. Roosevelt County came in 24th in hog production in the December 1, 1995 inventory. In the January 1, 1996 breeding sheep and lamb and all cattle and calf counts, Roosevelt County came in 24th and 40th place, respectively.

Cash receipts for crops in 1994 were $37,730,000. The sale of livestock and livestock product contributed $8,447,000 and government payments added $9,620,000--making a total of $55,797,000 in all cash receipts for Roosevelt County in 1994.

Roosevelt County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,507,618	Total Cropland	Acres	735,237
Land in Farms	Acres	1,414,415	Harvested Cropland	Acres	334,212
Number of Farms		525	Irrigated Land	Acres	7,171
Average size Farms	Acres	2,694			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	25,515	All Cattle &		
Wheat for Grain	Acres	283,482	Calves	No. Head	25,192
Barley for Grain	Acres	23,820	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	11,942
Oats for Grain	Acres	2,728	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	2,964

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Production
1996 Dairy Products
Poultry PDI
Ag Prices Received

MAY 1, 1997 WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana growers expect to produce 57.75 million bushels of winter wheat this year. If the current expectations hold, the 1997 crop would be 9% less than last year. Average yields are estimated at 35 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from last year's final yield. Producers intend to harvest 1.65 million acres, down 17% from last year.

Dry conditions last fall held back many producers from planting winter wheat. If producers' harvesting expectations are realized this would be the fifth smallest harvested acreage in the last 40 years. The winter was generally favorable for the crop with good snow cover reducing the amount of wind damage occurring. This spring started off very cool and held back plant development, but most of the state, so far, has adequate moisture supplies which should help the crop get started. As of May 5 the condition of the crop was rated 2% very poor, 6% poor, 29% fair, 55% good, and 8% excellent.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.56 billion bushels, up 6% from 1996 and 1% more than in 1995. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 38.2 bushels per acre. If realized, this would be a full bushel better than last year and a half-bushel above 1995. Grain area totals 40.8 million acres, up 3% from last year. Hard Red Winter wheat production is forecast up 17% from last year while Soft Red and White Winter wheat are down 3 and 12%, respectively.

A hard freeze hit portions of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado April 11-13. Considerable damage was evident, but assessment of crop loss is continuing. This same area also suffered a mid-April freeze in 1995. The Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat area for grain is expected to be up 9% from last year. Soft Red Winter (SRW) wheat is estimated to be down 10% from last year and White Winter wheat area is about 6% less than a year ago. Prior to the freeze, expectations for the central and southern Plains HRW crop were well above average. Condition ratings fell the week following the freeze, but have started to improve. Nebraska's major growing area had minimal winterkill, but needs moisture. Severe winterkill has been reported in areas of southern South Dakota.

WINTER WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, by State and United States, 1996 and Forecasted May 1, 1997

STATE	PLANTED	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
		1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	3,100	2,200	2,750	32.0	33.0	70,400	90,750
ID	920	860	870	80.0	76.0	68,800	66,120
KS	11,400	8,800	10,700	29.0	32.0	255,200	342,400
MT	**1,750**	**1,980**	**1,650**	**32.0**	**35.0**	**63,360**	**57,750**
NE	2,000	2,100	1,900	35.0	36.0	73,500	68,400
OK	6,800	4,900	5,000	19.0	25.0	93,100	125,000
OR	870	850	840	72.0	68.0	61,200	57,120
SD	1,650	1,580	1,250	35.0	35.0	55,300	43,750
TX	6,000	2,900	3,700	26.0	28.0	75,400	103,600
UT	170	160	160	38.0	45.0	6,080	7,200
VA	280	275	250	53.0	54.0	14,575	13,500
WA	2,250	2,350	2,150	70.0	61.0	164,500	131,150
WY	250	240	235	26.0	30.0	6,240	7,050
US	48,227	39,709	40,847	37.2	38.2	1,478,048	1,561,470

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT: Production Forecast by Districts--May 1,1997 1/

District	1995	1996	1997	% chg. 97/96
	----1,000 bushels ----			
NW	933	960	1,000	104
NC	25,164	36,900	28,100	76
NE	2,268	3,300	3,800	115
C	12,340	10,800	11,600	107
SW	1,410	1,600	1,400	88
SC	9,669	6,500	8,000	123
SE	3,016	3,300	3,850	117
MT	54,800	63,360	57,750	91

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MAY 1 HAY STOCKS

Montana May 1 hay stocks on farms were estimated at 492,000 tons, 57% of stocks held May 1, 1996 and the smallest tonnage on hand since May 1989. May 1 stocks were just 10% of 1996 production compared with 16% of production held a year earlier. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 1996 - May 1, 1997, totaled 4,182,000 tons, 3% more than the 1995 crop disappearance of 4,073,000 tons for the same period. The low stocks held are the result of high feed requirements during the winter. Livestock required supplemental feeding very early in the season because of heavy snows and the situation remained unchanged nearly all season. A heavy snow in eastern Montana in early April further reduced already short supplies.

Stocks of all hay on **U.S.** farms totaled 17.4 million tons on May 1, 1997, down 16% from May 1 of the previous year. A 3% decline in 1996 hay production, combined with one of the harshest winters on record in the upper mid-west, contributed to the lowest May 1 stocks in 32 years. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 1996 - May 1, 1997, totaled 87.8 million tons, 1% lower than the 1995 crop disappearance of 88.7 million tons for the same period. Stocks of hay on May 1, 1997 were lower compared to last year in 27 of the 48 estimating States. Heavy snow and bitterly cold temperatures during the winter and spring months across the northern half of the United States forced livestock producers to increase feeding of hay. December 1996 - May 1997 hay disappearance of 4.1 million tons was the highest on record in North Dakota and May 1 hay stocks in Colorado were the lowest since 1940. Stocks were higher in the Southeast and Central Plains and in many States in the Northeast. An increase in hay production, a mild winter, and reduced cattle numbers were the main reasons given for those increases in stocks.

1996 DAIRY PRODUCTION

Montana dairy plants produced 178,000 gallons of lowfat, hard ice cream during 1996, the same as 1995 production. Lowfat, soft ice cream production totaled 1.3 million gallons, up 16 percent from last year. Lowfat ice cream mix production totaled 772,000 gallons, 10 percent more than last year.

Nationally, total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 7.22 billion pounds, 4 percent above the 1995 production. Wisconsin was the leading State with 29 percent of the production. American type cheese production, at 3.28 billion pounds, was 5 percent above 1995 and accounted for 45 percent of total cheese in 1996.

Italian varieties, with 2.81 billion pounds produced, were 5 percent above the 1995 production. Mozzarella accounted for 80 percent of the Italian production followed by Ricotta with 9 percent and Provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading State in Italian cheese production with 30 percent of the total.

Production of butter in the United States during 1996 totaled 1.17 billion pounds, 7 percent less than 1995. Ice cream production increased in 1996. Regular ice cream production totaled 879 million gallons, up 2 percent from 1995. Lowfat ice cream, at 366 million gallons, was up 3 percent.

Nonfat dry milk for human food production, at 1.06 billion pounds, was down 14 percent from 1995. Dry whole milk, at 134 million pounds, was down 22 percent.

POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Montana's 1996 value of egg sales of $5.9 million was ninetee the percent higher than last year due to increased production and average price. Egg production increased 3 percent. The average price was 66 cents, up 9 cents per dozen.

Montana's value of sales from chickens, excluding broilers, was $32,000. Chickens sold for an average price of 2 cents per pound, down from 3 cents last year, and the number of pounds sold decreased 25 percent.

The Nation's combined value of production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1996, was $21.8 billion, up 18 percent from the $18.5 billion in 1995. Of the combined total, 64 percent was from broilers, 22 percent from eggs, 14 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 1996 was $13.9 billion, up 18 percent from the $11.8 billion in 1995. The total number of broilers produced in 1996 was 7.60 billion, up 4 percent from 1995. The 1996 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 38.1 cents per pound, compared to 34.4 cents per pound in 1995.

The value of turkeys produced during 1996 was $3.10 billion, up 12 percent from the $2.78 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1996 totaled 7.17 billion pounds live weight, compared with 6.78 billion pounds in 1995. The average price received by producers during 1996 was 43.3 cents per pound, compared with 41.0 cents in 1995.

See table on back page.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR MARCH

Montana crop prices for the full month of March were lower with the exception of oats and barley. Winter wheat dropped 6 cents to $4.01 per bushel, durum wheat declined 13 cents to $4.28 per bushel. Spring wheat went down 2 cents to $4.03 per bushel. Feed barley increased 8 cents per bushel to $2.42 but malt barley declined 34 cents to $3.16 per bushel. At $2.05 per bushel oats averaged 13 cents higher than the previous month. The all wheat price for mid-April averaged $4.26 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.54. Prices for alfalfa hay in April, at $114.00 per ton is the same as March. The April other hay price increased $2.00 since March to $95.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mostly higher than the previous month with the exception of lambs. Steers and heifers saw a $2.20 increase to $72.50 per cwt. Cows increased $2.30 to $40.30 and the average price for calves rose $3.10 to $80.40 per cwt. Sheep increased 70 cents to $42.50 per cwt while lambs declined $6.10 to $98.90 per cwt. Milk prices increased 40 cents to $13.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $72.50 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $67.90 per cwt for the full month of March. Cow prices came in at $36.90 and hogs were $49.40 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.93 per bushel and $2.36 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 71.8 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 106 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (0.9 percent) from March. Price decreases from March for tomatoes, strawberries, eggs, and broilers were offset by price increases for hogs, onions, wheat, and lettuce. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and wheat more than offset the relatively higher marketings of cattle, milk, oranges, and strawberries. These changes contributed virtually all of the one point decrease in the overall index.

Compared with April 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 2 points (1.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from April 1996 for corn, eggs, wheat, and potatoes more than offset price increases for cattle, hay, hogs, and calves.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Mar. 1996	Apr. 1996	Mar. 1997	Apr. 1997
Prices Received	109	108	107	106
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	114	114	117	117
Ratio [2/]	96	95	91	91

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	April 15, 1997	April 15 1997
		March 1996	February 1997	March 1997	March 1997		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.83	4.07	4.01	3.98	4.35	4.26
Durum	Bu.	5.06	4.41	4.28	4.32	4.30	4.40
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.74	4.05	4.03	3.83	4.20	4.04
All Wheat	Bu.	4.78	4.06	4.03	3.93	4.26	4.16
Barley, All	Bu.	3.30	3.09	2.68	2.36	2.54	2.36
Feed	Bu.	3.02	2.34	2.42	2.22	2.25	2.25
Malt	Bu.	3.52	3.50	3.16	2.47	3.20	2.45
Oats	Bu.	2.06	1.92	2.05	1.90	2.00	1.90
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	117.00	114.00	116.00	114.00	123.00
All Other Hay	Ton	54.00	93.00	93.00	80.10	95.00	82.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	65.00	113.00	112.00	108.00	112.00	117.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	56.30	70.30	72.50	67.90	71.10	68.20
Cows	Cwt.	34.00	38.00	40.30	36.90	41.10	38.50
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt	52.10	64.80	64.80	64.80	63.00	65.00
Calves	Cwt.	61.30	77.30	80.40	80.00	82.40	82.10
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	35.70	41.80	42.50	42.70	na	na
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	90.00	105.00	98.90	99.60	na	na
All Milk	Cwt.	14.00	13.00	13.40	13.50	13.90	13.50

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1995-1996 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1995	MONTANA 1996	UNITED STATES 1995	UNITED STATES 1996
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	63	65	65,576	67,699
Sold	1,000 Head	536	400	179,467	174,314
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	2,144	1,600	939,974	927,236
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	3.0	2.0	6.5	6.6
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	64	32	61,315	61,424
EGGS					
Produced	Million	105	108	74,591	76,148
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	57.0	66.0	62.4	75.0
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	4,988	5,940	3,879,609	4,756,582

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Chemical Usage	Milk Production
Potato Stocks	Farm Labor
Milk PDI	Cattle on Feed
Egg Production	Red Meat Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Meat Animals Production, Disposition & Income
Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Montana's Rank
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production

1996 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME

Cash receipts from 1996 marketings of cattle, sheep, and hogs in Montana totaled $722 million, down one percent from 1995. Cattle and calf cash receipts of $656 million dropped 2 percent from the previous year. Cattle marketings totaled 1.4 million head, up 10 percent, while calf marketings were down 9 percent to 205,000 head. The average price received for cattle fell $6.00 to $53.80 per cwt, likewise, calf prices averaged $62.20 per cwt, $7.30 lower than last year.

Montana hog and pig cash receipts increased 10 percent from 1995 to $37 million. Hog marketings, at 342,000 head, decreased 6 percent from last year. Hog prices for 1996 were $10.60 higher at $49.70 per cwt. Sheep and lamb cash receipts came in at $29 million, a 12 percent increase from 1995. Marketings for sheep and lambs in 1996 were 76,000 and 303,000 head, respectively. The average price for sheep rose $4.40 per cwt to $31.20. The average lamb price of $91.10 was $9.70 higher than the previous year.

The U.S. gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs in 1996 totaled $44.7 billion, down 1 percent from 1995. Gross income rose for hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs, but fell for cattle and calves. Gross income from cattle and calves declined 8 percent, rose 23 percent for hogs and pigs, and increased 7 percent for sheep and lambs.

Total U.S. 1996 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals fell 1 percent to $44.4 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 70 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 29 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Average prices rose from 1995 levels for hogs, sheep and lambs, while prices for cattle and calves dropped.

Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves in the U.S. decreased from $34.0 billion in 1995 to $31.1 in 1996, an 8 percent decline. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 56.2 billion pounds in 1996, virtually unchanged from last year. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $58.70, a decline of $3.10 from the $61.80 in 1995. For calves, the annual average price fell $14.70 to $58.40.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $12.6 billion during 1996, up 23 percent from 1995. Marketings decreased to 24.1 billion pounds in 1996, 4 percent below the previous year. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight rose from $40.50 in 1995 to $51.90 in 1996.

Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 1996 were $601 million, up 7 percent from 1995. Marketings declined 4 percent to 769 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for lambs increased from $78.20 in 1995 to $88.20 in 1996 while for sheep, the annual average price increased $1.90 to $29.90.

APRIL 1 U.S. SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on April 1, 1997, totaled 8.72 million head, 7 percent below April 1, 1996. Total breeding sheep and lambs reached 5.67 million head, 5 percent below April 1996. Market lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.05 million head were 9 percent below April 1996.

Of the April 1, 1997 breeding herd, 4.71 million head were ewes one year old and older compared with 4.96 million head in April 1996. A total of 740,000 lambs will be used as replacements compared with 785,000 head on April 1, 1996.

Of the total market lambs (including new born lambs), 63.8 percent were under 65 pounds, 9.8 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 10.6 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remainder, 15.8 percent, were over 105 pounds on April 1.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 6 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.39 million head on April 1, 1997. The inventory was 6 percent above April 1, 1996. The inventory included 6.39 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounts for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.94 million head, up 15 percent from 1996.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.97 million, 1 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.88 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 321,000, 600-699 pounds were 538,000, 700-799 pounds were 721,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 386,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.76 million, slightly above 1996. The year-to-year relationship between fed cattle marketed and commercial slaughter continues to be affected by the decrease in cattle imported from Canada that are going directly to slaughter. Other disappearance totaled 86,000 during March, 13 percent above the previous year.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM		UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	59,700,000	acres	1996	2	6.2
Number of farms and ranches	22,000	farms/ranches	1996	31	1.1
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	1,845,168,000	dollars	1995	33	0.9
Crops	1,047,254,000	dollars	1995	30	1.0
Livestock	797,914,000	dollars	1995	32	0.9
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,700,000	head	Jan. 1, 1997	12	2.7
All Cows	1,590,000	head	Jan. 1, 1997	8	3.7
Beef Cows	1,570,000	head	Jan. 1, 1997	6	4.6
Milk Cows	20,000	head	Jan. 1, 1997	43	30.2
Cattle on Feed	85,000	head	Jan. 1, 1997	21	0.6
Hogs and Pigs	150,000	head	Dec. 1, 1996	28	0.3
Sheep and Lambs	432,000	head	Jan. 1, 1997	6	5.4
All Chickens	470,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1996	42	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,540,000	head	1996	7	3.9
Lamb Crop	390,000	head	1996	4	7.4
Pig Crop	323,000	head	1996	26	0.3
Wool Production	4,150,000	pounds	1996	5	7.0
Egg Production	108,000,000	eggs	1996	42	0.1
Honey Production	7,020,000	pounds	1996	7	3.5
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	176,710,000	bushels	1996	4	7.7
Winter Wheat	63,360,000	bushels	1996	9	4.3
Durum Wheat	6,750,000	bushels	1996	4	5.8
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	106,600,000	bushels	1996	2	15.5
Barley	51,600,000	bushels	1996	3	13.0
Oats	2,000,000	bushels	1996	18	1.3
All Hay	4,920,000	tons	1996	12	3.3
Alfalfa Hay	3,570,000	tons	1996	8	4.5
Dry Beans	235,000	cwt	1996	13	0.9
Potatoes--fall	3,213,000	cwt	1996	17	0.7
Sugar Beets	1,300,000	tons	1996	6	4.9
Corn for Grain	2,055,000	bushels	1996	41	1/
Corn for Silage	819,000	tons	1996	28	1.0

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

MONTANA AND U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN IN MARCH

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March, the same as March 1996, but 8 percent less than last month. There were 1,200 head of cattle slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight of cattle slaughtered decreased 27 pounds to 1,143 pounds.

Hog kill in March totaled 1,700 head, the same as March 1996. The average live weight decreased 14 pounds to 220 pounds. There were 100 head of sheep slaughtered in March, the same as a year ago at this time. The average live weight of sheep slaughtered increased 6 pounds to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.44 billion pounds during March, down 2 percent from the previous year.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.86 million head, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,161 pounds. Veal production totaled 28.0 million pounds, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 130,800 head, 10 percent below a year ago. The average live weight was up 5 pounds to 348 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.42 billion pounds, was unchanged from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.58 million head, 2 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year at 256 pounds. Lamb and mutton production totaled 26.0 million pounds, down 4 percent from the previous record low set in 1979, 1987, and 1996. Sheep slaughter totaled 398,100 head, down 4 percent from a year ago. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 133 pounds.

January - March red meat production was 10.5 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the comparable figure last year. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent, veal was down 6 percent, pork was down 4 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 9 percent.

MONTANA QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION DOWN, WHILE U.S. MARCH PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

During the January-March quarter, Montana milk cows produced 74 million pounds of milk, down 1 million from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers dropped 1,000 head from last year to 19,000 head.

Grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on April 1 averaged 16.5 pounds per day, down 0.6 lbs. from a year earlier. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1 averaged $7.90 per cwt, down 90 cents from April 1, 1996.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 11.5 billion pounds, up 0.3 percent from production in these same States in March 1996. February revised production, at 10.3 billion pounds was down 2.3 percent from February 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,491 pounds for March, 22 pounds above March 1996. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 90,000 head less than March 1996 and 11,000 head less than February 1997.

The January-March quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 38.8 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the January-March period in 1996. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.26 million head, 133,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1997, averaged 19.5 pounds per cow, 0.9 pound more than April 1, 1996. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1997, averaged $8.79 per hundredweight, 36 cents less than April 1, 1996.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS UP 9 PERCENT, U.S. POTATO STOCKS UP 23 PERCENT

Montana producers held 1.9 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 9 percent from last year. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of 1996 production, compared with 60 percent the previous year.

U.S. April 1, 1997 stocks totaled 143 million cwt, up 23 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Stocks made up 32 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, up two points from a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled a record 298 million cwt, up 7 percent from the last two years. Processor usage was also record high at 148 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 29.3 million cwt, 5 percent above a year ago.

Stocks in the six Western States totaled 105 million cwt, up 20 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were up 5 percent. Washington's stocks gained 28 percent, and Oregon's stocks increased 87 percent. These three States contain 62 percent of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 41 percent, while California's equaled a year ago.

U.S. EGG PRODUCTION UP TWO PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.60 billion during March 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.50 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.58 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 957 million were broiler-type and 63.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 1997 averaged 303 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during March 1996. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,177 eggs, compared with 2,178 in March 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1997, totaled 303 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 303 million layers consisted of 248 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 52.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1997, averaged 70.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.9 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.25 billion eggs during March, up 2 percent from March 1996. The average number of layers during March, at 287 million, was up 2 percent from the year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Dairy Products	Crop Production
Poultry PDI	Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Ag Prices Received	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
March 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Hog & Pig Inventory

MARCH 1997 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Montana's wheat farmers intend to plant 6.07 million acres of wheat this year, down over 8 percent from last year. Last fall's dry conditions caused a large decrease in the amount of winter wheat seeded which will lead to another large spring wheat seeding. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 1.75 million acres, down 400,000 acres from the previous year. Farmers intend to plant 4.0 million acres of spring wheat, down 5 percent from 1996's record--making it the second largest other spring wheat acreage on record. Farmers plan on seeding 320,000 acres of durum wheat, up 40,000 acres from last year.

Barley acreage intentions are up 4 percent from last year and set at 1.35 million acres. Farmers intend to plant 140,000 acres of oats, up 40,000 acres from last year, and to harvest 60,000 acres for grain.

Corn producers intend to plant an estimated 53,000 acres of corn which, if realized, would be a record low for the state and down 2,000 acres from last year's plantings. Dry bean acreage is estimated at 10,000 acres, down from the 10,500 acres planted last year. Sugar beet acreage intentions are estimated at 60,300 acres, up 2,600 acres from a year ago. Hay producers intend to harvest 2.7 million acres of hay, up 100,000 acres from 1996, and a record high for the state.

U.S. corn growers intend to plant 81.4 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1997, up 2 percent from last year and 14 percent above 1995. If these intentions materialize, this would be the largest planted acreage since 1985. Expected acreage is up in most Corn Belt States with the exception of Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota.

Soybean growers intend to plant 68.8 million acres for 1997, up 7 percent from 1996 and 10 percent above 1995. If realized, this acreage would be the highest since 1980. All but 3 of the 29 soybean growing States anticipate an increase in soybean acres from last year.

All wheat planted acres for 1997 are expected to total 69.2 million acres, down 9 percent from last year, but up slightly from 1995 plantings. Durum wheat growers intend to plant 3.19 million acres for 1997, down 12 percent from 1996. North Dakota, the major durum wheat State, intends to plant 13 percent less acres. Other spring wheat plantings are expected to total 17.8 million acres for 1997, down 11 percent from 1996, but up 4 percent from 1995. Only Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming intend to plant larger acreages than last year.

PLANTED ACREAGE, 1995-1996, and INTENDED 1997, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

Commodity	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1995	1996	1997	97/96	1995	1996	1997	97/96
	1,000 Acres			Pct.	1,000 Acres			Pct.
All Wheat	5,720	6,630	6,070	92	69,132	75,639	69,187	91
Winter Wheat	1,500	2,150	1,750	81	48,686	51,983	48,227	93
Durum	270	280	320	114	3,436	3,620	3,185	88
Hard Spring	3,950	4,200	4,000	95	17,010	20,036	17,775	89
Barley	1,300	1,300	1,350	104	6,689	7,174	7,041	98
Oats -Planted	145	100	140	140	6,336	4,661	5,292	114
-Harvested	80	50	60	120	2,962	2,687	3,225	120
Corn	55	55	53	96	71,245	79,487	81,416	102
Sugar Beets	55.7	57.7	60.3	105	1,444.6	1,367.7	1,454.9	106
Dry Beans	11.0	10.5	10.0	95	2,069.3	1,813.0	1,914.4	106
All Hay	2,400	2,600	2,700	104	59,629	61,029	61,514	101

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts [1/]						
District	All Wheat			Barley		
	Mar. 1, 1996	Dec. 1, 1996*	Mar. 1, 1997	Mar. 1, 1996	Dec. 1, 1996*	Mar. 1, 1997
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	0.9	2.0	0.7	0.7	1.6	0.9
North Central	37.7	59.0	38.2	7.9	16.0	7.7
Northeast	18.2	34.4	23.9	1.9	2.7	1.7
Central	10.2	13.3	7.0	3.7	7.4	3.0
Southwest	1.2	4.8	2.0	2.6	2.1	1.1
South Central	3.2	5.8	1.8	2.0	2.7	1.7
Southeast	3.1	7.5	5.0	0.7	0.5	0.7
MONTANA	74.5	126.8	78.6	19.5	33.0	16.8

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS							
GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1996	Dec. 1, 1996*	Mar. 1, 1997	'97/'96	Mar. 1, 1996	Dec. 1, 1996*	Mar. 1, 1997
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	48,000	110,000	64,000	133%	220,550	584,150	320,750
Off Farms 1/	26,500	16,800	14,600	55%	602,914	634,660	501,104
TOTAL	74,500	126,800	78,600	106%	823,464	1,218,810	821,854
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	11,000	35,000	19,000	173%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	8,500	6,600	4,200	49%	--	--	--
TOTAL	19,500	41,600	23,200	119%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	37,000	75,000	45,000	122%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	18,000	10,200	10,400	58%	--	--	--
TOTAL	55,000	85,200	55,400	101%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	27,250	66,100	33,100
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	21,381	20,011	21,956
TOTAL	4,500	5,700	4,600	102%	48,631	86,111	55,056
BARLEY							
On Farms	11,000	28,000	12,000	109%	58,825	137,700	82,060
Off Farms 1/	8,500	5,000	4,800	56%	119,107	110,522	90,390
TOTAL	19,500	33,000	16,800	86%	177,932	248,222	172,450
OATS							
On Farms	2,200	2,300	1,500	68%	57,350	80,650	56,200
Off Farms 1/	205	250	450	220%	55,268	47,934	39,399
TOTAL	2,405	2,550	1,950	81%	112,618	128,584	95,599
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,000,200	4,800,000	2,870,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,799,341	2,103,711	1,623,772
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,799,541	6,903,711	4,493,772

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR FEBRUARY MOSTLY HIGHER

Montana crop prices for the full month of February were higher with the exception of winter and spring wheat. Winter wheat dropped 7 cents to $4.07 per bushel, while durum wheat jumped 22 cents to $4.41 per bushel. Spring wheat went down 10 cents to $4.05 per bushel. Feed barley increased a penny to $2.34 and malt barley rose 13 cents to $3.50 per bushel. At $1.92 per bushel oats averaged 40 cents higher than the previous month. Alfalfa hay climbed $11.00 to $117.00 a ton and other hay increased $5.00 to $93.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-March averaged $4.08 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.97. Mid-March prices for alfalfa hay decreased to $114.00 a ton and other hay remained the same.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were higher than the previous month, with the exception of sheep and milk. Steers and heifers saw a $2.80 increase to $70.30 per cwt. Cows jumped $4.70 to $38.00 while the average price for calves rose $7.20 to $77.30 per cwt. Sheep remained unchanged at $41.80 per cwt and lambs went up a dollar to $105.00 per cwt. Milk prices dropped 50 cents to $13.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $72.80 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $65.20 per cwt for the full month of February. Cow prices came in at $33.30 and hogs were $52.80 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.88 per bushel and $2.44 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 75.7 cents per dozen.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 108 based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (2.9 percent) from February. Price increases from February for cattle, soybeans, corn, and tomatoes more than offset price decreases for eggs, hogs, broilers, and grapefruit. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, tomatoes, soybeans, and strawberries more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges. These changes contributed one point of the three point increase in the overall index.

Compared with March 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 1 point (0.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from March 1996 for wheat, corn, eggs, and potatoes more than offset price increases for cattle, hay, soybeans, and broilers.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Feb. 1996	Mar. 1996	Feb 1997	Mar. 1997
Prices Received	106	109	105	108
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	113	114	116	116
Ratio [2/]	94	96	91	93

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	March 15, 1997	March 15 1997
		February 1996	January 1997	February 1997	February 1997		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.80	4.14	4.07	3.90	4.05	3.97
Durum	Bu.	4.93	4.19	4.41	4.31	4.20	4.11
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.68	4.15	4.05	3.80	4.10	3.93
All Wheat	Bu.	4.73	4.15	4.06	3.88	4.08	3.96
Barley, All	Bu.	3.26	2.94	3.09	2.44	2.97	2.42
Feed	Bu.	3.01	2.33	2.34	2.22	2.25	2.20
Malt	Bu.	3.54	3.37	3.50	2.65	3.45	2.63
Oats	Bu.	2.06	1.52	1.92	1.81	1.85	1.80
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	106.00	117.00	115.00	114.00	116.00
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	88.00	93.00	80.00	93.00	80.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	104.00	113.00	105.00	112.00	108.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	56.40	67.50	70.30	65.20	72.80	67.70
Cows	Cwt.	33.70	33.30	38.00	33.30	40.80	36.50
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt	52.80	62.00	64.80	61.90	63.80	64.40
Calves	Cwt.	62.20	70.10	77.30	74.90	80.30	79.50
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	31.10	41.80	41.80	41.40	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	86.60	104.00	105.00	99.80	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	15.40	13.50	13.00	13.50	13.40	13.60

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 1 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1997, was 55.9 million head, 1 percent below March 1996 and slightly below the December 1, 1996, inventory.

Breeding inventory, at 6.80 million head is up 1 percent from March 1, 1996 and up 2 percent from December 1, 1996. Market hog inventory, at 49.1 million head was 1 percent below both last year and last quarter.

The December 1996-February 1997 U.S. pig crop at 23.1 million head was slightly more than 1996 but 3 percent less than 1995. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.68 million head, 2 percent below last year. Litter rate increases continue at a record level, with an average of 8.62 pigs saved per litter for the December-February period. Last year the litter rate averaged 8.40 pigs per litter. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.20 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 2,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.96 million sows farrow during the March-May 1997 quarter, slightly below the actual farrowings during the same period last year, and 7 percent lower than 1995. Intended farrowings for June-August 1997, at 2.82 million sows are 2 percent above 1996 but 5 percent below the 1995 period.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head total inventory, but raised by contractees, accounted for 24 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory. This compares to 21 percent in December 1996.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks report estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,500 Montana farmers and ranchers during March. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Montana's Rank	Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks	Sheep and Lamb Inventory
Quarterly Milk Production	Egg Production
Slaughter	Meat Animals PDI

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1996 Red Meat Production
February Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
1996 Sheep & Lamb Losses
Milk Production Egg Production
Wool & Mohair Potato Stocks

1996 MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 18.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 1996, compared with 17.8 million pounds in 1995. There were 20,700 cattle slaughtered during 1996, up 5 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 24.1 million pounds was up 5 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 35 pounds to 1,165 pounds.

There were 22,500 hogs slaughtered in Montana, a decrease of 6,300 head from 1995. Total live weight of 5.1 million pounds was down 26 percent from 1995, and the average live weight per head was 227 pounds compared with 239 pounds the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 2,900 head, a decrease of 300 head from a year earlier. The average live weight was equal to the previous year at 115 pounds. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1996 decreased 38,000 pounds from 1995 to 332,000 pounds.

The number of Montana slaughter plants federally inspected on January 1, 1997 was 15, down 1 from 1996. There were 36 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 1997, down 2 from the same date a year ago.

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the **United States** during 1996 totaled 43.3 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the record high set in 1995. Production included beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton slaughtered in commercial plants and on farms. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 43.1 billion pounds. Lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent from 1995, setting a new record low. Beef production was up 1 percent from the previous year at 25.5 billion pounds, the highest level since 1976. Veal production, at 379 million pounds, was up 19 percent from the previous year, pork production at 17.1 billion pounds, was down 4 percent, while lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent to 269 million pounds.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1996 totaled 36.6 million head, up 3 percent from 1995, with federal inspection comprising 97.6 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,169 pounds, down 14 pounds from last year. Steers comprised 48.7 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 29.4 percent, dairy cows 8.5 percent, beef cows 11.4 percent, and bulls 2.0 percent.

Commercial **calf** slaughter, at 1.77 million head, was up 24 percent from the previous year with 96.9 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 343 pounds, down 29 pounds from a year earlier. Commercial **hog** slaughter totaled 92.4 million head, down 4 percent from the previous year. Federal inspection comprised 98.0 percent. The average live weight fell 2 pounds to 254 pounds. Barrows and gilts were 95.5 percent of the total. Commercial **sheep and lamb** slaughter, at 4.18 million head, was down 8 percent from 1995 with federal inspection comprising 96.4 percent. Sheep and lambs average live weight was 128 pounds, up 3 pounds from 1995.

There were 954 slaughtering plants under federal inspection compared with 988 last year. Of these, 812 slaughtered at least one head of cattle and 13 plants slaughtered over 45 percent of the total head. There were 770 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 10 accounting for over 40 percent of the total. Likewise, 12 of the 380 plants that slaughtered calves comprised over half of the total and 3 of the 593 plants slaughtering one or more head of sheep or lambs in 1996 slaughtered 60 percent of the total head.

FEBRUARY MONTANA & U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February, down 29% from last year and down 14% from last month. There were 1,400 head of cattle slaughtered, down 600 head from a year ago. The total live weight of 1.6 million pounds decreased 33% from a year earlier, and the average live weight decreased 79 pounds to 1,115 pounds.

Hog kill in February totaled 1,500 head compared with 1,800 head last year. The average live weight decreased 12 pounds to 224 pounds. There were 100 head of sheep slaughtered in February, the same as a year ago. The average live weight rose 7 pounds to 120 pounds. Total live weight was 12,000 pounds, compared with 15,000 pounds a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.28 billion pounds during February, down 7 percent from the previous year. Beef production, at 1.92 billion pounds, was down 6 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.80 million head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,162 pounds. (continued on page 2)

MONTANA AND U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN (continued)

Veal production totaled 27.0 million pounds, down 11 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 125,700 head, 12 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was up 4 pounds to 348 pounds. **Pork** production, at 1.31 billion pounds, was down 8 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 6.97 million head, 9 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year at 256 pounds. **Lamb and mutton** production totaled 21.0 million pounds, down 10 percent from a year earlier and equaling the record low for February set in 1979. Sheep slaughter totaled 327,400 head, down 10 percent from a year ago. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 132 pounds.

January-February red meat production was 7.01 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent, veal was down 5 percent, pork was down 7 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 12 percent.

1996 MONTANA AND U.S. WOOL PRODUCTION

Montana wool growers produced 4.2 million pounds of wool during 1996, down 6 percent from 1995. The 1996 average price per pound of wool decreased 29 cents to 94 cents per pound. The value of wool produced was $3.9 million, a 28 percent decrease from the previous year. The total head shorn decreased 7 percent to 434,000 head. The average fleece weight rose from 9.4 pounds in 1995 to 9.6 pounds in 1996.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1996 was 56.7 million pounds, down 11 percent from 1995. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 7.28 million head, a decrease of 11 percent from 1995. The average price paid for wool sold in 1996 was $0.70 per pound for a total value of $39.7 million, down 38 percent from $64.3 million in 1995. The average fleece weight of 7.8 pounds remained unchanged from 1995.

U.S. FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 10.4 billion pounds, 2 percent below production in these same States in February 1996. The monthly decrease is due to 1996 being a leap year with February 1996 having 29 days. On a daily basis, February 1997 production increased 2 percent versus February 1996. January revised production, at 11.2 billion pounds was 1 percent above January 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,337 pounds for February, 10 pounds below February 1996. Again, the leap year in 1996 caused the monthly rate decline. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 81,000 head less than February 1996 and 10,000 head less than January 1996.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 6 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.28 million head on March 1, 1997. The inventory was 6 percent above March 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.77 million, 3 percent above 1996. Net placements were 1.71 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 352,000, 600-699 pounds were 500,000, 700-799 pounds were 606,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 314,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.78 million, 4 percent below 1996. Other disappearance totaled 61,000 during February, 15 percent below the previous year.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 8 Percent

Cattle on feed March 1, 1997, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.77 million, up 8 percent from the previous year and 7 percent above March 1, 1995. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.53 million, 6 percent above 1996 but slightly below 1995. Marketings during February totaled 1.53 million, 1 percent below 1996 but 11 percent above 1995. Other disappearance during February was 42,000 head, 19 percent below both 1996 and 1995.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT, U.S. UP 19 PERCENT

Montana producers stored 2.7 million cwt. of potatoes on March 1, 1997, compared with 2.5 million cwt. a year ago. The March 1 stocks represent 84 percent of 1996 production, one point below the 1995 production held a year earlier.

U.S. March 1, 1997 potato stocks totaled 185 million cwt, up 19 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Stocks account for 42 percent of the 1996 fall potato production in the 15 storage States, up two points from a year ago.

Disappearance from harvest through February totaled a record high 257 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. February disappearance of 35.9 million was 8 percent above a year ago. This includes potatoes fed to livestock. Shrinkage and loss to date was 26.7 million cwt, up 4 percent from the 25.6 million cwt lost last year and 2 percent above 26.2 million cwt lost two years ago.

Processors used 129 million cwt to March 1, 1997, up 7 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above two years ago. February processing of 19.9 million cwt of potatoes gained 14 percent on a year ago and 15 percent on the 1994 crop.

Western States held 133 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1997. This is up 17 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were up 6 percent and accounted for 50 percent of the Western total. Oregon's stocks were up 70 percent and Washington was 20 percent above a year earlier. Colorado's stocks were up 37 percent from last year. California's stocks were down 4 percent.

MONTANA 1996 SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 83,000 animals to weather, predators, disease, and other causes during 1996, representing a total value of $5.4 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost was down 10 percent from 1995, but the total value of inventory lost in 1996 rose 1 percent. High market prices this past year resulted in an increased value of sheep and lambs. The decline in sheep and lamb losses is partly due to the drop in total inventory which is down 5 percent from the previous year.

There were comments by producers saying that they are downsizing their flocks or getting out of the sheep business entirely due to predator problems and/or fluctuating prices in the market. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 9.4 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born--slightly lower than the previous year.

Predators caused an estimated $1.9 million in losses in 1996 down from $2.0 million the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 3.5 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born, slightly lower than the 10 year average of 3.6 percent. Predators accounted for 38 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths.

Coyotes remained the largest predator and the largest cause of all deaths. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $1.4 million. The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 31,200 head, down 5,900 head from last year. Coyotes accounted for 27 percent of all death losses in the state and 72 percent of all predator losses. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 26,200 head, down 17 percent from last year. Most of the decrease in lamb losses was due to a decline in coyote losses. Lambs lost to coyotes dropped 4,500 head. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 5,000, down 700 head from a year ago. The largest cause of sheep losses by predators was coyotes at 3,500 head.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.6 million in 1996--lower than the $2.8 million the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 47 percent of all losses. There were 27,400 head of lambs lost to weather, disease and other non-predatory causes in 1996, down 11 percent from a year ago. The largest non-predatory cause of lamb losses was weather conditions at 12,900 head.

Sheep losses to non-predatory factors totaled 11,800, 26 percent lower than 1995. Sheep lost to old age continued to be the largest cause at 4,500 head, down 1,200 head from the previous year.

A large number of producers reported sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year, resulting in a 58 percent increase. Lambs lost to unknown causes were up 3,700 head to 8,400 head. Unknown causes claimed 4,200 sheep, 900 more head than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes increased $.4 million to $.9 million.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Losses by Cause, Montana, 1995-1996

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
Predators												
Fox	--	100	--	9.4	3,400	2,600	166.1	142.1	3,400	2,700	166.1	151.5
Dog	700	400	57.4	37.6	900	1,000	44.0	54.7	1,600	1,400	101.4	92.3
Coyote	4,400	3,500	360.8	329.0	23,600	19,100	1,152.6	1,044.0	28,000	22,600	1,513.4	1,373.0
Eagle	200	200	16.4	18.8	2,500	2,000	122.1	109.3	2,700	2,200	138.5	128.1
Bobcat	--	100	--	9.4	--	100	--	5.5	--	200	--	14.9
Bear	100	300	8.2	28.2	200	500	9.8	27.3	300	800	18.0	55.5
Mountain Lion	200	200	16.4	18.8	300	300	14.7	16.4	500	500	31.1	35.2
Other Animals	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown Predators	100	200	8.2	18.8	500	600	24.4	32.8	600	800	32.6	51.6
Total Predators	**5,700**	**5,000**	**467.4**	**470.0**	**31,400**	**26,200**	**1,533.6**	**1,432.1**	**37,100**	**31,200**	**2,001.0**	**1,902.1**
Non-Predators												
All Diseases	2,800	1,800	229.6	169.2	7,200	4,900	351.6	267.8	10,000	6,700	581.2	437.0
Weather Conditions	1,600	1,600	131.2	150.4	12,700	12,900	620.3	705.1	14,300	14,500	751.5	855.5
Poison	1,500	600	123.0	56.4	400	700	19.5	38.3	1,900	1,300	142.5	94.7
Lambing Complications	1,300	1,100	106.6	103.4	7,100	5,500	346.8	300.6	8,400	6,600	453.4	404.0
On Back	1,200	1,200	98.4	112.8	--	--	--	--	1,200	1,200	98.4	112.8
Old Age	5,700	4,500	467.4	423.0					5,700	4,500	467.4	423.0
Theft	1,000	600	82.0	56.4	1,000	1,800	48.8	98.4	2,000	2,400	130.8	154.8
Other	900	400	73.8	37.6	2,500	1,600	122.1	87.5	3,400	2,000	195.9	125.1
Total Non-Predators	16,000	11,800	1,312.0	1,109.2	30,900	27,400	1,509.2	1,497.7	46,900	39,200	2,821.2	2,606.9
Unknown Causes	3,300	4,200	270.6	394.8	4,700	8,400	229.5	459.1	8,000	12,600	500.1	853.9
Total Loss	**25,000**	**21,000**	**2,050.0**	**1,974.0**	**67,000**	**62,000**	**3,272.5**	**3,388.9**	**92,000**	**83,000**	**5,322.3**	**5,362.9**

1/ Average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.88 billion during February 1997, down 1 percent from the 5.95 billion produced in 1996. Production included 4.98 billion table eggs and 902 million hatching eggs, of which 848 million were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 1997 averaged 303 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during February 1996. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,941 eggs, compared with 1,996 in February 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1997, totaled 304 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 304 million layers consisted of 250 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 51.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1997, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from the 69.5 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.57 billion eggs during February, down 1 percent from February 1996. The average number of layers during February, at 287 million, was up 2 percent from the year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Prospective Plantings
Hogs & Pigs	
Grain Stocks	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

MT Wheat & Barley Movement
All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Alfalfa Seed Production

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY MOVEMENT

The 56.2 million bushels of **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations during June-November 1996 were 42 percent below shipments for the same period last year.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 41 percent below the previous June-November period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was down 59 percent. Shipments to other destinations were down 36 percent.

Rail movement of 52.7 million bushels was down from 91.7 million shipped by rail during the same period in 1995. Trucks carried 3.5 million bushels compared with 5.7 million the previous June-November period.

Barley shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1996 was 13.2 million bushels, down 22 percent from the same period last year.

Barley shipped west amounted to 8.7 million bushels, down 29 percent from the 12.2 million bushels in the June-November 1995 period. Eastern shipments totaled 2.6 million bushels, down 33 percent from the 3.9 million bushels the previous year.

Movement to other destinations of 1.9 million bushels was up 125 percent from the same period last year.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY: Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/] *

Agricultural Statistics Districts	June-November 1995			June-November 1996			June-November 1995 Barley	June-November 1996 Barley
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat		
	--- 000 Bushels ---							
West [3/]	636	1,335	1,971	360	1,507	1,867	3,339	3,852
North Central	17,507	32,399	49,906	10,935	17,897	28,832	10,060	8,143
Northeast	1,080	25,258	26,338	711	13,047	13,758	1,363	377
Central	6,626	3,963	10,589	3,106	2,193	5,299	2,162	808
South Central	4,658	1,031	5,689	2,629	1,762	4,391	102	1
Southeast	1,482	1,428	2,910	1,102	933	2,035	29	64
Trucked East	14	27	41	3	48	51	17	44
Trucked West	2,801	2,378	5,179	1,459	1,812	3,271	1,579	1,912
Trucked Other [4/]	200	235	435	39	155	194	391	86
Total By Truck	3,015	2,640	5,655	1,501	2,015	3,516	1,987	2,042
Rail East	0	6,957	6,957	59	2,778	2,837	3,927	2,596
Rail West	28,974	54,750	83,724	17,246	31,822	48,068	10,689	6,793
Rail Other [4/]	0	1,067	1,067	37	724	761	452	1,814
Total By Rail	28,974	62,774	91,748	17,342	35,324	52,666	15,068	11,203
Total Shipped	31,989	65,414	97,403	18,843	37,339	56,182	17,055	13,245

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown. * This data made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1996

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					
	Planted Acres [1]	Net Planted Acres [2]	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Rank
Deer Lodge	1,400	1,400	1,400	50.0	70,000	52
Flathead	17,600	17,300	16,700	58.0	968,000	34
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	21,500	21,400	20,800	60.5	1,258,000	30
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	700	700	700	47.1	33,000	53
Missoula	4,000	4,000	3,900	42.3	165,000	47
Powell	1,600	1,600	1,600	77.5	124,000	50
Ravalli	2,800	2,800	2,700	51.1	138,000	49
Sanders	3,300	3,300	3,100	47.4	147,000	48
Other	100	100	100	70.0	7,000	--
NORTHWEST	**53,000**	**52,600**	**51,000**	**57.1**	**2,910,000**	--
Blaine	251,700	247,100	243,200	23.1	5,621,000	11
Chouteau	673,600	653,700	642,500	31.1	19,979,000	1
Glacier	177,500	176,900	173,600	31.5	5,474,000	13
Hill	567,700	541,700	530,700	32.1	17,036,000	2
Liberty	317,700	315,600	303,700	30.4	9,227,000	3
Phillips	178,100	176,500	167,900	18.8	3,158,000	19
Pondera	233,300	223,900	218,200	37.3	8,132,000	4
Teton	213,400	206,700	203,300	38.7	7,869,000	6
Toole	271,000	269,700	261,500	29.2	7,648,000	8
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,884,000**	**2,811,800**	**2,744,600**	**30.7**	**84,144,000**	--
Daniels	285,500	285,500	283,400	26.7	7,568,000	9
Dawson	204,500	201,700	198,800	27.8	5,525,000	12
Garfield	135,000	131,200	129,000	19.4	2,498,000	22
McCone	272,100	270,300	261,400	19.5	5,090,000	16
Richland	218,900	218,700	212,600	24.5	5,210,000	14
Roosevelt	376,200	375,800	359,500	21.7	7,787,000	7
Sheridan	321,500	320,100	297,000	24.3	7,210,000	10
Valley	359,800	359,400	357,300	22.3	7,981,000	5
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**2,173,500**	**2,162,700**	**2,099,000**	**23.3**	**48,869,000**	--
Broadwater	48,300	47,900	47,500	39.5	1,875,000	24
Cascade	178,400	177,100	174,500	29.3	5,121,000	15
Fergus	212,500	210,300	200,500	23.5	4,717,000	17
Golden Valley	41,800	41,600	41,000	22.6	927,000	35
Judith Basin	104,500	100,300	97,200	24.4	2,367,000	23
Lewis & Clark	15,800	15,000	14,800	32.7	484,000	42
Meagher	12,600	12,400	12,000	32.3	388,000	43
Musselshell	42,200	42,200	41,200	26.6	1,094,000	33
Petroleum	20,400	18,600	18,200	26.8	487,000	41
Wheatland	52,500	52,400	52,000	17.7	922,000	36
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**729,000**	**717,800**	**698,900**	**26.3**	**18,382,000**	--
Beaverhead	14,100	14,100	13,600	61.2	832,000	38
Gallatin	50,600	49,900	48,700	52.4	2,550,000	21
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	12,900	12,800	12,400	59.5	738,000	39
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	2,900	2,900	2,800	37.5	105,000	--
SOUTHWEST	**80,500**	**79,700**	**77,500**	**54.5**	**4,225,000**	--
Big Horn	110,200	109,500	105,300	31.0	3,263,000	18
Carbon	17,400	17,400	16,700	30.6	511,000	40
Park	12,000	11,700	11,600	21.9	254,000	45
Stillwater	55,500	55,500	54,900	24.3	1,334,000	28
Sweetgrass	6,300	6,300	6,200	29.8	185,000	46
Treasure	8,700	8,500	8,100	44.9	364,000	44
Yellowstone	118,900	118,500	112,200	26.6	2,989,000	20
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**329,000**	**327,400**	**315,000**	**28.3**	**8,900,000**	--
Carter	55,500	55,100	50,400	24.7	1,243,000	31
Custer	47,200	46,500	43,900	25.3	1,111,000	32
Fallon	64,500	63,500	61,700	23.7	1,465,000	26
Powder River	35,100	34,900	34,400	25.7	884,000	37
Prairie	53,500	53,300	52,900	27.4	1,450,000	27
Rosebud	66,300	65,800	64,800	28.4	1,841,000	25
Wibaux	58,900	58,900	55,900	23.0	1,286,000	29
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**381,000**	**378,000**	**364,000**	**25.5**	**9,280,000**	--
MONTANA	**6,630,000**	**6,530,000**	**6,350,000**	**27.8**	**176,710,000**	--

[1] Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

[2] Planted acres less winter wheat acres replanted to spring wheat.

JANUARY AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of January were lower with the exception of malt barley. Winter wheat declined 21 cents to $4.14 per bushel, while durum wheat dropped $1.15 to $4.19 per bushel. Spring wheat was down 27 cents to $4.15 per bushel. Feed barley decreased 6 cents to $2.33 and malt barley dropped 7 cents $3.37 per bushel. At $1.52 per bushel oats averaged 33 cents lower than the previous month. Alfalfa hay climbed $21.00 to $106.00 a ton and other hay increased $16.00 to $88.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-February averaged $4.12 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.47. Mid-February prices for alfalfa hay continue to increase at $117.00 a ton and other hay was up to $93.00 a ton.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were higher than the previous month, with the exception of milk. Steers and heifers saw a $5.20 cent increase to $67.50 per cwt. Cows increased 70 cents to $33.30, while the average price for calves was up $5.40 to $70.10 per cwt. Sheep rose $4.00 to $41.80 per cwt and lambs jumped $7.10 to $104.00 per cwt. Milk prices dropped $2.00 to $13.50 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $69.30 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $65.20 per cwt for the full month of January. Cow prices came in a $30.00 and hogs were $53.80 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.03 per bushel and $2.53 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 76 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 105 based on 1990-92=100, down 3 points (2.8 percent) from January. Price declines from January for lettuce, broilers, wheat, and hogs more than offset price increases for soybeans, tomatoes, hay, and tobacco. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of corn, tobacco, soybeans, and cotton more than offset the relatively higher marketings of milk, cattle, hogs, and broilers. These changes contributed two points of the three point decrease in the overall index.

Compared with February 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 1 point (0.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1996 for corn, wheat, potatoes, and lettuce more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, broilers, and hay.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Jan. 1996	Feb. 1996	Jan. 1997	Feb. 1997
Prices Received	108	106	108	105
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	113	113	116	116
Ratio [2/]	96	94	93	91

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	February 15, 1997	February 15, 1997
		January 1996	December 1996	January 1997	January 1997		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.67	4.35	4.14	4.02	4.15	3.89
Durum	Bu.	5.87	5.34	4.19	4.47	4.35	4.45
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.58	4.42	4.15	3.95	4.10	3.83
All Wheat	Bu.	4.63	4.43	4.15	4.03	4.12	3.91
Barley, All	Bu.	3.16	3.21	2.94	2.53	2.63	2.47
Feed	Bu.	2.99	2.39	2.33	2.28	2.30	2.29
Malt	Bu.	3.37	3.44	3.37	2.68	3.40	2.62
Oats	Bu.	1.76	1.85	1.52	1.82	1.70	1.87
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	65.00	85.00	106.00	106.00	117.00	115.00
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	72.00	88.00	80.10	93.00	80.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	63.00	84.00	104.00	99.70	113.00	105.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	58.70	62.30	67.50	65.20	69.30	64.50
Cows	Cwt.	33.30	32.60	33.30	30.00	36.60	32.20
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt	52.60	57.30	62.00	61.40	63.40	61.20
Calves	Cwt.	62.30	64.70	70.10	68.10	74.90	72.60
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	29.00	37.80	41.80	41.80	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	80.10	96.90	104.00	94.60	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	15.00	15.50	13.50	13.40	13.90	13.30

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

MONTANA 1996 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Montana alfalfa seed production during 1996 rose nearly 47 percent from last year. Seed production totaled 5.06 million pounds compared with 3.45 million pounds produced in 1995. Proprietary varieties made up 61 percent of this year's production, up slightly from last year. Common uncertified varieties accounted for 29 percent of the production and common certified varieties made up the remaining 10 percent.

Producers harvested 11,500 acres of seed, down 800 acres from a year ago. The decrease in harvested acreage was offset by extremely good yields. The state average yield was estimated at a record 440 pounds per acre, 50 pounds more than the previous record set in 1994. Non-irrigated acreage and yield fell from the previous year, but were offset by a significant increase in acreage and yield of the irrigated crop.

The average price received for the 1996 crop was $1.18 per pound, up 11 cents from 1995's average price.

ALFALFA SEED: 1996 ESTIMATES BY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield (Lbs.)	Production (Lbs.)	Acres	Yield (Lbs.)	Production (Lbs.)	Acres	Yield (Lbs.)	Production (Lbs.)
NW+SW	200	400	80,000	200	400	80,000	0	0	0
NC	1,800	458	824,000	1,500	531	797,000	300	90	27,000
NE	800	281	225,000	600	333	200,000	200	125	25,000
C	900	259	233,000	800	279	223,000	100	100	10,000
SC	4,800	558	2,678,000	3,800	666	2,530,000	1,000	148	148,000
SE	3,000	340	1,020,000	1,800	450	810,000	1,200	175	210,000
MT	**11,500**	**440**	**5,060,000**	**8,700**	**533**	**4,640,000**	**2,800**	**150**	**420,000**

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Sheep & Lamb Losses
Wool & Mohair Production
Milk Production
Potato Stocks

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

January Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
Crop Values
Farm Labor
January Milk Production
February 1 Potato Stocks
January Egg Production
Honey Production

MONTANA 1996 CROP VALUES

The value of Montana's 1996 all wheat crop fell over 21% from 1995 to $711.5 million. Drought like conditions lowered production of the 96 crop from a year ago and the preliminary season average price fell $.63 from a year ago to $4.00 per bushel.

The estimated value of Montana's winter wheat crop totaled $240.8 million, down 5% from 1995. Although production rose to a more normal level, a lower season average price brought down the value of production. The winter wheat season average price was set at $3.80, down $.82 from a year ago. Other spring wheat value of production fell nearly 28 percent from last year to $442.4 million. Production fell 20% from 1995 and the season average price dropped $.44 from 1995 to $4.15 per bushel. The durum wheat season average price also fell, and is estimated at $4.20 per bushel, down $.89 per bushel.

Total value of production for barley was set at $154.8 million, down 17% from last year. The season average remained the same as last year at $3.00, but lower production brought down the total crop value.

All hay value of production fell 6% from a year ago and is estimated at $326.9 million. The preliminary season average price rose $3.00 from last year to $69.00 per ton.

MONTANA DOWN, U.S. BEEF PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH FOR JANUARY

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 1997, down 28 percent from last year, and slightly lower than last month. There were 1,700 head of cattle slaughtered, compared to 2,300 last year during this time. The average liveweight of 1,108 pounds was down 34 pounds from a year ago.

January slaughter of hogs amounted to 1,500 head, down 800 head from last January. The average liveweight was 224 pounds, 10 pounds lighter than a year ago. Sheep slaughter, at 200 head, remained unchanged from last year. The average liveweight was up 15 pounds from a year ago to 129 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.74 billion pounds during January. This production was down 2 percent from the previous year. Beef production, at 2.22 billion pounds, was up slightly from the previous record set in January, 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.25 million head, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,160 pounds.

Veal production totaled 31.0 million pounds, up slightly from last year. Calf slaughter totaled 146,600 head, 2 percent above a year ago. The average live weight was down 6 pounds to 344 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.46 billion pounds, was down 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.76 million head, 6 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year at 257 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 20.0 million pounds, down 13 percent from the previous low for January set in 1996 and 1979. Sheep slaughter totaled 304,400 head, down 16 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 5 pounds to 131 pounds.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.31 million head on February 1, 1997. The inventory was 4 percent above February 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.87 million, 21 percent above a year ago. Net placements were 1.78 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 408,000, 600-699 pounds were 652,000, 700-799 pounds were 515,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 292,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.02 million, 5 percent above a year ago. Other disappearance totaled 92,000 during January, 42 percent above the previous year.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 6 Percent

Cattle on feed February 1, 1997, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.78 million, up 6 percent from the previous year and 8 percent above February 1, 1995.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.64 million, 25 percent above a year ago and 1 percent above January 1995. Marketings during January totaled 1.74 million, 7 percent above a year ago and 17 percent above January 1995. Other disappearance during January was 65,000 head, 33 percent above a year ago and 10 percent above January 1995.

PLEASE RETURN

U.S. HIRED WORKERS UP 7 PERCENT, WAGES UP 4 PERCENT

There were 766,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 12-18, 1997, up 7 percent from a year earlier. There were 635,000 workers hired directly by farm operators.

Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 131,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 9.5 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 5.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $7.19 per hour during the January 1997 survey week, up 30 cents (4.0 percent) from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $6.60 per hour, up 27 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.52 per hour compared with $6.20 a year earlier.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS 1/

Region	States Included in Region	January 7-13, 1996				January 12-18, 1997			
		Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
		Field	Lvstk	Field & Lvstk		Field	Lvstk	Field & Lvstk	
Northeast I	CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT	7.53	5.63	6.30	7.12	7.78	6.28	6.82	7.45
Northeast II	DE, MD, NJ, PA	6.53	5.54	6.04	6.76	7.38	6.12	6.66	7.40
Appalachian I	NC, VA	5.97	6.20	6.13	6.51	6.24	6.91	6.46	6.85
Appalachian II	KY, TN, WV	5.41	5.93	5.62	5.94	5.87	6.27	6.08	6.80
Southeast	AL, GA, SC	6.00	6.13	6.04	6.60	7.36	6.14	7.01	7.43
Florida	n/a	6.40	6.25	6.38	7.43	6.80	6.80	6.80	7.35
Lake	NC, VA	6.97	5.68	5.97	6.80	7.74	6.20	6.66	7.28
Cornbelt I	IL, IN, OH	7.15	6.47	6.81	7.27	7.13	7.42	7.27	7.88
Cornbelt II	IA, MO	5.89	6.23	6.10	6.33	7.35	6.32	6.74	7.22
Delta	AR, LA, MS	6.04	5.92	5.97	6.43	6.26	6.16	6.21	6.82
Northern Plains	KS, NE, ND, SD	7.46	6.59	6.79	7.20	7.80	7.16	7.35	7.57
Southern Plains	OK, TX	5.31	5.89	5.59	6.17	5.56	5.97	5.81	6.11
Mountain I	ID, MT, WY	6.75	6.31	6.42	6.61	6.19	6.59	6.48	6.91
Mountain II	CO, NV, UT	6.80	6.29	6.49	7.09	6.75	6.64	6.67	7.37
Mountain III	AZ, NM	5.42	5.90	5.57	6.43	5.82	5.90	5.84	6.36
Pacific	OR, WA	6.95	7.26	7.00	7.46	6.71	6.92	6.78	7.42
California	n/a	6.25	7.21	6.35	6.95	6.04	7.50	6.25	7.10
Hawaii	n/a	8.34	2/	8.34	9.63	8.85	2/	8.87	10.32
US	Excludes AK	6.33	6.20	6.28	6.89	6.60	6.52	6.57	7.19

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Insufficient Data

MONTANA HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 17 PERCENT, UNITED STATES DOWN 6 PERCENT

Montana's honey producers with five or more colonies produced 7.02 million pounds of honey in 1996, down 10 percent from the previous year. There were 117,000 colonies producing honey in 1996, compared with 106,000 colonies in 1995. The yield per colony decreased 20 pounds from last year to 60 pounds per colony. The cooler spring and hot, dry and windy summer contributed to the lower yield. Stocks on hand December 15, 1996, totaled 1.83 million pounds, up 2 percent from 1995.

The average price per pound received by Montana apiarists was 88 cents, up from the 72 cents received in 1995. The 1996 value of production for Montana's honey was 6.2 million dollars, compared with 6.1 million dollars a year ago.

United States honey production in 1996 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 198 million pounds, down 6 percent from 1995. There were 2.57 million colonies producing honey in 1996, compared with 2.65 million in 1995. Yield per colony averaged 77.2 pounds, down 2.3 pounds from the 79.5 pounds in 1995. Colonies which produced in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may be understated. Producer honey stocks were 47.0 million pounds on December 15, 1996, up 11 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1996 crop averaged a record high 89.4 cents per pound, up 31 percent from the previous record price of 68.5 cents in 1995. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting State average prices by the State quantities sold. Prices were higher for all color classes in 1996.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS UP 10 PERCENT, U.S. UP 17 PERCENT

Montana producers stored 2.9 million cwt. of potatoes on February 1, 1997, compared with 2.6 million cwt. a year ago. The February 1 stocks represent 89 percent of 1996 production, one percent above the percentage held a year earlier.

The 15 major potato States held 220 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1997, up 17 percent from a year earlier and 9 percent above 1995. Storage accounted for 50 percent of 1996 fall production in the storage States, up two points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent reds, 15 percent whites, and 82 percent russets with more russets and fewer whites than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to February 1 was 221 million cwt of potatoes, up 8 percent from the same period a year earlier and 7 percent above two years ago. Disappearance during January was 36.1 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year but slightly less than two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 23.9 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year.

Processing gained 6 percent to 109 million cwt so far this season and was 11 percent above two years ago. In January, processors claimed 16.4 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from last year but 2 percent short of two years ago.

Western States held 158 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1997, 17 percent above a year ago and 5 percent above two years ago. Oregon's stocks were up substantially at 63 percent above last year, and Colorado jumped 34 percent from year-ago levels. Both States were more than 30 percent above two years ago. Washington's stocks were up 20 percent. Idaho, with about half the Western stocks, was up 6 percent. California's potato stocks were 11 percent below a year ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1996-97

State	Crop of 1995			Crop of 1996		
	Production	Feb. 1, 1996 Stocks	Percent of Production	Production	Feb. 1, 1997 Stocks	Percent of Production
	1,000 CWT			1,000 CWT		
California	5,330	2,800	53	4,600	2,500	54
Colorado	23,808	13,400	56	28,786	17,900	62
Idaho	132,657	73,500	55	139,960	78,000	56
Maine	17,160	10,400	61	21,175	13,100	62
Michigan	16,350	6,500	40	13,800	5,100	37
Minnesota	20,790	10,200	49	24,600	13,200	54
Montana	2,940	2,600	88	3,213	2,850	89
Nebraska	3,680	2,000	54	4,402	2,440	55
New York	7,695	1,500	19	7,980	1,400	18
North Dakota	25,410	11,500	45	28,820	13,800	48
Ohio	1,404	60	4	1,275	75	6
Oregon	24,788	12,300	50	31,684	20,000	63
Pennsylvania	4,080	1,200	29	4,208	1,100	26
Washington	80,850	30,500	38	94,990	36,500	38
Wisconsin	26,000	10,500	40	31,590	12,500	40
15 State Total	392,942	188,960	48	441,083	220,465	50

MONTANA AND U.S. ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY

Montana milk cows produced 307 million pounds of milk during 1996, down 2 percent from 1995. There was an average of 20,000 milk cows producing milk in 1996, 1,000 less than a year earlier. The average pounds of milk produced per cow increased to 15,350 pounds in 1996 up from 15,000 pounds in 1995. The number of operations with one or more milk cows decreased to 800 in 1996 compared with 900 in 1995.

U.S. milk cows produced 154.3 billion pounds of milk during 1996, compared with 155.4 billion pounds in 1995, a 1 percent decrease. There were 9.4 million cows producing milk in 1996, down 100,000 head from last year. These 9.4 million cows produced an average of 16,498 pounds of milk each, up fractionally from the previous year. There were 126,800 operations with milk cows in 1996, down 10,230 from the previous year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 11.1 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same States in January 1996. December revised production, at 11.0 billion pounds was 1 percent above December 1995. During 1996, milk production was 1.16 billion pounds less than 1995. On a daily basis, 1996 production averaged 3.16 million pounds per day less than 1995.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,426 pounds for January, 11 pounds above January 1996. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 91,000 head less than January 1996 and 10,000 head less than December 1996. This is the eighteenth consecutive month of decline. The number of cows on farms averaged 107,000 less during 1996 when compared to 1995. The number of milk cows on farms was the lowest on record.

During the October-December period, the 20 major States produced 32.3 billion pounds of milk, 85.2 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 30 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 20 States, the U.S. production would be 13.0 billion pounds for January 1997.

JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.55 billion during January 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.40 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.57 billion table eggs and 982 million hatching eggs, of which 920 million were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 1997 averaged 303 million, up 1 percent from the average number of layers during January 1996. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,162 eggs, compared with 2,141 in January 1996.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 1997, totaled 302 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 302 million layers consisted of 248 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 50.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1997, averaged 68.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 68.1 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.21 billion eggs during January, up 3 percent from January 1996. The average number of layers during January, at 287 million, was up 2 percent from the year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Alfalfa Seed Production
Wheat & Barley Movement

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle & Calf Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Ag Prices Received
Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production
Egg Production

JANUARY 1, 1997 CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY

Montana's cattle and calf inventory totaled 2.7 million head on January 1, 1997, down 2 percent from a year ago, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The reduction was mainly in the inventories of steers and non-replacement heifers weighing more than 500 pounds. The non-replacement heifer inventory of 205,000 head was down 23 percent from last year and steers, at 300,000 head, were down 9 percent. Part of the drop in other heifer and steer inventories can be attributed to poor grazing conditions last year that resulted in lower weaning weights. The lower weaning weights resulted in more calves weighing less than 500 pounds on January 1. The number of calves increased 11 percent from last year to 150,000 head, but the calf inventory was still down from two years ago.

The number of beef cows that had calved remained unchanged from the previous year at 1.59 million head. The number of milk cows in the state equaled last year, at 20,000 head, after declining the previous four years. Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, rose 6 percent to 350,000 head, but the number of heifer replacements is still below two years ago. Milk heifer replacements was unchanged from the previous year at 7,000 head. The number of bulls weighing 500 pounds or more increased 5 percent to 98,000 head.

During 1996, there were 1.54 million calves born in Montana, unchanged from the previous year. Calving conditions were poor last spring as spring snowstorms and unusually cold temperatures caused higher calf death losses. Information about the number of cattle and death losses during 1996 will not be available until April 25, 1997.

The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter, at 85,000 head, dropped 19 percent from the previous year. Cold weather and large amounts of snow has made cattle feeding difficult throughout most of the state. There are concerns about having adequate supplies of hay and the price of hay. Cattle and calves were moved from summer ranges earlier than a year ago due to the lack of grass or early snow fall. As of January 14th, 94 percent of cattle and sheep were receiving supplemental feed compared to 73 percent the previous year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1997, totaled 101.2 million head, 2 percent below the 103.5 million on January 1, 1996 and 2 percent below the 102.8 million two years ago.. Beef cows, at 34.3 million, were down 3 percent from January 1, 1996 and 2 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.28 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1996.

The 1996 U.S. calf crop was estimated at 39.6 million, down 2 percent from 1995 and down 1 percent from 1994.

The number of operations in the U.S. with cattle totaled 1,194,390 during 1996, down 1 percent from 1995 and 2 percent below 1994. Beef cow operations in 1996 were down 1 percent from both 1995 and 1994. Milk cow operations were 7 percent below last year and 15 percent below two years ago.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.56 million head on January 1, 1997. The inventory was 2 percent above January 1, 1996. The inventory included 6.40 million steers and steer calves, down 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounts for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.07 million head, up 12 percent from 1996.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.70 million, 2 percent below 1995. Net placements were 1.61 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 480,000, 600-699 pounds were 536,000, 700-799 pounds were 418,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 261,000. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.68 million, 1 percent above 1995. Other disappearance totaled 86,000 during December, 26 percent above the previous year.

SPECIAL THANKS TO all livestock producers responding to our January 1 cattle and sheep inventory surveys. Field and telephone enumerators contacted almost 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers early in January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1995-97

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1995	1996	1997	'97/'96	UNITED STATES 1/ 1995	1996	1997	'97/'96
		1,000 head				1,000 head		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,700	2,750	2,700	98%	102,755	102,487	101,209	98%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,580	1,590	1,590	100%	44,643	44,644	43,561	98%
Beef Cows	1,559	1,570	1,570	100%	35,156	35,228	34,280	97%
Milk Cows	21	20	20	100%	9,487	9,416	9,281	99%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	597	602	562	93%	19,891	20,232	20,306	100%
For beef cow replacement	360	330	350	106%	6,475	6,179	6,051	98%
For milk cow replacement	7	7	7	100%	4,141	4,104	4,037	98%
Other heifers	230	265	205	77%	9,275	9,949	10,219	103%
Steers 500 pounds and over	270	330	300	91%	17,463	17,732	17,315	98%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	98	93	98	105%	2,390	2,392	2,339	98%
Calves less than 500 pounds	155	135	150	111%	18,369	18,488	17,688	96%
Cattle on Feed	100	105	85	81%	12,431	12,968	13,216	102%

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS, 1994-96

ITEM	1994	1995	1996	'96/'95	1994	1995	1996	'96/'95
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,500	1,540	1,540	100%	40,059	40,211	39,586	98%
Number cattle farms 2/	13,000	12,700	13,200	104%	1,213,690	1,210,310	1,194,390	99%
Operations with beef cattle 2/	11,100	11,500	11,700	102%	906,810	910,130	900,680	99%
Operations with milk cows 2/	1,000	900	800	89%	148,690	137,030	126,800	93%

1/ Numbers may not add due to rounding. 2/ Actual number.

SHEEP and LAMBS INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1995-97

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1995	1996	1997	'97/'96	UNITED STATES 1/ 1995	1996	1997	'97/'96
		1,000 head				1,000 head		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	490	465	432	93%	8,886	8,461	7,937	94%
Market Sheep & Lambs 1/	40	35	32	91%	2,450	2,234	2,087	93%
Sheep	1	2	2	100%	103	82	85	104%
Lambs	39	33	30	91%	2,347	2,152	2,002	93%
Breeding sheep	450	430	400	93%	6,436	6,228	5,850	94%
One year old & older								
Ewes	367	347	330	95%	5,300	5,128	4,836	94%
Rams	12	11	11	100%	258	236	220	93%
Replacement Lambs	71	72	59	82%	878	863	794	92%

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS, 1994-96

ITEM	1994	1995	1996	'96/'95	1994	1995	1996	'96/'95
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	465	410	390	95%	5,897	5,606	5,282	94%
Number of sheep farms 2/	2,300	2,200	2,200	100%	87,150	81,070	77,010	95%

1/ Numbers may not add due to rounding. 2/ Actual number.

JANUARY SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN IN MONTANA AND U.S.

The number of sheep and lambs on Montana farms and ranches totaled 432,000 head on January 1, 1997. The sheep and lamb inventory is down 7 percent from last year, a new record low. Some producers are downsizing their flocks due to predator problems and fluctuating prices in the market.

Total breeding sheep and lambs decreased 30,000 head from last year to 400,000. Many producers reported not keeping replacement lambs this year. Some producers cited high prices as being a factor in selling their lambs. Some plan on buying replacements in the spring. Other producers reported not keeping replacements because they are decreasing their flock size. Ewes one year and older were down 5 percent at 330,000 head. The 1996 lamb crop was down 5 percent at 390,000 head.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 32,000 head with market lambs making up 94 percent of the total. Thirteen percent of the market lambs were under 65 pounds, 27 percent were 65-84 pounds, 47 percent 85-105 pounds, and 13 percent were over 105 pounds.

There were 2,200 sheep operations in Montana during 1996, unchanged from 1995.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1997, totaled 7.94 million head, down 6 percent from 1996 and 11 percent below two years ago. Inventory has slowly declined since 1942 when all sheep and lambs reached it's peak of 56.21 million head. Breeding sheep inventory reached 5.85 million head on January 1, 1997, down 6 percent from last year's 6.23 million head. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.84 million head, were 6 percent below last year's record low.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1997 totaled 2.09 million head, down 7 percent from January 1, 1996. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-three percent were under 65 pounds, 18 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 31 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 24 percent were over 105 pounds.

The 1996 U.S. lamb crop was a record low 5.28 million head, down 6 percent from 1995. This compares with the previous record low of 5.61 million head set a year ago. The 1996 lambing rate was 103 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1996, compared with 106 in 1995.

The number of operations with sheep during 1996 totaled 77,010, down 5 percent from 1995 and 12 percent from 1994.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED FOR DECEMBER MOSTLY HIGHER

Montana crop prices for the full month of December were higher with the exception of malt barley. Winter wheat rose 20 cents to $4.35 per bushel, while durum wheat jumped 60 cents to $5.34 per bushel. Spring wheat went up 16 cents to $4.42 per bushel. Feed barley increased 7 cents to $2.39 and malt barley dropped a dime to $3.44 per bushel. At $1.85 per bushel oats averaged 31 cents higher than the previous month. Alfalfa hay climbed $9.00 to $85.00 a ton and other hay soared upward $12.00 to $72.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-January averaged $4.16 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.82. Mid-January prices for alfalfa hay continue to increase at $106.00 a ton and other hay was up to $88.00 a ton. Comments from farmers and ranchers indicate hay supplies are low and prices are continuing to increase as producers try to locate enough hay to carry their livestock through the winter.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were higher than the previous month, with the exception of milk. Steers and heifers saw an 80 cent increase to $62.30 per cwt. Cows increased 20 cents to $32.60, while the average price for calves was up $2.20 to $64.70 per cwt. Sheep rose $6.40 to $37.80 per cwt and lambs jumped $8.50 to $96.90 per cwt. Milk prices dropped $1.70 to $15.50 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $65.50 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $65.50 per cwt for the full month of December. Cow prices came in at $28.30 and hogs were $55.60 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.06 per bushel and $2.73 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 87.7 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 108 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (1.8 percent) from December. Price declines from December for milk, eggs, hogs, and lettuce more than offset price increases for cattle, calves, hay, and soybeans. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level, however, these changes were essentially offsetting in January. Compared with January 1996, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Price increases from January 1996 for cattle, hogs, soybeans, and lettuce were offset by price decreases for wheat, corn, potatoes, and cotton.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Dec. 1995	Jan. 1996	Dec. 1996	Jan. 1997
Prices Received	108	108	110	108
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	112	113	115	116
Ratio 2/	96	96	96	93

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	January 15, 1997	January 15, 1997
		December 1995	November 1996	December 1996	December 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.65	4.15	4.35	4.04	4.20	3.97
Durum	Bu.	5.23	4.74	5.34	4.59	4.60	4.44
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.51	4.26	4.42	4.01	4.10	3.88
All Wheat	Bu.	4.58	4.25	4.43	4.06	4.16	3.97
Barley, All	Bu.	3.05	3.17	3.21	2.73	2.82	2.60
Feed	Bu.	2.85	2.32	2.39	2.29	2.35	2.30
Malt	Bu.	3.32	3.54	3.44	3.04	3.40	2.94
Oats	Bu.	1.50	1.54	1.85	1.72	1.85	1.83
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	76.00	85.00	102.00	106.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	56.00	60.00	72.00	77.90	88.00	80.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	75.00	84.00	95.90	104.00	99.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	62.30	61.50	62.30	65.50	65.50	65.80
Cows	Cwt.	32.10	32.40	32.60	28.30	32.00	27.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	54.10	58.90	57.30	60.70	59.10	61.20
Calves	Cwt.	63.80	62.50	64.70	61.80	67.80	67.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	24.60	31.40	37.80	33.10	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	80.20	88.40	96.90	88.30	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt.	14.20	17.20	15.50	14.10	13.60	13.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

1996 EGG PRODUCTION AND CHICKEN INVENTORY

Montana chickens produced 108 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 1996, up 3 percent from last year. Our state averaged 378,000 layers in 1996, compared with 371,000 the previous year. The annual average production per layer on hand was 286 eggs, up one percent from a year ago.

There were 470,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 1996, compared with 540,000 on hand last year. The December 1, 1996 inventory included 197,000 layers 20 weeks old, 43,000 between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 56,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1996, was 1.50 million dollars, up 11 percent from the previous December. The average value per bird was up 70 cents from last year to $3.20.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1996 totaled 76.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the previous year's total of 74.6 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1996 averaged 297 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1996 was 255 eggs, compared with the 1995 average of 253 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 1996 (excluding commercial broilers) was 386 million birds, up fractionally from last year. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 1996, totaled 335 million, up 1 percent from December 1, 1995. Of the 335 million potential layers, 91 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1,1996 was $1.03 billion, up 10 percent from December 1, 1995. The average value increased from $2.42 per bird on December 1, 1995 to $2.66 per bird on December 1, 1996.

U.S. DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.68 billion during December 1996, up 2 percent from the 6.52 billion produced in 1995. Production included 5.69 billion table eggs and 983 million hatching eggs, of which 923 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 1996 averaged 304 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during December 1995. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,198 eggs, compared with 2,183 in December 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 1997, totaled 304 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 304 million layers consisted of 250 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 50.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.66 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 1997, averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.9 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.33 billion eggs during December, up 3 percent from December 1995. The average number of layers during December, at 288 million, was up 2 percent from the year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Cattle on Feed
Crop Values	Slaughter
Milk Production	Farm Labor
Honey	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Crop Production
Cherry Production
Potato Stocks
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price
Quarterly Milk Production
Red Meat Production

ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION - 1996

Montana wheat growers planted the largest wheat acreage on record for the 1996 season. A more lenient farm bill and strong wheat prices were the major factors for the increase. Producers planted 6.63 million acres of wheat, up 16% from 1995 and up nearly 5% from the previous record in 1989. What started out to be another record production year was hurt by drought-like conditions across the state beginning in July. Yield forecast dropped monthly as very little rain fell. Total all wheat production was estimated at 176.71 million bushels, off 10% from last year's very large output.

Growers were able to plant a more normal winter wheat acreage in the fall of 1995 with better seeding conditions than the last few years. Winter wheat planted acreage was set at 2.15 million acres with growers able to harvest 1.98 million acres. Winter wheat planted acreage was up 650,000 acres from the 1995 season. Yield was estimated at 32 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels from last year. Total production was set at 63.36 million bushels, up 16% from last year only because of the large increase in acreage.

Other spring wheat planted acreage was set at 4.2 million acres, the largest acreage since 1953 when other spring wheat and durum wheat were recorded together. Harvested acreage was set at 4.1 million acres. Total production was estimated at 106.6 million bushels, the third largest other spring wheat crop on record, but again only due to the large amount of acreage planted. Yield for other spring wheat was set at 26 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels from last year.

Durum wheat planted acreage was estimated at 280,000 acres planted, with 270, 000 harvested. Planted acreage is up 4% from last year. Total production was 6.75 million bushels, down 15% from last year, yields averaged 25 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year.

Barley production totaled 51.6 million bushels, down 17% from last year. Yields averaged 43 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels from 1995. Growers planted 1.3 million acres and harvested 1.2 million acres--both acreages are unchanged from 1995.

Oat production was set at its lowest level since 1889, with total production at 2.0 million bushels. Total production was down 58% from a year ago. Planted acreage was set at 100,000 acres, the lowest level since records began for planted acres in 1929, and down 45,000 from last year. Farmers harvested 50,000 acres, the smallest acreage since 1885. Yields averaged 40 bushels per acre, down 19 bushels from last year.

Row crops, which are primarily irrigated in Montana, faired very well in 1996. Corn production was estimated at 2.06 million bushels on 15,000 acres harvested for grain. A record state average yield was set at 137 bushels per acre, up 17 bushels from last year. Sugar beet production was estimated at 1.3 million tons, with yields averaging 22.6 tons per acre. Montana dry bean growers also realized record yields in 1996, with yields averaging 22.8 cwt. per acre. Total dry bean production was estimated at 235,000 cwt. Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.2 million cwt., up 10 percent from last year. Yields were up 15 cwt. from last year's average 315 cwt. per acre.

Although there was a slight increase in harvested acres of all hay in Montana, lower yields with the drought-like conditions lowered total production by more than 8 percent from last year. Total harvested acres were estimated at 2.6 million, up 200,000 from last year. All hay average yields were set at 1.89 tons per acre, down 0.34 ton from last year. Alfalfa harvested acreage was set at 1.7 million acres, up 100,000 acres, with yields averaging 2.1 tons per acre compared with 2.5 tons per acre in 1995. Other hay harvested acreage was set at 900,000 acres with yields averaging 1.5 tons per acre.

CHERRY PRODUCTION

Montana production of sweet cherries was estimated at 700 tons, down 200 tons from 1995's revised estimate of 900 tons. This year's crop was hit with cool wet weather during pollination causing a decrease in total production. Utilized production totaled 630 tons. Favorable weather during picking season allowed for some very nice cherries and a decrease in the amount culled. The average price was $1,420 per ton, up $210 from a year ago, for a total production value of $893,000.

U.S. sweet cherry production in 1996 was estimated at 154,300 tons, down 7 percent from 1995. Utilized production totaled 151,880 tons. The U.S. average price was $1,470, up $210 from a year ago.

MONTANA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY, 1993-96 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg Price	Value of Production	US Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		Thousands		Bushels	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Winter Wheat	1993	2,650	2,450	**42.0	102,900	$3.26	$335,454	1,760,143
	1994	1,950	1,850	35.0	64,750	3.45	223,388	1,661,943
	1995	1,500	1,370	40.0	54,800	**4.60	252,080	1,544,653
	1996	2,150	1,980	32.0	63,360			1,478,048
Durum Wheat	1993	115	114	31.0	3,534	$4.83	$17,069	70,476
	1994	180	178	30.0	5,340	4.83	25,792	96,747
	1995	270	265	30.0	7,950	5.05	40,148	102,280
	1996	280	270	25.0	6,750			115,840
Other Spring Wheat	1993	2,800	2,700	**37.0	99,900	$3.63	$362,637	565,821
	1994	3,450	3,350	30.0	100,500	3.51	352,755	562,291
	1995	3,950	3,800	35.0	**133,000	**4.55	**605,150	535,658
	1996	**4,200	**4,100	26.0	106,600			687,875
All Wheat	1993	5,565	5,264	**39.2	**206,334	$3.50	$715,160	2,396,440
	1994	5,580	5,378	31.7	170,590	3.54	601,935	2,320,981
	1995	5,720	5,435	36.0	195,750	**4.60	**897,378	2,182,591
	1996	**6,630	**6,350	27.8	176,710			2,281,763
Barley	1993	1,300	1,100	**58.0	63,800	$2.06	$131,428	398,041
	1994	1,300	1,200	44.0	52,800	2.22	117,216	374,862
	1995	1,300	1,200	52.0	62,400	**3.10	193,440	359,562
	1996	1,300	1,200	43.0	51,600			396,851
Oats	1993	140	85	**65.0	5,525	$1.41	$7,790	206,770
	1994	140	75	48.0	3,600	1.30	4,680	229,008
	1995	145	80	59.0	4,720	1.45	6,844	162,027
	1996	*100	*50	40.0	2,000			155,225
Corn for Grain 2/	1993	65	8	105.0	840	$2.90	$2,436	6,336,470
	1994	60	20	135.0	2,700	2.65	7,155	10,102,735
	1995	*55	16	120.0	1,920	3.00	5,760	7,373,876
	1996	*55	15	**137.0	2,055			9,293,435
		Thousands		Tons	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Corn for Silage	1993	--	55	18.0	990	--	--	81,289
	1994	--	39	**21.0	819	--	--	88,588
	1995	--	38	20.0	760	--	--	77,867
	1996	--	39	**21.0	819	--	--	83,094
Sugar Beets	1993	54.4	54.1	21.6	1,169	$43.60	$50,968	26,249
	1994	54.3	54.0	**24.2	1,307	41.90	54,763	31,853
	1995	55.7	55.5	21.5	1,193	--	--	28,065
	1996	57.7	57.5	22.6	1,300	--	--	26,570
Alfalfa Hay	1993	--	1,450	2.40	3,480	$69.50	$241,860	80,305
	1994	--	1,550	2.30	3,565	71.50	254,898	81,336
	1995	--	1,600	2.50	**4,000	68.00	272,000	84,515
	1996	--	**1,700	2.10	3,570			79,377
Other Hay	1993	--	780	**1.70	1,326	$59.00	$78,234	66,494
	1994	--	*650	1.50	975	62.50	60,938	68,724
	1995	--	800	**1.70	1,360	57.50	78,200	69,651
	1996	--	900	1.50	1,350			70,080
All Hay 3/	1993	--	2,230	2.16	4,806	$68.00	$320,094	146,799
	1994	--	2,200	2.06	4,540	71.00	315,836	150,060
	1995	--	2,400	**2.23	**5,360	66.50	**350,200	154,166
	1996	--	**2,600	1.89	4,920			149,457
Sweet Cherries 4/	1993	--	--	--	105	$1,590.00	$167	160,575
	1994	--	--	--	640	1,200.00	770	192,910
	1995	--	--	--	760	1,210.00	916	153,070
	1996	--	--	--	630	1,420.00	893	151,880
		Thousands		Cwt.	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Fall Potatoes	1993	9.1	9.0	300.0	2,700	$8.95	$24,165	391,565
	1994	10.0	10.0	**320.0	3,200	6.90	22,080	424,655
	1995	9.8	9.8	300.0	2,940	**10.80	**31,752	403,009
	1996	10.4	10.2	315.0	**3,213			452,039
Dry Beans	1993	12.0	11.0	14.1	155	$27.30	$4,232	21,913
	1994	10.2	10.0	22.0	220	16.90	3,718	29,028
	1995	11.0	10.8	19.0	205	16.10	3,301	30,812
	1996	10.5	10.3	**22.8	235			27,354

1/ All estimates for 1996 are preliminary, and season average price and value of production are not available. 2/ Planted for all purposes
3/ Price of baled hay 4/ Utilized production in actual tons *Record low **Record high

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1980-1996

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1980 . .	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.99
1981 . .	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 . .	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	884	104	152	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . 3/	376	2,282	75	2,733	910	104	300	1,314	950	2,264	469	4.20-4.40

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 1997--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS UP 9 PERCENT, U.S. POTATO STOCKS JUMP 15 PERCENT

Montana producers stored 3.0 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, 1997, compared with 2.7 million cwt. a year ago. The January 1 stocks represent 92 percent of production from the 1996 crop, the same percentage held a year earlier.

The 15 major potato States held 257 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1997, up 15 percent from a year earlier and 8 percent above 1995. Storage accounted for 58 percent of 1996 fall production up 1 point from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 17 percent white, and 80 percent russet.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1 was a record 185 million cwt of potatoes, up 9 percent from the same period a year ago. December disappearance was 34.8 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 21.1 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year.

Processing gained 7 percent to 93.1 million cwt so far this season and was 14 percent above two years ago. In December, processors used 15.3 million cwt of potatoes, down 5 percent from last year and 4 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 180 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1997, up 15 percent from a year previous and 4 percent above two years ago. Each of the Western storage States were above last year except California, where stocks dipped 14 percent.

Oregon is up 60 percent, Colorado's storage jumped 27 percent, and Washington stocks increased 20 percent from a year ago. Idaho is up 5 percent. These four States account for 68 percent of U.S. potato stocks, and their combined stocks are 16 percent above last year.

MONTANA DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UNCHANGED, U.S. PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY

During the October-December quarter, Montana milk cows produced 77 million pounds of milk, unchanged from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers remained at 20,000 head.

Grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on January 1 averaged 17.7 pounds per day, slightly lower than the 18.0 pounds per day a year earlier. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $8.40 per cwt, up 60 cents from January 1, 1996.

Milk production in the 22 major States during December totaled 11.1 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same States in December 1995. During 1996, milk production was 1.2 billion pounds less than 1995. On a daily basis, 1996 production averaged 4.4 million pounds per day less than 1995.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,394 pounds for December, 14 pounds above December 1995. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.94 million head, 97,000 head less than December 1995 and 6,000 head less than November 1996. This is the seventeenth consecutive month of decline. The number of cows on farms averaged 101,000 less during 1996 when compared to 1995. The number of milk cows on farms was the lowest on record.

During the October-December period, the 22 major States produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.4 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.7 billion pounds for October 1996, 12.4 billion pounds for November 1996, 12.8 billion pounds for December 1996.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.9 billion pounds, slightly above the October-December period in 1995. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.32 million head, 114,000 less than the same period a year earlier.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1997, averaged 19.2 pounds per cow, 0.4 pound more than January 1, 1996. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $8.79 per cwt, 28 cents more than a year ago.

MONTANA AND U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM A YEAR AGO

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 1996, down 3 percent from last year, but up 7 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,600 head, was unchanged from last year. The average live weight of 1,185 pounds was up 10 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,700 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during December, down 300 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 238 pounds, dropped 3 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 200 head, down 100 head from last year. The average live weight of 115 pounds remained the same as a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.43 billion pounds during December, decreasing 3 percent from the previous year. Beef production, at 1.95 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from December 1995. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.88 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average live weight dropped 32 pounds from the previous year, at 1,160 pounds.

Veal production totaled 31.0 million pounds, up 19 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 152,900 head, 19 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight was down 2 pounds to 352 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.43 billion pounds, decreased 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.62 million head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight rose 1 pound to 258 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 22.0 million pounds, down 3 percent from the previous low for December set in 1995. Sheep slaughter totaled 348,400 head, dropping 6 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 130 pounds.

January-December red meat production was 43.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production rose 1 percent, veal jumped 20 percent, pork decreased 4 percent, and lamb and mutton dropped 6 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed
Sheep & Lambs Inventory
Cattle Inventory
Ag Prices Received
Egg Production
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Late Season Crops
Winter Wheat Seedings
Hay Stocks
December 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Hog & Pig Inventory

LATE SEASON CROPS

Montana producers harvested 15,000 acres of **corn for grain** in 1996, down 1,000 acres from last year. A record state average yield was set at 137 bushels per acre, up 17 bushels from last year. The increased yield offset the lower acreage and production rose 7 percent from last year to 2.06 million bushels. Corn for Silage acreage was estimated at 39,000 acres, up slightly from 1995. Yields averaged 21 tons per acre up 1 ton from last year.

U.S. corn for grain production was estimated at 9.29 billion bushels, up 26 percent from 1995, but virtually unchanged from the November 1 forecast. The U.S. yield of 127.1 bushels per acre was up 13.6 bushels from 1995, but 11.5 bushels below the record of 1994.

Sugar beet producers in Montana harvested an estimated 57,500 acres of beets this year, up 2,000 acres from a year ago. Yields improved from a year ago averaging 22.6 tons per acre up 1.1 tons from last year. Total production was estimated at 1.3 million tons, up 10 percent from a year ago.

U.S. Sugar beet production is expected to total 26.6 million tons, a decrease of 5 percent from 1995. Area for harvest, at 1.32 million acres, is down 7 percent from last year. Yield per acre averaged 20.1 tons per acre, up 0.3 tons from the previous year's yield.

Montana **dry bean** growers produced an estimated 235,000 cwt. of dry beans in 1996. Production was up 30,000 cwt. from 1995. This is the largest crop produced since 1966. Growers harvested 10,300 acres with a record yield of 22.8 cwt. per acre.

U.S. dry edible bean production is estimated at 27.4 million cwt. for 1996, 11 percent below 1995 and 6 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.72 million acres, down 10 percent from 1995 and 6 percent below 1994. The average yield, at 1,592 pounds per acre, fell 30 pounds below 1995, but was 10 pounds above 1994.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.2 million cwt., up 10 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,200 acres compared with 9,800 in 1995. Yields were up 15 cwt. from last year and averaged 315 cwt. per acre.

U.S. production of fall potatoes in 1996 is estimated at a record high 452 million cwt., 12 percent above last year and 6 percent above two years ago. This is the fifth record production of potatoes in the United States in the last six years. Area harvested, at 1.25 million acres, is up 3 percent from the last two years. The average yield is estimated at 363 cwt. per acre, a jump of 29 cwt. from last year and 11 cwt. above two years ago.

Although there was a slight increase in harvested acres of **all hay** in Montana, lower yields with the drought-like conditions lowered total production by more than 8 percent from last year. Total harvested acres were estimated at 2.6 million, up 200,000 from last year. All hay average yields were set at 1.89 tons per acre, down 0.34 ton from last year. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage was set at 1.7 million acres, up 100,000 acres, with yields averaging 2.1 tons per acre compared with 2.5 tons per acre in 1995. Other hay harvested acreage was set at 900,000 acres with yields averaging 1.5 tons per acre.

Nationally, **all hay** production for 1996 was estimated at 149 million tons, down 3 percent from 1995 and down slightly from the output of two years ago. The average yield, at 2.45 tons per acre, was down 5 percent from the previous year.

Lower hay production and early feeding of hay has brought Montana's December 1 **hay stocks** down 5 percent from last year. Hay stocks were estimated at 4.67 million tons on December 1. The early winter feeding has many producers concerned about having enough hay to last through the season. Hay prices have risen significantly and many producers are not finding any hay to buy.

U.S. stocks of all hay on farms December 1, 1996 totaled 105 million tons, 4 percent below the stocks on farms December 1, 1995. Stocks decreases occurred in 30 of the 48 contiguous States, mainly in the northern and western States where 1996 all hay production was also down.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS

Drought-like conditions last fall lead Montana winter wheat growers to seed the second smallest winter wheat crop since 1970. Estimated winter wheat seedings for the 1997 crop were set at 1.65 million acres, down 500,000 acres from last year. Only the 1995 acreage was smaller at 1.5 million acres. Many producers did not get enough moisture to seed and when moisture did arrive it was too late. Seeding was 95 percent completed by October 20. Snow cover so far this year has been rated mostly fair to good. Only a limited amount of wind damage has been reported. As of December 31 the crop condition was rated at 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

U.S. winter wheat growers have seeded, or intend to seed, 48.2 million acres of winter wheat for 1997 harvest. The estimated level is down 7 percent from last year, and, if realized, will be the smallest winter seeded area since 1978.

Hard red winter wheat seeded area is estimated at 34.1 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. Increased area in Colorado was more than offset by acreage decreases in the Great plains from Oklahoma to the Canadian border. Wetness hampered Kansas seeding during September; rains continued to delay or prohibit planting in the eastern third through November. Adequate rainfall in the Panhandle and southwestern areas of Nebraska encouraged producers to seed wheat; late row crop harvests curtailed plantings elsewhere.

PLEASE RETURN

NOVEMBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of November were mixed. Winter wheat dropped 15 cents to $4.15 per bushel, while durum wheat went up 34 cents to $4.74 per bushel. Spring wheat decreased 9 cents to $4.26 per bushel. Feed barley slipped 16 cents to $2.32 and malt barley increased 4 cents to $3.54 per bushel. Oats fell 40 cent to $1.54 per bushel. Alfalfa hay climbed $3.00 to $76.00 a ton and other hay rose $2.00 to $60.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-December averaged $4.20 per bushel and the all barley price was $2.98.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were higher than the previous month, with the exception of cows and lambs. Steers and heifers saw a $1.00 increase to $61.50 per cwt. Cows fell 60 cents to $32.40 while average prices for calves were up $1.50 to $62.50 per cwt. Sheep jumped $4.40 to 31.40 per cwt and lambs decreased $2.10 to $88.40 per cwt. Milk prices increased 80 cents to $17.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $62.10 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $68.70 per cwt for the full month of November. Cow prices came in at $28.00 and hogs were $54.40 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.14 per bushel and $2.65 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 82.7 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 108 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (1.8 percent) from November. Price declines from November for wheat, cattle, milk, corn, oranges, and lettuce more than offset price increases for broilers, eggs, cottonseed, and strawberries. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. However, these changes were essentially offsetting in December.

Compared with December 1995, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Price increases from December 1995 for hay, hogs, eggs, broilers, soybeans, and grapes were offset by price decreases for wheat, potatoes, corn, cotton, and sorghum.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Nov. 1995	Dec. 1995	Nov. 1996	Dec. 1996
Prices Received	106	108	110	108
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	111	112	115	114
Ratio 2/	95	96	96	95

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	December 15, 1996	December 15, 1996
		November 1995	October 1996	November 1996	November 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.61	4.30	4.15	4.05	4.20	3.98
Durum	Bu.	4.68	4.40	4.74	4.56	4.70	4.60
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.43	4.35	4.26	4.11	4.15	3.92
All Wheat	Bu.	4.48	4.33	4.25	4.14	4.20	4.02
Barley, All	Bu.	3.02	3.10	3.17	2.65	2.98	2.48
Feed	Bu.	2.74	2.48	2.32	2.33	2.35	2.19
Malt	Bu.	3.36	3.50	3.54	3.02	3.40	2.91
Oats	Bu.	1.50	1.94	1.54	1.83	1.70	1.84
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	69.00	73.00	76.00	100.00	85.00	102.00
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	58.00	60.00	76.60	72.00	77.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	68.00	71.00	75.00	95.40	84.00	96.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	62.20	60.50	61.50	68.70	62.10	65.50
Cows	Cwt.	30.10	33.00	32.40	28.00	32.40	27.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	55.80	56.10	58.90	63.20	55.90	60.70
Calves	Cwt.	62.10	61.00	62.50	61.20	64.40	60.70
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	21.00	27.00	31.40	29.70	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	78.20	90.50	88.40	84.50	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt.	13.80	16.40	17.20	15.00	16.20	14.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

DECEMBER 1, 1996 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana all wheat stocks were estimated at 126.8 million bushels on December 1, 1996, down only 2% from stock levels at this time a year ago. Disappearance since September 1, 1996 totaled 43.5 million bushels, down 35% from the disappearance level for this period last year, but only 1% more than the 10-year average.

Montana barley stocks on December 1 were estimated at 33 million bushels, down 2 million bushels from December 1, 1995. This is the smallest December level since 1985. Oat stocks, at 2.55 million bushels, are down 44% from last year. This is also the lowest level for this time period since records resumed for oat stocks in 1989.

U.S. all wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 1996 totaled 1.22 billion bushels, down 9% from a year ago to the lowest December 1 total since the reference date was changed in the 1986-87 marketing year. Durum wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 1996, at 86.1 million bushels, was up 21% from last December 1.

U.S. barley stored in all positions on December 1, 1996, is estimated at 248 million bushels, up 2% from the stocks December 1, 1995. Oats stored in all positions on December 1, 1996 are estimated at 129 million bushels, down 16% from the stocks of December 1, 1995.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts [1/]

District	All Wheat			Barley		
	Dec. 1, 1995	Sept. 1, 1996*	Dec. 1, 1996	Dec. 1, 1995	Sept. 1, 1996*	Dec. 1, 1996
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	1.1	2.5	2.0	1.0	2.8	1.6
North Central	65.5	86.5	59.0	14.6	26.2	16.0
Northeast	31.4	44.1	34.4	4.0	3.1	2.7
Central	17.6	16.6	13.3	7.7	8.3	7.4
Southwest	2.7	6.2	4.8	3.6	5.0	2.1
South Central	6.6	5.5	5.8	3.3	2.8	2.7
Southeast	4.1	8.9	7.5	0.8	0.8	0.5
MONTANA	129.0	170.3	126.8	35.0	49.0	33.0

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1995	Sept. 1, 1996*	Dec. 1, 1996	% Chg. '96/'94	Dec. 1, 1995	Sept. 1, 1996*	Dec. 1, 1996
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	105,000	150,000	110,000	105%	477,000	824,500	584,150
Off Farms [1/]	24,000	20,300	16,800	70%	861,267	899,696	635,244
TOTAL	129,000	170,300	126,800	98%	1,338,267	1,724,196	1,219,394
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	24,000	46,000	35,000	146%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	8,500	6,500	6,600	78%	--	--	--
TOTAL	32,500	52,500	41,600	128%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	81,000	104,000	75,000	93%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	15,500	13,800	10,200	66%	--	--	--
TOTAL	96,500	117,800	85,200	88%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	47,220	79,700	66,100
Off Farms [1/, 4/]	--	--	--	--	23,886	22,687	20,011
TOTAL	6,070	6,000	5,700	94%	71,106	102,387	86,111
BARLEY							
On Farms	26,000	42,000	28,000	108%	121,400	193,700	137,700
Off Farms [1/]	9,000	7,000	5,000	56%	121,110	122,078	110,524
TOTAL	35,000	49,000	33,000	94%	242,510	315,778	248,224
OATS							
On Farms	4,300	2,400	2,300	53%	87,200	93,400	80,650
Off Farms [1/]	220	150	250	114%	65,804	39,532	47,872
TOTAL	4,520	2,550	2,550	56%	153,004	132,932	128,522
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,960,000	196,600	4,800,000
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	2,145,774	229,342	2,105,532
TOTAL [4/]	--	--	--	--	6,105,774	425,942	6,905,532

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA HOG INVENTORY DOWN 17 PERCENT, U.S. DOWN 4 PERCENT

There were 150,000 hogs in Montana's inventory on December 1, 1996, down 17 percent from last December's total. The decrease in inventory was the result of producers adjusting to an increase in the price of feed and the decrease in the price of hogs. The breeding herd was reduced to 16,000 head compared with 19,000 head on hand December 1, 1995. Market hogs and pigs accounted for 134,000 head, down from 161,000 head last December 1. The 1996 pig crop was estimated at 323,000 head, down 7 percent from the pig crop in 1995. The average litter rate for 1996 was 8.75 compared with 8.45 in 1995. There were 750 operations with hogs and pigs during 1996, down from 900 operations in 1995.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1996, was 56.2 million head. This was 4 percent below December 1995 and 3 percent below the September 1, 1996 inventory. This is the lowest December inventory since 1990.

Breeding inventory, at 6.66 million head, is the smallest December 1 breeding herd on record. This total is down 3 percent from December 1, 1995 and down 2 percent from September 1, 1996. Market hog inventory, at 49.5 million head, was 4 percent below both last year and last quarter.

The September-November 1996 U.S. pig crop, at 23.2 million head, was 1 percent less than 1995 and 6 percent less than 1994. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.72 million head, 3 percent below last year. Litter rate increases continue at a record level, with an average of 8.52 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period. Last year the litter rate averaged 8.34 pigs per litter. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.80 for operations with more than 2,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.77 million sows farrow during the December 1996-February 1997 quarter, 1 percent more than the actual farrowings during the same period last year, but 4 percent lower than 1995. Intended farrowings for March-May 1997, at 2.89 million sows, are 2 percent below 1996 and 9 percent below the 1995 period. The December-May intentions utilize 84.9 percent of the breeding herd, compared with 83.5 percent for actual farrowings last year and the 5 year average of 85.0 percent.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 157,450 during 1996, down 13 percent from last year and 24 percent below 1994. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 3 percent of the operations and 51 percent of the inventory. This is the first time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with inventory over 5,000 head, at 1,400 operations, accounted for 33 percent of the total inventory. The total number of hogs under contract (owned by the over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees) accounted for 21 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Crop Production	Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks	Wheat: Supply,
Quarterly Milk Production	Disappearance & Price

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Potato Production
Ag Land Values
Montana Malting Barley

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.60 million head on December 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.33 million. Net placements were 2.24 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 799,000, 600-699 pounds were 678,000, 700-799 pounds were 537,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 319,000. Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.72 million. Other disappearance totaled 93,000 during November.

NOVEMBER U.S. MILK PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

Milk production during November in the 22 major States totaled 10.6 billion pounds, slightly above production in these same States in November 1995. October revised production, at 11.0 billion pounds, was virtually unchanged from October 1995.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,339 pounds for November, 19 pounds above November 1995. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.94 million head, 104,000 head less than November 1995 and 14,000 head less than October 1996. This is the sixteenth consecutive month of decline.

During the July-September period, the 22 major States produced 32.8 billion pounds of milk, 86.7 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.3 billion pounds for November 1996.

MONTANA AND U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN IN NOVEMBER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 1996, down 14 percent from last year and down 23 percent from last month. The drop in red meat production was due to a decreased number of cattle and hogs being slaughtered in the state. Cattle slaughter, at 1,500 head, was down 200 head from last year. The average live weight of 1,179 pounds was down 3 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,500 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during November, down 600 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 245 pounds, was down 1 pound from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 300 head which was the same as a year ago. The average live weight increased 3 pounds from last year to 117 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.44 billion pounds during November, down 9 percent from the previous year. Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was down 7 percent from November 1995. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 22 pounds from the previous year at 1,165 pounds.

Veal production totaled 30.0 million pounds, up 13 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 144,700 head, 12 percent above a year ago. The average live weight was up 2 pounds to 358 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.43 billion pounds, was down 11 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.62 million head, 11 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was unchanged at 258 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 21.0 million pounds, down 9 percent from the previous low for November set in 1995. Sheep slaughter totaled 335,900 head, down 11 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 127 pounds.

January-November red meat production was 39.7 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production rose 2 percent, veal jumped 20 percent, pork decreased 4 percent, and lamb and mutton was dropped 7 percent.

U.S. NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.40 billion during November 1996, up 3 percent from the 6.23 billion produced in 1995. Production included 5.46 billion table eggs and 937 million hatching eggs, of which 878 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1996 averaged 301 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during November 1995. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,124 eggs, compared with 2,109 in November 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1996, totaled 303 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 303 million layers consisted of 251 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.53 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1996, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 71.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.06 billion eggs during November, up 3 percent from November 1995. The average number of layers during November, at 285 million, was up 2 percent from the year earlier.

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT, U.S. UP 14 PERCENT

Montana's 1996 potato production, at 3.21 million cwt., is 9 percent above production a year ago and is a record high for the state. Stocks on hand December 1 amounted to 3.05 million cwt. which is 95 percent of production and 8 percent above last year's December 1 stocks.

Montana growers planted 10,400 acres of potatoes in 1996. Freezing and other losses reduced the harvested acres to 10,200 which is 4 percent above last year. The average yield of 315 cwt. per acre is up 15 cwt. from a year ago.

The 15 major potato States held 292 million cwt. of potatoes on December 1, 1996, up 14 percent from last year and 7 percent above the previous record in 1994. Storage accounted for 66 percent of 1996 fall production compared with 65 percent in 1995. Stocks by type were 4 percent red, 17 percent white, and 79 percent russet. There were more reds and russets, but fewer whites than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record high 150 million cwt. of potatoes, up 10 percent from the same period in 1995. Shrinkage and loss so far was estimated at 18.4 million cwt, up 6 percent from the 17.4 million cwt. lost in 1995, but 1 percent below the 18.6 million cwt. lost from the 1994 crop. Processing is heavy with 80.0 million cwt. taken by fryers and dehydrators in eight major States so far this season. This is a gain of 12 percent over a year ago and 21 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 201 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1996, up 13 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above two years ago. Oregon's storage jumped 45 percent above a year ago. Colorado was up 25 percent and Washington was up 22 percent. Idaho's stocks increased 3 percent from last year, but were below those of two years ago. California's storage dropped 10 percent.

Production of fall potatoes in 1996 is estimated at a record high 452 million cwt, 12 percent above last year and 6 percent above two years ago. This is the fifth record production of potatoes in the United States in the last six years. The December 1 forecast is less than 1 percent above the November forecast. A substantial increase in final yield data in Washington more than offset downward adjustments in other States. Area harvested, at 1.25 million acres, is up 3 percent from the last two years. The average yield is estimated at 363 cwt. per acre, a jump of 29 cwt. from last year and 11 cwt. above two years ago. Planting started late but good weather in June turned the season into one of the best ever in most States. Total U.S. potato production from all four seasons was a record high 496 million cwt. in 1996, 12 percent above a year earlier and 6 percent above the previous record in 1994.

Ten Western States produced 311 million cwt. in 1996, up 12 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Acreage for harvest, at 751,800 acres, was up 5 percent, while the average yield of 413 cwt. per acre rose 27 cwt. from a year ago. Idaho's production of 140 million cwt. is 6 percent above last year and slightly larger than the previous record high two years ago. Some frost damage on both ends of the season kept the crop from being even larger. Production in Washington gained by late season reports of high yields. This year's production was 17 percent larger than last year and 7 percent above the previous record high. Oregon's production jumped 29 percent from last year and was 16 percent larger than two years ago. Ideal weather and growing conditions in Colorado produced a record crop of potatoes, 21 percent higher than last year. California, Utah, and Wyoming produced smaller potato crops than last year, by 14, 4, and 43 percent, respectively. New Mexico's crop was smaller than earlier expected, but gained 7 percent on last year. Nevada's crop was 11 percent larger than a year ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1995-96

STATE	CROP OF 1995			CROP OF 1996		
	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1995	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1996	% of PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	5,330	4,000	75	4,600	3,600	78
CO	23,808	18,200	76	28,786	22,800	79
ID	132,657	96,000	72	139,960	99,000	71
ME	17,160	13,800	80	21,175	16,900	80
MI	16,350	9,600	59	13,800	8,000	58
MN	20,790	13,500	65	24,600	16,500	67
MT	**2,940**	**2,800**	**95**	**3,213**	**3,050**	**95**
NE	3,680	2,600	71	4,375	3,110	71
NY	7,695	3,400	44	7,980	3,700	46
ND	25,410	17,000	67	28,820	20,000	69
OH	1,404	310	22	1,275	290	23
OR	24,788	17,200	69	31,925	25,000	78
PA	4,080	2,400	59	4,208	2,800	67
WA	80,850	39,500	49	94,990	48,000	51
WI	26,000	16,000	62	31,590	18,900	60
Total 15 State	392,942	256,310	65	441,297	291,650	66

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES

- U.S. farm real estate values averaged $890 per acre as of January 1, 1996--7.0 percent above a year earlier. This represents an inflation-adjusted increase of 4.4 percent.

- The largest increase occurred in the Appalachian, Mountain, and Corn Belt regions (11.2, 9.8, and 9 percent).

- The per-acre value of U.S. farm real estate has increased 49 percent since the 1987 upturn.

- The per-acre value of **Montana** farm real estate has increased 45 percent since 1987.

A 7-percent increase in the per-acre value of **U.S.** farm real estate (land and buildings) during 1995 was the strongest of 9 consecutive yearly gains since the upturn in values began in 1987. By comparison, the value increases were 6.4 percent in both 1994 and 1993. The per-acre value of U.S. farm real estate has increased almost 49 percent since the 1987 upturn. The average nominal value of $890 per acre as of January 1, 1996, compares with $823 recorded in 1982, just before the major decline in farm real estate values that occurred during the mid-1980's. It was not until January 1995 that farm real estate values exceeded the 1982 level.

On a real (or inflation-adjusted basis), U.S. farm real estate values increased 4.4 percent during 1995. This compares with 4.0 and 3.5 percent increases during 1994 and 1993. Prior to 1993, real values had fallen for 10 of 12 years. In real terms, the January 1, 1996, average was still 40 percent below the 1981 peak.

Several States in the Lake, Corn Belt, Appalachian, and Mountain regions recorded double-digit increases in farm real estate values. All States showed increases except New York and Oklahoma.

Average regional values have been increasing since 1986 or 1987 for all regions except the Southern Plains. Since the 1986/87 low point, the Northeast has experienced an 85 percent increase. Other areas where average values have increased more than the National average include the Corn Belt (75 percent), Lake (59 percent), Appalachian (59 percent), and Southeast (57 percent) regions. Those regions with the smallest increases include the Southern Plains (15 percent), Delta (33 percent) and Northern Plains (44 percent). The trend in values for the Southern Plains has run counter to other regions for much of the 1980's and 1990's. Average values in the Southern Plains increased into 1985, while values for most other regions declined beginning in 1981. The Southern Plains average value then declined between 1985 and 1992, while over most of that period (1987-92), values increased in all other regions.

Montana's per-acre value of farm real estate of $289 was up 4.5 percent from 1995's average value of $277. The 1996 value rose less than other states in the Mountain region which averaged 9.8 percent above a year earlier.

Average per Acre Nominal Value of Farm Real Estate, by Region and Selected States, January 1, 1989-96 [1/]

State/ Region	1989 Dollars	1990 Dollars	1991 Dollars	1992 Dollars	1993 Dollars	1994 Dollars	1995 Dollars	1996 Dollars	Change 1995-96 Percent
Northeast	1,825	1,848	1,897	1,977	2,095	2,311	2,414	2,485	2.9
Lake States	820	843	909	920	956	986	1,048	1,126	7.5
Corn Belt	1,108	1,111	1,153	1,190	1,235	1,331	1,448	1,578	9.0
Northern Plains	387	401	403	400	401	432	458	478	4.5
Appalachian	1,110	1,178	1,154	1,223	1,300	1,336	1,436	1,597	11.2
Southeast	1,216	1,300	1,319	1,301	1,345	1,427	1,533	1,631	6.4
Delta States	809	806	834	820	866	912	972	1,009	3.8
Southern Plains	520	504	494	487	498	521	550	562	2.2
Mountain	259	265	283	283	290	319	346	379	9.8
Montana	202	222	219	219	227	254	277	289	4.5
Idaho	593	658	654	680	682	774	836	905	8.3
Wyoming	144	153	159	145	159	180	192	206	7.3
Colorado	375	374	437	400	426	479	520	558	7.3
New Mexico	185	185	210	212	194	208	225	258	15.0
Arizona	276	267	291	311	316	325	347	399	15.0
Utah	426	398	417	445	491	537	606	697	15.0
Nevada	242	207	241	262	252	268	289	332	15.0
Pacific	1,175	1,259	1,362	1,410	1,453	1,510	1,549	1,675	8.2
48 States	668	682	703	713	736	782	832	890	7.0

1/ Value of farmland and buildings in nominal dollars (not adjusted for inflation).

SOURCE: USDA, ERS, estimates based on data from the June Agricultural Survey and USDC Census of Agriculture.

MONTANA MALTING BARLEY UTILIZED TO PRODUCE MALT--1995 CROP

Maltsters and brewers purchased 20.1 million bushels of Montana's 1995 barley crop to make malt. This was 32 percent more than 1994 and 47 percent more than 1993. The average protein of the 1995 malting barley purchases was 11.8 percent. This is 0.3 lower than the 12.1 percent last year and 0.3 higher than the 11.5 percent for 1993.

Montana growers planted 1.3 million acres of barley in 1995. Of the total, about 477 thousand acres were planted to malting varieties. If the yield of malting varieties equaled the state average yield per planted acre for all barley then approximately 22.9 million bushels of malting type barley would be produced. Since 20.1 million bushels were used for malt the remaining 2.8 million bushels either did not make the malting grade or exceeded the demand for malting barley. The 1995 malt barley utilization represented 32 percent of the total 1995 barley crop compared with 29 percent of the total in 1994 and 22 percent in 1993.

MONTANA BARLEY USED TO PRODUCE MALT, 1994-95 CROPS

Variety	Crop Year [1]	DISTRICTS					STATE	
		N.Central [2]	Central	Southwest	S. Central	Southeast	Bushels	Protein
Klages	1994	100,000		10,000			110,000	10.6
	1995	65,000		35,000			100,000	11.7
Harrington	1994	5,094,000	763,000				5,857,000	12.5
	1995	9,404,000	624,000	140,000		60,000	10,228,000	11.6
Moravian III	1994	285,000					285,000	10.7
	1995	500,000					500,000	10.5
Morex	1994	755,000		469,000			1,224,000	12.4
	1995	500,000		300,000			800,000	12.1
AB Varieties	1994	5,519,000	246,000		500,000		6,265,000	12.1
	1995	6,009,000	82,500		542,500		6,634,000	12.1
Galena	1994			187,000	1,120,000		1,307,000	10.7
	1995				1,100,000		1,100,000	10.9
Other	1994	45,000		178,000			223,000	12.6
	1995	240,000	110,000	400,000			750,000	11.7
Total	1994	11,798,000	1,009,000	844,000	1,620,000		15,271,000	12.1
	1995	16,718,000	816,500	875,000	1,642,500	60,000	20,112,000	11.8

[1] Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30. [2] Includes Northwest.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Hog & Pig Production
Hay Stock
Winter Wheat Production
Grain Stocks

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"Happy Holidays"

from all of us at the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service! As 1996 comes to a close, we should take a moment to reflect on what has happened this year. Farmers in Montana planted and harvested a record number of acres of wheat in 1996. Coming off a great 1995 crop year, farmers were optimistic that production would also be up. Nevertheless, drought-like conditions starting in June and prevailing until after harvest, adversely effected yields. Montana farmers did not set a record wheat production during 1996, but the quality of grain produced was outstanding.

Good news! This fall the cattle market has shown signs of improvement. We appear to have hit the bottom of the cattle cycle and are on our way back up. We hope that prices will continue to rise.

To everyone involved in Montana's agriculture, thanks for your continued support. Because of the voluntary cooperation of Montana's farmers and ranchers, we can provide sound statistical facts ensuring that basic agricultural information is available about Montana's number one industry.

We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season and that 1997 is a great year for Montana's agricultural industry.

PLEASE RETURN

WORLD EXPORT DEMAND SLUGGISH

If world export demand for beef remains sluggish over the next couple of quarters as supplies increase, more production will have to be absorbed domestically, possibly along with larger beef imports as other countries seek alternative markets for their beef. Third-quarter U.S. beef exports were down 13 percent from a year ago, the first quarterly year-to-year decline since the fall of 1993. Tight U.S. supplies of higher quality beef and higher prices undoubtedly contributed to the decline. In addition, E. coli problems in Japan remain a concern and the dollar remains strong against Korea's won. Exports to Japan were down 20 percent from third-quarter 1995, while exports to the Republic of Korea were down 35 percent.

Third-quarter beef imports were up 3 percent from a year earlier and up 5 percent from the second quarter. Imports from Australia were even with a year earlier, but up 41 percent from the spring quarter. However, imports from New Zealand were down 28 percent from a year earlier and down 35 percent from the spring quarter. Canadian exports to the U.S. of beef and slaughter cattle remained large as U.S. supplies of higher quality beef remain tight and prices were strong. Imports from Southern Hemisphere countries typically decline in the fourth quarter as their spring grazing season begins, and imports from Canada will slow as U.S. supplies rise in late fall through spring.

U.S. per capita beef consumption will continue near 1995's 67.5 pounds in 1996 and 1997, and up half a pound from 1994. However, larger supplies of competing meats in second-half 1997 will hold down beef price gains. Retail prices for Choice beef averaged $2.80 a pound this past summer, but may rise to the mid-$2.80's this fall because of reduced Choice beef supplies in late summer-early fall. For the year, prices may average near $2.80 a pound, down about 4 cents from 1995. Prices in 1997 are likely to remain in the lower $2.80's for much of the year with a fairly flat pattern. While Choice and Prime beef supplies have been very tight, supplies of other beef have been sufficiently large to lower the October price for "All fresh beef" at retail to 7 cents below a year earlier.

BEEF HERD LIQUIDATION CONTINUES

Cow slaughter remains well above a year earlier and is rising seasonably as this year's calf crop is weaned. Continued weak feeder cattle prices and hay supply concerns, as winter approaches, are likely to encourage even closer culling of the cow herd. Although steer slaughter through the first three quarters of this year was down more than 1 percent from a year earlier, heifer slaughter was up nearly 4 percent, and cow slaughter was up 17 percent. Beef cow slaughter was up 27 percent.

Year-to-year increases in cow slaughter are expected to begin to phase down during the fourth quarter. Cow slaughter this fall may rise only about 6 percent from the already large year-earlier level. First-quarter 1997 cow slaughter, although large, is expected to decline 4 to 5 percent from the very large 1996 figure, but remain 6 percent above the 1992-95 average. Total cow slaughter is expected to rise 14 percent from a year earlier in 1996, and may decline 8 to 10 percent in 1997.

In addition to seasonably large cow slaughter this fall, fed cattle marketings are likely to begin to rise in response to larger feedlot placements beginning in July. However, the largest cow slaughter will likely be behind before fed cattle marketings show any appreciable increases.

U.S. LIVESTOCK AND MEAT IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

	Aug. 1996	Sept. 1996	Jan-Sept 1995	Jan-Sept 1996
Beef & Veal Imports		**Carcass wt., thousand lb.**		
Australia	59,808	49,761	518,916	404,087
New Zealand	40,585	19,753	499,714	429,911
Canada	55,568	50,342	322,714	430,526
Brazil	10,874	5,491	51,358	65,648
Argentina	12,491	18,834	127,448	119,459
Central America	9,624	10,230	112,357	80,902
Other	8,600	7,630	17,768	57,918
Total	197,550	162,041	1,650,275	1,588,450
Beef & Veal Exports				
Japan	78,167	67,354	735,386	806,548
Canada	21,895	21,757	227,629	222,514
Mexico	16,862	16,607	71,474	118,829
Korea, Rep.	14,229	16,052	187,707	152,151
Caribbean	835	654	8,661	8,625
Other	19,729	14,399	88,401	124,329
Total	151,717	136,823	1,319,258	1,432,995
Cattle import		**Head**		
Mexico	4,783	3,594	1,283,135	234,110
Canada	136,421	123,436	878,711	1,230,189
Over 700 lbs	129,892	115,526	829,275	1,124,007
440-700 lbs.	1,605	2,878	5,426	59,830
Total	141,204	127,034	2,161,895	1,464,340
Cattle Exports				
Mexico	12,052	11,610	10,005	76,123
Canada	2,203	2,264	48,153	26,270
Total	14,324	14,421	64,832	119,459

	Aug. 1996	Sept. 1996	Jan-Sept 1995	Jan-Sept 1996
Lamb Imports		**Carcass wt., thousand lb.**		
Australia	1,903	1,718	13,142	19,059
New Zealand	2,865	1,884	16,959	19,129
Total	4,768	3,611	30,498	38,493
Mutton imports	2,121	1,246	15,712	16,448
Pork Imports				
Canada	37,363	34,161	337,918	316,296
Denmark	10,582	10,621	105,882	94,196
Poland	786	971	8,354	7,563
Hungary	875	133	8,999	6,637
Netherlands	306	657	7,540	6,993
Other	2,478	2,218	25,054	21,884
Total	52,389	48,761	493,747	453,569
Pork Exports				
Japan	31,688	30,496	273,135	401,733
Canada	6,873	7,369	39,088	71,523
Mexico	2,794	4,856	43,113	35,559
Caribbean	810	791	7,749	7,344
Other	19,439	18,355	217,248	198,507
Total	61,605	61,866	580,333	714,667
Hog imports		Head		
Canada	270,760	244,463	1,187,890	2,024,491
Under 110 lbs	77,967	66,375	498,546	584,885
Total	270,760	244,463	1,190,236	2,204,655
Hog Exports				
Total	1,808	1,076	9,571	43,451

SOURCE for articles on this page: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 25, 1996

OCTOBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of October were down from the previous month, with the exception of malt barley, oats, and hay. Winter wheat decreased 22 cents to $4.30, while durum wheat slipped 34 cents to $4.40 per bushel. Spring wheat dropped 12 cents to $4.35 per bushel. Feed barley declined 10 cents to $2.48 per bushel, while malt barley improved 8 cents to $3.50 per bushel. Alfalfa hay rose $3.00 to $76.00 and other hay increased $2.00 to $60.00. The all wheat price for mid-November averaged $4.20 per bushel, while the all barley price was $2.80.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were lower across the board compared with the previous month, with the exception of milk. Cow prices averaged $1.90 below last month at $33.00 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers slipped 40 cents to $60.50 per cwt. Calf prices also dipped 40 cents to $61.00 per cwt. Prices received for sheep were down $5.90 to $27.00 per cwt, while lamb prices dropped $1.10 to $90.50 per cwt. Milk prices climbed 20 cents to $16.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November averaged $61.40 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $68.10 per cwt for the full month of October. Cow prices came in at $30.40 and hogs were $55.60 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.18 per bushel and $2.73 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 74.6 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 110 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (1.8 percent) from October. Price declines from October for corn, soybeans, oranges, and milk more than offset price increases for lettuce, cattle, grapes, and eggs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index level, however, these changes were essentially offsetting in November.

Compared with November 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (3.8 percent) higher. Price increases from November 1995 for hogs, cattle, grapes, and lettuce more than offset price decreases for corn, wheat, potatoes, and sorghum.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Oct. 1995	Nov. 1995	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1996
Prices Received	104	106	112	110
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	111	111	115	115
Ratio 2/	94	95	97	96

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	November 15, 1996	November 15, 1996
		October 1995	September 1996	October 1996	October 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.60	4.52	4.30	4.07	4.25	4.03
Durum	Bu.	4.91	4.74	4.40	4.78	4.50	4.32
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.36	4.47	4.35	4.23	4.15	4.09
All Wheat	Bu.	4.44	4.49	4.33	4.18	4.20	4.07
Barley, All	Bu.	2.82	3.23	3.10	2.73	2.80	2.43
Feed	Bu.	2.53	2.58	2.48	2.41	2.20	2.19
Malt	Bu.	3.13	3.42	3.50	3.06	3.20	2.75
Oats	Bu.	1.50	1.92	1.94	1.82	1.90	1.70
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	74.00	73.00	98.20	76.00	100.00
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	59.00	58.00	74.10	60.00	76.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	65.00	73.00	71.00	93.70	75.00	95.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	63.00	60.90	60.50	68.10	61.40	70.40
Cows	Cwt.	32.40	34.90	33.00	30.40	30.80	28.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	57.20	59.30	56.10	63.10	55.90	64.80
Calves	Cwt.	64.80	61.40	61.00	60.10	62.30	60.60
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	23.30	32.90	27.00	28.80	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	80.40	91.60	90.50	86.90	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	13.50	16.20	16.40	16.10	17.10	15.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. MEAT SUPPLY AND USE, 1995, AND PROJECTED 1996 & 1997

Item		Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption		Primary Market Price
								Total	Per capita	
		--- Million lbs. ---								$/cwt.
Beef	1995	548	25,222	2,103	27,873	1,821	519	25,533	67.5	66.24
	1996	519	25,692	2,134	28,345	1,921	475	25,949	67.9	63-64
	1997	475	26,207	2,050	28,732	2,225	475	26,032	67.5	62-68
Pork	1995	438	17,849	664	18,951	771	396	17,784	52.5	42.35
	1996	396	17,195	614	18,205	909	420	16,876	49.3	53-54
	1997	420	17,538	605	18,563	1,064	400	17,099	49.5	50-55
										$/lb.
Broilers*	1995	458	24,827	0	25,286	3,894	560	20,831	69.8	56.4
	1996	560	26,250	0	26,810	4,607	600	21,603	71.7	59-60
	1997	600	27,772	0	28,372	5,075	640	22,657	74.5	54-58
Turkeys	1995	254	5,069	0	5,324	348	271	4,705	17.9	66.4
	1996	271	5,399	0	5,671	461	300	4,910	18.5	66.68
	1997	300	5,509	0	5,809	510	300	4,999	18.7	64-69

Based on November 19, 1996 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates. * Cold storage stocks previously classified as "other chicken" are now included with broiler stocks.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Egg Production
Potato Stocks	Slaughter
Cattle on Feed	

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Production Highlights
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
1995 Crop Year Summary
Ag Prices Received

U.S. AND MONTANA NOVEMBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Montana growers harvested an estimated 1.29 million tons of sugar beets this fall, up 8 percent from last year. The yield forecast of 22.5 tons per acre was up 0.5 ton from last month and up 1 ton from last year. Growers harvested 57,300 acres this year, up 1,800 acres from 1995.

Sugar beet production for the U.S. is expected to total 26.8 million tons, a decrease of 4 percent from 1995. Area for harvest, at 1.32 million acres, is down slightly from October and down 7 percent from last year. The decline in harvested acreage is largely attributable to the discovery of duplicate acreage reported. The average yield, at 20.2 ton per acre, is up 0.4 ton from last year's yield.

Sugar beet harvest activity in the Red River Valley started in early September and was complete by the end of October, ahead of schedule with better than expected yields reported. Plant development in the Great Lakes started the month behind the average for the region, but was aided by a late frost and moderate weather during most of October. The harvest in the Great Lakes region was delayed by late October rains, but was virtually completed by the beginning of November. Frequent rains and hail in the High Plains late in the growing season lowered yield potential. The sugar beet harvest neared completion in the Mountain States, where hot, dry summer and fall weather caused some producers to wait for cooler weather to increase sugar content.

Montana's estimated potato production is set at 3.2 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year. A cool, wet spring held planting behind normal last spring. Harvesting was behind normal most of the fall. The crop was affected by some freeze damage. Yields averaged 315 cwt per acre, up 15 cwt. from last year. Producers harvested an estimated 10,200, up slightly from last year.

U.S. fall potato production for 1996 is forecast at a record high 448 million cwt, 11 percent above last year and 5 percent above the previous record high in 1994. Area harvested, at 1.25 million acres, is up 3 percent from last year. The average yield is projected at a record high 359 cwt per acre, up 25 cwt from last year and 7 cwt above two years ago. Planting started late this year, but warm June weather matured early varieties for a robust harvest season that ended earlier than normal and with good yields. Total potato production from all four seasons is 491 million cwt in 1996, up 11 percent from last year and 5 percent above 1994.

U.S. corn production is forecast at 9.27 billion bushels, 3 percent above the October 1 forecast and up 26 percent from 1995. This is the third largest production on record behind 1994 and 1992. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 126.5 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from last month and 13.0 bushels from 1995. Acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 73.3 million acres, unchanged from last month. Forecasted yields increased in all the major corn producing states due to favorable fall weather conditions.

NOVEMBER 1, 1996 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

The pasture and range feed condition fell slightly from last month. As of November 1, the condition was rated at 5 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Most livestock had been moved off summer ranges at this time, with just over 80 percent of the cattle and calves and over 80 percent of the sheep and lambs moved.

- Very Poor: Pastures and/or ranges are providing very little or no feed for the current time of the year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock.
- Poor: Pastures and/or ranges are providing only marginal feed for the current time of the year. Some supplemental feeding is required.
- Fair: Pastures and/or ranges are providing adequate feed but less than the normal amount expected for the current time of the year.
- Good: Pastures and/or ranges are providing the normal amount of feed for the current time of the year.
- Excellent: Pastures and/or ranges are providing feed in excess of what is normally expected for the current time of the year.

1996 CROP YEAR SUMMARY

The 1996 crop year, beginning with the fall seeding of winter wheat, started out much better than the previous year. Better seeding conditions in the fall of 1995 allowed farmers to plant a more normal acreage of winter wheat than the previous two years. Winter wheat seeding progressed ahead of normal with nearly all seeding done by the end of October.

For the most part the winter weather did not have much of a negative impact on the winter wheat crop. There was a very warm spell in February followed by very cold temperatures which did cause some apprehension among winter wheat producers. There were reports in the spring of localized winter kill, but when all was done, winter kill damage was near normal statewide.

It was another very cool and wet spring. Spring grain seeding did not really start until the 3rd week of April. By the end of April only 16% and 18% of the spring wheat and barley, respectively, were seeded, well behind the five-year average of nearly 50% complete. Winter wheat growth remained slow with the cool weather. The crop was rated 28% fair and 53% good. Soil moisture conditions across the state were rated mostly adequate.

The cool weather continued through the month of May. Seeding progress remained behind normal most of the month. Crop and pasture growth was stunted by the cool weather. By the end of the month only 59% of the spring wheat and 57% of the barley had emerged well behind the normal of nearly 70% for both crops. The winter wheat condition remained mostly in fair to good condition. Row crop planting also lagged behind normal at the end of May. Soil moisture conditions were still rated as mostly adequate to surplus.

Producers virtually finished all planting within the first week of June. Warmer weather allowed for good growing conditions over most of the state. Although soil moisture conditions were still rated mostly adequate, there were areas that were in need of moisture. Scattered hail damage was reported throughout the month. All the crops looked very good at this point as winter wheat, spring wheat and barley were rated approximately 30 percent fair and 50 percent good. Crop progress was still slightly behind normal. Pasture and ranges were rated in mostly good condition.

The weather turned for the worse in July, very warm temperatures persisted throughout the month and very little rain fell--except for localized thunderstorms. By the end of the month nearly three-fourths of the state reported soil moisture as being very short to short. What started out looking like a very good year for grains was turning for the worse. Crop conditions deteriorated with spring wheat and barley rated roughly 20 percent very poor to poor, 45 percent fair, 30 percent rated good, and 5 percent excellent. Winter wheat was only rated slightly higher. Winter wheat harvest started at the end of the month with 2 percent harvested statewide by the end of July. Spring wheat and barley started ripening at the end of the month. Grasshoppers were noted as a problem in scattered areas.

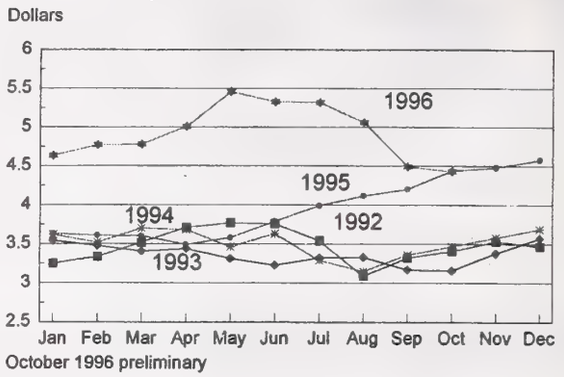
August continued as warm and dry. Winter wheat harvest was virtually complete by the end of the month. Spring wheat and barley harvest was three-fourths complete. Yields for wheat averaged over 20 percent less than the 1995 crop year. Barley yields were down 9 bushels from the previous year. The dry conditions caused critical fire danger situations. The pasture and ranges were rated mostly poor to fair.

September started out very dry. Spring grain harvest was virtually complete by the third week of September. The dry weather held many producers back from planting winter wheat. Much needed rain did fall over many parts of the state and producers were able to start seeding winter wheat. By the end of the month, 32% of the winter wheat was seeded, over 15 points behind normal. The crop had just started to emerge by the end of the month.

Scattered rains and snow during October brought some moisture relief. Producers were able to finish planting their winter wheat. Reports from some areas of the state indicated below normal winter wheat seeding because by the time moisture did arrive it was too late to seed. Row crop harvest was nearly complete by the end of the month. Producers were busy moving livestock off of summer ranges and doing some fall field work.

All Wheat Prices Received

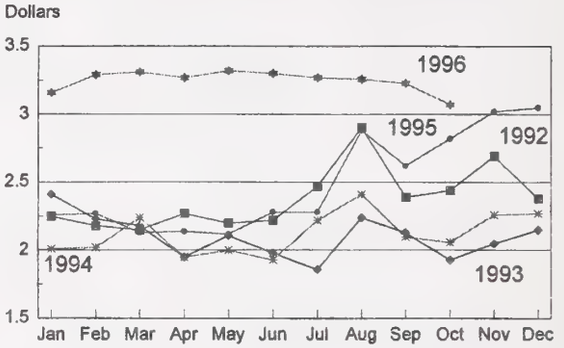
By Montana Farmers 1992-1996



October 1996 preliminary

Barley Prices Received

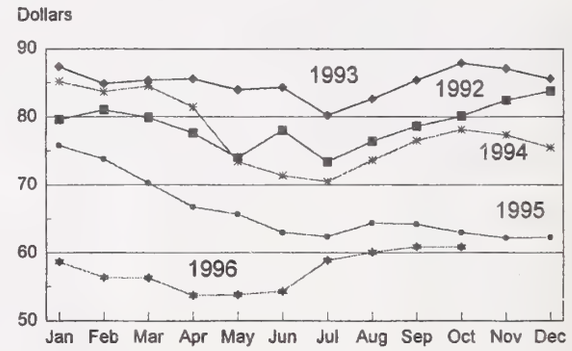
By Montana Farmers 1992-1996



October 1996 preliminary

Steers and Heifers Prices Received

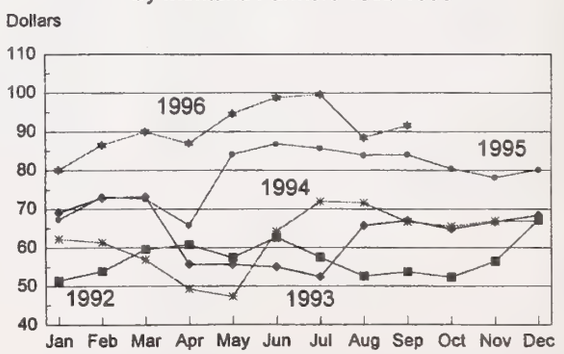
By Montana Farmers 1992-1996



October 1996 preliminary

Lamb Prices Received

By Montana Farmers 1992-1996



October not available

SEPTEMBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of September were down from the previous month, with the exception of oats, malt barley, and hay. Winter wheat dropped 63 cents to $4.52 per bushel, while durum wheat fell 81 cents to $4.74 per bushel. Spring wheat decreased 34 cents to $4.47 per bushel. Feed barley slipped 18 cents to $2.58 and malt barley increased 6 cents to $3.42 per bushel. Oats went up a penny to $1.92 per bushel. Alfalfa hay shot up $6.00 to $74.00 a ton and other hay rose $1.00 to $59.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-October averaged $4.43 per bushel and the all barley price was $3.07.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were higher than the previous month, with the exception of cows. Steers and heifers saw an 80 cent increase to $60.90 per cwt. Cows fell $2.70 to $34.90, while the average price for calves was up $1.60 to $61.40 per cwt. Sheep prices improved $1.20 to 32.90 per cwt and lambs were up $3.10 to $91.60 per cwt. Milk prices remained unchanged at $16.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October averaged $60.90 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $68.00 per cwt for the full month of September. Cow prices came in at $30.80 and hogs were $54.70 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.37 per bushel and $2.79 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 76.8 cents per dozen.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in October was 112 based on 1990-92=100, down 4 points (3.4 percent) from September. Price declines from September for wheat, milk, corn, and soybeans more than offset price increases for hogs, grapes, lettuce, and tomatoes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. However, these changes were essentially offsetting in October.

Compared with October 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 8 points (7.7 percent) higher. Price increases from October 1995 for cattle, milk, hogs, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for wheat, potatoes, peanuts, and sorghum.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Sept. 1995	Oct. 1995	Sept. 1996	Oct. 1996
Prices Received	104	104	116	112
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	110	111	115	115
Ratio [2/]	95	94	101	97

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	October 15, 1996	October 15, 1996
		September 1995	August 1996	September 1996	September 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.24	5.15	4.52	4.28	4.45	4.11
Durum	Bu.	5.08	5.55	4.74	4.69	4.70	4.32
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.16	4.81	4.47	4.41	4.40	4.19
All Wheat	Bu.	4.20	5.06	4.49	4.37	4.43	4.16
Barley, All	Bu.	2.62	3.26	3.23	2.79	3.07	2.67
Feed	Bu.	2.24	2.76	2.58	2.43	2.40	2.32
Malt	Bu.	3.03	3.36	3.42	3.06	3.35	2.93
Oats	Bu.	1.45	1.91	1.92	1.83	1.90	1.72
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	68.00	74.00	95.70	73.00	97.60
All Other Hay	Ton	53.00	58.00	59.00	77.80	58.00	73.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	64.00	68.00	73.00	92.10	71.00	93.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	64.20	60.10	60.90	68.00	60.90	68.20
Cows	Cwt.	35.40	37.60	34.90	30.80	33.90	30.50
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	59.30	57.00	59.30	63.70	57.90	63.60
Calves	Cwt.	65.50	59.80	61.40	61.00	61.30	60.10
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	26.40	31.70	32.90	30.10	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	84.00	88.50	91.60	88.20	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	12.90	16.20	16.20	16.30	16.70	16.00

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, NOVEMBER 1, 1996

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1995	1996 1/	1995	1996 1/	1995	1996 1/	1995	1996 1/
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	2,150	1,370	1,980	40.0	32.0	54,800	63,360
Durum Wheat	Bu.	270	280	265	270	30.0	25.0	7,950	6,750
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,950	4,200	3,800	4,100	35.0	26.0	133,000	106,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,720	6,630	5,435	6,350	36.0	27.8	195,750	176,710
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	55	55	16	20	120.0	130.0	1,920	2,600
Oats	Bu.	145	100	80	50	59.0	40.0	4,720	2,000
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	52.0	43.0	62,400	51,600
Dry Beans	Cwt.	11.0	10.5	10.8	10.3	19.0	22.0	205	227
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.7	57.5	55.5	57.3	21.5	22.5	1,193	1,289
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.8	10.4	9.8	10.2	300.0	315.0	2,940	3,213
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,700	2.50	2.20	4,000	3,740
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.70	1.60	1,360	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,550	2.23	2.00	5,360	5,100
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,686	51,983	40,972	39,709	37.7	37.2	1,544,653	1,478,048
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,436	3,620	3,356	3,546	30.5	32.7	102,280	115,840
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,010	20,036	16,617	19,595	32.2	35.1	535,658	687,875
All Wheat	Bu.	69,132	75,639	60,945	62,850	35.8	36.3	2,182,591	2,281,763
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	71,245	79,555	64,995	73,269	113.5	126.5	7,373,876	9,265,288
Oats	Bu.	6,336	4,661	2,962	2,687	54.7	57.8	162,027	155,225
Barley	Bu.	6,689	7,174	6,279	6,787	57.3	58.5	359,562	396,851
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,069.3	1,818.0	1,899.3	1,705.6	16.34	15.82	31,032	26,989
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,444.6	1,374.1	1,417.1	1,324.0	19.8	20.2	28,026	26,761
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,224.1	1,269.1	1,205.2	1,246.2	334	359	403,009	447,890
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,569	24,256	3.46	3.33	84,980	80,747
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,210	36,343	1.98	1.96	69,806	71,093
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,779	60,599	2.59	2.51	154,786	151,840

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Labor	Egg Production
Milk Production	Slaughter
Cattle on Feed	Sheep & Lamb Inventory

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Egg Production
Hay Production
Sugar Beet Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
All Cattle & Calves by County
Beef Cows by County
Red Meat Production

U.S. SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.25 billion during September 1996, up 4 percent from the 5.99 billion produced in 1995. Production included 5.31 billion table eggs and 938 million hatching eggs, of which 883 million were broiler-type and 55.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 1996 averaged 298 million, up 3 percent from the average number of layers during September 1995. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,094 eggs, compared with 2,065 in September 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1996, totaled 299 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 299 million layers consisted of 248 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 48.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.53 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1996, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.1 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.92 billion eggs during September, up 4 percent from September 1995. The average number of layers during September, at 282 million, was up 3 percent from the year earlier.

SUGAR BEET AND HAY PRODUCTION - OCTOBER 1, 1996

Montana producers intend to produce 1.26 million tons of sugar beets this year, if realized this would be slightly below last month's forecast, but 6 percent above last year's estimate. October's forecasted yield is one-half ton below the September forecast and one-half ton above last year. Harvested acreage remains unchanged, at 57,300 acres, up 3 percent from last year. Sugar beet harvest went into full swing at the beginning of this month with 25 percent of the acreage harvested by October 6.

Production for the U.S. is expected to total 26.4 million tons, a decrease of 6 percent from 1995. Area for harvest, at 1.33 million acres, is unchanged from the September "Crop Production" report, but down 6 percent from last year. The average yield, at 19.8 tons per acre, is equal to last year's yield and the September "Crop Production" report.

Montana's all hay production is forecast at 5.1 million tons, down 5 percent from last year and down 3 percent from the August forecast. Producers harvested 2.55 million acres with an estimated yield of 2 tons per acre. Alfalfa production is estimated at 3.74 million tons, down 6 percent from last year. Although producers harvested 100,000 acres more this year, at 1.7 million, a decrease in yield more than offset the increased acreage. Estimated yield was set at 2.2 tons per acre, down 0.3 ton from last year and down 0.1 ton from August's forecast. With drought-like conditions prevalent over most of the state starting in July, some producers were not able to get a second cutting. Other hay production was set at 1.36 million tons, unchanged from last year. Producers harvested 850,000 acres, up 50,000 acres from 1995, but yield dropped to 1.6 tons per acre this year compared with 1.7 tons per acre last year.

U.S. all hay production for 1996 is forecast at 152 million tons, up 2 percent from the August 1 forecast, but down 2 percent from 1995. The increase from August is a result of a 2 percent increase in expected average yields to 2.51 tons per acre. All hay yields, however, are down 3 percent from the previous year. Acreage harvested, at 60.6 million acres, is unchanged from August 1 and 1 percent above last year. Alfalfa hay production, at 80.7 million tons, is up fractionally from the August 1 forecast, but down 5 percent from the 1995 total. Area for harvest, at 24.3 million acres, is down 1 percent from a year ago. Average yields are forecast at 3.33 tons per acre, down 0.13 ton from the previous year. Dry conditions late in the season reduced second and third cutting yields in most areas across the northern half of the U.S. In the southern portion of the U.S., however, mild temperatures and ample precipitation during August and September resulted in additional cuttings and helped boost yields. Production of all other hay is forecast at 71.1 million tons, 4 percent above the quantity expected August 1 and 2 percent above the 1995 total. Area for harvest, at 36.3 million acres, is up 3 percent from last year. Yield per acre is expected to average 1.96 tons, down 1 percent from the 1995 yield.

See crop production table on following page.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, OCTOBER 1, 1996

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1995	1996 [1/]	1995	1996	1995	1996 [1/]	1995	1996 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	2,150	1,370	1,980	40.0	32.0	54,800	63,360
Durum Wheat	Bu.	270	280	265	270	30.0	25.0	7,950	6,750
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,950	4,200	3,800	4,100	35.0	26.0	133,000	106,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,720	6,630	5,435	6,350	36.0	27.8	195,750	176,710
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	55	55	16	20	120.0	130.0	1,920	2,600
Oats	Bu.	145	100	80	50	59.0	40.0	4,720	2,000
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	52.0	43.0	62,400	51,600
Dry Beans	Cwt.	11.0	10.5	10.8	10.3	19.0	22.0	205	227
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.7	57.5	55.5	57.3	21.5	22.0	1,193	1,261
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.8	10.1	9.8	10.0	300.0	3/	2,940	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,700	2.50	2.20	4,000	3,740
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.70	1.60	1,360	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,550	2.23	2.00	5,360	5,100
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,686	51,983	40,972	39,709	37.7	37.2	1,544,653	1,478,048
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,436	3,620	3,356	3,546	30.5	32.7	102,280	115,840
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,010	20,036	16,617	19,595	32.2	35.1	535,658	687,875
All Wheat	Bu.	69,132	75,639	60,945	62,850	35.8	36.3	2,182,591	2,281,763
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	71,245	79,555	64,995	73,269	113.5	123.0	7,373,876	9,012,148
Oats	Bu.	6,336	4,661	2,962	2,687	54.7	57.8	162,027	155,225
Barley	Bu.	6,689	7,174	6,279	6,787	57.3	58.5	359,562	396,851
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,069.3	1,818.0	1,899.3	1,705.6	16.34	15.82	31,032	26,989
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,444.6	1,384.1	1,417.1	1,334.0	19.8	19.8	28,026	26,436
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,224.1	1,261.2	1,205.2	1,244.6	334.0	3/	403,009	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,569	24,256	3.46	3.33	84,980	80,747
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,210	36,343	1.98	1.96	69,806	71,093
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,779	60,599	2.59	2.51	154,786	151,840

[1/] Preliminary. [2/] Planted for all purposes. [3/] Production forecast available November 12, 1996.

MONTANA JULY - SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT, U.S. DOWN 1 PERCENT

Montana milk cows produced 78 million pounds of milk during the period of July-September 1996, compared with 77 million pounds last quarter and 80 million pounds the same quarter a year ago. The drop in production from the previous year is attributed to the decline in milk cow inventory which dropped 1,000 head from last year to 20,000 head.

Montana dairymen fed their milk cows 16.5 pounds of grain and other concentrates on October 1, up 0.3 pounds from the previous year. The value of the grains and other concentrates fed, at $8.40 per hundredweight, increased $1.15 per hundredweight from a year ago.

Milk production in the 22 major States during September totaled 10.7 billion pounds, 1 percent below production in these same States in September 1995. August revised production, at 11.0 billion pounds, was 1 percent less than August 1995.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,341 pounds for September, 10 pounds above September 1995. The number of milk cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.96 million head, 100,000 head less than September 1995, and 8,000 head less than August 1996. This is the thirteenth consecutive month of decline.

During the July-September period, the 22 major States produced 32.8 billion pounds of milk, 86.7 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.8 billion pounds for July 1996, 12.7 billion pounds for August 1996, 12.3 billion pounds for September 1996.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.8 billion, 1 percent below the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.35 million head 120,000 head less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1996, averaged 18.0 pounds per cow, 0.4 pound less than October 1, 1995. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on October 1, averaged $9.53 per hundredweight, $1.56 more than October 1, 1995.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.84 million head on October 1, 1996. The inventory included 5.55 million steers and steer calves. This group accounts for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.25 million head.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.64 million. Net placements were 2.57 million. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 413,000, 600-699 pounds were 519,000, 700-799 pounds were 870,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 841,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.56 million. Other disappearance totaled 70,000 during September.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1994-96

COUNTY & DISTRICT	All Cattle and Calves				Beef Cows and Heifers That Have Calved		
	1994	1995	1996	Rank	1994	1995	1996
Deer Lodge	7,500	8,500	8,500	54	4,200	4,500	4,800
Flathead	20,000	20,300	20,300	46	8,500	9,200	8,900
Granite	25,000	24,800	26,600	39	17,000	17,500	18,100
Lake	59,000	62,000	58,000	20	32,400	34,000	33,500
Lincoln	4,900	5,100	5,000	55	3,100	3,400	3,200
Mineral	1,500	1,300	1,400	56	800	600	700
Missoula	14,000	14,500	15,000	51	9,000	9,000	8,900
Powell	41,000	44,000	51,000	25	26,300	26,500	30,100
Ravalli	37,300	37,600	40,000	31	20,800	19,000	21,200
Sanders	17,800	18,900	20,200	47	11,900	11,300	12,600
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**228,000**	**237,000**	**246,000**	--	**134,000**	**135,000**	**142,000**
Blaine	67,000	75,000	82,000	8	44,000	45,000	46,800
Chouteau	37,600	41,000	42,000	29	27,000	28,700	29,500
Glacier	30,800	36,000	36,500	34	20,500	23,100	23,400
Hill	23,000	27,000	25,200	42	15,300	16,800	15,700
Liberty	14,400	14,100	13,500	52	8,100	7,600	7,700
Phillips	71,000	79,000	80,000	10	44,800	46,700	47,500
Pondera	23,600	27,300	24,600	43	15,900	19,100	17,300
Teton	66,000	67,000	69,000	12	37,400	33,600	36,000
Toole	17,600	19,600	19,200	48	12,000	13,400	12,100
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**351,000**	**386,000**	**392,000**	--	**225,000**	**234,000**	**236,000**
Daniels	12,500	14,700	15,800	50	8,700	10,000	10,200
Dawson	39,100	47,300	46,700	26	23,400	27,100	28,400
Garfield	48,000	51,000	55,000	22	30,900	36,500	36,100
McCone	32,800	37,700	41,500	30	21,800	22,500	24,500
Richland	55,000	59,000	58,000	18	26,000	28,200	27,600
Roosevelt	24,800	26,700	25,400	40	16,800	18,600	17,400
Sheridan	17,800	21,600	20,600	45	12,200	14,500	13,900
Valley	62,000	57,000	62,000	16	36,200	36,600	36,900
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**292,000**	**315,000**	**325,000**	--	**176,000**	**194,000**	**195,000**
Broadwater	22,300	24,700	25,300	41	15,000	15,700	15,600
Cascade	76,000	86,000	90,000	7	46,000	50,000	53,000
Fergus	105,000	114,000	114,000	4	66,000	73,000	72,000
Golden Valley	22,100	24,000	24,600	44	12,800	14,600	14,700
Judith Basin	57,000	65,000	68,000	13	35,100	37,200	39,300
Lewis & Clark	38,600	42,000	45,800	27	22,400	23,700	25,000
Meagher	49,400	51,000	53,000	23	29,200	31,100	32,200
Musselshell	31,300	35,100	34,700	36	19,300	20,400	21,300
Petroleum	26,800	27,700	28,700	37	18,700	19,400	19,200
Wheatland	35,500	36,500	37,900	33	21,500	21,900	21,700
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**464,000**	**506,000**	**522,000**	--	**286,000**	**307,000**	**314,00**
Beaverhead	139,000	145,000	148,000	1	82,000	88,000	89,000
Gallatin	62,000	63,000	62,000	15	28,300	30,000	27,700
Jefferson	19,500	25,000	28,500	38	13,500	15,100	15,700
Madison	85,000	93,000	94,000	5	51,000	55,500	56,000
Silver Bow	8,500	9,000	9,500	53	5,200	5,400	5,600
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**314,000**	**335,000**	**342,000**	--	**180,000**	**194,000**	**194,000**
Big Horn	137,000	127,000	128,000	2	74,000	74,000	70,000
Carbon	63,000	60,000	60,000	17	30,600	32,500	32,100
Park	55,200	57,000	58,000	19	35,000	34,800	35,700
Stillwater	57,000	65,000	64,000	14	30,200	31,500	31,800
Sweetgrass	54,200	55,000	55,000	21	33,000	33,600	34,300
Treasure	36,600	35,000	38,000	32	14,700	15,300	15,600
Yellowstone	120,000	132,000	122,000	3	44,500	46,300	44,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**523,000**	**531,000**	**525,000**	--	**262,000**	**268,000**	**264,000**
Carter	50,000	52,000	53,000	24	33,100	34,500	33,900
Custer	76,000	83,000	82,000	9	39,000	43,100	42,200
Fallon	42,400	44,000	42,800	28	25,600	27,400	25,700
Powder River	71,000	72,000	78,000	11	39,300	41,400	43,300
Prairie	35,300	34,000	35,500	35	18,200	18,200	18,800
Rosebud	85,000	86,000	90,000	6	48,000	50,400	50,000
Wibaux	18,300	19,000	16,700	49	11,800	12,000	11,100
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**378,000**	**390,000**	**398,000**	--	**215,000**	**227,000**	**225,000**
MONTANA	**2,550,000**	**2,700,000**	**2,750,000**	--	**1,478,000**	**1,559,000**	**1,570,000**

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 20 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September--up 1 percent from last year, but down 20 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,600 head, was up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight at 1,217 pounds increased 20 pounds from last year.

There were 2,200 head of hogs slaughtered in September, down 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight increased 6 pounds from last year to 233 pounds. The number of sheep slaughtered decreased by 200 head from a year ago to 300 head. The average live weight, at 115 pounds, increased 4 pounds over last year.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled 3.39 billion pounds during September, down 8 percent from the previous year. January-September red meat production was 32.4 billion pounds, up slightly from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production rose 3 percent, veal jumped 20 percent, pork decreased 4 percent, and lamb and mutton fell 8 percent.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was down 13 percent from September 1995. Head kill totaled 2.76 million head, down 11 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,179 pounds.

Veal production totaled 31.0 million pounds, up 21 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 149,700 head, 22 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight was down 9 pounds to 354 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.41 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.70 million head, 3 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was unchanged at 251 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was down 7 percent from the previous record low set in September 1995. Slaughter during September 1996 totaled 327,100 head, down 9 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 122 pounds.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Monthly Average Prices	Montana Malting Barley Utilized
Dry Bean Production	
Sugar Beet Production	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grains Summary
Quarterly Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

SEPTEMBER 1996 SMALL GRAIN SUMMARY

Montana wheat growers planted the largest wheat acreage on record for the 1996 season. A more lenient Farm Bill and strong wheat prices were the major factors for this. Producers planted 6.63 million acres of wheat, up 16% from 1995 and up nearly 5% from the previous record in 1989. Harvested acreage was estimated at 6.35 million acres. What started out to be another record production year was hurt by drought-like conditions across the state starting at the beginning of July. Yield forecasts were brought down monthly as very little rain fell anywhere across the state. All wheat yields averaged 27.8 bushels per acre, down over 8 bushels from last year. Total all wheat production was estimated at 176.71 million bushels, off 10% from last year's very large crop.

Growers were able to plant a more normal winter wheat acreage last fall with better seeding conditions than the last few years. Winter wheat planted acreage was set at 2.15 million acres with growers able to harvest 1.98 million acres. Winter wheat planted acreage was up 650,000 acres from the 1995 season. Yield was estimated at 32 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from the August forecast and down 8 bushels from last year. Total production was set at 63.36 million bushels, up 16% from last year only because of the large increase in acreage.

Other spring wheat planted acreage was set at 4.2 million acres, the largest amount since 1953 when other spring wheat and durum wheat were recorded together. Harvested acreage was set at 4.1 million acres. Total production is estimated at 106.6 million bushels, the third largest other spring wheat crop on record, again, only due to the large amount of acres planted. Yield for other spring wheat was set at 26 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from the September 1 forecast and down 9 bushels from last year. Durum wheat planted acreage was revised upward to 280,000 acres planted with 270,000 harvested, planted acreage is up 4% from last year. Total production was 6.75 million bushels, down 15% from last year, yields averaged 25 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year.

Barley production totaled 51.6 million bushels, down 17% from last year. Yields averaged 43 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the September 1 forecast but down 9 bushels from 1995. Growers planted 1.3 million acres and harvested 1.2 million acres, both acreages are the same as 1995.

Oat production was set at its lowest level since 1889 with total production estimated at 2.0 million bushels. Total production was down 58% from a year ago. Planted acreage was set at 100,000 acres, the lowest level since records began for planted acres in 1929, and down 45,000 from last year. Farmers harvested 50,000 acres, the smallest amount since 1885. Yields averaged 40 bushels per acre, down 19 bushels from last year.

Nationally, all wheat production for 1996 totaled 2.28 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the September forecast, but up 5 percent from 1995. The U.S. yield was placed at 36.3 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushels from 1995. Grain area was estimated at 62.9 million acres. This is slightly less than the last forecast, but up 3 percent from last season. The 1996 winter wheat production was estimated at 1.48 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the August forecast and 4 percent from 1995. Yields averaged 37.2 bushels per acre. This is down a tenth from the last forecast and a half bushel less than the 1995 average. Harvested area was estimated at 39.7 million acres, down 1 and 3 percent from August and last year, respectively. Other spring wheat production in 1996 was estimated at 688 million bushels, up slightly from the September forecast and 28 percent more than in 1995. This is the second highest production on record. Harvested area was 19.6 million acres, up a little from the last forecast to the highest level since 1919. The U.S. yield was 35.1 bushels per acre, unchanged from September but 2.9 bushels per acre over last year. Durum wheat production for 1996 was estimated to total 116 million bushels, up 2 percent from the last forecast and 13 percent more than in 1995. The U.S. yield is placed at 32.7 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushels from the last forecast. Area for grain now totals 3.55 million acres, up 3 and 6 percent from the last forecast and 1995, respectively.

Barley production in 1996 was estimated at 397 million bushels, 10 percent above last year's estimate and the highest production since 1993. Average yield per acre, at 58.5 bushels, was up 1.2 bushels from 1995. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 6.79 million acres, 8 percent more than a year ago. This is the largest acreage since 1992 when 7.29 million acres were harvested. Oats production in 1996 was estimated at 155 million bushels, 4 percent below last year's crop, and was the lowest oat production estimated since 1866. Yields per harvested acre for grain averaged 57.8 bushels, up 3.1 bushels from 1995. Area harvested for grain, at 2.69 million acres, was down 9 percent from last year, and is the lowest harvested acreage since estimates were first made.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1996 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana all wheat stocks totaled 170.0 million bushels on September 1, down 13% from last year. Disappearance from June through September 1 totaled 34.21 million bushels, down 33% from last year. Stock levels are down 8% from the ten-year average. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 52.2 million bushels, up 4% from 1995. All spring wheat stocks were set at 117.8 million bushels, down 19% from last year. Durum wheat stocks are down 13% from last year and set at 6.07 million bushels. Barley stocks are estimated at 42.0 million bushels and are at their lowest level for this time period since 1992. Barley stocks are 9% below last year's level. Oat stocks are estimated at 2.55 million bushels, down 45% from last year. This is the lowest level for this time period since records began. (continued on next page.)

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SEPTEMBER 1, 1996 GRAIN STOCKS (continued)

At the U.S. level, all wheat in all storage positions on September 1, 1996 is estimated at 1.72 billion bushels, down 8 percent from September 1, 1995. This is the lowest September 1 stock level since the reference date was changed in the 1986-87 marketing year. Farm stocks total 826 million bushels and off-farm stocks are 898 million bushels. The on-farm total is up 11 percent from a year ago, but the off-farm level is down 21 percent. All wheat disappearance for the first quarter of the 1996-97 marketing year totals 934 million bushels, up 16 percent from the same period last year.

U.S. durum wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 1996 totaled 102 million bushels, up 5 percent from last September. On farm stocks, at 79.7 million bushels, are up 10 percent from last year. Disappearance from all positions is 39.1 million bushels, up 26 percent from June-August 1995.

U.S. barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 1996 are estimated at 315 million bushels, 1 percent above the September 1, 1995 stocks. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 194 million bushels are stored on farms, 3 percent below a year ago. However, September 1, 1996 off-farm stocks are 7 percent above last year at 122 million bushels. Indicated disappearance during the June-August quarter totaled 182 million bushels, 15 percent above the same period a year earlier.

U.S. oats, stored in all positions on September 1, 1996 , are estimated at 133 million bushels, 26 percent below the September 1, 1995 stocks. Of the total stocks on hand, 93.4 million bushels were stored on farm, 13 percent below this time last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 39.5 million bushels, 46 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during the June-August quarter totaled 89 million bushels, 7 percent above the same period a year earlier. (District stocks on back page.)

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1995	June 1, 1996*	Sept. 1, 1996	'96/'95	Sept. 1, 1995	June 1, 1996*	Sept. 1, 1996
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	170,000	16,000	150,000	88%	743,600	74,610	825,500
Off Farms 1/	25,500	11,500	20,000	78%	1,137,499	301,410	898,307
TOTAL	195,500	27,500	170,000	87%	1,881,099	376,020	1,723,807
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	40,000	3,000	46,000	115%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,200	4,000	6,200	61%	--	--	--
TOTAL	50,200	7,000	52,200	104%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	130,000	13,000	104,000	80%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	15,300	7,500	13,800	90%	--	--	--
TOTAL	145,300	20,500	117,800	81%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	72,560	12,470	79,700
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	24,655	13,275	22,757
TOTAL	6,970	800	6,070	87%	97,215	25,745	102,457
BARLEY							
On Farms	47,000	5,000	42,000	89%	198,900	25,600	193,700
Off Farms 1/	6,500	3,000	6,500	100%	113,624	73,993	121,584
TOTAL	53,500	8,000	48,500	91%	312,524	99,593	315,284
OATS							
On Farms	4,500	700	2,400	53%	107,200	32,600	93,400
Off Farms 1/	160	170	150	94%	72,967	33,708	39,503
TOTAL	4,660	870	2,550	55%	180,167	66,308	132,903
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	740,900	780,100	196,600
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	816,940	937,794	229,688
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,557,840	1,717,894	426,288

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

AUGUST PRICES RECEIVED

Crop prices received by Montana's grain producers were mostly down for the full month of August. While crop prices were mostly down from the previous month, all crop prices were higher than a year ago. Winter wheat decreased 10 cents from the previous month to $5.15 per bushel, spring wheat was down 53 cents to $4.81 per bushel, while durum wheat prices rose 22 cents to $5.55 per bushel. Malt barley prices were up 9 cents to $3.36 per bushel, while feed barley prices dropped 51 cents to $2.76. Alfalfa and other hay prices were each up from the previous month averaging $68.00 and $58.00 per ton, respectively. The all wheat and barley price for mid-September averaged $4.28 and $2.93 per bushel, respectively.

Ranchers in the state finally got some relief from spiraling cattle prices as prices for cows, calves, and steers and heifers were all up from the previous month, however prices were still below a year ago. Prices for cows rose $4.30 from the previous month to $37.60 per cwt, steers and heifer prices were up $1.20 to $60.10 per cwt., and calf prices jumped $4.90 to $59.80 per cwt. Sheep and lamb producers saw lower prices compared to July, however, prices were still above a year ago. Sheep prices dropped $1.80 per cwt. from last month to $31.70 per cwt., while lamb prices fell $11.10 to $88.50 per cwt. Milk prices in the state continued to climb as prices increased 80 cents from the previous month to a record high monthly price of $16.20 per cwt.. Mid-month September beef cattle and steer and heifer prices averaged $59.80 and $61.10 per cwt, respectively.

Nationally, winter wheat prices averaged $4.52 per bushel, spring wheat $4.63 per bushel, and the all barley price was $2.99 per bushel. U.S. hay prices averaged $96.00 per ton for alfalfa hay and $78.60 per ton for other hay. Livestock prices at the U.S. level for steers and heifers averaged $63.80 per cwt, sheep $29.10 per cwt, lambs $89.00 per cwt, and milk prices averaged $15.80 per cwt. During August, cows averaged $31.80 cwt. and calves averaged $59.20 per cwt. Hog prices for the full month of August averaged $59.70 per cwt. and egg prices averaged 74.4 cents per dozen.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 115 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (0.9 percent) from August. Price declines from August for corn, wheat, hogs, and potatoes more than offset price increases for cattle, milk, grapes, and tobacco. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. The September mixture of commodities sold indicates relatively more soybeans, corn, apples, and potatoes and less cattle, wheat, broilers, and grapes, resulting in a slight upward influence on the index. However, these changes were not large enough to offset the influence of price declines from August. Compared with September 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 10 points (9.5 percent) higher.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Aug. 1995	Sept. 1995	Aug. 1996	Sept. 1996
Prices Received	102	105	116	115
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	110	110	115	115
Ratio 2/	93	95	101	100

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	September 15, 1996	September 15, 1996
		August 1995	July 1996	August 1996	August 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.08	5.25	5.15	4.52	4.25	4.15
Durum	Bu.	5.47	5.33	5.55	5.03	4.75	4.80
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.08	5.34	4.81	4.63	4.25	4.11
All Wheat	Bu.	4.12	5.32	5.06	4.58	4.28	4.19
Barley, All	Bu.	2.88	3.27	3.26	2.99	2.93	2.74
Feed	Bu.	2.12	3.27	2.76	2.77	2.50	2.39
Malt	Bu.	3.02	3.27	3.36	3.14	3.35	3.04
Oats	Bu.	1.36	2.02	1.91	2.01	1.75	1.88
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	66.00	68.00	96.00	74.00	95.50
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	55.00	58.00	78.60	59.00	78.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	64.00	68.00	92.90	73.00	90.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	64.40	58.90	60.10	63.80	61.10	67.80
Cows	Cwt.	38.00	33.30	37.60	31.80	35.20	31.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	56.50	45.60	57.00	60.30	59.80	63.80
Calves	Cwt.	65.00	54.90	59.80	59.20	60.00	60.80
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	28.90	33.50	31.70	29.10	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	83.90	99.60	88.50	89.00	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt.	13.10	15.40	16.20	15.80	16.70	16.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

District	All Wheat			Barley		
	Sept. 1, 1995	June 1, 1996*	Sept. 1, 1996	Sept. 1, 1995	June 1, 1996*	Sept. 1, 1996
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	1.8	0.1	2.6	1.8	0.3	2.8
North Central	97.4	13.7	86.2	25.4	3.2	26.1
Northeast	47.7	7.4	43.5	4.5	0.9	3.1
Central	25.3	3.5	16.6	12.4	0.8	8.3
Southwest	4.9	0.4	6.4	3.9	0.4	4.5
South Central	11.3	1.3	6.0	4.4	1.8	2.9
Southeast	7.1	1.1	8.7	1.1	0.6	0.8
STATE	195.5	27.5	170.0	53.5	8.0	48.5

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MONTANA PRODUCTION BY DISTRICT, 1996 PRELIMINARY [1/]

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	1995	1996	96/95	1995	1996	96/95	1995	1996	96/95
	-1000 bushels-		Pct.	-1000 bushels-		Pct.	-1000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	933	1,060	114	1,570	1,900	121	2,465	2,600	105
North Central	25,164	36,600	145	75,493	47,160	62	33,137	27,900	84
Northeast	2,268	3,500	154	43,329	46,244	107	4,423	3,400	77
Central	12,340	10,500	85	10,615	7,246	68	12,123	9,000	74
Southwest	1,410	1,500	106	2,005	2,513	125	4,257	3,600	85
South Central	9,669	6,500	67	3,000	2,500	83	4,670	3,800	81
Southeast	3,016	3,700	123	4,938	5,787	117	1,325	1,300	98
Montana	54,800	63,360	116	140,950	113,350	80	62,400	51,600	83

[1/] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle County Estimates	Sugar Beet Production
Beef Cow County Estimates	Quarterly Milk Production
Hay Production	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Red Meat Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Milk Production
- Potato Disposition
- Egg Production
- Cash Receipts

AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 1996, up 17 percent from last month, but down 4 percent from last year.

There were 2,000 head of cattle slaughtered in Montana, the same as a year ago. The average live weight increased 27 pounds from last year to 1,211 pounds.

Hog slaughter in Montana accounted for 2,400 head, down 700 head from the same month last year. The average live weight, at 230 pounds, increased 6 pounds from a year ago. Sheep and Lamb slaughter at 500 head was 100 head below the same time period last year. The average live weight increased 3 pounds from a year ago to 118 pounds.

United States commercial red meat production totaled 3.71 billion pounds during August, down 4 percent from the previous year. Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from August 1995. Head kill totaled 3.21 million head, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,177 pounds. Veal production totaled 32.0 million pounds. This production was up 25 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 157,800 head, 27 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight was down 4 pounds to 354 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.39 billion pounds, was down 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.67 million head, 7 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 251 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was down 13 percent from the previous record low set in August 1979 and 1980. Slaughter during August 1996 totaled 329,700 head, down 11 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 122 pounds.

January-August red meat production was 29.0 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production rose 5 percent, veal jumped 19 percent, pork dropped 4 percent and lamb and mutton fell 8 percent.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 7.83 million head on September 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.27 million. Net placements were 2.22 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 371,000, 600-699 pounds were 438,000, 700-799 pounds were 808,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 648,000. Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.93 million. Other disappearance totaled 50,000 during August.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 Monthly States Down 8 Percent

Cattle on feed September 1, 1996, in the historic 7 monthly States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 6.61 million, down 8 percent from the previous year and 5 percent below September 1, 1994.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 1.97 million, 19 percent above 1995 and 12 percent above 1994. Marketings during August totaled 1.65 million, 9 percent below 1995 but 3 percent above 1994. Other disappearance during August was 37,000 head, 7 percent below last year and 27 percent below 1994.

U.S. AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

Milk production in the 22 major States during August totaled 10.9 billion pounds, 1 percent below production in these same States in August 1995. July revised production, at 11.1 billion pounds, was 2 percent less than July 1995. On a daily basis, 1996 milk production has been below 1995 levels every month this year.

The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.97 million head, 94,000 head less than August 1995 and 9,000 head less than July 1996. This is the twelfth consecutive month of decline. Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,371 pounds for August, 4 pounds below August 1995. This is the fourth month in a row that the rate has been below a year ago.

During the April-June period, the 22 major States produced 34.3 billion pounds of milk, 86.2 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.7 billion pounds for August 1996.

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MONTANA'S 1995 POTATO PRODUCTION DOWN 8 PERCENT; U.S. POTATO PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT

Montana's 1995 potato production totaled 2.94 million cwt., 8 percent below last year, but 9 percent above 1993. Producers harvested 9,800 acres, 200 acres less than a year ago and 800 acres above two years ago. Potato yields averaged 300 cwt. per acre compared with 320 cwt. last year.

Value of production from the 1995 crop was $27.5 million, up 25 percent from 1994. The average price was $9.35 per cwt., up $2.45 from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 1995 potato crop totaled $24.9 million, a 26 percent increase from last year's crop. Producers sold 2.7 million cwt. from the 1995 crop compared with 2.9 million cwt. a year ago.

Total U.S. 1995 potato production was estimated at 444 million cwt., down 5 percent from the record high in 1994, but 3 percent above 1993. Harvested area, at 1.37 million acres, was down less than 1 percent from a year earlier, but 4 percent above 1993. The average yield of 323 cwt. per acre dropped 16 cwt. from 1994 and was 3 cwt. below 1993. Winter production in 1995 gained 4 percent from a year earlier, spring dropped 11 percent, and summer and fall combined for a decline of 5 percent.

Value of production was estimated at a record high $3.0 billion from the 1995 crop, up 15 percent from a year earlier and 13 percent above 1993. The average price was $6.77 per cwt. compared with $5.58 a year earlier and $6.17 from the 1993 potato crop.

Sales from the 1995 potato crop totaled 408 million cwt., down 4 percent from 1994, but 4 percent above 1993. Non-sales accounted for 35.3 million cwt. of 1995 potatoes, 18 percent less than the previous year and 2 percent less than 1993. Typically, 91 percent of potatoes produced are sold based on the past 5-year average. The other 9 percent are either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used for seed, home use, and livestock feed on farms where grown. In the 1995 season,
farmers sold 92.0 percent of their crop and kept or lost 8.0 percent.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 29.5 million cwt., The lowest since 1990 and 21 percent below 1994. Livestock feed and home use totaled 958,000 cwt., down 16 percent. Growers kept 4.79 million cwt. for seed on their own farms, a gain of 1 percent from the previous year.

Processors used 256 million cwt. of potatoes from the 1995 crop, down 2 percent from 1994, but 6 percent above the 1993 crop usage. Table stock totaled 124 million cwt., off 7 percent from last year. Other sales for seed and livestock feed of 28.8 million cwt. were up slightly.

Chip potato use totaled 47.9 million cwt., down 3 percent from a year earlier. Freezing potatoes totaled 156 million cwt., down 4 percent, while dehydrating claimed a record high 44.5 million cwt., up 7 percent. Canning use totaled 59.1 million cwt., up 7 percent. Starch, flour and other products were made from 1.7 million cwt. of potatoes, down 23 percent.

U.S. AUGUST EGG PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.46 billion during August 1996, up 5 percent from the 6.15 billion produced in 1995. Production included 5.47 billion table eggs and 985 million hatching eggs, of which 929 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 1996 averaged 297 million, up 3 percent from the average number of layers during August 1995. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,172 eggs, compared with 2,135 in August 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1996, totaled 298 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 298 million layers consisted of 245 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.50 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1996, averaged 69.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from 69.2 a year ago.

In the 30 major egg producing States, laying flocks produced 6.12 billion eggs during August, up 5 percent from August 1995. The average number of layers during August, at 281 million, was u percent from the year earlier.

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE HAS GONE INTERNET!

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service has provided a homepage on the Internet for users to quickly and efficiently access information about Montana's Agriculture. The address is: http:/www.usda.gov/nass/SSO/MT/homepage.htm (the address IS case sensitive.)

Included are facts about Montana's rank in the Nation's agriculture, population, land utilization, annual crop summaries, livestock inventories and market-year-average prices. Also included are our up-to-date press releases about current crop condition, crop-weather, monthly agricultural prices, and other agricultural information. You can also e-mail comments or suggestio directly to our office.

The Montana homepage is part of the National Agricultural Statistics Service's homepage which has national releases along with links to other State Statistical Offices.

Plan to visit Montana Agricultural Statistics Service's homepage soon!

CASH RECEIPTS: From Sale of Principal Products and Government Payments, 1994 [1/ 2/]

COUNTY & DISTRICT	LIVESTOCK & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS (000) Dols.	Rank	CROPS (000) Dols.	Rank	TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS (000) Dols.	Rank	GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS (000) Dols.	ALL CASH RECEIPTS (000) Dols.
Deer Lodge	2,945	53	1,723	52	4,668	53	295	4,963
Flathead	12,493	33	12,113	25	24,606	31	1,019	25,625
Granite	6,869	46	530	53	7,399	51	62	7,461
Lake	29,238	10	13,219	24	42,457	18	857	43,314
Lincoln	1,509	55	497	54	2,006	55	2/	2,006
Mineral	606	56	233	55	839	56	2/	839
Missoula	5,039	52	2,047	49	7,086	52	195	7,281
Powell	12,340	34	2,059	48	14,399	45	229	14,628
Ravalli	17,029	23	3,411	42	20,440	38	364	20,804
Sanders	5,361	50	3,366	43	8,727	48	290	9,017
NORTHWEST	**93,429**		**39,198**		**132,627**		**3,311**	**135,938**
Blaine	22,195	16	14,843	22	37,038	24	9,746	46,784
Chouteau	13,755	29	106,511	1	120,266	2	22,723	142,989
Glacier	18,597	21	23,802	17	42,399	19	8,613	51,012
Hill	13,415	31	57,656	2	71,071	7	17,381	88,452
Liberty	8,943	41	38,738	7	47,681	14	8,422	56,103
Phillips	25,184	15	8,026	31	33,210	28	8,859	42,069
Pondera	13,043	32	44,292	5	57,335	11	10,017	67,352
Teton	46,318	4	36,304	11	82,622	4	10,810	93,432
Toole	11,060	38	37,184	9	48,244	13	11,057	59,301
NORTH CENTRAL	**172,510**		**367,356**		**539,866**		**107,628**	**647,494**
Daniels	5,298	51	30,397	15	35,695	26	8,287	43,982
Dawson	14,498	27	25,637	16	40,135	21	5,819	45,954
Garfield	16,890	24	19,517	19	36,407	25	6,312	42,719
McCone	10,410	40	19,301	20	29,711	30	8,750	38,461
Richland	27,092	14	51,729	3	78,821	6	6,294	85,115
Roosevelt	8,447	42	37,730	8	46,177	15	9,620	55,797
Sheridan	6,507	48	36,925	10	43,432	17	10,506	53,938
Valley	15,684	25	46,030	4	61,714	9	12,397	74,111
NORTHEAST	**104,826**		**267,266**		**372,092**		**67,985**	**440,077**
Broadwater	8,190	44	10,548	27	18,738	40	2,589	21,327
Cascade	47,108	3	33,728	13	80,836	5	7,886	88,722
Fergus	35,208	6	22,585	18	57,793	10	8,537	66,330
Golden Valley	8,283	43	3,717	41	12,000	46	2,780	14,780
Judith Basin	20,997	18	13,918	23	34,915	27	3,966	38,881
Lewis & Clark	13,607	30	9,003	29	22,610	36	912	23,522
Meagher	13,792	28	3,231	44	17,023	42	1,216	18,239
Musselshell	12,076	36	4,558	36	16,634	43	2,344	18,978
Petroleum	8,166	45	2,560	47	10,726	47	1,131	11,857
Wheatland	15,386	26	6,327	35	21,713	37	2,815	24,528
CENTRAL	**182,813**		**110,175**		**292,988**		**34,176**	**327,164**
Beaverhead	41,488	5	8,568	30	50,056	12	1,134	51,190
Gallatin	31,538	8	32,068	14	63,606	8	2,972	66,578
Jefferson	6,699	47	1,944	50	8,643	49	487	9,130
Madison	27,949	13	4,369	37	32,318	29	1,110	33,428
Silver Bow	2,804	54	88	56	2,892	54	/2	2,892
SOUTHWEST	**110,478**		**47,037**		**157,515**		**5,703**	**163,218**
Bighorn	48,921	2	38,911	6	87,832	3	4,375	92,207
Carbon	29,092	11	16,572	21	45,664	16	1,534	47,198
Park	19,685	20	3,888	40	23,573	34	1,231	24,804
Stillwater	28,833	12	9,961	28	38,794	22	3,916	42,710
Sweetgrass	17,643	22	1,741	51	19,384	39	814	20,198
Treasure	10,994	39	7,360	32	18,354	41	657	19,011
Yellowstone	102,561	1	34,771	12	137,332	1	5,292	142,624
SOUTH CENTRAL	**257,729**		**113,204**		**370,933**		**17,819**	**388,752**
Carter	21,162	17	2,904	45	24,066	33	3,962	28,028
Custer	33,255	7	7,018	33	40,273	20	2,166	42,439
Fallon	12,331	35	4,272	38	16,603	44	3,165	19,768
Powder River	20,401	19	3,986	39	24,387	32	2,226	26,613
Prairie	11,824	37	10,915	26	22,739	35	2,206	24,945
Rosebud	30,748	9	6,991	34	37,739	23	3,282	41,021
Wibaux	5,812	49	2,666	46	8,478	50	2,446	10,924
SOUTHEAST	**135,533**		**38,752**		**174,285**		**19,453**	**193,738**
MONTANA	**1,057,318**		**982,988**		**2,040,306**		**256,151**	**2,296,457**

[1/] Includes estimates of inter-farm sales and intra-state sales resulting in larger total cash receipts than shown in USDA estimates on other pages.

[2/] Payments of less than 50,000, included in State totals.

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington D.C.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1991-1995 [1/]

ITEM	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
			--Thousand Dollars--		
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	675,377	779,958	818,162	728,590	667,838
Dairy products	38,734	41,695	39,026	40,478	40,299
Sheep and lambs	20,568	25,226	25,093	24,219	25,643
Wool	3,729	5,072	2,993	4,379	5,428
Hogs and pigs	37,146	33,681	40,503	33,332	36,044
Eggs	9,020	6,533	6,563	4,538	4,940
Chickens	73	56	87	37	64
Honey	4,510	5,264	5,027	6,497	5,597
Other [2/]	11,802	13,765	11,863	13,590	12,061
TOTAL	800,959	911,250	949,317	855,660	797,914
CROPS					
Wheat	417,690	480,123	561,062	705,597	714,008
Barley	134,379	152,739	86,439	121,117	127,197
Sugar beets	48,938	55,714	50,968	54,763	49,987
Hay	78,321	131,398	101,086	77,568	86,372
Potatoes	18,901	15,908	18,967	21,382	19,713
Oil crops	6,003	5,013	6,463	8,452	9,288
Oats	2,292	2,881	4,100	3,819	2,859
Dry beans	2,604	2,604	3,744	4,027	3,550
Corn	2,592	4,854	3,805	3,946	5,427
Cherries	0	336	167	770	721
All other 3/	17,197	17,979	20,123	27,527	28,132
TOTAL	728,917	869,549	856,924	1,028,968	1,047,254
ALL COMMODITIES	1,529,876	1,780,799	1,806,241	1,884,628	1,845,168

[1/] Revised. [2/] Includes beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others. [3/] Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse, and nursery products.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs
Grain Stocks
Small Grains Summary
Ag Prices Received

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

September 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Ag Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's other spring wheat production estimate was lowered to 110.7 million bushels, down 4.1 million from the August forecast and, if realized, down 17% from last year's record crop. Most of the state continued to experience warm, dry conditions further deteriorating the crop. Harvest of the spring grains was well ahead of normal with about 80% of the spring wheat harvested by the end of the month. Forecasted yield is set at 27 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from August 1 and down 8 bushels from last year. Harvested acreage remains at 4.1 million acres.

Estimated durum wheat production remains unchanged from last month at 5.6 million bushels. Durum yields are estimated at 25 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and down 5 bushels from 1995.

Winter wheat production is not estimated as of September 1. The August winter wheat production forecast added to the all spring wheat production estimate totals 190.1 million bushels of all wheat, down 3% from last year.

Barley yield was lowered by 2 bushels from last month to 41 bushels per acre. Total production is forecast at 51.3 million bushels off nearly 5% from last month and down 18% from last year. Oat production is not estimated as of September 1, but the August 1 forecast was 2.6 million bushels.

Estimated sugar beet production remains unchanged from last month at 1.3 million tons, up 8% from last year. Yield is forecast at 22.5 tons per acre, up one ton from last year. New hay estimates will be available October 11. The August all hay production estimate was set at 5.27 million tons, down 2% from last year.

U.S. all wheat production is forecast at 2.30 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 5 percent above the 1995 crop. The U.S. yield is placed at 36.4 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushels from the last forecast.

Nationally, other spring wheat production is forecast at 687 million bushels, up 8 percent from last month and 28 percent from 1995. This production level is second only to the 1992 record of 758 million bushels. The U.S. yield is expected to average 35.1 bushels per acre, up 2.6 bushels from a month ago. Grain area is unchanged from last month. Lower Idaho yield prospects caused the drop in white spring wheat production. Hard red spring wheat production is up from last month because better-than-expected yields in Minnesota and the Dakotas more than covered Montana's decline.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 114 million bushels, down 5 percent from last month, but still up 11 percent from 1995. The U.S. yield is placed at 33.0 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels from the last forecast. Area for grain remains at 3.36 million acres. Yield increases in Minnesota and South Dakota were more than offset by a 2 bushel drop in the North Dakota yield forecast. The North Dakota decline is largely due to head scab related problems.

Barley production is forecast at 394 million bushels, up 2 percent from August and 10 percent above the 1995 production. The expected yield per acre is forecasted at 58.3 bushels compared with last month's 57.4 and last year's 57.2 bushels. Yield increases from August in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wyoming more than offset declines in Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Area harvested and to be harvested was unchanged from August, at 6.76 million acres, up 8 percent from the previous year.

Sugar beet production for the U.S. is expected to total 26.4 million tons, a decrease of 6 percent from 1995. Area for harvest, at 1.33 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the August "Crop Production" report and down 6 percent from last year. The average yield, at 19.8 tons per acre, is equal to last year's yield, and up 0.3 tons from August.

Corn production is forecast at 8.80 billion bushels, up 19 percent from 1995 production. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 120.2 bushels per acre, up 1.5 bushels from last month and 6.7 bushels from 1995. Acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 73.3 million acres, unchanged from last month.

MONTANA'S SEPTEMBER 1, 1996 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Dry weather continued to prevail in the state during August causing another significant decline in the pasture and range feed condition. Most areas of the state declined. The amount rated as good to excellent fell 21 points from a month ago. As of September 1, the condition was rated at 6% very poor, 30% poor, 36% fair, 25% good, and 3% excellent.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1995	1996 [1]	1995	1996 [1]	1995	1996 [1]	1995	1996 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	2,200	1,370	2,050	40.0	36.0	54,800	73,800
Durum Wheat	Bu.	270	230	265	225	30.0	25.0	7,950	5,625
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,950	4,200	3,800	4,100	35.0	27.0	133,000	110,700
All Wheat	Bu.	5,720	6,630	5,435	6,375	36.0	29.8	195,750	190,125
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	55	55	16	20	120.0	130.0	1,920	2,600
Oats	Bu.	145	100	80	50	59.0	52.0	4,720	2,600
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,250	52.0	41.0	62,400	51,250
Dry Beans	Cwt.	11.0	10.5	10.8	10.3	19.0	22.0	205	227
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.7	57.5	55.5	57.3	21.5	22.5	1,193	1,289
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.8	10.1	9.8	10.0	300.0	3/	2,940	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,700	2.50	2.30	4,000	3,910
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.70	1.60	1,360	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,550	2.23	2.07	5,360	5,270
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,726	52,053	40,993	40,097	37.7	37.3	1,547,311	1,494,716
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,436	3,565	3,356	3,456	30.5	33.0	102,280	113,980
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,015	20,006	16,622	19,565	32.2	35.1	535,948	686,994
All Wheat	Bu.	69,177	75,624	60,971	63,118	35.8	36.4	2,185,539	2,295,690
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	71,245	79,555	64,995	73,269	113.5	120.2	7,373,876	8,803,928
Oats	Bu.	6,336	4,608	2,959	2,673	54.7	59.0	161,847	157,633
Barley	Bu.	6,689	7,134	6,277	6,761	57.2	58.3	359,102	394,202
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,069.3	1,818.0	1,899.3	1,710.6	16.34	16.08	31,032	27,512
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,444.6	1,384.1	1,417.1	1,334.0	19.8	19.8	28,026	26,399
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,224.1	1,261.2	1,205.2	1,244.6	334	3/	403,009	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,569	24,256	3.46	3.31	84,980	80,382
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,210	36,343	1.98	1.87	69,806	68,133
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,779	60,599	2.59	2.45	154,786	148,515

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 12, 1996.

ALL WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, Selected States & U.S., 1995 & Forecasted September 1, 1996

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1995	1996	1995	Aug. 1, 1996	Sept. 1, 1996	1995	1996
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO [1]	2,738	2,368	38.4	32.1	32.1	105,260	76,060
ID	1,330	1,550	77.7	77.3	75.5	103,320	117,000
KS [1]	11,000	8,800	26.0	29.0	29.0	286,000	255,200
MN	2,245	2,442	32.0	34.0	42.9	71,849	104,750
MT	5,435	6,375	36.0	30.5	29.8	195,750	190,125
NE [1]	2,100	2,150	41.0	34.0	34.0	86,100	73,100
ND	11,114	12,455	27.0	29.8	31.6	300,078	393,395
OK [1]	5,200	4,900	21.0	19.0	19.0	109,200	93,100
OR [1]	939	975	67.8	69.7	69.7	63,678	67,950
SD	2,752	3,874	33.0	31.4	33.7	90,736	130,520
TX [1]	2,800	2,900	27.0	24.0	24.0	75,600	69,600
WA	2,595	2,745	59.3	66.5	66.5	153,770	182,670
US	60,971	63,118	35.8	35.6	36.4	2,185,539	2,295,690

[1] Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1996 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1995	1996 [2]	96/95	1995	1996 [2]	96/95	1995	1996 [2]	96/95
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	933	1,300	139	1,570	1,400	89	2,465	2,550	103
N Central	25,164	39,000	155	75,493	53,830	71	33,137	26,100	79
Northeast	2,268	3,900	172	43,329	40,470	93	4,423	3,800	86
Central	12,340	15,200	123	10,615	9,189	87	12,123	9,100	75
Southwest	1,410	1,900	135	2,005	2,316	116	4,257	3,700	87
S Central	9,669	8,400	87	3,000	3,000	100	4,670	4,500	96
Southeast	3,016	4,100	136	4,938	6,120	124	1,325	1,500	113
Montana	54,800	73,800	135	140,950	116,325	83	62,400	51,250	82

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

MONTANA PRICES RECEIVED FOR JULY

Montana crop prices for the full month of July were down from the previous month, with the exception of spring wheat and alfalfa. Winter wheat decreased 28 cents to $5.25, while durum wheat slipped 38 cents to $5.33 per bushel. Spring wheat increased 9 cents to $5.34 per bushel. Feed barley remained unchanged at $3.27 per bushel, while malt barley decreased 10 cents to $3.27 per bushel. Alfalfa hay climbed $2.00 to $66.00 per ton, while other hay remained unchanged at $55.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-August averaged $4.99 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.08.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were higher across the board compared with the previous month, with the exception of calves. Cow prices averaged 40 cents above last month at $33.30 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers rose $4.60 to $58.90 per cwt. Calf prices fell $1.00 to $54.90 per cwt. Prices received for sheep were up $1.60 to $33.50 per cwt, while lamb prices improved 80 cents to $99.60 per cwt. Milk prices climbed $1.50 to $15.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $59.50 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $62.10 per cwt for the full month of July. Cow prices came in at $31.00 and hogs were $58.70 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.73 per bushel and $3.18 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 70.9 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 116 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (1.7 percent) from July even though price gains from July for cattle, milk, corn, and hay slightly more than offset price declines for wheat, peaches, tomatoes, and grapes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. In August, lower seasonal marketings of wheat, hay, corn, and hogs compared with other commodities resulted in this decline in the All Farm Products Index.

Compared with August 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 14 points (14 percent) higher. Price increases from August 1995 for corn, milk, hogs, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for calves, tobacco, lettuce, and potatoes.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	July 1995	Aug. 1995	July 1996	Aug. 1996
Prices Received	101	102	118	116
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	110	110	115	115
Ratio [2/]	92	93	103	101

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	August 15, 1996	August 15, 1996
		July 1995	June 1996	July 1996	July 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.02	5.53	5.25	4.67	5.00	4.44
Durum	Bu.	5.22	5.71	5.33	5.13	4.80	5.82
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.95	5.25	5.34	5.30	5.00	4.70
All Wheat	Bu.	3.99	5.33	5.32	4.73	4.99	4.51
Barley, All	Bu.	2.28	3.30	3.27	3.18	3.08	2.93
Feed	Bu.	2.22	3.27	3.27	3.14	2.75	2.69
Malt	Bu.	2.62	3.37	3.27	3.23	3.25	3.13
Oats	Bu.	1.50	2.23	2.02	2.12	1.90	2.05
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	64.00	66.00	92.90	68.00	96.00
All Other Hay	Ton	61.00	55.00	55.00	76.00	58.00	78.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	64.00	64.00	89.60	68.00	92.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	62.40	54.30	58.90	62.10	59.50	63.90
Cows	Cwt.	39.60	32.90	33.30	31.00	36.90	32.70
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	49.20	39.70	45.60	58.90	51.60	60.80
Calves	Cwt.	65.30	55.90	54.90	56.80	56.80	58.80
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	29.70	31.90	33.50	30.30	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	85.70	98.80	99.60	98.30	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	12.40	13.90	15.40	15.40	16.30	15.70

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT 15% HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1995-May 1996, at 86 million bushels, was 15 percent higher than the same period last year.

Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 7.2 million bushels, compared with 3.3 million bushels last year.

Movement to the west was up 3 percent, at 72.4 million bushels. Other and unknown destinations, mostly states south and southeast of Montana, received 6.4 million bushels up drastically from last year at .9 million bushels.

Rail movement amounted to 81.9 million bushels, 95 percent of total shipments.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1995-May 1996, was 15.8 million bushels, down 9 percent from same period last year.

Shipments to western destinations were down 11 percent and eastern destinations were up 11 percent. Barley hauled by rail was 93 percent of total movement up 3 percent from the same period last year.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY: Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/] *

Agricultural Statistics Districts	December 1994-May 1995			December 1995-May 1996			Dec. 1994-May 1995 Barley	Dec. 1995-May 1996 Barley
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat		
	--- 000 Bushels ---							
West [3/]	515	1,488	2,003	541	2,361	2,902	5,076	3,069
North Central	15,882	18,432	34,314	9,873	36,556	46,429	9,200	9,266
Northeast	1,135	20,391	21,526	1,066	20,353	21,419	1,189	956
Central	5,163	3,504	8,667	5,285	4,058	9,343	1,790	2,399
South Central	3,024	1,146	4,170	2,836	701	3,537	44	50
Southeast	1,838	2,007	3,845	1,242	1,172	2,414	62	35
Trucked East	24	20	44	0	133	133	15	3
Trucked West	1,740	1,461	3,201	1,565	1,669	3,234	1,573	960
Trucked Other [4/]	106	108	214	26	736	762	184	124
Total By Truck	1,870	1,589	3,459	1,591	2,538	4,129	1,772	1,087
Rail East	121	3,143	3,264	33	7,006	7,039	3,147	3,496
Rail West	25,566	41,544	67,110	17,598	51,606	69,204	11,588	10,722
Rail Other [4/]	0	692	692	1,621	4,051	5,672	854	470
Total By Rail	25,687	45,379	71,066	19,252	62,663	81,915	15,589	14,688
Total Shipped	27,557	46,968	74,525	20,843	65,201	86,044	17,361	15,775

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown. * This data made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Slaughter
Potato Disposition	Cash Receipts
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
All Hay County Estimates
July Agricultural Labor
July Egg Produciton
July Milk Production

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP, U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH FOR JULY

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 1996, up 8 percent from last year and up 15 percent from last month.

There were 1,700 head of cattle slaughtered by Montana slaughter plants in July, 300 head more than the previous year. The average live weight dropped 18 pounds from a year ago to 1,243 pounds.

Hog slaughter amounted to 2,100 head, down 500 head from the previous year. The average live weight was also down, dropping from 236 pounds in 1995 to 228 pounds in 1996. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, was the same as a year ago. The average live weight dropped 4 pounds from last year to 114 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.58 billion pounds during July, 4 percent above the previous record high in July 1992.

Beef production, at 2.19 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from the previous record high in July 1986. Head kill totaled 3.15 million head, up 7 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 20 pounds from the previous year at 1,164 pounds.

Veal production totaled 32.0 million pounds, up 34 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 160,400 head, 41 percent above a year ago. The average live weight was down 20 pounds to 351 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.34 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.34 million head, up 4 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 251 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, rose 5 percent from the previous year. Slaughter totaled 326,400 head, up 5 percent from a year ago. The average live weight remained unchanged at 125 pounds.

January-July red meat production was 25.3 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production rose 6 percent, veal jumped 19 percent, pork decreased 3 percent and lamb and mutton dropped 7 percent.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 7.55 million head on August 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.75 million. Net placements were 1.68 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 343,000, 600-699 pounds were 406,000, 700-799 pounds were 570,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 427,000. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.98 million. Other disappearance totaled 62,000 during July.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 Monthly States Down 14 Percent

Cattle on feed August 1, 1996, in the historic 7 monthly States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 6.34 million, down 14 percent from the previous year and 7 percent below August 1, 1994.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.48 million, 6 percent above 1995 but 2 percent below 1994. Marketings during July totaled 1.68 million, 1 percent below 1995 but 8 percent above 1994. Other disappearance during July was 46,000 head, 6 percent below last year but 18 percent above 1994.

JULY EGG PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.43 billion during July 1996, up 5 percent from the 6.15 billion produced in 1995. Production included 5.46 billion table eggs and 973 million hatching eggs, of which 914 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 1996 averaged 295 million, up 3 percent from the average number of layers during July 1995. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,180 eggs, compared with 2,137 in July 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 1996, totaled 295 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 295 million layers consisted of 244 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 48.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 1996 averaged 70.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from the 69.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.09 billion eggs during July, up 5 percent from July 1995. The average number of layers during July, at 279 million, was up 3 percent from the year earlier.

ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1995

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production Tons	Rank	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production
		Tons				--Tons--			--Tons--	
Deer Lodge	10,000	2.60	26,000	52	9,000	2.78	25,000	1,000	1.00	1,000
Flathead	34,000	2.59	88,000	28	14,500	3.24	47,000	19,500	2.10	41,000
Granite	28,000	2.49	69,600	35	27,000	2.52	68,000	1,000	1.60	1,600
Lake	59,000	2.83	167,000	6	44,500	3.19	142,000	14,500	1.72	25,000
Lincoln	10,500	1.64	17,200	55	6,500	1.85	12,000	4,000	1.30	5,200
Mineral	3,500	2.23	7,800	56	1,500	2.67	4,000	2,000	1.90	3,800
Missoula	21,000	2.43	51,000	40	16,000	2.69	43,000	5,000	1.60	8,000
Powell	50,000	2.57	128,500	14	47,000	2.64	124,000	3,000	1.50	4,500
Ravalli	41,000	3.30	135,400	11	39,000	3.38	132,000	2,000	1.70	3,400
Sanders	28,000	1.80	50,500	41	13,000	2.46	32,000	15,000	1.23	18,500
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTHWEST	285,000	2.60	741,000	–	218,000	2.89	629,000	67,000	1.67	112,000
Blaine	58,000	2.69	156,000	10	34,400	3.26	112,000	23,600	1.86	44,000
Chouteau	36,000	2.00	72,000	33	3,500	3.14	11,000	32,500	1.88	61,000
Glacier	37,000	1.99	73,500	31	9,500	2.68	25,500	27,500	1.75	48,000
Hill	20,000	1.90	38,000	44	3,700	2.57	9,500	16,300	1.75	28,500
Liberty	12,000	2.19	26,300	50	3,500	3.37	11,800	8,500	1.71	14,500
Phillips	63,000	1.90	119,500	17	34,000	2.60	88,500	29,000	1.07	31,000
Pondera	34,000	2.59	88,000	27	16,000	3.31	53,000	18,000	1.94	35,000
Teton	60,000	2.65	159,000	8	43,000	3.07	132,000	17,000	1.59	27,000
Toole	13,000	1.82	23,700	53	2,400	2.79	6,700	10,600	1.60	17,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTH CENTRAL	333,000	2.27	756,000	–	150,000	3.00	450,000	183,000	1.67	306,000
Daniels	17,000	1.67	28,400	49	2,700	3.67	9,900	14,300	1.29	18,500
Dawson	37,000	1.57	58,200	37	7,500	3.76	28,200	29,500	1.02	30,000
Garfield	29,000	1.13	32,900	48	3,800	2.34	8,900	25,200	0.95	24,000
McCone	26,000	1.50	39,100	43	5,900	3.49	20,600	20,100	0.92	18,500
Richland	44,000	1.75	77,000	29	6,800	4.26	29,000	37,200	1.29	48,000
Roosevelt	42,000	1.71	71,800	34	8,000	3.35	26,800	34,000	1.32	45,000
Sheridan	25,000	1.62	40,600	42	3,800	4.11	15,600	21,200	1.18	25,000
Valley	45,000	2.33	105,000	23	21,500	3.35	72,000	23,500	1.40	33,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTHEAST	265,000	1.71	453,000	–	60,000	3.52	211,000	205,000	1.18	242,000
Broadwater	27,500	3.29	90,400	25	25,000	3.44	86,000	2,500	1.76	4,400
Cascade	84,000	2.07	173,600	5	15,000	3.13	47,000	69,000	1.83	126,600
Fergus	137,000	1.88	258,000	3	15,500	2.90	45,000	121,500	1.75	213,000
Golden Valley	26,000	2.08	54,000	38	10,000	2.90	29,000	16,000	1.56	25,000
Judith Basin	75,000	2.09	156,500	9	10,500	2.90	30,500	64,500	1.95	126,000
Lewis & Clark	45,000	2.73	123,000	16	27,500	3.35	92,000	17,500	1.77	31,000
Meagher	52,000	1.98	103,000	24	46,000	2.02	93,000	6,000	1.67	10,000
Musselshell	27,000	1.98	53,500	39	10,000	3.35	33,500	17,000	1.18	20,000
Petroleum	20,500	1.66	34,000	46	11,500	2.17	25,000	9,000	1.00	9,000
Wheatland	33,000	2.27	75,000	30	22,000	2.64	58,000	11,000	1.55	17,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CENTRAL	527,000	2.13	1,121,000	–	193,000	2.79	539,000	334,000	1.74	582,000
Beaverhead	119,000	2.72	324,000	1	111,000	2.80	311,000	8,000	1.63	13,000
Gallatin	79,000	3.33	263,000	2	56,500	3.88	219,000	22,500	1.96	44,000
Jefferson	27,000	2.54	68,500	36	24,500	2.65	65,000	2,500	1.40	3,500
Madison	80,000	3.11	248,500	4	75,000	3.20	240,000	5,000	1.70	8,500
Silver Bow	10,000	2.60	26,000	51	9,000	2.78	25,000	1,000	1.00	1,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHWEST	315,000	2.95	930,000	–	276,000	3.12	860,000	39,000	1.79	70,000
Big Horn	55,000	2.40	132,000	12	20,500	3.51	72,000	34,500	1.74	60,000
Carbon	62,000	2.58	160,000	7	40,000	3.20	128,000	22,000	1.45	32,000
Park	54,000	2.31	125,000	15	46,500	2.43	113,000	7,500	1.60	12,000
Stillwater	61,000	1.96	119,300	18	17,500	3.10	54,300	43,500	1.49	65,000
Sweetgrass	51,000	2.18	111,000	21	35,000	2.51	88,000	16,000	1.44	23,000
Treasure	12,000	2.81	33,700	47	6,000	3.95	23,700	6,000	1.67	10,000
Yellowstone	50,000	2.60	130,000	13	24,500	3.84	94,000	25,500	1.41	36,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTH CENTRAL	345,000	2.35	811,000	–	190,000	3.02	573,000	155,000	1.54	238,000
Carter	74,000	1.53	113,400	19	3,800	1.95	7,400	70,200	1.51	106,000
Custer	49,000	2.19	107,500	22	16,800	3.84	64,500	32,200	1.34	43,000
Fallon	57,000	1.26	72,100	32	2,400	2.13	5,100	54,600	1.23	67,000
Powder River	69,000	1.62	111,600	20	5,800	2.52	14,600	63,200	1.53	97,000
Prairie	19,000	1.89	36,000	45	5,800	3.71	21,500	13,200	1.10	14,500
Rosebud	44,000	2.01	88,500	26	17,000	3.38	57,500	27,000	1.15	31,000
Wibaux	18,000	1.05	18,900	54	1,400	1.71	2,400	16,600	0.99	16,500
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHEAST	330,000	1.66	548,000	–	53,000	3.26	173,000	277,000	1.35	375,000
MONTANA	2,400,000	2.23	5,360,000	–	1,140,000	3.01	3,435,000	1,260,000	1.53	1,925,000

U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 5 PERCENT, WAGES UP 11 CENTS

The Nation's farms and ranches employed 1.35 million workers during the week of July 7-13, 1996. There were 1,015,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 331,000 workers.

U.S. farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.55 per hour during the July 1996 survey week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $6.16 per hour, up 7 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.20 per hour compared with $5.94 a year earlier.

Self-employed and unpaid workers are not published in this report. These statistics will be published annually beginning with the October survey release. Benefits will not be published in this report. These data will be collected periodically to update the data series.

WAGE RATES FOR TYPE OF WORKERS & ALL HIRED WORKERS BY REGION & U.S., JULY 7-13, 1996 1/

U.S. & REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER			WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK COMBINED	
	DOLLARS PER HOUR			
Northeast I	6.80	5.97	6.55	6.98
Northeast II	6.28	5.94	6.16	6.51
Appalachian I	5.36	6.09	5.53	5.73
Appalachian II	5.35	6.04	5.46	5.91
Southeast	5.62	5.25	5.58	5.85
FL	6.35	7.10	6.45	7.40
Lake	6.51	6.02	6.31	6.57
Cornbelt I	6.70	6.65	6.69	7.08
Cornbelt II	5.97	5.48	5.84	6.34
Delta	5.96	5.75	5.91	6.13
Northern Plains	6.30	5.78	6.20	6.46
Southern Plains	5.17	5.84	5.36	6.01
Mountain I	**6.06**	**5.75**	**5.90**	**5.94**
Mountain II	5.88	6.05	5.92	6.27
Mountain III	5.80	5.99	5.87	6.39
Pacific	6.30	8.20	6.43	6.78
CA	6.33	7.27	6.42	6.82
HI	8.74	3/	8.74	9.85
US 4/	6.16	6.20	6.17	6.55

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA.

3/ Insufficient data.

4/ Excludes AK.

U.S. JULY MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

Milk production in the 22 major States during July totaled 11.1 billion pounds, 3 percent below production in these same States in July 1995. June revised production, at 11.1 billion pounds, was 3 percent less than June 1995. On a daily basis, milk production has been below 1995 levels every month this year. In July, five States are down more than 10 percent from 1995.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,390 pounds for July, 24 pounds below July 1995. This is the third month in a row that the rate has decreased when compared with a year ago. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.98 million head, 86,000 head less than July 1995 and 8,000 head less than June 1996. This is the eleventh consecutive month of decline.

During the April-June period, the 22 major States produced 34.3 billion pounds of milk, 86.2 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.9 billion pounds for July 1996.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Crop Production
Wheat & Barley Movement	Pasture & Range Feed Condition

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

August 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Ag Prices Received
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

AUGUST 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's August 1 all wheat production forecast is estimated at 194.2 million bushels. This forecast is down 13% from the July 1 estimate and down 1% from last year. For the past month, the state has experienced warm and very dry conditions which have severely stressed the small grain crop. This year's crop, if realized, would still be the third largest crop on record only due to the large increase in harvested acres.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 73.8 million bushels down 10 percent from last month but still up 35% from 1995, also due to an increase in harvested acreage. Estimated yield for winter wheat is set at 36 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from last month's forecast and last year's final yield.

Spring wheat yield is estimated at 28 bushels per acre for a total production of 114.8 million bushels. Spring wheat production is off 15% from a month ago and down 14% from last year's record crop. A much smaller yield more than offset the increase in estimated harvested acres to bring total production down. Durum wheat yield fell 4 bushels from July 1 to 25 bushels per acre. Total production is estimated at 5.6 million bushels, down 14% from July 1 and down 29% from 1995.

Estimated barley production fell 17% from last month's forecast to 53.8 million bushels which is also down 14% from 1995. Estimated yield is set at 43 bushels per acre, down 9 from last month and last year. Forecasted oat production is set at 2.6 million bushes, down 45% from last year and is the smallest oat crop since 1985. Average yield is estimated at 52 bushels per acre down 6 bushels from July 1 and down 7 bushels from last year.

Corn growers expect to produce 2.6 million bushels of corn, up 35% from last year. Corn yields are estimated at 130 bushels per acre and if realized would be the second highest yield on record. Sugar beet production is estimated at 1.3 million tons with yields averaging 22.5 tons per acre. Dry bean production is forecast at 227,000 cwt. with yields averaging 22 cwt. per acre.

The dry weather has lowered yield prospects for hay from a year ago. Estimated yields for alfalfa are set at 2.3 tons per acre for a total production of 3.9 million tons. Some producers are not cutting a second time because of the dryness. Other hay production is forecast at 1.36 million tons with yields averaging 1.6 tons per acre.

The Nation's all wheat production for 1996 is forecast at 2.25 billion bushels, down 1 percent from July 1 but up 3 percent from 1995. U.S. yields are now expected to average 35.6 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushels per acre from last month.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.49 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from July 1, but down 3 percent from 1995. The U.S. yield is forecast at 37.3 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels per acre from the last forecast. Total Hard Red production is up from last month. Increased Kansas and Nebraska yields are the primary reasons.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 635 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July forecast, but up 18 percent from 1995. This production would still be the second highest on record. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 32.5 bushels per acre, down a bushel from last month. Grain area totals 19.6 million acres, up 18 percent from last season. Durum wheat production is forecast at 120 million bushels, down 3 percent from last month, but up 17 percent from 1995. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 34.6 bushels per acre, 1.1 bushels per acre less than a month ago.

Total barley production is forecast at 388 million bushels, down 1 percent from July, but 8 percent above the 1995 production of 359 million bushels. Yields are expected to average 57.4 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushels from July, but up 0.2 bushels from 1995. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 6.8 million acres, is 8 percent above the 6.3 million acres harvested a year earlier. Oat production for 1996 is forecast at 158 million bushels, up 2 percent from the July "Crop Production" report, but down 3 percent from last year. The forecasted yield, at 59.0 bushels per acre, is up 1 bushel from July and up 4.3 bushels from the previous year.

Sugar beet production for the U.S. is expected to total 26.1 million tons, a decrease of 7 percent from 1995. Production of dry edible beans is forecast at 27.5 million cwt. for 1996, down 11 percent from a year earlier and 5 percent below two years ago.

U.S. corn production is forecast at 8.69 billion bushels, up 18 percent from last year, but down 14 percent from the record high production of 1994. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 118.7 bushels per acre, up 5.2 bushels from a year ago.

All hay production for 1996 is forecast at 149 million tons, down 4 percent from 1995. Alfalfa production is forecast at 80.4 million tons, down 5 percent from a year ago. All other hay production is 68.1 million tons, 2 percent below a year earlier.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION AUGUST 1, 1996

The month of July was characterized by warm and very dry weather conditions. The pasture and range feed condition fell significantly from a month ago with a 27 point decrease in the good to excellent range. As of August 1, the condition was rated at 2% very poor, 15% poor, 34% fair, 45% good, and 4% excellent. Most regions of the state have been hit by the dry spell and have recorded a decrease from last month.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, AUGUST 1, 1996

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1995	1996 [1/]	1995	1996 [1/]	1995	1996 [1/]	1995	1996 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	2,200	1,370	2,050	40.0	36.0	54,800	73,800
Durum Wheat	Bu.	270	230	265	225	30.0	25.0	7,950	5,625
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,950	4,200	3,800	4,100	35.0	28.0	133,000	114,800
All Wheat	Bu.	5,720	6,630	5,435	6,375	36.0	30.5	195,750	194,225
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	55	55	16	20	120.0	130.0	1,920	2,600
Oats	Bu.	145	100	80	50	59.0	52.0	4,720	2,600
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,250	52.0	43.0	62,400	53,750
Dry Beans	Cwt.	11.0	10.5	10.8	10.3	19.0	22.0	205	227
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.7	57.5	55.5	57.3	21.5	22.5	1,193	1,289
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.8	10.1	9.8	10.0	300.0	[3/]	2,940	[3/]
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,700	2.50	2.30	4,000	3,910
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.70	1.60	1,360	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,550	2.23	2.07	5,360	5,270
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,726	52,053	40,993	40,097	37.7	37.3	1,547,311	1,494,716
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,436	3,565	3,356	3,456	30.5	34.6	102,280	119,652
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,015	20,006	16,622	19,565	32.2	32.5	535,948	634,994
All Wheat	Bu.	69,177	75,624	60,971	63,118	35.8	35.6	2,185,539	2,249,362
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	71,245	79,555	64,995	73,269	113.5	118.7	7,373,876	8,694,628
Oats	Bu.	6,336	4,608	2,959	2,673	54.7	59.0	161,847	157,633
Barley	Bu.	6,689	7,134	6,277	6,761	57.2	57.4	359,102	387,852
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,069.3	1,818.0	1,899.3	1,710.6	16.34	16.08	31,032	27,512
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,444.6	1,384.1	1,417.1	1,334.4	19.8	19.5	28,026	26,061
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,223.1	1,261.2	1,204.5	1,244.6	334	[3/]	401,879	[3/]
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,569	24,256	3.46	3.31	84,980	80,382
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,210	36,343	1.98	1.87	69,806	68,133
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,779	60,599	2.59	2.45	154,786	148,515

[1/] Preliminary. [2/] Planted for all purposes. [3/] Production forecast available November 12, 1996.

ALL WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, Selected States & U.S., 1995 & Forecasted July 1 and August 1, 1996

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1995	1996	1995	July 1, 1996	Aug. 1, 1996	1995	1996
	1,000 Acres			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,738	2,368	38.4	32.1	32.1	105,260	76,060
ID	1,330	1,550	77.7	77.7	77.3	103,320	119,800
KS	11,000	8,800	26.0	27.0	29.0	286,000	255,200
MN	2,245	2,442	32.0	33.0	34.0	71,849	83,070
MT	5,435	6,375	36.0	35.1	30.5	195,750	194,225
NE	2,100	2,150	41.0	31.0	34.0	86,100	73,100
ND	11,114	12,455	27.0	30.0	29.8	300,078	370,695
OK	5,200	4,900	21.0	19.0	19.0	109,200	93,100
OR	939	975	67.8	69.7	69.7	63,678	67,950
SD	2,752	3,874	33.0	31.4	31.4	90,736	121,672
TX	2,800	2,900	27.0	23.0	24.0	75,600	69,600
WA	2,595	2,745	59.3	66.1	66.5	153,770	182,670
US	60,971	63,118	35.8	35.9	35.6	2,185,539	2,249,362

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1996

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1995	1996	96/95	1995	1996	96/95	1995	1996	96/95
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	933	1,300	139	1,570	1,400	89	2,465	2,400	97
N Central	25,164	39,000	155	75,493	55,870	74	33,137	26,800	81
Northeast	2,268	3,900	172	43,329	41,115	95	4,423	3,900	88
Central	12,340	15,200	123	10,615	10,003	94	12,123	10,400	86
Southwest	1,410	1,900	135	2,005	2,417	121	4,257	3,900	92
S Central	9,669	8,400	87	3,000	3,300	110	4,670	4,800	103
Southeast	3,016	4,100	136	4,938	6,320	128	1,325	1,550	117
Montana	54,800	73,800	135	140,950	120,425	85	62,400	53,750	86

MONTANA PRICES RECEIVED FOR JUNE

Montana crop prices for the full month of June were down from the previous month, with the exception of durum wheat and [illegible]s. Winter wheat decreased 2 cents to $5.53, while spring wheat slipped 17 cents to $5.25 per bushel. Durum wheat advanced 12 cents to $5.71 per bushel. Feed barley remain unchanged at $3.27 per bushel, while malt barley decreased 3 cents to $3.37 per bushel. Alfalfa and other hay prices slipped $1.00 per ton to $64.00 and $55.00 per ton, respectively. The all wheat price for mid-July averaged $4.99 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.12.

Livestock prices for the full month of June were higher across the board compared with the previous month, with the exception of calves. Cow prices were up 20 cents to $32.90 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers improved 50 cents to $54.30 per cwt. Calf prices fell $3.50 to $55.90 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $6.70 above last month at $31.90 per cwt, while lamb prices rose $4.20 to $98.80 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 20 cents to $13.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $57.80 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $59.60 per cwt for the full month of June. Cow prices came in at $30.70 and hogs were $56.20 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $5.26 per bushel and $3.55 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 71.5 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in July was [illegible]ecord 119 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (0.8 percent) [illegible]m June. Price gains from June for cattle, corn, soybeans, and hogs more than offset price declines for wheat, cantaloupes, grapes, and strawberries. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of wheat, grapes, sorghum, and tomatoes more than offset the lower marketings of milk, cantaloupes, grapes, and potatoes. These changes contributed most of the one point increase in the overall index.

Compared with July 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 18 points (18 percent) higher. Price increases from July 1995 for wheat, milk, corn, and hogs more than offset price decreases for calves, lemons, and strawberries.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	June 1995	July 1995	June 1996	July 1996
Prices Received	100	101	118	119
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	110	110	115	115
Ratio 2/	91	92	103	103

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	July 15, 1996	July 15, 1996
		June 1995	May 1996	June 1996	June 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.85	5.55	5.53	5.14	4.80	4.84
Durum	Bu.	5.62	5.59	5.71	5.58	5.30	5.25
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.74	5.42	5.25	5.48	5.00	5.07
All Wheat	Bu.	3.79	5.46	5.33	5.26	4.99	4.87
Barley, All	Bu.	2.28	3.32	3.30	3.55	3.12	3.34
Feed	Bu.	2.24	3.27	3.27	3.58	3.00	3.32
Malt	Bu.	2.76	3.40	3.37	3.51	3.30	3.38
Oats	Bu.	1.39	1.94	2.23	2.16	2.20	2.19
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	65.00	64.00	96.90	66.00	92.90
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	56.00	55.00	73.90	55.00	76.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	63.00	64.00	92.30	64.00	89.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	63.00	53.80	54.30	59.60	57.80	63.60
Cows	Cwt.	39.90	32.70	32.90	30.70	33.00	30.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	47.30	44.30	39.70	56.10	44.20	60.30
[illegible]ves	Cwt.	70.50	59.40	55.90	55.20	59.30	56.20
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	28.00	25.20	31.90	27.50	na	na
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	86.80	94.60	98.80	99.90	na	na
All Milk	Cwt.	12.60	14.10	13.90	14.60	15.10	15.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS UNCHANGED

Montana's estimated number of farms, at 22,000, and land in farms, at 59.7 million acres, remain unchanged from a year ago. This is the third year in a row for land in farms at this level. The average size of farm is 2,714 acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 1996 is estimated at 2.06 million, down less than one percent from 1995. Total land in farms is 968 million acres, also down less than one percent from last year. This decline in farm numbers and land in farms continues to follow historical trends. The average farm size was unchanged from 1995 at 469 acres.

The North Central Region was the only region to drop in farm numbers with a total decrease from 1995 of 11,500 farms, a 1.4 percent decline. The Northeast Region was up 0.2 percent or 300 farms. Farms in the South were up only 0.1 percent or 900 farms. The largest increase was in the West with a gain of 1,790 farms or 0.7 percent higher than 1995.

Texas remained the State with the most farms at 205,000, 3,000 more than a year earlier. Missouri was second with 104,000 farms, down 1,000 from last year, followed by Iowa with 98,000 farms, down 2,000 from 1995.

Eleven States increased in farm numbers while 20 states decreased from a year ago. Texas showed the largest increase with 3,000 farms while California and Mississippi showed increases of 2,000 farms from last year. Five States that showed the largest decreases of 2,000 farms each were Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio.

Texas continued to lead the nation in land in farms and ranches with 127.0 million acres, down 2 million acres from 1995. Two States with decreases of 400,000 acres in agricultural land from a year ago were Alabama and Mississippi, while New Mexico was off 300,000 acres. The largest increase in land in farms was in Louisiana with an increase of 200,000 from 1995.

The number of U.S. farms in the economic sales class between $1,000 and $9,999 increased from 1,012,920 in 1995 to 1,019,310 in 1996. Those with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 group decreased from 725,400 to 705,600. The $100,000 and over sales group increased from 333,200 to 338,100 farms.

Estimates for the number of farms and land in farms refer to June 1. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year."

	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
Year	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms
	Thousands	Mil. Acres	Acres	Thousands	Mil. Acres	Acres
1992	24.3	60.0	2,469	2,107.8	978.5	464
1993	23.8	59.8	2,513	2,083.4	976.5	469
1994	22.5	59.7	2,653	2,064.7	973.4	471
1995	22.0	59.7	2,714	2,071.5	972.3	469
1996	22.0	59.7	2,714	2,063.0	968.1	469

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Numbers & Land in Farms	Crop Production
Ag Prices Received	Pasture & Range Feed Condition

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Cattle Inventory
July 1 Sheep Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Mink Production
Milk Production

U. S. JULY 1 CATTLE & CALF INVENTORY DOWN 1 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1996, totaled 112.0 million head, down 1 percent from July 1, 1995, but up 1 percent from the 111.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 45.0 million, were down 1 percent from a year ago and slightly below two years ago. Beef cows, at 35.6 million, were 1 percent below July 1, 1995 and the same as July 1, 1994. Milk cows, at 9.4 million, were 1 percent below both July 1, 1995 and July 1, 1994.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1996, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.3 million, down 2 percent and down 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.5 million, down 4 percent and down 7 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.7 million, down 5 percent and down 7 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.1 million, up 1 percent and up 8 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.4 million, no change and up 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.4 million, no change and up 4 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 31.9 million, down slightly and up 2 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 9.8 million, down 12 percent and down 7 percent.

The 1996 calf crop is expected to be 39.8 million, down 1 percent from both 1995 and 1994. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 29.3 million, down 1 percent from 1995 and the same as 1994.

JULY U.S. ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS TOTALS 10.3 MILLION HEAD

All sheep and lambs in the United States on July 1, 1996 totaled 10.3 million head, 6 percent below July 1, 1995. The number of breeding sheep and lambs on hand July 1, 1996 reached 6.17 million head, 4 percent below July 1995. Of the July 1 breeding herd, 5.08 million head were ewes one year old and older, 235,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 860,000 head were replacement lambs.

Market sheep and lambs, at 4.13 million head, were 7 percent below last July. Of the total market lambs, 61.1 percent were under 65 pounds, 20.8 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 11.4 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remainder, 6.7 percent, were over 105 pounds on July 1.

The 1996 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 5.20 million head, down 7 percent from the 1995 lamb crop of 5.60 million head. Lambs born during January through June 1996 reached 4.48 million head or 86 percent of the yearly total. An additional 725,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 1996.

The July 1 sheep and lamb numbers are also published by regions. Montana is included with Colorado, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The total number of sheep and lambs in the region was 3.53 million head, down 13 percent from a year ago. This region accounted for 34.3 percent of the total U.S. sheep and lambs.

The total number of breeding sheep and lambs was 1.92 million head, down 10 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep and lambs, 1.63 million head were ewes one year old and older, 55,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 240,000 head were replacement lambs.

All market lambs for the region on July 1, 1996 totaled 1.60 million head, down 17 percent from a year ago. Of the total market lambs, 69.9 percent were under 65 pounds, 14.4 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 9.4 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remaining 6.3 percent were over 105 pounds.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 14 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 7.84 million head on July 1, 1996. The inventory was 14 percent below the revised 9.10 million on July 1, 1995 and 4 percent below two years ago. The inventory included 5.01 million steers and steer calves. This group accounts for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 2.79 million head.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.31 million. **Net placements** were 1.24 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 273,000, 600-699 pounds were 342,000, 700-799 pounds were 367,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 323,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during June totaled 2.00 million. **Other disappearance** totaled 70,000 during June.

U.S. JUNE EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.17 billion during June 1996, up 3 percent from the 6.01 billion produced in 1995. Production included 5.21 billion table eggs and 956 million hatching egg type, of which 897 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 1996 averaged 294 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during June 1995. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,098 eggs, compared with 2,075 in June 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1996, totaled 294 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 294 million layers consisted of 242 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1996, averaged 70.3 eggs per 100 layers, up one percent from the 69.5 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.83 billion eggs during June, up 3 percent from June 1995. The average number of layers during June, at 278 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 10 PERCENT FROM 1995

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 1996, down 4 percent from last month and 10 percent from the same period last year. There were 1,600 head of cattle slaughtered in June, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,251 pounds was 5 pounds heavier than the previous year, but the total live weight was still 3 percent below last year at 2.01 million pounds.

Hog slaughter accounted for 1,500 head, down 600 head from 1995. The average live weight of 231 pounds was down by 2 pounds from a year ago. There were 100 head of sheep slaughtered by Montana slaughter plants, 100 below the previous year. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from last year to 113 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled 3.44 billion pounds during June, down 9 percent from a year earlier. Beef production, at 2.19 billion pounds, was down 4 percent from the previous year. Head kill totaled 3.15 million head, down 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 15 pounds from the previous year at 1,162 pounds.

Veal production totaled 29.0 million pounds. This production was up 10 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 135,500 head, 15 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight was down 18 pounds to 365 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.21 billion pounds, was down 18 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 6.53 million head, 17 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 255 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 14 percent from the previous record low set in June 1979. Slaughter during June 1996 totaled 282,100 head, down 22 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds at 129 pounds.

1996 MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY VARIETY SURVEY

The top three **winter wheat** varieties seeded in Montana continued to be **Neeley, Tiber**, and **Rocky**. These are the same as last year with Tiber and Rocky switching positions. For the ninth consecutive year, Neeley was the leading variety accounting for more than a quarter of the winter wheat seeded. Neeley is a hard red winter wheat that generally has 1 to 3 percent lower protein than most recommended varieties. It has satisfactory milling and baking qualities. Tiber moved into second position, accounting for one-sixth of the winter wheat seeded, with the acreage nearly doubling from a year ago. Rocky fell to third place with 305 thousand acres seeded.

Amidon, Westbred Rambo, and **Grandin** rounded out the top three **spring wheat** varieties seeded this year. Amidon continued to be the most popular spring wheat for the fifth consecutive year. It accounts for 27 percent of the seeded spring wheat in Montana. Over half the Amidon was seeded in the Northeast District. Amidon has satisfactory shattering resistance and is resistant to stem and leaf rust. Its baking qualities are rated as superior with satisfactory milling qualities.

Westbred Rambo was the second most popular variety, accounting for almost 11 percent of the acreage seeded to spring wheat. Just over 82 percent of Westbred Rambo was seeded in the North Central District. Grandin moved up one position from last year to third place and accounts for nearly 9 percent of the spring wheat acreage seeded.

Kyle maintained its top **durum** variety position with over one-fifth of the durum acreage seeded. Developed in Canada and released in 1984, it is resistant to prevalent races of leaf and stem rust. It has an overall quality rating of good. **Monroe** moved up one place into second position this year, accounting for almost 20 percent of the durum acreage. **Vic** dropped one place to third position this year with nearly 13 percent of the durum wheat acreage seeded.

Nearly 43 percent of the **barley** planted was with varieties recommended for malting and brewing by the AMBA (American Malting Barley Association). **Harrington** was the top malting variety planted as well the top variety planted overall. It accounted for nearly one-third of all the barley planted and three-quarters of the varieties recommended for malting and brewing by the AMBA. Over 75 percent of the Harrington seeded was in the North Central District. **Baronesse** moved into the top position among the feed-type barleys. It accounted for over 12 percent of the barley seeded and over one-fifth of the feed-type barley.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat & barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee and the American Malting Barley Association, Inc. A more detailed report may be obtained from our office upon request.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES: PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE 1991-1996

VARIETY	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 [1/]	1996
WINTER WHEAT						
Neeley	24.7	25.0	18.4	23.3	23.6	25.4
Tiber	11.7	13.5	10.7	16.2	12.4	16.2
Rocky	14.0	12.5	14.8	13.3	16.5	13.9
Redwin	13.0	9.9	10.8	10.0	8.9	11.7
Bighorn	0.8	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.7	4.1
Winalta	5.8	6.1	5.8	4.4	2.8	3.5
Judith	0.8	7.0	9.8	10.2	8.2	3.5
Centurk	2.4	3.3	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.9
Roughrider	3.6	2.8	2.0	1.8	1.0	2.0
Norstar	6.6	7.6	6.4	2.0	4.0	1.7
Kestrel	--	--	--	0.1	0.4	1.4
Hill 81 [2/]	--	--	--	0.5	0.2	0.9
Hawk	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	2.4	0.9
Stephens [2/]	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.7
Weston	1.8	0.6	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.7
Sierra	--	--	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6
Quantum 542	--	--	0.3	1.1	1.8	0.6
Cimmaron	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.5
Cree	2.0	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.5
Warrior	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.7	0.7	0.5
Manning	--	--	0.1	--	--	0.3
Lewjain [2/]	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	--	0.3
Sage	0.3	0.4	0.1	--	0.1	0.3
Rose	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8	--	0.3
Other & Unknown	10.2	7.1	13.0	7.3	9.9	6.6
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT						
Amidon	11.7	19.6	29.0	27.9	29.9	27.1
Westbred Rambo	13.5	16.7	15.5	11.9	10.5	10.9
Grandin	0.2	0.7	3.4	8.5	7.3	8.5
Fortuna	8.2	6.6	6.6	8.0	8.3	6.5
Hi-Line	--	--	0.4	2.4	4.3	5.9
Stoa	8.1	6.7	5.9	5.7	3.6	5.8
Newana	13.3	12.9	8.2	6.9	5.8	5.3
Lew	14.1	8.7	5.0	7.2	4.9	4.7
Len	11.9	8.1	6.6	6.3	6.3	3.2
Westbred 926	0.7	0.9	1.5	2.0	3.0	2.6
McNeal	--	--	--	--	--	1.4
Westbred 936	--	--	--	0.2	0.3	1.3
Gus	0.1	0.1	--	--	0.6	1.2
Celtic	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.5	1.2	1.0
Border	--	--	--	--	0.2	1.0
Pondera	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7
Butte 86	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.9	0.7
Fergus	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.6
Krona	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.6
Bergen	--	--	--	--	--	0.5
Leader	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.5
Northrup King 751	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4
Kulm	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Chief	3.6	2.7	2.8	2.2	1.1	0.4
Other & Unknown	10.2	11.5	11.8	7.0	10.2	8.8
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

VARIETY	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 [1/]	1996
DURUM WHEAT						
Kyle	--	2.4	7.0	23.6	23.4	20.3
Monroe	14.2	10.3	24.2	22.5	11.1	19.9
Vic	15.5	26.6	7.7	9.3	17.7	13.3
Renville	6.0	5.9	2.8	7.4	10.0	8.8
Crosby	4.3	4.8	2.8	6.4	3.5	7.5
Plenty	--	--	--	1.7	3.7	7.0
Ward	14.1	5.8	1.3	4.6	4.7	5.5
Sceptre	0.1	--	--	--	3.8	3.6
Westbred Laker	12.6	8.9	23.5	14.5	3.8	3.5
Medora	14.0	20.8	18.0	3.4	6.0	2.3
Durex	--	--	--	--	--	0.9
Kemut	--	--	--	1.1	0.3	0.5
Westbred 881	--	--	--	--	--	0.2
Other & Unknown	19.2	14.5	12.7	5.5	12.0	6.7
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
BARLEY						
Harrington [3/]	25.3	23.5	22.0	28.0	24.9	32.5
Baronesse	--	0.1	1.5	7.2	11.9	12.4
Hector	25.8	23.9	22.5	14.7	13.5	10.2
Bowman	4.3	7.1	7.3	5.8	6.9	6.1
Gallatin	5.6	8.0	8.4	8.8	6.9	5.8
B1202 [3/]	2.7	3.9	5.7	3.7	6.1	5.3
Piroline	7.0	9.5	7.4	5.6	4.3	3.1
Lewis	3.0	2.2	5.1	5.2	2.5	2.5
Horsford	2.2	1.4	1.9	1.3	1.2	2.3
Moravian III [3/]	1.7	1.8	1.9	0.8	1.0	1.8
Clark	4.1	2.5	2.1	1.2	1.5	1.6
Haybet	0.1	--	--	0.7	1.5	1.4
B2601 [3/]	1.3	1.4	0.6	1.1	1.8	1.3
Galena	--	--	--	0.8	0.9	1.2
Menuet	1.7	1.4	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.0
Klages [3/]	3.3	0.3	0.6	--	0.1	0.8
Morex [3/]	4.6	3.0	2.4	2.0	0.5	0.8
Stark	--	--	--	0.7	0.5	0.7
Westbred Medallion	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.3	0.6
Bearpaw	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.6
Chinook [3/]	--	--	--	--	--	0.5
Westford	--	--	--	0.1	0.5	0.5
Summit	--	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4
Waxbar	0.2	--	--	--	0.3	0.3
Other & Unknown	6.8	8.3	8.6	8.2	11.5	6.3
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1/] Revised. [2/] Soft White Wheat. [3/] American Malting Barley Associaition, Inc. Recommended for malting and brewing for Montana.

MONTANA APRIL-JUNE PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT, U.S. DOWN 2 PERCENT

Montana milk cows produced 77 million pounds of milk during the period of April-June 1996, compared with 81 million the same quarter a year ago. The 5 percent drop is attributed to the decline in milk cow inventory from 21,000 head a year ago to 20,000 head this year.

The daily amount of grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on July 1, amounted to 17.8 pounds per cow, up 1.5 pounds from last year. The value of the grains and other concentrates fed, at $9.30 per hundredweight, increased from last year by $2.05.

During the April-June period, the 22 major States produced 34.4 billion pounds of milk, 86.2 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 13.3 billion pounds for April 1996, 13.6 billion pounds for May 1996, 13.0 billion pounds for June 1996.

The quarterly milk production for the U.S. was 39.9 billion pounds, 2 percent below the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.38 million head, 100,000 head less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1996, averaged 18.3 pounds unchanged from July 1, 1995, but down 0.3 pounds from April 1, 1996. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1996 averaged a record high $9.87 per hundredweight, $2.21 or 29 percent more than the price on July 1, 1995.

U.S. PELT PRODUCTION UP 7 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1995 totaled 2.69 million pelts, up 7 percent from 1994. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 676,000 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 45.3 percent; Mahogany - 21.1 percent; Gunmetal - 10.6 percent; Ranch Wild - 9.8 percent; Demi-buff - 5.9 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7.3 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1995 crop year were valued at $143 million dollars, up 72 percent from $83.3 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1995 crop year was $53.10, up $20.10 from the 1994 price of $33.00. The 1995 average price is the highest since the current price data series began in 1975.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1996 totaled 678,300, down 4 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1996 by color class are: Standard - 49.4 percent; Mahogany - 17.7 percent; Gunmetal - 13.5 percent; Ranch Wild - 6.5 percent; Demi-buff - 4.1 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.8 percent.

There were 446 mink farms producing pelts in 1995, down 3 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 130 farms, Wisconsin with 77 farms and Minnesota with 52.

There were 49 mink farms which also raised fox in 1995, compared with 47 for the previous year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Numbers & Land in Farms	Crop Production
Ag Prices Received	Pasture & Range Feed Condition

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop livestock

REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Ag Prices Received
U.S. Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price

JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana farmers expect to produce the largest wheat crop on record. All wheat production forecast of 223.8 million bushels is up 14% from 1995 and 8% above the previous record set in 1993. Higher prices and a more liberal Farm Bill allowed producers to plant more wheat acreage. This, along with good yields, is setting the stage for a record year. Reports of drought, dry weather stressing the crop were received and several areas of the state are looking for additional moisture.

Estimated yield for **winter wheat** remains unchanged from a month ago at 40 bushels per acre. Total production, at 82.0 million bushels, is down slightly from June because of a downward revision to harvested acres. Winter wheat acres for harvest are set at 2.05 million. The winter wheat condition remains mostly good to excellent. **Spring wheat** producers intend to harvest the most acreage since 1953 at 4.1 million acres with an average yield of 33 bushels per acre. If realized, total production would be a record 135.3 million bushels, up 2% from last year. **Durum wheat** production is set at 6.53 million bushels, down nearly 18% from a year ago, due mostly to a decrease in acreage. Durum yields are estimated at 29 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year.

Estimated **barley** yield is forecast at 52 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.25 million acres. Total production is forecast at 65.0 million bushels, up slightly from a year ago. **Oat** production is set at 2.9 million bushels with yields estimated at 58 bushels per acre. Producers intend to harvest 50,000 acres of oats, the smallest acreage on record.

U.S. all wheat production for 1996 is forecast at 2.26 billion bushels, up 4 percent from 1995. U.S. yields are expected to average 35.9 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushels per acre from a year ago. Grain area totals 63.1 million acres, up 4 percent from last season.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.48 billion bushels. This is up 8 percent from June 1, but down 4 percent from 1995. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 37.0 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushels per acre from the last forecast, but 0.7 bushels per acre less than last year. Winter wheat area for grain harvest this year is forecast at 40.1 million acres, unchanged from the June 28 "Acreage" report, but down 2 percent from 1995.

Harvesting progress trailed the average in the 19 major producing States as of June 30. Idaho and Oregon growers are still expecting record-high yields. Hard Red Winter Objective Yield head counts are still the lowest since 1989 in Kansas and Texas. Forecasted head weights are at average levels in Kansas, but below average in Texas. Oklahoma head counts are the lowest in nearly 30 years; head weights are below average. Forecasted head counts in Colorado and Nebraska improved from last month but are still below average.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 655 million bushels, up 22 percent from 1995. This production would be the second highest on record. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 33.5 bushels per acre, up 1.3 bushels per acre from last year. Other spring wheat area for 1996 grain harvest is 19.6 million acre for harvest, up 18 percent from 1995. This is the largest area since 1919. Only Washington has forecast less harvested area than last year. Oregon and Washington yield prospects are up from a year ago while Idaho's are down. The Oregon forecast is up despite a reported hard frost on June 18 and 19.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 123 million bushels, up 21 percent from 1995, and the highest level since 1982. Based on July 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 35.7 bushels per acre, up 5.2 bushels per acre from last year. Durum wheat area for grain harvest is forecast at 3.46 million acres, up 3 percent from 1995.

U.S. barley production is forecast at 394 million bushels, up 10 percent from 1995 and 5 percent from 1994. Yields are expected to average 58.2 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 6.76 million acres, is 8 percent above the 6.28 million acres harvested last year. U.S. oat production for 1996 is forecast at 155 million bushels, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, this would be the lowest oat production since records were first kept in 1866. The forecasted yield, at 58.0 bushels per acre, is up 3.3 bushels from last year's 54.7 bushels. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 2.67 million acres, is down 10 percent from the 2.96 million harvested in 1995.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION JULY 1, 1996

The pasture and range feed condition remained virtually unchanged from a month ago. As of July 1, the condition was rated at 0% very poor, 1% poor, 23% fair, 57% good, and 19% excellent. All regions of the state reported pasture and ranges in mostly good to excellent shape. Many areas report that rains are needed.

PLEASE RETURN

POTATO PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES - JULY 1, 1996

Montana potato producers planted 10,100 acres this year, up 300 acres from 1995. Growers intend on harvesting 10,000 acres. A cool wet spring kept plantings behind normal. Potato farmers across the United States have planted an estimated 1.45 million acres of potatoes in all four seasonal groups, up 4 percent from last year and 2 percent above 1994. Area for harvest is forecast at 1.42 million acres, a gain of 4 percent from a year ago and 3 percent above two years ago. Planted acreage for each of the seasons is above a year ago. Winter is up 2 percent, spring rose 4 percent, summer jumped 10 percent, and the fall season, with 87 percent of total U. S. acreage, gained 3 percent. Area planted to fall potatoes in 1996, Montana's seasonal group, is estimated at a record high 1.26 million acres, up 3 percent from last year and 2 percent above the previous record in 1994. Harvest is expected from 1.24 million acres, 3 percent above the last two years.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, JULY 1, 1996

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1995	1996 [1]	1995	1996 [1]	1995	1996[1]	1995	1996 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	2,200	1,370	2,050	40.0	40.0	54,800	82,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	270	230	265	225	30.0	29.0	7,950	6,525
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,950	4,200	3,800	4,100	35.0	33.0	133,000	135,300
All Wheat	Bu.	5,720	6,630	5,435	6,375	36.0	35.1	195,750	223,825
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	55	55	16	20	120.0	3/	1,920	3/
Oats	Bu.	145	100	80	50	59.0	58.0	4,720	2,900
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,250	52.0	52.0	62,400	65,000
Dry Beans	Cwt.	11.0	10.5	10.8	10.3	19.0	3/	205	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.7	57.5	55.5	57.3	21.5	3/	1,193	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.8	10.1	9.8	10.0	300.0	4/	2,940	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,700	2.50	3/	4,000	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.70	3/	1,360	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,550	2.23	3/	5,360	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,726	52,053	40,993	40,097	37.7	37.0	1,547,311	1,484,836
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,436	3,565	3,356	3,456	30.5	35.7	102,280	123,452
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,015	20,006	16,622	19,565	32.2	33.5	535,948	654,979
All Wheat	Bu.	69,177	75,624	60,971	63,118	35.8	35.9	2,185,539	2,263,267
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	71,245	80,355	64,995	74,094	113.6	3/	7,373,876	3/
Oats	Bu.	6,336	4,608	2,959	2,673	54.7	58.0	161,847	154,968
Barley	Bu.	6,689	7,134	6,277	6,761	57.2	58.2	359,102	393,592
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,069.3	1,819.7	1,899.3	1,716.7	16.34	3/	31,032	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,444.6	1,386.5	1,417.1	1,362.1	19.7	3/	27,954	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,223.1	1,261.2	1,204.5	1,244.6	334	4/	442,309	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,569	24,256	3.46	3/	84,980	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,210	36,343	1.98	3/	69,806	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,779	60,599	2.59	3/	154,786	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available August 12, 1996. [4] Production forecast available November 12, 1996.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1996

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1995	1996	96/95	1995	1996	96/95	1995	1996	96/95
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	933	1,200	129	1,570	1,300	83	2,465	2,600	105
N Central	25,164	44,600	177	75,493	66,350	88	33,137	32,500	98
Northeast	2,268	4,300	190	43,329	49,374	114	4,423	4,900	111
Central	12,340	17,000	138	10,615	12,135	114	12,123	14,000	115
Southwest	1,410	1,900	135	2,005	2,416	120	4,257	4,300	101
S Central	9,669	9,100	94	3,000	3,800	127	4,670	5,100	109
Southeast	3,016	3,900	129	4,938	6,450	131	1,325	1,600	121
Montana	54,800	82,000	150	140,950	141,825	101	62,400	65,000	104

MONTANA PRICES RECEIVED FOR MAY

Montana crop prices for the full month of May were up from the previous month, with the exception of hay. Winter wheat increased 53 cents to $5.55 per bushel and spring wheat rose 44 cents to $5.42 per bushel. Durum wheat went up 17 cents to $5.59 per cwt. Barley increased a nickel to $3.32 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices fell $3.00 per ton to $65.00 and other hay decreased $1.00 to $56.00 a ton. The all wheat price for mid-June averaged $5.34 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.48.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mostly higher with the exception of sheep. Cow prices were up $1.10 to $32.70 per cwt and the average price for steers and heifers increased a dime to $53.80 per cwt. Calf prices climbed $2.60 to $59.40 per cwt. Sheep prices came in $3.50 lower at $25.20 per cwt. Lamb prices jumped $7.60 to $94.60 per cwt. Milk prices increased 20 cents to $14.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $53.80, while the average calf price was $58.40 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices were $57.60 per cwt for the full month of May, down 50 cents from the previous month. Calf prices averaged 80 cents lower at $54.40 per cwt. Cow prices came in at $30.40 and hogs were $56.70 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $5.73 per bushel and $3.42 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 69.7 cents per dozen. Mid-June steer and heifer prices, at $61.30 per cwt., averaged $3.70 higher than the full month May price. Calf prices for mid-June were $5.10 per cwt, 70 cents above the May price.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was a record 119 based on 1990-92=100, up 8 points (7.2 percent) from May. Price gains from May for cattle, broilers, strawberries, and lettuce more than offset price declines for wheat, hay, soybeans and sweet corn. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of wheat, hay and grapes more than offset the lower marketings of potatoes, oranges, and tomatoes. These changes contributed four points of the eight point increase in the overall index.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	May 1995	June 1995	May 1996	June 1996
Prices Received	100	100	111	119
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	109	110	115	115
Ratio [2/]	92	91	97	103

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	June 15, 1996	June 15, 1996
		May 1995	Apr. 1995	May 1996	May 1996		
				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.50	5.02	5.55	5.81	5.30	5.24
Durum	Bu.	4.78	5.42	5.59	5.62	5.30	5.38
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.53	4.98	5.42	5.67	5.35	5.50
All Wheat	Bu.	3.58	5.01	5.46	5.73	5.34	5.31
Barley, All	Bu.	2.12	3.27	3.32	3.42	3.48	3.57
Feed	Bu.	2.08	3.13	3.27	3.39	3.50	3.55
Malt	Bu.	2.66	3.48	3.40	3.50	3.40	3.60
Oats	Bu.	1.45	2.35	1.94	2.46	1.95	2.18
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	68.00	65.00	102.00	64.00	96.90
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	57.00	56.00	75.80	55.00	73.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	71.00	67.00	63.00	97.10	64.00	92.30
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	65.70	53.70	53.80	57.60	53.80	61.30
Cows	Cwt.	39.10	31.60	32.70	30.40	31.80	29.90
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	52.90	48.60	44.30	54.60	40.20	58.00
Calves	Cwt.	72.10	56.80	59.40	54.40	58.40	55.10
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	25.00	28.70	25.20	25.60	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	84.10	87.00	94.60	90.70	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	13.40	13.90	14.10	14.30	14.60	14.50

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

PROJECTED U.S. WHEAT STOCKS

U.S. projected 1996/97 wheat supplies are up 196 million bushels from last month largely because of higher production. Reported carryin stocks were 23 million bushels above last month's forecast, but projected imports are down 10 million bushels. The larger production is due to higher area and yields for winter wheat and sharply higher spring wheat plantings than the March planting intentions. Higher domestic use, especially feed and residual use, will only partially offset the larger supplies, and projected 1996/97 ending stocks are up 88 million bushels from last month. The projected price range is down 50 cents on each end to $4.20 to $4.80 per bushel.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1980-1996

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1980 . .	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.99
1981 . .	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 . .	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,375	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,135	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,150	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	852	89	395	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,186	68	2,760	883	104	163	1,150	1,235	2,385	375	4.55
1996 . 3/	375	2,263	75	2,713	900	110	300	1,310	975	2,285	428	4.20-4.80

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 1996--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production	Slaughter	Mink
Cattle & Sheep Inventory	Egg Production	
Cattle on Feed	Wheat & Barley Varieties	

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

June Planted Acreage
May Egg Production
May Red Meat Production
June 1 Grain Stocks
May Milk Production
Sweet Cherry Production
Cattle on Feed
Hogs & Pigs

JUNE PLANTED ACREAGE

Montana producers planted an estimated 6.63 million acres of wheat this year and intend to harvest 6.38 million acres. This is the largest wheat planted acreage on record. A more lenient Farm Bill and strong wheat prices were the encouragement for the large increase. This year's planted acreage is 16% more than 1995. **Winter wheat** planted acreage increased 47% from a year ago to 2.2 million acres, but is slightly lower than earlier forecast. Better conditions last fall allowed farmers to plant this more normal amount of winter wheat. Winter wheat harvested acreage is estimated at 2.05 million acres. **Spring wheat** planted acreage also realized a 6% increase from last year's very large acreage. Planted spring wheat acreage is estimated at 4.2 million acres, the largest amount since 1953 when other spring wheat and durum were combined. This is nearly one million acres more than wheat growers intended on March 1 before the Farm Bill was passed. Harvested acreage is set at 4.1 million acres. **Durum** planted acres, at 230,000, fell 40,000 from 1995. For the fourth year in a row, Montana farmers planted 1.3 million acres of **barley** and intend on harvesting 1.25 million acres. **Oats** planted and harvested acreage both fell to record lows. Planted acreage is set at 100,000 acres, down 45,000 from 1995. Harvested acreage is set at 50,000 acres, down 38% from last year. **Corn planted for all purposes** this year is unchanged from a year ago at 55,000 acres. Growers intend to harvest 20,000 acres for grain, up slightly from 1995. **Sugar beet** planted acreage is set at 57,500 acres and **dry bean** planted acreage is set at 10,500 acres.

Montana farmers and ranchers plan to harvest 1.7 million acres of **alfalfa hay** this year compared with 1.6 million last year. Other hay harvested acreage is estimated at 850,000 acres, up 6% from a year ago.

At the U.S. level, all wheat planted area for 1996 is estimated at 75.6 million acres; area for grain, 63.1 million. The planted level is up 9% from 1995 and harvested is up 4%. Both totals are the highest since 1990. **Winter wheat** growers planted 52.1 million acres. This is 7% more than 1995 and fractionally higher than the previously published level. Grain area is now estimated at 40.1 million acres, up 6% from the June 1 forecast, but down 2% from last year. The jump in area for grain from the most recent forecast was based on indications from the midyear acreage surveys. These data show a larger portion of the Hard Red Winter drought affected area going for grain than earlier planned. Increases from Texas north to South Dakota total 1.5 million acres.

Other spring wheat area planted for 1996 is placed at 20.0 million acres, the most since 1936. Of this total, 19.6 million acres are expected to be harvested for grain. This would be the largest harvested area since 1919. Both acreage levels are up 18% from 1995. Strong Hard Red Spring prices fostered increases in Montana's acreage and returned North Dakota to 1993 levels. The South Dakota jump is a return to more normal planted levels. Some intended Minnesota barley and sunflower acres went to spring wheat instead. **Durum wheat** planted area is estimated at 3.57 million acres, up 4% from 1995. Intentions are to harvest 3.46 million acres for grain, up 3% from last year. Strong Hard Red Spring prices lured some Montana growers away from durum.

Barley seedings last fall and this spring totaled 7.13 million acres, up 7% from last year. This is the second lowest acreage planted since records were first kept in 1926. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 6.76 million acres, up 8% from last year. Oats planted last fall and this spring totaled 4.61 million acres, down 27% from 1995 and the lowest acreage planted since records were first kept in 1926. Planted **oats** acreage dropped as a result of oats not being needed as a cover crop for set aside acreage. Growers intend to harvest 2.67 million acres for grain in 1996, down 10% from the 2.96 million acres harvested in 1995. If realized, this would be the lowest oats acreage harvested for grain since records were first kept in 1866.

Corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 80.4 million acres, up 13% from last year. This is the largest planted acreage since 1985. Growers expect to harvest 74.1 million acres for grain, up 14% from 1995. If realized, this will be the largest harvested acreage since 1985. **Dry beans** planted acreage is estimated at 1.82 million acres this year, down 12% from last year and 10% below two years ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 1.72 million acres, off 10% from a year ago and 6% below 1994. **Sugar beet** growers planted an estimated 1.39 million acres of sugar beets for 1996, down 4% from last year.

U.S. hay producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of hay in 1996, a 1% increase from the 59.8 million acres harvested one year earlier. Area harvested of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** is expected to total 24.3 million acres, down 1% from 1995. **All other hay** acreage is estimated at 36.3 million acres, 3% above last year. Hay acreage is expected to decrease mainly in the Great Lake States and a few Northeastern States.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES, JUNE 1, 1996

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1995	1996 1/	1995	1996 1/	1995	1996 1/	1995	1996 1/
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	2,200	1,370	2,050	40.0	3/	54,800	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	270	230	265	225	30.0	3/	7,950	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,950	4,200	3,800	4,100	35.0	3/	133,000	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,720	6,630	5,435	6,375	36.0	3/	195,750	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	55	55	16	20	120.0	4/	1,920	4/
Oats	Bu.	145	100	80	50	59.0	3/	4,720	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,250	52.0	3/	62,400	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	11.0	10.5	10.8	10.3	19.0	4/	205	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.7	57.5	55.5	57.3	21.5	4/	1,193	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.8	3/	9.8	3/	300.0	5/	2,940	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,700	2.50	4/	4,000	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.70	4/	1,360	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,550	2.23	4/	5,360	4/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,726	52,053	40,993	40,097	37.7	3/	1,547,311	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,436	3,565	3,356	3,456	30.5	3/	102,280	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,015	20,006	16,622	19,565	32.2	3/	535,948	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	69,177	75,624	60,971	63,118	35.8	3/	2,185,539	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	71,245	80,355	64,995	74,094	113.6	4/	7,373,876	4/
Oats	Bu.	6,336	4,608	2,959	2,673	54.7	3/	161,847	3/
Barley	Bu.	6,689	7,134	6,277	6,761	57.2	3/	359,102	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,069.3	1,819.7	1,899.3	1,716.7	16.34	4/	31,032	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,444.6	1,386.5	1,417.1	1,362.1	19.7	4/	27,954	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1223.1	--	1,204.5	--	334	5/	442,309	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,569	24,256	3.46	4/	84,980	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,210	36,343	1.98	4/	69,806	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,779	60,599	2.59	4/	154,786	4/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Acreage production forecast available July 12, 1996. 4/ Production forecast available August 12, 1996. 5/ Production forecast available November 12, 1996.

JUNE SWEET CHERRY FORECAST

On June 1, 1996 **Montana's** sweet cherry growers are forecasting a crop of 00 tons, up 350 tons from 1995. Cool, wet weather this spring delayed the bloom and caused some problems with pollination. Trees planted after the killing frost of 1989 are starting to produce more. Harvest in Montana is expected to be about a week to 10 days behind normal.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 133,200 tons, down 19% from 1995 and down 36% from 1994. Increased production in California could not offset lower production in the other states. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1985 when 132,500 tons were produced. The Michigan crop, at 2,000 tons, is 19% less than last year. Poor pollination conditions hurt crop prospects and a May frost damaged fruit buds. Oregon and Washington growers expect light crops in 1996.

U.S. MAY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2%

U.S. egg production totaled 6.35 billion during May 1996, up 2% from the 6.25 billion produced in 1995. Production included 5.35 billion table eggs and 997 million hatching egg type, of which 933 million were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 1996 averaged 295 million, up 1% from the average number of layers during May 1995. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,151 eggs, compared with 2,137 in May 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 1996, totaled 295 million, up 1% from a year ago. The 295 million layers consisted of 242 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 50.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.67 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1996, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, the same as last year.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.01 billion eggs during May, up 2% from May 1995. The average number of layers during May, at 279 million, was up 1% from the year earlier.

MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May, 7% below last year, but 7% above last month. There were 1,600 head of cattle slaughtered last month, the same as last year. The average live weight increased 37 pounds from a year ago to 1,261 pounds.

The number of hogs slaughtered by Montana slaughter plants dropped 1,000 head from last year to 1,600 head in May. The average live weight decreased 16 pounds to 234 pounds. There were 100 head of sheep and lambs slaughtered last month, the same as a year ago. Sheep and lambs averaged 117 pounds live weight, down 2 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **U.S.** totaled a record high 3.77 billion pounds during May 1996. April production was up slightly from the previous record high set in May 1995.

Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was up 5% from the previous record high set in May 1995. Head kill totaled 3.33 million head, up 6% from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,156 pounds. Veal production totaled 30.0 million pounds, up 14% from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 137,200 head, 18% above a year earlier. The average live weight was down 11 pounds to 374 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.41 billion pounds, was down 7% from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.63 million head, 7% below a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 255 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 21.0 million pounds, was down 5% from the previous record low set in May 1987. Slaughter totaled 324,700 head, down 12% from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 5 pounds to 132 pounds.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana's June 1 all wheat stocks totaled 27.5 million bushels, the lowest since 1974. All wheat stocks were down 51% from last year and 58% from the 10-year average. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 7 million bushels, down 64% from June 1, 1995 and the lowest amount since winter wheat records began in 1971. All spring wheat stocks are down 34% from last year and were estimated at 20.5 million bushels--the lowest June 1 level since 1976. Durum wheat stocks, at 800,000 bushels, are off 48% from 1995 and at their lowest level since 1968. Barley stocks, at their lowest level since June 1982, are estimated at 8 million bushels, down 600,000 bushels from 1995. Oat stocks, at 870,000 bushels, are down 37% from 1995--the lowest level since 1932.

At the U.S. level, old crop all wheat stored in all positions June 1, 1996 is estimated at 375 million bushels, down 26% from June 1, 1995. Old crop durum stocks on June 1, 1996 totaled 24.7 million bushels, down 5% from last June 1. Barley stored in all positions on June 1, 1996, totaled 101 million bushels, 10% below June 1, 1995 stocks. Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 1996, totaled 66.3 million bushels, 34 percent below June 1, 1995 stocks. Corn stocks in all positions on June 1, 1996, totaled 1.72 billion bushels, 50% below a year earlier.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1995	Mar. 1, 1996*	June 1, 1996	'96/'95	June 1, 1995	Mar. 1, 1996*	June 1, 1996
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	33,000	48,000	16,000	48%	163,410	220,550	74,610
Off Farms 1/	17,500	26,500	11,500	66%	343,175	602,914	300,202
TOTAL	50,500	74,500	27,500	54%	506,585	823,464	374,812
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	12,000	11,000	3,000	25%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	7,300	8,500	4,000	55%	--	--	--
TOTAL	19,300	19,500	7,000	36%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	21,000	37,000	13,000	62%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,200	18,000	7,500	74%	--	--	--
TOTAL	31,200	55,000	20,500	66%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	12,240	27,250	12,470
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	13,752	21,381	12,275
TOTAL	1,550	4,500	800	52%	25,992	48,631	24,745
BARLEY							
On Farms	6,000	11,000	5,000	83%	37,905	58,825	25,600
Off Farms 1/	2,600	8,500	3,000	115%	74,688	119,107	75,293
TOTAL	8,600	19,500	8,000	93%	112,593	177,932	100,893
OATS							
On Farms	1,300	2,200	700	54%	46,750	57,350	32,600
Off Farms 1/	90	205	170	189%	53,848	55,268	33,714
TOTAL	1,390	2,405	870	63%	100,598	112,618	66,314
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,072,000	2,000,200	780,100
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,342,896	1,799,341	938,000
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,414,896	3,799,541	1,718,100

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1995	March 1, 1996*	June 1, 1996	June 1, 1995	March 1, 1996*	June 1, 1996
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.3	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.3
North Central	21.5	37.7	13.7	3.5	7.9	3.2
Northeast	17.9	18.2	7.4	1.5	1.9	0.9
Central	6.3	10.2	3.5	1.3	3.7	0.8
Southwest	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.4	2.6	0.4
South Central	1.2	3.2	1.3	1.3	2.0	1.8
Southeast	2.1	3.1	1.1	0.3	0.7	0.6
MONTANA	50.5	74.5	27.5	8.6	19.5	8.0

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 4%

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1996, was 58.0 million head, 4% below June 1995, but 2% above the March 1, 1996 inventory. Breeding inventory, at 6.90 million head, was down 5% from June 1, 1995, but up 1% from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 51.1 million head, was 3% below June 1, 1995, but 2% above March 1, 1996.

The December 95-May 1996 U.S. pig crop was 49.0 million head, 4% less than 1995 and down 5% from the same period in 1994. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 5.81 million head, down 6% from last year and 7% below two years ago. The March-May pig crop totaled 25.5 million head, down 6% from a year ago, and 9% below 1994. Sows farrowed from March to May totaled 3.01 million head, 8% less than a year ago.

U.S. producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the June-August 1996 quarter, 5% less than the actual farrowings during the same period last year, and 8% below 1994. Intended farrowings for September-November 1996, at 2.78 million sows, is 1% below actual farrowings during the same period in 1995, and down 7% from the 1994 period.

MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 22 major States during May totaled 11.8 billion pounds, 1 percent below production in these same States in May 1995. April revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds was slightly less than April 1995. Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,477 pounds for May, 7 pounds below May 1995. This is the first month since February 1993 that the rate has decreased when compared to a year ago. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.99 million head, 67,000 head less than May 1995 but 1,000 head more than April 1996.

During the January-March period, the 22 major States produced 33.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.1 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 13.7 billion pounds for May 1996

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.59 million head on June 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.55 million. Net placements were 1.46 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 301,000, 600-699 pounds were 351,000, 700-799 pounds were 523,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 372,000. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.05 million. Other disappearance totaled 84,000 during May.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Pasture & Range
Crop Production	Feed Condition
Wheat Supply & Demand	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JUNE 1 WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

Montana wheat producers expect to produce 84 million bushels of winter wheat this year. The production forecast as of June 1 is unchanged from the May forecast and up 53 percent from last year. The estimated yield of 40 bushels per acre, if realized, would equal 1995's yield. Harvested winter wheat acreage also remains unchanged at 2.1 million acres, up 53 percent from a year ago. Montana's winter wheat started slowly because of the cool spring, but recent warm days have helped with the crop growth. Producers were generally optimistic about the recent crop condition, but do not want to see temperatures too hot during June. As of June 9th, the winter wheat condition was rated at 2% very poor, 11% poor, 20% fair, 57% good, and 10% excellent.

At the US level, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.37 billion bushels. This is up slightly from May 1, but down 11 percent from 1995. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 36.1 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushels per acre from the last forecast, but 1.6 bushels per acre less than last year. Grain area totals 37.9 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Total Hard Red and Soft Red production are up fractionally from last month. White Winter production is up 1 percent from May 1 due to increased expected yields in Washington offsetting declines elsewhere.

Idaho and Oregon growers are still expecting record yields. Forecasted head counts from Washington's Objective Yield survey are the highest since 1981. Hard Red Winter Objective Yield head counts have improved from last month in Kansas and Texas, but declined in Oklahoma. Kansas and Texas counts are still the lowest since 1989; Oklahoma's is the lowest since 1967. Forecasted head counts in Colorado and Nebraska are also the lowest since 1989. Montana forecasted populations are about average. Soaking rains over the Memorial Day weekend were very beneficial to east central and northeastern Colorado fields. Ample May rain has caused weed problems in many Kansas stands. The Oklahoma harvest is about a week ahead of normal. Harvest should reach California's Sacramento Valley by mid-month.

Winter wheat district table is on back page.

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1995 & Forecasted June 1, 1996

STATE	AREA HARVESTED 1995	AREA HARVESTED 1996	YIELD 1995	YIELD May 1, '96	YIELD June 1, '96	PRODUCTION 1995	PRODUCTION 1996
	1,000 Acres			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,700	2,300	38.0	31.0	30.0	102,600	69,000
ID	770	850	76.0	80.0	80.0	58,520	68,000
KS	11,000	8,300	26.0	22.0	22.0	286,000	182,600
MT	**1,370**	**2,100**	**40.0**	**40.0**	**40.0**	**54,800**	**84,000**
NE	2,100	1,950	41.0	31.0	31.0	86,100	60,450
ND 1/	34	55	27.0	32.0	32.0	918	1,760
OK	5,200	4,500	21.0	19.0	19.0	109,200	85,500
OR	825	860	70.0	74.0	73.0	57,750	62,780
SD	1,520	1,550	37.0	30.0	30.0	56,240	46,500
TX	2,800	2,600	27.0	22.0	24.0	75,600	62,400
UT 1/	140	155	50.0	40.0	40.0	7,000	6,200
WA	2,150	2,350	62.0	62.0	66.0	133,300	155,100
WY 1/	190	210	36.0	26.0	26.0	6,840	5,460
US	40,993	37,946	37.7	35.9	36.1	1,547,311	1,369,861

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

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BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1995

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres [1/]	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Rank	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deer Lodge	1,500	1,100	76	84,000	50	1,100	700	96	67,000
Flathead	19,500	19,200	74	1,415,000	12	5,900	5,700	78	443,000
Granite	1,500	800	70	56,000	52	1,200	500	78	39,000
Lake	7,600	5,500	61	337,000	33	4,000	2,100	76	159,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,000	1,800	51	91,000	48	800	700	77	54,000
Powell	3,900	2,900	82	237,000	39	3,200	2,500	89	222,000
Ravalli	2,700	2,600	75	195,000	41	1,900	1,900	89	169,000
Sanders	1,100	900	39	35,000	53	200	200	60	12,000
Other	200	200	75	15,000	--	200	200	75	15,000
NORTHWEST	40,000	35,000	70	2,465,000	--	18,500	14,500	81	1,180,000
Blaine	26,000	23,700	41	983,000	16	9,300	8,200	51	422,000
Chouteau	111,000	107,000	51	5,414,000	3	1,000	900	50	45,000
Glacier	93,100	90,700	53	4,840,000	4	11,900	11,500	62	709,000
Hill	36,400	35,400	59	2,077,000	10	700	700	70	49,000
Liberty	29,800	29,500	59	1,752,000	11	1,100	1,100	79	87,000
Phillips	26,800	24,200	41	996,000	15	1,400	1,300	49	64,000
Pondera	113,000	110,000	61	6,746,000	2	38,500	37,000	76	2,795,000
Teton	109,000	108,000	64	6,955,000	1	61,600	60,600	74	4,487,000
Toole	59,900	58,500	58	3,374,000	5	1,300	1,200	62	74,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	605,000	587,000	56	33,137,000	--	126,800	122,500	71	8,732,000
Daniels	12,400	10,700	30	321,000	35	100	100	40	4,000
Dawson	30,100	25,500	30	769,000	20	1,000	600	43	26,000
Garfield	15,000	7,900	29	230,000	40	400	300	67	20,000
McCone	22,800	15,600	31	491,000	29	300	200	50	10,000
Richland	31,700	28,000	32	908,000	17	2,100	1,400	60	84,000
Roosevelt	27,100	23,300	28	643,000	24	400	200	50	10,000
Sheridan	18,000	16,700	28	461,000	30	300	300	43	13,000
Valley	22,900	19,300	31	600,000	25	1,900	900	68	61,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	180,000	147,000	30	4,423,000	--	6,500	4,000	57	228,000
Broadwater	10,200	9,200	61	563,000	26	5,100	4,300	76	325,000
Cascade	59,200	57,000	54	3,100,000	7	8,500	7,200	76	544,000
Fergus	88,900	80,900	41	3,352,000	6	1,500	800	55	44,000
Golden Valley	8,000	7,800	45	354,000	32	1,000	800	60	48,000
Judith Basin	56,700	52,100	43	2,243,000	9	1,300	500	54	27,000
Lewis & Clark	13,100	12,500	58	725,000	22	5,400	4,800	77	370,000
Meagher	17,200	16,500	43	706,000	23	3,100	3,000	63	189,000
Musselshell	4,200	3,600	41	147,000	42	500	100	70	7,000
Petroleum	1,900	1,400	49	68,000	51	900	600	60	36,000
Wheatland	20,600	20,000	43	865,000	18	1,900	1,400	52	73,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	280,000	261,000	46	12,123,000	--	29,200	23,500	71	1,663,000
Beaverhead	10,400	8,000	92	739,000	21	10,300	7,900	93	734,000
Gallatin	42,000	40,500	71	2,866,000	8	17,500	16,400	84	1,370,000
Jefferson	2,400	1,500	59	89,000	49	1,500	800	70	56,000
Madison	9,600	7,600	70	535,000	27	9,000	7,000	72	507,000
Silver Bow	600	400	70	28,000	54	600	400	70	28,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	65,000	58,000	73	4,257,000	--	38,900	32,500	83	2,695,000
Big Horn	14,900	13,000	64	837,000	19	7,800	7,300	78	568,000
Carbon	14,800	14,400	83	1,196,000	14	12,500	12,200	92	1,119,000
Park	8,600	7,900	56	439,000	31	4,400	3,700	69	255,000
Stillwater	13,500	12,700	39	492,000	28	1,600	1,400	91	127,000
Sweetgrass	3,100	2,500	41	102,000	47	1,000	700	60	42,000
Treasure	3,600	3,600	82	296,000	36	3,200	3,200	88	282,000
Yellowstone	21,500	19,900	66	1,308,000	13	14,500	13,500	80	1,080,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	80,000	74,000	63	4,670,000	--	45,000	42,000	83	3,473,000
Carter	5,100	3,700	29	106,000	46	100	--	--	--
Custer	4,500	3,100	43	132,000	43	1,500	900	68	61,000
Fallon	11,900	9,000	28	248,000	37	100	100	50	5,000
Powder River	4,500	3,500	37	131,000	45	400	400	60	24,000
Prairie	7,300	6,500	38	244,000	38	800	400	75	30,000
Rosebud	8,700	7,100	47	333,000	34	2,200	1,200	53	64,000
Wibaux	8,000	5,100	26	131,000	44	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	50,000	38,000	35	1,325,000	--	5,100	3,000	61	184,000
MONTANA	1,300,000	1,200,000	52	62,400,000	--	270,000	242,000	75	18,155,000

[1/] Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

MONTANA PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of April were up from the previous month, with the exception of malt barley. Winter and spring wheat increased 23 cents to $5.02 and $4.98 per bushel respectively. Durum wheat advanced 35 cents to $5.42 per bushel. Feed barley increased 11 cents to $3.13 per bushel, and malt barley slipped 4 cents to $3.48 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices, at $68.00 per ton, rose $2.00 from March, while other hay prices, at $57.00 per ton, climbed $3.00 from March. The all wheat price for mid-May averaged $5.59 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.36.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were lower across the board compared with the previous month. Cow prices were down $2.40 to $31.60 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers declined $2.60 to $53.70 per cwt. Calf prices fell $4.50 to $56.80 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $7.00 below last month at $28.70, while lamb prices dropped $3.00 to $87.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 10 cents to $13.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-May averaged $53.00 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $58.10 per cwt for the full month of April. Cow prices came in at $29.40 and hogs were $49.70 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $5.32 per bushel and $3.25 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 77.0 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was a record 112 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (3.7 percent) from April. Price gains from April for corn, hogs, broilers, and wheat more than offset price declines for tomatoes, cucumbers, eggs, and carrots. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. The mixture of commodities sold in May indicates relatively more wheat, fruits, and vegetables and less milk and meat animals resulting in an upward influence on the index. These changes contributed one point of the four point increase in the overall index.

Compared with May 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 12 points (12 percent) higher. Price increases from May 1995 for corn, hogs, wheat, and milk more than offset price decreases for lettuce, cattle, strawberries, and calves.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Apr. 1995	May 1995	Apr. 1996	May 1996
Prices Received	99	100	108	112
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	109	109	114	115
Ratio [2/]	91	92	95	97

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	May 15, 1996	May 15, 1996
		Apr. 1995	May 1995	Apr. 1996	Apr. 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.42	4.79	5.02	5.39	5.55	5.89
Durum	Bu.	4.75	5.07	5.42	5.63	5.70	5.69
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.38	4.75	4.98	5.21	5.60	5.76
All Wheat	Bu.	3.49	4.78	5.01	5.32	5.59	5.81
Barley, All	Bu.	2.14	3.31	3.27	3.25	3.36	3.40
Feed	Bu.	1.95	3.02	3.13	3.12	3.25	3.33
Malt	Bu.	2.54	3.52	3.48	3.40	3.50	3.49
Oats	Bu.	1.43	2.06	2.35	2.14	2.10	2.26
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	66.00	68.00	94.50	65.00	102.00
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	54.00	57.00	68.50	56.00	75.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	65.00	67.00	90.30	63.00	97.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	66.80	56.30	53.70	58.10	53.00	58.60
Cows	Cwt.	40.80	34.00	31.60	29.40	32.50	31.20
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	58.20	52.10	48.60	54.80	44.80	55.50
Calves	Cwt.	74.20	61.30	56.80	55.20	57.40	54.20
Sheep	Cwt.	25.60	35.70	28.70	27.70	28.70	n.a.
Lambs	Cwt.	65.80	90.00	87.00	85.60	87.00	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt.	13.10	14.00	13.90	13.90	14.30	14.00

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION JUNE 1, 1996

The pasture and range feed condition showed some improvement from a month ago. Last month the cool weather had limited the growth. Recent warm weather along with the ample moisture provided earlier are making for some good looking pastures. As of June 1, the condition was rated at 0% very poor, 2% poor, 22% fair, 57% good, and 19% excellent. There was a 16 point increase in the good to excellent range from May 1.

Reporters of range and pasture feed condition are asked to rate the percentage of the pastures that fall into each of the following categories:

- **Very poor** - pasture and/or ranges are providing very little or no feed for the current time of the year.
- **Poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing marginal feed for the current time of the year. Some supplemental feeding is required.
- **Fair** - pastures and/or ranges are providing adequate feed, but less than the normal amount expected for the current time of the year.
- **Good** - pastures and/or ranges are providing the normal amount of feed for the current time of the year.
- **Excellent** - pastures and/or ranges are providing feed in excess of what is normally expected for the current time of the year.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--June 1,1996 1/

District	1994	1995	1996	% chg. 96/95
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	1,033	933	1,300	139
N Central	34,481	25,164	45,100	179
Northeast	4,088	2,268	6,200	273
Central	11,007	12,340	16,100	130
Southwest	1,690	1,410	2,100	149
S Central	8,890	9,669	9,700	100
Southeast	3,561	3,016	3,500	116
Montana	64,750	54,800	84,000	153

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Grain Stocks
Cattle on Feed	Crop Acreage
Slaughter	Hogs & Pigs
Egg Production	Sweet Cherry Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production, Disposition and Income
Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Cattle Predator Loss
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Farm Labor
Ag Chemical Use

1995 MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Montana's 1995 milk production, of 315 million pounds, increased 3 percent from 1994. An average of 21,000 milk cows were on farms during the year, the same as the previous year. The rate per cow averaged 15,000 pounds, 381 pounds above 1994.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were 40.3 million dollars, down marginally from 1994. Producer returns averaged $13.30 per cwt., a decrease of $0.47 from last year. Marketings totaled 303 million pounds, up 3 percent from a year ago. A total of 12 million pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 7 million pounds were fed to calves, and 5 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 1 percent in 1995 to 156 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 16,451 pounds, was 276 pounds above 1994. The annual average number of cows on farms, at 9.46 million head, was 39,000 less than 1994.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1995, at $19.9 billion dollars, was slightly below 1994. Producer returns averaged $12.93 per hundredweight, $0.19 per hundredweight below 1994. Marketings totaled 154 billion pounds, 1 percent above 1994. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.56 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 8 percent less than 1994. Calves were fed 78 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households.

U.S. APRIL MILK PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY

Milk production in the 22 major States during April totaled 11.5 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same States in April 1995. March revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was slightly less than March 1995. Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,438 pounds for April, 11 pounds above April 1995. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.99 million head, 67,000 head less than April 1995 and 7,000 head less March 1996.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR, U.S. RECORD

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 1996, down 1 percent from April 1995. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,220 pounds, was up 5 pounds from a year earlier.

During April, there were 1,900 head of hogs slaughtered, 500 less than last year. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 245 pounds. Sheep slaughter was the same as a year earlier at 100 head, however, the average live weight dropped 14 pounds to 111 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled a record high 3.69 billion pounds during April, 6 percent above the previous record high set in April 1986. Beef production at 2.15 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from the previous record high set in April 1986. Beef kill totaled 3.11 million head, up 17 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 11 pounds from the previous year at 1,160 pounds.

Veal production totaled 28.0 million pounds, up 28 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 131,400, up 34 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 17 pounds to 374 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.48 billion pounds, was up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.03 million head, 6 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 255 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 25.0 million pounds, was down 7 percent from April 1995 and tied the previous record low set in 1978 and 1979. Slaughter totaled 392,600 head, down 11 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 6 pounds at 131 pounds.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.17 million head on May 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.36 million. **Net placements** were 1.26 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 204,000, 600-699 pounds were 386,000, 700-799 pounds were 478,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 296,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.90 million. During April **other disappearance** totaled 107,000.

1995 MONTANA CATTLE AND CALF LOSSES

Montana's livestock producers lost 23,000 head of cattle and 57,000 head of calves valued at an estimated total of 34.4 million dollars from all causes during 1995. The decrease in cattle and calf prices during 1995 caused per head values to be lower than the previous year and had a significant impact on the 1995 value of losses.

A total of 2,300 cattle and calves, valued at 0.9 million dollars, were lost to predators during 1995. (continued. . .)

1995 MONTANA CATTLE AND CALF DEATH LOSSES (continued)

Coyotes were the largest cause of predator losses, taking 1,100 calves during the year and costing Montana livestock producers 0.4 million dollars.

The largest number of cattle and calf losses during 1995 was due to calving problems, 15,900 head or 19.9 percent of all deaths, followed closely by weather related losses at 15,800 head or 19.8 percent. Losses due to digestive and respiratory problems were 12,600 head (15.8 percent) and 12,200 head (15.3 percent), respectively.

The largest number of calves was lost because of calving problems, at 13,900 head, and weather related problems at 13,100 head. Beside other and unknown causes, the largest number of cattle lost was due to weather related problems at 2,700 head.

In the United States, a total of 4.38 million head of cattle and calves were lost from all causes during 1995. Predators accounted for 117,400 head or 2.7 percent of all losses. These total losses cost ranchers and farmers a total of 1.80 billion dollars with predator losses amounting to 39.6 million and other losses of 1.76 billion dollars.

Coyotes were the largest cause of cattle and calf predator losses at 69,350 head or 59 percent of the total loss to predators. The value of coyote losses was 21.8 million dollars. The Western and Mountain regions of the U.S. accounted for 67 percent of all predator losses. Respiratory problems led all other causes with 28 percent of all deaths. The value of these losses was 478.0 million dollars. The second leading other cause of deaths in cattle and calves was digestive problems with 20 percent of all deaths. Losses were valued at 316.0 million dollars.

This report was a result of a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and APHIS - Animal Damage Control and APHIS - National Animal Health Monitoring Systems.

LOSSES OF CATTLE BY PREDATORS, OTHER CAUSES AND TOTAL, BY STATE AND UNITED STATES, 1995

	TOTAL		PREDATORS				OTHER CAUSES			
					% of Total Losses				% of Total Losses	
	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves
CA	90,000	135,000	1,500	4,100	1.7	3.0	88,500	130,900	98.3	97.0
CO	45,000	60,000	400	3,500	.9	5.8	44,600	56,500	99.1	94.2
ID	26,000	52,000	300	1,300	1.2	2.5	25,700	50,700	98.8	97.5
KS	92,000	70,000	500	1,400	.5	2.0	91,500	68,600	99.5	98.0
MN	60,000	115,000	600	1,500	1.0	1.3	59,400	113,500	99.0	98.7
MT	**23,000**	**57,000**	**500**	**1,800**	**2.2**	**3.2**	**22,500**	**55,200**	**97.8**	**96.8**
NE	80,000	100,000	500	1,500	.6	1.5	79,500	98,500	99.4	98.5
ND	19,000	58,000	200	1,300	1.1	2.2	18,800	56,700	98.9	97.8
OK	95,000	150,000	2,100	8,500	2.2	5.7	92,900	141,500	97.8	94.3
OR	28,000	50,000	300	4,400	1.1	8.8	27,700	45,600	98.9	91.2
SD	60,000	165,000	400	2,400	.7	1.5	59,600	162,600	99.3	98.5
TX	240,000	270,000	4,000	25,000	1.7	9.3	236,000	245,000	98.3	90.7
UT	14,000	26,000	200	1,000	1.4	3.8	13,800	25,000	98.6	96.2
WA	22,000	29,000	200	1,000	.9	3.4	21,800	28,000	99.1	96.6
WY	15,000	30,000	200	1,600	1.3	5.3	14,800	28,400	98.7	94.7
US	1,635,100	2,745,300	21,200	96,200	1.3	3.5	1,613,900	2,649,100	98.7	96.5

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS DOWN, LOWEST U.S. MAY STOCKS SINCE 1991

Montana's May 1 potato stocks totaled 310,000 cwt., 11 percent below last year. The May 1 stocks accounted for 11 percent of the 1995 crop, the same as the previous year. Less than 1 percent of potatoes had been planted during the first week of May compared with 7 percent planted during the same week last year.

U.S. potato stocks totaled 72.2 million cwt on May 1, 1996, down 17 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest May 1 potato stocks level since 1991. Disappearance for the season totaled 320 million cwt of potatoes, 1 percent below last year, but 6 percent above 1994. Shrink and loss of 30.0 million cwt was 2 percent below a year ago. Processors used a record high 156 million cwt of potatoes, up 1 percent for the season. April processing totaled 16.8 million cwt, down 10 percent from a year earlier.

Processors accounted for 156 million cwt of potatoes from the 1995 crop, up 1 percent from the same period last year and 11 percent above two years ago. April processor usage was 16.8 million cwt, down 10 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled 320 million cwt of potatoes, down 1 percent from last year, but 6 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was 30.0 million cwt, 2 percent below the 30.7 million cwt lost last year, but 5 percent above the losses of two years ago.

Western States potato stocks totaled 56.7 million cwt in six States, down 21 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Idaho's stocks of 34.5 million cwt were down 13 percent from a year ago, making up 60 percent of the Western total. Washington's stocks of 11.5 million cwt and Oregon's stocks of 3.0 million cwt, were off 32 and 57 percent, respectively. Colorado's stocks of 6.2 million cwt were 2 percent above last year. California's stocks were off 14 percent.

U.S. APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.25 billion during April 1996, up 1 percent from the 6.18 billion produced in 1995. Production included 5.29 billion table eggs and 958 million hatching egg type, of which 895 million were broiler-type and 63.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 1996 averaged 297 million, up 1% from the average number of layers during April 1995. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,102 eggs, compared with 2,092 in April 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1996, totaled 295 million, up fractionally from a year ago. The 295 million layers consisted of 243 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 50.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1996, averaged 69.2 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

U.S. APRIL FARM WAGE RATES

There were 2.91 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 7-13, 1996. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.46 million of the total, along with 455,000 unpaid workers, and 780,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 207,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.76 per hour during the April 1996 survey week, up 27 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.44 per hour compared with $6.20 last April. Field workers received an average of $6.31 per hour, up 26 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.22 per hour compared with $5.88 a year earlier.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 35.1 hours, compared to 35.0 hours in the comparable week in 1995. Unpaid workers averaged 31.7 hours, compared to 29.8 hours last year. Hired employees worked 40.7 hours during the week, the same as last year.

Benefits were provided for 383,000 hired workers. Farm operators provided housing for 130,000, meals for 53,000, bonuses for 99,000, health insurance for 206,000, transportation for 61,000, and other benefits for 214,000 hired workers.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 7-13, 1996 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER 3/					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	dollars per hour							
Northeast I	7.47	6.20	6.93	9.49	7.54	7.27	7.25	7.28
Northeast II	6.62	5.31	6.11	10.42	8.37	6.79	7.22	6.72
Appalachian I	5.60	6.21	5.78	8.98	7.25	5.78	4/	6.96
Appalachian II	5.84	5.75	5.80	11.69	7.29	5.71	4/	8.03
Southeast	5.52	5.63	5.56	10.09	9.32	5.86	5.84	6.18
FL	6.12	7.10	6.27	13.05	9.35	6.35	6.50	10.65
Lake	6.78	6.39	6.56	10.48	8.40	6.77	8.75	7.41
Cornbelt I	6.57	6.76	6.61	10.52	8.07	6.64	4/	8.35
Cornbelt II	6.47	7.00	6.67	9.76	6.38	6.43	4/	7.35
Delta	5.38	5.74	5.46	8.43	6.20	5.45	5.01	6.18
Northern Plains	6.76	5.79	6.32	7.60	6.90	6.50	4/	6.51
Southern Plains	5.38	5.53	5.45	9.11	6.73	5.79	5.05	6.62
Mountain I	**5.54**	**5.29**	**5.42**	**8.28**	**5.38**	**5.69**	**5.03**	**5.90**
Mountain II	5.60	5.88	5.73	10.37	8.55	6.24	4.18	7.38
Mountain III	5.67	6.03	5.74	11.39	9.98	5.97	5.59	7.51
Pacific	6.83	7.22	6.87	11.65	10.60	6.87	8.14	10.88
CA	6.53	7.50	6.64	12.58	10.51	6.69	6.93	9.99
HI	8.79	4/	8.76	16.45	4/	9.04	4/	14.83
US 5/	6.31	6.22	6.28	10.62	8.18	6.44	6.69	7.56

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Livestock, Supervisory, and Other published at Regional and U. S. level only. 4/ Insufficient Data. 5/ Excludes AK.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USE

A portion of the 1995 Ag Chemical Usage report issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is included in this Reporter. The full report and/or additional information can be obtained by calling our office at 1-800-835-2612. The data presented in the report are part of the data series on chemical use funded through the 1990 Water Quality Initiative.

Wheat Highlights

Phosphate fertilizer was applied to 54 percent of the **Winter Wheat** harvested area in the 13 surveyed States. Usage ranged from Oregon's 17 percent to 93 percent in Ohio. Growers once again treated 86 percent of the collective area with nitrogen fertilizer. Area applied exceeded 70 percent in all States except Colorado and South Dakota. Potash treatment was highest in the Soft Red Winter States once again.

All 13 states treated a portion of the harvested areas with herbicides. 2,4-D was, by far, the leader in quantity applied and was applied to 26 percent of the area surveyed. The surveyed states represented 34.3 million acres in 1995, 94 percent of the U.S. winter wheat.

For **Other Spring Wheat**, primary fertilizer area application percentages in the 4 States for 1995 were about the same as in 1994. Herbicides were widely used in all States with 2,4-D, MCPA, and Dicamba, in order most preferred. The 4 survey States totaled 15.8 million planted acres in 1995, this was 93 percent of the total U.S. planted acreage.

See tables on back page for Montana data.

WINTER WHEAT: Agricultural Chemical Applications, Montana, 1995 1/

Agricultural Chemical 2/	Area Applied 3/	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		Mil. Lbs.
Fertilizers:					
Nitrogen	89	1.6	35	57	69.7
Phosphate	82	1.0	27	28	31.3
Potash	29	1.0	12	12	4.7
Herbicides:					1,000
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		Lbs.
2,4-D	88	1.1	.34	.37	449
Dicamba	28	1.0	.08	.08	32
Imazamethabenz	10	1.0	.28	.28	36
Metsulfuron-methyl	44	1.0	.004	.004	2
Trialsulfuron	12	1.0	.008	.008	1

1/ Area harvested in 1995 for Montana was 1.37 million acres. 2/ Insufficient reports to publish data for the following agricultural chemicals: 1995: Herbicides: Bromoxynil, Chlorsulfuron, Diclofop-methyl, Difenzoquat, Fenoxaprop-ethyl, Glyphosate, MCPA, Picloram, Thifensulfuron, Triallate, Tribenuron-methyl; Insecticides: Lambdacyhalothrin. 3/ Refers to acres receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical. Note: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

SPRING WHEAT: Agricultural Chemical Applications, Montana, 1995 1/

Agricultural Chemical 2/	Area Applied 3/	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		Mil. Lbs.
Fertilizers:					
Nitrogen	78	1.3	30	38	118.2
Phosphate	72	1.0	23	23	64.8
Potash	17	1.0	16	16	10.8
Herbicides:					1,000
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		Lbs.
2,4-D	76	1.0	.39	.41	1,223
Dicamba	63	1.0	.06	.06	153
MCPA	8	1.0	.32	.32	108
Metsulfuron-methyl	8	1.0	.004	.004	1
Triallate	11	1.0	.99	.99	423
Trialsulfuron	18	1.0	.01	.01	10

1/ Area planted in 1995 for Montana was 3.95 million acres. 2/ Insufficient reports to publish data for the following agricultural chemicals: 1995, Herbicides: Acetochlor, Atrazine, Bromoxynil, Difenzoquat, Fenoxaprop-ethyl, Imazamethabenz, Metsulfuron-methyl, Picloram, Thifensulfuron, Tribenuron-methyl. 3/ Refers to acres receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical. Note: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Pasture & Range Feed Condition
- Hay Stocks
- 1995 Dairy Production
- Ag Prices Received
- Poultry Production & Value

MAY 1 WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

Montana producers expect to harvest 84 million bushels of winter wheat this year. If these early expectations hold, the crop would be 53% larger than last year and the largest crop since 1993's record high production. Producers are expecting average yield of 40 bushels per acre, which equals last year's yield.

Seeding conditions last fall allowed farmers to plant a more normal winter wheat acreage compared with the previous two years. Farmers intend to harvest 2.1 million acres this year compared with 1.37 million acres last year.

Weather conditions during the winter were generally favorable and provided adequate snow cover to protect the crop. A warm spell early this spring was followed by bitter cold temperatures that raised concerns about crop damage. Spring growing conditions have been less than favorable with cool temperatures prevailing. After the winter wheat did start growing, it became apparent that there was some winter kill, but nothing too far out of the ordinary. Most reporters say there is adequate moisture to get this year's crop off to a good start. If the weather cooperates throughout the growing season, the stage is set for a good year. As of May 5, the winter wheat condition was rated 3% very poor, 14% poor, 26% fair, 48% good, and 9% excellent.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.36 billion bushels. This is down 12 percent from 1995 to the lowest level since 1978. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 35.9 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels per acre from last year and the lowest in 5 years. Grain area totals 37.9 million acres, down 7 percent from last season. Acres for grain are the lowest level since 1972.

Much of the central and southern Great Plains Hard Red Winter areas have been stressed by dry conditions since seeding. Apparent abandonment in states affected is about 11 million acres. Remaining stands are thin. Total Hard Red production is down 19 percent from last year. Soft Red Winter production is down 11 percent largely due to acreage reductions caused by winterkill. White Winter production is up 10 percent due to expected high yields in the Pacific Northwest.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION MAY 1, 1996

Although there is ample moisture, the cool weather has limited pasture and range growth around the state. As of May 1 the pasture and range feed condition was rated at 0% very poor, 11% poor, 29% fair, 57% good, and 3% excellent. The southeast and south central districts have the best reported conditions with the northeast district reporting the lowest rating.

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, Selected States and United States, 1995-96 and Forecasted May 1, 1996

	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
STATE	1995	1996	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CO	2,700	2,300	38.0	31.0	76,500	102,600	71,300
ID	770	850	76.0	80.0	56,880	58,520	68,000
KS	11,000	8,300	26.0	22.0	433,200	286,000	182,600
MO	1,230	1,150	39.0	35.0	50,400	47,970	40,250
MT	**1,370**	**2,100**	**40.0**	**40.0**	**64,750**	**54,800**	**84,000**
NE	2,100	1,950	41.0	31.0	71,400	86,100	60,450
OH	1,210	1,270	61.0	51.0	68,440	73,810	64,770
OK	5,200	4,500	21.0	19.0	143,100	109,200	85,500
OR	825	860	70.0	74.0	55,680	57,750	63,640
SD	1,520	1,550	37.0	30.0	43,200	56,240	46,500
TX	2,800	2,600	27.0	22.0	75,400	75,600	57,200
WA	2,150	2,350	62.0	62.0	124,200	133,300	145,700
WY	190	210	36.0	26.0	4,320	6,840	5,460
US	40,993	37,946	37.7	35.9	1,661,943	1,547,311	1,363,851

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--May 1,1996 1/

District	1994	1995	1996	% chg. 96/95
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	1,033	933	1,300	139
N Central	34,481	25,164	44,800	178
Northeast	4,088	2,268	6,500	287
Central	11,007	12,340	16,000	130
Southwest	1,690	1,410	2,200	156
S Central	8,890	9,669	9,700	100
Southeast	3,561	3,016	3,500	116
Montana	64,750	54,800	84,000	153

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MAY 1 HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on **Montana** farms on May 1 were 858,000 tons, 11% more than the 772,000 tons on hand a year ago. Current stocks amount to 16% of the 1995 hay production. The slow start to this year's growing season had caused some producers to worry about running out of hay. However, the eastern portion of the state is reporting sufficient amounts of hay on hand.

At the **U.S.** level, stocks of all hay on farms totaled 20.8 million tons on May 1, virtually unchanged from the previous year. Although production of the 1995 crop was 3 percent above 1994, a cold winter and slow pasture greening this spring forced increased feeding. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 1995 - May 1, 1996, totaled 88.8 million tons, 5 percent higher than the 1994 crop disappearance of 84.5 million tons for the same period.

1995 DAIRY PRODUCTS HIGHLIGHTS

Montana dairy plants produced 178,000 gallons of lowfat, hard ice cream during 1995 compared with 127,000 gallons a year ago. Lowfat, soft ice cream production totaled 1.1 million gallons, up 27 percent from last year. Other dairy products manufactured in the state are included in U.S. totals, but are not published for Montana to avoid individual plant disclosure.

Production of butter in the United States during 1995 totaled 1.26 billion pounds, 3 percent less than 1994. California accounted for 27 percent of the production, followed by Wisconsin with 22 percent and Washington with 8 percent.

Nationally, total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 6.94 billion pounds, 3 percent above the 1994 production. Wisconsin was the leading State with 30 percent of the production. American type cheese production, at 3.13 billion pounds, was 5 percent above 1994 and accounted for 45 percent of total cheese in 1995.

Italian varieties, with 2.64 billion pounds produced, were 1 percent above the 1994 production. Mozzarella accounted for 79 percent of the Italian production followed by Ricotta with 9 percent and Provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading State in Italian cheese production with 32 percent of the production.

Creamed cottage cheese, at 380 million pounds, was down 7 percent from 1994. Lowfat cottage cheese, at 318 million pounds, was down 1 percent.

Frozen dairy products showed mixed changes in 1995. Ice cream production totaled 857 million gallons, down 2 percent from 1994. Lowfat ice cream, at 350 million gallons, decreased 2 percent. Milk sherbet, at 53.5 million gallons, was down 1 percent. Frozen yogurt production, at 152 million gallons, rose 1 percent.

Nonfat dry milk for human food production, at 1.23 billion pounds, was up slightly from 1994. Dry buttermilk production, at 54.8 million pounds, was up 5 percent.

POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Montana 1995 egg sales of 4.9 million were above the previous year due to increased production and higher average prices. Egg production increased 5 percent and the average price was 57 cents, up 2 cents a dozen.

Montana's value of sales from chickens, excluding broilers, saw a 73 percent increase over last year. Chickens sold for an average price of 3 cents per pound, up from 2 cents last year, and the number of pounds sold increased 16 percent.

The combined value of U.S. production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1995, was $18.6 billion, up 4 percent from the $17.9 billion in 1994. Of the combined value, 63 percent was from broilers, 21 percent from eggs, 15 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 1995 was $11.8 billion, up 3 percent from the $11.4 billion in 1994. The total number of broilers produced in 1995 was 7.33 billion, up 4 percent from 1994. The 1995 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 34.4 cents per pound, compared to 35.0 cents per pound in 1994.

The value of turkeys produced during 1995 was $2.85 billion, up 8 percent from the $2.64 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1995 totaled 6.84 billion pounds live weight, compared with 6.54 billion pounds in 1994. The average price received by producers during 1995 was 41.6 cents per pound, compared with 40.4 cents in 1994.

See Table on back page.

MONTANA PRICES RECEIVED MIXED FOR MARCH

Montana crop prices for the full month of March were a mixed bag. Spring wheat increased 3 cents to $4.75 per bushel. Winter wheat decreased 7 cents to $4.79 per bushel, and durum wheat dropped 26 cents to $5.07 per bushel. All barley went up 2 cents to $3.31 per bushel, but oats remained unchanged at $2.06 per bushel. Alfalfa and other hay both were down $1.00 to $66.00 and $54.00 per ton, respectively. The all wheat price for mid-April averaged $5.07 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.30.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were lower compared with the previous month, with the exception of cows, sheep and lambs. Cow prices experienced a 30 cent increase to $34.00 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers slipped 10 cents to $56.30 per cwt. Calf prices came in 90 cents lower at $61.30 per cwt. Prices received for sheep jumped $4.60 above last month at $35.70, and lamb prices climbed $3.40 to $90.00 per cwt. Milk prices fell $1.40 to $14.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $2.40 less than the full month March price at $53.90 per cwt. Mid-April calf prices were $58.30 per cwt, $3.00 lower than in March.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $60.20 per cwt for the full month of March. Calf prices were $59.40 per cwt. Cow prices came in at $31.40 and hogs were $48.60 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $5.06 per bushel and $3.26 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 80.3 cents per dozen. Mid-April steer and heifer prices averaged $1.40 lower than the full month March price at $58.80 per cwt. Calf prices for mid-April were $56.30 per cwt, $3.10 below the March price.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was a record 110 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (0.9 percent) from March. Price gains from March for wheat, corn, soybeans, and oranges more than offset price declines for cattle, eggs, tomatoes, and lettuce. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. The April mixture of commodities sold indicates relatively less grains and oilseeds and more fruits and vegetables, resulting in a downward influence on the index. However, these changes were not large enough to offset the influence of price gains from March.

Compared with April 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 11 points (11 percent) higher. Price increases from April 1995 for corn, hogs, tomatoes, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for cattle, calves, lettuce and onions.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Mar. 1995	Apr. 1995	Mar. 1996	Apr. 1996
Prices Received	99	99	109	110
Prices Paid [1/]	109	109	114	115
Ratio [2/]	91	91	96	96

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	April 15, 1996	April 15, 1996
		Mar. 1995	Feb. 1996	Mar. 1996	Mar. 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.46	4.86	4.79	5.06	5.35	5.65
Durum	Bu.	4.87	5.33	5.07	5.73	5.30	5.67
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.52	4.72	4.75	4.88	4.95	5.16
All Wheat	Bu.	3.60	4.77	4.78	5.06	5.07	5.41
Barley, All	Bu.	2.13	3.29	3.31	3.26	3.30	3.30
Feed	Bu.	1.91	3.01	3.02	3.04	3.10	3.28
Malt	Bu.	2.52	3.54	3.52	3.40	3.60	3.32
Oats	Bu.	1.38	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.00	2.12
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	67.00	66.00	89.10	68.00	94.50
All Other Hay	Ton	59.00	55.00	54.00	65.20	57.00	68.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	66.00	65.00	83.40	67.00	90.30
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	70.30	56.40	56.30	60.20	53.90	58.80
Cows	Cwt.	43.50	33.70	34.00	31.40	31.90	29.60
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	64.10	52.80	52.10	56.70	48.40	55.60
Calves	Cwt.	79.60	62.20	61.30	59.40	58.30	56.30
Sheep	Cwt.	26.80	31.10	35.70	34.30	2/	2/
Lambs	Cwt.	72.60	86.60	90.00	86.40	2/	2/
All Milk	Cwt.	13.40	15.40	14.00	13.70	13.90	13.60

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1994-1995 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA 1995	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES 1995
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	64	63	35,821	40,758
Sold	1,000 Head	461	536	201,412	204,585
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	1,844	2,144	1,022,490	1,073,110
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	2.0	3.0	7.6	6.4
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	37	64	77,496	68,155
EGGS					
Produced	Million	99	104	73,911	74,268
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	55.0	57.0	61.4	64.0
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	4,538	4,940	3,780,377	3,958,976

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Chemical Usage	Milk Production
Potato Stocks	Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor	Cattle Predator Losses
Milk Production, Disposition & Income	Slaughter
	Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Prospective Plantings
- March 1 Grain Stocks
- Ag Prices Received
- Hog & Pig Inventory

MARCH 1996 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Montana growers intend to plant 5.85 million acres of wheat this year, up 2 percent from a year ago. Good moisture and more normal conditions last fall allowed producers to seed 2.25 million acres of winter wheat, unchanged from the previous estimate and up 50 percent compared with a year ago. Although still on the small side, this is a more normal amount of winter wheat seeded.

The large increase in winter wheat acreage is being off set by a large decrease in intended spring wheat plantings. Producers intend to plant 3.3 million acres of other spring wheat, down 16 percent from a year ago. Durum wheat prospective planting increased 11 percent to 300,000 acres. If realized this will be the most durum wheat acres planted since 1989.

Barley acreage intentions decreased slightly from 1995. Montana growers plan on seeding 1.25 million acres this year compared with 1.3 million acres last year. If realized, barley acreage will be at its smallest level since 1980. Montana producers only plan on planting 120,000 acres of oats this year, down 17 percent from last year. This acreage, if realized, will be the smallest planted oat acreage on record in Montana. Of the 120,000 planted, only 60,000 acres are intended to be harvested as grain.

Corn acreage is estimated at 55,000 acres planted, unchanged from a year ago. Dry bean acreage is estimated at 9,000 acres down 2,000 from last year. Sugar beet acreage is estimated at 58,000 acres, up 2,300 acres from a year ago. Farmers intend to harvest 2.4 million acres of hay this year, unchanged from 1995.

U.S. all wheat planted area for 1996 is expected to total 73.1 million acres, up 6 percent from 1995. Winter wheat seeded area for this year is 52.0 million acres, 7 percent more than 1995 and fractionally higher than the previously published level. Other spring wheat estimated plantings, at 17.5 million acres, are up 3 percent from a year ago. Durum wheat intended area for 1996 totals 3.62 million acres, up 5 percent from last year and the most since 1989. Wheat midge infestations in northern North Dakota were severe last season. Entomologists have recommended against planting wheat in some area in North Dakotas, thus limiting the potential increase in Durum.

U.S. barley growers intend to seed 7.24 million acres for 1996, up 8 percent from the 6.69 million acres seeded last year. Acreage seeded in North Dakota, the major producing State, is up 17 percent from 1995. Oat producers plan to seed or have seeded 5.30 million acres of oats for 1996, down 16 percent from the 6.34 million acres seeded for 1995. If realized this would be least acreage seeded to oats since records were first kept in 1866. Growers intend to harvest 3.17 million acres of oats for grain in 1996, up 7 percent from the 2.96 million acres harvested in 1995. If realized, this would be the second lowest acreage harvested for grain.

Corn producers intend to plant 79.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1996, up 12 percent from last year and 1 percent more than in 1994. Area planted to sugar beets for 1996 is expected to total 1.42 million acres in the 14 producing States, down 1 percent from a year ago. Dry bean farmers intend to plant 1.82 million acres of dry beans in 1996, down 12 percent from last year and 10 percent below 1994.

Producers expect to harvest 59.0 million acres of hay in 1996, 1 percent less than were harvested in 1995.

PLANTED ACREAGE, 1994-1995, and INTENDED 1996, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1994	1995	1996	96/95	1994	1995	1996	96/95
	-- 1,000 Acres --			Pct.	-- 1,000 Acres --			Pct.
All Wheat	5,580.0	5,720.0	5,850.0	102	70,349.0	69,177.0	73,108.0	106
Winter Wheat	1,950.0	1,500.0	2,250.0	150	49,197.0	48,726.0	52,006.0	107
Durum	180.0	270.0	300.0	111	2,823.0	3,436.0	3,615.0	105
Hard Spring	3,450.0	3,950.0	3,300.0	84	18,329.0	17,015.0	17,487.0	103
Barley	1,300.0	1,300.0	1,250.0	96	7,159.0	6,689.0	7,242.0	108
Oats-Planted	140.0	145.0	120.0	83	6,639.0	6,336.0	5,298.0	84
-Harvested	75.0	80.0	60.0	75	4,010.0	2,959.0	3,169.0	107
Corn	60.0	55.0	55.0	100	79,175.0	71,245.0	79,920.0	112
Sugar Beets	54.3	55.7	58.0	104	1,475.8	1,442.5	1,424.1	99
Dry Beans	10.2	11.0	9.0	82	2,015.8	2,069.3	1,816.1	88
All Hay-Harvested	2,200.0	2,400.0	2,400.0	100	58,735.0	59,779.0	59,037.0	99

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1, 1995	Dec. 1, 1995*	Mar. 1, 1996	Mar. 1, 1995	Dec. 1, 1995*	Mar. 1, 1996
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.5
North Central	41.2	65.5	40.2	9.8	14.6	8.1
Northeast	30.8	31.4	19.0	3.1	4.0	1.9
Central	8.6	17.6	9.7	3.4	7.7	3.6
Southwest	2.4	2.7	0.6	1.7	3.6	1.2
South Central	3.8	6.6	3.3	2.8	3.3	2.1
Southeast	3.3	4.1	3.0	0.8	0.8	0.6
STATE	91.0	129.0	76.5	22.2	35.0	18.0

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1995	Dec. 1, 1995*	Mar. 1, 1996	'96/'95	Mar. 1, 1995	Dec. 1, 1995*	Mar. 1, 1996
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	69,000	105,000	51,000	74%	335,250	477,000	223,550
Off Farms 1/	22,000	24,000	25,500	116%	633,823	861,267	602,290
TOTAL	91,000	129,000	76,500	84%	969,073	1,338,267	825,840
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	22,000	24,000	11,000	50%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	9,300	8,500	8,100	87%	--	--	--
TOTAL	31,300	32,500	19,100	61%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	47,000	81,000	40,000	85%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	12,700	15,500	17,400	137%	--	--	--
TOTAL	59,700	96,500	57,400	96%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	26,060	47,220	27,250
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	16,675	23,886	21,381
TOTAL	3,470	6,070	4,500	130%	42,735	71,106	48,631
BARLEY							
On Farms	15,000	26,000	11,000	73%	86,800	121,400	58,825
Off Farms 1/	7,200	9,000	7,000	97%	106,156	121,110	117,607
TOTAL	22,200	35,000	18,000	81%	192,956	242,510	176,432
OATS							
On Farms	2,100	4,300	2,200	105%	78,400	87,200	57,050
Off Farms 1/	150	220	180	120%	70,575	65,804	55,250
TOTAL	2,250	4,520	2,380	106%	148,975	153,004	112,300
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,502,000	3,960,000	2,000,200
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,089,693	2,145,774	1,798,598
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	5,591,693	6,105,774	3,798,798

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA PRICES RECEIVED MIXED FOR FEBRUARY

Montana crop prices for the full month of February were up from the previous month, with the exception of durum wheat and other hay. Winter wheat increased 19 cents to $4.86 per bushel, while spring wheat rose 14 cents to $4.72. Durum wheat retreated 54 cents to $5.33 per bushel. Feed barley increased 2 cents to $3.01 per bushel, and malt barley rose 17 cents to $3.54 per bushel. Both feed and malt barley set new all-time price record highs in February. Alfalfa hay prices, at $67.00 per ton, rose $2.00 from January, while other hay prices, at $55.00 per ton, remained unchanged. The all wheat price for mid-March averaged $4.83 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.25.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were higher compared with the previous month, with the exception of calves and steers and heifers. Cow prices were up 40 cents to $33.70 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers declined $2.30 to $56.40 per cwt. Calf prices fell 10 cents to $62.20 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $2.10 above last month at $31.10, while lamb prices climbed $6.50 to $86.60 per cwt. Milk prices increased 40 cents to $15.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $56.50 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $61.10 per cwt for the full month of February. Cow prices came in at $32.10 and hogs were $46.40 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.99 per bushel and $3.28 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 76.5 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 108 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (1.9 percent) from February. Price gains from February for corn, lettuce, tomatoes, and hogs more than offset price declines for broilers, cattle, and several fruit commodities. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level, however, these changes were essentially offsetting in March. Compared with March 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 9 points (9.1 percent) higher. Price increases from March 1995 for corn, hogs, soybeans, and wheat more than offset price decreases for cattle, calves, and several vegetables.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Feb. 1995	Mar. 1995	Feb. 1996	Mar. 1996
Prices Received	97	99	106	108
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	108	108	113	113
Ratio 12/	90	92	94	96

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	March 15, 1996	March 15, 1996
		Feb. 1995	Jan. 1996	Feb. 1996	Feb. 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.58	4.67	4.86	5.01	4.85	4.91
Durum	Bu.	4.79	5.87	5.33	5.72	5.50	5.59
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.52	4.58	4.72	4.81	4.80	4.86
All Wheat	Bu.	3.61	4.63	4.77	4.99	4.83	4.96
Barley, All	Bu.	2.27	3.16	3.29	3.28	3.25	3.26
Feed	Bu.	1.88	2.99	3.01	3.09	3.00	2.99
Malt	Bu.	2.84	3.37	3.54	3.43	3.55	3.48
Oats	Bu.	1.32	1.76	2.06	1.97	2.00	2.03
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	65.00	67.00	88.20	66.00	89.10
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	55.00	55.00	64.70	54.00	65.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	72.00	63.00	66.00	81.20	65.00	83.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	73.80	58.70	56.40	61.10	56.50	60.40
Cows	Cwt.	43.30	33.30	33.70	32.10	34.30	31.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	68.30	52.60	52.80	57.90	52.50	57.20
Calves	Cwt.	82.50	62.30	62.20	60.00	61.10	58.80
Sheep	Cwt.	33.80	29.00	31.10	34.10	2/	2/
Lambs	Cwt.	73.20	80.10	86.60	84.10	2/	2/
All Milk	Cwt.	13.30	15.00	15.40	13.80	14.60	13.80

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP SLIGHTLY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1996, was 58.6 million head, slightly above March 1995 but 2 percent below the December 1, 1995, inventory. Breeding inventory, at 6.95 million head, was down 1 percent from March 1, 1995, and down 2 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 51.6 million head, was slightly above March 1, 1995, but 2 percent below December 1, 1995.

Beginning March 1996 the quarterly estimating States will include Arkansas and Oklahoma but will exclude Tennessee. The report will contain an estimate for each of the quarterly States, the 17 State region, the 33 annual State region, and the U.S. total.

The December 1995-February 1996 U.S. pig crop was a record high 24.1 million head, 1 percent more than 1995 and 3 percent above the same period in 1994. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.86 million head, down 1 percent from both last year and two years ago. Pigs saved per litter were a record high 8.42 compared to 8.27 during the same period a year ago. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 6.92 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.80 for operations with 2,000 or more hogs and pigs.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks report estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during March. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Montana's Rank	Slaughter
Potato Stocks	Cattle on Feed
Meat Animals PDI	Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Quarterly Milk Production	Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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HIGHLIGHTS:

1995 Red Meat Production
February Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
1995 Sheep & Lamb Losses
Milk Production — Egg Production
Wool & Mohair — Potato Stocks

MONTANA 1995 RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN, U.S. SETS RECORD HIGH

Montana slaughter plants produced 17.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 1995, compared with 19.9 million pounds in 1994. There were 19,800 cattle slaughtered during 1995, down 12% from a year ago. The total live weight of 23.7 million pounds was also down 12% from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 1 pound to 1,200 pounds.

There were 28,800 hogs slaughtered in Montana, a decrease of 2,400 head from last year. Total live weight of 6.9 million pounds was down 9% from 1994, and the average live weight was 239 pounds per head compared with 244 pounds the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,200 head, a decrease of 800 head from last year. The average live weight was equal to the previous year at 115 pounds. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1995 decreased 94,000 pounds from last year to 370,000 pounds.

The number of Montana slaughter plants federally inspected on January 1, 1996 was 16, down 1 from 1995. Plants, other than federally inspected, numbered 55 on January 1, 1995, but dropped to 38 for the same date in 1996. Several small plants are no longer slaughtering any livestock.

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the United States during 1995 totaled 43.7 billion pounds, up 2% from the previous high set in 1994. Beef production rose 3% from the previous year at 25.2 billion pounds; veal production, at 318 million pounds, increased 9%; pork production, at 17.8 billion pounds, was up 1%; while lamb and mutton production dropped 7%, with a total of 288 million pounds.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1995 totaled 35.6 million head, up 4% from 1994, with federal inspection comprising 97.9% of the total. This percentage remained the same as last year. The average live weight was 1,183 pounds, down 6 pounds from last year. Steers comprised 51.3% of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 29.2%, dairy cows comprised 8.2%, and beef cows 9.4%.

Commercial calf slaughter, at 1.43 million head, increased 13% from the previous year with 97.4% under federal inspection. The average live weight was 372 pounds, down 11 pounds from a year earlier.

Hog kill totaled 96.3 million head, up slightly from the previous record of 96.1 million head set in 1980--federal inspection comprised 97.8%. The average live weight rose 1 pound to 256 pounds. Barrows and gilts were 95.2% of the total. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 4.56 million head, decreased 8% from 1994 with federal inspection comprising 96.2%. Sheep and lambs average live weight remained unchanged from 1994 at 125 pounds.

There were 988 slaughter plants under federal inspection included in this report compared with 968 last year. Of these, 836 slaughtered at least one head of cattle and fourteen plants slaughtered almost half of the total head. Eleven of the total 802 plants slaughtering hogs, accounted for 45% of the total. Likewise, three plants slaughtering one or more head of sheep or lambs in 1995 slaughtered 56% of the total head.

MONTANA AND U.S. FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP FROM 1995

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February, up 25% from last year, but down 12% from last month. There were 2,000 head of cattle slaughtered, up 400 head from a year ago. The total live weight of 2.4 million pounds increased 31% from the year earlier, and the average live weight increased 35 pounds to 1,202 pounds.

Hog kill in February totaled 1,800 head compared with 2,100 head last year. The average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 241 pounds which contributed to the total live weight decreasing by 15% to 430,000 pounds. There were 100 head of sheep slaughtered in February, the same as a year ago. The average live weight dropped 2 pounds to 114 pounds. Total live weight at 15,000 pounds also dropped from last year by 1,000 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.52 billion pounds during February, 10% above the previous record high for February set in 1995. Beef production totaled 2.05 billion pounds, up 3% from the previous record high set in February 1977. Head kill totaled 2.93 million, up 13% from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from last year at 1,177 pounds.

Veal production totaled 30.0 million pounds. This production was up 27% from a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 142,500, up 34% from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 27 pounds to 355 pounds. **Continued on next page.**

MONTANA AND U.S. FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION CONTINUED...

Pork production, at 1.42 billion pounds, was up 5% from the previous record set in February 1995. Hog kill totaled 7.66 million head, 5% above last year. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 254 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, remained unchanged from February 1995. Slaughter totaled 363,500 head, down 3% from a year earlier. The average live weight remained unchanged at 128 pounds.

January - February red meat production was 7.34 million pounds, up 8% from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production increased 12%, veal jumped 18%, pork rose 4%, but lamb and mutton dropped 3%.

MARCH U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.70 million head on March 1, 1996. **Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.71 million. Net placements were 1.64 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 229,000, 600-699 pounds were 566,000, 700-799 pounds were 629,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 289,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.85 million. **Other disappearance** totaled 72,000 during February.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 Monthly States Down 1 Percent

Cattle on feed March 1, 1996, in the historic 7 monthly States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.15 million, down 1 percent from the previous year, but 2 percent above March 1, 1994. **Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.44 million, 6 percent below 1995 but 15 percent above 1994. **Marketings** during February totaled 1.54 million, up 12 percent from a year ago and 14 percent above 1994. **Other disappearance** during February was 52,000 head, the same as last year, but 9 percent below 1994.

MONTANA MARCH 1 POTATO STOCKS DOWN 5 PERCENT, U.S. DOWN 10 PERCENT

Montana producers held 2.6 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, down 5 percent from last year. The potatoes in storage account for 88 percent of 1995 production. A year ago, the potatoes in storage accounted for 85 percent of the 1994 crop production.

U.S. Potato stocks totaled 152 million cwt on March 1, 1996, down 10 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Stocks now are 39 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, down two points from last year. Disappearance for the season was 239 million cwt, down slightly from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Processors used 121 million cwt, up 3 percent.

Disappearance from harvest through February totaled 239 million cwt of potatoes, down slightly from last year, but 8 percent above two years ago. February disappearance of 32.5 million was down 2 percent from a year ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 25.6 million cwt, down 2 percent from the 26.2 million cwt lost last year, but 3 percent above 24.9 million cwt lost two years ago.

Processor usage since harvest totaled 121 million cwt, up 3 percent from a year ago and 14 percent above two years ago. February processing of 17.5 million cwt of potatoes was up slightly from last year and 9 percent above 1994. Heavy processor use in Central States made up for slow usage in the Northwest.

Western States held 110 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1996. This is down 14 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Idaho's stocks were off 10 percent and accounted for 56 percent of the Western total. Oregon's stocks were down 34 percent and Washington was 21 percent below a year earlier. Colorado's stocks were down 1 percent from last year and California's storage was off 22 percent.

U.S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY

Milk production in the 22 major States during February was 10.8 billion pounds, 3 percent above production in these same States in February 1995. The increase is due to February 1996 having an extra day because it's leap year. January revised production of 11.3 billion pounds was slightly less than January 1995.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,343 pounds for February, 48 pounds above February 1995. On an average daily basis, production per cow for February was virtually unchanged from a year ago. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.01 million head, 38,000 head less than February 1995 and 14,000 head less than January 1996.

During the October-December period, the 22 major States produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.3 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.5 billion pounds for February 1996.

1995 MONTANA AND U.S. WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN

Montana wool growers produced 4.4 million pounds of wool during 1995, down 13 percent from 1994. The 1995 average price per pound of wool increased 37 cents to $1.23 per pound. This resulted in a total value of $ 5.4 million, a 24 percent increase from the previous year. The total head shorn decreased 12 percent to 468,000 head. The average fleece weight dropped slightly from 9.6 pounds in 1994 to 9.4 pounds in 1995.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1995 was 63.3 million pounds, down 8 percent from 1994. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 8.11 million head, a decrease of 9 percent from 1994. The average price paid for wool sold in 1995 was $1.04 per pound for a total value of $64.1 million, up 22 percent from $52.4 million in 1994. The average fleece weight gained a tenth of a pound to 7.8 pounds.

MONTANA 1995 SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES

Montana sheep & lamb producers lost 92,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 1995, representing a total value of $5.3 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost was down 12 percent from 1994, but the total value of inventory lost in 1995 rose 8 percent. Higher market prices this past year resulted in an increased value of sheep and lambs. The decline in sheep and lamb losses is partly due to the drop in total inventory which is down 8 percent from the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 9.9 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born, slightly lower than the previous year.

Predators caused an estimated $2.0 million in losses in 1995 up from $1.9 million the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 4.0 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 40 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator and the largest cause of all deaths. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $1.5 million. The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 37,100 head, down 5,800 head from last year. Coyotes accounted for 30 percent of all death losses in the state and 75 percent of all predator losses. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 31,400 head, down 14 percent from last year. Most of the decrease in lamb losses was due to a fall in fox and eagle losses. Lambs lost to eagles dropped 2,700 head while fox losses declined 2,500 head. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 5,700, down 14 percent. The largest cause of sheep losses was coyotes at 4,400 head.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.8 million in 1995 up from $2.6 million the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 51 percent of all losses. There were 30,900 head of lambs lost to weather, disease and other non-predatory causes in 1995, down 12 percent from the previous year. The largest causes of lambs losses were weather conditions at 12,700 head. Adverse weather conditions resulted in a number of producers losing more newborn lambs than the previous year. Sheep losses to non-predatory factors totaled 16,000, 15 percent lower than 1994. Sheep lost to old age continued to be the largest non-predatory cause at 5,700 head, down 800 head from the previous year.

The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes jumped 29 percent from last year to $.5 million. Lambs lost to unknown causes were up 1,000 head to 4,700. Unknown causes claimed 3,300 sheep, 300 head fewer than last year.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Losses by Cause, Montana, 1994-1995

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995
Predators												
Fox	100	--	6.6	--	5,900	3,400	237.5	166.1	6,000	3,400	244.1	166.1
Dog	500	700	33.0	57.4	500	900	20.1	44.0	1,000	1,600	53.1	101.4
Coyote	5,000	4,400	330.0	360.8	23,500	23,600	946.1	1,152.6	28,500	28,000	1,276.1	1,513.4
Eagle	100	200	6.6	16.4	5,200	2,500	209.4	122.1	5,300	2,700	216.0	138.5
Bobcat	200	--	13.2	--	100	--	4.0	--	300	--	17.2	--
Bear	200	100	13.2	8.2	400	200	16.1	9.8	600	300	29.3	18.0
Mountain Lion	400	200	26.4	16.4	600	300	24.2	14.7	1,000	500	50.6	31.1
Other Animals	100	--	6.6	--	100	--	4.0	--	200	--	10.6	--
Unknown Predators	4/	100	4/	8.2	4/	500	4/	24.4	4/	600	4/	32.6
Total Predators	**6,600**	**5,700**	**435.6**	**467.4**	**36,300**	**31,400**	**1,461.4**	**1,533.6**	**42,900**	**37,100**	**1,897.0**	**2,001.0**
Non- Predators												
All Diseases	4,500	2,800	297.0	229.6	11,200	7,200	450.9	351.6	15,700	10,000	747.9	581.2
Weather Conditions	1,900	1,600	125.4	131.2	9,900	12,700	398.6	620.3	11,800	14,300	524.0	751.5
Poison	1,400	1,500	92.4	123.0	800	400	32.2	19.5	2,200	1,900	124.6	142.5
Lambing Complications	1,400	1,300	92.4	106.6	9,300	7,100	374.4	346.8	10,700	8,400	466.8	453.4
On Back	1,800	1,200	118.8	98.4	100	--	4.0	--	1,900	1,200	122.8	98.4
Old Age	6,500	5,700	429.0	467.4					6,500	5,700	429.0	467.4
Theft	700	1,000	46.2	82.0	2,200	1,000	88.6	48.8	2,900	2,000	134.8	130.8
Other	600	900	39.6	73.8	1,500	2,500	60.4	122.1	2,100	3,400	100.0	195.9
Total Non-Predators	**18,800**	**16,000**	**1,240.8**	**1,312.0**	**35,000**	**30,900**	**1,409.1**	**1,509.2**	**53,800**	**46,900**	**2,649.9**	**2,821.2**
Unknown Causes	**3,600**	**3,300**	**237.6**	**270.6**	**3,700**	**4,700**	**149.0**	**229.5**	**7,300**	**8,000**	**386.6**	**500.1**
Total Loss	**29,000**	**25,000**	**1,914.0**	**2,050.0**	**75,000**	**67,000**	**3,019.5**	**3,272.3**	**104,000**	**92,000**	**4,933.5**	**5,322.3**

1/ Average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 4/ Data not available. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

UNITED STATES FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.97 billion during February 1996, up 5 percent from the 5.71 billion produced February 1995. Production included 5.05 billion table eggs and 918 million hatching egg type, of which 861 million were broiler-type and 57.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 1996 averaged 299 million, up slightly from the average number of layers during February 1995. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,996 eggs, compared with 1,919 in February 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1996, totaled 299 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 299 million layers consisted of 245 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 51.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.73 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1996, averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 69.7 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.65 billion eggs during February, up 5 percent from February 1995. The average number of layers during February, at 283 million, was up 1 percent from the year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Prospective Plantings
Hogs & Pigs	Grain Stocks

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

MT Wheat & Barley Movement
1995 All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
1995 Alfalfa Seed Production

National Ag Week
March 17-23
National Ag Day
March 20

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MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

The 97.3 million bushels of **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations during June-November 1995 were 22 percent above shipments for the same period last year.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 18 percent above the previous June-November period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was up 89 percent. Shipments to other destinations were down 153 percent.

Rail movement of 91.7 million bushels was up from 76.1 million shipped by rail during the same period in 1994. Trucks carried 5.6 million bushels compared with 3.5 million the previous June-November period.

Barley shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1995 was 17.0 million bushels, down 9 percent from the same period last year.

Barley shipped west amounted to 12.2 million bushels, down 19 percent from the 15.0 million bushels in the June-November 1994 period. Eastern shipments totaled 3.9 million bushels, up 94 percent from the 2.0 million bushels the previous year.

Movement to other destinations of .8 million bushels was down 51 percent from the same period last year.

Montana Wheat and Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/] *

Agricultural Statistics Districts	June-November 1994 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	June-November 1995 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	June-Nov. 1994 Barley	June-Nov. 1995 Barley
	--- 000 Bushels ---							
West [3/]	422	1,268	1,690	630	1,254	1,884	6,448	3,290
North Central	20,334	20,348	40,682	17,507	32,400	49,907	8,988	10,060
Northeast	1,543	20,720	22,263	1,080	25,258	26,338	1,673	1,363
Central	6,319	2,453	8,772	6,626	3,963	10,589	1,514	2,163
South Central	3,084	448	3,532	4,657	1,031	5,688	78	102
Southeast	1,405	1,222	2,627	1,482	1,428	2,910	70	29
Trucked East	41	20	61	14	27	41	25	18
Trucked West	1,989	1,246	3,235	2,791	2,305	5,096	1,795	1,570
Trucked Other [4/]	86	74	160	200	235	435	144	391
Total By Truck	2,116	1,340	3,456	3,005	2,567	5,572	1,964	1,979
Rail East	4	3,635	3,639	0	6,957	6,957	2,004	3,927
Rail West	30,912	41,125	72,037	28,977	54,742	83,719	13,228	10,649
Rail Other [4/]	75	359	434	0	1,068	1,068	1,575	452
Total By Rail	30,991	45,119	76,110	28,977	62,767	91,744	16,807	15,028
Total Shipped	33,107	46,459	79,566	31,982	65,334	97,316	18,771	17,007

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown. * This data made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1995

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres [1]	Net Planted Acres [2]	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Rank	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deer Lodge	1,100	1,100	1,100	60.9	67,000	52	600	600	80.0	48,000
Flathead	14,000	14,000	13,700	68.9	944,000	35	4,900	4,700	70.4	331,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	17,500	17,500	16,900	63.4	1,071,000	31	10,900	10,500	69.6	731,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	3,100	3,100	3,000	39.0	117,000	48	1,100	1,000	60.0	60,000
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sanders	2,700	2,700	2,600	50.8	132,000	46	700	700	75.7	53,000
Other	3,600	3,600	3,400	50.6	172,000	--	1,300	1,200	79.2	95,000
NORTHWEST	**42,000**	**42,000**	**40,700**	**61.5**	**2,503,000**	**--**	**19,500**	**18,700**	**70.5**	**1,318,000**
Blaine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chouteau	621,400	590,400	572,300	43.9	25,114,000	1	12,100	11,000	47.1	518,000
Glacier	151,800	150,800	148,300	42.0	6,227,000	14	8,700	8,500	52.9	450,000
Hill	518,500	515,300	501,500	43.3	21,690,000	2	2,400	2,400	51.7	124,000
Liberty	277,500	272,000	265,900	40.7	10,823,000	3	3,400	3,400	59.4	202,000
Phillips	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pondera	193,000	186,700	182,400	47.5	8,667,000	6	18,900	18,600	62.2	1,156,000
Teton	169,600	161,600	154,500	43.6	6,734,000	11	12,000	11,400	54.3	619,000
Toole	243,700	243,300	237,100	39.1	9,275,000	4	4,600	4,600	43.9	202,000
Other	355,500	354,200	348,400	34.8	12,127,000	--	17,700	16,900	42.0	710,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,531,000**	**2,474,300**	**2,410,400**	**41.8**	**100,657,000**	**--**	**79,800**	**76,800**	**51.8**	**3,981,000**
Daniels	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dawson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Garfield	119,500	119,300	106,100	23.5	2,494,000	22	700	700	61.4	43,000
McCone	215,800	215,600	167,700	25.4	4,252,000	18	2,700	2,200	41.8	92,000
Richland	179,200	179,100	173,700	24.9	4,333,000	17	15,200	14,700	45.9	674,000
Roosevelt	316,500	316,500	310,200	25.2	7,805,000	7	3,100	3,000	37.7	113,000
Sheridan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Valley	297,400	297,400	293,200	30.8	9,025,000	5	11,000	10,700	42.9	459,000
Other	672,600	672,100	647,900	27.3	17,688,000	--	5,300	5,200	52.9	275,000
NORTHEAST	**1,801,000**	**1,800,000**	**1,698,800**	**26.8**	**45,597,000**	**--**	**38,000**	**36,500**	**45.4**	**1,656,000**
Broadwater	44,700	44,000	42,700	47.6	2,031,000	25	16,200	16,000	64.7	1,035,000
Cascade	169,800	164,900	161,800	41.7	6,745,000	10	7,200	7,000	55.9	391,000
Fergus	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	36,500	35,300	34,000	32.1	1,090,000	29	1,300	1,200	59.2	71,000
Judith Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	18,700	18,500	18,500	37.6	695,000	38	3,100	3,100	53.9	167,000
Meagher	13,800	12,800	12,100	41.5	502,000	40	1,200	1,200	69.2	83,000
Musselshell	35,400	35,400	34,500	28.8	993,000	34	700	700	57.1	40,000
Petroleum	18,700	18,100	16,700	22.2	371,000	45	2,100	1,600	30.6	49,000
Wheatland	43,400	41,400	40,600	32.3	1,310,000	27	400	400	60.0	24,000
Other	261,500	259,600	247,500	37.2	9,218,000	--	1,100	1,100	59.1	65,000
CENTRAL	**642,500**	**630,000**	**608,400**	**37.7**	**22,955,000**	**--**	**33,300**	**32,300**	**59.6**	**1,925,000**
Beaverhead	8,100	8,100	7,900	67.6	534,000	39	4,900	4,900	84.5	414,000
Gallatin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jefferson	3,500	2,800	2,700	45.6	123,000	47	400	400	80.0	32,000
Madison	8,700	8,700	8,400	51.7	434,000	42	3,100	3,100	72.9	226,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	43,100	41,200	39,700	58.5	2,324,000	--	14,400	14,000	80.6	1,128,000
SOUTHWEST	**63,400**	**60,800**	**58,700**	**58.2**	**3,415,000**	**--**	**22,800**	**22,400**	**80.4**	**1,800,000**
Big Horn	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbon	14,200	14,200	13,800	36.3	501,000	41	1,900	1,800	56.1	101,000
Park	11,500	10,700	10,200	37.2	379,000	44	3,300	2,900	58.3	169,000
Stillwater	47,700	47,700	46,900	32.2	1,510,000	26	1,800	1,700	52.9	90,000
Sweetgrass	3,800	3,800	3,600	29.4	106,000	49	200	100	60.0	6,000
Treasure	6,000	6,000	5,900	66.8	394,000	43	3,300	3,300	88.2	291,000
Yellowstone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	237,600	237,200	233,400	41.9	9,779,000	--	21,500	21,100	72.6	1,532,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**320,800**	**319,600**	**313,800**	**40.4**	**12,669,000**	**--**	**32,000**	**30,900**	**70.8**	**2,189,000**
Carter	44,300	43,400	41,000	20.2	827,000	36	--	--	--	--
Custer	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fallon	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Powder River	27,200	27,100	25,800	28.6	739,000	37	900	900	51.1	46,000
Prairie	42,000	42,000	41,000	29.5	1,210,000	28	4,500	4,400	44.8	197,000
Rosebud	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wibaux	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	205,800	205,800	196,400	26.4	5,178,000	--	7,200	7,100	52.5	373,000
SOUTHEAST	**319,300**	**318,300**	**304,200**	**26.1**	**7,954,000**	**--**	**12,600**	**12,400**	**49.7**	**616,000**
MONTANA	**5,720,000**	**5,645,000**	**5,435,000**	**36.0**	**195,750,000**	**--**	**238,000**	**230,000**	**58.6**	**13,485,000**

[1] Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of wheat are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
[2] Planted acres less winter wheat acres replanted to spring wheat.

MONTANA PRICES RECEIVED MIXED FOR JANUARY

Montana crop prices for the full month of January were higher with the exception of winter wheat and hay. Spring wheat increased 7 cents to $4.58 per bushel, but winter wheat dropped a penny to $4.67 per bushel. All barley went up 11 cents to a record high price of $3.16 per bushel. Durum wheat rose 14 cents to average $5.87 and oats increased 26 cents to $1.76 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices fell $2.00 to $65.00 per ton, and other hay prices decreased $1.00 to $55.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-February averaged $4.77 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.25.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mostly lower compared with the previous month. Cow prices experienced a $1.20 increase to $33.30 per cwt. Steers and heifers dropped $3.60 to average $58.70 per cwt. Calf prices fell $1.50 to $62.30 per cwt. Sheep prices came in $4.40 higher at $29.00, however, lamb prices slipped 10 cents to average $80.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February were $57.00 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $62.60 per cwt for the full month of January. Cow prices were $32.00 and hogs came in at $42.30 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.83 per bushel and $3.14 for all barley. Egg prices were 80 cents per dozen.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 106 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (1.9 percent) from January. Price gains from January for wheat, corn, hogs, and oranges more than offset price declines for cattle, milk, lettuce, and broilers. However, the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell affected the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of relatively higher priced crops (e.g. wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton) compared with livestock commodities resulted in a decline in the All Farm Products Index.

Compared with February 1995, the U.S. All Farm Products Index was 9 points (9.3 percent) higher. Higher year over year prices for wheat, corn, soybeans, and hogs more than offset lower prices for cattle, calves, and most vegetable crops.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Jan. 1995	Feb. 1995	Jan. 1996	Feb. 1996
Prices Received	98	97	108	106
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates [1/]	108	108	112	113
Ratio [2/]	91	90	96	94

[1/] Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. Indexes for 1995 were constructed for historical comparisons. [2/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	February 15, 1996	February 15, 1996
		Jan. 1995	Dec. 1995	Jan. 1996	Jan. 1996		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.55	4.68	4.67	4.80	4.90	5.08
Durum	Bu.	4.72	5.73	5.87	5.66	5.90	5.68
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.62	4.51	4.58	4.66	4.70	4.83
All Wheat	Bu.	3.63	4.57	4.63	4.83	4.77	5.03
Barley, All	Bu.	2.26	3.04	3.16	3.14	3.25	3.25
Feed	Bu.	1.88	2.89	2.99	2.91	3.05	3.09
Malt	Bu.	2.84	3.27	3.37	3.33	3.50	3.45
Oats	Bu.	1.21	1.50	1.76	1.93	1.75	1.89
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	67.00	65.00	87.80	67.00	88.20
All Other Hay	Ton	64.00	56.00	55.00	64.40	55.00	64.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	72.00	66.00	63.00	81.70	66.00	81.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	75.80	62.30	58.70	62.60	47.00	61.20
Cows	Cwt.	42.90	32.10	33.30	32.00	33.80	32.10
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	69.20	54.10	52.60	59.10	52.40	58.00
Calves	Cwt.	83.00	63.80	62.30	61.80	62.70	59.90
Sheep	Cwt.	30.60	24.60	29.00	34.40	3/	3/
Lambs	Cwt.	67.30	80.20	80.10	76.10	3/	3/
All Milk	Cwt.	13.70	14.15	15.00	14.00	14.70	13.80

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

MONTANA 1995 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Montana alfalfa seed producers harvested 3.45 million pounds of seed in 1995, 41 percent less than last year's production. Proprietary varieties made up 59 percent of this year's production, 31 percent were common uncertified varieties, and 10 percent certified public varieties.

The 1995 alfalfa seed yield per acre was 280 pounds, down from the 1994 yield of 390 pounds. There were 12,300 acres harvested in 1995, a decrease of 18 percent from last year's total. The average price received for the 1995 crop was $1.07 per pound, up 16 cents from the average price of the 1994 crop.

ALFALFA SEED: 1995 ESTIMATES BY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS 1/

DIS-	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
TRICT	Acres	Prod	Yield	Acres	Prod	Yield	Acres	Prod	Yield
NW	100	24,000	240	100	24,000	240	0	0	0
NC	1,200	343,000	286	1,000	310,000	310	200	33,000	165
NE	1,100	318,000	289	900	279,000	310	200	39,000	195
C	700	239,000	341	600	222,000	370	100	17,000	170
SW	100	24,000	240	100	24,000	240	0	0	0
SC	3,900	1,221,000	313	2,700	1,113,000	412	1,200	108,000	90
SE	5,200	1,281,000	246	1,700	646,000	380	3,500	635,000	181
MT	**12,300**	**3,450,000**	**280**	**7,100**	**2,618,000**	**369**	**5,200**	**832,000**	**160**

1/ The alfalfa seed survey is funded by the Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee in cooperation with the Montana Department of Agriculutre.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses	Cattle on Feed
Milk Production	Egg Production
Potato Stocks	Slaughter
Annual Slaughter	Wool & Mohair

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HIGHLIGHTS

January Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
Crop Values
Farm Labor
January Milk Production
February 1 Potato Stocks
January Egg Production
Honey Production

MONTANA 1995 CROP VALUES

The value of Montana's 1995 all wheat crop rose 49% from a year ago to a record $897.4 million. Strong wheat prices along with an above average production year are responsible for the large increase. The preliminary season average price for all wheat rose to $4.60 per bushel compared with $3.45 last year.

While the season average price moved up $1.15 per bushel for winter wheat, a much smaller crop caused only a 13% increase in value. Another record spring wheat crop and an increase of $1.04 per bushel caused a record spring wheat value of $605.2 million dollars, which is 67% of the total value for all wheat. The preliminary season average price for all three types of wheat show a dramatic improvement over a year ago and are $4.60, $4.55, and $5.05 for winter, spring, and durum, respectively.

Barley's value of production also showed a large increase over last year. The value of production for the 1995 crop is estimated at $193.4 million compared with $117.2 million for 1994. Barley production increased 18% from 1994 and the season average price increased $.88 per bushel to $3.10.

The value of all hay production increased from 1994. The preliminary season average price for all hay decreased $4.50 per ton from last year to $66.50. This year's value of production is estimated at $350.2 million, up from 1994's $315.8 million.

MONTANA RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 13 PERCENT, U.S. PRODUCTION SETS JANUARY RECORD

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.9 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 1996, up 36 percent from the previous month, and up 13 percent from the same month a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 2,300 head increased 400 head from last year, and average live weight at 1,179 pounds increased 5 pounds from the year earlier.

The number of hogs slaughtered in January, at 2,300 head, decreased 500 head from last year. The average live weight decreased from 246 pounds to 240 pounds. There were 200 head of sheep slaughtered in January, the same as a year ago. The average live weight decreased by 3 pounds to 115 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.81 billion pounds during January, up 7 percent from last year and 5 percent above the previous record high for January set in 1992.

Beef production totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 10 percent from last year and slightly above the previous record high for January set in 1976. Head kill totaled 3.12 million, up 9 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from last year at 1,193 pounds. Veal production totaled 30.0 million pounds, up 11 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 143,800, up 16 percent from a year ago. The average live weight was down 24 pounds to 359 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.55 billion pounds was up 3 percent from a year earlier and 2 percent above the previous January record set in 1992. Hog kill totaled 8.29 million head, up 2 percent above January 1995. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year of 257 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 7 percent from January 1995. Slaughter totaled 363,200 head, down 6 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 126 pounds.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.90 million head on February 1, 1996.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.60 million. Net placements were 1.54 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 268,000, 600-699 pounds were 570,000, 700-799 pounds were 518,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 248,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.99 million. Other disappearance totaled 65,000 during January.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 Monthly States Up 2 Percent

Cattle on feed February 1, 1996, in the historic 7 monthly States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.30 million, up 2 percent from both the previous year and two years ago.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.37 million, 16 percent below 1995 and 3 percent below 1994. Marketings during January totaled 1.68 million, up 13 percent from a year ago and 14 percent above 1994. Other disappearance during January was 49,000 head, 17 percent below last year and 6 percent below 1994.

U.S. ALL HIRED WAGE RATE HIGHER

There were 2.46 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 7-13, 1996. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.40 million of the total, along with 348,000 unpaid workers, and 598,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 115,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.89 per hour during the January 1996 survey week, up 16 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.44 per hour compared with $6.28 last January. Field workers received an average of $6.33 per hour, up 13 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.20 per hour compared with $6.00 a year earlier.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 28.7 hours, compared to 30.8 hours in the comparable week in 1995. Unpaid workers averaged 27.7 hours, compared to 28.1 hours last year. Hired employees worked 39.1 hours during the week, compared with 37.3 last year.

Benefits were provided for 329,000 hired workers. Farm operators provided housing for 102,000, meals for 36,000, bonuses for 78,000, health insurance for 173,000, transportation for 48,000, and other benefits for 191,000 hired workers.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JANUARY 7-13, 1996 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER 3/					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	7.53	5.63	6.30	10.11	7.73	7.38	4/	6.81
Northeast II	6.53	5.54	6.04	8.45	7.39	7.19	4/	6.46
Appalachian I	5.97	6.20	6.13	10.22	7.60	6.24	4/	7.16
Appalachian II	5.41	5.93	5.62	10.17	7.38	5.70	4/	6.92
Southeast	6.00	6.13	6.04	9.64	9.05	6.18	4/	7.35
FL	6.40	6.25	6.38	12.65	11.00	6.45	6.70	10.60
Lake	6.97	5.68	5.97	10.81	8.25	6.82	4/	6.80
Cornbelt I	7.15	6.47	6.81	10.85	7.08	6.91	4/	7.82
Cornbelt II	5.89	6.23	6.10	8.87	5.96	6.10	4/	6.67
Delta	6.04	5.92	5.97	9.25	6.96	5.64	4/	7.27
Northern Plains	7.46	6.59	6.79	9.22	7.14	6.99	4/	7.34
Southern Plains	5.31	5.89	5.59	10.27	6.48	5.73	4/	6.69
Mountain I	6.75	6.31	6.42	7.31	6.25	6.08	6.50	6.80
Mountain II	6.80	6.29	6.49	8.93	9.17	6.74	4/	7.43
Mountain III	5.42	5.90	5.57	10.62	8.52	5.81	4/	7.59
Pacific	6.95	7.26	7.00	10.75	9.33	6.90	7.83	9.21
CA	6.25	7.21	6.35	11.70	10.67	6.35	7.14	10.18
HI	8.34	4/	8.34	15.17	4/	8.67	4/	13.93
US 5/	6.33	6.20	6.28	10.42	8.09	6.44	7.14	7.72

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Livestock, Supervisory, and Other published at Regional and U. S. level only. 4/ Insufficient Data. 5/ Excludes AK.

MONTANA 1995 MILK PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT, U.S. PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

Montana milk cows produced 315 million pounds of milk during 1995--a 3 percent increase from 1994. There were 21,000 milk cows producing milk in 1995, the same as a year earlier. The average pounds of milk produced per cow increased to 15,000 pounds in 1995 up from 14,619 pounds in 1994. The number of milk cow operations decreased to 900 in 1995 compared with 1,000 in 1994.

U.S. milk cows produced 155.6 billion pounds of milk during 1995, compared with 153.7 billion pounds in 1994 which is a 1 percent increase. There were 9.5 million cows producing milk in 1995, down fractionally from last year. These 9.5 million cows produced an average of 16,451 pounds of milk each up almost 2 percent from the previous year. There were 140,090 operations with milk cows in 1995, down 8,600 from the previous year.

Milk production in the 22 major States during January totaled 11.3 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same States in January 1995. December revised production, at 11.1 billion pounds was slightly less than December 1994.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,402 pounds for January, 2 pounds below January 1995. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.03 million head, 20,000 head less than January 1995 and 8,000 head less than December 1995.

During the October-December period, the 22 major States produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.3 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 13.0 billion pounds for January 1996.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS DOWN 7 PERCENT, U.S. DOWN 8 PERCENT

Montana producers stored 2.65 million cwt. of potatoes on February 1, 1996, compared with 2.86 million cwt. a year ago. The February 1 stocks represent 90 percent of 1995 production, compared with 89 percent a year earlier. Stocks are defined as the quantity of potatoes remaining in storage for all purposes whether sold or unsold and uses, including shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Most seed for use the following year is on hand and remains as part of stocks until planted.

The 15 major potato states held 185 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1996, down 8 percent from a year earlier and 1 percent below 1994. Storage accounted for 47 percent of 1995 fall production down two points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 17 percent white, and 80 percent russets with fewer russets and more whites and reds than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to February 1 was 207 million cwt of potatoes, down slightly from the same period a year earlier. Disappearance in January was 34.2 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year but 8 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 22.9 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year.

Processing increased 4 percent to 103 million cwt so far this season and was 15 percent above two years ago. In January, processors used 16.1 million cwt of potatoes, down 3 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 131 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1996, down 13 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below two years ago. Each of the Western storage States are below a year ago. Idaho is down 7 percent, Oregon fell 23 percent, and Washington dropped 24 percent. Colorado's stocks slipped 2 percent below last year. These four States account for 68 percent of US potato stocks and are down 13 percent from last year. California stored 19 percent fewer potatoes than a year earlier.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1995-96

STATE	CROP OF 1994			CROP OF 1995		
	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1995	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1996	% of PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	5,600	3,200	57	5,330	2,600	49
CO	25,795	13,700	53	23,808	13,400	56
ID	138,801	78,000	56	131,274	72,500	55
ME	18,375	9,400	51	17,160	10,400	61
MI	12,180	5,000	41	16,500	6,000	36
MN	17,755	9,400	53	20,790	10,200	49
MT	3,200	2,860	89	2,940	2,650	90
NE	3,996	1,780	45	3,680	1,880	51
NY	7,805	1,800	23	7,695	2,250	29
ND	28,200	12,500	44	25,410	11,500	45
OH	1,348	130	10	1,404	75	5
OR	27,514	15,200	55	23,760	11,700	49
PA	3,780	1,100	29	4,080	1,200	29
WA	88,920	37,500	42	80,850	28,500	35
WI	25,740	10,300	40	27,135	9,900	36
Total 15 States	409,009	201,870	49	391,816	184,755	47

U.S. JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.41 billion during January 1996, up 1 percent from the 6.37 billion produced January 1995. Production included 5.43 billion table eggs and 978 million hatching egg type, of which 919 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 1996 averaged 300 million, up slightly from the average number of layers during January 1995. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,140 eggs, compared with 2,130 in January 1995.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 1996, totaled 299 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 299 million layers consisted of 246 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 50.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.62 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1996, averaged 68.1 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from the 68.0 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.07 billion eggs during January, up 1 percent from January 1995. The average number of layers during January, at 283 million, was up slightly from the year earlier.

MONTANA HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 32 PERCENT, U.S. PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

Montana's honey producers with five or more colonies produced 8.5 million pounds in 1995, down 32 percent from the previous year. There were 106,000 colonies producing honey in 1995, compared with 119,000 in 1994. The decrease in colonies was attributed to fewer out of state colonies producing in the state, and fewer "pollinating" colonies having honey pulled off during 1995. The yield per colony decreased to 80 pounds which is 25 pounds less than 1994. The cool, wet spring and summer contributed to the lower yield. Stocks on hand December 15, 1995, totaled 1.8 million pounds, down significantly from the 3.6 million pounds in storage a year earlier.

The average price per pound received by Montana apiarists was 66 cents, up 14 cents from a year ago. The 1995 value of production for Montana's honey was 5.6 million dollars, compared with 6.5 million dollars in 1994.

U.S. honey production in 1995 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 210 million pounds, down 3 percent from 1994. There were 2.65 million colonies producing honey in 1995, compared with 2.77 million in 1994. Yield per colony averaged 79.5 pounds, up 1.1 pounds from the 78.4 pounds in 1994. Colonies which produced in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may be understated. Producer honey stocks were 42.2 million pounds on December 15, 1995, down 29 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1995 crop averaged 64.4 cents per pound, up 22 percent from the 1994 price of 52.8 cents per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting State average prices by the State quantities sold. Prices were higher for all color classes in 1995.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Alfalfa Seed Production
Wheat & Barley Movement

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS

Cattle & Calf Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Sheep & Lambs Inventory
Ag Prices Received

PLEASE ROUTE

JAN. CATTLE & CALF INVENTORY

There were 2.75 million cattle and calves in Montana on January 1, 1996, up 2 percent from a year ago. Excellent grazing conditions during most of the year resulted in more steers and other heifers that weighed more than 500 pounds on January 1 and accounted for most of the increase in total inventory. Steers weighing 500 pounds or more jumped 22 percent from the previous year to 330,000 head, while other heifers rose 15 percent to 265,000 head. In addition, continued poor prices for cattle during the past year has resulted in more cattle being backgrounded or placed on feed in the state rather than being sold or moved out of the state. No estimates of the number of cattle being backgrounded on January 1 are made. The number of cattle on feed for slaughter was 105,000 head, up 5 percent from last year.

While steer and heifer inventories were up significantly from the previous year, the number of beef cows that have calved were up only slightly to 1.59 million head from 1.58 million head the previous year. The milk cow numbers continued a 4-year decline, dropping 1,000 head to 20,000.

Beef heifer replacements dropped 30,000 head from the previous year to 330,000 head, while milk heifer replacements were equal to a year ago at 7,000 head. The number of bulls were off slightly this year at 93,000 head. The number of calves weighing less than 500 pounds showed the largest decrease in any of the inventories as calves fell 13 percent from last year to 135,000 head. This is the second lowest number of calves in inventory on January 1 because more calves entered the 500 pound plus weight groups.

The 1995 calf crop for Montana was 1.54 million head, up 3 percent from last year's 1.50 million head born. The number of all cattle operations dropped 2 percent from the previous year to 12,700, while the number of operations with beef cows increased 4 percent to 11,500 farms.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1996, totaled 103.8 million head, 1 percent above the revised 102.8 million on January 1, 1995 and 3 percent above the 101.0 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 44.7 million, were slightly above the revised 44.6 million on January 1, 1995 and 1 percent above the 44.2 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 35.3 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 1995 and 2 percent above two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.41 million, were down 1 percent from both years.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1996, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

-- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 20.1 million, up 1 percent and up 3 percent.
-- Beef replacement heifers, 6.18 million, down 4 percent and down 3 percent.
-- Milk replacement heifers, 4.11 million, down 1 percent from both years.
-- Other heifers, 9.78 million, up 5 percent and up 8 percent.
-- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 18.1 million, up 4 percent and up 6 percent.
-- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.39 million, slightly above and up 4 percent.
-- Calves under 500 pounds, 18.5 million, up 1 percent and up 4 percent.

The 1995 calf crop was estimated at 40.3 million, up slightly from the revised 1994 calf crop and up 2 percent from 1993. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 29.5 million, up 1 percent from 1994 and up 2 percent from 1993.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 1,212,110 during 1995, slightly below 1994 and 1 percent below 1993. Beef cow operations in 1995 were fractionally above 1994 and 1 percent above 1993. Milk cow operations were 6 percent below last year and 12 percent below two years ago.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 10%

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States from feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.31 million head, up 10 percent from a year ago. This inventory accounts for 81 percent of the total United States cattle and calves on feed. (See table on back page.) The inventory included 6.61 million steers and steer calves. This group accounts for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.61 million head.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.73 million. Net placements were 1.66 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 457,000, 600-699 pounds were 609,000, 700-799 pounds were 410,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 251,000. This is the first time placements by weight have been published. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.66 million. Other disappearance totaled 68,000 during December.

All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States on January 1, 1996, totaled 12.8 million head, up 3 percent from a year ago but down 2 percent from January 1, 1994.

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January 1 cattle and sheep inventory surveys. Field and telephone enumerators contacted almost 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers early in January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1994-96

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA 1995	MONTANA 1996	MONTANA '96/'95	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES 1995	UNITED STATES 1996	UNITED STATES '96/'95
		1,000 head				1,000 head		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,550	2,700	2,750	102%	100,988	102,755	103,819	101%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,500	1,580	1,590	101%	44,178	44,643	44,745	100%
Beef Cows	1,478	1,559	1,570	101%	34,650	35,156	35,333	101%
Milk Cows	22	21	20	95%	9,528	9,487	9,412	99%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	573	597	602	101%	19,577	19,891	20,068	101%
For beef cow replacement	355	360	330	92%	6,365	6,475	6,184	96%
For milk cow replacement	8	7	7	100%	4,144	4,141	4,105	99%
Other heifers	210	230	265	115%	9,068	9,275	9,779	105%
Steers 500 pounds and over	264	270	330	122%	17,042	17,463	18,082	104%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	88	98	93	95%	2,3078	2,390	2,392	100%
Calves less than 500 pounds	125	155	135	87%	17,884	18,369	18,533	101%
Cattle on Feed	110	100	105	105%	13,034	12,431	12,792	103%

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS, 1993-95

ITEM	MONTANA 1993	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA 1995	MONTANA '95/'94	UNITED STATES 1993	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES 1995	UNITED STATES '95/'94
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,440	1,500	1,540	103%	39,448	40,059	40,251	100%
Number cattle farms 1/	13,100	13,000	12,700	98%	1,229,740	1,213,690	1,212,110	100%
Operations with beef cattle 1/	11,800	11,100	11,500	104%	903,680	906,810	909,130	100%
Operations with milk cows 1/	1,100	1,000	900	90%	159,450	148,690	140,090	94%

1/ Actual number.

SHEEP and LAMBS INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1994-96

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA 1995	MONTANA 1996	MONTANA '96/'95	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES 1995	UNITED STATES 1996	UNITED STATES '96/'95
		1,000 head				1,000 head		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	532	490	465	95%	9,742	8,886	8,457	95%
Market Sheep & Lambs 1/	32	40	35	88%	2,509	2,450	2,234	91%
Sheep	4	1	2	200%	2/	103	82	80%
Lambs	28	39	33	85%	2/	2,347	2,152	92%
Breeding sheep	500	450	430	96%	7,233	6,436	6,224	97%
One year old & older								
Ewes	410	367	347	95%	5,804	5,300	5,125	97%
Rams 1/	14	12	11	92%	302	258	235	91%
Replacement Lambs	76	71	72	101%	1,127	878	863	98%

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS, 1993-95

ITEM	MONTANA 1993	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA 1995	MONTANA '95/'94	UNITED STATES 1993	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES 1995	UNITED STATES '95/'94
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	480	465	410	88%	6,379	5,897	5,604	95%
Number of sheep farms 3/	2,500	2,300	2,200	96%	93,280	87,150	82,120	94%

1/ Beginning January 1995 sheep and lambs on feed and wethers and rams were discontinued and replaced with market sheep and lambs and rams, respectively. 2/ Comparable data not available. 3/ Actual number.

ALL JANUARY SHEEP & LAMB INVENTORY DOWN

The number of sheep and lambs on Montana farms and ranches totaled 465,000 head on January 1, 1996. The sheep and lamb inventory is down 9 percent from last year, a new record low. Some producers are still downsizing their flocks or getting out of the sheep business entirely due to predator problems and the phaseout of the Wool Act.

Total breeding sheep and lambs decreased 20,000 head from last year, to 430,000. Ewes one year and older were down 5 percent, at 347,000 head. The 1995 lamb crop was down 12 percent at 410,000 head.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 35,000 head with market lambs making up 94 percent of the total. Six percent of the market lambs were under 65 pounds, 27 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 46 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 21 percent were over 105 pounds. There were 2,200 Montana sheep operations during 1995, down 100 from 1994.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1996, totaled 8.46 million head, down 5 percent from 1995 and 13 percent below two years ago. Inventory has slowly declined since 1942 when all sheep and lambs were a peak number of 56.21 million head.

Breeding sheep inventory was 6.22 million head on January 1, 1996, down 3 percent from 1995's 6.44 million head. Ewes one year old and older, at 5.13 million head, were 3 percent below last year's record low.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1996 totaled 2.23 million head, down 9 percent from January 1, 1995. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 32 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 25 percent were over 105 pounds.

The 1995 lamb crop was down 5 percent from 1994 to a record low of 5.60 million head. This compares with the previous record low of 5.90 million head set a year ago. The 1995 lambing rate was 106 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1995, compared with 102 in 1994.

The number of operations with sheep during 1995 totaled 82,120, down 6 percent from 1994 and 12 percent from 1993.

MONTANA AG PRICES UP FOR DECEMBER

Montana crop prices for the full month of December were up from the previous month, with the exception of malt barley and hay. Durum wheat climbed $1.09 to $5.73 per bushel. Winter wheat increased 9 cents to $4.68 per bushel, while spring wheat rose 8 cents to $4.51. Feed barley increased 22 cents to $2.89 per bushel, and malt barley fell 6 cents to $3.27 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices, at $67.00 per ton, fell $2.00 from November, while other hay prices, at $56.00 per ton, dropped $1.00. The all wheat price for mid-January averaged $4.54 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.13.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were higher compared with the previous month. Cow prices were up $2.00 to $32.10 per cwt and the average price for steers and heifers improved 10 cents to $62.30 per cwt. Calf prices rose $1.70 to $63.80 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $3.60 above last month at $24.60, while lamb prices climbed $2.00 to $80.20 per cwt. Milk prices increased 35 cents to $14.15 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $58.50 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $64.70 per cwt for the full month of December. Cow prices came in at $30.50 and hogs were $43.50 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.88 per bushel and $3.15 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 81.0 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 110 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (1.9 percent) from December. Price gains from December for lettuce, corn, soybeans, and broilers more than offset price declines for cattle, hogs, cottonseed, and turkeys. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also can affect the overall index level, but these changes were essentially offsetting in January. Higher relative seasonal marketings of corn, soybeans, and cattle offset the effect of relatively lower seasonal marketings of cotton, tobacco, milk, and grapes.

Compared with January 1995, the All Farm Products Index was 12 points (12 percent) higher. Higher year-over-year prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and milk more than offset lower prices for cattle, calves, cotton, and several vegetable items.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Dec. 1994	Jan. 1995	Dec. 1995	Jan. 1996
Prices Received	99	98	108	110
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/106	108	3/111	111
Ratio [1/]	93	91	97	99

[1/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2/] October 1994 prices paid index. [3/] October 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	January 15, 1996	January 15, 1996
		Dec. 1994	Nov. 1995	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.64	4.59	4.68	4.88	4.60	4.80
Durum	Bu.	5.07	4.64	5.73	5.80	5.80	5.74
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.63	4.43	4.51	4.72	4.50	4.65
All Wheat	Bu.	3.69	4.49	4.57	4.88	4.54	4.81
Barley, All	Bu.	2.27	3.05	3.05	3.15	3.13	3.23
Feed	Bu.	1.84	2.67	2.89	2.94	2.95	3.02
Malt	Bu.	2.80	3.33	3.27	3.32	3.40	3.42
Oats	Bu.	1.23	1.50	1.50	1.91	1.66	1.93
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	69.00	67.00	85.80	65.00	87.80
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	57.00	56.00	68.10	55.00	64.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	72.00	68.00	66.00	81.40	63.00	81.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	75.50	62.20	62.30	64.70	58.50	63.00
Cows	Cwt.	38.10	30.10	32.10	30.50	32.50	32.10
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	63.50	55.80	54.10	60.60	51.50	59.20
Calves	Cwt.	79.20	62.10	63.80	63.30	61.00	59.80
Sheep	Cwt.	33.10	21.00	24.60	26.10	2/	2/
Lambs	Cwt.	66.90	78.20	80.20	76.60	2/	2/
All Milk	Cwt.	13.70	13.80	14.15	13.90	15.00	13.90

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

CATTLE ON FEED: Number on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, & United States 1995-96 1/

State	Jan 1, 1995	Dec 1, 1995	Jan 1, 1996		
			Number	as % of 1995	as % of Prev. Mo.
	(000) Head			Percent	
AZ	210	224	222	106	99
CA	400	360	350	88	97
CO	966	1,031	1,050	109	102
ID	255	2/	260	102	2/
IA	365	380	375	103	99
KS	1,990	2,150	2,160	109	100
NE	1,730	1,920	1,900	110	99
NM	2/	2/	97	2/	2/
OK	375	2/	412	110	2/
SD	160	2/	190	119	2/
TX	2,370	2,620	2,610	110	100
WA	156	2/	161	103	2/
Other States	2/	2/	520	2/	2/
US	9,400	2/	10,307	110	2/

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. 2/ Missing data not available.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Labor	Potato Stocks
Honey	Crop Values
Cattle on Feed	Milk Production
Egg Production	Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Crop Production
Cherry Production
Potato Stocks
Wheat Supply Disappearance & Price
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
1995 Egg Production & Chicken Inventory

MONTANA 1995 CROP PRODUCTION SECOND LARGEST ON RECORD

Montana farmers produced the second largest wheat crop on record in 1995. The spring started out wet and cool, causing some apprehension among farmers for the lateness of the crop. Sufficient moisture and heat were able to produce above average yields by the end of the summer. The eastern portion of the state did suffer some heat damage which lowered potential yields.

Winter wheat seedings totaled 1.5 million acres, the smallest seeding since 1951. The dry fall of 1994 caused many farmers to switch to spring wheat for the 95 crop year. Farmers harvested 1.37 million acres with a average yield of 40 bushels per acre, the second highest yield on record. Total production was estimated at 54.8 million bushels, down 15% from last year.

The decrease in winter wheat acreage was made up by a large increase in other spring wheat. Farmers planted the largest other spring wheat acreage since 1953 when durum and other spring wheat were combined. There were 3.95 million acres planted with 3.8 million acres harvested. Yields average 35 bushels to the acre, also the second highest yield, only behind 1993's record. The increase in acreage and good yield produced the largest spring wheat crop ever.

Better prices resulted in a large increase in durum wheat acreage planted. Farmers seeded 270,000 acres in 1995 compared with 180,000 in 1994. Yields averaged 30 bushels to the acre on the 265,000 acres harvested. Yields, in the northeast where most of the durum is grown, were hurt by prolonged heat stress. Total production of durum was estimated at 7.95 million bushels, up 49% from the previous year.

Barley growers planted 1.3 million acres and harvested 1.2 million acres this year, both unchanged from 1994. Producers realized a yield of 52 bushels per acre, which tied with the second highest yield on record. Total production was 62.4 million bushels, up 18% from a year ago.

Oat production totaled 4.72 million bushels, up 31% from 1994. Producers harvested 80,000 acres with an average yield of 59 bushels per acre.

Farmers also realized a record year for all hay production at 5.36 million tons. Yields average 2.23 tons per acre on 2.4 million acres. Alfalfa harvested acreage accounted for 1.6 million acres of the total with a yield of 2.5 tons per acre for a record production of 4.0 million tons. Other hay harvested acreage was 800,000 acres with a yield of 1.7 tons per acre which ties the highest other hay yield record.

CHERRY PRODUCTION

Montana production of sweet cherries was estimated at 650 tons, down 100 tons from 1994. This year's crop was hit with cool wet weather during pollinating causing a decrease in total production. Utilized production totaled 540 tons--also down 100 tons. The average price was $1,340 per ton, up $140 from a year ago, for a total value of production at $721,000.

U.S. sweet cherry production in 1995 was estimated at 165,250 tons, down 20 percent from 1994. Utilized production totaled 152,850 tons. The U.S. average price was $1,260, up $220 from a year ago.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS DOWN 10 PERCENT, U.S. DOWN 8 PERCENT

Montana producers stored 2.7 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, 1996, compared with 3 million cwt. a year ago. The January 1 stocks represent 92 percent of production from the 1995 crop, compared with 94 percent a year earlier.

The **15 major potato** States held 219 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1996, down 8 percent from a year earlier but 1 percent above 1994. Storage accounted 56 percent of 1995 fall production, down 2 percent from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 18 percent white, and 79 percent russet.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1 was a record 173 million cwt. of potatoes, up 1 percent from the same period in 1995. Disappearance in December 1995 was 33.1 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year, but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 20.1 million cwt, down 5 percent from last year.

So far this season, processing increased 6 percent to 87.2 million cwt. and was 16 percent above two years ago. In December, processors used 16.2 cwt of potatoes, fractionally above a year ago and 17 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 153 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1996, down 12 percent from the previous year and 5 percent below two years ago. Each of the Western storage States were below a year ago. Idaho was down 7 percent, Oregon fell 20 percent and Washington dropped 23 percent. Colorado stocks slipped 1 percent below last January. These four States accounted for two-thirds of U.S. Potato stocks and are down 12 percent from last year. California stored 5 percent fewer potatoes than a year earlier.

MONTANA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY, 1992-95 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg Price	Value of Production	US Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		Thousands		Bushels	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Winter Wheat	1992	2,600	2,250	29.0	65,250	$3.29	$214,673	1,609,284
	1993	2,650	2,450	**42.0	102,900	3.26	335,454	1,760,143
	1994	1,950	1,850	35.0	64,750	3.65	236,338	1,661,043
	1995	1,500	1,370	40.0	54,800			1,547,311
Durum Wheat	1992	150	147	33.0	4,851	$3.06	$14,844	99,906
	1993	115	114	31.0	3,534	4.83	17,069	70,476
	1994	180	178	30.0	5,340	5.25	28,035	96,747
	1995	270	265	30.0	7,950			102,280
Other Spring Wheat	1992	2,750	2,550	31.0	79,050	$3.54	$279,837	757,608
	1993	2,800	2,700	**37.0	99,900	3.63	362,637	565,821
	1994	3,450	3,350	30.0	100,500	3.80	**381,900	562,291
	1995	3,950	3,800	35.0	**133,000			535,948
All Wheat	1992	5,500	4,947	30.1	149,151	$3.42	$509,534	2,466,798
	1993	5,565	5,264	**39.2	**206,334	3.50	**715,160	2,396,440
	1994	5,580	5,378	31.7	170,590	3.80	646,273	2,320,981
	1995	5,720	5,435	36.0	195,750			2,185,539
Barley	1992	1,350	1,200	44.0	52,800	$2.39	$126,192	455,090
	1993	1,300	1,100	**58.0	63,800	2.06	131,428	398,041
	1994	1,300	1,200	44.0	52,800	2.25	118,800	374,862
	1995	1,300	1,200	52.0	62,400			359,102
Oats	1992	165	90	56.0	5,040	$1.23	$6,199	294,229
	1993	140	85	**65.0	5,525	1.41	7,790	206,770
	1994	*140	75	48.0	3,600	1.30	4,680	229,008
	1995	145	80	59.0	4,720			161,847
Corn for Grain 2/	1992	70	25	110.0	2,750	$2.50	$6,875	9,476,698
	1993	65	8	105.0	840	2.90	2,436	6,336,470
	1994	60	20	**135.0	2,700	2.65	7,155	10,102,735
	1995	55	16	120.0	1,920			7,373,876
			Thousands	Tons	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Corn for Silage	1992	--	43	21.0	903	--	--	87,663
	1993	--	55	18.0	990	--	--	81,289
	1994	--	39	21.0	819	--	--	88,588
	1995	--	38	20.0	760	--	--	77,867
Sugar beets	1992	55.9	55.8	22.8	1,272	$43.80	$55,714	29,143
	1993	54.4	54.1	21.6	1,169	43.60	50,968	26,249
	1994	54.3	54.0	**24.2	1,307	--	--	31,853
	1995	55.7	55.5	21.5	1,193			27,954
Alfalfa Hay	1992	--	1,300	2.30	2,990	$71.50	$213,785	79,140
	1993	--	1,450	2.40	3,480	69.50	241,860	80,305
	1994	--	1,550	2.30	3,565	70.00	249,550	81,336
	1995	--	**1,600	2.50	**4,000			84,980
Other Hay	1992	--	780	1.60	1,248	$60.50	$75,504	67,763
	1993	--	780	**1.70	1,326	59.00	78,234	66,494
	1994	--	650	1.50	975	61.50	59,963	68,724
	1995	--	800	**1.70	1,360			39,806
All Hay 3/	1992	--	2,080	2.04	4,238	$69.50	$289,289	146,903
	1993	--	2,230	2.16	4,806	68.00	**320,094	146,799
	1994	--	2,200	2.06	4,540	69.00	309,513	150,060
	1995	--	2,400	**2.23	**5,360			154,786
Sweet Cherries 4/	1992	--	--	--	340	$988.00	$336	192,050
	1993	--	--	--	105	1,590.00	167	160,575
	1994	--	--	--	640	1,200.00	768	192,910
	1995	--	--	--	540			152,850
			Thousands	Cwt.	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Fall Potatoes 5/	1992	8.6	8.5	290.0	2,465	$8.40	$20,706	425,367
	1993	9.1	9.0	300.0	2,700	8.95	24,165	428,693
	1994	10.0	10.0	**320.0	**3,200	8.20	**26,240	467,924
	1995	9.8	9.8	300.0	2,940			442,309
Dry Beans	1992	10.2	9.5	19.1	181	$19.10	$3,457	22,615
	1993	12.0	11.0	14.1	155	27.30	4,232	21,913
	1994	10.2	10.0	22.0	220	16.90	3,718	29,028
	1995	11.0	10.8	19.0	205			31,032

1/ All estimates for 1995 are preliminary and season average price and value of production not available 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes 3/ Price of baled hay 4/ Utilized production in actual tons 5/ U.S. totals are for all potatoes *Record low **Record high

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1980-1995

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1980 ...	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.99
1981 ...	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 ...	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 ...	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 ...	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 ...	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 ...	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 ...	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 ...	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ...	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 ...	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,375	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 ...	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,135	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 ...	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,150	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 ...	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 ...	568	2,321	92	2,981	852	89	345	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 .. 3/	507	2,186	85	2,777	860	106	200	1,166	1,225	2,391	386	4.30-4.50

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 1996--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

MONTANA DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UNCHANGED, U. S. PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

During the October - December quarter, Montana milk cows produced 79 million pounds of milk, unchanged from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers dropped 1,000 head from last year to 20,000 head.

Grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on January 1 averaged 18 pounds per day, the same as a year earlier. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $7.80 per cwt., up $0.75 from January 1, 1995.

Milk production in the 22 major States during December totaled 11.1 billion pounds, slightly above production in these same States in December 1994. November revised production, at 10.6 billion pounds, was slightly more than November 1994.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,373 pounds for December, 3 pounds above December 1994. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.08 million head, 12,000 head less than December 1994 and 6,000 head less than November 1995.

During the October-December period, the 22 major States produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.3 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.8 billion pounds for October, 12.3 billion pounds for November, and 12.8 billion pounds for December 1995.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.9 billion pounds, slightly below the October-December period in 1994. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.49 million head 37,000 less than the same period a year earlier.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1996, averaged 18.8 pounds per cow, 0.1 pound less than January 1, 1995. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $8.51 per hundredweight, $0.85 more than January 1, 1995.

MONTANA AND U.S. DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION DROPS

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 1995, 6 percent below the previous month and 17 percent below the previous year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, was 300 head below last year. The average weight was 1,175, up 19 pounds from a year ago.

There were 2,000 hogs slaughtered in Montana during December, down 1,000 head from a year ago. The average live weight was 241 pounds, down 6 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter fell 100 head from last year to 300 head, while the average live weight increased 4 pounds to 115 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled 3.55 billion pounds during December, 5 percent below last year. Beef production totaled 1.99 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Head kill totaled 2.81 million, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight, at 1,193 pounds, was up 4 pounds from last year.

Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds, unchanged from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 128,700, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 15 pounds to 354 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.51 billion pounds, was down 8 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 8.06 million head, 8 percent below December 1994. The average live weight was down 3 pounds to 257 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 11 percent from December 1994. Slaughter totaled 370,800 head, down 13 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 126 pounds.

January-December red meat production was 43.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production rose 3 percent, veal jumped 8 percent, pork was up 1 percent, but lamb and mutton dropped 7 percent.

1995 EGG PRODUCTION & CHICKEN INVENTORY

Montana chickens produced 104 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 1995. This is up 5 percent from last year. Our state averaged 381,000 layers in 1995, compared with 374,000 the previous year. The annual average production per layer on hand was 273 eggs, up 3 percent from a year ago.

There were 540,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 1995, compared with 510,000 on hand last year. The December 1, 1995 inventory included 288,000 layers 20 weeks old, 43,000 between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 106,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1995, was 1.35 million dollars, down 2 percent from the previous December. The average value per bird dropped 20 cents from last year to $2.50.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1995 totaled 74.3 billion eggs, up fractionally from the previous year's total of 73.9 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1995 averaged 294 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1995 was 253 eggs, compared with the 1994 average of 254 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 1995 (excluding commercial broilers) was 384 million head, up fractionally from last year.

Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older, but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 1995, totaled 331 million, virtually unchanged from December 1, 1994. Of the 331 million potential layers, 90 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older, but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1995 was $916 million, up 2 percent from December 1, 1994. The average value increased from $2.35 per bird on December 1, 1994 to $2.38 per bird on December 1, 1995.

NATION'S DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

U.S. egg production totaled 6.53 billion during December 1995, up slightly from the 6.52 billion produced December 1994. Production included 5.56 billion table eggs and 975 million hatching egg type, of which 919 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 1995 averaged 299 million, down slightly from the average number of layers during December 1994. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,185 eggs, compared with 2,176 in December 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 1996, totaled 300 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 300 million layers consisted of 247 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 50.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.56 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 1996, averaged 69.9 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 70.0 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.18 billion eggs during December, up slightly from December 1994. The average number of layers during December, at 283 million, was down slightly from the year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed	Cattle Inventory
Ag Prices Received	
Sheep & Lamb Inventory	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Hay Stocks
Late Season Crops
December 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Hog & Pig Inventory

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS

Montana farmers experienced much better seeding conditions for the 1996 winter wheat crop compared with last year. For the most part there was adequate moisture which allowed farmers to plant a more normal amount of winter wheat. Estimated total winter wheat seedings for 1996 are set at 2.25 million acres, up 50% or 750,000 acres from last year's revised 1.5 million acres. These projected seedings are still slightly below the last 10-year average of 2.3 million. Planting started out slightly behind normal as farmers in some areas waited for moisture, when the moisture did arrive, conditions allowed seeding to go ahead of normal and be 98% complete as of October 1. The winter wheat condition seems to be in very good shape. As of December 31, producers rated the crop as 7% poor, 19% fair, 73% good, and 1% excellent.

U.S. winter wheat seedings for 1996 harvest are expected to total 52.0 million acres, up 7% from 1995. This is the largest acreage since 1990. About 98% of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1.

Hard red winter wheat, at 35.8 million acres, is also up 6% from 1995 mainly due to jumps in Montana and South Dakota. Seeding of hard red was generally slowed by dryness in the Plains, except in Oklahoma, where September wetness delayed the start. Seeding into last spring's idled acres was common in South Dakota. The dry conditions may have prevented some Kansas planting, and has curtailed grazing in Oklahoma and the Texas High Plains.

MONTANA 1995 WHEAT CROP

Montana 1995 winter wheat plantings are set at 1.5 million acres, revised down 100,000 acres from September's figure. Harvested acres are set at 1.37 million acres also down 80,000 from September. Average yields remain at 40 bushels per acre for a total production of 54.8 million bushels. Spring wheat planted acreage increased to 3.95 million acres and harvested acreage increased to 3.8 million acres. Spring wheat yields remain at 35 bushels per acre for a total production of 133 million bushels. Durum wheat acreage did not change and remains at 270,000 acres planted and 265,000 acres harvested. Yields averaged 30 bushels per acre for a total production of 7.95 million bushels.

LATE SEASON CROPS

Corn growers in Montana harvested 16,000 acres of corn for grain, down from 20,000 last year, while harvested acreage for silage is set at 38,000 acres--slightly below 1994. Corn for grain yields were down 15 bushels from last year's record yield and are estimated at 120 bushels per acre. This year started out cool and wet holding yields down slightly. Corn for silage yield is estimated at 20 tons per acre, down 1 ton from a year ago.

U.S. corn for grain production was estimated at 7.37 billion bushels, down 27% from the record high 1994 crop of 10.1 billion bushels. The U.S. yield of 113.5 bushels per acre was down 25.1 bushels from the record high of last year.

Montana **sugar beet** producers harvested 55,500 acres--up 1,500 from 1994. Total sugar beet production is estimated at 1.2 million tons, down nearly 9% from last year's record production. The season started out cool and wet ending up in a late harvest. Average yield, at 21.5 tons per acre, was down 2.7 tons per acre from last year's record yield.

U.S. production of sugar beets in 1995 totaled 28.0 million tons, down 12% from last year's output. Yield per acre averaged 19.7 tons, down 2.4 tons from the previous year. Area harvested totaled 1.42 million acres, down 2% from last year.

Dry bean growers in Montana produced an estimated 205 thousand cwt. of dry beans in 1995, down 7% from last year. Producers harvested 10,800 acres, up 800 acres from last year.

U.S. dry edible bean production is estimated at 31.0 million cwt. in 1995, a gain of 7% from 1994 and 42% above 1993. This is the largest bean crop since 1991. Farmers harvested 1.90 million acres, up 3% from 1994 and 17% above 1993. The average yield, at 1,634 pounds per acre, increased 52 pounds from 1994.

Montana **hay** growers harvested 2.4 million acres of all hay in 1995, up 9% compared with a year ago. All hay average yield totaled 2.23 tons per acre for a total production of 5.36 million tons. Alfalfa harvested acreage is set at 1.6 million acres with an average yield of 2.5 tons per acre for a total production of 4.0 million tons. Other hay harvested acreage totaled 800,000 acres with an average yield of 1.7 tons per acre for a total production of 1.36 million tons.

All hay production for the U.S. was estimated at 155 million tons, 3% above the previous year's total and 5% above the output of two years ago. The average yield per acre was 2.59 tons, slightly above the 2.55 ton average in 1994.

Montana **hay stocks** were estimated at 4.93 million tons on December 1. This is a 25% increase from last year's 3.95 million tons. The large increase in stocks is due mainly to the 18% increase in all hay production from last year.

U.S. stocks of all hay on farms totaled 110 million tons on December 1, 1995, 4% above the stocks of one year earlier.

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DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks on December 1, 1995 amounted to 129 million bushels, 9 percent less than last year's inventory. This year's December inventory is 7 percent below the 10-year average. All wheat disappearance in the September through November quarter was 78 percent more than the 10-year average.

Barley stocks, in all locations on December 1, amounted to 33.5 million bushels down 17 percent from last December. Oat stocks, at 4.44 million bushels, are up 46 percent from last year.

U.S. all wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 1995 is estimated at 1.34 billion bushels, down 10 percent from December 1, 1994. This is the lowest December 1 total since the reference date was changed in the 1986-87 marketing year.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 1995 totaled 71.0 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year earlier.

Barley stored in all positions on December 1, 1995, is estimated at 240 million bushels, down 14 percent from the stocks of December 1, 1994.

Oats stored in all positions on December 1, 1995, is estimated at 153 million bushels, down 20 percent from the stocks of December 1, 1994.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

District	All Wheat			Barley		
	Dec. 1, 1994	Sept 1, 1995*	Dec. 1, 1995	Dec. 1, 1994	Sept. 1, 1995*	Dec. 1, 1995
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	1.4	1.8	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.0
North Central	65.4	97.4	66.1	17.6	25.4	14.6
Northeast	44.1	47.7	30.7	6.1	4.5	4.0
Central	16.5	25.3	17.4	7.9	12.4	7.1
Southwest	2.1	4.9	2.7	2.3	3.9	2.6
South Central	6.3	11.3	6.9	2.7	4.4	3.4
Southeast	6.2	7.1	4.1	2.1	1.1	0.8
STATE	142.0	195.5	129.0	40.2	53.5	33.5

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1994	Sept. 1, 1995*	Dec. 1, 1995	% Chg. '95/'94	Dec. 1, 1994	Sept. 1, 1995*	Dec. 1, 1995
	Thousand bushels				Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	115,000	170,000	105,000	91%	570,550	743,600	477,000
Off Farms 1/	27,000	25,500	24,000	89%	920,554	1,137,499	860,863
TOTAL	142,000	195,500	129,000	91%	1,491,104	1,881,099	1,337,863
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	38,200	40,000	24,000	63%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	12,900	10,200	10,000	78%	--	--	--
TOTAL	51,100	50,200	34,000	67%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	76,800	130,000	81,000	105%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	14,100	15,300	14,000	99%	--	--	--
TOTAL	90,900	145,300	95,000	105%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	44,428	72,560	47,220
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	21,113	24,655	23,736
TOTAL	4,500	6,970	5,920	132%	65,541	97,215	70,956
BARLEY							
On Farms	33,000	47,000	26,000	79%	166,300	198,900	121,400
Off Farms 1/	7,200	6,500	7,500	104%	112,560	113,624	118,712
TOTAL	40,200	53,500	33,500	83%	278,860	312,524	240,112
OATS							
On Farms	2,800	4,500	4,300	154%	113,400	107,200	87,200
Off Farms 1/	240	160	140	58%	78,664	72,967	65,744
TOTAL	3,040	4,660	4,440	146%	192,064	180,167	152,944
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	5,417,500	740,900	3,960,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,662,980	816,940	2,140,852
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	8,080,480	1,557,840	6,100,852

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA AG PRICES MIXED FOR NOVEMBER

Montana crop prices for the full month of November were mixed with spring wheat, barley and alfalfa prices up. Spring wheat increased 6 cents to $4.43 per bushel. All barley went up 17 cents to average $3.05, but oats decreased a penny to $1.49 per bushel. Durum wheat fell 28 cents to $4.64 per bushel and winter wheat dropped 4 cents to $4.59 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices rose $3.00 to $69.00 per ton, but other hay prices decreased $1.00 to $57.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-December averaged $4.82 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.20.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were lower compared with the previous month. Cow prices dropped $2.30 to $30.10 per cwt. and steers and heifers slipped 80 cents to average $62.20 per cwt. Calf prices fell $2.70 to $62.10 per cwt. Sheep prices averaged $21.00 per cwt, $2.30 lower than the previous month. Lamb prices were $2.20 below last months price at $78.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December were $62.40 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $65.20 cwt. for the full month of November. Cow prices came in at $29.70 and hogs were $39.90 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.82 per bushel and $3.09 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 76 cents per dozen.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 107 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (0.9 percent) from November. Price gains from November for corn, hogs, soybeans, and eggs more than offset price declines for broilers, turkeys, lemons, and lettuce. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also can affect the overall index level, but these changes were essentially offsetting in December. Higher relative seasonal marketings of wheat, tobacco, milk, and cotton offset the effect of relatively lower seasonal marketings of cattle, corn, soybeans, and grapes.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Nov. 1994	Dec. 1994	Nov. 1995	Dec. 1995
Prices Received	95	98	106	107
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/106	2/106	3/109	3/109
Ratio [1/]	90	92	97	98

[1/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2/] October 1994 prices paid index. [3/] October 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	December 15, 1995	December 15, 1995
		Nov. 1994	Oct. 1995	Nov. 1995	Nov. 1995		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.54	4.63	4.59	4.79	4.80	4.92
Durum	Bu.	4.90	4.92	4.64	5.63	5.10	5.41
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.50	4.37	4.43	4.61	4.75	4.78
All Wheat	Bu.	3.58	4.46	4.49	4.82	4.82	4.92
Barley, All	Bu.	2.26	2.88	3.05	3.09	3.20	3.15
Feed	Bu.	1.84	2.56	2.67	2.82	2.90	2.91
Malt	Bu.	2.73	3.11	3.33	3.30	3.50	3.40
Oats	Bu.	1.35	1.50	1.49	1.69	1.50	1.74
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	66.00	69.00	87.30	67.00	85.60
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	58.00	57.00	62.20	56.00	64.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	71.00	65.00	68.00	81.00	66.00	80.30
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	77.30	63.00	62.20	65.20	62.40	64.80
Cows	Cwt.	35.90	32.40	30.10	29.70	31.60	30.40
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	69.00	57.20	55.80	60.70	55.00	60.60
Calves	Cwt.	79.60	64.80	62.10	64.00	63.60	63.30
Sheep	Cwt.	30.90	23.30	21.00	23.90	24.30	25.20
Lambs	Cwt.	66.90	80.40	78.20	77.00	80.50	77.70
All Milk	Cwt.	13.90	13.55	13.80	13.90	14.20	13.90

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

MONTANA HOG INVENTORY DOWN 14 PERCENT

There were 180,000 hogs in Montana's inventory on December 1, 1995 down 14 percent from last December's total. The breeding herd was reduced to 19,000 compared with 22,000 on hand December 1, 1994 and market hogs and pigs accounted for 161,000 head, down from 188,000 last December 1. The 1995 pig crop was estimated at 372,000, down significantly from the 403,000 produced in 1994. There were 900 operations with hogs and pigs during 1995, up from 700 operations in 1994.

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1995 was 60.2 million head, slightly above December 1994, but 1 percent below the September 1, 1995 inventory. This is the highest December inventory since 1980. Breeding inventory, at 7.13 million head, was up 1 percent from both December 1, 1994 and September 1, 1995. Market hog inventory, at 53.1 million head, was slightly above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 1995 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 1994 and 4 percent more than 1993. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, only 9,000 head below last year. Litter rate increases continue at a record level with an average of 8.34 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period. Last year the litter rate averaged 8.18 pigs per litter. Hot weather late last summer did not significantly reduce farrowings or litter rates. This is largely due to increased production by larger operations with environmentally controlled facilities which minimize the affects of adverse weather. In addition, market hog prices, relative to corn prices, provided little incentive for herd reduction. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.45 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.64 for operations with more than 2,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.92 million sows farrow during the December 1995-February 1996 quarter, 1 percent more than the actual farrowings during the same period last year and 199[illegible] Intended farrowings for March-M[illegible] 1996, at 3.31 million sows, are 2 percent above 1995, but 2 percent below the 1994 period. The December-May intentions utilize 87.4 percent of the breeding herd, compared with 87.0 for actual farrowings last year and the 5-year average of 86.7 percent.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 182,700 during 1995, down 12 percent from last year and 19 percent below 1993. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 3 percent of the operations and 43 percent of the inventory. A year ago 2 percent of the operations had inventories over 2,000 head and accounted for 37 percent of the inventory. Considering all hog operations, currently 6 percent control 60 percent of the total inventory.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Annual Crop Production
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price
- Slaughter
- Egg Production
- Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
November Red Meat Production
Potato Production
November Egg Production
U.S. November Milk Production

CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 9.07 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago but down 3 percent from December 1, 1993.

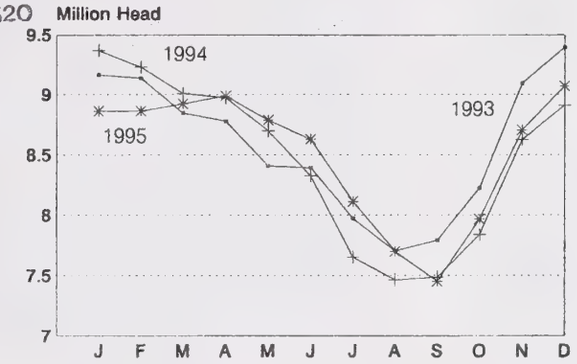
Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.00 million, 8 percent above 1994 and 6 percent above 1993. Net placements of 1.94 million for November were up 9 percent from last year and 1993.

Marketings during November totaled 1.57 million, up 5 percent from 1994 and up 7 percent from 1993. This is the largest November marketings since 1978. Other disappearance during November was 61,000 head, 14 percent below 1994 and 44 percent below 1993.

Cattle on Feed in 1000+ Capacity Feedlots Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed December 1, 1995, for the 7 States in the feedlots with 1,000 or more head capacity totaled 8.44 million head, up 4 percent from the previous year and 1 percent above 1993. The inventory in the 1,000+ capacity feedlots accounted for 93 percent of the total inventory.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



NOVEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.48 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 1995, down 10 percent from last year. During November, 1,700 head of cattle were slaughtered, the same as a year ago. The average live weight of 1,182 pounds was down 5 pounds from 1994.

There were 2,100 hogs slaughtered during November, down 900 head from last year. The average live weight decreased 6 pounds to 244 pounds. The total number of sheep slaughtered during the month decreased 100 head from a year ago to 300 head. The average live weight decreased 1 pound from the previous year to 114 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.75 billion pounds during November, 2 percent above the previous November record set in 1994.

Beef production totaled 2.09 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Head kill totaled 2.97 million, also up 6 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight at 1,188 pounds was down 3 pounds from last year.

Veal production totaled 27.0 million pounds, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 129,000, up 10 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 16 pounds to 356 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.61 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 8.60 million head, 2 percent below November 1994. The average live weight was down 3 pounds to 258 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 5 percent from November 1994. Slaughter totaled 377,900 head, down 7 percent from a year earlier . The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 124 pounds.

January-November red meat production was 39.9 billion pounds up 3 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent, veal was up 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 7 percent.

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA POTATO PRODUCTION AND DECEMBER 1, STOCKS DOWN 8 PERCENT

Montana's 1995 potato production at 2.94 million cwt. is 8 percent below production a year ago. Cool wet weather at planting time and at the end of summer contributed to the lower production and to smaller size potatoes. Stocks on hand December 1 amounted to 2.8 million cwt. which is 95 percent of production and an 8 percent decrease from last year.

Montana growers planted and harvested 9,800 acres of potatoes in 1995 which is a 2 percent decrease from 1994. The average yield at 300 cwt. per acre decreased 20 cwt. per acre compared with last year.

The 15 major potato States held 252 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1995, including 2.05 million cwt of potatoes stored in areas of Michigan and Minnesota that were not counted last year. Comparable stocks (by subtracting 2.05 million cwt this year) are down 8 percent from a year earlier and 1 percent less than two years ago. Storage accounted for 64 percent of 1995 fall production compared with 66 percent in 1994. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 20 percent white, and 77 percent russet, with more whites and fewer russets than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record high 140 million cwt, up 2 percent from the same period in 1994. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 18.3 million cwt, down 1 percent from the 18.6 million cwt lost in 1994 but 5 percent above the 17.5 million cwt lost from the 1993 crop. Processing is heavy, with 71.0 million cwt taken by fryers and dehydrators in eight major States so far this season. This is a gain of 7 percent over a year ago and 16 percent above 1993.

Western States held 174 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1995, off 11 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below 1993. Oregon dropped 21 percent and Washington was off 18 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks were down 6 percent. These three States cover 86 percent of Western stocks with a combined drop of 11 percent from last year. Colorado's stocks were down 4 percent from a year ago and California's storage was down 10 percent.

Production of fall potatoes in 1995 is estimated at 402 million cwt, the second largest fall potato crop produced in the United States, after last year's record large crop. Comparable percent change (with the addition of summer crops from Michigan and Minnesota) places this crop 5 percent below 1994 but 3 percent above 1993. Area harvested, at 1.21 million acres, is down slightly from last year. The average yield is estimated at 334 cwt per acre, down 18 cwt from last year and 6 cwt below two years ago. Planting and harvest were late in most States resulting in smaller crops than last year.

Ten Western States produced 275 million cwt in 1995, down 8 percent from the last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Acreage for harvest at 716,100 acres, was down 3 percent, while the average yield of 384 cwt per acre dropped 21 cwt from a year ago. Idaho's production of 131 million cwt is the second largest on record, 5 percent below last year. Open fall weather allowed potatoes to put on extra weight in the latter part of the season. Production in Washington dropped 9 percent below the last two years as blight hurt yields in the southern Basin. Oregon's production slid 14 percent from last year but remained 3 percent above two years ago. Blight damage cut sharply into production potential of Idaho and Oregon's Treasure Valley. The late start and early frost reduced Colorado's potato crop 8 percent from their record high last year. Weather problems in California, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico contributed to smaller crops than a year ago. Nevada was the only Western State with a larger crop than a year ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1994-95

STATE	CROP OF 1994			CROP OF 1995		
	Production	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1994	Percent of Production	Production	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1995	Percent of Production
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	5,600	4,200	75	5,330	3,800	71
CO	25,795	18,900	73	23,808	18,200	76
ID	138,801	100,500	72	131,274	94,000	72
ME	18,375	13,400	73	17,160	13,800	80
MI	12,180	7,600	62	16,500	9,000	55
MN	17,755	12,500	70	20,790	13,500	65
MT	**3,200**	**3,040**	**95**	**2,940**	**2,800**	**95**
NE	3,996	2,300	58	3,680	2,530	69
NY	7,805	4,200	54	7,965	4,100	51
ND	28,200	19,300	68	25,410	17,000	67
OH	1,348	350	26	1,404	300	21
OR	27,514	20,300	74	23,760	16,100	68
PA	3,780	2,200	58	4,080	2,400	59
WA	88,920	47,500	53	80,850	39,000	48
WI	25,740	15,600	61	27,135	15,500	57
Total 15 State	409,009	271,890	66	392,086	252,030	64

1/ Stocks in 1995 included 2.05 million cwt from former summer area of MI and MN.

NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.21 billion during November 1995, down 1 percent from the 6.27 billion produced November 1994. Production included 5.28 billion table eggs and 933 million hatching egg type, of which 878 million were broiler-type and 55.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1995 averaged 295 million, down 1 percent from the average number of layers during November 1994. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,107 eggs, compared with 2,113 in November 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1995, totaled 297 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 297 million layers consisted of 244 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 50.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1995, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from the 70.7 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.87 billion eggs during November, down 1 percent from November 1994. The average number of layers during November, at 279 million, was also down 1 percent from the year earlier.

U.S. NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

Milk production in the 22 major States during November totaled 10.6 billion pounds, slightly above the production in these same States in November 1994. October revised production, at 11.0 billion pounds was slightly more than the previous year. Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,315 pounds for November, 3 pounds above a year ago.

The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.09 million head, 9,000 head less than both November 1994 and October 1995.

During the July-September period, the 22 major States produced 33.3 billion pounds of milk, 86.6 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.3 billion pounds for November 1995.

WHEAT STOCKS DOWN

Projected 1995/96 U.S. ending stocks of wheat are down 10 million bushels from last month, as lower food use only partially offsets a 15-million-bushel reduction in imports. The projected price range is up 5 cents on the low end but down 5 cents on the high end to $4.25 to $4.45 per bushel.

Global 1995/96 production, consumption, and ending stocks projections are down slightly from last month, largely because of a 2.5-million-ton reduction in Russia's wheat crop. However, production is higher for Canada because of an upward revision by Statistics Canada. Projected exports are up from last month for Canada and Eastern Europe, but lower for the EU-15. On the import side, larger expected imports by China and Russia more than offset reductions for the United States and a few other countries.

U.S. WHEAT SUPPLY AND USE 1/

Item	1993/94	1994/95 Est.	1995/96 Projections	
			November	December
Area		Million Acres		
Planted	72.2	70.3	69.1	69.1
Harvested	62.7	61.8	60.9	60.9
Yield per harvested acre	38.2	Bushels 37.6	35.9	35.9
		Million Bushels		
Beginning stocks	531	568	507	507
Production	2,396	2,321	2,183	2,183
Imports	109	92	100	85
Supply, total	3,036	2,981	2,790	2,775
Food	872	852	865	860
Seed	96	89	105	105
Feed and residual	272	345	225	225
Domestic, total	1,240	1,287	1,195	1,190
Exports	1,228	1,188	1,200	1,200
Use, total	2,467	2,475	2,395	2,390
Ending stocks	568	507	395	385
Farmer-owned reserve 2/	6	0	0	0
CCC inventory	150	142	142	142
Free stocks	412	365	253	243
Outstanding loans	67	64	25	25
Avg. Farm price ($/bu.) 3/	3.26	3.45	4.20-4.50	4.25-4.45

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding. 1/ Marketing year beginning June 1. 2/ Entry of 1995 crop into the farmer-owned reserve will not be assumed unless announced. 3/ Marketing-year weighted average price received by farmers.

featuring... **RAVALLI COUNTY**

The entire western boundary and half of the southern boundary of Ravalli County comprise a part of the Montana-Idaho border. The county occupies 1,532,351 acres of land in western Montana. Much of this land is the Bitterroot National Forest. The Bitterroot River runs through the center of the county from its northern to its southern border, through what is known as the Bitterroot Valley. The Bitterroot mountain range, which is part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area lies on the western border of the county. Hamilton is the county seat.

Hay is the major crop grown and ranked the county 12th in all hay production for the 1994 crop year. Some wheat, barley and oats are also grown. These crops brought the county rankings of 50th, 46th, and 23rd, respectively, in 1994 production.

Ravalli County was 33rd in the state for sheep numbers and 31st for all cattle and calves on January 1, 1995. Hog numbers on December 1, 1994 put the county in 35th place in the state. This area has an average annual precipitation of 13.27 inches. The high mountain ranges on either side of the Bitterroot Valley provide protection and afford the county a mild, constant climate.

Cash receipts from livestock and livestock products contributed $18,266,000 and a rank of 24th in 1993, while crops amounted to $3,754,000 and a rank of 39th among the counties. Government payments added $378,000 for a total cash receipt return of $22,398,000 and 36th place in 1993.

Ravalli County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,532,351	Total Cropland	Acres	84,869
Land in Farms	Acres	241,655	Harvested Cropland	Acres	40,429
Number of Farms		937	Irrigated Land	Acres	65,717
Average size Farms	Acres	258			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	34,709	All Cattle &		
Wheat for Grain	Acres	2,119	Calves	No. Head	42,367
Barley for Grain	Acres	2,694	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	5,729
Oats for Grain	Acres	751	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,555

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs
Hay Stocks
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Winter Wheat Seedings

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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"Happy Holidays"

from all of us at the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service! As 1995 comes to a close, we should take a moment to reflect on what has happened this year. Farmers in Montana planted the smallest winter wheat acreage since 1951 and the largest spring wheat acreage since 1953. Spring moisture conditions were ideal, producing the second largest wheat crop on record. There must be some truth to the saying "RAIN MAKES GRAIN!" Nineteen ninety-five put Montana's grain producers in a win-win position with a good quality crop, high grain prices and an abundant crop. Grain producers have a great deal to be thankful for, while 1995 was challenging for the cattle industry as prices continued to go down.

Congress continues to work on the 1995 Farm Bill, which will help mold the future of American agriculture. No matter what happens with the Farm Bill, unbiased agricultural statistics will still be important in meeting new challenges and making informed decisions concerning agriculture's future.

To everyone involved in Montana's agriculture, thanks for your continued support. Because of the voluntary cooperation of Montana's farmers and ranchers we can provide sound statistical facts ensuring that basic agricultural information is available about Montana's number one industry.

We sincerely hope you and your family have a wonderful and safe holiday season and 1996 is a good year for Montana agriculture.

USDA TO CHANGE CATTLE ON FEED REPORTS

Beginning in January 1996, a monthly **Cattle on Feed** report covering feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head will replace the current 7- and 13-state reports. The new report will include estimates of on-feed inventories, placements, marketings, and other disappearance for 12 major States and a U.S. total each month. A breakout of steers, heifers, and cows and bulls on feed at the beginning of each quarter also will be published for the 12 major States and the U.S.

USDA will continue to publish the current 7-State (AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NC, TX) estimate series for feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head. This series was first introduced in 1992. The 12 States that will be reported individually on a monthly basis include the 7 States plus (ID, NM, OK, SD, WA). In addition, five states (IL, MI, MN, MT, WY) will be estimated and combined as other states in the U.S. total.

These changes should enhance the amount and frequency of data available to producers, analysts, and others interested in the cattle feeding business. Fewer feedlots will be surveyed each month, but the reports still will cover approximately 80 percent of the inventory on feed. A breakout of on-feed inventories for each State will continue to be reported each January 1.

USDA plans to continue reporting the proportion of cattle marketed by size of feedlot for each of the major States in the survey annually, and is exploring the possibility of including placement weight data in its monthly publication. Source: Cattle and Sheep Outlook, November 13, 1995

HOW THE FOOD DOLLAR IS SPENT

Food prepared away from home accounts for nearly half of the food expenditures by U.S. businesses, government, and individuals, with 53 percent spent on food prepared at home. While the away-from-home expenditure has continually increased since the 1990-91 recession, competition among food retailers and restaurants (full-service and fast-food) has helped to moderate price increases.

Total food expenditures rose 4.5 percent in 1994 over 1993 expenditures. Gains in food purchased away from home led the way, rising 5.9 percent to $301.3 billion, while spending for food at home rose 3.4 percent to $341.1 billion.

Food expenditures as a percentage of disposable personal income continue to fall each year, leaving income available for other purchases. In 1994, only 10.7 percent of a family's or individual's disposable income was spent on food, compared with 11.8 percent in 1990. Source: Agricultural Outlook, October 1995.

U.S. MEAT EXPORTS ON UPSWING

Exports now account for a larger share of U.S. red meat and poultry sales than was true just a few years ago. In 1996, the U.S. is projected to export about 9 percent (6.9 billion lbs.) of its total red meat and poultry production, up from 4 percent in 1990. Record supplies, low prices, and some easing in trade restrictions in certain markets are behind much of the growth. These expanding sales are preventing U.S. prices from dropping further in the face of record domestic supplies.

During the first half of 1995, the U.S. became a net exporter of pork, poultry exports continue to grow at a double-digit rate, and the beef trade deficit narrowed considerably. Exports of each of these commodities are projected to post a 50-year record in 1995 and 1996, although the rate of growth for 1996 would be smaller than this year. The U.S. is projected to continue as a net exporter of pork in both 1995 and 1996. Source: Agricultural Outlook, October 1995.

U.S. LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS--MARKET OUTLOOK

		Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption		Primary Market Price
								Total	Per capita	
		---- Million lbs. ----							Lbs.	$/cwt.
Beef	1995	548	25,072	2,120	27,740	1,745	475	25,520	67.9	65-66
	1996	475	25,858	2,125	28,458	1,805	475	26,178	69.0	62-68
Pork	1995	438	17,945	690	19,073	731	405	17,937	52.9	41-42
	1996	405	18,438	680	19,523	740	400	18,383	53.7	37-40
										cents/lb.
Broilers*	1995	458	25,107	0	25,565	3,644	475	21,446	71.8	55-56
	1996	475	26,622	0	27,097	4,015	530	22,552	74.8	50-54
Turkeys	1995	254	5,166	0	5,421	248	350	4,823	18.3	64-65
	1996	350	5,341	0	5,691	258	300	5,133	19.3	58-63

Based on September 12, 1995 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates. * Cold storage stocks previously classified as "other chicken" are now included with broiler stocks.

PRICES RECEIVED MOSTLY HIGHE

Montana crop prices for the full month of October were higher with the exception of durum wheat and alfalfa hay. Durum wheat fell 15 cents to $4.92 per bushel, but spring wheat jumped 39 cents to $4.37 per bushel. Winter wheat rose 38 cents to $4.63. All barley increased 30 cents to $2.88 per bushel and oats went up a nickel to $1.50 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices remained at $66.00 per ton, but other hay prices rose $5.00 to $58.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-November averaged $4.61 per bushel, while the all barley price was $3.39.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were lower compared with the previous month, except for milk prices. Cow prices fell $3.00 to $32.40 per cwt. and steers and heifers dropped $1.20 to average $63.00 per cwt. Calf prices decreased 70 cents to $64.80 per cwt. The average sheep price dropped $3.10 to $23.30 per cwt. and lamb prices came in at $80.40, $3.60 below the previous month. Milk prices increased 60 cents to $13.55 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November averaged $62.60 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $62.30 cwt. for the full month of October. Cow prices came in at $32.40 and hogs were $45.60 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.73 per bushel and $2.91 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 66.5 cents per dozen.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 105 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from October. Price gains from October for cattle, potatoes, corn, and soybeans more than offset price declines for hogs, lettuce, oranges, and lemons. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also can affect the overall index level, but these changes were essentially offsetting in November. Higher relative seasonal marketings of cattle, milk, cotton, and cottonseed offset the effect of relatively lower seasonal marketings of potatoes, peanuts, soybeans, and sorghum.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Oct. 1994	Nov. 1994	Oct. 1995	Nov. 1995
Prices Received	95	95	104	105
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	106	2/106	109	3/109
Ratio [1/]	90	90	95	96

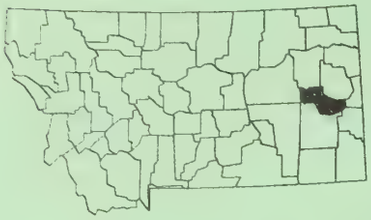
[1/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2/] October 1994 prices paid index. [3/] October 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	November 15, 1995	November 15, 1995
		Oct. 1994	Sept. 1995	Oct. 1995	Oct. 1995		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.49	4.25	4.63	4.72	4.75	4.79
Durum	Bu.	4.79	5.07	4.92	5.83	5.40	5.81
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.40	4.14	4.37	4.47	4.50	4.62
All Wheat	Bu.	3.47	4.19	4.46	4.73	4.61	4.82
Barley, All	Bu.	2.06	2.58	2.88	2.91	3.39	3.15
Feed	Bu.	1.75	2.21	2.56	2.71	3.00	2.99
Malt	Bu.	2.56	2.95	3.11	3.13	3.70	3.35
Oats	Bu.	1.19	1.45	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.70
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	66.00	66.00	88.10	69.00	87.30
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	53.00	58.00	62.30	57.00	62.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	64.00	65.00	83.00	68.00	81.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	78.10	64.20	63.00	62.30	62.60	65.10
Cows	Cwt.	37.70	35.40	32.40	32.40	29.30	29.50
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	72.00	59.50	57.20	58.80	55.30	60.70
Calves	Cwt.	80.00	65.50	64.80	66.20	62.80	64.10
Sheep	Cwt.	25.70	26.40	23.30	24.40	23.20	22.60
Lambs	Cwt.	65.50	84.00	80.40	77.80	79.20	76.20
All Milk	Cwt.	13.40	12.95	13.55	13.40	14.10	13.70

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

featuring... PRAIRIE COUNTY



Prairie County is divided in half by the Yellowstone River flowing from west to east through the county. The Powder River flows from the south to join the Yellowstone River in the southwest corner of the county. Prairie County's landscape is mainly rolling prairie--characteristic of most eastern Montana counties. The northwestern section is broken up by the Big Sheep Mountains that occupy that area. Prairie county covers 1,111,427 acres. Approximately 61.5 percent of the county consists of farm land.

Agricultural interests in the county include both livestock raising and crop production. In the January 1, 1995 all cattle & calves and breeding sheep & lambs inventories, Prairie County ranked 36th and 34th, respectively. Crops produced in the area include winter and spring wheat, oats, barley, and hay. Prairie County ranked 19th for winter wheat and 28th for other spring wheat production in 1994. Oats produced brought a ranking of 42nd, while barley and all hay production ranked 40th and 43rd, respectively. Corn and sugar beets are also grown in the county.

Livestock and livestock products brought $21,148,000 worth of cash receipts into the county in 1993, while crops cash receipts brought in $7,351,000. Government payments added $2,727,000, for a total of $24,871,000 in cash receipts for 1993.

Prairie County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,111,427	Total Cropland	Acres	(D)
Land in Farms	Acres	683,088	Harvested Cropland	Acres	55,734
Number of Farms		165	Irrigated Land	Acres	11,681
Average size Farms	Acres	4,140			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	14,700	All Cattle &		
Wheat for Grain	Acres	29,531	Calves	No. Head	35,839
Barley for Grain	Acres	5,546	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	6,450
Oats for Grain	Acres	720	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	518

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture. (D) - Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Milk Production
Egg Production	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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301 S. PARK
P.O. BOX 4369
HELENA, MONTANA 59604

HIGHLIGHTS:

October Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
October Farm Labor
October Egg Production
October Milk Production
Nov. 1 Sheep & Lamb Inventory
featuring... Powell County

MONTANA OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN, U.S. UNCHANGED

Montana slaughter plants produced [illegible] million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 1995, down 3 percent from last year. During October, 1,900 head of cattle were slaughtered, 100 less than a year ago. The average live weight of 1,202 pounds was up 23 pounds from last year.

There were 2,400 hogs slaughtered during October, down 700 head from last year. Average live weight decreased 12 pounds to 234 pounds. The total number of sheep slaughtered during the month decreased 100 head from a year ago to 400 head. The average live weight decreased 3 pounds from the previous year to 113 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.79 billion pounds during October. This production was virtually unchanged from last year. Beef production totaled 2.17 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Head kill totaled 3.06 million, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The average l[illegible] weight at 1,190 pounds was down 10 p[illegible]nds from last year.

Veal production totaled 27.0 million pounds, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 128,700, up 11 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 20 pounds to 361 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.57 billion pounds was down 4 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 8.54 million head, 3 percent below October 1994. The average live weight was down 3 pounds to 255 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 4 percent from October 1994. Slaughter totaled 371,200 head, down 7 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 123 pounds.

January-October red meat production was 36.1 billion pounds up 3 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent, veal was up 10 percent, pork was up 2 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 7 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 1 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.71 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago, but down 4 percent from November 1, 1993.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.44 million, 2 percent below 1994 and 1993. Net placements of 2.38 million for October was down 2 percent from last year and 1 percent below 1993.

Marketings during October totaled 1.64 million, up 1 percent from 1994 and up 6 percent from 1993.

Other disappearance during October was 56,000 head, unchanged from 1994 and 26 percent below 1993.

Cattle on Feed in 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed November 1, 1995 for the 7 States in the feedlots with 1,000 or more head capacity totaled 8.16 million head, up 3 percent from the previous year but slightly below 1993. The inventory in the 1,000+ capacity feedlots accounted for 94 percent of the total inventory.

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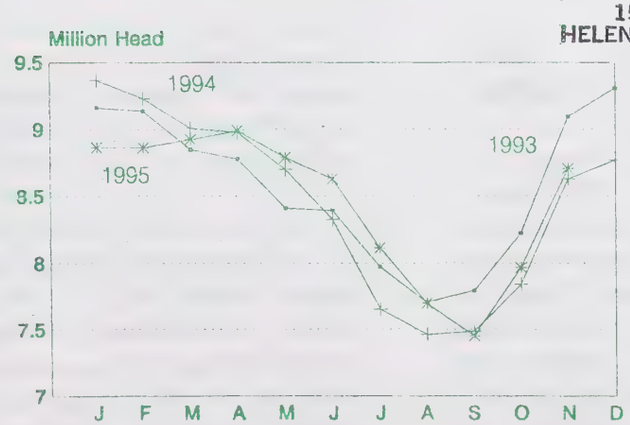
CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



MONTANA AND U.S. ANNUAL WAGE RATES UP

Montana farm workers earned an annual average of $5.65 per hour in 1995 compared with $5.44 per hour in 1994. All hired workers earned $5.66 per hour, up $.40 from a year ago, and field workers earned $5.50 per hour up $.44 per hour from last year. Together, field and livestock workers earned $5.54 per hour compared with $5.01 per hour in 1994.

Annual wage rates paid by U.S. farm operators during 1995 averaged $6.54 per hour. This compares to $6.39 during 1994 and $6.25 during 1993.

There were 3.39 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 1995. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.59 million of the total, along with 541,000 unpaid workers, and 957,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 302,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.58 per hour during the October 1995 survey week, up 12 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.20 per hour compared with $6.17 last October. Field workers received an average of $6.19 per hour, up 3 cents. Livestock workers earned $6.17 per hour compared with $5.82 a year earlier.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 39.6 hours, compared to 39.5 hours during the comparable week in 1994. Unpaid workers averaged 35.0 hours, compared to 34.8 hours last year. Hired employees worked 41.9 hours during the week, compared with 41.0 last year.

Benefits were provided for 419,000 hired workers. Farm operators provided housing for 138,000, meals for 57,000, bonuses for 102,000, health insurance for 194,000, transportation for 56,000, and other benefits for 194,000 hired workers.

HIRED WORKERS: Annual Average Wage Rates for Selected States and United States, 1994-1995 1/ 2/

	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock		Hourly	
	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995
	Dollars per Hour							
CO	6.26	6.48	5.73	5.81	5.73	5.83	5.82	5.99
ID	6.26	6.09	5.80	5.72	6.05	5.90	6.06	5.96
MT	5.26	5.66	5.06	5.50	5.01	5.54	5.44	5.65
ND	6.50	6.44	6.78	6.47	6.37	6.27	7.09	6.56
OR	6.42	6.74	6.02	6.33	6.00	6.33	6.15	6.16
SD	5.30	5.82	5.05	5.94	5.09	5.68	5.82	6.02
UT	6.04	5.59	5.52	5.72	5.45	5.35	5.60	5.88
WA	6.85	7.48	6.50	7.08	6.60	7.18	6.25	6.77
WY	5.17	5.80	5.02	5.58	4.95	5.58	6.11	6.14
US 3/	6.39	6.54	6.02	6.13	5.95	6.09	6.06	6.19

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October. 3/ Excludes Alaska.

U.S. OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.24 billion during October 1995, down 2 percent from the 6.38 billion produced October 1994. Production included 5.28 billion table eggs and 959 million hatching egg type, of which 898 million were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 1995 averaged 290 million, down 2 percent from the average number of layers during October 1994. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,148 eggs, compared with 2,160 in October 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1995, totaled 292 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 292 million layers consisted of 240 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1995, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.0 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.90 billion eggs during October, down 2 percent from October 1994. The average number of layers during October, at 274 million, was also down 2 percent from the year earlier.

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT IN 22 MAJOR STATES

Milk production in the 22 major States during October totaled 11.0 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same States in October 1994. September revised production, at 10.8 billion pounds was 1 percent more than September 1994.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,361 pounds for October, 7 pounds above October 1994. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.11 million head, up 3,000 head from October 1994 but down 2,000 head from September 1995.

During the July-September period, the 22 major States produced 33.3 billion pounds of milk, 86.6 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.7 billion pounds for October 1995.

U. S. NOVEMBER 1 ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS INVENTORY DOWN

All sheep and lambs in the United States on November 1, 1995 totaled 8.9 million head, 18 percent below July 1, 1995. The number of breeding sheep and lambs on hand November 1, 1995 reached 6.2 million head, 4 percent below July 1, 1995. Market sheep and lambs (including newborns) at 2.7 million head were 39 percent below July 1, 1995.

Of the November 1 breeding herd, 5.1 million head were ewes one year old and older, 230,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 850,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

Of the total market lambs (including newborn lambs), 16.0 percent were under 65 pounds, 25.4 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 36.3 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and 22.2 percent were over 105 pounds on November 1.

The November 1 sheep and lamb numbers are also published by regions. Montana is included with Colorado, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. This region accounted for 3.1 million head of sheep and lambs, or 34.4 percent of the U.S. total. This region accounted for 2.0 million breeding sheep and lambs which included 1.7 million ewes one year old and older, 60,000 rams one year old or older, and 280,000 replacement lambs.

All market lambs for the region on November 1, 1995 totaled 1.0 million head. Of the total market lambs, 4.0 percent were under 64 pounds, 19.4 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 47.3 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remaining 29.3 percent were over 105 pounds.

MARKET SHEEP AND LAMBS: By Weight Groups, Regions and United States, November 1, 1995

Regions 1/	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 lbs.	85 to 105 lbs.	Over 105 lbs.	Total		
				(000) Head			
Region 1	180	170	200	160	710	10	720
Region 2	70	140	110	35	355	15	370
Region 3	40	195	475	295	1,005	15	1,020
Region 4	75	115	130	80	400	5	405
Region 5	60	55	50	20	185	20	205
US	425	675	965	590	2,655	65	2,720

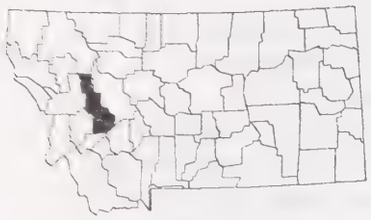
1/ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

SHEEP AND LAMBS INVENTORY: By Region and United States, November 1, 1995

Regions 1/	All Sheep and Lambs	Market Sheep and Lambs	Breeding Sheep One Year Old & Older		Replacement Lambs	Total Breeding Sheep & Lambs
			Ewes	Rams		
			(000) Head			
Region 1	1,900	720	990	40	150	1,180
Region 2	1,875	370	1,250	55	200	1,505
Region 3	3,065	1,020	1,705	60	280	2,045
Region 4	1,100	405	580	30	85	695
Region 5	980	205	595	45	135	775
US	8,920	2,720	5,120	230	850	6,200

1/ States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

featuring... POWELL COUNTY



Created in January 1901, Powell County occupies approximately 1,488,619 acres of mostly mountainous terrain in western Montana. Parts of the Flathead, Lolo, Helena, and Deer Lodge National Forests provide beautiful scenery within the boundaries of the county. Powell County is traversed by sections of a number of rivers including the South Fork of the Flathead River, the Blackfoot, Little Blackfoot, and Clark Fork Rivers. Upsata Lake, Coopers Lake, Browns Lake, and Nevada Lake are also located in the county.

While not a large agricultural center because of the vast areas of forest land, the county's agricultural industry is diversified. A variety of crops are produced, including hay, for which the county ranked 14th in the 1994 crop production. Oats, with a rank of 14th, barley, ranking 16th, spring wheat, winter wheat and some potatoes are also grown in the county. Livestock interests include the raising of cattle, sheep and hogs. All cattle and calves ranked 27th for the January 1, 1995 inventory.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products brought in $13,789,000 in 1993, while crops contributed $2,077,000. Government payments in the county added $532,000 for a cash receipt total of $16,398,000 for Powell County in 1993.

Powell County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,488,619	Total Cropland	Acres	84,565
Land in Farms	Acres	675,569	Harvested Cropland	Acres	58,510
Number of Farms		233	Irrigated Land	Acres	55,924
Average size Farms	Acres	2,899			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	51,283	All Cattle &		
Wheat for Grain	Acres	3,698	Calves	No. Head	49,590
Barley for Grain	Acres	2,453	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	2,623
Oats for Grain	Acres	1,573	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	912

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Production Highlights
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
1995 Crop Year Summary
Ag Prices Received
featuring...Powder River County

U.S. AND MONTANA NOVEMBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Montana farmers harvested an estimated 1.22 million tons of sugar beets, down slightly from the October 1 forecast and down nearly 7 percent from last year. Estimated yield was set at 22 tons per acre compared with 24.2 tons per acre last year. Acreage harvested increase slightly from last year to 55,500 acres.

U.S. sugar beet production is expected to total 28.9 million tons, a decrease of 10 percent from 1994. Area for harvest, at 1.42 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the October "Crop Production" report and down 1 percent from last year. The average yield, at 20.3 tons per acre, is 1.9 tons below last year's yield. A cool, wet spring delayed planting and slowed sugar beet development. Unusually hot summer weather stressed plants and increased irrigation requirements. Early freezing temperatures in the Great Plains damaged leaves in some sugar beet fields. Favorable harvest weather over the Western and middle Great Plains States allowed the sugar beet harvest to advance ahead of normal. Despite some delays from early season snows in the central States, about 90 percent of the beets were lifted by early November. Harvest activity was delayed in the Great Lakes region and Northern Great Plains by precipitation. Warm weather in the Ohio Valley was unsuitable for sugar beet storage and slowed the start of the harvest. Dry weather and root aphid problems in Michigan lowered yield expectations.

Montana's estimated fall potato production is 8 percent less than a year ago at 2.9 million hundredweight. A cool wet spring delayed plantings compared to normal. There were some reports of slight frost damage with the late harvest. Average yield is estimated at 300 hundred weight per acre, down 20 hundred weight from 1994. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 9,800 acres.

U.S. production of fall potatoes for 1995 is forecast at 402 million cwt, the second largest fall potato crop produced in the United States after last year's record large crop. Comparable percent change (with the addition of the former summer crops from Michigan and Minnesota) places this crop 5 percent below 1994 but 3 percent above 1993. Area harvested, at 1.21 million acres, is down slightly from last year. The average yield is projected at 334 cwt per acre, down 20 cwt from last year but 7 cwt above two years ago. Planting and harvest were late in most States resulting in smaller crops than last year. Total potato production from all four seasons was 445 million cwt in 1995, down 5 percent from last year but 4 percent above 1993.

U.S. corn production is forecast at 7.37 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the October 1 forecast and 27 percent below the record high 1994 crop. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 113.7 bushels per acre, down 2.9 bushels from last month and 24.9 bushels below the record high yield of 1994. Planted acreage is revised to 71.4 million acres, up 100,000 acres from the previous estimate. Acreage for harvest as grain is estimated at 64.8 million acres, up 150,000 acres from the October estimate.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION, NOVEMBER 1, 1995

Montana's pasture and range feed condition moved up slightly from a month ago. The percentage in the good to excellent range increased from 69% to 72%. The Northeast, while still good, had the lowest condition rating in the state. The Northwest, Southeast, and the South Central regions of the state showed the best ratings. As of November 1 the statewide pasture and range feed condition was rated 7% poor, 21% fair, 64% good, and 8% excellent. Farmers and ranchers had moved 83% of their cattle and calves and 88% of their sheep and lambs off summer ranges by November 1.

Reporters of range and pasture feed condition are asked to rate the percentage of the pastures that fall into each of the following categories:

- Very poor - pastures and/or ranges are providing very little or no feed for the current time of the year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock.
- Poor - pastures and/or ranges are providing marginal feed for the current time of the year. Some supplemental feeding is required.
- Fair - pastures and/or ranges are providing adequate feed, but less than the normal amount expected for the current time of the year.
- Good - pastures and/or ranges are providing the normal amount of feed for the current time of the year.
- Excellent - pastures and/or ranges are providing feed in excess of what is normally expected for the current time of the year.

THE 1995 CROP YEAR SUMMARY SHOWS ABNORMAL YEAR

The 1995 crop year, starting with last fall's winter wheat planting, was quite abnormal. Last fall droughty conditions held back many farmers from seeding their winter wheat. By the time some moisture was received, it was too late to plant. In the end, farmers planted the smallest winter wheat acreage since 1951. The smaller winter wheat acreage led to the largest spring wheat acreage planted since 1953 when spring wheat estimates included durum.

Limited snowfall during the winter kept drought concerns alive. Finally in March and April, spring snow storms brought some much needed moisture to most of the state. Wild temperature fluctuations during the spring caused some concern of damage to the winter wheat crop.

The spring was characterized by cool, wet weather. By the end of April, farmers had planted just slightly more than 40% of the spring grains, nearly 10 points behind the 5-year average. Winter wheat condition was rated 52% fair, 37% good, and 5% excellent. Most of the state rated soil moisture conditions as mostly adequate to surplus.

The cool, wet weather continued through the month of May. Planting of the spring grains was still nearly 10 points behind normal. By month's end 85% of the spring grains had been planted. Many producers ended up reseeding their winter wheat crop due to the less than ideal planting conditions which contributed to poor stands and high weed populations.

June continued mostly cool through the month and kept crop progress behind normal. The northeast district did have a week of very hot weather and there was some concern of heat stress to the crops in that area. Although crop progress was behind normal, most farmers thought the crop looked very good. The conditions of the spring grains were rated mostly good to excellent. Winter wheat condition remained mostly fair to good.

Scattered storms during the first part of July kept hay harvest well behind normal. There was also quite a bit of hay that was damaged because it was left in the wind row too long. The conditions of the small grains continued to look very good. All crops were rated mostly good to excellent. Winter wheat harvest started in the eastern part of the state by the end of the month. Warm weather in the later part of the month helped the turning of crops.

Harvesting went into full swing during August. By the end of the month 80% of the winter wheat had been harvested and nearly 40% of the spring grains were harvested. Harvesting was behind the five-year average. There were a wide variety of maturity stages across the state due to late planting and a cool growing season.

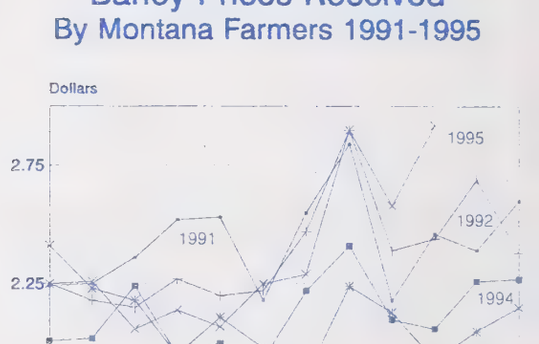
Winter wheat harvest was nearly done by the second week in September. Spring grain harvest was slightly more than 90% complete by the end of the month. The season's first, wide-spread, hard frost occurred during the third week. There was some crop damage in the North Central district where there were some very late crops. Winter wheat seeding was 65% complete by the end of the month with 11% of the acreage emerged.

October was marked with scattered showers and snow showers across the state. Temperatures were generally below normal throughout the month. Winter wheat seeding wrapped up at month's end with 85% of the acreage emerged. Row crop harvest was nearly finished by the end of the month.

All Wheat Prices Received By Montana Farmers 1991-1995

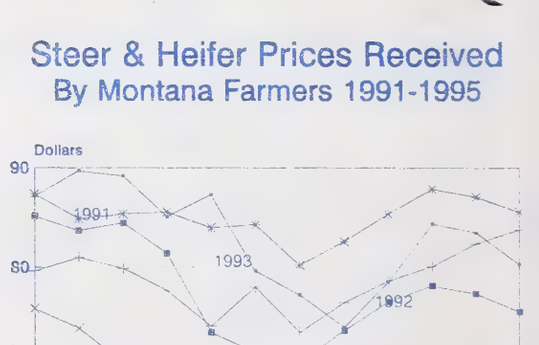
October 1995 preliminary

Barley Prices Received By Montana Farmers 1991-1995



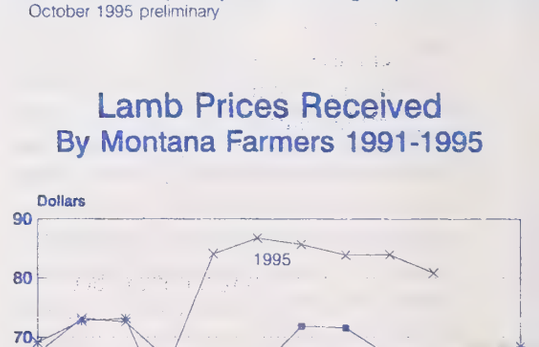
October 1995 preliminary

Steer & Heifer Prices Received By Montana Farmers 1991-1995



October 1995 preliminary

Lamb Prices Received By Montana Farmers 1991-1995



October 1995 preliminary

PRICES RECEIVED MIXED

Montana crop prices for the full month of September were mixed. Durum wheat decreased 33 cents to $5.07 per bushel. Winter wheat increased 5 cents to $4.25 per bushel, while spring wheat rose 9 cents to $4.14. Feed barley increased 11 cents to $2.21 per bushel, and malt barley fell 7 cents to $2.95 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices, at $66.00 per ton, fell $2.00 from August, while other hay prices, at $53.00 per ton, dropped $5.00. The all wheat price for mid-October averaged $4.54 per bushel, while the all barley price was $2.92.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were lower compared with the previous month, except for calves and lambs. Cow prices were down $2.60 to $35.40 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers slipped 20 cents to $64.20 per cwt. Calf prices rose 50 cents to $65.50 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $2.50 below last month at $26.40, while lamb prices climbed 10 cents to $84.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 15 cents to $12.95 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October averaged $63.70 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $62.00 per cwt for the full month of September. Cow prices came in at $34.10 and hogs were $48.30 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.52 per bushel and $2.57 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 66.6 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in October was 105 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from September. Price gains from September for corn, milk, wheat, and soybeans more than offset price declines for lettuce, broilers, hogs, and peanuts. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also can affect the overall index level, but these changes were essentially offsetting in October. Higher relative seasonal marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and sorghum offset the effect of relatively lower seasonal marketings of wheat, milk, tobacco, and hogs.

Compared with October 1994, the All Farm Products Index was 10 points (11 percent) higher. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, hogs, and wheat compared with October 1994 levels more than offset lower prices for cattle, lettuce, calves, and dry beans.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Sept. 1994	Oc 1994	Sept 1995	Oct. 1995
Prices Received	97	95	104	105
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/106	106	3/108	109
Ratio [1/]	92	90	96	96

[1/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2/] July 1994 prices paid index. [3/] July 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	October 15, 1995	October 15, 1995
		Sept. 1994	August 1995	Sept. 1995	Sept. 1995		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.26	4.20	4.25	4.47	4.60	4.70
Durum	Bu.	4.26	5.40	5.07	5.87	5.25	5.69
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.37	4.05	4.14	4.26	4.50	4.48
All Wheat	Bu.	3.36	4.15	4.19	4.52	4.54	4.71
Barley, All	Bu.	2.10	2.90	2.58	2.57	2.92	2.82
Feed	Bu.	1.78	2.10	2.21	2.37	2.60	2.64
Malt	Bu.	2.82	3.02	2.95	2.81	3.40	3.08
Oats	Bu.	1.32	1.36	1.45	1.43	1.35	1.55
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	68.00	66.00	85.00	66.00	88.10
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	58.00	53.00	64.40	58.00	62.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	66.00	64.00	80.30	65.00	83.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	76.50	64.40	64.20	62.00	63.70	61.90
Cows	Cwt.	41.70	38.00	35.40	34.10	33.00	32.80
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	73.00	56.50	59.50	59.10	58.20	58.80
Calves	Cwt.	81.70	65.00	65.50	68.50	64.70	66.70
Sheep	Cwt.	26.40	28.90	26.40	26.00	23.30	23.50
Lambs	Cwt.	66.70	83.90	84.00	82.70	80.90	77.90
All Milk	Cwt.	13.00	13.10	12.95	12.80	13.60	13.20

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

featuring... POWDER RIVER COUNTY

Powder River County is situated in the extreme southeastern part of Montana, with the county's southern boundary making up part of the Montana-Wyoming border. The northern and eastern districts of the county are largely composed of rolling prairie. The Powder and Little Powder Rivers traverse the eastern half of the county from north to south. A good portion of the western half of the county is occupied by a section of the Custer National Forest. Broadus is the county seat. The average annual precipitation is 13.71 inches, and the county has an average of 118 frost free days.

Livestock raising is the primary agricultural industry in the county. The January 1, 1995 cattle and sheep inventories put the county 11th place for all cattle and calves and 3rd place for breeding sheep inventory.

Principle crops grown in Powder River County are winter wheat, other spring wheat, oats, and alfalfa hay. The county ranked 23rd for the production of winter wheat, 36th for spring wheat production, 31st for oat production and 30th for all hay production. Alfalfa hay comprised most of the hay production with 57,000 tons of the total 66,100 tons of all hay produced.

Livestock and livestock products contributed $21,148,000 which gave it a rank of 17th for the state. Crops earned a rank of 40 and contributed $3,158,000, and Government Payments added $2,575,000 for total cash receipts of $26,881,000 for 1993.

Powder River County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	2,110,250	Total Cropland	Acres	166,349
Land in Farms	Acres	1,629,363	Harvested Cropland	Acres	79,923
Number of Farms		295	Irrigated Land	Acres	9,005
Average size Farms	Acres	5,523			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	47,935	All Cattle &		
Wheat for Grain	Acres	28,184	Calves	No. Head	70,262
Barley for Grain	Acres	3,020	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	25,386
Oats for Grain	Acres	1,187	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	944

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Labor	Milk Production
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production
Sheep & Lambs on Feed	Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS

Red Meat Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed
All Cattle & Calves by County
Beef Cows & Heifers by County
October Milk Production
September Egg Production

SEPTEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION DROPS

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.42 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 1995, down 18 percent from last year. During September, 1,500 head of cattle were slaughtered, 300 head less than September 1994. The average live weight of 1,197 pounds was 3 pounds heavier than a year ago.

There were 2,400 hogs slaughtered in September, down 500 head from a year earlier. Average live weight decreased 15 pounds to 227 pounds. The number of sheep slaughtered was 500 head, down 100 head from last year. The average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 111 pounds.

U.S. Commercial red meat production totaled 3.70 billion pounds during September, 1 percent below last year. Beef production totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Head kill totaled 3.08 million, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight at 1,193 pounds was down 12 pounds from last year. Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds, up 9 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 122,300, up 12 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 11 pounds to 362 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.44 billion pounds was down 7 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.92 million head, 5 percent below September 1994. The average live weight was down 3 pounds to 251 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 21.0 million pounds, was down 9 percent from the record low set in September 1979. Slaughter totaled 359,500 head, down 10 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight remained the same at 119 pounds.

January-September red meat production was 32.4 billion pounds up 3 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent, veal was up 10 percent, pork was up 3 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 7 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

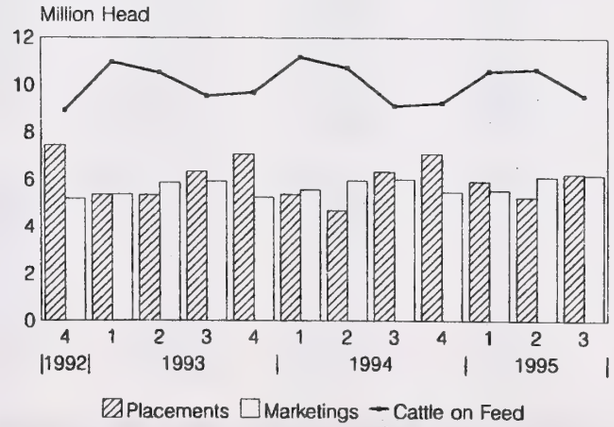
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.40 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago but down 3 percent from October 1, 1993. The inventory included 6.14 million steers and steer calves, down slightly from a year ago and 2 percent below two years ago. This group accounts for 65 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.21 million head, 5 percent above a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the July-September 1995 quarter totaled 6.23 million, down 1 percent from last year and 2 percent below July-September 1993. Net placements of 6.04 million for July-September were 1 percent below last year and slightly below July-September 1993.

Marketings of fed cattle during the July-September 1995 quarter totaled 6.20 million, up 3 percent from the same quarter last year and 5 percent above two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 192,000 head compared with 191,000 in July-September 1994 and 275,000 in July-September 1993.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, IL, KS, MN, NE OK, SD, TX, WA)



PLEASE RETURN

ALL CATTLE AND CALVES: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1989-1995

COUNTY & DISTRICT	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Rank
Deer Lodge	8,800	8,700	8,900	8,400	7,200	7,500	8,500	54
Flathead	23,500	19,500	19,300	20,600	20,100	20,000	20,300	46
Granite	30,700	27,500	28,200	27,000	25,100	25,000	24,800	42
Lake	49,900	43,200	49,500	54,000	58,000	59,000	62,000	16
Lincoln	5,700	4,700	4,900	5,100	5,200	4,900	5,100	55
Mineral	1,100	900	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,500	1,300	56
Missoula	13,900	11,600	12,400	13,300	13,400	14,000	14,500	51
Powell	44,600	39,700	44,700	50,000	45,000	41,000	44,000	27
Ravalli	44,100	37,800	40,000	42,000	37,000	37,300	37,600	31
Sanders	25,200	24,400	22,100	22,500	19,800	17,800	18,900	49
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**247,500**	**218,000**	**231,000**	**244,000**	**232,000**	**228,000**	**237,000**	**--**
Blaine	65,800	62,000	61,000	67,000	65,000	67,000	75,000	10
Chouteau	47,500	43,000	44,600	44,800	40,000	37,600	41,000	29
Glacier	28,100	24,000	25,500	30,600	36,000	30,800	36,000	33
Hill	23,000	21,400	21,900	22,000	23,200	23,000	27,000	39
Liberty	12,900	12,800	14,800	15,400	16,400	14,400	14,100	52
Phillips	72,800	70,000	73,400	80,000	76,000	71,000	79,000	9
Pondera	23,200	20,700	20,900	23,700	23,500	23,600	27,300	38
Teton	46,100	47,000	55,600	61,000	61,000	66,000	67,000	12
Toole	15,500	15,100	16,300	17,500	15,900	17,600	19,600	47
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**334,900**	**316,000**	**334,000**	**362,000**	**357,000**	**351,000**	**386,000**	**--**
Daniels	14,000	12,200	12,400	12,700	13,400	12,500	14,700	50
Dawson	36,200	32,800	35,100	39,500	37,500	39,100	47,300	25
Garfield	56,000	49,400	49,300	44,000	43,500	48,000	51,000	24
McCone	30,500	28,400	28,700	33,000	31,600	32,800	37,700	30
Richland	48,000	44,700	50,300	52,000	51,000	55,000	59,000	18
Roosevelt	20,400	18,000	18,900	22,000	23,300	24,800	26,700	40
Sheridan	17,000	15,100	16,600	16,800	17,700	17,800	21,600	45
Valley	62,000	54,400	57,700	66,000	60,000	62,000	57,000	20
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**284,100**	**255,000**	**269,000**	**286,000**	**278,000**	**292,000**	**315,000**	**--**
Broadwater	23,800	24,000	22,500	21,200	21,300	22,300	24,700	43
Cascade	65,500	59,400	61,700	72,000	74,000	76,000	86,000	7
Fergus	98,800	94,000	96,000	102,000	104,000	105,000	114,000	4
Golden Valley	20,500	21,000	21,700	22,600	22,600	22,100	24,000	44
Judith Basin	52,100	51,100	52,300	55,000	56,000	57,000	65,000	14
Lewis & Clark	37,900	35,100	35,300	37,800	38,700	38,600	42,000	28
Meagher	51,500	48,000	49,200	50,700	52,000	49,400	51,000	23
Musselshell	28,700	27,000	26,500	30,300	30,500	31,300	35,100	34
Petroleum	24,600	24,200	24,300	27,800	28,300	26,800	27,700	37
Wheatland	32,100	32,200	32,500	34,600	34,600	35,500	36,500	32
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**435,500**	**416,000**	**422,000**	**454,000**	**462,000**	**464,000**	**506,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	150,500	143,000	148,100	156,000	150,000	139,000	145,000	1
Gallatin	66,900	56,000	56,500	61,000	62,000	62,000	63,000	15
Jefferson	21,800	21,500	22,400	23,200	22,600	19,500	25,000	41
Madison	101,500	90,000	85,900	87,000	87,000	85,000	93,000	5
Silver Bow	6,500	6,500	6,100	7,800	8,400	8,500	9,000	53
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**347,200**	**317,000**	**319,000**	**335,000**	**330,000**	**314,000**	**335,000**	**--**
Big Horn	123,100	114,000	119,200	130,000	130,000	137,000	127,000	3
Carbon	52,000	46,800	50,400	60,000	57,000	63,000	60,000	17
Park	47,800	43,300	47,500	49,400	49,000	55,200	57,000	19
Stillwater	46,200	43,000	46,400	53,300	52,000	57,000	65,000	13
Sweetgrass	43,000	39,600	41,700	48,000	49,800	54,200	55,000	21
Treasure	30,800	28,300	30,300	32,300	31,200	36,600	35,000	35
Yellowstone	114,600	106,000	108,500	116,000	110,000	120,000	132,000	2
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**457,500**	**421,000**	**444,000**	**489,000**	**479,000**	**523,000**	**531,000**	**--**
Carter	48,000	44,700	46,600	51,000	49,000	50,000	52,000	22
Custer	64,300	55,500	66,000	77,000	74,000	76,000	83,000	8
Fallon	34,500	37,400	37,000	43,000	37,000	42,400	44,000	26
Powder River	65,700	58,000	63,000	73,000	70,000	71,000	72,000	11
Prairie	39,500	33,000	34,700	38,200	36,000	35,300	34,000	36
Rosebud	72,300	62,000	66,100	79,000	77,000	85,000	86,000	6
Wibaux	19,000	16,400	17,600	18,800	19,000	18,300	19,000	48
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**343,300**	**307,000**	**331,000**	**380,000**	**362,000**	**378,000**	**390,000**	**--**
MONTANA	**2,450,000**	**2,250,000**	**2,350,000**	**2,550,000**	**2,500,000**	**2,550,000**	**2,700,000**	**--**

BEEF COWS and HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1989-1995

COUNTY & DISTRICT	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Rank
Deer [illegible]ge	5,200	5,500	5,500	4,800	4,200	4,200	4,400	54
Flath[illegible]	9,700	7,800	8,400	9,300	10,000	8,500	9,300	50
Granite	18,800	16,800	17,400	16,200	17,000	17,000	17,500	39
Lake	28,600	23,800	28,700	32,100	34,200	32,400	35,100	17
Lincoln	3,300	2,500	2,900	3,300	3,300	3,100	3,400	55
Mineral	600	500	600	600	600	800	700	56
Missoula	7,700	6,600	7,200	8,300	8,300	9,000	9,100	51
Powell	27,000	24,100	27,200	30,000	28,000	26,300	27,000	28
Ravalli	21,000	18,600	20,500	21,000	21,500	20,800	20,100	34
Sanders	13,500	12,800	12,600	13,400	12,900	11,900	11,400	48
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**135,400**	**119,000**	**131,000**	**139,000**	**140,000**	**134,000**	**138,000**	**--**
Blaine	43,300	41,200	42,000	42,900	43,000	44,000	47,100	8
Chouteau	26,000	24,300	27,400	26,800	28,300	27,000	29,200	24
Glacier	15,900	12,900	15,300	17,900	22,800	20,500	23,400	30
Hill	15,500	14,700	15,800	15,300	16,200	15,300	16,800	40
Liberty	8,000	8,700	9,600	9,400	10,300	8,100	7,600	52
Phillips	42,400	44,000	46,300	45,500	44,700	44,800	47,000	9
Pondera	14,500	13,100	14,000	14,400	16,600	15,900	19,500	35
Teton	24,900	27,700	32,600	37,800	39,800	37,400	36,500	14
Toole	10,100	10,400	11,000	11,000	11,300	12,000	13,900	46
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**200,600**	**197,000**	**214,000**	**221,000**	**233,000**	**225,000**	**241,000**	**--**
Daniels	8,900	8,000	8,100	8,600	8,900	8,700	10,200	49
Dawson	22,700	22,000	23,200	22,800	24,500	23,400	27,700	27
Garfield	33,000	27,100	28,000	26,000	28,400	30,900	37,200	13
McCone	20,500	19,200	19,900	22,100	21,200	21,800	22,500	32
Richland	24,000	22,700	25,500	27,900	28,100	26,000	28,800	25
Roosevelt	13,500	11,600	13,100	12,800	15,200	16,800	19,000	37
Sheridan	11,200	10,400	11,400	10,800	12,100	12,200	14,800	44
Valley	36,900	33,000	36,800	43,000	38,600	36,200	35,800	15
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**170,700**	**154,000**	**166,000**	**174,000**	**177,000**	**176,000**	**196,000**	**--**
Broa[illegible]r	14,700	16,000	14,300	13,800	14,000	15,000	16,000	42
Casca[illegible]	39,400	35,000	39,000	46,100	49,000	46,000	51,500	5
Fergus	64,000	62,000	62,400	62,300	64,000	66,000	76,000	2
Golden Valley	12,500	13,400	13,200	13,600	13,100	12,800	14,400	45
Judith Basin	32,800	34,000	34,500	34,700	35,400	35,100	38,000	12
Lewis & Clark	23,400	22,000	22,600	22,000	22,100	22,400	23,500	29
Meagher	32,500	30,200	30,900	29,800	29,100	29,200	30,600	22
Musselshell	16,800	16,400	17,000	19,000	18,600	19,300	20,300	33
Petroleum	16,300	16,200	17,300	17,500	19,000	18,700	19,100	36
Wheatland	18,800	19,800	20,800	21,200	20,700	21,500	22,600	31
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**271,200**	**265,000**	**272,000**	**280,000**	**285,000**	**286,000**	**312,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	87,600	86,000	90,600	88,000	84,000	82,000	89,000	1
Gallatin	27,300	22,600	25,500	31,400	30,200	28,300	30,200	23
Jefferson	14,100	14,200	14,600	15,800	14,300	13,500	16,200	41
Madison	58,900	54,000	52,400	52,000	52,000	51,000	57,000	4
Silver Bow	4,100	4,200	3,900	4,800	5,500	5,200	5,600	53
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**192,000**	**181,000**	**187,000**	**192,000**	**186,000**	**180,000**	**198,000**	**--**
Big Horn	59,600	58,600	64,000	73,000	79,000	74,000	75,000	3
Carbon	25,200	24,800	27,800	30,600	29,000	30,600	33,200	20
Park	31,000	28,000	31,000	30,500	30,600	35,000	35,500	16
Stillwater	25,000	25,100	27,800	29,600	31,700	30,200	31,600	21
Sweetgrass	27,600	27,300	28,600	27,200	31,000	33,000	34,300	18
Treasure	13,600	12,800	14,800	14,100	13,700	14,700	15,100	43
Yellowstone	30,900	30,400	32,000	36,000	36,000	44,500	49,300	7
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**212,900**	**207,000**	**226,000**	**241,000**	**251,000**	**262,000**	**274,000**	**--**
Carter	29,300	27,700	30,300	31,200	32,400	33,100	34,300	19
Custer	35,300	27,200	37,000	40,200	43,800	39,000	44,000	10
Fallon	22,500	24,400	25,200	26,000	24,800	25,600	28,000	26
Powder River	36,800	34,600	39,800	44,800	42,700	39,300	42,300	11
Prairie	18,500	18,000	18,100	20,300	19,500	18,200	18,200	38
Rose[illegible]	38,900	32,200	39,000	45,300	50,100	48,000	51,000	6
Wibaux	10,900	8,900	10,600	11,200	11,700	11,800	12,200	47
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**192,200**	**173,000**	**200,000**	**219,000**	**225,000**	**215,000**	**230,000**	**--**
MONTANA	**1,375,000**	**1,296,000**	**1,396,000**	**1,466,000**	**1,497,000**	**1,478,000**	**1,589,000**	**--**

NATION'S SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.98 billion during September 1995, down 2 percent from the 6.13 billion produced September 1994. Production included 5.05 billion table eggs and 927 million hatching egg type, of which 867 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 1995 averaged 288 million, down 2 percent from the average number of layers during September 1994. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,075 eggs, compared with 2,088 in September 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1995, totaled 289 million, down 2 percent from a year ago. The 289 million layers consisted of 237 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.73 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1995, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 69.2 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.66 billion eggs during September, down 2 percent from September 1994. The average number of layers during September, at 272 million, was also down 2 percent from the year earlier.

OCTOBER 1, MILK PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Montana milk production was 82 million pounds for the July-September quarter of 1995, 1 million pounds less than the previous quarter, but 3 million pounds more than last year. The average number of milk cows on hand was 21,000 head, the same as last year and last quarter.

An average of 16.2 pounds of grain and other concentrates were fed per cow by Montana dairymen on October 1, down from 17.3 pounds a year ago. The value of grain and concentrates fed was $7.25 per hundred weight, down 5 cents from last year.

U.S. milk production in the 22 major States during September totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same States in September 1994. August revised production, at 11.1 billion pounds, was slightly more than August 1994. Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,331 pounds for September, 13 pounds above September 1994. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.11 million head, up 4,000 head from both September 1994 and August 1995.

During the July-September period, the 22 major States produced 33.3 billion pounds of milk, 86.6 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 13.2 billion pounds for July, 12.8 billion pounds for August, and 12.5 billion pounds for September.

The quarterly U.S. milk production was 38.5 billion, 1 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.52 million head, 19,000 head less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1995, averaged 18.4 pounds per cow, 0.3 pound less than October 1, 1994. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on October 1, averaged $7.97 per hundredweight, $0.10 more than October 1, 1994.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Dry Bean Production
Montana Malting Barley	Sugar Beet Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1994 Potatoes Disposition
Sugar Beet Production
All Hay Production
Small Grain Summary & Tables
Ag Prices Received
Cash Receipts

MONTANA'S 1994 POTATO PRODUCTION UP 19 PERCENT; U.S. PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH

Montana's 1994 potato production totaled 3.2 million cwt., 19 percent above last year and 30 percent above 1992. Montana farmers harvested 10,000 acres, up 100 acres from the previous year, and up 150 acres from two years ago. Potato yields averaged a record 320 cwt. per acre in 1994, compared with 300 cwt. in 1993 and 290 cwt. in 1992.

Value of production from the 1994 crop amounted to 22.1 million dollars, down 9 percent from 1993. The average price was $6.90 per cwt., down $2.05 from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 1994 potato crop totaled 19.8 million dollars, an 8 percent decrease from 1993. Producers sold 2.9 million cwt. from the 1994 crop compared with 2.4 million cwt. last year.

Total 1994 potato production for the U.S. was estimated at a record high 468 million cwt., 9 percent above a year earlier and 10 percent above 1992. Harvested area, at 1.38 million acres, was up 5 percent from the last two years. The average yield hit a record high 338 cwt. per acre, up 12 cwt. from a year ago and 15 cwt. above 1992. These are the fourth consecutive record highs for yield and production.

Value of production was estimated at $2.60 billion from the 1994 crop, down 2 percent from a year earlier but 11 percent above 1992. The average price was $5.58 per cwt. compared with $6.17 from the 1993 potato crop.

Sales from the 1994 U.S. potato crop totaled 425 million cwt., up 8 percent from 1993 and 10 percent above 1992. Non-sales accounted for 43.2 million cwt. of 1994 potatoes, up 20 percent from the previous year and 9 percent more than 1992. Typically, 91 percent of potatoes produced are sold (based on the past 5-year average). The other 9 percent are either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used for seed, home use and livestock feed on farms where grown. In the 1994 season, farmers sold 90.8 percent of their crop and kept or lost 9.2 percent. Shrinkage and loss were the second highest on record (after 1985), estimated at 37.2 million cwt., 24 percent above 1993 and 10 percent above 1992. Livestock feed and home use totaled 1.21 million cwt., up 8 percent. Growers kept 4.74 million cwt. for seed on their own farms, down 1 percent from the previous year.

U.S. processors used a record high 261 million cwt. of potatoes, up 8 percent from 1993 and 14 percent above the 1992 crop usage. Table stock totaled 135 million cwt., up 9 percent from last year, while other sales (seed and livestock feed) of 28.7 million cwt. were up 7 percent. Chip potato use totaled 49.5 million cwt., up 1 percent from a year earlier. Freezing potatoes totaled a record high 163 million cwt., a jump of 11 percent; while dehydrating claimed a record high 41.4 million cwt., a gain of 1 percent. Canning use totaled 5.39 million cwt., up 24 percent. Starch, flour and other products were made from 2.2 million cwt. of potatoes, a gain of 29 percent.

SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY; HAY PRODUCTION UP

Montana farmers intend to harvest 1.28 million tons of **sugar beets**. The October 1 forecast was 2% below last month and the 1994 production level. The forecasted yield was 23 tons per acre, down .5 tons from last month and down 1.2 tons from last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 55,500 acres, 1,500 acres more than 1994. Sugar beet harvest got off to a good start and was 18% harvested by October 8.

U.S. sugar beet production, of 28.8 million tons, was down slightly from September 1 and down 10% from 1994. U.S. yields are estimated at 20.2 tons per acre, down fractionally from the September forecast and off 2 tons compared with last year. Farmers intend to harvest 1.43 million acres, 1% less than 1994.

Montana's all hay production was estimated at record 5.49 million tons, unchanged from the August 1 forecast and up 21% from last year. Average yield for all hay was 2.19 tons per acre, up from last year's 2.06 tons per acre. Harvested acreage was estimated at 2.5 million acres, up 300,000 acres from 1994. Farmers intend to harvest 1.65 million acres of alfalfa hay with an average yield of 2.5 tons per acre. Other hay harvested acreage, of 850,000 acres, yielded 1.6 tons per acre.

U.S. all hay production was estimated at 157.0 million tons, up 5% from last year. Average yield is set at 2.61 tons per acre on 60.2 million acres. Alfalfa production is set at 85.9 million tons, while other hay production is set at 71.1 million tons. Average yields are estimated at 3.49 tons per acre for alfalfa and 1.99 million tons for other hay.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION, OCTOBER 1, 1995

Montana's pasture and range feed condition fell from last month. While most of the condition remains good to excellent, there was a 14 point shift from excellent to good. As of October 1, the condition was rated 1% very poor, 5% poor, 25% fair, 58% good, and 11% excellent. The northeast district continues to have to lowest rating. All other districts have mostly good to excellent ratings. Farmers and ranchers are moving their livestock off summer ranges, 38% of the cattle and calves and 35% of the sheep and lambs have been moved as of October 8.

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SMALL GRAIN SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS.

Montana's 1995 all wheat crop is the second largest on record at 193.7 million bushels. Winter wheat production is set at 58.0 million bushels, 10% less than 1994 and the smallest crop since 1989, due mainly to the reduced acreage planted to winter wheat. Yields averaged 40 bushels per acre, which ties the second highest yield on record. This year's spring wheat crop is the largest ever with an estimated production of 127.8 million bushels. Harvested spring wheat acreage is the largest since 1953 when spring wheat and durum wheat were estimated together as all spring wheat. Yields averaged 35 bushels per acre, the second highest yield on record. Durum wheat production was estimated at 7.95 million, up 49% percent from 1994. Barley producers harvested a 62.4 million bushel crop, up 18 percent from last year. Barley yields also tied the second highest yield on record at 52 bushels per acre.

U.S. all wheat production totaled 2.18 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 1994. U.S. barley production was estimated at 361.0 million bushels, 4 percent below last year.

CROP PRODUCTION, OCTOBER 1, 1995

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,950	1,600	1,850	1,450	35.0	40.0	64,750	58,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	270	178	265	30.0	30.0	5,340	7,950
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,450	3,750	3,350	3,650	30.0	35.0	100,500	127,750
All Wheat	Bu.	5,580	5,620	5,378	5,365	31.7	36.1	170,590	193,700
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	60	55	20	18	135.0	140.0	2,700	2,520
Oats	Bu.	140	145	75	80	48.0	59.0	3,600	4,720
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	52.0	52,800	62,400
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	11.0	10.0	10.8	22.0	21.0	220	227
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.3	55.7	54.0	55.5	24.2	23.0	1,307	1,277
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.0	9.8	10.0	9.7	320.0	3/	3,200	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,550	1,650	2.30	2.50	3,565	4,125
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	650	850	1.50	1.60	975	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,200	2,500	2.06	2.19	4,540	5,485
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	49,197	48,826	41,355	41,073	40.2	37.8	1,661,943	1,550,511
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,823	3,433	2,715	3,354	35.6	30.5	96,747	102,220
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,329	16,815	17,700	16,472	31.8	32.2	562,291	530,698
All Wheat	Bu.	70,349	69,074	61,770	60,899	37.6	35.9	2,320,981	2,183,429
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	79,158	72,008	72,917	64,682	138.6	116.6	10,103,030	7,541,400
Oats	Bu.	6,639	6,336	4,010	2,959	57.1	55.2	229,008	163,197
Barley	Bu.	7,159	6,689	6,667	6,277	56.2	57.6	374,862	361,352
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,025.8	2,036.7	1,845.2	1,907.8	15.82	16.03	29,187	30,584
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,475.8	1,441.5	1,443.0	1,428.8	22.2	20.2	31,994	28,833
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,213.9	1,220.0	1187.1	1,199.4	354	3/	420,515	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,222	24,639	3.36	3.49	81,398	85,906
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	34,522	35,589	1.99	2.00	68,726	71,097
All Hay	Ton	--	--	58,744	60,228	2.56	2.61	150,124	157,003

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 9, 1995.

MONTANA PRODUCTION BY DISTRICT, 1995 PRELIMINARY [1]

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	1994	1995	95/94	1994	1995	95/94	1994	1995	95/94
	-1000 bushels-		Pct.	-1000 bushels-		Pct.	-1000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	1,033	1,000	97	925	1,400	151	2,179	2,300	106
North Central	34,481	27,900	81	39,437	69,093	175	25,647	33,400	130
Northeast	4,088	2,700	66	49,089	44,350	90	5,574	4,700	84
Central	11,007	12,000	109	7,243	10,085	139	9,374	12,000	128
Southwest	1,690	1,600	95	1,605	1,823	114	4,119	4,100	100
South Central	8,890	9,500	107	2,415	3,469	144	4,624	4,400	95
Southeast	3,561	3,300	93	5,126	5,480	107	1,283	1,500	117
Montana	64,750	58,000	90	105,840	135,700	128	52,800	62,400	118

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

PRICES RECEIVED MIXED

Montana crop prices were up for the full month of August compared with a month ago with the exception of hay, oats and feed barley. Winter and durum wheat both went up 17 cents a bushel, with winter wheat averaging $4.20 and durum wheat at $5.40. Spring wheat increased 15 cents to $4.05 a bushel. The all barley price rose 61 cents to $2.90 per bushel. Alfalfa hay remained at $68.00 per ton while other hay dropped $3.00 to $58.00 per ton. Oats were down 14 cents to $1.36 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-September averaged $4.39, while the all barley price was $2.51.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were lower compared with the previous month except for steers and heifers. Steers and heifers showed a $2.00 increase to $64.40 per cwt. Cow prices dropped $1.60 to $38.00 per cwt and calves decreased 30 cents to $65.00 per cwt. Prices received for sheep were 80 cents below last month at $28.90 and lamb prices slipped $1.80 to $83.90 per cwt. Milk prices increased 70 cents to $13.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-September averaged $64.00 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $61.70 per cwt for the full month of August. Cow prices were $36.10 and hogs came in at $48.60 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.25 per bushel and $2.63 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 64 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 105 based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (2.9 percent) from August. Price gains from August for lettuce, wheat, corn, and milk more than offset declines for grapes, potatoes, cattle, and strawberries. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell can also affect the overall index level. However, lower relative seasonal marketings of cattle, wheat, broilers, and grapes offset the effect of relatively higher seasonal marketings of peanuts, soybeans, corn, and cotton.

Compared with September 1994, the All Farm Products Index was up 8 points (8.2 percent). Higher prices in September relative to a year earlier for hogs, corn, lettuce, and wheat more than offset lower prices for cattle, calves, and lemons.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Aug. 1994	Sept. 1994	Aug. 1995	Sept. 1995
Prices Received	97	97	102	105
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/106	2/106	3/108	3/108
Ratio [1/]	92	92	94	97

[1/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2/] July 1994 prices paid index. [3/] July 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	September 15, 1995	September 15, 1995
		August 1994	July 1995	August 1995	August 1995		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.00	4.03	4.20	4.23	4.25	4.41
Durum	Bu.	5.02	5.23	5.40	5.09	5.85	5.43
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.21	3.90	4.05	4.18	4.40	4.32
All Wheat	Bu.	3.15	3.95	4.15	4.25	4.39	4.42
Barley, All	Bu.	2.41	2.29	2.90	2.63	2.51	2.52
Feed	Bu.	1.73	2.22	2.10	2.30	2.15	2.26
Malt	Bu.	2.92	2.61	3.02	2.81	3.05	2.79
Oats	Bu.	1.28	1.50	1.36	1.47	1.35	1.49
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	69.00	68.00	68.00	85.20	66.00	85.00
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	61.00	58.00	64.10	53.00	64.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	68.00	67.00	66.00	81.10	64.00	80.30
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	73.60	62.40	64.40	61.70	64.00	61.30
Cows	Cwt.	44.60	39.60	38.00	36.10	36.40	34.90
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	67.50	49.20	56.50	59.40	59.90	58.90
Calves	Cwt.	85.80	65.30	65.00	70.80	63.80	69.40
Sheep	Cwt.	26.70	29.70	28.90	27.00	26.20	26.00
Lambs	Cwt.	71.60	85.70	83.90	85.70	85.00	84.40
All Milk	Cwt.	12.80	12.40	13.10	12.40	13.20	12.70

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1990-1994 [1/]

ITEM	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
			--Thousand Dollars--		
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	709,576	675,377	779,958	818,162	736,792
Dairy products	43,374	38,734	41,695	39,026	40,478
Sheep and lambs	18,879	20,568	25,226	25,093	24,219
Wool	5,646	3,729	5,072	2,993	4,379
Hogs and pigs	43,975	37,146	33,681	40,503	31,741
Eggs	9,747	9,020	6,533	6,563	4,354
Chickens	116	73	56	87	37
Honey	4,287	4,510	5,264	5,027	6,372
Other [2/]	12,771	11,802	13,765	10,712	18,412
TOTAL	848,371	800,959	911,250	948,166	866,784
CROPS					
Wheat	439,440	417,690	480,123	561,062	671,231
Barley	149,690	134,379	152,739	86,439	116,444
Sugar beets	53,568	48,938	55,714	50,968	56,985
Hay	71,809	78,321	131,398	101,124	79,668
Potatoes	16,834	18,901	15,908	18,967	21,750
Oil crops	n.a.	6,003	5,013	6,439	8,500
Oats	2,355	2,292	2,881	4,100	3,819
Dry beans	3,314	2,618	2,604	3,722	3,980
Corn	774	2,592	4,854	3,805	3,946
Cherries	250	0	336	167	770
All other 3/	22,193	17,197	17,979	16,783	23,340
TOTAL	760,227	728,931	869,549	853,576	990,433
ALL COMMODITIES	1,608,598	1,529,890	1,780,799	1,801,742	1,857,217

[1/] Revised. [2/] Includes beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others. [3/] Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse and nursery products.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Egg Production
Cattle County Estimates

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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ISSUE: 95-18 (0279-0394)
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

HIGHLIGHTS:

7 State Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
September 1 Grain Stocks
Quarterly Egg Production
Milk Production
Small Grains Summary
Hog & Pig Inventory

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.45 million head, down slightly from a year ago and down 4 percent from September 1, 1993.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 1.69 million, 9 percent below both 1994 and 1993. Net placements of 1.64 million for August were down 8 percent from both 1994 and 1993.

Marketings during August totaled 1.88 million, up 7 percent from 1994 and up 11 percent from 1993. This is the largest August marketings since the current 7-State data series began in 1972.

Other disappearance during August was 50,000 head, 11 percent below last year and 39 percent below 1993.

AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM 1994

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.86 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 1995, down 15 percent from last year. During August 2,000 head of cattle were slaughtered, 400 head less than August 1994. The average live weight of 1,184 pounds was 6 pounds lighter than a year ago.

There were 3,100 hogs slaughtered in August, down 300 head from a year earlier. Average live weight decreased 12 pounds to 224 pounds. The number of sheep slaughtered was 600 head, down 200 head from last year. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 115 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled a record high 3.86 billion pounds during August. This production was 3 percent above the previous record high set in August 1994.

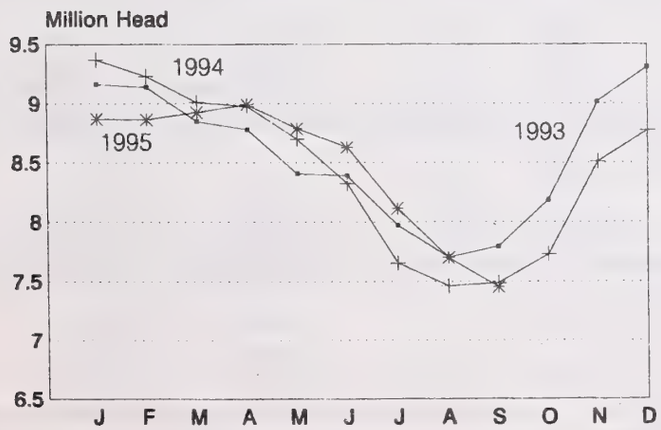
Beef production totaled 2.31 billion pounds, up 3 percent from previous record high set in August 1976. Head kill totaled 3.22 million, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight at 1,189 pounds was down 15 pounds from last year.

Pork production, at 1.50 billion pounds was up 1 percent from the previous record high set in August 1994. Hog kill totaled 8.26 million head, 1 percent above August 1994. The average live weight remained the same at 252 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 4 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 371,700 head, down 7 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 123 pounds.

January-August red meat production was 28.7 billion pounds up 4 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent, veal was up 11 percent, pork was up 4 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 7 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



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SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks on September 1, 1995 amounted to 194.5 million bushels, 3 percent less than last year's inventory. This year's September inventory is 11 percent above the 10-year average.

Winter wheat stocks, at 49.8 million bushels, were 37 percent below last year, but **all spring wheat** stocks, at 144.7 million, were up 20 percent. **All wheat** stocks on farms, at 170 million bushels, were unchanged from last year and off-farm stocks, at 24.5 million bushels, were down 20 percent. All wheat disappearance in the June through August quarter was 57 percent more than the 10-year average.

Barley stocks, in all locations on September 1, amounted to 52.7 million bushels, up slightly from last September. On-farm barley stocks were up 4 percent from last year. Off-farm inventory was down 24 percent. **Oat** stocks, at 4.56 million bushels, were up 28 percent from last year. On-farm oat stocks were up 32 percent from last year, while off-farm stocks were 65 percent below last year.

Nationally, all wheat in storage on September 1, 1995 was estimated at 1.88 billion bushels, down 9 percent from last September 1. Farm stocks were 744 million bushels; off-farm stocks, 1.14 billion. The farm level was down 14 percent from last year, and the off-farm, down 6 percent. The first quarter disappearance of the 1995-96 marketing year totals 809 million bushels, down 1 percent from the first quarter the previous year.

U.S. **durum wheat** stocks on September 1, 1995 were estimated at 97.2 million bushels, up 5 percent from last September. Farm stocks totaled 72.6 million bushels, 3 percent less than September 1994. The first quarter disappearance from all positions was 31.1 million bushels, down 4 percent from 1994.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on September 1, 1995, were estimated at 312 million bushels, 11 percent below the stocks of September 1, 1994. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 199 million bushels were stored on farms, 10 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 113 million bushels, were 14 percent below last year.

U.S. **corn** stored in all positions on September 1, 1995, was estimated at 1.56 billion bushels, up 83 percent from September 1, 1994. Of the total stocks, 741 million bushels were stored on farms, 87 percent above last year. Off-farm stocks, at 817 million bushels, were up 80 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. **oats** stored in all positions on September 1, 1995, was estimated at 180 million bushels, down 18 percent from a year earlier. Of the total stocks on hand, 107 million bushels were stored on farms, 26 percent below last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 72.9 million bushels, 4 percent below last year.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1994	June 1, 1995*	Sept. 1, 1995	'95/'94	Sept. 1, 1994	June 1, 1995*	Sept. 1, 1995
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	170,000	33,000	170,000	100%	859,800	163,410	743,600
Off Farms 1/	30,500	17,500	24,500	80%	1,209,694	343,175	1,137,550
TOTAL	200,500	50,500	194,500	97%	2,069,494	506,585	1,881,150
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	67,000	12,000	40,000	60%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	12,500	7,300	9,800	78%	--	--	--
TOTAL	79,500	19,300	49,800	63%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	103,000	21,000	130,000	126%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	18,000	10,200	14,700	82%	--	--	--
TOTAL	121,000	31,200	144,700	120%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	74,720	12,350	72,560
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	17,526	13,752	24,625
TOTAL	5,500	1,550	6,940	126%	92,246	26,102	97,185
BARLEY							
On Farms	45,000	6,000	47,000	104%	220,150	37,905	198,900
Off Farms 1/	7,500	2,600	5,700	76%	131,740	74,688	112,824
TOTAL	52,500	8,600	52,700	100%	351,890	112,593	311,724
OATS							
On Farms	3,400	1,300	4,500	132%	144,300	46,750	107,200
Off Farms 1/	170	90	60	35%	75,551	53,848	72,881
TOTAL	3,570	1,390	4,560	128%	219,851	100,598	180,081
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	395,400	2,072,000	740,900
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	454,743	1,342,896	817,408
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	850,143	3,414,896	1,558,308

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

District	All Wheat			Barley		
	Sept. 1, 1994	June 1, 1995*	Sept. 1, 1995	Sept. 1, 1994	June 1, 1995*	Sept. 1, 1995
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	1.9	0.3	1.8	2.2	0.3	2.0
North Central	95.7	21.5	98.3	23.0	3.5	25.5
Northeast	56.3	17.9	49.1	7.8	1.5	4.4
Central	23.2	6.3	23.8	9.4	1.3	12.0
Southwest	4.2	1.2	4.4	4.8	0.4	3.3
South Central	11.8	1.2	10.4	4.3	1.3	4.4
Southeast	7.4	2.1	6.7	1.0	0.3	1.1
STATE	200.5	50.5	194.5	52.5	8.6	52.7

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

SMALL GRAIN SUMMARY

Montana's 1995 all wheat crop is the second largest wheat crop on record at 193.7 million bushels. This year's crop is 14 percent more than last year and second only to 1993's 206.3 million bushel crop. **Winter wheat** production is set at 58.0 million bushels, 10 percent less than 1994 and the smallest crop since 1989. Last fall's dry weather substantially reduced winter wheat plantings and this spring farmers plowed up poor, thin, winter wheat stands in many areas. There were 1.45 million acres harvested this year with an average yield of 40 bushels per acre which ties the second highest yield in history. This year's **spring wheat** crop is the largest ever with an estimated production of 127.8 million bushels. This year's large increase in acreage was the biggest factor in the large production estimate. Harvested spring wheat acreage, at 3.65 million acres, was the largest spring wheat acreage harvested since 1953 when spring wheat and durum wheat were combined into all spring wheat. An average yield for this year's crop is set at 35 bushels per acre, the second highest yield on record. **Durum wheat** production is estimated at 7.95 million bushels, up 49 percent from 1994. A strong price this year led farmers to harvest 265,000 acres. The northeast, where most of the durum is grown, suffered more than previously thought from some hot spells. The durum crop looked great, but did not fill as expected. This year's average yield is 30 bushels per acre, the same as last year.

It was also a good year for **barley** producers who harvested a 62.4 million bushel crop. This is 18 percent more than last year with an average yield of 52 bushels per acre, which ties the second highest yield on record. Farmers harvested 1.2 million acres, unchanged from last year. **Oats** production is set at 4.72 million bushels, up 31 percent from last year. There were 80,000 acres harvested with an average yield of 59 bushels per acre, also the second highest yield on record.

U.S. all wheat production for 1995 totaled 2.18 billion bushels, slightly below the September 1 forecast, but down 6 percent from 1994. Area for grain was estimated at 60.9 million acres, fractionally less than the September 1 forecast and off 1 percent from last year. The U.S. all wheat yield of 35.9 bushels per acre, is 1.7 bushels per acre lower than last year and the lowest average since 1991.

The 1995 U.S. winter wheat production was estimated at 1.55 billion bushels, marginally less than the August forecast and 7 percent lower than 1994. Yield averaged 37.8 bushels per acre, 0.2 bushels better than August, but 2.4 bushels per acre below the 1994 average. Harvested area was estimated at 41.1 million acres, down 1 percent from both the last forecast and last year. Other spring wheat production was estimated at 531 million bushels, up minutely from the September forecast, but down 6 percent from 1994. Harvested area is up 1 percent from September 1. The U.S. yield was set at 32.2 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushels from September 1, but up 0.4 bushels from a year ago. The 1995 durum production was estimated at 102 million bushels, down 3 percent from the last forecast, but 6 percent higher than 1994. Acres for grain totaled 3.35 million acres, up 3 percent from September 1 and up 24 percent from last year. The yield estimate is 1.8 bushels per acre less than the final forecast and down 5.1 bushels from last year.

Oat production in 1995 was estimated at 163 million bushels, 29 percent below last year's crop--the lowest oat production since estimates were first made in 1866. Yields per harvested acre for grain averaged 55.2 bushels, down 1.9 bushels from 1994. Barley production in 1995 was estimated at 361 million bushels, 4 percent below last year's estimate and the lowest since the drought reduced crop of 1988. Average yield per acre, at 57.6 bushels, was up 1.4 bushels from 1994.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

August milk production in the 22 major States totaled 11.1 billion pounds, slightly above production in these same States in August 1994. July revised production, at 11.4 billion pounds was 1 percent more than July 1994.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,373 pounds for August 4 pounds above August 1994. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.11 million head, unchanged from August 1994 but 2,000 head more than July 1995.

During the April-June period, the 22 major States produced 34.9 billion pounds of milk, 86.1 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.9 billion pounds for August 1995.

The Montana grain stocks, production estimates and U.S. hogs and pigs estimates in this issue are the results of surveying approximately 1,800 Montana farmers and ranchers during September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to this survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

AUGUST U.S. EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.13 billion during August 1995, down 2 percent from the 6.27 billion produced August 1994. Production included 5.18 billion table eggs and 955 million hatching egg type, of which 891 million were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 1995 averaged 286 million, down 2 percent from the average number a year earlier. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,145 eggs, compared with 2,160 in August 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1995, totaled 287 million, down 2 percent from a year ago. The 287 million layers consisted of 236 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.72 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1995, averaged 69.2 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 69.8 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.80 billion eggs during August, down 2 percent from August 1994. The average number of layers during August, at 270 million, was also down 2 percent from the year earlier.

U.S. SEPTEMBER 1 HOG INVENTORY DOWN

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1995, was estimated at 61.1 million head, 2 percent below last year but 3 percent above September 1, 1993.

Breeding inventory, at 7.07 million head, was 5 percent below last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Market hog inventory at 54.0 million head, was 2 percent below a year ago but 4 percent above September 1, 1993.

The June-August 1995 U.S. pig crop was 25.0 million head, 2 percent less than last year but 4 percent above the same period in 1993. Sows farrowing during June-August 1995 totaled 3 million, down 3 percent from last year but 1 percent above the same period in 1993. Pigs saved per litter were a record high for the quarter at 8.32 compared to 8.22 during the same period in 1994. Pigs saved per litter, during June-August 1995, by size of operation ranged from 7.20 for those operations with 1-99 head to 8.80 pigs per litter for operations with 2,000 head or more.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3 million sows farrow during the September-November period. This is slightly above the actual farrowings during the same period in 1994 and 1 percent above 1993. Farrowings for December 1995-February 1996 are expected to be up slightly from last year and 3 percent above two years ago. If realized, this would be the highest December-February sows farrowed since 1980.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Small Grains Summary	Ag Prices Received
Cash Receipts	Crop Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- September 1 Crop Production
- Pasture & Range Feed Condition
- Ag Prices Received
- Wheat & Barley Movement

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST NEARLY UNCHANGED

Estimated spring wheat production remains at 129.6 million bushels. This is the largest spring wheat crop on record, due to the second highest yield and the large number of acres harvested. The forecasted yield of 36 bushels per acre is 6 bushels larger than last year and only 1 bushel below 1993's record yield. Harvesting of the crop remains behind normal due to the late spring. As of September 9, only 65 percent of the spring wheat crop has been harvested.

The estimated durum wheat yield fell 1 bushel from last month to 31 bushels per acre. There were a few hot spells in the northeast that caused more damage than previously thought. Although the stand looked good, the heads did not fill. Durum wheat production is forecast at 9.145 million bushels, down 3 percent from last month, but up 71 percent from 1994 due mainly to the large increase in harvested acreage. Winter wheat production is not estimated as of September 1. August winter wheat production forecast added to all spring wheat production totals 200.2 million bushels. This total all wheat production only trails 1993's record year, but is 17 percent above last year.

Barley production is estimated at 64.8 million bushels, down nearly 4 percent from last month but up 23 percent from last year. Estimated yield is set at 54 bushels per acre down 2 bushels from last month but is still the second highest yield on record. Oat production is not estimated as of September 1.

Estimated sugar beet production increased slightly from last month and is currently set at 1.3 million tons, down marginally from last year. Forecasted yield is set at 23.5 tons per acre, up .5 tons from last month but down .7 tons from last year.

New hay estimates will be available October 10. The August all hay production estimate was 5.5 million tons, up 21 percent from 1994.

U.S. all wheat production is forecast at 2.19 billion bushels, down 2 percent from August 1 and 6 percent less than in 1994. Area for grain is 60.9 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Yields are now expected to average 35.9 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushels from a month ago.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 530 million bushels, down 6 percent from both last month and last year. Yield declines in North Dakota were only partially offset by an improved South Dakota yield. Lower than expected head weights lead to the North Dakota's drop. The U.S. yield is now 32.4 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels from last month's forecast. Durum wheat production is forecast at 105 million bushels, down 7 percent from August 1 but up 8 percent from 1994. Yield reductions in North Dakota and Montana are the reason for the production decline from last month. Area for harvest as grain remains at 3.26 million acres, up 19 percent from 1994. The September yield forecast is 32.3 bushels per acre, down 2.7 bushels from last month.

Barley production is forecast at 374 million bushels, down 3 percent from last month, but virtually unchanged from the 1994 crop. The expected yield per acre is forecasted at 58.3 bushels compared with last month's 59.9 bushels and last year's 56.2 bushels. Area harvested and to be harvested is estimated at 6.42 million acres, down 4 percent from last year.

U.S. sugar beet production is expected to total 29.1 million tons, up 1 percent from the August 1 forecast, but down 9 percent from 1994. Area for harvest, at 1.43 million acres, is virtually unchanged from last month's forecast, but down 1 percent from last year. The average yield, at 20.4 tons per acre, is 1.8 tons below last year's yield.

Corn production is forecast at 7.83 billion bushels, down 22 percent from the record high 1994 production. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 121.1 bushels per acre, down 4.5 bushels from last month and 17.5 bushels below a year earlier. Acreage for harvest as grain is estimated at 64.7 million acres, the same as last month.

SEPTEMBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION DECLINES

Drier weather has caused Montana's pasture and range feed condition to fall from a month ago. The condition remains mostly in the good to excellent range. As of September 1, the condition ratings were: 1% very poor, 3% poor, 24% fair, 47% good, and 25% excellent. The amount in the good to excellent range fell 14 points from last month. The northeast continues to have the lowest rating, while the remaining districts all show mostly good to excellent conditions.

Reporters of range and pasture feed conditions are asked to rate the percentage of the pastures that fall into the each of the following categories:

- **Very poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing very little or no feed for the current time of the year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock.
- **Poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing marginal feed for the current time of the year. Some supplemental feeding is required.
- **Fair** - pastures and/or ranges are providing adequate feed but less than the normal amount expected for the current time of the year.
- **Good** - pastures and/or ranges are providing the normal amount of feed for the current time of the year.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, SEPTEMBER 1, 1995

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,950	1,650	1,850	1,500	35.0	41.0	64,750	61,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	300	178	295	30.0	31.0	5,340	9,145
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,450	3,700	3,350	3,600	30.0	36.0	100,500	129,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,580	5,650	5,378	5,395	31.7	37.1	170,590	200,245
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	60	55	20	18	135.0	140.0	2,700	2,520
Oats	Bu.	140	145	75	75	48.0	58.0	3,600	4,350
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	54.0	52,800	64,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	11.0	10.0	10.8	22.0	21.0	220	227
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.3	55.7	54.0	55.5	24.2	23.5	1,307	1,304
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.0	9.8	10.0	9.7	320.0	3/	3,200	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,550	1,650	2.30	2.50	3,565	4,125
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	650	850	1.50	1.60	975	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,200	2,500	2.06	2.19	4,540	5,485
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	49,247	49,339	41,335	41,336	40.2	37.6	1,661,043	1,552,230
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,850	3,265	2,739	3,255	35.5	32.3	97,347	105,262
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,324	16,771	17,697	16,328	31.8	32.4	562,220	529,768
All Wheat	Bu.	70,421	69,375	61,771	60,919	37.6	35.9	2,320,610	2,187,260
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	79,158	72,008	72,917	64,682	138.6	121.1	10,103,030	7,832,140
Oats	Bu.	6,644	6,438	4,020	3,247	57.2	57.3	229,857	186,167
Barley	Bu.	7,159	6,796	6,667	6,418	56.2	58.3	374,862	374,215
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,025.8	2,036.7	1,845.2	1,945.8	15.82	16.49	29,187	32,078
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,475.8	1,441.5	1,443.0	1,428.7	22.2	20.4	31,994	29,086
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,213.9	1,220.0	1187.7	1,199.4	354	3/	420,515	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,222	24,639	3.36	3.49	81,398	86,082
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	34,522	35,589	1.99	2.00	68,726	71,292
All Hay	Ton	--	--	58,744	60,228	2.56	2.61	150,124	157,374

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 9, 1995.

ALL WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1994 & Forecasted September 1, 1995

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1994	1995	1994	Aug. 1, 1995	Sept.1, 1995	1994	1995
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO [1]	2,592	2,742	30.8	38.5	38.5	79,734	105,666
ID	1,410	1,330	71.1	73.4	73.4	100,280	97,650
KS [1]	11,400	10,800	38.0	27.0	27.0	433,200	291,600
MN	2,572	2,193	28.0	30.0	30.0	71,948	65,790
MT	5,378	5,395	31.7	37.2	37.1	170,590	200,245
NE [1]	2,100	2,100	34.0	41.0	41.0	71,400	86,100
ND	11,238	10,988	31.7	32.0	28.3	356,404	310,604
OK [1]	5,300	5,250	27.0	21.0	21.0	143,100	110,250
OR [1]	928	934	63.1	66.9	66.9	58,580	62,530
SD	3,353	2,693	28.4	33.6	34.0	95,278	91,687
TX [1]	2,900	3,150	26.0	26.0	26.0	75,400	81,900
WA	2,545	2,595	52.7	55.6	55.6	134,000	144,280
US	61,771	60,919	37.6	36.6	35.9	2,320,610	2,187,260

[1] Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1995 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1994	1995 [2]	95/94	1994	1995 [2]	95/94	1994	1995 [2]	95/94
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	1,033	1,100	106	925	1,440	156	2,179	2,160	99
N Central	34,481	31,600	92	39,437	68,970	175	25,647	34,550	135
Northeast	4,088	3,400	83	49,089	45,890	93	5,574	5,600	100
Central	11,007	12,100	110	7,243	11,200	155	9,374	12,500	133
Southwest	1,690	1,000	59	1,605	2,220	138	4,119	3,600	87
S Central	8,890	9,300	105	2,415	3,400	141	4,624	5,100	110
Southeast	3,561	3,000	84	5,126	5,625	110	1,283	1,290	101
Montana	64,750	61,500	95	105,840	138,745	131	52,800	64,800	123

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

AG PRICES RECEIVED MIXED FOR JULY

Montana crop prices for the full month of July were mixed. Durum wheat decreased 44 cents to $5.23 per bushel. Winter wheat increased 24 cents to $4.03 per bushel, while spring wheat rose 8 cents to $3.90. Feed barley increased 1 penny to $2.22 per bushel, and malt barley fell 9 cents to $2.61 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices, at $68.00 per ton, fell $3.00 from June, and other hay prices, at $61.00 per ton, dropped $2.00. The all wheat price for mid-August averaged $4.14 per bushel, and the all barley price was $2.43.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were lower compared with the previous month, except for sheep. Cow prices were down 30 cents to $39.60 per cwt. The average price for steers and heifers slipped 60 cents to $62.40 per cwt. Calf prices fell $5.20 to $65.30 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $29.70, $1.70 above last month. Lamb prices dropped $1.10 to $85.70 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 20 cents to $12.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $63.80 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $61.90 per cwt for the full month of July. Cow prices came in at $36.00 and hogs were $46.20 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $4.09 per bushel and $2.43 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 60.9 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 101 based on 1990- 92=100, unchanged from July. Price gains from July for broilers, hogs, peaches, and wheat more than offset declines for tomatoes, potatoes, soybeans, and cotton. However, the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower relative seasonal marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers more than offset the effect of relatively higher seasonal marketings of cattle, barley, grapes, and tobacco, resulting in no change to the overall index.

Compared with August 1994, the All Farm Products Index was up 4 points (4.1 percent). Higher prices in August relative to a year earlier for wheat, corn, hogs, and lettuce more than offset lower prices for cattle, tomatoes, calves, and milk.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	July 1994	Aug. 1994	July 1995	Aug. 1995
Prices Received	97	97	101	101
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	106	106 [2/]	108	108 [3/]
Ratio [1/]	92	92	94	94

[1/] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2/] July 1994 prices paid index. [3/] July 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	August 15, 1995	August 15, 1995
		July 1994	June 1995	July 1995	July 1995		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.95	3.79	4.03	4.05	4.05	4.14
Durum	Bu.	5.23	5.67	5.23	5.21	5.30	5.14
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.47	3.82	3.90	4.25	4.15	4.12
All Wheat	Bu.	3.29	3.81	3.95	4.09	4.14	4.17
Barley, All	Bu.	2.22	2.25	2.29	2.43	2.43	2.36
Feed	Bu.	1.85	2.21	2.22	2.29	2.05	2.17
Malt	Bu.	2.76	2.70	2.61	2.65	2.90	2.63
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	71.00	68.00	86.30	68.00	85.20
All Other Hay	Ton	59.00	63.00	61.00	63.10	58.00	64.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	65.00	70.00	67.00	80.60	66.00	81.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	70.50	63.00	62.40	61.90	63.80	61.30
Cows	Cwt.	44.50	39.90	39.60	36.00	39.50	36.20
Beef Cattle[1/]	Cwt.	58.80	47.30	49.20	59.50	52.90	59.40
Calves	Cwt.	82.70	70.50	65.30	72.30	66.00	71.00
Sheep	Cwt.	30.40	28.00	29.70	28.90	29.50	28.20
Lambs	Cwt.	71.90	86.80	85.70	85.70	84.00	86.10
All Milk	Cwt.	12.80	12.60	12.40	12.10	13.10	12.30

[1/] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1994-May 1995, at 74.5 million bushels, was 21 percent below the same period last year when the Grain Movement survey showed record shipments.

Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 3.3 million bushels, compared with 5.3 million bushels last year. Movement to the west was down 18 percent, at 70.3 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, received .9 million bushels down drastically from last year at 4.2 million bushels. Rail movement amounted to 71.1 million bushels, 95 percent of total shipments.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1994--May 1995, at 17.4 million bushels, was down 23 percent from same period last year. Shipments to western destinations were down 35 percent and eastern destinations were up 101 percent. Barley hauled by rail accounted for 90 percent of total movement, down 2 percent from the same period last year.

WHEAT & BARLEY SHIPPED OUT OF STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE & DESTINATION [1/] *

Agricultural Statistics Districts	December 1993-May 1994			December 1994-May 1995			Dec. 1993-May 1994 Barley	Dec. 1994-May 1995 Barley
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat		
	1,000 Bushels							
West [3/]	391	1,360	1,751	515	1,486	2,001	5,877	5,076
North Central	27,935	14,250	42,185	15,882	18,432	34,314	11,076	9,200
Northeast	3,747	25,641	29,388	1,135	20,391	21,526	2,266	1,189
Central	11,934	1,206	13,140	5,163	3,504	8,667	3,280	1,790
South Central	4,255	744	4,999	3,024	1,146	4,170	94	44
Southeast	1,458	1,887	3,345	1,838	2,007	3,845	95	62
Trucked East	34	29	63	24	20	44	24	15
Trucked West	2,208	1,550	3,758	1,740	1,459	3,199	1,734	1,571
Trucked Other [4/]	85	28	113	106	108	214	116	184
Total By Truck	2,327	1,607	3,934	1,870	1,587	3,457	1,924	1,770
Rail East	883	4,418	5,301	121	3,142	3,263	1,549	3,147
Rail West	44,820	36,657	81,477	25,566	41,545	67,111	18,509	11,590
Rail Other [4/]	1,690	2,406	4,096	0	692	692	706	854
Total By Rail	47,393	43,481	90,874	25,687	45,379	71,066	20,764	15,591
Total Shipped	49,720	45,088	94,808	27,557	46,966	74,523	22,688	17,361

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and unknown.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Milk Production
- Slaughter
- Grain Stocks
- Hogs & Pigs
- Cattle on Feed
- Potato Disposition
- Quarterly Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
All Hay County Estimates
July Agricultural Labor
July Egg Production
July Milk Production

MONTANA JULY RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN; U.S. UP

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.41 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 1995, down 10 percent from last year and down 5 percent from last month. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, decreased 300 head from last year and average live weight, at 1,261, increased 54 pounds from a year ago.

A total of 2,600 hogs were slaughtered in July, the same as a year earlier. Average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 236 pounds. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, was also the same as last year and average live weight increased 1 pound to 118 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.43 billion pounds during July, up 2 percent from last year. Beef production totaled 2.08 billion pounds, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.93 million, up 4 percent from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,184 pounds, was down 8 pounds from last year.

Veal production totaled 24.0 million pounds, up 14 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 114,000, up 20 percent from last year. The average live weight was down 11 pounds to 371 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.30 billion pounds, was virtually unchanged from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.08 million head, slightly below a year earlier. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 255 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.0 million pounds, was up 1 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 310,000 head, down 2 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 125 pounds.

January-July red meat production was 24.8 billion pounds up 4 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent, veal jumped 11 percent, pork rose 5 percent, but lamb and mutton dropped 7 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.70 million head, up 3 percent from a year ago and virtually unchanged from August 1, 1993.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.38 million, 13 percent below 1994 and 9 percent below 1993. Net placements of 1.33 million for July were down 14 percent from last year and 7 percent below 1993.

Marketings during July totaled 1.74 million, up 1 percent from 1994 and 2 percent above 1993.

Other disappearance during July was 55,000 head, no change from last year and 32 percent below 1993.

Cattle on Feed in 1000+ Capacity Feedlots Up 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed August 1, 1995 for the 7 States in the feedlots with 1,000 or more head capacity totaled 7.15 million head, 5 percent above the previous year and 6 percent above 1993. The inventory in the 1,000+ capacity feedlots accounted for 93 percent of the total inventory.

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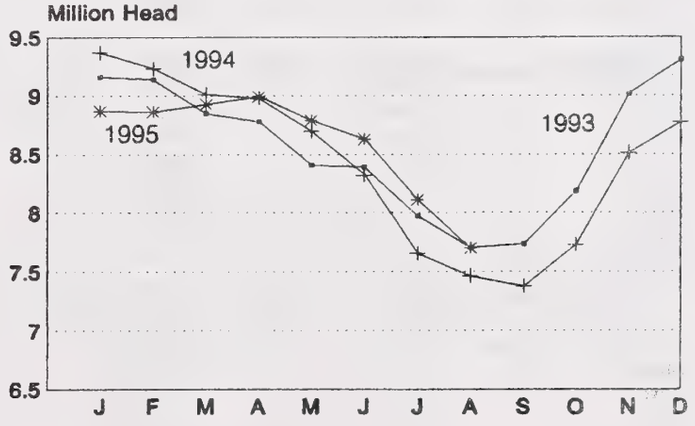
CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1994

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Rank	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre --Tons--	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre --Tons--	Production
Deerlodge	9,000	2.40	21,600	51	8,500	2.48	21,100	500	1.00	500
Flathead	31,000	2.55	79,000	25	13,000	3.52	45,800	18,000	1.84	33,200
Granite	29,000	2.57	74,400	26	27,500	2.62	72,000	1,500	1.60	2,400
Lake	57,000	2.48	141,400	7	43,500	2.92	127,000	13,500	1.07	14,400
Lincoln	9,000	1.80	16,200	53	5,500	2.13	11,700	3,500	1.29	4,500
Mineral	3,000	1.80	5,400	56	1,500	2.67	4,000	1,500	0.93	1,400
Missoula	21,000	2.42	50,900	35	16,500	2.74	45,200	4,500	1.27	5,700
Powell	51,000	2.11	107,700	14	47,000	2.17	102,000	4,000	1.43	5,700
Ravalli	36,000	3.14	112,900	12	34,500	3.22	111,000	1,500	1.27	1,900
Sanders	27,000	1.69	45,500	39	13,500	2.31	31,200	13,500	1.06	14,300
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTHWEST	273,000	2.40	655,000	–	211,000	2.71	571,000	62,000	1.35	84,000
Blaine	51,000	2.30	117,200	10	33,500	2.72	91,200	17,500	1.49	26,000
Chouteau	29,000	1.36	39,400	41	5,300	1.96	10,400	23,700	1.22	29,000
Glacier	35,000	1.43	50,000	36	7,600	2.11	16,000	27,400	1.24	34,000
Hill	17,000	1.77	30,100	48	3,200	2.59	8,300	13,800	1.58	21,800
Liberty	9,000	1.40	12,600	55	2,300	2.39	5,500	6,700	1.06	7,100
Phillips	63,000	1.94	122,000	9	31,000	2.23	69,000	32,000	1.66	53,000
Pondera	31,000	2.37	73,600	28	18,200	3.05	55,500	12,800	1.41	18,100
Teton	53,000	2.73	144,800	6	38,000	3.26	123,800	15,000	1.40	21,000
Toole	11,000	1.30	14,300	54	1,900	2.26	4,300	9,100	1.10	10,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTH CENTRAL	299,000	2.02	604,000	–	141,000	2.72	384,000	158,000	1.39	220,000
Daniels	14,000	1.61	22,500	50	2,200	3.09	6,800	11,800	1.33	15,700
Dawson	33,000	1.82	60,000	32	7,800	3.97	31,000	25,200	1.15	29,000
Garfield	26,000	1.43	37,200	44	5,300	2.49	13,200	20,700	1.16	24,000
McCone	27,000	1.47	39,800	40	5,000	2.70	13,500	22,000	1.20	26,300
Richland	38,000	1.94	73,700	27	7,800	4.19	32,700	30,200	1.36	41,000
Roosevelt	34,000	1.68	57,200	33	7,100	2.92	20,700	26,900	1.36	36,500
Sheridan	24,000	1.48	35,600	46	2,300	3.52	8,100	21,700	1.27	27,500
Valley	42,000	2.38	100,000	20	23,500	3.11	73,000	18,500	1.46	27,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTHEAST	238,000	1.79	426,000	–	61,000	3.26	199,000	177,000	1.28	227,000
Broadwater	27,000	3.19	86,000	23	24,000	3.37	80,800	3,000	1.73	5,200
Cascade	77,000	1.95	150,100	5	16,000	3.13	50,100	61,000	1.64	100,000
Fergus	125,000	1.63	203,500	4	12,000	2.96	35,500	113,000	1.49	168,000
Golden Valley	25,000	1.50	37,400	42	12,000	1.93	23,200	13,000	1.09	14,200
Judith Basin	64,000	1.63	104,000	16	7,000	2.00	14,000	57,000	1.58	90,000
Lewis & Clark	44,000	2.42	106,500	15	28,000	3.11	87,000	16,000	1.22	19,500
Meagher	49,000	2.07	101,300	19	42,000	2.19	92,000	7,000	1.33	9,300
Musselshell	28,000	1.68	47,000	38	8,500	3.35	28,500	19,500	0.95	18,500
Petroleum	21,000	1.72	36,100	45	10,500	2.28	23,900	10,500	1.16	12,200
Wheatland	33,000	1.73	57,100	34	23,000	2.00	46,000	10,000	1.11	11,100
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CENTRAL	493,000	1.88	929,000	–	183,000	2.63	481,000	310,000	1.45	448,000
Beaverhead	113,000	2.45	276,700	1	105,000	2.50	262,000	8,000	1.84	14,700
Gallatin	76,000	3.40	258,300	2	58,500	3.80	222,500	17,500	2.05	35,800
Jefferson	28,000	2.46	68,900	29	26,000	2.54	66,000	2,000	1.45	2,900
Madison	76,000	2.86	217,100	3	73,000	2.90	212,000	3,000	1.70	5,100
Silver Bow	9,000	2.56	23,000	49	7,500	2.87	21,500	1,500	1.00	1,500
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHWEST	302,000	2.79	844,000	–	270,000	2.90	784,000	32,000	1.88	60,000
Big Horn	54,000	2.03	109,500	13	18,500	3.32	61,500	35,500	1.35	48,000
Carbon	55,000	2.33	128,000	8	35,000	3.06	107,000	20,000	1.05	21,000
Park	50,000	2.03	101,700	18	39,500	2.15	85,000	10,500	1.59	16,700
Stillwater	54,000	1.53	82,400	24	13,500	2.78	37,500	40,500	1.11	44,900
Sweetgrass	46,000	2.22	101,900	17	35,000	2.54	88,800	11,000	1.19	13,100
Treasure	12,000	2.51	30,100	47	6,000	3.70	22,200	6,000	1.32	7,900
Yellowstone	44,000	2.60	114,400	11	25,500	3.65	93,000	18,500	1.16	21,400
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTH CENTRAL	315,000	2.12	668,000	–	173,000	2.86	495,000	142,000	1.22	173,000
Carter	56,000	1.15	64,500	31	1,800	1.94	3,500	54,200	1.13	61,000
Custer	43,000	2.08	89,400	22	13,500	4.25	57,400	29,500	1.08	32,000
Fallon	47,000	1.01	47,300	37	2,700	1.59	4,300	44,300	0.97	43,000
Powder River	57,000	1.16	66,100	30	7,800	1.81	14,100	49,200	1.06	52,000
Prairie	18,000	2.07	37,300	43	7,100	3.70	26,300	10,900	1.01	11,000
Rosebud	42,000	2.16	90,900	21	17,300	3.69	63,900	24,700	1.09	27,000
Wibaux	17,000	1.09	18,500	52	800	1.88	1,500	16,200	1.05	17,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHEAST	280,000	1.48	414,000	–	51,000	3.35	171,000	229,000	1.06	243,000
MONTANA	2,200,000	2.06	4,540,000	–	1,090,000	2.83	3,085,000	1,110,000	1.31	1,455,000

JULY WORKER NUMBERS UP

There were 3.67 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 1995. This compares with 3.51 million people during the July 1994 survey week. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.63 million of the total, along with 632,000 unpaid workers, and 1.07million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 348,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.44 per hour during the July 1995 survey week. This rate was up 23 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.12 per hour compared with $5.91 last July. Field workers received an average of $6.09 per hour, up 24 cents from the July 1994 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.94 per hour compared with $5.67 a year ago.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 39.0 hours, compared with 37.4 hours in the comparable week in 1994. Unpaid workers averaged 34.0 hours, compared to 32.0 hours last year. Hired employees worked 39.9 hours during the survey week, the same as last year.

Beginning in July 1994, all benefits received by hired workers are summarized by each benefit category. Benefits were provided for 484,000 hired workers. Farm operators provided housing for 170,000, meals for 74,000, bonuses for 76,000, health insurance for 222,000, transportation for 69,000, and other benefits for 217,000 hired workers.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS,JULY 9-15, 1995 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER 3/					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	6.58	5.71	6.23	9.51	7.75	6.84	4/	6.52
Northeast II	6.10	5.22	5.86	9.69	7.72	6.30	6.48	6.29
Appalachian I	5.63	6.13	5.68	9.04	7.58	5.55	6.54	6.56
Appalachian II	5.37	5.56	5.43	7.93	4/	5.32	4/	6.48
Southeast	5.47	5.58	5.49	9.18	4/	5.41	6.99	6.36
FL	6.79	6.45	6.75	13.50	10.25	6.91	8.00	11.25
Lake	6.18	5.71	6.03	9.55	6.19	6.40	5.78	6.43
Cornbelt I	6.07	6.10	6.08	10.59	6.61	5.97	4/	7.04
Cornbelt II	5.93	5.95	5.93	8.88	4/	6.03	4/	6.87
Delta	5.28	5.72	5.40	9.09	4/	5.36	4/	6.23
Northern Plains	6.10	5.33	5.83	7.90	5.48	6.30	4/	5.51
Southern Plains	5.39	5.76	5.52	9.60	6.82	5.41	4/	6.58
Mountain I	5.71	5.91	5.77	4/	4/	6.15	4/	5.70
Mountain II	5.48	5.09	5.31	8.57	4/	5.92	4/	5.61
Mountain III	5.54	6.31	5.71	4/	4/	5.65	4/	8.01
Pacific	6.66	7.35	6.70	9.92	8.57	6.44	7.39	8.58
CA	6.27	7.52	6.37	11.83	9.99	6.27	7.16	10.29
HI	8.81	4/	8.78	16.00	4/	9.00	4/	14.68
AK	7.10	4/	4/	4/	4/	7.40	4/	4/
US 5/	6.09	5.94	6.06	10.21	7.95	6.12	7.10	7.13

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Livestock, Supervisory, and Other published at Regional and U. S. level only. 4/ Insufficient Data. 5/ Excludes AK.

U.S. JULY EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.13 billion during July 1995, down 1 percent from the 6.21 billion produced during July 1994. Production included 5.17 billion table eggs and 966 million hatching egg type, of which 903 million were broiler-type and 63.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 1995 averaged 285 million, down 1 percent from the average number of layers during July 1994. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,148 eggs, compared with 2,155 in July 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 1995, totaled 284 million, down 2 percent from a year ago. The 284 million layers consisted of 233 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 48.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.72 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 1995, averaged 69.0 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 69.5 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg States produced 5.80 billion eggs during July, down 1 percent from July 1994. The average number of layers during July, at 270 million, was also down 1 percent from the year earlier.

U.S. JULY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 22 major States during July totaled 11.4 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same States in July 1994. June revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds was 2 percent more than June 1994.

Production per cow in the 22 ma States averaged 1,409 pounds for July, 20 pounds above July 1994. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.10 million head, unchanged from both July 1994 and June 1995.

During the April-June period, the 22 major States produced 34.9 billion pounds of milk, 86.1 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 13.3 billion pounds for July 1995.

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Crop Production	

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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CROP PRODUCTION PROSPECTS IMPROVING

Continued good growing conditions are improving crop prospects. **Montana** winter wheat production, which is just starting to be harvested, is estimated at 61.5 million bushels with a yield of 41 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from the July forecast. While the estimated yield is the second highest on record, production is down about 5 percent from a year ago because of the smaller harvested acreage. Spring wheat yield is estimated at 36 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from July and up 6 bushels from last year. The forecasted yield is also the second highest yield on record. Total production is estimated at 129.6 million bushels, up 29 percent from last year and the largest spring wheat crop on record due to the large harvested acreage. Durum wheat production is estimated at 9.44 million bushels, up 77 percent from 1994, but unchanged from last month. The northeast area where most of the durum is grown has suffered a little more crop stress than the rest of the state. Yield is unchanged from last month and remains estimated at 32 bushels per acre.

Estimated barley yield increased 2 bushels from last month and is pegged at 56 bushels per acre which is also the second largest yield on record. Production is estimated at 67.2 million bushels, up 27 percent from last year. Oat production is set at 4.35 million bushels, up 21 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 58 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from last month and up 10 bushels from a year ago.

An estimated 18,000 acres of corn will be harvested for grain with an expected yield of 140 bushels per acre. Yields are up 5 bushels from last year and are the highest on record. Corn production is set at 2.52 million bushels. Sugar beet production is estimated at 1.3 million tons with an average yield of 23 tons per acre. Producers intend to harvest 55,500 acres of beets. Dry bean production is set at 227,000 cwt. with an average yield of 2,100 lbs. per acre.

Alfalfa hay production is estimated at a record 4.13 million tons, up 16 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 2.5 tons per acre. Other hay production is estimated at 1.36 million tons with an average yield of 1.6 tons per acre.

At the U.S. level, all wheat production is forecast at 2.23 billion bushels, up 2 percent from July 1, but 4 percent less than in 1994. Yields are now expected to average 36.6 per acre, up 0.7 bushels from a month ago. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, up 1 percent from July, but 7 percent less than the 1994 production. The yield forecast is 37.6 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushels from last month. Harvested yields were better than expected for major soft red winter states. Farmers are reporting high yields in Colorado and the Nebraska Panhandle. Prospects for better than expected yields exist in Montana and the Pacific Northwest. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 561 million bushels, 3 percent more than last month, but slightly lower than last year. Improved yield prospects in the Dakota's and the Pacific Northwest have yields at 34.4 bushels per acre, up 1.2 bushels from last month's forecast. Durum wheat production for 1995 is forecast at 114 million bushels, up 1 percent from July and 17 percent higher than 1994. Nearly all of the production change from last month is due to a 50,000 acre increase in North Dakota. Average yields are once again forecast at 35.0 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from a year ago.

Total barley production is forecast at 385 million bushels, up 2 percent from July and 3 percent above the 1994 production of 375 million bushels. Yields are expected to average 59.9 bushels per acre, up 0.9 of a bushel from July and 3.7 bushels above last year. Production of oats for 1995 is forecast at 186 million bushels, up 3 percent from July, but 19 percent below the 1994 crop. If realized, this would be the lowest oat production since records were first kept in 1866. The forecasted yield, at 57.3 bushels per acre, is up 1.4 bushels from July and 0.1 of a bushel above the 1994 crop. Corn production is forecast at 8.12 billion bushels, down 20 percent from the record high production of 1994. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 125.6 bushels per acre, down 13.0 bushels from last year. Acreage for harvest, at 64.7 million acres, is down 1 percent from the June "Acreage" estimate and 11 percent below the 1994 final harvested acreage.

AUGUST 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition continues to be rated mostly good to excellent. Continued favorable weather has kept the pastures and range condition nearly the same as a month ago. As of August 1, the condition was rated at 3% poor, 11% fair, 56% good, 30 % excellent. All districts showed mostly good to excellent ratings with the Northeast having the lowest ratings in this range.

Reporters of range and pasture feed conditions are asked to rate the percentage of the pastures that fall into the each of the following categories:

- **Very poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing very little or no feed for the current time of the year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock.
- **Poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing marginal feed for the current time of the year. Some supplemental feeding is required.
- **Fair** - pastures and/or ranges are providing adequate feed but less than the normal amount expected for the current time of the year.
- **Good** - pastures and/or ranges are providing the normal amount of feed for the current time of the year.
- **Excellent** - pastures and/or ranges are providing feed in excess of what is normally expected for the current time of the year.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, AUGUST 1, 1995

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1994	1995 [1/]	1994	1995 [3/]	1994	1995 [1/]	1994	1995 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,950	1,650	1,850	1,500	35.0	41.0	64,750	61,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	300	178	295	30.0	32.0	5,340	9,440[4]
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,450	3,700	3,350	3,600	30.0	36.0	100,500	129,600[4]
All Wheat	Bu.	5,580	5,650	5,378	5,395	31.7	37.2	170,590	200,540
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	60	55	20	18	135.0	140.0[4]	2,700	2,520
Oats	Bu.	140	145	75	75	48.0	58.0	3,600	4,350
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	56.0	52,800	67,200
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	11.0	10.0	10.8	22.0	21.0	220	227
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.3	55.7	54.0	55.5	24.2	23.0	1,307	1,277
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.0	9.8	10.0	9.7	320.0	3/	3,200	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,550	1,650	2.30	2.50	3,565	4,125[4]
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	650	850	1.50	1.60	975	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,200	2,500	2.06	2.19	4,540	5,485
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	49,247	49,339	41,335	41,336	40.2	37.6	1,661,043	1,552,230
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,850	3,265	2,739	3,255	35.5	35.0	97,347	113,774
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,324	16,771	17,697	16,328	31.8	34.4	562,220	561,418
All Wheat	Bu.	70,421	69,375	61,771	60,919	37.6	36.6	2,320,610	2,227,422
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	79,158	72,008	72,917	64,682	138.6	125.6	10,103,030	8,121,520
Oats	Bu.	6,644	6,438	4,020	3,247	57.2	57.3	229,857	186,167
Barley	Bu.	7,159	6,796	6,667	6,418	56.2	59.9	374,862	384,687
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,025.8	2,036.7	1,845.2	1,945.8	15.82	16.49	29,187	32,078
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,475.5	1,441.5	1,443.1	1,427.0	22.2	20.2	31,994	28,888
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,213.9	1,220.0	1182.1	1,199.9	349	3/	412,077	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,222	24,639	3.36	3.49	81,398	86,082
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	34,522	35,589	1.99	2.00	68,726	71,292
All Hay	Ton	--	--	58,744	60,228	2.56	2.61	150,124	157,374

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 9, 1995. [4] Record High.

All Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1994 & Forecasted August 1, 1995

	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1994	1995	1994	July 1, 1995	Aug. 1, 1995	1994	1995
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,592	2,742	30.8	36.6	38.5	79,734	105,666
ID	1,410	1,330	71.1	71.4	73.4	100,280	97,650
KS	11,400	10,800	38.0	28.0	27.0	433,200	291,600
MN	2,572	2,193	28.0	30.0	30.0	71,948	65,790
MT	**5,378**	**5,395**	**31.7**	**35.0**	**37.2**	**170,590**	**200,540**
NE	2,100	2,100	34.0	38.0	41.0	71,400	86,100
ND	11,238	10,988	31.7	31.3	32.0	356,404	351,654
OK	5,300	5,250	27.0	21.0	21.0	143,100	110,250
OR	928	934	63.1	65.2	66.9	58,580	62,530
SD	3,353	2,693	28.4	33.2	33.6	95,278	90,504
TX	2,900	3,150	26.0	26.0	26.0	75,400	81,900
WA	2,545	2,595	52.7	53.6	55.6	134,000	144,280
US	61,771	60,919	37.6	35.9	36.6	2,320,610	2,227,422

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1995

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1994	1995	95/94	1994	1995	95/94	1994	1995	95/94
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	1,033	1,100	106	925	1,400	151	2,179	2,100	96
N Central	34,481	31,600	92	39,437	68,400	173	25,647	35,200	137
Northeast	4,088	3,400	83	49,089	46,980	96	5,574	6,450	116
Central	11,007	12,100	110	7,243	11,100	153	9,374	13,000	139
Southwest	1,690	1,000	59	1,605	2,130	133	4,119	3,600	87
S Central	8,890	9,300	105	2,415	3,400	141	4,624	5,400	117
Southeast	3,561	3,000	84	5,126	5,630	110	1,283	1,450	113
Montana	64,750	61,500	95	105,840	139,040	131	52,800	67,200	127

PRICES RECEIVED WERE MIXED FOR FULL MONTH OF JUNE

Montana crop prices for the full month of June were mixed, with prices increasing for grains and decreasing for hay. With stocks-to-use ratios for wheat and feed grains nearing historic lows nationally and disappointing harvests in some major wheat producing areas across the country, prices for Montana wheat are strengthening. Likewise, with Midwest feed grain crops in question, the price for barley is improving. Durum wheat increased 78 cents to $5.67 per bushel. Spring wheat rose 34 cents to $3.82 per bushel and winter wheat climbed 35 cents to $3.79. Feed barley increased 18 cents to $2.21 per bushel and malt barley climbed 13 cents to $2.70 per bushel. The all wheat price for mid-July averaged $4.32 per bushel, while the all barley price was $2.35. For the full month of June, alfalfa hay prices, at $71.00 per ton, and other hay prices, at $63.00 per ton, both decreased $2.00 from May.

Livestock prices for the full month of June were lower compared with the previous month, except for cows, sheep, and lambs. Cow prices were up 80 cents to $39.90 per cwt, but the average price for steers and heifers decreased $2.70 to $63.00 per cwt. Calf prices dropped $1.60 to $70.50 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $3.00 above last month at $28.00. Lamb prices improved $2.70 to $86.80 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 80 cents to $12.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $58.20 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $63.30 per cwt for the full month of June. Cow prices came in at $38.20 and hogs were $42.30 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.85 per bushel and $2.25 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 57.8 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in July was 102 based on 1990- 92=100, up 2 points from June. Price gains from June for wheat, hogs, corn, and broilers more than offset price declines for lettuce, cattle, cantaloupes, and tomatoes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also can affect the overall index level, but these changes were essentially offsetting in July. Higher relative seasonal marketings of wheat, grapes, tomatoes, and sorghum offset the effect of relatively lower seasonal marketings of milk, cantaloupes, potatoes, and oranges.

Compared with July 1994, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points higher. Higher prices for wheat, corn, hogs, and cotton compared with July 1994 levels more than offset lower prices for cattle, broilers, and calves.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	June 1994	July 1994	June 1995	July 1995
Prices Received	100	97	100	102
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	107[2]	106	108[3]	108
Ratio 1/	93	92	93	94

[1] Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2] April 1994 prices paid index. [3] April 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.	Montana	U.S.
		Monthly Average			Monthly Avg.	July 15, 1995	July 15, 1995
		June 1994	May 1995	June 1995	June 1995		
		Dollars					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.09	3.44	3.79	3.77	4.20	4.21
Durum	Bu.	5.85	4.89	5.67	5.22	6.00	5.53
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.70	3.48	3.82	3.77	4.40	4.22
All Wheat	Bu.	3.63	3.56	3.81	3.85	4.32	4.24
Barley, All	Bu.	1.93	2.07	2.25	2.25	2.35	2.40
Feed	Bu.	1.81	2.03	2.21	2.19	2.30	2.35
Malt	Bu.	2.46	2.57	2.70	2.48	2.75	2.66
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	64.00	73.00	71.00	90.60	68.00	86.30
All Other Hay	Ton	56.00	65.00	63.00	63.60	61.00	63.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	63.00	72.00	70.00	83.90	67.00	80.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	71.40	65.70	63.00	63.30	58.20	62.00
Cows	Cwt.	45.30	39.10	39.90	38.20	40.00	36.30
Beef Cattle[1]	Cwt.	55.20	52.90	47.30	60.90	47.30	59.70
Calves	Cwt.	86.20	72.10	70.50	77.10	66.00	75.20
Sheep	Cwt.	31.30	25.00	28.00	29.20	30.10	28.50
Lambs	Cwt.	64.20	84.10	86.80	85.70	86.00	85.60
All Milk	Cwt.	14.00	13.40	12.60	12.10	12.50	12.20

[1] Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

MONTANA FARM NUMBERS DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM A YEAR AGO

Montana's number of farms and ranches is estimated at 22,000, down 500 from last year. This is the fourth year in a row of declining numbers. Land in farms remains unchanged from last year, which is estimated at 59.7 million acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 1995 is estimated at 2.07 million, up less than half a percent from 1994. Total land in farms is 972 million acres, virtually unchanged from last year. This is the first time since 1981 that farm numbers have increased from the previous year and is due to the increase in small farms. The increase in small farms is partly due to a change in definition that includes places with 5 or more horses, except horses in boarding stables and racetracks. This change in the definition was made to bring consistency with the Census Bureau. The average farm size decreased from 471 acres in 1994 to 469 in 1995.

The West Region had the largest percentage increase from 1994, at nearly one percent or 2,200 farms. The North Central Region showed the biggest increase in number of farms at 5,000 or about a half percent. The Northeast Region was the only region to show a decline in farm numbers from a year ago, with 1,400 or 1.1 percent fewer farms. Farm numbers in the South Region rose 2,800.

The number of U.S. farms in the economic sales class between $1,000 and $9,999 increased from 985,420 in 1994 to 1,012,220 in 1995. Those with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 group decreased from 741,700 to 727,400. The $100,000 and over sales group decreased from 337,600 to 333,700 farms.

Estimates for the number of farms and land in farms refer to June 1. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year."

	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
Year	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms
	Thousands	Mil. Acres	Acres	Thousands	Mil. Acres	Acres
1986	24.4	60.9	2,496	2,249.8	1,005.3	447
1987	24.5	60.8	2,482	2,213.0	998.9	451
1988	24.6	60.7	2,467	2,200.9	994.4	452
1989	24.7	60.6	2,453	2,174.5	990.7	456
1990	24.7	60.5	2,449	2,145.8	986.9	460
1991	24.7	60.3	2,441	2,116.8	981.7	464
1992	24.3	60.0	2,469	2,107.8	978.5	464
1993	23.8	59.8	2,513	2,083.4	976.5	469
1994	22.5	59.7	2,653	2,064.7	973.4	471
1995	22.0	59.7	2,714	2,073.3	972.3	469

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates	Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor	Slaughter
Milk Production	Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

July 1 Cattle Inventory
13 State Cattle on Feed
June Red Meat Production
July 1 Sheep Inventory
1994 Mink Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Quarterly Milk Production
June Egg Production

JULY CATTLE INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1995, totaled 114.3 million head, up 2 percent from July 1, 1994, and up 5 percent from the 109.0 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 46.7 million, were up 2 percent from a year ago and 5 percent above two years ago. There were 37.2 million beef cows, up 3 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.5 million head, were down 1 percent from last year.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1995, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.4 million, up 2 percent from both years.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.7 million, down 3 percent and no change.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.9 million, down 2 percent from both years.
- Other heifers, 7.8 million, up 8 percent and up 7 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.3 million, unchanged and up 3 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.4 million, up 4 percent and up 9 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 32.5 million, up 3 percent and up 7 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.0 million, up 5 percent from a year ago.

The 1995 calf crop is expected to be 41.5 million, up 2 percent from 1994 and 5 percent above 1993. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 30.4 million head, up 2 percent from 1994 and up 6 percent from 1993.

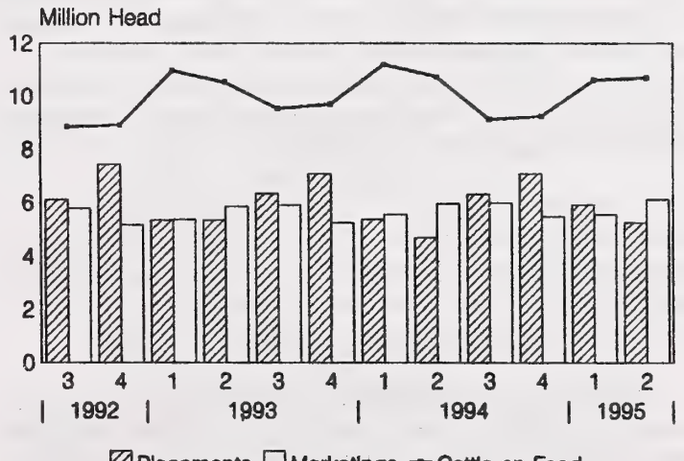
CATTLE ON FEED UP 5 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.56 million head, up 5 percent from a year ago and up fractionally from July 1, 1993. The inventory included 6.11 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from a year ago and fractionally above two years ago. This group accounts for 63.9 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.40 million head, 9 percent above a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the April-June 1995 quarter totaled 5.25 million, up 12 percent from last year, but 2 percent below April-June 1993. **Net placements** of 4.98 million for April-June were 15 percent above last year and 2 percent above April-June 1993.

Marketings of fed cattle during the April-June 1995 quarter totaled 6.11 million, up 3 percent from the same quarter last year and 4 percent above two years ago. This is the largest April-June marketings since the current 13 State series began in 1982. **Other disappearance** totaled 272,000 head compared with 334,000 in April-June 1994 and 465,000 in April-June 1993.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, IL, KS, MN, NE OK, SD, TX, WA)



JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP IN MONTANA, DOWN IN U.S.

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.48 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 1995, compared with 1.79 million pounds a year ago. Cattle slaughter, at 1,700 head, was 400 head below last year. The total live weight, at 2.1 million pounds, was down 22 percent from a year ago. The average live weight was 1,246 pounds, down 4 pounds from a year earlier.

There were 2,100 head of hogs slaughtered in June, 100 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 233 pounds, decreased 8 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter accounted for 200 head in June, the same as a year earlier. The average live weight, at 115 pounds, increased 2 pounds from 1994.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled a record high 3.79 billion pounds during June, 5 percent above the previous record high set in June 1994. Beef production totaled 2.28 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous record high set in June 1977. Head kill totaled 3.24 million, up 7 percent from last year. The average live weight, at 1,177 pounds, was down 1 pound from last year.

Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds, up 11 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 117,700, up 17 percent from a year ago. The average live weight was down 17 pounds to 383 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.46 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from the previous record high set in June 1994. Hog kill totaled 7.91 million head, 4 percent above June 1994. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 257 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 22.0 million pounds, was down 8 percent from June 1994. Slaughter totaled 360,200 head, down 8 percent from last year. The average live weight was 126 pounds.

JULY 1 ALL SHEEP AND LAMBS TOTAL 10.9 MILLION HEAD

All sheep and lambs in the United States on July 1, 1995 totaled 10.9 million head, 23 percent above January 1, 1995 but 5 percent below July 1, 1994. The number of breeding sheep and lambs on hand on July 1, 1995 was 6.45 million head, virtually unchanged from January 1995. Of the July 1 breeding herd, 5.38 million head were ewes one year old and older, 245,000 head were rams one year old or older, and 830,000 head were replacement lambs.

Market sheep and lambs, at 4.45 million head, were 81 percent above January 1995. Of the total market lambs, 63.1 percent were under 65 pounds, 19.7 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 11.0 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remainder, 6.2 percent, were over 105 pounds on July 1.

The lamb crop in the United States during 1995 is expected to total 5.70 million head, down 3 percent from the 1994 actual lamb crop of 5.90 million head. Lambs born during January - June 1995 totaled 4.96 million head while 740,000 lambs are expected to be born during July - December.

The July 1 Sheep and lamb numbers are also published by regions. Montana is included with Colorado, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. This region accounted for 4.07 million head of sheep and lambs, or 37.3 percent of the total U.S. sheep and lambs.

This region accounted for 2.14 million breeding sheep and lambs. Of the total breeding sheep and lambs, 1.83 million head were ewes one year old and older, 70,000 head were rams one year old or older, and 240,000 head were replacement lambs.

All market lambs for the region on July 1, 1995 totaled 1.91 million head. Of the total market lambs, 75.3 percent were under 65 pounds, 12.1 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 7.1 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remaining 5.5 percent were over 105 pounds.

The lamb crop for the region is expected to total 1.76 million head. Lambs born during January - June 1995 totaled 1.70 million head, with 55,000 lambs expected to be born during July - December.

1994 MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY VARIETY SURVEY

The top three winter wheat varieties grown in Montana during 1995 are Neeley, Rocky, and Tiber. They account for over one-half of the total winter wheat acreage and are the same top three varieties as last year except for Rocky and Tiber exchanging positions. Neeley remained the most popular winter wheat variety planted in 1995 for the eighth consecutive year. It is the top variety in central Montana and accounts for over one-fifth of the winter wheat acreage within the state. Rocky, the dominant variety in the north central portion of the state moved up one position in 1994. Tiber, the top variety in southeastern Montana, dropped one position from 1994, but still accounts for over 12 percent of the winter wheat acreage.

The three most popular hard spring wheat varieties planted in Montana during 1995 were Amidon, Westbred Rambo and Fortuna. These three varieties make up 48 percent of the other spring wheat acreage. Amidon, a North Dakota variety, was the number one spring wheat raised in the state for the fourth consecutive year. Westbred Rambo retained its second place position from 1994. The north central district continues to be the largest producer of the variety, accounting for over 82 percent of the planted Westbred Rambo acreage in the state. Fortuna moved into third place this year increasing in acreage by nearly 10 percent in 1995. The durum wheat variety Kyle accounts for 23 percent of the state's durum wheat acreage. Vic, the second leading durum wheat variety in the state moved up two places from last year.

Harrington remained the top barley variety for the second consecutive year. The north central district continues to be the largest producer of this malting-type variety, where more than 77 percent of the Harrington acreage is grown. Similar to last year, Hector remained in second place for all barley varieties and is the leading feed-type variety.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES 1991-95 PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACRES

VARIETY	1991	1992	1993	1994[1]	1995
WINTER WHEAT					
Neeley	24.7	25.0	18.4	23.3	22.7
Rocky	14.0	12.5	14.8	13.3	17.2
Tiber	11.7	13.5	10.7	16.2	12.1
Redwin	13.0	9.9	10.8	10.0	8.8
Judith	0.8	7.0	9.8	10.2	8.4
Norstar	6.6	7.6	6.4	2.0	4.1
Centurk	2.4	3.3	2.4	2.6	3.2
Winalta	5.8	6.1	5.8	4.4	3.0
Hawk	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	2.5
Quantum 542	--	--	0.3	1.1	1.8
Cimmaron	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.6	1.2
Roughrider	3.6	2.8	2.0	1.8	1.2
Cheyenne	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.8
Big Horn	0.8	0.3	1.0	1.3	0.7
Stephens [2]	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.7
Weston	1.8	0.6	0.2	1.1	0.6
Warrior	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.7	0.6
Cree	2.0	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.5
Kestrel	--	--	--	0.1	0.5
Hill 81 [2]	--	--	--	0.5	0.2
Thunderbird	1.8	0.4	0.2	--	0.2
Agassiz	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.4	0.2
Arapahoe	--	--	--	--	0.2
Daws [2]	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other & Unknown	7.0	6.4	11.4	7.3	8.5
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Amidon	11.7	19.6	29.0	27.9	29.8
Westbred Rambo	13.5	16.7	15.5	11.9	10.3
Fortuna	8.2	6.6	6.6	8.0	8.2
Grandin	0.2	0.7	3.4	8.5	7.3
Len	11.9	8.1	6.6	6.3	6.5
Newana	13.3	12.9	8.2	6.9	5.7
Lew	14.1	8.7	5.0	7.2	4.8
Hi-Line	--	--	0.4	2.4	4.3
Stoa	8.1	6.7	5.9	5.7	3.6
Westbred 926	0.7	0.9	1.5	2.0	3.1
Celtic	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.5	1.3
Olaf	3.6	2.7	2.8	2.2	1.2
Butte 86	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.9
Gus	0.1	0.1	--	--	0.7
Pondera	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.9	0.7
Glenman	1.5	0.7	1.4	1.0	0.6
Bounty 309	0.3	0.6	--	0.3	0.5
Northrup King 751	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.4
Westbred Express	--	--	--	0.3	0.4
Westbred 936	--	--	--	0.2	0.4
Success	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.4
ND 2375	--	--	--	--	0.3
Penawawa [2]	--	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2
Pasqua	--	--	--	--	0.2
Other & Unknown	8.7	11.0	10.2	5.4	8.2
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Revised. [2] Soft white wheat.

VARIETY	1991	1992	1993	1994[1]	1995
DURUM WHEAT					
Kyle	--	2.4	7.0	23.6	23.0
Vic	15.5	26.6	7.7	9.3	17.4
Monroe	14.2	10.3	24.2	22.5	10.9
Renville	6.0	5.9	2.8	7.4	9.8
Medora	14.0	20.8	18.0	3.4	5.9
Ward	14.1	5.8	1.3	4.6	4.6
Sceptre	0.1	--	--	--	4.0
Westbred Laker	12.6	8.9	23.5	14.5	3.9
Plenty	--	--	--	1.7	3.8
Stockholm	--	--	--	--	3.8
Crosby	4.3	4.8	2.8	6.4	3.7
Lloyd	5.4	0.4	--	3.9	2.3
Kemut	--	--	--	1.1	0.3
Rugby	2.5	--	3.1	0.3	0.2
Unknown	11.3	14.1	9.6	1.3	6.4
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
BARLEY					
Harrington [3]	25.3	23.5	22.0	28.0	25.1
Hector	25.8	23.9	22.5	14.7	13.6
Baronesse	--	0.1	1.5	7.2	11.9
Gallatin	5.6	8.0	8.4	8.8	6.9
Bowman	4.3	7.1	7.3	5.8	6.8
B 1202 [3]	2.7	3.9	5.7	3.7	6.2
Piroline	7.0	9.5	7.4	5.6	4.4
Lewis	3.0	2.2	5.1	5.2	2.6
B 2601 [3]	1.3	1.4	0.6	1.1	1.9
Clark	4.1	2.5	2.1	1.2	1.5
Haybet	0.1	--	--	0.7	1.4
Excel [3]	--	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.3
Horsford	2.2	1.4	1.9	1.3	1.2
Westbred 501	0.1	0.1	1.0	0.2	1.1
Moravian III [3]	1.7	1.8	1.9	0.8	1.0
Galena	--	--	--	0.8	1.0
Menuet	1.7	1.4	0.8	1.5	0.8
Westford	--	--	--	0.1	0.5
Morex [3]	4.6	3.0	2.4	2.0	0.5
Stark	--	--	--	0.7	0.5
Compana	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4
Bearpaw	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.3
Triumph	--	--	--	0.1	0.3
Westbred Medallion	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.3
Other & Unknown	10.0	8.6	8.3	7.9	8.5
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Revised. [3] American Malting Barley Association, Inc. recommended for malting and brewing for Montana.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat and barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee and the American Malting Barley Association, Inc. A more detailed report may be obtained from our office upon request.

SECOND QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION UP IN MONTANA AND U.S.

Montana milk production was 83 million pounds for the April - June quarter of 1995, up 6 million pounds from a year ago. The average number of milk cows on hand was 21,000 head, the same as last year. An average of 16.3 pounds of grain and other concentrates were fed per cow on July 1, 1995, down from 17.4 pounds last July. The value of grain and concentrates fed was $7.25 per cwt., down 25 cents from last year.

The U.S. quarterly milk production was 40.5 billion pounds, 1 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.52 million head, 14,000 head less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1995, averaged 18.3 pounds per cow, 0.1 of a pound more than July 1, 1994. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1995, averaged $7.66 per hundredweight, $0.44 less than the price on July 1, 1994.

U.S. PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1994 totaled 2.5 million pelts, down 1 percent from 1993. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 611,000 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 46.1 percent; Mahogany - 18.9 percent; Ranch Wild - 11.0 percent; Gunmetal - 9.7 percent; Demi-buff - 6.9 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7.4 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1994 crop year were valued at $82.6 million dollars, down 4 percent from $86.2 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1994 crop year was $33.00, compared with $34.10 in 1993.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1995 totaled 708,300, down 1 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1995 by color class are: Standard - 49.6 percent; Mahogany - 17.5 percent; Gunmetal -10.6 percent; Ranch Wild - 8.2 percent; Demi-buff - 5.9 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.2 percent.

There were 457 mink farms producing pelts in 1994, down 8 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 130 farms, Wisconsin with 78 farms, and Minnesota with 53.

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Ag Prices Received — Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Farm Numbers and Land in Farms

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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Highlights:

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
U.S. Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price

JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana farmers expect to produce the second largest wheat crop on record. Although cool weather and frequent rains have caused crop progress to be behind normal, the general feeling is that the small grain crops look very good. Total production for all wheat is estimated at 188.8 million bushels, up nearly 11 percent from last year and is the second largest production ever, trailing the 1993 record.

Spring wheat production is estimated at a record 122.4 million bushels, up 22 percent from 1994. This is mainly attributed to the large increase in acreage since a lot of winter wheat did not get planted last fall. Yield is projected at 34 bushels per acre, 4 bushels more than last year, and tied with the second highest yield on record. Growers expect to harvest 3.6 million acres, the most acreage since 1953 when estimates for other spring wheat and durum wheat were combined as all spring wheat.

Winter wheat production is estimated at 57 million bushels, down nearly 12 percent from last year, but up 4.5 million bushels from the June forecast. Yield is estimated at 38 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from the June forecast and the 1994 final yield. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from the June forecast of 1.5 million acres, but down 350,000 acres from last year.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 9.4 million bushels, up nearly 77 percent from last year. This increase is mainly due to the large increase in acreage, triggered by recent strong durum prices. Yield is set at 32 bushels per acre and 295,000 acres are expected for harvest.

The expected barley yield of 54 bushels is the second highest on record and is up 10 bushels from last year. Total production is estimated at 64.8 million bushels, up 23 percent from a year earlier. Harvested acreage is unchanged from 1994 at 1.2 million acres. Oat production is up slightly from last year at 3.9 million bushels. Yield is up 4 bushels from last year at 52 bushels per acre and harvested acreage remains unchanged from 1994 at 75,000 acres.

At the US level, all wheat production for 1995 is forecast at 2.19 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 1994 to the lowest level since 1991. Yields are expected to average 35.9 bushels per acre, down 1.7 bushels from last year. Harvested area, at 61.0 million, is 1 percent less than a year ago.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels, down 5 percent from the June forecast and 8 percent from 1994. U.S. yields are now expected to average 37.0 bushels per acre, down 2.6 bushels from last month and 3.2 bushels from last year. Area for grain harvest is estimated at 41.3 million acres, unchanged from both last year and the June 30 "Acreage" report. Hard red winter wheat States from Nebraska to Texas have lower yields than last month. Kansas and Oklahoma are off 7 and 6 bushels, respectively. In both of these states large numbers of heads were more than offset by record low head weights. The low head weights are from a combination of freeze damage, disease problems (notably rust) and weather damage to ripe wheat. Prospects for improved yields in Montana, Colorado, and South Dakota partially offset the Central Plains declines. Both Colorado and South Dakota have record high head counts.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 546 million bushels, down 3 percent from 1994. Area for grain harvest is 16.4 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Yields are forecast at 33.2 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels per acre from last season. The expected yields are higher than 1994 in all states except Colorado, North Dakota, and Oregon. Crop development trails the average in nearly all states; North Dakota is about 2 weeks late. The first full durum production forecast for 1995 is 112 million bushels, up 15 percent from 1994. This will be the largest durum production since 1990. Yields are forecast at 35.0 bushels per acre, off a half bushel from last year. Harvested area, at 3.21 million acres, is up 17 percent from 1994.

Barley production is forecast at 379 million bushels, as of July 1, 1995. This production, if realized, would be 1 percent above the 1994 production of 375 million bushels. Yields are expected to average 59.0 bushels per acre, up 2.8 bushels from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 6.42 million acres, is 4 percent below the 6.67 million acres harvested last year. Total 1995 oat production is forecast at 182 million bushels, down 21 percent from last year. If realized, this would be the lowest oat production since records were first kept in 1866. The forecasted yield, at 55.9 bushels per acre, is down 1.3 bushels from last season's 57.2 bushels. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 3.25 million acres, is down 19 percent from the 4.02 million harvested in 1994, and also the least since 1866.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of May were up from April, with the exception of barley and alfalfa hay. Barley dropped 7 cents to $2.07 per bushel, while winter wheat rose 3 cents to $3.44. Spring wheat increased 11 cents to $3.48 and durum wheat jumped 15 cents to $4.89 per bushel. Alfalfa hay averaged $73.00 a ton, $1.00 lower than the previous month and other hay went up $2.00 to $65.00 per ton. Mid-June prices for all wheat averaged $3.76 per bushel and barley came in at $2.18 per bushel.

Montana livestock prices continue to drop when comparing the full month to the previous month. Lambs were the exception, increasing $18.30 to $84.10 per cwt. Steers and heifers prices decreased $1.10 to $65.70 per cwt and mid-June prices are averaging $64.20 per cwt. Cow prices dropped $1.70 to $39.10 per cwt for the full month of May. Calf prices averaged $2.10 lower at $72.10 per cwt. Prices received for sheep were down 60 cents to $25.00. Milk prices increased 30 cents to $13.40 per cwt.

At the national level, steer and heifer prices averaged $63.60 per cwt for the full month of May. Cow prices came in at $37.00 and hogs were $37.20 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.66 per bushel and $2.20 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 56 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 100 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from May. Price declines from May for milk, strawberries, lettuce, and peaches more than offset gains for wheat, hogs, corn, and tomatoes. However, the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher relative seasonal marketings of wheat, hay, grapes, and cantaloupes more than offset the effect of relatively lower seasonal marketings of cattle, oranges, cotton, and strawberries, resulting in no change to the overall index.

Compared with June 1994, the All Farm Products Index was also unchanged. Higher prices in June relative to a year earlier for wheat, cotton, tomatoes, and peaches were offset by lower prices for milk cattle, broilers, and soybeans.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	May 1994	June 1994	May 1995	June 1995
Prices Received	101	100	100	100
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/107	2/107	3/108	3/108
Ratio 1/	94	93	93	93

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1994 prices paid index. 3/ April 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1995	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1995	U.S. Monthly Avg. May 1995	Montana June 15, 1995	U.S. June 15, 1995
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.16	3.41	3.44	3.65	3.65	3.78
Durum	Bu.	5.49	4.74	4.89	4.82	5.00	5.05
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.49	3.37	3.48	3.53	3.70	3.78
All Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.49	3.56	3.66	3.76	3.85
Barley, All	Bu.	2.00	2.14	2.07	2.20	2.18	2.42
Feed	Bu.	1.78	1.98	2.03	2.14	2.10	2.42
Malt	Bu.	2.42	2.54	2.57	2.32	2.60	2.42
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	65.00	74.00	73.00	96.30	71.00	90.60
All Other Hay	Ton	54.00	63.00	65.00	65.50	63.00	63.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	65.00	72.00	72.00	90.40	70.00	83.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	73.40	66.80	65.70	63.60	64.20	64.10
Cows	Cwt.	46.40	40.80	39.10	37.00	39.90	38.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	58.30	58.20	52.90	60.80	48.60	61.50
Calves	Cwt.	89.30	74.20	72.10	77.00	72.10	78.10
Sheep	Cwt.	29.80	25.60	25.00	27.70	31.10	27.20
Lambs	Cwt.	47.30	65.80	84.10	80.40	86.40	85.40
All Milk	Cwt.	13.90	13.10	13.40	12.40	12.50	12.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

JULY 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Adequate moisture is keeping Montana's pasture and range feed condition in excellent shape this year. As of July 1,1995, the condition was rated as 1% poor, 13% fair, 57% good, and 29% excellent. This is a 10-point increase in the good to excellent range from a month ago. Some reporters are saying the pastures and ranges look the best they have in years. All districts are reporting mostly good to excellent conditions.

Reporters of range and pasture feed conditions are asked to rate the percentage of the pastures that fall into the each of the following categories:

- **Very poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing very little or no feed for the current time of the year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock.
- **Poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing marginal feed for the current time of the year. Some supplemental feeding is required.
- **Fair** - pastures and/or ranges are providing adequate feed but less than the normal amount expected for the current time of the year.
- **Good** - pastures and/or ranges are providing the normal amount of feed for the current time of the year.
- **Excellent** - pastures and/or ranges are providing feed in excess of what is normally expected for the current time of the year.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES, JULY 1, 1995

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]	1994	1995 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,950	1,650	1,850	1,500	35.0	38.0	64,750	57,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	300	178	295	30.0	32.0	5,340	9,440
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,450	3,700	3,350	3,600	30.0	34.0	100,500	122,400
All Wheat	Bu.	5,580	5,650	5,378	5,395	31.7	35.0	170,590	188,840
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	60	55	20	18	135.0	3/	2,700	3/
Oats	Bu.	140	145	75	75	48.0	52.0	3,600	3,900
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	54.0	52,800	64,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	11.0	10.0	10.8	22.0	3/	220	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.3	55.7	54.0	55.5	24.2	3/	1,307	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.0	9.8	10.0	9.7	320.0	4/	3,200	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,550	1,650	2.30	3/	3,565	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	650	850	1.50	3/	975	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,200	2,500	2.06	3/	4,540	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	49,247	49,339	41,335	41,336	40.2	37.0	1,661,043	1,529,950
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,850	3,265	2,739	3,205	35.5	35.0	97,347	112,141
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,324	16,771	17,697	16,428	31.8	33.2	562,220	545,958
All Wheat	Bu.	70,421	69,375	61,771	60,969	37.6	35.9	2,320,610	2,188,049
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	79,158	72,008	72,917	65,032	138.6	3/	10,103,030	3/
Oats	Bu.	6,644	6,438	4,020	3,247	57.2	55.9	229,857	181,508
Barley	Bu.	7,159	6,796	6,667	6,418	56.2	59.0	374,862	378,691
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,025.8	2,036.7	1,845.2	1,957.8	15.82	3/	29,187	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,475.5	1,441.5	1,443.1	1,420.8	22.2	3/	32,008	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,213.9	1,220.0	1,182.1	1,199.9	349	4/	412,077	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,222	24,639	3.36	3/	81,398	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	34,522	35,589	1.99	3/	68,726	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	58,744	60,228	2.56	3/	150,124	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available August 11, 1995. [4] Production forecast available November 9, 1995.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1995

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1994	1995	95/94	1994	1995	95/94	1994	1995	95/94
	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.	-1,000 bushels-		Pct.
Northwest	1,033	1,000	97	925	1,300	141	2,179	2,100	96
N Central	34,481	27,400	79	39,437	61,060	155	25,647	32,400	126
Northeast	4,088	3,300	81	49,089	46,920	96	5,574	6,900	124
Central	11,007	11,800	107	7,243	9,980	138	9,374	13,000	139
Southwest	1,690	1,200	71	1,605	2,320	145	4,119	3,500	85
S Central	8,890	9,500	107	2,415	3,300	137	4,624	5,400	117
Southeast	3,561	2,800	79	5,126	6,960	136	1,283	1,500	117
Montana	64,750	57,000	88	105,840	131,840	125	52,800	64,800	123

PROJECTED U.S. WHEAT STOCKS

Projected U.S. 1995/96 ending stocks of wheat are down 31 million bushels from last month and the lowest since 1973/74. Forecast production is down 72 million bushels from last month, largely because of lower winter wheat yields. The lower crop results in a reduction of 50 million in projected exports. With the tighter U.S. and global supply and use balances, the projected price range is up 30 cents on each end to $3.65 to $4.05 per bushel.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1980-1995

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1980 .	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.99
1981 .	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 .	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,375	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,135	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,150	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 .	568	2,321	90	2,979	855	90	324	1,269	1,200	2,469	510	3.45
1995 3/	510	2,188	100	2,798	865	105	250	1,220	1,150	2,370	428	3.65-4.05

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 1995--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wheat & Barley Varieties
Milk Production
Cattle Inventory
Slaughter
Mink
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

June Planted Acreage
May Red Meat Production
May U.S. Egg Production
June 1 Grain Stocks
May Milk Production
June 1 Hog & Pig Inventory

JUNE PLANTED ACREAGE DOWN FROM MARCH INTENTIONS

Montana farmers planted an estimated 3.7 million acres of spring wheat this year and plan on harvesting 3.6 million acres. This is a 7 percent increase in planted acreage from 1994, but is down 200,000 acres from March 1 intentions. This is the largest spring wheat acreage since 1953. Poor planting conditions last fall kept many farmers from seeding winter wheat forcing the change to spring wheat. Some winter wheat acreage didn't develop this spring and had to be torn up and reseeded to spring wheat. There were 1.65 million acres of winter wheat planted, down over 15 percent compared to year ago. This is the smallest winter wheat planted acreage since 1970 and the second smallest acreage since 1951. Farmers intend to harvest 1.5 million acres, down nearly 19% from last year. Strong prices for durum encouraged a sharp increase in durum acreage planted. Farmers planted an estimated 300,000 acres this year compared with 180,000 acres last year. Durum growers expect to harvest 295,000 acres. All wheat planted is estimated at 5.65 million acres, up slightly from last year.

Barley planted acreage is set at 1.3 million acres, the same amount as last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.2 million acres, also unchanged from 1994. Acres planted to oats are set at 145,000 acres, up 4% from last year, and 75,000 acres are intended for harvest, unchanged from last year.

Farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 1.65 million acres of alfalfa hay, up over 6% from last year. The rains this year are enabling a 31% increase in expected other hay harvested acreage, currently set at 850,000 acres.

Corn planted for all purposes is set at 55,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Planted acreage of sugar beets increased slightly and is currently set at 55,700 acres. There were 11, 000 acres of dry bean planted compared with 10,800 last year.

At the U.S. level, planted area for all wheat is estimated at 69.4 million acres; area for grain, 61.0 million. Both acreage levels are down 1 percent from 1994. Growers planted 49.3 million acres of winter wheat, up slightly from both 1994 and the previously published 1995 estimate. Acres for grain are placed at 41.3 million, up 2 percent from the June 1, 1995 forecast and unchanged from 1994. Area planted for durum wheat is placed at 3.27 million acres, up 15 percent from last year. Of this, 3.21 million acres are expected to be harvested for grain. Both levels would be the highest since 1990. Other spring wheat acreage is estimated at 16.8 million acres, down 8 percent from 1994. Growers intend to harvest 16.4 million acres for grain, down 7 percent from last year. A cold, wet planting season prevented many farmers from seeding all the area they originally intended. This was especially true in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

Barley seedings last fall and this spring totaled 6.80 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. This is the least acreage seeded to barley since planted acreages were first estimated in 1926. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 6.42 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. If realized this would be the least acreage harvested since 1903 when 6.23 million acres were harvested for grain. Oats planted last fall and this spring totaled 6.44 million acres, down 3 percent from 1994 and the lowest acreage planted since estimates were first made in 1926. Growers intend to harvest 3.25 million acres for grain in 1995, down 19 percent from the 4.02 million acres harvested in 1994. If realized this would be the least oat acreage harvested for grain since records were first kept in 1866.

Corn planted for all purposes totaled 72.0 million acres, down 9% from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 65.0 million acres. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage is set at 24.6 million acres and other hay harvested acres are set at 35.6 million acres. Dry bean acreage is estimated at 2.04 million acres, while sugar beet acreage is set at 1.42 million acres.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES, JUNE 1, 1995

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1994	1995 [1/]	1994	1995 [1/]	1994	1995 [1/]	1994	1995 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,950	1,650	1,850	1,500	35.0	3/	64,750	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	300	178	295	30.0	3/	5,340	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,450	3,700	3,350	3,600	30.0	3/	100,500	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,580	5,650	5,378	5,395	31.7	3/	170,590	3/
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	60	55	20	18	135.0	4/	2,700	4/
Oats	Bu.	140	145	75	75	48.0	3/	3,600	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	3/	52,800	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	11.0	10.0	10.8	22.0	4/	220	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.3	55.7	54.0	55.5	24.2	4/	1,307	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.0	--	10.0	--	320.0	5/	3,200	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,550	1,650	2.30	4/	3,565	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	650	850	1.50	4/	975	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,200	2,500	2.06	4/	4,540	4/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	49,247	49,339	41,335	41,336	40.2	3/	1,661,043	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,850	3,265	2,739	3,205	35.5	3/	97,347	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,324	16,771	17,697	16,428	31.8	3/	562,220	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	70,421	69,375	61,771	60,969	37.6	3/	2,320,610	3/
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	79,158	72,008	72,917	65,032	138.6	4/	10,103,030	4/
Oats	Bu.	6,644	6,438	4,020	3,247	57.2	3/	229,857	3/
Barley	Bu.	7,159	6,796	6,667	6,418	56.2	3/	374,862	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,025.8	2,036.7	1,845.2	1,957.8	15.82	4/	29,187	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,475.5	1,441.5	1,443.1	1,420.8	22.2	4/	32,008	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,213.9	--	1,182.1	--	349	5/	412,077	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,222	24,639	3.36	4/	81,398	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	34,522	35,589	1.99	4/	68,726	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	58,744	60,228	2.56	4/	150,124	4/

[1/] Preliminary. [2/] Planted for all purposes. [3/] Production forecast available July 12, 1995 [4/]Production forecast available August 11, 1995. [5/] Production forecast available November 9, 1995.

MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.49 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May, 1995, compared with 1.64 million pounds a year ago, and 1.31 million pounds last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,600 head, was 300 head below last year. The total live weight in May was 1.9 million pounds, down 18 percent from last year. The average live weight was 1,224 pounds, down 22 pounds from a year earlier.

There were 2,600 head of hogs slaughtered in May, 300 more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 250 pounds, was the same as last year. Sheep slaughter accounted for 100 head in May, down 100 head from 1994. The average live weight, at 119 pounds, increased 4 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled a record high 3.76 billion pounds during May, 10 percent above the previous record high set in May 1994. Beef production totaled 2.18 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous record high set in May 1986. Head kill totaled 3.12 million, up 10 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight at 1,170 pounds was down 2 pounds from last year. Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds, up 18 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 116,800, up 26 percent from a year ago. The average live weight was down 24 pounds to 385 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.53 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from the previous record high set in May 1980. Hog kill totaled 8.19 million head, 8 percent above May 1994. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 258 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 17 percent from May 1994. Slaughter totaled 370,900 head, down 15 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 3 pounds to 127 pounds.

MAY U.S. EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.24 billion during May 1995, up 1 percent from the 6.19 billion produced May 1994. Production included 5.26 billion table eggs and 980 million hatching egg type, of which 914 million were broiler-type and 66.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 1995 averaged 291 million, up 1 percent from the 289 million during May 1994. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,147 eggs, compared with 2,143 in May 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 1995, totaled 289 million, compared with 288 million a year ago. The 289 million layers consisted of 237 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.78 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1995, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from the 69.2 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.90 billion eggs during May, up 1 percent from May 1994. The average number of layers during May, at 275 million, was also up 1 percent from the year earlier.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana's all wheat stocks totaled 54 million bushels, down over 23% from a year ago. This is 22 percent below the last ten-year average of June 1 stocks. Winter wheat stocks, at 21 million bushels, are off 27% from last year. All spring wheat stocks, which includes durum wheat and total 33 million bushels, are down 21 percent from a year ago. Durum wheat stocks of 1.45 million bushels are down 20% from last year. Barley stocks total 8.6 million bushels, down 50% from a year ago and are at their lowest level since June of 1982.

U.S. old crop all wheat stocks on June 1, 1995 are estimated at 510 million bushels, down 10 percent from June 1, 1994. Old crop durum wheat stocks on June 1, 1995 are 26.2 million bushels, down 6 percent from last June 1. These are the lowest June 1 stocks on record. Barley stored in all positions on June 1, 1995, totaled 113 million bushels, 19 percent below the June 1, 1994 stocks. Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 1995, totaled 101 million bushels, 5 percent below the June 1, 1994 stocks. Corn stocks in all positions on June 1, 1995, totaled 3.42 billion bushels, 45 percent above a year earlier.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1994	Mar. 1, 1995*	June 1, 1995	'95/'94	June 1, 1994	Mar. 1, 1995*	June 1, 1995
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	53,000	69,000	38,000	72%	175,255	335,250	168,410
Off Farms 1/	17,500	22,000	16,000	91%	393,229	633,823	341,822
TOTAL	70,500	91,000	54,000	77%	568,484	969,073	510,232
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	21,000	22,000	14,000	67%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	7,700	9,300	7,000	91%	--	--	--
TOTAL	28,700	31,300	21,000	73%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	32,000	47,000	24,000	75%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	9,800	12,700	9,000	92%	--	--	--
TOTAL	41,800	59,700	33,000	79%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	11,022	26,310	12,350
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	16,836	16,675	13,809
TOTAL	1,810	3,470	1,450	80%	27,858	42,985	26,159
BARLEY							
On Farms	13,000	15,000	6,000	46%	63,870	86,800	37,905
Off Farms 1/	4,200	7,200	2,600	62%	74,988	106,156	74,660
TOTAL	17,200	22,200	8,600	50%	138,858	192,956	112,565
OATS							
On Farms	2,000	2,100	1,300	65%	53,940	78,400	46,750
Off Farms 1/	135	150	50	37%	51,583	70,575	53,820
TOTAL	2,135	2,250	1,350	63%	105,523	148,975	100,570
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,203,000	3,502,000	2,072,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,156,881	2,089,693	1,343,559
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	2,359,881	5,591,693	3,415,559

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1994	Mar. 1, 1995*	June 1, 1995	June 1, 1994	Mar. 1, 1995*	June 1, 1995
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.2	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.4
North Central	38.0	41.2	24.0	8.5	9.8	3.5
Northeast	16.2	30.8	19.6	2.5	3.1	1.5
Central	8.6	8.6	5.3	2.4	3.4	1.3
Southwest	1.9	2.4	1.2	1.1	1.7	0.3
South Central	2.6	3.8	1.5	1.2	2.8	1.3
Southeast	3.0	3.3	2.1	0.5	0.8	0.3
MONTANA	**70.5**	**91.0**	**54.0**	**17.2**	**22.2**	**8.6**

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised

MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 22 major States during May totaled a record high 12.0 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same States in May 1994. April revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds, was 2 percent more than April 1994. Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,478 pounds for May, 21 pounds above May 1994. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.10 million head, 2,000 head less than both May 1994 and April 1995.

During the January-March period, the 22 major States produced 33.4 billion pounds of milk, 85.8 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 13.9 billion pounds for May 1995.

U.S. JUNE 1 HOG INVENTORY DOWN

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1995, was 60.2 million head, 1 percent below June 1994, but 3 percent above the March 1, 1995 inventory. Breeding inventory, at 7.25 million head, was down 4 percent from June 1, 1994, but up 4 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head, was slightly below June 1, 1994, but 3 percent above March 1, 1995.

The December-May 1995 U.S. pig crop was 50.9 million head, 1 percent less than 1994, but up 4 percent from the same period in 1993. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 6.13 million head, down 2 percent from last year, but 2 percent above two years ago. The March-May pig crop totaled 27.1 million head, down 3 percent from a year ago, but 4 percent above 1993. Sows farrowing from March to May totaled 3.26 million head, 4 percent less than a year ago. The average of 8.32 pigs per litter is the highest March-May litter rate in history.

U.S. producers intend to have 3.05 million sows farrow during the June-August 1995 quarter, 2 percent less than the actual farrowings during the same period last year, but 3 percent above 1993. Intended farrowings for September-November 1995, at 3.03 million sows, is 1 percent above actual farrowings during the same period in 1994, and up 2 percent from the 1993 period.

MONTANA SWEET CHERRY PRODUCTION DOWN 20 PERCENT

Montana sweet cherry production is estimated at 600 tons, down from 750 tons last year. While the trees bloomed very well this spring, the cool, wet weather during pollination kept the bee activity down and hurt projected production. Trees replanted after the hard freeze of 1989 are just starting to produce fruit.

At the U.S. level, cherry production is estimated at 135,700 tons, down 35 percent from a year ago. Major growing states were hit with bad weather during pollination and/or rains causing splitting later in the growing season.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Small Grain Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Montana's Rank
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JUNE 1 WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST DOWN SLIGHTLY

Montana winter wheat farmers expect to produce 52.5 millions bushels this year, down slightly from the May 1 forecast of 56.0 million bushels, due to a decrease in expected harvested acreage. If realized this forecast would be down nearly 19% from last year and would be the lowest winter wheat production since 1988.

Winter wheat yield, at 35 bushels per acre, remains unchanged from May 1 and unchanged from last year's estimate. It should be noted that the yield reflects the remaining crop after some poor stands were destroyed and reseeded to spring wheat. Estimated acreage for harvest dropped 100,000 acres from the May 1 forecast.

Some winter wheat did not develop normally, forcing producers to plow up the crop and reseed to spring wheat. Earlier indications showed that most of the winter wheat fared quite well, considering the dry fall and the unusual spring weather that Montana witnessed, but as the crop finally started to develop some of the crop did not fare as well as thought. There have been reports of the plants not tillering well resulting in poor, thin stands, as one report said, "some of the crop seems to be progressing backwards." The slow crop development also gave the weeds a better chance of taking over the winter wheat. The remaining winter wheat crop seems to be holding its own. As of June 4, the crop condition was rated at 5% very poor, 13% poor, 32% fair, 43% good, and 7% excellent.

At the U.S. level, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.61 billion bushels, down 2 percent from May 1 and down 3 percent from 1994. Area for grain harvest is 40.6 million acres, down 100,000 acres from May 1 due to a decrease in Montana. Yields are now expected to average 39.6 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushels from both last month and last year. Most soft red winter declines are attributable to flooding and disease, which are the same factors that lowered Oklahoma's yield prospects. Crop conditions vary considerably within states. Overall, head counts are a record high, but are offset by very low spikelet counts.

Winter wheat district table is on back page.

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1994 & Forecasted June 1, 1995

STATE	AREA HARVESTED 1994	AREA HARVESTED 1995	YIELD 1994	YIELD May 1, '95	YIELD June 1, '95	PRODUCTION 1994	PRODUCTION 1995
	1,000 Acres			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
AR	880	1,000	46.0	45.0	45.0	40,480	45,000
CO	2,550	2,500	30.0	34.0	34.0	76,500	85,000
ID	790	770	72.0	69.0	71.0	56,880	54,670
IL	900	1,400	56.0	57.0	53.0	50,400	74,200
KS	11,400	10,700	38.0	35.0	35.0	433,200	374,500
MN 1/	37	33	29.0	35.0	35.0	1,073	1,155
MO	1,100	1,200	45.0	45.0	43.0	49,500	51,600
MT	**1,850**	**1,500**	**35.0**	**35.0**	**35.0**	**64,750**	**52,500**
NE	2,100	2,000	34.0	38.0	39.0	71,400	78,000
ND 1/	38	38	33.0	33.0	33.0	1,254	1,254
OH	1,180	1,210	58.0	57.0	59.0	68,440	71,390
OK	5,300	5,200	27.0	31.0	27.0	143,100	140,400
OR	870	800	64.0	63.0	63.0	55,680	50,400
SD	1,350	1,400	32.0	35.0	36.0	43,200	50,400
TX	2,900	3,000	26.0	28.0	28.0	75,400	84,000
WA	2,300	2,100	54.0	54.0	52.0	124,200	109,200
US	41,335	40,623	40.2	40.2	39.6	1,661,043	1,608,396

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	59,700,000	acres	1994	2	6.1
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	1,781,032,000	dollars	1993	32	1.0
Crops	842,685,000	dollars	1993	31	1.0
Livestock	938,347,000	dollars	1993	30	1.0
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND PRODUCTION					
All Cattle & Calves	2,700,000	head	Jan. 1, 1995	12	2.6
All Cows	1,610,000	head	Jan. 1, 1995	9	3.5
Beef Cows	1,589,000	head	Jan. 1, 1995	6	4.4
Milk Cows	21,000	head	Jan. 1, 1995	45	0.2
Cattle on Feed	125,000	head	Jan. 1, 1995	19	1.0
Hogs and Pigs	210,000	head	Dec. 1, 1994	27	0.4
Sheep and Lambs	490,000	head	Jan. 1, 1995	6	5.5
Wool Production	5,092,000	pounds	1994	4	7.4
All Chickens	510,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1994	42	0.1
Egg Production	95,000,000	eggs	1994	42	0.1
Honey Production	12,495,000	pounds	1994	6	5.8
CROPS (Production)					
All Wheat	170,590,000	bushels	1994	3	7.4
Winter Wheat	64,750,000	bushels	1994	7	3.9
Durum Wheat	5,340,000	bushels	1994	4	5.5
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	100,500,000	bushels	1994	2	17.9
Barley	52,800,000	bushels	1994	3	14.1
Oats	3,600,000	bushels	1994	15	1.6
All Hay	4,540,000	tons	1994	12	3.0
Alfalfa Hay	3,565,000	tons	1994	9	4.4
Dry Beans	220,000	cwt	1994	13	0.8
Potatoes--fall	3,200,000	cwt	1994	16	0.8
Sugar Beets	1,307,000	tons	1994	7	4.1
Corn					
Grain	2,700,000	bushels	1994	40	1/
Silage	819,000	tons	1994	28	0.9

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana barley, oats, and hay were the only commodities experiencing a price increase for the full month of April, when compared with the previous month. Barley was up 8 cents to $2.14 per bushel, while winter wheat was down 8 cents to $3.41. Spring wheat dropped 18 cents to $3.37 and durum wheat fell 12 cents to $4.74 per bushel. Oats came in 14 cents higher at $1.44 per bushel. Alfalfa hay averaged $74.00 a ton, $3.00 higher than the previous month and other hay went up $4.00 to $63.00 per ton. Mid-month May prices for all wheat averaged $3.85 per bushel. Barley producers saw a 20 cent increase to $2.34 per bushel in mid-May.

Montana saw sizable drops in its livestock prices for the full month of April, when compared with the previous month. Steers and heifers prices dropped $3.50 to $66.80 per cwt and mid-May prices are averaging $1.00 lower. Cow prices in the state decreased $2.70 to $40.80 per cwt for the full month of April. Calf prices averaged $5.40 lower at $74.20 per cwt. Prices received for sheep dropped $1.20 to $25.60, and lambs fell $6.80 to $65.80 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 30 cents to $13.10 per cwt.

At the national level, steer and heifer prices averaged $67.10 per cwt for the full month of April. Cow prices came in at $38.10 and hogs were $35.70 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.48 per bushel and $2.14 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 62 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 100 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from April. Price declines from April for cattle, tomatoes, asparagus, and onions more than offset gains for potatoes, lettuce, and strawberries. However, the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher relative seasonal marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, peaches, and sweet corn more than offset the effect of relatively lower seasonal marketings of cattle, calves, milk, and cotton resulting in no change to the overall index.

Compared with May 1994, the All Farm Products Index was 1 point (1.0 percent) lower. Price decreases from May 1994 for cattle, hogs, soybeans, and broilers more than offset price increases for wheat, lettuce, cantaloupes, and peaches.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Apr. 1994	May 1994	Apr. 1995	May 1995
Prices Received	102	101	100	100
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	107	2/107	108	3/108
Ratio 1/	95	94	93	93

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1994 prices paid index. 3/ April 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1995	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1995	U.S. Monthly Avg. Apr. 1995	Montana May 15, 1995	U.S. May 15, 1995
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.35	3.49	3.41	3.45	3.70	3.63
Durum	Bu.	6.03	4.86	4.74	4.48	5.25	4.61
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.76	3.55	3.37	3.34	3.75	3.65
All Wheat	Bu.	3.68	3.67	3.49	3.48	3.85	3.70
Barley, All	Bu.	1.95	2.06	2.14	2.14	2.34	2.31
Feed	Bu.	1.87	1.91	1.98	2.05	2.20	2.24
Malt	Bu.	2.57	2.52	2.54	2.31	2.60	2.44
Oats	Bu.	1.37	1.30	1.44	1.36	1.45	1.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	71.00	74.00	95.20	73.00	96.30
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	59.00	63.00	66.30	65.00	65.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	64.00	69.00	72.00	90.30	72.00	90.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	81.40	70.30	66.80	67.10	65.80	62.80
Cows	Cwt.	48.60	43.50	40.80	38.10	38.50	37.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	73.50	64.10	58.20	63.80	53.50	60.00
Calves	Cwt.	97.10	79.60	74.20	81.80	71.40	77.50
Sheep	Cwt.	27.10	26.80	25.60	29.40	24.20	29.50
Lambs	Cwt.	49.30	72.60	65.80	74.40	77.10	79.80
All Milk	Cwt.	13.90	13.40	13.10	12.40	13.00	12.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

JUNE 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition showed quite an improvement over last month. As of June 1 the conditions were rated as 4% poor, 20% fair, 47% good, 29% excellent. This is a 33 point increase in the good to excellent range over a month ago. There has been good precipitation over most of the state, although up to early June the cool weather has been keeping the growth slower than normal. The south central and southeast districts had the best reported conditions with the northwest showing the lowest.

Reporters of range and pasture feed conditions are asked to rate the percentage of the pastures that fall into the each of the following categories:

- **Very poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing very little or no feed for the current time of the year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock.
- **Poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing marginal feed for the current time of the year. Some supplemental feeding is required.
- **Fair** - pastures and/or ranges are providing adequate feed but less than the normal amount expected for the current time of the year.
- **Good** - pastures and/or ranges are providing the normal amount of feed for the current time of the year.
- **Excellent** - pastures and/or ranges are providing feed in excess of what is normally expected for the current time of the year.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--June 1, 1995 1/

District	1993	1994	1995	% chg. 95/94
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	1,336	1,033	1,000	97
N Central	55,589	34,481	24,100	70
Northeast	7,542	4,088	3,300	81
Central	21,349	11,007	11,000	100
Southwest	2,676	1,690	1,200	71
S Central	9,000	8,890	8,900	100
Southeast	5,408	3,561	3,000	84
Montana	102,900	64,750	52,500	81

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Egg Production	Slaughter
Grain Stocks	Hogs & Pigs

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

- April Milk Production
- 1994 Milk Production, Disp. & Income
- 7 State Cattle on Feed
- April Farm Labor
- April Egg Production
- Potato Stocks
- April Red Meat Production

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 22 major States during April totaled 11.5 billion pounds, 2 percent above production in the same States in April 1994. March revised production of 11.7 billion pounds was 3 percent more than March 1994. Production per cow averaged 1,423 pounds for April, 27 pounds above April 1994. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.10 million head, 19,000 head more than April 1994 but 4,000 head less than March 1995.

During the January-March period, the 22 major States produced 33.4 billion pounds of milk, 85.8 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 13.4 billion pounds for April 1995.

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Montana 1994 milk production was the same as 1993 at 307 million pounds. An average of 21,000 milk cows were on farms during the year, down 1,000 head from 1993. The rate per cow averaged 14,619 pounds, 664 pounds above 1993.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana was 40.5 million dollars, 4 percent above 1993. Producer returns averaged $13.77 per cwt, and increase of $.40 from 1993. Marketings totaled 294 million pounds, up 1 percent from 1993. A total of 13 million pounds of milk was used on farms, 7 million pounds were fed to calves, and 6 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Natinally, milk production increased 2 percent in 1994 to 154 billion pounds. The rate per cow at 16,128 pounds, was 424 pounds above 1993. The annual average number of cows on farms at 9.53 million head, was 64,000 less than the 1993 average.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1994 at $19.9 billion, was 4 percent above 1993. Producer returns averaged $13.12 per cwt., $0.18 per cwt. above the 1993 average. Marketings totaled 152 billion pounds, 2 percent above 1993. Marketings include whole milk and producer separated cream sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.76 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 4 percent less than 1993. Calves were fed 77 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households as milk, cream, and butter.

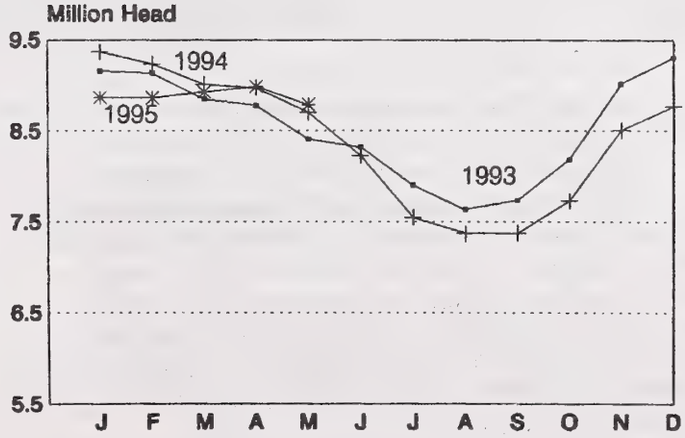
CATTLE ON FEED UP 1 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.79 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago and up 5 percent from May 1, 1993. This is the largest May inventory for the 7 States since 1973.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.44 million, 1 percent above 1994 and 8 percent above 1993. Net placements of 1.36 million for April were up 2 percent from last year and 13 percent above 1993.

Marketings during April totaled 1.56 million, down 3 percent from a year ago and 1 percent below 1993. Other disappearance during April was 80,000 head, 2 percent below last year and 37 percent below 1993.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



FARM WAGE RATES FOR APRIL

There were 2.82 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 1995. This compares with 2.92 million people during the April 1994 survey week. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.40 million of the total, along with 386,000 unpaid workers, and 822,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 214,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.49 per hour during the April 1995 survey week, up 7 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.20 per hour compared with $6.11 in April 1994. Field workers received an average of $6.05 per hour, up 3 cents from the April 1994 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.88 per hour compared with $5.80 a year earlier.

Benefits were provided for 372,000 hired workers. Farm operators provided housing for 124,000, meals for 48,000, bonuses for 81,000, health insurance for 188,000, transportation for 55,000, and other benefits for 188,000 hired workers.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes Montana, paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.71 per hour during the April 1995 survey week, up 8 cents from a year ago. Field workers received $5.61, down 9 cents from last year, while livestock workers earned $5.38, up 9 cents from wages in 1994.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 9-15, 1995 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER 3/					METHOD OF PAY 4/		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	6.90	5.71	6.30	10.13	8.67	7.29	5/	6.65
Northeast II	6.53	5.30	6.06	9.53	8.13	6.56	5/	6.22
Appalachian I	5.54	6.17	5.69	9.04	7.54	5.87	5/	6.61
Appalachian II	5.68	5.48	5.61	5/	7.89	5.92	5/	5.26
Southeast	5.16	5.56	5.24	9.69	6.94	5.31	4.70	6.14
FL	7.05	6.20	6.97	12.70	11.65	7.25	7.50	10.90
Lake	6.70	5.79	6.28	10.78	8.45	6.76	5/	7.23
Cornbelt I	6.25	5.94	6.19	9.81	6.99	6.40	5/	7.46
Cornbelt II	6.16	5.63	5.77	8.70	6.50	5.69	5/	7.15
Delta	5.23	5.84	5.41	9.18	6.28	5.33	5/	6.28
Northern Plains	6.63	5.66	6.12	5/	5/	6.37	5/	6.07
Southern Plains	5.44	5.67	5.54	8.44	6.64	5.63	5/	6.00
Mountain I	5.61	5.38	5.51	5/	6.18	5.60	5/	5.77
Mountain II	5.65	5.53	5.58	8.27	5/	5.47	5/	6.91
Mountain III	5.71	6.53	5.98	10.13	5/	5.94	5/	7.19
Pacific	6.39	7.37	6.49	10.79	9.23	6.50	5/	9.53
CA	5.94	7.25	6.03	12.76	9.62	6.00	6.21	10.81
HI	8.75	5/	8.73	15.40	5/	9.00	5/	14.16
US 6/	6.05	5.88	6.01	10.58	8.37	6.20	6.33	7.29

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Livestock, Supervisory, and Other published at Regional and U. S. level only. 4/ Piece Rate and Other published at regional and U. S. level only. 5/ Insufficient Data. 6/ Excludes AK.

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.17 billion during April 1995, up 2 percent from the 6.07 billion produced April 1994. Production included 5.23 billion table eggs and 939 million hatching egg type, of which 873 million were broiler-type and 66.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 1995 averaged 294 million, up 1 percent from the 290 million during April 1994. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,101 eggs, compared with 2,094 in April 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1995, totaled 293 million, compared with 289 million a year ago. The 293 million layers consisted of 240 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1995, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from the 69.0 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 5.84 billion eggs during April, up 2 percent from April 1994. The average number of layers during April, at 278 million, rose 1 percent from a year earlier.

MAY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana's May 1 potato stocks totaled 350,000 cwt., more than twice May 1, 1994 stocks. The May 1 stocks accounted for 11 percent of the 1994 crop compared with 6 percent the previous year. The slower movement of seed potatoes for planting precipitated the increase in potato stocks. Potato growers had planted only 9 percent of the crop on May 1, compared with 28 percent in 1994.

United States potato stocks on May 1, totaled 81.5 million cwt., up 10 percent from 1994 and 9 percent above 1993. Stocks made up 20 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same as a year ago. Disappearance was 6 percent more than last year. Processor usage as well as shrinkage and loss were up 8 percent.

Processing continued to move potatoes at a record high pace, accounting for 152 million cwt. of potatoes from the 1994 crop, up 8 percent from the same period last year and 17 percent above two years ago. March processor usage was 18.4 million cwt., up 7 percent from a year ago and 25 percent above two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled 319 million cwt. of potatoes, up 6 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was 30.9 million cwt., 8 percent above the 28.7 million cwt. lost last year but 3 percent below the losses of two years ago.

Western States potato stocks totaled 65.8 million cwt. in six States, up 7 percent from last year and 12 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks of 34.5 million cwt., were down 1 percent from a year ago, and made up 52 percent of the Western total. Colorado was off 2 percent from last year. Washington's stocks of 17.0 million cwt. and Oregon's stocks of 6.8 million cwt., were each up 26 percent. California's stocks were off 8 percent.

APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.31 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April, 1995, compared with 1.56 million pounds a year ago, and 1.33 million pounds last month.

Cattle slaughter, at 1,400 head, was 500 head below last year. The total live weight in April was 1.7 million pounds, down 28 percent from last year. The average live weight was 1,215 pounds, down 37 pounds from a year earlier.

There were 2,400 head of hogs slaughtered in April, 500 more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, increased 6 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter accounted for 100 head in April, down 100 head from 1994. The average live weight, at 125 pounds, increased 18 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.30 billion pounds during April, 2 percent below 1994. Beef production totaled 1.85 billion pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.65 million, down 2 percent from 1994. The average live weight, at 1,171 pounds, dropped 4 pounds from last year.

Veal production totaled 22.0 million pounds, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 98,300 head, up 4 percent from last year. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 391 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.41 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.55 million head, 3 percent below April 1994. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 258 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 28.0 million pounds, increased 3 percent from April 1994. Slaughter totaled 440,100 head, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 3 pounds to 126 pounds.

January-April red meat production was 13.8 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent, veal jumped 9 percent, pork rose 5 percent, but lamb and mutton dropped 6 percent.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

A portion of the fifth annual Ag Chemical Usage report issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) containing on-farm agricultural chemical use statistics is included in this Reporter. The full report and/or additional information can be obtained by calling our office at (800) 835-2612. The data presented in the report are part of the data series on chemical use funded through the 1990 Water Quality Initiative.

Wheat Highlights

Winter wheat producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 86 percent of the winter wheat harvested acres in the 13 surveyed States. About half the harvested area received phosphate fertilizer and potash was used on 15 percent of the 13 State area. All surveyed States treated at least a portion of the harvested area with herbicides and 2,4-D again was the most widely used in area applied and quantity.

Other spring wheat fertilizer applications in the four surveyed States averaged 88, 77, and 23 percent of the acreage for nitrogen, phosphate, and potash, respectively. Herbicides were widely used in all States, with 2,4-D and MCPA most prevalent. Insecticide and fungicide use was limited. (Chemical Usage tables on back page)

WINTER WHEAT: Agricultural Chemical Applications, Montana, 1994 1/

Agricultural Chemical 2/	Area Applied 3/	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent	*Number*	*Lbs./Acre*		*Mil. Lbs.*
Fertilizers:					
Nitrogen	83	1.5	38	59	90.8
Phosphate	79	1.0	29	30	44.2
Potash	17	1.1	10	11	3.4
Herbicides:					*1,000 Lbs.*
	Percent	*Number*	*Lbs./Acre*		
2,4-D	86	1.1	.35	.38	597
Dicamba	45	1.0	.08	.08	70
Metsulfuron-methyl	23	1.0	.004	.004	2
Trialsulfuron	13	1.1	.009	.010	2
Glyphosate	8	1.7	1.37	2.34	353

1/ Area harvested in 1994 for Montana was 1.85 million acres. 2/ Insufficient reports to publish data for the following agricultural chemicals: Herbicides: Bromoxynil, Difenzoquat, Fenoxaprop-ethyl, Imazamethabenz, MCPA, Picloram, Thifensulfuron, Triallate, Tribenuron-methyl, 3/ Refers to acres receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical. -- Insufficient reports to publish data. Note: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

SPRING WHEAT: Agricultural Chemical Applications, Montana, 1994 1/

Agricultural Chemical 2/	Area Applied 3/	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent	*Number*	*Lbs./Acre*		*Mil. Lbs.*
Fertilizers:					
Nitrogen	77	1.3	30	39	103.5
Phosphate	63	1.0	22	22	47.6
Potash	17	1.0	9	9	5.4
Herbicides:					*1,000 Lbs.*
	Percent	*Number*	*Lbs./Acre*		
2,4-D	79	1.0	.32	.32	882
Dicamba	60	1.0	.06	.06	134
MCPA	14	1.0	.27	.27	127
Metsulfuron-methyl	14	1.0	.004	.004	2
Trialsulfuron	10	1.0	.009	.009	3

1/ Area harvested in 1994 for Montana was 3.45 million acres. 2/ Insufficient reports to publish data for the following agricultural chemicals: Herbicides: Bromoxynil, Difenzoquat, Fenoxaprop-ethyl, Glyphosate, Thifensulfuron, Triallate, Tribenuron-methyl. 3/ Refers to acres receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical. Note: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Montana's Rank
Ag Prices
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop livestock REPORTER

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Highlights:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Pasture & Range Feed Condition
- 1994 Dairy Production
- Ag Prices Received
- Poultry Production & Value

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION AND HAY STOCKS

Montana 1995 winter wheat production is expected to be 56 million bushels, 14 percent below last year's crop. Acres expected to be harvested at 1.6 million, are 14 percent below the previous year and are the lowest since 1989. Yield per acre, based on May 1 conditions, is forecast at 35 bushels, unchanged from last year, but 1 bushel below the 5-year average.

Last fall conditions were unfavorable for seeding the winter wheat crop. Widespread drought in the later part of the year caused much apprehension among Montana farmers for planting the 1995 winter wheat crop. Winter weather conditions were not severe, and snow cover protection was generally good when temperatures dropped to lowest levels. This spring, the major winter wheat areas have received near normal precipitation and cool temperatures. Crop development is somewhat behind normal and condition ratings show about half of the crop in the good to excellent range.

For the **Nation,** winter wheat production is forecast at 1.64 billion bushels. This is down 1 percent from 1994. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is expected to average 40.2 bushels per acre, unchanged from a year ago. Harvested area is placed at 40.7 million acres, down 1 percent from last year.

The April 10-11 freeze affected portions of southwestern Kansas, southeastern Colorado, the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles and parts of northeastern New Mexico. Damage estimates range from moderate to severe depending on moisture and maturity at the time. The remaining wheat is generally in good condition, allowing yield projections to be up from last year's final. Most Soft Red Winter yields are down from last year's highs. Hard Red Winter yields are higher than last year in most States. The Pacific Northwest State yields are lower than a year ago or unchanged.

Hay stocks on **Montana** farms May 1, 1995 were 772,000 tons, down 33 percent from last year's May 1, stocks and are the lowest May 1 stocks since 1989 when there were 307,000 tons on hand. Farmers and ranchers had only 17 percent of their 1994 production on hand May 1, 1995. Disappearance in the December 1 1994-May 1,1995 period amounted to nearly 3.2 million tons, unchanged from last season.

Nationally, haystocks on farms totaled 20.8 million tons on May 1, 1995, down 6 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 1994 - May 1, 1995, period totaled 83.6 million tons, 6 percent higher than the 1993 crop disappearance of 78.9 million tons for the same period one year earlier.

WINTER WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, by State and United States, 1993-94 and Forecasted May 1, 1995

STATE	AREA HARVESTED 1994	AREA HARVESTED 1995	YIELD 1994	YIELD 1995	PRODUCTION 1993	PRODUCTION 1994	PRODUCTION 1995
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CO	2,550	2,500	30.0	34.0	94,350	76,500	85,000
ID	790	770	72.0	69.0	67,150	56,880	5,313
KS	11,400	10,700	38.0	35.0	388,500	433,200	374,500
MT	**1,850**	**1,600**	**35.0**	**35.0**	**102,900**	**64,750**	**56,000**
NE	2,100	2,000	34.0	38.0	73,500	71,400	76,000
OK	5,300	5,200	27.0	31.0	156,600	143,100	161,200
OR	870	800	64.0	63.0	61,060	55,680	50,400
SD	1,350	1,400	32.0	35.0	56,550	43,200	49,000
TX	2,900	3,000	26.0	28.0	118,400	75,400	84,000
UT	150	135	40.0	39.0	6,045	6,000	5,265
WA	2,300	2,100	54.0	54.0	162,500	124,200	113,400
WY	180	180	24.0	25.0	5,600	4,320	4,500
US	41,335	40,723	40.2	40.2	1,760,143	1,661,043	1,638,211

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--May 1,1995 1/

District	1993	1994	1995	% chg. 95/94
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	1,336	1,033	1,000	97
N Central	55,589	34,481	26,400	77
Northeast	7,542	4,088	3,300	81
Central	21,349	11,007	11,400	104
Southwest	2,676	1,690	1,200	71
S Central	9,000	8,890	9,400	106
Southeast	5,408	3,561	3,300	93
Montana	102,900	64,750	56,000	86

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MAY 1 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pasture and range feed condition ratings on May 1 were: 1 % very poor, 21% poor, 35% fair, 41% good and 2% excellent. Cool temperatures along with dry conditions last fall and early spring has delayed growth of forage grasses. The North Central and the Southwest areas pastures are in mostly poor to fair condition while fair to good condition reports were common elsewhere.

Reporters of range and pasture feed conditions are asked to rate the percentage of the pastures that fall into the each of the following categories:

- **Very poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing very little or no feed for the current time of the year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock.
- **Poor** - pastures and/or ranges are providing marginal feed for the current time of the year. Some supplemental feeding is required.
- **Fair** - pastures and/or ranges are providing adequate feed but less than the normal amount expected for the current time of the year.
- **Good** - pastures and/or ranges are providing the normal amount of feed for the current time of the year.
- **Excellent** - pastures and/or ranges are providing feed in excess of what is normally expected for the current time of the year.

APRIL 1, 1995, SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY TOTALS 9.91 MILLION HEAD

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on April 1, 1995, totaled 9.91 million head, 11 percent above January 1, 1995. Since this is the first April 1 sheep inventory report, comparisons to last year are not available. Total breeding sheep and lambs inventory of 6.28 million head was 2 percent below January 1995. Market sheep and lambs inventory (including newborns) were 48 percent above January 1995.

Of the April 1 breeding herd, 5.19 million head were ewes one year old and older, 265,000 head were rams, and 830,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

Of the total market lambs (including newborn lambs), 66.4 percent were under 65 pounds, 9.5 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 11.2 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remainder, 12.9 percent, were over 105 pounds on April 1.

1994 DAIRY PRODUCTS HIGHLIGHTS

Montana dairy plants produced 1.1 million pounds of butter in 1994. Creamed cottage cheese production amounted to 3.9 million pounds, while cottage cheese curd production totaled 1.4 million pounds.

Total ice milk production by Montana plants at 1.03 million gallons decreased 3 percent from 1993. Hard ice milk dropped 16 percent from last year at 127 thousand gallons, and soft ice milk was down less than one percent at 901 thousand gallons. Plants used a total of 628 thousand gallons of ice milk mix in 1994 compared with 688 thousand gallons in 1993.

United States butter production during 1994 totaled 1.30 billion pounds, 1 percent less than 1993. California accounted for 27 percent of the production, followed by Wisconsin with 23 percent and Washington with 9 percent.

Total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 6.73 billion pounds, 3 percent above the 1993 production. Wisconsin was the leading State with 30 percent of the production. American type cheese production, at 2.98 billion pounds, was 1 percent above 1993 and accounted for 44 percent of total cheese produced in 1994.

Italian varieties, at 2.62 billion pounds produced, were 5 percent above the 1993 production. Mozzarella accounted for 79 percent of the Italian production followed by Ricotta with 9 percent and Provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading State in Italian cheese production with 31 percent of the production.

Creamed cottage cheese, at 410 million pounds, was down 5 percent from 1993. Lowfat cottage cheese, at 321 million pounds, was up 1 percent.

Ice cream production totaled 876 million gallons, up 1 percent from 1993. Ice milk, at 360 million gallons, was up 11 percent. Milk sherbet, at 54.8 million gallons, was up 8 percent. Frozen yogurt production, at 151 million gallons, was up 1 percent. The 285 million gallons of soft products (ice cream, ice milk, and sherbet) made during 1994 accounted for 22 percent of the total frozen dairy products, excluding yogurt. Soft frozen dairy products are sold from direct-serve soft freezer and milk shake machines.

POULTRY VALUE OF PRODUCTION AND SALES

Montana 1994 egg sales dropped from a year ago due to lower production and decreased average prices. Egg production decreased 24 percent while the average price per dozen of eggs went down 13 percent. Montana's egg production, at 95 million eggs, is the lowest on record. These factors in turn combine to produce a record low value of production of $4.4 million. (continued on the back page)

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of March were a mixed bag. Durum wheat increased 10 cents to $4.86 per bushel. Spring wheat remained unchanged at $3.55 per bushel, while winter wheat decreased 10 cents to $3.49. Alfalfa hay prices, at $71.00 per ton, decreased $2.00 from February, while other hay prices, at $59.00 per ton, fell $6.00. Feed barley increased 3 cents to $1.91 per bushel, and malt barley dropped 32 cents to $2.52 per bushel. At $1.30, oats averaged 1 cent below the previous month. The all wheat price for mid-April averaged $3.68 per bushel, while the all barley price was $2.17.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were lower compared with the previous month except for cows. Cow prices were up 20 cents to $43.50 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers decreased $3.50 to $70.30 per cwt. Calf prices dropped $2.90 to $79.60 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $7.00 below last month at $26.80. Lamb prices slipped 60 cents to $72.60 per cwt. Milk prices increased 10 cents to $13.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $67.30 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $70.20 per cwt for the full month of March. Cow prices came in at $39.90 and hogs were $37.80 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.53 per bushel and $2.06 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 61.4 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 103 based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (3.0 percent) from March. Price gains from March for vegetables, (sharp increases for lettuce, onions, and asparagus) and oranges more than offset price declines for cattle, hogs, strawberries, and broilers. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also can affect the overall index level, but these changes were offsetting in April. Higher relative seasonal marketings of cattle, milk, and several fruit and vegetable items offset the effect of relatively lower seasonal marketings of soybeans, cotton, corn, and wheat.

Compared with April 1994, the All Farm Products Index was 1 point (1.0 percent) higher. Sharply higher prices for lettuce, tomatoes, cotton, and onions compared with April 1994 levels offset lower prices for cattle, hogs, corn and soybeans. Although year to year price changes were offsetting, a relative increase in annual vegetable and poultry weights used to calculate 1995 indexes resulted in a slightly higher overall index.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Mar. 1994	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1995	Apr. 1995
Prices Received	105	102	100	103
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/106	107	3/108	108
Ratio 1/	99	95	93	95

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1994 prices paid index. 3/ January 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1995	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1995	U.S. Monthly Avg. Mar. 1995	Montana Apr. 15, 1995	U.S. Apr. 15, 1995
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.49	3.59	3.49	3.47	3.45	3.44
Durum	Bu.	5.62	4.76	4.86	4.61	4.85	4.49
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.55	3.55	3.38	3.60	3.42
All Wheat	Bu.	3.70	3.64	3.67	3.53	3.68	3.51
Barley, All	Bu.	2.24	2.26	2.06	2.06	2.17	2.11
Feed	Bu.	1.96	1.88	1.91	1.94	1.97	1.88
Malt	Bu.	2.72	2.84	2.52	2.22	2.75	2.28
Oats	Bu.	1.37	1.31	1.30	1.34	1.25	1.30
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	73.00	71.00	94.20	74.00	95.20
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	65.00	59.00	63.90	63.00	66.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	64.00	72.00	69.00	86.70	72.00	90.30
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	84.50	73.80	70.30	70.20	67.30	67.80
Cows	Cwt.	48.10	43.30	43.50	39.90	40.90	39.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	78.70	68.30	64.10	66.90	58.90	64.60
Calves	Cwt.	99.40	82.50	79.60	84.40	76.40	81.90
Sheep	Cwt.	35.50	33.80	26.80	31.90	26.00	29.40
Lambs	Cwt.	56.90	73.20	72.60	74.80	68.50	72.90
All Milk	Cwt.	14.10	13.30	13.40	12.70	13.10	12.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE (continued)

Montana's value of sales from chickens, excluding broilers, in 1994 decreased by 2 cents per pound and pounds sold decreased 15 percent. This resulted in the value of chicken sales being less than half of the previous year.

The combined value of U.S. production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1994, was $17.9 billion, up 6 percent from the $16.8 billion in 1993. Of the combined total, 64 percent was from broilers, 21 percent from eggs, 15 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 1994 was $11.4 billion, up 9 percent from the $10.4 billion in 1993. The total number of broilers produced in 1994 was 7.02 billion, up 5 percent from 1993. The 1994 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 35.0 cents per pound, compared with 34.0 cents per pound in 1993.

The value of turkeys produced during 1994 was $2.67 billion, up 6 percent from the $2.51 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1994 totaled 6.61 billion pounds live weight, compared with 6.43 billion pounds in 1993. The average price received by producers during 1994 was 40.4 cents per pound, compared with 39.0 cents in 1993.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1993-1994 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1993	MONTANA 1994	UNITED STATES 1993	UNITED STATES 1994
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	71	64	34,962	35,819
Sold	1,000 Head	545	461	198,032	201,358
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	2,180	1,844	964,356	1,022,220
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	4.0	2.0	10.0	7.6
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	87	37	96,409	77,359
EGGS					
Produced	Million	125	95	71,936	73,866
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	63.0	55.0	63.4	61.4
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	6,563	4,354	3,800,237	3,776,795

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Egg Production	Farm Labor
Ag Chemical Use	Potato Stocks
Milk PDI	Milk Production
Cattle on Feed	Slaughter

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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Highlights:

1994 Meat Animal PDI
March Red Meat Production
Barley County Estimates
Milk Production
April 1 Potato Stocks
March Egg Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed

1994 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Cash receipts from the marketing of cattle, sheep, and hogs in Montana totaled $793 million, down 10 percent from 1993. Cattle and calf cash receipts of $737 million also decreased 10 percent. Cattle marketings totaled 1.17 million head, down 5 percent, while calf marketings were up 16 percent to 260,000 head. The average price received for cattle decreased $4.00 to $71.60 per cwt., and calf prices decreased $13.70 to $83.30 per cwt.

Hog and pig cash receipts dropped 22 percent from 1993 to $32 million. Hog marketings, at 346,000 head, were down 8 percent from 1993, while average prices dropped $6.50 per cwt. to $37.60. Sheep and lamb cash receipts dropped 4 percent to $24 million with 105,000 sheep and 345,000 lambs being marketed in 1994. Average prices received for sheep rose $2.40 per cwt. to $29.20 and lambs increased $1.90 per cwt. to $67.10.

The U.S. 1994 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs totaled $47.2 billion, down 8 percent from 1993. Gross income declined for all three species. Hogs and pigs, at 10 percent below 1993, posted the largest decline. Gross income from cattle and sheep fell 7 percent each.

Total U.S. 1994 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals fell 8 percent to $46.8 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 78 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 21 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. For both cattle and hogs, production increases were more than offset by a drop in average prices. For sheep, lower production reduced cash receipts in spite of higher prices.

Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves decreased from $39.4 billion in 1993 to $36.4 in 1994, a 7 percent decline. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 54.2 billion pounds in 1994, up 2 percent from the 53.0 billion pounds in 1993. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $66.70, a decline of $5.90 from the $72.60 in 1993. For calves, the annual average price fell $4.00 to $87.20.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $9.86 billion in 1994, down 10 percent from 1993. Marketings increased to 24.5 billion pounds in 1994, 2 percent above the previous year. However, the U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight dropped from $45.20 in 1993 to $39.90 in 1994.

Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 1994 were $506 million, down 7 percent from 1993. Marketings declined 10 percent to 883 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for lambs increased from $64.40 in 1993 to $65.60 in 1994. The sheep annual average price increased $2.30 to $30.90.

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.33 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 1995, down marginally from last month and down 15 percent from a year earlier. There were 1,500 head of cattle slaughtered in Montana with an average weight of 1,188 pounds, compared with 1,900 head slaughtered during the same time period last year with an average live weight of 1,186 pounds. The total live weight of 1.77 million pounds decreased 20 percent from a year ago.

The number of hogs slaughtered by Montana plants, at 2,200 head, was down 100 head from this time a year ago, however, the average live weight increased 4 pounds to 247 pounds. Sheep slaughter was unchanged from a year ago at 200 head.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.75 billion pounds during March, 4 percent above last year. Beef production totaled 2.06 billion pounds, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.95 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight at 1,176 pounds was down 6 pounds from last year.

Continued on Page 3

PLEASE RETURN

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1994

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres [1]	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Rank	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deerlodge	1,200	800	65	52,000	51	1,200	800	65	52,000
Flathead	22,800	21,900	60	1,313,000	12	8,600	8,000	65	518,000
Granite	1,000	600	62	37,000	52	900	500	64	32,000
Lake	8,000	6,700	57	381,000	32	5,600	4,600	63	290,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,100	1,800	36	65,000	49	800	700	41	29,000
Powell	3,300	2,200	70	153,000	43	2,600	1,800	78	140,000
Ravalli	2,500	2,200	65	144,000	46	1,900	1,700	76	129,000
Sanders	1,000	700	40	28,000	54	300	300	53	16,000
Other	100	100	60	6,000	--	100	100	60	6,000
NORTHWEST	**42,000**	**37,000**	**59**	**2,179,000**	**--**	**22,000**	**18,500**	**66**	**1,212,000**
Blaine	24,200	20,100	38	768,000	20	7,200	5,300	60	319,000
Chouteau	133,000	126,000	36	4,565,000	3	700	600	75	45,000
Glacier	89,500	87,400	44	3,816,000	4	14,000	13,200	61	806,000
Hill	40,200	38,100	39	1,470,000	10	400	400	75	30,000
Liberty	30,700	29,700	36	1,063,000	15	1,300	1,200	73	87,000
Phillips	26,400	23,300	38	893,000	17	1,300	900	58	52,000
Pondera	106,100	102,300	48	4,934,000	2	35,200	32,800	72	2,359,000
Teton	111,000	105,900	57	6,020,000	1	50,300	49,100	80	3,946,000
Toole	51,900	50,200	42	2,118,000	8	600	500	58	29,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**613,000**	**583,000**	**44**	**25,647,000**	**--**	**111,000**	**104,000**	**74**	**7,673,000**
Daniels	15,100	13,800	33	457,000	30	100	100	60	6,000
Dawson	26,600	22,000	40	872,000	18	800	400	53	21,000
Garfield	13,000	10,500	38	398,000	31	300	200	55	11,000
McCone	22,000	17,200	35	598,000	24	400	300	43	13,000
Richland	30,900	26,700	46	1,218,000	13	2,200	1,900	77	146,000
Roosevelt	23,500	21,800	36	793,000	19	300	200	50	10,000
Sheridan	21,000	19,200	36	685,000	22	200	200	45	9,000
Valley	22,900	18,800	29	553,000	25	2,200	1,700	36	62,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**175,000**	**150,000**	**37**	**5,574,000**	**--**	**6,500**	**5,000**	**56**	**278,000**
Broadwater	10,900	10,100	48	481,000	28	4,500	4,200	68	284,000
Cascade	58,300	55,200	42	2,308,000	7	9,700	8,700	77	668,000
Fergus	87,800	82,900	33	2,746,000	6	1,400	1,000	71	71,000
Golden Valley	6,800	6,400	32	202,000	39	800	700	71	50,000
Judith Basin	55,600	53,100	33	1,764,000	9	1,000	800	64	51,000
Lewis & Clark	11,500	10,600	47	498,000	26	5,100	4,600	71	326,000
Meagher	16,900	15,000	31	462,000	29	3,400	2,200	52	114,000
Musselshell	6,000	5,400	29	157,000	42	600	200	75	15,000
Petroleum	2,600	1,500	41	61,000	50	700	400	70	28,000
Wheatland	20,600	19,800	35	695,000	21	1,300	1,200	78	93,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**277,000**	**260,000**	**36**	**9,374,000**	**--**	**28,500**	**24,000**	**71**	**1,700,000**
Beaverhead	8,200	6,700	90	604,000	23	7,000	5,600	99	556,000
Gallatin	45,900	43,700	65	2,845,000	5	21,000	19,500	81	1,574,000
Jefferson	3,300	2,600	58	152,000	44	1,800	1,300	83	108,000
Madison	8,000	6,600	73	483,000	27	7,600	6,200	75	465,000
Silver Bow	600	400	88	35,000	53	600	400	88	35,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**66,000**	**60,000**	**69**	**4,119,000**	**--**	**38,000**	**33,000**	**83**	**2,738,000**
Big Horn	22,200	20,800	55	1,153,000	14	10,800	10,000	79	794,000
Carbon	12,000	11,400	83	945,000	16	9,800	9,400	93	870,000
Park	8,100	7,200	53	379,000	33	4,600	4,000	60	241,000
Stillwater	11,800	9,600	34	331,000	34	1,200	700	86	60,000
Sweetgrass	4,500	3,400	38	130,000	47	1,200	600	72	43,000
Treasure	3,600	3,400	89	302,000	35	3,300	3,100	94	291,000
Yellowstone	21,800	21,200	65	1,384,000	11	14,100	13,700	84	1,144,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**84,000**	**77,000**	**60**	**4,624,000**	**--**	**45,000**	**41,500**	**83**	**3,443,000**
Carter	4,200	2,500	32	80,000	48	100	--	--	--
Custer	4,200	2,900	52	150,000	45	1,300	1,100	77	85,000
Fallon	9,100	7,500	32	242,000	36	100	100	60	6,000
Powder River	5,200	3,700	44	164,000	41	1,000	1,000	61	61,000
Prairie	5,600	5,200	38	200,000	40	700	500	62	31,000
Rosebud	6,800	5,400	44	238,000	37	1,800	1,300	72	94,000
Wibaux	7,900	5,800	36	209,000	38	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**43,000**	**33,000**	**39**	**1,283,000**	**--**	**5,000**	**4,000**	**69**	**277,000**
MONTANA	**1,300,000**	**1,200,000**	**44**	**52,800,000**	**--**	**256,000**	**230,000**	**75**	**17,321,000**

[1] Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION (continued from Page 1)

Veal production totaled 27.0 million pounds, up 5 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 120,500, up percent from a year earlier. The average live weight rose 1 pound to 386 pounds. Pork production, at 1.63 billion pounds, was up 7 percent from a year earlier and slightly above the previous all-time high set in October 1992. Hog kill totaled 8.81 million head, 6 percent above March 1994. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 256 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 30.0 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 1994. Slaughter totaled 468,200 head, down 12 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 130 pounds.

January-March red meat production was 10.5 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent, veal jumped 11 percent, pork rose 7 percent, but lamb and mutton dropped 9 percent.

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana's dairy farms produced 79 million pounds of milk during the January-March period, up 10 percent from the previous year. There were 21,000 milk cows on Montana farms during the quarter, the same as 1994. The amount of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows mounted to 17.1 pounds per cow, up 0.6 of a pound from a year ago. The value of those grains and concentrates fed decreased 25 cents to $7.30 per hundredweight.

Milk production in the 22 major States during March totaled 11.8 billion pounds, 4 percent above production in these same States in March 1994. February revised production, at 10.4 billion pounds, was 5 percent more than February 1994. Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,454 pounds for March, 53 pounds above March 1994.

The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.11 million head, 34,000 head more than March 1994 and 20,000 head more than February 1995.

During the January-March period, the 22 major States produced 33.5 billion pounds of milk, 85.8 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 13.1 billion pounds for January 1995, 12.2 billion pounds for February 1995, and 13.8 billions pounds for March 1995.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 39.1 billion pounds, 4 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.52 million head, 12,000 head more than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1. 1995, averaged 18.6 pounds per cow, 0.4 of a pound less than on April 1, 1994. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1 averaged $7.57 per hundredweight, $0.66 less than the price a year earlier.

APRIL 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana's April 1, 1995 potato stocks totaled 1.95 million cwt, up 10 percent from the same period a year ago. The percentage of 1994's total potato production that was still being stored on April 1 was 61 percent compared with 66 percent last year.

U.S. potato stocks totaled 123 million cwt on April 1, 1995, up 6 percent from both last year and two years ago. April stocks were 31 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same as a year ago. Disappearance for the season is a record high 277 million cwt of potatoes, 7 percent above last year and 10 percent above 1993. Shrink and loss of 28.7 million cwt was 7 percent above a year ago. Processors used a record high 134 million cwt of potatoes, up 8 percent from last year. March processing totaled 18.1 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Western States potato stocks totaled 96.3 million cwt in the six States, up 4 percent from last year and 12 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 3 percent, while Colorado was up 1 percent from last year. Washington's stocks of 23.5 million cwt, were up 18 percent and Oregon's stocks jumped 15 percent. California's stocks were up 6 percent from a year ago.

MARCH EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.45 billion during March 1995, up 2 percent from the 6.32 billion produced March 1994. Production included 5.49 billion table eggs and 958 million hatching egg type, of which 892 million were broiler-type and 66.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 1995 averaged 295 million, up 2 percent from the 291 million during March 1994. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,183 eggs, compared with 2,174 in March 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1995, totaled 294 million, compared with 291 million a year ago. The 294 million layers consisted of 242 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.94 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1995, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 70.6 eggs a year ago.

CATTLE ON FEED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

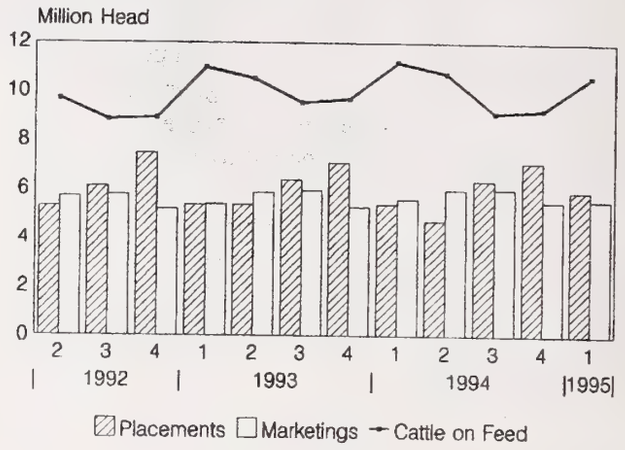
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 10.7 million head, virtually unchanged from a year ago but 1 percent above April 1, 1993. The inventory included 6.98 million steers and steer calves, down 3 percent from a year ago but 1 percent above two years ago. This group accounts for 65.3 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.65 million head, 5 percent above a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the January-March 1995 quarter totaled 5.91 million, 10 percent above last year and 11 percent above January-March 1993.

Net placements of 5.63 million for January-March were 10 percent above last year and 15 percent above January-March 1993. Marketings of fed cattle during the January-March 1995 quarter totaled 5.55 million, virtually unchanged from the same quarter last year but 4 percent above two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 287,000 head compared to 275,000 in January-March 1994 and 439,000 in January-March 1993.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, IL, KS, MN, NE OK, SD, TX, WA)



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Ag Prices Received
Annual Dairy Products
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Poultry PDI
Hay Stocks

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Highlights:

1995 Planting Intentions
March 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
U.S. Hog & Pig Inventory

1995 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Montana producers intend to plant 5.86 million acres of wheat this year, five percent more than a year ago. Winter wheat acreage planted is estimated at 1.7 million acres, unchanged from the December 1 estimate. Dry weather last fall held many producers back from planting winter wheat, causing the smallest winter wheat crop since 1970. This year's crop is down 13 percent from 1994. What was lost in winter wheat acreage was made up with spring wheat.

Farmers intend to plant 3.9 million acres of spring wheat this year compared with 3.45 million acres a year ago. If realized this will be 13 percent above a year ago and the largest spring wheat crop since 1953. Stronger durum wheat prices are contributing to producers' plans to increase durum acreage by 44 percent this year. Durum wheat planting intentions are estimated at 260,000 acres compared with 180,000 acres last year.

The increase in all wheat acreage was offset by a decrease in barley intentions. Barley planting intentions of 1.2 million acres are off 100,000 acres from a year ago. Oats also showed a decrease from a year ago. Current intentions are to plant 130,000 acres and harvest 65,000 acres, down 7 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Dry edible bean acreage is estimated at 13,000 acres up 27 percent from last year. Sugar beet acreage is expected to increase by 2 percent and total 55,500 acres. All hay harvested acres are estimated at 2.25 million acres, up 2 percent from 1994.

At the U.S. level, all wheat acreage is estimated at 70.9 million acres, up 1 percent from a year ago. This increase is almost all due to an increase in durum wheat acreage. Winter wheat seedings for 1995 are 49.3 million acres, down 1 percent from previously published estimate, but virtually unchanged from 1994. Other spring wheat planting intentions are 18.4 million acres, slightly above last year's realized acres. Durum wheat intentions for this year total 3.29 million acres, up 15 percent from 1994.

Barley is estimated at 7.04 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest barley acreage planted since barley planted estimates started in 1926. Oat producers plan to seed or have seeded a total of 6.75 million acres of oats for 1995, up 2 percent from the 6.64 million acres seeded for 1994. Growers intend to harvest 3.65 million acres of oats for grain in 1995, down 9 percent from the 4.02 million acres harvested in 1994. If producers follow through with these intentions, this would be the least oat acreage harvested for grain since estimates were first made in 1866. Corn growers intend to plant 75.3 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1995, down 5 percent from last year but 3 percent above 1993.

Dry bean farmers intend to plant 2.08 million acres of dry beans in 1995, up 2 percent from last year. Area planted to sugar beets for 1995 is expected to total 14.5 million acres in the 14 producing states. If growers intentions are realized, planted acreage will be 2 percent below last year. Producers expect to harvest 59.0 million acres of all hay in 1995, 234,000 acres more than were harvested in 1994.

PLANTED ACREAGE, 1993-1994, and INTENDED 1995, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1993	1994	1995	95/94	1993	1994	1995	95/94
	-- 1,000 Acres --			Pct.	-- 1,000 Acres --			Pct.
All Wheat	5,565.0	5,580.0	5,860.0	105	72,168.0	70,421.0	70,929.0	101
Winter Wheat	2,650.0	1,950.0	1,700.0	87	51,587.0	49,247.0	49,252.0	100
Durum	115.0	180.0	260.0	144	2,241.0	2,850.0	3,290.0	115
Hard Spring	2,800.0	3,450.0	3,900.0	113	18,340.0	18,324.0	18,387.0	100
Barley	1,300.0	1,300.0	1,200.0	92	7,786.0	7,159.0	7,035.0	98
Oats-Planted	140.0	140.0	130.0	93	7,937.0	6,644.0	6,750.0	102
-Harvested	85.0	75.0	65.0	87	3,803.0	4,020.0	3,653.0	91
Corn	65.0	60.0	55.0	92	73,235.0	79,158.0	75,323.0	95
Sugar Beets	54.4	54.3	55.5	102	1,437.7	1,475.5	1,445.2	98
Dry Beans	12.0	10.2	13.0	127	1,871.9	2,025.8	2,075.3	102
All Hay-Harvested	2,230.0	2,200.0	2250.0	102	59,679.0	58,744.0	58,978.0	100

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1, 1994	Dec. 1, 1994*	Mar. 1, 1995	Mar. 1, 1994	Dec. 1, 1994*	Mar. 1, 1995
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.8	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.5	0.6
North Central	60.0	65.4	41.7	19.0	17.6	10.0
Northeast	28.6	44.1	30.3	3.5	6.1	3.0
Central	14.2	16.5	8.1	5.5	7.9	3.5
Southwest	2.6	2.1	2.1	1.8	2.3	1.3
South Central	6.1	6.3	3.5	2.6	2.7	2.5
Southeast	3.7	6.2	3.4	1.0	2.1	0.8
STATE	116.0	142.0	90.0	34.4	40.2	21.7

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS							
GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1994	Dec. 1, 1994*	Mar. 1, 1995	'95/'94	Mar. 1, 1994	Dec. 1, 1994*	Mar. 1, 1995
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	90,000	115,000	69,000	77%	363,200	570,550	335,250
Off Farms 1/	26,000	27,000	21,000	81%	664,787	920,554	632,619
TOTAL	116,000	142,000	90,000	78%	1,027,987	1,491,104	967,869
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	39,000	38,200	22,000	56%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,000	12,900	8,900	68%	--	--	--
TOTAL	52,000	51,100	30,900	59%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	51,000	76,800	47,000	92%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,000	14,100	12,100	93%	--	--	--
TOTAL	64,000	90,900	59,100	92%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	21,645	44,778	26,310
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	19,853	21,113	16,172
TOTAL	3,200	4,500	3,250	102%	41,498	65,891	42,482
BARLEY							
On Farms	25,000	33,000	15,000	60%	116,475	166,300	86,800
Off Farms 1/	9,400	7,200	6,700	71%	107,807	112,560	105,656
TOTAL	34,400	40,200	21,700	63%	224,282	278,860	192,456
OATS							
On Farms	2,500	2,800	2,100	84%	85,050	113,400	78,400
Off Farms 1/	110	240	190	173%	61,502	78,664	70,507
TOTAL 4/	2,610	3,040	2,290	88%	146,552	192,064	148,907
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,210,200	5,417,500	3,502,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,785,514	2,662,980	2,089,366
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,995,714	8,080,480	5,591,366

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of February were higher than the previous month, except for spring wheat dropping 12 cents to 3.55 per bushel, and alfalfa hay remaining at $73.00 per ton. Other hay increased $1.00 to $65.00 per ton. Barley went up a penny to $2.26 per bushel, and oats averaged 11 cents higher at $1.31 per bushel. Durum wheat also climbed 11 cents to $4.76 per bushel. Winter wheat prices rose 3 cents from the previous month to $3.59 per bushel. Mid-month March prices for all wheat averaged $3.63 per bushel. Barley producers saw a 7-cent increase to $2.33 per bushel in mid-March.

Montana livestock prices were mixed for the full month of February. Steer and heifer prices dropped $2.00 to $73.80 per cwt, and mid-March prices averaged $2.70 lower. Cow prices in the state fared better, increasing 40 cents to $43.30 per cwt for the full month of February. Calf prices averaged 50 cents lower at $82.50 per cwt. Prices received for sheep increased $3.20 to $33.80, and lambs went up $5.90 to $73.20 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 40 cents to $13.30 per cwt.

At the national level, steer and heifer prices averaged $72.20 per cwt for the full month of February. Cow prices came in at $41.50 and hogs were $39.10 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.62 per bushel with $2.10 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 62 cents per dozen.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 98 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from February. Price gains from February for vegetables (lettuce, broccoli, and cauliflower), oranges, corn, and soybeans offset price declines for cattle, hogs, and wheat. However, the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index level. Lower relative seasonal marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges offset the affect of relatively higher seasonal marketings of milk, strawberries, asparagus, and tomatoes resulting in no change to the overall index.

Compared with March 1994, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (6.7 percent) lower. Price decreases from March 1994 for cattle, corn, soybeans, hogs, and milk more than offset price increases for cotton and vegetables (broccoli, lettuce, and celery).

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

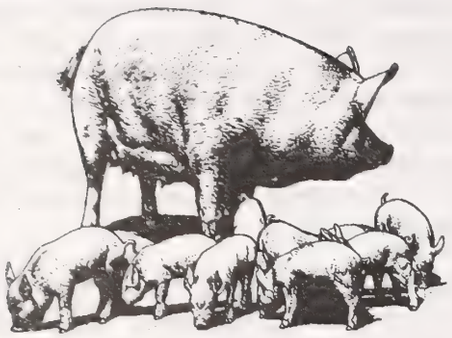
INDEX 1990-92=100	Feb. 1994	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1995	Mar. 1995
Prices Received	104	105	98	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/106	2/106	3/107	3/107
Ratio 1/	98	99	92	92

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1994 prices paid index. 3/ January 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1995	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1995	U.S. Monthly Avg. Feb. 1995	Montana Mar. 15, 1995	U.S. Mar. 15, 1995
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.56	3.59	3.61	3.50	3.44
Durum	Bu.	4.80	4.65	4.76	4.68	4.90	4.68
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.67	3.55	3.40	3.55	3.35
All Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.67	3.64	3.62	3.63	3.50
Barley, All	Bu.	2.02	2.25	2.26	2.10	2.33	2.20
Feed	Bu.	1.86	1.88	1.88	1.96	1.95	1.99
Malt	Bu.	2.64	2.84	2.84	2.25	2.90	2.45
Oats	Bu.	1.26	1.20	1.31	1.22	1.20	1.26
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	73.00	73.00	94.20	71.00	94.20
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	64.00	65.00	64.00	59.00	63.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	72.00	72.00	85.00	69.00	86.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	83.70	75.80	73.80	72.20	71.10	70.20
Cows	Cwt.	47.20	42.90	43.30	41.50	43.80	41.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	77.10	69.20	68.30	68.70	62.90	67.00
Calves	Cwt.	97.70	83.00	82.50	86.90	80.10	85.76
Sheep	Cwt.	32.40	30.60	33.80	37.50	32.50	32.90
Lambs	Cwt.	61.40	67.30	73.20	70.40	73.00	72.20
All Milk	Cwt.	14.30	13.70	13.30	12.60	12.90	12.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.



U.S. HOG AMD PIG INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1995, was a record high 58.4 million head. This was 2 percent above March 1994, but 3 percent below the December 1, 1994, inventory. The previous record high March inventory was in 1994. Montana hog and pig numbers are published in December only.

Breeding inventory, at 6.99 million head, was down 3 percent from March 1, 1994, and down 1 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 51.4 million head, was 3 percent above March 1, 1994, but 3 percent below December 1, 1994.

The December 1994-February 1995 U.S. pig crop was a record high 23.7 million head, 2 percent more than 1994 and up 4 percent from the same period in 1993. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, down slightly from last year, but 2 percent above two years ago. Pigs saved per litter were a record high 8.27 compared with 8.10 during the same period a year ago.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.21 million sows farrow during the March-May 1995 quarter, 5 percent less than the actual farrowings during the same period last year and down slightly from 1993. Intended farrowings for June-August 1995, at 3.02 million sows, are down 3 percent from 1994, but up 2 percent from the 1993 period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production	
Barley County Estimates	Potato Stocks
Slaughter	Cattle on Feed
Meat Animals PDI	Egg Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

February & 1994 Slaughter
7 State Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Quarterly Egg Production
Sheep & Lamb Losses
Wool & Mohair
Potato Stocks

1994 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 19.9 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 1994, compared with 17.3 million pounds in 1993. There were 22,400 cattle slaughtered during 1994, up 18 percent from a year earlier. The total live weight of 26.9 million pounds was 17 percent higher than 1993, but the average live weight of 1,199 pounds was down 5 pounds from last year.

There were 31,200 hogs slaughtered in Montana, an increase of 2,000 head from 1993. Total live weight of 7.6 million pounds was up 12 percent, and the average live weight was 244 pounds per head compared with 234 pounds in 1993. Sheep slaughter amounted to 4,000 head, an increase of 400 head from last year. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds from the previous year to 115 pounds. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1994 increased 8 percent to 464,000 pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the **United States** during 1994 totaled 42.7 billion pounds, 5 percent above 1993 and 4 percent above the previous high set in 1992. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton slaughter. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 42.5 billion pounds.

Beef production was 24.4 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 1993. Veal production was 293 million pounds, up 2 percent. Pork production, at 17.7 billion pounds, rose 4 percent from 1993 and 3 percent above the previous record set in 1992. Lamb and mutton production totaled 310 million pounds, down 8 percent from 1993.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1994 totaled 34.2 million head, up 3 percent from 1993, with federal inspection comprising 97.9 percent of the total compared with 97.8 percent last year. The average live weight was 1,189 pounds, up 28 pounds. Steers comprised 52.7 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 28.0 percent, dairy cows comprised 8.5 percent, and beef cows 8.8 percent. Commercial calf slaughter, at 1.27 million head, was up 6 percent from the previous year with 97.5 percent under federal inspection. Average live weight was 383 pounds, down 5 pounds from 1993.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 95.7 million head, up 3 percent from 1993 with federal inspection comprising 97.6 percent. Average live weight rose 1 pound to 255 pounds. Barrows and gilts were 94.8 percent of the total. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 4.94 million head, was down 5 percent from 1993 with federal inspection comprising 96.3 percent. Average live weight was 125 pounds, compared with 127 pounds last year. Lambs were 93.9 percent of the total.

FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 1995, a decrease of 20 percent from last month, but 8 percent above a year ago. There were 1,600 head of cattle slaughtered in February, compared with 1,400 head last year. The total live weight was 1.8 million pounds with an average live weight of 1,167 pounds. The total live weight increased 11 percent from last year, and the average live weight was 9 pounds more than a year ago.

Hog slaughter amounted to 2,100 head, the same as last year, with a total live weight of 506 thousand pounds, 2 percent below 1994. Average live weight was 246, compared with 249 in February 1994. The number of sheep slaughtered in February 1995 dropped 100 head from February 1994, to 100 head. The average live weight was 116 pounds compared with 124 pounds a year ago, and the total live weight at 16 thousand pounds dropped 33 percent from 1994.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.21 billion pounds during February, 3 percent above last year. Beef production totaled 1.81 billion pounds, slightly above a year ago. Head kill totaled 2.58 million, up 1 percent from last year. The average live weight, at 1,184 pounds, was down 2 pounds.

Veal production totaled 24.0 million pounds, up 9 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 106,000 head, up 10 percent from last year. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 383 pounds. Pork production, at 1.35 billion pounds, was up 6 percent from last year and 2 percent above the previous February high set in 1992. Hog kill totaled 7.33 million head, 5 percent above a year ago. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 255 pounds.

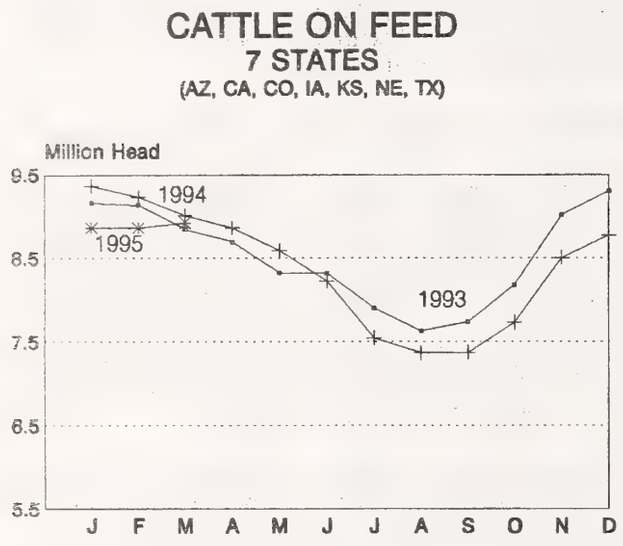
Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 11 percent from a year ago. Slaughter totaled 375,400 head, down 10 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 128 pounds.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 1 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.93 million head, down 1 percent from a year ago, but up 1 percent from March 1, 1993.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 19 percent above 1994 and 27 percent above 1993. **Net placements** of 1.54 million for February were up 20 percent from last year and 34 percent above 1993. This is the largest February placements since 1989.

Marketings during February totaled 1.48 million, down 1 percent from a year ago, but 3 percent above 1993. **Other disappearance** during February was 66,000 head, 13 percent below last year and 40 percent below 1993.



FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 22 major States during February totaled 10.4 billion pounds, 4 percent above production in these same States in February 1994. January revised production, at 11.3 billion pounds, was 4 percent more than January 1994.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,287 pounds for February, 51 pounds above February 1994. The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.09 million head, 7,000 head more than February 1994 but 1,000 head less than January 1995.

During the October-December period, the 22 major States produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.2 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.1 billion pounds for February 1995.

MARCH 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers stored 2.73 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1995, compared with 2.37 million cwt a year ago. The March 1 stocks represent 85 percent of production from the 1994 crop, compared with 88 percent a year earlier.

U.S. potato stocks totaled 163 million cwt on March 1, 1995, up 6 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. Stocks now are 41 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same as last year. Disappearance to date for the season was a record 237 million cwt, 7 percent above last year and 10 percent above two years ago. Processors used 116 million cwt, up 9 percent.

Western States held 123 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1995, up 3 percent from last year and 12 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were off 3 percent and accounted for over half of the Western total. Oregon's stocks were up 7 percent and Washington was 15 percent above a year earlier. Colorado's stocks were up 3 percent from last year and California's storage was up 5 percent.

1994 U.S. WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 11 PERCENT

Montana wool growers produced 5.1 million pounds of wool during 1994, down 8 percent from 1993. The 1994 average price per pound of wool increased 32 cents to 86 cents per pound. This resulted in the total value of Montana wool produced coming in at $4.4 million, a 46 percent increase over the previous year. The total head shorn decreased 7 percent to 533,000. The average fleece weight slipped one-tenth of a pound to 9.6 pounds.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1994 was 68.6 million pounds, down 11 percent from 1993. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 8.88 million head, also a decrease of 11 percent from 1993. The average price paid for wool sold in 1994 was 78 cents per pound for a total value of $52.4 million, up 34 percent from $39.1 million in 1993.

MONTANA 1994 SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 104,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 1994, representing a total value of $4.9 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost was down 4 percent from 1993 and the total value of inventory lost in 1994 dropped 3 percent. The decline in sheep and lamb losses is partly due to the drop in total inventory which is down 6 percent from the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 10.1 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born, up fractionally from the previous year.

Predators caused an estimated $1.9 million in losses in 1994 up from $1.8 million the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 4.2 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 41 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator and the largest cause of all deaths. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $1.3 million. The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 42,900 head, up 2,700 head from last year. Coyotes accounted for 27 percent of all death losses in the state and 66 percent of all predator losses. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 36,300 head, up 13 percent from last year. Most of the increase in lamb losses was due to an increase in fox and eagle losses. Lambs lost to eagles jumped 2,900 head while fox losses rose 2,700 head. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 6,600, down 18 percent. Coyotes caused the most sheep losses at 5,000 head.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.6 million in 1994 down from $2.9 million the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 52 percent of all losses, down 3 points from 1993. There were 35,000 lambs lost to weather, disease and other non-predatory causes in 1994, down 3 percent from the previous year. The largest causes of lambs losses were weather and lambing complications, 9,900 head and 9,300 head, respectively. Sheep losses to non-predatory factors totaled 18,800, 19 percent decrease from 1993. Sheep lost to old age continued to be the largest non-predatory cause at 6,500 head, down 600 head from the previous year.

The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes dropped 8 percent from last year to $.4 million. Lambs lost to unknown causes were down 1,000 head to 3,700. Unknown causes claimed 3,600 sheep, down 100 head from last year.

MONTANA SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES BY CAUSE - 1993 and 1994

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
Predators												
Fox	100	100	6.4	6.6	3,200	5,900	125.2	237.5	3,300	6,000	131.5	244.1
Dog	500	500	31.8	33.0	1,200	500	46.9	20.1	1,700	1,000	78.7	53.1
Coyote	6,200	5,000	393.7	330.0	24,500	23,500	958.4	946.1	30,700	28,500	1,352.1	1,276.1
Eagle	200	100	12.7	6.6	2,300	5,200	90.0	209.4	2,500	5,300	102.7	216.0
Bobcat	100	200	6.4	13.2	100	100	3.9	4.0	200	300	10.3	17.2
Bear	500	200	31.8	13.2	200	400	7.8	16.1	700	600	39.6	29.3
Mountain Lion	400	400	25.4	26.4	600	600	23.5	24.2	1,000	1,000	48.9	50.6
Wolves	5/	--	5/		5/	100	5/	4.0	5/	100	5/	4.0
Other Animals	--	100		6.6	100		3.9		100	100	3.9	6.6
Total Predators	**8,000**	**6,600**	**508.0**	**435.6**	**32,200**	**36,300**	**1,259.7**	**1,461.4**	**40,200**	**42,900**	**1,767.7**	**1,897.0**
Non-Predators												
Digestive	5/	1,100	5/	72.6	5/	4,200	5/	169.1	5/	5,300	5/	241.7
Respiratory	5/	1,400	5/	92.4	5/	5,100	5/	205.3	5/	6,500	5/	297.7
Metabolic	5/	600	5/	39.6	5/	1,400	5/	56.4	5/	2,000	5/	96.0
Other Diseases	5/	1,400	5/	92.4	5/	500	5/	20.1	5/	1,900	5/	112.5
All Diseases 4/	**5,200**	**4,500**	**330.2**	**297.0**	**7,200**	**11,200**	**281.7**	**450.9**	**12,400**	**15,700**	**611.9**	**747.9**
Weather Conditions	1,300	1,900	82.6	125.4	10,700	9,900	418.6	398.6	12,000	11,800	501.1	524.0
Poison	1,700	1,400	108.0	92.4	600	800	23.5	32.2	2,300	2,200	131.4	124.6
Lambing Complications	2,800	1,400	177.8	92.4	12,900	9,300	504.7	374.4	15,700	10,700	682.5	466.8
On Back	2,700	1,800	171.5	118.8	300	100	11.7	4.0	3,000	1,900	183.2	122.8
Old Age	7,100	6,500	450.9	429.0					7,100	6,500	450.9	429.0
Theft	1,200	700	76.2	46.2	2,100	2,200	82.2	88.6	3,300	2,900	158.4	134.8
Other	1,300	600	82.6	39.6	2,300	1,500	90.0	60.4	3,600	2,100	172.5	100.0
Total Non-Predators	**23,300**	**18,800**	**1,479.6**	**1,240.8**	**36,100**	**35,000**	**1,412.2**	**1,409.1**	**59,400**	**53,800**	**2,891.8**	**2,649.9**
Unknown Causes	**3,700**	**3,600**	**235.0**	**237.6**	**4,700**	**3,700**	**183.9**	**149.0**	**8,400**	**7,300**	**418.8**	**386.6**
Total Loss	**35,000**	**29,000**	**2,222.5**	**1,914.0**	**73,000**	**75,000**	**2,855.7**	**3,019.5**	**108,000**	**104,000**	**5,078.2**	**4,933.5**

1/ Average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 4/ Beginning in 1994, diseases broken into categories. 5/ Not Available. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.72 billion during February 1995, up 2 percent from the 5.60 billion produced February 1994. Production included 4.86 billion table eggs and 864 million hatching egg type, of which 804 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 1995 averaged 296 million, up 2 percent from the 290 million during February 1994. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,929 eggs, compared with 1,930 in February 1994.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1995, totaled 296 million, compared with 290 million a year ago. The 296 million layers consisted of 244 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 49.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.82 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1995, averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, the same as a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.40 billion eggs during February, up 2 percent from February 1994. The average number of layers during February, at 280 million, was also up 2 percent from the year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Grain Stocks
Hogs & Pigs
Prospective Plantings

MARGARET L. STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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Highlights:

Montana Wheat & Barley Movement
1994 All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Alfalfa Seed Production

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

Wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during June-November 1994, at 80.6 million bushels, was 27 percent above the same period last year.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 27 percent above the previous June-November period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was up 50 percent. Shipments to other destinations (primarily Colorado and Arizona) were down 49 percent.

Rail movement amounted to 76.9 million bushels, up from 59.0 million shipped by rail during the same period in 1993. Trucks carried 3.6 million bushels compared with 4.6 million the previous June-November period.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1994 was 19.0 million bushels, up 55 percent from the same period last year.

Barley shipped west amounted to 15.2 million bushels, up 48 percent from the 10.3 million bushels in the June-November 1993 period. Eastern shipments totalled 2.1 million bushels, up 18 percent from the 1.7 million bushels the previous year.

Movement to other destinations, totalling 1.7 million bushels, was up 595 percent from the same period last year.

Montana Wheat and Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/] *

Agricultural Statistics Districts	June-November 1993 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	June-November 1994 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	June-Nov. 1993 Barley	June-Nov. 1994 Barley
	--- 000 Bushels ---							
West [3/]	421	1,723	2,144	504	1,279	1,783	4,942	6,464
North Central	13,642	10,883	24,525	20,335	20,442	40,777	4,575	9,101
Northeast	1,696	19,210	20,906	1,594	21,412	23,006	1,248	1,725
Central	5,421	1,252	6,673	6,338	2,497	8,835	1,479	1,551
South Central	4,721	692	5,413	3,085	448	3,533	21	80
Southeast	2,464	1,472	3,936	1,417	1,247	2,664	24	70
Trucked East	41	181	222	50	52	102	153	31
Trucked West	2,024	2,115	4,139	2,034	1,325	3,359	702	1,828
Trucked Other [4/]	87	130	217	86	99	185	80	148
Total By Truck	2,152	2,426	4,578	2,170	1,476	3,646	935	2,007
Rail East	19	2,261	2,280	4	3,651	3,655	1,581	2,021
Rail West	26,166	29,540	55,706	31,004	41,839	72,843	9,605	13,388
Rail Other [4/]	28	1,005	1,033	95	359	454	168	1,575
Total By Rail	26,213	32,806	59,019	31,103	45,849	76,952	11,354	16,984
Total Shipped	28,365	35,232	63,597	33,273	47,325	80,598	12,289	18,991

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown. * This data made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1994

County and District	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres [1]	Net Planted Acres [2]	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Rank	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deerlodge	1,000	1,000	1,000	39.0	39,000	51	500	500	46.0	23,000
Flathead	14,300	14,200	14,000	54.8	767,000	36	4,000	3,900	56.4	220,000
Granite	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lake	15,300	15,300	14,900	59.2	882,000	34	9,900	9,700	66.4	644,000
Lincoln	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mineral	400	400	400	52.5	21,000	53	–	–	–	–
Missoula	3,000	3,000	2,900	41.4	120,000	48	900	900	53.3	48,000
Powell	400	400	400	47.5	19,000	54	200	200	60.0	12,000
Ravalli	1,400	1,400	1,300	38.5	50,000	50	500	500	56.0	28,000
Sanders	2,200	2,200	2,100	28.6	60,000	49	500	500	50.0	25,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTHWEST	38,000	37,900	37,000	52.9	1,958,000	–	16,500	16,200	61.7	1,000,000
Blaine	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chouteau	559,000	542,200	529,500	34.3	18,140,000	1	4,400	4,300	61.4	264,000
Glacier	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hill	506,600	506,100	493,100	34.5	17,007,000	2	1,900	1,900	48.9	93,000
Liberty	261,700	261,700	256,700	29.6	7,587,000	6	2,800	2,700	44.4	120,000
Phillips	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pondera	204,400	201,300	196,700	29.0	5,710,000	11	16,600	16,200	44.6	723,000
Teton	173,200	166,400	160,700	29.6	4,761,000	17	12,500	12,200	53.4	651,000
Toole	244,900	241,000	236,400	29.6	7,005,000	7	1,000	1,000	35.0	35,000
Other	486,400	485,700	470,400	29.1	13,708,000	–	19,700	19,300	40.4	780,000
NORTH CENTRAL	2,436,200	2,404,400	2,343,500	31.5	73,918,000	–	58,900	57,600	46.3	2,666,000
Daniels	218,100	218,100	213,000	28.3	6,034,000	10	200	200	55.0	11,000
Dawson	162,500	161,600	157,000	32.5	5,098,000	15	2,100	2,100	55.7	117,000
Garfield	117,500	117,500	114,500	29.2	3,342,000	20	700	700	40.0	28,000
McCone	217,100	216,500	208,600	29.3	6,102,000	9	2,800	2,700	37.8	102,000
Richland	173,200	173,200	169,100	36.9	6,242,000	8	14,000	13,800	64.9	895,000
Roosevelt	307,500	307,500	300,800	32.6	9,803,000	3	1,700	1,500	58.0	87,000
Sheridan	274,700	274,700	269,500	31.3	8,428,000	4	800	800	52.5	42,000
Valley	298,400	298,400	290,700	28.0	8,128,000	5	11,200	10,500	45.4	477,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTHEAST	1,769,000	1,767,500	1,723,200	30.9	53,177,000	–	33,500	32,300	54.5	1,759,000
Broadwater	39,700	39,700	38,000	46.9	1,781,000	25	14,700	14,500	63.3	918,000
Cascade	171,600	163,300	160,600	30.1	4,832,000	16	7,100	6,900	51.9	358,000
Fergus	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Golden Valley	32,800	32,800	32,200	30.2	971,000	32	900	900	51.1	46,000
Judith Basin	84,000	78,300	76,600	27.8	2,129,000	23	1,100	1,100	41.8	46,000
Lewis & Clark	18,400	18,400	17,900	37.8	676,000	38	3,300	3,300	59.1	195,000
Meagher	12,100	12,100	11,900	34.4	409,000	42	1,300	1,200	62.5	75,000
Musselshell	25,500	25,500	23,200	32.2	748,000	37	400	400	55.0	22,000
Petroleum	17,500	17,500	16,100	29.1	469,000	41	1,200	1,000	40.0	40,000
Wheatland	40,000	40,000	39,100	26.4	1,033,000	31	400	400	57.5	23,000
Other	184,100	181,600	173,100	30.1	5,202,000	–	700	700	44.3	31,000
CENTRAL	625,700	609,200	588,700	31.0	18,250,000	–	31,100	30,400	57.7	1,754,000
Beaverhead	8,900	8,900	8,600	62.8	540,000	39	4,600	4,400	79.8	351,000
Gallatin	44,000	43,900	42,600	55.2	2,352,000	22	12,700	12,400	78.8	977,000
Jefferson	3,200	3,200	3,200	39.7	127,000	47	300	300	70.0	21,000
Madison	8,100	8,100	7,300	33.7	246,000	46	2,000	2,000	37.5	75,000
Silver Bow	800	800	800	37.5	30,000	52	600	600	40.0	24,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHWEST	65,000	64,900	62,500	52.7	3,295,000	–	20,200	19,700	73.5	1,448,000
Big Horn	147,500	147,500	144,000	35.9	5,172,000	14	15,700	15,500	62.5	968,000
Carbon	15,600	15,600	15,300	30.8	471,000	40	1,800	1,800	58.3	105,000
Park	12,300	12,300	11,700	34.8	407,000	43	2,600	2,300	45.7	105,000
Stillwater	51,500	51,500	49,600	29.7	1,472,000	26	1,700	1,700	45.3	77,000
Sweetgrass	7,600	7,600	7,500	34.1	256,000	45	200	200	45.0	9,000
Treasure	5,500	5,500	5,400	62.2	336,000	44	3,200	3,200	77.5	248,000
Yellowstone	102,000	99,500	98,500	32.4	3,191,000	21	4,700	4,600	73.0	336,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTH CENTRAL	342,000	339,500	332,000	34.1	11,305,000	–	29,900	29,300	63.1	1,848,000
Carter	35,600	35,600	33,900	28.3	960,000	33	–	–	–	–
Custer	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fallon	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Powder River	27,900	27,900	26,300	29.9	787,000	35	600	600	50.0	30,000
Prairie	42,200	42,200	41,000	33.2	1,360,000	27	4,700	4,600	67.0	308,000
Rosebud	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Wibaux	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	198,400	197,900	189,900	29.4	5,580,000	–	6,600	6,300	63.0	397,000
SOUTHEAST	304,100	303,600	291,100	29.8	8,687,000	–	11,900	11,500	63.9	735,000
MONTANA	5,580,000	5,527,000	5,378,000	31.7	170,590,000	–	202,000	197,000	56.9	11,210,000

[1] Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of wheat are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

[2] Planted acres less winter wheat acres replanted to spring wheat.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of January were a mixed bag. Spring wheat increased 5 cents to $3.67 per bushel. Durum wheat declined 64 cents to $4.65 per bushel and winter wheat fell 7 cents to $3.56. Alfalfa hay prices, at $73.00 per ton, decreased $1.00 from December, while other hay prices, at $64.00 per ton, rose $1.00. Feed barley increased 5 cents to $1.88 per bushel, and malt barley dropped 6 cents to $2.84 per bushel. At $1.20, oats averaged 4 cents above the previous month. The all wheat price for mid-February averaged $3.61 per bushel while the all barley price was $2.16.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were higher compared with the previous month, except for sheep. Cow prices were up $4.80 to $42.90 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers increased 30 cents to $75.80 per cwt. Calf prices climbed $3.80 to $83.00 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $2.50 below last month at $30.60. Lamb prices were up 40 cents to $67.30 per cwt. Milk prices remained the same at $13.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $73.80 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $71.50 per cwt for the full month of January. Cow prices came in at $38.80 and hogs were $36.90 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.69 per bushel and $2.05 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 62.0 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 98 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from January. Price gains from January for cattle, hogs, tomatoes, and corn offset price declines for wheat, soybeans, lettuce, and lemons. However, the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index level. Lower relative seasonal marketings of corn, soybeans, cotton, and tobacco offset the affect of relatively higher seasonal marketings for cattle, milk, hogs, and broilers resulting in no change to the overall index.

Compared with February 1994, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (5.8 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1994 for corn, soybeans, hogs, and milk more than offset price increases for cotton, tomatoes, strawberries, and celery.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Jan. 1994	Feb. 1994	Jan. 1995	Feb. 1995
Prices Received	105	104	98	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	106	2/106	105	3/105
Ratio 1/	99	98	93	93

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1994 prices paid index. 3/ January 1995 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1995	U.S. Monthly Avg. Jan. 1995	Montana Feb. 15, 1995	U.S. Feb. 15, 1995
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.39	3.63	3.56	3.67	3.50	3.59
Durum	Bu.	5.26	5.29	4.65	4.58	4.70	4.54
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.79	3.62	3.67	3.51	3.60	3.41
All Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.67	3.67	3.69	3.61	3.61
Barley, All	Bu.	2.01	2.29	2.25	2.05	2.16	2.02
Feed	Bu.	1.86	1.83	1.88	1.83	1.90	1.82
Malt	Bu.	2.60	2.90	2.84	2.29	2.95	2.24
Oats	Bu.	1.32	1.16	1.20	1.22	1.20	1.22
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	74.00	73.00	92.10	73.00	94.20
All Other Hay	Ton	59.00	63.00	64.00	66.80	65.00	64.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	72.00	72.00	84.80	72.00	85.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	85.20	75.50	75.80	71.50	73.80	72.00
Cows	Cwt.	45.90	38.10	42.90	38.80	43.00	42.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	77.70	63.50	69.20	67.50	66.40	68.70
Calves	Cwt.	98.40	79.20	83.00	85.00	83.60	86.50
Sheep	Cwt.	33.70	33.10	30.60	32.80	32.60	37.50
Lambs	Cwt.	62.30	66.90	67.30	67.50	70.60	70.60
All Milk	Cwt.	14.50	13.70	13.70	12.60	13.00	12.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

1994 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Montana alfalfa seed producers harvested 5.85 million pounds of seed in 1994, nearly five times the previous year's production. Proprietary varieties made up 42 percent of this year's production, 51 percent was common uncertified varieties, and 7 percent certified public varieties.

The 1994 alfalfa seed yield per acre was 375 pounds, up from the 1993 yield of 160 pounds. There were 15,000 acres for harvest in 1994, twice last year's total. The average price received for the 1994 crop was 91 cents per pound, down 6 cents from the average price of the 1993 crop.

ALFALFA SEED: 1994 ESTIMATES BY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS

DIS-	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
TRICT	Acres	Prod	Yield	Acres	Prod	Yield	Acres	Prod	Yield
NW	300	75,000	230	300	75,000	250	0	0	0
NC	1,500	686,000	457	1,100	638,000	580	400	48,000	120
NE	900	225,000	250	600	186,000	310	300	39,000	130
C	900	248,000	276	700	210,000	300	200	38,000	190
SW	200	46,000	230	200	46,000	230	0	0	0
SC	4,500	2,351,000	522	3,200	2,117,000	662	1,300	234,000	180
SE	6,700	2,219,000	331	1,900	1,387,000	730	4,800	832,000	173
MT	15,000	5,850,000	390	8,000	4,659,000	582	7,000	1,191,000	170

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Sheep & Lamb Losses
- Annual Slaughter
- Cattle on Feed
- Slaughter
- Potato Stocks
- Milk Production
- Egg Production
- Wool & Mohair

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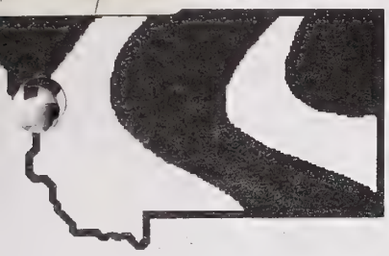

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Highlights:

January Cattle Inventory
January Sheep Inventory
Ag Prices Received
Cattle on Feed

JANUARY 1 CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY

Montana's January 1, 1995 cattle and calf inventory, at 2.7 million head, increased 6 percent from a year ago. The value of Montana's cattle and calf inventory dropped 8 percent from 1994 to 1.82 billion dollars. Poor prices received for cattle during the year had a significant impact on cattle and calf values. Average value per head in the 1995 inventory fell 105 dollars from a year ago to 675 dollars, the lowest average value since 1990. The 1994 calf crop totaled 1.52 million head, up 6 percent from the 1993 calf crop.

Beef cow numbers, at 1.589 million head, increased 8 percent from last year, while beef cow replacements were equal to a year ago at 355,000 head. Milk cow numbers continued a 3-year decline as numbers dropped 1,000 head to 21,000. Milk cow replacements also dropped 1,000 head to 7,000 head.

Other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more rose 6 percent from a year ago to 222,000 head, while steers weighing 500 pounds or more dropped 2 percent to 260,0000 head. Calves showed the biggest increase of any inventory class jumping 20 percent from last year to 150,000 head, but were down from 180,000 head two years ago. The number of bulls increased 9 percent to 96,000 head.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1995, totaled 103.3 million head, 2 percent above the revised 101.0 million on January 1, 1994, and 4 percent above the 99.2 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 45.6 million, were 3 percent above the revised 44.2 million on January 1, 1994, and 6 percent above the 43.0 million two years ago . Beef cows, [illegible].1 million, were up 4 percent from last year, and 8 percent above two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.53 million, were virtually unchanged from a year ago, but 1 percent below 1993.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1995, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.9 million, up 2 percent and up 6 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 6.48 million, up 2 percent and up 6 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.12 million, down 1 percent from both years.
- Other heifers, 9.29 million, up 2 percent and up 9 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 17.1 million, up 1 percent from both years.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.39 million, up 4 percent and up 5 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 18.3 million, up 2 percent and up 1 percent.

The 1994 calf crop was estimated at 40.7 million, up 3 percent from 1993 and up 5 percent from 1992. Calves born during the first half of the year were estimated at 29.8 million, up 3 percent from 1993 and up 5 percent from 1992.

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January 1 cattle and sheep inventory surveys. Field and telephone enumerators contacted over 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers early in January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1993-95

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1993	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA 1995	MONTANA '95/'94	UNITED STATES 1993	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES 1995	UNITED STATES '95/'94
		1,000 head				1,000 head		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,500	2,550	2,700	106%	99,176	100,988	103,265	102%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,520	1,500	1,610	107%	43,023	44,178	45,583	103%
Beef Cows	1,497	1,478	1,589	108%	33,365	34,650	36,051	104%
Milk Cows	23	22	21	95%	9,658	9,528	9,532	100%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	507	573	584	102%	18,818	19,577	19,895	102%
For beef cow replacement	345	355	355	100%	6,092	6,365	6,480	102%
For milk cow replacement	8	8	7	90%	4,176	4,144	4,121	99%
Other heifers	154	210	222	106%	8,550	9,068	9,294	102%
Steers 500 pounds and over	202	264	260	98%	16,940	17,042	17,132	101%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	91	88	96	109%	2,278	2,3078	2,388	104%
Calves less than 500 pounds	180	125	150	120%	18,117	17,884	18,267	102%
Cattle on Feed	75	110	125	114%	12,789	13,034	12,450	96%
All cattle value ($ Million)	1,900	1,989	1,823	92%	64,436	66,490	63,583	96%
Value per head (Dollars)	760	780	675	87%	649	659	616	93%

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS, 1992-94

ITEM	MONTANA 1992	MONTANA 1993	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA '94/'93	UNITED STATES 1992	UNITED STATES 1993	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES '94/'93
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,440	1,440	1,520	106%	38,933	39,448	40,729	103%
Number cattle farms 1/	13,300	13,100	13,000	99%	1,226,860	1,229,740	1,219,250	99%
Operations with beef cattle 1/	12,100	11,800	11,500	97%	901,870	903,680	903,810	100%
Operations with milk cows 1/	1,400	1,100	1,000	91%	170,520	159,450	149,990	94%

1/ Actual number.

JANUARY 1, 1995 SHEEP INVENTORY

The number of sheep and lambs on **Montana** farms and ranches totaled 490,000 head on January 1, 1995. The sheep and lamb inventory is down 8 percent from last year. There were 2,300 Montana sheep operations during 1994, down 200 from 1993.

Total breeding sheep and lambs decreased 50,000 head from last year, to 450,000. Ewes one year and older were down 10 percent at 367,000 head. The 1994 lamb crop was down 3 percent at 465,000 head. The average value of sheep and lambs on January 1, 1995 was $3.00 above last year at $68.00 per head.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 1995, totaled 8.90 million head, down 9 percent from the previous record low set last year. Total breeding sheep and lambs and ewes one year old and older also set record lows. The value of sheep and lambs totaled $664 million, 2 percent below a year earlier. The average value per head was $74.70, up 7 percent from a year earlier.

Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 6.44 million head on January 1, 1995, down 11 percent from 7.23 million last year. This is the lowest level ever recorded. Ewes one year old and older, at 5.30 million head, were down 9 percent. This compares with the previous record low of 5.80 million head set last year.

The 1994 lamb crop of 5.90 million head was down 7 percent from 1993. This compares with the previous record low of 6.38 million head set a year ago. The 1994 lambing rate was 102 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1994, compared with 98 in 1993.

The number of operations with sheep during 1994 totaled 87,350, down 6 percent from 1993 which is also a record low.

SHEEP and LAMBS INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1993-95

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1993	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA 1995	MONTANA '95/'94	UNITED STATES 1993	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES 1995	UNITED STATES '95/'94
		1,000 head				1,000 head		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	564	532	490	92%	10,201	9,742	8,895	91%
Market Sheep & Lambs 1/	34	32	40	125%	1,896	2,509	2,455	98%
Sheep	3	4	1	25%	2/	2/	103	--
Lambs	31	28	39	139%	2/	2/	2,352	--
Breeding sheep	530	500	450	90%	8,305	7,233	6,440	89%
One year old & older								
Ewes	423	410	367	90%	6,537	5,804	5,304	91%
Rams 1/	15	14	12	86%	333	302	258	85%
Replacement Lambs	92	76	71	93%	1,434	1,127	878	78%
All sheep value ($1,000)	37,224	34,710	33,320	96%	714,163	681,384	664,065	98%
Value per head (Dollars)	66.00	65.00	68.00	105%	70.00	69.90	74.70	107%

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS, 1992-94

ITEM	MONTANA 1992	MONTANA 1993	MONTANA 1994	MONTANA '94/'93	UNITED STATES 1992	UNITED STATES 1993	UNITED STATES 1994	UNITED STATES '94/'93
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	510	480	465	97%	7,225	6,379	5,902	93%
Number of sheep farms 3/	2,500	2,500	2,300	92%	97,890	93,280	87,350	94%

1/ Beginning January 1995 sheep and lambs on feed and wethers and rams were discontinued and replaced with market sheep and lambs and rams, respectively. 2/ Comparable data not available. 3/ Actual number.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of December were higher than the previous month, except for oats (which fell 23 cents to 1.16 per bushel) and other hay (which is unchanged at $63.00 per ton). Alfalfa hay rose $1.00 to $74.00 per ton.

Spring wheat prices went up 8 cents to $3.62 and winter wheat prices increased 11 cents to $3.63 per bushel. The average durum price, at $5.29 per bushel, was 35 cents above the previous month. Mid-month January prices for all wheat averaged $3.54 per bushel. In December, barley producers saw a 4-cent increase, at $2.29 per bushel, when compared with the previous month, but the all barley price for the first half of January averaged 2 cents lower.

Montana livestock prices were mixed for the full month of December. Steers and heifers prices dropped $1.80 to $75.50 per cwt, but mid-January prices are averaging $1.00 higher. Cow prices in the state fared the best, increasing $2.20 to $38.10 per cwt. for the full month of December. Calf prices averaged 40 cents lower at $79.20 per cwt.

Prices received for sheep increased $2.20 to $33.10, and lambs remained at $66.90 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 20 cents to $13.70 per cwt.

At the national level, steer and heifer prices averaged $68.20 per cwt. for the full month of December. Cow prices averaged $37.60 and hogs were $30.80 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.75 per bushel and all barley was $2.10 per bushel. Egg prices were 63 cents per dozen.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point from December 1994. Price gains from December for cattle, hogs, cotton, and tomatoes were offset by price declines for wheat, milk, lettuce, and broccoli.

The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affected the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of poultry, milk, cotton and cottonseed, fruits, and vegetables more than offset the affect of increased seasonal marketings of cattle, corn, and soybeans to lower the overall index.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Dec. 1993	Jan. 1994	Dec. 1994	Jan. 1995
Prices Received	103	105	99	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/104	106	3/106	107
Ratio 1/	99	99	93	92

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1993 prices paid index. 3/ October 1994 prices paid index.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. Dec. 1994	Montana Jan. 15, 1995	U.S. Jan. 15, 1995
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.37	3.52	3.63	3.75	3.45	3.62
Durum	Bu.	4.73	4.94	5.29	4.67	5.30	4.63
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.54	3.62	3.56	3.55	3.41
All Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.62	3.67	3.73	3.54	3.60
Barley, All	Bu.	2.15	2.25	2.29	1.99	2.27	2.16
Feed	Bu.	1.80	1.83	1.83	1.78	1.85	1.91
Malt	Bu.	2.81	2.75	2.90	2.21	2.90	2.48
Oats	Bu.	1.44	1.39	1.16	1.18	1.15	1.27
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	73.00	74.00	92.50	73.00	92.10
All Other Hay	Ton	59.00	63.00	63.00	64.10	64.00	66.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	71.00	72.00	85.10	72.00	84.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	85.60	77.30	75.50	68.00	76.50	71.50
Cows	Cwt.	44.60	35.90	38.10	37.40	40.00	38.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	71.70	69.00	63.50	64.40	66.30	67.70
Calves	Cwt.	94.50	79.60	79.20	81.90	80.40	84.00
Sheep	Cwt.	28.80	30.90	33.10	34.00	32.00	32.20
Lambs	Cwt.	68.40	66.90	66.90	68.70	69.60	68.20
All Milk	Cwt.	14.20	13.90	13.70	12.90	13.60	12.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 10.6 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago and down 3 percent from January 1, 1993. The inventory included 6.89 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from a year ago. This group accounts for 65.0 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.66 million head, 5 percent below a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the October-December 1994 quarter totaled 7.09 million, fractionally above last year but 5 percent below October-December 1992. Net placements of 6.83 million for October-December were 1 percent above last year but down 4 percent from October-December 1992.

Marketings of fed cattle during the October-December 1994 quarter totaled 5.48 million, up 5 percent from the same quarter last year and 6 percent above two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 260,000 head compared to 325,000 in October-December 1993 and 320,000 in October-December 1992.

JANUARY 1, 1995 MARKET SHEEP AND LAMBS

Market sheep and lambs in Montana totaled 40,000 head with market lambs making up 98 percent of the total. Five percent of the market lambs were under 65 pounds, 36 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 46 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 13 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep totaled 1,000 head.

U.S. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1995, totaled 2.46 million head. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-five percent were under 65 pounds, 18 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 33 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 24 percent were over 105 pounds.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter	
Potato Stocks	Honey
Milk Production	Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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Highlights:

1994 Crop Production & Crop Values
January 1 Potato Stocks
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price
October-December Milk Production
December Red Meat Production
December Egg Production
1994 Annual Egg & Chicken Inventory

MONTANA 1994 CROP PRODUCTION

Although the year ended up very dry, most of Montana's small grain crops were near average. The year started off with good moisture supplies, benefitting from the reserves of the very wet 1993 season. The rains basically quit after mid-June and estimated yields deteriorated after that. All wheat production for the state ended up at 170.6 million bushels, down over 17% from 1993's record year. Yield for 1994 averaged 31.7 bushels per acre, down from 39.2 the previous year.

Because of it's early development characteristics and ablility to utilize the good spring moisture, winter wheat yields fared the best. The average yield for winter wheat, down 7 bushels from a year ago, was set at 35 bushels per acre. Total production was off over 37% from last year, not only due to a lower yield, but also to a smaller amount of acreage planted. Farmers weren't able to plant as much last fall because of the late, wet season. Production was estimated at 64.8 million bushels.

The decrease in winter wheat acreage was made up by a large increase in spring wheat. The increase in spring wheat acres allowed farmers to harvest the largest spring wheat crop on record. Spring wheat production was estimated at 100.5 million bushels, nearly 1% more than last year's record crop. Spring wheat yield averaged 30 bushels per acre, down 7 bushels from 1993. Harvested acreage was 3.35 million acres, up 650 thousand acres from a year ago.

Durum wheat acreage also showed a large increase over 1993. Harvested acreage was estimated at 178 thousand acres, up 64 thousand from last year. Total production was set at 5.34 million bushels with an average yield of 30 bushels per acre.

Barley harvested acreage increased slightly over last year, while yields fell 14 bushels to 44 bushels per acre. Total production, at 52.8 million bushels, was off over 17% from a year ago. Oat yields fell 17 bushels per acre from 1993 and were set at 48 bushels per acre. Total oats production was set at 3.6 million bushels, down nearly 35% from last year.

MONTANA 1994 CROP VALUES

The value of Montana's 1994 wheat crop fell nearly 10% from last year. All wheat value is estimated at $646.3 million compared with $715.2 million for 1993. Although the preliminary season average price moved up 30 cents to $3.80 per bushel for 1994, decreased production from 1993's record crop more than offset the price increase to lower the value of production. A record spring wheat crop, valued at $381.9 million, contributed over 59% of the value. The preliminary season average price per bushel for winter, spring, and durum wheat were $3.65, $3.80, and $5.25, respectively.

A 17% decrease in barley production offset the increase in the season average price to cause the value of production to fall nearly 10%. Barley's 1994 preliminary season average price is estimated at $2.25, compared with $2.06 in 1993. Value of production is estimated at $118.8 million, down $12.6 million from 1993.

All hay value of production also fell in 1994. The current value, at $309.5 million, is down over 3% from last year. The preliminary season average price for all hay is set at $69.00 a ton, up $1.00 from a year ago.

POTATO STOCKS UP 5 PERCENT

Montana producers stored 3 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1995, compared with 2.5 million a year ago. The January 1 stocks represent 94 percent of production from the 1994 crop, compared with 93 percent a year earlier.

Western States held 166 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1995, a gain of 3% from 1994 and 12% more than two years ago. Most of the Western stocks are held in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Idaho cellars held 1 percent fewer potatoes this year than last, with very heavy movement. Washington's stocks were up 11 percent and Oregon gained 4 percent.

The 15 major potato States held 229 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1995, up 5 percent from a year earlier and 6 percent above 1993. Storage accounted for 57 percent of 1994 fall production, down 1 point from last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 16 percent white, and 82 percent russet. December 1 stocks were revised down slightly with Washington coming off 500,000 cwt.

Processors continue to buy larger amounts of potatoes, using 81.6 million cwt so far this season, a gain of 9 percent from a year ago and 14 percent above two years ago. During December, processing claimed 16.0 cwt of potatoes, up 16 percent from a year ago.

MONTANA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY, 1991-94 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg Price	Value of Production	US Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		Thousands		Bushels	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Winter Wheat	1991	2,350	1,900	40.0	76,000	$3.13	$237,880	1,371,617
	1992	2,600	2,250	29.0	65,250	3.29	214,673	1,609,284
	1993	2,650	2,450	**42.0	102,900	3.26	335,454	1,760,143
	1994	1,950	1,850	35.0	64,750	3.65	236,338	1,661,043
Durum Wheat	1991	180	179	33.0	5,907	$2.81	$16,599	103,957
	1992	150	147	33.0	4,851	3.06	14,844	99,906
	1993	115	114	31.0	3,534	4.83	17,069	70,476
	1994	180	178	30.0	5,340	5.25	28,035	97,347
Other Spring Wheat	1991	2,600	2,400	34.0	81,600	$3.24	$264,384	504,565
	1992	2,750	2,550	31.0	79,050	3.54	279,837	757,608
	1993	2,800	2,700	**37.0	99,900	3.63	362,637	565,821
	1994	3,450	3,350	30.0	**100,500	3.80	**381,900	562,220
All Wheat	1991	5,130	4,479	36.5	163,507	$3.17	$518,863	1,980,139
	1992	5,500	4,947	30.1	149,151	3.42	509,534	2,466,798
	1993	5,565	5,264	**39.2	**206,334	3.50	**715,160	2,396,440
	1994	5,580	5,378	31.7	170,590	3.80	646,273	2,320,610
Barley	1991	1,800	1,650	52.0	85,800	$2.34	$200,772	464,326
	1992	1,350	1,200	44.0	52,800	2.39	126,192	455,090
	1993	1,300	1,100	**58.0	63,800	2.06	131,428	398,041
	1994	1,300	1,200	44.0	52,800	2.25	118,800	374,862
Oats	1991	200	110	55.0	6,050	$1.30	$7,865	243,851
	1992	165	90	56.0	5,040	1.23	6,199	294,229
	1993	140	85	**65.0	5,525	1.41	7,790	206,770
	1994	*140	75	48.0	3,600	1.30	4,680	229,857
Corn for Grain 2/	1991	75	15	120.0	1,800	$2.70	$4,860	7,474,765
	1992	70	25	110.0	2,750	2.50	6,875	9,476,698
	1993	65	8	105.0	840	2.90	2,436	6,336,470
	1994	60	20	**135.0	2,700	2.65	7,155	10,103,030
			Thousands	Tons	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Corn for Silage	1991	--	59	18.0	1,062	--	--	81,216
	1992	--	43	21.0	903	--	--	87,663
	1993	--	55	18.0	990	--	--	81,289
	1994	--	39	21.0	819	--	--	87,949
Sugar beets	1991	56.6	56.3	23.3	**1,312	$37.30	$48,938	28,203
	1992	55.9	55.8	22.8	1,272	43.80	55,714	29,143
	1993	54.4	54.1	21.6	1,169	43.60	50,968	26,249
	1994	54.3	54.0	**24.2	1,307	--	--	32,008
Alfalfa Hay	1991	--	1,350	2.50	3,375	$51.50	$173,813	83,319
	1992	--	1,300	2.30	2,990	71.50	213,785	79,140
	1993	--	1,450	2.40	3,480	69.50	241,860	80,305
	1994	--	**1,550	2.30	**3,565	70.00	249,550	81,398
Other Hay	1991	--	800	1.60	1,280	$46.00	$58,880	68,754
	1992	--	780	1.60	1,248	60.50	75,504	67,763
	1993	--	780	**1.70	1,326	59.00	78,234	66,494
	1994	--	650	1.50	975	61.50	59,963	68,726
All Hay 3/	1991	--	2,150	2.17	4,655	$50.50	$232,693	152,073
	1992	--	2,080	2.04	4,238	69.50	289,289	146,903
	1993	--	2,230	2.16	4,806	68.00	**320,094	146,799
	1994	--	2,200	2.06	4,540	69.00	309,513	150,124
Sweet Cherries 4/	1991	--	--	--	--	--	--	139,900
	1992	--	--	--	340	$988.00	$336	192,050
	1993	--	--	--	105	1,590.00	167	160,575
	1994	--	--	--	640	1,200.00	768	192,810
			Thousands	Cwt.	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Fall Potatoes	1991	9.4	9.3	300.0	2,790	$5.70	$15,903	417,622
	1992	8.6	8.5	290.0	2,465	8.40	20,706	425,367
	1993	9.1	9.0	300.0	2,700	8.95	24,165	428,693
	1994	10.0	10.0	**320.0	**3,200	8.20	**26,240	459,342
Dry Beans	1991	9.0	8.3	19.0	158	$13.20	$2,086	33,765
	1992	10.2	9.5	19.0	181	19.10	3,457	22,615
	1993	12.0	11.0	14.1	155	27.30	4,232	21,913
	1994	10.2	10.0	22.0	220	16.90	3,718	29,187

1/ All estimates for 1994 are preliminary 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes 3/ Price of baled hay
4/ Utilized production in actual tons *Record low **Record high

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1980-1995

Year Beginning June	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1980 . . .	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.99
1981 . . .	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 . . .	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 . . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,366	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,132	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	869	96	274	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . 3/	568	2,321	85	2,974	885	98	250	1,233	1,275	2,508	466	3.50
1995 . 3/	466											

/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible uantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 1995--ERS. Totals may ot add due to independent rounding.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

During the October - December quarter, Montana milk cows produced 80 million pounds of milk, a 3 percent increase over the same period a year ago. The number of milk cows in Montana is 21,000 head, down 1,000 from a year earlier.

Grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on January 1 averaged 18 pounds per day compared with 18.3 pounds a year earlier. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $7.05 per cwt, down $0.65 from January 1, 1994.

Milk production in the 21 major States during December totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 3 percent above production in these same States in December 1993. November revised production, at 10.4 billion pounds, was 4 percent more than November 1993. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,355 pounds for December, 56 pounds above December 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 7.99 million head, 63,000 head less than December 1993 and 9,000 head less than November 1994.

During the October-December period, the 21 major States produced 31.9 billion pounds of milk, 83.9 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.8 billion pounds for October, 12.4 billion pounds for November, and 12.9 billion pounds for December 1994.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 38.1 billion pounds, 4 percent above the October-December period in 1993. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.60 million head, 43,000 less than the same period a year earlier.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1995, averaged 18.9 pounds per cow, 0.4 pound more than January 1, 1994. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1 averaged $7.66 per hundredweight, $0.52 less than January 1, 1994.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR DECEMBER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.69 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 1994, a 2 percent increase from November, and a 6 percent increase from a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, was unchanged from last year. The average weight was 1,156, down 1 pound from last year's average.

There were 3,000 hogs slaughtered in Montana during December, up 700 head from a year ago. The average live weight was 247 pounds. Sheep slaughtered, at 400 head increased 100 head from last year, while the average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 111 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled a record high 3.72 billion pounds during December, 5 percent above the previous record high set in December 1993. Beef production totaled 2.02 billion pounds, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.87 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight remains unchanged at 1,189 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.64 billion pounds, was up 6 percent from the previous record high set in December 1993. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, 5 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 260 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 26.0 million pounds, was down 7 percent from year earlier. Slaughter totaled 425,500 head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 123 pounds.

January-December red meat production was 42.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production rose 6 percent, veal increased 6 percent, pork was up 4 percent, but lamb and mutton decreased 7 percent.

1994 EGG PRODUCTION AND CHICKEN INVENTORY

Montana chickens produced 95 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 1994. This is down 24 percent from last year. Our state averaged 363,000 layers in 1994, compared with 460,000 the previous year. The annual average production per layer on hand was 262 eggs, down 3 percent from a year ago.

There were 510,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 1994, compared with 550,000 on hand last year. On hand December 1, 1994 were 232,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 27,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 112,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1994, was $1,377,000, down 7 percent from December 1, 1993. The average value per bird remained at $2.70.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1994, totaled 73.9 billion eggs, up 3 percent from the previous year's total of 71.9 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1994 averaged 291 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1994 was 254 eggs, compared with the 1993 average of 253 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens (excluding commercial broilers), on hand on December 1, 1994, was 384 million head, 1 percent above last year.

Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 1994, totaled 331 million, up 2 percent from the 324 million on hand December 1, 1993. Of the 331 million potential layers, 90 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1994, was $902 million, up slightly from December 1, 1993. The average value dropped from $2.37 per bird on December 1, 1993, to $2.35 per bird on December 1, 1994.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lambs on Feed	Cattle on Feed
Sheep Inventory	Cattle Inventory
Ag Prices Received	

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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Highlights:

- Winter Wheat Seedings
- Hay Stocks
- Late Season Crops
- December 1 Grain Stocks
- Ag Prices Received
- Hog & Pig Inventory

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS

Widespread drought in the latter part of the year caused much apprehension among Montana farmers for planting the 1995 winter wheat crop. Many producers held off waiting for moisture. When the moisture finally arrived it was very late in the season causing more apprehension on planting. By the end of October, 89% of the winter wheat was planted, 7 points behind normal. In the end, Montana farmers had planted 1.7 million acres of winter wheat, down 250,000 acres, or 13%, from last year's already small crop. This is the smallest acreage planted since 1970.

At the US level, farmers planted 49.6 million acres, up 1 percent from a year ago. Planting started in August in a few states, progress moved erratically in many areas, but reached 97% complete by December 1.

Hard red winter wheat totals 34.8 million acres, down 1 percent from last year's total, largely because of a 250,000 acre decline in Montana. Increases in the Central Plains hard red area more than offset acreage declines. Dryness hampered Colorado seedings and late rains may have prevented some Kansas seeding.

DECEMBER 1 HAY STOCKS

Montana farmers and ranchers had 3.95 million tons of hay on hand December 1, 1994. This is 9 percent less than a year ago. Lower stocks are attributed to higher hay consumption and lower hay production during the past year.

Hay stocks on U.S. farm and ranches totaled 104 million tons on December 1, 1994. This is a 3 percent increase over last year. The increased stocks reflects the larger 1994 hay crop and only slightly higher usage during the May to December period. Disappearance of hay during the May 1, 1994, to December 1, 1994, period totaled 67.8 million tons, 1 percent above the tonnage used during the same time period a year earlier.

LATE SEASON CROPS

Montana corn growers planted 60,000 acres of corn in 1994, down 5,000 from a year ago. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 20,000 acres, up 12,000 acres from a year ago. Acreage for silage is 39,000 acres. Since almost all of the corn in the state is irrigated and the growing season was very favorable, 1994 ended up to be a very good year for grain yields. A record yield of 135 bushels per acre was realized, 15 bushels per acre more than the previous record. Corn for grain production was 2.7 million bushels, over 3 times as much as last year's wet weather-impaired crop.

At the US level, corn for grain production was estimated at a record 10.1 billion bushels, 59 percent above 1993's crop and 7 percent above the previous record. The US yield per acre, at 138.6 bushels, was 37.9 bushels above 1993 and 7.1 bushels over the previous record set in 1992.

Sugar beet producers in Montana planted 54,300 acres of sugar beets while harvesting 54,000 acres in 1994, down only 100 acres from 1993. Farmers realized a record yield of 24.2 tons per acre, up over 2.5 tons from last year. Total production is estimated at a record 1.3 million tons, up 12% from a year ago.

At the US level, farmers planted 1.5 million acres and harvested 1.4 million acres of sugar beets. Total production is estimated at 32.0 million tons, up 22% from a year ago.

Dry bean production in Montana is estimated at 220 thousand cwt, up 42% from 1993. Farmers planted 10,200 acres, down 1,800 acres from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is set at 10,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from a year ago. Yields tied with the record set in 1989 at 2,200 lbs per acre. US production of dry beans is up 33% from last year at 29.2 million cwt.

Historic crop revisions are now available for all crops. With new information received from the 1992 Census of Agriculture, some estimates may have been revised. Revisions were possible from 1988 to 1993.

PLEASE RETURN

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 1994 was estimated at 147 million bushels, 15 percent less than last year's large inventory. This year's December inventory is the second largest since 1987, and is 6 percent above the 10-year average. Winter wheat stocks, at 53.1 million bushels, were 33 percent below a year ago and all spring wheat, at 93.9 million, was up less than 1 percent. All wheat disappearance in the September through November quarter was 60 percent more than the 10-year average.

Barley stocks, in all locations on December 1, amounted to 40.2 million bushels down 20 percent from last December. Oat stocks, at 3.04 million bushels, are down 25 percent from last year.

U.S. all wheat stored in all positions December 1, 1994, totaled 1.50 billion bushels, 6 percent below December 1, 1993. The September-November 1994 disappearance is 574 million bushels, up 5 percent from the same quarter in 1993. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 1994, totalled 65.4 million bushels, down 15 percent from last December 1. The second quarter disappearance of 26.9 million bushels is down 4 percent from the previous year.

Barley stored in all positions on December 1, 1994, is estimated at 279 million bushels, down 16 percent from the stocks of December 1, 1993. Indicated disappearance during the September-November quarter totaled 73.0 million bushels, 5 percent above the disappearance for the same period in 1993.

Corn stocks in all positions on December 1, 1994, totaled 8.08 billion bushels, up 36 percent from December 1, 1993. Oats stored in all positions on December 1, 1994, totaled 192 million bushels, 1 percent below December 1, 1993.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Dec. 1, 1993*	Sept. 1, 1994*	Dec. 1, 1994	Dec. 1, 1993*	Sept. 1, 1994*	Dec. 1, 1994
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.8	1.9	1.4	1.9	2.2	1.5
North Central	89.7	95.7	67.8	28.2	23.0	17.6
Northeast	49.1	56.3	45.6	5.8	7.8	6.1
Central	17.0	23.2	17.1	7.9	9.4	7.9
Southwest	3.1	4.2	2.1	2.5	4.8	2.3
South Central	6.9	11.8	6.6	3.0	4.3	2.7
Southeast	6.4	7.4	6.4	0.9	1.0	2.1
MONTANA	173.0	200.5	147.0	50.2	52.5	40.2

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1993*	Sept. 1, 1994*	Dec. 1, 1994	% Chg. '94/'93	Dec. 1, 1993*	Sept. 1, 1994*	Dec. 1, 1994
	----Thousand Bushels----				------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	147,000	170,000	120,000	82%	653,100	859,800	575,550
Off Farms [1/]	26,000	30,500	27,000	104%	932,634	1,209,694	919,652
TOTAL	173,000	200,500	147,000	85%	1,585,734	2,069,494	1,495,202
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	66,000	67,000	40,200	61%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	13,500	12,500	12,900	96%	--	--	--
TOTAL	79,500	79,500	53,100	67%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	81,000	103,000	79,800	99%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	12,500	18,000	14,100	113%	--	--	--
TOTAL	93,500	121,000	93,900	100%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	50,500	74,720	44,778
Off Farms [1/, 4/]	--	--	--	--	26,398	17,526	20,613
TOTAL	5,100	5,500	4,500	88%	76,898	92,246	65,391
BARLEY							
On Farms	42,000	45,000	33,000	79%	194,150	220,150	166,300
Off Farms [1/]	8,200	7,500	7,200	88%	139,277	131,740	112,560
TOTAL	50,200	52,500	40,200	80%	333,427	351,890	278,860
OATS							
On Farms	3,900	3,400	2,800	72%	124,200	144,300	113,400
Off Farms [1/]	180	170	240	133%	69,517	75,551	78,551
TOTAL [4/]	4,080	3,570	3,040	75%	193,717	219,851	191,951
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,803,000	395,400	5,417,500
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	2,133,548	454,743	2,663,215
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	5,936,548	850,143	8,080,715

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat.
[4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of November were mostly up from the previous month with exception of durum wheat, alfalfa hay and other hay. Durum wheat declined 9 cents to $4.94 per bushel. Alfalfa hay prices, at $73.00 per ton, decreased $1.00 from October, while other hay prices, at $63.00 per ton, declined $2.00. Winter wheat increased 5 cents to $3.52 per bushel and other spring wheat rose 13 cents to $3.54. Feed barley increased 8 cents to $1.83 per bushel, and malt barley climbed 22 cents to $2.75 per bushel. At $1.39, oats averaged 34 cents above the previous month. The all wheat price for mid-December averaged $3.67 per bushel while the all barley price was $2.25.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were lower, compared with the previous month, except for sheep & lambs. Cow prices were down $1.80 to $35.90 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers decreased 80 cents to $77.30 per cwt. Calf prices fell 40 cents to $79.60 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $5.20 above last month at $30.90. Lamb prices rose $1.40 to $66.90 per cwt. Milk prices increased 50 cents to $13.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $75.10 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $68.40 per cwt for the full month of November. Cow prices came in at $37.20 and hogs were $28.00 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.76 per bushel and $2.09 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 62.5 cents per dozen.

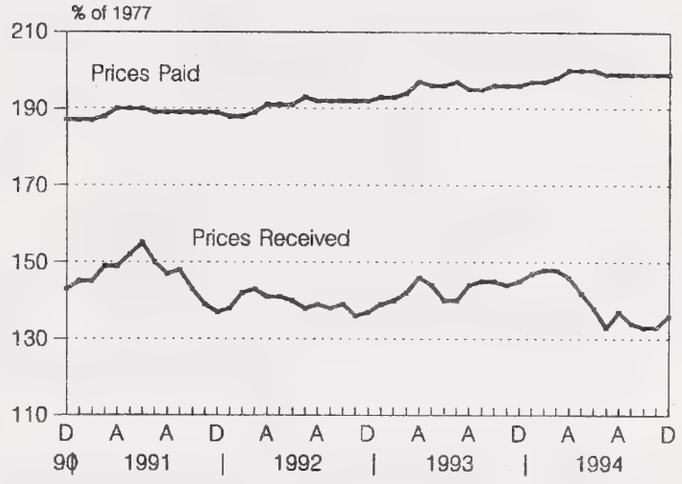
The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 136 based on 1977=100, up 3 points (2.3 percent) from November 1994. Price gains from November for lettuce, hogs, sweet corn, and corn more than offset price declines for milk, lemons, turkeys, and hay.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Nov. 1993	Dec. 1993	Nov. 1994	Dec 1994
Prices Received	141	145	133	136
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/196	196	3/199	199
Ratio 1/	73	74	67	68

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1993 prices paid index. 3/ October 1994 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. Nov. 1994	Montana Dec. 15, 1994	U.S. Dec. 15, 1994
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.21	3.47	3.52	3.75	3.55	3.75
Durum	Bu.	4.10	5.03	4.94	4.86	5.00	4.81
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.41	3.54	3.51	3.60	3.55
All Wheat	Bu.	3.38	3.47	3.62	3.76	3.67	3.75
Barley, All	Bu.	2.05	2.07	2.25	2.09	2.25	2.10
Feed	Bu.	1.71	1.75	1.83	1.86	1.85	1.89
Malt	Bu.	2.59	2.53	2.75	2.31	2.85	2.38
Oats	Bu.	1.36	1.05	1.39	1.19	1.40	1.21
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	69.00	74.00	73.00	92.60	74.00	92.60
All Other Hay	Ton	59.00	65.00	63.00	68.80	63.00	64.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	73.00	71.00	86.60	72.00	85.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	87.10	78.10	77.30	68.40	75.10	68.20
Cows	Cwt.	46.00	37.70	35.90	37.20	37.20	37.60
All Cattle 1/	Cwt.	77.60	72.10	69.00	64.40	63.70	64.50
Calves	Cwt.	95.80	80.00	79.60	80.90	79.30	81.70
Sheep	Cwt.	24.60	25.70	30.90	30.60	32.40	31.90
Lambs	Cwt.	66.70	65.50	66.90	70.50	65.90	68.20
All Milk	Cwt.	14.10	13.40	13.90	13.10	14.00	12.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

MONTANA HOG INVENTORY UP 17 PERCENT

Montana's hog inventory on December 1, 1994 was estimated at 210,000 head, 17 percent above 1993.

The average per head value fell significantly to $56, down from the $80 value last year. The total value of Montana's hog and pig inventory was $11.8 million, down from $14.4 million last year. There were 950 operations with hogs and pigs in the state during the year compared with 1,100 operations a year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1994, was 59.6 million head. This was 3 percent above December 1993 but 4 percent below the September 1, 1994, inventory. This is the highest December inventory level since 1980.

Breeding inventory, at 6.96 million head, was down 3 percent from December 1, 1993, and down 6 percent from September 1, 1994. Market hog inventory, at 52.7 million head was 4 percent above December 1, 1993, but 4 percent below September 1, 1994.

The September-November 1994 U.S. pig crop was 24.2 million head, 1 percent more than both 1992 and 1993. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.96 million head, down 1 percent from both last year and two years ago. Pigs saved per litter was a record high 8.18 for the period compared to 8.05 during September-November 1993.

U.S. producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the December 1994-February 1995 quarter, 1 percent less than the actual farrowing during the same period last year but 2 percent above 1993. Intended farrowing for March-May 1995, at 3.19 million sows are 6 percent below 1994 and down 1 percent from the 1993 period.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 208,780 during 1994, down 7 percent from last year. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 2 percent of the operations and 37 percent of the inventory.

MONTANA HOGS & PIGS

	Dec 1, 1993	Dec 1, 1994	Pct.
	1,000	1,000	%
Breeding Inventory	20	22	110
Market Hogs & Pigs:			
under 60 lbs.	51	64	125
60--119 lbs.	45	49	109
120-179 lbs.	37	40	108
180 + lbs.	27	35	130
All Market Hogs & Pigs	160	188	118
Total Inventory	180	210	117

	Sows Farrowing		Pigs Per Litter		Pig Crop	
Quarter	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	1,000				1,000	
Dec-Feb	10	11	8.3	8.4	83	92
Mar-May	12	11	8.6	8.5	103	94
Jun-Aug	10	13	8.5	8.3	85	108
Sep-Nov	10	11	8.4	8.4	84	92
Total	42	46	8.5	8.4	355	386

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter	Qtr Milk Production
Annual Crop Production	Potato Stocks
Egg Production	Crop Values
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production	
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price	

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Highlights:

- 7 State Cattle on Feed
- November Red Meat Production
- Potato Stocks
- November Milk Production
- November Egg Production
- *featuring*...Pondera County

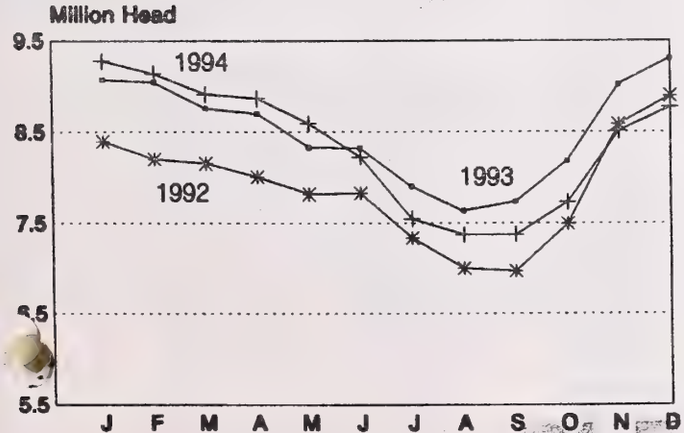
CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 6 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.77 million h[illegible] down 6 percent from a year ago and down 1 percent f[illegible] December 1, 1992.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.84 million, 1 percent below 1993 and fractionally below 1992. Net placements of 1.77 million for November were up 1 percent from both last year and a year ago.

Marketings during November totaled 1.50 million, up 3 percent from 1993 and up 4 percent from 1992. Other disappearance during November was 71,000 head, 34 percent below 1993 and 22 percent below 1992.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR NOVEMBER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.65 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 1994, down 4 percent from last month, but 11 percent above a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,700 head was unchanged from last year, but average weight, at 1,187 pounds, increased 31 pounds from a year ago.

The number of hogs slaughtered in November, at 3,000 head, increased 500 head over last year. The average live weight for hogs was 250 pounds compared with 234 a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, increased 100 head from last year and the average live weight gained 3 pounds to 115.

U.S. commercial red meat production for the United States totaled a record high 3.67 billion pounds during November, 6 percent above the previous record high set in November 1983.

Beef production totaled 1.98 billion pounds, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.81 million, up 4 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 6 pounds to 1,191 pounds.

Veal production totaled 25.0 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 117,100, up 12 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight dropped 14 pounds to 371 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.64 billion pounds, was up 9 percent from the previous record high set in November 1993. Hog kill totaled 8.74 million head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight increased 5 pounds to 261 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, dropped 6 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 406,000 head, down 3 percent from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 120 pounds.

January-November red meat production was 38.8 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production jumped 6 percent, veal increased 5 percent, pork rose 4 percent, but lamb and mutton dropped 7 percent.

PLEASE RETURN

1994 POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

Montana's 1994 record fall potato production, at 3.2 million cwt, is 19 percent higher than a year earlier. December 1 stocks amounted to 3 million cwt which is 94 percent of production and 16 percent higher than December 1, 1993 stocks.

Montana growers harvested 10,000 acres of potatoes in 1994, up 11 percent from last year and 18 percent higher than 1992. The average yield is 320 cwt per acre, compared with 300 cwt per acre last year and 290 cwt per acre in 1992.

Nationally, production of fall potatoes in 1994 was estimated at 412 million cwt, down slightly from the November 1 forecast, but 7 percent above 1993 and 9 percent larger than 1992, and is the fourth consecutive record high potato production in the United States. Harvested area totaled 1.18 million acres, up 5 percent from 1993 and 4 percent above two years ago. The average yield of 349 cwt per acre, was an 8 cwt jump from a year earlier and 14 cwt above two years ago. The growing season was robust for potatoes with an early start, a long growing period, and nearly ideal harvest season. Eight Central and Western States produced record large fall potato crops including several record high yields.

Ten Western States produced 290 million cwt in 1994, up 4 percent from 1993 and 14 percent above 1992. Acreage for harvest, at 729,900 acres, was up 4 percent. The average yield of 398 cwt per acre gained 1 cwt from a year ago. Idaho's production of 134 million cwt was a record high, up 6 percent from last year with the best quality in years. Washington's growers also had their largest crop ever, slightly larger than 1993, but somewhat rougher in quality because of hot spells during the summer. Oregon's yield was record high with good quality in all areas. Colorado's fall crop, also a record high production, rose 2 percent above 1993.

The 15 major potato States held 264 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1994, up 6 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent above 1992. Storage accounted for 66 percent of 1994 fall production compared with 67 percent in 1993. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 17 percent white, and 80 percent russet-with more russet and fewer whites than a year ago. Reds were the same as last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record high 136 million cwt of potatoes, up 9 percent from the same period in 1993. Shrink and loss to date were estimated at 18.6 million cwt, up 6 percent from the 17.5 million cwt lost in 1993 and 8 percent above the 17.1 million cwt lost from the 1992 crop. Processors continue to buy ever larger amounts of potatoes, using 65.6 million cwt so far this season. This is a gain of 7 percent from a year ago and 15 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 189 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1994, a gain of 4 percent from 1993 and 14 percent more than two years ago. Most of the Western stocks are held in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Idaho cellars held 1 percent more potatoes this year than last, with very heavy early movement. Washington's stocks were up 10 percent, Oregon gained 6 percent, and Colorado's stocks were up 4 percent from a year ago. California stored 11 percent fewer potatoes than a year earlier.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks on December 1, 1993-94

STATE	CROP OF 1993			CROP OF 1994		
	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1993	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1994	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	4,800	3,700	77	4,400	3,300	75
CO	25,270	18,250	72	25,795	18,900	73
ID	126,192	94,500	75	134,340	95,500	71
ME 1/	19,890	14,700	74	17,250	13,400	78
MI	11,780	7,300	62	12,180	7,600	62
MN	12,650	8,600	68	17,755	12,500	70
MT	2,700	2,580	96	3,200	3,000	94
NE	3,008	1,890	63	3,888	1,990	51
NY-LI	1,643	650	40	1,617	700	43
NY-UPST	6,050	3,000	50	6,188	3,500	57
ND	21,090	14,800	70	28,200	18,500	66
OH	1,140	240	21	1,348	300	22
OR	23,103	19,000	82	25,784	20,200	78
PA	4,600	2,600	57	3,780	2,200	58
WA	88,500	43,500	49	88,920	48,000	54
WI	22,588	14,400	64	25,740	14,500	56
Total 15 State	375,004	249,710	67	400,385	264,090	66

1/ 1994 production excludes 1,125,000 cwt dumped from storage before November 1.

NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.26 billion during November 1994, up 4 percent from the 6.04 billion [illegible]ced a year ago. Production included 5.36 billion table [illegible]gs and 902 million hatching egg type, of which 843 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1994 averaged 297 million, up 4 percent from the 287 million a year ago. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,109 eggs, compared with 2,107 in November 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1994, totaled 298 million, compared with 289 million a year ago. The 298 million layers consisted of 247 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 47.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.72 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1994, averaged 70.7 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 70.3 eggs a year ago.

NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during November totaled 10.4 billion pounds, 4 percent above production in these same States in November 1993. October revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds, was 4 percent more than October 1993.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged [illegible]8 pounds for November, 59 pounds above November 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.0 million head, 65,000 head less than November 1993 and 10,000 head less than October 1994.

During the July-September period, the 21 major States produced 32.3 billion pounds of milk, 84.1 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly (which includes Montana) followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.3 billion pounds for November 1994.

JAPAN REMAINS STRONG MARKET FOR U.S. AG EXPORTS

Japan is expected to remain a promising market for U.S. food producers and processors through the end of the century because of its size and potential for expansion. However, changing Japanese consumer attitudes, farm output, purchasing power, dietary preferences, as well as market deregulation, will likely continue to alter the composition of U.S. farm exports to Japan. In addition, the U.S. will likely face stiffer competition in the Japanese [illegible]ket from other exporters as trade barriers are e[illegible]nated.

In 1993, Japan imported more than $30 billion in agricultural products, not counting $15 billion in fish and shellfish and $15 billion in forestry products. The U.S. has accounted for a large share of Japan's agricultural imports for many years. After falling to a low of one-third in 1986, the U.S. share of Japan's total agricultural imports rose to nearly 40 percent by the early 1990's.

Japan is the largest export market for U.S. food growers and processors, comprising consistently over one-fifth of all U.S. farm exports. U.S. farm sales to Japan in fiscal 1994, estimated to be $9.3 billion, are expected to set another record. For many years Japan has been the largest export market for several U.S. agricultural commodities, including corn, soybeans, tobacco, beef, citrus, and pork.

However, other countries have recently replaced Japan as leading buyers of certain other important U.S. export commodities. For example, in fiscal 1993 Hong Kong replaced Japan as the top market for U.S. poultry, and South Korea became the leading U.S. market for cotton. South Korea became the top-ranking U.S. market for cattle hides in the mid-1980's after Japan's higher labor costs made its tanning industry less competitive. A similar pattern occurred in Japan's textile industry. Labor costs in South Korea have recently risen, making Southeast Asia and China more favorable overseas locations for Japanese manufacturers.

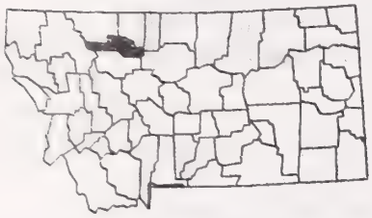
Although U.S. agricultural trade with Japan still relies heavily on bulk commodities such as grain and soybeans, the U.S. since the mid-1980's has expanded its exports of processed and high-value products (HVP's), including beef and citrus. HVP's are agricultural products other than raw grains, oilseeds, cotton, and tobacco.

While Japan's HVP imports from all sources have been rising steadily for more than two decades, they accelerated after 1985. Several factors were behind this speedup, including tariff reductions, deregulation of cigarette imports, the 1988 Beef-Citrus Agreement, a GATT agreement that removed or expanded quotas for some processed farm products, and the substantial appreciation of the yen.

Japan and Western Europe were the two leading markets for U.S. HVP's from fiscal 1989 through 1992. In 1993, Japan was second to Canada (Western Europe was third), with HVP imports from the U.S. totaling $4.8 billion, accounting for over half of U.S. farm exports to Japan. The top five U.S. high-value products exported to Japan in fiscal 1993 were beef, feed and fodder, fresh fruit, variety meats, and pork.

Japan is the largest foreign market for U.S. processed foods, followed by Canada and Mexico. Processed foods include fish products and distilled spirits, but exclude some intermediate-processed products like hides and skins, so that the total differs from those for high-value exports. According to USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), processed food exports to Japan from U.S.-based companies were $5.3 billion in 1991, a quarter of total U.S. processed food exports. Western Europe provides the strongest competition for U.S. processed food sales abroad.

featuring...**PONDERA COUNTY**



Pondera County was created in April of 1919 and comprises 1,039,788 acres of land in north central Montana. It's western border is marked by the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains, and a section of the Lewis and Clark National Forest takes up the western corner of the county. Although smaller in size than many of the counties, Pondera County is big on crop production. For the 1993 crop year, Pondera County ranked 2nd in both barley and durum wheat production. The county ranked 6th for winter wheat and 11th for spring wheat production. Some hay is also grown in the county.

In livestock numbers for 1994, Pondera County came up 7th in the hog inventory. Some sheep and cattle are also raised. The county turned up 29th in the county rankings for sheep numbers and 41st in cattle numbers for 1994.

Crops grown in Pondera County brought in $35,490,000 in cash receipts and 6th place in the county rankings in 1992. Livestock and livestock products turned in $12,285,000 in cash receipts with a rank of 35th, and government payments added $10,949,000 for total cash receipts of $58,724,000 in 1992.

Pondera County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,039,788	Total Cropland	Acres	587,103
Land in Farms	Acres	893,872	Harvested Cropland	Acres	268,545
Number of Farms		463	Irrigated Land	Acres	56,396
Average size Farms	Acres	1,931			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	24,631	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	157,444	Calves	No. Head	24,617
Barley	Acres	86,398	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	6,147
Oats	Acres	395	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	13,800

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs
Grain Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Ag Prices Received
Hay Stocks

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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montana crop livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Phone: (406) 449-5303 or 1-800-835-2612

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"Happy Holidays!" from all of us at the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Nineteen ninety-four proved to be another roller coaster adventure for Montana agriculture. On the up side, Montana's wheat producers harvested their largest spring wheat crop ever and the fourth largest all wheat crop; however, 1994 will probably be most remembered for its lower cattle prices and the controversy surrounding Canadian grain imports.

The phasing out of the wool incentive payments, the passage of NAFTA and GATT, USDA reorganization, and the upcoming 1995 Farm Bill join Mother Nature, the banker, and other factors Montana producers will have to face in the upcoming years. Although fewer farms are being reported, agriculture is still Montana's number one industry and it continues to remain strong!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for taking an active part in ensuring that Montana Agriculture is fully represented in the national picture. We would be unable to provide sound statistical information without the voluntary cooperation of our farmers and ranchers.

We sincerely hope you and your family have a wonderful and safe holiday season and that the New Year finds you ready to partake in the adventures of 1995!

NEAR-RECORD U.S. AG EXPORTS FOR 1995

Continued strong U.S. sales of high-value commodities (primarily livestock and horticultural products) will offset the declining value of bulk exports in fiscal year 1995 to push up total value of U.S. farm exports to $43 million, the highest since the record $43.8 billion in fiscal 1981. High-value exports will surpass $26 billion in fiscal 1995, up from $25.5 billion in 1994.

Gains in consumer food products--meats, fruits and vegetables, and processed and prepared foods--will drive this advance. The value of intermediate high-value exports--such as animal feeds, soybean meal and oil, cattle hides, and seeds--which are used as farm inputs or processed into finished products, is expected to remain flat.

Bulk sales continue to constrain the value of U.S. exports, as lower grain and oilseed prices bring down the value. Strong domestic supplies, however, are projected to boost export volume 8 percent in 1995 for major bulk products (grains, soybeans, rice, and cotton).

Despite the optimistic outlook for export sales in 1995, the agricultural trade surplus is projected to decline. Sharp rises in world coffee prices are expected to propel an increase in the value of agricultural imports.

Stronger economic growth projected for 1995 is broadening global demand for a variety of consumer foods. World income is expected to rise over 3 percent in 1995, and economic growth will be even stronger in markets where U.S. food exports are expanding fastest, such as Mexico and some Pacific Rim countries. Rising incomes and changing dietary preferences are likely to increase demand for meats, fruits, and vegetables.

U.S. exports are benefiting from a dollar that is weaker relative to some major foreign currencies. This is particularly true in Japan where the dollar has dropped 20 percent below its 1992 level. With a lag of 1-2 years before the exchange rate changes exert full impact on exports and imports, the steady decline of the dollar is helping boost U.S. agricultural exports to Japan to record levels in 1994. Export prospects in 1995 are expected to be at least as good.

But in the overall trade picture, the dollar has actually strengthened on a trade-weighted basis since 1992. The dollar has strengthened relative to the currencies of two major agricultural trade partners--Canada and Mexico--countering some of the weakness vis-a-vis the yen and recent declines against European currencies. The outlook for the dollar is relatively stable entering 1995, implying that income growth will likely be a key factor in export expansion.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA USE?

Per capita use of food commodities represents the apparent net utilization of the commodities marketed by growers. Total use is derived from adjusting total utilization such categories as trade (imports less exports), stocks (inventories), and storage losses. When total use is divided by the U.S. population figure (including military), an estimate of commodity use per person is established.

So per capita fruit and vegetable use is not actual fruit or vegetable consumption. The per capita use series is not based on consumption surveys but is an *estimate* of the amount of raw product supplied per person, based on the best available data. USDA's Economic Research Service does not track the actual amount of fruit or vegetables used by consumers. What is termed "per capita use" or "consumption" is actually the per capita supply of fruits and vegetables in domestic markets. In the farm-weight (fresh-equivalent) series, ERS does not make adjustments for loss during transportation from the shipping point, shrinkage from spoilage and trimming during retailing, or product discarded by consumers.

STATES PURSUE NEW AG CREDIT PROGRAMS

Many states have begun accelerating the use of small, innovative farm credit programs in order to assist beginning farmers, encourage environmental improvements, promote alternative crops, and meet other state goals. During 1993/94, 32 states had 81 of these programs, assisting more than 31,000 farmer-borrowers, according to USDA's Economic Research Service.

These state programs are funded and/or operated by state agencies, and largely complement the larger federally sponsored agricultural credit system. The programs help farmers gain access to credit by providing direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants, which reduce the cost of capital and increase its availability.

Although the pace has quickened in recent years, states have been involved in designing credit programs for several decades and have used that experience to make several innovations in funding methods and program purposes. Although most remain small in size in comparison with Federal programs, state-level programs are highly responsive to the credit needs of farmers in their geographical areas. And for some specific purposes--such as promoting new crops and environmental improvements--state funding may exceed Federal.

Surveys of state programs conducted by the Economic Research Service have identified six major reasons why states choose to operate farm credit programs:

- assisting farmers through a period of extreme financial hardship;

- enabling more farmers to qualify for additional assistance, possibly a bank loan or participation in a Federal program;

- fostering successful entry into farming by beginning farmers;

- promoting innovation or diversity through new and nontraditional crops;

- encouraging implementation of environmentally sound practices; and

- strengthening the agricultural sector with incentives to modernize.

SOURCE: Articles on this page taken from Agricultural Outlook magazines, October & November 1994.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana all hay prices were up $3.00 for the full month of October with alfalfa hay at $74.00 per ton and other hay at $65.00 per ton. Oats showed the biggest crop price decrease, down 30 cents to $1.05 per bushel. Spring wheat prices for the Treasure State decreased slightly to $3.41 per bushel, but winter wheat prices rose 20 cents to $3.47 and durum wheat increased to $5.03 per bushel. Mid-month November prices for all wheat averaged $3.59 per bushel. Barley producers received 13 cents less, at $2.07 per bushel, in October when compared with the previous month. However, all barley prices for the first half of November show a 7 cent increase.

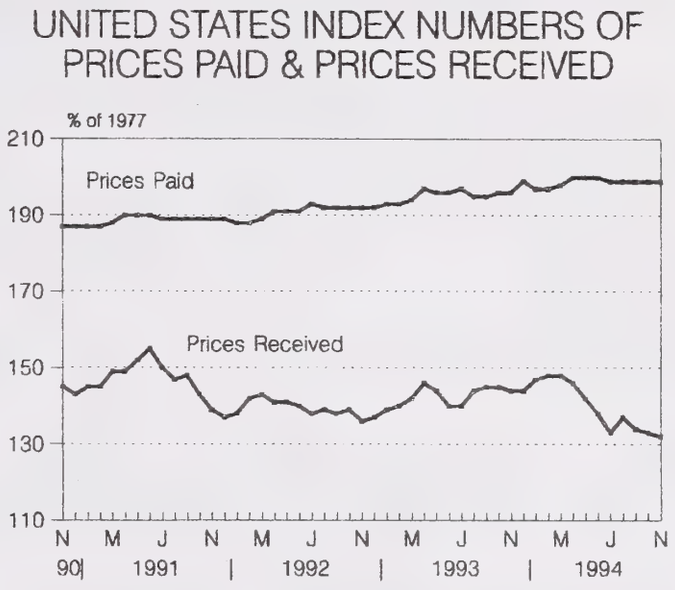
Montana livestock producers continued to see lower prices for the full month of October. Steers and heifers prices saw a slight gain of $1.60 to $78.10 per cwt but mid-November prices are averaging 80 cents lower. Cow prices in the state fared the worst, dropping $4 to $37.70 per cwt for the full month of October. Calf prices fell $1.70 to $80.00 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $25.70, 70 cents below last month and lambs brought an average of $65.50 per cwt, down $1.20. Milk prices increased 40 cents to $13.40 per cwt.

At the **national** level, steer and heifer prices averaged $66.10 per cwt for the full month of October. Cow prices were $38.50, while hogs averaged $31.90 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.77 per bushel and $1.93 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 57.6 cents per dozen. The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 132 based on 1977=100, down 1 point (0.8 percent) from October 1994 and the lowest monthly index since April 1988. Price declines from October for hogs, corn, lemons, and grapefruit more than offset price gains for cattle, eggs, potatoes, and tomatoes.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Oct. 1993	Nov. 1993	Oct. 1994	Nov. 1994
Prices Received	145	144	133	132
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	196	2/196	199	3/199
Ratio 1/	74	73	67	66

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1993 prices paid index. 3/ October 1994 prices paid index.



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. Oct. 1994	Montana Nov. 15, 1994	U.S. Nov. 15, 1994
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.89	3.27	3.47	3.78	3.50	3.76
Durum	Bu.	3.77	4.57	5.03	4.92	5.20	4.99
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.42	3.41	3.51	3.60	3.56
All Wheat	Bu.	3.16	3.37	3.47	3.77	3.59	3.77
Barley, All	Bu.	1.93	2.20	2.07	1.93	2.14	1.99
Feed	Bu.	1.63	1.84	1.75	1.81	1.80	1.89
Malt	Bu.	2.42	2.83	2.53	2.15	2.60	2.24
Oats	Bu.	1.41	1.35	1.05	1.22	1.30	1.23
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	71.00	74.00	92.30	73.00	92.60
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	63.00	65.00	66.70	63.00	68.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	70.00	73.00	86.80	71.00	86.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	87.90	76.50	78.10	66.10	77.30	68.30
Cows	Cwt.	46.70	41.70	37.70	38.50	35.50	36.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	83.80	73.00	72.10	63.10	68.90	64.60
Calves	Cwt.	97.50	81.70	80.00	78.40	79.70	80.30
Sheep	Cwt.	23.20	26.40	25.70	27.20	27.00	28.70
Lambs	Cwt.	64.80	66.70	65.50	68.20	67.80	71.30
All Milk	Cwt.	14.10	13.00	13.40	13.10	13.80	13.10

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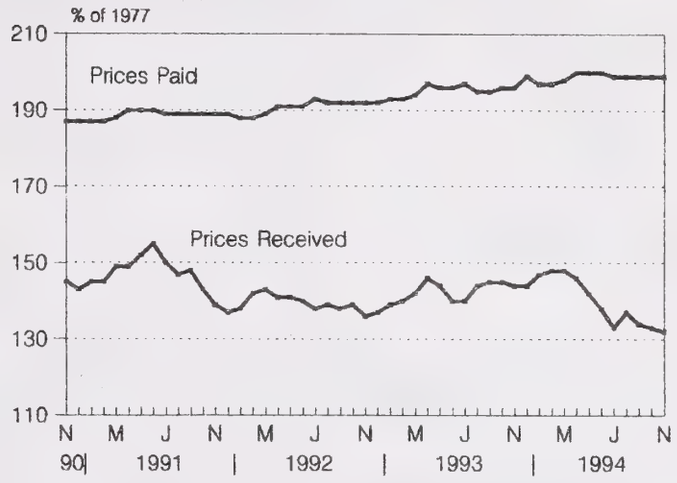

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Oats	Bu.	1.41	1.35	1.05	1.22	1.30	1.23
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All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	63.00	65.00	66.70	63.00	68.80
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Steers & heifers	Cwt.	87.90	76.50	78.10	66.10	77.30	68.30
Cows	Cwt.	46.70	41.70	37.70	38.50	35.50	36.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	83.80	73.00	72.10	63.10	68.90	64.60
Calves	Cwt.	97.50	81.70	80.00	78.40	79.70	80.30
Sheep	Cwt.	23.20	26.40	25.70	27.20	27.00	28.70
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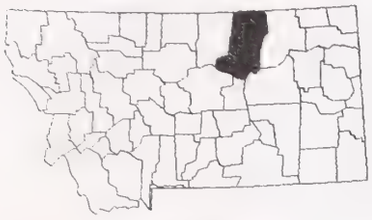
featuring...**PHILLIPS COUNTY**



Phillips County occupies approximately 3,289,523 acres of rolling prairie in north central Montana. The entire southern boundary of the county is comprised of portions of the Missouri River and Fort Peck Lake. Portions of the Charles M. Russell and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges lie along the banks of the Missouri River and the Port Peck Lake in southern Phillips County. The Milk River crosses west to east through the center of the county, and the northern boundary of Phillips County makes up a portion of the Montana/Canadian border.

Phillips County is an extensive livestock producing area. The county ranked 7th in the January 1, 1994 cattle and calf inventory, and 10th in the sheep inventory for the same date. Hog production brought the county 11th place in the December 1, 1993 hog inventory.

Phillips County is also a vital crop producing area. It ranked 7th in oats production; 12th in other spring wheat production; 14th in barley production; 16th in all hay production, and 24th in winter wheat production for 1993.

Cash receipts for livestock and livestock products returned $28,056,000 in 1992, while crops receipts added $9,793,000. Government payments added $10,351,000 for a total cash return of $48,200,000 in 1992.

Phillips County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	3,289,523	Total Cropland	Acres	597,485
Land in Farms	Acres	1,968,857	Harvested Cropland	Acres	236,845
Number of Farms		479	Irrigated Land	Acres	42,443
Average size Farms	Acres	4,110			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	57,265	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	146,815	Calves	No. Head	80,891
Barley	Acres	30,768	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	15,551
Oats	Acres	2,775	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	10,552

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Milk Production
Slaughter
Potato Stocks

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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Highlights:

October Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
October Farm Labor
October Egg Production
October Milk Production
November 1 Sheep & Lambs on Feed
featuring...Petroleum County

RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR OCTOBER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.71 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 1994, down fractionally from last month, but 8 percent above a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,800, was the same as last year, but average live weight, at 1,179 pounds, decreased 37 pounds from a year ago.

The number of hogs slaughtered in October, at 3,100 head, increased by 600 head over last year. The average live weight for hogs was 246 pounds, compared with 230 pounds a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered at 500 head was the same as a year earlier, while the average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 116 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production for the United States was a record high 3.80 billion pounds during October, 2 percent above the previous record high set in October 1991.

Beef production totaled 2.12 billion pounds, 7 percent above a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.95 million, up 5 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 14 pounds to 1,201 pounds.

Veal production totaled 25.0 million pounds, up 14 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 115,600 head, up 19 percent from last year. The average live weight was down 15 pounds to 381 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.63 billion pounds, was up 11 percent from a year earlier and up 3 percent from the previous record high set in October 1992. Hog kill totaled 9.80 million head, 9 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 258 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 396,900 head, down 2 percent from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 119 pounds.

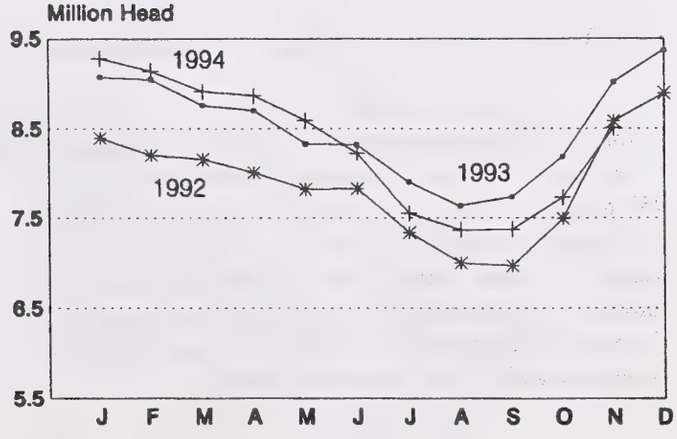
January-October red meat production was 35.2 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the comparable period last year. Accumulated beef production rose 6 percent, veal increased 5 percent, pork was up 3 percent, but lamb and mutton decreased 7 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 6 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.51 million head, down 6 percent from a year ago and down 1 percent from October 1, 1992.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.46 million, 1 percent below 1993 and 8 percent below 1992. Net placements of 2.40 million for October were up fractionally from last year but 7 percent below 1992. Marketings during October totaled 1.62 million, up 4 percent from 1993 and up 9 percent from 1992. Other disappearance during October was 56,000 head, 26 percent below both 1993 and 1992.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



MONTANA ANNUAL WAGE R. (E DROPS 38 CENTS, US RISES 14 CENTS

Montana farm workers earned an annual average of $5.44 per hour in 1994 compared with $5.82 per hour in 1993. All hired workers earned $5.26 per hour down $.30 from a year ago, and field workers earned $5.06 per hour down $.62 from last year. Together, field and livestock workers earned $5.01 per hour compared with $5.30 per hour in 1993.

Nationally, annual wage rates paid by farm operators during 1994 averaged $6.39 per hour. This compares to $6.25 during 1993 and $6.06 during 1992. There were 3.17 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 1994. This compares with 3.25 million people during the October 1993 survey week. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.49 million of the total, along with 516,000 unpaid workers, and 880,000 work (hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 279,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.46 per hour during the October 1994 survey week. This rate was up 20 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.17 per hour compared with $5.94 in October 1993. Field workers received an average of $6.16 per hour, up 25 cents from the October 1993 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.82 per hour compared with $5.67 a year earlier.

Benefits were provided for 375,000 hired workers. Farm operators provided housing for 152,000, meals for 71,000, bonuses for 80,000, health insurance for 182,000, transportation for 47,000, and other benefits for 182,000 hired workers.

HIRED WORKERS: Annual Average Wage Rates by State and United States, 1993-1994 1/ 2/

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock		Hourly	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	Dollars per Hour							
CO	5.84	6.26	5.49	5.73	5.35	5.73	5.72	5.82
ID	6.05	6.26	5.68	5.80	5.93	6.05	5.55	6.06
MT	5.56	5.26	5.68	5.06	5.30	5.01	5.82	5.44
ND	6.49	6.50	7.01	6.78	6.57	6.37	6.83	7
OR	6.75	6.42	6.38	6.02	6.35	6.00	6.33	6.
SD	5.69	5.30	5.22	5.05	5.43	5.09	5.59	5.82
UT	6.25	6.04	6.04	5.52	5.94	5.45	5.75	5.60
WA	6.98	6.85	6.43	6.50	6.60	6.60	6.50	6.25
WY	5.49	5.17	5.94	5.02	4.98	4.95	6.01	6.11
US 3/	6.25	6.39	5.90	6.02	5.81	5.95	5.95	6.06

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October. 3/ Excludes Alaska.

OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.37 billion during October 1994, up 4 percent from the 6.14 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.44 billion table eggs and 930 million hatching egg type, of which 872 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 1994 averaged 295 million, up 4 percent from the 285 million a year ago. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,157 eggs, compared with 2,155 in October 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1994, totaled 296 million, compared with 285 million a year ago. The 296 million layers consisted of 245 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 47.9 million layers producing broiler- type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1994, averaged 69.9 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.6 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production St produced 6.02 billion eggs during October. The number of layers during October averaged 279 million.

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTIOI P 3 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 major States during October totaled 10.7 billion pounds, 3 percent above production in these same States in October 1993. September revised production, at 10.5 billion pounds, was 4 percent more than September 1993.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,330 pounds for October, 50 pounds above October 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.03 million head, 41,000 head less than October 1993 and 9,000 head less than September 1994.

During the July-September period, the 21 major States produced 32.3 billion pounds of milk, 84.1 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.7 billion pounds for October 1994.

NOVEMBER 1 SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED

The number of sheep and lambs on feed November 1, 1994, for the slaughter market on Montana farms and ranches was estimated to be 25,000 head, down 29 percent from last year. Lambs on feed accounted for 92 percent of the total on feed.

A tota[illegible] 15,000 lambs were in feedlots, down 3,000 head from a year ago. There were 9,000 lambs on feed in feedlots weighing less than 85 lbs and 6,000 weighing 85-105 lbs. Lambs on pasture and/or crop residue amounted to 8,000 head, down 5,000 head from last year. Of the lambs on pasture and/or crop residue, 3,000 weighed less than 85 pounds. Less than 500 lambs on feed in feedlots or on pasture/crop residue weighed over 105 pounds.

Sheep and lambs on feed November 1, 1994, for slaughter market in the 16 major producing States totaled 1.52 million head, 8 percent below 1993's 1.66 million head. The 1994 inventory included 1.47 million lambs (less than 1 year old) for slaughter market and 56,000 mature sheep (over 1 year old).

Of the total lambs on feed, 1.02 million head were in feedlots and the remaining 447,000 head were on pasture and/or crop residue. Of the total lambs on feed, 38 percent were under 85 pounds, 40 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and 22 percent were over 105 pounds.

Colorado had the most sheep and lambs on feed with 385,000 head, followed by California with 215,000 head, and third was Wyoming with 194,000 head.

Lambs on Feed for Slaughter Market: By Weight Groups, Selected States and 16 Major States, November 1, 1994

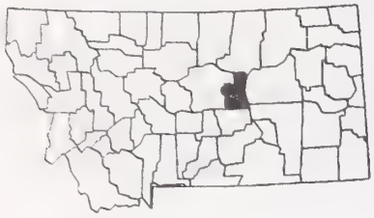
	Feedlot				Pasture/Crop Residue			
State	Under 85 Pounds	85 to 105 lbs	Over 105 lbs	Total	Under 85 Pounds	85 to 105 lbs	Over 105 lbs	Total
	1,000 Head							
CO	91.0	180.0	112.0	383.0	1/	1/	1/	1.0
MT	9.0	6.0	1/	15.0	3.0	5.0	1/	8.0
ND	8.0	17.0	6.0	31.0	4.5	4.5	1/	9.0
OR	.5	4.0	40.5	45.0	29.0	11.0	2.0	42.0
SD	17.0	35.0	33.0	85.0	5.0	4.5	.5	10.0
WY	34.0	42.0	30.0	106.0	46.0	37.0	1.0	84.0
Total 16 Sts	268.0	442.0	310.0	1,020.0	294.5	141.5	11.0	447.0

1/ Less than 500 head. 2/ Illinois and Nebraska are combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Total Sheep & Lambs on Feed, Selected States & 16 Major States, November 1, 1994

	Total Lambs on Feed	Total Sheep on Feed	Total Sheep and Lambs on Feed
		1,000 Head	
CO	384.0	1.0	385.0
MT	23.0	2.0	25.0
ND	40.0	3.0	43.0
OR	87.0	2.0	89.0
SD	95.0	4.0	99.0
WY	190.0	4.0	194.0
Total 16 Sts	1,467.0	56.0	1,523.0

featuring...PETROLEUM COUNTY



Petroleum County occupies approximately 1,058,518 acres of land in central Montana. The surface of the land is generally rolling with valleys and benches. The extreme north/northeastern border of the county is defined by portions of the Missouri River and Fort Peck Lake. The Musselshell River defines the remainder of the eastern border. The county is traversed by Flat Willow Creek from the south, and Box Elder Creek from the north. They eventually join and empty into the Musselshell River on the eastern border of the county. The Sacagawea River crosses the northern leg of the county and flows into Fort Peck Lake.

Crops grown in the county include winter and spring wheat, barley, oats, and hay. The county ranked 45th in all hay production; 49th in barley production; 41st in spring wheat and 26th in winter wheat production for 1993. Petroleum County is not a major livestock producing county, but sheep and cattle are raised. The county ranked 37th for all cattle and calf inventory and 22nd for stock sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 1994. Some hogs are also raised, but not to a great extent.

Cash receipts for the county totaled $13,890,000 in 1992. Livestock and livestock products receipts made up $9,550,000 of that total, while crops receipts contributed $3,020,000, and government payments added the remaining $1,320,000.

Petroleum County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,058,518	Total Cropland	Acres	99,031
Land in Farms	Acres	669,516	Harvested Cropland	Acres	35,057
Number of Farms		105	Irrigated Land	Acres	12,698
Average size Farms	Acres	6,376			
CROPS--Harvested			LIVESTOCK		
All Hay	Acres	18,591	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	15,244	Calves	No. Head	28,610
Barley	Acres	561	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	4,725
Oats	Acres	331	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	(D)

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

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Highlights:

Red Meat Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production
Egg Production
Livestock County Estimates

RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR SEPTEMBER

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.72 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 1994, down 21 percent from the previous month, but 16 percent above a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 2,900 head, rose 300 head from last year, but average live weight, at 1,194 pounds, decreased 35 from a year ago.

The number of hogs slaughtered in September, at 2,900 head, increased by 300 head over last year. The average live weight for hogs was 242 pounds, compared with 229 pounds a year ago. A total of 600 sheep were slaughtered, up 200 head from the same period a year ago, while the average live weight increased 1 pound to 116 pounds.

U.S commercial red meat production totaled a record high 3.72 billion pounds during September, 3 percent above the previous record high set in September 1992.

Beef production totaled 2.14 billion pounds, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.94 million, up 3 percent from a the previous year. The average live weight increased 20 pounds to 1,205 pounds. Veal production totaled 23.0 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 109,300 head, up 12 percent from a year ago. The average live weight dropped 17 pounds to 372 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.54 billion pounds, increased 7 percent from a year earlier and rose 2 percent from the previous record high set in September 1992. Hog kill totaled 8.38 million head, 6 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 254 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 12 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 400,700 head, down 6 percent from the previous year. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 119 pounds.

January-September red meat production was 31.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent, veal was up 4 percent, pork was up 2 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 7 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

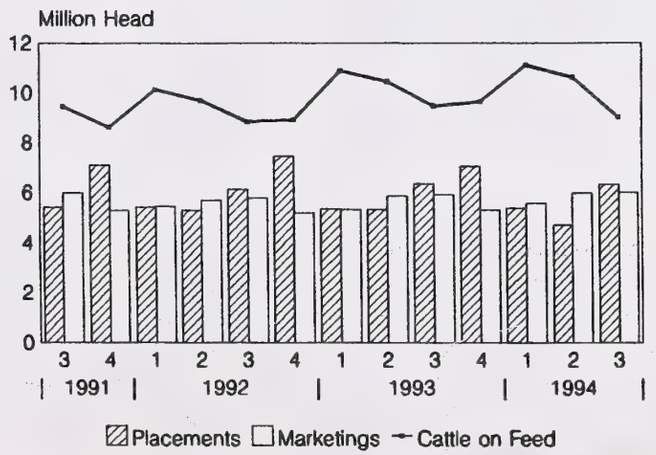
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.14 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago but up 2 percent from October 1, 1992. The inventory included 6.07 million steers and steer calves, down 3 percent from a year ago but 3 percent above two years ago. This group accounts for 66.4 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.03 million head, 9 percent below a year ago.

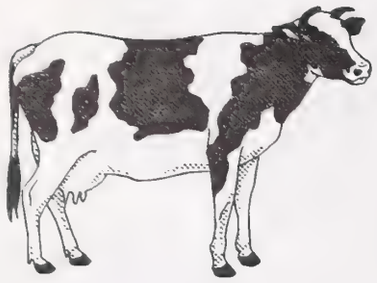
Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the July-September 1994 quarter totaled 6.30 million, down 1 percent from last year but 3 percent above July-September 1992. Net placements of 6.10 million for July-September were 1 percent above last year and 5 percent above July-September 1992.

Marketings of fed cattle during the July-September 1994 quarter totaled 5.99 million, up 2 percent from the same quarter last year and 4 percent above two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 191,000 head compared to 270,000 in July-September 1993 and 268,000 in July-September 1992.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, IL, KS, MN, NE OK, SD, TX, WA)





QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION

Montana milk production was 79 million pounds for the July - September quarter of 1994, 1 million pounds above the previous quarter and the same as a year ago. The average number of milk cows on hand declined to 21,000 head, down 1,000 head from a year ago.

An average of 17.3 pounds of grain and other concentrates were fed per cow by Montana dairymen on October 1, up 16.6 pounds from a year ago. The value of grain and concentrates fed was $7.30 per hundred weight, up 10 cents from last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 38.4 billion, 3 percent above the July - September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.66 million head, 19,000 head less than the same period a year ago.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1994 averaged 18.7 pounds per cow, 0.9 pound more than a year ago. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on October 1, averaged $7.87 per hundredweight, 5 cents less than last year.

SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.11 billion during September 1994, up 4 percent from the 5.88 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.21 billion table eggs, 849 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 57.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during September 1994 averaged 293 million, up 3 percent from the 283 million a year ago. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,085 eggs, compared with 2,073 in September 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1994, totaled 295 million, compared with 285 million a year ago. The 295 million layers consisted of 244 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 48.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.75 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1994, averaged 69.2 eggs per 100 layers, the same as a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.78 billion eggs during September. The number of layers during September averaged 278 million.

MONTANA RESERVATION LAND AND NATIVE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL SURVEY-1994

There were 900 Native American farms and ranches on Montana's seven reservations on June 1, 1994. Land in Native American farms and ranches amounted to 2.6 million acres with an average size of 2,889 acres. This compares to a total of 2,900 farms and ranches on the seven reservations with a total land in farms of 7.6 million acres and an average size of 2,621 acres. Only 450,000 acres of the 2.4 million acres of cropland were operated by Native American operators.

Spring wheat, at 105,000 acres, was the largest crop grown by Native American operators on the seven reservations. Barley was second, at 75,000 acres, followed by other hay at 50,000 acres. Spring wheat, at 525,000 acres, also accounted for most of the crop acreage planted by all operators on the reservations. Barley acreage totaled 210,000 acres followed closely by 200,000 acres of winter wheat.

There were 150,000 cattle and calves (35 percent of all cattle and calves on the seven reservations) on Native American farms and ranches on June 1, 1994. Beef cows and calves accounted for 92 percent of the inventory, numbering 70,000 and 68,000 head, respectively. Cattle and calves on all reservation land amounted to 430,000 head with beef cows and calves making up 86 percent of the inventory.

Native Americans owned 13,600 of the 21,000 sheep and lambs on the seven reservations. A total of 5,000 horses and ponies were on Native American farms and ranches. The largest category for horses was ranch use with 2,100 head. There was a tie for second place between horses used for brood stock and horses used for all other purposes, each totalling 1,000 head.

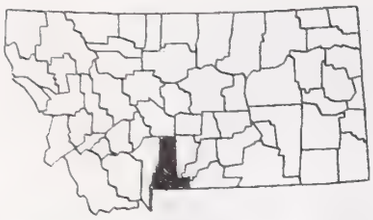
Additional information collected during the survey included land values, cash rents, grazing fees, types of farms, and types of operating arrangements.

This survey was undertaken at the request of the Intertribal Agricultural Council who also provided funding. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service conducted the survey and expresses appreciation to all the farmers and ranchers that participated in the survey. For additional information please call the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service at 1-800-835-2612 or write MASS, P.O. Box 4369, Helena, Montana 59604.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1992-1994

COUNTY & DISTRICT	All Cattle and Calves				Beef Cows and Heifers That Have Calved		
	1992	1993	1994	Rank	1992	1993	1994
Deerlodge	8,800	7,800	8,200	53	4,600	4,900	4,700
Flathead	20,100	20,300	20,000	44	9,200	9,600	7,800
Granite	30,000	26,700	27,000	39	18,400	17,000	16,800
Lake	51,400	57,200	58,000	14	28,600	33,000	32,400
Lincoln	5,000	5,600	5,400	55	3,200	3,600	3,300
Mineral	1,200	1,300	1,600	56	700	800	1,000
Missoula	12,300	11,600	13,000	51	7,800	7,200	7,800
Powell	54,200	47,200	43,200	26	30,900	27,700	26,800
Ravalli	40,000	35,600	36,200	32	21,000	19,000	19,400
Sanders	22,500	19,700	18,000	47	12,700	12,500	12,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**245,500**	**233,000**	**230,600**	--	**137,100**	**135,300**	**132,000**
Blaine	57,200	54,400	57,500	15	39,000	35,900	40,000
Chouteau	50,700	42,500	39,400	27	28,600	27,000	26,800
Glacier	25,500	33,200	29,600	35	14,900	19,200	17,800
Hill	21,700	22,600	22,000	42	15,000	15,900	15,000
Liberty	14,600	16,500	13,700	50	8,800	9,000	7,400
Phillips	83,000	77,000	70,500	7	51,000	49,600	46,000
Pondera	24,000	22,800	22,700	41	14,700	14,700	14,400
Teton	51,000	50,700	57,500	15	28,800	28,300	28,800
Toole	15,800	14,700	14,100	49	10,500	9,800	9,800
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**343,500**	**334,400**	**327,000**	--	**211,300**	**209,400**	**206,000**
Daniels	11,400	13,400	12,000	52	8,000	9,200	8,600
Dawson	36,700	34,100	38,300	28	22,900	23,700	23,400
Garfield	49,300	48,400	56,400	18	29,500	30,500	33,000
McCone	29,900	29,000	29,300	36	21,000	19,900	19,600
Richland	48,900	47,500	52,800	21	24,600	27,500	25,400
Roosevelt	18,900	19,900	21,200	43	12,200	12,800	13,400
Sheridan	16,500	18,000	16,000	48	11,900	13,000	12,000
Valley	70,600	69,200	70,000	8	42,700	38,700	37,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**282,200**	**279,500**	**296,000**	--	**172,800**	**175,300**	**172,700**
Broadwater	23,900	22,600	24,600	40	16,200	16,000	16,000
Cascade	65,900	67,100	69,400	9	41,400	44,600	41,400
Fergus	102,300	105,000	103,000	4	62,400	64,200	63,000
Golden Valley	24,000	27,500	27,500	38	14,100	17,300	14,100
Judith Basin	54,700	54,000	53,800	19	34,400	34,000	33,000
Lewis & Clark	36,700	37,300	38,000	29	23,400	23,000	23,200
Meagher	50,200	51,200	47,700	23	31,100	27,900	30,400
Musselshell	31,800	31,900	32,400	34	20,200	18,800	19,300
Petroleum	30,000	29,100	28,600	37	17,500	17,400	19,000
Wheatland	36,100	36,800	35,000	33	22,600	21,200	21,400
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**455,600**	**462,500**	**460,000**	--	**283,300**	**284,400**	**280,800**
Beaverhead	161,000	146,500	138,000	1	90,200	93,600	89,000
Gallatin	58,300	61,900	61,000	12	29,800	32,200	28,000
Jefferson	23,600	22,600	19,700	45	15,900	14,900	13,600
Madison	86,700	91,200	90,500	5	53,400	56,900	54,000
Silver Bow	7,300	7,000	7,200	54	4,600	4,200	4,400
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**336,900**	**329,200**	**316,400**	--	**193,900**	**201,800**	**189,000**
Big Horn	123,900	126,000	135,000	2	67,900	72,300	67,000
Carbon	61,000	56,600	69,200	10	31,200	28,000	31,400
Park	47,000	45,200	53,000	20	30,200	28,600	32,000
Stillwater	49,300	50,500	57,400	17	27,500	30,600	30,400
Sweetgrass	42,200	41,600	45,000	25	27,200	28,700	31,000
Treasure	30,300	30,300	37,400	30	14,100	15,400	16,500
Yellowstone	127,100	121,000	126,000	3	39,400	40,200	46,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**480,800**	**471,200**	**523,000**	--	**237,500**	**243,800**	**254,800**
Carter	49,900	48,400	48,200	22	30,300	32,100	32,200
Custer	61,200	57,100	59,600	13	32,800	33,300	33,200
Fallon	43,500	40,600	46,000	24	23,800	24,200	26,000
Powder River	70,300	69,000	65,600	11	40,500	41,700	37,300
Prairie	38,600	36,600	36,700	31	20,500	23,400	19,800
Rosebud	73,800	68,100	72,500	6	41,700	44,000	43,600
Wibaux	18,200	20,400	18,400	46	10,500	11,300	10,600
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**355,500**	**340,200**	**347,000**	--	**200,100**	**210,000**	**202,700**
MONTANA	**2,500,000**	**2,450,000**	**2,500,000**	--	**1,436,000**	**1,460,000**	**1,438,000**

featuring...PARK COUNTY



Park County is located in south central Montana, along the Montana/Wyoming border. Almost the entire southern boundary of the county makes up the northern border of Yellowstone Park. The Yellowstone and Shields Rivers traverse the length of Park County and join near Livingston, Montana where they continue east into neighboring Sweet Grass County. Nearly two-thirds of the county is blanketed by the mountains of the Gallatin National Forest, which includes a major portion of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area. The highest point in Montana, Granite Peak, with an elevation of 12,799 feet is located in eastern Park County.

Farmers harvested crops from 48,900 acres of irrigated land in Park County in 1993, compared with 28,800 acres of dryland crops. The major crop produced is hay, followed by winter wheat and barley. Cash receipts from the sale of crop items brought Park County $4,658,000 in 1992.

Cattle, sheep, and hogs are all raised in the county. Receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products contributed $17,883,000 to the county's economy in 1992. Government payments added $1,442,000 making a total of $23,983,000 from Park County's agricultural production.

Park County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,699,943	Total Cropland	Acres	146,987
Land in Farms	Acres	777,803	Harvested Cropland	Acres	69,419
Number of Farms		385	Irrigated Land	Acres	57,309
Average size Farms	Acres	2,020			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	45,820	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	14,519	Calves	No. Head	48,932
Barley	Acres	9,054	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	6,110
Oats	Acres	838	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,385

[1/] Data from the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Crop Production — Malting Barley
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop & livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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Highlights:

Small Grain Summary
Ag Prices Received
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Cash Receipts

SMALL GRAINS SUMMARY AND OCTOBER FORECAST OF LATE SEASON CROPS

Montana's 1994 all wheat crop of 169.1 million bushels is 17 percent less than last year's record production, even though spring wheat other than durum came in at record production. Winter wheat production is 64.75 million bushels compared with 102.9 million last year. There were 1.85 million acres harvested with an average yield of 35 bushels, 7 bushels below last year's record yield. There were 3.3 million acres of spring wheat harvested, not including durum, producing 99.0 million bushels, exceeding last year's record crop by 1 percent. Production of durum wheat is placed at 5.3 million bushels, up from 3.5 million last year.

Barley production is 52.8 million bushels, down from 63.8 million produced in 1993. Barley harvested acres of 1.2 million are down 100 thousand acres from last year, and the yield of 44 bushels is 14 bushels below the 1993 record yield. There were 3.6 million bushels of oats produced from 75,000 acres harvested. The average yield is 48.0 bushels, down significantly from last year's record of 65.0 bushels.

The 1994 small grain crops generally started off well, benefiting from soil moisture reserves from the very wet 1993 season. The lack of significant rainfall since mid-June placed considerable stress on all crops as they matured. The winter wheat crop had the best yields because of its characteristic of early development and no spring soil disturbance. Spring grains started out well, but the moisture situation reduced prospects monthly.

Limited summer and fall precipitation has kept Montana producers from seeding their 1995 winter wheat crop. They have seeded about 48 percent of the intended acreage by October 9 compared with the 5-year average of 75 percent normally seeded by this time.

Sugar beet estimated yield decreased by one-half ton from the September 1 forecast to 22.5 tons per acre. Producers expect to harvest 1.2 million tons of beets this season. Hay production remains unchanged from the August 1 forecast. All hay production is estimated at 4.8 million tons down nearly 9 percent from a year ago. Alfalfa, at 3.6 million tons, is down about 5 percent from 1993 and other hay is down nearly 19 percent from last year at 1.2 million tons.

U.S. all wheat production for 1994 totaled 2.32 billion bushels, down 2 percent from September 1 and 3 percent less than 1993. Winter wheat production for 1994 was estimated at 1.66 billion bushels, down slightly from August 1 and down 6 percent from 1993. Production for 1994 other spring wheat was estimated at 561 million bushels, down 5 percent from the September forecast and down 1 percent from 1993. Durum production, estimated at 94.1 million bushels, rose 34 percent from 1993.

Barley production in 1994 was estimated at 375 million bushels, 6 percent below last year's crop of 400 million bushels. Average yield per acre, at 56.2 bushels, was down 2.7 bushels from the 1993 crop average. Production of oats in 1994 was estimated at 230 million bushels, 11 percent above last year's record low crop of 206 million bushels. Yields per acre harvested for grain averaged 57.2 bushels, up 2.8 bushels from 1993.

U.S. corn production is forecast at a record high 9.60 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the September 1 forecast and 51 percent above 1993. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average a record high 133.8 bushels per acre. U.S. soybean production is forecast at a record high 2.46 billion bushels as of October 1. Yield is forecast at a record high 40.5 bushels per acre.

OCTOBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Warm, dry conditions remained through most of September bringing Montana's pasture and range feed condition rating down to 69 percent of normal on October 1, 1994. This is a 32 point decrease from last year's above normal reading and the lowest rating for this period since 1988. All districts are down from a year ago with the southwest district showing the greatest decrease of 64 points and the south central district showing the smallest decrease of 20 points.

MONTANA, October 1, 1994
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1992	1993	1994
Northwest	83	102	59
North Central	59	102	66
Northeast	77	90	69
Central	79	103	76
Southwest	80	119	55
South Central	77	98	78
Southeast	100	96	71
Montana	80	101	69

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - OCTOBER 1, 1994

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,650	1,950	2,450	1,850	42.0	35.0	102,900	64,750
Durum Wheat	Bu.	115	180	114	178	31.0	30.0	3,534	5,340
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,750	3,400	2,650	3,300	37.0	30.0	98,050	99,000
All Wheat	Bu.	5,515	5,530	5,214	5,328	39.2	31.7	204,484	169,090
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	65	70	8	25	105.0	110.0	840	2,750
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	75	65.0	48.0	4,550	3,600
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,100	1,200	58.0	44.0	63,800	52,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.0	10.2	11.0	10.0	14.1	20.0	155	200
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.4	54.4	54.1	54.1	21.6	22.5	1,169	1,217
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.1	9.3	9.0	9.2	300.0	3/	2,465	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,550	2.50	2.30	3,750	3,565
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	870	750	1.70	1.60	1,479	1,200
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,370	2,300	2.21	2.07	5,229	4,765
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,627	49,497	43,831	41,365	40.3	40.2	1,768,383	1,664,883
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,241	2,700	2,100	2,639	33.6	35.7	70,476	94,097
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,290	18,274	16,751	17,647	33.7	31.8	563,971	560,720
All Wheat	Bu.	72,158	70,471	62,682	61,651	38.3	37.6	2,402,830	2,319,700
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	73,323	78,767	62,991	71,757	100.7	133.8	6,344,045	9,602,340
Oats	Bu.	7,944	6,644	3,798	4,018	54.4	57.2	206,428	229,717
Barley	Bu.	7,826	7,174	6,791	6,679	58.9	56.2	400,225	375,318
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,849.9	1,971.7	1,600.0	1,819.8	13.65	15.66	21,842	28,507
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,437.7	1,468.0	1,409.4	1,439.2	18.6	20.8	26,249	29,983
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,189.9	1,207.8	1,130.4	1,188.3	341.0	3/	385,935	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,762	24,683	3.27	3.34	80,878	82,477
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,636	35,632	1.91	2.00	67,976	71,408
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,398	60,315	2.46	2.55	148,854	153,885

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 9, 1994

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sept. 1, 1993	Jun. 1, 1994*	Sept. 1, 1994	Sept. 1, 1993	Jun. 1, 1994*	Sept. 1, 1994
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.8	0.3	1.9	2.6	1.0	2.2
North Central	96.9	39.1	93.8	31.7	8.5	23.1
Northeast	67.6	16.7	53.9	8.2	2.5	7.6
Central	23.1	8.8	22.1	11.6	2.4	9.3
Southwest	4.3	1.9	3.3	3.3	1.1	4.2
South Central	9.4	2.7	11.9	4.4	1.2	4.1
Southeast	11.9	3.0	7.1	1.8	0.5	1.0
STATE	214.0	72.5	194.0	63.6	17.2	51.5

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, OCTOBER 1, 1994 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1993	1994 [2]	94/93	1993	1994 [2]	94/93	1993	1994 [2]	94/93
	-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-		
Northwest	1,392	900	65	1,026	931	91	2,727	1,848	68
North Central	55,615	33,940	61	45,263	39,867	88	33,513	24,730	74
Northeast	7,539	4,094	54	43,405	47,295	109	5,525	6,332	115
Central	21,341	11,286	53	5,064	7,111	140	12,083	9,250	77
Southwest	2,676	1,890	71	1,705	1,872	110	4,305	4,234	98
South Central	9,066	9,100	100	1,459	2,232	153	4,140	4,864	117
Southeast	5,271	3,540	67	3,662	5,032	137	1,507	1,742	116
Montana	102,900	64,750	63	101,584	104,340	103	63,800	52,800	83

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of August were mixed, compared with the previous month. Winter wheat was down 2 cents to $2.96, and other spring wheat decreased 21 cents to $3.30 per bushel. Durum wheat rose 3 cents to $5.87 per bushel. All barley, at $2.29, was 16 cents higher than the July price. At $1.28, oats averaged 14 cents below the previous month. Alfalfa hay increased $3.00 to $69.00 per ton, and other hay went up $1.00 to $60.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-month September averaged $3.54 per bushel while the all barley price was $2.30.

Livestock producers experienced higher prices for the full month of August, with the exception of sheep and lambs. Prices received for sheep averaged $3.70 below last month at $26.70 and lambs dropped 30 cents to $71.60 per cwt. Cow prices were up 10 cents to $44.60 per cwt, and the average price for steers and heifers increased $3.10 to $73.60 per cwt. Calf prices rose $3.10 to $85.80 per cwt. Milk prices remained the same at $12.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-month September averaged $77.00 per cwt.

At the national level, steer and heifer prices averaged $68.30 per cwt for the full month of August. Cow prices came in at $43.10 and hogs were $41.80 per cwt. The U.S. all wheat price was $3.25 per bushel and $2.05 per bushel for all barley. Egg prices were 59.9 cents per dozen.

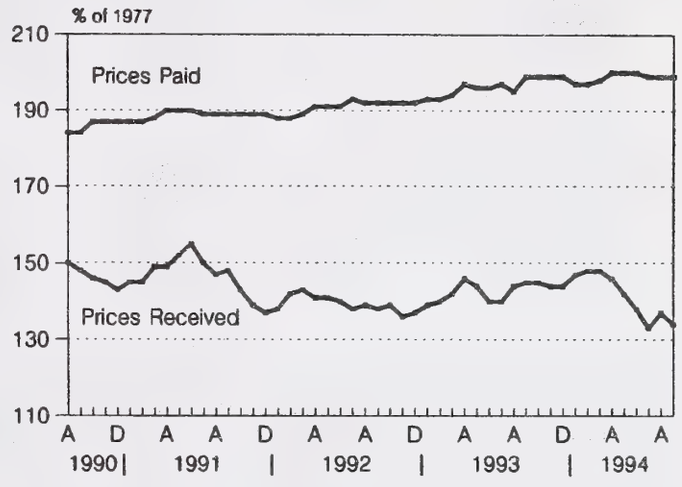
The September All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 134 based on 1977=100, down 3 points (2.2 percent) from August 1994. Price declines from August for cattle, hogs, potatoes, and oranges, more than offset price gains for wheat, milk, lettuce, and tobacco.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Aug. 1993	Sept. 1993	Aug. 1994	Sept. 1994
Prices Received	144	145	137	134
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/195	199	3/199	199
Ratio 1/	74	74	69	67

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1993 prices paid index. 3/ July 1994 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. Aug. 1994	Montana Sep. 15, 1994	U.S. Sep. 15, 1994
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.98	2.98	2.96	3.23	3.40	3.60
Durum	Bu.	3.01	5.84	5.87	4.40	5.75	4.55
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.51	3.30	3.20	3.55	3.46
All Wheat	Bu.	3.33	3.34	3.21	3.25	3.54	3.60
Barley, All	Bu.	2.24	2.13	2.29	2.05	2.30	2.12
Feed	Bu.	1.77	1.86	1.69	1.71	1.80	1.83
Malt	Bu.	2.96	2.69	2.97	2.34	2.90	2.44
Oats	Bu.	1.19	1.42	1.28	1.16	1.40	1.24
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	66.00	69.00	90.00	71.00	89.80
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	59.00	60.00	62.10	63.00	61.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	68.00	65.00	68.00	83.10	70.00	82.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	82.60	70.50	73.60	68.30	77.00	66.70
Cows	Cwt.	51.70	44.50	44.60	43.10	42.30	42.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	71.20	58.80	67.50	65.90	73.90	64.30
Calves	Cwt.	104.00	82.70	85.80	84.50	84.50	82.10
Sheep	Cwt.	30.30	30.40	26.70	29.70	25.50	29.70
Lambs	Cwt.	65.70	71.90	71.60	75.00	67.20	73.10
All Milk	Cwt.	13.60	12.80	12.80	12.50	13.20	12.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1989-1993 [1/]

ITEM	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
			--Thousand Dollars--		
LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	797,523	751,743	677,094	760,755	804,286
Dairy products	42,752	42,963	38,734	41,695	39,026
Sheep and lambs	20,758	18,746	20,565	24,951	23,622
Wool	7,836	5,646	3,729	5,009	3,014
Hogs and pigs	34,181	42,150	44,444	39,749	46,366
Eggs	11,250	9,747	9,020	6,533	6,563
Chickens	197	116	73	56	116
Honey	2,961	4,287	4,510	5,264	4,604
Other [2/]	11,798	12,771	11,802	13,753	10,750
TOTAL	929,256	888,169	809,971	897,765	938,347
CROPS					
Wheat	375,049	439,440	410,444	467,348	545,392
Barley	81,064	149,690	132,869	156,795	108,690
Sugar beets	45,039	53,568	48,938	55,714	51,202
Hay	78,832	76,778	64,406	81,069	86,379
Potatoes	15,130	16,834	18,901	15,908	19,037
Oil Crops	na	na	6,003	5,237	7,142
Oats	2,758	2,355	1,639	1,385	1,232
Dry beans	2,709	3,343	2,628	2,634	3,767
Corn	1,468	774	2,004	3,575	2,894
Cherries	0	250	0	336	167
All other [3/]	21,687	22,193	17,197	17,979	16,783
TOTAL	623,736	765,225	705,029	807,980	842,685
All commodities	1,552,992	1,653,394	1,515,000	1,705,745	1,781,032

[1/] Revised. [2/] Includes beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others. [3/] Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse, nursery and forest products.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Cattle County Estimates

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

- 7 State Cattle on Feed
- August Red Meat Production
- September 1 Grain Stocks
- Quarterly Egg Production
- Hogs & Pigs
- August Milk Production
- 1993 Potato Disposition

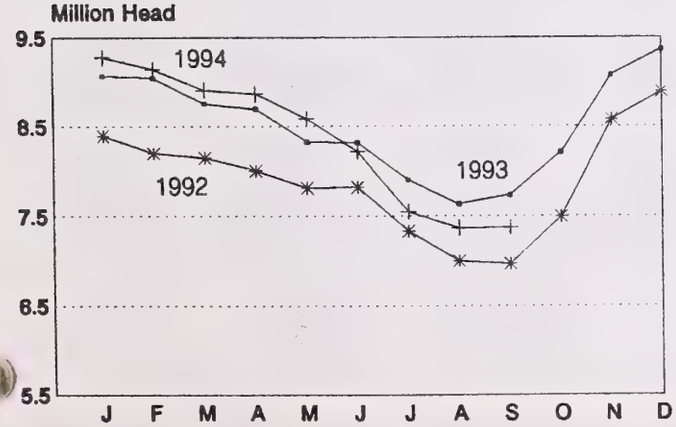
CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.38 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago but up 6 percent from September 1, 1992.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 1.79 million, 4 percent below 1993 but 9 percent above 1992. **Net placements** of 1.74 million for August were down 3 percent from last year but 11 percent above 1992.

Marketings during August totaled 1.73 million, up 3 percent from 1993 and up 9 percent from 1992. **Other disappearance** during August was 56,000 head, 27 percent below last year and 31 percent below 1992.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR AUGUST

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.19 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 1994, up 37 percent from the previous month and 19 percent from a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 2,400 head, rose 600 head from last year, but average live weight, at 1,190 pounds, decreased 49 pounds from a year ago.

A total of 3,400 hogs were slaughtered in August, down 200 head from a year earlier. The average live weight for hogs increased 10 pounds over last year to 236 pounds. The number of sheep slaughtered increased 100 head from 1993 to 800 head, while the average live weight increased 5 pounds to 116 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled a record high 3.76 billion pounds during August, up 7 percent from the previous record high set in August 1988. Beef production totaled 2.22 billion pounds, up 7 percent from last year. Head kill totaled 3.06 million, up 4 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 31 pounds to 1,204 pounds.

Veal production totaled 24.0 million pounds, up 4 percent from last year. Calf slaughter totaled 107,900 head, a 10 percent increase from the previous year. The average live weight was down 21 pounds to 379 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.49 billion pounds, was up 7 percent from the record high set in August 1993. Hog kill totaled 8.19 million head, 7 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 252 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 12 percent from a year ago. Slaughter totaled 400,000 head, down 8 percent from last year. The average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 120 pounds.

January-August red meat production was 27.6 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production jumped 6 percent, veal increased 3 percent, pork rose 1 percent, but lamb and mutton dropped 7 percent.

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SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks on September 1, 1994, were estimated to be 194 million bushels, 9 percent less than last year, but 14 percent above the 10-year average.

All wheat on farms, at 165.0 million bushels, was down 15 percent from last year, but off-farm stocks were up 53 percent. All wheat disappearance in the June through August quarter was 62 percent more than the 10-year average. This year's early harvest and last year's large crop were the main factors in the increased disappearance. Winter wheat stocks, at 79 million bushels, were 16 percent below a year ago and all spring wheat stocks, at 115 million, were down 4 percent. There were 5.3 million bushels of durum wheat in Montana storages, down 27 percent from last September's stocks.

Barley stocks, in all locations on September 1, were placed at 51.5 million bushels down 19 percent from last September. Barley on the farm, at 45.0 million bushels, fell 25 percent from last year. Off-farm inventory was up 81 percent. Oat stocks, at 3.69 million bushels, were down 22 percent from last year. Oat stocks on the farm were 26 percent above last year.

U.S. all wheat stocks in all positions September 1, 1994, were estimated at 2.06 billion bushels, down 3 percent from September 1, 1993. Farm stocks, at 855 million bushels, were down 13 percent from last September. Off-farm stocks total 1.20 billion bushels, up 6 percent. The June-August disappearance was 870 million bushels.

Durum wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 1994, totaled 92.0 million bushels, 12 percent less than September 1, 1993. Of the total, 74.7 million bushels were on farms, 11 percent below last year. The indicated first quarter disappearance was 29.9 million bushels.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 1994, were estimated at 350 million bushels, 13 percent below the stocks of September 1, 1993. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 220 million were stored on farms, 21 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 130 million bushels, were 4 percent above last year.

Oats stored in all positions on September 1, 1994, were estimated at 220 million bushels, up slightly from a year earlier. Of the total oat stocks on hand, 144 million bushels were stored on farms, 10 percent below last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 75.7 million bushels, 31 percent above last year.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sep. 1, 1993	Jun. 1, 1994*	Sep. 1, 1994	'94/'93	Sep. 1, 1993	Jun. 1, 1994*	Sep. 1, 1994
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	195,000	55,000	165,000	85%	982,000	177,255	854,800
Off Farms 1/	19,000	17,500	29,000	153%	1,144,206	394,142	1,208,239
TOTAL	214,000	72,500	194,000	91%	2,126,206	571,397	2,063,039
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	83,000	22,000	65,000	78%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	11,600	7,700	14,000	121%	--	--	--
TOTAL	94,600	29,700	79,000	84%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	112,000	33,000	100,000	89%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	7,400	9,800	15,000	203%	--	--	--
TOTAL	119,400	42,800	115,000	96%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	83,950	11,022	74,720
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	20,848	18,191	17,326
TOTAL	7,300	1,810	5,300	73%	104,798	29,213	92,046
BARLEY							
On Farms	60,000	13,000	45,000	75%	277,600	63,870	220,150
Off Farms 1/	3,600	4,200	6,500	181%	125,102	74,360	130,048
TOTAL	63,600	17,200	51,500	81%	402,702	138,230	350,198
OATS							
On Farms	4,600	2,000	3,400	74%	161,000	53,940	144,300
Off Farms 1/	130	135	290	223%	58,004	51,615	75,705
TOTAL	4,730	2,135	3,690	78%	219,004	105,555	220,005
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,070,700	1,203,000	395,400
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,042,281	1,155,201	454,751
TOTAL 4/	--	--	--	--	2,112,981	2,358,201	850,151

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sept. 1, 1993	Jun. 1, 1994*	Sept. 1, 1994	Sept. 1, 1993	Jun. 1, 1994*	Sept. 1, 1994
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.8	0.3	1.9	2.6	1.0	2.2
North Central	96.9	39.1	93.8	31.7	8.5	23.1
Northeast	67.6	16.7	53.9	8.2	2.5	7.6
Central	23.1	8.8	22.1	11.6	2.4	9.3
Southwest	4.3	1.9	3.3	3.3	1.1	4.2
South Central	9.4	2.7	11.9	4.4	1.2	4.1
Southeast	11.9	3.0	7.1	1.8	0.5	1.0
STATE	214.0	72.5	194.0	63.6	17.2	51.5

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

1993 POTATO DISPOSITION

Montana's 1993 potato production totalled 2.7 million cwt, 9 percent above last year and 3 percent below 1991. Montana farmers harvested 9,000 acres, up 500 from the previous year, but down 300 acres from 1991. Yield per acre increased 10 cwt from 1992 to 300 cwt, the same as 1991.

Value of production from the 1993 crop amounted to 24.2 million dollars, an increase of 17 percent from 1992. The average price was $8.95 per cwt, up $.55 from the previous year's crop.

Sales of Montana's 1993 potato crop totaled 21.5 million dollars, a 14 percent increase from the 1992 crop. Producers sold 2.4 million cwt from the 1993 crop compared with 2.2 million cwt from the 1992 crop.

Total 1993 potato production for the U.S. was estimated at 429 million cwt, 1 percent above a year earlier and 3 percent above 1991. Harvested area, at 1.32 million acres, was up slightly from last year, but dropped 4 percent below two years ago. The average yield hit a record high 326 cwt per acre, up 3 cwt from a year ago and 22 cwt above 1991. These are the third consecutive record highs for yield and production.

Value of production was estimated at $2.64 billion from the 1993 crop, 13 percent more than a year earlier and 29 percent above 1991. Value ranked second to the crop of 1989 when $2.72 billion was taken by growers. The average price was $6.18 per cwt compared with $5.52 from the 1992 potato crop.

Sales from the 1993 potato crop totaled 393 million cwt, up 2 percent from 1992 and 4 percent above 1991. Non-sales accounted for 36.1 million cwt of 1993 potatoes, down 9 percent from the previous year and 6 percent less than 1991. Typically, 91 percent of potatoes produced are sold (based on the past 5-year average). The other 9 percent are either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used for seed, home use and livestock feed on farms where grown. In the 1993 season, farmers sold 91.6 percent of their crop and kept or lost 8.4 percent. Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 30.2 million cwt, 11 percent below the previous season and 7 percent below 1991 losses. Livestock feed and home use totaled 1.13 million cwt, down 4 percent. Growers kept 4.80 million cwt for seed on their own farms, up 1 percent from the previous year.

Processors used a record high 241 million cwt of potatoes, up 5 percent from 1992 and 7 percent above the 1991 usage. Table stock totaled 125 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year, while other sales (seed and livestock feed) of 26.4 million cwt were down 10 percent. Chip potato use, at 48.6 million cwt, was up fractionally from a year earlier. Freezing potatoes, totaling a record high 146 million cwt, jumped 8 percent and dehydrating claimed a record high 40.8 million cwt, a 7 percent gain. Canning use totaled 4.34 million cwt, down 18 percent. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 1.43 million cwt of potatoes, a drop of 11 percent.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 major States during August totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 2 percent above production in these same States in August 1993. July revised production, at 11.0 billion pounds was 1 percent more than July 1993.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,344 pounds for August, 38 pounds above August 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.03 million head, 65,000 head less than August 1993 but 3,000 head more than July 1994.

During the April-June period, the 21 major States produced 33.5 billion pounds of milk, 83.8 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.9 billion for August 1994.

The Montana grain stocks and U.S. hogs and pigs estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,800 Montana farmers and ranchers during September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to this survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

SEPTEMBER 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1994 was estimated at 61.6 million head, 4 percent above last year and 2 percent above September 1, 1992. This was the largest September 1 inventory since quarterly U.S. level estimates began in 1988 and the highest inventory level, considering all quarters, since June 1980. The higher inventory resulted from increases by large producers which more than offset inventory declines among smaller operators.

Breeding inventory, at 7.39 million head, was 4 percent above last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Market hog inventory, at 54.2 million head, was 5 percent above a year ago and 2 percent above September 1, 1992.

The June-August 1994 U.S. pig crop was 25.5 million head, 6 percent more than last year and 4 percent above the same period in 1992. This was the largest June-August pig crop since 1979. Sows farrowing during June-August 1994 totaled 3.10 million, up 4 percent from last year and 3 percent above the same period in 1992. Pigs saved per litter were a record high for the quarter, at 8.22, compared with 8.09 during the same period in 1993. Pigs saved per litter, during June-August 1994, by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for those operations with 1-99 head to 8.70 pigs per litter for operations with 2,000 head or more.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Prices Received	Cash Receipts
Small Grains Summary	Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition	

AUGUST EGG PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.26 billion during August 1994, up 4 percent from the 6.02 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.33 billion table eggs, 876 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 59.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during August 1994 averaged 290 million, up 3 percent from the 282 million a year ago. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,158 eggs, compared with 2,131 in August 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1994, totaled 292 million, compared with 282 million a year ago. The 292 million layers consisted of 241 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 48.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1994, averaged 69.7 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from last year's 69.9.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 5.91 billion eggs during August. The number of layers during August averaged 274 million.

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Highlights:

August 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
July Prices Received
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

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August 1994 Crop Production

The hot dry weather for the past month took its toll on Montana'a 1994 wheat crop. The August 1 forecast for all wheat is 173.0 million bushels, down nearly 13% from the July 1 forecast and down 15% from last year's record crop.

The winter wheat crop, mostly made before the hot dry weather, is forecast at 68.5 million bushels, down over 33% from last year. The forecasted yield per acre is 37 bushels, down 1 bushel from the July 1 forecast and down 5 bushels from a year ago.

The weather had the most effect on the spring wheat crop. The forecast yield is estimated to be 30 bushels, 7 bushels below both last month and last year. Forecast production is 99.0 million bushels, up nearly 1 million bushels from a year earlier due to the big increase in acreage.

Durum wheat production is forecast to be 5.5 million bushels, up over 56% percent from a year ago. Yield per acre is forecast at 31 bushels unchanged from last year, but 2 bushels below the July 1 forecast.

Barley production, forecast at 54.0 million bushels, is down nearly 15% from 1993. Forecasted yield is 47 bushels per acre down 11 bushels from last year and down 8 bushels from July 1. Oat production is set at 4.3 million bushels, down 5% from a year ago. Yield per acre is set at 54 bushels per acre down 11 bushels from 1993.

Corn harvested for grain is forecast at 2.8 million bushels, over three times larger than last year's crop. Dry bean production is expected to be up 29% from a year ago with production of 200,000 hundred weight. Sugar beet production is forecast to be slightly more than last year with 1.2 million tons.

Hay production is forecast at 4.8 million tons, down nearly 9% from a year earlier. Alfalfa, at 3.6 million tons, is down about 5% from 1993 and other hay, at 1.2 million tons, is down nearly 19% from last year.

U.S. wheat production is forecast at 2.39 billion bushels, down 1 percent from both July 1 and 1993. Yields are expected to average 38.5 bushels per acre, off 0.5 bushels from July 1 but 0.2 bushels above last year. Winter wheat production is 1.67 billion bushels, up 1 percent from July 1 but 6 percent less than 1993. Yields are expected to average 40.3 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels from last month and equaling last year's average. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 618 million bushels, down 6 percent from the July forecast but up 9 percent from 1993. U.S. yields are forecast at 34.6 bushels per acre, down 2.4 bushels from last month. The 1993 average was 33.7 bushels per acre.

Total barley production is forecast at 389 million bushels, down 4 percent from last month and 3 percent below 1993. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 56.8 bushels, down 2.5 bushels from July 1 and 2.1 bushels below last year. Corn production is forecast at 9.21 billion bushels, up 45 percent from the flood ravaged 1993 production but 3 percent below the record high production of 1992. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 128.4 bushels, up 27.7 bushels from last year.

August 1 Pasture and Range Feed Condition Shows Decline from Last Year

The dry weather and above normal temperatures over most of the state are having an impact on Montana's pasture and range feed condition, it was rated at 84 percent of normal on August 1, 1994. This is a 8 point decrease from last month and an 18 point decrease from a year ago. The northwest and north central district dropped the most from a month ago with the northwest decreasing by 25 points. The south central district changed the least from a month ago with only a 3 point decrease.

MONTANA, August 1, 1994
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1992	1993	1994
Northwest	79	120	68
North Central	58	101	81
Northeast	82	98	87
Central	80	103	87
Southwest	98	98	80
South Central	100	100	88
Southeast	95	101	79
Montana	85	102	84

Crop Production Forecast - August 1, 1994

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]
		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
MONTANA									
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,650	1,950	2,450	1,850	42.0	37.0	102,900	68,450
Durum Wheat	Bu.	115	180	114	178	31.0	31.0	3,534	5,518
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,750	3,400	2,650	3,300	37.0	30.0	98,050	99,000
All Wheat	Bu.	5,515	5,530	5,214	5,328	39.2	32.5	204,484	172,968
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	65	70	8	25	105.0	110.0	840	2,750
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	80	65.0	54.0	4,550	4,320
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,100	1,150	58.0	47.0	63,800	54,050
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.0	8.5	11.0	10.0	19.0	20.0	155	200
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.4	54.4	54.1	54.1	21.6	22.0	1,169	1,190
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.1	9.3	9.0	9.2	300.0	3/	2,700	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,550	2.50	2.30	3,750	3,565
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	870	750	1.70	1.60	1,479	1,200
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,370	2,300	2.21	2.07	5,229	4,765
UNITED STATES									
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,727	49,547	43,846	41,498	40.3	40.3	1,769,158	1,670,436
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,191	2,695	2,050	2,639	33.6	37.1	68,926	97,860
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,290	18,226	16,751	17,834	33.7	34.6	563,971	617,521
All Wheat	Bu.	72,208	70,468	62,647	61,971	38.3	38.5	2,402,055	2,385,817
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	73,323	78,767	62,991	71,757	100.7	128.4	6,344,045	9,214,420
Oats	Bu.	7,944	6,700	3,793	4,132	54.4	60.0	206,253	247,753
Barley	Bu.	7,826	7,307	6,791	6,848	58.9	56.8	400,225	388,760
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,849.9	2,010	1,600.0	1,819.8	13.65	15.38	21,842	27,981
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,437.7	1,469	1,409.4	1,441.1	18.6	20.3	26,249	29,228
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,190.7	1,207.8	1,131.2	1,188.3	333.0	3/	376,789	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,762	24,683	3.27	3.31	80,878	81,616
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,636	35,632	1.91	1.96	67,976	69,809
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,398	60,315	2.46	2.51	148,854	151,425

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 10, 1994

All Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield & Production, by State & United States, 1993 & Forecasted August 1, 1994

State	Area Harvested		Yield			Production	
	1993	1994	1993	July 1, '94	Aug. 1, '94	1993	1994
	-- 000 Acres--		--Bushels--			-- 000 Bushels --	
CO	2,583	2,642	37.5	31.8	31.8	96,990	84,044
ID	1,390	1,430	79.4	75.9	75.9	110,350	108,510
KS	11,100	11,400	35.0	37.0	37.0	388,500	421,800
MN	2,298	2,627	31.0	44.9	36.9	71,190	96,850
MT	**5,214**	**5,328**	**39.2**	**37.2**	**32.5**	**204,484**	**172,968**
NE	2,100	2,000	35.0	31.0	33.0	73,500	66,000
ND	10,800	11,285	31.0	34.2	34.0	335,060	383,655
OK	5,400	5,300	30.0	27.0	27.0	162,000	143,100
OR	925	932	70.2	61.5	63.4	64,960	59,090
SD	3,488	3,319	32.0	27.9	28.4	111,522	94,413
TX	3,700	3,000	32.0	26.0	26.0	118,400	78,000
WA	2,790	2,545	63.6	54.7	54.5	177,580	138,600
US	62,647	61,971	38.3	39.0	38.5	2,402,055	2,385,817

Montana Production Forecast by District, August 1, 1994 [1]

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	1993	1994 [2]	% chg.	1993	1994 [2]	% chg.	1993	1994 [2]	% chg.
	-- 000 Bushels --			-- 000 Bushels --			-- 000 Bushels --		
Northwest	1,392	1,430	103%	1,026	1,500	146%	2,727	2,350	86%
N Central	55,615	33,400	60%	45,263	39,160	87%	33,513	24,980	75%
Northeast	7,539	4,800	64%	43,405	47,673	110%	5,525	7,600	138%
Central	21,341	13,350	63%	5,064	7,070	140%	12,083	9,200	76%
Southwest	2,676	2,190	82%	1,705	1,750	103%	4,305	3,600	84%
S Central	9,066	9,180	101%	1,459	1,800	123%	4,140	4,600	111%
Southeast	5,271	4,100	78%	3,662	5,565	152%	1,507	1,720	114%
MONTANA	102,900	68,450	67%	101,584	104,518	103%	63,800	54,050	85%

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

July Prices Received

Montana crop prices for the full month of June were lower, compared with the previous month, except for spring wheat, oats, and all other hay. Winter wheat decreased 11 cents to $3.14, and durum wheat dropped 28 cents to $6.02 per bushel. Other spring wheat rose 30 cents to $3.78 per bushel.

All barley, at $1.90, was 25 cents lower than the May price. At $1.50, oats averaged 4 cents above the previous month. Alfalfa hay decreased $1.00 to $64.00 per ton, while other hay jumped $2.00 to $56.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-month July averaged $3.52 per bushel, while the all barley price was $1.94.

Livestock producers experienced lower prices for the full month of June, with the exception of sheep and lambs. Prices received for sheep increased $1.50 to $31.30 per cwt, while prices for lambs averaged $64.20, $16.90 above last month. Cow prices were down $1.10 to $45.30 per cwt, and the average price for steers and heifers decreased $2.00 to $71.40 per cwt. Calf prices fell $3.10 to $86.20 per cwt. Milk prices increased 10 cents to $14.00 per cwt.

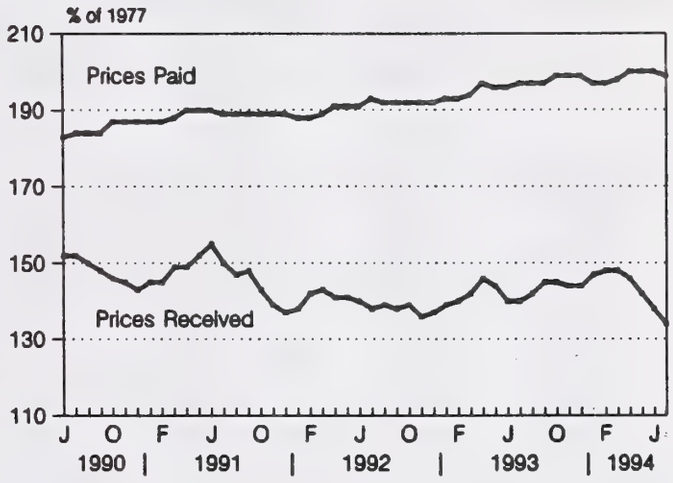
Steer and heifer prices for the U.S. averaged $64.70 per cwt during June, down $5.00 from May. Hogs averaged $42.60 per cwt, the same as a month earlier. Egg producers received 58.2 cents per dozen, unchanged from May. The U.S. average for winter wheat was $3.09, down 9 cents from May's average, while spring wheat averaged $3.53, down 10 cents. Durum wheat averaged $4.57 during June, down from $44.93 in May. U.S. barley averaged $1.91 per bushel, 20 cents less than the May average.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	June 1993	July 1993	June 1994	July 1994
Prices Received	140	141	138	134
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/196	195	3/200	199
Ratio 1/	71	72	69	67

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1993 prices paid index. 3/ April 1994 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	Unit	Monthly Average				Montana July 15, 1994	United States July 15, 1994
		Montana			United States		
		June 1993	May 1993	June 1994	June 1994		
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.98	3.25	3.14	3.09	3.00	2.97
Durum	Bu.	2.93	6.30	6.02	4.57	5.70	4.40
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.48	3.48	3.53	3.60	3.32
All Wheat	Bu.	3.23	3.35	3.35	3.21	3.52	3.03
Barley, All	Bu.	1.98	2.15	1.90	1.91	1.94	1.92
Feed	Bu.	1.79	1.95	1.81	1.83	1.80	1.89
Malt	Bu.	2.68	2.52	2.44	2.08	2.35	2.05
Oats	Bu.	1.38	1.46	1.50	1.31	1.45	1.29
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	72.00	65.00	64.00	94.70	66.00	88.20
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	54.00	56.00	67.00	59.00	64.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	63.00	63.00	88.70	65.00	82.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	84.30	73.40	71.40	64.70	67.20	65.20
Cows	Cwt.	52.70	46.40	45.30	43.60	44.40	43.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	64.70	58.30	55.20	62.70	52.60	63.10
Calves	Cwt.	98.00	89.30	86.20	84.90	82.70	82.80
Sheep	Cwt.	29.50	29.80	31.30	33.50	30.90	31.40
Lambs	Cwt.	55.00	47.30	64.20	61.10	70.30	68.30
All Milk	Cwt.	13.20	13.90	14.00	12.70	12.70	12.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

Number of Farms & Land in Farms down from Last Year

The number of farms and ranches in Montana in 1994 is estimated at 23,100, down 700 from last year. There are 100,000 acres less farmland compared with a year ago, land in farms is estimated at 59.7 million acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 1994 is estimated at 2.04 million, down 1 percent from 1993. Total land in farms is 975 million acres, down 2.9 million acres from last year. The rate of decline in number of farms followed the historical trend while the land in farms declined marginally. The average farm size increased from 473 acres in 1993 to 478 in 1994.

Texas remains the state with the most farms at 185,000, unchanged from a year earlier. Missouri is second with 104,000 farms, down 2,000 from last year, followed by Iowa with 100,000 farms, unchanged from 1993. New Jersey is the only state showing an increase in farm numbers, up 100 farms from last year.

Seven states that showed decreases of 2,000 farms from last year were Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, and Tennessee.

Texas continued to lead the nation in land in farms and ranches with 129.3 million acres, down 700,000 from 1993. Six states with decreases of 200,000 acres in agricultural land from a year ago include California, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, Washington, and Wisconsin.

	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
Year	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms
	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres
1985	24.3	61.0	2,510	2,292.5	1,012.1	441
1986	24.4	60.9	2,496	2,249.8	1,005.3	447
1987	24.5	60.8	2,482	2,213.0	998.9	451
1988	24.6	60.7	2,467	2,197.1	994.5	453
1989	24.7	60.6	2,453	2,170.5	991.2	457
1990	24.7	60.5	2,449	2,140.4	987.4	461
1991	24.8	60.3	2,431	2,104.6	982.6	467
1992	24.6	60.0	2,439	2,093.8	980.0	468
1993	23.8	59.8	2,513	2,064.9	977.7	473
1994	23.1	59.7	2,584	2,040.4	974.8	478

Coming in Next Reporter:

All Hay County Estimates	Slaughter
Milk Production	Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATESTATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

July Cattle Inventory
1994 Lamb Crop
Quarterly Mink Production
Quarterly Egg Production
Red Meat Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed

JULY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1994, totaled 112.5 million head, up 2 percent from July 1, 1993, and up 3 percent from the 109.2 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 45.9 million, were up 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent above two years ago.

Beef cows, at 36.3 million, were 3 percent above July 1, 1993, and 5 percent above July 1, 1992. Milk cows, at 9.60 million, were 2 percent below July 1, 1993, and 3 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1994, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

-- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.3 million, up 1 percent and up 2 percent.

-- Beef replacement heifers, 6.00 million, up 3 percent and up 5 percent.

-- Milk replacement heifers, 4.10 million, unchanged and down 2 percent.

-- Other heifers, 7.20 million, down 1 percent but up 1 percent.

-- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.4 million, up 1 percent and up 2 percent.

-- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.30 million, up 5 percent from the previous two years.

-- Calves under 500 pounds, 31.6 million, up 3 percent and up 4 percent.

-- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, were 10.5 million head. This is the first July 1 U.S. cattle on feed estimate.

CALF CROP UP 2 PERCENT

The 1994 calf crop is expected to be 40.6 million, up 2 percent from 1993 and 3 percent above 1992. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 29.7 million, up 3 percent from both 1993 and 1992.

CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS AND CALF CROP, UNITED STATES, JULY 1, 1992-94

Class	1992	1993	1994	1994 as % 1993
		1,000 Head		Percent
Cattle and Calves	109,200	110,600	112,500	102
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	44,400	45,200	45,900	102
Beef Cows	34,550	35,400	36,300	103
Milk Cows	9,850	9,800	9,600	98
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	17,000	17,200	17,300	101
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,700	5,800	6,000	103
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,200	4,100	4,100	100
Other Heifers	7,100	7,300	7,200	99
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	15,100	15,200	15,400	101
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,200	2,200	2,300	105
Calves Under 500 Pounds	30,500	30,800	31,600	103
Calf Crop 1/	39,290	39,640	40,600	102

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

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1994 LAMB CROP TOTALS 6.15 MILLION HEAD

The 1994 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 6.15 million head, 3 percent below the 1993 lamb crop of 6.31 million head. The July 1, 1994, inventory of ewes one year old and older, at 5.65 million head, was 2 percent below the January 1, 1994, inventory of 5.79 million head.

Lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1994, was 106 percent, compared with 98 percent for the 1993 crop. The Upper Midwest (Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) had the highest percentage with 121, while the Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) had the lowest with 88 percent.

On July 1, 1994, 4.42 million lambs, including the 1994 crop, were intended for market with 80 percent being under 85 pounds, 13 percent at 85 to 105 pounds, and the remainder over 105 pounds. Market sheep totaled 79,000 head. Total inventory of stock and market sheep and lambs was 11.50 million head.

U.S. PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 13 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1993 totaled 2.53 million pelts, down 13 percent from 1992. Utah, the major mink producing State, produced 600,000 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 45.3 percent; Mahogany - 15.1 percent; Ranch Wild - 13.8 percent; Gunmetal - 9.1 percent; Demi-buff - 8.5 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.2 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1993 crop year were valued at $86.2 million, up 25 percent from $69.0 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1993 crop year was $34.10, compared with $23.80 in 1992.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1994 totaled 712,800, up 1 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1994 by color class are: Standard - 51.3 percent; Mahogany - 13.7 percent; Ranch Wild - 11.8 percent; Gunmetal - 8.9 percent; Demi-buff - 6.4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 7.9 percent.

There were 502 mink farms producing pelts in 1993, down 12 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 145 farms, Wisconsin with 87, and Minnesota with 59. There were 58 mink farms which also raised fox in 1993, compared to 57 for the previous year.

JUNE EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.96 billion during June 1994, up 3 percent from the 5.82 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.06 billion table eggs, 846 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 60.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during June 1994 averaged 287 million, up 2 percent from the 281 million a year ago. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,078 eggs, compared with 2,072 in June 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1994, totaled 286 million, compared with 281 million a year ago. The 286 million layers consisted of 236 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 47.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.70 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1994, averaged 69.3 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from last year's 69.0.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR JUNE

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.79 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 1994, up 9 percent above the previous month, and 18 percent higher than last year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 2,100 head, rose 500 head from last year and average live weight, at 1,250 pounds, decreased 29 pounds from a year ago.

A total of 2,200 hogs were slaughtered in June, 200 less than a year ago. Average live weight increased 8 pounds over last year to 241 pounds. The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered during the month, at 200 head, was the same as last year. The average live weight was 113 pounds, 6 pounds lighter than a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled a record high 3.62 billion pounds during June. Production was 4 percent above the previous record high set in June 1993.

Beef production totaled 2.16 billion pounds, up 5 percent from last year. Head kill totaled 3.04 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 35 pounds to 1,178 pounds.

Veal production totaled 24.0 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 100,700 head, up 7 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was down 10 pounds to 400 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.41 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from a year ago. Hog kill totaled 7.63 million head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 256 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 22 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 391,900 head, down 18 percent from last year. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 126 pounds.

January-June red meat production was 20.5 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent, veal was up 4 percent, pork was up 1 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES 1990-94
PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACRES

VARIETY	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
WINTER WHEAT					
Neeley	25.7	24.7	25.0	18.4	24.6
Tiber	9.5	11.7	13.5	10.7	15.6
Rocky	9.9	14.0	12.5	14.8	12.3
Redwin	14.5	13.0	9.9	10.8	9.8
Judith	0.1	0.8	7.0	9.8	9.7
Winalta	8.0	5.8	6.1	5.8	4.6
Centurk	2.7	2.4	3.3	2.4	2.4
Roughrider	1.9	3.6	2.8	2.0	2.1
Norstar	6.9	6.6	7.6	6.4	1.8
Warrior	1.1	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.7
Bighorn	0.6	0.8	0.3	1.0	1.4
Weston	1.6	1.8	0.6	0.2	1.1
Quantum 542	--	--	--	0.3	1.0
Hawk	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9
Seward	--	--	0.2	1.3	0.8
Rose	--	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8
Hill 81	--	--	--	--	0.6
Cheyenne	1.8	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.6
Cimmaron	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.5
Vona	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.5
Other & unknown	14.4	11.0	7.3	11.7	7.2
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Amidon (ND 606)	4.7	11.7	19.6	29.0	27.9
Westbred Rambo	15.5	13.5	16.7	15.5	12.3
Grandin	--	0.2	0.7	3.4	8.3
Fortuna	9.0	8.2	6.6	6.6	8.1
Lew	10.7	14.1	8.7	5.0	7.3
Newana	16.6	13.3	12.9	8.2	6.9
Len	12.7	11.9	8.1	6.6	6.1
Stoa	10.0	8.1	6.7	5.9	5.7
Gus	--	0.1	0.1	--	2.5
Olaf	4.5	3.6	2.7	2.8	2.2
Westbred 926	0.3	0.7	0.9	1.5	2.0
Celtic	--	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.4
Glenman	1.4	1.5	0.7	1.4	0.9
Pondera	2.2	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.9
Leader	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.7
Northrup King 751	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.6
Success	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4
Westbred Express	--	--	--	--	0.3
Cutlass	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.3
Other & unknown	9.2	9.9	10.7	10.4	5.2
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM WHEAT					
Kyle	--	--	2.4	7.0	22.8
Monroe	14.3	14.2	10.3	24.2	21.6
Westbred Laker	12.7	12.6	8.9	23.5	16.4
Vic	24.0	15.5	26.6	7.7	8.9
Renville	0.6	6.0	5.9	2.8	7.2
Crosby	4.3	4.3	4.8	2.8	6.2
Ward	10.2	14.1	5.8	1.3	4.8
Lloyd	1.4	5.4	0.4	--	4.0
Medora	19.0	14.0	20.8	18.0	3.3
Plenty	--	--	--	--	1.7
Kemut	--	--	--	--	1.3
Cando	1.8	0.2	--	--	0.4
Rugby	--	2.5	--	3.1	0.3
Other & Unknown	11.7	11.2	14.1	9.6	1.1
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
BARLEY					
Harrington	22.7	25.3	23.5	22.0	27.5
Hector	22.9	25.8	23.9	22.5	15.1
Gallatin	5.4	5.6	8.0	8.4	8.6
Baronesse	--	--	0.1	1.5	6.9
Bowman	2.7	4.3	7.1	7.3	6.5
Piroline	7.4	7.0	9.5	7.4	5.6
Lewis	2.1	3.0	2.2	5.1	5.2
AB 1202	2.4	2.7	3.9	5.7	3.7
Morex	4.1	4.6	3.0	2.4	1.9
Menuet	1.2	1.7	1.4	0.8	1.4
Horsford	1.8	2.2	1.4	1.9	1.3
Clark	4.7	4.1	2.5	2.1	1.2
Westbred Medallion	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.1
AB 2601	2.1	1.3	1.4	0.6	1.1
Bearpaw	--	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.8
Galena	--	--	--	--	0.8
Moravian III	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.9	0.8
Haybet	--	0.1	--	--	0.7
Stark	--	--	--	--	0.7
Summit	0.5	--	0.3	0.4	0.5
Other & Unknown	17.4	10.3	8.6	9.2	8.6
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat and barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee and the American Malting Barley Association, Inc. A more detailed varietal report may be obtained from our office upon request.

QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION

Montana milk production was 78 million pounds for the April - June quarter of 1994, down 2 million from the same quarter last year, but 6 million pounds above last quarter. The average number of milk cows on hand declined to 21,000 head, down a 1,000 head from June 1993.

An average 17.4 pounds of grain and other concentrates were fed per cow on July 1, 1994, up from 17.3 pounds last July. The value of grain and concentrates fed was $7.50 per cwt., down 5 cents from last July's average.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 40.0 billion pounds, 1 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.64 million head, 89,000 less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1994, averaged 18.2 pounds per cow, 0.6 of a pound more than July 1, 1993. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on July 1, averaged $8.10 per cwt., $0.39 more than the price on July 1, 1993.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.02 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago, but up 2 percent from July 1, 1992. The inventory included 5.92 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from a year ago, but 3 percent above two years ago. This group accounts for 65.6 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.06 million head, 9 percent below a year ago.

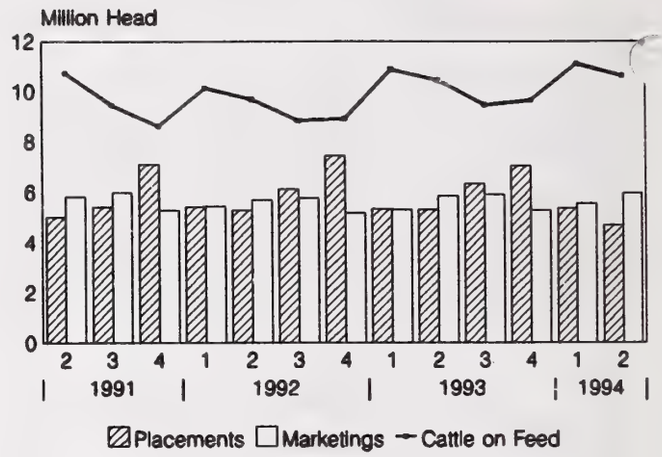
Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the April-June 1994 quarter totaled 4.67 million, down 12 percent from last year and 11 percent below April-June 1992. Net placements of 4.34 million for April-June were 11 percent below last year and 10 percent below April-June 1992.

Marketings of fed cattle during the April-June 1994 quarter totaled 5.95 million, up 2 percent from the same quarter last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 329,000 head compared to 460,000 in April-June 1993 and 444,000 in April-June 1992.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Crop Production
Prices Received
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

CATTLE on FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, IL, KS, MN, NE OK, SD, TX, WA)



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Highlights:

July 1 Crop Production
July 1 Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Cherry Production Forecast
Ag Prices Received

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JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's 1994 wheat crop is expected to be 198.3 million bushels, down 3 percent from last year's record production. The estimated yield is 37.2 bushels per acre, a 2 bushel decrease from last year. Growers expect to harvest 5.3 million acres, 2 percent more than in 1993.

Montana farmers expect to produce 70.3 million bushels of winter wheat, down 32 percent from last year's record crop. Hard red spring wheat production is expected to be a record 122.1 million bushels, up 25 percent from 1993. Durum wheat production is estimated to be 5.9 million bushels, up 66 percent from a year ago.

Barley production forecast, at 63.3 million bushels, is down 1 percent from 1993. Oat production is forecast to be slightly above last year at 4.6 million bushels.

U.S. all wheat production for 1994 is forecast at 2.42 billion bushels, up 1 percent from 1993. Harvested area is forecast at 62.0 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. The 1994 yield is expected to average 39.0 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushels from last season.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.66 billion bushels, down 1 percent from June 1, mainly due to a reduction in the forecasted acreage for harvest, and down 6 percent from 1993. Yields are now expected to average 40.0 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels from last month, but down 0.3 bushels from last season.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 660 million bushels, up 17 percent from 1993. Yield is forecast at 37.0 bushels per acre, up 3.3 bushels per acre from a year ago.

Total U.S. durum production is forecast at 101 million bushels, up 47 percent from last year's reduced crop and 4 percent higher than the 1992 crop. Yields are forecast at 38.3 bushels per acre, up 4.7 bushels per acre from 1993. If realized this will be second only to 1992's record high of 39.7 bushels per acre. Harvested area is 2.64 million bushels, up 29 percent from last season.

U.S. barley production is forecast at 406 million bushels as of July 1, 1994. This production, if realized, would be 1 percent above the 1993 production of 400 million bushels. Yields are expected to average 59.3 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 6.85 million acres, is up 1 percent from last year's 6.79 million acres.

U.S. oat production is forecast at 248 million bushels, up 20 percent from last year. The forecasted yield, at 60.1 bushels per acre, is up 5.7 bushels from last season's 54.4 bushels. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 4.13 million acres, is up 9 percent from the 1993 harvested acreage of 3.79 million acres.

JULY 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition was rated at 92 percent of normal on July 1, 1994. This is an 8 point increase over a year ago, but a 1 point decrease from last month. Pastures and ranges have been able to maintain the good condition across most of the state. The southern tier of the state had the largest decrease from a month ago with the south central district dropping 14 points. The central district rating remains unchanged from a month ago, while the northern tier's rating stayed within 4 points of last month.

MONTANA, July 1, 1994
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1992	1993	1994
Northwest	68	100	93
North Central	28	95	97
Northeast	59	55	92
Central	64	70	98
Southwest	78	97	84
South Central	80	94	91
Southeast	82	92	87
Montana	63	84	92

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - JULY 1, 1994

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,650	1,950	2,450	1,850	42.0	38.0	102,900	70,300
Durum Wheat	Bu.	115	180	114	178	31.0	33.0	3,534	5,874
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,750	3,400	2,650	3,300	37.0	37.0	98,050	122,100
All Wheat	Bu.	5,515	5,530	5,214	5,328	39.2	37.2	204,484	198,274
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	65	70	8	25	105.0	3/	840	3/
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	80	65.0	57.0	4,550	4,560
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,100	1,150	58.0	55.0	63,800	63,250
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.0	8.5	11.0	8.3	14.1	3/	155	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.4	54.4	54.1	54.4	21.6	3/	1,169	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.1	9.3	9.0	9.2	300.0	4/	2,700	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,550	2.50	3/	3,750	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	870	750	1.70	3/	1,479	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,370	2,300	2.21	3/	5,229	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,727	49,547	43,846	41,498	40.3	40.0	1,769,158	1,658,426
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,191	2,695	2,050	2,639	33.6	38.3	68,926	101,129
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,290	18,226	16,751	17,834	33.7	37.0	563,971	659,806
All Wheat	Bu.	72,208	70,468	62,647	61,971	38.3	39.0	2,402,055	2,419,361
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	73,323	78,767	62,991	71,757	100.7	3/	6,344,045	3/
Oats	Bu.	7,944	6,700	3,793	4,132	54.4	60.1	206,253	248,151
Barley	Bu.	7,826	7,307	6,791	6,848	58.9	59.3	400,225	405,782
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,849.9	2,010	1,600	1,939.1	13.65	3/	21,842	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,437.7	1,469	1,409.4	1,446.9	18.7	3/	26,396	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,190.7		1,317.8	1382.1	333	4/	376,789	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,762	24,683	3.27	3/	80,878	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,636	35,632	1.91	3/	67,976	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,398	60,315	2.46	3/	148,854	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available August 11, 1994. [4] Production forecast available November 9, 1994

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1994 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1993	1994 [2]	94/93	1993	1994 [2]	94/93	1993	1994 [2]	94/93
	-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-		
Northwest	1,392	1,450	104%	1,026	1,590	155%	2,727	2,450	90%
North Central	55,615	34,250	62%	45,263	52,527	116%	33,513	32,030	96%
Northeast	7,539	5,100	68%	43,405	54,614	126%	5,525	7,740	140%
Central	21,341	13,700	64%	5,064	8,892	176%	12,083	10,720	89%
Southwest	2,676	2,200	82%	1,705	1,932	113%	4,305	3,850	89%
South Central	9,066	9,450	104%	1,459	2,088	143%	4,140	4,610	111%
Southeast	5,271	4,150	79%	3,662	6,331	173%	1,507	1,850	123%
Montana	102,900	70,300	68%	101,584	127,974	126%	63,800	63,250	99%

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

CHERRY PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's 1994 cherry crop is forecast at 750 tons, 150 tons less than last year's total production. There were reports of frost early in the season that hurt some orchards. The cool weather during pollination limited bee activity in some areas. Harvest is expected to be earlier because of the early growing season. Cherry growers are hoping for good picking weather to avoid the same situation as last year when most of the crop was lost due to rain during harvest.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 168,200 tons, down fractionally from last year and 18 percent less than 1992.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of May were lower, compared with the previous month, except for durum wheat, barley, and oats. Winter wheat decreased 10 cents to $3.25, and other spring wheat went down 21 cents to $3.48 per bushel. Durum wheat rose 27 cents to $6.30 per bushel.

All barley, at $2.15, was 20 cents higher than the April price. At $1.46, oats averaged 9 cents above the previous month. Alfalfa hay decreased $1.00 to $65.00 per ton, and other hay dropped $1.00 to $54.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-month June averaged $3.20 per bushel while the all barley price was $2.00.

Livestock producers experienced lower prices for the full month of May, with the exception of sheep increasing $2.70 to $29.80 per cwt. Prices received for lambs averaged $2.00 below last month at $47.30. Cow prices were down $2.20 to $46.40 per cwt, and the average price for steers and heifers decreased $8.00 to $73.40 per cwt. Calf prices fell $7.80 to $89.30 per cwt. Milk prices increased 5 cents to $13.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-month June averaged $72.00 per cwt.

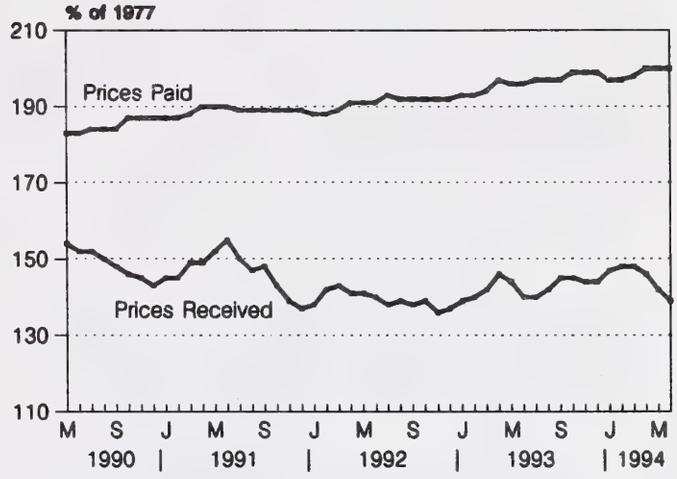
U.S. steer and heifer prices averaged $69.70 during May, down $5.70 from April. Hogs sold in May averaged $42.60, down 10 cents from last month. Egg producers received 58.2 cents per dozen compared with 61.7 cents in April. U.S. winter wheat producers averaged $3.18 per bushel, down from April's average of $3.25. The May average price for spring wheat was $3.63, 5 cents less than April and durum was $4.93, significantly below the $5.70 received in April. The May U.S. barley price was $2.11, 8 cents above last month.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	May 1993	June 1993	May 1994	June 1994
Prices Received	144	140	142	139
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/196	196	3/200	200
Ratio 1/	73	71	71	70

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1993 prices paid index. 3/ April 1994 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. May 1994	Montana June 15, 1994	U.S. June 15, 1994
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.19	3.35	3.25	3.18	3.15	3.18
Durum	Bu.	3.07	6.03	6.30	4.93	5.30	4.52
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.43	3.69	3.48	3.63	3.25	3.46
All Wheat	Bu.	3.31	3.65	3.35	3.41	3.20	3.25
Barley, All	Bu.	2.11	1.95	2.15	2.11	2.00	2.05
Feed	Bu.	1.84	1.87	1.95	2.04	1.89	1.99
Malt	Bu.	2.83	2.61	2.52	2.28	2.42	2.22
Oats	Bu.	1.25	1.37	1.46	1.50	1.40	1.43
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	66.00	65.00	100.00	64.00	88.70
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	55.00	54.00	107.00	56.00	94.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	64.00	63.00	71.20	63.00	67.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	84.00	81.40	73.40	69.70	72.00	65.90
Cows	Cwt.	51.40	48.60	46.40	46.00	44.70	43.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	62.80	73.50	58.30	67.20	55.60	63.60
Calves	Cwt.	97.30	97.10	89.30	89.60	86.10	86.10
Sheep	Cwt.	30.80	27.10	29.80	29.30	30.00	32.80
Lambs	Cwt.	55.60	49.30	47.30	54.70	62.40	59.20
All Milk	Cwt.	12.50	13.85	13.90	12.90	13.90	12.80

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

MONTANA CROP HEALTH HOTLINE

Montana State University's Extension Service has a new toll-free hotline--all that is needed is a touch-tone telephone. It is like a state-wide radio program where the listener can tune in at their convenience and hear the "Pest Control Program" of their choice, commercial free. The Hotline program format includes a variety of topics such as Crop and Urban Plant Diseases, Insect and Weed Pests, and current Ripe Issues.

The concise verbal bulletins are recorded by MSU Crop Pest Specialists and are available 24 hours a day. During MSU office hours (8-12 and 1-5, Monday through Friday) the caller is never more than two, single-digit numbers away from speaking with staff at the Plant Disease Clinic, the Insect Diagnostics Lab, or the Weed ID Lab. The reports include the specialist's name, how you can get a printed copy of the report, and the date the message will be changed.

We recommend that the caller listen to the whole welcome message on their first call because it contains instructions that will make the system easier to use. To place a call dial 1-800-537-7281 or, in Bozeman, dial 994-3453. When calling the Hotline, use the following menu to reach the information or specialist of your choice or call your local county extension agent listed in the phone book.

For menus 1 through 4: To repeat menu choices press 5. To return to the previous menu press 6.

1. For Plant Disease Information Menu press 1.
For YARD AND GARDEN disease information press 1.
For TREE DAMAGE information press 2.
For CROPLAND DISEASES press 3.
To talk to a SPECIALIST press 4.

2. For Insect Pest Information press 2.
For YARD AND GARDEN INSECT information press 1.
For the HOUSEHOLD PEST update press 2.
For CROPLAND INSECT PEST information press 3.
To talk to a SPECIALIST press 4.

3. For Weed Pest Information press 3.
For YARD AND GARDEN WEED information press 1.
For the NOXIOUS WEED UPDATE press 2.
For CROPLAND WEED information press 3.
To talk to a SPECIALIST press 4.

4. For Current Crop Conditions and Ripe Issues press 4.
For HAY AND FORAGE QUALITY report press 1.
For CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR discussion press 2.
For SMALL GRAINS CONDITION press 3.
For RIPE ISSUES press 4.

5. To repeat Welcome Menu message press 5.

6. To speak to a Secretary press 6.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production	
Mink	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	Cattle Inventory
Wheat & Barley Varieties	Egg Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Highlights:

1994 Crop Acreages
7 State Cattle on Feed
May Red Meat Production
Egg Production
June 1 Grain Stocks
May Milk Production
June 1 Hog & Pig Inventory

JUNE ACREAGE REPORT

Montana farmers plan to harvest 5.33 million acres of wheat, 2 percent more than last year. Winter wheat acres for harvest as grain are expected to be 1.85 million acres, down 24 percent from last year when a lot of the winter wheat couldn't get planted. Farmers planted 3.4 million acres of spring wheat, up 24 percent from a year ago and the most acreage since 1989. Spring wheat for harvest is estimated at 3.3 million acres, up 25 percent from a year ago. Durum wheat planted acreage came in at 180,000 acres up 57 percent from 1993 and farmers plan to harvest 178,000 acres, also up 56 percent from a year ago.

Barley planted acreage is estimated at 1.3 million acres, unchanged from a year ago. Barley harvested acreage is expected to be 1.15 million acres, up 5 percent from a year ago. Farmers planted 140,000 acres of oats, the same as last year, and plan to harvest 80,000 acres for grain, 10,000 acres more than last year. Farmers and ranchers intend to harvest 1.55 million acres of alfalfa, up 3 percent from 1993. All other hay acreage is set at 750,000 acres, down 14 percent from 1993. Corn acreage planted for all purposes, at 70,000 acres, is up 5,000 acres from last year. Sugar beets were planted on 54,400 acres, unchanged from the previous year, while dry beans were planted on 8,500 acres, 29 percent less than a year ago.

The **United States** winter wheat growers planted an estimated 49.5 million acres, down 4 percent from 1993 and 3 percent less than previously published. Grain area is estimated at 41.5 million acres, down 2 percent from the June 1 forecast and off 5 percent from 1993. Spring wheat plantings total 18.2 million acres, down slightly from 1993. Growers intend to harvest 17.8 million acres for grain, up 6 percent from last year's flood and disease reduced level. Durum wheat planted for 1994 is estimated at 2.7 million acres; 2.64 million acres are expected to be harvested for grain. The planted level is up 23 percent from 1993 and the grain area is up 29 percent.

Barley seedings last fall and this spring totaled 7.31 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 6.85 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. Oats planted last fall and this spring totaled 6.70 million acres, down 16 percent from 1993. Growers intend to harvest 4.13 million acres for grain in 1994.

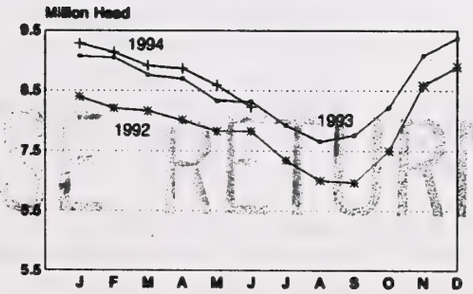
Corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 78.8 million acres, up 7 percent from last year. Growers expect to harvest 71.8 million acres for grain, up 14 percent from 1993. Hay growers expect to harvest 60.3 million acres of hay in 1994. The area harvested of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures cut for hay is estimated at 24.7 million acres, virtually unchanged from 1993. Acreage of all other hay harvested is estimated at 35.6 million acres.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 1 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.23 million head, down 1 percent from a year ago but up 5 percent from June 1, 1992. Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.41 million, 22 percent below 1993 and 19 percent below 1992. This is the smallest number of cattle placed during May since 1976. Net placements of 1.31 million for May were down 21 percent from last year and 18 percent below 1992. Marketings during May totaled 1.68 million, up 1 percent from a year ago and 5 percent above 1992. Other disappearance during May was 92,000 head, 30 percent below last year and 25 percent below 1992.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



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PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES, JUNE 1, 1994

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]	1993	1994 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,650	1,950	2,450	1,850	42.0	3/	102,900	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	115	180	114	178	31.0	3/	3,534	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,750	3,400	2,650	3,300	37.0	3/	98,050	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,515	5,530	5,214	5,328	39.2	3/	204,484	3/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	65	70	8	25	105.0	4/	840	4/
Oats	Bu.	140	140	70	80	65.0	3/	4,550	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,300	1,100	1,150	58.0	3/	63,800	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.0	8.5	11.0	8.3	14.1	3/	155	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	54.4	54.4	54.1	54.4	21.6	4/	1,169	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.1		9.0		300.0	5/	2,700	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,550	2.50	4/	3,750	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	870	750	1.70	4/	1,479	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,370	2,300	2.21	4/	5,229	4/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,727	49,547	43,846	41,498	40.3	3/	1,769,158	3/
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Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,290	18,226	16,751	17,834	33.7	3/	563,971	3/
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Oats	Bu.	7,944	6,700	3,793	4,132	54.4	3/	206,253	3/
Barley	Bu.	7,826	7,307	6,791	6,848	58.9	3/	400,225	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,849.9	2,010	1,600	1,939.1	13.65	3/	21,842	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,437.7	1,469	1,409.4	1,446.9	18.7	4/	26,396	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,190.7		1,131.2		333	5/	376,789	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,762	24,683	3.27	4/	80,878	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,636	35,632	1.91	4/	67,976	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,398	60,315	2.46	4/	148,854	4/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available July 12, 1994. [4] Production forecast available August 11, 1994. [5] Production forecast available November 9, 1994.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR MAY

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.64 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 1994. This was 5 percent above the previous month, and 33 percent higher than last year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, rose 500 head and average live weight, at 1,246 pounds, decreased 30 pounds from last year.

A total of 2,300 hogs were slaughtered in May, 400 more than a year ago. Average live weight increased 19 pounds over last year to 250 pounds. The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered during the month increased to 200 head. The average live weight was 115 pounds, 2 pounds lighter than last May.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.43 billion pounds during May, 1 percent above the record high set in May 1984. Beef production totaled 1.99 billion pounds, rising 7 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.83 million, up 2 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 49 pounds to 1,172 pounds. Veal production totaled 22.0 million pounds, up 14 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 92,500 head, up 10 percent from last May and average live weight rose 9 pounds to 409.

Pork production, at 1.40 billion pounds, was up 7 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.56 million head, 6 percent above a year ago. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 255 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 28.0 million pounds, rose 4 percent. Slaughter totaled 434,500 head, up 6 percent from the previous year. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 130 pounds. January-May red meat production was 16.9 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production increased 7 percent, veal was up 3 percent, pork rose slightly, and lamb and mutton was up 2 percent.

MAY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.15 billion during May 1994, up 2 percent from the 6.01 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.21 billion table eggs, 877 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 62.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during May 1994 averaged 287 million, up 2 percent from the 281 million a year ago. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,141 eggs, compared with 2,137 in May 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 1994, totaled 286 million, compared with 281 million a year ago. The 286 million layers consisted of 236 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 47.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.75 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1994, averaged 69.2 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from last year's 69.1.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks on June 1, 1994 totaled 72.0 million bushels, up 49 percent from a year ago. This is the largest carryover since 1987, following the largest wheat crop ever produced in Montana, and is nearly equal the ten-year average.

Winter wheat stored, at 29.7 million bushels, were 62 percent above a year ago and all spring wheat, at 42.3 million, jumped 41 percent. Wheat stored on farms accounted for 76 percent of the total for all positions. Barley stocks on June 1 totaled 16.6 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks, at 2.15 million bushels, rose 14 percent from last year.

U.S. old crop all wheat stocks on June 1, 1994, are estimated at 571 million bushels, up 8 percent from June 1, 1993. Old crop durum wheat stocks on June 1, 1994, are estimated at 29.2 million bushels, down 40 percent from last June. These are the lowest June 1 durum stocks since 1976. Barley stored in all positions on June 1, 1994, totaled 138 million bushels, 9 percent below the stocks of June 1, 1993. Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 1994, totaled 106 million bushels, 7 percent below the stocks of June 1, 1993. Corn stocks in all positions on June 1, 1994, totaled 2.36 billion bushels, 36 percent below a year earlier. Of the total stocks, 1.20 billion bushels are stored on farms, 46 percent less than last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.16 billion bushels, are down 23 percent from last year.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jun. 1, 1993	Mar. 1, 1994*	Jun. 1, 1994	'94/'93	Jun. 1, 1993	Mar. 1, 1994*	Jun. 1, 1994
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	35,000	87,000	55,000	157%	183,820	360,000	177,255
Off Farms [1/]	13,352	26,000	17,000	127%	345,334	662,146	394,142
TOTAL	48,352	113,000	72,000	149%	529,154	1,022,346	571,397
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	12,500	35,000	22,000	176%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	5,861	13,000	7,700	131%	--	--	--
TOTAL	18,361	48,000	29,700	162%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	22,500	52,000	33,000	147%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	7,491	13,000	9,300	124%	--	--	--
TOTAL	29,991	65,000	42,300	141%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	33,022	21,645	11,022
Off Farms [1/, 4/]	--	--	--	--	15,905	19,623	18,191
TOTAL	4,277	3,200	1,700	40%	48,927	41,268	29,213
BARLEY							
On Farms	12,000	25,000	13,000	108%	68,220	116,475	63,870
Off Farms [1/]	3,562	9,400	3,600	101%	82,962	107,807	74,360
TOTAL	15,562	34,400	16,600	107%	151,182	224,282	138,230
OATS							
On Farms	1,800	2,500	2,000	111%	66,130	85,050	53,940
Off Farms [1/]92	92	110	150	163%	47,063	61,502	51,615
TOTAL	1,892	2,610	2,150	114%	113,193	146,552	105,555
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,216,500	2,210,200	1,203,000
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	1,492,943	1,785,514	1,155,201
TOTAL [4/]	--	--	--	--	3,709,443	3,995,714	2,358,201

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat.
[4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1993	Mar. 1, 1994*	June 1, 1994	June 1, 1993	Mar. 1, 1994*	June 1, 1994
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.8	1.0	1.0
North Central	17.0	58.5	39.5	5.3	19.0	8.5
Northeast	20.9	28.6	16.7	3.1	3.5	2.5
Central	4.1	13.6	8.3	2.8	5.5	2.4
Southwest	1.3	2.4	1.7	1.3	1.8	0.5
South Central	1.6	5.6	2.7	2.0	2.6	1.2
Southeast	3.1	3.5	3.0	0.3	1.0	0.5
MONTANA	48.4	113.0	72.0	15.6	34.4	16.6

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during May totaled 11.5 billion pounds, 1 percent more than production in these same States in May 1993. April revised production at 11.0 billion pounds was 1 percent above April 1993.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,431 pounds for May, 29 pounds more than May 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.02 million head, 122,000 head less than May 1993 but 3,000 head more than April 1994.

During the January-March period, the 21 major States produced 31.5 billion pounds of milk, 83.8 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 13.7 billion pounds for May 1994.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JUNE 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1994, is estimated at 60.1 million head, which is a 3 percent increase from last year and 2 percent above June 1, 1992. Breeding inventory, at 7.54 million head, is 3 percent above last year and slightly above two years ago. Market hog inventory is 52.6 million head, which is 3 percent above a year ago and 2 percent above June 1, 1992.

The December 1993-May 1994 U.S. pig crop was 50.4 million head, 3 percent more than last year but slightly below the same period in 1992. Sows farrowing during the six-month period totaled 6.16 million, up 3 percent from last year but 2 percent below the same period in 1992. Pigs saved per litter were 8.18, a new record high for the period, and compares with 8.13 last year and 8.06 two years ago. The March-May U.S. pig crop was 27.2 million head, 4 percent above a year earlier.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 6.25 million sows farrow during the June-November period, 5 percent above the actual sows farrowed during the same period in 1993 and 4 percent above two years ago. Farrowings for both June-August and September-November are expected to be up 5 percent from last year.

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop & livestock

REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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Highlights:

Winter Wheat Production Forecast
Montana's Rank
Prices Received
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Winter Wheat by District

Continued mild weather and mostly adequate rainfall have maintained the prospects for a good winter wheat crop. Yield prospects in the southern third of the state showed a slight increase from May while the central, north central, and northeast prospects declined slightly. Winter wheat condition as of June 5 was rated at 3% poor, 24% fair, 51% good and 22% excellent. Wheat streak mosaic has become a concern in some areas of the state, but the number of acres affected are unknown at this time.

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST UNCHANGED FROM MAY

Montana's 1994 winter wheat crop is expected to be 77.9 million bushels, unchanged from the May 1 forecast, but is 76% of the 1993 level. As of June 1, harvested acres are estimated at 2.05 million acres and yield at 38 bushels per acre, both unchanged from May 1.

For the U.S., winter wheat production is forecast at 1.67 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the May 1 forecast, but down 5 percent from 1993. Area for grain harvest is unchanged from May 1 at 42.1 million acres. Yields are expected to average 39.7 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from May 1, but down 0.6 bushels per acre from last year. Increases from last month in Soft Red Winter and White wheat offset a slight decline in Hard Red Winter.

WINTER WHEAT: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, & PRODUCTION, BY STATE & UNITED STATES, 1993 & FORECASTED JUNE 1, 1994

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1993	1994	1993	May 1, '94	June 1, '94	1993	1994
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,550	2,600	37.0	35.0	35.0	94,350	91,000
ID	850	840	79.0	75.0	75.0	67,150	63,000
KS	11,100	11,400	35.0	36.0	36.0	388,500	410,400
MN 1/	40	38	30.0	38.0	38.0	1,200	1,444
MT	**2,450**	**2,050**	**42.0**	**38.0**	**38.0**	**102,900**	**77,900**
NE	2,100	1,950	35.0	35.0	34.0	73,500	66,300
ND 1/	130	35	33.0	35.0	35.0	4,290	1,225
OH	1,010	1,110	52.0	54.0	56.0	52,520	62,160
OR	860	870	71.0	58.0	62.0	61,060	53,940
SD	1,450	1,500	39.0	33.0	32.0	56,550	48,000
TX	3,700	3,000	32.0	29.0	29.0	118,400	87,000
WA	2,500	2,400	65.0	53.0	56.0	162,500	134,400
US	43,846	42,149	40.3	39.3	39.7	1,769,158	1,674,563

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA'S RANK HIGHLIGHTS

Record breaking winter & spring wheat yields moved Montana's rank up in 1993. Most other crop ranks also improved with the exception of durum, dry beans, and corn for grain which decreased and sugar beets and potatoes which remained unchanged.

The all cattle rank remained unchanged from January 1, 1993, with all cows dropping 1 spot but cattle on feed moving up 3 places. All other livestock rankings remained the same, except honey production which dropped one.

Total cash receipts remained unchanged, but both crops and livestock cash receipts dropped one position.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	59,900,000	acres	1993	2	6.1
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	1,742,408,000	dollars	1992	33	1.0
Crops	821,096,000	dollars	1992	31	1.0
Livestock	921,312,000	dollars	1992	30	1.1

LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND PRODUCTION

All Cattle & Calves	2,500,000	head	Jan. 1, 1994	13	2.5
All Cows	1,460,000	head	Jan. 1, 1994	9	3.3
Beef Cows	1,438,000	head	Jan. 1, 1994	6	4.1
Milk Cows	22,000	head	Jan. 1, 1994	43	0.2
Cattle on Feed	105,000	head	Jan. 1, 1994	20	0.8
Hogs and Pigs	180,000	head	Dec. 1, 1993	26	0.3
Sheep and Lambs	502,000	head	Jan. 1, 1994	6	5.5
Wool Production	5,581,000	pounds	1993	4	7.2
All Chickens	550,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1993	42	0.1
Egg Production	125,000,000	eggs	1993	42	0.2
Honey Production	8,526,000	pounds	1993	8	3.7

CROPS (Production)

All Wheat	204,484,000	bushels	1993	3	8.5
Winter Wheat	102,900,000	bushels	1993	5	5.8
Durum Wheat	3,534,000	bushels	1993	4	5.1
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	98,050,000	bushels	1993	2	17.4
Barley	63,800,000	bushels	1993	2	15.9
Oats	4,550,000	bushels	1993	13	2.2
All Hay	5,229,000	tons	1993	11	3.5
Alfalfa Hay	3,750,000	tons	1993	9	4.6
Dry Beans	155,000	cwt	1993	15	0.7
Potatoes--fall	2,700,000	cwt	1993	15	0.7
Sugar Beets	1,169,000	tons	1993	8	4.4
Corn					
Grain	840,000	bushels	1993	41	1/
Silage	990,000	tons	1993	24	1.2

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of April were a mixed bag in comparison with the previous month. Winter wheat decreased 17 cents to $3.35, and other spring wheat went down 5 cents to $3.69 per bushel. Durum wheat rose 51 cents to $6.03 per bushel. All barley, at $1.95, was 23 cents lower than the March price. At $1.37, oats remained unchanged from the previous month. Alfalfa hay also remained unchanged, at $66.00 per ton, along with other hay at $55.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-month May averaged $3.66 per bushel while the all barley price was $1.97.

Livestock producers experienced lower prices for the full month of April, with the exception of cows rising 50 cents to $48.60 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $8.40 below last month at $27.10. The average price for steers and heifers decreased $3.10 to $81.40 per cwt. Calf prices fell $2.30 to $97.10 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 25 cents to $13.85 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-month May averaged $73.50 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $75.40, unchanged from March. Hogs sold in April averaged $42.70, down $1.70 from last month. Egg producers received 61.7 cents per dozen compared with 65.9 cents last month. U.S. winter wheat producers averaged $3.25 per bushel, 1 cent less than March prices. The average spring wheat price was $3.68, 4 cents more than March, and the barley price was $2.03, up 2 cents.

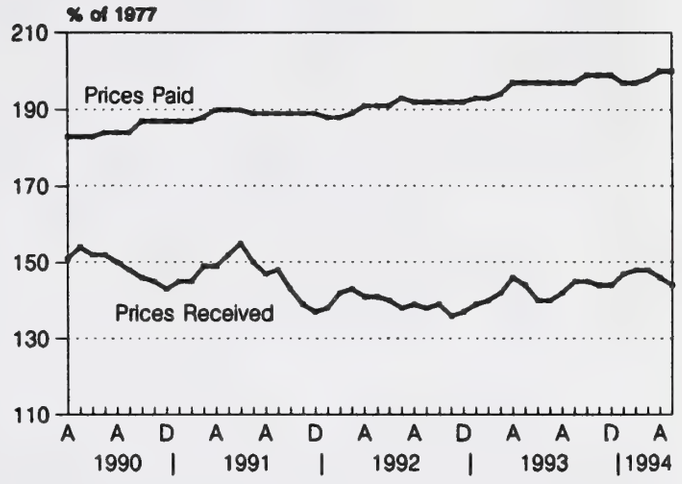
The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 144 based on 1977=100, down 2 points (1.4 percent) from April 1994. Price declines from April for cattle, milk, eggs, and corn more than offset price gains for tomatoes, broilers, celery, and peaches.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Apr. 1993	May 1993	Apr. 1994	May 1994
Prices Received	146	144	146	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	196	2/196	200	3/200
Ratio 1/	74	73	73	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1993 prices paid index. 3/ April 1994 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. Apr. 1994	Montana May 15, 1994	U.S. May 15, 1994
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.34	3.52	3.35	3.25	3.30	3.24
Durum	Bu.	3.09	5.52	6.03	5.70	6.00	5.66
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.53	3.74	3.69	3.68	3.80	3.71
All Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.63	3.65	3.55	3.66	3.48
Barley, All	Bu.	1.95	2.18	1.95	2.03	1.97	2.01
Feed	Bu.	1.84	1.96	1.87	1.86	1.85	1.95
Malt	Bu.	2.72	2.72	2.61	2.50	2.46	2.26
Oats	Bu.	1.52	1.37	1.37	1.36	1.30	1.34
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	72.00	66.00	66.00	103.00	65.00	107.00
All Other Hay	Ton	62.00	55.00	55.00	71.90	54.00	71.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	64.00	64.00	98.20	63.00	100.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	85.60	84.50	81.40	75.40	73.50	70.30
Cows	Cwt.	49.40	48.10	48.60	47.20	46.70	46.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	70.80	78.70	73.50	72.00	60.10	67.70
Calves	Cwt.	102.00	99.40	97.10	95.70	91.10	90.90
Sheep	Cwt.	22.00	35.50	27.10	29.60	26.90	27.20
Lambs	Cwt.	55.70	56.90	49.30	54.70	49.00	52.90
All Milk	Cwt.	12.70	14.10	13.85	13.50	13.90	13.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

JUNE 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range condition was rated at 96 percent of normal on June 1, 1994. This is a 17 point increase over a year ago and a 1 point increase over last month. Timely rain showers and mild weather across the state have maintained the good rating. Only the Southwest district showed a decrease in condition compared to a year ago, while the Northeast portion of the state showed the biggest gain with a 31 point increase.

MONTANA, June 1, 1994
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

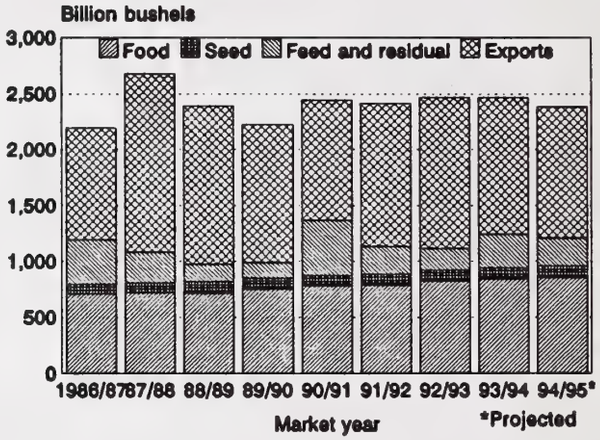
District	1992	1993	1994
Northwest	80	87	95
North Central	11	93	101
Northeast	82	64	95
Central	45	72	98
Southwest	68	95	88
South Central	78	79	101
Southeast	90	84	93
Montana	64	79	93

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--June 1, 1994 1/

District	1992	1993	1994	% chg. 94/93
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	1,291	1,392	1,500	108
N Central	19,641	55,615	39,400	71
Northeast	9,392	7,539	5,900	78
Central	13,244	21,341	15,000	70
Southwest	1,927	2,676	2,200	82
S Central	10,024	9,066	9,400	104
Southeast	5,381	5,271	4,500	85
Montana	60,900	102,900	77,900	76

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

U.S. Wheat Disappearance



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Egg Production	
Milk Production	Slaughter
Cattle on Feed	Grain Stocks
Crop Acreages	Hogs & Pigs

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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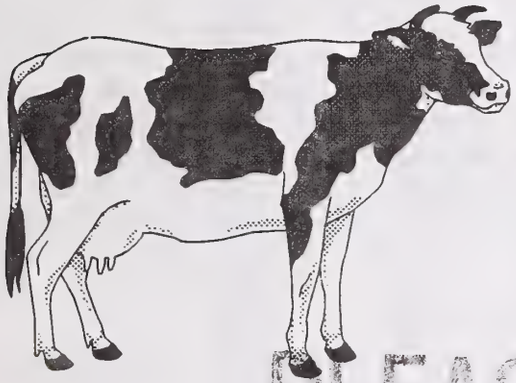
Highlights:

April Milk Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
April Farm Labor
April Egg Production
1993 Milk Production
Potato Stocks
April Red Meat Production
featuring...Musselshell County



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APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during April totaled 11.0 billion pounds, 1 percent more than production in these same States in April 1993. March revised production, at 11.1 billion pounds, was slightly above March 1993.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,372 pounds for April, 31 pounds more than April 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.01 million head, 138,000 head less than April 1993 but 5,000 head more than March 1994.

During the January-March period, the 21 major States produced 31.5 billion pounds of milk, 83.8 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 13.1 billion pounds for April 1994.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.59 million head, up 3 percent from a year ago and up 10 percent from May 1, 1992. This is the largest May inventory for the 7 States since 1973.

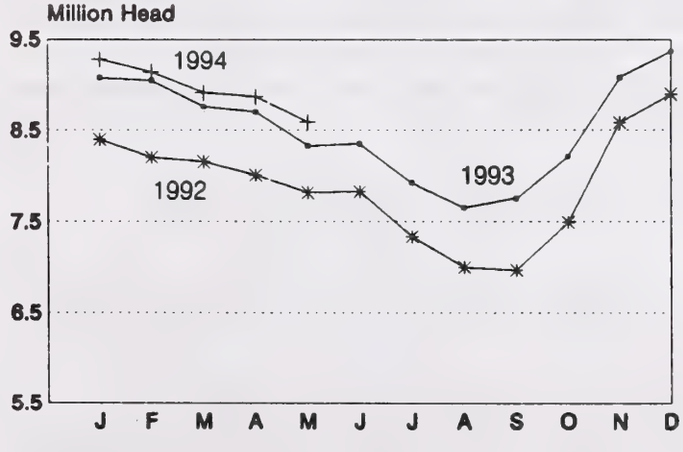
Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.41 million, 7 percent above 1993 but 1 percent below 1992. Net placements of 1.32 million for April were up 11 percent from last year and 2 percent above 1992.

Marketings during April totaled 1.60 million, up 2 percent from a year ago and 7 percent above 1992.

Other disappearance during April was 82,000 head, 35 percent below last year and 34 percent below 1992.

Cattle and calves on feed May 1, 1994, for the 7 States in the feedlots with 1,000 or more head capacity totaled 7.62 million head, 7 percent above May 1, 1993, and 13 percent above May 1, 1992. The inventory in the 1,000+ capacity feedlots accounted for 88.7 percent of the total inventory.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



FARM WAGE RATES FOR APRIL

There were 2.92 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 10-16, 1994. This compares with 2.88 million people during the April 1993 survey week. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.42 million of the total, along with 456,000 unpaid workers, and 803,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 240,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.42 per hour during the April 1994 survey week. This rate was up 5 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.11 per hour compared with $6.10 in April 1993.

Field workers received an average of $6.02 per hour, down 2 cents from the April 1993 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.80 per hour compared with $5.65 a year earlier. Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 42 percent of the hired workers during the survey week, compared to 44 percent in April 1993.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.63 per hour during the April 1994 survey week, down 13 cents from a year ago. Field workers received $5.70, up 3 cents from last year, while livestock workers earned $5.29, down 14 cents from wages in 1993.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 10-16, 1994 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER 3/					METHOD OF PAY 4/		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	6.88	5.68	6.23	10.09	7.45	7.24	7.51	7.02
Northeast II	6.28	5.22	5.77	9.07	7.94	6.37	5/	6.26
Appalachian I	5.24	5.63	5.35	7.93	5/	5.39	5/	5.90
Appalachian II	5.84	5.41	5.62	5/	5/	5.73	5/	5/
Southeast	5.79	5.79	5.79	10.11	8.02	6.03	5.38	6.78
FL	6.40	6.00	6.36	11.55	10.55	6.24	7.50	10.50
Lake	6.27	5.46	5.84	9.42	7.98	6.22	5/	6.40
Cornbelt I	6.75	6.40	6.62	11.14	5.55	6.37	5/	7.58
Cornbelt II	6.02	5.38	5.68	5/	5/	5.73	5/	6.05
Delta	4.96	5.17	5.00	5/	6.75	5.27	5/	5.11
Northern Plains	5.83	6.13	5.96	7.83	6.30	6.25	5/	6.17
Southern Plains	5.34	5.84	5.56	8.51	6.52	5.52	5/	6.38
Mountain I	5.70	5.29	5.51	7.09	5/	5.95	5/	5.38
Mountain II	5.72	5.57	5.65	5/	7.24	5.57	5/	7.07
Mountain III	5.60	6.09	5.81	9.49	5/	5.89	5/	6.93
Pacific	6.15	6.86	6.24	10.29	7.01	6.24	5.80	9.20
CA	6.13	7.06	6.22	12.25	9.51	6.09	7.64	10.62
HI	8.71	5/	8.68	15.60	5/	8.91	5/	13.72
US 6/	6.02	5.80	5.96	10.10	7.38	6.11	7.12	7.06

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Livestock, Supervisory, and Other published at Regional and U. S. level only. 4/ Piece Rate and Other published at regional and U. S. level only. 5/ Insufficient Data. 6/ Excludes AK.

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.03 billion during April 1994, up 3 percent from the 5.86 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.14 billion table eggs, 836 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 59.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during April 1994 averaged 289 million, up 2 percent from the 282 million a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,090 eggs, compared with 2,078 in April 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1994 totaled 288 million, compared with 281 million a year ago. The 288 million layers consisted of 237 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 47.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.73 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1994, averaged 68.9 eggs per 100 layers, the same as last year.

1993 MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME

Montana milk production decreased 9 percent in 1993 to 307 million pounds. An average of 22,000 milk cows were on farms during the year, down 1,000 head from 1992. The rate per cow, at 13,955 pounds, was 262 pounds below 1992.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana, at 40 million dollars, was 5 percent below 1992. Producer returns averaged $13.40 per cwt, the same as 1992. Marketings totaled 292 million pounds, down 6 percent from 1992. A total of 15 million pounds of milk was used on farms, 8 million pounds were fed to calves, and 7 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

U. S. milk production decreased slightly in 1993 to 151 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 15,554 pounds, was 135 pounds above 1992. The annual average number of cows on farms, at 9.71 million head, was 130,000 less than the 1992 average.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1993, at $19.3 billion dollars, was 3 percent below 1992. Producer returns averaged $12.96 per cwt, $0.29 below the 1992 average. Marketings totaled 149 billion pounds, slightly below 1992. Marketings include whole milk and producer separated cream sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers. An estimated 1.90 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 2 percent below 1992. Calves were fed 76 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households as milk, cream, and butter.

POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers stored 160,000 cwt of potatoes as of May 1, 1994, compared with 270,000 a year ago. The May 1, 1994 stocks represent 6 percent of production from the 1993 crop year, compared with 11 percent of production in 1993 for the 1992 crop year.

Western potato stocks totaled 55.3 million cwt in six States, down 6 percent from last year, but 2 percent above two years ago. Stocks in Idaho fell well below a year ago, while potatoes in Washington and Oregon are plentiful. Idaho's stocks were down 17 percent and accounted for 53 percent of the Western holdings. Washington's stocks of 11.5 million cwt, were up 11 percent and Oregon's stocks were up 56 percent from last year. California was down 17 percent from a year ago, Colorado slipped 12 percent, and Montana fell 41 percent.

U.S. potato stocks totaled 68.1 million cwt on May 1, 1994, down 9 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Stocks made up 19 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 20 percent a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance and processing were both record highs. Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled a record high 298 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 28.8 million cwt, 9 percent below the 31.7 million cwt lost last year, but 2 percent above two years ago when losses were 28.2 million cwt. Processing in the eight major States claimed a record high 140 million cwt of potatoes from the 1993 crop and continues at a furious pace. This is up 8 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. April processor usage was 17.2 million cwt, up 17 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above two years ago.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION FOR APRIL

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.56 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 1994. This was a 1 percent decrease from the previous month, but a 28 percent increase from a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, rose 500 head from last year. The average live weight, at 1,252 pounds, increased 53 pounds from last year.

A total of 1,900 hogs were slaughtered in April, 200 less than a year ago. Average live weight increased 11 pounds to 243. There were 200 head of sheep and lambs slaughtered, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight was 102 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.38 billion pounds during April. This production was 3 percent above a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 1.90 billion pounds, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.71 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 50 pounds to 1,175 pounds. Veal production totaled 22.0 million pounds, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 94,300 head, down 4 percent from last year. The average live weight rose 6 pounds to 392 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.43 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.78 million head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 255 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 27.0 million pounds, decreased 12 percent from a year ago. Slaughter totaled 419,400 head, down 13 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 129 pounds.

January-April red meat production was 13.5 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent, veal was up 1 percent, pork was down 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was up 1 percent.

featuring...MUSSELSHELL COUNTY

Musselshell County received its name from the Musselshell River that traverses it from east to west. The county is located just south of the geographic center of Montana. It was created in March of 1911 and has an approximate land area of 1,197,184 acres. The Bull Mountain Range comprises most of the southern portion of the county.

In the agricultural business, Musselshell County ranked 29th in winter wheat production and 39th for all hay production in 1992. Other major crops grown in the county include barley and oats. Musselshell County ranked 7th in the state for sheep and lambs inventory and 34th for cattle inventory in 1993.

Livestock cash receipts brought $10,843,000 and a ranking of 37 in the state in 1991, crops brought in $4,618,000 for a ranking of 35th, and government payments brought in $2,392,000 for total cash receipts of $17,853,000 and a rank of 40th in 1991. Musselshell County claims Roundup, Montana as its county seat. This area has an annual average precipitation of 12.01 inches and an average of 129 frost-free days per year.

Musselshell County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,197,184	Total Cropland	Acres	159,346
Land in Farms	Acres	1,042,418	Harvested Cropland	Acres	77,881
Number of Farms		249	Irrigated Land	Acres	9,993
Average size Farms	Acres	4,186			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	13,464	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	50,828	Calves	No. Head	29,398
Barley	Acres	9,412	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	18,162
Oats	Acres	1,648	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,642

[1/] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Montana's Rank — Ag Prices
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Pasture & Range Feed Condition
- 1993 Dairy Production
- Prices Received
- Poultry Production & Value

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION AND HAY STOCKS

Montana 1994 winter wheat production is forecast at 77.9 million bushels, 24 percent below last year's crop. Acres expected to be harvested, at 2.05 million, are 16 percent below the previous year. Yield per acre, based on May 1 conditions, is forecast at 38 bushels per acre, 4 bushels below last year. Last year's wet fall and delayed harvesting hampered winter wheat planting efforts. The generally mild winter caused limited winter kill to this year's wheat crop. Some much needed moisture came in April setting the stage for a yield that is 2 bushels above the 5-year average.

For the US, winter wheat is forecast at 1.66 billion bushels, down 6 percent from 1993. Yield estimates average 39.3 bushels per acre compared to 40.3 bushels per acre last year. Producers intend to harvest 42.1 million acres, down 4 percent from 1993.

Hay stocks on Montana farms and ranches May 1, 1994 were 1,255,000 tons, up 40 percent from last year's May 1 stocks. Farmers and ranchers had only 24 percent of their 1993 production on hand May 1, 1994. Disappearance in the December 1, 1993-May 1, 1994 period amounted to nearly 3.5 million tons, 11 percent more than last season.

Nationally, hay stocks totaled 22.7 million tons on May 1, 1994, 8 percent more than May 1 last year. Disappearance of hay in the December 1, 1993-May 1, 1994 period totaled 79.2 million tons. This compares with 84.5 million tons in the same period a year ago.

WINTER WHEAT: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, BY STATE AND UNITED STATES, 1992-93 AND FORECASTED MAY 1, 1994

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1992	1993	1994
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CA	500	540	80.0	79.0	41,250	40,000	42,660
CO	2,550	2,600	37.0	35.0	69,000	94,350	91,000
ID	850	840	79.0	75.0	52,000	67,150	63,000
IL	1,550	950	44.0	49.0	62,100	68,200	46,550
KS	11,100	11,400	35.0	36.0	363,800	388,500	410,400
MO	1,400	1,100	38.0	42.0	64,800	53,200	46,200
MT	**2,450**	**2,050**	**42.0**	**38.0**	**60,900**	**102,900**	**77,900**
NE	2,100	1,950	35.0	35.0	55,500	73,500	68,250
ND	130	35	33.0	35.0	5,950	4,290	1,225
OH	1,010	1,110	52.0	54.0	59,095	52,520	59,940
OK	5,400	5,300	30.0	29.0	171,100	162,000	153,700
OR	860	870	71.0	58.0	42,900	61,060	50,460
SD	1,450	1,500	39.0	33.0	33,600	56,550	49,500
TX	3,700	3,000	32.0	29.0	129,200	118,400	87,000
WA	2,500	2,400	65.0	53.0	102,000	162,500	127,200
WY	200	185	30.0	28.0	5,250	6,000	5,180
US	43,846	42,149	40.3	39.3	1,606,534	1,769,158	1,657,938

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--May 1,1994 1/

District	1992	1993	1994	% chg. 94/93
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	1,291	1,392	1,500	108
N Central	19,641	55,615	39,500	71
Northeast	9,392	7,539	6,100	81
Central	13,244	21,341	15,300	72
Southwest	1,927	2,676	2,100	78
S Central	10,024	9,066	9,100	100
Southeast	5,381	5,271	4,300	82
Montana	60,900	102,900	77,900	76

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MAY 1 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pasture and range feed conditions were rated 95 percent of normal on May 1, 1994, 11 points above last year at this same time. Good spring precipitation, when added to last season's very favorable conditions, gave pastures and ranges an excellent start in developing ample grazing. All districts, except the North Central and South Central with a 3- and 5-point decline, respectively, showed improvement over a year ago with the Southwest district showing the biggest gain of 25 points.

MONTANA, May 1, 1994
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1992	1993	1994
Northwest	96	90	94
North Central	64	93	90
Northeast	91	80	97
Central	92	78	96
Southwest	75	78	103
South Central	90	95	90
Southeast	96	80	97
Montana	86	84	95

1993 DAIRY PRODUCTS

Production of butter in the United States during 1993 totaled 1.32 billion pounds, 4 percent less than 1992. California and Wisconsin, the leading states, each accounted for 25 percent of production, followed by Washington with 9 percent.

Total cheese production, excluding cottage cheese, was 6.53 billion pounds, 1 percent above the 1992 production. Wisconsin was the leading state with 31 percent of the production. American-type cheese production, at 2.96 billion pounds, was 1 percent above 1992 and accounted for 45 percent of total cheese in 1993.

Italian varieties, with 2.49 billion pounds produced, were 1 percent below the 1992 production. Mozzarella accounted for 78 percent of the Italian production followed by Ricotta with 9 percent and Provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading state in Italian cheese production with 32 percent of the production.

Creamed cottage cheese, at 432 million pounds, was down 6 percent from 1992, while lowfat cottage cheese, at 318 million pounds, was down 4 percent.

Frozen dairy products showed mixed changes in 1993. Ice cream production totaled 866 million gallons, up slightly from 1992. Ice milk, at 325 million gallons, was down 1 percent. Milk sherbet, at 50.8 million gallons, was up 2 percent. Frozen yogurt production, at 150 million gallons, was up 12 percent. The 260 million gallons of soft products (ice cream, ice milk, and sherbet) made during 1993 accounted for 21 percent of the total frozen dairy products, excluding yogurt. Soft frozen dairy products are sold from direct-serve soft freezer and milk shake machines.

Nonfat dry milk for human food production, at 948 million pounds, was up 9 percent from 1992. Dry buttermilk production, at 51.0 million pounds, was down 17 percent.

CATTLE HERD CONTINUES SLOW EXPANSION

The nation's cattle herd continues to increase at a slow pace. This slow expansion partly reflects structural changes within the industry that allow producers to market more beef per cow in a shorter period of time. Returns to cow-calf producers have been above cash expenses since 1986, but not strong enough to stimulate a more rapid expansion of the breeding herd. A slow expansion will limit future increases in per capita beef supplies and help maintain relatively stable beef prices.

Returns to cow-calf producers are forecast to remain positive in 1994, but will decline as input costs continue to rise and feeder cattle prices decline. Beef production in 1994 is expected to be the largest since 1986, but up just 2 pounds on a per capita basis from the cyclical low in 1993.

- Cattle inventory on January 1 totaled 101.7 million head, up 1 percent from a year earlier.
- Feedlot inventories on March 1 were 2 percent above a year earlier and the largest for this date since 1974.
- Fed cattle prices will rise from the low $70's per cwt this winter, to the mid-$70's for the remainder of 1994.
- Retail Choice beef prices are expected to average in the mid- to upper $2.80's per pound during 1994, down from $2.93 last year.

POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Montana egg sales brought a slightly higher value to producers in 1993 compared with 1992. Although eggs produced decreased by 22 percent, there was a 29 percent increase in the average price received per dozen eggs. At 63 cents, Montana's average price for a dozen eggs in 1993 is slightly under the U.S. average price. Montana's egg production, at 125 million eggs, is the lowest on record. These 2 factors combined to produce a value of production of $6.6 million, only slightly higher than the record low of $6.5 million last year.

Montana's value of sales from chickens excluding broilers in 1993 increased by 1.5 cents per pound and pounds sold rose 29 percent. This resulted in the value of chicken sales more than double that of the previous year.
(continued on back page)

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of March were higher, compared with the previous month, except for hay. Winter wheat increased 16 cents to $3.52, and other spring wheat went up 12 cents to $3.74 per bushel. Durum wheat rose 72 cents to $5.52 per bushel. All barley, at $2.18, was 17 cents higher than the February price. At $1.37, oats averaged 11 cents above the previous month. Alfalfa hay decreased $2.00 to $66.00 per ton, and other hay dropped $3.00 to $55.00 per ton. The all wheat price for mid-month April averaged $3.62 per bushel, while the all barley price was $1.95.

Livestock producers experienced higher prices for the full month of March, with the exception of lambs dropping $4.50 to $56.90 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $3.10 above last month at $35.50. Cow prices were up 90 cents to $48.10 per cwt, and the average price for steers and heifers increased 80 cents to $84.50 per cwt. Calf prices rose $1.70 to $99.40 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 20 cents to $14.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-month April averaged $82.50 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $75.40, up $2.10 from February. Hogs sold in March averaged $44.40, down $3.50 from last month. Egg producers received 65.9 cents per dozen compared with 63.7 cents last month. U.S. winter wheat producers averaged $3.26 per bushel, 8 cents less than February's price. The average spring wheat price was $3.64, 4 cents less, and the barley price was $2.01, down 7 cents.

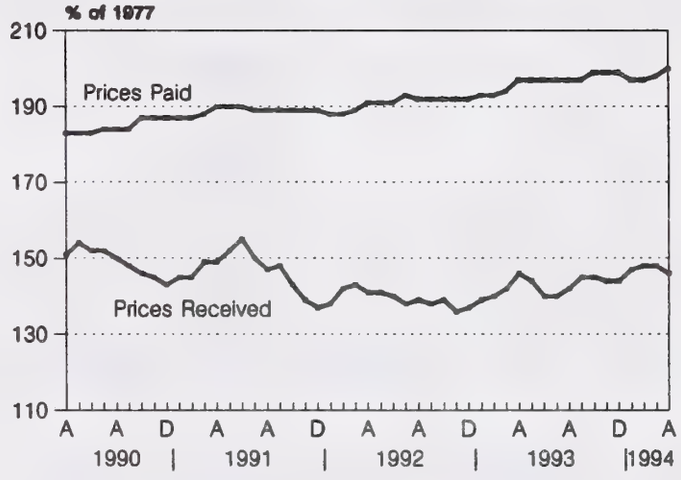
The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received for the U.S. in April was 146 based on 1977=100, 2 points below March 1994. Price declines from March for wheat, hogs, corn, and soybeans more than offset price gains for hay, cattle, potatoes, and oranges.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Mar. 1993	Apr. 1993	Mar. 1994	Apr. 1994
Prices Received	141	146	148	146
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/192	196	3/198	200
Ratio 1/	73	74	75	73

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1993 prices paid index. 3/ January 1994 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. Mar. 1994	Montana Apr. 15, 1994	U.S. Apr. 15, 1994
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.37	3.36	3.52	3.26	3.50	3.16
Durum	Bu.	3.15	4.80	5.52	5.71	5.50	5.19
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.62	3.74	3.64	3.75	3.61
All Wheat	Bu.	3.41	3.53	3.63	3.65	3.62	3.43
Barley, All	Bu.	2.18	2.01	2.18	2.01	1.95	1.95
Feed	Bu.	1.89	1.86	1.96	1.88	1.85	1.86
Malt	Bu.	3.09	2.64	2.72	2.36	2.25	2.22
Oats	Bu.	1.30	1.26	1.37	1.45	1.30	1.40
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	72.00	68.00	66.00	97.30	66.00	103.00
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	58.00	55.00	68.50	55.00	71.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	60.00	64.00	90.80	64.00	98.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	85.40	83.70	84.50	75.40	82.50	76.00
Cows	Cwt.	49.10	47.20	48.10	48.10	48.20	47.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	74.50	77.10	78.70	72.30	75.60	72.70
Calves	Cwt.	98.90	97.70	99.40	97.60	97.00	96.90
Sheep	Cwt.	33.40	32.40	35.50	33.00	27.30	29.60
Lambs	Cwt.	73.20	61.40	56.90	58.80	53.10	55.90
All Milk	Cwt.	12.60	14.30	14.10	13.90	13.80	13.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE (continued)

The combined value of U.S. production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1993, was $16.8 billion, up 12 percent from the $15.0 billion in 1992. Of the combined total, 62 percent was from broilers, 22 percent from eggs, 15 percent from turkeys, and about 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 1993 was $10.4 billion, up 13 percent from the $9.17 billion in 1992. The total number of broilers produced in 1993 was 6.69 billion, up 4 percent from 1992. The 1993 average price per pound on a liveweight equivalent basis was 34.0 cents per pound, compared to 31.8 cents per pound in 1992.

Value of egg production in 1993 was $3.77 billion, up 11 percent from the $3.39 billion in 1992. Egg production totaled 71.4 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 70.5 billion eggs produced in 1992. In 1993, eggs averaged 63.4 cents per dozen, compared with 57.6 cents in 1992.

The value of turkeys produced during 1993 was $2.50 billion, up 5 percent from the $2.39 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1993 totaled 6.42 billion pounds liveweight, compared with 6.33 billion pounds in 1992. The average price received by producers during 1993 was 39.0 cents per pound, compared with 37.7 cents in 1992.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1992-1993 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1992	1993	1992	1993
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	000 Head	106	71	34,977	34,671
Sold	000 Head	562	727	206,941	197,024
Pounds Sold	000 Lbs.	2,248	2,908	966,268	944,445
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	2.5	4.0	8.6	9.4
Value of Sales	000 Dols.	56	116	82,875	88,726
EGGS					
Produced	Million	160	125	70,541	71,391
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	49.0	63.0	57.6	63.4
Value of Prod.	000 Dols.	6,533	6,563	3,386,753	3,771,376

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1, previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Egg Production
Milk Production & PDI	Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed	Slaughter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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Highlights:

1993 Barley County Estimates
Meat Animals Prod., Disp., & Income
March U.S. Egg Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed
March Red Meat Production
Milk Production
1993 Sheep & Lamb Losses
Potato Stocks

1993 BARLEY COUNTY ESTIMATES

The 1993 barley county estimates are available for distribution. We're publishing the all and irrigated barley county estimates in this publication, but estimates by class and cropping practice are available from this office upon request by calling 1-800-835-2612.

These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on acreage and production surveys conducted last fall. Nearly 5,300 questionnaires were tabulated. The majority were completed by telephone to ensure better coverage in each county. Thanks to those who provided information!

1993 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Cash receipts from the marketings of cattle, sheep, and hogs in Montana totaled $874 million, up 6 percent from 1992. **Cattle and calf** cash receipts, at $804 million, rose 6 percent from 1992. Cattle marketings totaled 1.2 million head, down slightly from 1992. Calf marketings amounted to 220,000 head, down from 290,000 head. The average price received for cattle rose to $75.60 per cwt from $66.50 and calf prices rose to $97.00 per cwt from $90.30 in 1992.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts dropped 4 percent from 1992 to $24 million with 86,000 sheep and 350,000 lambs being marketed in 1993. Average prices received for sheep rose $3.20 per cwt to $26.50 and lambs jumped $9.70 per cwt to $65.20. Cash receipts from **hogs** jumped 15 percent from 1992 to $46 million. Hog marketings, at 379,000 head, were down fractionally, while average prices increased $6.50 per cwt to $44.10.

Total **United States** cash receipts for all meat animals was $51.4 billion with cattle and calves accounting for 78 percent of the total, hogs and pigs 21 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Meat animal production in 1993 totaled 65.6 billion pounds, up fractionally from 1992. The value of production rose 6 percent for all meat animals with sheep and lambs the only species showing a decrease.

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS AND CASH RECEIPTS, 1992-93

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1992	MONTANA 1993	UNITED STATES 1992	UNITED STATES 1993
CATTLE & CALVES					
Number Marketed:					
Cattle	Thou. Head	1,226	1,194	46,316	46,616
Calves	Thou. Head	290	220	9,670	9,755
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,099.0	1,035.9	53,269.7	53,916.7
Average Price:					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	66.50	75.60	71.30	72.60
Calves	Dols./Cwt	90.30	97.00	89.00	91.20
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols	760.8	804.3	37,958.2	39,986.4
HOGS & PIGS					
Number Marketed	Thou. Head	380	379	98,688	97,911
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	105.0	104.8	24,183.6	23,958.1
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	37.60	44.10	41.60	45.20
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	39.7	46.4	10,045.6	10,888.9
SHEEP & LAMBS					
Number Marketed:					
Sheep	Thou. Head	195	86	1,999	1,809
Lambs	Thou. Head	368	350	6,371	6,089
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	61.5	43.8	928.2	888.6
Average Price:					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	23.60	26.80	25.80	28.60
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	55.50	65.20	59.50	64.40
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	25.0	23.6	463.0	488.5
Total Marketings 1/	Mil. Lbs.	1,265.5	1,184.5	78,381.5	78,763.4
Total Cash Receipts 1/	Mil. Dols.	825.5	874.3	48,466.7	51,363.9

1/ Total may not add due to rounding.

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1993

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres [1/]	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Rank	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deerlodge	1,100	800	73	58,000	51	1,100	800	73	58,000
Flathead	22,500	21,000	74	1,561,000	12	8,700	7,500	67	499,000
Granite	800	400	63	25,000	54	700	300	63	19,000
Lake	9,600	8,400	68	575,000	29	5,200	4,500	73	327,000
Lincoln	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mineral	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Missoula	2,500	2,200	53	116,000	47	1,100	1,000	64	64,000
Powell	3,200	1,500	59	89,000	50	2,200	1,000	66	66,000
Ravalli	3,400	3,000	90	269,000	37	2,700	2,400	101	243,000
Sanders	800	600	45	27,000	53	200	100	60	6,000
Other	100	100	70	7,000	–	100	100	70	7,000
NORTHWEST	44,000	38,000	72	2,727,000	–	22,000	17,700	73	1,289,000
Blaine	30,100	25,900	49	1,266,000	15	8,900	6,600	66	437,000
Chouteau	123,000	105,300	62	6,566,000	3	1,800	1,500	82	123,000
Glacier	81,000	71,100	58	4,150,000	4	15,200	12,500	67	834,000
Hill	39,000	34,900	51	1,770,000	11	800	700	79	55,000
Liberty	33,300	27,100	66	1,785,000	10	1,300	1,100	78	86,000
Phillips	31,600	25,600	51	1,297,000	14	2,300	1,600	53	85,000
Pondera	107,000	95,700	72	6,845,000	2	36,200	30,800	81	2,498,000
Teton	111,000	101,100	73	7,410,000	1	53,000	47,700	83	3,976,000
Toole	49,000	44,300	55	2,424,000	8	1,900	1,700	61	104,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTH CENTRAL	605,000	531,000	63	33,513,000	–	121,400	104,200	79	8,198,000
Daniels	15,600	12,000	35	425,000	32	100	100	60	6,000
Dawson	28,000	21,000	39	810,000	19	1,100	800	73	58,000
Garfield	14,900	11,200	43	486,000	31	800	700	57	40,000
McCone	23,700	18,100	39	699,000	21	600	500	42	21,000
Richland	32,000	23,600	45	1,055,000	16	3,300	2,600	69	180,000
Roosevelt	23,100	17,100	39	659,000	24	500	300	53	16,000
Sheridan	22,600	18,400	39	722,000	20	400	300	67	20,000
Valley	26,100	19,600	34	669,000	23	3,700	2,200	43	94,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTHEAST	186,000	141,000	39	5,525,000	–	10,500	7,500	58	435,000
Broadwater	10,500	9,100	70	637,000	25	6,400	5,100	89	454,000
Cascade	60,000	53,800	65	3,509,000	5	10,000	7,900	74	581,000
Fergus	82,000	70,300	48	3,407,000	6	1,700	700	79	55,000
Golden Valley	6,500	4,800	42	203,000	39	500	300	63	19,000
Judith Basin	51,000	44,200	49	2,179,000	9	1,600	1,200	70	84,000
Lewis & Clark	11,200	10,800	64	686,000	22	5,600	5,500	77	422,000
Meagher	19,000	13,500	43	587,000	28	4,300	2,200	73	160,000
Musselshell	4,800	3,500	43	149,000	44	800	500	80	40,000
Petroleum	2,600	1,800	52	94,000	49	700	400	78	31,000
Wheatland	16,400	14,200	45	632,000	26	2,400	1,200	63	75,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CENTRAL	264,000	226,000	53	12,083,000	–	34,000	25,000	77	1,921,000
Beaverhead	8,200	6,400	86	548,000	30	7,800	6,100	87	530,000
Gallatin	43,500	39,700	75	2,964,000	7	21,800	18,900	83	1,567,000
Jefferson	3,000	1,800	65	117,000	46	1,900	1,200	77	92,000
Madison	9,500	7,500	83	623,000	27	8,500	6,800	86	586,000
Silver Bow	800	600	88	53,000	52	800	600	88	53,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHWEST	65,000	56,000	77	4,305,000	–	40,800	33,600	84	2,828,000
Big Horn	19,900	16,700	56	932,000	17	8,000	7,100	72	513,000
Carbon	11,600	10,400	79	823,000	18	8,800	7,900	90	713,000
Park	9,400	6,900	53	368,000	34	4,500	2,900	64	186,000
Stillwater	12,500	10,700	40	424,000	33	1,500	1,100	78	86,000
Sweetgrass	3,600	2,700	46	124,000	45	1,000	800	65	52,000
Treasure	4,500	3,300	50	164,000	42	3,800	2,700	51	137,000
Yellowstone	24,500	22,300	59	1,305,000	13	13,700	12,000	76	915,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTH CENTRAL	86,000	73,000	57	4,140,000	–	41,300	34,500	75	2,602,000
Carter	5,700	2,800	35	97,000	48	100	100	60	6,000
Custer	5,800	3,300	51	168,000	41	1,800	1,300	67	87,000
Fallon	11,200	8,600	39	338,000	35	100	100	50	5,000
Powder River	5,000	3,600	43	154,000	43	500	400	53	21,000
Prairie	5,200	4,200	45	191,000	40	700	500	54	27,000
Rosebud	10,000	7,100	43	308,000	36	2,800	2,100	53	112,000
Wibaux	7,100	5,400	46	251,000	38	–	–	–	–
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHEAST	50,000	35,000	43	1,507,000	–	6,000	4,500	57	258,000
MONTANA	1,300,000	1,100,000	58	63,800,000	–	276,000	227,000	77	17,531,000

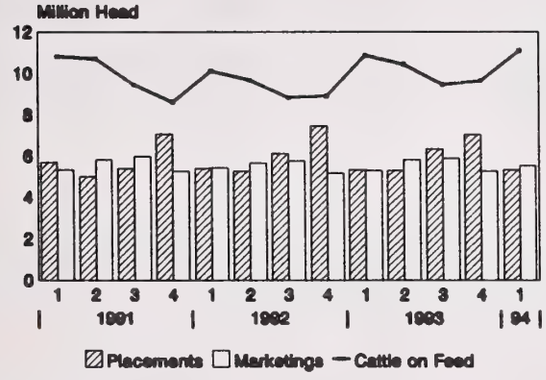
[1/] Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

QUARTERLY CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 10.6 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago and up 10 percent from April 1, 1992. The inventory included 7.12 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from a year ago and 13 percent above two years ago. This group accounts for 67.0 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.46 million head, 2 percent below a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the January-March 1994 quarter totaled 5.34 million, fractionally above last year, but 1 percent below January-March 1992. **Net placements** of 5.06 million for January-March were 4 percent above last year and 1 percent above January-March 1992. **Marketings** of fed cattle during the January-March 1994 quarter totaled 5.54 million, up 4 percent from the same quarter last year and 2 percent above two years ago. **Other disappearance** totaled 275,000 head compared to 439,000 in January-March 1993 and 404,000 in January-March 1992.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, KS,MN, NE OK, SD, TX WA)



MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.57 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 1994. This was a 27 percent increase from the previous month, and a 15 percent increase from a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, rose 400 head from last year. The average live weight, at 1,186 pounds, decreased 7 pounds from last year.

A total of 2,300 hogs were slaughtered in March, 100 less than a year ago. Average live weight increased 9 pounds to 243. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 200 head, was the same as last year. Average live weight, at 114 pounds, decreased 17 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.59 billion pounds during March. This production was 1 percent above the record high set in March 1977 and 6 percent above a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 2.00 billion pounds, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.86 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 40 pounds to 1,181 pounds. Veal production totaled 26.0 million pounds. This production was unchanged from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 114,000 head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 11 pounds to 384 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.53 billion pounds, rose 3 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 8.33 million head, 2 percent above a year earlier. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 253 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 34.0 million pounds, jumped 9 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 529,700 head, up 8 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 131 pounds.

MILK PRODUCTION

Montana's dairy farms produced 72 million pounds of milk during the January-March period, down 4 percent from the previous year. The number of milk cows on Montana farms totaled 21,000 head, down 1,000 head from 1993. The amount of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows amounted to 16.5 pounds per cow, the same as last year, with the value of those grains and concentrates rising 45 cents from last year to $7.55 per hundredweight.

Milk production in the 21 major States during March totaled 11.0 billion pounds, 1 percent less than production in these same States in March 1993. February revised production at 9.80 billion pounds was 1 percent below February 1993. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,374 pounds for March, 21 pounds more than March 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.00 million head, 175,000 head less than March 1993 and 20,000 less than February 1994.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.5 billion pounds, slightly below the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.61 million head, 168,000 less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1994, averaged 19.0 pounds per cow, 0.8 of a pound more than on April 1, 1993. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1, averaged $8.23 per hundredweight, $0.62 more than the price on April 1, 1993.

MARCH EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.28 billion during March 1994, up 3 percent from the 6.07 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.36 billion table eggs, 853 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 62.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during March 1994 averaged 289 million, up 2 percent from the 282 million a year ago. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,170 eggs, compared with 2,149 in March 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1994 totaled 290 million, compared with 282 million a year ago. The 290 million layers consisted of 239 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 47.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.80 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1994, averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from last year's 69.7 eggs per 100 layers.

APRIL 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana 's April 1, 1994 potato stocks totaled 1.77 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The percentage of 1993's total potato production that was still being stored on April 1 was 66 percent compared to 73 percent last year.

Potato stocks in the United States totaled 108 million cwt on April 1, 1994, down 6 percent from last year and slightly below two years ago. Stocks made up 30 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 31 percent a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled 258 million cwt, 2 percent more than last year. Processor usage of 123 million cwt was up 6 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 26.9 million cwt, 7 percent below last year. Processing in the eight major States claimed a record high 123 million cwt of potatoes from the 1993 crop so far, up 6 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. March processor usage was 17.0 million cwt, up 13 percent from the 15.1 million cwt a year ago and 7 percent above two years ago.

Western potato stocks totaled 86.0 million cwt in six States, down slightly from last year, but 5 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 9 percent and accounted for 54 percent of the Western holdings. Washington's stocks of 17.5 million cwt, were up 16 percent and Oregon's stocks jumped 47 percent from last year. California was down 16 percent from a year ago and Colorado was down 11 percent.

MONTANA 1993 SHEEP & LAMB LOSS

Montana sheep producers lost 108,000 sheep and lambs to all causes during 1993, representing a total value of $5.1 million. Total head lost declined 4 percent from 1992, but the value of those losses increased more than $. million.

Predators caused $1.8 million in losses, while non-predator factors accounted for $2.9 million and unknown causes claimed $.4 million. Coyotes remained the single largest cause of death, resulting in a $1.4 million loss. Coyotes accounted for 27 percent of the total value of death losses in the state. Non-predator losses accounted for 55 percent of all losses, down 1 point from the previous year.

Lambs losses by all predators amounted to 32,200 head, down 2 percent from last year. Lambs lost to weather, disease and other non-predator causes in 1993 totaled 36,100 head, down 11 percent from the previous year. Much of the decrease in predator and non-predator lamb losses was due to a 7 percent drop, 36,000 head, in lamb crop between 1992 and 1993.

Sheep killed by predators decreased 4 percent to total 8,000 head. Sheep losses to non-predator factors totaled 23,300, a 4 percent increase from 1992. A drop in sheep inventory, of 3 percent during 1993, was an important factor in the decreased predator losses. Lambs lost to unknown causes were up 34 percent to 4,700. Unknown causes claimed 3,700 head of sheep, down 14 percent from last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

1993 Dairy Products	Ag Prices Received
Crop Production	Poultry PDI
Pasture & Range Feed Condition	

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Highlights:

1994 Planting Intentions
Ag Chemical Usage
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

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Planting intentions and grain stocks estimates in this issue are the result of surveying approximately 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during March. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis.

SPECIAL THANKS to those operators who responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

1994 PLANTING INTENTIONS

Montana farmers intend to plant 7.3 million acres in 1994, about 0.2 million more acres than last year. Farmers were surveyed on March 1 for their planting intentions. Their plans are preliminary, depending on changes in weather, market conditions, etc.

The state's all wheat acreage is expected to be 5.65 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Winter wheat seeded last fall is 2.2 million acres, a decrease of 17 percent from a year ago. Hard spring wheat, at 3.2 million acres, is expected to be up 16 percent. Durum is up 117 percent with 250,000 acres expected to be planted. The steady increase in the price of durum wheat since late last year has contributed to an increase in acres expected to be planted.

Barley planted acreage is expected to be up 8 percent, at 1.4 million acres. Oats planting intentions are up 7 percent from a year ago at 150,000 acres, and they expect to harvest 80,000 acres compared with 70,000 acres in 1993. Sugar beet intended plantings, at 54,000 acres, are down 1 percent; dry beans, at 9,000 acres, are down 25 percent, and corn, at 60,000 acres, is down 8 percent. Farmers expect to harvest 2.4 million acres of all hay which reflects a 1 percent increase.

In the **United States** all wheat planted for 1994 is expected to total 71.5 million acres, down 1 percent from 1993. Winter wheat planted for 1994 is 50.8 million acres, up slightly from the total published in January but down 2 percent from 1993. Durum wheat seeded for 1994 is expected to total 2.59 million acres, up 18 percent from last year. Other spring wheat producers intend to seed 18.1 million acres of spring wheat other than durum this year, down 1 percent from 1993.

Barley growers intend to seed 7.56 million acres to barley for 1994, down 3 percent from the 7.83 million acres seeded last year. Oat producers plan to seed or have seeded a total of 6.91 million acres of oats for 1994, down 13 percent from the 7.94 million acres seeded in 1993.

AGRICULTURE CHEMICAL USE

A portion of the fourth annual Ag Chemical Usage report issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) containing on-farm agricultural chemical use statistics is included in this Reporter. The full report and/or additional information can be obtained by calling our office at (800) 835-2612. The data presented in the report are part of the data series on chemical use funded through the 1990 Water Quality Initiative.

Wheat Highlights

Nitrogen fertilizer was applied to 86 percent of the winter wheat harvested acres in the 13 surveyed States. Areas applied exceeded 60 percent in all States except South Dakota. In the surveyed States, about half the harvested area received phosphate fertilizer. Usage ranged from 14 percent in Colorado and Oregon to 95 percent in Ohio. Potash was used on 15 percent of the 13 State area with the Soft Red Winter producing States treating the highest percentage.

All States treated at least a portion of the harvested area with herbicides. The most widely used, in area applied and quantity, was 2,4-D. Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington treated over 90 percent of the harvested area with herbicides.

Fertilizer application in the four spring wheat States (MN, MT, ND, SD) averaged 87, 80, and 23 percent of the acreage for nitrogen, phosphate, and potash, respectively. Minnesota growers applied the highest coverage of nitrogen and potash and North Dakota applied the highest rate of phosphate.

Herbicides were widely used in all States, with 2,4-D and MCPA most prevalent. Insecticide and fungicide use was limited. (See tables on back page.)

PLANTED ACREAGE, 1992-1993, and INTENDED 1994, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1992	1993	1994	94/93	1992	1993	1994	94/93
	-- 1,000 Acres --			Pct.	-- 1,000 Acres --			Pct.
All Wheat	5,410.0	5,515.0	5,650.0	102	72,264.0	72,208.0	71,500.0	99
Winter Wheat	2,600.0	2,650.0	2,200.0	83	51,057.0	51,727.0	50,827.0	98
Durum	160.0	115.0	250.0	217	2,507.0	2,191.0	2,590.0	118
Hard Spring	2,650.0	2,750.0	3,200.0	116	18,700.0	18,290.0	18,083.0	99
Barley	1,350.0	1,300.0	1,400.0	108	7,809.0	7,826.0	7,555.0	97
Oats-Planted	165.0	140.0	150.0	107	7,961.0	7,944.0	6,908.0	87
-Harvested	70.0	70.0	80.0	114	4,492.0	3,793.0	4,337.0	114
Corn	70.0	65.0	60.0	92	79,340.0	73,323.0	78,625.0	107
Sugar Beets	55.9	54.4	54.0	99	1,436.7	1,441.4	1,457.4	101
Dry Beans	10.2	12.0	9.0	75	1,640.6	1,849.9	1,921.9	104
All Hay-Harvested	2,250.0	2,370.0	2,400.0	101	59,597.0	60,398.0	60,898.0	101

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
DISTRICT	Mar. 1, 1993	Dec. 1, 1993*	Mar. 1, 1994	Mar. 1, 1993	Dec. 1, 1993*	Mar. 1, 1994
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.9	0.9
North Central	31.0	91.1	58.6	11.0	28.2	19.2
Northeast	33.2	50.1	28.5	4.9	5.8	3.4
Central	10.5	17.3	13.1	4.8	7.9	6.4
Southwest	1.0	3.1	2.2	1.4	2.5	1.7
South Central	3.9	7.1	5.2	3.1	3.0	2.5
Southeast	4.6	6.5	3.5	0.6	0.9	0.9
STATE	84.8	176.0	112.0	26.8	50.2	35.0

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1993	Dec. 1, 1993*	Mar. 1, 1994	'94/'93	Mar. 1, 1993	Dec. 1, 1993*	Mar. 1, 1994
	----Thousand Bushels----				------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	60,000	150,000	87,000	145%	376,000	656,100	360,200
Off Farms [1/]	24,849	26,000	25,000	101%	667,343	930,037	656,434
TOTAL	84,849	176,000	112,000	132%	1,043,343	1,586,137	1,016,634
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	25,000	67,000	35,000	140%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	11,983	13,500	12,500	104%	--	--	--
TOTAL	36,983	80,500	47,500	128%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	35,000	83,000	52,000	149%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	12,866	12,500	12,500	97%	--	--	--
TOTAL	47,866	95,500	64,500	135%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	53,615	50,500	21,645
Off Farms [1/, 4/]	--	--	--	--	24,811	26,238	20,273
TOTAL	5,534	5,100	3,000	54%	78,426	76,738	41,918
BARLEY							
On Farms	20,000	42,000	25,000	125%	122,880	194,150	116,475
Off Farms [1/]	6,813	8,200	10,000	147%	121,057	139,277	109,269
TOTAL	26,813	50,200	35,000	131%	243,937	333,427	225,744
OATS							
On Farms	3,200	3,900	2,500	78%	110,250	124,200	85,050
Off Farms [1/]	119	180	120	101%	64,875	69,517	62,656
TOTAL	3,319	4,080	2,620	79%	175,125	193,717	147,706
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,630,000	3,803,000	2,210,200
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	2,048,215	2,133,548	1,784,45
TOTAL [4/]	--	--	--	--	5,678,215	5,936,548	3,994,651

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of February decreased from the month prior. Winter wheat declined 1 cent to $3.36 per bushel. Other spring wheat dropped 14 cents to $3.62, and durum wheat fell 46 cents to $4.80 per bushel. All barley, at $2.01, remained unchanged from January. At $1.26, oats averaged 9 cents below the previous month. Alfalfa hay prices, at $68.00 per ton, decreased $2.00 from January, while other hay prices, at $58.00 per ton, decreased $1.00. The all wheat price for mid-March averaged $3.33 per bushel while the all barley price was $1.99.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were lower, compared with the previous month, except for cows. Cow prices were up $1.30 to $47.20 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers decreased $1.50 to $83.70 per cwt. Calf prices fell 70 cents to $97.70 per cwt. Milk prices decreased 20 cents to $14.30 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $1.30 below last month at $32.40. Lamb prices fell 90 cents to $61.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $83.20 per cwt.

Nationally, steer and heifer prices averaged $73.30, up 20 cents from January. Hogs sold in February averaged $47.90, $2.50 higher than last month. Egg producers received 63.7 cents per dozen during February, 1.8 cents above January's average.

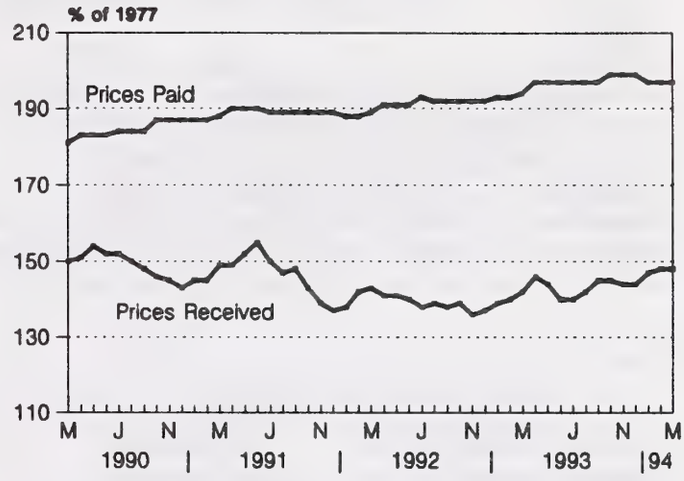
The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 148 based on 1977=100, unchanged from February. Price gains from February for cattle, tomatoes, potatoes, and sweet corn offset price declines for hogs, onions, tobacco, and wheat.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Feb. 1993	Mar. 1993	Feb. 1994	Mar. 1994
Prices Received	140	141	148	148
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/192	2/192	3/197	3/197
Ratio 1/	73	73	75	75

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1993 prices paid index. 3/ January 1994 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1994	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. Feb. 1994	Montana Mar. 15, 1994	U.S. Mar. 15, 1994
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.42	3.37	3.36	3.34	3.00	3.09
Durum	Bu.	3.11	5.26	4.80	5.36	5.50	5.78
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.76	3.62	3.68	3.50	3.54
All Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.59	3.53	3.58	3.33	3.37
Barley, All	Bu.	2.23	2.01	2.01	2.08	1.99	1.93
Feed	Bu.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.94	1.83	1.82
Malt	Bu.	2.48	2.60	2.64	2.51	2.43	2.26
Oats	Bu.	1.22	1.35	1.26	1.42	1.20	1.42
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	70.00	68.00	94.70	66.00	97.30
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	59.00	58.00	65.40	55.00	68.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	68.00	66.00	86.90	64.00	90.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	84.10	85.20	83.70	73.30	83.20	75.30
Cows	Cwt.	49.10	45.90	47.20	46.90	47.80	48.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	74.70	77.70	77.10	70.20	76.80	72.20
Calves	Cwt.	95.90	98.40	97.70	95.00	98.50	97.90
Sheep	Cwt.	32.80	33.70	32.40	35.20	34.00	34.60
Lambs	Cwt.	72.80	62.30	61.40	60.00	60.70	59.70
All Milk	Cwt.	13.10	14.50	14.30	13.50	13.90	13.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment.

WINTER WHEAT: Agricultural Chemical Application, Montana, 1993 1/

Agricultural Chemical 2/	Area Applied 3/	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		Mil Lbs.
Fertilizers:					
Nitrogen	88	1.5	28	41	89.7
Phosphate	84	1.0	28	29	59.0
Potash	12	1.1	15	17	4.7
	Percent	Number	Pounds Per Acre		1,000 Lbs.
Herbicides:					
2,4-D	96	1.0	0.35	0.36	838
Dicamba	54	1.0	0.07	0.07	97
Metsulfuron-methyl	38	1.0	0.004	0.004	3
Triallate	6	1.0	1.20	1.20	163
Insecticides:					
Permethrin	6	1.0	0.09	0.09	12

1/ Area harvested in 1993 for Montana was 2.45 million acres. 2/ Insufficient reports to publish data for the following agricultural chemicals: Herbicides: Imazamethabenz, MCPA, Metribuzin, Picloram, Triasulfuron. 3/ Refers to acres reported as receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical. Note: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

OTHER SPRING WHEAT: Agricultural Chemical Application, Montana, 1993 1/

Agricultural Chemical 2/	Area Applied 3/	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applie
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		Mil Lbs.
Fertilizers:					
Nitrogen	65	1.3	21	27	48.8
Phosphate	61	1.0	21	22	36.2
Potash	13	1.0	9	9	3.4
	Percent	Number	Pounds Per Acre		1,000 Lbs.
Herbicides:					
2,4-D	80	1.0	0.38	0.38	848
Dicamba	68	1.0	0.06	0.06	106
MCPA	6	1.0	0.22	0.22	36
Metsulfuron-methyl	15	1.0	0.004	0.004	1
Triasulfuron	6	1.0	0.008	0.008	1

1/ Area planted in 1993 for Montana was 2.75 million acres. 2/ Insufficient reports to publish data for the following agricultural chemicals: Herbicides: Fenoxaprop-ethyl, Glyphosate, Imazamethabenz, Picloram, Thifensulfuron, Triallate, Tribenuron-methyl. 3/ Refers to acres reported as receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical. Note: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses	Egg Production
Barley County Estimates	Potato Stocks
Meat Animals PDI	Cattle on Feed
Milk Production	Slaughter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

February & 1993 Slaughter
7 State Cattle on Feed
February Milk Production
Quarterly Egg Production
Sheep & Lambs on Feed
Hog & Pig Inventory
Wool & Mohair

FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.24 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 1994. This was a 21 percent decrease from January, but a 10 percent increase from a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered, was 1,400 head up 17 percent from last year. The average live weight was 1,158 pounds, up 24 pounds from 1993.

A total of 2,100 hogs were slaughtered in February, the same as a year ago. Average live weight increased 8 pounds to 249. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 200 head, was the same as a year ago. Average live weight, at 124 pounds, increased 1 pound.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.13 billion pounds during February. This production was 1 percent above the record high set in February 1984 and 4 percent above a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.56 million, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 31 pounds to 1,186 pounds. Veal production totaled 22.0 million pounds, up 1 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 96,100 head, down 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 11 pounds to 384 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.28 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 6.95 million head, 2 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 253 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 27.0 million pounds, was up 7 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 418,800 head, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight remained the same at 129 pounds.

January-February red meat production was 6.49 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent, veal was up 3 percent, pork was down 3 percent, and lamb and mutton was up 3 percent.

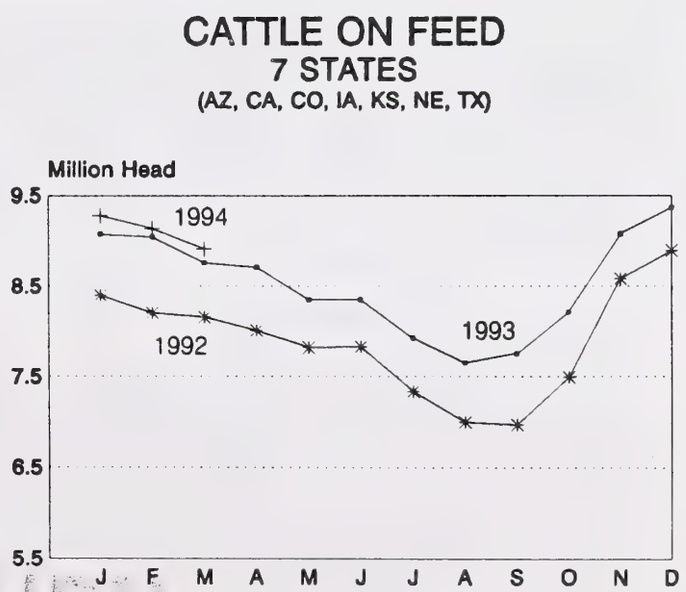
7 STATE CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.91 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago and up 9 percent from March 1, 1992. This is the largest March inventory for the 7 States since 1974.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.35 million, 7 percent above 1993 but 10 percent below 1992. Net placements of 1.27 million for February were up 10 percent from last year but 7 percent below 1992.

Marketings during February totaled 1.50 million, up 4 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above 1992. Other disappearance during February was 76,000 head, 31 percent below last year and 37 percent below 1992.

Cattle and calves on feed March 1, 1994, for the 7 States in the feedlots with 1,000 or more head capacity totaled 7.81 million head, 4 percent above the previous year. The inventory in the 1,000+ capacity feedlots accounted for 87.7 percent of the total inventory.



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MARCH 1 SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED

The number of sheep and lambs on feed March 1, 1994, for the slaughter market on **Montana** farms and ranches totaled 12,000 head, 500 head more than a year ago at this time. Lambs accounted for 83 percent of the total.

There were 10,000 lambs in feedlots, with 5,000 being in the 85-105 weight category. Montana placed 900 lambs on feed during January and February. Marketings during this period totaled 17,000 head, while 500 ewe lambs were returned to the breeding herd.

Sheep and lambs on feed March 1, 1994, for slaughter market in the **16 major producing States** totaled 1.22 million head, up 3 percent from the 1.18 million head in March 1993. The inventory included 1.17 million lambs for slaughter market and 43,000 mature sheep.

Of the total lambs on feed, 59 percent were in feedlots. Last March, 69 percent were in a feedlot and 31 percent were on pasture and/or crop residue. The percentage of feedlot lambs on March 1 by weight class were: 12 percent under 85 pounds, 34 percent between 85-105 pounds and 55 percent over 105 pounds. For lambs on pasture and/or crop residue, 34 percent were under 85 pounds, 33 percent between 85-105 pounds and 33 percent over 105 pounds.

Placements of lambs on feed in the 16 States during January and February 1994 totaled 426,000 head while marketings of fed lambs for slaughter during the same period totaled 654,000 head. Ewe lambs originally intended for slaughter but returned to the breeding herd as replacements during January and February 1994 totaled 15,500 head.

1993 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 17.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 1993, up 1 percent from 1992. Cattle slaughter totaled 22.9 million pounds, hog slaughter was 6.8 million pounds, and sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 421 thousand pounds. A total of 19,000 cattle were slaughtered during the year, averaging 1,204 pounds. Hog slaughter amounted to 29,200 head with an average live weight of 234 pounds. The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1993 was 3,600 head averaging 117 pounds, live weight.

Red meat production in commercial plants for the **United States** during 1993 totaled 40.8 billion pounds, 1 percent below 1992. Beef production was 23.0 billion pounds, down slightly from 1992. Veal production was 286 million pounds, down 8 percent from 1992. Pork production, at 17.1 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from 1992. Lamb and mutton production totaled 337 million pounds, down 3 percent from 1992.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1993 totaled 33.3 million head, up 1 percent from 1992. The average live weight was 1,161 pounds, down 8 pounds from last year. Steers comprised 51.7 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 28.1 percent, and dairy and beef cows slightly over 9 percent each.

Commercial calf slaughter, at 1.19 million head, was down 13 percent from the previous year. Average live weight was 388 pounds, up 12 pounds from 1992.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 93.1 million head, down 2 percent from 1992. Average live weight rose 2 pounds to 254 pounds. Barrow and gilts were 95.0 percent of the total. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 5.2 million head, was down 6 percent from 1992. Average live weight was 127 pounds, compared with 125 pounds last year. Lambs were 94.1 percent of the total.

There were 1,030 slaughtering plants under fede inspection compared with 1,090 last year. Of these, 934 slaughtered cattle with twelve plants slaughtering almost half of the total head. Ten of the total 891 plants slaughtering hogs, accounted for almost 40 percent of the total. Likewise, four plants slaughtered over half of the sheep and lambs.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER BY SPECIES AND TOTAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION, MONTANA, 1993

Month	Cattle	Pork	Sheep & Lambs	Red Meat
	Number of Head			(000) Lbs.
Jan	1,400	2,300	200	1,272
Feb	1,200	2,100	200	1,132
Mar	1,500	2,400	100	1,370
Apr	1,400	2,100	100	1,220
May	1,400	1,900	100	1,237
Jun	1,600	2,400	200	1,520
Jul	1,700	2,400	300	1,533
Aug	1,800	3,600	700	1,831
Sep	1,600	2,600	400	1,487
Oct	1,800	2,500	500	1,598
Nov	1,700	2,500	300	1,48
Dec	1,900	2,300	300	1,582
Total 1/	19,000	29,200	3,600	17,262

1/ Months may not add to totals due to rounding.

MARCH 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana's March 1, 1994 potato stocks totaled 2.37 million cwt, up 8 percent from a year earlier. The amount in storage is 88 percent of 1993's total production, compared with 89 percent a year ago.

Stocks of potatoes in the United States on the first of March totaled 146 million cwt, down 4 percent from a year ago but slightly above two years ago. Disappearance reached a record high 220 million cwt of potatoes this season, 2 percent more than last year. Shrink and loss of 24.9 million cwt was 3 percent less than a year ago. Processor usage, at 106 million cwt of potatoes, was up 5 percent for the season. February processing was 16.0 million cwt, up 4 percent. Both were record highs.

Western States' potato stocks totaled 113 million cwt in six States, up 3 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 7 percent from last year and accounted for 53 percent of the Western holdings. California's stocks were down 7 percent and Colorado was off 8 percent. Oregon and Washington had the largest increase in stocks over last year, 48 and 21 percent, respectively.

1993 U.S. WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 7 PERCENT

Montana wool growers produced 5.6 million pounds of wool during 1993, down 5 percent from 1992. The total value of wool produced, at $3.0 million, dropped 40 percent from last year. The total head shorn decreased 5 percent to 574,000, but the average fleece weight of 9.7 pounds remained unchanged from 1992. The average price per pound of wool sold was 54 cents, falling 31 cents from 1992.

Shorn wool production in the **United States** during 1993 was 77.3 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1992. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 9.93 million head, a decrease of 5 percent from 1992. The average price paid for wool sold in 1993 was $0.51 per pound for a total value of $39.0 million, down 35 percent from $60.1 million in 1992.

MARCH 1 HOG AND PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1994, was 55.6 million head. This was 2 percent below March 1993 and 2 percent below the December 1, 1993, inventory.

Breeding inventory, at 7.03 million head, was down slightly from both March 1, 1993, and the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 48.6 million head, was 2 percent below both March 1, 1993, and December 1, 1993.

The December 1993-February 1994 U.S. pig crop was 22.6 million head, 1 percent less than 1993 and down 3 percent from the same period in 1992. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.80 million head, virtually unchanged from last year but 3 percent below two years ago. Pigs saved per litter was 8.08 compared to 8.14 during the same period a year ago.

U.S. producers intend to have 3.15 million sows farrow during the March-May 1994 quarter, 2 percent lower than actual farrowings during the same period last year and 7 percent below 1992. Farrowing intentions for June-August 1994, at 2.98 million sows, are the same as the actual 1993 farrowings and down 1 percent from 1992.

COMMODITY OVERVIEW

U.S. farm output to rebound: A return to normal weather in 1994 should set the stage for a more productive year for U.S. agriculture. With recovery from the flood and drought of 1993, crop production will likely increase 5 to 10 percent. Added to an expected record output of animal products, this would raise total farm production 5 percent from last year.

Higher prices for many commodities are expected, due to last year's smaller crop and reduced carryin. Larger output and higher crop prices will mean increased marketing revenue for farmers in 1994.

The strong growth in personal income combined with lower unemployment expected in the U.S. in 1994, will absorb much of the large meat supplies that are expected, supporting both grain and livestock prices. Stronger economic growth internationally will also support greater farm sales in 1994. The zero-to-negative real income growth achieved in 1993 by the developed countries is likely to be replaced by slow-to-moderate recoveries.

U.S. ag exports steady: U.S. agricultural exports for fiscal 1994 are again pegged at about $42.5 billion. With imports also forecast unchanged from last year, an agricultural trade surplus of $18 billion is again expected. Export volume, however, is expected to drop about 10 percent, mostly due to lower shipments of corn, wheat, and soybeans. The U.S. trade forecast for fiscal 1994 reflects:

- prospects for relatively weak economic growth in Europe and Japan;
- smaller U.S. grain and oilseed supplies;
- increased grain production by some competitors and importers; and
- uncertainties about exports to the former Soviet Union and China.

FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.56 billion during February 1994, up 2 percent from the 5.43 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.74 billion table eggs, 764 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 58.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during February 1994 averaged 288 million, up 2 percent from the 282 million a year ago. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,928 eggs, compared with 1,923 in February 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1994, totaled 289 million, compared with 282 million a year ago. The 289 million layers consisted of 239 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 47.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1994, averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from last year's 69.4 eggs per 100 layers.

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during February totaled 9.79 billion pounds, 1 percent less than production in these same States in February 1993. January revised production at 10.6 billion pounds was 1 percent below January 1993.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,221 pounds for February, 12 pounds more than February 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.02 million head, 175,000 head less than February 1993 and 24,000 less than January 1994.

During the October-December period, the 21 major States produced 30.8 billion pounds of milk, 84.2 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 11.6 billion pounds for February 1994.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Ag Chemical Usage
Prospective Plantings Grain Stocks

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

Wheat & Barley Movement
All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Alfalfa Seed Production

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

Wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during June-November 1993, at 65.2 million bushels, was 65 percent above the same period last year.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 69 percent above the previous June-November period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was up 53 percent. Shipments to other destinations (primarily Colorado and Arizona) were down 13 percent. Rail movement amounted to 60.5 million bushels, up from 35.2 million shipped by rail during the same period in 1992. Trucks carried 4.7 million bushels compared with 4.2 million the previous June-November period.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1993 was 12.6 million bushels, up 59 percent from the same period last year. Barley shipped west amounted to 10.5 million bushels, up 56 percent from the 6.7 million bushels in the June-November 1992 period. Eastern shipments totalled 1.8 million bushels, up 59 percent from the 1.2 million bushels the previous year. Movement to other destinations, totalling 236,000 bushels, was up 354 percent from the same period last year.

Montana Wheat and Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/]

Agricultural Statistics Districts	June-November 1992 Winter Wheat	June-November 1992 Spring Wheat [2/]	June-November 1992 All Wheat	June-November 1993 Winter Wheat	June-November 1993 Spring Wheat [2/]	June-November 1993 All Wheat	June-Nov. 1992 Barley	June-Nov. 1993 Barley
	--- 000 Bushels ---							
West [3/]	426	1,321	1,747	422	1,738	2,160	2,532	5,014
North Central	3,519	9,879	13,398	13,893	11,177	25,070	3,167	4,741
Northeast	762	12,324	13,086	1,757	19,651	21,408	1,029	1,259
Central	2,087	1,091	3,178	5,750	1,340	7,090	1,118	1,506
South Central	4,311	1,466	5,777	4,762	733	5,495	17	21
Southeast	1,325	925	2,250	2,464	1,474	3,938	48	24
Trucked East	13	107	120	41	186	227	38	158
Trucked West	1,229	2,311	3,540	1,989	2,179	4,168	1,207	763
Trucked Other [4/]	177	391	568	95	193	288	44	68
Total By Truck	1,419	2,809	4,228	2,125	2,558	4,683	1,289	989
Rail East	70	1,604	1,674	40	2,476	2,516	1,127	1,696
Rail West	10,904	21,642	32,546	26,855	30,048	59,903	5,487	9,712
Rail Other [4/]	37	951	988	28	1,031	1,059	8	168
Total By Rail	11,011	24,197	35,208	26,923	33,555	60,478	6,622	11,576
Total Shipped	12,430	27,006	39,436	29,048	36,113	65,161	7,911	12,565

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1993

County and District	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres [1]	Net Planted Acres [2]	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Rank	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deerlodge	1,400	1,400	1,400	57.9	81,000	46	1,200	1,200	62.5	75,000
Flathead	13,700	13,600	13,000	66.5	865,000	29	4,400	4,200	64.5	271,000
Granite	300	300	200	55.0	11,000	49	100	100	60.0	6,000
Lake	17,700	17,700	17,100	59.8	1,022,000	28	8,300	8,100	72.6	588,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	800	800	800	70.0	56,000	48	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,800	2,800	2,300	49.6	114,000	43	1,000	1,000	58.0	58,000
Powell	2,000	2,000	1,800	40.6	73,000	47	500	500	60.0	30,000
Ravalli	2,300	2,300	2,200	50.5	111,000	44	1,200	1,100	70.0	77,000
Sanders	3,000	3,000	2,700	31.5	85,000	45	700	700	57.1	40,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**44,000**	**43,900**	**41,500**	**58.3**	**2,418,000**	**--**	**17,400**	**16,900**	**67.8**	**1,145,000**
Blaine	190,600	190,600	184,000	37.2	6,842,000	11	11,100	10,900	51.9	566,000
Chouteau	566,300	564,600	522,400	42.9	22,420,000	1	3,500	3,300	71.8	237,000
Glacier	156,600	156,200	142,200	42.1	5,986,000	12	7,500	7,000	54.4	381,000
Hill	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Liberty	262,200	262,200	255,000	45.7	11,651,000	2	2,500	2,200	57.7	127,000
Phillips	142,100	142,100	136,600	33.2	4,535,000	17	4,400	4,300	53.3	229,000
Pondera	204,300	202,600	195,700	52.4	10,257,000	3	16,200	15,300	59.0	902,000
Teton	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Toole	241,700	241,300	235,500	42.2	9,942,000	4	400	400	45.0	18,000
Other	684,600	681,700	653,600	44.7	29,245,000	--	12,700	10,900	58.7	640,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,448,400**	**2,441,300**	**2,325,000**	**43.4**	**100,878,000**	**--**	**58,300**	**54,300**	**57.1**	**3,100,000**
Daniels	218,200	218,200	215,500	31.8	6,847,000	10	200	200	50.0	10,000
Dawson	154,000	154,000	149,500	31.9	4,768,000	15	1,900	1,900	65.3	124,000
Garfield	110,400	110,400	95,000	32.0	3,039,000	20	400	400	47.5	19,000
McCone	198,000	198,000	189,300	28.9	5,462,000	14	1,500	1,400	47.1	66,000
Richland	170,400	170,400	165,700	34.7	5,752,000	13	13,500	13,500	57.1	771,000
Roosevelt	290,500	290,500	282,500	31.2	8,823,000	6	3,700	3,400	42.9	146,000
Sheridan	258,400	258,000	255,900	32.7	8,371,000	7	1,200	1,200	65.0	78,000
Valley	281,200	281,000	275,100	28.7	7,882,000	8	14,900	14,700	47.8	702,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**1,681,100**	**1,680,500**	**1,628,500**	**31.3**	**50,944,000**	**--**	**37,300**	**36,700**	**52.2**	**1,916,000**
Broadwater	36,000	36,000	34,800	58.6	2,040,000	21	12,900	12,600	73.6	927,000
Cascade	160,500	160,500	153,200	59.8	9,167,000	5	5,800	5,700	65.8	375,000
Fergus	186,200	186,200	170,200	40.4	6,872,000	9	800	700	45.7	32,000
Golden Valley	32,300	32,300	31,000	27.8	862,000	30	800	800	53.8	43,000
Judith Basin	82,100	82,100	75,300	43.3	3,259,000	18	600	600	48.3	29,000
Lewis & Clark	20,900	20,900	20,000	42.9	857,000	31	2,200	2,100	56.7	119,000
Meagher	11,000	11,000	9,900	39.7	393,000	39	1,500	900	50.0	45,000
Musselshell	30,300	30,300	28,400	27.2	772,000	33	300	300	50.0	15,000
Petroleum	27,900	27,900	26,700	28.2	754,000	34	1,100	1,000	44.0	44,000
Wheatland	40,800	40,800	36,500	39.2	1,429,000	23	200	100	50.0	5,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**628,000**	**628,000**	**586,000**	**45.1**	**26,405,000**	**--**	**26,200**	**24,800**	**65.9**	**1,634,000**
Beaverhead	10,300	10,300	10,000	65.2	652,000	35	5,700	5,700	78.6	448,000
Gallatin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jefferson	3,500	3,500	3,200	45.3	145,000	42	100	100	80.0	8,000
Madison	9,100	9,100	8,300	56.3	467,000	37	4,400	4,000	63.3	253,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	47,200	47,200	44,100	70.7	3,117,000	--	12,800	12,500	78.6	982,000
SOUTHWEST	**70,100**	**70,100**	**65,600**	**66.8**	**4,381,000**	**--**	**23,000**	**22,300**	**75.8**	**1,691,000**
Big Horn	142,000	141,600	128,500	35.6	4,570,000	16	10,100	9,700	53.0	514,000
Carbon	15,000	15,000	12,900	41.2	532,000	36	2,000	1,500	56.7	85,000
Park	12,500	12,000	10,800	41.6	449,000	38	3,100	2,700	44.4	120,000
Stillwater	52,000	52,000	47,600	32.2	1,535,000	22	500	500	44.0	22,000
Sweetgrass	4,500	4,500	4,100	42.9	176,000	41	300	300	46.7	14,000
Treasure	6,200	6,000	5,400	39.1	211,000	40	2,400	2,100	51.9	109,000
Yellowstone	103,800	103,800	90,700	33.6	3,052,000	19	4,300	3,800	62.4	237,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**336,000**	**334,900**	**300,000**	**35.1**	**10,525,000**	**--**	**22,700**	**20,600**	**53.4**	**1,101,000**
Carter	37,600	37,600	32,000	32.6	1,043,000	27	--	--	--	--
Custer	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fallon	48,100	48,100	35,800	31.0	1,109,000	26	--	--	--	--
Powder River	28,800	28,800	25,400	31.7	805,000	32	500	500	58.0	29,000
Prairie	40,800	40,800	37,800	33.7	1,272,000	25	2,000	1,900	60.5	115,000
Rosebud	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wibaux	45,300	45,300	42,900	32.2	1,382,000	24	200	200	50.0	10,000
Other	106,800	106,800	93,500	35.5	3,322,000	--	7,600	7,500	57.9	434,000
SOUTHEAST	**307,400**	**307,400**	**267,400**	**33.4**	**8,933,000**	**--**	**10,300**	**10,100**	**58.2**	**588,000**
MONTANA	**5,515,000**	**5,506,100**	**5,214,000**	**39.2**	**204,484,000**	**--**	**195,200**	**185,700**	**60.2**	**11,175,000**

[1] Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of wheat are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
[2] Planted acres less winter wheat acres replanted to spring wheat.

PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for the full month of January were mixed. Winter wheat remained unchanged at $3.37 a bushel. Other spring wheat increased 3 cents to $3.76, and durum wheat rose 53 cents to $5.26 per bushel. All barley, at $2.01, dropped 14 cents from December. At $1.35, oats averaged 11 cents below the previous month. Other hay remained unchanged, at $59.00 per ton, while alfalfa hay prices, at $70.00 per ton, decreased $1.00 from December. The all wheat price for mid-February averaged $3.50 per bushel, while the all barley price was $1.99.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were higher, compared with the previous month, except for steers and heifers and lambs. Cow prices were up $1.30 to $45.90 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers decreased 40 cents to $85.20 per cwt. Calf prices rose $4.00 to $98.40 per cwt. Milk prices increased 20 cents to $14.40 per cwt. Prices received for sheep averaged $4.90 above last month at $33.70. Lamb prices fell $6.10 to $62.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $83.40 per cwt.

Nationally, cattlemen received $73.10 for steers and heifers, up $1.10 from December's average. Hogs sold during January averaged $43.50 per cwt, up from the December average of $40.60. U.S. egg producers received 61.9 cents per dozen eggs, down 1.2 cents from December.

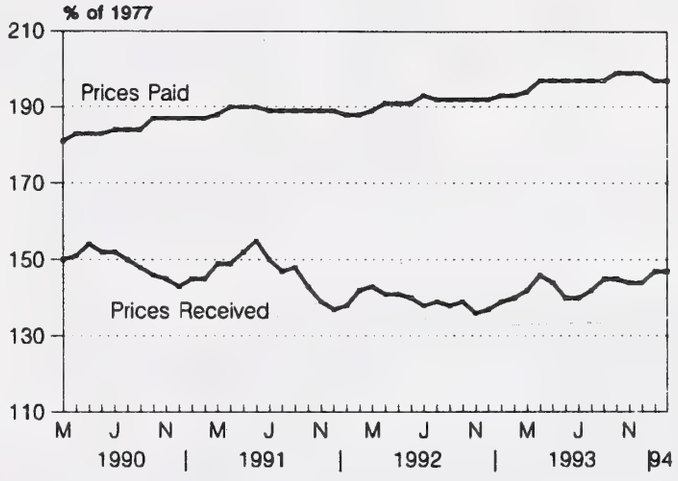
The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 147 based on 1977=100, unchanged from January. Price gains from January for hogs, lettuce, cotton, and strawberries offset price declines for cattle, milk, tomatoes, and sweet corn.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1993	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1994
Prices Received	138	140	147	147
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	192	2/192	197	3/197
Ratio 1/	72	73	75	75

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1993 prices paid index. 3/ January 1994 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1993	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1994	U.S. Monthly Avg. Jan. 1994	Montana Feb. 15, 1994	U.S. Feb. 15, 1994
PRICES RECEIVED				Dollars			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.37	3.37	3.38	3.10	3.27
Durum	Bu.	3.20	4.73	5.26	4.97	5.90	5.23
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.73	3.76	3.69	3.80	3.72
All Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.56	3.59	3.57	3.50	3.52
Barley, All	Bu.	2.41	2.15	2.01	2.11	1.99	2.02
Feed	Bu.	1.92	1.80	1.86	1.97	1.91	1.89
Malt	Bu.	2.97	2.85	2.60	2.44	2.31	2.31
Oats	Bu.	1.20	1.46	1.35	1.41	1.25	1.44
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	71.00	70.00	91.80	68.00	94.70
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	59.00	59.00	67.70	58.00	65.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	69.00	68.00	85.70	66.00	86.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	87.40	85.60	85.20	73.10	83.40	72.00
Cows	Cwt.	47.80	44.60	45.90	45.40	47.40	46.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	74.40	70.40	77.70	70.00	76.20	69.10
Calves	Cwt.	96.30	94.40	98.40	94.00	97.90	94.30
Sheep	Cwt.	30.80	28.80	33.70	33.40	29.30	34.60
Lambs	Cwt.	69.10	68.40	62.30	60.80	60.30	60.00
All Milk	Cwt.	13.30	14.20	14.40	13.70	14.20	13.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment.

1993 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Montana alfalfa seed producers harvested 1.2 million pounds of seed in 1993, amounting to 48 percent of the previous year's production. Proprietary varieties made up 65 percent of this year's production, 33 percent was common uncertified varieties, and 2 percent certified public varieties.

The 1993 alfalfa seed yield per acre was 160 pounds, down from the 1992 yield of 265 pounds. Acres harvested for seed in 1993, at 7,500, is down 21 percent from 1992. The average price received for the 1993 crop was 97 cents per pound, up one cent from the average price of the 1992 crop.

MONTANA ALFALFA SEED: 1993 ESTIMATES BY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS

DIS-	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
TRICT	Acres	Prod	Yield	Acres	Prod	Yield	Acres	Prod	Yield
NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC	1,100	135,000	123	900	117,000	130	200	18,000	90
NE	100	10,000	100	100	10,000	100	0	0	0
C	500	35,000	70	500	35,000	70	0	0	0
SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SC	3,100	731,000	236	2,800	687,000	245	300	44,000	147
SE	2,700	289,000	107	1,000	91,000	91	1,700	198,000	116
MT	7,500	1,200,000	160	5,300	940,000	177	2,200	260,000	118

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs
Annual Slaughter
Wool & Mohair
Sheep & Lambs on Feed
Quarterly Egg Production
February Slaughter
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production

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Highlights:

January Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
January Milk Production
February 1 Potato Stocks
January Egg Production
Honey Production

JANUARY 1994 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.57 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 1994. This was a 1 percent decrease from December, and a 24 percent increase from a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, is a 36 percent increase from last year. The average live weight, at 1,166 pounds, increased 43 pounds from 1993.

A total of 2,400 hogs were slaughtered in January, an increase of 100 from a year ago. Average live weight decreased 6 pounds to 246. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 200 head, was the same as a year ago. Average live weight, at 107 pounds, decreased 19 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.37 billion pounds during January. This production was 2 percent above a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 1.94 billion pounds, a 7 percent increase from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.74 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 27 pounds to 1,191 pounds. Veal production totaled 23.0 million pounds, up 4 percent from the record low a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 102,000 head, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 20 pounds to 385 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.38 billion pounds, was down 4 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.47 million head, 5 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight remained the same at 254 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 25.0 million pounds, remained the same as a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 394,600 head, virtually unchanged from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 127 pounds.

7 STATE CATTLE ON FEED UP 1 PERCENT

February 1 cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 9.14 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago and up 11 percent from February 1, 1992. This is the largest February 7-State inventory since 1974.

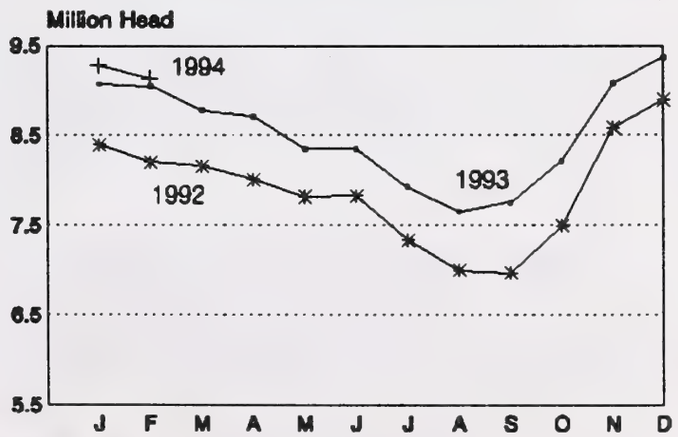
Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.54 million, 5 percent below 1993 and 1 percent below 1992. Net placements of 1.47 million for January were down 1 percent from last year but fractionally above 1992.

Other disappearance during January was 71,000 head, 45 percent below last year and 28 percent below 1992. Marketings during January totaled 1.61 million, up 6 percent from a year ago but 3 percent below 1992.

Cattle on feed February 1, 1994, for the 7 States in the feedlots with 1,000 or more head capacity totaled 7.95 million head, up 2 percent from the previous year. The inventory in the 1,000+ capacity feedlots accounted for 87.0 percent of the total inventory.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
MAR 1 6 1994
MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



FARM LABOR WAGE RATES UP, WORKERS DOWN

There were 2.48 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9 - 15, 1994. This compares with 2.51 million people during the January 1993 survey week. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.37 million of the total, along with 336,000 unpaid workers, and 637,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 140,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.54 per hour during the January 1994 survey week. This rate was up 14 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.11 per hour compared with $5.99 in January 1993. Field workers received an average of $6.14 per hour, up 12 cents from the January 1993 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.75 per hour compared with $5.64 a year earlier.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 45 percent of the hired workers during the survey week, compared to 45 percent in January 1993.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.76 per hour during the January 1994 survey week, up 11 percent from a year ago. Field workers received $5.76, a decrease of $1.10, while livestock workers received $6.09, up 14 cents from a year ago.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JANUARY 9-15, 1994 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER 3/					METHOD OF PAY 4/		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	7.10	5.35	5.99	10.99	7.83	7.25	5/	6.77
Northeast II	6.11	5.38	5.69	9.51	8.94	6.25	5/	6.20
Appalachian I	5.56	5.82	5.71	8.72	5/	5.75	5/	6.58
Appalachian II	5.08	5.24	5.17	5/	5/	5.37	5/	5/
FL	6.37	6.60	6.38	11.65	9.80	6.23	6.90	10.60
Lake	6.34	5.17	5.41	11.01	8.96	5.70	5/	6.33
Cornbelt I	6.36	5.81	6.05	8.70	6.48	6.32	5/	6.72
Cornbelt II	5.80	5.75	5.76	8.98	5/	5.77	5/	6.62
Delta	5.53	5.82	5.66	5/	5/	5.65	5/	6.45
Northern Plains	6.95	6.28	6.43	10.55	8.42	6.28	5/	7.57
Southern Plains	5.04	5.31	5.16	8.15	5/	5.27	5/	6.06
Mountain I	5.76	6.09	6.01	7.98	6.38	6.76	5/	6.27
Mountain II	5.62	5.51	5.55	9.19	5/	5.62	5/	7.00
Mountain III	5.79	6.08	5.88	5/	9.93	5.66	7.35	7.32
Pacific	6.26	6.34	6.28	10.74	8.69	6.15	7.05	9.11
CA	6.30	6.87	6.38	12.86	9.00	6.35	7.00	9.80
HI	8.60	5/	8.57	15.31	5/	8.76	5/	13.74
US 6/	6.14	5.75	5.99	10.47	8.00	6.11	6.88	7.36

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Livestock, Supervisory, and Other published at Regional and U. S. level only. 4/ Piece Rate and Other published at regional and U. S. level only. 5/ Insufficient Data. 6/ Excludes AK.

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during January totaled 10.6 billion pounds, 1 percent less than production in these same States in January 1993. December revised production, at 10.5 billion pounds, was 2 percent below December 1992.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,319 pounds for January, 14 pounds more than January 1993. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.04 million head, 178,000 head less than January 1993 and 13,000 less than December 1993.

During the October-December period, the 21 major States produced 30.8 billion pounds of milk, 84.2 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.6 billion pounds for January 1994.

FEBRUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana's February 1, 1994 potato stocks totaled 2.4 million cwt, up 9 percent from a year earlier. The amount in storage is 90 percent of 1993's total production, compared with 91 percent a year ago.

February 1, 1994 potato stocks totaled 178 million cwt for the U. S., down 4 percent from a year earlier and slightly below two years ago. Disappearance was a record high 188 million cwt, up 2 percent from each of the last two years. Processing accounted for 90.0 million cwt through January, 6 percent more than last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss of 22.7 million cwt was down 1 percent from last year but 7 percent above two years ago. Storages held 49 percent of 1993 fall production on February 1, one percentage point less than last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 16 percent white, and 82 percent russet, with more russet and less white and red than a year ago.

Western States held 134 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1994. This is up 3 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Oregon's stocks were up 36 percent and Washington gained 18 percent. Idaho's stocks were off 5 percent and accounted for 52 percent of the Western total. Colorado's stocks were down 2 percent from last year and California's storage was off 6 percent.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1993-94

STATE	CROP OF 1992			CROP OF 1993		
	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1993	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1994	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	5,600	3,100	55	4,800	2,900	60
CO	22,110	13,600	62	25,270	13,300	53
ID	127,050	74,000	58	121,460	70,000	58
ME	24,300	13,100	54	20,540	10,500	51
MI	10,800	4,200	39	11,780	4,400	37
MN	16,080	8,800	55	12,100	5,700	47
MT	2,465	2,240	91	2,700	2,440	90
NE	2,698	1,070	40	3,008	1,370	46
NY--LI	1,984	340	17	1,643	250	15
NY--UPST	5,824	1,900	33	6,050	2,400	40
ND	27,690	13,000	47	19,980	9,000	45
OH	1,440	110	8	1,140	110	10
OR	21,075	11,700	56	23,277	15,900	68
PA	4,940	1,600	32	4,600	1,100	24
WA	69,300	24,900	36	85,500	29,500	35
WI	25,160	10,900	43	22,240	9,200	41
Total 15 States	368,516	184,560	50	366,088	178,070	49

JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.14 billion during January 1994, up 2 percent from the 6.03 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.24 billion table eggs, 833 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 61.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during January 1994 averaged 288 million, up 2 percent from the 282 million a year ago. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,132 eggs, compared with 2,138 in January 1993.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 1994, totaled 288 million, compared with 283 million a year ago. The 288 million layers consisted of 238 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 46.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.81 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1994, averaged 68.1 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from last year's 68.2 eggs per 100 layers.

Monthly estimates of layers and egg production for individual States have been expanded from 20 States to 30 beginning with this January 1994 report. The 30 major states account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Estimates for the other 20 States are combined and published monthly as "Other States." Quarterly estimates for minor States, including Montana, are discontinued. Estimates of layers and egg production for the minor States will be published annually.

MONTANA'S HONEY PRODUCTION DROPPED 11 PERCENT

Montana's honey production from producers with 5 or more colonies in 1993 totaled 8.5 million pounds, down 11 percent from 1992. There were 87,000 colonies producing honey in 1993, the same as last year. Yield per colony averaged 98 pounds, down 12 pounds from the previous year. Honey stocks held by producers on December 15, 1993, totalled 1.5 million pounds, down 20 percent from a year ago.

The average price per pound reported by Montana apiarists was 54 cents, down 1 cent from the previous year. The 1993 value of production for Montana's honey was 4.6 million dollars, compared with 5.3 million dollars in 1992.

U.S. honey production in 1993 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 230 million pounds, up 4 percent from 1992. There were 2.88 million colonies producing honey in 1993, compared with 3.03 million in 1992. Yield per colony averaged 80.1 pounds, up 7.3 pounds from the 72.8 pounds in 1992. Colonies that produced in more than one State were counted in each State and yields may be understated. Producer honey stocks were 49.1 million pounds on December 15, 1993, up 26 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1993 crop averaged 54.4 cents per pound, down 1 percent from the 1992 price of 55.0 cents per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting State average prices by the State quantities sold. Government payments are excluded from the honey prices. Lower prices received for water white and extra light amber resulted in the lower price for all honey in 1993.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Alfalfa Seed Production
Ag Prices
Wheat & Barley Movement
All Wheat County Estimates

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Phone: (406) 449-5303 or 1-800-835-2612

301 S. PARK
P.O. BOX 4369
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RELEASED: February 9, 1994

Highlights:

January Cattle Inventory
January Sheep Inventory
January Prices Received
Cattle on Feed
Sheep on Feed

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January 1 cattle and sheep inventory surveys. Field and telephone enumerators contacted over 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers early in January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

JANUARY 1 CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY

Montana's January 1, 1994 cattle and calf inventory, at 2.5 million head, is up 2 percent from last year. The value of Montana's cattle and calf inventory rose 5 percent from 1993 to 1.9 billion dollars. Average value per head in the 1994 inventory rose 20 dollars to 775 compared with 755 dollars a year ago. The 1993 calf crop totaled 1.42 million head, down 1 percent from 1992.

Beef cow numbers, at 1.438 million head, dropped 2 percent from last year. However, heifers weighing 500 pounds or more for beef cow replacements increased 3 percent to 355,000 head. Milk cow numbers continued to decline as numbers dropped 1,000 head to 22,000. However, milk cow replacements continued to hold steady at 8,000 head.

Most of the increase in the cattle and calf inventory was due to a 39 percent increase in steers weighing 500 pounds or more and a 38 percent increase in other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more. There were 260,000 steers and 210,000 heifers in the January 1 inventory. These increases are partly due to the favorable range and pasture conditions during the year that produced heavier weaning weights. The favorable range and pasture conditions also resulted in a decrease in the number of calves weighing less than 500 pounds. They dropped 34 percent from last year to 125,000 head. The number of bulls dropped 4 percent to 82,000 head.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1994, totaled 101.7 million head, 1 percent above the revised 100.6 million on January 1, 1993, and 2 percent above the 99.6 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 44.5 million, were 2 percent above both last year and two years ago. Beef cows, at 34.9 million, were up 3 percent from both January 1, 1993, and two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.64 million, were 2 percent below January 1, 1993, and 3 percent below 1992.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1994, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.7 million, up 3 percent and up 9 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 6.42 million, up 4 percent and up 11 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.20 million, virtually unchanged from both years.
- Other heifers, 9.05 million, up 5 percent and up 11 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 17.2 million, up 1 percent and up 3 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.32 million, up 1 percent and up 2 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 18.0 million, down 2 percent and down 4 percent.

The 1993 calf crop was 39.6 million head, up 1 percent from 1992 and up 2 percent from 1991. Calves born during the first half of the year totaled 28.9 million head, up slightly from 1992 and up 1 percent from 1991.

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1992-94

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1992	1993	1994	'94/'93	UNITED STATES 1992	1993	1994	'94/'93
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,500	2,450	2,500	102%	99,559	100,611	101,749	101%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,460	1,483	1,460	98%	43,688	43,726	44,529	102%
Beef Cows	1,436	1,460	1,438	98%	33,775	33,888	34,891	103%
Milk Cows	24	23	22	96%	9,913	9,838	9,638	98%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	540	505	573	113%	18,105	19,036	19,679	103%
For beef cow replacement	350	345	355	103%	5,761	6,183	6,423	104%
For milk cow replacement	8	8	8	100%	4,202	4,224	4,203	100%
Other heifers	182	152	210	138%	8,142	8,629	9,053	105%
Steers 500 pounds and over	220	187	260	139%	16,755	17,079	17,186	101%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	85	85	82	96%	2,279	2,307	2,324	101%
Calves less than 500 pounds	195	190	125	66%	18,733	18,464	18,032	98%
Cattle on Feed	90	75	140	187%	11,945	12,699	12,928	102%
All cattle value ($1,000)	1,800	1,850	1,938	105%	62,656	65,287	66,968	103%
Value per head (Dollars)	720	755	775	103%	629	648	658	102%

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS, 1991-93

ITEM	1991	1992	1993	'93/'92	1991	1992	1993	'93/'92
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,400	1,430	1,420	99%	39,026	39,290	39,640	101%
Number cattle farms 1/	13,400	12,800	12,700	99%	1,247,470	1,230,870	1,225,990	100%
Operations with beef cattle 1/	11,900	11,700	11,600	99%	913,620	907,230	910,080	100%
Operations with milk cows 1/	1,800	1,600	1,300	81%	181,270	171,260	162,450	95%

1/ Actual number.

JANUARY 1, 1994 SHEEP INVENTORY

The number of sheep and lambs on **Montana** farms and ranches totaled 502,000 head on January 1, 1994. The sheep and lamb inventory is down 6 percent from last year.

Ewes one year and older were down 3 percent, at 380,000 head. The 1993 lamb crop was down 7 percent at 460,000 head. The average value of sheep and lambs on Montana farms and ranches January 1, 1994 was $1.00 below last year at $65.00 per head.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 1994, totaled 9.08 million head, down 9 percent from a year earlier and 11 percent below the record low of 10.1 million head set in 1986. Total stock sheep and lambs and ewes one year old and older also set record lows. The value of sheep and lambs totaled $638.6 million, 9 percent below a year earlier. The average value per head was $70.30, 10 cents above a year earlier.

Stock sheep inventory decreased to 7.24 million head on January 1, 1994, down 11 percent from 8.14 million last year. This is the lowest level ever recorded. Ewes one year old and older, at 5.79 million head, were down 10 percent. This compares with the previous record low of 6.42 million head set last year.

The 1993 lamb crop of 6.31 million head was down 13 percent from 1992. This compares with the lowest level of 7.21 million head set in 1988. The 1993 lambing rate was 98 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1993, compared with 102 in 1992.

SHEEP and LAMBS INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1992-94

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1992	1993	1994	'94/'93	UNITED STATES 1992	1993	1994	'94/'93
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	658	534	502	94%	10,750	10,013	9,079	91%
On feed	38	34	32	94%	1,830	1,877	1,839	98%
Sheep 1/	--	3	4	133%	--	86	113	131%
Lambs 1/	--	31	28	90%	--	1,561	1,527	98%
Feedlot 1/	--	24	18	75%	--	961	966	101%
Pasture/Crop residue 1/	--	7	10	143%	--	600	561	94%
Stock sheep	620	500	470	94%	8,920	8,136	7,240	89%
One year old & older								
Ewes	487	392	380	97%	7,090	6,415	5,793	90%
Wethers and rams	17	15	13	87%	350	329	300	91%
Lambs 3-12 months old								
Ewes	105	84	71	85%	1,160	1,092	864	79%
Wethers and rams	11	9	6	67%	320	299	284	95%
All sheep value ($1,000)	37,506	35,244	32,630	93%	658,301	702,785	638,564	91%
Value per head (Dollars)	57.00	66.00	65.00	98%	61.20	70.20	70.30	100%

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS, 1991-93

ITEM	1991	1992	1993	'93/'92	1991	1992	1993	'93/'92
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	585	496	460	93%	7,644	7,216	6,314	87%
Number of sheep farms 2/	2,800	2,500	2,500	100%	105,090	100,960	98,230	97%

1/ Detailed on feed data is only available for the 16 major sheep producing states as of January 1, 1993. 2/ Actual number.

JANUARY PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for mid-January were mixed. Winter wheat was down 2 cents to $3.35, while durum, at $5.50, increased 77 cents from December. Other spring wheat is currently averaging $3.80 per bushel, up 7 cents from last month. All barley was $2.23, rising 8 cents from December. Oats averaged $1.35, 11 cents below the previous month. Alfalfa hay, at $70.00 per ton, dropped $1.00 from December, while other hay remained unchanged at $59.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for mid-January were mostly higher with the exception of lambs and steers and heifers. Prices for sheep increased $1.20 per cwt from last month to $30.00. Lambs dropped $5.00 to $63.40. Cow prices rose 80 cents to $45.40 per cwt, while steer and heifer prices decreased $1.60 to $84.00 per cwt. Calves averaged $98.00 per cwt, up $3.60 from December. Milk prices moved up 20 cents to $14.40 per cwt.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 148 based on 1977=100, up 3 points (2.1 percent) from December 1993. Price gains from December for hogs, corn, cotton, and onions more than offset price declines for grapefruit, strawberries, turkeys, and lemons.

Compared with a year earlier, the January All Farm Products Index was 10 points (7.2 percent) higher. Price increases from January 1993 for milk, corn, soybeans, and tomatoes more than offset price decreases for cattle, celery, lettuce, and carrots.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		Jan. 15,	Jan. 15,
		Jan. 1993	Dec. 1993	1994	1994
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.47	3.37	3.35	3.42
Durum	Bu.	3.21	4.73	5.50	5.08
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.68	3.73	3.80	3.79
All Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.56	3.61	3.61
Barley, All	Bu.	2.36	2.15	2.23	2.12
Feed	Bu.	1.92	1.80	1.97	1.96
Malt	Bu.	2.97	2.85	2.66	2.39
Oats	Bu.	1.20	1.46	1.35	1.41
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	71.00	70.00	91.80
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	59.00	59.00	67.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	69.00	68.00	85.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	87.40	85.60	84.00	72.50
Cows	Cwt.	47.80	44.60	45.40	44.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	74.40	70.40	74.40	69.00
Calves	Cwt.	96.30	94.40	98.00	93.80
Sheep	Cwt.	30.80	28.80	30.00	33.70
Lambs	Cwt.	69.10	68.40	63.40	61.90
All Milk	Cwt.	13.30	14.20	14.40	13.60
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.64	0.60	0.65	N/A.

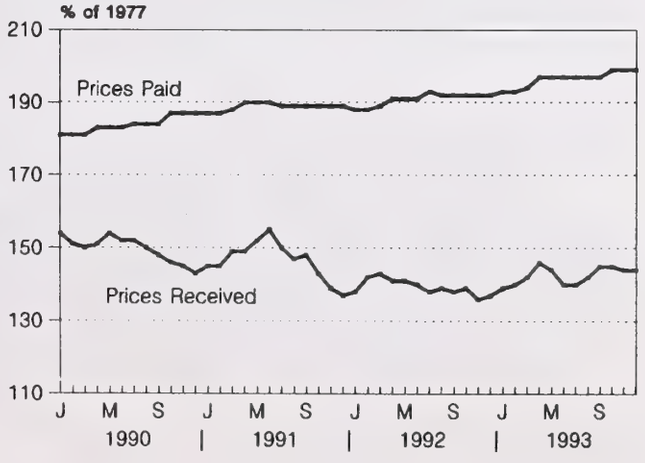
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. N/A - Not available.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Dec. 1992	Jan. 1993	Dec. 1993	Jan. 1994
Prices Received	137	138	145	148
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/190	192	3/196	197
Ratio 1/	72	72	74	75

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1992 prices paid index. 3/ October 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 11.1 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago and up 9 percent from January 1, 1992. This is the largest January inventory for the 13 States since 1979. The inventory included 7.20 million steers and steer calves, fractionally above a year ago. This group accounts for 64.9 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.81 million head, 5 percent above a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the October-December 1993 quarter totaled 7.04 million, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below October-December 1991. **Net placements** of 6.72 million for October-December were 6 percent below last year and down 1 percent from October-December 1991.

Other disappearance totaled 315,000 head compared to 320,000 in October-December 1992 and 309,000 in October-December 1991. Marketings of fed cattle during the October-December 1993 quarter totaled 5.28 million, up 2 percent from the same quarter last year and fractionally above two years ago.

JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED

The number of sheep and lambs on feed January 1, for the slaughter market, on Montana farms and ranches totaled 32,000 head, down 2,000 head from last January. Lambs accounted for approximately 90 percent of the total--18,000 of which were in feedlots. The feedlot weight group with the largest number of head was the 85 to 105 pound range with 11,000 head. Of the 10,000 head of lambs on pasture and/or crop residue, 6,000 head weighed between 85 and 105 pounds.

Sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1994, for slaughter market in the 16 major producing States totaled 1.64 million head, down slightly from the 1.65 million head in January 1993. The inventory included 1.53 million lambs for slaughter market and 113,000 mature sheep. Lambs on feed declined 2 percent from a year ago, but mature sheep on feed increased 31 percent.

Of the total lambs on feed, 63 percent were in feedlots with the majority being in the 85 to 105 pound weight class. The majority of the lambs on pasture and/or crop residue were also classified in this weight range.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter	
Potato Stocks	Farm Labor
Milk Production	Cattle on Feed
Honey	Egg Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

1993 Crop Production & Crop Values
January 1 Potato Stocks
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price
October-December Milk Production
December Red Meat Production
December Egg Production
1993 Annual Egg & Chicken Inventory

Montana 1993 Crop Production

Montana's 1993 growing season was unusually wet and cool. Cereal grain harvest dragged on late into the fall because of heavy yields and unfavorable harvest weather. The final production estimate, after harvest, showed wheat production at 204.5 million bushels. This is 7.7 million bushels above the October 1 forecast, and the largest wheat crop ever harvested in Montana. The previous record was 180.3 million bushels harvested in 1982. Average yield, at 39.2 bushels per harvested acre, was a new record, replacing the previous record of 36.4 set in 1991.

Winter wheat yield was a new record at 42 bushels, replacing the 40 bushel record of 1991. Winter wheat production at 102.9 million bushels was still below the record winter wheat crop of 1975 which totaled 105.0 million. **Spring wheat, other than Durum**, set a new record yield and production. Spring wheat yield at 37 bushels per harvested acre exceeded the 1991 record of 34 bushels. Production was 98.1 million bushels topping the 1982 record of 89.9 million. **Durum wheat** acreage has been trending down for 4 years and this year's yield and production were both below last year. Production was 3.5 million bushels, 32 percent less than the 1992 crop. This is the smallest durum crop since the drought plagued year of 1988.

Barley set a new yield record of 58 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above the previous record set in 1991. Harvested acreage at 1.1 million was the smallest since 1980. In spite of smaller harvested acreage, production was 137.2 million bushels, almost 9 percent more than last year. **Oats** yield, at 65 bushels per harvested acre, set a new record. However, harvested acres at 70,000 matched previous lows in 1990 and 1992; all three are the smallest harvested acreage since 1889. The 1993 production totaled 4.6 million bushels, 16 percent above last year's crop.

Montana Crop Production Value up 2 Percent

Montana's 1993 wheat crop is valued at 712 million dollars, 49 percent above the 1992 crop. Record yields and production that was 46 percent above the previous year pushed the 1993 wheat crop value to the highest level ever recorded. Record high spring wheat production contributed slightly more than half the wheat value. The durum crop value added 2 percent, and winter wheat accounted for 47 percent. The season average price used to value the 1993 wheat crop was $3.55 per bushel, up 13 cents from 1992.

Barley production exceeded the 1992 crop by 21 percent, but the average price per bushel was off 24 cents. Value of production totaled 137 million dollars, 9 percent more than the 1992 crop.

Hay production set a new record high in 1993, and with the season average price only slightly lower, value of production was a record high 353 million dollars.

January 1 Potato Stocks

January 1, 1994, potato stocks totalled 209 million cwt in the 15 storage States, down 3 percent from a year earlier and 1 percent below two years ago. So far this season, disappearance was up 3 percent, helped by a 5 percent gain in processing. Shrink and loss of 20.3 million cwt was down slightly from last year.

Storage accounted for 57 percent of fall production this year, 2 percentage points less than last year. Stocks by type are 2 percent red, 17 percent white, and 81 percent russet, but more russets and less whites and reds than a year ago.

Processor usage totaled 75.4 million cwt to January 1, 1994, up 5 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above two years ago. December processing of 13.9 million cwt was short of a year ago by 1 percent but 12 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 155 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1994. This is up 4 percent from the last two years. The big gainers were Washington and Oregon, up 22 and 27 percent, respectively. **Montana** producers held 2.5 million cwt in storage, 9 percent more than January 1, 1993. Stocks in Montana storages represented 93 percent of production, the same portion held at this time last year. Colorado's potato stocks increased 2 percent. Idaho's stocks were off 5 percent from last year but were 1 percent above two years ago.

Montana Annual Crop Summary, 1990-93 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg Price	Value of Production	US Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		Thousands		Bushels	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Winter Wheat	1990	2,700	2,500	35.0	87,500	$2.53	$221,375	2,030,874
	1991	2,350	1,800	40.0	72,000	3.13	225,360	1,372,617
	1992	2,600	2,100	29.0	60,900	3.30	200,361	1,606,534
	1993	2,650	2,450	**42.0	102,900	3.25	334,425	1,769,158
Durum Wheat	1990	245	235	19.0	4,465	$2.72	$12,145	122,430
	1991	180	179	33.0	5,907	2.81	16,599	103,957
	1992	160	157	33.0	5,181	3.06	15,854	97,196
	1993	115	114	31.0	3,534	4.20	14,843	68,926
Other Spring Wheat	1990	2,800	2,450	22.0	53,900	$2.80	$150,920	583,124
	1991	2,600	2,400	34.0	81,600	3.24	264,384	504,565
	1992	2,650	2,450	30.0	73,500	3.54	260,190	755,218
	1993	2,750	2,650	**37.0	**98,050	3.70	**362,785	563,971
All Wheat	1990	5,745	5,185	28.1	145,865	$2.65	$384,440	2,736,428
	1991	5,130	4,379	36.4	159,507	3.17	506,343	1,981,139
	1992	5,410	4,707	29.7	139,581	3.42	476,405	2,458,948
	1993	5,515	5,214	**39.2	**204,484	3.55	**712,053	2,402,055
Barley	1990	1,600	1,380	41.0	56,580	$2.30	$130,134	422,196
	1991	1,800	1,650	52.0	85,800	2.34	200,772	464,326
	1992	1,350	1,200	44.0	52,800	2.39	126,192	457,910
	1993	1,300	1,100	**58.0	63,800	2.15	137,170	400,225
Oats	1990	160	70	40.0	2,800	$1.25	$3,500	357,524
	1991	200	110	55.0	6,050	1.30	7,865	243,451
	1992	165	70	56.0	3,920	1.23	4,822	294,764
	1993	*140	70	**65.0	4,550	1.35	6,143	206,253
Corn for Grain 2/	1990	65	9	95.0	855	$2.50	$2,138	7,934,028
	1991	75	15	120.0	1,800	2.70	4,860	7,475,480
	1992	70	25	110.0	2,750	2.50	6,875	9,481,688
	1993	65	8	105.0	840	2.90	2,436	6,344,045
		Thousands		Tons	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Corn for Silage	1990	--	55	19.0	1,045	--	--	86,844
	1991	--	59	18.0	1,062	--	--	80,543
	1992	--	43	21.0	903	--	--	86,849
	1993	--	55	18.0	990	--	--	82,052
Sugar beets	1990	55.2	55.1	22.5	1,240	$43.20	$53,568	27,513
	1991	56.6	56.3	23.3	1,312	37.30	48,938	28,203
	1992	55.9	55.8	22.8	1,272	43.80	55,714	29,143
	1993	54.4	54.1	21.6	1,169	--	--	26,396
Alfalfa Hay	1990	--	1,350	2.50	3,375	$65.00	$219,375	83,555
	1991	--	1,500	2.50	3,750	51.50	193,125	83,795
	1992	--	1,400	2.40	3,360	71.50	240,240	79,571
	1993	--	***1,500	2.50	***3,750	70.50	264,375	80,878
Other Hay	1990	--	800	1.40	1,120	$56.00	$62,720	--
	1991	--	900	1.60	1,440	46.00	66,240	69,530
	1992	--	850	1.60	1,360	60.50	82,280	69,292
	1993	--	870	**1.70	1,479	60.00	88,740	67,976
All Hay 3/	1990	--	2,150	2.09	4,495	$64.00	$282,095	146,820
	1991	--	2,400	2.16	5,190	50.50	259,365	153,325
	1992	--	2,250	2.10	4,720	69.50	322,520	148,863
	1993	--	2,370	**2.21	**5,229	68.50	**353,115	148,854
Sweet Cherries 4/	1990	--	--	--	150	$1,670.00	$250	132,350
	1991	--	--	--	--	--	--	139,900
	1992	--	--	--	340	988.00	336	192,050
	1993	--	--	--	105	1,590.00	167	160,575
		Thousands		Cwt.	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Fall Potatoes	1990	9.0	8.9	280.0	2,492	$8.60	$21,431	352,507
	1991	9.4	9.3	300.0	2,790	5.70	15,903	371,730
	1992	8.6	8.5	290.0	2,465	8.40	20,706	379,525
	1993	9.1	9.0	300.0	2,700	9.50	**25,650	376,789
Dry Beans	1990	13.5	13.0	16.9	220	$13.60	$2,992	32,379
	1991	9.0	8.3	19.0	158	13.20	2,086	33,765
	1992	10.2	9.5	19.0	181	19.10	3,457	22,615
	1993	12.0	11.0	14.1	155	27.30	4,232	21,842

1/ All estimates for 1993 are preliminary 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all purposes 3/ Price of baled hay
4/ Utilized production in actual tons *Record low **Record high ***Tied previous high.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance and Price, United States, 1975-1994, selected years.

Year Beg. June 1	Supply				Disappearance						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beg. Stocks	Prod-uction	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disap-pearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	--Million Bushels--											
1975	435	2,127	2	2,564	589	100	37	726	1,173	1,899	666	$3.55
1980	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.99
1981	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989	702	2,037	23	2,765	753	100	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990	536	2,736	36	3,309	785	90	499	1,375	1,068	2,443	866	2.61
1991	866	1,981	41	2,888	789	98	250	1,137	1,280	2,416	472	3.00
1992	472	2,459	70	3,001	829	98	191	1,118	1,354	2,472	529	3.24
1993 3/	529	2,402	90	3,021	825	98	275	1,198	1,225	2,423	598	3.18
1994 3/	598											

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and include negligible quanities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 1994 - ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

October-December Milk Production

During the October - December quarter, **Montana** milk cows produced 76 million pounds of milk, a 5 percent decrease from the same period a year ago. The number of milk cows in Montana decreased 4 percent from a year ago to 22,000 head.

Grain and other concentrates fed to Montana's milk cows on January 1, averaged 18.3 pounds per cow. This is an 11 percent increase from a year ago. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $7.70 per cwt, $0.55 more than January 1, 1993.

During the October-December period, the 21 major States produced 30.8 billion pounds of milk, 84.0 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.3 billion pounds for October, 11.9 billion pounds for November, and 12.4 billion pounds for December.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 36.6 billion pounds, 1 percent below the 1992 October-December period. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.66 million head, 165,000 less than the same period a year earlier.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1994, averaged 18.5 pounds per cow, 0.1 pound more than January 1, 1993. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $8.18 per cwt, $0.51 more than January 1, 1993.

Milk production in the 21 major States during December totaled 10.4 billion pounds, 2 percent less than production in these same States in December 1992. November revised production at 10.0 billion pounds was 2 percent below November 1992.

December Red Meat Production Increases

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 1993. This was a 7 percent increase from the previous month, and a 2 percent increase from a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, is the same as last year. The average live weight, at 1,157 pounds, decreased 12 pounds from 1992. A total of 2,300 hogs were slaughtered in December, an increase of 100 from a year ago. Average live weight decreased 10 pounds to 233. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 300 head, was the same as a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.55 billion pounds during December. Red meat production was 3 percent above the record high set in December 1992.

Beef production totaled 1.95 billion pounds, up 5 percent from December 1992. Head kill totaled 2.77 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 17 pounds to 1,188 pounds. Veal production totaled 24.0 million pounds, down 8 percent from a year ago, and tied December 1973's record low.

Pork production, at 1.55 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from the record high set in December 1992. Hog kill totaled 8.39 million head, slightly above a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 257 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 28.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 443,000, down 7 percent.

January-December red meat production was 40.6 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down slightly, veal dropped 10 percent, pork dipped 1 percent, and lamb and mutton declined 5 percent.

1993 Egg Production and Chicken Inventory

Montana poultry flocks produced 125 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 1993, down 35 million from the previous year's production. Layer numbers during 1993 averaged 460,000 compared with 602,000 a year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand was 271 eggs, 2 percent above 1992.

There were 550,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 1993, compared with 710,000 on hand last year. The inventory value was $1,485,000, down from $1,846,000 on December 1, 1992.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1993, totaled 71.4 billion eggs, up 1 percent from last year's total of 70.5 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1993 averaged 283 million layers, up 2 percent from 1992. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1993 was 252 eggs, down from the 1992 average of 253 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 1993, (excluding broilers) was 378 million head, 3 percent above last year. The total value was $894 million, up from $830 million on December 1, 1992.

Coming in Next Reporter...

January Prices Received
Cattle on Feed
Sheep & Lambs on Feed
Sheep Inventory
Cattle Inventory

December Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.25 billion during December 1993, up 2 percent from the 6.11 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.36 billion table eggs, 827 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 58.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during December 1993 averaged 289 million, up 2 percent from the 282 million a year ago. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,166 eggs, compared with 2,169 in December 1992.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 1994 totaled 288 million, compared with 282 million a year ago. The 288 million layers consisted of 239 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 46.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.66 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 1994, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from last year's 69.6 eggs per 100 layers.

The 30 major states accounted for about 94 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3 month period, September through November 1993. Production for the other states are grouped into an *other states* category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain an U.S. estimate.

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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Highlights:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Hay Stocks & Late Season Crops
December 1 Grain Stocks
December Prices Received
Hog & Pig Inventory

Crop acreage, grain stocks, and hog and pig estimates included in this issue of the Reporter are the results of surveying over 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during December. Names were selected on a probability basis. A SPECIAL THANKS to those of you interviewed for this very important end-of-season survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

1994 WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS

Montana farmers seeded 2.2 million acres of winter wheat last fall for harvest in 1994. This is a 17 percent decline from the 1993 seeded acreage. Delayed harvest of the 1993 cereal grain crops pushed winter wheat seeding for the 1994 crop late into the fall. By mid-October, when more than 95 percent of the winter wheat acreage would normally be seeded, only 83 percent of the 1994 seedings were in the ground. By November 1 only 67 per cent of the acreage had emerged, 20 points below normal. However, soil moisture was mostly adequate or surplus, and nearly 80 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

Nationally, winter wheat area seeded for the 1994 crop is estimated at 50.6 million acres, down 2 percent from 1993. This would be the lowest seeded area since 1988. Planting began last August in several States with about 2 percent of the crop in by September 1. Planting progressed favorably in many areas but less so in others, finally reaching 98 percent completion by December 1.

Hard red winter wheat, at 35.8 million acres, is down 2 percent from 1993, largely because of 450,000 and 300,000 acre drops in Montana and Texas, respectively. Most hard red areas are down from last year. Only Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma have seeded more acreage than a year ago. California and South Dakota are unchanged.

Extremely late 1993 spring wheat harvests limited Montana growers' opportunity to seed winter wheat. Dry planting conditions curtailed acreage in the Plains and central areas of Texas; the wheat that did get in needs rain. Seeding and emergence progressed ahead of average in Colorado; the crop rated 80 percent good or better going into winter. Conditions were generally favorable in Oklahoma, but some re-planting was needed in the few dry areas. Wetness prevented seedings in some north central Kansas counties. California's emerged wheat rated mostly good or better as seeding continues.

HAY STOCKS AND LATE SEASON CROPS

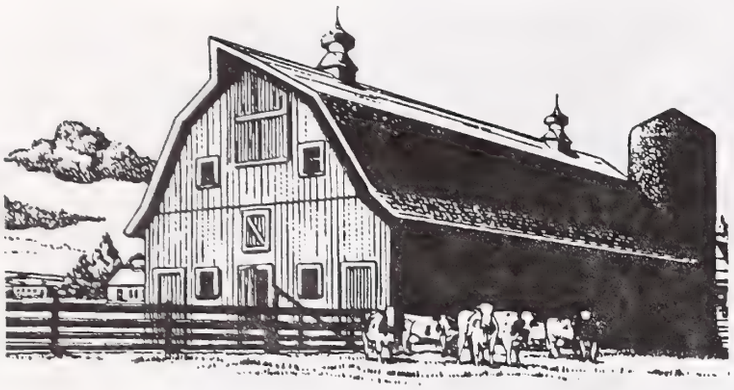
Montana farmers and ranchers had 4.7 million tons of hay on hand December 1, 1993, 17 percent more than a year earlier. The higher stocks are due to lower hay consumption and higher hay production during the past year. The unusually cool and wet weather during the year resulted in pasture and range conditions that were good to excellent throughout the state.

Montana's total hay production for 1993 was an historic high at 5.2 million tons, an increase of 11 percent from last year. While the abundant amount of precipitation received during the growing season produced a record hay crop, hay quality was poorer than in previous years. Alfalfa hay production in 1993 tied a record high at 3.8 million tons, up 12 percent from 1992. Production of all other hay was 1.5 million tons, up from 1.4 million last year. Other hay and all hay yields, at 1.70 and 2.21 tons per acre respectively, were record highs.

Montana corn producers harvested 840,000 million bushels of corn for grain and 990,000 tons of corn silage in 1993, compared with 2.75 million bushels of grain and 903,000 tons of silage last year. Sugar beet growers harvested 1.2 million tons in 1993, down 8 percent from last year. Dry bean production, at 155,000 cwt was down 11 percent from last year.

Hay stocks on farms for the **U.S.** totaled 102 million tons on December 1, 1993, 4 percent less than the amount on hand a year earlier. Nationally, the 1993 corn for grain production was estimated at 6.34 million bushels, 33 percent below the record high 1992 crop and 2 percent below the November 1 forecast. Corn silage production was estimated at 82.1 million tons, 6 percent below last year.

Nationally, the production of dry edible beans totaled 21.8 million cwt in 1993, down 3 percent from a year earlier and 35 percent below two years ago. This is the smallest dry bean crop since 1988.



DECEMBER AGRICULTURE PRICES

Prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers in mid-December were mostly higher than the November average. Compared with the previous year, changes were mixed. The mid-December winter wheat price, at $3.25 per bushel, was 7 cents above November, but still 10 cents below last year's December price. Durum moved up 70 cents from last month and, at $4.80, was $1.73 higher than last year. Other spring wheat was $3.50 in mid-December, up 15 cents from November, but 9 cents below last December.

Barley was $2.14 per bushel, up 10 cents from November, but 24 cents below last year. Oats, at $1.30, were down from last month, but 35 cents above last year. Alfalfa hay advanced $2.00 per ton from November, and was $1.00 above last year.

Steer and heifer prices averaged $84.70 per hundredweight at mid-December, down $2.00 from November, but 90 cents above the December 1992 price. Cows, at $44.10, were off $1.90 from last month and $1.40 below last year.

Calf prices held up well compared with both last month and last year. Mid-December averaged $95.90, which was up 80 cents from November and $1.30 above December last year. Mid-December sheep prices moved up $2.50, but still lagged behind last year by $2.10. Lamb prices also moved higher, averaging $68.40, up $1.70 from November and $1.20 above last year.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 144 based on 1977=100, unchanged from November 1993. Price gains from November for wheat, corn, tomatoes, and strawberries offset price declines for hogs, cattle, oranges, and lemons.

Compared with December 1992, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points higher. Price increases from December 1992 for milk, corn, soybeans, and sorghum more than offset price decreases for cattle, hogs, lettuce, and apples.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1993	MONTANA Dec. 15, 1993	U.S. Dec. 15, 1993
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.35	3.18	3.25	3.38
Durum	Bu.	3.07	4.10	4.80	4.97
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.35	3.50	3.70
All Wheat	Bu.	3.47	3.33	3.48	3.57
Barley, All	Bu.	2.38	2.04	2.14	1.94
Feed	Bu.	1.86	1.70	1.88	1.87
Malt	Bu.	2.93	2.61	2.62	2.42
Oats	Bu.	0.95	1.36	1.30	1.42
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	69.00	71.00	90.10
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	59.00	59.00	65.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	67.00	69.00	84.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	83.80	86.70	84.70	72.40
Cows	Cwt.	45.50	46.00	44.10	43.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	61.60	76.10	68.50	68.60
Calves	Cwt.	94.60	95.10	95.90	92.10
Sheep	Cwt.	29.20	24.60	27.10	27.50
Lambs	Cwt.	67.20	66.70	68.40	65.60
All Milk	Cwt.	13.60	14.10	14.30	13.50
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.89	0.45	0.60	0.38

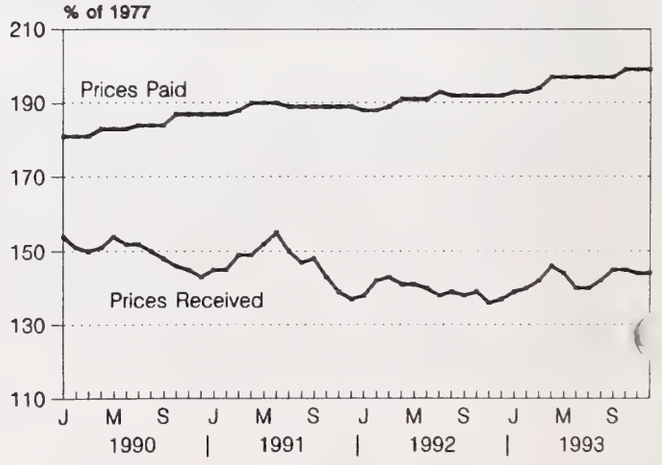
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Nov. 1992	Dec. 1992	Nov. 1993	Dec. 1993
Prices Received	136	137	144	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/192	2/192	3/199	3/199
Ratio 1/	71	71	72	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1992 prices paid index. 3/ October 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Wheat stocks in all storage positions in Montana on December 1, 1993, totaled 176 million bushels, 46 percent more than a year ago. Stocks on farms were up 53 percent at 150 million bushels. Elevator stocks, at 26 million bushels, were up 13 percent. On-farm storage held 67 million bushels of winter wheat, up 56 percent, and 83 million bushels of spring wheat up 51 percent. Elevators stored 13.5 million bushels of winter wheat, up 32 percent, and 12.5 million bushels of spring wheat, down 2 percent. Durum in all storage positions totaled 5.1 million bushels, down 20 percent.

Barley in storage totaled 50.2 million bushels, up 25 percent from a year ago. On-farm storage held 42 million bushels, up 31 percent and elevators held 8.2 million bushels, up 2 percent. Oats stocks totaled 4.08 million bushels, up 6 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, all wheat in all storage positions on December 1, 1993, totaled 1.59 billion bushels, down slightly from December 1, 1992. Of the total, 656 million bushels were stored on farms, down 2 percent from last December 1. Off-farm stocks are 930 million bushels, up 1 percent from last year. The September-November 1993 indicated disappearance is 540 million bushels, up 4 percent from the same quarter in 1992.

Barley stored in all positions on December 1, 1993, is estimated at 334 million bushels, down 4 percent from the stocks of December 1, 1992.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Dec. 1, 1992	Sept. 1, 1993*	Dec. 1, 1993	Dec. 1, 1992	Sept. 1, 1993*	Dec. 1, 1993
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	1.4	0.8	0.8	2.0	2.6	1.9
North Central	39.4	96.9	91.1	17.5	31.7	28.2
Northeast	45.9	67.6	50.1	6.3	8.2	5.8
Central	14.6	23.1	17.3	5.6	11.6	7.9
Southwest	2.5	4.3	3.1	2.5	3.3	2.5
South Central	8.6	9.4	7.1	4.8	4.4	3.0
Southeast	8.6	11.9	6.5	1.4	1.8	0.9
MONTANA	121.0	214.0	176.0	40.1	63.6	50.2

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1992	Sept. 1, 1993*	Dec. 1, 1993	'93/'92	Dec. 1, 1992	Sept. 1, 1993*	Dec. 1, 1993
	Thousand Bushels				Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	98,000	195,000	150,000	153%	672,000	979,400	656,100
Off Farms [1/]	22,950	19,000	26,000	113%	918,476	1,128,219	930,037
TOTAL	120,950	214,000	176,000	146%	1,590,476	2,107,619	1,586,137
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	43,000	83,000	67,000	156%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	10,192	11,600	13,500	132%	--	--	--
TOTAL	53,192	94,600	80,500	151%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	55,000	112,000	83,000	151%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	12,758	7,400	12,500	98%	--	--	--
TOTAL	67,758	119,400	95,500	141%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	77,190	83,950	50,500
Off Farms [1/, 4/]	--	--	--	--	25,381	20,848	25,738
TOTAL	6,351	7,300	5,100	80%	102,571	104,798	76,238
BARLEY							
On Farms	32,000	60,000	42,000	131%	198,350	261,000	194,150
Off Farms [1/]	8,077	3,600	8,200	102%	148,226	157,402	139,589
TOTAL	40,077	63,600	50,200	125%	346,576	418,402	333,739
OATS							
On Farms	3,700	4,600	3,900	105%	161,200	161,000	124,200
Off Farms [1/]	134	130	180	134%	81,292	58,004	69,517
TOTAL	3,834	4,730	4,080	106%	242,492	219,004	193,717
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	5,736,900	1,070,700	3,803,000
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	2,169,463	1,042,281	2,132,578
TOTAL [4/]	--	--	--	--	7,906,363	2,112,981	5,935,578

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

INVENTORY OF HOGS AND PIGS DOWN

Montana's hog inventory on December 1, 1993 totaled 180,000 head, down 16 percent from last year. There were 20,000 breeding hogs on hand, 4,000 head less than a year ago. Market class hogs, at 160,000 head, were down 16 percent or 31,000 head from December 1, 1992. The 1993 pig crop, at 355,000 head, declined 8 percent from the previous year.

The average value per head rose $6.00 from last year to $80.00 per head, while the total value of Montana's hog and pig inventory on December 1, 1993 dropped to 14.4 million dollars from 15.9 million dollars the previous year. This is a 9 percent decline from last year and is due to the decreased inventory on December 1 of this year. The number of operations with hogs in Montana during the year totaled 1,200 compared to 1,100 operations a year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1993, was 56.8 million head, down 2 percent from December 1992 and 4 percent below the September 1, 1993 inventory. Breeding inventory, at 7.03 million head, was down 1 percent from both December 1, 1992 and September 1, 1993. Market hog inventory, at 49.8 million head, was 2 percent below December 1, 1992, and 4 percent below September 1, 1993.

The September-November 1993 U.S. pig crop was 22.9 million head, 5 percent less than 1992 and down 2 percent from the same period in 1991. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, down 5 percent from last year and 4 percent below two years ago. U.S. producers intend to farrow 2.85 million sows during the December 1993-February 1994 quarter, 2 percent more than the actual farrowings during the same period last year, but 2 percent below 1992.

Value per head averaged $75.40 on December 1, 1993, compared with $71.30 in 1992 and $68.90 in 1991. The December 1, 1993 inventory was valued at $4.28 billion, compared to $4.15 billion on December 1, 1992. The number of operations in the United States with hogs totaled 235,840 during 1993, down 5 percent from last year and 7 percent below 1991.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Crop Values	Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production	Slaughter
Annual Crop Production	Potato Stocks
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production	
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price	

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All of us at the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As 1993 comes to a close, we should take a moment to reflect back on what has happened this year. Many areas of Montana experienced one of the wettest years on record which slowed planting, crop development and finally harvest. All of this moisture produced the largest wheat crop in our history, but also caused many quality problems. Despite the large crops, prices for grains and livestock have held up pretty well. Now we can look forward to what 1994 has in store for us. We would like to thank each of you for the important part you played in providing the basic information needed to publish Montana's agricultural statistics. May you and your family have a prosperous and joyful New Year.

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA FRUIT TREES

Fruit production is an important factor in the Lake, Flathead, and Ravalli County economies. The Flathead Lake area in northwest Montana produces a high quality sweet cherry which reaches market late in the season when there is little competition from the major producing areas. Sweet cherries are grown principally along the eastern and southern shores of Flathead Lake in Lake and Flathead counties. Tart cherries are grown mostly in Ravalli County. Apples are primarily in Lake and Ravalli counties.

Survey Purpose: The Montana fruit tree survey was conducted in mid-1993. The previous fruit tree survey was conducted in mid-1972. The 1972 survey was limited to cherries. The purpose of these surveys is to provide an inventory of trees by age and variety at a specific point in time. Also, changes between time periods can be illustrated. By comparing data obtained in the 1972 and 1993 surveys, one can see the changes in the 20-year period. Trends established in that interval can be projected into the future to gain some insight regarding the direction and magnitude of change that can be expected for the industry in coming years.

Methods Used to Obtain Data: Names of commercial growers were obtained from fruit cooperatives, processors, county extension agents, and other growers. A mail questionnaire was sent in May 1993 requesting information on tree numbers, acreage, ages, and variety. Persons who had not replied were visited by a trained enumerator.

Definition of Commercial Orchard: For the purpose of this survey, a commercial orchard is defined as one having one hundred or more fruit trees.

Cooperating Agencies: This survey was planned and conducted through the cooperative efforts of the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture and the Montana State Department of Agriculture. Appreciation is expressed to the Montana fruit growers for their cooperation in supplying the necessary detailed information and to the fruit cooperatives and processors and County agents for their assistance.

CHERRY TREES IN COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS

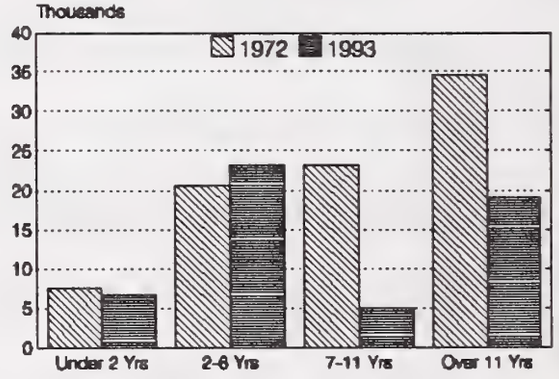
The 1993 survey covered 149 commercial orchards, those with 100 or more fruit trees. These orchards contained 83,690 trees and covered 865 acres. There were 54,032 cherry trees on 594 acres located in Lake and Flathead counties, while in Ravalli county there were 8,543 cherry trees on 114 acres.

Size of Orchard: The average sweet cherry orchard in the 1993 survey contains 385 trees and is 4 acres in size. The 1972 survey showed sweet cherry orchards averaged 455 trees.

ACRES AND TREES IN COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS
By County, 1972 AND 1993

	Acres in Commercial Orchards		Trees of All Ages in Commercial Orchards	
	1972	1993	1972	1993
Sweet cherries				
Flathead	43	2	4,024	150
Lake	912	588	81,999	53,696
Ravalli	--	2	--	54
Total Sweet	955	592	86,023	53,900
Tart cherries				
Flathead	--	--	3	--
Lake	--	3	67	186
Ravalli	251	112	21,450	8,489
Total Tart	251	115	21,520	8,675
Total Cherries	1,206	707	107,543	62,575
Apples				
Carbon	N/A	3	N/A	365
Lake	N/A	87	N/A	12,598
Ravalli	N/A	68	N/A	8,152
Total Apples	--	158	--	21,115

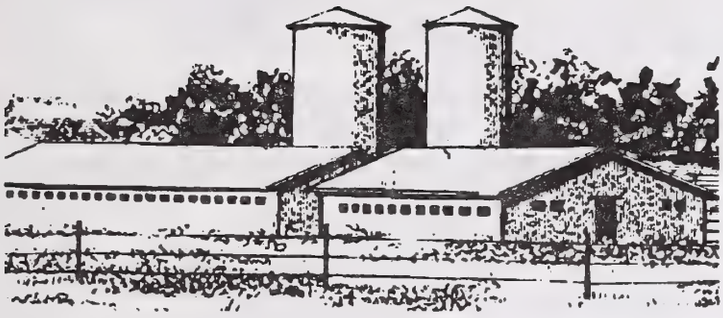
SWEET CHERRY TREES IN COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS
BY AGE AND PERCENT OF TOTAL, 1972 and 1993



APPLES

The 1993 Fruit Tree Survey was targeted more to cherry producers. Grower lists were more readily available for cherry growers although attempts were made to locate apple orchards with 100 or more fruit trees. With the potential for apples to be produced at more widespread locations, the likelihood of missing apple orchards was greater than for cherry orchards.

When interviewers encountered orchards with 100 or more fruit trees information was recorded for all fruits. The survey showed a total of 21,115 apple trees with 18,512 trees being of the dwarf varieties and the remaining 2,603 trees made up of the standard varieties.



NOVEMBER PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for mid-November were mixed. The price of winter wheat increased 5 cents to $2.97, and durum, at $4.10 rose, 34 cents from October. Other spring wheat averaged $3.55, down 2 cents from the previous month.

All barley was $1.94, up 13 cents from October. Oats averaged $1.20, 25 cents below the previous month. Hay prices dropped between 1 and 2 dollars with alfalfa hay at $69.00 per ton, all other hay at $59.00, and an all hay price of $67.00.

Livestock prices for mid-November were higher than the previous month with the exception of the $1.20 decrease in cow prices to $45.50 per cwt. Calf prices increased 80 cents to $97.20 per cwt. Steers and heifers averaged $85.80 per cwt, up 50 cents from October.

Prices for sheep moved up $1.70 to $24.90 per cwt from last month. Lambs followed with a $2.00 increase to $66.80. Milk prices came in 50 cents higher at $13.40 per cwt.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 143 based on 1977=100, down 2 points (1.4 percent) from October 1993. Price declines from October for hogs, cattle, oranges, and grapefruit more than offset price gains for corn, tomatoes, soybeans, and milk. Without the orange price change, the All Farm Products Index would have actually gained 2 points to 147. The orange price decline was attributed to increased marketings of Florida processing oranges and the return to more "normal price" levels. U.S. prices for November include all hogs at $43.60 per cwt and eggs at 62.6 cents per dozen.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1993	MONTANA Nov. 15, 1993	U.S. Nov. 15, 1993
			-- Dollars --		
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.33	2.92	2.97	3.15
Durum	Bu.	2.95	3.76	4.10	4.75
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.66	3.57	3.55	3.58
All Wheat	Bu.	3.53	3.21	3.24	3.36
Barley, All	Bu.	2.69	1.81	1.94	1.93
Feed	Bu.	1.82	1.62	1.79	1.77
Malt	Bu.	3.28	2.22	2.21	2.33
Oats	Bu.	1.13	1.45	1.20	1.36
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	72.00	71.00	69.00	89.20
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	60.00	59.00	65.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	71.00	69.00	67.00	83.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	82.40	85.30	85.80	71.60
Cows	Cwt.	45.40	46.70	45.50	43.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	66.50	75.70	73.70	68.00
Calves	Cwt.	90.60	96.40	97.20	91.50
Sheep	Cwt.	21.90	23.20	24.90	26.60
Lambs	Cwt.	56.50	64.80	66.80	66.00
All Milk	Cwt.	14.00	12.90	13.40	13.40
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.69	0.45	0.45	0.51

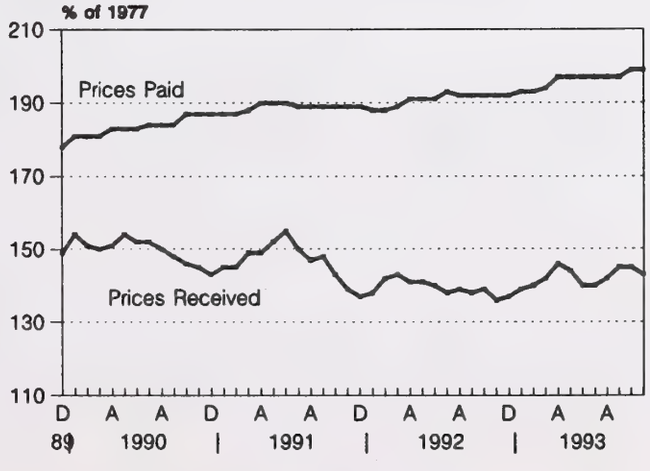
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

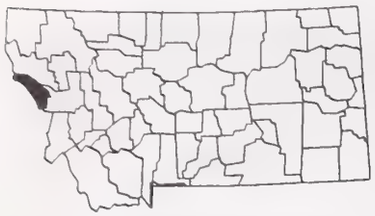
INDEX 1977=100	Oct. 1992	Nov. 1992	Oct. 1993	Nov. 1993
Prices Received	138	136	145	143
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	192	2/192	199	3/199
Ratio 1/	72	71	73	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1992 prices paid index. 3/ October 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring...MINERAL COUNTY



Mineral County is located on the extreme western edge of the state, next to the Idaho line. The Coeur d'Alene Mountains mark its northern boundary, and the Bitterroot Range its western boundary. The Lolo National Forest covers almost the entire county. The Clark Fork River enters the county from the south. Near St. Regis, the river bends to the east and continues out of Mineral County. The St. Regis River begins on the western border and joins the Clark Fork River at its bend near St. Regis.

The 1987 Census of Agriculture lists Mineral County's farm land at 14,517 acres. This is the smallest acreage of any Montana County, and accounts for only 1.9 percent of the total land area in the county. However, winter wheat, spring wheat, and hay were produced in the county. Although the numbers are limited, some cattle and sheep are also raised in the county. Superior is the county seat. The area has an annual average precipitation of 17.46 inches.

Total cash receipts for Mineral county amounted to $734,000 in 1991. Livestock contributed the most at $518,000, while crops added $216,000. If there were government payments in 1991, they amounted to less than $50,000.

Mineral County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	778,214	Total Cropland	Acres	3,846
Land in Farms	Acres	14,517	Harvested Cropland	Acres	2,243
Number of Farms		58	Irrigated Land	Acres	1,526
Average size Farms	Acres	250			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	1,833	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	327	Calves	No. Head	1,137
Barley	Acres	(D)	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	(D)
Oats	Acres	31	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	(D)

[1/] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture. (D) Not included to avoid disclosure of individual operation.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Quarterly Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 93-22 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: November 29, 1993

301 S. PARK
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

Highlights:

October Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
October Farm Labor
October Milk Production
October Egg Production
Sheep & Lambs on Feed
featuring...Meagher County

OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 1993. This was a 7 percent increase from the previous month and unchanged from a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,800 head, was the same number slaughtered last year. The average live weight, at 1,216 pounds, increased 59 pounds from last year.

A total of 2,500 hogs were slaughtered in October, the same as a year ago. Average live weight decreased 9 pounds to 230. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 500 head, was up 100 head from last year. Average live weight, at 119 pounds, decreased 3 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.50 billion pounds during October. This production was 4 percent below a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 1.98 billion pounds. This was down 2 percent from October 1992. Head kill totaled 2.80 million, down 2 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 7 pounds to 1,187 pounds. Veal production totaled 22.0 million pounds. This was down 8 percent from the previous record low set in October 1992. Calf slaughter totaled 97,400 head, down 15 percent. The average live weight was up 25 pounds to 395 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.47 billion pounds, decreased 7 percent from October 1992. Hog kill totaled 8.04 million head, down 9 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 254 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 25.0 million pounds, fell 14 percent from a year earlier and down 4 percent from the previous record low set in 1979.Slaughter totaled 406,000 head, down 14 percent. The average live weight remained the same at 124 pounds.

January-September red meat production was 33.6 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production decreased 1 percent, veal was down 12 percent, pork was down 2 percent, and lamb and mutton dropped 5 percent.

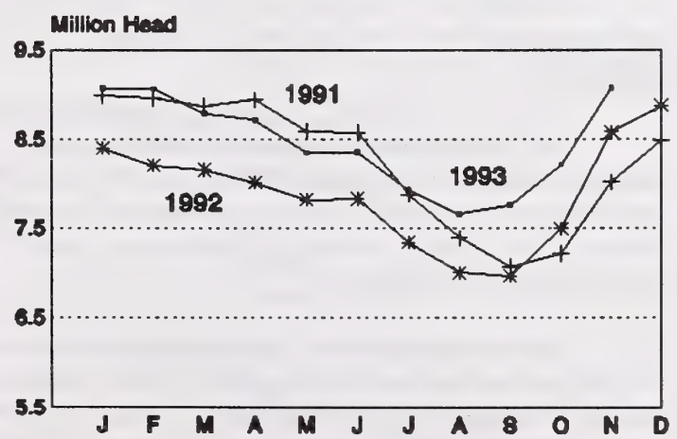
CATTLE ON FEED UP 6 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 9.08 million head, up 6 percent from 1992 and 13 percent above 1991. This is the largest November 1 inventory since 1978.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during October totaled 2.47 million, down 7 percent from last year and 3 percent below 1991. Net placements of 2.40 million for October were down 7 percent from last year and 3 percent below 1991.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.54 million, up 3 percent from last year but 8 percent below two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 76,000 head, the same as October 1992 but 1 percent below October 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



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WAGE RATES UP

U. S. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.26 per hour during the October 1993 survey week. This rate was up 17 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.94 per hour compared with $5.83 in October 1992. Field workers received an average of $5.91 per hour, up 17 cents from the October 1992 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.67 per hour compared with $5.57 a year earlier.

There were 3.25 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 1993. This is the same as the October 1992 survey week. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.54 million of the total, along with 503,000 unpaid workers, and 928,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 283,000 workers.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 38 percent of the hired workers during the survey week, compared to 39 percent in October 1992. U. S. annual average wage rates paid by farm operators during 1993 were $6.25 per hour. This compares to $6.06 during 1992 and $5.79 during 1991.

Montana farm operators paid their hired workers an annual average of $5.56 per hour, up 22 cents from 1992. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.82 per hour compared with $5.35 last year. Field workers earned $5.68 which is 24 cents more than earned during 1992. Field and livestock workers received $5.30 per hour compared with $5.13 in 1992.

HIRED WORKERS: Annual Average Wage Rates By State and United States, 1992-1993 1/ 2/

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock		Hourly	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	Dollars per Hour							
CO	5.65	5.84	5.34	5.49	5.25	5.35	5.37	5.72
ID	5.54	6.05	5.23	5.68	5.40	5.93	5.20	5.55
MT	5.34	5.56	5.44	5.68	5.13	5.30	5.35	5.82
ND	6.26	6.49	6.27	7.01	6.19	6.57	6.62	6.83
OR	6.43	6.75	6.19	6.38	6.19	6.35	6.17	6.33
SD	5.50	5.69	5.44	5.22	5.28	5.43	5.54	5.59
UT	6.02	6.25	5.98	6.04	5.79	5.94	5.93	5.75
WA	6.83	6.98	6.09	6.43	6.39	6.60	6.19	6.50
WY	5.10	5.49	4.89	5.94	4.92	4.98	5.50	6.01
US	6.06	6.25	5.69	5.90	5.64	5.81	5.75	5.95

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers.

2/ Annual rates are averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

U.S. OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION ROSE 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.15 billion eggs during October 1993, up 2 percent from the 6.01 billion eggs produced a year ago. Production included 5.31 billion table eggs, 782 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 58.0 million egg-type hatching eggs.

The average number of layers during October was 285 million, up 2 percent from the 279 million a year ago. October 1993 egg production averaged 2,156 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 2,151 eggs per 100 layers in October 1992.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1993, totaled 285 million, compared with 280 million a year ago. The 285 million layers consisted of 241 million for table or commercial type eggs, 41.7 for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.65 million for egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1993, averaged 70.1 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from last year's 69.9 eggs per 100 layers.

The 20 major States accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, June through August 1993. Data for the remaining 30 quarterly States were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 States conducting monthly surveys.

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 major States during October totaled 10.4 billion pounds, 1 percent below production in these same States in October 1992. September revised production, at 10.2 billion pounds was down 1 percent from September 1992.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,283 pounds for October, 5 pounds above October 1992.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.10 million head, 143,000 below October 1992 and 15,000 below September 1993.

During the July-September period the 21 major States produced 31.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.3 billion pounds for October 1993.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED

The number of sheep and lambs on feed November 1, 1993 for slaughter market on Montana farms and ranches totaled 39,000 head, up 27,000 head from March 1 and up 8,000 head from January 1. Lambs on feed accounted for 90 percent or 35,000 head of the total November 1 sheep and lambs on feed in the state.

Lambs on feed in feedlots totaled 21,000 head with 9,000 head weighing less than 85 pounds. A total of 14,000 lambs were on pasture and/or crop residue of which 6,000 head weighed 85 pounds or less, of the 8,000 head remaining, less than 500 head weighed more than 105 pounds.

Sheep and lambs on feed November 1, 1993, for slaughter market in the 16 major producing States totaled 1.55 million head. The inventory included 1.47 million lambs (less than 1 year old) for slaughter market and 81,000 mature sheep (over 1 year old).

Of the total lambs on feed, 993,000 (68 percent) were in feedlots and the remaining 475,000 (32 percent) were on pasture and/or crop residue.

Colorado had the most sheep and lambs on feed with 430,000 head, followed by California with 200,000 head, and third was Wyoming with 195,000 head, narrowly surpassing Texas at 187,000.

Lambs on Feed for Slaughter Market: By Weight Groups, Selected States & 16 Major States, November 1, 1993

	Feedlot				Pasture/Crop Residue			
State	Under 85 Pounds	85 to 105 lbs	Over 105 lbs	Total	Under 85 Pounds	85 to 105 lbs	Over 105 lbs	Total
	1,000 Head				1,000 Head			
CO	80.0	233.0	104.0	417.0	2/	2/	2/	8.0
MT	9.0	2/	2/	21.0	6.0	8.0	1/	14.0
ND	9.5	13.0	2.5	25.0	7.0	3.0	1/	10.0
OR	1/	2/	2/	20.0	35.5	44.5	6.0	86.0
SD	23.0	35.0	18.0	76.0	4.0	2.5	0.5	7.0
WY	9.0	102.0	8.0	119.0	37.0	29.0	1.0	67.0
Total 16 States	228.0	531.0	234.0	993.0	251.5	207.0	16.5	475.0

1/ Less than 500 gead. 2/ Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations. Data are included in the total.

Total Sheep & Lambs on Feed, Selected States & 16 Major States, November 1, 1993

	Total Lambs on Feed	Total Sheep on Feed	Total Sheep and Lambs on Feed
		1,000 Head	
AZ	46.0	4.0	50.0
CO	425.0	5.0	430.0
MT	35.0	4.0	39.0
ND	35.0	2.0	37.0
OR	106.0	5.0	111.0
SD	83.0	2.0	85.0
WY	186.0	9.0	195.0
Total 16 States	1,468.0	81.0	1,549.0

featuring...MEAGHER COUNTY

Meagher County is situated in central Montana with the Little Belt Mountains marking its northern boundary, and the Big Belt Mountains laying along its western border. Sections of the Lewis & Clark and Helena National Forests are scattered in various regions of the county. The Smith River flows northwesterly through Meagher County, while the Musselshell River originates in the south central region and flows east. White Sulphur Springs is the county seat, and the area has an annual average precipitation of 15.77 inches.

Although a little more than half the terrain is mountainous, agriculture is still a prominent industry. Meagher County ranked 17th and 25th, respectively, among the cattle and sheep producing counties in the January 1, 1993 livestock inventories. December 1, 1992 hog numbers put the county in 21st place. Cash receipts for livestock and products totaled $13,808,000 in 1991 with a rank of 28th.

Most of the cropland is irrigated. Hay, oats, winter and spring wheat, and barley are all grown. Meagher County ranked 12th for all hay production in the 1992 crop production totals, as well as 22nd and 38th for oats and winter wheat, respectively. Crops cash receipts came to $2,038,000 with a rank of 46th in 1991. Government payments added $948,000 for a total cash receipts of $16,794,000.

Meagher County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,530,924	Total Cropland	Acres	107,873
Land in Farms	Acres	1,012,764	Harvested Cropland	Acres	70,978
Number of Farms		144	Irrigated Land	Acres	48,464
Average size Farms	Acres	7,033			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	44,617	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	11,428	Calves	No. Head	52,124
Barley	Acres	15,047	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	8,426
Oats	Acres	1,321	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	(D)

[1/] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture. (D) Not included to avoid disclosure of individual operation.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

Highlights:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production

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SEPTEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.49 million pounds of red meat during September 1993. This was a 19 percent decrease from the previous month, and 1 percent decrease from a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, was the same number slaughtered last year. The average live weight, at 1,229 pounds, increased 76 pounds from last year.

A total of 2,600 hogs were slaughtered in September, 100 less than a year ago. Average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 229. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 400 head, was down 100 head from last year. Average live weight, at 119 pounds, decreased 4 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.51 billion pounds during September. This production was 1 percent below a year earlier. Beef production totaled 2.03 billion pounds. This was up 2 percent from September 1992. Head kill totaled 2.87 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 1,185 pounds.

Veal production totaled 22.0 million pounds. This was down 6 percent from the record low set in September 1992. Calf slaughter totaled 97,400 head, down 12 percent. The average live weight was up 21 pounds to 389 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.44 billion pounds, was down 5 percent from September 1992. Hog kill totaled 7.95 million head, down 6 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 1 pound to 252 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 27.0 million pounds, was down 10 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 425,900 head, down 13 percent. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 126 pounds.

The January-September red meat production was 30.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent, veal was down 12 percent, pork was down 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 4 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 9 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.69 million head, up 9 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above October 1, 1991. This is the largest October cattle on feed inventory since 1978. The inventory included 6.28 million steers and steer calves, 6 percent above a year ago. This group accounts for 64.8 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.36 million head, 15 percent above a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the July-September 1993 quarter totaled 6.30 million, up 3 percent from last year and 16 percent above July-September 1991. Net placements of 6.03 million for July-September were up 3 percent from last year and up 18 percent from 1991.

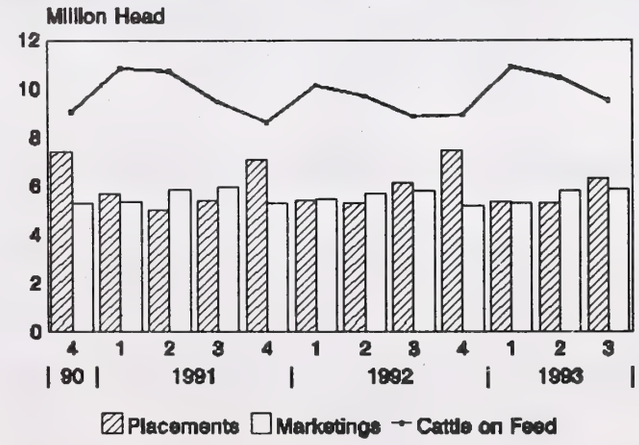
Marketings of fed cattle during the July-September 1993 quarter totaled 5.83 million, up 1 percent from last year but 2 percent below two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 270,000 head compared to 268,000 in July-September 1992 and 282,000 in July-September 1991.

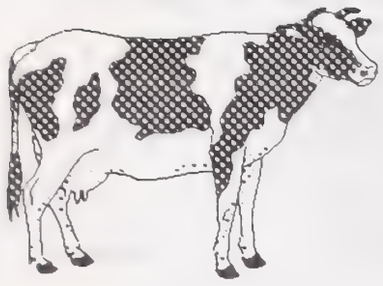
Expected Marketings for October-December 1993 Up 7 Percent

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.56 million head during the October-December quarter of 1993. This would be up 7 percent from the fourth quarter marketings in 1992 and up 6 percent from October-December of 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, KS,MN, NE OK, SD, TX WA)





SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 major States during September totaled 10.1 billion pounds, 1 percent below production in these same States in September 1992. August revised production, at 10.6 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from August 1992.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,250 pounds for September, 4 pounds above September 1992. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.11 million head, 125,000 below September 1992 and 8,000 below August 1993.

During the July-September period the 21 major States produced 31.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 13.0 billion pounds for July, 12.5 billion pounds for August, and 12.0 billion pounds for September.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.5 billion, slightly below the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.71 million head, 116,000 less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1993, averaged 17.8 pounds per cow, 0.4 pound more than October 1, 1992. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on October 1, averaged $7.92 per hundredweight, $0.27 more than October 1, 1992.

SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.87 billion during September 1993, up 2 percent from the 5.75 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.06 billion table eggs, 755 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 55.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during September 1993 averaged 283 million, up 2 percent from the 276 million a year ago. September 1993 average egg production was 2,072 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 2,080 eggs per 100 layers in September 1992.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1993, totaled 285 million, compared with 279 million a year ago. The 285 million layers consisted of 240 million for table or commercial type eggs, 42.4 million for broiler-type hatching type eggs, and 2.65 million for egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1993, averaged 68.9 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from the 68.8 eggs per 100 layers on October 1, 1992.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.81 billion eggs during September 1993, up 2 percent from the 4.71 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during September averaged 232 million, up 3 percent from the 226 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly States were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 States making monthly surveys. These monthly States accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, June 1993 through August 1993.

INDUSTRY USING MORE AG PRODUCTS

Industrial products made from agricultural materials are gaining a foothold in consumer markets. Government environmental regulations and growing consumer preference for "green" products are expanding industrial demand for agricultural materials. Products showing signs of success include ethanol, starch-based adhesives and biodegradable polymers, soy-oil inks, biodiesel fuel, erosion-control products, and kenaf-based packing materials and animal litter.

Recent scientific advances are reducing the costs of processing farm products for use as industrial raw materials. And advances in process engineering are making farm-based products more competitive with synthetic materials.

Over the next 4 years, increased demand for fuel ethanol, adhesives, and biodegradable polymers will expand industrial use of starches and sugars. Cornstarch, which is currently less expensive than starch from other sources, has captured most of the industrial starch market. Industrial demand for starch, in corn-equivalent units, is expected to reach 795 million bushels by market-year 1995/96 (September-August), up 140 million from 1992/93, about an 8-percent annual rise.

Starch dominates the natural adhesives market. Currently, about 3.5 billion pounds of starch, mostly corn, is used annually to make adhesives, primarily for the paper and paperboard industry.

While most of the starch is from corn, starch from wheat and potatoes is also used to make adhesives.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1991-1993

COUNTY & DISTRICT	All Cattle and Calves				Beef Cows and Heifers That Have Calved		
	1991	1992	1993	Rank	1991	1992	1993
Deerlodge	9,200	8,800	7,800	53	5,600	4,600	4,900
Flathead	19,600	20,100	20,300	45	9,400	9,200	9,600
Granite	28,900	30,000	26,700	39	18,500	18,400	17,000
Lake	45,900	51,400	57,200	12	26,500	28,600	33,000
Lincoln	5,000	5,000	5,600	55	3,100	3,200	3,600
Mineral	1,000	1,200	1,300	56	700	700	800
Missoula	12,200	12,300	11,600	52	7,500	7,800	7,200
Powell	43,400	54,200	47,200	23	27,700	30,900	27,700
Ravalli	39,800	40,000	35,600	31	22,100	21,000	19,000
Sanders	23,100	22,500	19,700	47	11,300	12,700	12,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**228,100**	**245,500**	**233,000**	–	**132,400**	**137,100**	**135,300**
Blaine	59,100	57,200	54,400	15	40,400	39,000	35,900
Chouteau	46,100	50,700	42,500	25	28,400	28,600	27,000
Glacier	24,000	25,500	33,200	33	14,100	14,900	19,200
Hill	21,500	21,700	22,600	43	14,900	15,000	15,900
Liberty	14,800	14,600	16,500	49	8,900	8,800	9,000
Phillips	74,200	83,000	77,000	6	47,900	51,000	49,600
Pondera	21,200	24,000	22,800	40	14,700	14,700	14,700
Teton	49,000	51,000	50,700	18	28,400	28,800	28,300
Toole	15,300	15,800	14,700	50	10,200	10,500	9,800
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**325,200**	**343,500**	**334,400**	–	**207,900**	**211,300**	**209,400**
Daniels	12,100	11,400	13,400	51	8,000	8,000	9,200
Dawson	33,800	36,700	34,100	32	22,900	22,900	23,700
Garfield	50,600	49,300	48,400	21	30,100	29,500	30,500
McCone	28,100	29,900	29,000	37	17,700	21,000	19,900
Richland	49,000	48,900	47,500	22	23,900	24,600	27,500
Roosevelt	18,200	18,900	19,900	46	12,400	12,200	12,800
Sheridan	15,900	16,500	18,000	48	11,300	11,900	13,000
Valley	59,400	70,600	69,200	7	35,700	42,700	38,700
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**267,100**	**282,200**	**279,500**	–	**162,000**	**172,800**	**175,300**
Broadwater	24,500	23,900	22,600	41	16,200	16,200	16,000
Cascade	61,300	65,900	67,100	10	38,900	41,400	44,600
Fergus	94,100	102,300	105,000	4	61,600	62,400	64,200
Golden Valley	22,100	24,000	27,500	38	13,100	14,100	17,300
Judith Basin	52,900	54,700	54,000	16	33,700	34,400	34,000
Lewis & Clark	35,600	36,700	37,300	28	22,800	23,400	23,000
Meagher	50,000	50,200	51,200	17	31,200	31,100	27,900
Musselshell	27,800	31,800	31,900	34	17,500	20,200	18,800
Petroleum	24,800	30,000	29,100	36	16,700	17,500	17,400
Wheatland	33,600	36,100	36,800	29	21,200	22,600	21,200
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**426,700**	**455,600**	**462,500**	–	**272,900**	**283,300**	**284,400**
Beaverhead	154,600	161,000	146,500	1	88,400	90,200	93,600
Gallatin	57,600	58,300	61,900	11	27,400	29,800	32,200
Jefferson	22,100	23,600	22,600	42	14,500	15,900	14,900
Madison	84,600	86,700	91,200	5	53,000	53,400	56,900
Silver Bow	6,300	7,300	7,000	54	4,100	4,600	4,200
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**325,200**	**336,900**	**329,200**	–	**187,400**	**193,900**	**201,800**
Big Horn	116,100	123,900	126,000	2	65,300	67,900	72,300
Carbon	49,200	61,000	56,600	14	25,800	31,200	28,000
Park	46,800	47,000	45,200	24	31,200	30,200	28,600
Stillwater	44,600	49,300	50,500	19	26,700	27,500	30,600
Sweetgrass	41,000	42,200	41,600	26	27,400	27,200	28,700
Treasure	30,200	30,300	30,300	35	14,200	14,100	15,400
Yellowstone	108,800	127,100	121,000	3	34,200	39,400	40,200
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**436,700**	**480,800**	**471,200**	–	**224,800**	**237,500**	**243,800**
Carter	46,100	49,900	48,400	20	29,000	30,300	32,100
Custer	57,200	61,200	57,100	13	32,100	32,800	33,300
Fallon	39,300	43,500	40,600	27	22,000	23,800	24,200
Powder River	61,100	70,300	69,000	8	37,200	40,500	41,700
Prairie	34,300	38,600	36,600	30	20,200	20,500	23,400
Rosebud	65,800	73,800	68,100	9	38,200	41,700	44,000
Wibaux	17,200	18,200	20,400	44	9,900	10,500	11,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**321,000**	**355,500**	**340,200**	–	**188,600**	**200,100**	**210,000**
MONTANA	**2,330,000**	**2,500,000**	**2,450,000**	–	**1,376,000**	**1,436,000**	**1,460,000**

featuring...MADISON COUNTY

Madison County was created in February of 1865. It occupies approximately 2,297,452 acres in southwestern Montana. Surrounded and divided by mountain ranges, Madison County is comprised of two parallel valleys--the Madison and the Ruby. Portions of the Beaverhead National Forest lie within the boundaries of the county. Flowing from south to north is the Madison River in the eastern part of the county, and the Ruby River in the western half. The Ruby joins the Beaverhead River near Twin Bridges, Montana, which then joins the Jefferson River and continues on out of the county. The Ruby River Reservoir is located on the Ruby River near Alder, Montana.

Madison County lends itself to abundant livestock production and ranked 5th and 9th, consecutively, in cattle and sheep numbers on January 1, 1993. In the December 1, 1992 hog inventory, Madison County showed up in 27th place. Hay production is a major agricultural interest in the county as it ranked 2nd in 1992 production of that crop. Spring and winter wheat, barley, and oats are also produced in the area.

The thriving livestock industry brought Madison County $26,243,000 in cash receipts and a ranking of 9th in 1991. Crops contributed $4,650,000, ranking 34th, while government payments added $1,378,000 for a total return of $32,271,000 in 1991 and a rank of 27th in the state.

Madison County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	2,297,452	Total Cropland	Acres	165,698
Land in Farms	Acres	1,195,898	Harvested Cropland	Acres	114,931
Number of Farms		453	Irrigated Land	Acres	124,831
Average size Farms	Acres	2,640			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	91,698	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	10,334	Calves	No. Head	101,178
Barley	Acres	11,573	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	15,249
Oats	Acres	2,101	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	2,926

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Monthly Average Prices
Corp Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock

REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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RELEASED: October 15, 1993

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Highlights:

October 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
September Prices Received
Cash Receipts, 1988-92

OCTOBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's 1993 **all wheat** crop of 196.8 million bushels is a new record high, topping the record established in 1982 by 9 percent and last year's output by 41 percent. Some of this year's bountiful crop still remains to be harvested because producers were waiting for warm dry weather to mature the crop and drop moisture levels. Most of the crops would normally be in the bin by now, but many producers providing information on our most recent survey estimated a portion of their production. These producers will be re-contacted in early November to obtain actual production.

Winter wheat production is 102.9 million bushels compared with 60.9 million last year. There were 2.45 million acres harvested with an average yield of 42 bushels, 2 bushels above the record 1991 yield. There were 2.65 million acres of **spring wheat** harvested, not including durum, producing 90.1 million bushels, exceeding the 1982 record of 89.9 million bushels and up 23 percent from last year's crop. Production of **durum wheat** is placed at 3.8 million bushels, down from 5.2 million last year.

Barley production is 65.6 million bushels, up from 52.8 million produced in 1992. Barley harvested acres of 1.15 million is down 50 thousand from last year, but the yield of 57 bushels per acre is a new record, 5 bushels above the 1991 record. **Oats** producers also had a record yield of 66 bushels per acre, topping the 1992 record of 56. There were 4.0 million bushels of oats produced from 60,000 acres harvested.

The wet 1993 crop season produced a record **all hay** crop of 5.5 million tons, but made it very difficult for hay harvesting. **Alfalfa hay** production is estimated at 4.1 million tons, 23 percent larger than last season and 8 percent larger than the record set in 1991. **All other hay** production is expected to be 1.4 million tons, 6 percent larger than last year. **Sugar beet** production is estimated to be 1.2 million tons, down 6 percent from last season. Growers expect to harvest 54,100 acres, 1,700 less than in 1992.

U.S. **all wheat** production for 1993 totaled 2.42 billion bushels, down 3 percent from September 1 and down 2 percent from 1992. The U.S. yield averaged 38.4 bushels per acre, off 0.6 bushel from the last forecast and a full bushel less than 1992. The 1993 **winter wheat** production was estimated at 1.77 billion bushels, up 10 percent from 1992. Yields averaged 40.3 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels better than last year. Production of **other spring wheat** was estimated at 579 million bushels, down 23 percent from last year. **Durum** production was estimated at 73.2 million bushels, 25 percent less than the 1992 crop.

Barley production was estimated at 416 million bushels, 9 percent below last year's crop of 458 million bushels. Average yield per acre, at 58.9 bushels, was down 3.6 bushels from the 1992 crop. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 7.06 million acres, 4 percent less than last year. This is the smallest harvested barley acreage since 1934. **Oats** production in 1993 was estimated at 208 million bushels, 29 percent below last year's crop of 295 million bushels, and the lowest production since estimates were first made in 1866.

Corn to be harvested for grain is estimated at 63.1 million acres, down 13 percent from last year. The acreage is down 1 percent from the 63.9 million acres estimated last month. **Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 84.0 million tons, 5 percent above a year ago. Production of **all other hay** is expected to total 70.0 million tons, 1 percent above last year. Production of **dry beans** is forecast at 23.1 million cwt, 5 percent above last year. The October 1 **sugar beet** production forecast of 27.8 million tons is 4 percent below last year's output.

OCTOBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pasture and range feed conditions were rated 101 percent of normal on October 1, 1993. This condition was the best since the 1927 record of 109 percent. Compared with last year, the pasture and range feed condition is up 21 points. The north central district, recovering from last year's drought conditions, moved up 43 points. The southeast district is down 4 points from 1992. All other districts are above last year.

MONTANA, October 1, 1993
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1991	1992	1993
Northwest	79	83	102
North Central	78	59	102
Northeast	87	77	90
Central	85	79	103
Southwest	76	80	119
South Central	89	77	98
Southeast	93	100	96
Montana	84	80	101

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - OCTOBER 1, 1993

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,100	2,450	29.0	42.0 4/	60,900	102,900
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	115	157	114	33.0	33.0 5/	5,181	3,762
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,650	2,750	2,450	2,650	30.0	34.0 5/	73,500	90,100 4/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,410	5,515	4,707	5,214	29.7	37.7	139,581	196,762 4/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	70	65	25	21	110.0	115.0	2,750	2,415
Oats	Bu.	165	140	70	60	56.0	66.0 4/	3,920	3,960
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,300	1,200	1,150	44.0	57.0 4/	52,800	65,550
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	12.0	9.5	12.0	19.0	19.0	181	228
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.9	54.4	55.8	54.1	22.8	22.0	1,272	1,190
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.6	9.1	8.5	9.0	290.0	3/	2,465	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,500 5/	2.35	2.70 4/	3,290	4,050 4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	850	1.60	1.70 4/	1,360	1,445
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,250	2,350	2.07	2.34 4/	4,650	5,495 4/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,057	51,727	41,893	43,851	38.3	40.3	1,606,534	1,769,308
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,507	2,181	2,449	2,080	39.7	35.2	97,196	73,164
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,700	18,190	18,069	17,051	41.8	34.0	755,218	579,060
All Wheat	Bu.	72,264	72,098	62,411	62,982	39.4	38.4	2,458,948	2,421,532
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	79,325	73,659	72,144	63,110	131.4	110.3	9,478,914	6,961,902
Oats	Bu.	7,961	7,944	4,492	3,813	65.6	54.6	294,764	208,138
Barley	Bu.	7,809	7,936	7,325	7,062	62.5	58.9	457,910	415,763
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,613.6	1,824.6	1,496.9	1,621.9	14.73	14.26	22,047	23,124
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,436.1	1,434.7	1,412.8	1,407.4	20.5	19.7	28,928	27,771
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,151.7	1,186.5	1,132.6	1,169.5	335.0	3/	379,525	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,159	24,291	3.30	3.46	79,652	83,990
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,438	36,704	1.96	1.91	69,489	70,036
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,597	60,995	2.50	2.53	149,141	154,026

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 9, 1993. [4] Record high. [5] Tied record high.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, OCTOBER 1, 1993 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1992	1993 [2]	93/92	1992	1993 [2]	93/92	1992	1993 [2]	93/92
	-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-		
Northwest	1,291	1,386	107%	1,058	887	84%	2,879	2,555	89
North Central	19,641	54,800	279%	23,791	39,668	167%	20,947	33,373	159
Northeast	9,392	8,354	89%	42,495	41,359	97%	7,250	6,318	87
Central	13,244	21,620	163%	3,955	5,286	134%	9,281	13,038	140
Southwest	1,927	2,184	113%	1,661	1,664	100%	4,476	3,774	84
South Central	10,024	8,640	86%	1,713	1,568	92%	5,979	4,366	73
Southeast	5,381	5,916	110%	4,008	3,430	86%	1,988	2,226	112
Montana	60,900	102,900	169%	78,681	93,862	119%	52,800	65,550	124

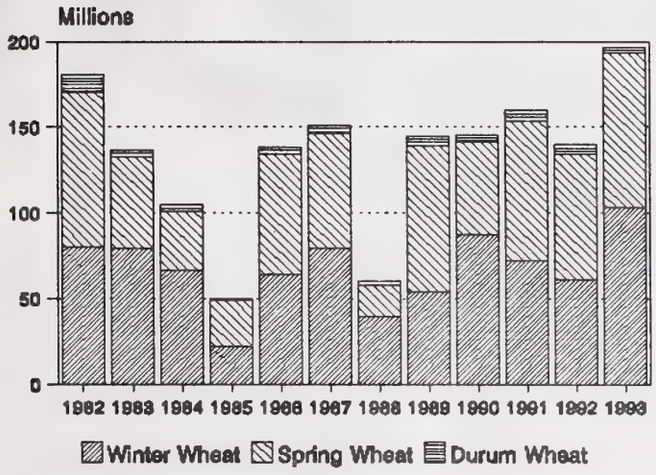
[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sep. 1, 1992	Jun. 1, 1993*	Sep. 1, 1993	Sep. 1, 1992	Jun. 1, 1993*	Sep. 1, 1993
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	3.7	0.4	0.8	3.3	0.8	2.6
North Central	52.5	17.0	96.8	23.3	5.3	31.5
Northeast	51.3	20.9	69.6	5.2	3.1	8.3
Central	16.6	4.1	27.1	6.8	2.8	11.8
Southwest	2.3	1.3	4.4	2.3	1.3	3.5
South Central	10.6	1.6	8.4	4.4	2.0	3.2
Southeast	12.6	3.1	11.9	1.5	0.3	1.8
STATE	149.6	48.4	219.0	46.8	15.6	62.7

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

Montana Wheat Production
(October 1 numbers for 1993)



SEPTEMBER AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Montana farm and ranch prices increased in September over August for all wheat, hay, steers and heifers, and lambs.

Individual commodity prices show all wheat at $3.37, up 4 cents per bushel from August. Barley was $1.82 per bushel, down 45 cents from the previous month. Oats, at $1.03 per bushel, were 13 cents below last month's price. Hay prices rose between 2 and 3 dollars per ton. Alfalfa hay came in at $72.00 and other hay is currently averaging $61.00 a ton.

Livestock prices for mid-September had steers and heifers gain 90 cents over last month to $82.00 per cwt. Cow prices dropped $1.90 to $49.80, and the average price for calves decreased $5.60 to $98.40 per cwt. Prices received for sheep also fell $5.60 per cwt from last month to $24.70, but lamb prices rose $2.50 to $68.20. Milk prices remained the same at $13.60 per cwt.

The **U.S.** September All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 145 based on 1977=100, up 3 points (2.1 percent) from August 1993. Price gains from August for oranges, lettuce, wheat, and apples more than offset price declines for soybeans, eggs, cattle, and corn. Most of the index change was attributed to a 93 percent increase in orange prices. Without the large change in orange prices from August to September, the All Farm Products Index would have been unchanged at 142. The orange price change tends to be over represented in the index since volume marketed was small. U.S. prices for September include all hogs at $48.20 per cwt and eggs at 56 cents per dozen.

Compared with September 1992, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (4.3 percent) higher. Price increases from September 1992 for hogs, oranges, soybeans, and broilers more than offset price decreases for milk, wheat, apples, and tobacco.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sep. 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1993	MONTANA Sep. 15, 1993	U.S. Sep. 15, 1993
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.09	2.97	2.90	2.87
Durum	Bu.	2.89	3.01	3.59	3.46
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.58	3.65	3.52
All Wheat	Bu.	3.32	3.33	3.37	3.09
Barley, All	Bu.	2.39	2.27	1.82	1.86
Feed	Bu.	1.88	1.71	1.55	1.56
Malt	Bu.	3.23	2.97	2.32	2.32
Oats	Bu.	1.23	1.16	1.03	1.37
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	70.00	72.00	84.30
All Other Hay	Ton	56.00	58.00	61.00	60.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	68.00	70.00	77.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	78.60	81.10	82.00	74.80
Cows	Cwt.	47.20	51.70	49.80	47.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	68.80	66.70	70.70	72.10
Calves	Cwt.	92.40	104.00	98.40	94.30
Sheep	Cwt.	20.70	30.30	24.70	25.70
Lambs	Cwt.	53.70	65.70	68.20	65.40
All Milk	Cwt.	14.00	13.60	13.60	12.70
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.71	0.50	0.45	0.38

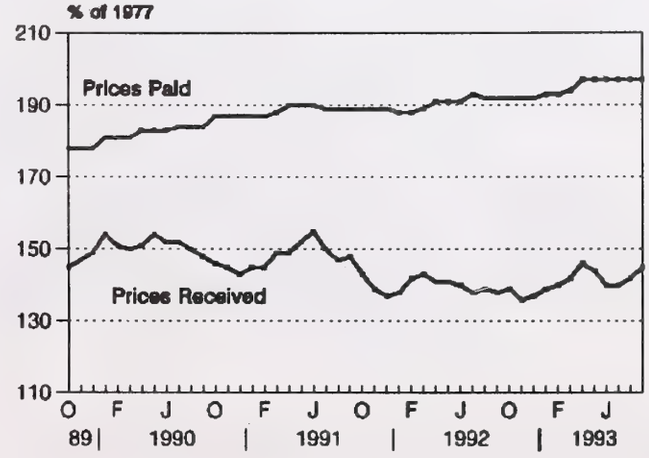
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Aug. 1992	Sep. 1992	Aug. 1993	Sep. 1993
Prices Received	139	139	142	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/192	2/192	3/197	3/197
Ratio 1/	72	72	72	74

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1992 prices paid index. 3/ July 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1988-1992 [1/]

ITEM	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
			--Thousand Dollars--		
LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	693,345	797,523	751,743	677,094	780,755
Dairy products	41,254	42,752	42,963	38,734	41,795
Sheep and lambs	21,286	20,758	18,746	20,565	25,141
Wool	8,386	7,836	5,646	3,729	5,075
Hogs and pigs	28,613	34,181	42,150	44,444	39,749
Eggs	7,760	11,250	9,747	9,020	6,533
Chickens	174	197	116	73	56
Honey	2,369	2,961	4,287	4,510	5,455
Other [2/]	13,075	11,798	12,771	11,802	16,753
TOTAL	816,262	929,256	888,169	809,971	921,312
CROPS					
Wheat	306,877	375,049	439,440	410,444	506,967
Barley	117,148	81,064	149,690	132,869	145,545
Sugar beets	46,646	45,039	53,568	48,938	47,446
Hay	71,633	78,832	76,778	64,406	74,140
Potatoes	11,565	15,130	16,834	18,901	15,826
Oats	2,233	2,758	2,355	1,639	1,443
Dry beans	1,752	2,709	3,343	2,616	2,614
Corn	1,927	1,468	774	2,004	3,575
Cherries	1,042	0	250	250	336
All other [3/]	24,350	21,687	22,193	22,344	23,204
TOTAL	585,173	623,736	765,225	704,411	821,096
All commodities	1,401,435	1,552,992	1,653,394	1,514,382	1,742,408

[1/] Revised. [2/] Includes beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others. [3/] Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse, nursery and forest products.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Egg Production
Cattle on Feed Slaughter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Highlights:

7 State Cattle on Feed
August Red Meat Production
September 1 Grain Stocks
Quarterly Egg Production
Hogs & Pigs
August Milk Production
1992 Potato Production

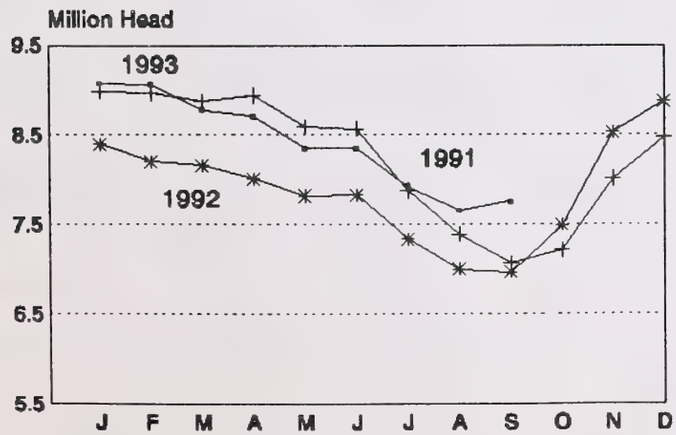
CATTLE ON FEED UP 11 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.75 million head, up 11 percent from a year ago and 1 percent above the previous month. This is the largest September 1 inventory since 1978.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August totaled 1.85 million, up 12 percent from last year and 26 percent above 1991. This is the largest August placements since 1987. Net placements of 1.77 million for August were up 13 percent from last year and 27 percent above 1991.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.67 million, up 5 percent from last year, but 3 percent below two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 77,000 head compared to 81,000 in August 1992 and 67,000 in August 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



AUGUST 1993 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.83 million pounds of red meat in August 1993. This was a 19 percent increase from July, and a 7 percent increase from a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,800 head, increased 100 head from last year. Average live weight increased 15 pounds to 1,239.

A total of 3,600 hogs were slaughtered in August, 500 head more than were slaughtered during this time in 1992. Average live weight decreased 13 pounds to 226. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 700 head, increased 100 head from last year. Average live weight decreased 12 pounds to 111.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.5 billion pounds during August. This production was 3 percent above a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 2.07 billion pounds, up 4 percent from August 1992. Head kill totaled 2.94 million, an increase of 6 percent from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 1,173 pounds.

Veal production totaled 23.0 million pounds. This was down 4 percent from the record low set in August 1992. Calf slaughter totaled 98,400 head, down 11 percent. The average live weight was up 29 pounds to 400 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.39 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from the record high set a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.64 million head, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds to 251 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 27.0 million pounds, was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 431,900 head, up 3 percent. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 125 pounds.

January-August red meat production was 26.5 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent, veal was down 13 percent, pork was down slightly, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1993 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks on September 1, 1993 amounted to 219 million bushels, 46 percent more than last year. This year's September inventory is the largest since 1982, and is 30 percent above the 10-year average. Because of the late harvest season, some of the winter wheat stocks and much of the spring wheat were still in the field.

Winter wheat stocks, at 100 million bushels, were 49 percent above a year ago, and all spring wheat, at 119 million, was up 44 percent. All wheat on farms increased 46 percent from last year and off-farm stocks rose 48 percent. All wheat disappearance in the June through August quarter was 21 percent less than the 10-year average--probably because of the late harvest season.

Barley stocks, in all locations on September 1, amounted to 62.7 million bushels, up 34 percent from last September. Barley on the farm was up 54 percent from last year. Off-farm inventory was down 65 percent. Oat stocks, at 4.7 million bushels, are down 7 percent from last year. Oat stocks on the farm were 2 percent above last year.

U.S. all wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 1993, is placed at 2.16 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last September 1. Farm stocks are 1.0 billion bushels and off-farm stocks total 1.15 billion. Both are up 2 percent from a year ago.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions total 110 million bushels, down 1 percent from last September. Farm stocks, at 89.0 million bushels, are off 2 percent from a year ago. Stocks in off-farm storage total 21.1 million bushels, up 1 percent.

Old crop corn stored in all positions on September 1, 1993 is estimated at 2.11 billion bushels, up 92 percent from September 1, 1992.

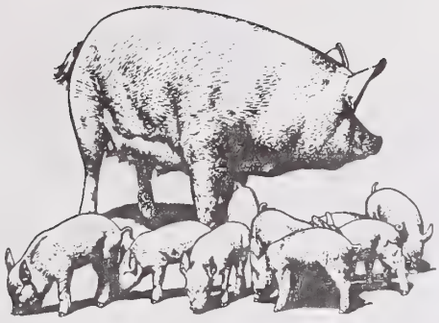
Barley stored in all positions on September 1, 1993 is estimated at 409 million bushels, 2 percent below the stocks of September 1, 1992. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 285 million bushels are stored on farms, 9 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 124 million bushels, are 21 percent below last year.

Oats stored in all positions on September 1, 1993 are 221 million bushels, 25 percent below a year earlier. Of the total oat stocks on hand, 163 million bushels are stored on farms, 18 percent below last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 57.9 million bushels, 39 percent below last year.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1992	June 1, 1993*	Sept. 1, 1993	'93/'92	Sept. 1, 1992	June 1, 1993*	Sept. 1, 1993
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	130,000	35,000	190,000	146%	979,400	183,820	1,003,000
Off Farms [1/]	19,598	13,352	29,000	148%	1,128,219	345,182	1,152,876
TOTAL	149,598	48,352	219,000	146%	2,107,619	529,002	2,155,876
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	56,000	12,500	80,000	143%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	11,047	5,861	20,000	181%	--	--	--
TOTAL	67,047	18,361	100,000	149%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	74,000	22,500	110,000	149%		--	--
Off Farms [1/]	8,551	7,491	9,000	105%	--	--	--
TOTAL	82,551	29,991	119,000	144%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	90,490	53,615	88,950
Off Farms [1/, 4/]	--	--	--	--	20,850	24,811	21,148
TOTAL	6,667	4,277	7,700	115%	111,340	78,426	110,098
BARLEY							
On Farms	39,000	12,000	60,000	154%	261,000	122,880	284,900
Off Farms [1/]	7,785	3,562	2,700	35%	157,402	121,057	124,129
TOTAL	46,785	15,562	62,700	134%	418,402	243,937	409,029
OATS							
On Farms	4,500	1,800	4,600	102%	199,900	110,250	163,000
Off Farms [1/]	553	92	90	16%	94,717	64,875	57,896
TOTAL	5,053	1,892	4,690	93%	294,617	175,125	220,896
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	605,500	3,630,000	1,070,700
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	494,811	2,048,215	1,042,015
TOTAL [4/]	--	--	--	--	1,100,311	5,678,215	2,112,715

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.



U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 4 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1993, is estimated at 59.0 million head. This is a 4 percent decrease from last year and 1 percent below September 1, 1991.

Breeding inventory, at 7.08 million head, was down 5 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below September 1, 1991. Market hog inventory, at 51.9 million head, decreased 4 percent from a year ago and was down 1 percent from September 1, 1991.

The June-August 1993 U.S. pig crop was 23.7 million head, 8 percent less than last year and down 3 percent from the same period in 1991. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.93 million head, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below 1991. Pigs saved per litter were 8.09 compared to 8.14 during the same period in 1992.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.93 million sows farrow during the September-November quarter, 3 percent less than the actual farrowings during the same period last year and 1 percent less than in 1991. Farrowings intended for December 1993-February 1994, at 2.85 million sows, are 2 percent above 1993, but down 2 percent from 1992.

The Montana grain stocks and U.S. hogs and pigs estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,800 Montana farmers and ranchers during September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to this survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

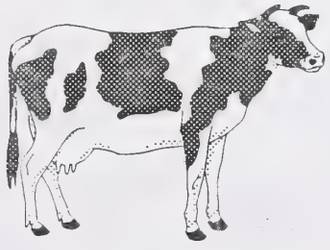
QUARTERLY EGG PRODUCTION

During the June--August quarter of 1993, Montana layers produced 28 million eggs, down from 41 million produced last year. Layers during the quarter averaged 405,000 compared with 610,000 in 1992.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17.8 billion eggs during the June--August quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 15.2 billion for table eggs, 2.36 billion for broiler-type hatching, eggs and 183 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 281 million, up 2 percent from the 275 million a year ago.

U.S. egg production totaled 6.0 billion during August 1993, 1 percent above a year ago. Production included 5.16 billion table eggs, 779 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 58.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during August averaged 281 million, up 3 percent from a year ago.

August egg production per 100 layers was 2,131 eggs, compared with 2,155 in August 1992. All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1993, totaled 281 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 281 million layers consisted of 237 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 42.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching type eggs, and 2.58 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1993, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 69.7 eggs per 100 layers on September 1, 1992.



AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY

Milk production in the 21 major States during August totaled 10.7 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same States in August 1992. July revised production, at 10.9 billion pounds was up slightly from July 1992. If the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.6 billion pounds for August 1993.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,309 pounds for August, 14 pounds above August 1992. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.14 million head, 104,000 below August 1992 and 5,000 below July 1993.

During the April-June period, the 21 major States produced 33.4 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production.

MONTANA VALUE OF PRODUCTION UP 23 PERCENT

Montana's 1992 potato production totalled 2.47 million cwt, 12 percent below a year earlier and 1 percent below 1990. Montana farmers harvested 8,500 acres this year, down 800 acres from last year and down 400 acres from 1990. Yield per acre dropped 10 cwt from 1991 to 290 cwt per acre.

Value of production from the 1992 crop amounted to 20.7 million dollars, 23 percent higher than a year earlier. The average price was $8.40 per cwt, an increase of $2.70 over the 1991 crop.

Sales of Montana's 1992 potato crop totalled 18.8 million dollars, a 27 percent increase from the 1991 crop. Producers sold 2.24 million cwt from the 1992 crop compared with 2.4 million cwt from the 1991 crop.

Total 1992 potato production in the U.S., at 425 million cwt, was 2 percent above a year earlier and 6 percent above 1990. Harvested area, at 1.32 million acres, was down 4 percent from previous year. Yield averaged 323 cwt per acre, a 19 cwt increase. Yield per acre and production were both record highs.

Value of production from the 1992 crop was $2.34 billion--14 percent more than a year earlier, but 4 percent below 1990. The average price was $5.52 per cwt compared with $4.96 for the 1991 crop.

Sales from the 1992 potato crop totalled 386 million cwt, up 2 percent from 1991 and 5 percent above 1990. Non-sales accounted for 39.7 million cwt of 1992 potatoes, up 3 percent from the previous year and 16 percent greater than 1990. In the 1992 season, farmers sold 90.7 percent of their crop and kept 9.3 percent. Shrinkage and loss were estimated at 33.8 million cwt, 4 percent greater than the previous season and 19 percent above 1990 losses. Livestock feed and home use totalled 1.18 million cwt, up 17 percent. Growers kept 4.75 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 6 percent from the previous year.

Processors used a record high 229 million cwt of potatoes, up 1 percent from 1991 and 3 percent above the 1990 usage. Table stock totalled 127 million cwt, a fractional gain from last year, while other sales (diversion, seed, and livestock feed) of 29.4 million cwt were up 14 percent.

Chip potato use, at 48.5 million cwt, was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Frozen potatoes totalled 136 million cwt--gaining 1 percent, while dehydrated claimed 38.1 million cwt--a decrease of 6 percent. Canning use totalled 5.27 million cwt, up 21 percent. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 1.61 million cwt of potatoes, a drop of 7 percent. A diversion program purchased slightly over 2 million cwt of potatoes, mostly out of Maine.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Cash Receipts
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

September 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
August Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement

PLEASE RETURN

SEPTEMBER 1993 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's September 1 spring wheat production forecast at 85.8 million bushels, is 17 percent more than last year. Only 1 other year, 1982, exceeded that level. Yield per acre is expected to be 33 bushels, 1 bushel below the record 1991 yield. Cool, wet weather that produced the bumper crop delayed harvest and as of September 1 only 5 percent of the acreage had been harvested. Durum wheat production is expected to be 3.6 million bushels, 30 percent less than last year. The most recent winter wheat forecast, August 1, placed production at the third largest crop, 97.5 million bushels, 60 percent more than last year. Therefore, Montana's 1993 all wheat crop is forecast to be 186.9 million bushels. This would be nearly 4 percent above the previous record produced in 1982 and would be 34 percent above last year's production.

Barley production, forecast at 67.2 million bushels, is unchanged from last month's forecast and 27 percent above last year. Yield per acre, at 56 bushels, is 4 bushels above the 1991 record.

The sugar beet production forecast was unchanged from last month, but is 6 percent below last year at 1.2 million tons.

Montana pasture and range feed condition was 99 percent of normal compared with 78 last year at this date.

U.S. all wheat production is forecast at 2.49 billion bushels, down 2 percent from August 1, but 1 percent higher than the 1992 production. The U.S. yield is expected to average 39.0 bushels per acre, off 1.0 bushel from last month and 0.4 bushel less than last year. Area for grain is 63.9 million acres, unchanged from August 1.

The other spring wheat production forecast is 628 million bushels, down 8 percent from August 1 and 17 percent less than 1992. Yields are expected to average 35.7 bushels per acre, 3.3 bushels less than a month ago as diseases in the Red River Valley have sharply lowered Minnesota's yield expectations and hurt North Dakota's. Wetness has also fostered disease problems in South Dakota. Montana's prospects improved during August as did Washington's. Area for grain is unchanged from last month at 17.6 million acres. Harvest has progressed slowly in the major producing States, though South Dakota's harvest is ahead of last year.

Corn production is forecast at 7.23 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and 24 percent below the record high production of 1992. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 113.1 bushels per acre, down 2.9 bushels from last month and 18.3 bushels below the record yield of 131.4 bushels set a year earlier. Acreage for harvest as grain is estimated at 63.9 million acres, down slightly from last month.

Soybean production is forecast at 1.91 billion bushels as of September 1, virtually unchanged from the August 1 forecast, but 13 percent below 1992. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1988.

PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pasture and range feed conditions were rated 99 percent of normal on September 1 1993. This condition tied the previous recent record set in 1975 but was below the 1927 record of 110 percent. Compared with last year the pasture and range feed condition is up 21 points. The North Central district, recovering last year's drought conditions, moved up 45 points. The south central district is down 3 points from 1992. All other districts are above last year.

MONTANA, September 1, 1993
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1991	1992	1993
Northwest	82	78	106
North Central	84	56	101
Northeast	86	83	84
Central	81	76	105
Southwest	75	77	103
South Central	84	98	95
Southeast	91	75	99
Montana	84	78	99

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - SEPTEMBER 1, 1993

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,100	2,500	29.0	39.0	60,900	97,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	115	157	114	33.0	32.0	5,181	3,648
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,650	2,650	2,450	2,600	30.0	33.0	73,500	85,800
All Wheat	Bu.	5,410	5,415	4,707	5,214	29.7	35.9	139,581	186,948
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	70	65	25	21	110.0	115.0	2,750	2,415
Oats	Bu.	165	140	70	60	56.0	65.0	3,920	3,900
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	56.0	52,800	67,200
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	12.0	9.5	12.0	19.0	19.0	181	228
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.9	54.4	55.8	54.1	22.8	22.0	1,272	1,190
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.6	9.1	8.5	9.0	290.0	3/	2,465	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,500	2.35	2.60	3,290	3,900
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	850	1.60	1.70	1,360	1,445
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,250	2,350	2.07	2.27	4,650	5,345
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,057	51,896	41,893	44,180	38.3	40.5	1,606,534	1,788,005
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,507	2,201	2,449	2,142	39.9	35.9	97,196	76,980
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,698	18,040	18,065	17,612	41.8	35.7	755,100	628,404
All Wheat	Bu.	72,262	72,137	62,407	63,934	39.4	39.0	2,458,830	2,493,389
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	79,325	73,659	72,144	63,910	131.4	113.1	9,478,914	7,229,427
Oats	Bu.	7,961	8,064	4,492	4,114	65.6	60.7	294,604	249,830
Barley	Bu.	7,802	7,941	7,309	7,539	62.4	57.8	456,348	435,692
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,613.6	1,824.6	1,496.9	1,652.9	14.73	15.0	22,047	24,851
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,436.1	1,434.7	1,412.8	1,405.4	20.4	19.9	28,928	27,916
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,151.7	1,186.5	1,132.6	1,169.5	335.0	3/	366,064	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,159	23,841	3.30	3.39	79,652	80,891
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,438	36,254	1.96	1.93	69,498	69,892
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,597	60,095	2.50	2.51	149,141	150,783

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 9, 1993

All Wheat Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1992 & Forecasted September 1, 1993

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1992	1993	1992	Aug. 1, '93	Sept. 1, '93	1992	1993
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO [1]	2,347	2,583	30.9	37.5	37.5	72,619	96,924
ID	1,440	1,400	69.4	72.4	72.4	100,000	101,300
KS [1]	10,700	11,300	34.0	37.0	37.0	363,800	418,100
MN	2,805	2,500	49.9	44.9	35.1	139,860	87,670
MT	**4,707**	**5,214**	**29.7**	**35.3**	**35.9**	**139,581**	**186,948**
NE [1]	1,850	2,100	30.0	35.0	35.0	55,500	73,500
ND	11,420	11,535	41.1	37.7	34.9	469,850	402,095
OK [1]	5,900	5,500	29.0	30.0	30.0	171,100	165,000
OR [1]	925	925	51.7	64.5	64.5	47,800	59,670
SD	3,733	3,458	32.0	34.4	32.0	119,590	110,672
TX [1]	3,800	3,700	34.0	33.0	33.0	129,200	122,100
WA	2,420	2,840	49.4	59.6	59.7	119,640	169,500
US	62,407	63,934	39.4	40.0	39.0	2,458,830	2,493,389

[1] Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1993 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92
	-1,000 bushels-			-1,000 bushels-			-1,000 bushels-		
Northwest	1,291	2,150	167	1,058	1,055	100	2,879	3,610	125
N Central	19,641	51,650	263	23,791	35,370	149	20,947	32,900	157
Northeast	9,392	7,400	79	42,495	42,408	100	7,250	5,920	82
Central	13,244	19,200	145	3,955	3,900	99	9,281	13,870	149
Southwest	1,927	1,800	93	1,661	1,500	90	4,476	5,130	115
S Central	10,024	9,000	90	1,713	2,140	125	5,979	3,290	
Southeast	5,381	6,300	117	4,008	3,075	77	1,988	2,480	125
MONTANA	60,900	97,500	160	78,681	89,448	114	52,800	67,200	127

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

AUGUST PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for mid-August showed mixed changes. Winter wheat was down 32 cents to $2.76. Other spring wheat increased 38 cents to $3.92, and durum, at $3.00, went up a penny from July. All barley, at $1.68, dropped 18 cents from July. Oats, at $1.14, averaged 36 cents below the previous month. Alfalfa hay remained unchanged at $70.00 per ton, but other hay prices, at $58.00 per ton, decreased $4.00 from July, and all hay dropped $1.00 to $68.00.

Livestock prices for mid-August were higher compared with the previous month, except for sheep. Cow prices rose $1.10 to $53.60 per cwt, and the average price for steers and heifers increased $1.90 to $82.10 per cwt. Calf prices, at $95.20, rose $1.50 from the previous month. Milk prices decreased 60 cents to $13.30 per cwt. Prices received for sheep fell $1.70 per cwt from last month to $29.00, but lamb prices enjoyed a $5.40 jump to $57.80.

The United States All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 142 based on 1977=100, up 2 points (1.4 percent) from July 1993. Price gains from July for oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and apples more than offset price declines for potatoes, milk, lettuce, and soybeans. U.S. prices for August include all hogs at $47.10 per cwt and eggs at 61 cents per dozen.

Compared with August 1992, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (2.2 percent) higher. Price increases from August 1992 for hogs, cattle, soybeans, and oranges more than offset price decreases for milk, apples, lettuce, and strawberries.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jul. 1993	MONTANA Aug. 15, 1993	U.S. Aug. 15, 1993
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.01	3.08	2.76	2.84
Durum	Bu.	2.76	2.99	3.00	3.34
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.31	3.54	3.92	3.57
All Wheat	Bu.	3.09	3.32	3.36	3.01
Barley, All	Bu.	2.90	1.86	1.68	1.79
Feed	Bu.	1.90	1.81	1.67	1.77
Malt	Bu.	3.30	2.26	1.80	1.84
Oats	Bu.	1.15	1.50	1.14	1.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	70.00	70.00	81.60
All Other Hay	Ton	64.00	62.00	58.00	62.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	69.00	68.00	77.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	76.40	80.20	82.10	75.70
Cows	Cwt.	49.10	52.50	53.60	49.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	59.40	60.50	65.00	73.00
Calves	Cwt.	93.90	93.70	95.20	96.30
Sheep	Cwt.	26.60	30.70	29.00	28.00
Lambs	Cwt.	52.60	52.40	57.80	57.00
All Milk	Cwt.	13.60	13.90	13.30	12.60
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.84	0.55	0.50	0.39

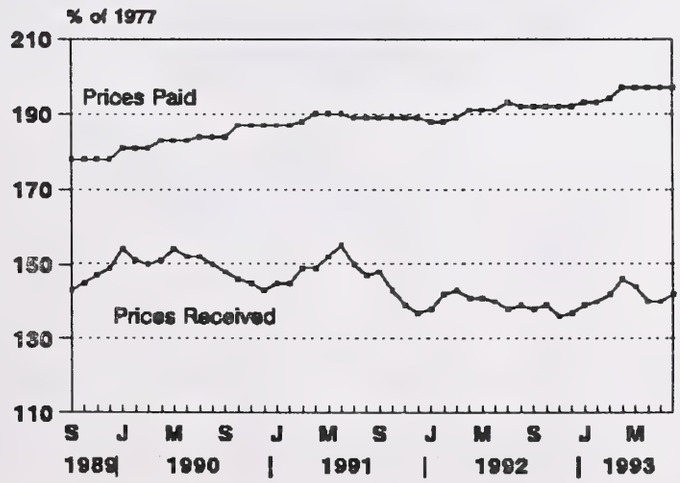
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	July 1992	Aug. 1992	July 1993	Aug. 1993
Prices Received	138	139	140	142
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	192	2/192	197	3/197
Ratio 1/	72	72	71	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1992 prices paid index. 3/ July 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1992-May 1993, at 68.0 million bushels, was 23 percent below the same period last year. The largest amount ever recorded by the Grain Movement survey, which dates back to 1972, was recorded last year at 88.2 million bushels.

Shipments to eastern destinations totaled .7 million bushels, 48 percent below last year. Movement to the west was down 23 percent, at 66.3 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, received 1.1 million bushels—135 percent above last year. Rail movement amounted to 63.9 million bushels—94 percent of total shipments.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations December 1992—May 1993, was 14.4 million bushels, down 41 percent from same period last year. Shipments to western destinations were down 44 percent and eastern destinations were down 20 percent. Barley hauled by rail was 92 percent of total movement, down from 95 percent for the same period last year.

Wheat and Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/]

Agricultural Statistics Districts	December 1991-May 1992 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	December 1992-May 1993 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Dec. 1991 -May 1992 Barley	Dec. 1992 -May 1993 Barley
	--- 000 Bushels ---							
West [3/]	405	2,676	3,081	460	2,148	2,608	5,625	3,807
North Central	25,296	22,507	47,803	11,654	16,647	28,301	11,287	6,213
Northeast	1,509	14,161	15,670	1,419	17,394	18,809	2,056	1,394
Central	9,724	1,952	11,676	6,067	2,258	8,325	5,181	2,785
South Central	5,834	1,165	6,999	5,213	929	6,142	48	163
Southeast	1,292	1,726	3,018	2,139	1,724	3,863	161	85
Trucked East	20	90	110	86	102	188	143	128
Trucked West	2,298	2,616	4,914	1,951	1,753	3,704	1,120	1,034
Trucked Other [4/]	94	241	335	78	209	287	62	47
Total By Truck	2,412	2,947	5,359	2,115	2,064	4,179	1,325	1,209
Rail East	226	1,018	1,244	38	484	522	3,009	2,389
Rail West	41,418	40,110	81,528	24,782	37,792	62,574	19,824	10,697
Rail Other [4/]	4	112	116	17	756	773	200	152
Total By Rail	41,648	41,240	82,888	24,837	39,032	63,869	23,033	13,238
Total Shipped	44,060	44,187	88,247	26,952	41,096	68,048	24,358	14,447

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs	
Milk Production	Slaughter
Cattle on Feed	Potato Disposition
Quarterly Egg Prod.	Grain Stocks

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WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

August 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
July Prices Received
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

PLEASE RETURN

AUGUST 1993 CROP PRODUCTION

Cereal grain development is much later than usual but if normal late summer and early fall weather prevails the cereal grain harvest will be the largest since 1982. Montana's 1993 wheat crop is forecast to be 184.2 million bushels based on August 1 conditions. This would be the largest crop ever harvested if current expectations materialize, and would be 32 percent above last year's production.

Winter wheat harvest had not begun by August 1, but is expected to turn out a near record 97.5 million bushels, 60 percent more than last year. Yield per acre, forecast at 39 bushels, is one bushel below the 1991 record.

Durum wheat production is expected to be 3.5 million bushels, 32 percent less than last year. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 83.2 million bushels, 13 percent more than last year. Only 2 other years, 1989 and 1982, exceeded that level. Yield per acre is expected to be 32 bushels, 2 bushels below the record 1991 yield.

Barley production, forecast at 67.2 million bushels, is 27 percent above last year. Yield per acre, at 56 bushels, is 4 bushels above the 1991 record. Oats production is expected to establish a new record yield of 65 bushels per acre, 9 bushels above the 1992 yield. Production is forecast at 3.9 million bushels, slightly below the 1992 production.

Corn harvested for grain is forecast at 2.4 million bushels, 12 percent below last year's production. Dry bean production is expected to exceed 1992 production by 26 percent with a production total of 228,000 hundred weight. Sugar beet production is forecast 6 percent below last year at 1.2 million tons.

Hay production is forecast at 5.3 million tons, 15 percent more than last year. Alfalfa, at 3.9 million tons, is 19 percent above 1992. Other hay is expected to be 6 percent above 1992 at 1.4 million tons. Montana pasture and range feed condition was 102 percent of normal compared with 85 last year at this date.

U.S. wheat production is forecast at 2.56 billion bushels, down 2 percent from July 1, but up 4 percent from 1992. Yields are now expected to average 40.0 bushels per acre, a record high but off 0.5 bushels from July 1. Winter wheat final 1993 production forecast is 1.79 billion bushels, off 2 percent from the July 1 forecast, but 11 percent more than in 1992. Yields are 40.5 bushels per acre, down a half bushel from last month. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 687 million bushels, down 2 percent from July 1 and off 9 percent from 1992's record high. Yields are forecast at 39.0 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushel from last month.

Total barley production is forecast at 467 million bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 2 percent above the 1992 crop. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 61.9 bushels, up 0.6 bushels from July, but 0.5 bushels below last year. Corn production is forecast at 7.42 billion bushels, down 22 percent from the record high production of 1992. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 116.0 bushels per acre, down 15.4 bushels from the record high yield of last year.

AUGUST 1 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION SHOWS MOST AREAS IMPROVED FROM LAST YEAR

Montana pasture and range feed condition for August 1, 1993, was 102 percent of normal, 18 points above July 1, and 17 points above last year at this same date. Cool weather retarded this year's growth in some areas, but more favorable soil moisture has brought good growth, especially to the north central district which is recovering from last year's drought. The north central district shows a 43 point improvement over year-ago condition, while all other areas show an improvement to a lesser degree, except the southwest and south central districts which were unchanged from last year.

MONTANA, August 1, 1993
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1991	1992	1993
Northwest	95	79	120
North Central	92	58	101
Northeast	97	82	98
Central	91	80	103
Southwest	86	98	98
South Central	96	100	100
Southeast	100	95	101
Montana	94	85	102

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - AUGUST 1, 1993

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,100	2,500	29.0	39.0	60,900	97,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	115	157	114	33.0	31.0	5,181	3,534
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,650	2,650	2,450	2,600	30.0	32.0	73,500	83,200
All Wheat	Bu.	5,410	5,415	4,707	5,214	29.7	33.4	139,581	184,234
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	70	65	25	21	110.0	115.0	2,750	2,415
Oats	Bu.	165	140	70	60	56.0	65.0	3,920	3,900
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	56.0	52,800	67,200
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	12.0	9.5	12.0	19.0	19.0	181	228
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.9	54.4	55.8	54.1	22.8	22.0	1,272	1,190
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.6	9.1	8.5	9.0	290.0	3/	2,465	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,500	2.35	2.60	3,290	3,900
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	850	1.60	1.70	1,360	1,445
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,250	2,350	2.07	2.27	4,650	5,345
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,057	51,896	41,893	44,180	38.3	40.5	1,606,534	1,788,005
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,507	2,201	2,449	2,142	39.7	37.8	97,196	81,006
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,698	18,040	18,065	17,612	41.8	39.0	755,100	686,544
All Wheat	Bu.	72,262	72,137	62,407	63,934	39.4	40.0	2,458,830	2,555,555
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	79,325	73,659	72,144	63,970	131.4	116.4	9,478,914	7,423,142
Oats	Bu.	7,961	8,064	4,492	4,114	65.6	60.7	294,604	249,830
Barley	Bu.	7,802	7,941	7,309	7,539	62.4	61.9	456,348	466,721
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,613.6	1,824.6	1,496.9	1,652.9	14.73	15.75	22,047	26,038
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,436.1	1,434.7	1,412.8	1,405.1	20.4	20.0	28,928	28,052
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,139.7	1,186.5	1,120.6	1,169.5	327.0	3/	366,064	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,159	23,841	3.30	3.39	79,652	80,891
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,438	36,254	1.96	1.93	69,498	69,892
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,597	60,095	2.50	2.51	149,141	150,783

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 9, 1993

All Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1992 & Forecasted August 1, 1993

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1992	1993	1992	July 1, '93	August 1, '93	1992	1993
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,347	2,583	30.9	37.5	37.5	72,619	96,924
ID	1,440	1,400	69.4	71.8	72.4	100,000	101,300
KS	10,700	11,300	34.0	39.0	37.0	363,800	418,100
MN	2,805	2,500	49.9	49.8	44.9	139,860	112,320
MT	4,707	5,214	29.7	33.4	35.3	139,581	184,234
NE	1,850	2,100	30.0	35.0	35.0	55,500	73,500
ND	11,420	11,535	41.1	37.7	37.7	469,850	434,395
OK	5,900	5,500	29.0	31.0	30.0	171,100	165,000
OR	925	925	51.7	63.6	64.5	47,800	59,670
SD	3,733	3,458	32.0	34.2	34.4	119,590	118,942
TX	3,800	3,700	34.0	32.0	33.0	129,200	122,100
WA	2,420	2,840	49.4	56.7	59.6	119,640	169,160
US	62,407	63,934	39.4	40.5	40.0	2,458,830	2,555,555

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1993 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92
	-1,000 bushels-			-1,000 bushels-			-1,000 bushels-		
Northwest	1,291	2,150	167	1,058	1,055	100	2,879	3,660	127
N Central	19,641	51,650	263	23,791	33,190	140	20,947	32,380	155
Northeast	9,392	7,400	79	42,495	41,957	99	7,250	6,600	91
Central	13,244	19,200	145	3,955	3,800	96	9,281	13,400	144
Southwest	1,927	1,800	93	1,661	1,500	90	4,476	4,970	111
S Central	10,024	9,000	90	1,713	2,210	129	5,979	3,740	63
Southeast	5,381	6,300	117	4,008	3,022	75	1,988	2,450	123
MONTANA	60,900	97,500	160	78,681	86,734	110	52,800	67,200	127

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

JULY PRICES RECEIVED

The average price received for wheat by **Montana** farmers at mid-July was $3.38, up 15 cents per bushel from June, but down 16 cents from July a year ago. The mid-July barley price, at $2.02, was up 3 cents per bushel from June and down 45 cents from July 1992.

Oats, at $1.28, was down 10 cents per bushel from June and down 1 cent from a year earlier. Alfalfa hay, at $70.00 a ton, down $2.00 per ton from June and down $4.00 a ton from July 1992.

Cow prices, at $51.70 per cwt, were down $1.00 per cwt from June, but up $2.80 from July a year ago. Prices for steers and heifers, at $83.00 per cwt, were down 60 cents from June, but up $9.60 from a year earlier. Calves, at $97.80 per cwt, were down 20 cents from June, but up $7.30 per cwt from July 1992.

Sheep, at $30.50 per cwt, were up $1.00 per cwt from June and up $9.40 from July a year ago, while lambs, at $56.10 per cwt, were up $1.10 from June, but down $1.40 per cwt from July a year ago.

The U.S. all farm products index of prices received in July was 140 based on 1977=100, unchanged from June 1993. Price gains from June for potatoes, soybeans, lettuce, and corn offset price declines for cattle, hogs, eggs, and wheat.

Compared with a year earlier, the July all farm products index was 2 points (1.4 percent) higher. Price increases from July 1992 for cattle, soybeans, oranges, and lettuce more than offset price decreases for wheat, corn, apples, and grapefruit.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1993	MONTANA July 15, 1993	U.S. July 15, 1993
			-- Dollars --		
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.47	2.98	2.96	2.67
Durum	Bu.	3.10	2.93	3.00	3.14
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.75	3.46	3.75	3.40
All Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.23	3.38	2.75
Barley, All	Bu.	2.47	1.99	2.02	1.88
Feed	Bu.	2.03	1.80	1.71	1.87
Malt	Bu.	3.27	2.68	2.56	1.90
Oats	Bu.	1.29	1.38	1.28	1.43
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	72.00	70.00	83.40
All Other Hay	Ton	64.00	60.00	62.00	58.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	70.00	69.00	77.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	73.40	83.60	83.00	75.50
Cows	Cwt.	48.90	52.70	51.70	50.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	53.20	63.20	61.70	72.90
Calves	Cwt.	90.50	98.00	97.80	97.80
Sheep	Cwt.	21.10	29.50	30.50	28.00
Lambs	Cwt.	57.50	55.00	56.10	55.50
Hogs	Cwt.	38.60	2/	2/	46.00
All Milk	Cwt.	13.30	13.20	13.70	13.00
Eggs	Doz.	0.45	2/	2/	0.58
Wool 3/	Lb.	0.74	0.55	0.55	0.49

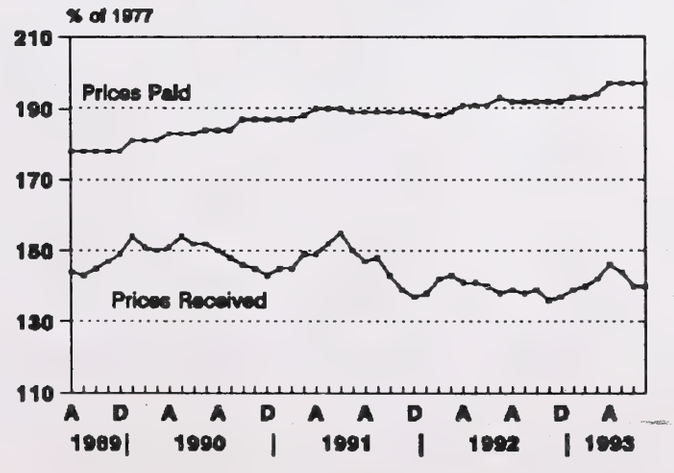
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Series discontinued. Market year average price available at year's end. 3/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	June 1992	July 1992	June 1993	July 1993
Prices Received	140	138	140	140
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/191	192	3/197	197
Ratio 1/	73	72	71	71

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1992 prices paid index. 3/ April 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA FARM NUMBERS DECREASE

The number of farms and ranches in Montana in 1993 is estimated at 24,500, down 100 from last year. Land in farms and ranches totaled 59.9 million acres, 100,000 less than in 1992.

Farm numbers and land in farms in the United States also continue to decline. The number of farms in 1993 is estimated at 2.068 million, down 1 percent from 1992. Total land in farms is 978 million acres, down 1.8 million acres from last year. The rate of decline in number of farms followed the historical trend while the land in farms declined marginally. The average farm size increased from 468 acres in 1992 to 473 in 1993.

Texas remains the state with the most farms, at 185,000, up 2,000 from a year earlier. Missouri is second with 106,000 farms--down 1,000 from last year, followed by Iowa with 100,000 farms--down 2,000 from 1992. California experienced the largest decrease in farm numbers, down 4,000 from the previous year. Four states showed increases in numbers of farms: Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Wyoming which rose to 47,000, 39,000, 185,000, and 9,300, respectively. Fifteen states remained the same as a year ago, and the other thirty-one states showed a decline from last year.

	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
Year	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms
	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres
1984	24.2	61.1	2,525	2,333.8	1,017.8	436
1985	24.3	61.0	2,510	2,292.5	1,012.1	441
1986	24.4	60.9	2,496	2,249.8	1,005.3	447
1987	24.5	60.8	2,482	2,213.0	998.9	451
1988	24.6	60.7	2,467	2,197.1	994.5	453
1989	24.7	60.6	2,453	2,170.5	991.2	457
1990	24.7	60.5	2,449	2,140.4	987.4	461
1991	24.8	60.3	2,431	2,104.6	982.6	467
1992	24.6	60.0	2,439	2,093.8	980.0	468
1993	24.5	59.9	2,445	2,068.2	978.2	473

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates	Milk Production
Farm Labor	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	Egg Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Highlights:

- July Cattle Inventory
- Wheat & Barley Varieties
- Quarterly Egg Production
- June Red Meat Production
- Mink Production
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Quarterly Cattle on Feed

JULY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1993, totaled 110.6 million head, up 1 percent from July 1, 1992, and up 1 percent from the 109 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 45.2 million, were up 2 percent from the previous two years.

-- Beef cows, at 35.4 million, were 2 percent above July 1, 1992, and 3 percent above two years ago.

-- Milk cows, at 9.80 million, were 1 percent below July 1, 1992, and 2 percent below 1991.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1993, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

-- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.2 million, up 1 percent and up 2 percent.

-- Beef replacement heifers, 5.80 million, up 2 percent and up 9 percent.

-- Milk replacement heifers, 4.10 million, down 2 percent from the previous two years.

-- Other heifers, 7.30 million, up 3 percent but down 1 percent.

-- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.2 million, up 1 percent from the previous two years.

-- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.20 million, unchanged from the previous two years.

-- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.8 million, up 1 percent from both 1992 and 1991.

CALF CROP UP 2 PERCENT

The 1993 calf crop is expected to be 40.1 million, up 2 percent from 1992 and 3 percent above 1991. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 29.0 million, up 1 percent from 1992 and 1991.

CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS AND CALF CROP, UNITED STATES, JULY 1, 1991-93

Class	1991	1992	1993	1993 as % 1992
		1,000 Head		Percent
Cattle and Calves	109,000	109,200	110,600	101
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	44,400	44,400	45,200	102
Beef Cows	34,400	34,550	35,400	102
Milk Cows	10,000	9,850	9,800	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	16,900	17,000	17,200	101
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,300	5,700	5,800	102
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,200	4,200	4,100	98
Other Heifers	7,400	7,100	7,300	103
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	15,100	15,100	15,200	101
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,200	2,200	2,200	100
Calves Under 500 Pounds	30,400	30,500	30,800	101
Calf Crop 1/	39,026	39,335	40,100	102

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES 1989-93
PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE

VARIETY	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
WINTER WHEAT					
Neeley	22.8	25.7	24.7	25.0	18.8
Rocky	12.0	9.9	14.0	12.5	14.4
Redwin	19.8	14.5	13.0	9.9	10.7
Tiber	1.9	9.5	11.7	13.5	10.6
Judith	--	0.1	0.8	7.0	9.7
Norstar	7.6	6.9	6.6	7.6	6.2
Winalta	9.7	8.0	5.8	6.1	5.8
Centurk	3.0	2.7	2.4	3.3	2.3
Roughrider	2.0	1.9	3.6	2.8	2.1
Siouxland	--	--	--	0.1	1.4
Seward	--	--	--	0.2	1.4
Warrior	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.7	1.1
Hawk	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0
Cheyenne	1.4	1.8	1.2	0.8	1.0
Bighorn	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.3	1.0
Agassiz	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.8
Cree	3.1	3.9	2.0	0.8	0.6
Stephens	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6
Vona	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.6
Cimmaron	0.5	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.6
Other & Unknown	11.8	11.0	10.0	6.8	9.3
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Amidon (ND 606)	0.6	4.7	11.7	19.6	30.0
WestBred Rambo	9.0	15.5	13.5	16.7	15.0
Newana	19.7	16.6	13.3	12.9	7.7
Len	15.2	12.7	11.9	8.1	7.0
Fortuna	14.6	9.0	8.2	6.6	6.4
Stoa	7.9	10.0	8.1	6.7	5.9
Lew	10.2	10.7	14.1	8.7	5.0
Grandin	--	--	0.2	0.7	3.5
Olaf	5.8	4.5	3.6	2.7	2.9
WestBred 926	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.9	1.5
Tioga	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.4
Glenman	2.4	1.4	1.5	0.7	1.3
Northrup King	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.0
Celtic	--	--	0.4	0.6	0.9
Cutlass	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.8
Pondera	2.4	2.2	0.8	1.5	0.5
Leader	1.1	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.5
Penawawa	--	--	--	0.1	0.4
Butte	0.4	0.4	2.0	0.5	0.4
Other & Unknown	8.5	7.9	7.0	9.1	7.9
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM WHEAT					
Monroe	8.3	14.3	14.2	10.3	24.6
Medora	7.8	19.0	14.0	20.8	18.3
WestBred Laker	15.2	12.7	12.6	8.9	14.9
Larker	--	--	--	--	9.0
Vic	27.4	24.0	15.5	26.6	7.8
Kyle	0.3	--	--	2.4	7.1
Rugby	--	--	2.5	--	3.1
Renville	--	0.6	6.0	5.9	2.9
Crosby	6.3	4.3	4.3	4.8	2.8
Ward	18.5	10.2	14.1	5.8	1.3
Wakooma	1.3	4.0	0.2	1.3	--
Wascana	--	1.0	--	1.6	--
Lloyd	4.6	1.4	5.4	0.4	--
Other & Unknown	10.3	8.5	11.2	11.2	8.2
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
BARLEY					
Hector	29.8	22.9	25.8	23.9	22.4
Harrington	15.6	22.7	25.3	23.5	21.8
Gallatin	6.0	5.4	5.6	8.0	8.7
Piroline	7.3	7.4	7.0	9.5	7.4
Bowman	3.0	2.7	4.3	7.1	7.2
B 1202	1.2	2.4	2.7	3.9	5.4
Lewis	2.4	2.1	3.0	2.2	5.2
Morex	2.3	4.1	4.6	3.0	2.4
Clark	7.2	4.7	4.1	2.5	2.1
Horsford	1.6	1.8	2.2	1.4	2.0
Moravian III	1.2	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.7
Baroneese	--	--	--	0.1	1.6
Westbred 501	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.0
Menuet	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.4	0.9
Klages	9.8	7.2	3.3	0.3	0.6
B 2601	1.4	2.1	1.3	1.4	0.6
Unitan	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.5
WestBred Medallion	--	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5
B 1215	--	--	--	0.3	0.4
Summit	0.4	0.5	--	0.3	0.4
Other and Unknown	8.9	9.0	6.5	8.5	7.2
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat and barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee and the American Malting Barley Association, Inc. A more detailed varietal report may be obtained from our office upon request.

U.S. JUNE EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.80 billion during June 1993, up 2 percent from the 5.69 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.96 billion table eggs, 787 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 60.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during June averaged 280 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,074 eggs, compared with 2,067 in June 1992.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1993, totaled 280 million, up 2 percent from last year's total of 275 million. The 280 million layers consisted of 235 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs,42.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.83 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1993, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, compared to last year's 69.2 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.75 billion eggs during June, up 2 percent from the 4.67 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during June averaged 229 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. These monthly States accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, March through May 1993. Data for the remaining 30 quarterly States not surveyed monthly (which includes Montana) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 States conducting monthly surveys.

JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat in June 1993. This was a 23 percent increase from May, and a 6 percent increase from a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, remained unchanged from last year. Average live weight increased 77 pounds to 1,279.

A total of 2,400 hogs were slaughtered in June, 100 head more than were slaughtered in 1992. Average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 233. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 200 head, remained unchanged from last year. Average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 119.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds during June. This production was 2 percent above the record high for June set a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 2.05 billion pounds, up 1 percent from June 1992. Head kill totaled 3.01 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 16 pounds to 1,143 pounds.

Veal production, at 22.0 million pounds, was down 11 percent from the record low set in June 1992. Calf slaughter totaled 93,800 head, down 13 percent. The average live weight was up 16 pounds to 410 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.38 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from the record high set in June 1992. Hog kill totaled 7.51 million head, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 1 pound to 255 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 31.0 million pounds, was up 14 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 477,900 head, up 10 percent. The average live weight increased 5 pounds to 130 pounds.

January-June red meat production was 19.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent, veal was down 14 percent, pork was virtually unchanged, and lamb and mutton was down 4 percent.

U.S. MINK PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 11 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1992 totaled 2.89 million pelts, down 11 percent from 1991. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 696,500 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 46.0 percent; Mahogany - 15.6 percent; Ranch Wild - 15.2 percent; Gunmetal - 7.6 percent; Demi-buff - 7.5 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.1 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1992 crop year were valued at $71.8 million, up slightly from $71.6 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1992 crop year was $24.80, compared with $21.90 in 1991.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1993 totaled 705,700, down 10 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1993 by color class are: Standard - 50.9 percent; Ranch Wild - 13.0 percent; Mahogany - 12.7 percent; Gunmetal - 8.9 percent; Demi-buff - 6.2 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 8.3 percent.

There were 571 mink farms producing pelts in 1992, down 16 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 150 farms, Wisconsin with 114 farms, and Minnesota with 72. There were 57 mink farms which also raised fox in 1992, down 26 percent from the previous year.

QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production for Montana dairymen totaled 83 million pounds in the April-June quarter of 1993. This is 1 million pounds less than the same quarter of the previous year, but up 5 million from the previous quarter of this year. The average number of cows remained unchanged from 1992 at 23,000 head.

An average of 17.3 pounds of grain and other concentrates were fed per cow on July 1, 1993, an increase of 1.3 pounds from this date last year. The value of grain and concentrates increased 60 cents per cwt, from $6.95 in 1992 to $7.55 in 1993.

The April-June quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 39.6 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the same quarter last year and up 4.5 percent from the previous quarter this year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.7 million head, down 39,000 head from the previous quarter and down 103,000 head from the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows in the U.S. on July 1, 1993, averaged 17.6 pounds per cow which is unchanged from the same quarter last year. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, averaged $7.71 per cwt, a decrease of $.11 per cwt from the previous year.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 7 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.49 million head, up 7 percent from a year ago and fractionally above July 1, 1991. This is the highest July 1 inventory since 1978. The inventory included 6.05 million steers and steer calves, 5 percent above a year ago. This group accounts for 63.7 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.37 million head, 11 percent above a year ago.

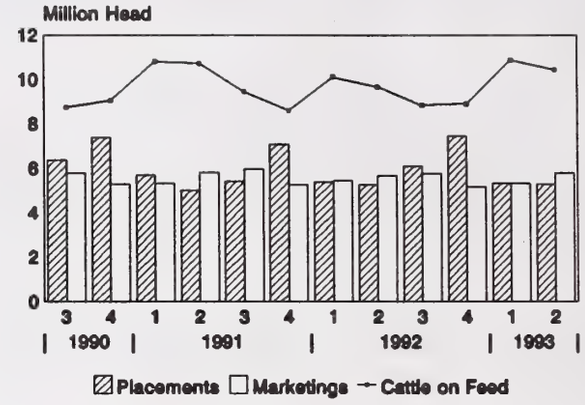
Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the April-June 1993 quarter totaled 5.28 million, fractionally above last year and 6 percent above April-June 1991. Net placements of 4.82 million for April-June were fractionally below last year but up 6 percent from 1991.

Marketings of fed cattle during the April-June 1993 quarter totaled 5.78 million, up 2 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 460,000 head compared to 444,000 in April-June 1992 and 464,000 in April-June 1991.

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.95 million head during the July-September quarter of 1993. This would be up 3 percent from the third quarter marketings in 1992 but fractionally below 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, KS,MN, NE OK, SD, TX WA)



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Crop Production
Farms & Land in Farms
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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Montana crop livestock

REPORTER

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Highlights:

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
July 1 Pasture & Range Feed Condition
June Ag Prices Received
Cherry Production Forecast
featuring...McCone County

JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's 1993 wheat crop is expected to be 173.9 million bushels, 25 percent more than the 1992 crop. The yield, forecast at 33.4 bushels per acre, is less than 4 bushels above last year, but harvested acreage is expected to be up more than 500,000 acres.

Winter wheat production, at 92.5 million bushels, is 52 percent above last year. Hard red spring wheat production is expected to be 78.0 million bushels, 6 percent more than the 1992 crop. Durum production, at 3.4 million bushels, is down 34 percent from last year.

Barley production, forecast to be 61.2 million bushels, is up 16 percent from 1992. Oats production is expected to be down from last year in spite of a record 60 bushel per acre yield. Production, forecast at 3.6 million bushels, is down 8 percent from 1992.

Montana cherry production is forecast at 900 tons, 100 tons more than last year's production. Pasture and range feed conditions are rated at 84 percent of normal on July 1, compared with 63 percent on that date last year.

U.S. all wheat production for 1993 is forecast at 2.60 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 1992. Area for grain is 64.2 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. The 1993 yield is forecast at a record high 40.5 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels per acre from last season.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.82 billion bushels, down slightly from the June 1 forecast, but 13 percent above 1992. Yields are expected to average 41.0 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushels from June 1. Area for grain is 44.4 million acres, up 6 percent from last year. Reduced acreage and lower yields in some Hard Red Winter States contributed to the change from June 1.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 699 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year's record high level. Yields are forecast at 39.4 bushels per acre, down 2.4 bushels per acre from 1992's record high. Area for grain, at 17.7 million acres, is off 2 percent from last year.

U.S. durum wheat 1993 production is forecast at 81.0 million bushels as of July 1. This is down 17 percent from 1992. Yields are forecast at 37.8 bushels per acre, off 1.9 bushels from last year's record high. Harvested area totaled 2.14 million acres, down 13 percent from 1992.

U.S. barley production is forecast at 462 million bushels. This is 1 percent above the 1992 production of 456 million bushels. Yields are expected to average 61.3 bushels per acre, 1.1 bushels less than last year. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 7.54 million acres, is up 3 percent from last year's 7.31 million acres.

Total U.S. oat production is forecast at 263 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year. The forecasted yield per acre of 63.3 bushels is down 2.3 bushels from last season's 65.6 bushels. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 4.15 million acres, is down 8 percent from the 1992 harvested acreage of 4.49 million acres.

PLEASE RETURN

JULY 1 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS

Montana pasture and range feed condition for July 1, 1993 was 84 percent of normal, 5 points above June 1 and 21 points above last year at this same date. Cool weather retarded this year's growth in some areas, but more favorable soil moisture has brought good growth, especially to the north central district . The north central area, recovering from last year's drought, shows a 67 point improvement over year-ago condition, while the northeast district is down 4 points, all other areas are above last year.

MONTANA, July 1, 1993
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1991	1992	1993
Northwest	88	68	100
North Central	96	28	95
Northeast	98	59	55
Central	101	64	70
Southwest	95	78	97
South Central	101	80	94
Southeast	105	82	92
Montana	100	63	84

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST - JULY 1, 1993

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,100	2,500	29.0	37.0	60,900	92,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	115	157	114	33.0	30.0	5,181	3,420
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,650	2,650	2,450	2,600	30.0	30.0	73,500	78,000
All Wheat	Bu.	5,410	5,415	4,707	5,214	29.7	33.4	139,581	173,920
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	70	65	25	21	110.0	3/	2,750	3/
Oats	Bu.	165	140	70	60	56.0	60.0	3,920	3,600
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	51.0	52,800	61,200
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	12.0	9.5	12.0	19.0	3/	181	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.9	54.4	55.8	54.4	22.8	3/	1,272	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.6	9.1	8.5	9.0	290.0	4/	2,465	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,500	2.35	3/	3,290	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	850	1.60	3/	1,120	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,250	2,350	2.07	3/	4,650	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,057	51,896	41,893	44,380	38.3	41.0	1,606,534	1,821,345
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,507	2,201	2,449	2,142	39.7	37.8	97,196	80,960
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,698	18,040	18,065	17,712	41.8	39.4	755,100	698,734
All Wheat	Bu.	72,262	72,137	62,407	64,234	39.4	40.5	2,458,830	2,601,039
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	79,325	74,259	72,144	67,265	131.4	3/	9,478,914	3/
Oats	Bu.	7,961	8,064	4,492	4,153	65.6	63.3	294,604	262,860
Barley	Bu.	7,802	7,941	7,309	7,539	62.4	61.3	456,348	461,846
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,613.6	1,781.1	1,496.9	1,719.6	14.73	3/	22,047	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,436.1	1,431.7	1,412.8	1,410.8	20.4	3/	28,848	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,139.7	1,186.5	1,120.6	1,169.5	327.0	4/	366,064	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,159	23,861	3.30	3/	79,652	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,438	36,304	1.96	3/	69,488	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,597	60,165	2.50	3/	149,140	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available August 11, 1993. [4] Production forecast available November 9, 1993

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1993 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92	1992	1993 [2]	% chg. 93/92
	-1,000 bushels-			-1,000 bushels-			-1,000 bushels-		
Northwest	1,291	2,140	166	1,058	1,055	100	2,879	3,520	122
N Central	19,641	48,670	248	23,791	32,650	137	20,947	29,400	140
Northeast	9,392	6,440	69	42,495	36,984	87	7,250	5,530	76
Central	13,244	18,970	143	3,955	3,800	96	9,281	11,870	128
Southwest	1,927	2,120	110	1,661	1,500	90	4,476	4,760	106
S Central	10,024	8,350	83	1,713	2,510	147	5,979	3,770	63
Southeast	5,381	5,810	108	4,008	2,921	73	1,988	2,350	118
MONTANA	60,900	92,500	152	78,681	81,420	103	52,800	61,200	116

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

MONTANA CHERRY PRODUCTION

Montana's 1993 cherry crop is forecast at 900 tons, 100 tons more than year's total production. Cherry orchards are recovering from severe winter kill in 1988-89 which required replanting in many cases. This year's bloom was later than normal. Pollination was affected by unusually hot weather and the resulting fruit set was disappointing. Harvest is expected to be later than usual because of the late bloom.

JUNE PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for mid-June were mixed. Winter wheat was down 19 cents to $3.00, and durum, at $2.80, decreased 27 cents from May. Other spring wheat increased 24 cents to $3.69 per bushel. All barley, at $1.79, dropped 34 cents from May. At $1.35, oats averaged 10 cents above the previous month. Other hay remained unchanged at $60.00 per ton, while alfalfa hay prices, at $72.00 per ton, increased $5.00 from May.

Livestock prices for mid-June were lower, compared with the previous month, except for steers and heifers. Cow prices dropped $1.20 to $50.20 per cwt, while the average price for steers and heifers increased 70 cents to $85.70 per cwt. Calf prices fell $1.30 to $96.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased 80 cents to $13.30 per cwt. Prices received for sheep were down $1.80 per cwt from last month to $29.00. Lambs followed with a $2.50 drop to $53.10.

The National All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 141 based on 1977=100, down 3 points (2.1 percent) from May 1993. Price declines from May for wheat, cattle, onions, and tomatoes more than offset price gains for hogs, milk, eggs, and lemons.

Compared with June 1992, the June All Farm Products Index was 1 point (0.7 percent) higher. Price increases from June 1992 for cattle, eggs, potatoes, and tomatoes more than offset price decreases for corn, wheat, apples, and grapefruit.

The U.S. hog price increased $1.30 per cwt from May and $1.60 from last June to $48.30 per cwt. The national egg price was 65.4 cents per dozen compared with 62.9 last month and 53.0 cents in June 1992.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1993	MONTANA June 15, 1993	U.S. June 15, 1993
PRICES RECEIVED		-- Dollars --			
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.51	3.19	3.00	2.76
Durum	Bu.	3.12	3.07	2.80	3.24
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.93	3.45	3.69	3.13
All Wheat	Bu.	3.76	3.30	3.30	2.82
Barley, All	Bu.	2.22	2.13	1.79	1.81
Feed	Bu.	2.06	1.84	1.70	1.72
Malt	Bu.	2.29	2.87	2.34	1.93
Oats	Bu.	1.27	1.25	1.35	1.38
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	67.00	72.00	87.40
All Other Hay	Ton	64.00	60.00	60.00	59.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	66.00	70.00	80.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	78.00	85.00	85.70	78.70
Cows	Cwt.	51.20	51.40	50.20	50.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	57.60	64.10	62.60	75.50
Calves	Cwt.	91.10	97.30	96.00	99.00
Sheep	Cwt.	21.20	30.80	29.00	28.90
Lambs	Cwt.	62.70	55.60	53.10	56.40
Hogs	Cwt.	41.40	2/	2/	48.30
All Milk	Cwt.	12.70	12.50	13.30	13.20
Eggs	Doz.	0.38	2/	2/	0.65
Wool 3/	Lb.	0.85	0.42	0.55	0.55

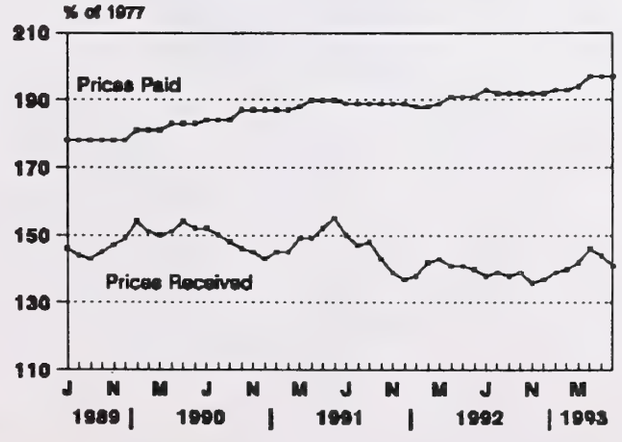
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Series discontinued. Market year average price available at year's end. 3/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	May 1992	June 1992	May 1993	June 1993
Prices Received	141	140	144	141
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/191	2/191	3/197	3/197
Ratio 1/	74	73	73	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1992 prices paid index. 3/ April 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring...*McCONE COUNTY*

McCone County is situated in the northeastern section of Montana with the Missouri River defining its northern border. A leg of the Fort Peck Lake lies just on the western boundary of the county. The county itself is characterized mostly by plains, although the land along the northern boundary is broken up by the Missouri Breaks along the river. The county was created in April of 1919 and has an approximate land area of 1,680,793 acres.

A variety of crops are grown on the one million plus acres of farmland in the county. McCone ranked 9th in spring wheat production for the 1991 crop year and 15th in winter wheat production. Oats and barley are also grown extensively as the county ranked 13th in oats production and 16th in barley production in 1991. Cash receipts for crops brought in $11,744,000 or a ranking of 23rd in cash receipts.

McCone is also one of the major sheep raising counties as it ranked 6th in the state for sheep numbers in 1992. Cattle ranked 35th for January 1, 1992 inventory and hog inventory brought the county a ranking of 28th on December 1, 1991. Cash receipts for livestock and livestock products totaled $8,078,000 in 1991 and ranked 45th among the counties.

Adding the cash receipts for crops and livestock, plus government payments, brings the total cash receipts figure to $30,950,000 in 1991 and 30th place in the county rankings.

McCone County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,680,793	Total Cropland	Acres	544,068
Land in Farms	Acres	1,277,022	Harvested Cropland	Acres	254,603
Number of Farms		441	Irrigated Land	Acres	8,005
Average size Farms	Acres	2,896			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	29,746	All Cattle & Calves	No. Head	30,303
All Wheat	Acres	174,998	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	14,548
Barley	Acres	39,681	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	2,994
Oats	Acres	4,983			

[1/] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production	Mink Production
Cattle Inventory	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	Egg Production
Wheat and Barley Varieties	

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

1993 Crop Acreages
7 State Cattle on Feed
May Red Meat Production
May Milk Production
June 1 Grain Stocks
Quarterly Egg Production
June 1 Hog & Pig Inventory

PLEASE RETURN

JUNE ACREAGE REPORT

Montana farmers plan to harvest 5.21 million acres of wheat, 11 percent more than last year. Winter wheat acres for harvest as grain are expected to be 2.5 million acres, 19 percent above last year's heavily abandoned acreage. Growers seeded 2.65 million acres of spring wheat, the same as last year and expect to harvest 2.6 million acres, 6 percent more than 1992. Durum wheat seeded on 115,000 acres is down 28 percent from last year. Acres of durum expected to be harvested for grain, at 114,000, are down 27 percent.

Barley was planted on 1.3 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous year, but harvested acreage, at 1.2 million acres, is the same as last year. Oats seeding, at 140,000 acres, is down 15 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 60,000 acres for grain, 14 percent less than in 1992. Farmers and ranchers intend to harvest 4 percent more hay acreage than last year. Alfalfa acreage, at 1.5 million, is up 7 percent. All other hay acreage, at 850,000 is unchanged from 1992. Corn acreage planted for all purposes, at 65,000, is down 7 percent from last year. Sugar beets were planted on 54,400 acres, down 3 percent from the previous year, while dry beans were planted on 12,000 acres, 18 percent more than last year.

The **United States** winter wheat growers seeded 51.9 million acres, up 2 percent from 1992 and up 1 percent from the previously published estimate. Grain area is now estimated at 44.4 million acres, up fractionally from the June 1 estimate and 6 percent higher than last year. Durum wheat area planted for 1993 is estimated at 2.20 million acres and 2.14 million acres are expected to be harvested for grain. The planted level is down 12 percent from 1992 and the acres for grain are down 13 percent; both are the lowest durum acreages since 1970. Other spring wheat planted area is 18.0 million acres, down 4 percent from 1992. Acreage for grain is placed at 17.7 million acres, down 2 percent from last year.

Barley seedings last fall and this spring totaled 7.94 million acres,up 2 percent from last year. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 7.54 million acres, up 3 percent from last year.

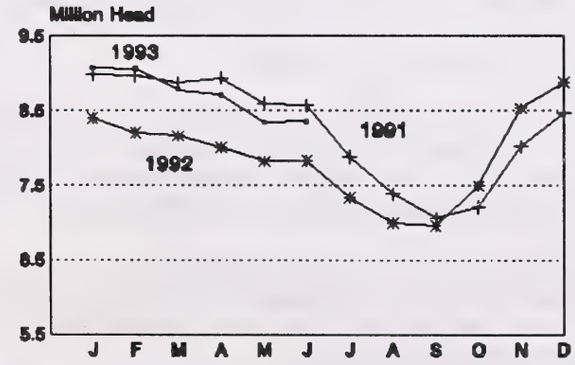
Oats planted totaled 8.06 million acres, up 1 percent from 1992. Growers intend to harvest 4.15 million acres for grain in 1993, down 8 percent from 1992. If realized, this would be the lowest harvested acreage since estimates were first made in 1866. Hay growers expect to harvest 60.2 million acres of hay in 1993. This acreage is 1 percent above last year, but 4 percent below 1991. The area cut for alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is estimated at 23.9 million acres, 1 percent below the 1992 total of 24.2 million acres. Acreage of all other hay harvested is estimated at 36.3 million acres, up 2 percent from 1992.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 2,500 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

7 STATE CATTLE ON FEED UP 7 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for June 1 slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.35 million head, up 7 percent from a year ago but down 3 percent from 1991. **Placements** of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during May totaled 1.79 million, up 4 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. **Net placements** of 1.65 million for May were up 3 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. **Marketings** of fed cattle during May totaled 1.65 million, up 3 percent from last year but fractionally below two years ago. **Other disappearance** totaled 136,000 head compared to 122,000 in 1992 and 141,000 in 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES, JUNE 1993

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993 [1]	1992	1993	1992	1993
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,100	2,500	29.0	3/	60,900	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	160	115	157	114	33.0	3/	5,181	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,650	2,650	2,450	2,600	30.0	3/	73,500	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,410	5,415	4,707	5,214	29.7	3/	139,581	3/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	70	65	25	21	110.0	4/	2,750	4/
Oats	Bu.	165	140	70	60	56.0	3/	3,920	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,300	1,200	1,200	44.0	3/	52,800	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	10.2	12.0	9.5	12.0	19.0	3/	181	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	55.9	54.4	55.8	54.4	22.8	4/	1,272	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.6	--	8.5	--	290.0	5/	2,465	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,500	2.35	4/	3,290	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	850	1.60	4/	1,120	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,250	2,350	2.07	4/	4,650	4/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,057	51,896	41,893	44,380	38.3	3/	1,606,534	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,507	2,201	2,449	2,142	39.7	3/	97,196	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	18,698	18,040	18,065	17,712	41.8	3/	755,100	3/
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Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,613.6	1,781.1	1,496.9	1,719.6	14.73	3/	22,047	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,436.1	1,431.7	1,412.8	1,410.8	20.4	4/	28,848	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,139.7	--	1,120.6	--	327.0	5/	366,064	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	24,159	23,861	3.30	4/	79,652	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	35,438	36,304	1.96	4/	69,488	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,597	60,165	2.50	4/	149,140	4/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available July 12, 1993. [4] Production forecast available August 11, 1993. [5] Production forecast available November 9, 1993.

MAY 1993 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in May 1993. This was a 1 percent increase from April, but a 7 percent decrease from a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, remained unchanged from last year. Average live weight increased 79 pounds to 1,276.

A total of 1,900 hogs were slaughtered in May, 400 head less than were slaughtered in 1992. Average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 231. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 100 head, decreased 100 head from last year. Average live weight decreased 17 pounds to 117.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.21 billion pounds during May. This production is 1 percent below a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.86 billion pounds. This was down 2 percent from May 1992. Head kill totaled 2.77 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 27 pounds to 1,123 pounds.

Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds. This was down 21 percent from the record set in May 1992. Calf slaughter totaled 84,600 head, down 20 percent. The average live weight remained the same at 400 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.31 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from 1992. Hog kill totaled 7.15 million head, up 1 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight remained the same at 254 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 27.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 410,900 head, up 6 percent. The average live weight increased 5 pounds to 132 pounds.

January-May red meat production was 16.2 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent, veal was down 15 percent, pork was down 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 7 percent.

MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during May totaled 11.4 billion pounds, 1 percent more than production in these same States in May 1992. April revised production at 11.0 billion pounds was 1 percent above April 1992. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,400 pounds for May, 33 pounds more than May 1992.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.14 million head, 106,000 head less than May 1992 and 9,000 less than April 1993. During the January-March period, the 21 major States produced 31.8 billion pounds of milk, 84.2 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 13.5 billion pounds for May 1993.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks on June 1, 1993 amounted to 48.2 million bushels, 32 percent more than last year. This year's carryover is still the second lowest since 1974, and is 45 percent below the 10 year average.

Winter wheat stocks, at 18.2 million bushels, were 21 percent above a year ago and all spring wheat, at 30.0 million, was up 39 percent. All wheat stored on farms was up 40 percent from last year and off-farm stocks were up 14 percent. Barley stocks, in all locations on June 1, amounted to 16.2 million bushels up 5 percent from last June. Oats stocks, at 1.9 million bushels, are down 26 percent from last year.

U.S. old crop all wheat stocks in all positions June 1, 1993, totaled 529 million bushels, up 12 percent from June 1, 1992. Old crop durum wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 1993, totaled 49.0 million bushels, down 11 percent from last June. Barley stored in all positions on June 1, 1993, is estimated at 152 million bushels, 18 percent above the stocks of June 1, 1992. Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 1993, totaled 113 million bushels, down 11 percent from June 1, 1992. U.S. corn stored in all positions on June 1, 1993, is estimated at 3.71 billion bushels, up 35 percent from June 1, 1992.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1992	Mar. 1, 1993*	June 1, 1993	'93/'92	June 1, 1992	Mar. 1, 1993*	June 1, 1993
	Thousand Bushels				Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	25,000	60,000	35,000	140%	144,605	376,000	183,820
Off Farms [1/]	11,582	24,849	13,200	114%	327,248	667,343	345,182
TOTAL	36,582	84,849	48,200	132%	471,853	1,043,343	529,002
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	11,000	25,000	12,500	114%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	4,032	11,983	5,700	141%	--	--	--
TOTAL	15,032	36,983	18,200	121%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	14,000	35,000	22,500	161%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	7,550	12,866	7,500	99%	--	--	--
TOTAL	21,550	47,866	30,000	139%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	35,700	53,615	33,022
Off Farms [1/, 4/]	--	--	--	--	19,122	24,811	15,928
TOTAL	4,645	5,534	4,300	93%	54,822	78,426	48,950
BARLEY							
On Farms	10,000	20,000	12,000	120%	45,140	122,880	68,220
Off Farms [1/]	5,464	6,813	4,200	77%	83,457	121,057	83,475
TOTAL	15,464	26,813	16,200	105%	128,597	243,937	151,695
OATS							
On Farms	2,200	3,200	1,800	82%	61,000	110,250	66,130
Off Farms [1/]	363	119	84	23%	66,721	64,875	47,005
TOTAL	2,563	3,319	1,884	74%	127,721	175,125	113,135
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,517,500	3,630,000	2,216,500
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	1,221,051	2,048,215	1,492,919
TOTAL [4/]	--	--	--	--	2,738,551	5,678,215	3,709,419

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1992	Mar. 1, 1993*	June 1, 1993	June 1, 1992	Mar. 1, 1993*	June 1, 1993
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.8
North Central	16.6	31.0	17.2	7.8	11.0	5.4
Northeast	13.0	33.2	20.8	1.7	4.9	3.1
Central	3.6	10.5	3.7	2.0	4.8	2.8
Southwest	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.4	1.3
South Central	0.8	3.9	1.6	2.2	3.1	2.5
Southeast	1.7	4.6	3.2	0.5	0.6	0.3
MONTANA	36.6	84.8	48.2	15.5	26.8	16.2

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

QUARTERLY EGG PRODUCTION

During the March through May quarter of 1993, Montana layers produced 33 million eggs, down from 40 million produced last year. Layers during the quarter averaged 475,000 compared with 600,000 in 1992.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17.9 billion eggs during the March-May quarter, up 1 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 15.3 billion table eggs, 2.37 billion broiler-type hatching eggs, and 196 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 281 million head, up 1 percent from the 278 million head a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 1993, totaled 280 million head, compared with 276 million head a year ago. The 280 million layers consisted of 234 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 43.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.00 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1993, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.6 for June 1992.

JUNE 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1993, is estimated at 59.7 million head. This is a 1 percent increase from last year and 6 percent above June 1, 1991. Breeding inventory, at 7.45 million head, is 2 percent below last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Market hog inventory at 52.2 million head, was 1 percent above a year ago and 7 percent above June 1, 1991.

The December 1992-May 1993 U.S. pig crop was 50.7 million head, slightly more than last year and 7 percent above the same period in 1991. Sows farrowing during the six month period totaled 6.24 million, down 1 percent from last year but 4 percent above the same period in 1991. Pigs saved per litter was 8.13, a new record high for the period, and compares with 8.06 last year and 7.92 two years ago. The March-May U.S. pig crop was 27.0 million head, 1 percent below a year earlier.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 6.19 million sows farrow during the June-November period, a slight increase from the actual sows farrowed during the same period in 1992 and 2 percent above two years ago. Farrowings for June-August are expected to be virtually unchanged from last year, while September-November farrowings are expected to be 1 percent above a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 93-11 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: June 14, 1993

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Highlights:

Winter Wheat Production
Winter Wheat--Selected States
Barley County Estimates
May Prices Received
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Winter Wheat by District
Cherry Production Forecast

1992 BARLEY COUNTY ESTIMATES

The 1992 barley county estimates will soon be available for distribution. The all and irrigated barley county estimates are in this publication, but estimates by class and cropping practice are available from this office upon request by calling 1-800-835-2612.

These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on acreage and production surveys conducted last fall. Nearly 5,300 questionnaires were tabulated. The majority were completed by telephone to ensure better coverage in each county. Thanks to those who provided information!

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

Montana's 1993 winter wheat crop is expected to be 90.0 million bushels, unchanged from the May 1 forecast. As of June 1 harvested acres are expected to be 2.5 million acres unchanged from the May 1 estimate. Yield is expected to average 36 bushels per acre.

Continued stress from lack of rainfall has held the crop potential down in the east and south central portions of the state. Favorable conditions in the important north central region helped boost production potential for the state to 48 percent above the 1992 level.

For the nation, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.82 billion bushels as of June 1, 1993. This is up 1 percent from the May 1 forecast and up 14 percent from the 1992 crop. Area for grain harvest is unchanged from May 1 at 44.3 million acres.

Yields are expected to average 41.2 bushels per acres, up 0.4 bushels from May 1 and 2.9 bushels per acre higher than last year. If realized, this yield will be second only to the 1983 record high 41.8 bushels per acre. Overall, crop development trails average progress, but condition is generally good. The Texas harvest has progressed into the Cross-Timbers area.

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1992 & Forecasted June 1, 1993

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1992	1993	1992	May 1, '93	June 1, '93	1992	1993
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CA	550	550	75.0	80.0	80.0	41,250	44,000
CO	2,300	2,450	30.0	36.0	37.0	69,000	90,650
ID	800	850	65.0	67.0	69.0	52,000	58,650
IL	1,150	1,550	54.0	55.0	55.0	62,100	85,250
KS	10,700	11,200	34.0	38.0	40.0	363,800	448,000
MO	1,350	1,350	48.0	43.0	41.0	64,800	55,350
MT	**2,100**	**2,500**	**29.0**	**36.0**	**36.0**	**60,900**	**90,000**
NE	1,850	2,050	30.0	37.0	37.0	55,500	75,850
ND 1/	170	135	35.0	35.0	35.0	5,950	4,725
OH	1,115	1,050	53.0	56.0	53.0	59,095	55,650
OK	5,900	5,800	29.0	31.0	31.0	171,100	179,800
OR	825	855	52.0	59.0	62.0	42,900	53,010
SD	1,200	1,400	28.0	35.0	35.0	33,600	49,000
TX	3,800	3,900	34.0	32.0	32.0	129,200	124,800
WA	2,000	2,300	51.0	56.0	58.0	102,000	133,400
WY 1/	210	205	25.0	29.0	29.0	5,250	5,945
US	41,893	44,307	38.3	40.8	41.2	1,606,534	1,824,062

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

PLEASE RETURN

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1992

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres [1]	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Rank	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deerlodge	1,100	700	79	55,000	50	900	600	80	48,000
Flathead	23,800	23,400	78	1,834,000	9	12,100	12,000	81	977,000
Granite	900	600	65	39,000	51	800	500	66	33,000
Lake	8,800	8,000	61	490,000	33	5,000	4,800	72	347,000
Lincoln	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mineral	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Missoula	2,400	1,700	54	91,000	48	1,100	900	66	59,000
Powell	4,000	2,400	65	156,000	46	3,300	1,900	71	134,000
Ravalli	2,900	2,300	71	163,000	43	2,300	1,800	81	145,000
Sanders	900	700	51	36,000	52	300	300	67	20,000
Other	200	200	75	15,000	–	200	200	75	15,000
NORTHWEST	45,000	40,000	72	2,879,000	–	26,000	23,000	77	1,778,000
Blaine	28,900	28,100	46	1,282,000	15	10,200	9,400	71	665,000
Chouteau	127,000	89,500	22	1,941,000	8	2,100	1,500	70	105,000
Glacier	79,000	76,600	43	3,294,000	3	12,700	12,400	56	690,000
Hill	45,700	41,000	29	1,199,000	16	800	700	63	44,000
Liberty	32,800	31,700	41	1,285,000	14	1,500	1,400	63	88,000
Phillips	32,600	30,500	39	1,195,000	17	2,400	2,000	55	110,000
Pondera	103,000	91,400	41	3,777,000	2	43,400	40,800	61	2,486,000
Teton	111,000	101,900	48	4,939,000	1	56,000	53,100	67	3,533,000
Toole	55,000	49,300	41	2,035,000	6	1,500	1,200	56	67,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTH CENTRAL	615,000	540,000	39	20,947,000	–	130,600	122,500	64	7,788,000
Daniels	18,500	16,400	37	600,000	29	100	100	50	5,000
Dawson	26,400	22,400	47	1,047,000	18	900	800	78	62,000
Garfield	15,300	11,500	38	438,000	35	300	300	47	14,000
McCone	24,700	20,900	48	997,000	19	400	400	58	23,000
Richland	32,100	27,800	53	1,467,000	13	2,000	1,900	81	153,000
Roosevelt	27,400	23,600	41	974,000	21	400	300	63	19,000
Sheridan	28,000	24,000	41	978,000	20	500	500	80	40,000
Valley	27,600	23,400	32	749,000	24	2,900	2,200	61	134,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NORTHEAST	200,000	170,000	43	7,250,000	–	7,500	6,500	69	450,000
Broadwater	10,000	9,500	71	671,000	26	7,300	7,200	86	616,000
Cascade	62,000	56,000	31	1,758,000	11	10,300	9,800	68	667,000
Fergus	90,000	81,000	33	2,664,000	5	2,300	1,300	74	96,000
Golden Valley	8,000	6,700	32	214,000	41	1,400	1,300	60	78,000
Judith Basin	55,500	51,000	35	1,774,000	10	1,500	1,400	58	81,000
Lewis & Clark	11,700	10,100	63	633,000	27	8,000	7,700	73	561,000
Meagher	16,400	15,500	33	507,000	31	4,500	4,100	69	284,000
Musselshell	4,700	4,200	38	161,000	45	800	700	96	67,000
Petroleum	2,300	1,800	41	74,000	49	600	500	74	37,000
Wheatland	19,400	18,200	45	825,000	23	3,300	3,000	58	175,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CENTRAL	280,000	254,000	37	9,281,000	–	40,000	37,000	72	2,662,000
Beaverhead	9,500	8,700	84	728,000	25	8,200	7,400	89	659,000
Gallatin	42,500	41,400	71	2,941,000	4	22,200	21,500	79	1,707,000
Jefferson	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madison	9,000	8,000	78	620,000	28	8,000	7,100	81	576,000
Silver Bow	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	4,000	2,900	64	187,000	–	3,000	2,000	77	154,000
SOUTHWEST	65,000	61,000	73	4,476,000	–	41,400	38,000	81	3,096,000
Big Horn	24,900	23,200	70	1,625,000	12	15,300	14,900	78	1,155,000
Carbon	12,100	11,800	78	921,000	22	7,200	7,200	90	651,000
Park	9,200	8,100	67	543,000	30	5,800	5,500	75	415,000
Stillwater	14,500	13,700	36	495,000	32	800	600	88	53,000
Sweetgrass	2,300	2,200	50	110,000	47	400	400	70	28,000
Treasure	3,600	3,500	95	333,000	36	3,200	3,100	100	310,000
Yellowstone	28,400	27,500	71	1,952,000	7	15,300	15,300	90	1,370,000
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTH CENTRAL	95,000	90,000	66	5,979,000	–	48,000	47,000	85	3,982,000
Carter	5,600	4,700	35	163,000	44	100	–	–	–
Custer	5,500	4,300	48	205,000	42	1,500	1,300	69	90,000
Fallon	9,300	8,400	39	326,000	37	100	100	70	7,000
Powder River	4,500	4,200	51	215,000	40	1,100	1,100	68	75,000
Prairie	7,100	6,800	48	323,000	38	1,400	1,200	69	83,000
Rosebud	10,500	10,100	47	477,000	34	2,300	2,300	80	185,000
Wibaux	7,500	6,500	43	279,000	39	–	–	–	–
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHEAST	50,000	45,000	44	1,988,000	–	6,500	6,000	73	440,000
MONTANA	1,350,000	1,200,000	44	52,800,000	–	300,000	280,000	72	20,196,000

[1] Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

MAY PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for mid-May were lower, compared with the previous month, except for other spring wheat. At mid-May winter wheat was down 29 cents to $3.05, and durum, at $2.91, decreased 18 cents from April. Other spring wheat remained the same at $3.53 per bushel.

All barley, at $1.86, dropped 7 cents from April. Oats averaged $1.30, 22 cents below the previous month. Alfalfa hay prices, at $67.00 per ton, declined $5.00 from April, while other hay fell off $2.00 per ton to average $60.00 and all hay dropped $4.00 to $66.00.

Livestock prices for mid-May were all higher than entire month April prices. Cow prices rose $3.00 to $52.40 per cwt, while calf prices increased $2.00 to $104.00 per cwt. Steers and heifers averaged $87.70 per cwt, up $2.00 from April.

Milk prices were unchanged at $12.70 per cwt. Prices received for sheep advanced $7.40 per cwt from last month to $29.40. Lambs followed with a $5.10 increase to $60.80.

The **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 146 based on 1977=100, unchanged from April 1993. Price declines from April for wheat, eggs, lettuce, and onions offset price gains for hogs, milk, broilers, and tomatoes.

Compared with a year earlier, the May All Farm Products Index was 5 points higher. Price increases from May 1992 for cattle, potatoes, eggs, and tomatoes more than offset price decreases for corn, wheat, oranges, and apples.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA			U.S.
		Monthly Avg.		May 15,	May 15,
		May 1992	Apr. 1993	1993	1993
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.34	3.05	3.00
Durum	Bu.	3.22	3.09	2.91	3.04
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.88	3.53	3.53	3.17
All Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.44	3.33	3.05
Barley, All	Bu.	2.20	1.93	1.86	1.91
Feed	Bu.	2.06	1.84	1.77	1.74
Malt	Bu.	2.56	2.62	2.50	2.09
Oats	Bu.	1.39	1.52	1.30	1.42
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	52.00	72.00	67.00	93.20
All Other Hay	Ton	47.00	62.00	60.00	61.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	70.00	66.00	86.30
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	74.00	85.70	87.70	81.70
Cows	Cwt.	50.60	49.40	52.40	50.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	61.90	69.50	70.10	77.70
Calves	Cwt.	85.30	102.00	104.00	101.00
Sheep	Cwt.	17.00	22.00	29.40	28.70
Lambs	Cwt.	57.40	55.70	60.80	63.80
Hogs	Cwt.	41.10	2/	2/	46.80
All Milk	Cwt.	12.20	12.70	12.70	12.90
Eggs	Doz.	0.37	2/	2/	0.63
Wool 3/	Lb.	0.88	0.40	0.42	0.55

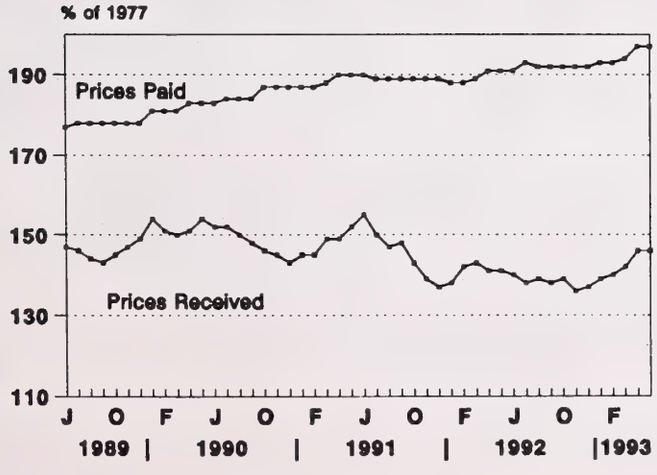
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Series discontinued. Market year average price available at year's end. 3/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Apr. 1992	May 1992	Apr. 1993	May 1993
Prices Received	141	141	146	146
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	191	2/194	197	3/197
Ratio 1/	74	74	74	74

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1992 prices paid index. 3/ April 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA'S 1993 CHERRY FORECAST

Montana's sweet cherry crop is forecast at 1,600 tons, double the production level of 1992. Production in the six western states is forecast at 148,300 tons, 21 percent less than last year, but 17 percent more than 1991.

Montana growers experienced cool weather during the spring season. Bloom was heavy. The average date of full bloom was May 12. The bloom date was late, putting pollination into a period of warm, sunny weather. Bee activity was excellent.

The California harvest is now nearly complete. Due to the cool spring, fruit size this year is remarkably large. The bulk of the crop was picked before the late May and early June rains. Growers in the Dalles area of Oregon have a normal size crop. The rest of the State expects below normal production. Washington has a nice crop. There has been rain but the crop is late and no rain damage has been reported. First harvest is expected June 15. Size could be good, if weather permits.

JUNE 1 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITIONS

Montana pasture and range feed condition for June 1, 1993 was 79 percent of normal, 5 points below May 1, but 15 points above last year at this same date. Cool weather retarded this year's growth in some areas, but more favorable soil moisture has brought good growth, especially to the north central district. The north central area, recovering from last year's drought, shows an 82 point improvement from last year, while the northeast district is down 18 points and the southeast is down 6 points.

MONTANA, June 1, 1993
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1991	1992	1993
Northwest	84	80	87
North Central	90	11	93
Northeast	73	82	64
Central	93	45	72
Southwest	95	68	95
South Central	85	78	79
Southeast	87	90	84
Montana	87	64	79

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

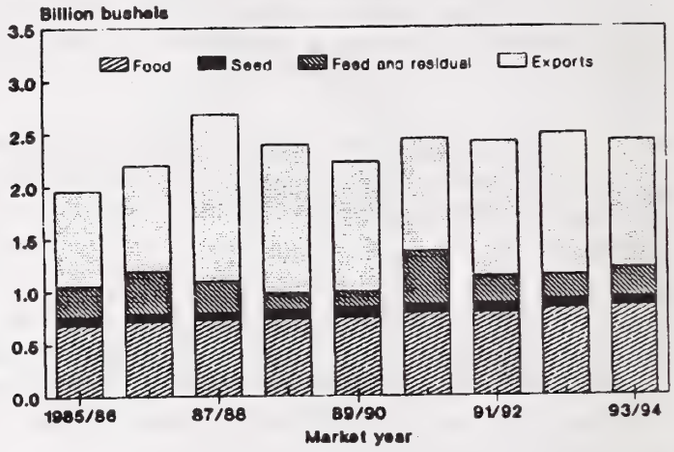
Crop Acreage	
Milk Production	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	Egg Production
Grain Stocks	Hogs & Pigs

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--June 1,1993 1/

District	1991	1992	1993	% chg. 93/92
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	992	1,291	1,800	139
N Central	41,808	19,641	44,300	226
Northeast	4,079	9,392	7,400	79
Central	14,315	13,244	21,100	159
Southwest	910	1,927	1,900	99
S Central	7,291	10,024	8,000	80
Southeast	2,605	5,381	5,500	102
Montana	72,000	60,900	90,000	148

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

U.S. Wheat Disappearance



JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock

REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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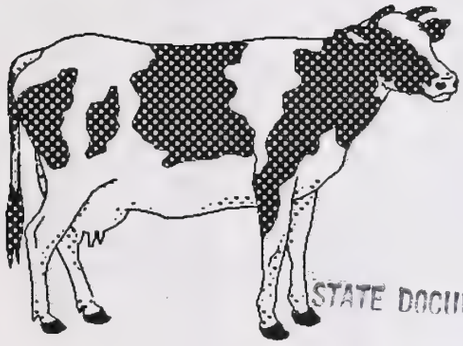
Highlights:

April & 1992 Milk Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
April Farm Labor
Potato Stocks
April Egg Production
April Red Meat Production
featuring...Lincoln County



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CATTLE ON FEED UP 7 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

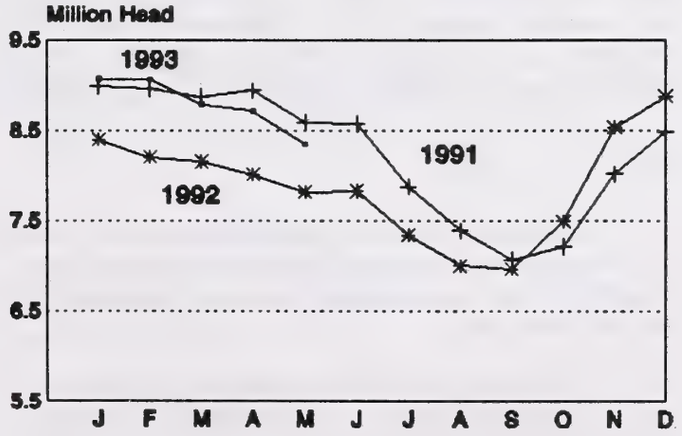
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.35 million head, up 7 percent from a year ago but down 3 percent from May 1, 1991.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April totaled 1.32 million, down 8 percent from both last year and two years ago. These are the lowest April placements since 1980. Net placements of 1.19 million for April were also down 8 percent from last year and two years ago.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.55 million, up 4 percent from last year but down 6 percent from two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 126,000 head compared to 125,000 in April 1992 and 128,000 in April 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED
7STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during April totaled 11 billion pounds, 1 percent more than production in these same States in April 1992. March revised production at 11.1 billion pounds was slightly below March 1992. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,344 pounds for April, 30 pounds more than April 1992.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.16 million head, 97,000 head less than April 1992 and 20,000 less than March 1993.

During the January-March period, the 21 major States produced 31.8 billion pounds of milk, 84.2 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 13 billion pounds for April 1993.

PLEASE RETURN

FARM WAGE RATES FOR APRIL

There were 2.88 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 1993. This compares with 2.87 million people during the April 1992 survey week. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.47 million of the total, along with 364,000 unpaid workers and 828,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 224,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.37 per hour during the April 1993 survey week. This rate was up 32 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $6.10 per hour compared with $5.75 in April 1992.

Field workers received an average of $6.04 per hour, up 36 cents from the April 1992 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.65 per hour compared with $5.52 a year earlier. Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 44 percent of the hired workers during the survey week compared to 41 percent in April 1992.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.76 per hour during the April 1993 survey week, up 9 percent from a year ago. Field workers received $5.67, up 39 cents from last year, while livestock workers earned $5.43, up 50 cents from wages in April 1992.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 11-17, 1993 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER 3/					METHOD OF PAY 4/		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	6.78	5.28	6.11	11.47	9.63	7.06	5/	6.83
Northeast II	6.54	5.32	6.14	9.77	5/	6.34	7.97	6.66
Appalachian I	5.26	5.59	5.36	8.03	5/	5.37	5/	6.95
Appalachian II	5.99	4.97	5.66	5/	5/	5.84	5/	5/
Southeast	5.54	5.07	5.41	5/	5/	5.75	5/	5.60
FL	6.25	5.50	6.19	11.25	5/	6.10	6.80	9.45
Lake	6.74	5.12	5.62	8.57	6.28	6.07	5/	5.74
Cornbelt I	6.82	5.97	6.49	9.02	7.15	6.88	5/	6.76
Cornbelt II	5.81	5.82	5.81	5/	5/	5.86	5/	6.55
Delta	5.12	5.32	5.18	8.35	5.57	5.14	5/	6.64
Northern Plains	5.93	6.08	6.01	8.01	5.70	5.87	5/	6.51
Southern Plains	4.95	5.21	5.05	7.59	6.49	5.34	5/	6.08
Mountain I	**5.67**	**5.43**	**5.53**	**6.36**	**7.00**	**5.67**	**5/**	**5/**
Mountain II	5.44	5.84	5.67	5/	5/	5.47	5/	6.26
Mountain III	5.20	5/	5.43	7.45	5/	5.24	5/	5/
Pacific	6.72	7.93	6.87	11.11	9.54	6.99	5/	9.88
CA	5.93	6.31	5.98	11.20	9.45	6.07	5.65	9.42
HI	8.46	5/	8.33	15.18	5/	8.57	5/	5/
US 6/	6.04	5.65	5.92	9.36	7.68	6.10	6.40	6.97

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Livestock, Supervisory, and Other published at Regional and U. S. level only. 4/ Piece Rate and Other published at regional and U. S. level only. 5/ Insufficient Data. 6/ Excludes AK.

POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers stored 270,000 cwt of potatoes as of May 1, 1993, compared with 350,000 a year ago. The May 1 stocks represent 11 percent of production from the 1992 crop year.

Western potato stocks totaled 50.2 million cwt in the six storage States, down 7 percent from last year but slightly above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 2 percent from last year and accounted for 60 percent of the western holdings. Montana, nearing the end of the seed season, is off 23 percent. Oregon's holdings were off 37 percent, Washington's stocks dropped 15 percent, and California's stocks were 33 percent below a year ago. Colorado's stocks were up 13 percent.

U.S. potato stocks totaled 63.6 million cwt on May 1, 1993, down 8 percent from last year, but 1 percent above two years ago. Stocks equaled 18 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 19 percent last year. Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled 291 million cwt of potatoes, down 1 percent from last year's record high but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was estimated at 31.7 million cwt, 13 percent above the 28.2 million cwt lost last year and 22 percent above two years ago, when losses were 26 million cwt.

1992 MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION & INCOME

Montana milk production decreased 1 percent in 1992 to 327 million pounds. An average of 23,000 milk cows were on farms during the year, down 1,000 head from 1991. The rate per cow, at 14,217 pounds, was 467 pounds above 1991.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year, at 42 million dollars, was 8 percent above 1991. Producer returns averaged $13.40 per hundredweight, $1.10 above the 1991 average. Marketings totaled 312 million pounds, down 1 percent from 1991. A total of 15 million pounds of milk was used on farms, 9 million pounds were fed to calves, and 6 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

U.S. milk production increased 2 percent in 1992 to 152 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 15,423 pounds, was 563 pounds above 1991. The annual average number of cows on farms, at 9.84 million head, was 153 thousand less than the 1991 average.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1992, at 19.8 billion dollars, was 10 percent above 1991. Producer returns averaged $13.25 per hundredweight, $0.89 per hundredweight above the 1991 average. Marketings totaled 150 billion pounds, 2 percent above 1991. An estimated 1.92 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 5 percent below 1991. Calves were fed 76 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households as milk, cream, and butter.

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP FRACTIONALLY

U.S. egg production totaled 5.86 billion during April 1993, up fractionally from the 5.84 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.02 billion table eggs, 771 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 65 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during April averaged 281 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,082 eggs, compared with 2,099 eggs in April 1992.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1993, totaled 281 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 281 million layers consisted of 234 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 43.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.02 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Eggs laid per day on May 1, 1993, averaged 68.9 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from last year's 69.5 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg producing States produced 4.8 billion eggs during April, down slightly from the 4.81 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during April 1993 averaged 231 million, up 1 percent from the 228 million a year ago. These monthly States accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, December 1992 through February 1993.

APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in April 1993. This was an 11 percent decrease from March, and a 7 percent decrease from a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, remained unchanged from last year. Average live weight increased 32 pounds to 1,199.

A total of 2,100 hogs were slaughtered in April, 300 head less than were slaughtered in 1992. Average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 232. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 100 head, decreased 100 head from last year. Average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 125.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.3 billion pounds during April. This production is 1 percent above a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 1.78 billion pounds. This was virtually unchanged from April 1992. Head kill totaled 2.68 million, up 4 percent from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 29 pounds to 1,125.

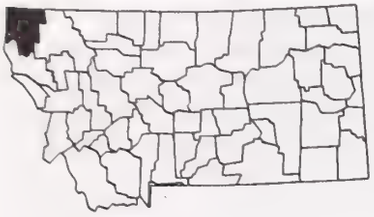
Veal production, at 22 million pounds, was down 13 percent from April 1992. Calf slaughter totaled 98,100 head, down 11 percent. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 386.

Pork production, at 1.47 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from 1992. Hog kill totaled 8 million head, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 254.

Lamb and mutton production, at 30 million pounds, was down 8 percent from a year earlier. Slaughter totaled 481,600 head, down 8 percent. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 126.

January-April red meat production was 13 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent, veal was down 14 percent, pork was down 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 10 percent.

featuring...*LINCOLN COUNTY*



Lincoln County is nestled among the mountains in the extreme northwest corner of the state. Created in July of 1909, the county covers approximately 2,314,150 acres. Lumbering is the chief industry in the county. The agricultural areas are limited, with the only considerable body of open land found in the Tobacco Plains Valley near Eureka. The Kootenai River traverses the county from west to east. The Libby Dam on the Kootenai River near the center of the county, forms Lake Kootenai which extends up into Canada. The Yaak River runs through the northwestern corner of the county and joins the Kootenai River near the Montana/Idaho border.

Limited agricultural interest is illustrated by land in farms occupying only 61,387 acres of the approximately 2.3 million acres in the county. Lincoln County ranked 53rd for all hay production and 52nd for oats in the 1991 crop production figures. In the livestock inventories, Lincoln County ranked 41st in hog numbers on December 1, 1991 and 55th in cattle numbers on January 1, 1992. County cash receipts for 1990 totaled a little more than $2,403,000. Livestock receipts made up $2,134,000, crops contributed $269,000, and government payments were less than $50,000.

Lincoln County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	2,314,150	Total Cropland	Acres	19,418
Land in Farms	Acres	61,387	Harvested Cropland	Acres	10,199
Number of Farms		245	Irrigated Land	Acres	6,109
Average size Farms	Acres	251			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	10,084	All Cattle &		
All Wheat*	Acres	D	Calves	No. Head	4,762
Barley	Acres	D	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	D
Oats	Acres	108	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,608

[1/] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture. D - Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Barley County Estimates
May Prices Received
Crop Production Pasture & Range

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 93-09 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: May 14, 1993

301 S. PARK
P.O. BOX 4369
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Highlights:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Pasture & Range Feed Condition
- 1992 Dairy Products
- Montana Sheep & Lamb Losses
- April Ag Prices Received
- Poultry Production & Value

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION AND HAY STOCKS

Montana 1993 winter wheat production is expected to be 90 million bushels, 48 percent above last year's crop. Acres expected to be harvested, at 2.5 million, are 19 percent above the previous year. Yield per acre, based on May 1 conditions, is forecast at 36 bushels, 7 bushels above last year.

Last fall seeding conditions were favorable for the winter wheat crop. Winter weather conditions were not severe, and snow cover protection was generally good when temperatures dropped to lowest levels. This spring, the major winter wheat areas received above average precipitation. These conditions set the stage for expected harvest of 96 percent of seeded acreage and a per acre yield that is 4 bushels above the 5-year average.

For the **Nation**, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.81 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 1992. Based on May 1 conditions, yield prospects average 40.8 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from last year. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 1992. Conditions are generally good but the crop is late developing.

Hay stocks on **Montana** farms May 1, 1993 were 884,000 tons, down 34 percent from last year's May 1, stocks. Farmers and ranchers had only 19 percent of their 1992 production on hand May 1, 1993. Disappearance in the December 1, 1992-May 1, 1993 period amounted to nearly 3.1 million tons, 5 percent less than last season.

Nationally, hay stocks on farms totaled 21.2 million tons on May 1, 1993, 26 percent less than May 1, last year. Disappearance of hay in the December 1, 1992-May 1, 1993 period totaled 84.7 million tons. This compares with 82.8 million tons in the same period a year ago.

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, BY STATE AND UNITED STATES, 1991-92 AND FORECASTED MAY 1, 1993

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1991	1992	1993
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CA	550	550	75.0	80.0	32,800	41,250	44,000
CO	2,300	2,450	30.0	36.0	71,300	69,000	88,200
ID	800	850	65.0	67.0	49,000	52,000	56,950
IL	1,150	1,550	54.0	55.0	44,800	62,100	85,250
KS	10,700	11,200	34.0	38.0	363,000	363,800	425,600
MO	1,350	1,350	48.0	43.0	48,000	64,800	58,050
MT	**2,100**	**2,500**	**29.0**	**36.0**	**72,000**	**60,900**	**90,000**
NE	1,850	2,050	30.0	37.0	67,200	55,500	75,850
ND	170	135	35.0	35.0	2,970	5,950	4,725
OH	1,115	1,050	53.0	56.0	52,920	59,095	58,800
OK	5,900	5,800	29.0	31.0	140,000	171,100	179,800
OR	825	855	52.0	59.0	41,600	42,900	50,445
SD	1,200	1,400	28.0	35.0	45,500	33,600	49,000
TX	3,800	3,900	34.0	32.0	84,000	129,200	124,800
WA	2,000	2,300	51.0	56.0	40,600	102,000	128,800
WY	210	205	25.0	29.0	5,800	5,250	5,945
US	41,893	44,307	38.3	40.8	1,372,617	1,606,534	1,807,657

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--May 1, 1993 1/

District	1991	1992	1993	% chg. 93/92
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	992	1,291	1,800	139
N Central	41,808	19,641	42,400	216
Northeast	4,079	9,392	8,300	88
Central	14,315	13,244	21,300	161
Southwest	910	1,927	1,500	78
S Central	7,291	10,024	8,800	88
Southeast	2,605	5,381	5,900	110
Montana	72,000	60,900	90,000	148

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MAY 1 PASTURE AND RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pasture and range feed condition for May 1, 1993, was 84 percent of normal, 2 points below last year at this same date. Cool, wet weather retarded this year's growth and some areas are recovering from last year's early drought conditions. The north central area shows a 29 point improvement over year-ago condition, while the east end of the state is down 11 to 16 points.

MONTANA, May 1, 1993
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1991	1992	1993
Northwest	88	96	90
North Central	79	64	93
Northeast	61	91	80
Central	50	92	78
Southwest	65	75	78
South Central	84	90	95
Southeast	71	96	80
Montana	77	86	84

1992 DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter production in the United States during 1992 totaled 1.37 billion pounds, 2 percent more than was produced in 1991. Wisconsin, the leading state, accounted for 26 percent of production, followed by California with 24 percent, and Washington with 9 percent.

Total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 6.49 billion pounds, 7 percent above the 1991 production. Wisconsin was the leading state with 32 percent of the production. American type cheese production, at 2.94 billion pounds, rose 5 percent above 1991 and accounted for 45 percent of total cheese in 1992.

Italian varieties continue their increase with a record high 2.51 billion pounds, 8 percent above the 1991 production, followed by Ricotta with 9 percent, and Provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading state in Italian cheese production with 33 percent of the production. Creamed cottage cheese, at 457 million pounds, fell 8 percent from 1991, but lowfat cottage cheese, at 330 million pounds, rose 3 percent.

Frozen dairy products were mixed in 1992. Ice cream production totaled 875 million gallons, up 1 percent. Ice milk, at 329 million gallons, dipped 4 percent. Milk sherbet, at 49.9 million gallons, jumped 5 percent. Frozen yogurt production, at 134 millon gallons, dropped 9 percent. The 270 million gallons of soft products (ice cream, ice milk, and sherbet) made during 1992 accounted for 22 percent of the total frozen dairy products excluding yogurt. Soft frozen dairy products are sold from direct-serve soft freezer and milk shake machines.

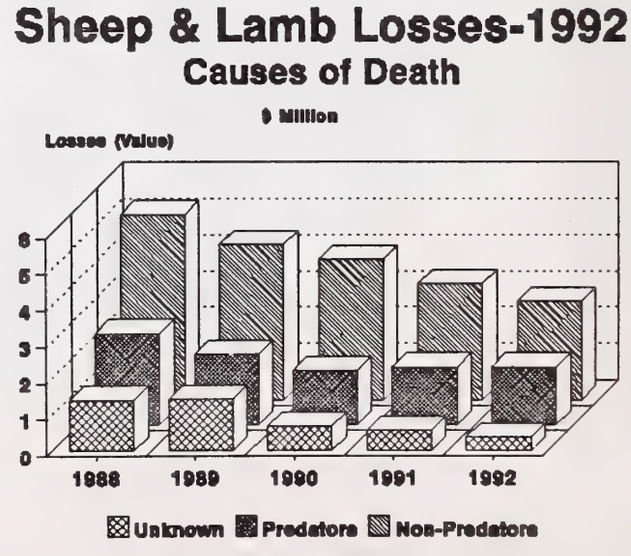
Nonfat dry milk for human food production, at 872 million pounds, was down 1 percent from 1991 production. Dry buttermilk production, at 61.1 million pounds, rose 2 percent.

MONTANA 1992 SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES

Montana sheep producers lost 112,000 sheep and lambs to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 1992, representing a total value of $4.7 million. Total head lost was 21 percent lower than 1991. The total value of inventory lost in 1992 decreased $655,900 from the previous year.

Predators caused $1.6 million in losses, while non-predator factors accounted for $2.7 million and unknown causes claimed $.4 million. Coyotes remain the single largest cause of death resulting in a $1.2 million loss. This accounts for 26 percent of the total value of death losses in the state.

Lambs killed by all predators amounted to 32,900 head, down 5 percent from last year. Sheep killed by predators totaled 8,300 down 20 percent. Lambs lost to weather, disease and other non-predator causes totaled 40,600 head, down 29 percent from 1991. Sheep losses to non-predator factors totaled 22,400, marking a 15 percent decrease from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes were down 58 percent to 3,500 head. Unknown causes claimed 4,300 head of sheep, down 19 percent from last year.



APRIL PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for mid-April were lower compared with the previous month, except for alfalfa hay and other spring wheat. At mid-April winter wheat was down 32 cents to $3.05, and durum, at $3.04, decreased 10 cents from March. Other spring wheat continued to increase and is currently averaging $3.49 per bushel. All barley was $2.06, dropping 12 cents from March. Oats averaged $1.16, 14 cents below the previous month. Alfalfa hay prices, at $72.00 per ton, remained unchanged from March while other hay and all hay each dropped $1.00 to $62.00 and $70.00 per ton, respectively.

Livestock prices for mid-April were mixed. Prices for sheep decreased $5.80 per cwt from last month to $27.60. Lambs followed with a $6.40 decrease at $66.80. Cow prices rose $1.00 to $50.10 per cwt while calf prices decreased $1.40 to $97.50 per cwt. Steers and heifers averaged $86.50 per cwt, up 40 cents from March. Milk prices moved up 10 cents to $12.70 per cwt.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 145 based on 1977=100, 3 points (2.1 percent) above March 1993. Price gains from March for lettuce, oranges, onions, and tomatoes more than offset price declines for hogs, cattle, tobacco, and celery.

Compared with a year earlier, the April All Farm Products Index was 4 points (2.8 percent) higher. Price increases from April 1992 for cattle, hogs, eggs, and lettuce more than offset price decreases for corn, wheat, oranges, and apples.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1993	MONTANA Apr. 15, 1993	U.S. Apr. 15, 1993
			– Dollars –		
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.67	3.37	3.05	3.25
Durum	Bu.	3.26	3.14	3.04	3.16
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.45	3.49	3.29
All Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.41	3.32	3.26
Barley, All	Bu.	2.27	2.18	2.06	1.95
Feed	Bu.	2.07	1.89	1.80	1.82
Malt	Bu.	2.29	3.09	2.90	2.11
Oats	Bu.	1.46	1.30	1.16	1.42
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	51.00	72.00	72.00	88.20
All Other Hay	Ton	44.00	63.00	62.00	63.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	49.00	71.00	70.00	82.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	77.60	86.10	86.50	81.50
Cows	Cwt.	50.70	49.10	50.10	49.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	67.10	71.80	71.90	77.10
Calves	Cwt.	88.30	98.90	97.50	99.20
Sheep	Cwt.	28.00	33.40	27.60	27.40
Lambs	Cwt.	60.80	73.20	66.80	67.10
Hogs	Cwt.	37.40	2/	2/	45.40
All Milk	Cwt.	12.70	12.60	12.70	12.40
Eggs	Doz.	0.48	2/	2/	0.69
Wool 3/	Lb.	0.84	0.60	0.40	0.46

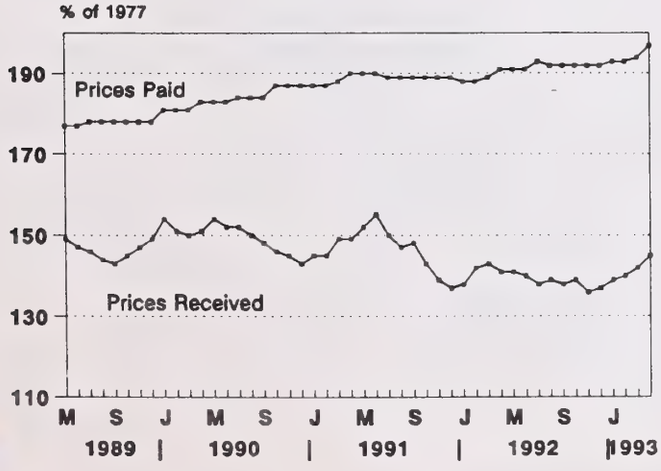
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Series discontinued. Market year average price available at year's end. 3/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	March 1992	April 1992	March 1993	April 1993
Prices Received	145	141	142	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/190	191	3/194	197
Ratio 1/	76	74	73	74

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1992 prices paid index. 3/ January 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Montana egg sales brought 28 percent less value to producers in 1992 compared with 1991. A large percentage of this drop was due to the 26 percent decrease in the average price received per dozen eggs from 1991 to 1992. Sixteen states had lower 1992 average prices for a dozen eggs than Montana's price of 49 cents. Only one other year's average (1988) has been lower in the past 20 years. Montana's egg production, at 160 million eggs, in 1992 was the lowest ever recorded in our state history. These two factors combined to produce a value of production of $6.5 million, the lowest in 20 years.

(Continued on back page)

POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE (continued)

Although Montana's value of sales from chickens excluding broilers in 1992 decreased by 1.5 cents per pound, the U.S. average price per pound for chickens excluding broilers went up 1.5 cents. Overall, only 11 states experienced a decrease in price per pound and 5 states had 1992 averages that were more than double the average of the previous year.

The combined value of U.S. production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1992, was $15.0 billion, up 2 percent from the $14.7 billion in 1991. Of the combined total, 61 percent was from broilers, 23 percent from eggs, 16 percent from turkeys, and more than one-half of 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 1992 was $9.16 billion, up 9 percent from the $8.38 billion in 1991. The total number of broilers produced in 1992 was 6.39 billion, up 4 percent from 1991. The 1992 average price per pound on a liveweight equivalent basis was 31.8 cents per pound, compared to 30.8 cents per pound in 1991.

Value of egg production in 1992 was down 13 percent from 1991. This year's value of egg production is the lowest in the U.S. since 1988. Although 1992 egg production increased 2 percent over the last year, the average price per dozen eggs decreased by 15 percent.

The value of turkeys produced during 1992 was $2.39 billion, up 2 percent from the $2.34 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1992 totaled 6.33 billion pounds liveweight, compared with 6.11 billion pounds in 1991. The prices received by producers during 1992 averaged 38.0 cents per pound of liveweight, unchanged from a year earlier.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1991-1992 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1991	1992	1991	1992
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	000 Head	97	106	36,157	34,977
Sold	000 Head	458	562	197,717	206,941
Pounds Sold	000 Lbs.	1,832	2,248	941,086	966,268
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	4.0	2.5	7.1	8.6
Value of Sales	000 Dols.	73	56	67,253	82,875
EGGS					
Produced	Million	164	160	69,196	70,528
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	66.0	49.0	67.8	57.7
Value of Prod.	000 Dols.	9,020	6,533	3,908,730	3,389,070

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1, previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Milk PDI
Farm Labor	Cattle on Feed
Slaughter	Egg Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 93-07 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: April 6, 1993

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Highlights:

1992 Wool & Mohair
Prospective Plantings
Grain Stocks
March Ag Prices Received
March 1 Hogs & Pigs

WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 9 PERCENT, VALUE UP 36 PERCENT

Montana wool producers produced 6.0 million pounds of wool during 1992, worth $5.1 million. This production is down 9 percent from 1991, while the total value of wool produced increased 36 percent. The total head shorn dropped 4 percent to 614 thousand, and the average fleece weight dropped one-half pound to 9.7 pounds. The average price per pound of wool sold increased 28 cents from 1991, to 85 cents.

Shorn wool production in the **United States** during 1992 was 83.4 million pounds, down 5 percent from 1991. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 10.6 million head, a decrease of 4 percent from 1991. The average price paid for wool sold in 1992 was $0.74 per pound for a total value of $60.5 million, up 28 percent from $47.2 million in 1991.

There were 48.3 million pounds of domestic and foreign apparel and carpet scoured raw wool stored in the United States on January 1, 1993.

Planting intentions, grain stocks, and hog estimates in this issue are the result of surveying approximately 1,800 Montana farmers and ranchers during March. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis.

SPECIAL THANKS to those operators who responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1993

Montana farmers intend to plant 7.0 million acres in 1993, the same as last year. Farmers were surveyed on March 1 for their planting intentions. Their plans are preliminary, depending on changes in weather, market conditions, etc.

The state's all wheat acreage is expected to be 5.5 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. Winter wheat seeded last fall remains unchanged from a year ago, at 2.6 million acres. Hard spring wheat, at 2.8 million acres, is expected to be up 6 percent. Durum is down 44 percent with 90,000 acres expected to be planted, the smallest amount seeded in the last 35 years.

Barley planted acreage is expected to be down 11 percent, to 1.2 million acres, the smallest acreage since 1980. Oats planting intentions are down 9 percent from a year ago at 150,000 acres, and they expect to harvest 65,000 acres for grain compared with 70,000 acres in 1992. Sugar beet intended plantings, at 57,400 acres, are up 3 percent; dry beans, at 11,000 acres, are up 8 percent, and corn, at 65,000 acres, is down 7 percent. Farmers expect to harvest 2.4 million acres of all hay which reflects a 4 percent increase.

In the **United States** all wheat planted for 1993 is expected to total 72.3 million acres, up slightly from 1992.

Winter wheat planted for 1993 is 51.2 million acres, fractionally higher than 1992, but off 1 percent from the total published in the "Winter Wheat and Rye Seedings" report, mainly due to wet weather in California and Oklahoma preventing seeding.

Durum wheat seeded for 1993 is expected to total 2.09 million acres, down 17 percent from 1992. This would be the smallest durum area since 1963.

Other spring wheat producers intend to seed 19.0 million acres of other spring wheat in 1993, up 1 percent from 1992. If realized, this will be the largest seeded area since 1953, propelled by a record high North Dakota acreage.

Barley growers intend to seed 7.66 acres to barley during 1993, down 2 percent from the 7.80 million acres seeded last year. Acreage is expected to be up in North Dakota, but down in Montana.

Oats producers plan to seed or have seeded a total of 8.11 million acres of oats for 1993, up 2 percent from the 7.96 million acres seeded in 1992.

PLANTED ACREAGE, 1991-1992, and INTENDED 1993, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1991	1992	1993	93/92	1991	1992	1993	93/92
	-- 1,000 Acres --			Pct.	-- 1,000 Acres --			Pct.
All Wheat	5,130.0	5,410.0	5,490.0	101	69,921.0	72,262.0	72,289.0	100
Winter Wheat	2,350.0	2,600.0	2,600.0	100	51,064.0	51,057.0	51,241.0	100
Durum	180.0	160.0	90.0	56	3,253.0	2,507.0	2,092.0	83
Hard Spring	2,600.0	2,650.0	2,800.0	106	15,604.0	18,698.0	18,956.0	101
Barley	1,800.0	1,350.0	1,200.0	89	8,941.0	7,802.0	7,661.0	98
Oats-Planted	200.0	165.0	150.0	91	8,654.0	7,961.0	8,110.0	102
-Harvested	110.0	70.0	65.0	93	4,806.0	4,492.0	4,415.0	98
Corn	75.0	70.0	65.0	93	75,951.0	79,325.0	76,486.0	96
Sugar Beets	56.6	55.9	57.4	103	1,427.4	1,434.5	1,457.5	102
Dry Beans	9.0	10.2	11.0	108	1,964.1	1,613.6	1,711.4	106
All Hay-Harvested	2,400.0	2,250.0	2,350.0	104	62,475.0	59,597.0	60,268.0	101

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1, 1992	Dec. 1, 1992*	Mar. 1, 1993	Mar. 1, 1992	Dec. 1, 1992*	Mar. 1, 1993
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.5	1.4	0.6	2.9	2.0	1.0
North Central	39.5	39.4	31.7	15.8	17.5	11.3
Northeast	21.3	45.9	33.4	3.6	6.3	5.0
Central	8.8	14.6	10.7	2.5	5.6	4.8
Southwest	1.1	2.5	1.2	2.2	2.5	1.5
South Central	2.7	8.6	4.5	2.4	4.8	3.3
Southeast	3.7	8.6	4.9	0.8	1.4	0.6
STATE	77.6	121.0	87.0	30.2	40.1	27.5

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1992	Dec. 1, 1992*	Mar. 1, 1993	% Chg. '93/'92	Mar. 1, 1992	Dec. 1, 1992*	Mar. 1, 1993
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	54,000	98,000	62,000	115	275,550	672,000	378,000
Off Farms [1/]	23,637	22,950	25,000	106	611,685	918,476	667,494
TOTAL	77,637	120,950	87,000	112	887,235	1,590,476	1,045,494
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	22,000	43,000	26,000	118	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	12,115	10,192	12,600	104	--	--	--
TOTAL	34,115	53,192	38,600	113	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	32,000	55,000	36,000	113	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	11,522	12,758	12,400	108	--	--	--
TOTAL	43,522	67,758	48,400	111	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	56,279	77,190	53,615
Off Farms [1/ 4/]	--	--	--	--	23,001	25,381	24,627
TOTAL	7,714	6,351	5,350	69	79,280	102,571	78,242
BARLEY							
On Farms	23,000	32,000	20,000	87	102,000	198,350	122,880
Off Farms [1/]	7,220	8,077	7,500	104	113,890	148,226	121,698
TOTAL	30,220	40,077	27,500	91	215,890	346,576	244,578
OATS							
On Farms	3,500	3,700	3,200	91	98,150	161,200	109,950
Off Farms [1/]	338	134	110	33	76,735	81,292	64,801
TOTAL	3,838	3,834	3,310	86	174,885	242,492	174,751
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,610,200	5,736,900	3,630,000
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	1,950,785	2,169,463	2,048,637
TOTAL [4/]	--	--	--	--	4,560,985	7,906,363	5,678,637

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

GLOBAL WHEAT MARKET OUTLOOK FOR 1992/93

Larger wheat output in the former Soviet Union (FSU) and China is expected to dampen global import demand in 1992/93, despite gains in other foreign countries' imports.

- EC and Australian exports are projected up 2 million tons, while Canada's exports decline.
- U.S. exports rise, with market share expected to climb to 36 from 32 percent last year.

Generally good weather is expected to aid world winter wheat crops in 1993/94. Policy changes also influenced last fall's planting.

- Government pressure may have convinced China's farmers not to switch winter area out of wheat, despite last season's marketing difficulties.
- EC planted area is declining only slightly under CAP reforms, and mild temperatures and plentiful precipitation favor yields in the north.
- Delayed planting in the FSU reduced winter grain area.
- Drought continues in North Africa, but in Turkey favorable weather is likely to lead to another large crop.

MARCH PRICES RECEIVED

Mid-March prices received by Montana Farmers were mostly below the February entire month prices for crops, but mostly higher for livestock. Mid-March winter wheat was down 27 cents, at $3.14, and durum was off 28 cents, at $2.83, but spring wheat prices were 4 cents above the previous month. All barley was $1.97, down 5 cents from February. Oats averaged $1.17 per bushel, 5 cents below the previous month. Alfalfa hay advanced $1.00 per ton to average $72.00 per ton.

Sheep led the livestock advance with a $6.00 per cwt increase from February to March. Lambs followed with a $4.10 increase. Sheep averaged $38.80 per cwt and lambs $76.90. Cow prices were down $.60 per cwt at $48.50. Calf prices moved up $2.50, to $98.40 per cwt while steers and heifers were up $.40 per cwt at $84.50. Milk prices moved down $.50 to an average $12.60 per cwt.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by U. S. farmers in March was 141 based on 1977=100, up 1 point from February. Price gains from February for eggs, cattle, hogs, and corn more than offset price declines for milk, apples, sweet corn, and lettuce.

The All Farm Products Index was down 4 points from March 1992. Price decreases for tomatoes, oranges, corn, and wheat more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, eggs, and celery.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1993	MONTANA Mar. 15, 1993	U.S. Mar. 15, 1993
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.41	3.14	3.23
Durum	Bu.	3.18	3.11	2.83	3.04
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.57	3.61	3.29
All Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.48	3.38	3.24
Barley, All	Bu.	2.09	2.02	1.97	1.90
Feed	Bu.	2.03	1.86	1.81	1.81
Malt	Bu.	2.25	2.48	2.42	2.05
Oats	Bu.	1.40	1.22	1.17	1.39
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	71.00	72.00	84.30
All Other Hay	Ton	44.00	60.00	63.00	61.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	49.00	69.00	71.00	78.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	79.90	84.10	84.50	80.90
Cows	Cwt.	53.10	49.10	48.50	49.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	72.70	74.70	75.50	76.90
Calves	Cwt.	90.40	95.90	98.40	98.30
Sheep	Cwt.	28.50	32.80	38.80	39.50
Lambs	Cwt.	59.60	72.80	76.90	76.90
Hogs 2/	Cwt.	35.20	2/	2/	46.20
All Milk	Cwt.	13.00	13.10	12.60	12.10
Eggs	Doz.	0.49	2/	2/	0.71
Wool 3/	Lb.	0.80	0.66	0.60	0.46

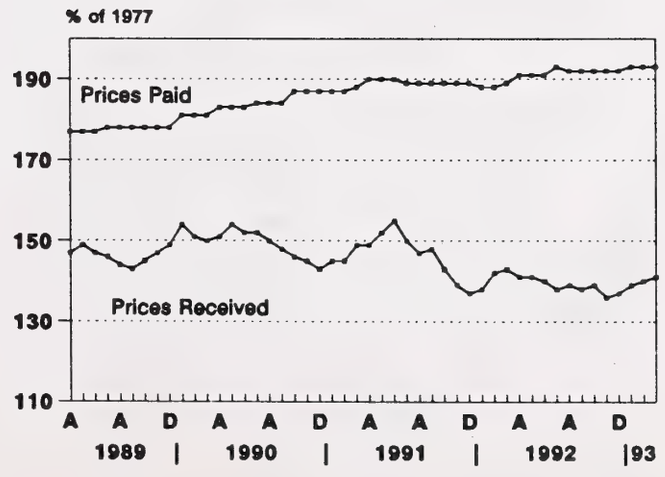
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Series discontinued. Market year average price available at year's end. 3/ Does not include incentive payment.

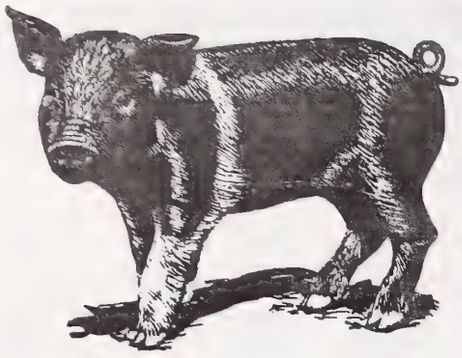
UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992	Feb. 1993	Mar 1993
Prices Received	143	145	140	141
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/190	2/190	3/193	3/193
Ratio 1/	75	76	73	73

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1992 prices paid index. 3/ January 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED





MARCH 1 HOG & PIG INVENTORY

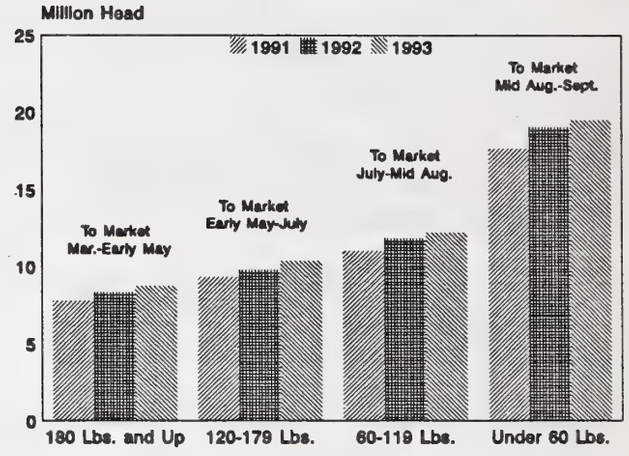
U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1993, is 58.3 million head. This is 4 percent above March 1992 and 10 percent above the March 1991 inventory.

Breeding inventory, at 7.43 million head, is up 4 percent from March 1, 1992, and 6 percent above March 1991. Market hog inventory, at 50.9 million head, is 4 percent above March 1, 1992, and up 11 percent from March 1, 1991.

The December 1992-February 1993 U.S. pig crop was 23.9 million head, 2 percent higher than 1992 and 12 percent above the same period in 1991. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.93 million head, up 1 percent from last year and 8 percent above a year earlier. Pigs saved per litter was a record high 8.15 compared to 8.04 during December 1991-February 1992.

U.S. producers intend to have 3.41 million sows farrow during the March-May 1993 quarter, 1 percent higher than actual farrowings during the same period last year and 4 percent above 1991. Farrowing intentions for June-August 1993, at 3.24 million sows, are up 3 percent from actual 1992 farrowings and up 4 percent from 1991.

MARKET HOGS By Weight Groups



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Farm Land Values
- Potato Stocks
- Meat Animals PDI
- Quarterly Milk Production
- All Wheat County Estimates
- Egg Production
- Slaughter
- Cattle on Feed

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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Highlights:

- February & 1992 Slaughter
- 7 State Cattle on Feed
- February Milk Production
- Quarterly Egg Production
- Ag Chemical Use
- Sheep & Lambs on Feed
- Potato Stocks

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FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds of red meat in February 1993. This was an 11 percent decrease from January, and a 10 percent decrease from last year.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,200 head, dropped 200 head from February 1992. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered decreased 6 pounds to 1,134.

A total of 2,100 hogs were slaughtered in February, 200 less than a year ago. Average live weight increased 1 pound to 241. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 200 head, decreased 100 head from last year. The average live weight was 123 pounds, 3 pounds lighter than the average last February.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.01 billion pounds during February. This production is 3 percent below the record set in 1984 and 2 percent below a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.68 billion pounds. This was 15 percent below the record high set in February 1976. Head kill totaled 2.47 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight decreased 17 pounds to 1,156.

Veal production, at 21.0 million pounds, was down 17 percent from a year earlier and lower than the record low set in February 1992. Calf slaughter totaled 98,900 head, down 13 percent. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 373.

Pork production, at 1.29 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from the record high set in February a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.09 million head, down 3 percent from last year. The average live weight remained the same at 252 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 25.0 million pounds, was down 11 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 395,000 head, down 10 percent. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 129 pounds.

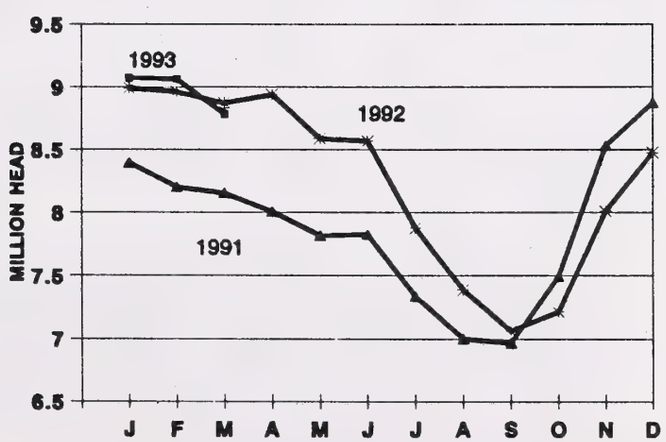
CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.79 million head, up 8 percent from a year ago but down 1 percent from March 1, 1991.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during February totaled 1.26 million, down 15 percent from last year and 13 percent below 1991. Net placements of 1.15 million for February were down 16 percent from last year and 14 percent below 1991.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.43 million, up 1 percent from last year and unchanged from two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 110,000 head compared to 120,000 in February 1992 and 113,000 in February 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during February totaled 10.0 billion pounds, 2 percent less than production in these same States in February 1992 (February 1992 had 29 days). January revised production, at 10.8 billion pounds, was slightly above January 1992. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,218 pounds for February, 20 pounds less than February 1992.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.20 million head, 74,000 head less than February 1992 and 11,000 less than January 1993.

During the October-December period, the 21 major States produced 31.4 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 11.8 billion pounds for February 1993.

1992 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Red meat production in **Montana** totaled 17.2 million pounds during 1992, up 4 percent from 1991. Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 19,000 head, with an average live weight of 1,175 pounds. Hog slaughter totaled 29,900 head, with an average live weight of 237 pounds. A total of 3,900 lamb and mutton animals were slaughtered, with an average live weight of 123 pounds. Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the **United States** during 1992 totaled 41.0 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 1991.

Beef production was 23.1 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 1991. Veal production was 311 million pounds, up 2 percent from 1991. Pork production was 17.2 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 1991. Lamb and mutton production totaled 349 million pounds, down 4 percent from 1991.

Commercial only red meat production, at 40.8 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the record high of 39.8 billion pounds set in 1988. Record highs were set in five months in 1992.

Commercial only pork production, at 17.2 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous record high of 16.4 billion pounds produced in 1980. New record highs were set in nine months during 1992.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1992 totaled 32.9 million head, up 1 percent from 1991, with federal inspection comprising 97.6 percent of the total compared with 97.5 last year. Calf slaughter, at 1.37 million head, was down 5 percent from the previous year with 97.3 percent under federal inspection. Hog kill totaled 94.9 million head, up 8 percent from 1991 with federal inspection comprising 97.6 percent. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 5.50 million head, was down 4 percent from 1991 with federal inspection comprising 96.2 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered commercially in 1992 was 1,169 pounds, up 6 pounds from 1991. The calf average live weight was 376 pounds for 1992, an increase of 30 pounds from the previous year. The average live weight for hogs remained the same at 252. Sheep and lambs averaged 125 pounds live weight, up 1 pound from 1991.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER BY SPECIES AND TOTAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION, MONTANA, 1992

Month	Cattle	Pork	Sheep & Lambs	Red Meat
	Number of Head			(000) Lbs.
Jan	1,700	2,700	300	1,494
Feb	1,400	2,300	300	1,251
Mar	1,300	2,400	200	1,209
Apr	1,400	2,400	200	1,309
May	1,400	2,300	200	1,328
Jun	1,600	2,300	200	1,429
Jul	1,500	2,300	400	1,397
Aug	1,700	3,100	600	1,704
Sep	1,600	2,700	500	1,498
Oct	1,800	2,500	400	1,600
Nov	1,600	2,500	300	1,457
Dec	1,900	2,200	300	1,555
Total 1/	19,000	29,900	3,900	17,232

1/ Months may not add to totals due to rounding.

EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 37 million eggs during the December 1992 through February 1993 quarter, compared with 40 million during the same quarter last year. Layers for the quarter averaged 560,000 head compared with 610,000 in 1992.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 17.5 billion eggs during the December through February quarter, down slightly from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 15.1 billion table eggs, 2.24 billion broiler-type hatching eggs, and 182 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 281 million head, up 1 percent from the 280 million head a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1993, totaled 281 million, compared with 279 million a year ago. The 281 million layers consisted of 236 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 42.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.97 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1993, averaged 69.2 eggs per 100 layers compared with 69.3 for March 1, 1992.

AGRICULTURE CHEMICAL USE

A portion of the third annual Ag Chemical Usage report issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) containing on-farm agricultural chemical use statistics is included in this Reporter. The full report and/or additional information can be obtained by calling our office at (800) 835-2612. The data presented in the report are part of the data series on chemical use funded through the 1990 Water Quality Initiative.

The Water Quality Initiative is a multi-agency program designed to provide information for farmers, ranchers, and foresters to address on-farm and off-farm environmental issues. In the past, there has been an inadequate amount of farm level data to determine the magnitude of water quality problems or to permit an assessment of alternatives for farmers and other affected parties.

NASS is responsible for collecting on-farm agricultural chemical use information to support the evaluation of water quality and food safety issues. The Economic Research Service (ERS) conducts research on the impact of alternative pesticide regulations, policies, and practices.

The report includes farm use of fertilizers and pesticides during 1992 on corn, cotton, potatoes, rice, soybeans, and wheat. It also includes, for the first time, data on target pest by pesticide product for fall potatoes, only. Intentions are to provide this type of information on other crops in the future. The use of trade names in this publication is for information only and should not be construed as a recommendation by NASS.

Wheat Highlights

Nitrogen fertilizer was applied to 85 percent of the **winter wheat** harvested acres in the 15 States surveyed. South Dakota was the only State where growers treated less than 60 percent of the acres for grain. Nearly 50 percent of the acreage received phosphate fertilizer. Coverage ranged from a low of 15 percent in Colorado up to 94 percent in Ohio. Potash was used on 17 percent of the acreage in the 15-State area; producers in Soft Red Winter States treated the highest percentage. Portions of the harvested area were treated with herbicides in all surveyed States; 2,4-D was by far the most widely used herbicide in quantity. Area treated with herbicides was above 90 percent in Oregon and Washington.

Spring wheat acreage, other than durum, treated with fertilizers in the 4 surveyed States (MN,MT,ND,SD) averaged 81, 72, and 22 percent for nitrogen, phosphate, and potash, respectively. Minnesota growers treated the highest percentages of area for all three nutrients. Herbicides were widely used in all States, with 2,4-D and MCPA being most prevalent. Insecticide and fungicide use was relatively limited.

WINTER WHEAT: Agricultural Chemical Applications, Montana, 1992 1/

Agricultural Chemical 2/	Area Applied 3/	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		Mil Lbs
Fertilizers:					
Nitrogen	81	1.4	25	35	60.1
Phosphate	78	1.0	24	24	39.9
Potash	19	1.1	17	19	7.6
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		1,000 Lbs
Herbicides:					
2,4-D	45	1.0	0.39	0.41	391
Dicamba	15	1.1	0.07	0.07	21
Metsulfuron-methyl	11	1.0	0.004	0.004	1
Insecticides:					
Chlorpyrifos	5	1.0	0.33	0.33	37
Disulfoton	1	1.0	0.50	0.50	11

1/ Area harvested in 1992 for Montana was 2.10 million acres.
2/ Insufficient reports to publish data for the following agricultural chemicals: Herbicides: Chlorsulfuron, Diclofop-methyl, Glyphosate, MCPA, Picloram, Thifensulfuron, Triallate, Tribenuron-methyl. Insecticides: Permethrin.
3/ Refers to acres receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical.

Note: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

OTHER SPRING WHEAT: Agricultural Chemical Applications, Montana, 1992 1/

Agricultural Chemical 2/	Area Applied 3/	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		Mil Lbs
Fertilizers:					
Nitrogen	58	1.2	23	28	42.9
Phosphate	48	1.0	24	24	30.1
Potash	9	1.0	11	11	2.4
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		1,000 Lbs
Herbicides:					
2,4-D	70	1.0	0.36	0.37	686
Dicamba	55	1.0	0.06	0.07	95

1/ Area planted in 1992 for Montana was 2.65 million acres.
2/ Insufficient reports to publish data for the following agricultural chemicals: Herbicides: Fenoxaprop-ethyl, Glyphosate, MCPA, Metsulfuron-methyl, Picloram, Triallate, Trifluralin. Insecticides: Carbofuran.
3/ Refers to acres receiving one or more applications of a specific agricultural chemical.

Note: Data may not multiply across due to rounding.

MARCH 1 SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED

The number of sheep and lambs on feed March 1, 1993, for the slaughter market on Montana farms and ranches totaled 12,000 head, down 61 percent from the 31,000 head in January. Lambs accounted for 83 percent of the total.

There were 3,000 lambs on pasture and/or crop residue and 7,000 in feedlots. Montana placed 3,000 lambs on feed during January and February. Marketings during the period amounted to 20,000 head, while 1,000 ewe lambs were placed back into the breeding herd.

Sheep and lambs on feed March 1, 1993, for slaughter market in the 16 major producing States totaled 1.18 million head, down 28 percent from the 1.65 million head in January. The inventory included 1.16 million lambs for slaughter market and 29,000 mature sheep.

Of the March 1 total lambs on feed, 69 percent were in feedlots. In January, 61.6 percent were in a feedlot and 38.4 percent were on pasture and/or crop residue. The percentage of feedlot lambs on March 1 by weight class were: 15 percent under 85 pounds, 39 percent between 85-105 pounds and 46 percent over 105 pounds. For lambs on pasture and/or crop residue, 32 percent were under 85 pounds, 30 percent were 85-105 pounds and 38 percent were over 105 pounds.

Placements of lambs on feed in the 16 States during January and February 1993 totaled 439,500 head, while marketings of fed lambs for slaughter during the same period totaled 689,000 head. There were 14,000 ewe lambs originally intended for slaughter but returned to the breeding herd.

MARCH 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers stored 2.2 million cwt of potatoes as of March 1, 1993, compared with 2.3 million a year ago. The March 1 stocks represent 89 percent of production from the 1992 crop year.

Western potato stocks totalled 100 million cwt in six States, down 6 percent from last year and slightly below two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 1 percent from last year and accounted for 58 percent of the western holdings. Montana, with seed potatoes, was down 4 percent. Washington's stocks were off 18 percent, Oregon was down 25 percent, and California's stocks were off 12 percent. Colorado was up 5 percent from a year ago and the only State west of the Mississippi with more potatoes than a year ago.

U.S. Potato stocks totaled 140 million cwt on March 1, 1993, down 4 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Stocks now are 39 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 40 percent a year ago.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs	Ag Prices
Grain Stocks	Wool & Mohair
Prospective Plantings	

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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montana crop livestock

REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 93-05 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: March 12, 1993

301 S. PARK
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

Highlights:

Wheat & Barley Movement
Montana's Rank
February Prices Received
Montana Alfalfa Seed Production

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MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1992, at 39.0 million bushels, was 39 percent below the same period last year.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 43 percent below the previous June-November period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was up 88 percent. Shipments to other destinations (primarily Colorado and Arizona) were up 36 percent. Rail movement amounted to 35.2 million bushels, down from 59.6 million shipped by rail during the same period in 1991. Trucks carried 4.2 million bushels compared with 5.3 million the previous June-November period.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1992 was 7.9 million bushels, up 2 percent from the same period last year. Barley shipped west amounted to 6.7 million bushels, up 8 percent from the 6.2 million bushels in the June-November 1991 period. Eastern shipments totalled 1.2 million bushels, down 21 percent from the 1.5 million bushels the previous year. Movement to other destinations, totalling 52,000 bushels, was down 40 percent from the same period last year.

MILL COPY RETURN

Wheat and Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/]

Agricultural Statistics Districts	June-November 1991 Winter Wheat	June-November 1991 Spring Wheat [2/]	June-November 1991 All Wheat	June-November 1992 Winter Wheat	June-November 1992 Spring Wheat [2/]	June-November 1992 All Wheat	June-Nov. 1991 Barley	June-Nov. 1992 Barley
	--- 000 Bushels ---							
West [3/]	516	2,495	3,011	426	1,321	1,747	3,193	2,532
North Central	19,723	17,848	37,571	3,519	9,879	13,398	3,298	3,167
Northeast	541	8,160	8,701	762	12,324	13,086	497	1,029
Central	7,810	1,174	8,984	2,087	1,091	3,178	776	1,118
South Central	4,436	480	4,916	4,311	1,466	5,777	7	17
Southeast	981	793	1,774	1,325	925	2,250	0	48
Trucked East	62	113	175	13	107	120	40	38
Trucked West	2,759	2,094	4,853	1,229	2,311	3,540	874	1,207
Trucked Other [4/]	64	237	301	177	391	568	87	44
Total By Truck	2,885	2,444	5,329	1,419	2,809	4,228	1,001	1,289
Rail East	0	781	781	70	1,604	1,674	1,438	1,127
Rail West	31,122	26,883	58,005	10,904	21,642	32,546	5,332	5,487
Rail Other [4/]	0	842	842	37	951	988	0	8
Total By Rail	31,122	28,506	59,628	11,011	24,197	35,208	6,770	6,622
Total Shipped	34,007	30,950	64,957	12,430	27,006	39,436	7,771	7,911

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown.

MONTANA'S RANK HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranking of crop production for 1992 decreased from the record 1991 crop year for nearly all crops. Exceptions were for durum wheat and dry beans which were unchanged and corn for grain which moved up one place.
- Our cattle rank was unchanged from January 1, 1992, while we slipped a few positions for both hogs and sheep. Other livestock rankings remained stable while egg production is down one position.
- Total cash receipts remained unchanged, but both crops and livestock cash receipts dropped one position.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Land in farms and ranches	60,000,000 acres	1992	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:			
Total	1,531,169,000 dollars	1991	33
Crops	740,741,000 dollars	1991	32
Livestock	790,428,000 dollars	1991	31
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND PRODUCTION			
All Cattle & Calves	2,450,000 head	Jan. 1, 1993	13
All Cows	1,483,000 head	Jan. 1, 1993	8
Beef Cows	1,460,000 head	Jan. 1, 1993	6
Milk Cows	23,000 head	Jan. 1, 1993	42
Cattle on Feed	75,000 head	Jan. 1, 1993	23
Hogs and Pigs	215,000 head	Dec. 1, 1992	26
Sheep and Lambs	554,000 head	Jan. 1, 1993	6
Wool Production	6,542,000 pounds	1991	4
All Chickens	710,000 birds	Dec. 1, 1992	42
Egg Production	160,000,000 eggs	1992	42
Honey Production	9,570,000 pounds	1992	7
CROPS (Production)			
All Wheat	139,581,000 bushels	1992	5
Winter Wheat	60,900,000 bushels	1992	8
Durum Wheat	5,181,000 bushels	1992	2
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	73,500,000 bushels	1992	4
Barley	52,800,000 bushels	1992	3
Oats	3,920,000 bushels	1992	15
All Hay	4,650,000 tons	1992	13
Alfalfa Hay	3,290,000 tons	1992	10
Dry Beans	181,000 cwt	1992	14
Potatoes--fall	2,465,000 cwt	1992	15
Sugar Beets	1,272,000 tons	1992	8
Corn			
Grain	2,750,000 bushels	1992	39
Silage	903,000 tons	1992	25

SALUTE OUR FARMERS, RANCHERS AND AGRI-BUSINESSES DURING *NATIONAL AG WEEK MARCH 14-20*

FEBRUARY PRICES RECEIVED

Montana crop prices for mid-February were mostly lower compared with the previous month, except for oats, alfalfa hay, other hay, and all hay.

At mid-February all wheat averaged $3.39 per bushel, down 18 cents from January. All barley averaged $2.11 per bushel, dropping 25 cents from January. Oats averaged $1.20, unchanged from last month. Hay prices remained unchanged from January with alfalfa hay still at $71.00 per ton, other hay at $60.00 per ton, and all hay averaging $69.00 per ton.

Livestock prices for mid-February were mixed. Prices for steers and heifers averaged $87.00 per cwt, down 40 cents from January. Cow prices rose 20 cents to $48.00 per cwt while calf prices decreased 80 cents to $95.50 per cwt. Lamb prices averaged $73.50 per cwt, increasing $4.40 from last month, while sheep prices were down $2.40 per cwt to $28.40. Milk prices, at $13.20 per cwt, were down slightly from last month.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 139 based on 1977=100, the same as January. Price gains from January for hogs, cattle, sweet corn, and celery offset price declines for tomatoes, milk, carrots, and eggs.

The All Farm Products Index was down 4 points from last year. Price decreases for tomatoes, oranges, corn, and wheat more than off set price increases for cattle, celery, hogs, and eggs.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1992	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan 1993	MONTANA Feb. 15, 1993	U.S. Feb. 15, 1993
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.32	3.47	3.24	3.36
Durum	Bu.	2.99	3.21	3.05	3.06
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.40	3.68	3.54	3.27
All Wheat	Bu.	3.34	3.57	3.39	3.31
Barley, All	Bu.	2.18	2.36	2.11	1.98
Feed	Bu.	2.03	1.92	1.84	1.81
Malt	Bu.	2.64	2.97	2.49	2.15
Oats	Bu.	1.36	1.20	1.20	1.40
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	71.00	71.00	83.70
All Other Hay	Ton	44.00	60.00	60.00	63.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	49.00	69.00	69.00	77.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	81.00	87.40	87.00	79.40
Cows	Cwt.	49.70	47.80	48.00	48.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	73.20	74.40	75.30	75.10
Calves	Cwt.	92.00	96.30	95.50	93.90
Sheep	Cwt.	31.80	30.80	28.40	32.40
Lambs	Cwt.	53.90	69.10	73.50	70.60
Hogs 2/	Cwt.	36.60			43.60
All Milk	Cwt.	13.40	13.30	13.20	12.30
Eggs	Doz.	0.50	0.49	0.49	0.62
Wool 3/	Lb.	0.60	0.64	0.66	0.44

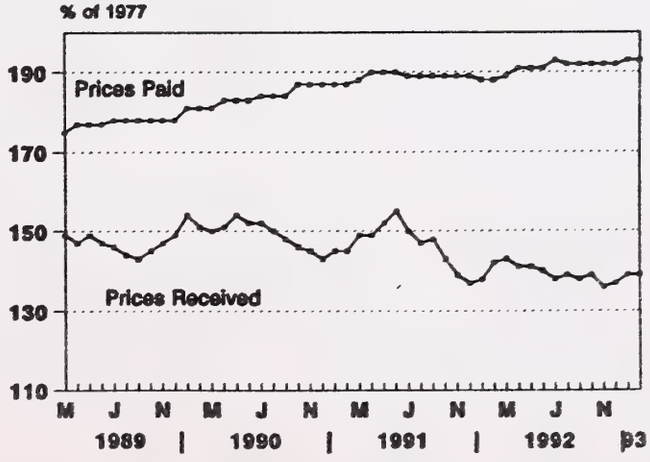
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Series discontinued. Market year average price available at year's end. 3/ Does not include incentive payment.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1977=100	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992	Jan. 1993	Feb. 1993
Prices Received	139	143	139	139
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	190	2/190	193	3/193
Ratio 1/	73	75	72	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1992 prices paid index. 3/ January 1993 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



1992 ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

Montana alfalfa seed producers harvested 2.52 million pounds of seed in 1992, amounting to 47 percent of the previous year's production. Proprietary varieties made up 71 percent of this year's production, 23 percent was common uncertified varieties, and 6 percent certified public varieties.

The 1992 alfalfa seed yield per acre was 265 pounds, down from the 1991 yield of 270 pounds. Acres harvested for seed in 1992, at 9,500, is down 52 percent from 1991. The average price received for the 1992 crop was 96 cents per pound, the same price received for the 1991 crop.

ALFALFA SEED: 1992 ESTIMATES BY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS

DIS-	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
TRICT	Acres	Prod	Yield	Acres	Prod	Yield	Acres	Prod	Yield
NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC	1,300	268,000	206	900	252,000	280	400	16,000	40
NE	200	46,000	230	100	20,000	200	100	26,000	260
C	900	205,000	228	600	180,000	300	300	25,000	83
SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SC	3,200	1,128,000	353	2,800	1,115,000	398	400	13,000	33
SE	3,900	873,000	224	1,400	553,000	395	2,500	320,000	128
MT	9,500	2,520,000	265	5,800	2,120,000	366	3,700	400,000	108

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

February Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Sheep & Lambs on Feed
Milk Production
Ag Chemical Usage
Potato Stocks
1992 Slaughter
Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Highlights:

January Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
January Farm Labor
January Milk Production
February 1 Potato Stocks
January Egg Production
1992 Honey Production

JANUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in January 1993. This was an 18 percent decrease from December, and a 15 percent decrease from last year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, dropped 300 head from December 1992. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered increased 3 pounds to 1,123.

A total of 2,300 hogs were slaughtered in January, 400 less than a year ago. Average live weight increased 16 pounds to 252. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 200 head, decreased 100 head from last year. The average live weight was 126 pounds, 1 pound lighter than the average last January.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.31 billion pounds during January. This production is 9 percent below a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.82 billion pounds. This was 1 percent below the record low set in 1949. Head kill totaled 2.67 million, down 9 percent. The average live weight decreased 9 pounds to 1,164.

Veal production, at 22.0 million pounds, dropped 22 percent. This was the lowest production in January since 1974. Calf slaughter totaled 104,000 head, down 21 percent. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 365.

Pork production, at 1.44 billion pounds, dropped 6 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.83 million head, down 6 percent from last year. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 254 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 25.0 million pounds, was down 20 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 392,800 head, down 19 percent. The average live weight remained the same at 128 pounds.

7 STATE CATTLE ON FEED UP 11 PERCENT

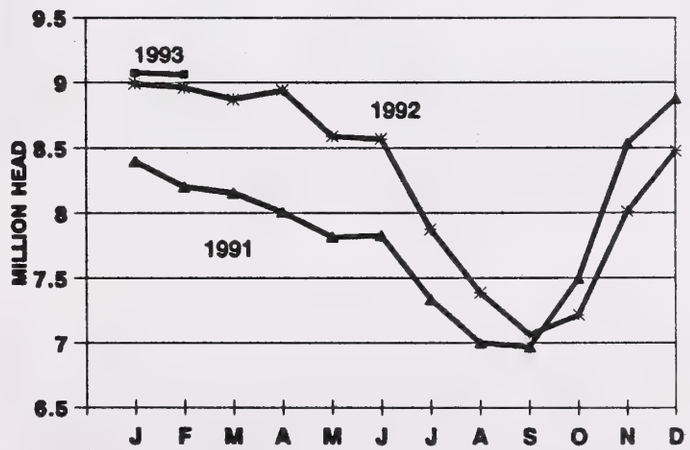
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 9.07 million head, up 11 percent from a year ago and up 1 percent from February 1, 1991. This is the largest February 1 cattle on feed number since 1974.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during January totaled 1.61 million, up 3 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1991. Net placements of 1.48 million for January was up 1 percent from last year but 8 percent below 1991.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.49 million, down 10 percent from last year and 9 percent below two years ago. This is the smallest January marketings since 1976.

Other disappearance totaled 130,000 head compared to 99,000 in January 1992 and 118,000 in January 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



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FARM LABOR WAGE RATES UP, WORKERS DOWN

There were 2.51 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 10-16, 1993. This compares with 2.57 million people during the January 1992 survey week. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.42 million of the total, along with 313,000 unpaid workers, and 611,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 157,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.40 per hour during the January 1993 survey week. This rate was up 3 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.99 per hour compared with $5.97 in January 1992.

Field workers received an average of $6.02 per hour, up 3 cents from the January 1992 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.64 per hour compared with $5.62 a year earlier.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 45 percent of the hired workers during the survey week, compared to 44 percent in January 1992.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.46 per hour during the January survey week, up 9 percent from a year ago. Field workers were paid $6.86, 70 cents more than last year, while livestock workers were paid $5.95, 34 cents more than wages of January, 1992.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JANUARY 10-16, 1993 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	7.24	5.59	6.25	11.82	8.56	6.97	3/	7.64
Northeast II	6.13	5.17	5.48	9.41	8.30	5.98	3/	5.89
Appalachian I	5.66	5.75	5.71	9.02	3/	5.78	3/	6.77
Appalachian II	5.64	5.01	5.26	8.20	3/	5.22	3/	6.61
Southeast	5.59	4.77	5.23	3/	6.52	5.23	5.55	6.27
FL	5.59	6.30	5.65	10.90	8.95	5.63	5.76	9.30
Lake	6.76	5.32	5.83	7.67	7.08	6.40	3/	5.83
Cornbelt I	6.87	5.75	6.23	9.83	8.05	6.55	3/	6.92
Cornbelt II	6.15	5.96	6.03	3/	3/	5.89	3/	6.94
Delta	5.66	5.21	5.46	8.86	6.01	5.62	3/	6.36
Northern Plains	6.90	6.24	6.43	3/	7.48	6.19	3/	7.11
Southern Plains	5.14	4.99	5.06	8.99	5.73	5.16	6.05	5.98
Mountain I	**6.86**	**5.95**	**6.16**	**7.79**	**5.98**	**6.09**	**3/**	**6.55**
Mountain II	6.40	5.43	5.72	7.14	7.54	6.20	3/	6.13
Mountain III	5.32	6.48	5.73	10.15	7.95	5.77	3/	7.60
Pacific	6.37	6.72	6.50	10.59	9.21	6.61	7.00	8.97
CA	5.89	6.50	6.04	11.74	8.86	6.03	5.90	8.95
HI	8.32	3/	8.26	3/	3/	8.50	3/	12.97
US 4/	6.02	5.64	5.85	9.97	7.68	5.99	5.93	7.05

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data. 4/ Excludes AK.

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during January totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 1 percent more than production in these same States in January 1992. December revised production at 10.7 billion pounds was 2 percent above December 1991.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,315 pounds for January, 24 pounds more than January 1992. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.22 million head, 79,000 head less than January 1992 and 28,000 less than December 1992.

During the October-December period, the 21 major States produced 31.4 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.8 billion pounds for January 1993.

FEBRUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers stored 2.2 million cwt of potatoes as of February 1, 1993, compared with 2.5 million a year ago. The February 1 stocks represent 91 percent of production from the 1992 crop year.

Western States held 120 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1993. This level is down 7 percent from last year but slightly more than two years ago. Oregon's stocks were down 26 percent, while Washington dropped 16 percent. Idaho's stocks were off 1 percent and accounted for 57 percent of the Western total. Montana was down 9 percent and California's storage was off 10 percent. In Colorado, the only western State to show an increase, stocks were up 3 percent from last year.

The 15 major potato States held 170 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1993, down 5 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Storage accounted for 48 percent of fall production this year, 1 percentage point less than last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent red, 20 percent white, and 77 percent russet, with more white and less russet than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through January was 185 million cwt, slightly less than the record high last year but 2 percent more than two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 23.0 million cwt, up 9 percent from the 21.2 million cwt lost last year and 14 percent above the 20.1 million cwt lost from the 1990 crop.

Processor usage totaled 85.1 million cwt as of February 1, 1993, down 1 percent from a year ago and 2 percent less than two years ago. January processing of 13.6 million cwt of potatoes dropped 5 percent from the last two years.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1992-93

STATE	CROP OF 1991			CROP OF 1992		
	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1992	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1993	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	5,390	3,000	56	4,980	2,700	54
CO	23,800	13,150	55	22,110	13,600	62
ID	122,175	69,000	56	121,380	68,000	56
ME	18,170	8,100	45	22,400	11,300	50
MI	8,840	3,400	38	10,800	4,200	39
MN	17,160	9,500	55	16,080	8,800	55
MT	**2,790**	**2,475**	**89**	**2,465**	**2,240**	**91**
NE	2,464	1,120	45	2,698	1,070	40
NY--LI	1,650	250	15	1,984	300	15
NY--UPST	5,267	1,600	30	5,824	1,600	27
ND	30,030	15,000	50	27,690	13,000	47
OH	1,425	120	8	1,440	75	5
OR	22,170	13,800	62	19,450	10,200	52
PA	3,500	1,400	40	4,940	1,500	30
WA	75,435	27,000	36	65,625	22,800	35
WI	23,275	9,600	41	25,160	9,000	36
Total 15 States	363,541	178,515	49	355,026	170,385	48

JANUARY U.S. EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.99 billion during January 1993, up 1 percent from the 5.95 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.15 billion table eggs, 771 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 61.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The average number of layers during January was 282 million, up 1 percent from the 280 million in January 1992. January 1993 egg production averaged 2,126 eggs per 100 layers, the same as January 1992.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 1993, totaled 283 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 283 million layers consisted of 237 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 42.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1993, averaged 67.6 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from last year's 68.0 eggs per 100 layers.

MONTANA HONEY PRODUCTION ROSE 21 PERCENT

Montana's honey industry produced 9.570 million pounds in 1992, up 21 percent from the 7.912 million pounds produced last year. There were 87,000 colonies producing honey in 1992, 1,000 more than in 1991. The average yield per colony was 110 pounds compared with 92 pounds last year.

The state's honey producers received an average price per pound of 57 cents this year, the same as last year. The total value of the state's honey crop is 5.5 million dollars up 21 percent from the total of 4.5 million dollars in 1991. Honey stocks held by producers on December 15, 1992 totaled 1.818 million pounds, compared with 1.187 a year earlier.

Unites States honey production in 1992 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 221 million pounds, up 1 percent from 1991. There were 3.03 million colonies producing honey in 1992, compared with 3.18 million in 1991. Yield per colony averaged 72.8 pounds, up 3.9 pounds from the 68.9 pounds in 1991. Colonies that produced in more than one State were counted in each State and yields may be understated. Producer honey stocks were 38.9 million pounds on December 15, 1992, up 7 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1992 crop averaged 55.8 cents per pound, up slightly from the 1991 price of 55.6 cents per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting State average prices by the State quantities sold. Government payments are excluded from the honey prices. Higher prices received for extra light amber honey resulted in the slightly higher price for all honey in 1992.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

February Prices Received
Montana's Rank
Alfalfa Seed Production
Wheat & Barley Movement

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
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Highlights:

1992 Crop Production & Crop Values
January 1 Potato Stocks
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price
October-December Milk Production
December Red Meat Production
1992 Annual Egg & Chicken Inventory
December Egg Production

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA 1992 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's 1992 small grain growing season started early and finished late. Warm, dry weather through the winter months encouraged winter wheat to break dormancy early, and by the end of February about 30 percent of the acreage was out of dormancy.

Spring tillage work started early. By the end of the first week of April, 10 to 15 percent of the major small grains where seeded. Dry soils and insect activity reduced germination and retarded growth.

Light precipitation in April and May allowed only minimum crop growth and development. The North Central area of the state was especially dry with most locations showing less than half the normal precipitation accumulated from April 1. Stands were thin and spotty.

Substantial rains arrived the last week of May, but it was mid-June before long term relief came to change the character of the 1992 season. Mid-season moisture germinated seeds that waited in dry soils. This resulted in uneven stands but added to production potential. July was cool and wet favoring development of most small grain.

Harvest started late and progressed slowly because of weed growth and immature small grain plants that had germinated late. Snow and cold temperatures the last week of August added to harvest woes.

All wheat production in 1992 totaled 139.6 million bushels, 12 percent less than last year's large crop, but 5 percent above the five-year average.

Barley production, from 27 percent fewer acres than last year, was down 38 percent, and was 21 percent less than the five-year average.

MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION VALUE UP 2 PERCENT

Montana's 1992 crop production, valued at 1.08 billion dollars, is 2 percent above last year. Higher wheat and barley prices off set reduced production. A strong advance in hay prices also was a large factor in the calculated value of production.

Spring wheat production was down 10 percent and winter wheat production was off 15 percent. Barley production dropped 38 percent. The season average wheat price used to value this year's production, at $3.45 per bushel, was up 28 cents per bushel from 1991. The barley price advanced 26 cents.

Hay production was down 10 percent from last year, but the average price moved up $20.50 per ton pushing value of production up 24 percent.

JANUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers stored 2.3 million cwt of potatoes as of January 1, 1993, compared with 2.6 million a year ago. The January 1 stocks represent 93 percent of production from the 1992 crop year.

Western States held 138 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1993. This is down 7 percent from last year and 2 percent less than in 1991. Compared with a year ago, Oregon's stocks were 19 percent smaller, while Washington dropped 17 percent, and Idaho's stocks dipped 2 percent. Colorado's potato stocks were off 1 percent, **Montana's** storage dropped 11 percent, and California stored 8 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago.

The 15 major potato States held 202 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1993, down 4 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Storage accounted for 57 percent of fall production this year, 1 percent less than last year. Stocks by type are: 3 percent red, 21 percent white, and 76 percent russet, with more white and less russet than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through December was a record high 153 million cwt of potatoes, up 1 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 20.4 million cwt, up 8 percent from the 18.8 million cwt lost last year and 14 percent above the 17.8 million cwt lost from the 1990 crop.

Processor usage totaled 72.4 million cwt to January 1, 1993, up 2 percent from a year ago, but slightly less than 1991. December processing of 15.3 million cwt of potatoes jumped 23 percent from 1992 and 6 percent above 1991.

MONTANA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY, 1992 1/

	Year	Acreage Plant	Acreage Harv	Unit	Yield Per Acre	Total Prod	% Prev Year	Season Avg. Price	% Prev Year	Value of Prod	% Prev Year	U.S. Prod
		Thousands				Thou	%	$	%	Thous $	%	Thous
Winter Wheat	1989	2,500	1,500	Bu.	36.0	54,000	+35	3.73	-3	201,420	+31	1,454,642
	1990	2,700	2,500		35.0	87,500	+62	2.53	-32	221,375	+10	2,030,874
	1991	2,350	1,800		40.0	72,000	-18	3.13	+24	225,360	+2	1,372,617
	1992	2,600	2,100		29.0	60,900	-15	3.30	+5	200,970	-11	1,606,534
Durum Wheat	1989	340	335	Bu.	18.0	6,030	+191	3.31	-36	19,959	+85	92,229
	1990	245	235		19.0	4,465	-26	2.72	-18	12,145	-39	122,430
	1991	180	179		33.0	5,907	+32	2.81	+3	16,599	+37	103,957
	1992	160	157		33.0	5,181	-12	3.05	+9	15,802	-5	97,196
Other Spring Wheat	1989	3,500	3,400	Bu.	25.0	85,000	+372	3.64	-11	309,400	+319	489,747
	1990	2,800	2,450		22.0	53,900	-37	2.80	-23	150,920	-51	583,124
	1991	2,600	2,400		34.0	81,600	+51	3.24	+16	264,384	+75	504,565
	1992	2,650	2,450		30.0	73,500	-10	3.60	+11	264,600	0	755,100
All Wheat	1989	6,340	5,235	Bu.	27.7	145,030	+142	3.66	-8	530,779	+122	2,036,618
	1990	5,745	5,185		28.1	145,865	+1	2.65	-28	384,440	-28	2,736,428
	1991	5,130	4,379		36.4	159,507	+9	3.17	+20	506,343	+32	1,981,139
	1992	5,410	4,707		29.7	139,581	-12	3.45	+9	481,372	-5	2,458,830
Barley	1989	1,700	1,600	Bu.	43.0	68,800	+129	2.21	-22	152,048	+80	404,203
	1990	1,600	1,380		41.0	56,580	-18	2.30	+4	130,134	-14	422,196
	1991	1,800	1,650		52.0	85,800	+52	2.34	+2	200,722	+54	464,326
	1992	1,350	1,200		44.0	52,800	-38	2.60	+11	137,280	-32	456,348
Oats	1989	250	145	Bu.	46.0	6,670	+139	1.42	-37	9,471	+50	373,587
	1990	160	70		40.0	2,800	-58	1.25	-12	3,500	-63	357,524
	1991	200	110		55.0	6,050	+116	1.30	+4	7,865	+125	243,451
	1992	165	70		56.0	3,920	-35	1.20	-8	4,704	-40	294,604
Corn for Grain 2/	1989	80	4	Bu.	80.0	320	-85	2.60	-17	832	-88	7,525,493
	1990	65	9		95.0	855	+167	2.50	-4	2,138	+157	7,934,028
	1991	75	15		120.0	1,800	+111	2.70	+8	4,860	+127	7,475,480
	1992	70	25		110.0	2,750	+53	2.50	-7	6,875	+41	9,478,914
Corn for Silage	1989	--	75	Tons	18.0	1,350	+6	--	--	--	--	86,109
	1990	--	55		19.0	1,045	-23	--	--	--	--	86,84
	1991	--	59		18.0	1,062	+2	--	--	--	--	80,54
	1992	--	43		21.0	903	-15	--	--	--	--	86,862
Fall Potatoes	1989	8.2	8.1	Cwt.	275.0	2,228	+3	8.25	+6	18,381	+10	324,673
	1990	9.0	8.9		280.0	2,492	+12	8.60	+4	21,431	+17	352,507
	1991	9.4	9.3		300.0	2,790	+12	5.70	-34	15,903	-26	371,730
	1992	8.6	8.5		290.0	2,465	-12	8.20	+44	20,213	+27	366,064
Dry Beans	1989	6.0	5.9	Cwt.	22.0	130	+71	27.50	-2	3,575	+68	23,729
	1990	13.5	13.0		16.9	220	+69	13.60	-51	2,992	-16	32,379
	1991	9.0	8.3		19.0	158	-28	13.20	-3	2,086	-30	33,765
	1992	10.2	9.5		19.0	181	+15	19.10	+45	3,457	+66	22,047
Sugar Beets	1989	52.7	51.9	Tons	19.9	1,033	0	43.60	-4	45,039	-3	25,131
	1990	55.2	55.1		22.5	1,240	+20	43.20	-1	53,568	+19	27,513
	1991	56.6	56.3		23.3	1,312	+6	37.30	-14	48,938	-9	28,203
	1992	55.9	55.8		22.8	1,272	-3	--	--	--	--	28,848
Alfalfa Hay	1989	--	1,350	Tons	2.20	2,970	+42	--	--	--	--	77,370
	1990	--	1,350		2.50	3,375	+14	65.00	--	219,375	--	83,555
	1991	--	1,500		2.50	3,750	+11	51.50	-21	193,125	-12	83,795
	1992	--	1,400		2.35	3,290	-12	72.00	40	236,880	+23	79,652
Other Hay	1989	--	1,000	Tons	1.50	1,500	+114	--	--	--	--	--
	1990	--	800		1.40	1,120	-25	56.00	--	62,720	--	63,265
	1991	--	900		1.60	1,440	+29	46.00	-18	66,240	+6	69,530
	1992	--	850		1.60	1,120	-22	62.00	+35	84,320	+27	69,488
All Hay 3/	1989	--	2,350	Tons	1.90	4,470	+60	69.50	-18	300,900	+27	145,512
	1990	--	2,150		2.09	4,495	+1	64.00	-8	282,095	-6	146,820
	1991	--	2,400		2.16	5,190	+15	50.50	-21	259,365	-8	153,325
	1992	--	2,250		2.07	4,650	-10	71.00	+41	321,200	+24	149,140
Sweet 4/ Cherries	1989	--	--	Tons	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	190,930
	1990	--	--		--	150	--	1,670.00	--	250	--	132,350
	1991	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	143,400
	1992	--	--		--	340	--	988.00	--	336	--	177,082
All Main Crops	1989	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	1,061,025	+66	
	1990	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	880,548	-17	--
	1991	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	1,052,135	+19	--
	1992	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	5/ 1,075,055	+2	--

1/ All estimates for 1992 are preliminary. 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all puposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/ 1991 price used to compute value of production for 1992 sugar beet crop.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1974-1993

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	—Million Bushels—											$
1974 . .	340	1,782	3	2,125	545	92	35	672	1,018	1,690	435	4.09
1975 . .	435	2,127	2	2,564	589	100	37	726	1,173	1,899	666	3.55
1976 . .	666	2,149	3	2,817	588	92	74	754	950	1,704	1,113	2.73
1977 . .	1,113	2,046	2	3,161	586	80	193	859	1,124	1,983	1,178	2.33
1978 . .	1,178	1,776	2	2,955	592	87	158	837	1,194	2,031	924	2.97
1979 . .	924	2,134	2	3,060	596	101	86	783	1,375	2,158	902	3.80
1980 . .	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.99
1981 . .	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 . .	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,762	753	100	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,736	36	3,309	785	90	499	1,375	1,068	2,443	866	2.61
1991 . .	866	1,981	41	2,888	785	94	257	1,135	1,281	2,416	472	3.00
1992 . 3/	472	2,459	55	2,986	830	95	225	1,150	1,350	2,500	486	3.30
1993 . 3/	486											

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Montana milk production during October-December totaled 86 million pounds, up 4 percent from the same quarter last year. The average number of milk cows remained unchanged from last year, at 24,000 head.

On January 1, 1993 the amount of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows in the state averaged 16.5 pounds, one-half pound less than the amount fed a year ago. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows averaged $7.15 per hundred-weight on January 1 of this year, $0.05 less than the January 1, 1992 price.

The **U.S.** quarterly production of milk was 37.3 billion pounds, 3 percent above the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during October-December was 9.84 million head, 76,000 less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1993, averaged 18.4 pounds per cow, 0.4 pounds more than on January 1, 1992. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, 1993, averaged $7.67 per hundredweight, $0.02 less than January 1, 1992.

DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION INCREASES

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds of red meat in December 1992. This was a 7 percent increase from November, and a 15 percent increase from last year.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, increased 400 head from December 1991. Average live weight increased 55 pounds to 1,169. A total of 2,200 hogs were slaughtered, 300 less than a year ago. Average liveweight remained unchanged at 243. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 300 head remained unchanged from last year. The average live weight, at 117 pounds, was 3 pounds heavier than the average in December 1991.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.43 billion pounds during December. Production is 5 percent above a year earlier and slightly higher than the previous December record of 3.42 billion pounds set in 1981. Beef production totaled 1.85 billion pounds. This was up 4 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.70 million, up 5 percent. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 1,171.

Veal production, at 26.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 123,900 head, down 7 percent, but average live weight increased 13 pounds to 361. Pork production, at 1.52 billion pounds, was up 6 percent from a year earlier, surpassing the previous December record of 1.45 billion pounds set in 1981. Hog kill totaled 8.36 million head, up 5 percent from last year. The average live weight remained the same at 254 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 29.0 million pounds, was down 4 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 477,200 head, down 2 percent and average live weight remained 125 pounds. January-December red meat production was 40.8 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef and veal production were both up 1 percent, pork rose 8 percent, but lamb and mutton fell 4 percent.

1992 EGG PRODUCTION & CHICKEN INVENTORY

Montana poultrymen produced 160 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 1992, down 4 million from the previous year's production. Layer numbers during 1992 averaged 604,000 compared with 626,000 a year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand was 264 eggs, 1 percent above 1991.

There were 710,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 1992, compared with 780,000 on hand last year. The inventory value was $1,846,000, down from $2,184,000 on December 1, 1991.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1992, totaled 70.5 billion eggs, up 2 percent from last year's total of 69.2 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1992 averaged 278 million, up 1 percent from 1991. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1992 was 254 eggs, up 1 percent from the 1991 average of 252 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 1992, (excluding broilers) was 364 million head, up fractionally from last year. The total value was $827 million, down from $833 million on December 1, 1991.

DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

The Nation's laying flock produced 6.09 billion eggs during December 1992, up 1 percent from the 6.04 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.27 billion table eggs, 758 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 60.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during December 1992 averaged 281 million, up fractionally from the 280 million a year ago. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,165 eggs, compared with 2,155 in December 1991.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 1993, totaled 280 million, compared with 281 million a year ago. The 280 million layers consisted of 236 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.78 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 1993, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from last year's 69.8 eggs per 100 layers.

Data for the 30 quarterly States were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 States conducting monthly surveys. These monthly States accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during September through November 1992.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

January Prices Received
Cattle on Feed
Sheep & Lambs on Feed
Sheep Inventory
Cattle Inventory

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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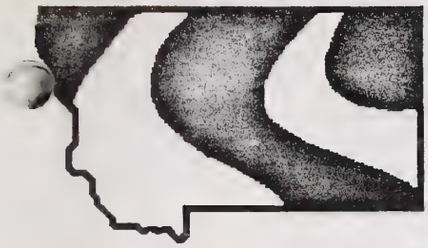

REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 93-01 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: January 19, 1993

301 S. PARK
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

Highlights:

Winter Wheat Seedings
1992 Hay Stocks
December 1 Grain Stocks
December Ag Prices Received
Hog & Pig Inventory

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1993 WINTER WHEAT SEEDED ACRES UNCHANGED FROM 1992

Montana farmers seeded 2.6 million acres of winter wheat last fall for harvest in 1993. This represents no change from the 1992 winter wheat seeded acreage level, but a 3 percent increase over the 10-year average. Harvesting operations competed with planting winter wheat last fall. What was planted had good moisture for germination and warm temperatures for development; however, little snow cover existed until late December. The condition of the dormant crop was rated as mostly fair to good at the end of December.

Nationally, the seeded area for the 1993 crop is set at 51.5 million acres, up 1 percent from 1992. Planting of the 1993 crop began last August in a handful of States. From then on seeding progressed by varying degrees thorough the fall, reaching 97 percent completion as of December 1, 1992. Hard red winter wheat totals 36.3 million acres, up slightly from 1992. Most major producing States in the Great Plains are unchanged from 1992. Increased area in Texas offset a decline in Kansas.

Late spring planted grain harvests cut into intended seedings in several States. Weather conditions hurt others. Short soil moisture in southwest and south central Kansas curbed the over planting needed for wheat pasture. Early dryness has slowed emergence in Texas; the overall condition is below 1992. Soil replenishing August rains in Colorado were followed by a dry September - early October. This allowed seeding to progress normally. Frequent snows have provided good cover going into winter. Above normal rains, then snow cover, improved soil moisture conditions in Wyoming. Planting continues in California as weather permits.

1992 HAY STOCKS AND ROW CROP PRODUCTION

Montana farmers and ranchers had 4.0 million tons of hay on hand December 1, 1992, 13 percent less than a year earlier. The lower stocks reflect the use of supplemental feed during the spring and summer months when pasture and range conditions were meager and production was lower from the prior year. Montana's total hay production for 1992 was 4.65 million tons, a decrease of 10 percent from last year. Alfalfa hay production in 1992 was 3.29 million tons, down 12 percent from 1991. Production of all other hay was 1.36 million, down from 1.44 million last year.

Montana corn producers harvested 2.75 million bushels of corn for grain and 903,000 tons of corn silage in 1992, compared with 1.8 million bushels of grain and 1,062,000 tons of silage last year. Sugar beet growers harvested 1,272,000 tons in 1992, down 3 percent from last year. Dry bean production, at 181,000 cwt, was up 15 percent from last year.

Hay stocks on farms for the **U.S.** totaled 106 million tons on December 1, 1992, 5 percent less than the amount on hand a year earlier, but 1 percent more than the holdings on December 1, 1990. The decrease in stocks reflects in part the smaller 1992 hay crop and early hay feeding in areas where pasture conditions were poor this past fall. Disappearance of hay during the May 1, 1992, to December 1, 1992, period totaled 71.9 million tons, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Nationally, the 1992 corn for grain production was estimated at a record high 9.48 billion bushels, 27 percent above the 1991 crop and 2 percent above the November 1 forecast. Corn silage production was estimated at 86.9 million tons, 8 percent above last year, but virtually the same as the 1990 production. Dry edible bean production was estimated at 22.0 million cwt for 1992, down 35 percent from a year earlier and 32 percent below two years ago. This is the smallest dry bean crop since 1988.

Crop acreage, grain stocks and hog and pig estimates included in this issue of the Reporter are the results of surveying over 1,800 Montana farmers and ranchers during December. Names were selected on a probability basis. A SPECIAL THANKS to those of you interviewed for this very important end- of-season survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

MONTANA WHEAT STOCKS DOWN 10 PERCENT

Wheat stocks in all storage positions in Montana on December 1, 1992, totaled 122 million bushels, 10 percent less than a year ago. Stocks on farms were down 9 percent at 98 million bushels. Elevator stocks, at 24 million bushels, were down 13 percent. On farm storage held 43 million bushels of winter wheat, down 9 percent and 55 million bushels of spring wheat, down 10 percent. Elevators stored 10.2 million bushels of winter wheat, down 20 percent, and 13.8 million bushels of spring wheat, down 7 percent. Durum in all storage positions totaled 6.3 million bushels, down 35 percent.

Barley in storage totaled 42 million bushels, down 31 percent from a year ago. On farm storage held 32 million bushels, down 36 percent and elevators held 10 million bushels, down 4 percent. Oats stocks totaled 4.1 million bushels, down 21 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions December 1, 1992, is estimated at 1.59 billion bushels, up 10 percent from December 1, 1991. On-farm stocks total 672 million bushels, up 19 percent from last December 1. Off-farm stocks are 917 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year. The September-November disappearance from all storage positions is 519 million bushels, down 13 percent from the same quarter in 1991.

Barley stored in all positions on December 1, 1992, is estimated at 348 million bushels, 6 percent above the stocks of December 1, 1991. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 198 million bushels are stored on farms, 1 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 150 million bushels, are 14 percent above last year. Indicated disappearance during the September-November quarter totaled 70.0 million bushels, 37 percent below the same period in 1991.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts [1/]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Dec. 1, 1991	Sep. 1, 1992*	Dec. 1, 1992	Dec. 1, 1991	Sep. 1, 1992*	Dec. 1, 1992
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	1.0	3.7	1.4	3.3	3.3	2.8
North Central	70.4	52.5	40.6	32.3	23.3	17.7
Northeast	38.8	51.3	46.3	6.4	5.2	6.5
Central	14.6	16.6	14.5	9.2	6.8	5.7
Southwest	1.7	2.3	2.3	3.8	2.3	2.4
South Central	4.0	10.6	8.5	4.0	4.4	5.5
Southeast	5.0	12.6	8.4	1.5	1.5	1.4
MONTANA	135.5	149.6	122.0	60.5	46.8	42.0

[1/] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1991	Sept. 1, 1992*	Dec. 1, 1992	'92/'91	Dec. 1, 1991	Sept. 1, 1992*	Dec. 1, 1992
	Thousand Bushels				Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	108,000	130,000	98,000	91%	564,800	979,400	672,000
Off Farms [1/]	27,546	19,598	24,000	87%	878,721	1,128,219	916,906
TOTAL	135,546	149,598	122,000	90%	1,443,521	2,107,619	1,588,906
WINTER WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	47,000	56,000	43,000	91%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	12,731	11,047	10,200	80%	--	--	--
TOTAL	59,731	67,047	53,200	89%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2/]							
On Farms	61,000	74,000	55,000	90%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1/]	14,815	8,551	13,800	93%	--	--	--
TOTAL	75,815	82,551	68,800	91%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3/]							
On Farms [4/]	--	--	--	--	77,460	90,490	77,190
Off Farms [1/, 4/]	--	--	--	--	24,089	20,850	25,330
TOTAL	9,666	6,667	6,300	65%	101,549	111,340	102,520
BARLEY							
On Farms	50,000	39,000	32,000	64%	196,300	261,000	198,350
Off Farms [1/]	10,469	7,785	10,000	96%	132,087	157,402	150,095
TOTAL	60,469	46,785	42,000	69%	328,387	418,402	348,445
OATS							
On Farms	4,900	4,500	3,700	76%	148,100	199,900	161,200
Off Farms [1/]	276	553	400	145%	96,508	94,717	81,242
TOTAL	5,176	5,053	4,100	79%	244,608	294,617	242,442
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,294,000	605,500	5,73[illegible]
Off Farms [1/]	--	--	--	--	2,247,000	494,811	2,165
TOTAL [4/]	--	--	--	--	6,541,000	1,100,311	7,902

[1/] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2/] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3/] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4/] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

DECEMBER PRICES RECEIVED

The December 1992 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers dropped 1 point from the previous month The index of prices received for all commodities was 172 percent of its January-December 1977 average. The livestock and livestock products index rose 2 points from last month and was 7 points higher than a year ago. The all crops index fell 5 points from last month, but was 10 points higher than last December.

Montana crop prices for mid-December were mostly lower from the previous month, except for prices for winter wheat, durum wheat, feed barley, and all other hay. At mid-December all wheat averaged $3.43 per bushel, down 10 cents from November. However, winter, spring, and durum wheat prices were all 13 to 45 cents higher than a year ago. All barley, at $2.64 per bushel, dropped 5 cents and malt barley fell 9 cents, but feed barley rose 2 cents from November. The all hay price, at $69.00 per ton, dropped $2 from last month, but was up $17 from the previous year. Alfalfa hay averaged $70 per ton, down $2 per ton from November, while other hay rose $5 per ton to $63 per ton.

Livestock prices at mid-December were all up from the previous month and year except for cows which dropped from the previous year. Prices for steers and heifers averaged $83.90 per cwt, up $1.50 from last month. Cow prices rose only slightly to $45.50 per cwt, while calf prices increased $3.40 per cwt to $94.00. Lamb prices showed the biggest price increase from last month with prices jumping $7.70 per cwt to $64.20. Sheep prices averaged $24.50 per cwt, up $2.60 per cwt. Hog prices rose $1.30 per cwt to $37.20.

Nationally, the All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 138 based on 1977=100, 2 points (1.5 percent) above November. Price gains from November for lettuce, cattle, hogs, and soybeans more than offset price declines for oranges, milk, broilers, and peanuts.

The All Farm Products Index was 1 point (0.7 percent) above December 1991. The year-to-year index rise was driven by price increases for cattle, lettuce, tomatoes, and hogs. Price decreases for oranges, corn, milk, and eggs were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1992	MONTANA Dec. 15, 1992	U.S. Dec. 15, 1992
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.22	3.33	3.35	3.44
Durum	Bu.	2.73	2.95	3.18	3.00
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.23	3.66	3.48	3.25
All Wheat	Bu.	3.20	3.53	3.43	3.34
Barley, All	Bu.	2.60	2.69	2.64	2.07
Feed	Bu.	1.99	1.82	1.84	1.78
Malt	Bu.	3.08	3.28	3.19	2.32
Oats	Bu.	1.29	1.13	1.11	1.38
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	53.00	72.00	70.00	79.30
All Other Hay	Ton	45.00	58.00	63.00	57.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	52.00	71.00	69.00	73.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	80.30	82.40	83.90	76.70
Cows	Cwt.	46.80	45.40	45.50	45.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	63.70	66.50	66.60	71.40
Calves	Cwt.	90.30	90.60	94.00	88.50
Sheep	Cwt.	21.20	21.90	24.50	29.60
Lambs	Cwt.	49.50	56.50	64.20	63.70
Hogs	Cwt.	35.60	35.90	37.20	42.10
All Milk	Cwt.	14.20	14.00	13.60	12.90
Eggs	Doz.	0.71	0.58	0.53	0.64
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.77	0.70	0.70	0.49
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	164	173	172	138
All Crops	Pct.	137	152	147	117
Livestock & Products	Pct.	188	193	195	157

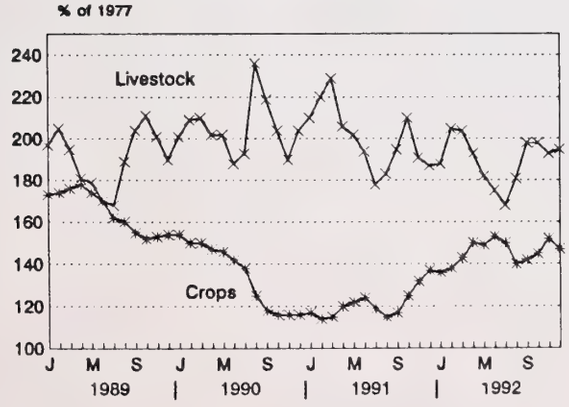
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

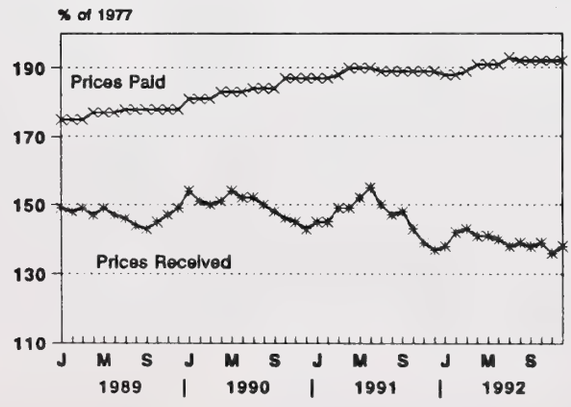
INDEX 1977=100	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1992	Dec. 1992
Prices Received	139	137	136	138
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/189	2/189	3/192	3/192
Ratio 1/	74	72	71	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1991 prices paid index. 3/ October 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



1992 HOGS AND PIGS INVENTORY

Montana's hog inventory on December 1, 1992 totaled 215,000 head, down 4 percent from last year. Hogs on hand for breeding, at 24,000 head, dropped 8 percent from last year, and market class hogs, at 191,000 head, declined 4 percent from December 1, 1991. The 1992 pig crop, at 385,000 head, fell 8 percent from a year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1992, totaled 59.8 million head. This was 4 percent above December 1991, but 3 percent below the September 1, 1992, inventory.

Breeding inventory, at 7.41 million head, rose 2 percent from December 1, 1991, but virtually unchanged from September 1, 1992. Market hog inventory, at 52.4 million head, was 4 percent above December 1, 1991, but 3 percent below September 1, 1992.

The September-November 1992 U.S. pig crop was 24.7 million head, 5 percent more than 1991 and up 11 percent from the same period in 1990. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.07 million head, up 3 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Pigs saved per litter was a record high 8.05 for the period compared to the previous record of 7.89 during September-November 1991.

U.S. producers intend to have 3.00 million sows farrow during the December 1992-February 1993 quarter, 3 percent more than the actual farrowings during the same period last year and 10 percent above 1991. Intended farrowings for March-May 1993, at 3.40 million sows, rose 1 percent above 1992 and 3 percent above the same period in 1991.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Crop Production	Potato Stocks
Egg Production	Crop Values
Quarterly Milk Production	Slaughter
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production	
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price	

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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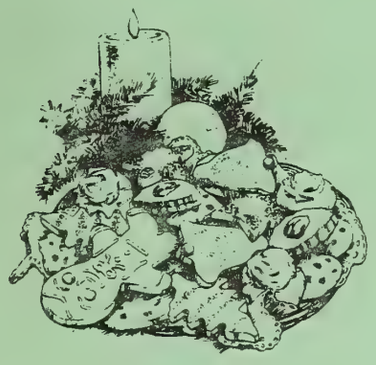

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Season's Greetings

The staff of the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As 1992 comes to a close, we can reflect back on how strange a year we just experienced. The year started out with some of the driest conditions we have ever seen, then the rains started in June, followed in August by snow in many areas. Despite all of these erratic weather patterns, our crops did fairly well and prices for both our crops and livestock have held relatively stable. Now we can look forward to what 1993 has in store for us. We would like to thank each of you for the important part you played in providing the basic information needed to publish Montana's agricultural statistics. May you have a prosperous and joyful new year!

PLEASE RETURN

1992 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

In late December, the Bureau of the Census will mail report forms for the 1992 Census of Agriculture to those farm and ranch operations which have the possibility of meeting the farm definition. These forms should be returned to the Census Bureau by February 1, 1993. Since the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service also conducts surveys at this time, farmers may question why they need to respond to both organizations.

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service produces current statistics - reported quickly - which are based on survey data. In a survey, a sampled operation represents other operations which are similar to it. In a census, every operation must be contacted and reported on, because a census requires contacting the entire farm population. A survey usually focuses on certain commodities or activities, while a census asks questions about all livestock and crop commodities. This allows a look at all facets of agricultural activity and its related characteristics.

The census figures provide long-term, in-depth trends every five years with Montana Agricultural Statistics Service survey figures filling in between censuses. When final census figures are available, Montana Agricultural Statistics Service makes use of the census figures to true up the intermediate numbers.

The Department of Commerce will issue census results for Montana in late 1993.

TRADE SURGE IN 1991/92

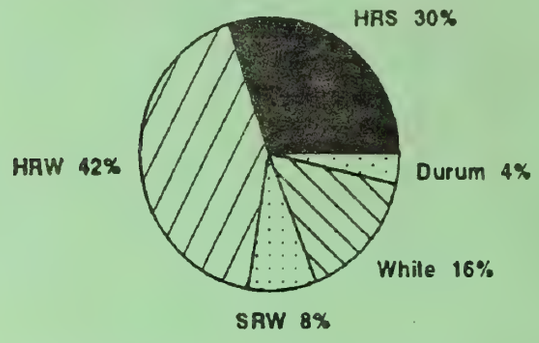
Poor planting conditions and drought slashed production in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) by 28 percent from 1990/91. Political and economic changes led to even further reductions in state wheat procurements, increasing FSU import needs. FSU imports rose an estimated 36 percent from 1990/91 to 21 million tons, nearly all procured with credits or through barter or donations. The United States provided nearly 37 percent of estimated total wheat imports, mostly purchased under the EEP and financed by guaranteed credit.

Despite producing 96 million tons of wheat, that nation's second largest on record, China boosted imports to an estimated 15.5 million tons in 1991/92, up two-thirds from 1990/91. Rising incomes, increasing urban demand for wheat products, low export prices in the first half of the marketing year, and relatively poor quality of the crop stimulated the sharp increase in imports.

Although total imports by North Africa fell in 1991/92 in response to larger crops, prospects of drought in several countries raised the region's imports in the last half of the marketing year. Middle Eastern imports rose as Iraq returned to the import market after the U.N. embargo on food was lifted.

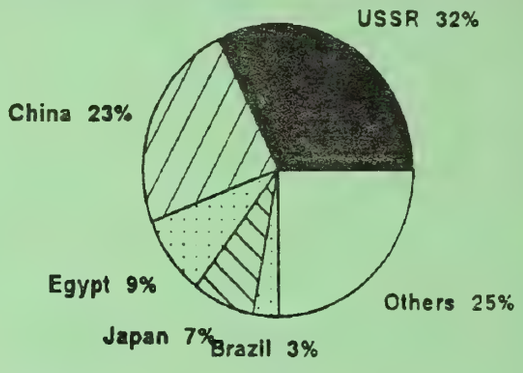
East Asian imports increased 4 percent mostly because of South Korea's imports of wheat for feeding in the first half of the marketing year when wheat prices were below those of corn and other feed grains. Southeast Asian imports also grew in response to rising demand for wheat products and increased use of wheat for feed earlier in the year.

U.S. Wheat Exports by Class, 1991/92



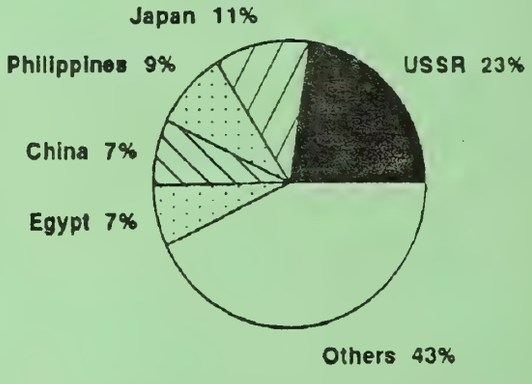
Excludes products. FGIS inspection data.

U.S. Hard Red Winter Exports, 1991/92



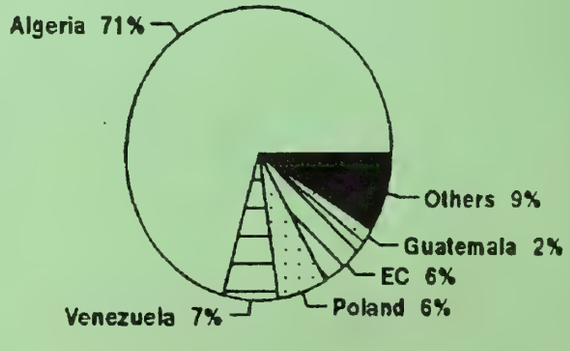
Excludes products. FGIS inspection data

U.S. Hard Red Spring Exports, 1991/92



Excludes products. FGIS inspection data.

U.S. Durum Exports, 1991/92



Excludes products. FGIS inspection data

NOVEMBER PRICES RECEIVED

The November 1992 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers moved down 3 points from the previous month. The index of prices received for all commodities was 170 percent of its January-December 1977 average. The livestock and livestock products index fell off 11 points and was 4 points below last year. The all crops index moved up 7 points and is 20 points above last November.

Montana commodity prices, at mid-November, were mostly higher for crops. All wheat averaged $3.59 per bushel, up 18 cents from October. All barley, at $2.48, was up 4 cents, lifted by a 9-cent increase in malting barley and only partly offset by a 1-cent decline in feed barley. The all hay price remained at $71 per ton as alfalfa averaged $72 and other hay fell $4 to average $58.

Livestock price changes were mixed with higher prices for steers, heifers, calves, and lambs but lower prices for cows, sheep and hogs. Calf prices were up $.60, steers and heifers up $1.10, and lambs advanced $1.00 per hundredweight. Cows were off $1.90, sheep were down $.50, and hogs were off $.60 per hundredweight.

Nationally, the November all farm products index of prices received, at 137 based on 1977=100, was 2 points below October. Price declines from October for cattle, tomatoes, grapefruit, and lettuce more than offset price gains for wheat, eggs, strawberries, and oranges.

The all farm products index was also 2 points below November 1991. The year-to-year index decline was driven by price decreases from November 1991 for corn, milk, lettuce, and oranges. Price increases for cattle, tomatoes, hogs, and broilers were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1992	MONTANA Nov. 15, 1992	U.S. Nov. 15, 1992
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.06	3.22	3.43	3.42
Durum	Bu.	2.67	2.97	3.00	3.05
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.06	3.53	3.70	3.34
All Wheat	Bu.	3.05	3.41	3.59	3.36
Barley, All	Bu.	2.39	2.44	2.48	1.90
Feed	Bu.	1.96	1.85	1.84	1.73
Malt	Bu.	2.84	3.20	3.29	2.17
Oats	Bu.	1.33	1.30	1.26	1.32
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	52.00	72.00	72.00	79.00
All Other Hay	Ton	44.00	62.00	58.00	59.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	71.00	71.00	74.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	83.50	80.10	81.20	75.90
Cows	Cwt.	45.90	44.90	43.00	43.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	66.00	70.00	64.00	70.90
Calves	Cwt.	90.80	88.20	88.80	87.20
Sheep	Cwt.	18.00	20.80	20.30	24.90
Lambs	Cwt.	45.70	52.30	53.30	56.70
Hogs	Cwt.	33.60	38.60	38.00	40.90
All Milk	Cwt.	13.70	14.00	13.90	13.30
Eggs	Doz.	0.63	0.48	0.58	0.65
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.89	0.70	0.70	0.62
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	163	173	170	137
All Crops	Pct.	132	145	152	115
Livestock & Products	Pct.	191	198	187	157

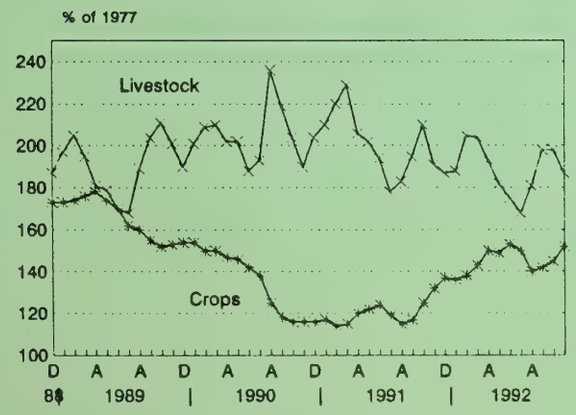
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

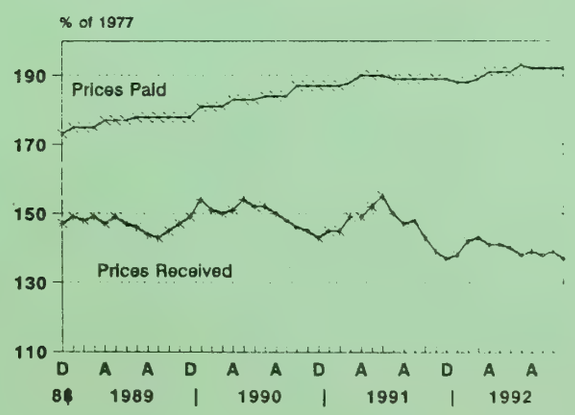
INDEX 1977=100	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991	Oct. 1992	Nov. 1992
Prices Received	142	139	139	137
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	189	2/189	192	3/192
Ratio 1/	75	74	72	71

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1991 prices paid index. 3/ October 1992 prices paid index.

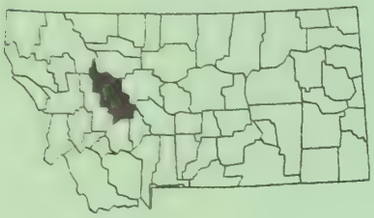
MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring...*LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY*



The area now known as Lewis and Clark County attracted its first settlers with its rich placer gold deposits. Located in west central Montana, the county occupies 2,215,232 acres of land. The Sun River comprises the northern boundary of the county and a chain of bodies of water, including: a portion of the Missouri River, Holter Lake, Lake Helena, Hauser Lake, and part of Canyon Ferry Lake, traverse the eastern section of the county from north to south. Nearly half of the county is blanketed by portions of the Helena and Flathead National Forests. The Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains runs down the center of Lewis and Clark County.

When the gold strikes in the county played out, livestock raising and agriculture began to come into their own as an industry. In the January 1, 1992 livestock inventory, Lewis and Clark County ranked 24th in sheep numbers and 31st in cattle numbers. The December 1, 1991 hog inventory shows the county in 39th place.

Of the wheat producing counties, Lewis & Clark ranked 23rd for all wheat in 1991 production. The county ranked 10th for all hay production, 25th for barley, 27th for winter wheat, and 18th for oats production. Livestock and livestock products in Lewis and Clark brought in receipts of $14,907,000 and a rank of 29th in 1990. Crops added $6,736,000 for 31st place in the county rankings, while government payments contributed $1,084,000 for a total cash receipt return of $22,727,000 and a rank of 37th among Montana counties in 1990.

Lewis and Clark County is home to Montana's historic capital city, Helena, which is also the county seat. This area has an annual average precipitation of 11.37 inches and an average of 134 frost-free days.

Lewis and Clark County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	2,215,232	Total Cropland	Acres	109,727
Land in Farms	Acres	888,725	Harvested Cropland	Acres	70,373
Number of Farms		480	Irrigated Land	Acres	39,974
Average size Farms	Acres	1,852			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	43,431	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	13,291	Calves	No. Head	44,773
Barley	Acres	13,279	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	8,911
Oats	Acres	1,293	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	2,236

[1/] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Egg Production
Cattle on Feed Slaughter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop livestock

REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 92-22 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: November 30, 1992

301 S. PARK
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

Highlights:

Milk Production
Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Egg Production
featuring..... Lake County

OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds of red meat in October 1992. This was a 7 percent increase from September, and a 2 percent increase from last year.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,800 head, remained unchanged from October 1991. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered increased 7 pounds to 1,157.

A total of 2,500 hogs were slaughtered, 100 head less than a year ago. Average live weight increased 4 pounds to 239. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 400 head, was unchanged from last year. Average live weight at 122 pounds was 1 pound lighter than the average in October 1991.

Commercial red meat production during October for the United States totaled 3.66 billion pounds, 1 percent below a year earlier. Beef production totaled 2.01 billion pounds. This was down 5 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.86 million, down 2 percent. The average live weight decreased 15 pounds to 1,180. Veal production, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 11 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 114,500 head, down 12 percent. The average live weight increased 12 pounds to 370.

Pork production, at 1.59 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from a year earlier. This surpassed the previous October record of 1.55 billion pounds set in 1979. This is the fifth consecutive month pork production has set a record level for the month. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, up 3 percent from last year and the largest head kill since October 1979 when 9.10 million head were slaughtered. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 251.

Lamb and mutton production, at 29.0 million pounds, was down 9 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 469,900 head, down 10 percent. The average live weight was up 2 pounds to 124.

January-October red meat production was 34.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent, veal was up 3 percent, pork was up 9 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 7 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed November 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.53 million head, up 7 percent from a year ago but down 2 percent from November 1, 1990.

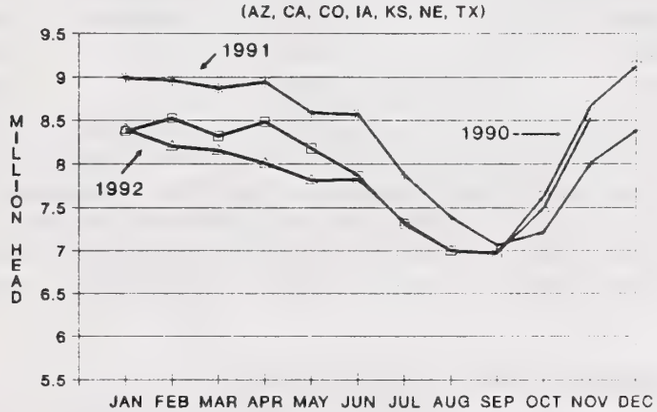
Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during October totaled 2.61 million, up 3 percent from last year but 4 percent below 1990. Net placements of 2.53 million for October were up 3 percent from last year but 4 percent below 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.49 million, down 10 percent from last year and 7 percent below two years ago. This is the smallest October marketings since 1981.

Other disappearance totaled 76,000 head compared to 77,000 in October 1991 and 87,000 in October 1990.

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



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OCTOBER WAGE RATES INCREASE

There were 3.25 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 1992. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.57 million of the total, along with 484,000 unpaid workers, and 892,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 295,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.09 per hour during the October 1992 survey week. This rate was up 21 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.83 per hour compared with $5.70 last October. Field workers received an average of $5.74 per hour, up 7 cents from the October 1991 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.57 per hour compared with $5.32 a year earlier. Benefits, such as housing and meals were provided to 39 percent of the hired workers during the survey week, compared to 37 percent in October 1991.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.21 per hour during the October 1992 survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago. Field workers were paid $5.38, 27 cents more than last year, while livestock workers earned $5.10, 33 cents more than wages of October 1991.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, OCTOBER 11-17, 1992 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER 4/					METHOD OF PAY 5/		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	6.20	5.38	5.93	10.29	7.08	6.36	6.73	6.91
Northeast II	5.84	5.20	5.64	9.26	8.18	6.05	6.08	6.23
Appalachian I	5.37	5.72	5.46	8.12	7.05	5.33	6.24	6.52
Appalachian II	4.93	5.09	4.99	8.40	3/	5.10	3/	6.75
Southeast	5.08	5.38	5.16	10.93	6.58	5.66	3/	5.65
FL	5.74	6.55	5.84	10.30	3/	5.76	5.75	9.60
Lake	6.26	4.88	5.82	9.68	7.09	6.40	6.88	5.66
Cornbelt I	5.52	5.43	5.50	7.13	7.20	5.62	3/	5.87
Cornbelt II	5.56	6.04	5.74	10.70	5.71	5.94	3/	6.55
Delta	4.76	5.43	4.86	3/	6.90	5.06	3/	4.89
Northern Plains	6.28	6.03	6.22	8.72	3/	6.40	3/	6.35
Southern Plains	5.01	5.20	5.08	8.42	6.68	5.13	3/	5.67
Mountain I	5.38	5.10	5.27	3/	3/	5.21	3/	5.51
Mountain II	5.36	5.34	5.35	7.20	3/	5.37	3/	5.77
Mountain III	4.95	5.34	5.06	3/	3/	5.18	3/	6.79
Pacific	6.60	6.95	6.66	10.18	3/	6.65	3/	8.51
CA	6.02	6.60	6.10	10.96	9.56	5.91	7.64	8.80
HI	8.09	3/	8.06	3/	3/	8.05	3/	12.21
US 6/	5.74	5.57	5.70	9.53	7.61	5.83	6.69	6.57

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data. 4/ Livestock, Supervisory, and other published at regional and U.S. level only. 5/ Piece rate and other published at regional and U.S. level only. 6/ Excludes AK.

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during October totaled 10.6 billion pounds, 3 percent more than production in these same States in October 1991. September revised production at 10.3 billion pounds was 4 percent above September 1991. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,279 pounds for October, 55 pounds more than October 1991.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.25 million head, 98,000 head less than October 1991 and was 6,000 less than September 1992.

During the July-September period, the 21 major States produced 32.0 billion pounds of milk, 84.9 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.4 billion pounds for October 1992.

OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

The Nation's laying flocks produced 6.02 billion eggs during October 1992, up 2 percent from the 5.90 billion eggs produced a year ago. Production included 5.21 billion table eggs, 750 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 62.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The average number of layers during October was 280 million, up 2 percent from the 276 million head a year ago. The October 1992 egg production averaged 2,150 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 2,139 eggs per 100 layers in October 1991.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1992, totaled 280 million, compared with 277 million a year ago. The 280 million layers consisted of 237 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1992, averaged 69.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from last year's 69.3 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.93 billion eggs during October 1992, up 2 percent from the 4.85 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during October averaged 229 million, up 1 percent from the 227 million a year ago. These monthly States accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, June through August 1992.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS GET A SECOND GLANCE

At a time when health concerns, convenience, and environmental issues are exerting a greater influence on consumers' food choices, dry edible beans are getting a second look from both consumers and producers. The legumes are useful in sustainable production practices making them attractive to farmers considering crop rotations. For consumers, dry beans offer low cost, nutritional content, versatility, and convenience.

The U.S. produces over a dozen varieties of dry edible beans, but a few favorites account for most of the U.S. dry beans output. These are pinto (41% of 1989-91 output), navy beans (21%), Great Northern (8%), and red kidney (7%). Other varieties include large lima, baby lima, small white, pink, small red, cranberry, black, blackeye (also called cowpeas), and garbanzo (also called chickpeas).

Relatively inexpensive, dry beans are an excellent source of vitamins, minerals, soluble dietary fiber, and protein. The leading source of vegetable protein, dry edible beans are among the best food buys in terms of cost per gram of protein. They contain no cholesterol, and research suggests that regular consumption of beans may help lower blood cholesterol levels. Dry beans are also rich in B-vitamins, iron, calcium, potassium, and phosphorous, and very low in sodium and calories.

Concern for nutrition is just one factor boosting dry bean consumption. Along with the rising popularity of restaurant chains specializing in Mexican and East Indian cuisine, interest over the past decade in ethnic foods featuring dry edible beans is also bringing beans back into the American culinary mainstream.

Dry edible bean use peaked during World War II at 11 pounds per person, then began a steady decline. Since bottoming out in the early 1980's, per capita consumption has increased 15%. From 1980 to 1984, dry beans use averaged 5.9 pounds per person. Over the next 5 years (1985-89), average use increased 7% to 6.3 pounds. The last 3 years (1990-92) saw an 8% gain over the 1985-89 period, to 6.8 pounds.

Dry edible beans have a wide range of uses, and some varieties can be substituted for others. All varieties are available dry in consumer or foodservice packages. Some varieties are also processed into canned products such as refried beans, soups, and baked beans. High starch bean flour is produced from dry beans and used in a variety of baked goods. Restaurant use of dry beans and bean products appears to have increased during the past 10 years, especially among restaurants featuring dishes such as tacos, burritos, and chili.

END-OF-YEAR SURVEYS UNDERWAY

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service began contacting farmers and ranchers across the state in early November for final 1992 acreage, yield, and production totals and end-of-year livestock and poultry inventories.

Insects and variable weather conditions this year have again had an impact on Montana agriculture, and these surveys will help our office summarize where the industry stands at the end of 1992.

Information from these confidential surveys conducted by mail, telephone, or in person will also help producers make their plans for the coming year. Sound production and marketing decisions require good, reliable information and advanced planning. These reports provide producers with solid facts and figures they can incorporate into their plans.

If you are contacted, it is important to provide the requested information, since one producer represents similar operations of the same type and size. Our estimates can be no better than the numbers producers provide.

Lake County is located in the northwestern section of Montana. The upper portion of the county is occupied by beautiful Flathead Lake. The lake is about thirty miles long, and from five to ten miles in width with a rugged, wooded shoreline. Outside of the Great Lakes System, Flathead Lake is one of the largest inland lakes in the United States, and is famous for the abundant cherry crop grown along its shore. The rest of Lake County is comprised almost entirely of the Flathead Indian Reservation. The Flathead is the main valley, it lies between the Mission Mountains on the east and the Little Bitterroot Mountains on the west. The outlet of Flathead Lake, the Flathead River, traverses the center of the county and runs along the southwestern border of Lake and Sanders counties.

Livestock production is the main industry in Lake County, ranking 20th in hog numbers on December 1, 1991 and 19th in cattle inventory on January 1, 1992. Sheep numbers brought a rank of 31st to Lake County for the January 1, 1992 inventory.

Crop production is also a major agricultural concern in Lake County. All hay production brought the county a ranking of 5th, with oats production ranking 12th in 1991. Lake County is one of the major potato producing areas in the state. Barley, spring wheat, and winter wheat are also grown in the area.

Cash receipts for livestock and livestock products totaled $22.2 million dollars in 1990, while crops added $15.1 million with rankings of 15th and 19th, respectively. Government payments came to $1.3 million for a total cash return of $38.6 million and a ranking of 23rd for Lake County in 1990.

Lake County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	924,755	Total Cropland	Acres	159,380
Land in Farms	Acres	655,528	Harvested Cropland	Acres	84,967
Number of Farms		1,079	Irrigated Land	Acres	90,202
Average size Farms	Acres	608			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	59,213	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	10,302	Calves	No. Head	60,910
Barley	Acres	10,276	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	5,111
Oats	Acres	2,298	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	5,688

[1/] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Christmas Letter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
RENEE MULLINGS, EDITOR

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RELEASED: November 16, 1992

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Highlights:

Malting Barley
Nov 1 Pasture & Range Feed Condition
1992 Crop Year Highlights
October Prices Received

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA MALTING BARLEY FOR MALT-1991 CROP

Maltsters and brewers purchased 14.3 million bushels of Montana's 1991 barley crop to make malt. This was 15 percent more than 1990 and 43 percent more than 1989. The 1991 malt barley utilization represented 17 percent of the total 1991 barley crop compared with 22 percent in 1990 and 15 percent in 1989.

Montana growers planted 1.8 million acres of barley in 1991. Of the total, about 781 thousand acres were planted to malting varieties. If the yield of malting varieties equaled the state average yield per planted acre for all barley then approximately 37.2 million bushels of malting type barley would be produced. Since 14.3 million bushels were used for malt the remaining 22.9 million bushels either did not make the malting grade or exceeded the demand for malting barley.

The average protein of the 1991 malting barley purchases was 12.3 percent. This is .6 lower than the 12.9 percent last year and .7 lower than the 13 percent of 1989.

BARLEY USED TO PRODUCE MALT, 1990-91

VARIETY	CROP YEAR [1]	DISTRICTS N.CENTRAL [2]	CENTRAL	S.WEST	S.CENTRAL	S. EAST	STATE BUSHELS	STATE PROTEIN
KLAGES	1990	2,020,000	80,000				2,100,000	13
	1991	1,200,000	119,000	357,000			1,676,000	12
HARRINGTON	1990	1,435,000	300,000				1,735,000	13
	1991	1,948,000	70,000				2,018,000	12
MORAVIAN III	1990	673,000			1,240,000		1,913,000	12
	1991	610,000			1,160,000		1,770,000	11
MOREX	1990	837,000	40,000	568,000	1,057,000		2,502,000	13
	1991	1,221,000	110,000	1,090,000	660,000		3,081,000	12
AB VARIETIES	1990	3,705,000					3,705,000	12
	1991	4,202,000	640,000		582,000		5,424,000	12
RUSSELL	1990	275,000	80,000				355,000	12
	1991	220,000	42,000				262,000	12
OTHER	1990		35,000		20,000		55,000	12
	1991	38,000					38,000	12
TOTAL	1990	8,945,000	535,000	568,000	2,317,000		12,365,000	12
	1991	9,439,000	981,000	1,447,000	2,402,000		14,269,000	12

[1] Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30. [2] Includes Northwest.

NOVEMBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition rating on November 1, at 79 percent, was 1 point lower than the October rating and 4 points below November last year. Conditions declined from October in all areas, except the north central and south central districts which improved from last month. Grazing was mostly open during October. Movement of livestock from summer ranges was completed about on schedule with little supplemental feeding necessary.

MONTANA, November 1, 1992
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1990	1991	1992
Northwest	83	75	80
North Central	64	77	74
Northeast	31	82	70
Central	75	87	66
Southwest	78	75	79
South Central	79	84	93
Southeast	57	94	89
Montana	67	83	79

THE 1992 CROP YEAR

The 1992 crop season was a season of contrast. Yields for most crops were down from last year's record or near-record levels. However, the season turned out much better than early indications suggested.

Montana producers had planted 95 percent or more of spring crops by May 17. Most areas reported very dry soils. Thirty-one out of 45 weather reporting stations showed less than 100 percent of normal precipitation accumulated from April 1 to May 16. The major small grain region was most severely affected with April 1-May 16 accumulated moisture ranging from 21 percent to 52 percent of normal. The moisture situation had not improved very much by June 13. Winter wheat was more than 50 percent headed and the soil moisture was rated short in 82 percent of the state.

The week ending June 21 marked a sharp turn around in moisture. Nearly all weather reporting stations showed more than .5 inch of rain, several recorded more than 2 inches, and one station recorded more than 5.5 inches. Top soil moisture was rated short in only 24 percent of the state. Winter wheat was 69 percent headed and 2 percent turning color. Spring wheat was 23 percent headed, while barley was 28 percent headed. The week of June 28-July 4 was mostly dry. Substantial rains returned for 10 days in early July and in reduced amounts for the remainder of the month. This caused a lot of regrowth and uneven maturity, but yield prospects improved a great deal.

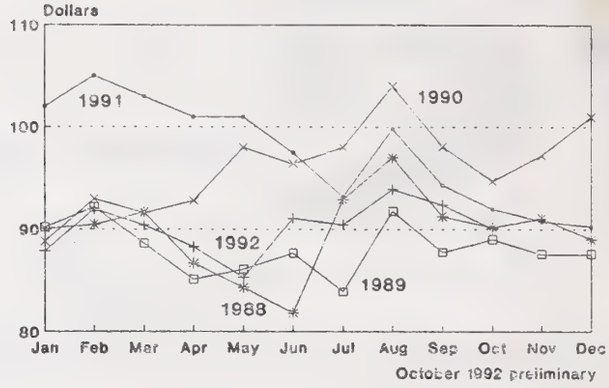
Winter wheat harvest was impeded by showers, green weeds and immature crop. By the week ending August 9, only 10 percent of the crop had been harvested, compared with an average of 58 percent. Spring planted crops were also slow to reach maturity and harvest was much behind schedule. By the end of August, only 32 percent of spring wheat had been harvested compared with the average of 76 percent. The north central region, which had been hard hit by the early season drought was now dealt another blow as 8 inches of snow blanketed many unharvested fields as an unusually early snow and cold weather system arrived.

Winter wheat harvest extended to the end of September, with the spring wheat harvest at 85 percent complete by the end of the month compared with a normal of 98 percent. Winter wheat seeding for the 1993 crop was on schedule and went into soils with mostly good moisture or received moisture shortly after seeding.

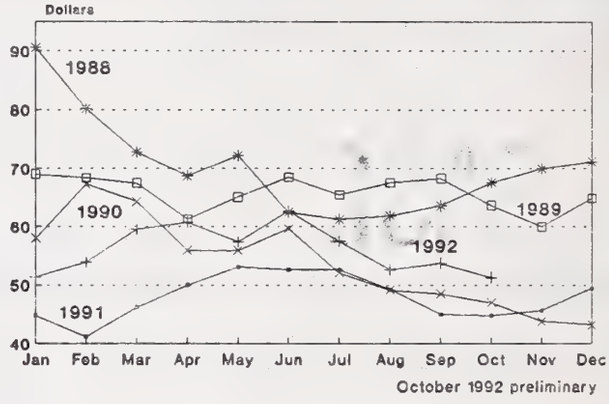
MONTANA CALF, LAMB, ALL WHEAT & BARLEY PRICES RECEIVED CHARTS

The following charts of monthly prices received from 1988 through October 1992 provide a quick reference of changes during the years. This year's prices are in the mid range of those received during the last five years.

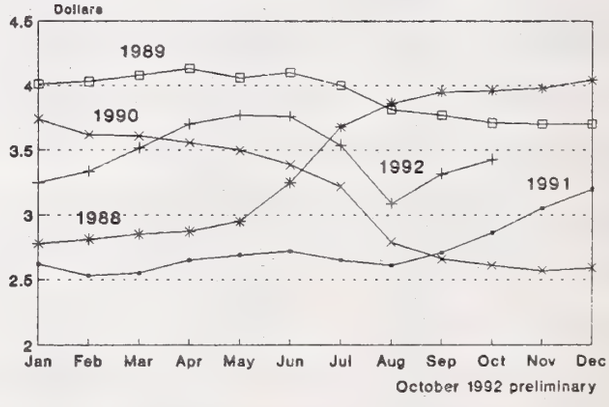
Calf Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1988-1992



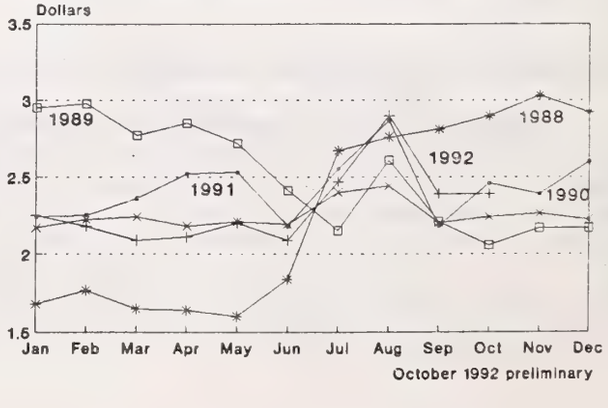
Lamb Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1988-1992



All Wheat Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1988-1992



Barley Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1988-1992



OCTOBER PRICES RECEIVED

The mid-October 1992 All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers moved up 3 points from the whole month of September. The index for all commodities, at 174 percent of its 1977 base, was 4 points higher than October 1991.

The mid-October all wheat price averaged $3.43, up 11 cents per bushel from September and 57 cents above October a year ago. Barley was $2.39 per bushel, the same as last month but 7 cents below the previous year. Oats, at $1.18 per bushel, were down 5 cents from September and 2 cents below October 1991. Alfalfa hay increased $1.00 per ton to $72.00, $20.00 higher than October 1991.

The all livestock index, at 202, was 4 points higher than September but 8 points lower than a year earlier. Cow prices, at $47.20 per cwt, were the same as last month, but $1.10 below a year ago. Calves, at $90.10 were down $2.30 from September and $1.90 less than a year ago. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.00 to $77.60 per cwt, $6.80 less than October 1991. Sheep, at $18.80 per cwt, were down $1.90 from September, while lambs were down $2.40 to $51.30 per cwt.

Nationally, the October All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was unchanged from September, at 138, based on 1977=100. Price increases for wheat, grapefruit, oranges, and tomatoes offset declines for corn, apples, lettuce, and lemons. The All Farm Products Index was 4 points (2.8 percent) below October 1991. The year-to-year index decline continues to be driven primarily by the extreme change in orange prices from record high levels in 1991. Without the influence of orange prices, the All Farm Products Index would have been 1 point higher than a year ago.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1992	MONTANA Oct. 15, 1992	U.S. Oct. 15, 1992
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.89	3.09	3.21	3.37
Durum	Bu.	2.41	2.89	2.80	2.95
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.86	3.48	3.61	3.27
All Wheat	Bu.	2.86	3.32	3.43	3.31
Barley, All	Bu.	2.46	2.39	2.39	1.97
Feed	Bu.	1.82	1.88	1.83	1.83
Malt	Bu.	3.06	3.23	3.34	2.17
Oats	Bu.	1.20	1.23	1.18	1.32
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	52.00	71.00	72.00	75.00
All Other Hay	Ton	46.00	56.00	62.00	57.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	70.00	71.00	70.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	84.40	78.60	77.60	75.80
Cows	Cwt.	48.30	47.20	47.20	46.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	75.60	68.80	71.50	71.80
Calves	Cwt.	92.00	92.40	90.10	88.30
Sheep	Cwt.	15.60	20.70	18.80	22.90
Lambs	Cwt.	44.80	53.70	51.30	55.80
Hogs	Cwt.	39.90	37.70	38.20	42.60
All Milk	Cwt.	13.30	14.00	14.30	13.50
Eggs	Doz.	.59	.54	.48	.57
Wool 2/	Lb.	.76	.80	.70	.70
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	170	171	174	138
All Crops	Pct.	126	142	145	117
Livestock & Products	Pct.	210	198	202	159

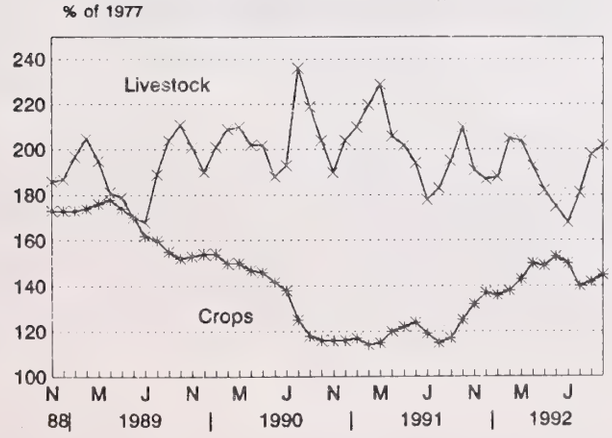
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

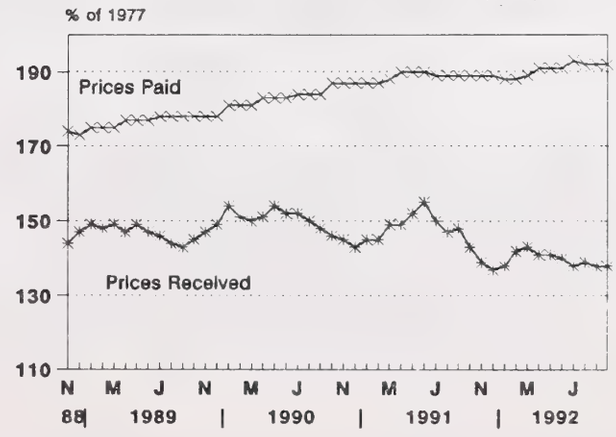
INDEX 1977=100	Sept. 1991	Oct. 1991	Sept. 1992	Oct. 1992
Prices Received	147	142	138	138
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/189	189	3/192	192
Ratio 1/	78	75	72	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1991 prices paid index. 3/ July 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



U.S. AND MONTANA CROP HIGHLIGHTS

Favorable conditions early in October allowed winter wheat seeding to progress unhindered in most areas of the nation. By mid-month, planting in the Southeast, Oklahoma, and Texas were behind average. The rest of the month saw the Pacific Northwest and Northern Plains progressing ahead of average, but behind elsewhere. As of November 1, progress in the 19 major States had reached 90 percent, off a point from the 5-year average. Condition ratings averaged fair to mostly good.

Nationally, production of corn for grain is forecast at 9.33 billion bushels, up 4 percent from last month and 25 percent above the 1991 crop. If realized, this would be the largest corn crop ever produced. The U.S. average yield per acre is forecast at a record high 129.3 bushels, up 5.5 bushels from last month and 20.7 bushels above the 1991 average yield. The increase in yields resulted from record high ear counts in most States and near normal grain weights per ear. Corn harvest continued well behind normal, as only 44 percent of the crop had been harvested in the 17 major producing States by the first of November. Last year 92 percent had been harvested by that date.

Montana producers harvested 2.64 million cwt of **fall potatoes**, 5 percent less than last year's output, but 6 percent more than the 1990 crop. Production of **U.S.** fall potatoes in 1992 is forecast at 364 million cwt, 2 percent less than last year but 3 percent more than two years ago.

This includes 2.30 million cwt from New Mexico that had formerly been included in summer potatoes. Without New Mexico, production would be 3 percent below last year. Area harvested, at 1.12 million acres, is down 5 percent from last year and 4 percent below 1990. The yield per acre is forecast at a record high 325 cwt, a gain of 9 cwt over a year ago and 23 cwt more than two years ago. The nine Western States production is forecast at 243 million cwt of potatoes in 1992, down 5 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago.

Dry bean growers produced 172,000 cwt in **Montana** in 1992 compared with 158,000 cwt last year. The 1992 **U.S.** crop of dry beans is forecast at 22.0 million cwt, 2 percent below the October 1 forecast and 33 percent below last year.

The November 1 **sugar beet** production forecast for **Montana** is 1,267,000 tons, down from 1,312,000 tons in 1991. **Nationally** sugar beet production of 29.1 million tons is 2 percent below the October 1 forecast, but 4 percent above last year's output. With harvest complete over many areas, yields were lower than previously expected. However, with the U.S. average at 20.6 tons per acre, yields will average 0.4 ton above last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Egg Production

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CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
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Highlights:

September Red Meat Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production
September Egg Production
featuring... Jefferson County

SEPTEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat in September 1992. This was a 12 percent decrease from last month, but was 7 percent higher than production last year. The number of cattle slaughtered in the state totaled 1,600 head, 100 head more than in 1991. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered increased 12 pounds to 1,153 pounds.

A total of 2,700 hogs were slaughtered, 300 more than a year ago. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 236 pounds, 4 pounds less than in 1991. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 500 head, decreased 100 head from last year. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered increased 5 pounds to 119.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.56 billion pounds. This production is 8 percent above a year earlier and 3 percent above the previous September record of 3.47 billion pounds set in 1976.

Beef production totaled 2.00 billion pounds. This was up 3 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.81 million, up 4 percent. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 1,183. Veal production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 2 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 110,300 head, down 7 percent. The average live weight increased 27 pounds to 368.

Pork production, at 1.51 billion pounds, was up 15 percent from a year earlier. This surpassed the previous September record of 1.36 billion pounds set in 1988. Hog kill totaled 8.41 million head, up 14 percent from last year. The average live weight remained the same at 251. Lamb and mutton production, at 30.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 489,200 head, up 3 percent. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 122.

January-September red meat production was 30.4 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent, veal was up 5 percent, pork was up 10 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

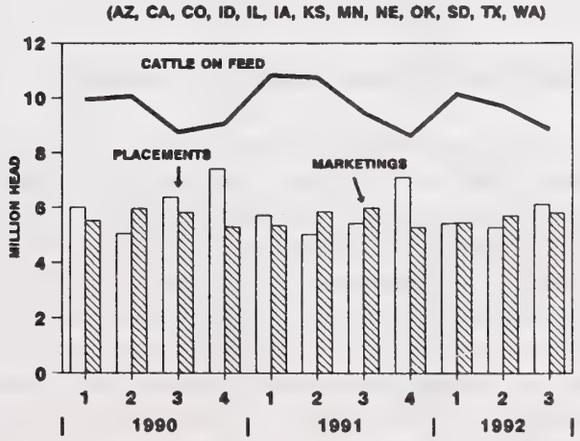
CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market on October 1, 1992, in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 8.92 million head, up 3 percent from a year ago but 2 percent below October 1, 1990. The inventory included 5.92 million steers and steer calves, 4 percent above a year ago. This group accounts for 66.4 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 2.92 million head, 2 percent above 1991.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the July-September 1992 quarter totaled 6.11 million, up 13 percent from last year but 4 percent below July-September 1990. **Net placements** of 5.84 million for July-September were up 14 percent from last year but down 4 percent from 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during the July-September 1992 quarter totaled 5.77 million, down 3 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. **Other disappearance** totaled 268,000 head compared to 282,000 in July-September 1991 and 261,000 in July-September 1990. Cattle feeders **expect to market** 5.23 million head during the October-December quarter of 1992. This would be down 1 percent from the last quarter marketings in both 1991 and 1990.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION

Montana dairymen produced 86 million pounds of milk in the July-September quarter of 1992, 1 million pounds less than production from the same quarter last year. The average number of milk cows on farms remained unchanged from 1991 at 24,000 head.

Producers fed an average of 16.5 pounds of grain and other concentrates per cow on October 1, 1992, one-half pound more than the average last year. The value of grain and concentrates fed was $7.15 per cwt, up 15 cents from 1991.

The quarterly production of milk for the United States was 37.7 billion pounds, 4 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.85 million head, 94 thousand less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1992, averaged 17.4 pounds per cow, 1 tenth of a pound more than on October 1, 1991. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on October 1, averaged $7.65 per hundredweight, $0.15 less than the October 1, 1991 price.

SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.75 billion during September 1992, up 2 percent from the 5.65 billion eggs produced a year ago. Production included 4.96 billion table eggs, 728 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 60.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The average number of layers during September was 277 million, up 1 percent from the 274 million a year ago. September 1992 egg production averaged 2,077 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 2,065 eggs per 100 layers in September 1991.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1992, totaled 280 million, compared with 275 million a year ago. The 280 million layers consisted of 237 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.78 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1992, averaged 68.6 eggs per 100 layers, the same as last year.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.70 billion eggs during September 1992, up 1 percent from the 4.67 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during September averaged 226 million, up slightly from the 225 million a year ago. These monthly States accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, June through August 1992.

UNITED STATES CROPLAND ACRES UP

Cropland used for crops in the United States is estimated to be 343 million acres up 6 percent from 1991, but down 44 million from the 1981 peak when no land was idled in Federal programs. The increase is due to land previously idled under some Federal programs being returned to production.

Based on preliminary enrollment data, about 53.7 million acres were idled this year under Federal programs in the United States. This is down 11 million acres from 1991 and down nearly 24 million from the 1988 peak of 78 million. Annual programs account for approximately one-third of the idled acres with the balance being acres enrolled in CRP. Total acres enrolled in CRP amounted to 35.4 million cropland acres with 1 million being enrolled in 1992 and 1.1 million acres tentatively accepted for retirement in 1993.

Farmers continue to use new planting flexibility provisions, first offered in 1991, which allow farmers to produce alternative crops and still maintain their full acreage base for participation in future programs. Of the 41 million base acres in the U.S. that could have been planted to another crop this year, producers flexed 8.3 million acres, of which 5.9 million were planted to soybeans and other nonprogram crops.

CATTLE INVENTORY BY COUNTIES, JANUARY 1, 1990-1992

COUNTY & DISTRICT	All Cattle and Calves				Beef Cows and Heifers That Have Calved		
	1990	1991	1992	Rank	1990	1991	1992
Deerlodge	8,900	9,200	9,300	53	5,500	5,600	5,700
Flathead	19,900	19,600	21,900	45	8,900	9,400	10,200
Granite	28,100	28,900	30,900	36	17,800	18,500	19,700
Lake	44,200	45,900	53,500	19	25,900	26,500	31,500
Lincoln	4,800	5,000	5,700	55	2,900	3,100	3,600
Mineral	900	1,000	1,300	56	600	700	800
Missoula	11,800	12,200	12,400	51	7,000	7,500	7,800
Powell	40,500	43,400	54,900	17	25,400	27,700	33,400
Ravalli	38,600	39,800	41,600	28	19,400	22,100	22,300
Sanders	24,900	23,100	24,100	39	12,500	11,300	12,100
Other	--	--	--		--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**222,600**	**228,100**	**255,600**		**125,900**	**132,400**	**147,100**
Blaine	63,600	59,100	57,800	14	42,200	40,400	39,800
Chouteau	44,000	46,100	51,500	22	25,400	28,400	30,300
Glacier	24,400	24,000	26,100	38	14,300	14,100	15,100
Hill	21,900	21,500	22,300	44	14,900	14,900	14,600
Liberty	13,200	14,800	12,900	50	8,400	8,900	7,700
Phillips	71,500	74,200	83,100	6	43,400	47,900	53,200
Pondera	21,200	21,200	23,300	41	13,900	14,700	15,400
Teton	48,000	49,000	53,500	18	26,700	28,400	31,600
Toole	15,300	15,300	16,200	49	10,100	10,200	10,500
Other	--	--	--		--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**323,100**	**325,200**	**346,700**		**199,300**	**207,900**	**218,200**
Daniels	12,500	12,100	11,300	52	8,200	8,000	7,600
Dawson	33,500	33,800	38,700	30	21,600	22,900	23,900
Garfield	50,400	50,600	48,300	24	29,300	30,100	27,700
McCone	29,000	28,100	31,100	35	19,100	17,700	19,700
Richland	45,600	49,000	56,500	16	24,000	23,900	27,600
Roosevelt	18,400	18,200	19,000	46	12,400	12,400	11,100
Sheridan	15,400	15,900	16,800	48	10,200	11,300	10,500
Valley	55,500	59,400	76,400	7	33,100	35,700	46,700
Other	--	--	--		--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**260,300**	**267,100**	**298,100**		**157,900**	**162,000**	**174,800**
Broadwater	24,500	24,500	22,400	43	15,500	16,200	16,000
Cascade	60,800	61,300	66,400	10	37,600	38,900	40,700
Fergus	97,200	94,100	103,800	4	63,800	61,600	62,400
Golden Valley	21,500	22,100	23,900	40	12,800	13,100	13,400
Judith Basin	52,300	52,900	56,800	15	33,500	33,700	35,400
Lewis & Clark	35,900	35,600	38,200	31	22,500	22,800	24,100
Meagher	49,100	50,000	52,600	20	30,600	31,200	32,400
Musselshell	27,500	27,800	31,500	34	16,900	17,500	20,100
Petroleum	24,800	24,800	29,700	37	16,500	16,700	17,800
Wheatland	32,900	33,600	36,600	32	19,600	21,200	23,000
Other	--	--	--		--	--	--
CENTRAL	**426,500**	**426,700**	**461,900**		**269,300**	**272,900**	**285,300**
Beaverhead	146,300	154,600	164,800	1	85,500	88,400	90,500
Gallatin	56,900	57,600	61,300	12	25,200	27,400	31,000
Jefferson	21,800	22,100	22,700	42	14,300	14,500	15,200
Madison	92,300	84,600	89,300	5	55,300	53,000	53,300
Silver Bow	6,500	6,300	7,900	54	4,200	4,100	5,000
Other	--	--	--		--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**323,800**	**325,200**	**346,000**		**184,500**	**187,400**	**195,000**
Big Horn	116,900	116,100	121,600	3	62,300	65,300	68,300
Carbon	47,900	49,200	58,000	13	25,800	25,800	31,100
Park	44,200	46,800	48,200	25	29,000	31,200	32,600
Stillwater	43,400	44,600	50,600	23	25,700	26,700	29,500
Sweetgrass	40,400	41,000	43,400	27	27,900	27,400	27,300
Treasure	28,900	30,200	32,800	33	13,100	14,200	14,600
Yellowstone	108,300	108,800	122,600	2	32,000	34,200	37,300
Other	--	--	--		--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**430,000**	**436,700**	**477,200**		**215,800**	**224,800**	**240,700**
Carter	45,700	46,100	51,800	21	27,200	29,000	31,200
Custer	56,600	57,200	64,000	11	30,000	32,100	33,000
Fallon	38,100	39,300	45,100	26	21,400	22,000	24,800
Powder River	59,200	61,100	71,200	9	33,000	37,200	42,700
Prairie	33,700	34,300	39,800	29	19,800	20,200	21,100
Rosebud	63,600	65,800	74,000	8	34,500	38,200	41,600
Wibaux	16,800	17,200	18,600	47	9,400	9,900	10,500
Other	--	--	--		--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**313,700**	**321,000**	**364,500**		**175,300**	**188,600**	**204,900**
MONTANA	**2,300,000**	**2,330,000**	**2,550,000**		**1,328,000**	**1,376,000**	**1,466,000**

featuring...JUDITH BASIN COUNTY

Created in December of 1920, Judith Basin County occupies 1,197,260 acres of central Montana. The Judith River traverses the lower portion of the county, and the southwestern corner is blanketed by a section of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Included in the county's boundaries is the great Judith Basin, recognized as one of the better non-irrigated districts in the state.

Winter wheat, barley, oats, and alfalfa hay are the major crops grown in Judith Basin County. The county ranked 12th for winter wheat and barley production, 17th for oats, and 37th for spring wheat production in 1991.

Crops brought in $15,668,000, 40 percent of the total cash receipts for the county in 1990. Livestock and livestock products made up 50 percent of the total, or $19,652,000. Government payments contributed the remaining 10 percent with $3,983,000 for a total cash receipt figure of $39,303,000 for 1990.

In the January 1, 1992, livestock inventory, Judith Basin County ranked 15th in the state for all cattle numbers and 17th for sheep. The December 1, 1991, hog inventory showed Judith Basin ranking 34th in the hog producing counties.

Judith Basin County, Montana [1/]

Land Area	Acres	1,197,260	Total Cropland	Acres	306,262
Land in Farms	Acres	870,945	Harvested Cropland	Acres	179,771
Number of Farms		351	Irrigated Land	Acres	8,255
Average size Farms	Acres	2,481			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	51,820	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	65,194	Calves	No. Head	56,259
Barley	Acres	60,352	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	9,947
Oats	Acres	2,059	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,395

[1/] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

October Prices Received
Malting Barley
Dry Bean Production
Sugar Beet Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

October 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
September Prices Received
Cash Receipts

OCTOBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATE

The October 1 production estimate for Montana's 1992 **wheat** crop, at 139.6 million bushels, is up 2 percent from the September 1 forecast. With more than 90 percent of the spring wheat acres harvested it now appears that about 2 percent more acres will be harvested than was earlier expected. Average yield remained at 30 bushels per acre for spring wheat. Production is estimated at 73.5 million bushels, 2 percent more than the September forecast. Winter wheat yield averaged 29 bushels, up 2 from the previous forecast, but that was based on fewer harvested acres. The resulting production totals 60.9 million bushels, only slightly higher than last month's forecast. Durum production is 12 percent below last year. All wheat production is expected to be 12 percent smaller than the 1991 crop.

Montana's **barley** production estimate is unchanged from September 1 at 52.8 million bushels. This is 38 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is expected to be down 27 percent and yield off 8 bushels per acre. **Oats** production, at 3.9 million bushels, is 4 percent above the previous forecast, but 35 percent below last year. **Hay** production, at 4.7 million tons, is 1 percent below the September forecast and 10 percent below last year's record production. **Sugar beet** production is unchanged from last month at 1.283 million tons, 2 percent below last year.

U.S. **all wheat** production for 1992 was estimated at 2.46 billion bushels, up 2 percent from September 1 and up 24 percent from 1991. Yields averaged 39.4 bushels per acre, equaling the second highest average on record. The estimated yield was up 1.2 bushels from September 1 and was 5.1 bushels per acre better than last year. Area harvested for grain was 62.4 million acres, off 1 percent from the last forecast, but 8 percent above a year ago.

The 1992 **winter wheat** crop was estimated at 1.61 billion bushels, up slightly from August 1 and 17 percent higher than the 1991 production. The U.S. average yield was 38.3 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushels from the August forecast and 3.5 bushels per acre better than last year. Area harvested for grain was placed at 41.9 million acres, off 2 percent from the last forecast but up 6 percent from 1991.

Production of the 1992 **other spring** wheat crop was estimated to total a record high 755 million bushels, up 5 percent from the September 1 forecast and 50 percent more than the 1991 production. The largest harvested area since 1953, coupled with a record high yield, contributed to the dramatic jump in this year's production. The previous high production was the 1990 crop of 583 million bushels. Yields averaged 41.8 bushels per acre, 5.1 bushels better than the previous record high of 1990 and a 2.1 bushel increase from September 1. Harvested area was essentially unchanged from the last forecast. **Durum** production in 1992 was estimated at 97.2 million bushels, up 11 percent from the September forecast but down 7 percent from 1991. Harvested area was 2.45 million acres, up 1 percent from September 1 but off 23 percent from last year. This was the lowest harvested area since 1970. The average yield was 39.7 bushels per acre, a record high. This yield was 3.3 bushels per acre better than the previous record high 1985 crop average and up 3.4 bushels per acre from last month.

Barley production in 1992 was estimated at 456 million bushels, 2 percent below last year's crop of 464 million bushels. Average yield per acre, at 62.4 bushels, was up 7.2 bushels from the 1991 crop. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 7.31 million acres, 13 percent less than last year. Seeded area totaled 7.80 million acres, down 13 percent from 1991. Production was 6 percent above the September 1 forecast. A slight increase in harvested acreage coupled with a 3.5 bushels increase in yield, caused the increased production.

Production of **corn** for grain is forecast at 8.94 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 20 percent above the 1991 crop. If realized, this would be the largest corn crop ever produced. The U.S. average yield per acre is forecast at a record high 123.8 bushels, up 2.4 bushels from last month and 15.2 bushels above the 1991 average yield. By October 4, the corn harvest was progressing well behind normal, as only 11 percent of the crop had been harvested.

OCTOBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

October 1 Montana pasture and range feed condition improved 2 points compared with a month ago. Conditions declined in the Northeast and South Central districts. The North Central district still has poorest conditions at 59 percent of normal. Compared with a year ago the October condition is down 4 points.

MONTANA, October 1, 1992
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1990	1991	1992
Northwest	85	79	83
North Central	66	78	59
Northeast	38	87	77
Central	83	85	79
Southwest	81	76	80
South Central	84	89	77
Southeast	61	93	100
Montana	72	84	80

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST-OCTOBER 1, 1992

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,350	2,600	1,800	2,100	40.0	29.0	72,000	60,900
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	160	179	157	33.0	33.0	5,907	5,181
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,400	2,450	34.0	30.0	81,600	73,500
All Wheat	Bu.	5,130	5,410	4,379	4,707	36.4	29.7	159,507	139,581
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	75	70	15	17	120.0	125.0	1,800	2,125
Oats	Bu.	200	165	110	70	55.0	56.0	6,050	3,920
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,350	1,650	1,200	52.0	44.0	85,800	52,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	9.0	8.0	8.3	8.0	19.0	21.5	158	172
Sugar Beets	Ton	56.6	56.0	56.3	55.8	23.3	23.0	1,312	1,283
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.1	300.0	3/	2,790	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,400	2.50	2.50	3,750	3,500
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.60	1.40	1,440	1,190
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,250	2.16	2.08	5,190	4,690
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,064	51,057	39,406	41,893	34.8	38.3	1,372,617	1,606,534
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,253	2,507	3,197	2,449	32.5	39.7	103,957	97,196
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,604	18,698	15,100	18,065	33.4	41.8	504,565	755,100
All Wheat	Bu.	69,921	72,262	57,703	62,407	34.3	39.4	1,981,139	2,458,830
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	75,951	79,335	68,842	72,223	108.6	123.8	7,474,480	8,938,175
Oats	Bu.	8,654	7,961	4,806	4,492	50.7	65.6	243,451	294,604
Barley	Bu.	8,941	7,802	8,413	7,309	55.2	62.4	464,326	456,348
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,909.1	1,582.8	1,862.7	1,515.0	17.70	14.77	32,963	22,384
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,427.4	1,440.2	1,388.2	1,415.9	20.2	21.0	28,092	29,783
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,203.2	1,137.6	1,177.4	1,121.6	316.0	3/	371,730	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,585	24,063	3.28	3.33	83,795	80,099
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,990	36,342	1.88	1.89	69,690	68,837
All Hay	Ton	--	--	62,575	60,402	2.45	2.47	153,485	148,936

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 10, 1992.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, OCTOBER 1, 1992 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1991	1992 [2]	% chg. 92/91	1991	1992 [2]	% chg. 92/91	1991	1992 [2]	% chg. 92/91
	-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-		
Northwest	992	1,680	169	1,006	1,309	130	4,023	2,535	63
N Central	41,808	19,400	46	42,356	23,305	55	46,299	22,560	49
Northeast	4,079	8,800	216	34,403	43,812	127	10,333	7,740	75
Central	14,315	11,620	81	3,462	2,608	75	13,234	7,920	60
Southwest	910	1,800	198	1,058	1,208	114	4,326	4,624	107
S Central	7,291	10,900	149	862	1,265	147	5,261	5,808	110
Southeast	2,605	6,700	257	4,360	5,174	119	2,324	1,804	78
MONTANA	72,000	60,900	84	87,507	78,681	90	85,800	52,800	62

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sep. 1, 1991	Jun. 1, 1992*	Sep. 1, 1992	Sep. 1, 1991	Jun. 1, 1992*	Sep. 1, 1992
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	1.6	0.2	1.9	4.0	0.6	2.5
North Central	97.2	16.6	53.6	43.1	7.8	22.5
Northeast	47.9	13.0	51.2	8.2	1.7	5.2
Central	19.2	3.6	16.4	8.0	2.0	6.8
Southwest	2.3	0.7	2.4	3.7	0.7	2.4
South Central	8.4	0.8	9.7	4.5	2.2	4.9
Southeast	6.5	1.7	12.8	1.8	0.5	1.5
MONTANA	183.1	36.6	148.0	73.3	15.5	45.8

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

SEPTEMBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

The September 1992 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers moved up 15 points from the previous month. The index of prices received for all commodities, at 176 percent of its January-December 1977, average was most influenced by a 22 point increase in the livestock and livestock products index. The all crops index also advanced but showed only a 5 point increase over August. Compared with last year the all crops index is up 28 points, and the livestock index is up 8 points.

Montana commodity prices were up for all crops except feed barley and other hay. September all wheat averaged $3.23 per bushel, up 14 cents from August. All barley, at $2.94, was up 4 cents--lifted by a 7 cent increase in malting barley and only partly off set by a 6 cent decline in feed barley. The all hay price remained at $70 per ton as alfalfa averaged $71 and other hay fell $8 to average $56.

Livestock prices were higher except for slaughter cows, sheep and hogs. Calf prices were at the $100 per hundredweight mark for the first time since May 1991. Steer and heifer prices were up $4.50. Cows were off $1.70; sheep were down $.30; and hogs dropped $2.70 per hundredweight.

The September All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by U.S. farmers was unchanged from August at 139 based on 1977=100. Price decreases for hogs, potatoes, broilers, and onions offset increases for eggs, tobacco, wheat, and tomatoes. The All Farm Products Index was 8 points below September 1991.

The year-to-year index decline was driven primarily by the extreme change in orange prices from record high levels in 1991. Otherwise, price increases from a year ago for cattle, milk, lettuce, and wheat more than offset price decreases for hogs, cotton, corn, and lemons. Without the influence of orange prices, the All Farm Products Index would have been two points higher than a year ago.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept. 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1992	MONTANA Sept. 15, 1992	U.S. Sept. 15, 1992
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.75	3.01	3.14	3.22
Durum	Bu.	2.31	2.76	3.06	2.87
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.68	3.31	3.46	3.16
All Wheat	Bu.	2.71	3.09	3.23	3.18
Barley, All	Bu.	2.18	2.90	2.94	2.23
Feed	Bu.	1.72	1.90	1.84	1.79
Malt	Bu.	3.06	3.30	3.37	2.67
Oats	Bu.	1.19	1.15	1.20	1.33
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	52.00	71.00	71.00	73.10
All Other Hay	Ton	46.00	64.00	56.00	55.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	51.00	70.00	70.00	68.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	78.50	76.40	80.90	75.20
Cows	Cwt.	50.60	49.10	47.40	47.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	66.80	59.40	69.20	71.90
Calves	Cwt.	94.30	93.90	100.00	89.20
Sheep	Cwt.	17.70	26.60	26.30	24.50
Lambs	Cwt.	45.00	52.60	52.80	55.40
Hogs	Cwt.	43.00	39.20	36.50	41.40
All Milk	Cwt.	12.50	13.60	14.20	13.60
Eggs	Doz.	.62	.43	.54	.60
Wool 2/	Lb.	.83	.80	.80	.52
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	158	161	176	139
All Crops	Pct.	117	140	145	118
Livestock & Products	Pct.	195	181	203	159

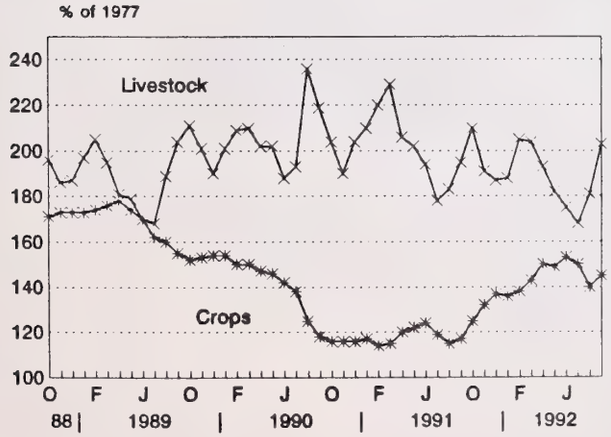
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

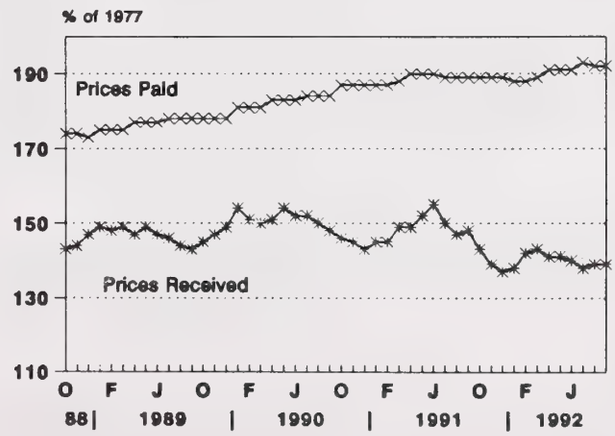
INDEX 1977=100	Aug. 1991	Sept. 1991	Aug. 1992	Sept. 1992
Prices Received	146	147	139	139
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	189	189	192	192
Ratio 1/	77	78	72	72

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1991 prices paid index. 3/ July 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1987-1991 [1/]

ITEM	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
			--Thousand Dollars--		
LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	641,623	693,345	797,523	751,743	665,647
Dairy products	40,878	41,254	42,752	42,963	39,954
Sheep and lambs	21,582	21,286	20,758	18,746	19,086
Wool	5,268	8,386	7,836	5,646	3,729
Hogs and pigs	30,836	28,613	34,181	42,150	36,845
Eggs	8,542	7,760	11,250	9,747	9,020
Chickens	149	174	197	116	73
Honey	4,264	2,369	2,961	4,287	4,272
Other [2/]	11,560	13,075	11,798	12,771	11,802
TOTAL	764,702	816,262	929,256	888,169	790,428
CROPS					
Wheat	368,612	306,877	375,049	440,282	406,097
Barley	131,984	117,148	81,064	148,574	155,797
Sugar beets	45,829	46,646	45,039	53,568	56,678
Hay	61,856	71,633	78,832	77,809	73,738
Potatoes	12,311	11,565	15,130	16,834	19,092
Oats	1,693	2,233	2,758	2,385	2,261
Dry beans	1,473	1,752	2,709	3,343	2,616
Corn	1,452	1,927	1,468	734	1,710
Cherries	2,280	1,042	0	250	250
All other [3/]	22,160	24,350	21,687	22,193	22,502
TOTAL	649,650	585,173	623,736	765,972	740,741
All commodities	1,414,352	1,401,435	1,552,992	1,654,141	1,531,169

[1/] Revised. [2/] Includes beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others. [3/] Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse, nursery and forest products.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
RENEE MULLINGS, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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Highlights:

7 State Cattle on Feed
August Red Meat Production
Grain Stocks
1991 Potato Production
Quarterly Egg Production
August Milk Production
Hogs & Pigs

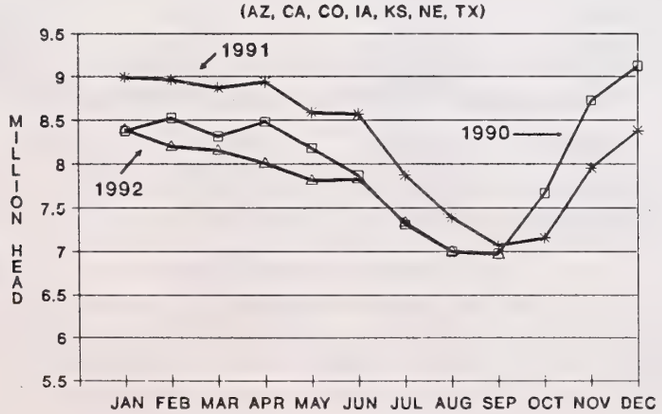
CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 1 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.97 million head, down 1 percent from a year ago and down fractionally from September 1, 1990.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August totaled 1.64 million, up 12 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1990. **Net placements** of 1.56 million for August were also up 12 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.59 million, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest August marketings since 1981. **Other disappearance** totaled 81,000 head compared to 67,000 in August 1991 and 82,000 in August 1990.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat in August 1992. This was a 22 percent increase from July, but a 2 percent decrease from a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered in the state totaled 1,700 head, a 200 head decrease from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered increased 62 pounds to 1,224 pounds.

A total of 3,100 hogs were slaughtered, 400 more than in 1991. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 239 pounds, 1 pound more than in August 1991. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 600 head, decreased 200 head from last year. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered increased 2 pounds to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.41 billion pounds, 1 percent below a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.98 billion pounds. This was down 5 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.78 million, down 4 percent. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 1,178.

Veal production, at 24.0 million pounds, was up 8 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 110,000 head, down 2 percent. The average live weight increased 35 pounds to 371. Pork production, at 1.38 billion pounds, was up 6 percent from a 1991. This surpassed the previous August record of 1.35 billion pounds set in 1979. Hog kill totaled 7.68 million head, up 6 percent from last year. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 249.

Lamb and mutton production, at 25.0 million pounds, was down 8 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 418,300 head, down 9 percent. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 122.

January-August red meat production was 26.8 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent, veal was up 6 percent, pork was up 9 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks on September 1, 1992 totaled 148 million bushels, 19 percent less than a year ago. All wheat stored on farms totaled 130 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year, while off-farm storage held 18 million, down 46 percent.

Winter wheat stocks, at 65.8 million bushels, were down 25 percent from September 1991, while all spring wheat stocks, at 82.2 million bushels, were down 14 percent. Durum stocks, at 6.7 million bushels, were 39 percent less than last year.

Barley stocks on September 1 were 45.8 million bushels, 38 percent less than a year ago. On-farm storage held 39.0 million bushels, down 40 percent, while off-farm stocks, at 6.8 million, were down 18 percent. Oats stocks, at 4.7 million bushels, were 10 percent less than year. On-farm storage totaled 4.5 million bushels.

U.S. all wheat stocks on hand September 1, 1992, are estimated at 2.09 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last September 1. Of the total, 967 million bushels are stored on farms, 17 percent more than last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.12 billion bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago.

Durum wheat stored on September 1, 1992, totaled 111 million bushels, off 13 percent from September 1991. Stocks on-farms are 90.4 million bushels, while off-farm stocks were 20.9 million bushels. These totals are down 4 and 38 percent, respectively, from last September 1.

Old crop corn stored in all positions on September 1, 1992, is estimated at 1.10 billion bushels, down 28 percent from September 1, 1991. The indicated disappearance from all positions for the June-August quarter is 1.64 billion bushels, 11 percent above the disappearance for the same quarter a year earlier.

Barley stored in all positions on September 1, 1992, is estimated at 415 million bushels, 6 percent below the stocks of September 1, 1991.

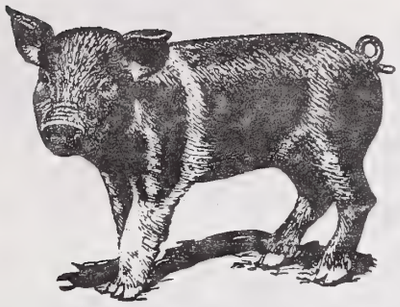
Oats stocks stored in all positions on September 1, 1992, are 289 million bushels, 2 percent above a year earlier. Of the total oat stocks on hand, 194 million bushels are stored on farms, 12 percent above last year.

The grain stocks district table will not be available until October 8 due to the late harvest. We will publish it in the next Reporter. Please call us if you need a copy before then.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1991	June 1, 1992*	Sept. 1, 1992	'92/'91	Sept. 1, 1991	June 1, 1992*	Sept. 1, 1992
	Thousand Bushels				Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	150,000	25,000	130,000	87%	828,000	144,605	966,900
Off Farms [1]	33,095	11,582	18,000	54%	1,212,719	327,666	1,123,029
TOTAL	183,095	36,582	148,000	81%	2,040,719	472,271	2,089,929
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	70,000	11,000	56,000	80%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	17,178	4,032	9,800	57%	--	--	--
TOTAL	87,178	15,032	65,800	75%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	80,000	14,000	74,000	93%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	15,917	7,550	8,200	52%	--	--	--
TOTAL	95,917	21,550	82,200	86%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--	--	94,160	35,700	90,390
Off Farms [1, 4]	--	--	--	--	33,867	19,177	20,883
TOTAL	11,022	4,645	6,700	61%	128,027	54,877	111,273
BARLEY							
On Farms	65,000	10,000	39,000	60%	271,000	45,140	259,000
Off Farms [1]	8,307	5,464	6,800	82%	168,952	84,893	156,297
TOTAL	73,307	15,464	45,800	62%	439,952	130,033	415,297
OATS							
On Farms	5,000	2,200	4,500	90%	173,600	61,000	194,400
Off Farms [1]	213	363	206	97%	110,487	65,708	94,520
TOTAL	5,213	2,563	4,706	90%	284,087	126,708	288,920
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	691,200	1,517,500	605,500
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	830,045	1,221,072	494,971
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,521,245	2,738,572	1,100,471

[1] Terminals, mills, and elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.



SEPTEMBER 1 U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 4 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1992, was 61.5 million head. This was 4 percent above last year and 10 percent above September 1, 1990.

Breeding inventory, at 7.41 million head, was up 2 percent from a year ago and 9 percent above September 1, 1990. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, increased 4 percent from a year ago and was up 10 percent from September 1, 1990.

The June-August 1992 U.S. pig crop was 25.8 million head, 5 percent more than last year and up 13 percent from the same period in 1990. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.17 million head, up 2 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1990. Pigs saved per litter were a record high 8.13 compared to 7.89 during the same period in 1991.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.07 million sows farrow during the September-November quarter, 3 percent more than the actual farrowings during the same period last year and 8 percent more than in 1990.

Farrowings intended for December 1992-February 1993, at 2.98 million sows, are 3 percent above 1992 and up 10 percent from 1991.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,800 Montana farmers and ranchers during September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during August totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 4 percent more than production in these same States in August 1991. July revised production at 10.9 billion pounds was 4 percent above July 1991. Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,303 pounds for August, 64 pounds more than August 1991.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.27 million head, 90,000 head less than August 1991 but was 9,000 more than July 1992.

During the April-June period, the 21 major States produced 33.0 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.8 billion pounds for August 1992.

A toll free number is now available to potential buyers or sellers of Montana hay or pasture. Call 1-800-722-3276 for information.

QUARTERLY EGG PRODUCTION

Montana's laying flocks produced 41 million eggs in the June through August 1992 quarter, compared with 43 million last year. The number of layers for the quarter averaged 610,000 compared with 660,000 in 1991. The rate of lay this quarter was 73.6 eggs per hundred layers compared with 71.2 eggs per hundred layers a year ago.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.5 billion eggs during the June through August quarter, up 1 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 15.0 billion for table eggs, 2.29 billion broiler-type hatching eggs, and 193 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 275 million, up 1 percent from the 272 million a year ago.

All layers in the **U.S.** on September 1, 1992 totaled 274 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 274 million layers consisted of 230.5 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.65 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1992 averaged 69.7 eggs per hundred layers, compared with 69.3 eggs per hundred layers on September 1, 1991.

RECORD HIGH U.S. POTATO PRODUCTION IN 1991

Total 1991 potato production in the U.S. was estimated at 418 million cwt, 4 percent above a year earlier and 13 percent above 1989. Harvested area, at 1.37 million acres, was up slightly and yields averaging 304 cwt per acre jumped 11 cwt. Yield per acre and production were both record highs.

Value of the 1991 potato crop fell to a five-year low of $2.04 billion, down 16 percent from a year earlier and 25 percent below two years ago. Record high production lowered prices to an average of $4.96 per cwt compared with $6.08 in 1990 and $7.36 in 1989.

Sales from the 1991 potato crop totaled 379 million cwt, up 3 percent from 1990 and 12 percent above 1989. Non-sales of 1991 potatoes accounted for 38.4 million cwt, up 12 percent from the previous year and 25 percent greater than 1989. In the 1991 season, farmers sold 91 percent of their crop. The remaining 9 percent was either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used for seed, home use, and livestock feed on farms where grown. Shrinkage and loss were estimated at 32.4 million cwt, 14 percent greater than the previous season and 30 percent above 1989. Livestock feed and home use totaled 987,000 cwt, up 8 percent. Growers kept 5.01 million cwt of potatoes for seed on their own farms, down 1 percent from the previous year.

Processors used a record high 226 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from 1990 and 12 percent above the 1989 usage. Table stock totaled 128 million cwt, a gain of 7 percent from last year, while other sales (seed and livestock feed) of 25.4 million cwt were down 3 percent.

Montana's potato production for 1991 was 2.8 million cwt, of which 2.4 million cwt were sold. Growers received a season average price of $5.70 per cwt in 1991, which compares with $8.60 received the previous year. Most of Montana's potatoes are sold for certified seed.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Cash Receipts
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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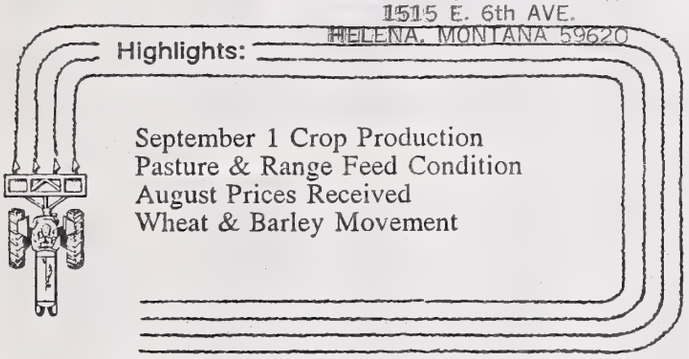


SEPTEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

The expected production of hard spring wheat is 72.0 million bushels, up 7 percent from last month, but 12 percent below last year's output. Growers expect to average 30 bushels per acre, up two bushels from last month. Spring wheat yields have exceeded early expectations in much of Eastern Montana. Yield potentials were reduced in areas receiving snow and rain as harvest was about to begin. Durum wheat production is forecast to be 4.3 million bushels with an average yield of 33 bushels, up 3 bushels from last month. Winter wheat production was not estimated in September. The August winter wheat estimate of 60.8 million bushels when added to all spring wheat production would total 137.0 million bushels for all wheat production.

Barley production is forecast to be 52.8 million bushels, unchanged from August, but 38 percent below last year's output. Yields were higher than early expectations in much of the state, but were offset by losses in areas that got heavy snow and rain at harvest time. Oats were not estimated in September, but were forecast at 3.8 million bushels in August.

Sugar beet producers expect to harvest 1.3 million tons in 1992, 2 percent less than was produced last year. The expected production of dry beans is 172,000 cwt, 9 percent more than 1991 production. New estimates of hay production will be available on October 8th. The August all hay production estimate was 4.8 million tons, down 8 percent from 1991.

The total **U.S. all wheat** production is forecast at 2.41 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 22 percent above 1991. Area for grain is 63.1 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. Average yield is forecast at 38.2 bushels per acre, up 1.2 and 3.9 bushels from August and 1991, respectively. Durum wheat production for 1992 is forecast at 87.8 million bushels, up 9 percent from August 1 but down 16 percent from 1991. Yields are now expected to average 36.3 bushels per acre, up 2.8 bushels per acre from August and 3.8 bushels per acre above last year. Area for grain is unchanged from last month. Other spring wheat production forecast is a record high 719 million bushels. This represents a 10 percent increase from August 1 and is 42 percent higher than 1991. U.S. yields are forecast at a record high 39.7 bushels per acre, eclipsing 1990's previous high mark by 3.0 bushels per acre. The September forecast is up 3.6 bushels from last month and is 6.3 bushels per acre better than last year. Harvested area remains unchanged at 18.1 million acres, up 20 percent from last season.

U.S. barley production is forecast at 429 million bushels, up 9 percent from last month but 8 percent below the 1991 crop. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 58.9 bushels compared with last month's 54.1 bushels and last season's average of 55.2 bushels. Area harvested ard to be harvested, at 7.29 million acres, is 13 percent below last year's 8.41 million acres. Harvest in the major producing States is running behind normal.

The September 1 sugar beet production forecast of 29.3 million tons is fractionally above the August 1 forecast and 4 percent above last year's output. Yields are expected to average 20.7 tons per acre, up 0.5 ton from last year. The 1992 crop of dry beans is forecast at 23.0 million cwt, 30 percent below last year and slightly below the August 1 forecast.

SEPTEMBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

September 1 **pasture and range feed** condition in **Montana** was rated at 78 percent of normal, 6 points below last year and down 7 points from last month. Cooler and wetter weather during August maintained the limited forage available. The North Central district continues to be much below normal with a 56 percent rating, 28 points below last September's rating.

MONTANA, September 1, 1992
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1990	1991	1992
Northwest	94	82	78
North Central	76	84	56
Northeast	44	86	83
Central	88	81	76
Southwest	86	75	77
South Central	86	84	98
Southeast	69	91	75
Montana	77	84	78

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST-SEPTEMBER 1, 1992

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1991	1992 [1/]	1991	1992 [1/]	1991	1992 [1/]	1991	1992 [1/]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,350	2,600	1,800	2,250	40.0	27.0	72,000	60,750
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	130	179	129	33.0	33.0	5,907	4,257
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,400	2,400	34.0	30.0	81,600	72,000
All Wheat	Bu.	5,130	5,380	4,379	4,779	36.4	28.7	159,507	137,007
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	75	70	15	17	120.0	125.0	1,800	2,125
Oats	Bu.	200	165	110	80	55.0	47.0	6,050	3,760
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,350	1,650	1,200	52.0	44.0	85,800	52,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	9.0	8.0	8.3	8.0	19.0	21.5	158	172
Sugar Beets	Ton	56.6	56.0	56.3	55.8	23.3	23.0	1,312	1,283
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.1	300.0	[3/]	2,790	[3/]
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,450	2.50	2.40	3,750	3,480
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.60	1.50	1,440	1,275
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,300	2.16	2.07	5,190	4,755
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,049	51,097	39,396	42,550	34.8	37.6	1,372,182	1,600,931
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,253	2,472	3,197	2,416	32.5	36.3	103,957	87,752
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,604	18,758	15,100	18,103	33.4	39.7	504,565	718,744
All Wheat	Bu.	69,906	72,327	57,693	63,069	34.3	38.2	1,980,704	2,407,427
Corn for Grain [2/]	Bu.	75,951	79,335	68,842	72,223	108.6	121.4	7,474,480	8,769,865
Oats	Bu.	8,654	8,026	4,796	4,795	50.6	57.6	242,526	276,381
Barley	Bu.	8,941	7,782	8,413	7,294	55.2	58.9	464,495	429,423
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,909.1	1,582.8	1,862.7	1,515.0	17.70	15.21	32,963	23,048
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,427.4	1,440.2	1,388.2	1,414.2	20.2	20.7	28,092	29,306
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1203.2	1,137.6	1,177.4	1,121.6	316.0	[3/]	371,730	[3/]
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,585	24,073	3.28	3.25	83,795	78,351
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,990	36,318	1.88	1.88	69,690	68,397
All Hay	Ton	--	--	62,575	60,455	2.45	2.43	153,485	146,748

[1/] Preliminary. [2/] Planted for all purposes. [3/] Production forecast available November 10, 1992.

All Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1991 & Forecasted September 1, 1992

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1991	1992	1991	Aug. 1, '92	Sept. 1, '92	1991	1992
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO [1/]	2,336	2,345	31.7	29.0	29.0	74,000	68,000
ID	1,160	1,470	70.4	67.3	67.3	81,660	98,900
KS [1/]	11,000	10,900	33.0	33.0	33.0	363,000	359,700
MN	2,155	2,805	31.1	43.9	47.9	67,110	134,250
MT	**4,379**	**4,779**	**36.4**	**27.6**	**28.7**	**159,507**	**137,007**
NE [1/]	2,100	1,950	32.0	31.0	31.0	67,200	60,450
ND	9,790	11,410	31.0	34.2	37.9	303,670	432,960
OK [1/]	5,000	6,000	28.0	29.0	29.0	140,000	174,000
OR [1/]	846	950	51.9	48.8	48.8	43,900	46,350
SD	3,117	3,778	30.9	27.1	30.5	96,175	115,130
TX [1/]	2,800	3,800	30.0	34.0	34.0	84,000	129,200
WA	2,150	2,430	45.9	51.1	51.1	98,600	124,060
US	57,693	63,069	34.3	37.0	38.2	1,980,704	2,407,427

[1/] Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1992 [1/]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1991	1992 [2/]	% chg. 92/91	1991	1992 [2/]	% chg. 92/91	1991	1992 [2/]	% chg. 92/91
	-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-		
Northwest	992	1,452	146	1,006	1,495	149	4,023	2,310	57
N Central	41,808	26,652	64	42,356	22,733	54	46,299	22,210	48
Northeast	4,079	7,350	180	34,403	40,295	117	10,333	7,740	75
Central	14,315	10,600	74	3,462	3,410	98	13,234	8,400	63
Southwest	910	1,812	199	1,058	1,315	124	4,326	3,740	8
S Central	7,291	8,964	123	862	1,746	203	5,261	6,240	11
Southeast	2,605	3,920	150	4,360	5,263	121	2,324	2,160	93
MONTANA	72,000	60,750	84	87,507	76,257	87	85,800	52,800	62

[1/] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2/] Preliminary.

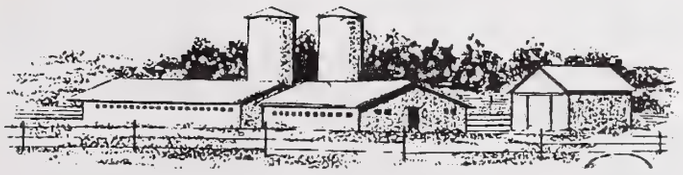
AUGUST PRICES RECEIVED

The mid-August 1992 all farm products index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers moved down 7 points from the whole month of July. The index for all commodities, at 152 percent of its 1977 base, was most influenced by a 23 point drop in the all crops index, from 150 in July to 127 at mid-August.

The mid-August all wheat price averaged $2.88, down 66 cents per bushel from July, but 27 cents above August a year ago. Barley was $2.39 per bushel, down 8 cents from last month and 45 cents below the previous year. Oats, at $1.16 per bushel, were down 13 cents from July but 12 cents above August 1991. Alfalfa hay decreased $3.00 per ton to $71.00, $21.00 higher than August 1991.

The all livestock index, at 173, was 5 points higher than July but 6 points lower than a year earlier. Cow prices, at $48.70 per cwt, were down 20 cents from last month and $2.10 below a year ago. Calves, at $94.10, were up $3.60 from July but $5.70 less than a year ago. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.50 to $74.90 per cwt, $1.00 more than August 1991. Sheep, at $21.10 per cwt, were unchanged from July, while lambs were down $1.20 to $56.30.

Nationally, the August all farm products index of prices received moved down one point from July to 137 based on 1977=100. Price decreases for corn, wheat, oranges, and potatoes more than offset price increases for lettuce, cattle, strawberries, and onions.



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1992	MONTANA Aug. 15, 1992	U.S. Aug. 15, 1992
		-- Dollars --			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.66	3.47	2.74	2.89
Durum	Bu.	2.30	3.10	2.57	2.72
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.55	3.75	3.07	2.91
All Wheat	Bu.	2.61	3.54	2.88	2.88
Barley, All	Bu.	2.84	2.47	2.39	2.14
Feed	Bu.	1.68	2.03	1.85	1.78
Malt	Bu.	3.37	3.27	3.38	2.49
Oats	Bu.	1.04	1.29	1.16	1.26
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	50.00	74.00	71.00	73.30
All Other Hay	Ton	47.00	64.00	64.00	56.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	50.00	73.00	70.00	69.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	73.90	73.40	74.90	74.50
Cows	Cwt.	50.80	48.90	48.70	49.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	56.70	53.20	55.30	71.30
Calves	Cwt.	99.80	90.50	94.10	91.00
Sheep	Cwt.	18.50	21.10	21.10	25.50
Lambs	Cwt.	49.30	57.50	56.30	58.00
Hogs	Cwt.	47.00	38.60	38.00	44.30
All Milk	Cwt.	12.20	13.30	14.00	13.50
Eggs	Doz.	0.64	0.45	0.43	0.53
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.57	0.80	0.80	0.65
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	151	159	152	137
All Crops	Pct.	120	150	127	114
Livestock & Products	Pct.	179	168	173	159

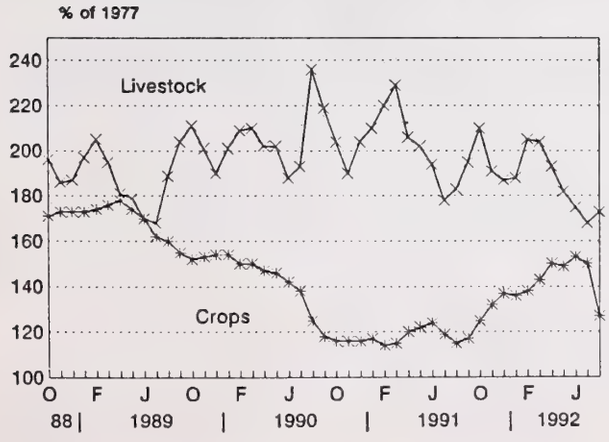
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

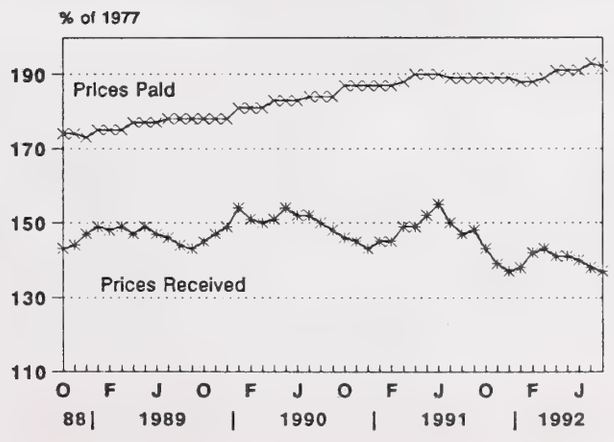
INDEX 1977=100	July 1991	Aug. 1991	July 1992	Aug. 1992
Prices Received	148	146	138	137
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	189	2/189	193	3/192
Ratio 1/	78	77	72	71

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1991 prices paid index. 3/ July 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



WHEAT MOVEMENT

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1991-May 1992, at 89.9 million bushels, was 86 percent above the same period last year and the largest amount ever recorded by the Grain Movement survey, which dates back to 1972. Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 1.4 million bushels, more than double last year. Movement to the west was up 89 percent, at 88 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, received 0.4 million bushels—63% below last year.

Rail movement amounted to 84.4 million bushels—94 percent of total shipments compared with 91 percent in the 1990-91 period.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1991—May 1992, was 24.8 million bushels, more than double the same period last year. Shipments to western destinations were up 94 percent and eastern destinations were up 261 percent. Barley hauled by rail was 95 percent of total movement, up from 91 percent for the same period last year.

Wheat and Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination [1/]

Agricultural Statistics Districts	December 1990-May 1991 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	December 1991-May 1992 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2/]	All Wheat	Dec. 1990 -May 1991 Barley	Dec. 1991 -May 1992 Barley
				---000 Bushels---				
West [3/]	768	2,611	3,379	405	2,676	3,081	5,341	5,626
North Central	13,479	14,408	27,887	25,477	22,645	48,122	4,778	11,362
Northeast	285	5,806	6,091	1,558	14,544	16,102	50	2,137
Central	4,957	1,411	6,368	10,372	2,067	12,439	1,827	5,501
South Central	3,214	688	3,902	5,913	1,193	7,106	105	33
Southeast	420	337	757	1,293	1,726	3,019	--	161
Trucked East	50	155	205	21	93	114	146	151
Trucked West	1,874	1,984	3,858	2,351	2,650	5,001	819	1,125
Trucked Other [4/]	106	304	410	100	230	330	110	64
Total By Truck	2,030	2,443	4,473	2,472	2,973	5,445	1,075	1,340
Rail East	34	420	454	240	1,032	1,272	737	3,039
Rail West	21,023	21,628	42,651	42,302	40,732	83,034	10,197	20,224
Rail Other [4/]	36	770	806	4	114	118	92	217
Total By Rail	21,093	22,818	43,911	42,546	41,878	84,424	11,026	23,480
Total Shipped	23,123	25,261	48,384	45,018	44,851	89,869	12,101	24,820

[1/] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2/] Includes durum. [3/] Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4/] Other and Unknown.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Grain Stocks
- Milk Production
- Potato Disposition
- Quarterly Egg Production
- Pasture & Range Feed Condition
- Hogs & Pigs
- Cattle on Feed
- Slaughter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 92-16 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: August 27, 1992

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Highlights:

- July Red Meat Production
- 7 State Cattle on Feed
- All Hay County Estimates
- July Farm Labor
- Milk Production
- Egg Production

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JULY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in July 1992. This production is a 2 percent decrease from June and 6 percent less than production of a year ago.

A total of 1,500 head of cattle were slaughtered in the state, 100 less than last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered increased 21 pounds from last year to 1,217 pounds.

The number of hogs slaughtered totaled 2,300 head, a 400 head decrease from July 1991. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 230 pounds, compared with 241 pounds a year ago. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 400 head, is unchanged from last year. Average live weight of sheep and lambs increased 1 pound from 1991 to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.44 billion pounds. This production is 6 percent above a year earlier and 1 percent above the previous July record of 3.28 billion pounds set in 1986.

Beef production totaled 2.02 billion pounds. This was up 1 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.86 million, up 1 percent. The average live weight increased 5 pounds to 1,165.

Veal production, at 24.0 million pounds, was up 10 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 108,800 head, down 2 percent. The average live weight increased 45 pounds to 384.

Pork production, at 1.37 billion pounds, was up 14 percent from a year earlier. This surpassed the previous July record of 1.23 billion pounds set in 1980. Hog kill totaled 7.64 million head, up 13 percent from last year. The average live weight was up 1 pound to 251.

Lamb and mutton production, at 27.0 million pounds, was down slightly from last year. Slaughter totaled 443,600 head, down 1 percent. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 125.

January-July red meat production was 23.4 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent, while veal was up 6 percent, pork was up 9 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

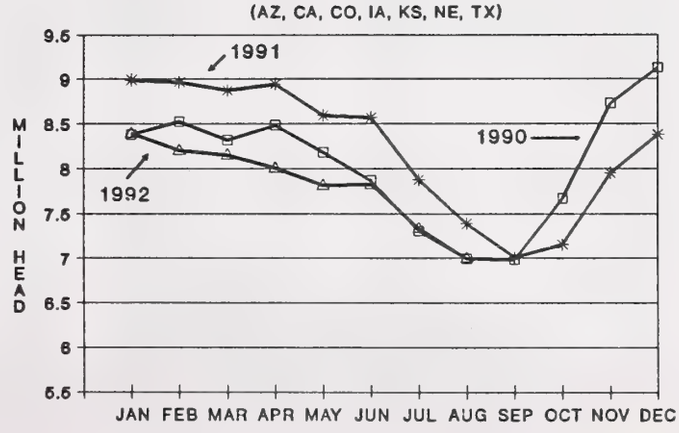
Cattle and calves on feed on August 1, 1992, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.00 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago but up fractionally from August 1, 1990.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during July totaled 1.43 million, up 8 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1990. Net placements of 1.35 million for July were up 9 percent from last year but 7 percent below 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.68 million, down 2 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest July marketings since 1985.

Other disappearance totaled 85,000 head compared to 92,000 in July 1991, and 77,000 in July 1990.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1991

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production Tons	Rank	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production
		Tons				----Tons----			----Tons----	
Deerlodge	12,500	2.08	26,000	52	12,000	2.08	25,000	500	2.00	1,000
Flathead	37,000	2.58	95,500	25	18,500	3.08	57,000	18,500	2.08	38,500
Granite	33,000	2.27	75,000	31	31,000	2.32	72,000	2,000	1.50	3,000
Lake	77,000	2.60	200,000	5	52,500	3.10	163,000	24,500	1.51	37,000
Lincoln	12,000	2.08	25,000	53	6,500	2.77	18,000	5,500	1.27	7,000
Mineral	3,500	2.14	7,500	56	1,500	2.67	4,000	2,000	1.75	3,500
Missoula	30,000	2.32	69,500	32	22,000	2.59	57,000	8,000	1.56	12,500
Powell	54,000	2.18	117,500	16	46,000	2.34	107,500	8,000	1.25	10,000
Ravalli	50,000	2.92	146,000	9	47,500	2.98	141,500	2,500	1.80	4,500
Sanders	41,000	1.88	77,000	28	20,500	2.59	53,000	20,500	1.17	24,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	350,000	2.40	839,000	--	258,000	2.71	698,000	92,000	1.53	141,000
Blaine	45,000	2.43	109,500	20	27,000	3.00	81,000	18,000	1.58	28,500
Chouteau	30,000	1.98	59,500	37	9,500	2.53	24,000	20,500	1.73	35,500
Glacier	31,000	1.98	61,500	35	12,500	2.88	36,000	18,500	1.38	25,500
Hill	18,500	1.62	30,000	46	2,500	2.80	7,000	16,000	1.44	23,000
Liberty	6,500	1.54	10,000	55	1,500	2.67	4,000	5,000	1.20	6,000
Phillips	58,000	1.90	110,000	19	29,000	2.41	70,000	29,000	1.38	40,000
Pondera	24,000	2.48	59,500	36	14,500	3.00	43,500	9,500	1.68	16,000
Teton	54,000	2.81	151,500	8	36,000	3.43	123,500	18,000	1.56	28,000
Toole	12,000	1.63	19,500	54	2,500	2.80	7,000	9,500	1.32	12,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	279,000	2.19	611,000	--	135,000	2.93	396,000	144,000	1.49	215,000
Daniels	17,000	1.56	26,500	51	2,000	3.00	6,000	15,000	1.37	20,500
Dawson	37,000	1.57	58,000	38	7,000	3.00	21,000	30,000	1.23	37,000
Garfield	20,000	1.50	30,000	47	3,500	2.71	9,500	16,500	1.24	20,500
McCone	26,000	1.67	43,500	41	5,000	2.80	14,000	21,000	1.40	29,500
Richland	39,000	1.68	65,500	33	7,500	3.60	27,000	31,500	1.22	38,500
Roosevelt	28,000	1.73	48,500	40	7,500	3.13	23,500	20,500	1.22	25,000
Sheridan	27,000	1.61	43,500	42	4,500	3.33	15,000	22,500	1.27	28,500
Valley	53,000	2.50	132,500	12	30,000	3.43	103,000	23,000	1.28	29,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	247,000	1.81	448,000	--	67,000	3.27	219,000	180,000	1.27	229,000
Broadwater	30,000	3.20	96,000	24	24,500	3.59	88,000	5,500	1.45	8,000
Cascade	75,000	2.03	152,500	7	20,500	3.24	66,500	54,500	1.58	86,000
Fergus	138,000	1.90	262,000	3	16,500	2.85	47,000	121,500	1.77	215,000
Golden Valley	18,000	1.89	34,000	45	6,500	2.77	18,000	11,500	1.39	16,000
Judith Basin	65,000	1.83	119,000	15	8,500	3.41	29,000	56,500	1.59	90,000
Lewis & Clark	49,000	2.91	142,500	10	36,000	3.42	123,000	13,000	1.50	19,500
Meagher	47,000	1.99	93,500	26	33,000	2.30	76,000	14,000	1.25	17,500
Musselshell	28,000	1.95	54,500	39	10,000	3.30	33,000	18,000	1.19	21,500
Petroleum	21,000	1.98	41,500	43	9,500	2.58	24,500	11,500	1.48	17,000
Wheatland	29,000	2.22	64,500	34	19,000	2.47	47,000	10,000	1.75	17,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	500,000	2.12	1,060,000	--	184,000	3.00	552,000	316,000	1.61	508,000
Beaverhead	125,000	2.10	262,600	2	117,000	2.15	251,000	8,000	1.45	11,600
Gallatin	92,000	2.81	258,800	4	60,500	3.36	203,000	31,500	1.77	55,800
Jefferson	40,000	2.50	100,000	22	37,500	2.55	95,500	2,500	1.80	4,500
Madison	96,000	2.86	274,800	1	91,300	2.94	268,000	4,700	1.45	6,800
Silver Bow	10,000	2.78	27,800	50	8,700	3.05	26,500	1,300	1.00	1,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	363,000	2.55	924,000	--	315,000	2.68	844,000	48,000	1.67	80,000
Big Horn	63,000	1.96	123,500	14	18,000	3.47	62,500	45,000	1.36	61,000
Carbon	52,000	2.46	128,000	13	31,000	3.06	95,000	21,000	1.57	33,000
Park	58,000	2.46	142,500	11	48,000	2.71	130,000	10,000	1.25	12,500
Stillwater	50,000	1.93	96,500	23	17,000	2.91	49,500	33,000	1.42	47,000
Sweetgrass	49,000	2.19	107,500	21	31,000	2.73	84,500	18,000	1.28	23,000
Treasure	11,000	2.64	29,000	48	5,000	3.70	18,500	6,000	1.75	10,500
Yellowstone	54,000	2.83	153,000	6	31,000	3.84	119,000	23,000	1.48	34,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	337,000	2.31	780,000	--	181,000	3.09	559,000	156,000	1.42	221,000
Carter	68,000	1.12	76,000	30	4,500	2.11	9,500	63,500	1.05	66,500
Custer	34,000	2.25	76,500	29	15,500	3.55	55,000	18,500	1.16	21,500
Fallon	70,000	1.14	79,500	27	4,000	2.38	9,500	66,000	1.06	70,000
Powder River	66,000	1.73	114,500	18	13,500	2.89	39,000	52,500	1.44	75,500
Prairie	21,500	1.70	36,500	44	5,000	3.70	18,500	16,500	1.09	18,000
Rosebud	44,000	2.65	116,500	17	21,500	4.07	87,500	22,500	1.29	29,000
Wibaux	20,500	1.39	28,500	49	1,000	3.00	3,000	19,500	1.31	25,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	324,000	1.63	528,000	--	65,000	3.42	222,000	259,000	1.18	306,000
MONTANA	2,400,000	2.16	5,190,000	--	1,205,000	2.90	3,490,000	1,195,000	1.42	1,700,000

JULY WORKER NUMBERS DOWN

There were 3.56 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 1992. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.60 million of the total, along with 536,000 unpaid workers, and 1.03 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 385,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.82 per hour during the July 1992 survey week. This rate was up 25 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.56 per hour compared with $5.35 last July. Field workers received an average of $5.47 per hour, up 21 cents from the July 1991 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.48 per hour compared with $5.16 a year earlier.

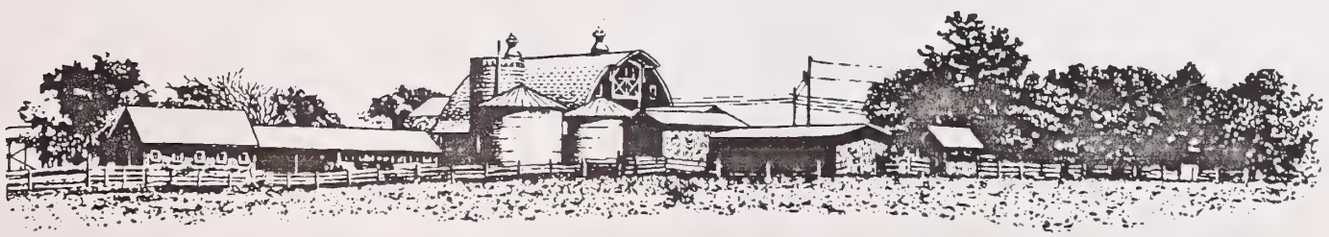
Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.22 per hour during the July 1992 survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago. Field workers were paid $5.06, 7 cents more than last year, while livestock workers earned $5.16, 50 cents more than wages of July 1991.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 41 percent of the hired workers during the survey week, compared to 38 percent in July 1991.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JULY 12-18, 1992 1/

STATE OR REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	6.20	5.05	5.79	8.55	9.06	6.40	3/	5.82
Northeast II	6.07	5.37	5.83	9.46	7.83	6.07	7.20	6.24
Appalachian I	4.74	5.64	4.85	7.72	6.45	4.81	5.83	5.43
Appalachian II	5.03	4.98	5.02	8.66	5.67	5.03	3/	6.50
Southeast	4.83	5.45	4.94	9.36	6.70	4.90	6.00	5.75
FL	5.99	5.80	5.97	10.70	7.80	6.00	3/	8.70
Lake	5.31	4.61	4.97	8.30	5.96	5.32	6.27	5.42
Cornbelt I	5.65	5.39	5.52	7.26	6.57	5.55	3/	6.30
Cornbelt II	5.60	5.47	5.52	3/	5.84	5.49	3/	6.25
Delta	4.63	4.94	4.73	7.43	3/	4.89	3/	4.91
Northern Plains	5.52	5.30	5.46	9.49	7.78	5.54	3/	6.33
Southern Plains	4.69	5.47	5.03	8.89	7.40	4.86	5.18	5.73
Mountain I	5.06	5.16	5.09	6.36	5.66	5.12	5.05	5.30
Mountain II	5.69	5.19	5.50	3/	7.66	6.02	3/	5.41
Mountain III	4.98	5.73	5.16	3/	7.88	5.23	3/	6.72
Pacific	5.92	7.68	6.10	9.46	10.28	5.86	7.76	8.34
CA	5.83	6.82	6.00	10.64	9.00	5.91	6.44	8.70
HI	8.08	3/	7.94	3/	3/	8.19	3/	13.11
AK	6.85	3/	3/	3/	3/	7.40	3/	3/
US 4/	5.47	5.48	5.48	9.03	7.57	5.56	6.31	6.37

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA. 4/ EXCLUDES AK.



JULY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.90 billion during July 1992, up 2 percent from the 5.81 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.07 billion for table eggs, 769 million for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 65.0 million for egg-type hatching eggs. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,151 eggs, compared with 2,140 in July 1991.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 1992, totaled 274 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 274 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.71 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 1992, averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from last year's 68.9 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.83 billion eggs during July, up 1 percent from the 4.79 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during July averaged 224 million, up fractionally from a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states (which include Montana) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, March 1992 through May 1992.

JULY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during July totaled 10.9 billion pounds, 4 percent more than production in these same States in July 1991. June revised production at 10.9 billion pounds was 3 percent above June 1991.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,319 pounds for July, 65 pounds more than July 1991.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.26 million head, 94,000 head less than July 1991 and was 1,000 less than June 1992.

During the April-June period, the 21 major States produced 33.0 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production for July 1992 would be 12.9 billion pounds.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Wheat & Barley Movement
Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Highlights:

August 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
July Prices Received
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

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AUGUST CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's 1992 wheat crop is expected to be 131.8 million bushels based on August 1 conditions. This is 15 percent above the previous month's forecast, but 17 percent below last year's production. Winter wheat harvest, moving into full swing, is expected to produce 60.8 million bushels 4 percent more than forecast on July 1, but still 16 percent less than last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 27 bushels. Durum production, at 3.9 million bushels, is 11 percent above the July forecast, but 34 percent below 1991. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 67.2 million bushels, 27 percent above the previous month, but 18 percent below the 1991 production. Expected yield per acre is up 6 bushels from July 1 at 28.

Barley production is forecast 19 percent above July 1 at 52.8 million bushels. July rains and cool weather pushed yield prospects up 7 bushels to 44 bushels per acre. Oats yield is expected to average 47 bushels per acre up 5 bushels per acre. This would give a total production of 3.8 million, only 62 percent of last year's crop.

Hay production is expected to be 8 percent less than last year's record crop, at 4.8 million tons. Alfalfa production, at 3.5 million tons is 7 percent below 1991. Other hay is forecast 11 percent less than the previous year at 1.3 million tons.

Corn harvested for grain is forecast at 2.1 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Dry bean production is expected to exceed 1991 by 9 percent with 172,000 cwt. Sugar beet production at 1.3 million tons will be down 2 percent from last year.

All U.S. wheat production is forecast at 2.34 billion bushels as of August 1. This is up 5 percent from July 1 and up 18 percent from 1991.

The last 1992 U.S. forecast of winter wheat production is 1.60 billion bushels, up 2 and 17 percent from July 1 and 1991, respectively. Durum wheat production is forecast at 80.9 million bushels, up 9 percent from July 1 but down 22 percent from 1991. Other spring wheat production as of August 1, is forecast at a record high 654 million bushels. This is up 12 percent from last month's forecast and 30 percent more than in 1991.

Barley production is forecast at 395 million bushels, up 6 percent from last month but 15 percent below the 1991 crop. Oats production is forecast at 276 million bushels, up 8 percent from last month and 14 percent above the 1991 crop.

The first forecast of the 1992 corn for grain crop is 8.8 billion bushels, 17 percent above last year's crop. The U.S. average yield per acre is forecast at a record high 121.3 bushels, up 12.7 bushels from last year's yield.

AUGUST 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pasture and range feed condition on August 1 was up 22 points from July 1 averaging 85 percent of normal. This is 9 points below last year's favorable reading of 94 percent.

The North Central district is still low with a 58 percent rating, but improved 30 points as July brought rain and cool temperatures to that area and much of the state.

MONTANA, August 1, 1992
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1990	1991	1992
Northwest	92	95	79
North Central	77	92	58
Northeast	38	97	82
Central	83	91	80
Southwest	82	86	98
South Central	85	96	100
Southeast	69	100	95
Montana	75	94	85

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST-AUGUST 1, 1992

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED 1991	ACRES PLANTED 1992 [1]	ACRES HARVESTED 1991	ACRES HARVESTED 1992 [1]	YIELD 1991	YIELD 1992 [2]	PRODUCTION 1991	PRODUCTION 1992 [2]
MONTANA		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,350	2,600	1,800	2,250	40.0	27.0	72,000	60,750
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	130	179	129	33.0	30.0	5,907	3,870
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,400	2,400	34.0	28.0	81,600	67,200
All Wheat	Bu.	5,130	5,380	4,379	4,779	36.4	27.6	159,507	131,820
Corn for Grain [3]	Bu.	75	70	15	17	120.0	125.0	1,800	2,125
Oats	Bu.	200	165	110	80	55.0	47.0	6,050	3,760
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,350	1,650	1,200	52.0	44.0	85,800	52,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	9.0	8.0	8.3	8.0	19.0	21.5	158	172
Sugar Beets	Ton	56.6	56.0	56.3	55.8	23.3	23.0	1,312	1,283
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.1	300.0	4/	2,790	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,450	2.50	2.40	3,750	3,480
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.60	1.50	1,440	1,275
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,300	2.16	2.07	5,190	4,755
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,049	51,097	39,396	42,550	34.8	37.6	1,372,182	1,600,931
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,253	2,472	3,197	2,416	32.5	33.5	103,957	80,859
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,604	18,758	15,100	18,103	33.4	36.1	504,565	653,794
All Wheat	Bu.	69,906	72,327	57,693	63,069	34.3	37.0	1,980,704	2,335,584
Corn for Grain [3]	Bu.	75,951	79,335	68,842	72,223	108.6	121.3	7,474,480	8,762,060
Oats	Bu.	8,654	8,026	4,796	4,795	50.6	57.6	242,526	276,381
Barley	Bu.	8,941	7,782	8,413	7,294	55.2	54.1	464,495	394,908
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,909.1	1,582.8	1,862.7	1,515.0	17.70	15.26	32,963	23,125
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,427.4	1,440.2	1,388.2	1,414.9	20.2	20.7	28,092	29,242
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1203.7	1,137.6	1,177.9	1,121.6	316.0	4/	372,005	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,585	24,073	3.28	3.25	83,795	78,351
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,990	36,382	1.88	1.88	69,690	68,397
All Hay	Ton	--	--	62,575	60,455	2.45	2.43	153,485	146,748

[1] Preliminary. [2] Forecast. [3] Planted for all purposes. [4] Production forecast available November 10, 1992.

ALL WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1991 & Forecasted August 1, 1992

STATE	AREA HARVESTED 1991	AREA HARVESTED 1992	YIELD 1991	YIELD July 1, '92	YIELD August 1, '92	PRODUCTION 1991	PRODUCTION 1992
	000 Acres		Bushels			000 Bushels	
CO	2,336	2,345	31.7	28.0	29.0	74,000	68,000
ID	1,160	1,470	70.4	67.3	67.3	81,660	98,900
KS	11,000	10,900	33.0	32.0	33.0	363,000	359,700
MN	2,155	2,805	31.1	42.0	43.9	67,110	123,250
MT	4,379	4,779	36.4	24.0	27.6	159,507	131,820
NE	2,100	1,950	32.0	29.0	31.0	67,200	60,450
ND	9,790	11,410	31.0	30.4	34.2	303,670	390,110
OK	5,000	6,000	28.0	30.0	29.0	140,000	174,000
OR	846	950	51.9	48.8	48.8	43,900	46,350
SD	3,117	3,778	30.9	23.7	27.1	96,175	102,324
TX	2,800	3,800	30.0	34.0	34.0	84,000	129,200
WA	2,150	2,430	45.9	52.5	51.1	98,600	124,060
US	57,693	63,069	34.3	35.4	37.0	1,980,704	2,335,584

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1992 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT 1991	WINTER WHEAT 1992 [2]	WINTER WHEAT % chg. 92/91	ALL SPRING WHEAT 1991	ALL SPRING WHEAT 1992 [2]	ALL SPRING WHEAT % chg. 92/91	BARLEY 1991	BARLEY 1992 [2]	BARLEY % chg. 92/91
	000 bushels			000 bushels			000 bushels		
Northwest	992	1,452	146	1,006	1,407	140	4,023	2,280	57
N Central	41,808	26,652	64	42,356	20,800	49	46,299	24,380	53
Northeast	4,079	7,350	180	34,403	37,652	109	10,333	7,020	68
Central	14,315	10,600	74	3,462	3,322	96	13,234	7,920	60
Southwest	910	1,812	199	1,058	1,414	134	4,326	3,520	81
S Central	7,291	8,964	123	862	1,813	210	5,261	5,760	109
Southeast	2,605	3,920	150	4,360	4,662	107	2,324	1,920	83
Montana	72,000	60,750	84	87,507	71,070	81	85,800	52,800	62

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

JULY PRICES RECEIVED

The mid-July 1992 all farm products index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers decreased 3 percent from the whole month of June. The index, at 159 percent of its 1977 base, was 6 percent higher than a year ago.

The all crops index, at 138, was 10 percent lower than June, but 16 percent higher than a year earlier. The only small grain that did not show a decrease in mid-July compared with June was malting barley which remained unchanged. The all wheat price ($3.32 for mid-July) was down 44 cents per bushel from June, but up 67 cents from July a year ago. The mid-July barley price, at $2.00, was down 9 cents per bushel from June and down 55 cents from July 1991. Oats, at $1.20, was down 7 cents per bushel from June and down 8 cents from a year earlier in July. Alfalfa hay, at $74.00 a ton, remained unchanged from June, but was up $21.00 a ton from July 1991.

The all livestock index, at 177, was 1 percent higher than June and 1 percent lower than a year earlier. Cow prices, at $51.10 per cwt, were down 10 cents per cwt from June and down $2.10 from July a year ago. Prices for steers and heifers, at $77.00 per cwt, were down $1.00 from June and down 20 cents from a year earlier. Calves, at $90.10 per cwt, were down $1.00 from June and down $3.10 per cwt from July 1991. Sheep, at $22.00 per cwt, were up 80 cents per cwt from June and up $1.80 from July a year ago, while lambs, at $62.50 per cwt, were down 20 cents from June, but up $9.90 per cwt from July a year ago.

Nationally, the July All Farm Products Index of Prices Received moved down three points from June to 137 based on 1977=100. Price decreases for hogs, corn, soybeans, and oranges more than offset price increases for potatoes, cattle, milk and broilers.

The All Farm Products Index was 11 points below July 1991. Orange price declines accounted for 9 of the 11 point index drop. Price declines for hogs, peanuts, and broilers were the other major contributors to the index decline. Price increases for milk, wheat, apples, and lettuce were slightly offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1992	MONTANA July 15, 1992	U.S. July 15, 1992
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.62	3.51	3.19	3.18
Durum	Bu.	2.38	3.12	2.80	3.09
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.71	3.93	3.44	3.45
All Wheat	Bu.	2.65	3.76	3.32	3.20
Barley, All	Bu.	2.55	2.09	2.00	2.04
Feed	Bu.	1.99	2.06	1.96	1.98
Malt	Bu.	3.08	2.29	2.29	2.16
Oats	Bu.	1.28	1.27	1.20	1.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	53.00	74.00	74.00	78.20
All Other Hay	Ton	49.00	64.00	64.00	55.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	53.00	73.00	73.00	71.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	77.20	78.00	77.00	74.40
Cows	Cwt.	53.20	51.20	51.10	48.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	57.80	57.60	57.60	71.00
Calves	Cwt.	93.20	91.10	90.10	89.70
Sheep	Cwt.	20.20	21.20	22.00	23.50
Lambs	Cwt.	52.60	62.70	62.50	62.40
Hogs	Cwt.	48.80	41.40	37.90	43.10
All Milk	Cwt.	11.60	12.70	13.20	13.40
Eggs	Doz.	.65	.38	.45	.52
Wool 2/	Lb.	.56	.80	.80	.74
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	150	164	159	137
All Crops	Pct.	119	153	138	116
Livestock & Products	Pct.	178	175	177	158

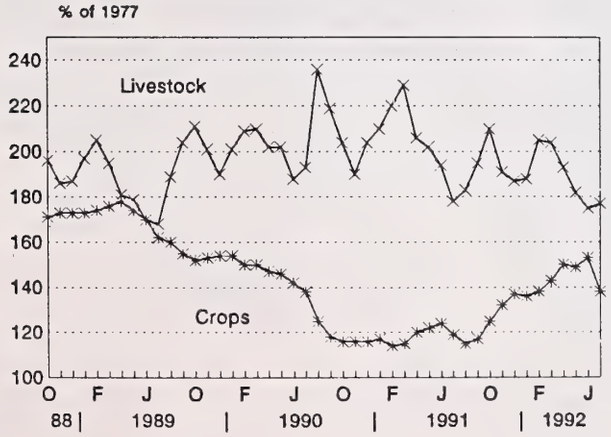
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

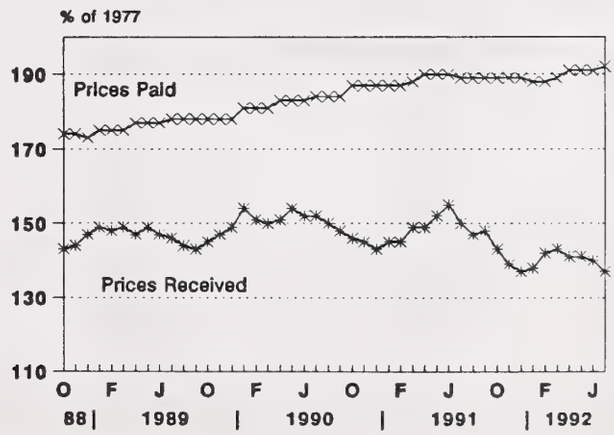
INDEX 1977=100	June 1991	July 1991	June 1992	July 1992
Prices Received	152	148	140	137
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/189	189	3/191	192
Ratio 1/	80	78	73	71

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1991 prices paid index. 3/ April 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA FARM NUMBERS DOWN

The number of farms and ranches in Montana in 1992 is estimated at 24,600, down 100 from 1991. Land in farms and ranches totaled 60.0 million acres, a reduction of less than 0.5 percent. The average size moved up slightly to 2,439 acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 1992 is estimated at 2.096 million, down less than 1 percent from 1991. Total land in farms is 980 million acres, down 2.7 million acres from last year. The rate of decline in number of farms and land in farm acreage slowed while the average farm size increased from 467 acres to 468 in 1992.

Texas remains the state with the most farms, 183,000, down 2,000 from a year earlier. Missouri is second with 107,000, the same as last year, followed by Iowa with 102,000 farms, also unchanged from 1991. In addition to Texas, Ohio and Kansas experienced the largest decrease in farm numbers with each down 2,000 farms from a year earlier.

	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
Year	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms
	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres
1983	24.1	61.3	2,544	2,378.6	1,023.4	430
1984	24.2	61.1	2,525	2,333.8	1,017.8	436
1985	24.3	61.0	2,510	2,292.5	1,012.1	441
1986	24.4	60.9	2,496	2,249.8	1,005.3	447
1987	24.5	60.8	2,482	2,213.0	998.9	451
1988	24.6	60.7	2,467	2,197.1	994.5	453
1989	24.7	60.6	2,453	2,170.5	991.2	457
1990	24.7	60.5	2,449	2,140.4	987.4	461
1991	24.7	60.3	2,431	2,105.1	982.8	467
1992	24.6	60.0	2,439	2,095.7	980.1	468

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
All Hay County Estimates
Slaughter
Farm Labor

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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Highlights:

July Cattle Inventory
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Quarterly Egg Production
June Red Meat Production
Mink Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed

JULY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1992, totaled 109.2 million head, unchanged from July 1, 1991, but up 2 percent from the 107.4 million two years ago.

Class estimates and the percentage changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All cows and heifers that have calved, at 44.5 million, were unchanged from a year ago but up 1 percent from two years ago. Beef cows, at 34.7 million, were up slightly from July 1, 1991, and 2 percent above two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.85 million, were 1 percent below July 1, 1991, and 2 percent below 1990.

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.9 million, down 1 percent but up 3 percent. Beef replacement heifers, 5.7 million, up 8 percent and up 12 percent. Milk replacement heifers, 4.20 million, unchanged from the previous two years. Other heifers, 7.0 million, down 7 percent and down 1 percent.

- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.1 million, unchanged but up 4 percent.

- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.2 million, unchanged from the previous two years.

- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.5 million, up slightly and up 1 percent.

CALF CROP UP 1 PERCENT

The 1992 calf crop is expected to be 39.5 million head, up 1 percent from both 1991 and 1990. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.8 million, up slightly from both 1991 and 1990.

CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS AND CALF CROP, UNITED STATES, JULY 1, 1990-92

Class	1990	1991	1992	1992 as % 1991
		1,000 Head		Percent
Cattle and Calves	107,400	109,200	109,200	100
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	44,000	44,500	44,500	100
Beef Cows	33,900	34,500	34,650	100
Milk Cows	10,100	10,000	9,850	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	16,400	17,000	16,900	99
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,100	5,300	5,700	108
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,200	4,200	4,200	100
Other Heifers	7,100	7,500	7,000	93
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	14,500	15,100	15,100	100
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,200	2,200	2,200	100
Calves Under 500 Pounds	30,300	30,400	30,500	100
Calf Crop 1/	39,249	39,256	39,500	101

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES 1988-92
PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE

VARIETY	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
WINTER WHEAT					
Neeley	25.5	22.8	25.7	24.7	24.7
Rocky	9.0	12.0	9.9	14.0	13.6
Tiber	0.3	1.9	9.5	11.7	13.6
Redwin	19.6	19.8	14.5	13.0	9.4
Norstar	8.7	7.6	6.9	6.6	7.7
Judith	--	--	0.1	0.8	7.3
Winalta	9.8	9.7	8.0	5.8	5.8
Centurk	3.8	3.0	2.7	2.4	3.5
Roughrider	4.1	2.0	1.9	3.6	2.4
Cimmaron	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.6	1.1
Hawk	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.0
Cree	2.9	3.1	3.9	2.0	0.9
Cheyenne	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.2	0.8
Warrior	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.6
Weston	1.1	1.6	1.6	1.8	0.6
Sage	1.1	0.6	1.5	0.3	0.4
Archer	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Thunderbird	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.8	0.4
Bighorn	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.3
Vona	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.3
Other & Unknown	9.8	10.2	7.5	6.5	5.2
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SPRING WHEAT					
Amidon (ND 606)	--	0.6	4.7	11.7	20.0
WestBred Rambo	6.6	9.0	15.5	13.5	16.0
Newana	16.2	19.7	16.6	13.3	12.4
Len	15.1	15.2	12.7	11.9	8.6
Lew	10.4	10.2	10.7	14.1	8.6
Stoa	10.3	7.9	10.0	8.1	7.0
Fortuna	11.8	14.6	9.0	8.2	6.2
Olaf	5.9	5.8	4.5	3.6	2.8
Tioga	3.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.4
Pondera	1.8	2.4	2.2	0.8	1.3
Northrup King 751	0.9	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.2
Leader	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.4	1.2
WestBred 926	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.8
Grandin	--	--	--	0.2	0.8
Glenman	1.1	2.4	1.4	1.5	0.7
Celtic	--	--	--	0.4	0.6
Bounty 309	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.6
Butte	0.8	0.4	0.4	2.0	0.5
Cutlass	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5
Other & Unknown	13.6	8.3	7.7	6.7	8.8
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DURUM WHEAT					
Vic	29.7	27.4	24.0	15.5	27.0
Medora	8.6	7.8	19.0	14.0	21.1
Monroe	6.1	8.3	14.3	14.2	10.4
WestBred Laker	4.0	15.2	12.7	12.6	8.5
Renville	--	--	0.6	6.0	6.0
Ward	17.0	18.5	10.2	14.1	5.9
Crosby	14.7	6.3	4.3	4.3	4.8
Kyle	0.1	0.3	--	--	2.0
Wakooma	0.7	1.3	4.0	0.2	1.4
Wascana	1.7	--	1.0	--	1.2
Lloyd	6.6	4.6	1.4	5.4	0.2
Other & Unknown	10.8	10.3	8.5	13.7	11.5
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

BARLEY	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Hector	31.8	29.8	22.9	25.8	24.2
Harrington	10.5	15.6	22.7	25.3	23.0
Piroline	11.3	7.3	7.4	7.0	9.4
Gallatin	2.6	6.0	5.4	5.6	7.9
Bowman	5.1	3.0	2.7	4.3	7.7
AB Varieties	0.6	2.7	5.0	3.9	6.0
Morex	1.9	2.3	4.1	4.6	3.0
Clark	6.7	7.2	4.7	4.1	2.5
Lewis	3.2	2.4	2.1	3.0	2.1
Moravian III	1.0	1.2	2.5	1.7	1.9
Horsford	0.7	1.6	1.8	2.2	1.4
Menuet	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.2
Bearpaw	--	--	--	0.2	0.8
WestBred Medallion	--	--	--	0.1	0.5
Steptoe	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4
Kimberly	2.5	2.4	1.8	1.2	0.3
Summit	1.1	0.4	0.5	--	0.3
Klages	11.0	9.8	7.2	3.3	0.3
Sprinter	--	--	0.4	--	0.3
Unitan	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.2
Other & Unknown	7.5	6.5	6.7	5.2	6.6
STATE TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat and barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the **Montana Wheat & Barley Committee** and the **American Malting Barley Association, Inc.**. A more detailed varietal report may be obtained from our office upon request.

U.S. JUNE EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.69 billion during June 1992, up 1 percent from the 5.62 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.86 billion table eggs, 759 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 64.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during June averaged 275 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,069 eggs, compared with 2,068 in June 1991.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1992, totaled 274 million, up 1 percent from last year's total of 271 million. The 274 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.73 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1992, averaged 69.3 eggs per 100 layers, compared to last year's 69.2 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production States produced 4.65 billion eggs during June, up 1 percent from the 4.61 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during June averaged 225 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. Data for the 30 quarterly States (which include Montana) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 States conducting monthly surveys. These monthly States accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, March 1992 through May 1992.

JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in June 1992. This production is an 8 percent increase from May, but is a 1 percent decrease from production a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered in the state, at 1,600 head, is unchanged from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered in the state was 1,202 pounds, also unchanged from last year.

A total of 2,300 hogs were slaughtered, 100 more than last year. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 236 pounds, compared with 246 a year ago. Sheep and lamb slaughter was 200 head, down 100 head from June 1991. Average live weight of lamb and mutton animals decreased 10 pounds from last year to 122 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.42 billion pounds. This production is 12 percent above a year earlier and 2 percent above the previous June record high of 3.34 billion pounds set in 1989. Pork production surpassed the previous June record high of 1.31 billion pounds set in 1980.

Beef production totaled 2.04 billion pounds. This was up 9 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.92 million, up 8 percent. The average live weight increased 9 pounds to 1,159. Veal production, at 25.0 million pounds, was up 26 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 107,600 head, up 17 percent. The average live weight increased 38 pounds to 394. Pork production, at 1.33 billion pounds, was up 17 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.35 million head, up 17 percent from last year. The average live weight was up 1 pound to 254.

Lamb and mutton production, at 27.0 million pounds, was up 8 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 435,800 head, up 7 percent. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 125. January-June red meat production was 20.0 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent, veal was up 5 percent, pork was up 9 percent, but lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

U.S MINK PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1991 totaled 3.27 million pelts, down 3 percent from 1990. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 900,500 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard-54.3 percent; Ranch Wild-11.9 percent; Gunmetal-10.0; Demi-buff-8.1 percent; Mahogany-6.6 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 9.1 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1991 crop year were valued at $70.9 million, down 17 percent from $85.8 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1991 crop year was $21.70, compared with $25.50 in 1990.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1992 totaled 781,100, down 11 percent from the previous year. Many mink producers reported the mink price motivated them to "pelt out" and reduce or close out their mink operation. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1992 by color class are: Standard-49.9 percent; Ranch Wild-14.1 percent; Mahogany-10.2 percent; Demi-buff-8.2 percent; Gunmetal-7.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 9.8 percent.

There were 682 mink farms producing pelts in 1991, down 12 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 160 farms, Wisconsin with 143 farms, and Minnesota with 89. There were 77 mink farms which also raised fox in 1991, down 8 percent from the previous year.

QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION

Montana dairymen produced 88 million pounds of milk in the April-June quarter of 1992, 1 million pounds greater than production from the same quarter last year. The average number of milk cows on farms remained unchanged from 1991 at 24,000 head.

Producers fed an average of 16 pounds of grain and other concentrates per cow on July 1, 1992, the same average as last year. The value of grain and concentrates fed was $6.95 per cwt, up 5 cents from 1991.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 39.0 billion pounds, 1 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.85 million head, 149 thousand less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1992, averaged 17.6 pounds per cow, 3 tenths of a pound more than on July 1, 1991. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on July 1, averaged $7.82 per hundredweight, $0.11 more than the July 1, 1991 price.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 6 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 8.85 million head, down 6 percent from a year ago but 1 percent above July 1, 1990. The inventory included 5.74 million steers and steer calves, 7 percent below a year ago. This group accounts for 64.9 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.04 million head, 6 percent below a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the April-June 1992 quarter totaled 5.27 million, up 5 percent from both last year and April-June 1990. Net placements of 4.83 million for April-June were up 6 percent from last year and 4 percent above 1990.

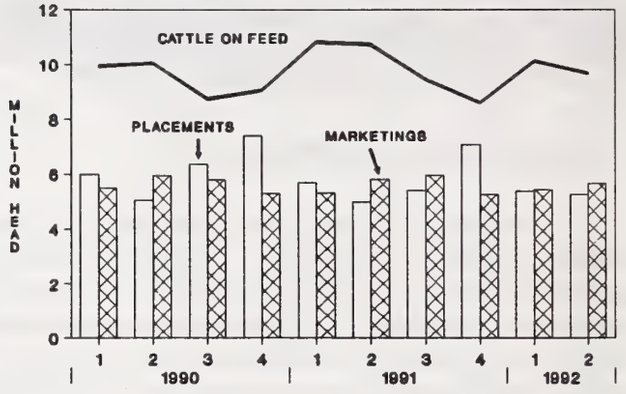
Marketings of fed cattle during the April-June 1992 quarter totaled 5.68 million, down 2 percent from last year, and 5 percent below two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 444,000 head compared to 464,000 in April-June 1991 and 400,000 in April-June 1990.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Numbers and Land In Farms
Prices Received
Crop Production
Pasture & Range

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
July 1 Pasture & Range Feed Condition
June Ag Prices Received
U.S. Hog Inventory

JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's 1992 all wheat crop is expected to be 114.8 million bushels, 28% less than the 1991 crop. The yield forecast of 24 bushels per acre is nearly 10 bushels below last years record yield. The forecast is based on the July 1 survey of Montana farms and ranches.

Winter wheat production is estimated at 58.5 million bushels, 19% below last year. Hard red spring wheat production is expected to be 52.8 million bushels, down 35% from the previous year. Durum production at 3.5 million bushels is down 41% from last year, as producers cut acreage by 28% and yield prospects are off 6 bushels per acre.

Barley production, forecast to be 44.4 million bushels, is 48% below last year's large crop. Growers set the stage for a small crop by cutting seeded acreage 25%. Dought conditions pulled yield prospects down to 37 bushels, 15 bushels below last year's record yield.

Oats production is expected to be 44% below last year as both acres to be harvested for grain and yield per acre are much below 1991. Growers expect to harvest nearly 3.4 million bushels from 80,000 acres.

Cherry production is forecast at 800 ton. Harvest got underway shortly after the first of July. Last year there was no commercial production because of unfavorable weather in the spring, and winter kill of trees in 1988-89.

United States winter wheat production is forecast at 1.57 billion bushels, up 2 percent from June 1 and up 15 percent from last year. Higher Soft Red Winter yields caused the increase in production. Overall, the average yield is expected to be 37.0 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from June 1.

Other spring wheat is forecast at a record high 584 million bushels, up 16 percent from 1991. The yield forecast of 32.3 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from last year, was offset by the highest expected acres for grain since 1953.

Barley production at 371 million bushels, is 20 percent below the 1991 production. Yields are expected to average 50.9 bushels per acre, 4.3 bushels less than last year. Area for harvest is expected to be down 13 percent from last year.

Oat production is forecast at 256 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 53.5 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels from 1991. Area for harvest is virtually the same as a year earlier.

JULY 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition rating for July 1 is 63 percent of normal. The July 1 rating declined 1 point from last month, and is 32 points below last year's high rating.

The North Central district, still low at 28 percent of normal, has improved 17 points since June 1. The Central district, with a rating of 64, improved 19 points. At the same time the northeast district saw conditions decline 23 points.

MONTANA, July 1, 1992
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1990	1991	1992
Northwest	93	90	68
North Central	86	96	28
Northeast	54	98	59
Central	92	100	64
Southwest	87	100	78
South Central	95	90	80
Southeast	84	98	82
Montana	85	96	63

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST-JULY 1, 1992

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,350	2,600	1,800	2,250	40.0	26.0	72,000	58,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	130	179	129	33.0	27.0	5,907	3,483
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,400	2,400	34.0	22.0	81,600	52,800
All Wheat	Bu.	5,130	5,380	4,379	4,779	36.4	24.0	159,507	114,783
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	75	70	15	17	120.0	3/	1,800	3/
Oats	Bu.	200	165	110	80	55.0	42.0	6,050	3,360
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,350	1,650	1,200	52.0	37.0	85,800	44,400
Dry Beans	Cwt.	9.0	8.0	8.3	8.0	19.0	3/	158	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	56.6	56.0	56.3	56.0	23.3	3/	1,312	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.1	300.0	4/	2,790	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,450	2.50	3/	3,750	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.60	3/	1,440	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,300	2.16	3/	5,190	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,049	51,097	39,396	42,550	34.8	37.0	1,372,182	1,573,901
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,253	2,472	3,197	2,416	32.5	30.6	103,957	73,910
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,604	18,758	15,100	18,103	33.4	32.3	504,565	584,314
All Wheat	Bu.	69,906	72,327	57,693	63,069	34.3	35.4	1,980,704	2,232,125
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	75,951	79,335	68,842	72,218	108.6	3/	7,474,480	3/
Oats	Bu.	8,654	8,026	4,796	4,795	50.6	53.5	242,526	256,381
Barley	Bu.	8,941	7,782	8,413	7,294	55.2	50.9	464,495	371,430
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,909.1	1,597.0	1,862.7	1,539.3	17.70	3/	32,963	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,427.4	1,440.2	1,388.2	1,412.4	20.2	3/	28,092	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,203.7	1,137.6	1,177.9	1,121.6	316.0	4/	372,005	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,585	24,113	3.28	3/	83,795	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,990	36,092	1.88	3/	69,690	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	62,575	60,205	2.45	3/	153,485	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available August 12, 1992. [4] Production forecast available November 10, 1992.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1992[1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1991	1992[2]	% chg. 92/91	1991	1992[2]	% chg. 92/91	1991	1992[2]	% chg. 92/91
	-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-		
Northwest	992	1,342	135	1,006	1,314	131	4,023	1,820	45
N Central	41,808	26,540	63	42,356	14,649	35	46,299	18,510	40
Northeast	4,079	6,860	168	34,403	30,778	89	10,333	5,640	55
Central	14,315	10,800	75	3,462	2,709	78	13,234	7,520	57
Southwest	910	1,768	194	1,058	1,012	96	4,326	3,510	81
S Central	7,291	7,830	107	862	1,610	187	5,261	5,660	108
Southeast	2,605	3,360	129	4,360	4,211	97	2,324	1,740	75
Montana	72,000	58,500	81	87,507	56,283	64	85,800	44,400	52

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

JUNE PRICES RECEIVED

The June 1992 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers moved down 7 points from the month of May. The index for all commodities, at 161 percent of its January-December 1977 average, was most influenced by a 14 point decrease in the meat animals index.

The all crops index, at 153, was unchanged from May but was 35 points higher than a year ago. The mid-June all wheat price averaged $3.69, down 8 cents per bushel from May and 97 cents above June a year ago. Barley was $2.27 per bushel, up 7 cents from last month and 9 cents above the previous year. Oats, at $1.20 per bushel, were down 19 cents from May and 10 cents less than June 1991. The drought has had an effect on the price of alfalfa hay, which increased $22.00 per ton to $74.00.

Cow prices, at $50.20 per cwt, were down 40 cents per cwt from last month and $4.90 below a year ago. Calves, at $81.80, were down $3.50 from May and $15.70 less than a year ago. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.10 to $72.90 per cwt, $6.70 less than June 1991. Sheep, at $22.00 per cwt, were up $5.00 from May, while lambs also rose $5.00 to $62.40.

Nationally, the June all farm products index of prices received moved down 2 points from May to 139 based on 1977=100. Price declines for wheat, cattle, oranges and peaches more than offset price increases for milk, hogs, tomatoes and strawberries.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1992	MONTANA June 15 1992	U.S. June 15, 1992
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.65	3.64	3.47	3.33
Durum	Bu.	2.62	3.22	3.23	3.38
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.83	3.88	3.85	3.79
All Wheat	Bu.	2.72	3.77	3.69	3.40
Barley, All	Bu.	2.18	2.20	2.27	2.16
Feed	Bu.	2.12	2.06	2.08	2.10
Malt	Bu.	2.57	2.56	2.77	2.30
Oats	Bu.	1.30	1.39	1.20	1.38
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	57.00	52.00	74.00	80.00
All Other Hay	Ton	51.00	47.00	64.00	61.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	56.00	52.00	73.00	75.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	79.60	74.00	72.90	74.70
Cows	Cwt.	55.10	50.60	50.20	47.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	59.30	61.90	55.90	71.00
Calves	Cwt.	97.50	85.30	81.80	89.00
Sheep	Cwt.	15.00	17.00	22.00	23.30
Lambs	Cwt.	52.60	57.40	62.40	67.40
Hogs	Cwt.	49.70	41.10	42.20	46.30
All Milk	Cwt.	11.03	12.20	12.60	13.20
Eggs	Doz.	0.57	0.37	0.38	0.53
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.62	0.75	0.80	0.87
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	152	168	161	139
All Crops	Pct.	118	153	153	120
Livestock & Products	Pct.	182	180	169	159

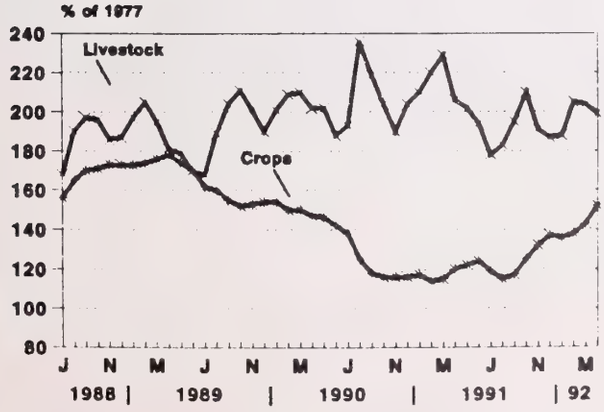
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

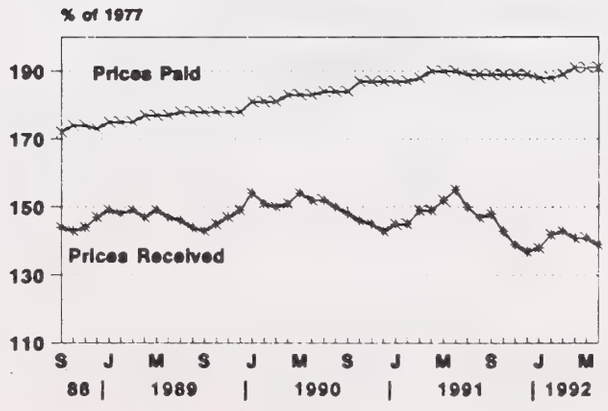
INDEX 1977=100	May 1991	June 1991	May 1992	June 1992
Prices Received	151	152	141	139
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/189	2/189	3/191	3\191
Ratio 1/				

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1991 prices paid index. 3/ April 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 5 PERCENT

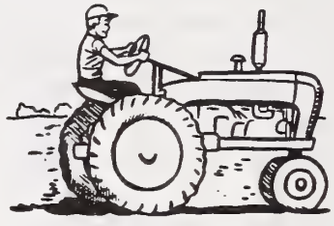
U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1992, was 59.3 million head. This was 5 percent above last year and 10 percent above June 1, 1990.

-- Breeding inventory, at 7.60 million head, was 1 percent above last year and 7 percent above two years ago.

-- Market hog inventory, at 51.7 million head, was 6 percent above a year ago and 10 percent above June 1, 1990.

The December 1991-May 1992 U.S. pig crop was 50.4 million head, 6 percent more than last year and 11 percent above the same period two years ago. Sows farrowing during the six month period totaled 6.26 million, up 4 percent from last year and 9 percent above the same period in 1990. Pigs saved per litter was 8.05, a new record high for the period, compared with 7.92 last year and 7.89 two years ago. The March-May U.S. pig crop was 27.2 million head, 4 percent above a year earlier.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 6.18 million sows farrow during the June-November period, a 2 percent increase from the actual sows farrowed during the same period in 1991 and 8 percent above two years ago. Farrowings for June-August are expected to be up 1 percent from last year and September-November farrowings are expected to be 3 percent above a year earlier.



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production	Cattle & Feed
Mink	Slaughter
Egg Production	Cattle Inventory
Wheat & Barley Variety	

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

1992 Crop Acreages
Cattle on Feed
May Red Meat Production
Grain Stocks
Quarterly Egg Production
Milk Production

JUNE ACREAGE REPORT

Montana farmers plan to harvest 4.78 million acres of wheat in 1992, 9 percent more than last year. Winter wheat acres to be harvested are forecast at 2.25 million acres, up 25 percent from last year. Farmers planted 2.65 million acres of spring wheat, up 2 percent from last year, and expect to harvest 2.4 million acres. Durum wheat planted acreage came in at 130,000 acres, down 28 percent from last year.

Montana farmers planted 1.35 million acres of barley, down 25 percent from last year. Barley harvested acreage is expected to be 89 percent of the planted acreage. Oats planted acreage, at 165,000 acres, is down 18 percent from last year. Oats to be harvested for grain, at 80,000 acres, are down from 110,000 in 1991. Farmers and ranchers intend to harvest 1.4 million acres of alfalfa hay, down 7 percent from last year. All hay harvested acreage is expected to be 2.25 million acres, down 6 percent from last year. Farmers planted 70,000 acres of corn for all purposes, down 7 percent from last year.

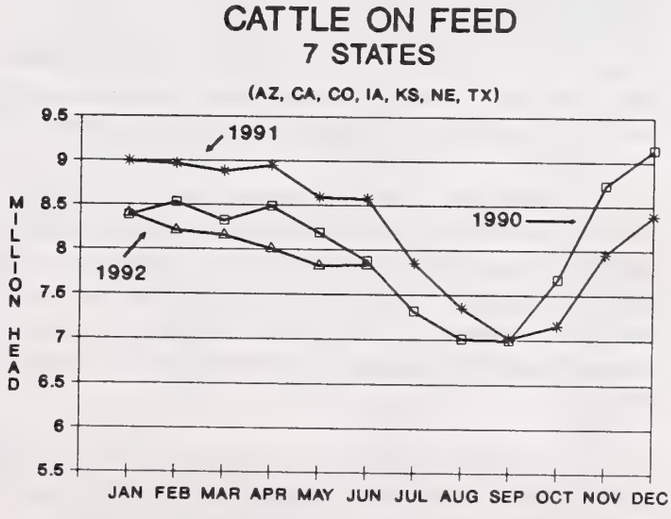
Nationally, winter wheat area planted for 1992 is placed at 51.1 million acres, up 2 percent from the "Prospective Plantings" report released March 31, 1992, and is fractionally higher than 1991. Grain harvested area is now placed at 42.6 million acres, down 1 percent from the June 1 forecast but up 8 percent from 1991. Durum wheat acreage is down 24 percent from 1991 and is the lowest since 1970. Planted area for other spring wheat for 1992 is up 20 percent from 1991. Acreage for grain is expected to total 18.1 million acres, and is the highest since 1953.

Barley seedings last fall and this spring are down 13 percent from last year. Oats planted last fall and this spring are down 7 percent from 1991. This is the least acreage planted to oats since estimates for planted acreage were first made in 1926. Growers expect to harvest 60.2 million acres of hay in 1992. This acreage is 4 percent below last year and 2 percent below 1990. The area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures cut for hay is estimated at 24.1 million acres for 1992, 6 percent below the 1991 total and 5 percent below 1990.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 2,500 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

7 STATE CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 9 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.83 million head on June 1, down 9 percent from a year ago and 1 percent below June 1, 1990. **Placements** of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during May totaled 1.72 million, down 3 percent from last year but up 8 percent from 1990. **Net placements** of 1.60 million for May were down 2 percent from last year but 11 percent above 1990. **Marketings** of fed cattle during May totaled 1.59 million, down 3 percent from last year and 9 percent below two years ago. **Other disappearance** totaled 122,000 head compared to 141,000 in May 1991 and 150,000 in May 1990.



ACRES PLANTED AND FOR HARVEST--JUNE 1992

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]	1991	1992 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,350	2,600	1,800	2,250	40.0	3/	72,000	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	180	130	179	129	33.0	3/	5,907	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,600	2,650	2,400	2,400	34.0	3/	81,600	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,130	5,380	4,379	4,779	36.4	3/	159,507	3/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	75	70	15	17	120.0	4/	1,800	4/
Oats	Bu.	200	165	110	80	55.0	3/	6,050	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,350	1,650	1,200	52.0	3/	85,800	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	9.0	8.0	8.3	8.0	19.0	3/	158	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	56.6	56.0	56.3	56.0	23.3	4/	1,312	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.4	--	9.3	--	300.0	5/	2,790	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,500	1,450	2.50	4/	3,750	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	900	850	1.60	4/	1,440	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,400	2,300	2.16	4/	5,190	4/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	51,049	51,097	39,396	42,560	34.8	3/	1,372,182	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,253	2,472	3,197	2,416	32.5	3/	103,957	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,604	18,758	15,100	18,103	33.4	3/	504,565	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	69,906	72,327	57,693	63,079	34.3	3/	1,980,704	3/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	75,951	79,335	68,842	72,218	108.6	4/	7,474,480	4/
Oats	Bu.	8,654	8,026	4,796	4,795	50.6	3/	242,526	3/
Barley	Bu.	8,941	7,782	8,413	7,294	55.2	3/	464,495	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,909.1	1,597.0	1,862.7	1,539.3	17.70	3/	32,963	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,427.4	1,440.2	1,388.2	1,412.4	20.2	4/	28,092	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,408.5	--	1,375.4	--	304.0	5/	418,229	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,585	24,113	3.28	4/	83,795	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,990	36,092	1.88	4/	69,690	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	62,575	60,205	2.45	4/	153,485	4/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available July 10, 1992. [4] Production forecast available August 12, 1992. [5] Production forecast available November 10, 1992.

MAY 1992 COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in May 1992. This is a 1 percent increase from April, but is a 3 percent decrease from production of a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered in the state at 1,400 head, is down 100 from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,197 pounds, 19 pounds less than May 1991.

A total of 2,300 hogs were slaughtered, 100 more than last year. Average live weight was 236 pounds, 1 pound less than a year ago. There were 200 lamb and mutton animals slaughtered, 100 less than last year. Average live weight of lamb and mutton animals was 134 pounds, 11 pounds less than May 1991.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.24 billion pounds, 2 percent below a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.90 billion pounds. This was down 2 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.75 million, down 4 percent. The average live weight increased 10 pounds to 1,150. Veal production at 25.0 million pounds was up 6 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 105,700 head, up 1 percent. The average live weight increased 30 pounds to 400.

Pork production at 1.29 billion pounds was down slightly from a year ago. Hog kill totaled 7.06 million head, down 1 percent from last year. The average live weight was up 1 pound to 254.

Lamb and mutton production at 25.0 million pounds was down 17 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 388,300 head, down 16 percent. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 127.

January-May red meat production was 16.6 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent, veal was up 2 percent, pork was up 7 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 5 percent.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana wheat stocks on June 1, 1992 totaled 37 million bushels, down 43 percent from a year ago. June 1 stocks are that amount of wheat left over from the 1991 and earlier years' crop production. This year's carryover stocks are 56 percent under the 10-year average and represent 23 percent of 1991 production.

Winter wheat stored, at 15 million bushels, was down 59 percent and all spring wheat, at 22 million bushels, was down 21 percent from June 1, 1991. Wheat stored on farms was 68 percent of the total in all positions. Barley stocks on June 1 totaled 18.4 million bushels, up 58 percent from last June. Oats stocks, at 2.75 million bushels, are up 69 percent from last year.

For the **U.S.** old crop all wheat in all storage positions on June 1, 1992 totaled 472 million bushels, down 45 percent from June 1, 1991. This is the smallest June 1 stocks since 1975.

Old crop durum wheat stored in all positions June 1, 1992 totaled 54.9 million bushels, off 12 percent from June 1991. Barley stored in all positions on June 1, 1992 is estimated at 130 million bushels, 4 percent below the stocks of June 1, 1991. Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 1992 totaled 127 million bushels, down 26 percent from June 1, 1991. Corn stored in all positions on June 1, 1992 is estimated at 2.74 billion bushels, down 8 percent from June 1, 1991.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1991	Mar. 1, 1992*	June 1, 1992	'92/'91	June 1, 1991	Mar. 1, 1992*	June 1, 1992
	Thousand Bushels				Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	48,000	54,000	25,000	52%	341,210	275,550	144,605
Off Farms [1]	16,951	23,637	12,000	71%	524,706	611,685	327,666
TOTAL	64,951	77,637	37,000	57%	865,916	887,235	472,271
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	28,000	22,000	11,000	39%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	9,012	12,115	4,000	44%	--	--	--
TOTAL	37,012	34,115	15,000	41%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	20,000	32,000	14,000	70%	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	7,939	11,522	8,000	101%	--	--	--
TOTAL	27,939	43,522	22,000	79%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--	--	43,353	56,279	35,700
Off Farms [1, 4]	--	--	--	--	18,862	23,001	19,177
TOTAL	5,525	7,714	4,700	85%	62,215	79,280	54,877
BARLEY							
On Farms	9,000	23,000	10,000	111%	48,990	102,000	45,140
Off Farms [1]	2,638	7,220	8,400	318%	86,392	113,890	84,893
TOTAL	11,638	30,220	18,400	158%	135,382	215,890	130,033
OATS							
On Farms	1,500	3,500	2,200	147%	92,400	98,150	61,000
Off Farms [1]	128	338	550	430%	78,831	76,735	65,708
TOTAL [4]	1,628	3,838	2,750	169%	171,231	174,885	126,708
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,755,000	2,610,200	1,517,500
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	1,236,957	1,950,785	1,221,072
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	2,991,957	4,560,985	2,738,572

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1991	Mar. 1, 1992*	June 1, 1992	June 1, 1991	Mar. 1, 1992*	June 1, 1992
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.9	2.9	1.4
North Central	33.6	39.5	16.8	4.0	15.8	8.2
Northeast	16.6	21.3	13.3	1.9	3.6	1.9
Central	8.3	8.8	3.3	2.0	2.5	2.2
Southwest	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.1	2.2	0.8
South Central	2.1	2.7	0.9	1.3	2.4	3.4
Southeast	2.9	3.7	2.0	0.4	0.8	0.5
MONTANA	65.0	77.6	37.0	11.6	30.2	18.4

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 40 million eggs in the March through May 1992 quarter, 1 million fewer than the same quarter last year. Layers for the quarter averaged 600,000 compared with 615,000 in 1991. The rate of lay this year was 74.0 eggs per 100 layers compared with 72.2 per 100 layers in the 1991 quarter.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.7 billion eggs during the March through May quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 15.2 billion table eggs, 2.34 billion broiler-type hatching eggs, and 199 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 277 million head, up 2 percent from the 272 million head a year ago.

All layers in the **U.S.** on June 1, 1992, totaled 275 million head, compared with 272 million head a year ago. The 275 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 42.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.85 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1992, averaged 68.6 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.7 for June 1, 1991.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.84 billion eggs during May, up 2 percent from the 4.73 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during May averaged 226 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago.

MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during May totaled 11.2 billion pounds, slightly lower than production in these same States in May 1991. April revised production at 10.9 billion pounds was slightly less than April 1991.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,360 pounds for April, 21 pounds more than May 1991. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.25 million head, 142,000 head less than May 1991 and the same as April 1992. During the January-March period, the 21 major States produced 32.0 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production.

If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly (which include Montana) followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 13.3 billion pounds for May 1992.

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Winter Wheat--Selected States
Barley County Estimates
May Prices Received
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Winter Wheat by District
Cherry Production

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION PROSPECTS DECLINE

Montana's 1992 winter wheat crop as of June 1 is expected to be 52 million bushels, down 20% from the May 1 forecast. Harvested acres are expected to be 100 thousand acres less than the May 1 estimate. Yield is now expected to average 26 bushels per acre, a 5 bushel drop from the May 1 forecast. Continued stress from lack of rainfall has pulled the crop potential 28% below the 1991 crop. The most severely affected area is the north central part of the state, where more than 40% of the winter wheat acreage is usually grown.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.54 billion bushels as of June 1, 1992. This is down 5 percent from the May 1 forecast but 12 percent more than the 1991 crop. A reduction in estimated acres to be harvested, coupled with lower yields from last month, caused the decline. Area for grain is now 42.9 million acres; Colorado, Kansas, Montana, and Nebraska account for the reduction. This acreage level is off 1 percent from May 1 but up 9 percent from last year. Yields are now expected to average 35.9 bushels per acre, 1.4 bushels less than the May forecast but 1.1 bushels per acre more than the 1991 average.

1991 BARLEY COUNTY ESTIMATES

The 1991 barley county estimates will soon be available for distribution. We're publishing the "all barley" figures in this publication, but estimates by class and cropping practice are available from this office upon request by calling 1-800-835-2612.

These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on acreage and production surveys conducted last fall. Nearly 5,300 questionnaires were tabulated. The majority were completed by telephone to ensure better coverage in each county. Thanks to those who provided information!

PLEASE RETURN

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & United States, 1991 & Forecasted June 1, 1992

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1991	1992	1991	May 1, '92	June 1, '92	1991	1992
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CA	410	560	80.0	80.0	80.0	32,800	44,800
CO	2,300	2,300	31.0	30.0	27.0	71,300	62,100
ID	700	800	70.0	70.0	65.0	49,000	52,000
IL	1,400	1,100	32.0	49.0	42.0	44,800	46,200
KS	11,000	10,900	33.0	33.0	32.0	363,000	348,800
MO	1,500	1,350	32.0	40.0	38.0	48,000	51,300
MT	1,800	2,000	40.0	31.0	26.0	72,000	52,000
NE	2,100	1,950	32.0	31.0	29.0	67,200	56,550
ND 1/	90	185	33.0	33.0	33.0	2,970	6,105
OH	1,080	1,115	49.0	49.0	47.0	52,920	52,405
OK	5,000	6,100	28.0	30.0	30.0	140,000	183,000
OR	800	835	52.0	56.0	51.0	41,600	42,585
SD	1,300	1,400	35.0	30.0	25.0	45,500	35,000
TX	2,800	4,000	30.0	32.0	32.0	84,000	128,000
WA	700	2,100	58.0	60.0	57.0	40,600	119,700
WY 1/	190	190	29.0	27.0	27.0	5,510	5,130
US	39,396	42,871	34.8	37.3	35.9	1,372,182	1,537,157

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1991

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deerlodge	1,600	1,600	91	146,000	1,500	1,500	93	139,000
Flathead	32,200	31,500	75	2,353,000	12,700	12,100	84	1,011,000
Granite	1,800	1,200	74	89,000	1,600	1,000	78	78,000
Lake	10,400	9,600	68	651,000	6,200	5,800	72	418,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,800	2,500	54	135,000	1,500	1,400	67	94,000
Powell	4,400	3,300	65	215,000	2,800	2,100	82	172,000
Ravalli	5,900	4,400	88	385,000	5,700	4,200	90	377,000
Sanders	900	800	51	41,000	200	200	80	16,000
Other Counties	100	100	80	8,000	100	100	80	8,000
NORTHWEST	**60,100**	**55,000**	**73**	**4,023,000**	**32,300**	**28,400**	**81**	**2,313,000**
Blaine	41,700	38,500	46	1,763,000	8,000	7,000	63	439,000
Chouteau	187,000	175,000	51	8,890,000	2,300	2,300	77	177,000
Glacier	115,000	110,000	58	6,371,000	15,000	14,900	65	967,000
Hill	83,000	76,500	53	4,088,000	1,400	1,300	69	90,000
Liberty	57,000	53,000	61	3,243,000	1,600	1,600	83	132,000
Phillips	42,500	34,500	39	1,344,000	2,400	1,800	52	93,000
Pondera	130,000	125,000	64	7,947,000	36,000	35,500	79	2,816,000
Teton	128,000	122,000	65	7,959,000	50,000	49,700	87	4,338,000
Toole	81,000	78,500	60	4,694,000	3,200	3,200	67	213,000
Other Counties	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**865,200**	**813,000**	**57**	**46,299,000**	**119,900**	**117,300**	**79**	**9,265,000**
Daniels	32,700	31,500	40	1,272,000	200	100	50	5,000
Dawson	38,100	31,900	41	1,315,000	1,700	1,100	62	68,000
Garfield	23,000	19,300	43	838,000	200	100	50	5,000
McCone	35,200	32,600	43	1,392,000	200	100	60	6,000
Richland	39,800	29,500	42	1,225,000	2,100	1,600	72	115,000
Roosevelt	43,600	40,100	39	1,557,000	600	400	45	18,000
Sheridan	43,100	39,600	35	1,368,000	600	500	66	33,000
Valley	44,600	38,500	35	1,366,000	3,300	2,300	41	95,000
Other Counties	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**300,100**	**263,000**	**39**	**10,333,000**	**8,900**	**6,200**	**56**	**345,000**
Broadwater	13,900	13,500	42	568,000	4,900	4,700	68	321,000
Cascade	71,900	70,500	55	3,870,000	12,700	12,400	82	1,020,000
Fergus	99,200	92,500	43	3,982,000	1,600	1,600	68	108,000
Golden Valley	6,800	6,400	30	193,000	1,000	1,000	54	54,000
Judith Basin	62,300	50,500	38	1,895,000	2,100	1,800	62	111,000
Lewis & Clark	13,200	12,800	71	907,000	9,200	9,000	86	774,000
Meagher	20,600	17,300	31	540,000	4,100	2,700	72	195,000
Musselshell	6,200	5,200	32	167,000	800	600	70	42,000
Petroleum	3,400	2,900	58	169,000	1,200	1,100	67	74,000
Wheatland	22,000	21,400	44	943,000	2,600	2,400	61	147,000
Other Counties	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**319,500**	**293,000**	**45**	**13,234,000**	**40,200**	**37,300**	**76**	**2,846,000**
Beaverhead	11,200	9,400	65	614,000	9,100	7,400	75	552,000
Gallatin	53,300	50,800	58	2,930,000	25,400	25,100	74	1,856,000
Jefferson	4,800	3,000	47	142,000	2,800	1,500	65	97,000
Madison	12,000	9,400	65	611,000	10,900	8,400	69	579,000
Silver Bow	600	400	73	29,000	600	400	73	29,000
Other Counties	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**81,900**	**73,000**	**59**	**4,326,000**	**48,800**	**42,800**	**73**	**3,113,000**
Big Horn	24,900	20,000	60	1,194,000	11,300	9,000	81	732,000
Carbon	14,900	14,500	57	822,000	5,700	5,600	92	515,000
Park	11,400	10,300	47	479,000	5,800	5,100	67	342,000
Stillwater	17,700	16,600	37	620,000	1,300	1,200	83	99,000
Sweetgrass	2,500	2,200	36	79,000	600	500	54	27,000
Treasure	3,900	3,400	68	232,000	3,200	2,700	76	206,000
Yellowstone	32,000	29,000	63	1,835,000	17,100	15,100	85	1,281,000
Other Counties	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**107,300**	**96,000**	**55**	**5,261,000**	**45,000**	**39,200**	**82**	**3,202,000**
Carter	6,100	4,700	35	163,000	--	--	--	--
Custer	7,000	6,500	46	296,000	1,100	800	50	40,000
Fallon	12,300	9,800	44	436,000	--	--	--	--
Powder River	6,700	6,400	39	251,000	900	900	48	43,000
Prairie	8,500	7,600	35	264,000	1,100	800	50	40,000
Rosebud	15,700	14,000	40	557,000	1,800	1,300	48	63,000
Wibaux	9,600	8,000	45	357,000	--	--	--	--
Other Counties	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**65,900**	**57,000**	**41**	**2,324,000**	**4,900**	**3,800**	**49**	**186,000**
MONTANA	**1,800,000**	**1,650,000**	**52**	**85,800,000**	**300,000**	**275,000**	**77**	**21,270,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

MAY PRICES RECEIVED

The May 1992 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers moved down 5 points from the previous month. The index for all commodities, at 167 percent of its January-December 1977 average, was most influenced by an 11 point decrease in the livestock and livestock products index. There was also a 1 point decline in the all crops index. Compared with last year the all crops index is up 27 points, while the livestock products index is down 20 points.

Commodity prices were down for all crops except durum, other spring wheat and hay. May all wheat averaged $3.67 per bushel, down 3 cents from April. Barley, at $2.06, was down 5 cents per bushel. The all hay price moved up $2.00 to $52.00 per ton, but is still $6.00 below May last year. Livestock price changes were down except for slaughter cows and hogs, with increases of $.70 and $4.40 per cwt, respectively.

The May all farm products index of prices received by U.S. farmers remained unchanged from April at 141 percent based on 1977=100. Price increases for hogs, milk, soybeans, and broilers were offset by price decreases for cattle, grapefruit, tomatoes, and onions.

Fresh apple prices in May continued the trend of record monthly highs which began September 1991. Most field crop prices were down or remained unchanged from April except for hay, soybeans, and sunflowers. Most livestock and livestock product prices were up from the previous month except for all beef cattle, steers and heifers, calves, sheep, and eggs. The all farm products index was 10 points, 6.6 percent below May 1991. Tomato, hog, cattle, and potato prices strongly contributed to the index decline from a year earlier. Higher prices for wheat, milk, corn, and soybeans were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1992	MONTANA May 15 1992	U.S. May 15, 1992
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.61	3.69	3.53	3.47
Durum	Bu.	2.74	3.21	3.29	3.36
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.86	3.77	3.91	3.84
All Wheat	Bu.	2.69	3.70	3.67	3.56
Barley, All	Bu.	2.53	2.11	2.06	2.06
Feed	Bu.	--	2.07	2.01	2.02
Malt	Bu.	--	2.29	2.29	2.19
Oats	Bu.	1.34	1.42	1.33	1.41
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	59.00	51.00	52.00	80.20
All Other Hay	Ton	51.00	44.00	47.00	56.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	58.00	50.00	52.00	74.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	87.30	77.60	76.00	76.10
Cows	Cwt.	54.20	50.70	51.40	49.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	68.10	67.10	62.50	72.20
Calves	Cwt.	101.00	88.30	85.60	91.20
Sheep	Cwt.	16.30	28.00	24.00	26.50
Lambs	Cwt.	53.10	60.80	59.20	69.70
Hogs	Cwt.	51.20	37.40	41.80	45.20
All Milk	Cwt.	11.50	12.70	12.50	12.80
Eggs	Doz.	0.55	0.48	0.37	0.51
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.53	0.80	0.75	0.90
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	163	172	167	141
All Crops	Pct.	122	150	149	123
Livestock & Products	Pct.	202	193	182	158

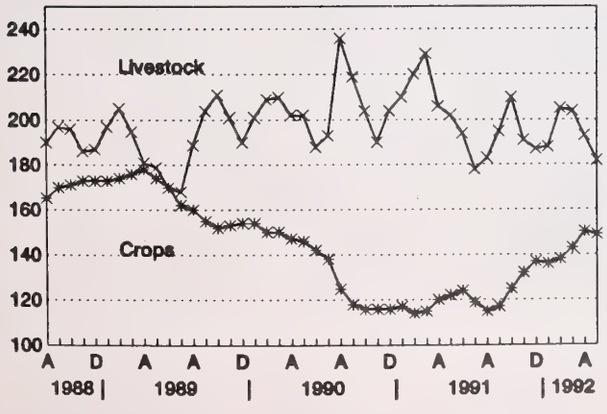
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

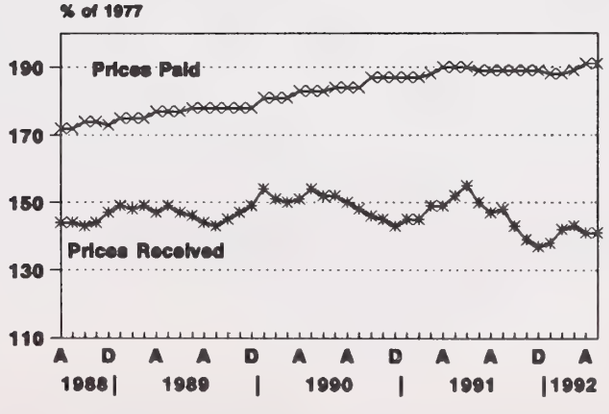
INDEX 1977=100	Apr. 1991	May 1991	Apr. 1992	May 1992
Prices Received	148	151	141	141
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	189	2/189	191	3/191
Ratio 1/	78	80	74	74

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1991 prices paid index. 3/ April 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



JUNE 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition rating for June 1 is 64 percent of normal representing the poorest June 1 rating since 1988 when Montana was hit by drought. The June 1 rating is 27 points lower than June 1 of last year and is 13 points below the ten-year average of 1981 through 1990.

The North Central district, with a rating of 11 percent of normal, slid 53 points from the May 1 rating and the Central district, with a rating of 45 percent of normal, slid 47 points from the May 1 rating.

MONTANA, June 1, 1992
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1990	1991	1992
Northwest	93	84	80
North Central	86	90	11
Northeast	54	73	82
Central	92	93	45
Southwest	87	95	68
South Central	95	85	78
Southeast	84	87	90
Montana	85	87	64

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Grain Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Egg Production
Slaughter
Crop Acreage

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--June 1, 1992 1/

District	1990	1991	1992	% chg. 92/91
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	1,045	992	1,176	119
N Central	48,439	41,808	24,215	58
Northeast	6,600	4,079	5,740	141
Central	15,968	14,315	10,175	71
Southwest	1,732	910	1,404	154
S Central	9,478	7,291	6,300	86
Southeast	4,238	2,605	2,990	115
Montana	87,500	72,000	52,000	72

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MONTANA'S 1992 CHERRY FORECAST

Montana's 1992 sweet cherry production is forecast at 800 tons which represents a 186 percent increase from 1990 production. There was no commercial production in 1991 due to frost.

Nationally, 1992 sweet cherry production is forecast to be 173,000 tons which represents a 36 percent increase over the 1991 production of 127,200 tons and is 24 percent above the 1990 production.

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 92-10 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: May 29, 1992

301 S. PARK
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HIGHLIGHTS:

April Milk Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
April Farm Labor
Potato Stocks
1991 Milk Production
April Egg Production
April Red Meat Production
1991 Manufactured Dairy

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

JUN 04 1992

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CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 9 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.82 million head on May 1, 1992, down 9 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below May 1, 1990.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during April totaled 1.44 million, up 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 1990. Net placements of 1.31 million for April were up 1 percent from last year and 6 percent above 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.50 million, down 9 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest April marketings since 1983.

Other disappearance totaled 125,000 head compared with 128,000 in April 1991, and 125,000 in April 1990.

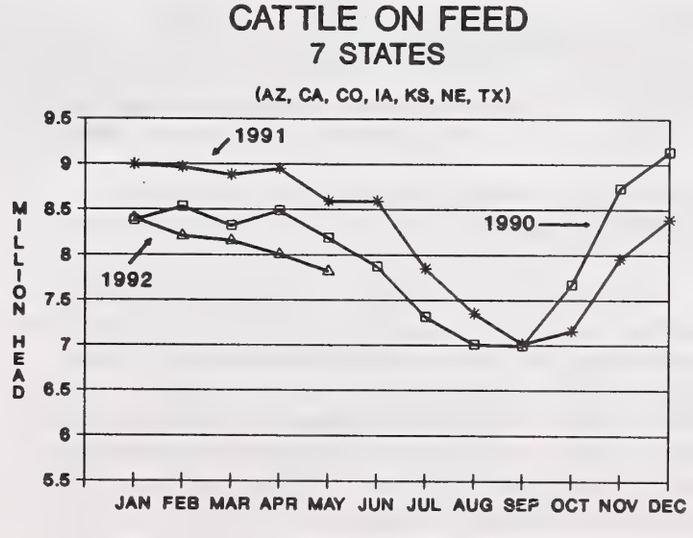
PLEASE RETURN

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during April totaled 10.9 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from production in these same states in April 1991. March revised production, at 11.1 billion pounds, was virtually the same as March 1991.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,320 for April, 23 pounds more than April 1991. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.26 million head, 158,000 head less than April 1991 and 4,000 less than March 1992.

During the January-March period, the 21 major states produced 32.0 billion pounds of milk, 84.4 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly (which include Montana) followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.9 billion pounds for April 1992.



FARM WAGE RATES FOR APRIL

There were 2.87 million people working on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 1992. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.44 million of the total, along with 394,000 unpaid workers, and 837,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 205,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.05 per hour during the April 1992 survey week. This rate was up 24 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.75 per hour compared with $5.44 last April. Field workers received an average of $5.68 per hour, up 23 cents from the April 1991 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.52 per hour compared with $5.35 a year earlier.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes **Montana**, Idaho and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.27 per hour during the April 1992 survey week, up 3 percent from wages of a year ago. Field workers were paid $5.28, 32 cents more than last year, while livestock workers earned $4.93, unchanged from wages of a year ago.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 41 percent of the nation's hired workers during the survey week, the same percentage as last year.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 12-18, 1992 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	6.22	5.26	5.82	10.28	8.06	6.41	3/	6.39
NORTHEAST II	6.48	5.54	6.11	11.24	7.98	6.62	3/	7.31
APPALACHIAN I	4.77	5.55	4.97	9.85	6.54	5.16	3/	5.78
APPALACHIAN II	4.90	5.21	4.98	3/	3/	4.98	3/	5.49
SOUTHEAST	4.53	5.42	4.76	10.07	8.48	4.94	3/	5.88
FLORIDA	5.91	6.30	5.97	10.70	8.15	5.80	6.55	8.40
LAKE	6.19	5.16	5.52	10.14	7.32	5.71	3/	6.23
CORNBELT I	6.48	5.75	6.32	7.73	5.68	6.32	3/	6.63
CORNBELT II	5.37	5.58	5.49	7.89	5.44	5.37	3/	6.40
DELTA	4.82	5.07	4.85	7.45	3/	4.87	3/	5.44
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.62	5.57	5.60	8.85	5.72	5.72	3/	5.89
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.84	5.13	4.95	9.72	7.12	5.01	3/	5.76
MOUNTAIN I	5.28	4.93	5.13	6.05	3/	5.39	3/	5.21
MOUNTAIN II	5.62	5.11	5.40	3/	3/	5.52	3/	6.02
MOUNTAIN III	4.97	5.49	5.14	3/	3/	5.12	3/	6.25
PACIFIC	5.86	7.12	6.02	8.68	7.35	6.06	6.07	7.40
CALIFORNIA	6.12	6.40	6.16	12.30	8.84	6.10	6.70	10.12
HAWAII	8.20	3/	8.16	3/	3/	8.24	3/	13.06
U.S.	5.68	5.52	5.63	9.83	7.36	5.75	6.52	6.66

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

POTATO STOCKS

Potato stocks on hand May 1, 1992, in **Montana**, nearing the end of the seed season, totaled 350,000 cwt, representing 13 percent of total production. This is 120,000 cwt more than a year ago. For the **U.S.**, May 1 potato stocks totaled 70.0 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year and 38 percent above two years ago. Stocks contained 19 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage states, compared with 18 percent last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled a record high 294 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date is estimated at 28.4 million cwt, 9 percent above the 26.0 million cwt lost last year and 21 percent above two years ago, when losses totaled 23.4 million cwt.

Western potato stocks totaled 54.7 million cwt in the six storage states, up 9 percent from last year and 37 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 2 percent from last year and accounted for 56 percent of the western holdings. **Montana** has 52 percent more potatoes on hand than last year. Oregon holdings were up 50 percent; Washington stocks were up 8 percent; while Colorado stocks were up 24 percent, but California stocks were off 8 percent.

1991 MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION & INCOME

Milk production for the nation increased slightly in 1991 to 149 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 14,867 pounds, was 222 pounds above 1990. The annual average number of cows on farms, at 9.99 million head, was 137 thousand less than the 1990 average.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1991, at 18.1 billion dollars, was 10 percent below 1990. Producer returns averaged $12.34 per hundredweight, $1.47 per hundredweight below the 1990 average. Marketings totaled 147 billion pounds, up slightly from 1990. Marketings include whole milk and producer separated cream sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 2.03 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1 percent below 1990. Calves were fed 75 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households as milk, cream, and butter.

In **Montana** during 1991, 24,000 milk cows produced an average of 14,200 pounds of milk per cow. The average number of milk cows on farms remained unchanged from 1990, while the average production per cow was 658 pounds higher than last year's average. Total milk production was 341 million pounds in 1991, 5 percent more than in 1990.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1991, at 42.2 million dollars, was 6 percent higher than 1990. Sixteen million pounds of milk were utilized on farms where produced, calves were fed 63 percent of that total, with the rest consumed in producer households as milk, cream and butter.

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.82 billion during April 1992, up 3 percent from the 5.64 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5 billion table eggs, 759 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 65 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during April averaged 277 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,101 eggs, compared with 2,077 in April 1991.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1992, totaled 276 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 276 million layers consisted of 231 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 42 million layers producing broiler-type hatching egg and 2.95 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of eggs laid per day on May 1, 1992, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from last year's 68.4 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.79 billion eggs during April, up 3 percent from the 4.63 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during April 1992 averaged 227 million, up 2 percent from the 224 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states (which include **Montana**) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, December 1991 through February 1992.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in April of 1992. This is an 8 percent increase from March, but is a 2 percent decline from production of a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered in the state totaled 1,400, down 100 from last year. Average live weight of cattle was 1,167 pounds, 13 pounds less than the average in April 1991. There were 2,400 hogs slaughtered in April, unchanged from last year. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 239 pounds, 6 pounds heavier than last year's average. A total of 200 lamb and mutton animals were slaughtered, 100 less than last year. Average live weight was 127 pounds, the same weight as last April.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** during April totaled 3.26 billion pounds, 1 percent below a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.79 billion pounds. This was down 5 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.59 million, down 6 percent. The average live weight increased 10 pounds to 1,154.

Veal production, at 25 million pounds, was up 10 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 110,700 head, up 3 percent. The average live weight increased 30 pounds to 390.

Pork production, at 1.41 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.79 million head, up 4 percent from last year. The average live weight remained the same at 252 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 33 million pounds, was up 14 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 525,700 head, up 15 percent. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 123.

January-April red meat production was 13.3 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent; veal was up 1 percent; pork was up 9 percent; but lamb and mutton was down 2 percent.

1991 U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Production of butter in the **United States** during 1991 totaled 1.34 billion pounds 3 percent more than was produced in 1990. Wisconsin, the leading state, accounted for 26 percent of production followed by California with 23 percent and Washington with 8 percent.

Total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 6.09 billion pounds, 0.4 percent above the 1990 production. Wisconsin was the leading state with 32 percent of the production.

American type cheese production, at 2.80 billion pounds, was 3 percent below 1990 and accounted for 46 percent of total cheese in 1991.

Italian varieties continued their increase to a record 2.33 billion pounds, 5 percent above the 1990 production. Mozzarella accounted for 78 percent of the Italian production followed by ricotta with 9 percent and provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading state in Italian cheese production with 33 percent of the production.

Creamed cottage cheese, at 498 million pounds, was down 6 percent from 1990, while lowfat cottage cheese, at 321 million pounds, was up 6 percent.

Frozen dairy products were mixed in 1991. Ice cream production totaled 863 million gallons, up 5 percent. Ice milk, at 335 million gallons, was down 5 percent. Milk sherbet, at 47.4 million gallons, was down 6 percent. Frozen yogurt production, at 147 million gallons, was up 25 percent. The 259 million gallons of soft products (ice cream, ice milk, sherbet, and mellorine) made during 1991 accounted for 22 percent of the total frozen dairy products, excluding yogurt. Soft frozen dairy products are sold from direct-serve soft freezer and milk shake machines.

Nonfat dry milk for human food production, at 878 million pounds, was virtually unchanged from the 1990 production. Dry buttermilk production, at 59.9 million pounds, was up 7 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

May Prices Received	Crop Production
Pasture & Range	
Winter Wheat Production	
Barley County Estimates	

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 92-09 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: May 14, 1992

301 S. PARK
P.O. BOX 4369
HELENA, MONTANA 59604

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Montana Cattle & Calf Losses
- Pasture & Range Feed Condition
- Montana Sheep & Lamb Losses
- April Ag Prices Received
- Egg Receipts

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION AND HAY STOCKS

Montana's wheat growers expect to harvest 89 percent of the winter wheat planted last fall. Based on May 1 conditions, 2.1 million acres remain for harvest, up 17 percent from last year. Moisture is short to adequate in the major growing areas of the state, with above normal insect activity also stressing the crop. Some of Montana's winter wheat has been reseeded to spring wheat where favorable moisture existed, but poor stands will remain where dryness discourages reseeding.

Montana's winter wheat production is forecast at 65.1 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year. This year's winter wheat projected yield, at 31 bushels per acre, is down 9 bushels from last year.

For the nation, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.62 billion bushels, up 18 percent from 1991. Yields are expected to average 37.3 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from last year. The area to be harvested as grain is expected to total 43.3 million acres, up 10 percent from the previous year. Colorado's yield prospects are good, but additional moisture is needed to sustain the crop. In Kansas, the biggest concern is the shortness of soil moisture in the western third of the state.

Hay stocks on Montana farms as of May 1, 1992, were 1,349 thousand tons, up 20 percent from hay stocks on May 1, 1991, and up 51 percent from the May 1, 1990, stocks level. This year's stocks were 26 percent of 1991 production.

Nationally, hay stocks on farms totaled 28.6 million tons on May 1, 1992, up 6 percent from May 1 of the last 2 years. Disappearance of hay during the December 1, 1991-May 1, 1992 period totaled 82.9 million tons. This compares with 77.9 million tons during the same period a year earlier.

A toll free number is now available to potential buyers or sellers of Montana hay or pasture. Call 1-800-722-3276 for information.

WINTER WHEAT: ACRES, YIELD, & PRODUCTION--SELECTED STATES, 1990-1992

STATE	AREA HARVESTED 1991	AREA HARVESTED IND 1992	YIELD 1991	YIELD IND 1992	PRODUCTION 1990	PRODUCTION 1991	PRODUCTION IND 1992
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CA	410	560	80.0	80.0	42,560	32,800	44,800
CO	2,300	2,350	31.0	30.0	84,150	71,300	70,500
ID	700	800	70.0	70.0	69,000	49,000	56,000
IL	1,400	1,100	32.0	49.0	88,800	44,800	53,900
KS	11,000	11,100	33.0	33.0	472,000	363,000	366,300
MO	1,500	1,350	32.0	40.0	76,000	48,000	54,000
MT	1,800	2,100	40.0	31.0	87,500	72,000	65,100
NE	2,100	2,050	32.0	31.0	85,500	67,200	63,550
ND	90	185	33.0	33.0	4,320	2,970	6,105
OH	1,080	1,115	49.0	49.0	79,650	52,920	54,635
OK	5,000	6,100	28.0	30.0	201,600	140,000	183,000
OR	800	835	52.0	56.0	54,600	41,600	46,760
SD	1,300	1,400	35.0	30.0	57,600	45,500	42,000
TX	2,800	4,000	30.0	32.0	130,200	84,000	128,000
WA	700	2,100	58.0	60.0	138,600	40,600	126,000
WY	190	190	29.0	27.0	5,945	5,510	5,130
US	39,396	43,321	34.8	37.3	2,030,874	1,372,182	1,618,017

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--May 1, 1992 1/

District	1990	1991	1992	% chg. 92/91
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	1,045	992	1,090	110
N Central	48,439	41,808	32,800	78
Northeast	6,600	4,079	6,080	149
Central	15,968	14,315	13,590	95
Southwest	1,732	910	1,630	179
S Central	9,478	7,291	6,670	91
Southeast	4,238	2,605	3,240	124
Montana	87,500	72,000	65,100	90

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

1991 CATTLE AND CALVES LOSSES

Montana cattle death losses from all causes during 1991 totaled 26,000 head and calf death losses were placed at 60,000 head. Cattle killed by predators represented 1.2 percent of the total cattle losses. Calves lost due to predators were 3.0 percent of the total calves lost. Causes of death reported as a percent of total death losses were: digestive problems, cattle 15.4%, calves 27.0%; respiratory problems, cattle 15.4%, calves 15.8%; calving problems, cattle 11.5%, calves 22.3%; weather, cattle 13.8%, calves 15.0%; poison, cattle 5.4%, calves 0.7%; thefts, cattle 1.2%, calves 0.7%; other and unknown, cattle 36.2%, calves 15.5%.

Coyotes killed two-thirds of the calves lost to predators. Mountain lions and bobcats caused a third of the cattle predator losses and 11.1% of the calf losses. Dogs caused 5.6% of the calf losses while all other predators caused two thirds of the cattle and 6.3% of the calf losses. The value of cattle losses were placed at $19.9 million with predator losses accounting for $230,000 of the total. Calf losses were valued at $19.8 million with $595,000 attributed to predator losses.

A total of 4.37 million head of cattle and calves were lost from all causes during 1991 in the **United States**, excluding Alaska. Predators accounted for 106,000 head or 2.4 percent, while other causes made up the remainder. These total losses cost ranchers and farmers a total of $2.11 billion with predator losses at $41.5 million and other losses at $2.07 billion.

Coyotes were the largest cause of cattle and calf predator losses at 65,900 head or 61.9 percent of the total loss to predators. The value of coyote losses was $24.3 million. Dogs were the second leading cause of predator losses, accounting for 18.4 percent of predator losses. The western and mountain region accounted for 69.2 percent of all predator losses.

Respiratory problems lead the other causes with 31.1 percent of the total deaths. The value of these losses was $624 million. The second leading other cause of deaths in cattle and calves was digestive problems with 20.6 percent of the total. The value of these losses was $395 million.

This report is a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service, APHIS-Animal Damage Control and APHIS-National Animal Health Monitoring System. Data came from the January Livestock Survey, THANKS! to the nearly 1,800 Montana livestock producers that participated.

MAY 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pasture and range feed condition for May 1 was reported at 86% percent of normal, 9 points above last year. Range and pasture condition ratings were above last year in all areas except the north central which was 15 points below May 1, 1991. Moisture is badly needed to sustain early grass growth prompted by the warm spring weather. April rains in eastern Montana have improved condition ratings in that area to the best they've been in several years.

MONTANA, May 1, 1992
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

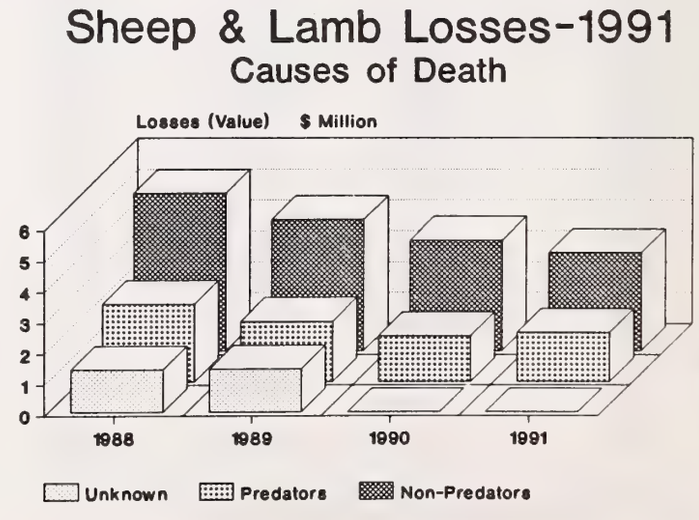
District	1990	1991	1992
Northwest	91	88	96
North Central	85	79	64
Northeast	49	61	91
Central	89	50	92
Southwest	78	65	75
South Central	91	84	90
Southeast	76	71	96
Montana	80	77	86

MONTANA SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES--1991

Montana sheep producers lost 142,000 sheep and lambs to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 1991, representing a total value of $5.3 million. Despite an increase of 7 percent in total head lost from 1990, the total value of inventory lost in 1991 decreased $417,000 from the previous year, largely due to a decrease in sheep and lamb prices.

Predators caused a $1.6 million loss, while non-predator factors caused $3.2 million and unknown causes claimed $550,400. Coyote predation remained the single largest cause of death with a $1.2 million loss. This accounts for 22 percent of the total value of death losses in the state.

Lambs killed by all predators amounted to 34,500, up 10 percent from last year. Sheep killed by predators totaled 10,400, up 37 percent. Lambs lost to weather, disease and other non-predator causes totaled 57,200, up 8 percent from 1990. Sheep losses to non-predator factors totaled 26,300, 3 percent less than last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes were 8,300 down 3 percent, and sheep were 5,300 down 2 percent from last year.



APRIL PRICES RECEIVED

The April 1992 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers moved up 3 points from March. This index of all farm products, at 177 percent of its January-December 1977 average, was most influenced by a 9 point increase in the all crops index.

The all crops index, at 152, was 32 points higher than a year ago. The mid-April all wheat price averaged $3.77, up 25 cents per bushel from March and $1.12 above April a year ago. Barley was $2.08 per bushel, down 1 cent from last month and 44 cents below the previous year. Oats, at $1.31 per bushel, were the same as April 1991 but down 9 cents from last month. Alfalfa hay prices increased $1.00 per ton to $51.00.

The all livestock index, at 199, was down 5 points from last month, and was 7 points lower than a year ago. Cow prices, at $51.80 per cwt, were down $1.30 per cwt from last month and $2.10 below a year ago. Calves, at $89.50, were down 90 cents from March and $11.50 less than a year ago. Steer and heifer prices increased 90 cents to $80.80 per cwt, $4.30 less than April 1991. Sheep, at $29.50 per cwt, were up $1.00 from March, while lambs rose $4.40 to $64.00.

Nationally, the April all farm products index of prices received moved down 1 point from March to 142 based on 1977=100. Price decreases in tomatoes, tobacco, sweet corn, and corn more than offset increases in hogs, potatoes, onions, and oranges. The index was 6 points below April 1991. Cattle, hogs, cotton, and peanut prices strongly contributed to the index decline. Higher wheat, milk, onion, and apple prices were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1992	MONTANA Apr. 15 1992	U.S. Apr. 15, 1992
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.55	3.48	3.71	3.67
Durum	Bu.	2.66	3.18	3.31	3.27
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.80	3.59	3.87	3.74
All Wheat	Bu.	2.65	3.52	3.77	3.66
Barley, All	Bu.	2.52	2.09	2.08	2.08
Feed	Bu.	--	2.03	2.01	2.00
Malt	Bu.	--	2.25	2.28	2.23
Oats	Bu.	1.31	1.40	1.31	1.39
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	61.00	50.00	51.00	74.70
All Other Hay	Ton	52.00	44.00	44.00	64.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	60.00	49.00	50.00	73.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	85.10	79.90	80.80	76.80
Cows	Cwt.	53.90	53.10	51.80	47.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	71.30	72.70	70.70	73.00
Calves	Cwt.	101.00	90.40	89.50	94.80
Sheep	Cwt.	19.40	28.50	29.50	30.40
Lambs	Cwt.	50.00	59.60	64.00	65.10
Hogs	Cwt.	46.40	35.20	37.80	41.00
All Milk	Cwt.	11.60	13.00	12.30	12.40
Eggs	Doz.	0.58	0.49	0.48	0.54
Wool 2/	Lb.	0.50	0.80	0.80	0.75
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	165	174	177	142
All Crops	Pct.	120	143	152	128
Livestock & Products	Pct.	206	204	199	156

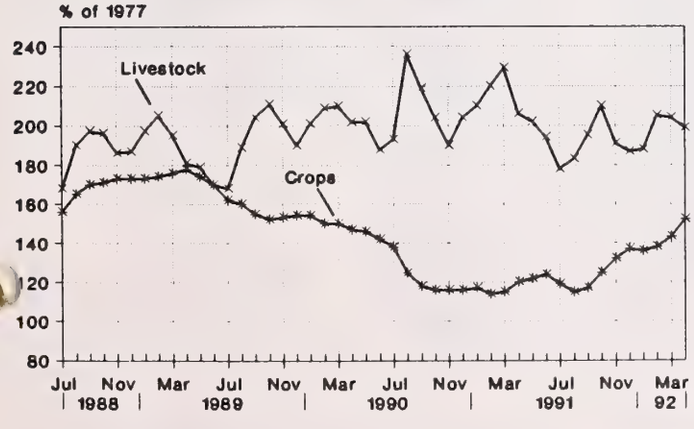
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

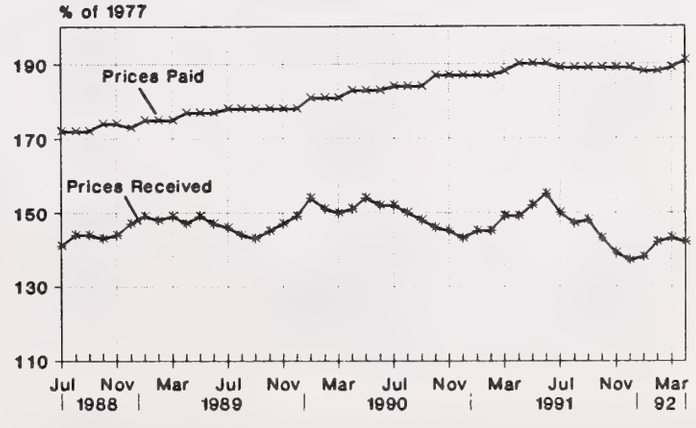
INDEX 1977=100	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1992	Apr. 1992
Prices Received	148	148	143	142
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/188	189	3/189	191
Ratio 1/	79	78	76	74

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1991 prices paid index. 3/ January 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA EGG RECEIPTS DOWN

Montana egg sales brought 7 percent less value to producers in 1991 compared with 1990. Value of production at $9.0 million was derived from 164 million eggs produced. The average price received by producers in 1991 was 66 cents per dozen compared with 68 cents in 1990.

The combined value of U.S. production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1991, was $14.7 billion, down 1 percent from the $14.8 billion in 1990. Of the combined total, 57 percent was from broilers, 26 percent from eggs, 16 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 1991 was $8.39 billion, up slightly from the $8.37 billion in 1990. The total number of broilers produced in 1991 was 6.14 billion, up 5 percent from 1990. The increased production was offset by lower prices. The 1991 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 30.8 cents per pound, compared to 32.6 cents per pound in 1990.

Value of egg production in 1991 was $3.86 billion, down 4 percent from the $4.01 billion in 1990. Egg production totaled 69.0 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 67.9 billion eggs produced in 1990. In 1991, eggs averaged 67.2 cents per dozen, compared with 70.9 cents in 1990.

The value of turkeys produced during 1991 was $2.34 billion, down 1 percent from the $2.38 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1991 totaled 6.11 billion pounds live weight, compared with 6.03 billion pounds in 1990. The prices received by producers during 1991 averaged 38.4 cents per pound of live weight, compared with 39.4 cents a year earlier.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 1991 was $67.5 million, down 25 percent from the $90.3 million a year ago. Prices averaged 7.2 cents per pound compared with 9.3 cents in 1990.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1990-1991 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1990	MONTANA 1991	UNITED STATES 1990	UNITED STATES 1991
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	000 Head	74	97	34,742	36,146
Sold	000 Head	645	458	208,392	197,518
Pounds Sold	000 Lbs.	2,580	1,832	972,373	938,490
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	4.5	4.0	9.3	7.2
Value of Sales	000 Dols.	116	73	90,311	67,548
EGGS					
Produced	Million	172	164	67,889	68,958
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	68.0	66.0	70.9	67.2
Value of Prod.	000 Dols.	9,747	9,020	4,009,695	3,861,351

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1, previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk PDI	
Milk Production	Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed	Farm Labor
Slaughter	Egg Production

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

HIGHLIGHTS:

Meat Animals Prod., Disp., & Income
All Wheat County Estimates
March Red Meat Production
March U.S. Egg Production
January - March Milk Production
Farmland Values
April 1 Potato Stocks
13 State Cattle on Feed

1991 WHEAT COUNTY ESTIMATES

The 1991 wheat county estimates will soon be available for distribution. We're publishing the "all wheat" figures in this publication, but estimates by class and cropping practice are available from this office upon request by calling 1-800-835-2612.

These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on acreage and production surveys conducted last fall. Nearly 5,300 questionnaires were tabulated. The majority were completed by telephone to ensure better coverage in each county. Thanks to those who provided information!

1991 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Total 1991 marketings of meat animals in Montana was 1,045.4 million pounds, a 9 percent drop from 1990 marketings. Cash receipts from marketings was $721.6 million compared with $812.6 million last year. Cattle cash receipts declined 11 percent from 1990 and hogs cash receipts were down 13 percent, but cash receipts for sheep and lambs were up 2 percent from 1990. The value of Montana's meat animal production was $806.6 million, up 4 percent from 1990 which reflects the increase in cattle numbers.

Cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lamb marketings for the U.S. in 1991 were all above 1990, resulting in total marketings of meat animals at 2 percent above 1990. However, U.S. prices received were higher only for calves between 1990 and 1991, resulting in total cash receipts of $51.1 billion for all meat animals, down 2 percent from 1990. The percentage breakdown of total U.S. cash receipts from marketings of meat animals by species in 1991 were: cattle and calves, 77%; hog and pigs, 22%; sheep and lambs, 1%.

Production of meat animals during 1991 totaled 65.0 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the 1990 production of 62.5 billion pounds. The value of meat animal production was $42.0 billion in 1991, up fractionally from 1990.

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS AND CASH RECEIPTS, 1990-91

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1990	MONTANA 1991	UNITED STATES 1990	UNITED STATES 1991
CATTLE & CALVES					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,017.1	913.7	53,315.9	53,829.0
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	70.60	69.80	74.60	72.70
Calves	Dols./Cwt	95.30	93.70	95.60	98.00
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols	751.7	665.6	39,943.9	39,632.1
HOGS & PIGS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	84.0	82.5	21,451.9	22,533.8
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	50.00	44.40	53.70	49.10
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	42.2	36.8	11,552.0	11,064.1
SHEEP & LAMBS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	49.4	49.1	882.1	917.1
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	17.60	18.50	23.20	19.70
Lambs	Dols/Cwt	48.30	46.80	55.50	52.20
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	18.7	19.1	414.2	399.1
Total Marketings 1/	Mil. Lbs.	1,150.5	1,045.4	75,649.9	77,279.9
Total Cash Receipts 1/	Mil. Dols.	812.6	721.6	51,910.1	51,095.3

1/ Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1991

County and District	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deerlodge	1,700	1,700	1,700	53.5	91,000	1,200	1,200	57.5	69,000
Flathead	12,200	12,100	11,000	59.6	656,000	4,800	4,700	61.1	287,000
Granite	600	600	600	53.3	32,000	200	200	55.0	11,000
Lake	16,800	16,800	15,100	56.4	851,000	9,200	8,900	55.3	492,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	600	600	600	46.7	28,000	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,700	2,700	2,300	39.1	90,000	600	600	53.3	32,000
Powell	1,200	1,200	1,100	48.2	53,000	300	300	50.0	15,000
Ravalli	1,400	1,400	1,200	53.3	64,000	500	400	52.5	21,000
Sanders	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	3,100	3,100	2,800	47.5	133,000	1,100	1,100	59.1	65,000
NORTHWEST	40,300	40,200	36,400	54.9	1,998,000	17,900	17,400	57.0	992,000
Blaine	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chouteau	475,800	435,400	414,700	45.5	18,856,000	4,100	4,100	68.0	279,000
Glacier	142,700	136,800	132,400	42.4	5,617,000	6,500	6,400	33.6	215,000
Hill	486,200	441,300	429,100	41.0	17,601,000	1,100	1,100	40.9	45,000
Liberty	242,600	225,600	219,300	46.8	10,266,000	2,300	2,300	49.6	114,000
Phillips	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pondera	184,200	162,200	160,300	47.5	7,608,000	15,100	14,900	61.4	915,000
Teton	156,900	136,500	129,800	47.1	6,116,000	9,400	7,800	54.4	424,000
Toole	225,000	211,800	204,000	42.6	8,682,000	300	300	46.7	14,000
Other	324,900	294,800	281,400	33.5	9,418,000	14,800	14,400	45.2	651,000
NORTH CENTRAL	2,238,300	2044,400	1971,000	42.7	84,164,000	53,600	51,300	51.8	2,657,000
Daniels	185,600	184,700	175,900	32.3	5,688,000	100	100	50.0	5,000
Dawson	145,200	130,300	114,700	27.4	3,141,000	900	900	51.1	46,000
Garfield	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
McCone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Richland	148,400	142,000	122,400	29.2	3,574,000	9,900	8,700	52.4	456,000
Roosevelt	295,000	275,300	226,500	27.5	6,218,000	900	800	48.8	39,000
Sheridan	234,000	230,000	213,900	30.0	6,420,000	2,200	2,100	52.4	110,000
Valley	288,500	260,200	228,400	26.6	6,074,000	13,800	12,500	40.9	512,000
Other	308,700	274,500	243,000	30.3	7,367,000	2,000	1,900	50.0	95,000
NORTHEAST	1,605,400	1497,000	1324,800	29.0	38,482,000	29,800	27,000	46.8	1,263,000
Broadwater	33,400	30,200	30,100	33.9	1,019,000	11,700	11,400	53.7	612,000
Cascade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fergus	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	43,800	39,800	37,800	29.7	1,121,000	800	700	51.4	36,000
Judith Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	27,500	27,500	23,800	41.3	983,000	4,900	4,900	71.8	352,000
Meagher	13,000	13,000	7,500	25.7	193,000	500	500	48.0	24,000
Musselshell	42,200	42,200	37,400	34.4	1,286,000	400	400	55.0	22,000
Petroleum	26,300	26,300	20,400	42.4	864,000	900	800	47.5	38,000
Wheatland	39,000	38,800	34,600	25.9	895,000	300	200	50.0	10,000
Other	381,300	353,300	305,100	37.4	11,416,000	7,200	6,500	53.7	349,000
CENTRAL	606,500	571,100	496,700	35.8	17,777,000	26,700	25,400	56.8	1,443,000
Beaverhead	7,300	6,400	5,900	39.5	233,000	2,500	2,500	66.4	166,000
Gallatin	44,700	41,500	34,400	41.5	1,428,000	10,300	9,400	70.7	665,000
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	12,300	11,300	9,400	32.7	307,000	3,200	3,100	53.2	165,000
SOUTHWEST	64,300	59,200	49,700	39.6	1,968,000	16,000	15,000	66.4	996,000
Big Horn	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbon	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Park	12,800	12,800	11,100	25.6	284,000	2,100	1,800	38.3	69,000
Stillwater	46,900	46,900	42,100	31.2	1,313,000	400	400	62.5	25,000
Sweetgrass	4,400	4,400	3,800	20.5	78,000	100	100	50.0	5,000
Treasure	4,800	4,800	3,900	44.6	174,000	1,900	1,400	67.1	94,000
Yellowstone	86,800	86,700	72,800	32.1	2,338,000	3,000	2,800	66.4	186,000
Other	141,600	139,300	122,000	32.5	3,966,000	8,200	6,000	64.7	388,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	297,300	294,900	255,700	31.9	8,153,000	15,700	12,500	61.4	767,000
Carter	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Custer	39,000	39,000	34,900	26.3	918,000	2,000	2,000	70.0	140,000
Fallon	42,000	38,900	37,300	30.9	1,151,000	--	--	--	--
Powder River	27,600	25,800	24,700	24.4	602,000	700	700	45.7	32,000
Prairie	42,000	36,900	34,100	29.9	1,020,000	1,600	1,500	81.3	122,000
Rosebud	56,100	56,100	49,500	30.6	1,513,000	4,100	3,100	51.0	158,000
Wibaux	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	71,200	68,500	64,200	27.4	1,761,000	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	277,900	265,200	244,700	28.5	6,965,000	8,400	7,300	62.0	452,000
MONTANA	5,130,000	4,772,000	4,379,000	36.4	159,507,000	168,100	155,900	55.0	8,570,000

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of wheat are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acress less winter wheat acres replanted to spring wheat.

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in March 1992. This is a 3 percent decrease from February but is a 17 percent increase from production of a year ago. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,300 head, is up 100 from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughter was 1,163 pounds, an increase of 98 pounds from March 1991.

A total of 2,400 hogs were slaughtered, 400 more than last year. Average live weight was 234 pounds, compared with 219 a year ago. There were 200 head of sheep and lambs slaughtered, the same as last March. Average live weight of lamb and mutton animals was 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.38 billion pounds, 10 percent above a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.85 billion pounds. This was up 8 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.67 million, up 6 percent. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 1,160. Veal production, at 27.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 122,400 head, up 1 percent. The average live weight increased 32 pounds to 382.

Pork production, at 1.47 billion pounds, was up 13 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 8.12 million head, up 13 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 251. Lamb and mutton production, at 32.0 million pounds, was down 10 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 496,800 head, down 12 percent. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 129.

MARCH U.S. EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.03 billion during March 1992, up 2 percent from the 5.91 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.19 billion table eggs, 774 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 69.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during March averaged 278 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,167 eggs, compared with 2,169 in March 1991.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1992 totaled 278 million, up 3 percent from last year's 271 million layers. The 278 million layers consisted of 234 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.09 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1992, averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from last year's 70.3 eggs.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.96 billion eggs during March, up 2 percent from the 4.89 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during March averaged 228 million, up 1 percent from the 225 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states (which include **Montana**) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, December 1991 through February 1992.

JANUARY - MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

Montana dairymen produced 84 million pounds of milk in the January-March quarter of 1992 equaling production from the same quarter last year. The average number of milk cows on farms remains unchanged from 1991, at 24,000 head. Milk production per cow continues to increase with the 3-month average of 3,520 pounds compared with 3,490 pounds for the 1991 quarter.

Producers fed an average of 16 pounds of grain and other concentrates per cow on April 1, 1992, the same average as last year. The value of grain and concentrates fed was $7.20 per cwt, up 25 cents from 1991.

The quarterly production of milk for the **U.S.** was 37.9 billion pounds, 1 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.85 million head, 247 thousand less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1992, averaged 18.1 pounds, one-tenth of a pound more than on April 1, 1991. Value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1, averaged $7.76 per cwt, $0.01 less than the April 1, 1991, price.

FARMLAND VALUES UP 4 PERCENT

Real estate values in **Montana** rose 4 percent in 1991. The average real estate per acre value on January 1, 1992, was $252 per acre compared with $243 last January. This year's value is 26 percent above the 10-year low of $200 for 1987. The average value includes farmland and buildings.

The per acre value of **U.S.** farm real estate gained 1 percent during 1991, the fifth consecutive increase since its downward slide ended in 1987. On January 1, 1992, the value of farmland and buildings average $685 per acre, 14 percent above the 1987 low of $599, but 17 percent below the record $823 in 1982. Value increases recently leveled off, averaging only 1 to 2 percent annually during 1990 to 1992. However, regional and state value changes showed more variation.

With inflation averaging 3.6 percent in 1991, the inflation-adjusted per acre value of U.S. farm real estate fell 3 percent below January 1991. Real values have trended lower since 1981, and are currently 49 percent below the 1981 peak.

Investors looking at farmland try to forecast economic conditions several years into the future. Many developments in 1991 did not lend support to higher U.S. farmland values. Following substantially higher farm incomes in 1989 and 1990, net cash income fell 8 percent in 1991 and net farm income dropped 17 percent. Even though nominal interest rates declined in 1991, inflation-adjusted rates remained high. Financial factors pointed to a leveling off in recent declines in farm debt and debt-to-asset ratios. Sluggish national and regional economies lessened demand for farmland for nonagricultural uses, particularly near urban centers. Also, some areas experienced severe drought, particularly portions of California and other western states.

APRIL 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers had 1.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage as of April 1, 1992, compared with 1.4 million cwt a year ago. These April 1 stocks represent 61 percent of 1991 production.

U.S. potato stocks totaled 110 million cwt on April 1, 1992, up 8 percent from last year and 30 percent above two years ago. Stocks made up 30 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage states, compared with 29 percent a year ago. Seasonal disappearance was 254 million cwt, 5 percent more than last year. Processor usage of 117 million cwt of potatoes was up 1 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 25.8 million cwt, 7 percent above last year.

Western potato stocks totaled 82.8 million cwt in six states, up 6 percent from last year and 28 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks were the same as last year and accounted for 56 percent of the western holdings. Montana stocks, which are mostly seed potatoes, were 21 percent higher than a year ago. Washington stocks were up 7 percent, Oregon was up 32 percent, and Colorado was up 23 percent from a year ago. California stocks were off 5 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 10 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 states preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.70 million head, down 10 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below April 1, 1990. The inventory included 6.33 million steers and steer calves, 10 percent below a year ago. This group accounts for 65.3 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.31 million head, 9 percent below a year ago.

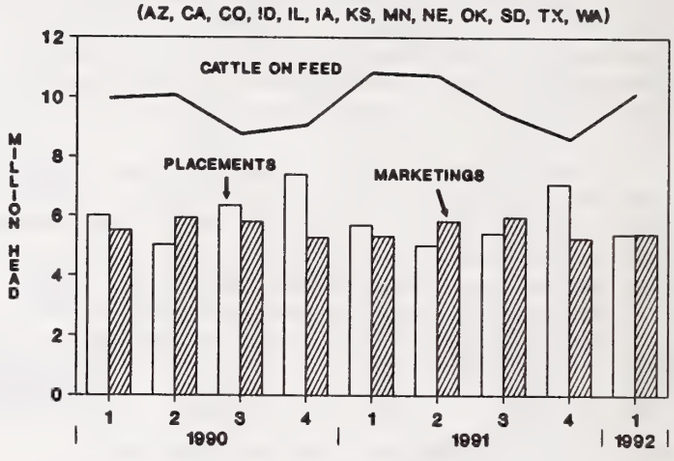
Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 states during the January-March 1992 quarter totaled 5.39 million, down 5 percent from last year and 10 percent below January-March 1990. Net placements of 4.99 million for January-March was down 5 percent from last year and 11 percent from 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during the January-March 1992 quarter totaled 5.42 million, up 2 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 404,000 head compared to 462,000 in January-March 1991 and 385,000 in January-March 1990.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses	Ag Prices
Cattle & Calf Losses	Poultry PDI
Annual Dairy Products	Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Production	Pasture & Range

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 92-06 (0279–0394)
RELEASED: March 27, 1992

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HIGHLIGHTS:

February Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
1991 Red Meat Production
February Milk Production
Quarterly Egg Production
March 1 Potato Stocks
Ag Chemical Use
featuring...Jefferson County

PLEASE RETURN

FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in February 1992. This is a 16 percent decrease from January, but is a 15 percent increase from production of a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered in the state, at 1,400 head, is up 100 from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughter was 1,140 pounds, an increase of 60 pounds from February, 1991.

A total of 2,300 hogs were slaughtered, 500 more than last year. Average live weight was 240 pounds, compared with 215 a year ago. Sheep and lamb slaughter was 300 head, up 100 from February 1991. Average live weight of lamb and mutton animals decreased 4 pounds from last year to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.09 billion pounds, 5 percent above a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.71 billion pounds. This was up 1 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.44 million, down 1 percent. The average live weight increased 11 pounds to 1,173.

Veal production, at 25.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 113,000 head, down 8 percent. The average live weight increased 28 pounds to 374. Pork production, at 1.33 billion pounds, was up 10 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.33 million head, up 10 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 252.

Lamb and mutton production, at 28.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 436,300 head, down 5 percent. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 128. January-February red meat production was 6.71 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent while veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 10 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 5 percent.

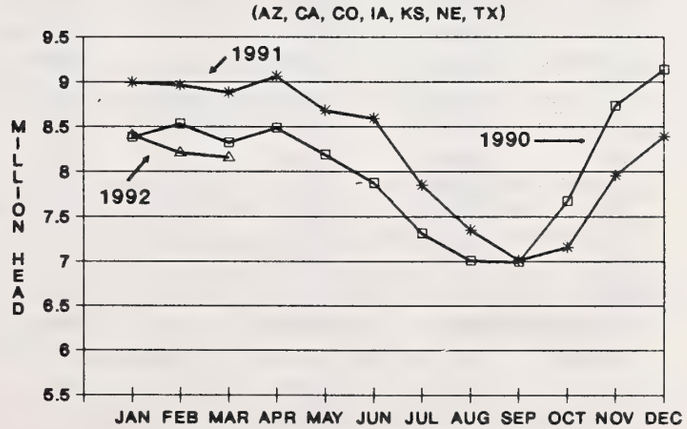
CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 8 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.16 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below March 1,1990.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during February totaled 1.47 million, up 1 percent from last year and 6 percent above 1990. Net placements of 1.35 million for February were up 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.40 million, down 2 percent from last year and 6 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest February marketings since 1975. Other disappearance totaled 120,000 head compared to 113,000 in February 1991 and 95,000 in February 1990.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION 1991

Red meat production in **Montana** totaled 16.6 million pounds during 1991. Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 18,700 head, with an average live weight of 1,145 pounds. Hog slaughter totaled 28,200 head, with an average live weight of 235 pounds. A total of 4,400 lamb and mutton animals were slaughtered, with an average live weight of 124 pounds.

Red meat production for the **United States** during 1991 totaled 39.6 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 1990. Production included beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton slaughter in commercial plants and on farms.

Beef production was 22.9 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 1990. Veal production was 306 million pounds, down 6 percent from 1990. Pork production was 16.0 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 1990. Lamb and mutton production totaled 362 million pounds, unchanged from 1990.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1991 totaled 32.7 million head, down 2 percent from 1990, with federal inspection comprising 97.5 percent of the total compared with 97.4 last year. Calf slaughter, at 1.44 million head, was down 20 percent from the previous year with 97.4 percent under federal inspection. Hog kill totaled 88.2 million head, up 4 percent from 1990 with federal inspection comprising 97.5 percent. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 5.72 million head, was up 1 percent from 1990 with federal inspection comprising 96.2 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered commercially in 1991 was 1,163 pounds, up 27 pounds from 1990. The calf average live weight was 346 pounds for 1991, an increase of 63 pounds from the previous year. The average live weight for hogs increased 3 pounds to 252. Sheep and lambs averaged 124 pounds live weight, down 1 pound from 1990.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER BY SPECIES AND TOTAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION, MONTANA, 1991

Month	Cattle	Pork	Sheep & Lambs	Red Meat
	Number of Head			(000) Lbs.
JAN	1,500	2,200	200	1,257
FEB	1,300	1,800	200	1,088
MAR	1,200	2,000	200	1,032
APR	1,500	2,400	300	1,336
MAY	1,500	2,200	300	1,376
JUN	1,600	2,200	300	1,437
JUL	1,600	2,700	400	1,481
AUG	1,900	2,700	800	1,744
SEP	1,500	2,400	600	1,405
OCT	1,800	2,600	400	1,569
NOV	1,700	2,500	500	1,497
DEC	1,500	2,500	300	1,350
TOTAL	18,700	28,200	4,400	16,572

MEAT PRODUCTION: FEDERALLY INSPECTED, COMMERCIAL AND FARM, BY MONTHS AND TOTAL, UNITED STATES, 1991 1/

MONTH	BEEF		VEAL		PORK 2/		LAMB AND MUTTON		TOTAL RED MEAT 2/	
	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL
	MILLION POUNDS									
COMMERCIAL 3/										
JAN	1,927	1,970	30	31	1,363	1,396	32	33	3,351	3,429
FEB	1,659	1,695	25	25	1,176	1,204	29	30	2,889	2,954
MAR	1,683	1,720	24	25	1,272	1,300	35	36	3,015	3,081
APR	1,834	1,872	22	23	1,332	1,361	28	29	3,216	3,285
MAY	1,910	1,947	23	23	1,262	1,291	29	30	3,223	3,291
JUN	1,840	1,874	19	20	1,114	1,140	24	25	2,998	3,060
JUL	1,962	1,996	21	22	1,179	1,207	27	28	3,189	3,253
AUG	2,040	2,077	21	22	1,270	1,299	26	27	3,358	3,425
SEP	1,900	1,940	23	24	1,286	1,316	27	28	3,237	3,308
OCT	2,070	2,114	27	28	1,502	1,534	31	32	3,629	3,708
NOV	1,774	1,813	25	26	1,424	1,456	28	29	3,251	3,324
DEC	1,742	1,782	27	27	1,409	1,444	30	31	3,207	3,284
TOTAL										
COMMERCIAL		22,800		296		15,949		357		39,401
FARM		117		10		51		5		183
TOTAL	22,340	22,917	287	306	15,588	16,000	346	362	38,561	39,584

1/ Months may not add to totals due to rounding. 2/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat. 3/ Based on packers' dressed weight and excludes farm slaughter.

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during February totaled 10.2 billion pounds, 3 percent above the production in these same states in February 1991. January revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds, was slightly above January 1991.

Production per cow in the 21 major milk producing states averaged 1,230 pounds for February, 61 pounds more than February 1991. February 1992 had 29 days. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.27 million head, 214 thousand head less than February 1991 and 26 thousand less than January 1992.

During the October-December period, the 21 major states produced 30.6 billion pounds of milk, 84.6 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. milk production would be 12.0 billion pounds for February 1992.

EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 40 million eggs during the December 1991 through February 1992 quarter, compared with 38 million during the same quarter last year. Layers in the 1992 quarter averaged 610,000 compared with 580,000 in 1991.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.5 billion eggs during the December through February quarter, up 3 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 15.0 billion table eggs, 2.24 billion broiler-type hatching eggs, and 187 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 279 million, up 2 percent from the 273 million a year ago.

All layers in the **U.S.** on March 1, 1992, totaled 278 million, compared with 273 million a year ago. The 278 million layers consisted of 234 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 3.07 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1992, averaged 69.3 eggs per 100 layers compared with 69.5 for March 1, 1991.

MARCH 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers had 2.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage as of March 1, 1992, compared with 1.9 million a year ago. The March 1 stocks represent 82 percent of 1991 production.

Western potato stocks totaled 108 million cwt in six states, up 7 percent from last year and 24 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 2 percent from last year and accounted for 55 percent of the western holdings. Montana, with seed potatoes, was up 21 percent. Washington stocks were up 7 percent, Oregon was up 29 percent, and Colorado was up 19 percent from a year ago. California stocks were off 4 percent.

Potato stocks in the **U.S.** on March 1 totaled 146 million cwt, up 9 percent from a year ago and 25 percent above two years ago. Disappearance was a record high 218 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 4 percent from last year. Shrink and loss of 23.3 million cwt was 5 percent above a year ago. Processor usage, at 101 million cwt of potatoes for the season, was down slightly, although the amount processed in February was up 8 percent.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USE

The second annual field crops summary issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), containing on-farm agricultural chemical use statistics, is now available. The data presented in this report are part of the data series on chemical use funded through the President's Water Quality Initiative.

The Water Quality Initiative is a multi-agency program designed to provide information for farmers, ranchers, and foresters to address on-farm and off-farm environmental issues. In the past, there has been an inadequate amount of farm level data to determine the magnitude of water quality problems or to permit an assessment of alternatives for farmers and other affected parties.

This report and other agricultural chemical reports help fill the needs of analysts evaluating the complex environmental issues of the 1990's. It includes farm use of fertilizers and pesticides during 1991 on corn, cotton, peanuts, potatoes, rice, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat. New in this year's report is pesticide and fertilizer usage on peanuts and sorghum.

Wheat Highlights

• About 84 percent of the winter wheat acres in the 15 states surveyed was treated with nitrogen fertilizer. Colorado and South Dakota were the only states where growers treated less than 70 percent of the acres harvested. The average number of applications was 1.5 and averaged 43 pounds per application. Phosphate fertilizer was used in all states surveyed, with about 50 percent of the acreage being treated. The percent coverage was above 90 percent in Illinois and Ohio, but was only 11 percent in Oregon. The average number of applications and pounds per application was 1.0 and 39, respectively. Potash was used on 19 percent of the acreage in the 15 state area, with producers in soft red winter states treating the highest percentages.

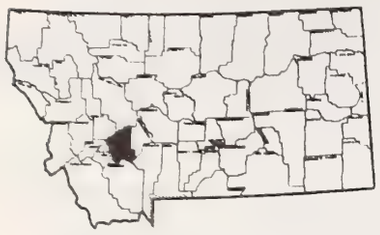
• Producers in all surveyed states treated some portion of their harvested area with herbicides. The two most commonly used herbicides were 2,4-D and chlorsulfuron, which were used on 13 and 9 percent of the acreage, respectively. Percentage of acreage treated with herbicides was highest in the Pacific Northwest and **Montana.** Insecticide and fungicide use on winter wheat was low overall.

• The percent of spring wheat acres treated with fertilizer in the 4 states surveyed (MN, **MT**, ND, SD) averaged 72, 63, and 23 percent for nitrogen, phosphate, and potash, respectively. Minnesota had the highest percent of area treated for all three primary plant nutrients.

• Herbicides were widely used on spring wheat in all states; none had less than 85 percent of the planted area treated. The two most commonly used herbicides were 2,4-D and MCPA, which were used on 56 percent and 38 percent of the acreage, respectively. In **Montana,** Dicamba replaced MCPA as the second most commonly used herbicide. Insecticide and fungicide applications were limited.

Call our office at (800) 835-2612 if you would like more information.

featuring...JEFFERSON COUNTY



Created in February of 1865, Jefferson County is one of the original counties of the Territory of Montana. With a land area of 1,060,172 acres, it has within its boundaries parts of the Deer Lodge and Helena National Forests. The Boulder River traverses the county from west to east.

In 1989, all cash receipts from farming in Jefferson County totaled $11,967,000. That figure brought the county a ranking of 49th place. Livestock receipts were $7,289,000 and ranked 46th, while crops brought in $3,704,000 and ranked 42nd. Government payments made up the rest of the total with $974,000.

Jefferson County ranked 42nd for cattle on January 1, 1990, and 37th for hog numbers on December 1, 1989, and 45th for sheep on January 1, 1990. The county ranked 18th for hay production and 29th for oats production in 1990. Some barley and wheat are also grown.

Jefferson County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,060,172	Total Cropland	Acres	74,101
Land in Farms	Acres	378,805	Harvested Cropland	Acres	35,860
Number of Farms		256	Irrigated Land	Acres	28,932
Average size Farms	Acres	1,480			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	25,356	All Cattle & Calves	No. Head	20,871
All Wheat	Acres	6,583	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	1,894
Barley	Acres	3,308	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,905
Oats	Acres	984			

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs and Pigs
Grain Stocks
March Prices Received
Prospective Plantings
Wool and Mohair

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat & Barley Movement
Montana's Rank
February Prices Received
DNRC Grant Deadline

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MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1991, at 65.0 million bushels, was 11 percent above the same period last year.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 14 percent above the previous June-November period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was down 36 percent. Shipments to other destinations (primarily Colorado and Arizona) were down 28 percent. Rail movement amounted to 59.7 million bushels, up from 52.3 million shipped by rail during the same period in 1990. Trucks carried 5.4 million bushels compared with 6.3 million the previous June-November period.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1991 was 7.8 million bushels, down 56 percent from the same period last year. Barley shipped west amounted to 6.3 million bushels, down 58 percent from the 14.9 million bushels in the June-November 1990 period. Eastern shipments totalled 1.5 million bushels, down 45 percent from the 2.7 million bushels the previous year. Movement to other destinations, totalling 89,000 bushels, was down 63 percent from the same period last year.

Wheat & Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination 1/

Agricultural Statistics District	June-Nov. 1990	June-November 1991			June-Nov. 1990	June-Nov. 1991
	All Wheat	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Barley
	(000) Bushels					
West 3/	1,970	517	2,514	3,031	6,650	3,199
North Central	31,857	19,353	17,917	37,270	7,552	3,369
Northeast	6,214	545	8,295	8,840	200	496
Central	8,654	7,948	1,189	9,137	3,518	768
South Central	8,014	4,463	476	4,939	9	7
Southeast	1,814	997	805	1,802	4	0
Trucked East	122	63	115	178	205	20
Trucked West	5,886	2,788	2,082	4,870	1,348	886
Trucked Other 4/	265	66	240	306	113	89
TOTAL BY TRUCK	6,273	2,917	2,437	5,354	1,666	995
Rail East	1,413	0	799	799	2,538	1,479
Rail West	49,478	30,906	27,095	58,001	13,600	5,365
Rail Other 4/	1,359	0	865	865	129	0
TOTAL BY RAIL	52,250	30,906	28,759	59,665	16,267	6,844
TOTAL SHIPPED	58,523	33,823	31,196	65,019	17,933	7,839

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

MONTANA'S RANK HIGHLIGHTS

- Production figures increased in rank from 1990 for all crops except: barley, alfalfa hay, dry beans and sugar beets which remain unchanged in rank. All in all, 1991 was an outstanding year. If acreage planted would have been at normal levels, our production increases would be more noticeable.

- The biggest increase in livestock ranking appeared for hogs and pigs which jumped from 35th position to 24th. The others weren't quite as dramatic--all cows rose in rank from 9 to 8, wool production increased from 5 to 4, and honey climbed from 9 to 7, while all others remained constant.

- Egg production is the only commodity that fell in rank from 1990, dropping from 40 to 41.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Land in farms and ranches	60,300,000	acres	1991	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:				
Total	1,605,731,000	dollars	1990	33
Crops	742,052,000	dollars	1990	31
Livestock	863,679,000	dollars	1990	30
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND PRODUCTION				
All Cattle & Calves	2,550,000	head	Jan. 1, 1992	13
All Cows	1,490,000	head	Jan. 1, 1992	8
Beef Cows	1,466,000	head	Jan. 1, 1992	6
Milk Cows	24,000	head	Jan. 1, 1992	42
Cattle on Feed	90,000	head	Jan. 1, 1992	20
Hogs and Pigs	225,000	head	Dec. 1, 1991	24
Sheep and Lambs	688,000	head	Jan. 1, 1992	5
Wool Production	6,226,000	pounds	1990	4
All Chickens	780,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1991	42
Egg Production	164,000,000	eggs	1991	41
Honey Production	7,912,000	pounds	1991	7
CROPS (Production)				
All Wheat	159,507,000	bushels	1991	3
Winter Wheat	72,000,000	bushels	1991	4
Durum Wheat	5,907,000	bushels	1991	2
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	81,600,000	bushels	1991	2
Barley	85,800,000	bushels	1991	2
Oats	6,050,000	bushels	1991	11
All Hay	5,190,000	tons	1991	10
Alfalfa Hay	3,750,000	tons	1991	9
Dry Beans	158,000	cwt	1991	14
Potatoes--fall	2,790,000	cwt	1991	12
Sugar Beets	1,312,000	tons	1991	8
Corn				
Grain	1,800,000	bushels	1991	40
Silage	1,062,000	tons	1991	23

PRESS RELEASE PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers received higher prices during mid-February for most of the products they sold compared with a month earlier. The mid-February all farm products index of prices received increased 18 points from the whole month of January. The index, at 181 (1977 = 100), was 12 points higher than a year earlier.

The all crops index, at 159, was 23 points higher than January, and 45 points higher than a year ago. All cereal grains showed increases at mid-February compared with January. The mid-February all wheat price averaged $3.92, up 67 cents per bushel from January and $1.39 above February a year ago. The all wheat price has not been above $3.90 since July of 1989. Barley was $2.36 per bushel, up 11 cents from last month and 11 cents above the previous year. Oats, at $1.44 per bushel, were up 2 cents from January and 16 cents above February 1991. Alfalfa hay prices decreased $1.00 per ton to $50.

The all livestock index, at 203, was up 15 points from last month, but was 17 points lower than a year ago. Cow prices, at $49.70 per cwt, were up $1.70 per cwt from last month but $4.50 below a year ago. Calves, at $91.60, were up $3.70 from January but $13.40 less than a year ago. Steer and heifer prices increased $3.50 to $83.10 per cwt, $6.60 less than February 1991. Sheep, at $28.00 per cwt, were up 10 cents from January, while lambs rose $3.30 to $54.70.

Nationally, the February all farm products index of prices received increased 4 points from January to 142 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of cattle, hogs, wheat, and tomatoes were partially offset by lower prices for milk, eggs, cotton, and strawberries.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1992	MONTANA Feb. 15 1992	U.S. Feb. 15, 1992
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.43	3.19	3.96	4.04
Durum	Bu.	2.55	2.85	3.46	3.40
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.65	3.35	3.91	3.99
All Wheat	Bu.	2.53	3.25	3.92	3.98
Barley, All	Bu.	2.25	2.25	2.36	2.14
Feed	Bu.	--	2.03	2.06	1.94
Malt	Bu.	--	2.56	2.78	2.39
Oats	Bu.	1.28	1.42	1.44	1.45
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	60.00	51.00	50.00	76.10
All Other Hay	Ton	53.00	45.00	44.00	57.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	59.00	50.00	49.00	70.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	89.70	79.60	83.10	77.20
Cows	Cwt.	54.20	48.00	49.70	48.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	76.70	65.10	71.40	72.70
Calves	Cwt.	105.00	87.90	91.60	93.00
Sheep	Cwt.	20.50	27.90	28.00	30.50
Lambs	Cwt.	41.20	51.40	54.70	55.60
Hogs	Cwt.	47.20	33.50	38.00	40.40
All Milk	Cwt.	11.45	14.00	13.90	13.20
Eggs	Doz.	.66	.53	.50	.54
Wool 2/	Lb.	.55	.60	.60	.47
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	169	163	181	142
All Crops	Pct.	114	136	159	127
Livestock & Products	Pct.	220	188	203	157

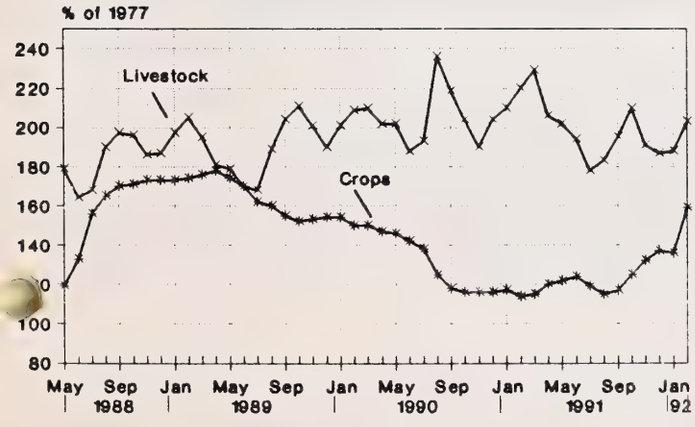
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

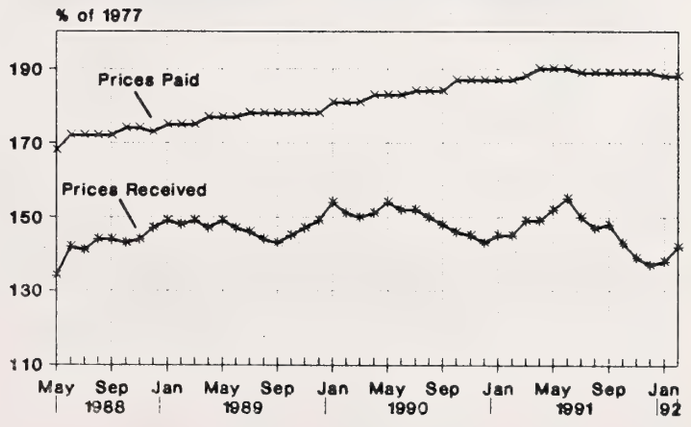
INDEX 1977=100	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1991	Jan. 1992	Feb. 1992
Prices Received	144	144	138	142
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	188	2/188	188	3/188
Ratio 1/	77	77	73	76

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1991 prices paid index. 3/ January 1992 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION GRANT DEADLINE MAY 15

Extended drought periods and the need to upgrade aging systems have caused water users to look to DNRC for grant and low-interest loan funding. Water shortages are a chronic problem for irrigators and other users along the Musselshell River. Scheduled water delivery from Deadman's Basin Reservoir was initiated in 1990 to control the demand for and more accurately account for irrigation water. According to plan, measuring devices were required in 1991 before delivery of stored contract water began.

In 1991 the legislature approved grant funding to implement another aspect of the district's management strategy. Funds will be used to install instruments to measure tributary inflows and diversion flows, detect delivery system seepage loss and failure, and to collect reservoir content and release rate data.

The deadline for grant and loan applications for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's resource development program is May 15. DNRC administers two programs that provide funding for communities to develop the efficient use of natural resources in the state: the Water Development Program and the Renewable Resource Development Program. State and local government agencies and their subdivisions, including conservation and irrigation districts, are eligible to apply for these funds.

The Water Development Program funds projects that promote the development and efficient use of natural resources that are water related. Waste storage is a high priority under the Water Development Program but groundwater protection, water-based recreation development and irrigation system improvements are examples of projects that have been considered for funding in the past.

The Renewable Resource Development program supports projects to develop Montana's renewable natural resources. Water development projects are eligible under the Renewable Resource program, but other projects that preserve the state's natural resources are also eligible. For example, in 1991 the legislature approved a cereal-legume crop rotation experiment designed to demonstrate the benefits of this alternative agricultural practice.

A legislative committee actually selects and sets funding priorities. DNRC provides advice to the committee, according to Jeanne Doney, DNRC Program Manager. "The Department's role is to screen grant and loan requests to determine whether projects are financially and technically feasible," she explained. "The feasible grant requests are then ranked according to standard criteria to determine those that make the most efficient use of our state's natural resources."

More information and application materials can be obtained from Doney in care of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 1520 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620, phone 444-6839.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Egg Production	
Potato Stocks	Milk Production
Annual Slaughter	Cattle on Feed
Ag Chemical Usage	Slaughter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
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RELEASED: February 28, 1992

301 S. PARK
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

HIGHLIGHTS:

January Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
January Farm Labor
January Milk Production
February 1 Potato Stocks
January Egg Production
Honey Production

PLEASE RETURN

JANUARY U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH

There were 1.5 million pounds of red meat produced by **Montana** slaughter plants during January, up 11 percent from last month and up 19 percent from January 1991.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,700 head, rose 200 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,120 pounds compared with 1,075 last year. A total of 2,700 hogs were slaughtered, 500 more than in January 1991. The average live weight of the hogs slaughtered was 236 pounds, 16 pounds heavier than last year. Sheep and lambs slaughter totaled 300 head, an increase of 100 head from last January. Average live weight of lamb and mutton animals slaughter decreased 10 pounds to an average of 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.62 billion pounds. This production is 6 percent above a year earlier, 4 percent higher than the previous January record of 3.48 billion pounds set in 1986, and the second highest production of any month. The all-time high monthly red meat production was 3.72 billion pounds in October 1991. January 1992 and 1991 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays.

Beef production totaled 2.04 billion pounds. This was up 4 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.93 million, up 2 percent. The average live weight increased 29 pounds to 1,173. Veal production, at 28.0 million pounds, was down 8 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 131,100 head, down 14 percent. The average live weight increased 48 pounds to 366.

Pork production, at 1.52 billion pounds, was up 9 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 8.34 million head, up 9 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 255. Lamb and mutton production, at 31.0 million pounds, was down 4 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 483,800 head, down 5 percent. The average live weight was 128 pounds, the same as a year earlier.

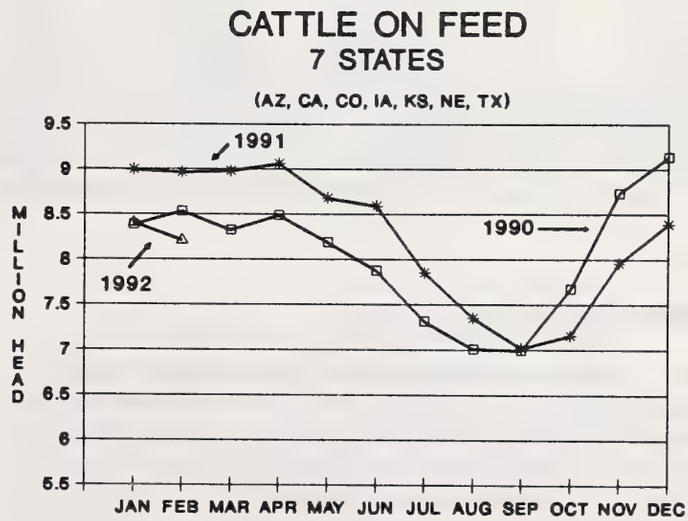
CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 8 PERCENT IN 7 MONTHLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market on February 1, 1992, in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.20 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below February 1,1990.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during January totaled 1.57 million, down 9 percent from last year and 17 percent below 1990. This is the lowest January placements since 1985. Net placements of 1.47 million for January was down 9 percent from last year and 17 percent below 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.66 million, up 2 percent from last year and 3 percent above two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 99,000 head compared to 118,000 in January 1991 and 114,000 in January 1990.



JANUARY WAGE RATES HIGHER

A total of 2.57 million people worked on the **Nation's** farms and ranches during the week of January 12-18, 1992. This compares with 2.61 million workers in January 1991. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.43 million of the total, along with 321,000 unpaid workers, and 703,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 123,000 workers.

Farm operators in the **U.S.** paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.37 per hour during the January 1992 survey week. This rate was up 37 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.97 per hour compared with $5.62 last January. Field workers received an average of $5.99 per hour, up 30 cents from the January 1991 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.62 per hour compared with $5.32 a year earlier.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes **Montana**, Idaho and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.92 per hour during the January 1992 survey week. This rate was up 54 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.66 per hour compared with $5.26 last January. Field workers received an average of $6.16 per hour, up $1.13 from the January 1991 survey week. Livestock workers in the Mountain I region earned $5.61 compared with $5.02 per hour a year earlier.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 44 percent of the Nation's hired workers during the survey week. This compares with 45 percent last year.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JANUARY 12-18, 1992 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	6.85	5.00	5.72	10.46	8.97	6.36	3/	6.58
NORTHEAST II	6.36	5.22	5.71	11.31	6.57	6.39	3/	6.55
APPALACHIAN I	5.38	5.52	5.44	9.07	3/	5.46	3/	6.62
APPALACHIAN II	5.61	5.40	5.52	3/	3/	5.67	3/	5.70
SOUTHEAST	5.43	5.55	5.48	9.65	7.71	5.69	3/	6.64
FL	5.87	6.00	5.88	10.65	8.15	5.93	6.00	8.50
LAKE	5.60	4.76	5.04	9.33	7.83	5.44	3/	6.18
CORNBELT I	6.87	5.69	6.31	8.29	6.59	6.43	3/	6.84
CORNBELT II	5.78	5.98	5.94	7.65	6.17	5.80	3/	6.61
DELTA	5.45	5.13	5.37	3/	5.24	5.24	3/	6.35
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.91	5.77	5.80	7.90	6.19	5.93	3/	6.31
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.91	4.95	4.93	7.54	6.87	5.02	3/	5.51
MOUNTAIN I	**6.16**	**5.61**	**5.68**	**7.34**	**5.69**	**5.66**	**3/**	**5.95**
MOUNTAIN II	5.55	5.57	5.57	8.85	3/	5.17	3/	6.88
MOUNTAIN III	5.98	5.77	5.94	3/	7.94	6.14	6.13	7.11
PACIFIC	6.28	7.63	6.58	10.74	7.62	6.26	6.83	8.82
CA	6.06	7.00	6.23	12.95	9.10	6.10	6.40	10.35
HI	8.38	3/	8.30	14.87	3/	8.40	3/	12.62
US 4/	5.99	5.62	5.85	10.01	7.39	5.97	6.19	7.07

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. **MOUNTAIN I:** ID, **MT**, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA. 4/ EXCLUDES AK.

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the **21 major states** during January totaled 10.7 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from production in these same states in January 1991. December revised production, at 10.4 billion pounds, was slightly below December 1990.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,283 for January, 32 pounds more than January 1991. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.31 million head, 205 thousand head less than January 1991 and 17 thousand less than December 1991.

During the October-December period, the 21 major states produced 30.6 billion pounds of milk, 84.6 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly (which include **Montana**) followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.6 billion pounds for January 1992.

FEBRUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers had 2.5 million cwt of potatoes in storage as of February 1, 1992, compared with 2.0 million a year ago. The February 1 stocks represent 89 percent of 1991 production.

Western potato stocks totaled 129 million cwt in six states, up 8 percent from last year and 23 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 2 percent from last year and accounted for 53 percent of the western holdings. **Montana**, with mostly seed potatoes, is up 24 percent. Washington stocks were up 10 percent, Oregon was up one-third and Colorado was up 16 percent from a year ago. California stocks were off 3 percent.

Total **U.S.** potato stocks totaled 179 million cwt on February 1, 1992, up 10 percent from last year and 24 percent above two years ago. This is 49 percent of the fall potato production in the 15 storage states, compared with 47 percent a year ago. Potatoes by type are 3 percent reds, 17 percent whites, and 80 percent russets, with more whites and fewer russets than a year ago.

Disappearance from harvest through January for the U.S. totaled a record high 185 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 21.2 million cwt, 5 percent above the 20.1 million cwt last year and 17 percent above the 18.1 million cwt lost two years ago.

Processing in the 8 major states claimed 85.5 million cwt of potatoes from the 1991 crop so far, down 1 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago. January usage returned to the plus side with 14.9 million cwt processed compared with 14.4 million cwt a year ago and 14.0 million cwt two years ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1991 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1992

STATE	CROP OF 1990			CROP OF 1991		
	PROD	STOCKS FEB 1, 1991	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS FEB 1, 1992	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	6,630	3,100	47	5,655	3,000	53
CO	22,750	11,800	52	23,800	13,700	58
ID	119,070	67,500	57	122,175	69,000	56
ME	20,520	10,400	51	18,170	8,300	46
MI	9,240	3,000	32	8,840	3,400	38
MN	14,280	8,000	56	17,160	9,500	55
MT	**2,492**	**2,000**	**80**	**2,790**	**2,475**	**89**
NE	2,837	1,150	41	2,464	1,120	45
NY-LI	1,950	220	11	1,650	400	24
NY-UPST	5,940	1,000	17	5,267	1,300	25
ND	16,675	9,100	55	30,030	15,000	50
OH	1,911	180	9	1,425	120	8
OR	23,450	10,400	44	22,170	13,800	62
PA	5,400	1,800	33	3,500	1,450	41
WA	67,980	24,500	36	75,435	27,000	36
WI	23,075	8,700	38	23,275	9,400	40
15 STATES	344,200	162,850	47	363,806	178,965	49

JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.91 billion during January 1992, up 1 percent from the 5.86 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.08 billion table eggs, up fractionally from last year, 770 million broiler-type hatching eggs, up 6 percent from last year, and 62.0 million egg-type hatching eggs, down 5 percent from last year. The total number of layers during January averaged 278 million, up 2 percent from the 274 million in January 1991. January 1992 egg production per 100 layers was 2,121 eggs, compared with 2,138 in January 1991.

All layers in the **U.S.** on February 1, 1992, totaled 277 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 277 million layers consisted of 233 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.83 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1992, averaged 67.8 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from last year's 68.5 eggs per 100 layers.

MONTANA HONEY PRODUCTION UNCHANGED, U. S. UP 11 PERCENT

Montana's honey industry produced 7.912 million pounds in 1991, down slightly from the 7.938 million pounds produced a year earlier. There were 86,000 colonies producing honey in 1991, 12,000 fewer than in 1990. The average yield per colony was 92 pounds compared with 81 pounds last year.

The state's honey producers received an average price per pound of 54 cents this year the same as last year. The total value of the honey crop is 4.3 million dollars unchanged from 1990. Honey stocks held by producers on December 15, 1991 totaled 1.187 million pounds compared with 1.191 million pounds a year earlier. Honey stocks held by producers do not include stocks under government loan.

Honey production in 1991 from all U. S. producers with five or more colonies totaled 220 million pounds, up 11 percent from 1990. There were 3.20 million colonies producing honey in the nation, compared with 3.21 million in 1990. Yield per colony averaged 68.8 pounds, up 7.2 pounds from the 61.6 pounds in 1990. Colonies that produced in more than one state were counted in each state and yields may be understated. Producer honey stocks were 36.5 million pounds on December 15, 1991, up 17 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1991 crop averaged 55.9 cents per pound, up 2.2 cents from the 1990 price of 53.7 cents per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting state average prices by the state quantities sold. Prices increased for most types of honey in 1991 except for retail sales of water white, extra white, white, all other honey area specialties. Government payments are excluded from the honey prices published in this annual report.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Montana's Rank
Wheat & Barley Movement

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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RELEASED: February 10, 1992

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle and Calves Inventory
Sheep and Lambs Inventory
January Ag Prices Received
Cattle on Feed

A SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January 1 cattle and sheep inventory survey. Field and telephone enumerators contacted nearly 1,800 Montana farmers and ranchers early in January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture beserved with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

JANUARY 1 CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY

Montana's January 1, 1992 cattle and calf inventory, at 2.55 million head, is up 9 percent from the revised 2.33 million head on hand a year earlier. The inventory included more beef cows compared with last January, 1.466 million head up 7 percent. Heifers 500 pounds or over kept for beef cow replacement was up 8 percent at 350,000 head.

Milk cow numbers remained unchanged at 24,000 head and milk cow replacement heifers also remained unchanged from last year, at 8,000 head. Other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more, at 202,000 head, were up 20 percent from 1991; steers weighing 500 pounds or more increased from last January to 220,000 head up 21 percent. There were 195,000 calves on hand weighing less than 500 pounds, up 15 percent from the 170,000 on hand January 1, 1991. The 1991 calf crop was 1.43 million head up 4 percent from 1990. The average value per head in the 1992 inventory was $720 compared with $755 a year earlier.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1992, totaled 100.1 million head, up 1 percent from the revised 98.9 million on January 1, 1991, and up 2 percent from 98.2 million two years ago. This is the largest January 1 inventory since January 1, 1987.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.7 million, were up 1 percent from the 43.4 million level of both last year and two years ago.

Beef cows, at 33.8 million, were 2 percent above both January 1, 1991, and 1990. Milk cows, at 9.90 million, were 2 percent below both January 1, 1991, and 1990.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1992, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 18.6 million, up 2 percent and up 5 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.75 million, up 3 percent and up 6 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.20 million, down slightly and down 1 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.68 million, up 4 percent and up 8 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, up 2 percent and up 5 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.28 million, up 2 percent and up 4 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 18.7 million, virtually unchanged and down 2 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.9 million, down 5 percent and up 3 percent.

The 1991 calf crop was estimated at 39.3 million, virtually unchanged from 1990 and down 2 percent from 1989. The estimated calf crop is down 2 percent from the expected number published last July. Calves born during the first half of the year were estimated at 73.1 percent of the annual total.

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1991-92

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1991	1992	% Change '92/'91	1991	1992	% Change '92/'91
	----000 Head----			----000 Head----		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,330	2,550	+9	98,896	100,110	+1
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,400	1,490	+6	43,427	43,738	+1
Beef Cows	1,376	1,466	+7	33,271	33,834	+2
Milk Cows	24	24	0	10,156	9,904	-2
Heifers 500 pounds and over	499	560	+12	18,182	18,624	+2
For beef cow replacement	323	350	+8	5,605	5,747	+3
For milk cow replacement	8	8	0	4,220	4,200	0
Other heifers	168	202	+20	8,357	8,677	+4
Steers 500 pounds and over	182	220	+21	16,369	16,750	+2
Bulls 500 pounds and over	79	85	+8	2,228	2,280	+2
Calves less than 500 pounds	170	195	+15	18,691	18,718	0
Cattle on Feed	90	90	0	12,627	11,947	-5
All cattle value ($ Millions)	1,759	1,836	+4	64,662	63,016	-3
Value per head (Dollars)	755	720	-5	654	629	-4

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS--1990 AND 1991

ITEM	1990	1991	% Change '91/'90	1990	1991	% Change '91/'90
Calves born during year (1,000 head)	1,380	1,430	+4	39,249	39,256	0
Number of cattle farms 1/	14,000	13,400	-4	1,288,590	1,246,470	-3
Operations with beef cattle	12,300	11,900	-3	932,920	912,920	-2
Operations with milk cows	1,900	1,800	-5	193,880	181,570	-6

1/ Actual number.

JANUARY 1, 1992 SHEEP INVENTORY

The number of sheep and lambs on Montana farms and ranches totaled 688,000 head on January 1, 1992. This inventory is up 1 percent from last year and continues the upward trend that started in 1987. Ewes one year old and older were up 1 percent, at 510,000 head, while ewe lambs 3 months old and older were down 6 percent from the previous year. Sheep and lambs on feed at 38,000 were up 15 percent. The 1991 lamb crop was up 9 percent at 585,000 head. The average value of sheep and lambs on Montana farms and ranches January 1, 1992 was $7.00 below last year at $57.00 per head.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1992, totaled 10.9 million head, down 3 percent from a year earlier. The value of sheep and lambs on hand totaled $666 million, 9 percent below a year earlier.

The average value per head was $61.40, down 6 percent from a year earlier. Stock sheep inventory decreased to 9.04 million head on January 1, 1992, down 5 percent from 9.47 million last year. Ewes one year old and older, at 7.18 million head, were down 3 percent. Ewe lamb inventory totaled 1.17 million head, down 13 percent from a year earlier.

Sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1992, for the slaughter market in the 25 major feeding states totaled 1.81 million head, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

1991 lamb crop of 7.70 million head was down fractionally from the 1990 lamb crop. The 1991 lambing rate was 104 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1991, compared with 101 in 1990.

SHEEP and LAMBS INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1991-92

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1991	1992	% Change '92/'91	1991	1992	% Change '92/'91
	----000 Head----			----000 Head----		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	683	688	+1	11,200	10,850	-3
On feed	33	38	+15	1,730	1,807	+4
Stock sheep	650	650	0	9,471	9,043	-5
One year old & older						
Ewes	504	510	+1	7,429	7,182	-3
Wethers and rams	17	18	+6	349	352	+1
Lambs 3-12 months old						
Ewes	117	110	-6	1,342	1,174	-13
Wethers and rams	12	12	0	351	335	-5
All sheep value ($1,000)	43,712	39,216	-10	734,868	666,056	-9
Value per head (Dollars)	64.00	57.00	-11	65.60	61.40	-6

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS--1990 AND 1991

ITEM	1990	1991	% Change '91/'90	1990	1991	% Change '91/'90
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	535	585	+9	7,704	7,700	0
Number of sheep farms 1/	2,800	2,800	0	108,940	105,710	-3

1/ Actual number.

JANUARY PRICES RECEIVED

The January 1992 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers moved up 8 points from the previous month. The index for all commodities, at 171 percent of its January-December 1977 average, was most influenced by a 13 point increase in the all crops index. Livestock and livestock products added to the upward movement with a 4 point, month-to-month increase. Compared with last year the all crops index is up 33 points, while the livestock index is down 19 points.

Individual commodity prices were up for all crops except oats and hay. The January all wheat price averaged $3.57 per bushel, up 37 cents from December. Barley, at $2.63, was up 3 cents per bushel. Livestock price changes were mixed with steers and heifers, calves and hogs down from last month. Cows, sheep and lambs were up. Milk and wool were up, eggs were down.

The January all farm products index of prices received by U.S. farmers was unchanged from December, at 137 percent of its January-December 1977 base. Decreases in the prices of eggs, hogs, and milk were offset by increases in the prices of tomatoes, wheat, and corn. The index was 7 points below a year earlier.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for January was 188 percent of its 1977 average. The index was down 1 point from October 1991 but was unchanged from January 1991. Since last surveyed in October 1991, prices were significantly lower for fuels and feeder livestock.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1991	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1991	MONTANA Jan. 15 1992	U.S. Jan. 15, 1992
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.53	3.22	3.57	3.79
Durum	Bu.	2.73	2.73	2.92	2.99
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.70	3.23	3.63	3.70
All Wheat	Bu.	2.62	3.20	3.57	3.74
Barley, All	Bu.	2.24	2.60	2.63	2.21
Feed	Bu.	--	1.99	2.01	2.01
Malt	Bu.	--	3.08	3.10	2.42
Oats	Bu.	1.25	1.29	1.24	1.27
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	64.00	53.00	51.00	74.20
All Other Hay	Ton	54.00	45.00	45.00	55.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	63.00	52.00	50.00	69.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	87.20	80.30	78.70	72.50
Cows	Cwt.	49.50	46.80	47.30	45.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	72.00	63.70	66.10	67.80
Calves	Cwt.	102.00	90.30	89.80	86.70
Sheep	Cwt.	25.20	21.20	22.20	25.60
Lambs	Cwt.	44.80	49.50	51.00	53.20
Hogs	Cwt.	46.90	35.60	34.60	36.60
All Milk	Cwt.	12.00	14.20	14.30	13.60
Eggs	Doz.	.81	.71	.53	.58
Wool 2/	Lb.	.65	.55	.60	.31
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	165	163	171	137
All Crops	Pct.	117	137	150	123
Livestock & Products	Pct.	210	187	191	151

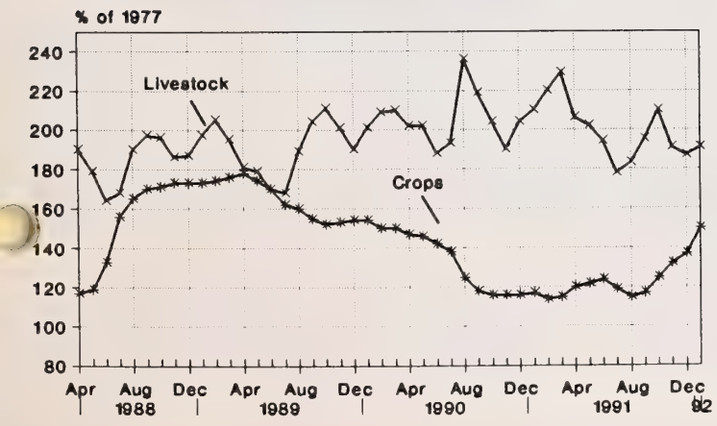
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

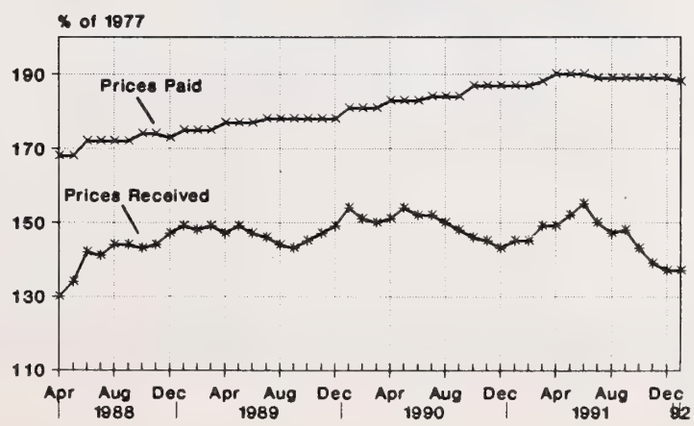
INDEX 1977=100	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992
Prices Received	142	144	137	137
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/187	188	3/189	188
Ratio 1/	76	77	72	73

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1990 prices paid index. 3/ October 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 6 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed January 1, 1992, for slaughter market in the 13 states preparing quarterly estimates totaled 10.1 million head, down 6 percent from a year ago but 2 percent above January 1, 1990. The inventory included 6.73 million steers and steer calves, 4 percent below a year ago. This group accounts for 66.4 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.35 million head, 11 percent below a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 states during the October-December 1991 quarter totaled 7.09 million, down 4 percent from last year and 3 percent below October-December 1989. Net placements of 6.78 million for October-December were down 4 percent from last year and down 3 percent from 1989.

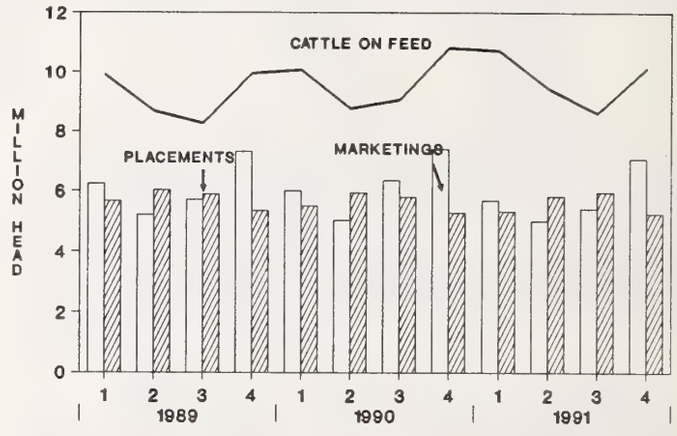
Marketings of fed cattle during the October-December 1991 quarter totaled 5.27 million, down fractionally from last year and 1 percent below two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 306,000 head compared to 347,000 in October-December 1990 and 293,000 in October-December 1989.

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.44 million head during the January-March quarter of 1992. This would be up 2 percent from the first quarter marketings in 1991 but 1 percent below 1990.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Labor
Honey
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1991 Crop Production
January 1 Potato Stocks
Crop Values
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price
October-December 1991 Milk Production
December 1991 Red Meat Production
1991 Annual Egg & Chicken Inventory
December Egg Production

PLEASE RETURN

1991 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's small grain growing season got off to a late start and was wet and cool during the critical development months. Record yields were attained but acreage was reduced by government restrictions, hail damage, and winter wheat winter kill.

All wheat production in 1991, at 159.5 million bushels, rose 9 percent from a year ago and 24 percent above the five-year average.

Barley production in 1991 was up 52 percent from last year, at 85.8 million bushels. This is a 28 percent increase over the 5-year average.

JANUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers had 2.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage as of January 1, 1992, compared with 2.2 million a year ago. The January 1 stocks represent 92 percent of 1991 production.

Western states held 149 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1992, a gain of 6 percent over last year and 20 percent more than two years earlier. Oregon stocks were 19 percent larger than a year ago while Idaho gained 3 percent and Washington was up 9 percent. Colorado potato stocks gained 11 percent and **Montana** had 17 percent more than last year. California stored 5 percent fewer potatoes compared to a year ago.

January 1, 1992 potato stocks totaled 211 million cwt in the 15 major states, up 8 percent from a year earlier and 22 percent above two years ago. Stocks by type are 3 percent red, 18 percent white, and 79 percent russet, with more white and less russet than a year ago. Disappearance to date for the season was up 2 percent, although processing is behind last year by 2 percent. Shrink and loss of 18.8 million cwt was 6 percent above last year and 15 percent above two years ago.

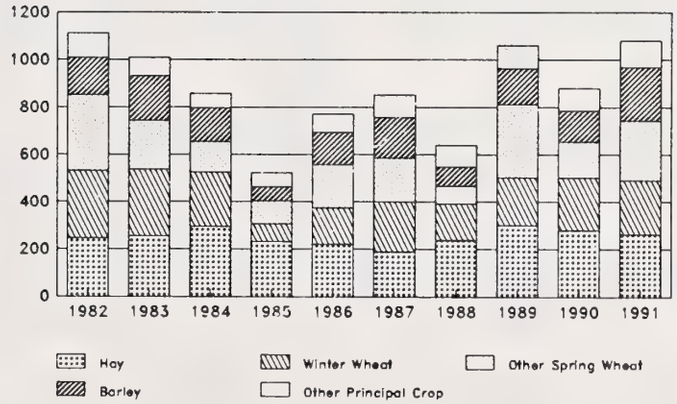
MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION VALUE UP 30 PERCENT

Montana's 1991 crop production, valued at 1,079.0 million dollars, is 30 percent more than last year. The increase is primarily caused by stronger wheat prices and large spring wheat and barley crops.

The season average wheat price used to value this years production, at $3.10 per bushel, was up 45 cents per bushel from 1990. Spring wheat production in 1991 was 51 percent above 1990, but this was partially offset by an 18 percent reduction in winter wheat. Barley production was 52 percent above last year, and the price advanced 30 cents to $2.60 per bushel.

Hay production was 15 percent above a year ago, but with a 12-dollar-per-ton drop in price value of production fell 6 percent.

Montana Crop Value of Production
1982–1991 (Million Dollars)



MONTANA ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY, 1991 1/

	Year	Acreage Plant	Acreage Harv	Unit	Yield Per Acre	Total Prod	% Prev Year	Season Avg. Price	% Prev Year	Value of Prod	% Prev Year	U.S. Prod
		Thousands				Thous	%	$	%	Thous $	%	Thous
Winter Wheat	1988	2,450	2,100	Bu.	19.0	39,900	-50	3.86	+45	154,014	-27	1,561,910
	1989	2,500	1,500		36.0	54,000	+35	3.73	-3	201,420	+31	1,454,642
	1990	2,700	2,500		35.0	87,500	+62	2.53	-32	221,375	+10	2,033,299
	1991	2,350	1,800		40.0	72,000	-18	3.15	+25	226,800	+2	1,372,182
Durum Wheat	1988	280	230	Bu.	9.0	2,070	-61	5.20	+53	10,764	-40	44,831
	1989	340	335		18.0	6,030	+191	3.31	-36	19,959	+85	92,229
	1990	245	235		19.0	4,465	-26	2.72	-18	12,145	-39	122,171
	1991	180	179		33.0	5,907	+32	2.60	-4	15,358	+26	103,957
Other Spring Wheat	1988	2,000	1,500	Bu.	12.0	18,000	-73	4.10	+47	73,800	-60	205,460
	1989	3,500	3,400		25.0	85,000	+372	3.64	-11	309,400	+319	489,747
	1990	2,800	2,450		22.0	53,900	-37	2.80	-23	150,920	-51	583,124
	1991	2,600	2,400		34.0	81,600	+51	3.10	+11	252,960	+68	504,565
All Wheat	1988	4,730	3,830	Bu.	15.7	59,970	-60	3.98	+45	238,578	-42	1,812,001
	1989	6,340	5,235		27.7	145,030	+142	3.66	-8	530,779	+122	2,036,618
	1990	5,745	5,185		28.1	145,865	+1	2.65	-28	384,440	-28	2,738,594
	1991	5,130	4,379		36.4	159,507	+9	3.10	+17	495,118	+29	1,980,704
Barley	1988	1,800	1,250	Bu.	24.0	30,000	-68	2.82	+55	84,600	-51	289,994
	1989	1,700	1,600		43.0	68,800	+129	2.21	-22	152,048	+80	404,203
	1990	1,600	1,380		41.0	56,580	-18	2.30	+4	130,134	-14	418,856
	1991	1,800	1,650		52.0	85,800	+52	2.60	+13	223,080	+71	464,495
Oats	1988	210	90	Bu.	31.0	2,790	-54	2.26	+52	6,305	-30	217,600
	1989	250	145		46.0	6,670	+139	1.42	-37	9,471	+50	373,587
	1990	160	70		40.0	2,800	-58	1.25	-12	3,500	-63	357,149
	1991	200	110		55.0	6,050	+116	1.27	+2	7,684	+120	242,526
Corn for Grain 2/	1988	90	20	Bu.	110.0	2,200	+40	3.15	+43	6,930	+200	4,928,681
	1989	80	4		80.0	320	-85	2.60	-17	832	-88	7,525,493
	1990	65	9		95.0	855	+167	2.50	-4	2,138	+157	7,933,068
	1991	75	15		120.0	1,800	+211	2.70	+8	4,860	+127	7,474,480
Corn for Silage	1988	--	67	Tons	19.0	1,273	+11	--	--	--	--	78,791
	1989	--	75		18.0	1,350	+6	--	--	--	--	86,109
	1990	--	55		19.0	1,045	-23	--	--	--	--	86,844
	1991	--	59		18.0	1,062	+2	--	--	--	--	80,503
Fall Potatoes	1988	7.8	7.7	Cwt.	280.0	2,156	-9	7.75	+37	16,709	+25	313,558
	1989	8.2	8.1		275.0	2,228	+3	8.25	+6	18,381	+10	324,673
	1990	9.0	8.9		280.0	2,492	+12	8.60	+4	21,431	+17	352,507
	1991	9.4	9.3		300.0	2,790	+12	7.05	-18	19,670	-8	372,005
Dry Beans	1988	4.4	4.0	Cwt.	19.0	76	-39	28.00	+233	2,128	+42	19,253
	1989	6.0	5.9		22.0	130	+71	27.50	-2	3,575	+68	23,729
	1990	13.5	13.0		16.9	220	+69	13.60	-51	2,992	-16	32,429
	1991	9.0	8.3		19.0	158	-28	13.00	-4	2,054	-31	32,963
Sugar Beets	1988	49.6	48.9	Tons	21.1	1,032	-5	45.20	7	46,646	+2	24,810
	1989	52.7	51.9		19.9	1,033	+0	43.60	-4	45,039	-3	25,131
	1990	55.2	55.1		22.5	1,240	+20	43.20	-1	53,568	+19	27,513
	1991	56.6	56.3		23.3	1,312	+6					27,848
Alfalfa Hay	1988	--	1,100	Tons	1.90	2,090	-27	--	--	--	--	69,304
	1989	--	1,350		2.20	2,970	+42	--	--	--	--	77,370
	1990	--	1,350		2.50	3,375	+14	--	--	--	--	83,555
	1991	--	1,500		2.50	3,750	+11	--	--	--	--	83,795
All Hay 3/	1988	--	1,800	Tons	1.55	2,790	-34	85.00	+88	237,150	+25	126,010
	1989	--	2,350		1.90	4,470	+60	69.50	-18	300,900	+27	145,512
	1990	--	2,150		2.09	4,495	+1	64.00	-8	282,095	-6	146,985
	1991	--	2,400		2.16	5,190	+15	52.00	-19	264,555	-6	153,485
Sweet 4/ Cherries	1988	--	--	Tons	--	1,900	-27	548.00	--	1,042	--	184,510
	1989	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	190,930
	1990	--	--		--	150	--	1,670.00	--	250	--	132,350
	1991	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	143,400
All Main Crops	1988	--	--	Tons	--	--	--	--	--	640,088	-25	--
	1989	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	1,061,025	+79	--
	1990	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	880,548	-17	--
	1991	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	5/ 1,079,004	+30	--

1/ All estimates for 1991 are preliminary. 2/ Planted acreage of corn for all puposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/ Excludes sugar beets value.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1973-1992

Year Beginning June	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 3/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1973 ..	3/ 597	1,711	3	2,311	544	84	126	754	1,217	1,971	340	3.95
1974 ..	340	1,782	3	2,125	545	92	35	672	1,018	1,690	435	4.09
1975 ..	435	2,127	2	2,564	589	100	37	726	1,173	1,899	666	3.55
1976 ..	666	2,149	3	2,817	588	92	74	754	950	1,704	1,113	2.73
1977 ..	1,113	2,046	2	3,161	586	80	193	859	1,124	1,983	1,178	2.33
1978 ..	1,178	1,776	2	2,955	592	87	158	837	1,194	2,031	924	2.97
1979 ..	924	2,134	2	3,060	596	101	86	783	1,375	2,158	902	3.80
1980 ..	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.99
1981 ..	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.69
1982 ..	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 ..	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 ..	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 ..	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 ..	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 ..	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 ..	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ..	702	2,037	23	2,762	753	100	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 ..	536	2,736	37	3,309	796	90	489	1,375	1,068	2,443	866	2.61
1991 . 4/	866	1,981	40	2,887	780	92	375	1,247	1,250	2,497	390	3.05
1992 . 4/	390											

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Excludes an abnormally large volume of grain in transit. 4/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1991 MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Montana during the October-December quarter totaled 83 million pounds, down 8 percent from the same quarter of last year. The average number of milk cows in the state during the quarter remained unchanged from last year at 24,000 head.

On January 1, 1992 the amount of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows in the state averaged 17 pounds, 2 pounds more than the amount fed a year ago. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cow averaged $7.20 per hundred-weight on January 1 of this year, $0.25 more than the January 1, 1991 price.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 36.1 billion pounds, down slightly from the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.95 million head, 200,000 less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1992 averaged 18.0 pounds, 0.4 pound more than on January 1, 1991. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, 1992 averaged $7.69 per hundred-weight, $0.15 less than the price on January 1, 1991.

DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in December of 1991. This production is a decrease of 10 percent from last month, and is down 35 percent from December of 1990.

The number of cattle slaughtered in the state, at 1,500 head, is down 1,700 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,114 pounds, up 54 pounds from the average live weight last year.

Hog slaughter in the state, at 2,500 head, was up 300 head from a year ago. Average live weight for hogs slaughtered increased 19 pounds to 243 pounds. There were 300 lamb and mutton animals slaughtered in the state in December, unchanged from levels of a year ago. Average live weight of lamb and mutton animals slaughtered decreased 10 pounds from last year to an average of 114 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.28 billion pounds, 7 percent above a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.78 billion pounds. This was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.56 million, up 4 percent. The average live weight increased 27 pounds to 1,172. Veal production, at 27.0 million pounds, is unchanged from a year earlier. Calf slaughter totaled 133,700 head, down 4 percent. The average live weight increased 41 pounds to 348.

Pork production, at 1.44 billion pounds, was up 8 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.93 million head, up 8 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 254. Lamb and mutton production, at 31.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 488,600 head, up 5 percent. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 125.

January-December red meat production was 39.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent, while veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 4 percent, and lamb and mutton was unchanged.

1991 EGG PRODUCTION AND CHICKEN INVENTORY

There were 164 million eggs produced in **Montana** during the year ending November 30, 1991, down 4.7 percent from last year's production. Layer numbers during 1991 averaged 626,000 compared with 658,000 a year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand was 261 eggs, the same as in 1990.

There were 780,000 total chickens on Montana farms on December 1, 1991, compared with 760,000 on hand last year. The inventory value was $2,184,000, up from $1,748,000 on December 1, 1990.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1991, totaled 69.0 billion eggs, up 2 percent from last year's total of 67.9 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1991 averaged 273 million layers, up 1 percent from 1990. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1991 was 252 eggs, up from the 1990 average of 251 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand in the U.S. on December 1, 1991, (excluding broilers) was 359 million head, 2 percent above last year. The total value was $826 million, up from $805 million on December 1, 1990.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

January Ag Prices
Cattle on Feed
Cattle Inventory
Sheep Inventory

DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.01 billion during December 1991, up 2 percent from the 5.88 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.18 billion table eggs, 762 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 62 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during December 1991 averaged 279 million, up 2 percent from the 272 million a year ago. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,153 eggs, compared with 2,156 in December 1990.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 1992 totaled 280 million, compared with 273 million a year ago. The 280 million layers consisted of 235 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 1992 averaged 69.0 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally percent from last year's 69.3 eggs per 100 layers.

Data for the 30 quarterly states (which include **Montana**) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, September through November 1991.

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Hay Stocks
Grain Stocks
December Prices Received
Hogs & Pigs Inventory

PLEASE RETURN

Crop acreage, grain stocks and hog and pig estimates included in this issue of the Reporter are the results of surveying over 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during December. Names were selected on a probability basis. A SPECIAL THANKS to those of you interviewed for this very important end of season survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDED ACRES

Montana farmers seeded 2.35 million acres of winter wheat last fall for harvest in 1992. This is the same as 1991 winter wheat seeded acres, but 6 percent below the 10 year average. Soil moisture was generally adequate at seeding time. A cold period occured in November before snow cover arrived. However the condition of the dormant crop was rated as mostly good to excellent at the end of December.

Winter wheat seeded area for harvest in the U.S. in 1992 is placed at 50.2 million acres, down 2 percent from 1991. Seeding of the 1992 crop got its start in some states last August. By September 1, about 2 percent of the acreage was planted. As of December 1, 1991, completion reached 98 percent. Most remaining acreage to be seeded was in California, Texas, and the Southeast. Hard red winter wheat totals 35.3 million acres, down slightly from last year. Seeded acreage is off 1 percent from 1991 in major producing states in the Plains.

Early seeding conditions were favorable in Colorado. Abundant moisture prompted germination and emergence. Dry September and October weather sapped soil moisture. Low temperatures in November froze plant growth back in several areas. Kansas planting got off to a good start in September. Subsequent dry weather through October depleted the already short surface soil moisture supplies. Many farmers dusted in their wheat.

Early growth was slow with little or no secondary root development noted. Poor to very poor conditions through most of November were improved by moderate rains in early December. Seeding of the Texas crop finished nearly on schedule in early December. Most fields are emerging to good stands. December rainfall brought an increase of insect activity.

1991 HAY STOCKS AND ROW CROP PRODUCTION

Montana farmers and ranchers had 4.6 million tons of hay on hand December 1, 1991, 15 percent more than a year earlier. The higher stocks reflect the open grazing during the fall months and record-high hay production. Montana's total hay production for 1991 was 5.19 million tons, 15 percent larger than last year. Alfalfa hay production in 1991 was 3.75 million tons, up 11 percent from 1990's output and the largest crop on record. Production of all other hay was 1.44 million tons, up from 1.12 million tons last year.

Corn producers harvested 1.8 million bushels of corn for grain and 1,062,000 tons of silage in 1991, compared with 855,000 bushels of grain and 1,045,000 tons of silage last year. Montana sugar beet growers harvested 1,312,000 tons in 1991, 6 percent more than last year's production. Dry bean production, at 158,000 cwt, was substantially less than the 220,000 cwt produced in 1990.

Hay stocks on farms for the U.S. totaled 112 million tons on December 1, 1991. This is 6 percent more than the amount on hand a year earlier. Production of all hay was estimated at 153 million tons, 5 percent more than both last year and 1989. U.S. alfalfa hay production totaled 83.8 million tons in 1991, fractionally above 1990. All other hay production reached 69.7 million tons in 1991, 10 percent above a year earlier.

Nationally, 1991 corn for grain production was estimated at 7.47 billion bushels, 6 percent below the 1990 crop. The U.S. production was virtually the same as the November 1 forecast. Corn silage production was estimated at 80.5 million tons, 7 percent below 1990. Production of dry edible beans for the U.S. is estimated at 33.0 million cwt for 1991, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The 1991 crop is 1 percent above the previous record high production set in 1981.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Wheat stocks in all storage positions in Montana on December 1, 1991 totaled 139 million bushels, 8 percent more than a year ago. Stocks on farms were down 2 percent at 108 million. Elevator stocks were up 69 percent at 31 million. On farm storage held 47 million bushels of winter wheat, down 27 percent, and 61 million bushels of spring wheat, up 33 percent. Elevators stored 14 million bushels of winter wheat, up 50 percent, and 17 million bushels of spring wheat, up 89 percent. Durum in all storage positions totaled 9.7 million bushels, up 41 percent.

Barley in storage totaled 60 million bushels, up 50 percent from a year ago. On farm storage held 50 million bushels, up 47 percent and elevators held 10 million bushels, up 63 percent. Oats stocks totaled 5.0 million bushels, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, all wheat stocks in all positions December 1, 1991 totaled 1.44 billion bushels, down 24 percent from December 1, 1990. On-farm stocks are placed at 565 million bushels, down 26 percent from last December 1. Off-farm stocks are 877 million bushels, down 23 percent from last year. The indicated disappearance during the September-November quarter is 599 million bushels, up 19 percent from the comparable period in 1990.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Dec. 1, 1990	Sep. 1, 1991*	Dec. 1, 1991	Dec. 1, 1990	Sep. 1, 1991*	Dec. 1, 1991
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.6	4.0	2.9
North Central	69.4	97.2	71.3	20.7	43.1	34.4
Northeast	25.8	47.9	39.8	3.3	8.2	6.4
Central	18.2	19.2	15.1	8.1	8.0	7.3
Southwest	1.5	2.3	1.8	2.9	3.7	3.5
South Central	6.0	8.4	5.1	2.5	4.5	4.0
Southeast	6.0	6.5	4.9	1.0	1.8	1.5
MONTANA	128.4	183.1	139.0	40.1	73.3	60.0

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1990	Sept. 1, 1991*	Dec. 1, 1991	% Chg. '91/'90	Dec. 1, 1990	Sept. 1, 1991*	Dec. 1 1991
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	110,000	150,000	108,000	- 2	763,200	828,000	564,800
Off Farms [1]	18,352	33,095	31,000	+69	1,145,062	1,212,719	877,323
TOTAL	128,352	183,095	139,000	+ 8	1,908,262	2,040,719	1,442,123
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	64,000	70,000	47,000	-27	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	9,335	17,178	14,000	+50	--	--	--
TOTAL	73,335	87,178	61,000	-17	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	46,000	80,000	61,000	+33	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	9,017	15,917	17,000	+89	--	--	--
TOTAL	55,017	95,917	78,000	+42	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--	--	86,315	94,160	77,460
Off Farms [1 4]	--	--	--	--	25,811	33,867	24,123
TOTAL	6,865	11,022	9,700	+41	112,126	128,027	101,583
BARLEY							
On Farms	34,000	65,000	50,000	+47	176,400	271,000	195,300
Off Farms [1]	6,117	8,307	10,000	+63	129,327	168,952	133,877
TOTAL	40,117	73,307	60,000	+50	305,727	439,952	329,177
OATS							
On Farms	4,600	5,000	4,900	+7	194,700	173,600	148,100
Off Farms [1]	268	213	140	-48	99,398	110,487	96,372
TOTAL	4,868	5,213	5,040	+4	294,098	284,087	244,472
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,874,000	691,200	4,294,500
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	2,066,289	830,045	2,243,248
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	6,940,289	1,521,245	6,537,7

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

DECEMBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farm prices for wheat at mid-December were much stronger than both month-ago and year-ago levels. December's all wheat price, at $3.51 a bushel, is up 46 cents from November and up 92 cents from a year ago. Barley prices also increased moderately in December to $2.46 a bushel, up 7 cents from November and up 24 cents from last year. Hay prices are up slightly from last month.

Most livestock prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers continued to weaken in December. The all beef cattle price, at $62.50 a cwt, was down $3.50 from November and down $6.40 from a year ago in December. Hog prices, at 33.40, slipped slightly from last month, but are down a sharp $11.50 from December 1990. Sheep and lamb prices both increased during December. Lambs, at $47.90 a cwt, are $2.20 above November and $4.70 above last year.

The Montana December index of prices received for all farm products, at 165 (1977=100), is up 2 points from November and up 3 points from last December. The all crops index, at 146, is up 14 points from last month and up 30 points from last year. The livestock and products index, at 183, is down 8 points from last month and down 21 points from last year.

For the nation, the all farm products index of prices received by farmers for December decreased 1 point from the previous month to 138 percent of its 1977 average. Compared with a year earlier, the index was down 5 points. The December all crops index was 121, down 2.4 percent from last month, but the same as a year ago.

The December livestock and products index was 154, the same as a month earlier, but 6.1 percent below December 1990.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1991	MONTANA Dec. 15 1991	U.S. Dec. 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.48	3.06	3.54	3.58
Durum	Bu.	2.51	2.67	2.81	2.76
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.69	3.06	3.54	3.37
All Wheat	Bu.	2.59	3.05	3.51	3.46
Barley, All	Bu.	2.22	2.39	2.46	2.17
Feed	Bu.	--	2.84	2.92	2.55
Malt	Bu.	--	1.96	2.02	1.97
Oats	Bu.	1.27	1.33	1.31	1.24
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	52.00	53.00	72.90
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	44.00	45.00	57.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	51.00	52.00	68.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	87.50	83.50	79.90	71.20
Cows	Cwt.	51.40	45.90	45.00	45.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	68.90	66.00	62.50	67.10
Calves	Cwt.	101.00	90.80	88.10	86.70
Sheep	Cwt.	22.60	18.00	20.40	22.60
Lambs	Cwt.	43.20	45.70	47.90	51.90
Hogs	Cwt.	44.90	33.60	33.40	38.80
All Milk	Cwt.	11.90	13.70	14.30	13.90
Eggs	Doz.	.84	.63	.71	.72
Wool 2/	Lb.	.66	.55	.55	.40
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	162	163	165	138
All Crops	Pct.	116	132	146	121
Livestock & Products	Pct.	204	191	183	154

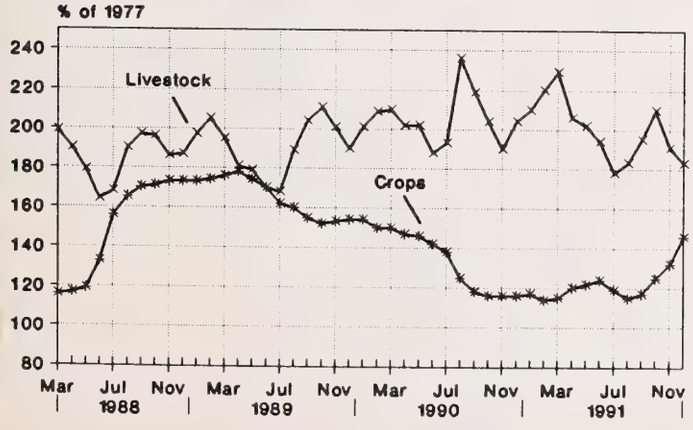
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

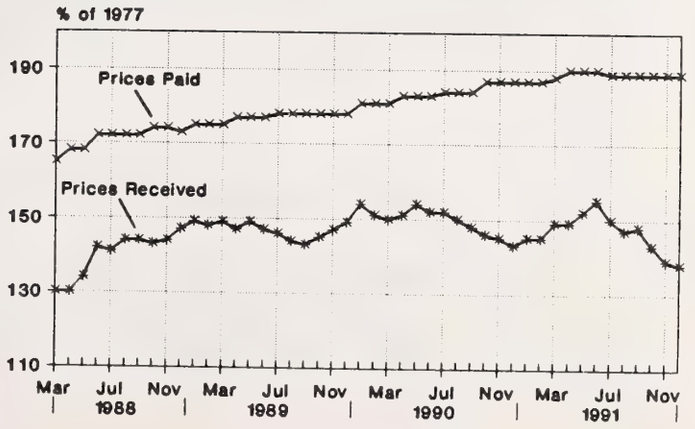
INDEX 1977=100	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1990	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1991
Prices Received	147	143	139	138
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/187	2/187	3/189	3/189
Ratio 1/	79	76	74	73

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ Oct.1990 prices paid index. 3/ Oct. 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



DECEMBER 1, 1991 HOG INVENTORY

Montana's hog inventory on December 1, 1991 totaled 225,000 head, up 22 percent from last year. Hogs on hand for breeding, at 26,000 head, were up 8 percent from last year, and market class hogs, at 199,000 head, were up 24 percent from December 1, 1990. The 1991 pig crop, at 420,000 head, was up 18 percent from a year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1,1991 is 57.0 million head. This is a 5 percent increase from last year and 6 percent above December 1, 1989.

Breeding inventory, at 7.22 million head, was up 5 percent from both the previous year and December 1, 1989.

Market hog inventory, at 49.8 million head, is 5 percent above December 1, 1990 and up 6 percent from two years ago.

The September-November 1991 U.S. pig crop was 23.2 million head, 5 percent more than 1990 and up 7 percent from the same period in 1989. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.94 million head, up 4 percent from last year and 5 percent above 1989. Pigs saved per litter averaged 7.89, a record high for the quarter, compared to 7.82 during the same period in 1990.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Crop Prod	Potato Stocks
Potato Stocks	Quarterly Milk Prod
Quarterly Milk Prod	Crop Values
Slaughter	Egg Production

Chicken Inv & Ann Egg Production
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
November Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
U.S. November Milk Production
September-November Egg Production
featuring... Hill County

PLEASE RETURN

DECEMBER 1 CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES DOWN 8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

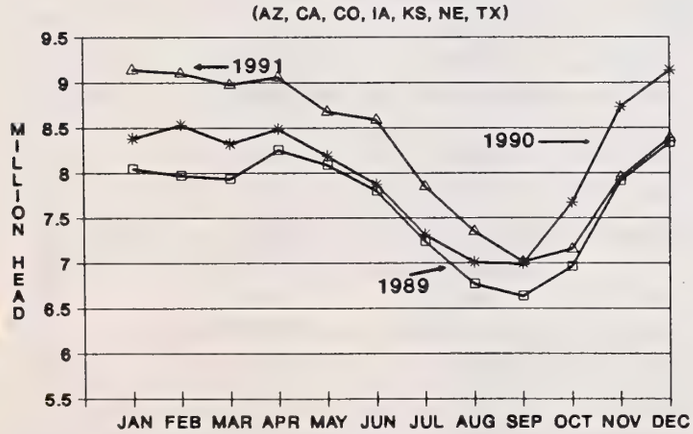
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.38 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago but 1 percent above December 1, 1989.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during November totaled 1.84 million, down 8 percent from both last year and 1989. Net placements of 1.76 million for November were down 8 percent from both last year and 1989.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.33 million, down 12 percent from last year and 11 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest November marketings since 1981.

Other disappearance totaled 82,000 head compared to 95,000 in November 1990, and 91,000 in November 1989.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



NOVEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat in November of 1991. This production is down 5 percent from last month, and down 61 percent from November of 1990.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,700, was down 4,600 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,125, up 49 pounds from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,500, was up 300 head from last year. Average live weight for hogs was 242 pounds, up 23 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.32 billion pounds, 2 percent above a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.81 billion pounds, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.58 million, down 5 percent. The average live weight increased 35 pounds to 1,179.

Pork production, at 1.46 billion pounds, was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.94 million head, up 5 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 256.

Lamb and mutton production, at 29.0 million pounds, was down 5 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 467,400 head, down 3 percent. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 123.

January-November red meat production was 36.1 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up slightly while veal was down 7 percent; pork was up 4 percent; and lamb and mutton was down slightly.

May you & yours
be Happy & Prosper
in the New Year

POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

Producers harvested 9,300 acres of potatoes in Montana in 1991. Total production was 2,790,000 cwt. Last year 8,900 acres were harvested providing 2,492,000 cwt of potatoes. Montana producers have 2,650,000 cwt of potatoes in storage as of December 1, compared with 2,300,000 a year ago. The December 1 stocks represent 95 percent of production.

Nationally, production of fall potatoes for 1991 is estimated at 372 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year and 15 percent above 1989. Area harvested, at 1.18 million acres, is up 1 percent from 1990 and 8 percent above two years ago. Yield is 316 cwt per acre, up 14 cwt from a year earlier and 17 cwt above two years ago. Acreage, yield, and production this year are the highest recorded since the fall season records began in 1949.

Western states potato production is estimated at 257 million cwt in 1991, up 4 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Acreage harvested at 691,400 acres, is down slightly, but the average yield of 371 cwt per acre is up 17 cwt per acre. Idaho's production of 122 million cwt was up 3 percent from last year under good summer and fall growing conditions. Washington production was 11 percent above last year, Colorado production was up 5 percent, Nevada gained 9 percent and **Montana** was up 12 percent from a year ago. The Oregon crop was 5 percent smaller; while California, Utah and Wyoming each produced fewer potatoes than a year ago.

The 15 major potato states held a record 241 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1991, up 7 percent from last year and 19 percent above two years ago. Storage accounted for 66 percent of fall production this year, the same percent as last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent red, 19 percent white, and 78 percent russet, with more white and less russet than a year ago.

Western states held 168 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1991, a gain of 4 percent over last year and 19 percent more than two years earlier. Most of the western stocks are held in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Oregon stocks were 15 percent larger than a year ago while Idaho was up 2 percent and Washington up 4 percent. Colorado potato stocks gained 10 percent and **Montana** 15 percent from last year. California stored 9 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record 123 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Cumulative shrink and loss to date was 16.2 million cwt, up 4 percent from the 15.6 million cwt lost from the corresponding period last year and 12 percent above the 14.5 million cwt lost from the 1989 crop. Processors continue to buy larger amounts of potatoes claiming 59.3 million cwt so far this season, a gain of 2 percent over a year ago and 9 percent above two years ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1990-1991

STATE	CROP OF 1990			CROP OF 1991		
	PROD	STOCKS DEC 1, 1990	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS DEC 1, 1991	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	6,630	4,700	71	5,655	4,300	76
CO	22,750	16,550	73	23,800	18,150	76
ID	119,070	86,000	72	122,175	87,500	72
ME	20,520	14,900	73	18,170	12,400	68
MI	9,240	5,000	54	8,840	5,000	57
MN	14,280	10,200	71	17,160	12,600	73
MT	2,492	2,300	92	2,790	2,650	95
NE	2,837	1,850	65	2,464	1,560	63
NY-LI	1,950	650	33	1,650	750	45
-UPSTATE	5,940	2,500	42	5,267	2,300	44
ND	16,675	12,800	77	30,030	22,800	76
OH	1,911	550	29	1,425	450	32
OR	23,450	15,600	67	22,170	18,000	81
PA	5,400	2,900	54	3,500	1,700	49
WA	67,980	35,500	52	75,435	37,000	49
WI	23,075	13,500	59	23,275	13,500	58
15 STATES	344,200	225,500	66	363,806	240,660	66

NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during November totaled 9.91 billion pounds, 1 percent less than production in these same states in November 1990. October revised production, at 10.2 billion pounds, was slightly below October 1990.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,185 for November, 14 pounds more than November 1990.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.36 million head, 180 thousand head less than November 1990 and 12 thousand less than October 1991.

During the July-September period, the 21 major states produced 30.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.6 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 11.7 billion pounds for November 1991.

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 42 million eggs in the September-November 1991 quarter, 5 percent more than the same quarter last year. The number of layers for the quarter averaged 650,000 compared with 625,000 in 1990. The rate of lay in the 1991 quarter was 71.7 eggs per 100 layers compared with 70.6 a year ago.

The **nation's** laying flocks produced 17.3 billion eggs during the September through November quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.9 billion for table eggs, 2.20 billion for broiler-type hatching eggs and 185 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 276 million, up 3 percent from the 267 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1991, totaled 278 million, up 3 percent from the 272 million layers a year ago. The 278 million layers consisted of 235 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.91 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1991, averaged 69.9 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 69.8 eggs per 100 layers on December 1, 1990.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.77 billion eggs during November, up 1 percent from the 4.73 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during November averaged 228 million, up 2 percent from a year ago.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF U.S. FARMLAND FAIRLY CONSTANT THROUGH THE 1980s

Contrary to popular perceptions, foreigners are not buying up all of America's farmland, according to attorney Peter DeBraal of USDA's Economic Research Service. The amount of cropland, pasture, and rangeland owned exclusively by foreigners is about 3 to 4 million acres.

DeBraal analyzes reports submitted by foreigners to USDA under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 and reports those findings each year to the President and Congress. The data gained from these disclosures have been used in reporting the effects of such holdings on family farms and rural communities.

Foreign interests owned 14.5 million acres, or slightly over 1 percent, of privately owned U.S. agricultural land (farm and forest land) on December 31, 1990. That's up 15 percent (1.88 million acres) from the previous year.

However, that rise is not too alarming, according to DeBraal, since foreign ownership has remained relatively steady from 1981 to 1990, at slightly above or below 1 percent of all the privately owned agricultural land in the United States.

And the totals reported may be overstating the extend of foreign ownership. DeBraal points out that about 62 percent of the reported foreign holdings (about 9 million acres) is land actually owned by U.S. firms. But the law requires them to register their landholdings as foreign if as little as 10 percent of their stock is held by foreign investors.

Only the remaining 38 percent of the foreign-held agricultural land (about 5.5 million acres) is owned almost exclusively by investors not affiliated with U.S. firms.

DeBraal found that corporations, both U.S. and foreign, own most (83 percent) of the foreign-held agricultural land in the United States. Partnerships own 9 percent and individuals own 6 percent. The remaining 2 percent is held by estates, trusts, associations, institutions, and others.

DeBraal stipulates that because of the corporate holdings, an increase in foreign ownership from one year to another does not necessarily represent land newly acquired by foreigners. "Nor do the numbers necessarily represent exclusive ownership by foreigners," he says. "A U.S. firm's landholdings can show up as 'foreign owned' one year, but not in another, as the firm's stock passes in and out of foreign hands. The land, however, is still owned by the same entity as before."

featuring...HILL COUNTY

Hill County is located along the Montana/Canadian border midway between the east and west borders of the state. The county is traversed by the Milk River which empties into the Fresno Reservoir at the Fresno Dam near the center of the county. At the tip of the Fresno Reservoir, the Milk River turns north, continuing through Hill County and on into Canada. A major portion of the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation is located in the southeastern corner of the county. A portion of the Bear Paw Mountains occupies the southeastern corner as well.

The main industry in the county is farming as Hill County is one of the major grain growing areas in the state. In the 1990 crop production figures, the county ranked 2nd in all wheat and winter wheat, and 1st in spring wheat production. Also, in 1990, Hill County came in 10th in durum wheat production, 11th in barley and 35th in oats.

Hill County is a major hog raising area as it came in 6th in the December 1, 1989, hog inventory. Some sheep and cattle are also raised in the area. The abundant grain crops grown in the county brought in $34,637,000 in cash receipts in 1989. Livestock receipts came to $10,392,000, with government payments adding $19,631,000 for a total cash receipts return of $64,660,000 in 1989.

Hill County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,854,265	Total Cropland	Acres	1,136,593
Land in Farms	Acres	1,722,206	Harvested Cropland	Acres	579,826
Number of Farms		713	Irrigated Land	Acres	6,606
Average size Farms	Acres	2,415			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	16,639	All Cattle & Calves	No. Head	28,618
All Wheat	Acres	423,507	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	1,578
Barley	Acres	119,257	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	10,321
Oats	Acres	2,665			

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Hogs & Pigs
Grain Stocks

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

ISSUE: 91-23 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: December 11, 1991

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Season's Greetings!

PLEASE RETURN

All of us at the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service would like to extend Season's Greetings to all of you. As we reflect back on 1991, we see a year when record or near record yields were achieved for many of our crops. As 1991 draws to a close, we see the prospect that our grain prices will also be good. We would like to thank each of you for your part in helping us by providing the basic information needed to publish agricultural statistics. May you have a prosperous and joyful new year!

SUMMARY OF 1990/91 WHEAT CROP:
RECORD PRODUCTION = REDUCED WORLD TRADE

The drop was not as steep as previously expected, mostly because of heavy late season exports to the Soviet Union. Despite a large 1990 wheat crop, the USSR's wheat imports are estimated at 15 million tons, 3 percent above 1989/90. While government procurements of the 1990 crop were up, they were well below needs. In addition, dryness in the spring wheat areas raised the prospect of a significantly lower 1991 wheat crop. Most of the USSR's imports were bought with credit or through barter arrangements. U.S. market share of the Soviet market fell sharply from 31 percent in 1989/90 to 15 percent in 1990/91.

China produced a record wheat crop in 1990/91 and reduced imports by 27 percent to an estimated 9.5 million tons, the least since 1986/87. Most of China's purchases in the last half of 1990/91, particularly from the United States, were for delivery in 1991/92.

North Africa imports reached 14.5 million tons, 4 percent above 1989/90. Egypt's imports fell, in part, in response to its large crop. Algeria and Morocco took advantage of low prices and increased imports to supplement reduced crops and to build stocks. Middle Eastern imports were disrupted by the Gulf war. Exports to Iraq virtually ceased after August 1990. Other countries in the region increased imports to build stocks and to meet the need of refugees and returning workers.

In Latin America, Brazil's crop was sharply curtailed by lack of access to adequate production credit and adverse weather. Imports doubled from 1989/90 to 3 million tons. Mexico also boosted imports in response to a weather related crop shortfall.

Consumption and imports of wheat for feed increased as wheat prices remained low relative to corn. South Korea more than doubled its imports of wheat. Nearly all the increase was used for feeding. Consumption of wheat for feed is estimated to have increased in several other countries, including the Soviet Union and the EC.

The United States faced sharp competition in 1990/91 because of record production in many countries and large competitor stocks. The EC is estimated to have exported 20 million tons and Canada's exports surged at the end of the year to reach 20.8 million tons, the highest since 1987/88, with exports to the Soviet Union accounting for much of the late season gain. Australia also boosted its exports to 11.7 million tons, up 9 percent from 1989/90. Argentina's exports fell 16 percent from 1989/90 to 4.7 million tons, as shipments to Brazil and other destinations were delayed and carried over into the 1991/92 marketing year. Smaller exporters, particularly non-EC western European countries and Turkey also made gains in 1990/91.

U.S. exports are estimated to have fallen 15 percent from 1989/90 to 28.5 million tons primarily as a result of reduced exports to the Soviet Union, China, and Iraq. Few sales were made as the funding cap for EEP approached. Sales slowed as budgetary pressures reduced subsidies in both the U.S. and the EC and P.L. 480 sales did not take place as quickly as expected. Importers waited for the new crop and lower harvest prices. When the EEP cap was lifted in April, U.S. sales resumed, but mostly for new crop wheat for delivery in 1991/92.

EEP sales in 1990/91 (July/June) reached 15.5 million tons, compared with 13 million tons in 1989/90. Average bonuses for 1990/91 were $38.13 per ton compared with $14.48 a year earlier. Bonuses began to rise sharply towards the end of the marketing year.

U.S. Hard Red Winter Wheat Exports 1/

	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91
		(1000 bushels)	
USSR	166,366	77,044	65,070
China	118,664	22,835	49,282
Japan	41,500	48,306	45,304
Jordan	5,233	14,287	23,663
Algeria	15,887	7,391	20,682
S. Korea	20,266	18,622	20,047
Israel	15,912	18,947	19,017
Mexico	38,997	7,208	5,844
Iraq	24,931	45,084	0
India	40,617	0	0
Others	137,935	94,896	109,146
Total	626,308	354,620	358,055

1/ Excludes products, based on inspection data.

U.S. Hard Red Spring Wheat Exports 1/

	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91
		(1000 bushels)	
Japan	36,193	37,964	38,573
Philippines	32,303	21,093	33,131
EC	19,083	21,055	16,002
S. Korea	11,121	12,361	15,312
Venezuela	10,847	16,510	11,090
Taiwan	12,192	10,901	10,680
Mexico	0	0	5,318
Ecuador	0	8,022	2,901
USSR	15,731	51,959	0
China	1,986	22,134	0
Others	49,518	77,377	63,099
Total	188,974	279,376	196,106

1/ Excludes products, based on inspection data.

U.S. Durum Wheat Exports 1/

	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91
		(1000 bushels)	
Algeria	6,996	27,252	28,140
Poland	0	1,681	5,466
Tunisia	0	1,846	4,683
Venezuela	3,140	5,350	3,766
EC	2,874	7,838	2,795
Guatemala	318	513	625
Costa Rica	617	447	609
Yugoslavia	428	0	540
Japan	526	0	23
Turkey	0	3,708	0
Others	1,673	2,920	2,140
Total	16,572	51,555	48,995

1/ Excludes products, based on inspection data.

NOVEMBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers received higher prices for cereal grains in mid-November compared with October, but most livestock prices weakened.

The mid-November all farm products index of prices received increased 2 percent from the whole month of October. The index, at 172 percent of its 1977 base, was 11 percent higher than a year earlier, mostly due to higher grain prices.

The all crops index, at 140, was 12 percent higher than October, and 21 percent higher than a year ago. All cereal grains showed increases at mid-November compared with October. Alfalfa hay prices were unchanged from October but considerably below a year ago, reflecting this year's abundant supplies.

Individual commodity prices show all wheat, at $3.26, up 41 cents per bushel from October and 69 cents above November a year ago. Barley was $2.55 per bushel, up 4 cents from last month and 29 cents above the previous year. Oats, at $1.22 per bushel, were up 2 cents from October and 17 cents higher than November 1990. Alfalfa hay was $52.00 per ton, the same as October but $16.00 below last year.

The all livestock index, at 202, was down 4 percent from last month, but was 6 percent higher than a year ago. Compared with last month, lower prices were received at mid-November for all livestock except sheep, which, at $16.00 per cwt, were 40 cents higher than October.

Nationally, the November all farm products index of prices received decreased 2 points from October to 141 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of oranges, hogs, and cattle were partially offset by higher prices for lettuce, tomatoes, and strawberries.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1991	MONTANA Nov. 15 1991	U.S. Nov. 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.47	2.89	3.29	3.32
Durum	Bu.	2.70	2.36	2.74	2.66
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.67	2.85	3.27	3.15
All Wheat	Bu.	2.57	2.85	3.26	3.21
Barley, All	Bu.	2.26	2.51	2.55	2.19
Malt	Bu.	--	3.06	3.19	2.81
Feed	Bu.	--	1.82	2.02	1.95
Oats	Bu.	1.05	1.20	1.22	1.20
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	52.00	52.00	72.80
All Other Hay	Ton	62.00	46.00	44.00	59.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	51.00	51.00	69.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	85.50	84.40	83.30	74.00
Cows	Cwt.	48.20	48.30	45.00	44.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	63.20	75.60	71.80	69.60
Calves	Cwt.	97.20	92.00	89.80	90.00
Sheep	Cwt.	20.20	15.60	16.00	20.00
Lambs	Cwt.	43.80	44.80	44.70	50.20
Hogs	Cwt.	44.50	39.90	34.70	38.20
All Milk	Cwt.	13.66	13.30	13.80	13.70
Eggs	Doz.	.73	.59	.63	.64
Wool 2/	Lb.	.60	.55	.55	.51
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	155	169	172	141
All Crops	Pct.	116	125	140	127
Livestock & Products	Pct.	190	210	202	155

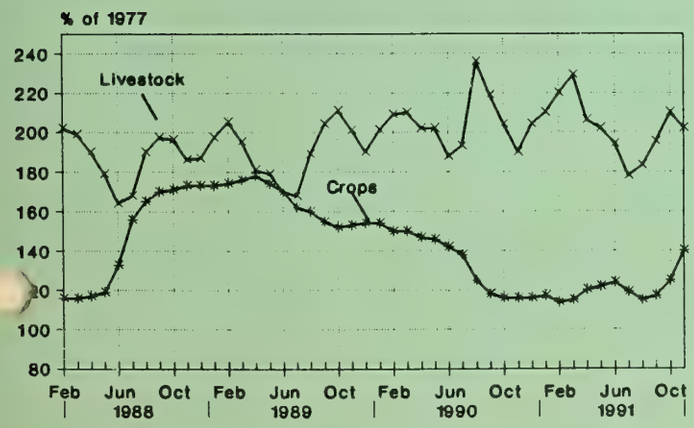
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

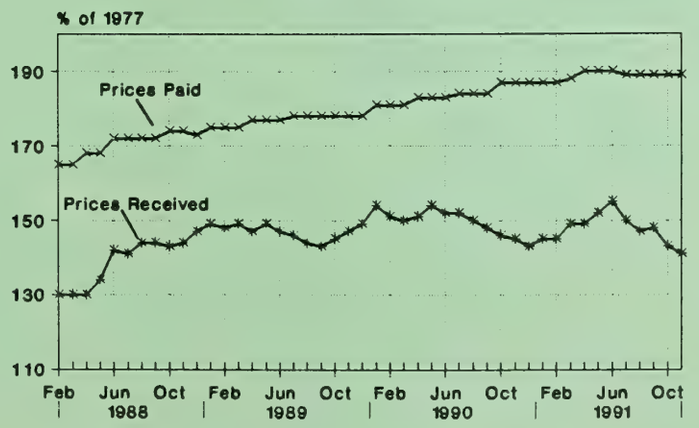
INDEX 1977=100	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1990	Oct. 1991	Nov. 1991
Prices Received	146	147	143	141
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	187	2/187	189	3/189
Ratio 1/	78	79	76	75

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1990 prices paid index. 3/ October 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring...GRANITE COUNTY

Granite County occupies approximately 1,106,681 acres of western Montana. Its terrain is largely mountainous, and is comprised of sections of the Deer Lodge National Forest. The Continental Divide crosses its southeastern boundary, while the Sapphire Mountains define the western edge of the county. A section of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness area lies along the southeastern border. The Clark Fork River crosses the northern section of Granite County, while Rock Creek traverses the entire length of the county in the west. Georgetown Lake, a popular fishing spot, lies along the southeastern border.

Approximately 30 percent of Granite County's acreage is in farms and most cropland is irrigated. Hay was the major crop harvested in the county in 1990, but barley, oats, and wheat are also produced there.

Livestock interests are varied, with Granite County ranking 35th among the cattle producing counties in the January 1, 1990 inventory. The county came in 50th in the January 1, 1990 sheep count, and 53rd among the hog producing counties in the December 1, 1989 inventory.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock brought in $11,766,000 in 1989. Crops receipts added $961,000, and government payments came to $254,000, for a cash receipt total of $12,981,000 in 1989.

Granite County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,106,681	Total Cropland	Acres	53,402
Land in Farms	Acres	348,102	Harvested Cropland	Acres	31,467
Number of Farms		149	Irrigated Land	Acres	42,991
Average size Farms	Acres	2,336			
CROPS–Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	31,366	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	380	Calves	No. Head	31,188
Barley	Acres	836	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	731
Oats	Acres	181	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	D

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture. D - Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Egg Production
Milk Production
Slaughter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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HIGHLIGHTS:

October Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
October Farm Labor
October Milk Production
October Egg Production
featuring... Granite County

OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds of red meat in October of 1991. This production is up 12 percent from last month, but is down 49 percent from October a year ago.

The number of cattle slaughtered in the state, at 1,800 head, is down 3,200 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,150 pounds, 134 pounds heavier than a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 2,600 head, was unchanged from last year. Average live weight for hogs was 235 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds, 6 percent above a year earlier. Beef production totaled 2.12 billion pounds. This was up 3 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.93 million, down 1 percent. The average live weight increased 46 pounds to 1,195.

Pork production, at 1.53 billion pounds, was up 10 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 8.50 million head, up 10 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 252.

Lamb and mutton production, at 32.0 million pounds, was up 1 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 522,600 head, up 3 percent. The average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 121.

January-September red meat production was 32.8 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up slightly, while veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 4 percent, and lamb and mutton was up slightly.

7 STATE CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 9 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.94 million head, down 9 percent from a year ago but up slightly from November 1, 1989.

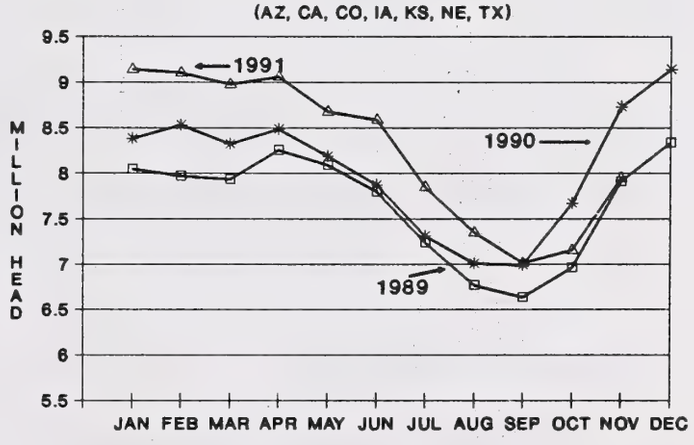
Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during October totaled 2.48 million, down 10 percent from last year, and 7 percent below October 1989. **Net placements** of 2.40 million for October were down 10 percent from last year and down 7 percent from 1989.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.62 million, up 1 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 77,000 head compared to 87,000 in October 1990 and 71,000 in October 1989.

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



OCTOBER WAGE RATES INCREASE

A total of 3.29 million people worked on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 6-12, 1991. This compares with 3.32 million workers in October 1990. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.49 million of the total, along with 515 thousand unpaid workers, and 996 thousand workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 287 thousand workers.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes **Montana**, Idaho and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.09 per hour during the October 1991 survey week. This rate was up 13 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.30 per hour compared with $5.15 last October. Field workers received an average of $5.11 per hour, up 5 cents from the October 1990 survey week. Livestock workers in the Mountain I region earned $4.77 compared with $4.47 per hour a year earlier.

In the **U.S.**, self-employed farm operators worked an average of 41.9 hours, 1.9 hours more than the comparable week in 1990. Unpaid workers averaged 38.0 hours, one-half hour above last year. Hired employees worked 42.2 hours compared to 41.3 hours in October of last year.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 37 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. This compares with 42 percent last year.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, OCTOBER 2-12, 1991 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	6.29	5.13	5.85	8.78	9.32	6.39	6.63	6.06
NORTHEAST II	5.81	5.10	5.66	9.35	7.38	5.76	6.47	6.23
APPALACHIAN I	5.33	5.26	5.32	7.37	3/	5.32	3/	5.89
APPALACHIAN II	5.11	5.28	5.17	3/	3/	5.37	3/	5.34
SOUTHEAST	4.87	5.38	5.02	8.91	5.80	5.10	3/	5.63
FL	5.78	5.88	5.79	10.45	8.05	5.85	5.85	9.13
LAKE	5.86	4.52	5.37	6.48	6.37	5.88	6.37	4.63
CORNBELT I	5.66	5.44	5.62	6.68	6.57	5.83	5.98	5.68
CORNBELT II	5.27	4.91	5.18	3/	5.90	5.21	3/	5.66
DELTA	4.58	5.41	4.66	3/	3/	4.67	3/	4.94
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.87	5.27	5.78	6.59	5.66	6.07	3/	5.38
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.97	5.19	5.07	8.38	3/	5.00	3/	5.76
MOUNTAIN I	5.11	4.77	4.97	6.02	3/	5.30	3/	4.87
MOUNTAIN II	5.44	4.72	5.19	7.08	3/	5.17	3/	5.39
MOUNTAIN III	5.33	5.44	5.36	3/	3/	5.26	3/	6.22
PACIFIC	6.33	6.45	6.34	9.11	8.56	6.11	6.78	8.28
CA	5.82	7.31	5.94	11.00	9.27	5.89	6.40	9.05
HI	8.37	3/	8.27	14.21	3/	8.32	3/	3/
US 4/	5.67	5.32	5.61	8.50	7.32	5.70	6.54	6.11

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA. 4/ EXCLUDES AK.

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during October totaled 10.2 billion pounds, slightly less than production in these same states in October 1990. September revised production at 9.93 billion pounds was slightly below September 1990.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,219 for October, 19 pounds more than October 1990.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.37 million head, 149 thousand head less than October 1990 and 5 thousand less than September 1991.

During the July-September period, the 21 major states produced 30.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.6 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.1 billion pounds for October 1991.

OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.87 billion eggs during October 1991, up 2 percent from the 5.79 billion eggs produced a year ago. Production included 5.06 billion table eggs, 751 million broiler-type hatching eggs and 63.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The average number of layers during October was 276 million, up 2 percent from the 270 million head a year ago.

The October 1991 egg production averaged 2,131 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 2,145 eggs per 100 layers in October 1990.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1991, totaled 277 million, compared with 270 million a year ago. The 277 million layers consisted of 234 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.88 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1991, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from last year's 69.8 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.85 billion eggs during October 1991, up 1 percent from the 4.81 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during October averaged 227 million, up 1 percent from the 224 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states (which include **Montana**) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the 3-month period, June through August 1991.

CROP-TO-CROP SHIFTING WAS LOW

Based on program crop enrollment in 1991 (excluding wheat base enrolled under the winter wheat option), normal flex acres would comprise nearly 20 million acres. An additional 13 million could have been optionally flexed.

Of the 33 million acres that could have been flexed in 1991, according to the 1991 ASCS enrollment report, only about 7.5 million acres moved out of the original program crops--called gross flexed acreage. This probably indicates that a high proportion of normal flex acres is planted to the original program crop and that the optional flex acres provision was little used. The net flex acres, after land shifted among program crops is subtracted, amount to a little more than 5.7 million.

The relatively low shifts among crops through the acreage flex provisions suggest that producers' preferred crop rotations have not been constrained by past base acreage provisions. In the case of wheat, many producers likely are already producing their best alternative.

CROPLAND USE CONTINUES BELOW 5-YEAR AVERAGE

A total of 338 million acres of cropland was used for crops in 1991, 3 million less than last year and below the average of the last 5 years. Land used for crops includes acres harvested, failed, and summer fallowed. Cropland use in 1992 is likely to be higher, due to reduced set-aside requirements for wheat and feed grains.

U.S. cropland peaked at 387 million acres in 1981, after increasing to meet expanding export markets in the 1970's. Most of the reduction in cropland use during the 1980's reflects land idled under annual and long-term (Conservation Reserve Program) acreage reduction programs.

No land was idled under farm programs in 1981 and only a small amount in 1982. But in 1991, producers idled over 63 million acres in annual programs and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) --about 13 percent of U.S. cropland, equivalent to about a third of total arable land in the European Community.

Total cropland--idled land plus land used for crops--amounted to nearly 402 million acres in 1991. This is 1 percent below the 414-million-acre average of 1986-90, but 10 percent above the low of 364 million acres in 1974.

END-OF-YEAR SURVEYS UNDERWAY

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service began contacting farmers and ranchers across the state in early November for final 1991 acreage, yield, and production totals and end-of-year livestock and poultry inventories.

Insects and variable weather conditions this year have again had an impact on Montana agriculture, and these surveys will help our office summarize where the industry stands at the end of 1991.

Information from these confidential surveys conducted by mail, telephone, or in person will also help producers make their plans for the coming year. Sound production and marketing decisions require good, reliable information and advanced planning. These reports provide producers with solid facts and figures they can incorporate into their plans.

If you are contacted, it is important to provide the requested information, since one producer represents similar operations of the same type and size. Our estimates can be no better than the numbers producers provide.

featuring...GRANITE COUNTY

Granite County occupies approximately 1,106,681 acres of western Montana. Its terrain is largely mountainous, and is comprised of sections of the Deer Lodge National Forest. The Continental Divide crosses its southeastern boundary, while the Sapphire Mountains define the western edge of the county. A section of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness area lies along the southeastern border. The Clark Fork River crosses the northern section of Granite County, while Rock Creek traverses the entire length of the county in the west. Georgetown Lake, a popular fishing spot, lies along the southeastern border.

Approximately 30 percent of Granite County's acreage is in farms and most cropland is irrigated. Hay was the major crop harvested in the county in 1990, but barley, oats, and wheat are also produced there.

Livestock interests are varied, with Granite County ranking 35th among the cattle producing counties in the January 1, 1990 inventory. The county came in 50th in the January 1, 1990 sheep count, and 53rd among the hog producing counties in the December 1, 1989 inventory.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock brought in $11,766,000 in 1989. Crops receipts added $961,000, and government payments came to $254,000, for a cash receipt total of $12,981,000 in 1989.

Granite County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,106,681	Total Cropland	Acres	53,402
Land in Farms	Acres	348,102	Harvested Cropland	Acres	31,467
Number of Farms		149	Irrigated Land	Acres	42,991
Average size Farms	Acres	2,336			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	31,366	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	380	Calves	No. Head	31,188
Barley	Acres	836	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	731
Oats	Acres	181	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	D

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture. D - Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Christmas Letter

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 91-20 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: October 31, 1991

301 S. PARK
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HIGHLIGHTS:

LEAVE BELOW

September Red Meat Production
Quarterly Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production
featuring...Golden Valley County

SEPTEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in September of 1991. This production is down 19 percent from last month, but is up 15 percent from September of 1990.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,500 head, was up 100 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,141, up 80 pounds from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head, was up 400 head from last year. Average live weight for hogs was 240 pounds, up 17 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.31 billion pounds, 7 percent above a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.94 billion pounds. This was up 7 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.70 million, up 3 percent. The average live weight increased 34 pounds to 1,182.

Pork production, at 1.32 billion pounds, was up 7 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.36 million head, up 7 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 251.

Lamb and mutton production, at 29.0 million pounds, was up 6 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 477,400 head, up 9 percent. The average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 119.

January-September red meat production was 29.1 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up slightly while veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton was unchanged.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 6 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

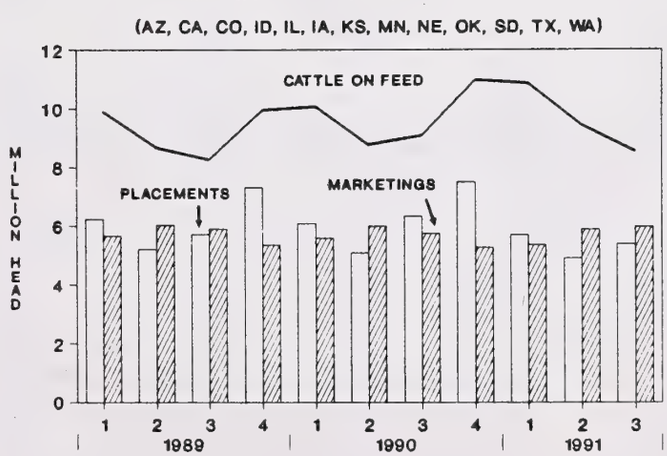
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 states preparing quarterly estimates totaled 8.54 million head, down 6 percent from a year ago but 3 percent above October 1, 1989. The inventory included 5.66 million steers and steer calves, 4 percent below a year ago. This group accounts for 66.3 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 2.84 million head, 10 percent below a year ago. By weight group, 1.46 million head of the total inventory weighed over 1,100 pounds.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 states during the July-September 1991 quarter totaled 5.36 million, down 15 percent from last year and 6 percent below September 1989. Net placements of 5.08 million for July-September was down 16 percent from last year and 7 percent from 1989.

Marketings of fed cattle during the July-September quarter totaled 5.97 million, up 4 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Other disappearance totaled 282,000 head compared to 261,000 in September 1990, and 227,000 in September 1989.

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.16 million head during the October-December quarter of 1991. This would be down 2 percent from the fourth quarter marketings in 1990 and 4 percent below 1989.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



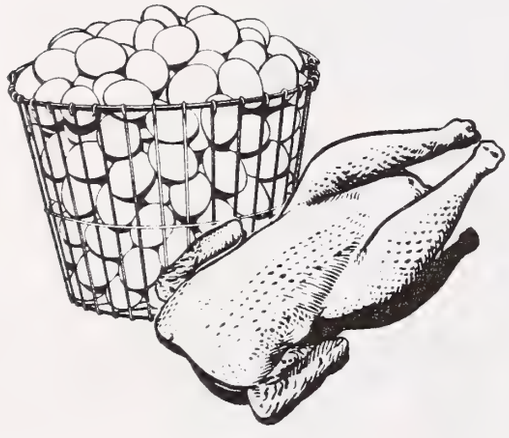
JULY-SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Montana during the July-September quarter totaled 87 million pounds, up 1 percent from the same quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the state during the quarter remained unchanged from last year, at 24,000 head.

On October 1, 1991, the amount of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows in the state averaged 16.0 pounds, 1 pound more than was fed a year ago. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows averaged $7.00 per hundredweight on October 1 of this year, $0.05 more than the October 1, 1990 price.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 36.3 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.97 million head, 149 thousand less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows in the U.S. on October 1, 1991, averaged 17.3 pounds, 0.2 of a pound more than on October 1, 1990. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on October 1, averaged $7.80 per hundredweight, $0.24 less than the October 1, 1990, price.



U.S. SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

United States egg production totaled 5.63 billion during September 1991, up 2 percent from the 5.53 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.85 billion for table eggs, 720 million for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 63 million for egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during September averaged 273 million, up 2 percent from the 268 million a year ago. Average egg production in September was 2,060 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 2,065 in September 1990.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1991 totaled 274 million, compared with 269 million a year ago. The 274 million layers consisted of 232 million for table or commercial type eggs, 39.9 million for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.80 million for egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1991, averaged 68.3 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 68.7 eggs per 100 layers on October 1, 1990.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.66 billion eggs during September 1991, up 1 percent from the 4.60 billion eggs produced a year ago. The number of layers during September averaged 225 million, up 1 percent from the 222 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states (which include Montana) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production and layer numbers during the three month period, June 1991 through August 1991.

NEWS FROM FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS:

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks now offers landowners and Conservation Districts around the state the opportunity to increase upland game bird populations through habitat improvement.

The Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program is funded through earmarked revenues derived from the sale of bird hunting licenses in Montana. To date, nearly $1 million dollars has been spent in Montana to enhance wildlife habitat through this program. As of November 1, approximately 230 individual ranches and farms were enrolled in the program. This has resulted in the establishment or renovation of nearly 4,000 acres of shelterbelt plantings, 8,000 acres of winter food plots and cover, 40,000 acres of nesting cover, and 51,000 acres of rangeland improvements to enhance upland bird cover.

In addition, 11 agreements have been developed with 10 different conservation districts. These conservation district agreements have provided funds for establishing and maintaining shelterbelt plantings. All landowners enrolled in the program are required to allow public access to project lands for public recreation, but are permitted to limit use to a reasonable level. The Department does not distribute a list of landowners cooperating in the program to the public.

Anyone interested in learning more about this exciting new wildlife habitat initiative is encouraged to contact their nearest Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

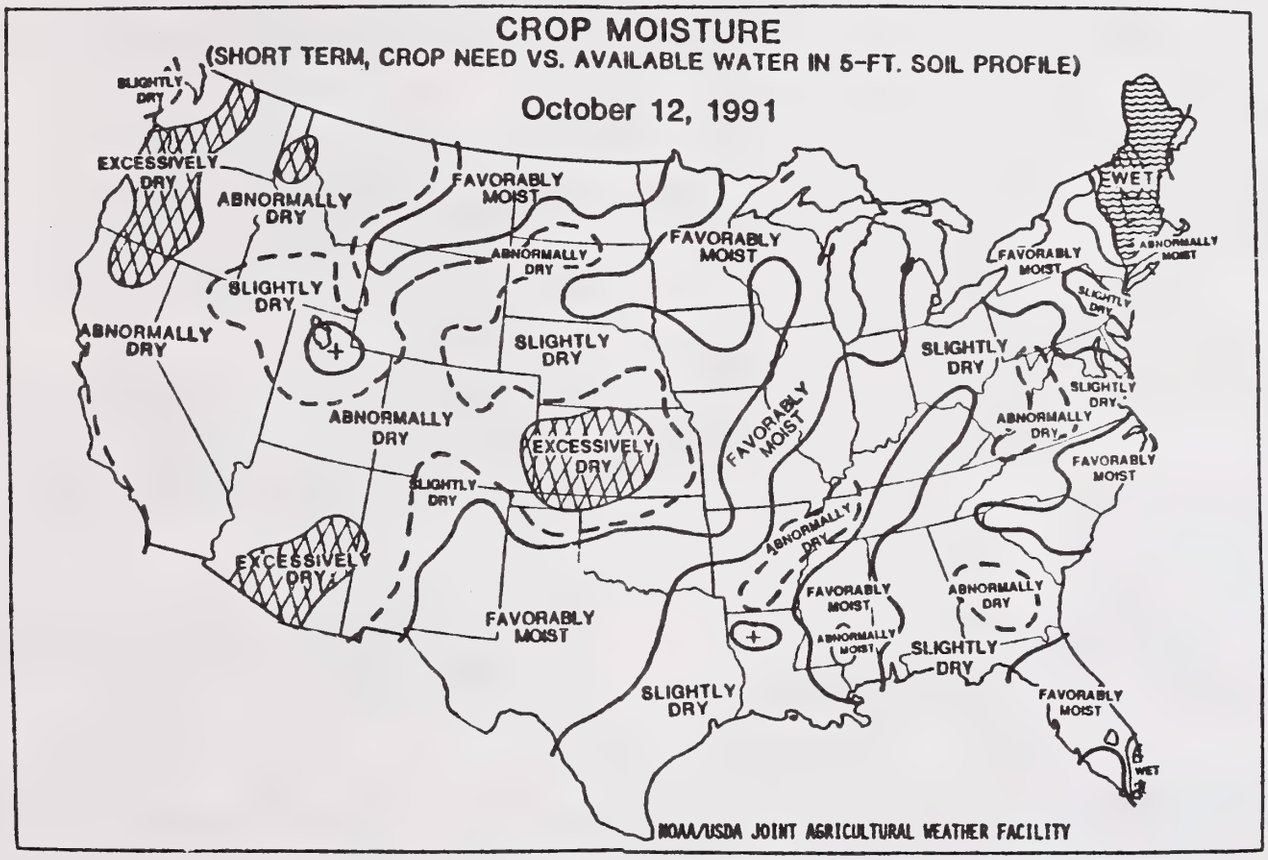
MOISTURE SITUATION FOR MONTANA

The crop-weather report for the week ending October 27, 1991, showed that Montana producers basically completed harvesting their fall crops. Harvest season ended just in time as the first heavy snow of the year hit most parts of the state. The snow will greatly reduce the seasonal fire problem.

Moisture from the snow should help alleviate the dry conditions that have existed the past several weeks. Topsoil moisture conditions were rated as 56 percent short, 39 percent adequate and 5 percent surplus. Topsoil moisture decreased another 10 points this week. Subsoil moisture was 54 percent short, 44 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

Montana winter wheat growers nearly completed seeding next year's crop. Emergence of the crop was justly slightly behind normal. The growth and condition ratings for winter wheat were 63 percent good to excellent, down just 2 points from last week. Wind damage to date has been mostly light.

As the snows and colder weather began, Montana livestock producers had moved 73 percent of their cattle and calves to winter pastures. Sheep producers had moved 77 percent of their flocks. Good pasture and range feed conditions had allowed livestock producers to keep their animals on summer pastures longer than normal.

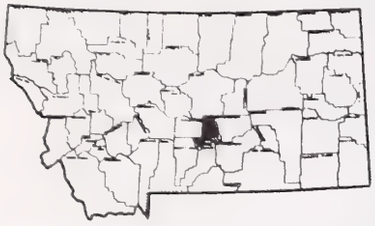


U.S. WHEAT BY CLASSES: SUPPLY AND USE 1/

Year beginning June 1	Hard Winter	Hard Spring	Soft Red	White	Durum	Total
1990/91 (estimated)			Million Bushels			
Beginning stocks	215	155	32	85	50	536
Production	1,199	555	547	313	122	2,736
Supply, total 2/	1,414	717	579	408	192	3,309
Domestic use	686	239	269	105	76	1,376
Exports	368	201	230	216	53	1,068
Use, total	1,054	440	499	321	129	2,444
Ending stocks, total	360	277	80	87	62	866
1991/92 (projected)						
Beginning stocks	360	277	80	87	62	866
Production	901	431	325	219	104	1,981
Supply, total 2/	1,261	723	405	311	186	2,886
Domestic use	559	261	264	91	80	1,255
Exports	500	290	85	170	55	1,100
Use, total	1,059	551	349	261	135	2,355
Ending stocks Oct.	202	172	56	50	51	531
Sept.	224	154	51	57	66	553

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding. 1/ Marketing year beginning June 1. 2/ Includes imports.

featuring... **GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY**



Golden Valley County occupies approximately 749,881 acres of land in central Montana. Except for the extreme northwest corner that is taken by a section of the Lewis & Clark National Forest and the Big Snowy Mountains, the land is characterized by rolling prairie. The Musselshell River runs the entire width of the county in the south. Ryegate is the county seat, and the average annual precipitation for the area is 12.49 inches.

The county supports a variety of agricultural interests, including the production of winter, spring, and durum wheat, barley, oats, hay, and corn. Winter wheat production ranked the best at 20th. The cropland is largely non-irrigated.

Sheep, cattle, and hogs are all raised in Golden Valley County. Hog numbers brought the county a rank of 29th in the December 1, 1989, hog inventory. Golden Valley came in 43rd and 18th for cattle and sheep inventories, respectively, on January 1, 1990.

Cash receipts from crops amounted to $2,775,000. Livestock and products contributed $9,671,000, while government payments added $2,934,000, for a cash receipt total of $15,380,000 for Golden Valley County in 1989.

Golden Valley County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	749,881	Total Cropland	Acres	111,659
Land in Farms	Acres	625,754	Harvested Cropland	Acres	43,150
Number of Farms		135	Irrigated Land	Acres	14,223
Average size Farms	Acres	4,635			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	11,062	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	25,068	Calves	No. Head	19,493
Barley	Acres	5,350	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	19,580
Oats	Acres	1,503	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,329

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

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Pasture & Range
Monthly Prices Received
Special Malting Barley

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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RELEASED: October 4, 1991

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HIGHLIGHTS:

7 State Cattle on Feed
August Red Meat Production
June-August Egg Production
September 1 Grain Stocks
August Milk Production
Cash Receipts From Marketings
Potato Disposition

PLEASE LOAN

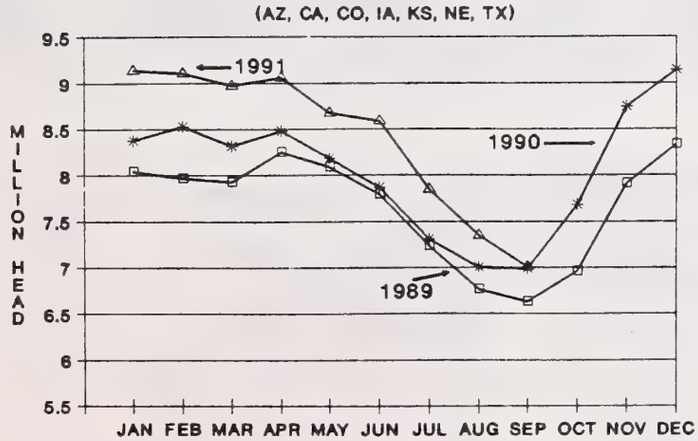
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP SLIGHTLY FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed September 1, 1991, for slaughter market totaled 7.01 million head, up slightly from a year ago and 6 percent above September 1, 1989. This is the largest September number on feed since 1987. MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.71 million, up 3 percent from last year, and 1 percent above two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August totaled 1.44 million head, down 17 percent from last year, and 12 percent below August 1989. This is the lowest number placed during August since 1981. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.37 million for August were also down 17 percent from last year and 12 percent from 1989.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 67,000 head compared to 82,000 in August 1990 and 76,000 in August 1989.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat in August of 1991. This production is up 18 percent from last month, but is unchanged from August of 1990. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,900 head, was down 100 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,162 pounds, an increase of 86 pounds from last year. .

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.43 billion pounds, down fractionally from a year earlier. Beef production totaled 2.08 billion pounds. This was up 1 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.91 million, down 3 percent. The average live weight increased 32 pounds to 1,176. Pork production, at 1.30 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 7.28 million head, down slightly from last year. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 250.

JUNE THROUGH AUGUST EGG PRODUCTION

Montana's laying flocks produced 43 million eggs in the June through August 1991 quarter, the same as last year. The number of layers for the quarter averaged 660,000 compared with 670,000 in 1990. The rate of lay this quarter was 71.2 eggs per 100 layers compared with 69.1 eggs per 100 layers a year ago.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.2 billion eggs during the June through August quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.8 billion for table eggs, 2.24 billion for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 196 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 271 million, up 2 percent from the 267 million a year ago.

All layers in the **U.S.** on September 1, 1991 totaled 272 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 272 million layers consisted of 229 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching type eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1991, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 68.9 eggs per 100 layers on September 1, 1990. Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.80 billion eggs during August, 1 percent above a year ago. The number of layers during August averaged 223 million, up 1 percent from a year ago.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana's wheat stocks on September 1, totaled 184 million bushels, 9 percent more than a year ago, and the highest wheat stocks volume since 1987. Wheat stored on farms totaled 150 million bushels, up 3 percent from last year, while off-farm storage held 34 million, up 39 percent.

Winter wheat stocks at 88 million bushels were down 9 percent from September 1990, while hard spring stocks, at 96 million bushels, were up 32 percent. The sharp increase in spring wheat stocks reflects the size of this year's crop, a result of near ideal growing conditions. Durum stocks, at 11 million, are up 24 percent.

Barley stored in all positions on September 1, at 72 million bushels, was 26 percent above a year ago. On farm storage held 65 million bushels, up 30 percent, while off-farm stocks, at 7 million, were unchanged. Oats stocks, at 5.2 million bushels, were 9 percent less than last year. On-farm storage totaled 5 million bushels.

For the **Nation**, all wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 1991, is estimated at 2.04 billion bushels, down 15 percent from September 1, 1990. Stocks on farms are 828 million bushels, down 17 percent from last September 1. Off-farm stocks total 1.21 billion bushels, down 14 percent from last year.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on September 1, 1991, are 129 million bushels, off 2 percent from last year. Farm stocks are placed at 95.2 million bushels, down 5 percent from September 1, 1990. Off-farm storage is 33.5 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago.

Barley stored in all positions on September 1, 1991, is estimated at 441 million bushels, 7 percent above the stocks of September 1, 1990. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 273 million bushel are stored on farms, 5 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 169 million bushels, are 11 percent above last year.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA Sept. 1, 1990	MONTANA June 1, 1991*	MONTANA Sept. 1, 1991	MONTANA % Chg. '91/'90	UNITED STATES Sept. 1, 1990	UNITED STATES June 1, 1991*	UNITED STATES Sept. 1, 1991
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	145,000	48,000	150,000	+3	1,000,000	341,210	828,000
Off Farms [1]	24,527	16,951	34,000	+39	1,409,504	524,522	1,213,005
TOTAL	169,527	64,951	184,000	+9	2,409,504	865,732	2,041,005
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	83,000	28,000	70,000	-16	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	13,944	9,012	18,000	+29	--	--	--
TOTAL	96,944	37,012	88,000	-9	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2,3]							
On Farms	62,000	20,000	80,000	+29	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	10,583	7,939	16,000	+51	--	--	--
TOTAL	72,583	27,939	96,000	+32	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--	--	100,050	43,353	95,160
Off Farms [1,4]	--	--	--	--	31,330	18,862	33,496
TOTAL	8,889	5,525	11,000	+24	131,380	62,215	128,656
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	754,800	1,755,000	691,200
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	589,657	1,236,957	829,660
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,344,457	2,991,957	1,502,860
OATS							
On Farms	5,200	1,500	5,000	-4	234,700	92,400	173,600
Off Farms [1]	500	128	200	-60	117,009	78,831	108,128
TOTAL	5,700	1,628	5,200	-9	351,709	171,231	281,728
BARLEY							
On Farms	50,000	9,000	65,000	+30	258,400	48,990	272,500
Off Farms [1]	7,000	2,638	7,000	--	152,453	86,392	168,585
TOTAL	57,000	11,638	72,000	+26	410,853	135,382	441,085

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT Sep. 1, 1990	ALL WHEAT Jun. 1, 1991*	ALL WHEAT Sep. 1, 1991	BARLEY Sep. 1, 1990	BARLEY Jun. 1, 1991*	BARLEY Sep. 1, 1991
			-----Million Bushels-----			
Northwest	1.9	0.5	1.7	4.7	0.9	4.1
North Central	90.6	33.6	97.9	29.7	4.0	41.4
Northeast	30.0	16.6	48.2	3.6	1.9	8.2
Central	23.6	8.3	19.8	8.6	2.0	8.0
Southwest	3.4	1.0	2.6	5.3	1.1	3.7
South Central	11.9	2.1	6.8	4.0	1.3	4.7
Southeast	8.1	2.9	7.0	1.1	0.4	1.9
STATE	169.5	65.0	184.0	57.0	11.6	72.0

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major milk producing states during August totaled 10.3 billion pounds, 2 percent less than production in these same states in August 1990. The revised production estimate for July, at 10.5 billion pounds, decreased 2 percent from the previous year.

Production per milkcow in the 21 major states averaged 1,230 pounds for August, 3 pounds less than August of 1990.

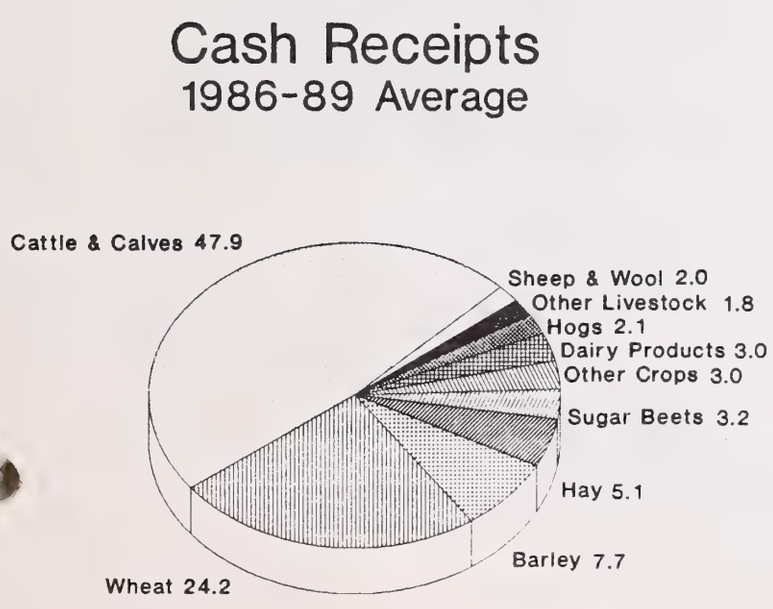
The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.38 million head, an increase of 11 thousand head from July of 1991, but 120 thousand less than August of a year ago.

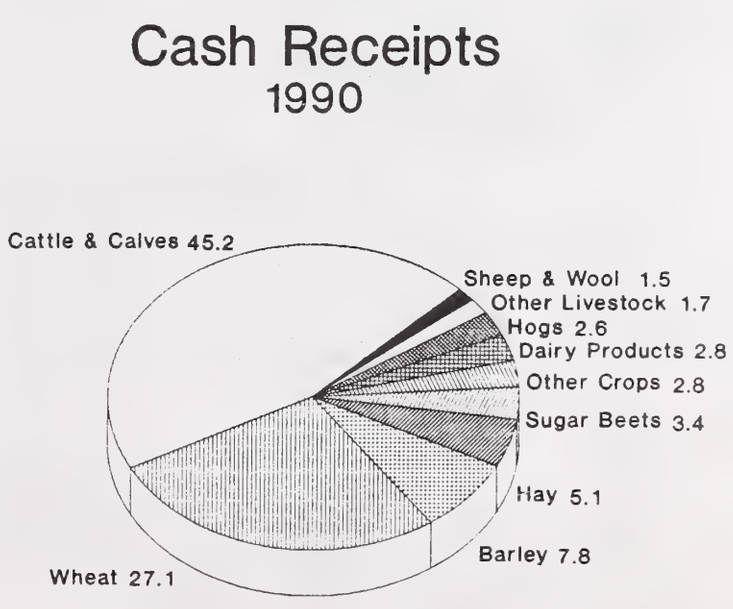
During the April-June period, the 21 major states produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.7 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 major milk producing states, the U.S. production would be 12.2 billion pounds for August 1991.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1986-1990 [1]

ITEM	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
			--Thousand Dollars--		
LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	484,121	641,623	693,345	797,523	725,476
Dairy products	41,338	40,878	41,254	42,752	45,292
Sheep and lambs	20,451	21,582	21,286	20,758	18,655
Wool	3,867	5,268	8,386	7,836	5,666
Hogs and pigs	23,147	30,836	28,613	34,181	42,150
Eggs	9,380	8,542	7,760	11,250	9,747
Chickens	189	149	174	197	116
Other [2]	15,395	15,824	15,444	14,759	16,577
TOTAL	597,888	764,702	816,262	929,256	863,679
CROPS					
Wheat	269,927	368,612	306,877	375,049	435,788
Barley	87,954	131,984	117,148	81,064	125,436
Sugar beets	39,726	42,463	46,646	45,829	54,064
Hay	68,414	61,856	71,633	78,832	81,996
Potatoes	9,367	12,311	11,565	15,130	16,960
Oats	870	1,693	2,233	2,758	2,476
Dry beans	1,570	1,473	1,752	2,709	3,343
Corn	1,305	1,452	1,927	1,468	734
Cherries	480	2,280	1,042	0	250
All other [3]	19,557	22,160	24,350	21,687	21,005
TOTAL	499,170	646,284	585,173	624,526	742,052
All commodities	1,097,058	1,410,986	1,401,435	1,553,782	1,605,731

[1] Revised. [2] Includes honey, beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others. [3] Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse, nursery and forest products.





U.S. 1990 POTATO PRODUCTION UP 9 PERCENT, SALES SET A RECORD HIGH

Production of potatoes across the **U.S.** in 1990 totaled 402 million cwt, up 9 percent from the previous year and 13 percent above 1988. Harvested area was 1.37 million acres in the 4 growing seasons, topping 1989 by 7 percent and 1988 by 9 percent. The average yield was 293 cwt per acre, up 1 percent from 1989 and 4 percent above 1988.

Value of production totaled $2.43 billion, 11 percent short of the 1989 record high return but 13 percent above 1988. The average price of potatoes brought the grower $6.08 per cwt, down 17 percent from 1989 but 1 percent above 1988.

Sales from the 1990 **U.S.** potato crop were a record high, totaling 368 million cwt. This volume is 8 percent above 1989 and 13 percent above 1988.

Growers kept back 5.04 million cwt of potatoes for seed on their own farms and bought an additional 22.9 million cwt to plant the 1991 crop. Livestock on potato farms were fed 906,000 cwt, while shrinkage and loss claimed 28.3 million cwt of production. Shrinkage and loss were up 13 percent from the previous two years.

Processing used a record 224 million cwt of 1990 crop potatoes, up 11 percent from 1989 and 16 percent above 1988. Table stock, at 118 million was up 4 percent, while seed sales were up 3 percent.

Montana's potato production for 1990 was 2.5 million cwt of which 2.2 million were sold for a season average price of $8.60 per cwt. The 1990 price compares with $8.25 received last year. Most of Montana's potatoes are sold for certified seed.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs Inventory
September Ag Prices
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

September 1 Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
August Prices Received
Montana Wheat & Barley Movement

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's 1991 all wheat crop was forecast on September 1 to be 165.6 million bushels, 3 percent more than the August 1 forecast, and the highest production since 1982, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Record high yields are expected for durum, hard spring wheat and barley, while winter wheat ties the previous record.

Winter wheat production is forecast to be 72.2 million bushels, spring wheat 87.5 million, and durum 5.9 million. Total wheat production is 8 percent under the record set in 1982, but 14 percent more than last year. This year's acres for harvest are down 12 percent from a year ago, and 15 percent under 1982. Durum yield per acre is forecast to be 33 bushels, hard spring wheat 35 bushels, and winter wheat 38 bushels.

The State's barley production is expected to be 88.4 million bushels, 56 percent more than 1990, but 6 per cent less than the record set in 1987. The September 1 forecast is 4 percent above August 1. Barley yield is predicted to be 52 bushels.

Other crop estimates for Montana are: Oats, 6.1 million bushels, more than twice last year; all hay 5.24 million tons, up 17 percent; and sugar beets 1.227 million tons, down 1 percent.

For the nation, All wheat production is forecast at 2.01 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last month and down 27 percent from 1990. Area for grain is 58.1 million acres, off 16 percent from last year. Durum wheat production for 1991 is forecast at 114 million bushels, virtually unchanged from August 1 but down 6 percent from 1990. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 526 million bushels, down 4 percent from August 1 and down 10 percent from 1990.

Barley total production is forecast at 468 million bushels, down slightly from last month but 12 percent above the 1990 crop. Corn for grain production is forecast at 7.30 billion bushels, down 2 percent from last month and 8 percent below the 1990 crop.

SEPTEMBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition on September 1, was 84 percent of normal, a good to excellent rating. Pastures and ranges are mature and dry. However, ample rains through June caused lush growth which is still providing excellent grazing.

MONTANA, September 1, 1991
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1989	1990	1991
Northwest	88	94	82
North Central	91	76	84
Northeast	61	44	86
Central	92	88	81
Southwest	80	86	75
South Central	92	86	84
Southeast	86	69	91
Montana	89	77	84

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--SEPTEMBER 1, 1991

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,700	2,350	2,500	1,900	35.0	38.0	87,500	72,200
Durum Wheat	Bu.	245	180	235	179	19.0	33.0	4,465	5,907
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,800	2,600	2,450	2,500	22.0	35.0	53,900	87,500
All Wheat	Bu.	5,745	5,130	5,185	4,579	28.1	36.2	145,865	165,607
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	65	75	9	14	95.0	90.0	855	1,260
Oats	Bu.	160	200	70	110	40.0	55.0	2,800	6,050
Barley	Bu.	1,600	1,800	1,380	1,700	41.0	52.0	56,580	88,400
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.5	12.5	13.0	12.3	16.9	17.0	220	209
Sugarbeets	Ton	55.2	56.6	55.1	56.3	22.5	21.8	1,240	1227
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.0	9.5	8.9	9.4	280.0	3/	2,492	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,350	1,400	2.50	2.60	3,375	3,640
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	1,000	1.40	1.60	1,120	1,600
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,150	2,400	2.09	2.18	4,495	5,240
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	56,998	51,049	49,976	39,549	40.7	34.7	2,033,299	1,371,946
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,565	3,378	3,502	3,321	34.9	34.4	122,171	114,353
Spring Wheat	Bu.	16,723	15,604	15,875	15,267	36.7	34.5	583,124	526,227
All Wheat	Bu.	77,286	70,031	69,353	58,137	39.5	34.6	2,738,594	2,012,526
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	74,171	75,909	66,952	68,740	118.5	106.1	7,933,068	7,295,071
Oats	Bu.	10,423	8,648	5,940	4,972	60.1	52.2	357,149	259,666
Barley	Bu.	8,201	8,926	7,499	8,429	55.9	55.5	418,856	467,871
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,178.6	1,938.0	2,086.4	1,870.2	15.54	17.06	32,429	31,913
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,399.4	1,405.7	1,376.2	1,386.2	20.0	19.9	27,538	27,557
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,387.9	1,400.0	1,370.6	1,375.0	293.0	3/	402,110	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,401	25,845	3.29	3.34	83,555	86,257
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,156	37,289	1.75	1.89	63,430	70,618
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,557	63,134	2.39	2.48	146,985	156,875

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 12, 1991.

ALL WHEAT: ACRES, YIELD, & PRODUCTION--SELECTED STATES, 1989-1991

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1990	IND 1991	1990	IND 1991	1989	1990	IND 1991
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CO [1]	2,590	2,336	33.6	31.7	62,100	86,950	74,000
ID	1,370	1,160	72.7	70.4	91,420	99,600	81,660
KS [1]	11,800	10,800	40.0	33.0	213,600	472,000	356,400
MN	2,865	2,165	48.4	32.2	102,504	138,620	69,620
MT	5,185	4,579	28.1	36.2	145,030	145,865	165,607
NE [1]	2,250	2,100	38.0	32.0	55,350	85,500	67,200
ND	10,910	9,930	35.3	32.3	242,320	385,220	320,710
OK [1]	6,300	5,000	32.0	27.0	153,900	201,600	135,000
OR [1]	968	846	59.5	51.9	53,835	57,616	43,900
SD	3,789	3,136	33.8	31.5	83,080	128,004	98,916
TX [1]	4,200	2,800	31.0	30.0	60,000	130,200	84,000
WA	2,480	2,200	60.5	46.4	110,610	150,080	102,150
US	69,353	58,137	39.5	34.6	2,036,618	2,738,594	2,012,526

[1] Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1991 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1990	1991 [2]	% chg. 91/90	1990	1991 [2]	% chg. 91/90	1990	1991 [2]	% chg. 91/90
	-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-		
Northwest	1,045	1,058	101	1,147	1,272	111	3,135	3,762	120
North Central	48,439	39,990	83	32,316	43,196	134	32,052	44,673	139
Northeast	6,600	5,900	89	16,078	39,275	244	2,551	13,459	528
Central	15,968	12,920	81	3,572	3,202	90	9,244	11,000	119
Southwest	1,732	1,650	95	1,225	1,581	129	3,759	4,389	117
South Central	9,478	7,521	79	1,374	960	70	4,729	7,085	150
Southeast	4,238	3,161	75	2,653	3,921	148	1,110	4,032	363
MONTANA	87,500	72,200	83	58,365	93,407	160	56,580	88,400	156

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

AUGUST PRICES RECEIVED

The mid-August 1991 all farm products index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers increased 2 percent from the whole month of July. The index, at 153 percent of its 1977 base, was 17 percent lower than a year ago.

The all crops index, at 119, was unchanged from July, and 4.8 percent lower than August of 1990. Winter wheat and oat prices increased slightly from last month, while barley, hay, spring and durum wheat prices declined.

Individual commodity prices show all wheat at $2.65, unchanged from the July price, and 14 cents lower than a year ago. Barley prices, at $2.41 per bushel, decreased 14 cents from July, and decreased 3 cents from August of 1990. Oats, at $1.34 per bushel, were up 6 cents from July, and 29 cents above August, 1990.

The all livestock index, at 183, was up 3 percent from July, but was down 22 percent from a year ago. Mid-August prices for cattle, sheep, and milk increased from last month, while hog, lamb, and calf prices decreased.

The August U.S. all farm products index of prices received decreased 3 percent from July to 146 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of cattle, hogs, and potatoes were partially offset by higher prices for oranges, wheat, and milk. The index was 3 percent below a year ago.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1991	MONTANA Aug. 15 1991	U.S. Aug. 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.60	2.62	2.69	2.76
Durum	Bu.	3.14	2.38	2.36	2.35
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.03	2.71	2.63	2.53
All Wheat	Bu.	2.79	2.65	2.65	2.69
Barley, All	Bu.	2.44	2.55	2.41	1.98
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.73
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.53
Oats	Bu.	1.05	1.28	1.34	1.15
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	53.00	50.00	74.70
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	49.00	47.00	60.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	53.00	50.00	71.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	88.30	77.20	72.00	69.20
Cows	Cwt.	54.20	53.20	51.10	48.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	84.40	57.80	61.60	66.40
Calves	Cwt.	104.00	93.20	90.30	97.80
Sheep	Cwt.	19.70	20.20	20.60	21.40
Lambs	Cwt.	49.20	52.60	48.90	55.90
Hogs	Cwt.	52.30	48.80	48.50	49.90
All Milk	Cwt.	14.35	11.60	12.20	12.10
Eggs	Doz.	.68	.65	.64	.64
Wool 2/	Lb.	.90	.55	.55	.53
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	184	150	153	146
All Crops	Pct.	125	119	119	136
Livestock & Products	Pct.	236	178	183	155

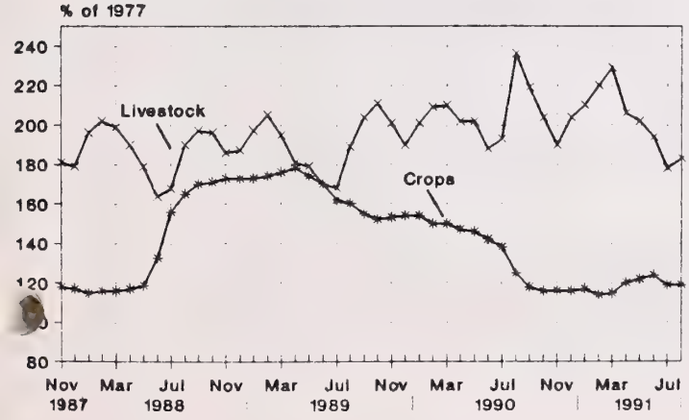
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

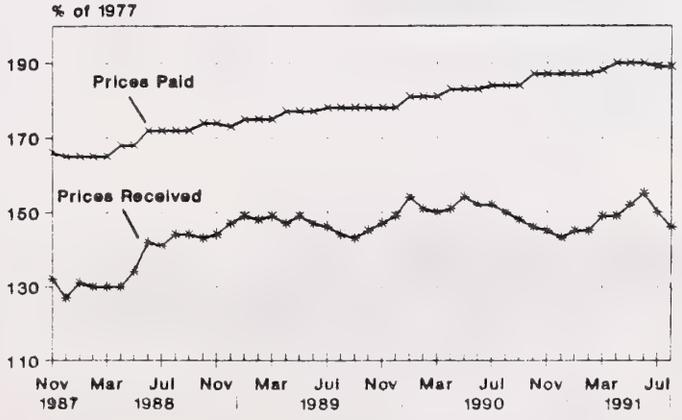
INDEX 1977=100	July 1990	Aug. 1990	July 1991	Aug. 1991
Prices Received	151	151	150	146
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	184	2/184	189	3/189
Ratio 1/	82	82	79	77

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1990 prices paid index. 3/ July 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1990-May 1991, at 48.4 million bushels, was 12 percent below the same period last year. Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 0.7 million bushels, 27 percent lower than last year. Movement to the west was down 13 percent, at 46.5 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, received 1.2 million bushels--2.4 times more than last year.

Rail movement amounted to 43.9 million bushels--91 percent of total shipments compared with 90 percent in the 1989-90 period.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1990-May 1991, was 12.1 million bushels, down 40 percent from the same period last year. Shipments to western destinations were down 31 percent and eastern destinations were down 76 percent. Barley hauled by rail was 91 percent of total movement, the same as the 1989-90 period.

Wheat and Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode, and Destination [1]

Agricultural Statistics District	December 1989-May 1990 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2]	All Wheat	December 1990-May 1991 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2]	All Wheat	Dec. 1989 -May 1990 Barley	Dec. 1990 -May 1991 Barley
			--(000) bushels--					
West [3]	495	1,181	1,676	768	2,611	3,379	5,143	5,341
North Central	9,242	20,134	29,376	13,479	14,408	27,887	10,069	4,778
Northeast	681	5,443	6,124	285	5,806	6,091	533	50
Central	7,161	3,404	10,565	4,957	1,411	6,368	4,401	1,827
South Central	4,914	750	5,664	3,214	688	3,902	144	105
Southeast	996	622	1,618	420	337	757	2	--
Trucked East	56	152	208	50	155	205	288	146
Trucked West	2,638	2,333	4,971	1,874	1,984	3,858	1,166	819
Trucked Other [4]	37	135	172	106	304	410	378	110
Total By Truck	2,731	2,620	5,351	2,030	2,443	4,473	1,832	1,075
Rail East	15	675	690	34	420	454	3,368	737
Rail West	20,717	27,927	48,644	21,023	21,628	42,651	14,791	10,197
Rail Other [4]	26	312	338	36	770	806	301	92
Total By Rail	20,758	28,914	49,672	21,093	22,818	43,911	18,460	11,026
Total Shipped	23,489	31,534	55,023	23,123	25,261	48,384	20,292	12,101

[1] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2] Includes durum. [3] Northwest and Southwest combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4] Other and unknown.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Cattle on Feed
- Cash Receipts
- Quarterly Egg Production
- Slaughter
- Potato Disposition
- Grain Stocks
- Milk Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
All Hay County Estimates
Farm Labor
July Egg Production
July Milk Production

JULY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds of red meat in July 1991. This production is up 3 percent from last month, and up 13 percent from July of 1990.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,600 head, was up 100 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,196 pounds, up 102 pounds from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,700 head, was up 600 head from last year. Average liveweight was 241, up 13 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.25 billion pounds, 5 percent above a year earlier. Beef production totaled 2.00 billion pounds. This was up 3 percent from a year earlier. The head kill totaled 2.84 million, down 1 percent. The average liveweight increased 35 pounds to 1,160.

Pork production, at 1.21 billion pounds, was up 9 percent from a year earlier. Hog kill totaled 6.73 million head, also up 9 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 250.

Lamb and mutton production, at 28.0 million pounds, was up 1 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 450,600 head, also up 1 percent. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 122.

January-July red meat production totaled 22.4 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent, veal was down 4 percent, while pork was up 3 percent and lamb and mutton production was up fractionally.

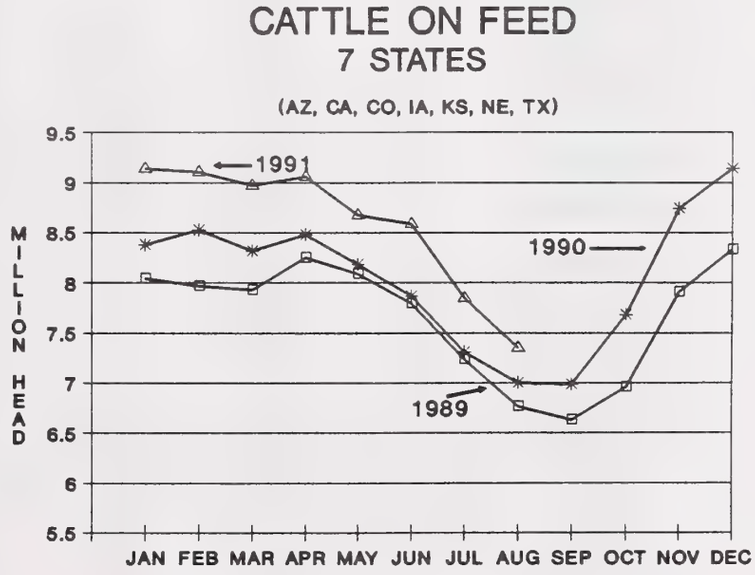
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 5 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed August 1, 1991, for slaughter market totaled 7.35 million head, up 5 percent from a year ago and 9 percent above August 1, 1989. This is the largest August number on feed since 1978.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.72 million, down 1 percent from last year, but 2 percent above two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during July totaled 1.32 million head, down 13 percent from last year but 2 percent above July 1989. Net placements of 1.23 million for July were down 15 percent from last year and virtually unchanged from 1989.

Other disappearance totaled 92,000 head compared to 77,000 in July 1990 and 63,000 in July 1989.



ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1990

COUNTY & DISTRICT	TOTAL			IRRIGATED		NON-IRRIGATED	
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre
		-----Tons-----			-Tons-		-Tons-
Deerlodge	11,500	2.2	25,500	11,000	2.3	500	1.0
Flathead	35,000	2.6	90,500	19,500	3.2	15,500	1.9
Granite	29,000	2.4	68,500	28,500	2.4	500	1.0
Lake	74,000	2.7	202,000	57,000	3.0	17,000	1.9
Lincoln	12,000	2.2	26,500	7,500	2.6	4,500	1.6
Mineral	3,500	2.1	7,500	1,500	2.7	2,000	1.8
Missoula	27,000	2.3	61,000	21,000	2.5	6,000	1.3
Powell	48,000	2.2	104,500	43,000	2.3	5,000	1.5
Ravalli	47,000	2.9	136,500	45,000	3.0	2,000	1.8
Sanders	38,000	2.0	76,500	19,500	2.8	18,500	1.2
NORTHWEST	**325,000**	**2.5**	**799,000**	**253,500**	**2.7**	**71,500**	**1.6**
Blaine	40000	2.2	89,000	22,000	3.1	18,000	1.2
Chouteau	29,500	1.7	49,500	8,000	2.7	21,500	1.3
Glacier	30,500	1.8	54,000	11,000	2.9	19,500	1.1
Hill	18,500	1.2	22,500	2,000	3.0	16,500	1.0
Liberty	6,500	1.5	10,000	1,500	2.7	5,000	1.2
Phillips	55,000	1.7	94,000	25,000	2.5	3,000	1.1
Pondera	24,000	2.3	55,500	13,000	3.2	11,000	1.2
Teton	50,000	2.5	127,000	28,000	3.5	22,000	1.4
Toole	13,000	1.7	21,500	2,500	2.8	10,500	1.4
NORTH CENTRAL	**267,000**	**2.0**	**523,000**	**113,000**	**3.0**	**154,000**	**1.2**
Daniels	14,000	1.0	14,000	1,500	3.3	12,500	0.7
Dawson	28,000	1.2	33,000	6,500	3.2	21,500	0.6
Garfield	17,500	1.1	20,000	3,000	2.8	14,500	0.8
McCone	23,500	1.1	25,500	5,000	2.9	18,500	0.6
Richland	33,000	1.6	51,000	8,000	3.7	25,000	0.9
Roosevelt	25,000	1.5	37,500	8,500	3.0	1,650	0.7
Sheridan	21,000	1.1	22,000	3,500	3.6	17,500	0.5
Valley	49,000	2.1	104,000	29,500	3.1	19,500	0.6
NORTHEAST	**211,000**	**1.5**	**307,000**	**65,500**	**3.2**	**145,500**	**0.7**
Broadwater	29,000	3.1	91,000	24,500	3.5	4,500	1.3
Cascade	70,000	1.9	132,500	19,000	3.2	51,000	1.4
Fergus	120,000	1.7	202,500	15,000	2.7	105,000	1.5
Golden Valley	17,000	1.7	28,000	5,000	2.8	12,000	1.2
Judith Basin	54,000	1.7	92,500	7,500	2.9	46,500	1.5
Lewis & Clark	45,000	2.5	110,500	31,500	3.0	13,500	1.2
Meagher	46,000	2.0	92,000	37,000	2.2	9,000	1.1
Musselshell	28,000	1.8	49,500	9,000	3.1	19,000	1.1
Petroleum	18,000	1.7	30,500	7,500	2.5	10,500	1.1
Wheatland	20,000	2.3	45,000	11,000	2.6	9,000	1.6
CENTRAL	**447,000**	**2.0**	**874,000**	**167,000**	**2.9**	**280,000**	**1.4**
Beaverhead	121,000	2.2	266,500	115,000	2.3	6,000	1.1
Gallatin	78,000	3.0	235,500	58,000	3.4	20,000	1.8
Jefferson	35,000	2.6	92,500	33,000	2.7	2,000	1.3
Madison	90,000	2.8	255,500	88,000	2.9	2,000	1.8
Silver Bow	9,000	2.9	26,000	9,000	2.9	0	0.0
SOUTHWEST	**333,000**	**2.6**	**876,000**	**303,000**	**2.7**	**30,000**	**1.6**
Big Horn	60,000	2.2	133,500	24,000	3.4	36,000	1.4
Carbon	54,000	2.6	137,500	37,000	3.1	17,000	1.3
Park	52,000	2.5	131,500	47,500	2.7	4,500	1.2
Stillwater	50,000	1.7	85,000	17,000	2.6	33,000	1.2
Sweetgrass	46,000	2.2	101,000	31,000	2.7	15,000	1.1
Treasure	10,000	2.6	25,500	5,000	3.7	5,000	1.4
Yellowstone	49,000	2.9	142,000	33,000	3.7	16,000	1.3
SOUTH CENTRAL	**321,000**	**2.4**	**756,000**	**194,500**	**3.0**	**126,500**	**1.3**
Carter	52,000	1.0	50,500	4,000	2.6	48,000	0.8
Custer	28,000	2.0	57,000	12,000	3.5	16,000	0.9
Fallon	37,000	0.8	30,500	2,000	3.0	35,000	0.7
Powder River	55,000	1.6	88,500	12,000	3.0	43,000	1.2
Prairie	16,500	1.6	26,500	4,500	4.0	12,000	0.7
Rosebud	38,500	2.4	91,500	18,000	3.9	20,500	1.0
Wibaux	19,000	0.8	15,500	1,000	3.0	18,000	0.7
SOUTHEAST	**246,000**	**1.5**	**360,000**	**53,500**	**3.5**	**192,500**	**0.9**
MONTANA	**2,150,000**	**2.1**	**4,495,000**	**1,150,000**	**2.9**	**1,000,000**	**1.2**

JULY WORKER NUMBERS DOWN SLIGHTLY

There were 3.68 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 1991. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.58 million of the total workers, along with 611 thousand unpaid workers, and 1.12 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 374 thousand workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.57 per hour during the July 1991 survey week. This rate was up 27 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.35 per hour compared with $5.06 last July. Field workers received an average of $5.26 per hour, up 21 cents from the July 1990 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.16 compared with $4.90 per hour a year earlier.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 41.9 hours, 1.2 hours more than the comparable week in 1990. Unpaid workers averaged 39.3 hours, 1.4 hours above last year. Hired employees worked 40.2 hours, 0.3 tenths of an hour more than in July of last year.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 38 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. This compared with 43 percent last year.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JULY 7-13, 1991 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	5.81	5.18	5.56	8.13	9.07	5.98	3/	6.19
NORTHEAST II	5.44	5.14	5.36	8.59	6.79	5.37	6.39	5.85
APPALACHIAN I	4.69	5.50	4.79	8.04	3/	4.75	5.73	6.08
APPALACHIAN II	4.94	5.04	4.96	3/	3/	5.03	3/	5.55
SOUTHEAST	4.37	5.39	4.53	10.21	6.58	4.73	4.51	6.00
FLORIDA	5.74	5.55	5.71	10.90	7.65	5.83	3/	7.85
LAKE	5.17	4.26	4.93	6.96	6.49	5.39	4.81	4.47
CORNBELT I	5.45	5.66	5.51	6.59	6.27	5.48	6.78	5.92
CORNBELT II	4.92	5.16	5.00	8.33	5.62	4.96	3/	6.96
DELTA	4.50	4.56	4.51	7.23	3/	4.52	3/	5.03
NORTHERN PLAINS	4.83	5.13	4.91	7.98	6.63	5.31	3/	5.20
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.81	4.89	4.83	7.71	3/	4.86	3/	5.22
MOUNTAIN I	4.99	4.66	4.88	6.00	3/	5.31	5.41	4.76
MOUNTAIN II	5.09	5.41	5.22	3/	3/	5.01	3/	6.05
MOUNTAIN III	5.06	5.29	5.12	7.19	7.27	5.12	3/	5.93
PACIFIC	5.50	4.98	5.47	8.01	8.79	5.47	5.92	6.76
CALIFORNIA	5.77	6.39	5.82	11.10	10.00	5.76	7.25	8.43
HAWAII	8.02	3/	7.92	13.96	3/	7.96	3/	12.03
ALASKA 4/	6.00	3/	3/	3/	3/	6.26	3/	3/
UNITED STATES	5.26	5.16	5.24	8.56	7.74	5.35	6.20	6.03

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA. 4/ EXCLUDED FROM U.S.

JULY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.84 billion during July 1991, up 2 percent from the 5.70 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.02 billion table eggs, 747 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 66.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during July averaged 271 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,152 eggs, compared with 2,142 in July 1990.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 1991, totaled 271 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 271 million layers consisted of 229 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 39.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 1991, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from last year's 69.2 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.77 billion eggs during July, up 1 percent from the 4.73 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during July averaged 223 million, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states (which include **Montana**) were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 82 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, March 1991 through May 1991.

JULY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during July totaled 10.5 billion pounds, 2 percent less than production in these same states in July 1990. June revised production, at 10.6 billion pounds, was 1 percent below June 1990. Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,254 for July, 6 pounds less than July 1990.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.38 million head, 14 thousand head less than June 1991 and 112 thousand head less than July 1990.

During the April-June period, the 21 major states produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.7 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.4 billion pounds for July 1991.

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WHEAT and BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat and barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the **Montana Wheat and Barley Committee** and the American Malting Barley Improvement Association, Inc. A more detailed varietal report may be obtained from our office upon request.

AUGUST 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition on August 1, at 94 percent of normal, was the highest for this date since 1982. Grazing prospects are considered excellent for the remainder of the season, although concern exists for range fires.

MONTANA, August 1, 1991
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1989	1990	1991
Northwest	86	92	95
North Central	90	77	92
Northeast	71	38	97
Central	95	83	91
Southwest	78	82	86
South Central	95	85	96
Southeast	90	69	100
Montana	88	75	94

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY VARIETIES 1987-1991
PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE

VARIETY	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
WINTER WHEAT					
Neeley	13.7	25.5	22.8	25.7	23.8
Rocky	8.7	9.0	12.0	9.9	14.2
Redwin	21.5	19.6	19.8	14.5	13.0
Tiber	--	0.3	1.9	9.5	11.8
Norstar	11.3	8.7	7.6	6.9	6.8
Winalta	11.2	9.8	9.7	8.0	6.0
Roughrider	4.5	4.1	2.0	1.9	3.7
Centurk	6.1	3.8	3.0	2.7	2.3
Cree	4.2	2.9	3.1	3.9	2.0
Thunderbird	0.2	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.9
Weston	1.0	1.1	1.6	1.6	1.7
Cheyenne	3.4	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.2
Norwin	0.8	2.2	1.3	0.7	0.8
Other & Unknown	13.4	10.9	13.3	11.8	10.6
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
SPRING WHEAT					
Lew	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.7	14.5
Rambo	0.4	6.6	9.0	15.5	14.3
Newana	21.0	16.2	19.7	16.6	13.5
Amidon (ND 606)	--	--	0.6	4.7	11.6
Len	11.3	15.1	15.2	12.7	11.2
Fortuna	19.7	11.8	14.6	9.0	8.4
Stoa	4.2	10.3	7.9	10.0	7.7
Olaf	5.7	5.9	5.8	4.5	3.4
Butte	1.9	0.8	0.4	0.4	1.9
Glenman	1.7	1.1	2.4	1.4	1.6
Tioga	3.8	3.1	1.1	1.4	1.1
Other & Unknown	19.9	18.7	13.3	13.1	10.7
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
DURUM WHEAT					
Vic	52.1	29.7	27.4	24.0	5.5
Monroe	0.3	6.1	8.3	14.3	14.1
Ward	12.3	17.0	18.5	10.2	14.0
Medora	1.4	8.6	7.8	19.0	14.0
Westbred Laker	3.0	4.0	15.2	12.7	12.7
Renville	--	--	--	0.6	6.0
Lloyd	4.1	6.6	4.6	1.4	5.4
Crosby	9.9	14.7	6.3	4.3	4.3
Other & Unknown	16.9	13.3	11.9	13.5	11.5
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
BARLEY					
Hector	31.9	31.8	29.8	22.9	25.8
Harrington	9.4	10.5	15.6	22.7	24.2
Piroline	13.0	11.3	7.3	7.4	6.7
Gallatin	0.1	2.6	6.0	5.4	5.8
Morex	1.2	1.9	2.3	4.1	4.8
Bowman	2.9	5.1	3.0	2.7	4.6
Clark	10.9	6.7	7.2	4.7	4.3
AB Varieties	--	0.6	2.7	5.0	3.8
Klages	14.6	11.0	9.8	7.2	3.2
Lewis	1.8	3.2	2.4	2.1	2.9
Horsford	0.8	0.7	1.6	1.8	2.5
Menuet	2.2	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.9
Moravian III	0.5	1.0	1.2	2.5	1.8
Kimberly	2.7	2.5	2.4	1.8	1.1
Other & Unknown	7.9	9.6	7.6	8.5	6.6
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

AUGUST 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's 1991 all wheat crop is forecast at 160.2 million bushels, 4 percent above the July forecast, and the fourth largest crop on record. The crop is 10 percent greater than last year, and will set a new record yield per acre. Winter wheat production, at 72.2 million bushels, is 6 percent above the July forecast and 17 percent below last years' production. Winter wheat suffered extensive winter kill, but the surviving acreage has tied the record yield of 38 bushels per acre. Hard spring wheat production, at 82.5 million bushels, is 3 percent above July, and 53 percent above last year. The yield per acre, at 33 bushels, is 2 bushels over the old record set in 1982. Durum production, at 5.5 million bushels, is unchanged from July, and 24 percent more than 1990. Durum is expected to yield 31 bushels per acre.

Barley production in Montana is expected to be 85.0 million bushels, 2 percent above July and 50 percent more than last year. The expected yield of 50 bushels is a new record. Oats production, at 6.05 million bushels, is more than twice last years output.

Hay production for the State is forecast at 5.24 million tons, 17 percent above last year, and 6 percent greater than the previous record set in 1981. Alfalfa production, at 3.64 million tons, is 8 percent above last year and is also a new record for Montana. Other hay, at 1.6 million tons, is 43 percent above a year ago. Corn for grain production is expected to be 1.26 million bushels, 47 percent above last year. Dry bean production, at 209,000 cwt, is down 5 percent from 1990. Sugar beet production, at 1.227 million tons is down 1 percent.

For the **Nation**, all wheat production is forecast at 2.03 billion bushels, up slightly from last month but 26 percent lower than 1990's level. The final forecast of 1991 winter wheat production is 1.37 billion bushels, up 1 percent from July but down 33 percent from 1990. Durum wheat production is forecast at 114 million bushels, virtually unchanged from July 1 but down 7 percent from 1990. Other spring wheat total production is forecast at 547 million bushels, down 2 percent from July 1 and down 6 percent from 1990.

U.S. total barley production is forecast at 470 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month but 12 percent above the 1990 crop. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 55.8 bushels, compared with last season's 55.9 bushels. All hay production is forecast at 157 million tons, an increase of 7 percent from last year. The larger production is the result of both higher yields and increased acreage. Area for harvest, totaling 63.1 million acres, is up 3 percent from 1990. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production is forecast at 86.2 million tons, 3 percent above last year. The total area cut and to be cut, at 25.8 million acres, exceeds last years's area harvest for alfalfa hay by 2 percent.

The first forecast of the 1991 U.S. corn for grain crop is 7.42 billion bushels, 6 percent below last year's crop. The U.S. average yield per acre is forecast at 107.8 bushels, down 10.7 bushels from last year's yield. The area to be harvested for grain, at 68.8 million acres, is 3 percent above 1990 but virtually unchanged from the June acreage estimate. The first forecast of the 1991 soybean crop is estimated at 1.87 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the previous year. Yield is expected to average 31.8 bushels per acre, 2.2 bushels below 1990.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--AUGUST 1, 1991

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,700	2,350	2,500	1,900	35.0	38.0	87,500	72,200
Durum Wheat	Bu.	245	180	235	179	19.0	31.0	4,465	5,549
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,800	2,600	2,450	2,500	22.0	33.0	53,900	82,500
All Wheat	Bu.	5,745	5,130	5,185	4,579	28.1	35.0	145,865	160,249
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	65	75	9	14	95.0	90.0	855	1,260
Oats	Bu.	160	200	70	110	40.0	55.0	2,800	6,050
Barley	Bu.	1,600	1,800	1,380	1,700	41.0	50.0	56,580	85,000
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.5	12.5	13.0	12.3	16.9	17.0	220	209
Sugarbeets	Ton	55.2	56.6	55.1	56.3	22.5	21.8	1,240	1227
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.0	9.5	8.9	9.4	280.0	3/	2,492	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,350	1,400	2.50	2.60	3,375	3,640
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	1,000	1.40	1.60	1,120	1,600
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,150	2,400	2.09	2.18	4,495	5,240
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	56,998	51,049	49,976	39,549	40.7	34.7	2,033,299	1,371,946
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,565	3,378	3,502	3,321	34.9	34.4	122,171	114,167
Spring Wheat	Bu.	16,723	15,604	15,875	15,267	36.7	35.8	583,124	546,867
All Wheat	Bu.	77,286	70,031	69,353	58,137	39.5	35.0	2,738,594	2,032,980
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	74,171	75,909	66,952	68,790	118.5	107.8	7,933,068	7,417,531
Oats	Bu.	10,423	8,648	5,940	4,972	60.1	52.2	357,149	259,666
Barley	Bu.	8,201	8,926	7,499	8,429	55.9	55.8	418,856	469,961
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,178.6	1,938.0	2,086.4	1,870.2	15.54	16.60	32,429	31,041
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,399.4	1,405.7	1,376.2	1,386.2	20.0	19.8	27,538	27,474
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,387.9	1,400.0	1,358.8	1,376.2	290.0	3/	393,872	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,401	25,845	3.29	3.34	83,555	86,257
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,156	37,289	1.75	1.89	63,430	70,618
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,557	63,134	2.39	2.48	146,985	156,875

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 12, 1991.

JULY PRICES RECEIVED

The mid-July 1991 all farm products index of prices received by **Montana** farmers and ranchers decreased less than 1 percent from the whole month of June. The index, at 151 percent of its 1977 base, was 10 percent lower than a year earlier.

The all crops index, at 110, was 7 percent lower than June, and 20 percent lower than a year ago. The only cereal grain to show an increase at mid-July compared with June was oats. Hay prices also declined, reflecting continued good forage conditions and abundant supplies.

Individual commodity prices show all wheat at $2.58, down 14 cents per bushel from June and 64 cents below July a year ago. Barley was $1.89 per bushel, down 29 cents from last month and 51 cents below the previous year. Oats, at $1.43 per bushel, were up 13 cents from June and 14 cents above July 1990.

The all livestock index, at 188, was up 3 percent from last month, but 3 percent lower than a year ago. Compared with last month, higher prices were received at mid-July for cattle, sheep and hogs, while lamb prices declined. Calf prices were unchanged.

The July **U.S.** all farm products index of prices received decreased 2.6 percent from June to 151 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of tomatoes, oranges, soybeans, and peaches were partially offset by higher prices for eggs, milk, celery, and broilers. The index was the same as a year ago.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1991	MONTANA July 15 1991	U.S. July 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.01	2.65	2.55	2.49
Durum	Bu.	3.28	2.62	2.39	2.31
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.29	2.83	2.63	2.39
All Wheat	Bu.	3.22	2.72	2.58	2.47
Barley, All	Bu.	2.40	2.18	1.89	1.73
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.77
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	1.66
Oats	Bu.	1.29	1.30	1.43	1.11
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	57.00	53.00	75.20
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	51.00	49.00	55.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	56.00	53.00	70.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	80.00	79.60	80.60	76.40
Cows	Cwt.	54.70	55.10	55.70	51.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	63.10	59.30	61.90	73.30
Calves	Cwt.	98.00	97.50	97.50	103.00
Sheep	Cwt.	17.10	15.00	15.50	24.40
Lambs	Cwt.	52.10	52.60	51.70	55.10
Hogs	Cwt.	56.60	49.70	51.20	53.90
All Milk	Cwt.	13.95	11.03	11.60	11.60
Eggs	Doz.	.55	.57	.65	.65
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.03	.50	.55	.56
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	167	152	151	151
All Crops	Pct.	138	118	110	137
Livestock & Products	Pct.	193	182	188	163

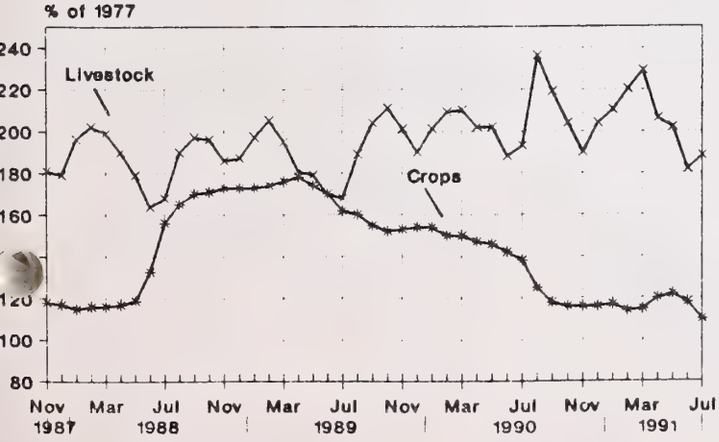
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

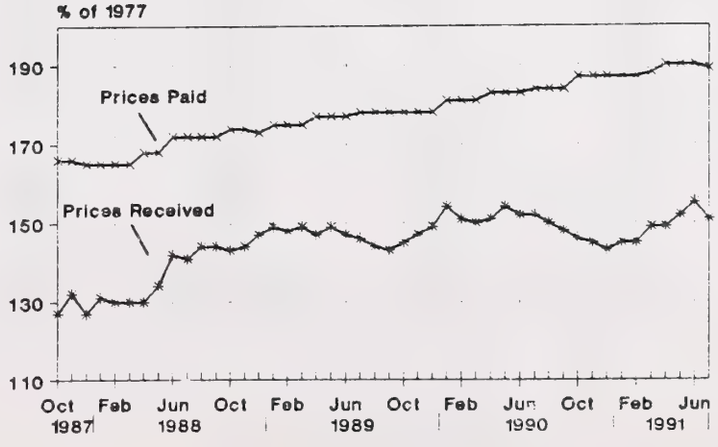
INDEX 1977=100	June 1990	July 1990	June 1991	July 1991
Prices Received	152	151	155	151
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	1\183	184	2/190	189
Ratio 1/	83	82	82	80

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1990 prices paid index. 3/ April 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1991 [1]

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	1990	1991	%chg 91/90	1990	1991	%chg 91/90	1990	1991	%chg 91/90
	-1000 bushels-								
Northwest	1,045	1,058	101	1,364	1,224	90	3,060	3,762	123
N Central	48,439	39,990	83	34,450	40,879	119	27,180	41,491	153
Northeast	6,600	5,900	89	11,750	36,795	313	3,325	12,990	391
Central	15,968	12,920	81	2,743	2,986	109	9,975	10,750	108
Southwest	1,732	1,650	95	1,220	1,501	123	3,505	5,082	145
S Central	9,478	7,521	79	1,600	864	54	3,480	7,085	204
Southeast	4,238	3,161	75	4,163	3,800	91	1,975	3,840	194
MONTANA	87,500	72,200	83	57,290	88,049	154	52,500	85,000	162

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
Slaughter
Egg Production
Milk Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle Inventory
Quarterly Cattle on Feed
June Red Meat Production
June Milk Production
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms
U.S. Mink Production
U.S. Egg Production
Montana Production Forecast by Districts

PLEASE RETURN

JULY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1991, totaled 109.8 million head, up 2 percent from the July 1 level of both a year ago and two years ago. This is the largest July 1 inventory since July 1 1986.

All cows and heifers that have calved, 44.5 million, up 1 percent from both years.

- Beef cows, 34.5 million, up 2 percent from both years.
- Milk cows, 10.0 million, down 1 percent from both years.

Other class estimates and the percentage changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.0 million, up 3 percent and up 2 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.30 million, up 4 percent and up 8 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.20 million, unchanged and down 7 percent.
- Other heifers, 7.50 million, up 4 percent from both years.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.2 million, up 4 percent and 6 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.20 million, unchanged from both years.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.9 million, up 1 percent from both years.

U.S. CALF CROP UP 1 PERCENT

The 1991 calf crop is expected to be 40.1 million head, up 1 percent from 1990 and virtually unchanged from 1989. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 29.3 million, up slightly from both 1990 and 1989.

CATTLE & CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS & CALF CROP, UNITED STATES, JULY 1, 1989-91

CLASS	1989	1990	1991	1991 AS % 1990
		1,000 Head		Percent
Cattle and calves	107,700	107,900	109,800	102
Cows and heifers that have Calved:	43,900	44,000	44,500	101
Beef cows	33,800	33,900	34,500	102
Milk cows	10,100	10,100	10,000	99
Heifers 500 pounds and over	16,600	16,500	17,000	103
For beef cow replacement	4,900	5,100	5,300	104
For milk cow replacement	4,500	4,200	4,200	100
Other heifers	7,200	7,200	7,500	104
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,400	14,600	15,200	104
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,200	2,200	2,200	100
Calves under 500 pounds	30,600	30,600	30,900	101
Calf crop 1/	40,102	39,879	40,100	101

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 13 STATES UP 8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 states preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.43 million head, up 8 percent from a year ago and 9 percent above July 1, 1989. This is the largest July number on feed since 1978.

The inventory included 6.16 million steers and steer calves, 10 percent above a year ago. This group accounts for 65.4 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.22 million head, 4 percent above a year ago. By weight group, 1.56 million head of the total inventory weighed over 1,100 pounds.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June quarter totaled 4.89 million, down 4 percent from last year and 6 percent below June 1989. NET PLACEMENTS of 4.43 million for April-June was down 6 percent from last year and 8 percent below 1989.

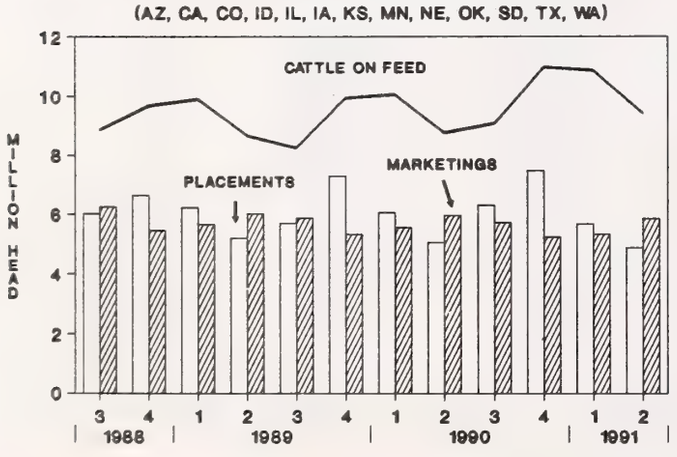
MARKETINGS of fed cattle during the April-June quarter totaled 5.87 million, down 2 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 464 thousand head compared to 400 thousand in 1990 and 410 thousand in 1989.

EXPECTED MARKETINGS JULY-SEPTEMBER UP 5 PERCENT

Cattle feeders expect to market 6.04 million head during the July-September quarter of 1991. This would be up 5 percent from the third quarter marketings in 1990 and 3 percent above 1989.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in June 1991. This production is up 4 percent from last month, and up 19 percent from June 1990.

Cattle slaughter, at 1600 head, was up 100 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,202 pounds, up 123 pounds from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2200 head, was up 600 head from a year ago. Average liveweight was 246 pounds, up 7 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.06 billion pounds, 4 percent below a year earlier. Comparing June 1991 with June 1990: beef production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Head kill totaled 2.71 million, down 8 percent. The average liveweight increased 33 pounds to 1,150.

JUNE MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during June totaled 10.7 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same states in June 1990. May revised production, at 11.2 billion pounds was virtually the same as May 1990. Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,269 pounds for June, 7 pounds above June 1990. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.41 million head, 5 thousand less than May and 82 thousand less than June 1990.

During the April-June period, the 21 major states produced 32.8 billion pounds of milk, 84.7 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. Production would be 12.9 billion for April, 13.2 billion pounds for May, and 12.6 billion for June.

The April-June quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 38.7 billion pounds, virtually the same as the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 10.0 million head, 84 thousand less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1 1991, averaged 17.3 pounds, the same as July 1, 1990. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on July 1, averaged $7.71 per hundredweight, $0.40 less than the July 1, 1990 price.

MONTANA FARM NUMBERS UP SLIGHTLY

There are 24,800 farms and ranches in **Montana**, 100 more than in 1990. This continues a trend of slightly increased numbers of farms that began in 1975. Montana has 60.3 million acres in farms and ranches in 1991, down from 60.5 million in 1990. The average size of operation declined slightly to 2,431 acres, down from 2.449 acres last year.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 1991 is estimated at 2.105 million, down 2 percent from 1990. Total land in farms is 983 million acres, fractionally below last year. The number of farms has continued to decline faster than land in farms, with the average farm size increasing from 461 acres in 1990 to 467 in 1991.

Texas held its position as the state with the most farms, 185,000, down 1,000 from a year earlier. Missouri is second with 107,000 farms, down 1,000; followed by Iowa with 102,000 farms, off 2,000. The sharpest drops came in Ohio and Indiana, down 4,000 and 3,000 farms, respectively.

	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
Year	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms
	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres
1983	24.1	61.3	2,544	2,378.6	1,023.4	430
1984	24.2	61.1	2,525	2,333.8	1,017.8	436
1985	24.3	61.0	2,510	2,292.5	1,012.1	441
1986	24.4	60.9	2,496	2,249.8	1,005.3	447
1987	24.5	60.8	2,482	2,213.0	998.9	451
1988	24.6	60.7	2,467	2,197.1	994.5	453
1989	24.7	60.6	2,453	2,170.5	991.2	457
1990	24.7	60.5	2,449	2,140.4	987.4	461
1991	24.8	60.3	2,431	2,104.6	982.6	467

U.S. MINK PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 27 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1990 totaled 3.37 million pelts, down 27 percent from 1989. Wisconsin, the major mink producing state, produced 855,300 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: standard--52.8 percent; ranch wild--11.6 percent; demi-buff--8.1 percent; mahogany--7.8 percent; gunmetal--7.6 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 12.1 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1990 crop year were valued at $85.8 million dollars, down 9 percent from $93.9 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1990 crop year was $25.50, compared with $20.40 in 1989 and $32.30 in 1988. Female mink bred to produce kits in 1991 totaled 873,600, down 5 percent from the previous year. Many mink producers reported the mink price motivated them to "pelt out" and reduce or close out their mink operation.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1991 by color class are: standard--56.5 percent; ranch wild--11.3 percent; demi-buff--8.0 percent; gunmetal--7.6 percent; and mahogany--6.5 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.1 percent.

There were 786 mink farms in the U.S. producing pelts in 1990, down 16 percent from a year ago. Leading states were Utah with 180 farms, Wisconsin with 152 farms, and Minnesota with 93 farms.

U.S. JUNE EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.62 billion during June 1991, up 2 percent from the 5.53 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.81 billion table eggs, 746 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 66.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during June averaged 271 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,071 eggs, compared with 2,069 in June 1990.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1991, totaled 271 million, up 2 percent from last year's total of 265 million. The 271 million layers consisted of 228 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.93 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1991 averaged 69.3 eggs per 100 layers, compared to last year's 69.5 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.60 billion eggs during June, up 1 percent from the 4.57 billion eggs produced a year ago. The number of layers during June averaged 223 million, up 1 percent from a year ago.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1991 [1]

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1990	1991 [2]	% chg. 91/90	1990	1991 [2]	% chg. 91/90	1990	1991 [2]	% chg. 91/90
	-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-			-1000 bushels-		
Northwest	1,045	990	95	1,364	1,221	90	3,060	3,694	121
N Central	8,439	37,200	77	34,450	39,723	115	27,180	40,857	150
Northeast	6,600	5,600	85	11,750	35,742	304	3,325	12,677	381
Central	5,968	13,034	82	2,743	2,856	104	9,975	10,250	103
Southwest	1,732	1,515	87	1,220	1,467	120	3,505	5,090	145
S Central	9,478	6,900	73	1,600	864	54	3,480	7,085	204
Southeast	4,238	3,161	75	4,163	3,677	88	1,975	3,648	185
MONTANA	87,500	68,400	78	57,290	85,549	149	52,500	83,300	159

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wheat & Barley Varieties
July Prices Received
Crop Production
  Small Grains
  Pasture & Range Feed Condition

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
July 1 Pasture & Range Feed Condition
June Ag Prices Received
U.S. Hog Inventory

JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's 1991 all wheat production forecast is 153.9 million bushels, the fifth largest crop on record. This year's potential yield of 33.6 bushels per harvested acre would tie the record high set in 1982. The forecast is based on conditions as of July 1.

Winter wheat production is estimated to be 68.4 million bushels, 22% less than last year. Nearly 20% of the winter planted acreage was lost due to winter freeze and drought damage. Hard spring wheat production is forecast to be 80 million bushels, 48 percent more than a year ago.

Durum production, at 5.5 million, is up 24%. Yield prospects for spring wheat, at 32 bushels per acres, are a record high. The forecast for winter wheat yield is 36 bushels per acre, durum 31 bushels.

The state's barley production is forecast at 83.3 million bushels, 47% above last year, and the third largest crop on record. Barley yield is expected to be 49 bushels per acre, tying the record set in 1982. Oats production, at 6.05 million bushels, is more than double lasts year's crop.

Montana's pasture and range feed condition was rated at 100 percent on July 1. The only other year condition reached this level was in 1978.

For the Nation, winter wheat production for 1991 is forecast at 1.36 billion bushels, down 6 percent from June 1 and down 33 percent from 1990. This is the lowest production level since 1978. The yield is now expected to average 34.4 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels from last month, and 6.3 less than last year. Acreage for grain harvest is 39.5 million acres, unchanged from the "acreage" report and 21 percent below last season.

Other spring wheat production for 1991 is forecast at 556 million bushels, down 5 percent from the record 1990 crop. The yield forecast is 36.4 bushels per acre, down 0.3 of a bushel from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 15.3 million acres, down 4 percent from a year ago.

Oats production is forecast at 280 million bushels, down 22 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 56.3 bushels per acre, down 3.8 bushels from 1990. Area for harvest is down 16 percent from last year.

Barley production at 476 million bushels is 14 percent above the 1990 production yields are expected to average 56.5 bushels per acre, 0.6 of a bushel more than last year. Area for harvest is expected to be up 12 percent from last year.

JULY 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

On July 1, Montana's pasture and range feed condition was 100 percent, the first time since 1978. Good rains during May and June replenished top soil moisture and boosted grass growth. Areas of drought in prior years have also recovered to provide good grazing.

MONTANA, July 1, 1991
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

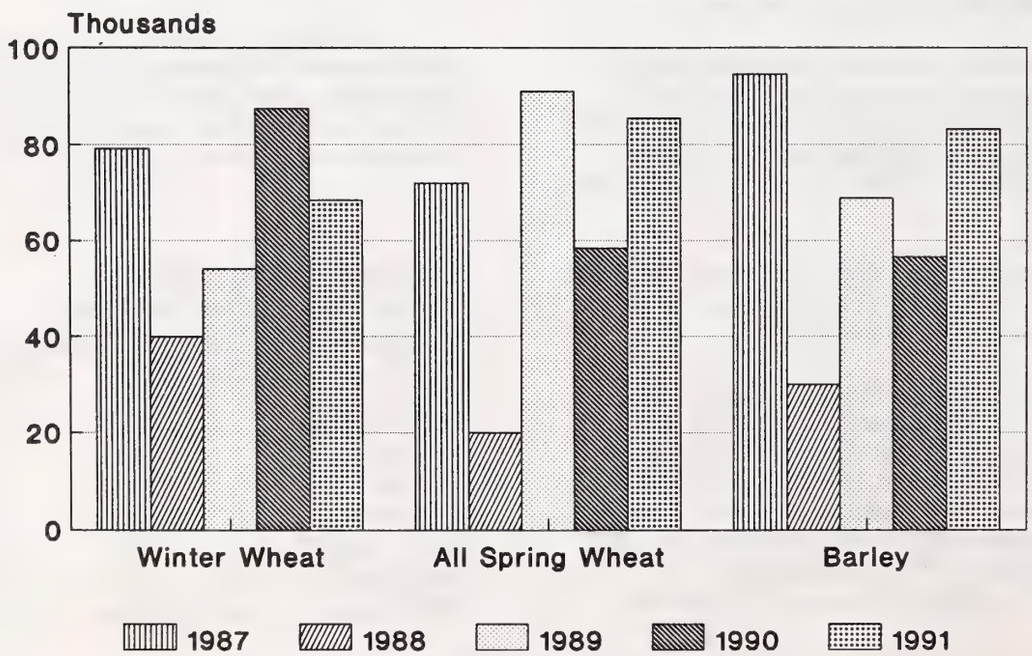
District	1989	1990	1991
Northwest	93	97	98
North Central	96	84	96
Northeast	84	45	98
Central	96	94	101
Southwest	86	89	95
South Central	97	92	101
Southeast	93	78	105
Montana	94	83	100

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--JULY 1, 1991

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,700	2,350	2,500	1,900	35.0	36.0	87,500	68,400
Durum Wheat	Bu.	245	180	235	179	19.0	31.0	4,465	5,549
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,800	2,600	2,450	2,500	22.0	32.0	53,900	80,000
All Wheat	Bu.	5,745	5,130	5,185	4,579	28.1	33.6	145,865	153,949
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	65	75	9	14	95.0	3/	855	3/
Oats	Bu.	160	200	70	110	40.0	55.0	2,800	6,050
Barley	Bu.	1,600	1,800	1,380	1,700	41.0	49.0	56,580	83,300
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.5	12.5	13.0	12.3	16.9	3/	220	3/
Sugarbeets	Ton	55.2	56.6	55.1	56.5	22.5	3/	1,240	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.0	9.5	8.9	9.4	280.0	4/	2,492	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,350	1,400	2.50	3/	3,375	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	1,000	1.40	3/	1,120	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,150	2,400	2.09	3/	4,495	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	56,998	51,049	49,976	39,549	40.7	34.4	2,033,299	1,361,316
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,565	3,378	3,502	3,321	34.9	34.5	122,171	114,459
Spring Wheat	Bu.	16,723	15,604	15,875	15,267	36.7	36.4	583,124	556,207
All Wheat	Bu.	77,286	70,031	69,353	58,137	39.5	35.0	2,738,594	2,031,982
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	74,171	75,909	66,952	68,840	118.5	3/	7,933,068	3/
Oats	Bu.	10,423	8,648	5,940	4,972	60.1	56.3	357,149	280,016
Barley	Bu.	8,201	8,926	7,499	8,429	55.9	56.5	418,856	476,208
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,178.6	1,938.0	2,086.4	1,872.2	15.54	3/	32,429	3/
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,399.4	1,405.7	1,376.2	1,385.2	20.0	3/	27,593	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,387.9	1,400.0	1,358.8	1,376.2	290.0	4/	393,872	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,944	25,401	3.29	3/	83,555	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,356	36,156	1.75	3/	63,430	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,300	61,557	2.39	3/	146,985	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available August 12, 1991. [4] Production forecast available November 12, 1991.

Montana Small Grains Production
July 1, 1991

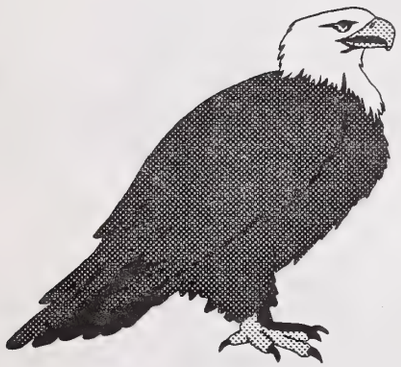


JUNE AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers received slightly higher prices for cereal grains in June compared with May, but most livestock prices weakened. Compared with a year ago, this year's June farm prices are lower for most of the products farmers sell. Exceptions were steer and heifer, calf, barley, and oats prices.

The June 1991 index of prices received for all farm products was 161 (1977=100). Last year the June index was 167. The all crops index, at 124, compares with 142 last year, while the livestock and products index, at 194, compares with 188 last year.

For the Nation, the June all farm products index of prices received increased 3 points from May to 155 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of oranges, pears, and apples were partially offset by lower prices for lettuce, cattle, and hay. Wheat increased slightly in price from May while rice, feed grain, oilseed, and hay prices were down. Cattle, calf, hog, and egg prices were down from May. The average milk price continued unchanged.



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1991	MONTANA June 15 1991	U.S. June 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.37	2.61	2.71	2.67
Durum	Bu.	3.38	2.74	2.82	2.49
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.40	2.86	2.87	2.59
All Wheat	Bu.	3.39	2.69	2.76	2.65
Barley, All	Bu.	2.19	2.53	2.59	1.87
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.75
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.00
Oats	Bu.	1.26	1.34	1.42	1.14
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	59.00	57.00	80.10
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	51.00	51.00	57.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	58.00	56.00	71.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	75.30	87.30	85.30	77.20
Cows	Cwt.	55.10	54.20	53.50	53.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	60.60	68.10	64.60	74.10
Calves	Cwt.	96.40	101.00	99.20	104.00
Sheep	Cwt.	17.10	16.30	16.30	21.70
Lambs	Cwt.	59.70	53.10	53.10	56.60
Hogs	Cwt.	58.10	51.20	50.90	53.90
All Milk	Cwt.	13.10	11.50	11.40	11.40
Eggs	Doz.	.62	.55	.57	.59
Wool 2/	Lb.	.88	.50	.50	.72
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	167	163	161	155
All Crops	Pct.	142	122	124	147
Livestock & Products	Pct.	188	202	194	163

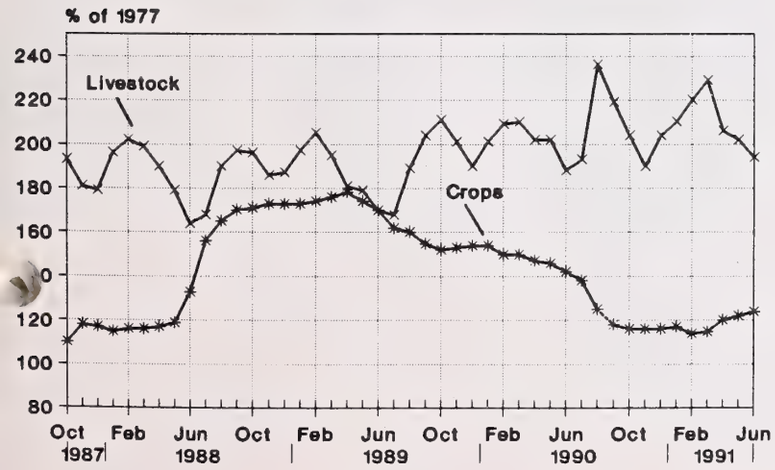
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

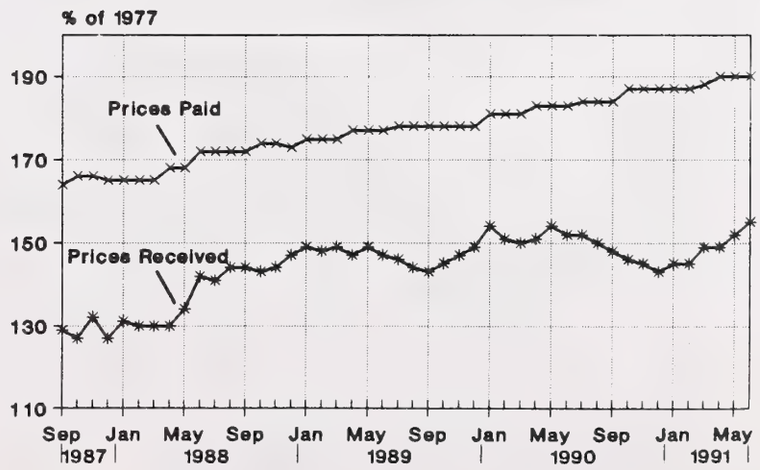
INDEX 1977=100	May 1990	June 1990	May 1991	June 1991
Prices Received	153	152	152	155
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/183	2/183	3/190	3/190
Ratio 1/	84	83	80	82

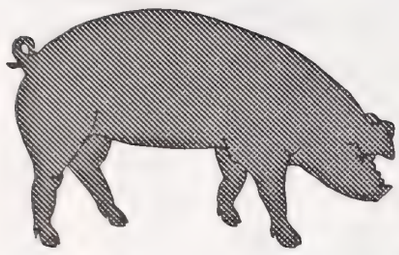
1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1990 prices paid index. 3/ April 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED





US HOG INVENTORY INCREASES

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1991 is estimated at 56.3 million head. This is a 5 percent increase from last year and 1 percent above June 1, 1989.

-- Breeding inventory, at 7.47 million head, is 6 percent above last year and 2 percent above two years ago.

-- Market hog inventory, at 48.8 million head, is 4 percent above a year ago and 1 percent above June 1, 1989.

The December 1990-May 1991 U.S. pig crop was 47.5 million head, 5 percent more than last year and slightly above the same period in 1989. Sows farrowing during the six-month period totaled 5.99 million, up 4 percent from last year but 1 percent below the same period in 1989. Pigs saved per litter was 7.92, a new record high for the period, compared with 7.89 last year and 7.82 two years ago. The March-May U.S. pig crop was 26.2 million head, 5 percent above a year earlier.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 6.09 million sows farrow during the June-November period, a 7 percent increase from the actual sows farrowed during the same period in 1990 and 5 percent above two years ago. Farrowings for June-August are expected to be up 7 percent from last year and September-November farrowings are expected to be 6 percent above a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Quarterly Milk Production
Mink
Egg Production
Cattle Inventory
Farm Numbers and Land In Farms

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 91-12 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: July 2, 1991

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1991 Crop Acreages
Cattle on Feed
May Red Meat Production
Grain Stocks
Quarterly Egg Production
Milk Production

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 2,200 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. For those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey a SPECIAL THANKS. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

MONTANA FARMERS TO HARVEST LESS WHEAT

Montana farmers plan to harvest 4.58 million acres of wheat in 1991, 12% less than last year, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Winter wheat acres for harvest, at 1.9 million, are down 24%; spring wheat, at 2.5 million acres, are up 2%; and durum, at 179 thousand acres, are down 24%. Barley acres for harvest, at 1.7 million, are up 23%. Oats acres for grain, at 110 thousand, are up 57%.

Total plantings of all small grains in Montana, at 7.13 million acres, are down 5% from 1990, and down 14% from the 1989 planted acreage. Montana's total hay acreage is expected to be 2.4 million acres, up 12% from last year. Alfalfa acres, at 1.4 million, are up 4%, and other hay acres at 1.0 million are up 25%. Sugar beet acres for harvest at 56.5 thousand acres are up nearly 3%, and dry beans at 12.3 thousand are down 5%. Corn planted for all purposes at 75 thousand acres is up 15%.

For the nation, winter wheat acreage for grain harvest is expected to total 39.5 million acres, down 21 percent from last year and off 2 percent from the June 1 estimate. Due to disease problems, many soft red winter producing states now have lower acres for grain. These declines, along with lower grain acres in the Pacific Northwest, Colorado, and Oklahoma, have more than offset the increased harvested area expectations recorded in some states. Area planted to spring wheat for 1991 totaled 15.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 1990. Plans are to harvest 15.3 million acres for grain, 4 percent less than last year.

Barley seedings totaled 8.93 million acres, an increase of 9 percent from last year. North Dakota continues to lead all states with 2.90 million acres seeded, up 12 percent from a year earlier. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 8.43 million acres, 12 percent more than a year earlier.

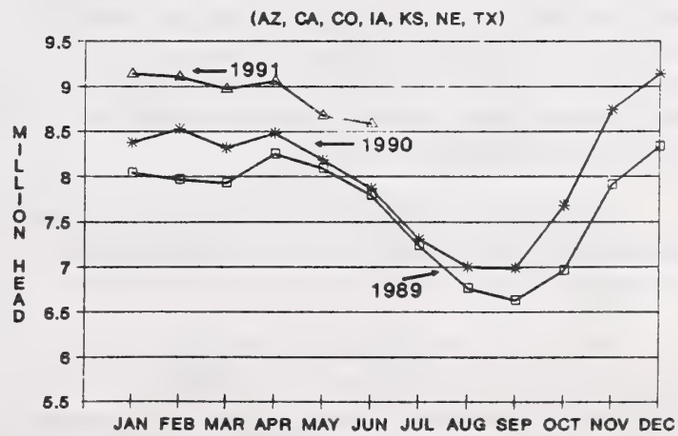
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 9 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed June 1, 1991, for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.59 million head, up 9 percent from a year ago and 10 percent above June 1, 1989. This is the largest June number on feed since 1973.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.70 million, down 5 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during May totaled 1.75 million, up 8 percent from both last year and May 1989. **Net placements** of 1.61 million for May was up 10 percent from both last year and 1989. **Other disappearance** totaled 141,000 head compared to 150,000 in May 1990 and 164,000 in May 1989.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



ACRES PLANTED AND FOR HARVEST--JUNE 1991

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]	1990	1991 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,700	2,350	2,500	1,900	35.0	33	87,500	62,700
Durum Wheat	Bu.	245	180	235	179	19.0	3/	4,465	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,800	2,600	2,450	2,500	22.0	3/	53,900	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,745	5,130	5,185	4,579	28.1	3/	145,865	3/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	65	75	9	14	95.0	3/	855	3/
Oats	Bu.	160	200	70	110	40.0	3/	2,800	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,600	1,800	1,380	1,700	41.0	3/	56,580	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.5	12.5	13.0	12.3	16.9	3/	220	3/
Sugarbeets	Ton	55.2	56.6	55.1	56.5	22.5	3/	1,240	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.0	--	8.9	--	280.0	3/	2,492	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,350	1,400	2.50	3/	3,375	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	1,000	1.40	3/	1,120	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,150	2,400	2.09	3/	4,495	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	56,998	51,049	49,976	39,549	40.7	36	2,033,299	1,449,418
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,565	3,378	3,502	3,321	34.9	3/	122,171	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	16,723	15,604	15,875	15,267	36.7	3/	583,124	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	77,286	70,031	69,353	58,137	39.5	3/	2,738,594	3/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	74,171	75,909	66,952	68,840	118.5	3/	7,933,068	3/
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Barley	Bu.	8,201	8,926	7,499	8,429	55.9	3/	418,856	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,178.6	1,938.0	2,086.4	1,872.2	15.54	3/	32,429	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,399.4	1,405.7	1,376.2	1,385.2	20.0	3/	27,593	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,388.2	--	1,359.1	--	290.0	3/	393,867	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,944	25,401	3.29	3/	83,555	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,356	36,156	1.75	3/	63,430	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,300	61,557	2.39	3/	146,985	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available July 11, 1991.

MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds of red meat in May 1991. This production is up 3 percent from last month's production, and up 4 percent from May 1990.

Cattle slaughter, at 1,500 head, was down 200 head from last year. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,216 pounds, up 130 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 2,200 head, was up 300 head from last year. Average liveweight, at 237 pounds, was up one pound from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.29 billion pounds, 1 percent below a year earlier.

Beef production totaled 1.95 billion pounds. This was down 3 percent from a year earlier. The head kill totaled 2.85 million, down 5 percent. The average liveweight increased 31 pounds to 1,140. Veal production, at 23.0 million pounds, was down 9 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 105,200 head, down 25 percent. The average liveweight increased 83 pounds to 371.

Pork production, at 1.29 billion pounds, was up 3 percent. Hog kill totaled 7.13 million head, up 2 percent from last year. The average liveweight increased 3 pounds to 253. Lamb and mutton production, at 30.0 million pounds,was down 3 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 460,700 head, down 4 percent. The average liveweight increased 1 pound to 129.

January-May red meat production was 16.0 billion pounds and was up 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent while veal, pork, and lamb and mutton were each up 2 percent.

MONTANA WHEAT CARRYOVER INCREASES

Montana wheat stocks on June 1, 1991, totaled 65 million bushels, up 14% from a year ago. This amount of wheat represents carryover from previous year's crops and is 23% under the ten-year average. Winter wheat stocks were 37.2 million bushels, up 56% from a year ago, while all spring wheat stocks totaled 27.8 million bushels, down 17%. All wheat stored on farms was 48 million bushels, 74% of the total.

Barley stocks on June 1, were 12.1 million bushels, down 18% from last year. Oats stocks were 1.56 million bushels, down 41%.

For the Nation, old crop all wheat stocks in all positions June 1, 1991, are estimated at 866 million bushels, up 61 percent from June 1, 1990. Stocks on farms are 341 million bushels, also up 61 percent from last June 1. Off-farm stocks total 525 million bushels, up 62 percent from last year. The indicated disappearance for the quarter ending June 1, is 530 million bushels, up 30 percent from the same period in 1990.

Barley stored in all positions on June 1, 1991, is estimated at 136 million bushels, 16 percent below the stocks of June 1, 1990. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 49.0 million are stored on farms, 1 percent above a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 86.9 million bushels, are down 23 percent from last year.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1990	Mar. 1, 1991*	June 1, 1991	% Chg. '91/'90	June 1, 1990	Mar. 1, 1991*	June 1, 1991
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	44,000	73,000	48,000	+9	212,500	532,920	341,210
Off Farms [1]	13,158	22,331	17,000	+29	323,955	863,057	524,571
TOTAL	57,158	95,331	65,000	+14	536,455	1,395,977	865,781
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	19,000	42,000	28,000	+47	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	4,807	11,080	9,200	+91	--	--	--
TOTAL	23,807	53,080	37,200	+56	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	25,000	31,000	20,000	-20	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	8,351	11,251	7,800	-7	--	--	--
TOTAL	33,351	42,251	27,800	-17	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--	--	30,836	58,759	43,353
Off Farms [1 4]	--	--	--	--	19,385	23,679	18,637
TOTAL	6,656	5,922	5,300	-20	50,221	82,438	61,990
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,623,500	3,064,500	1,755,000
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	1,219,708	1,724,474	1,236,911
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	2,843,208	4,788,974	2,991,911
OATS							
On Farms	2,500	3,000	1,500	-40	82,850	138,600	92,400
Off Farms [1]	162	60	60	-63	74,062	90,659	78,763
TOTAL [4]	2,662	3,060	1,560	-41	156,912	229.259	171,163
BARLEY							
On Farms	10,000	15,000	9,000	-10	48,590	94,850	48,990
Off Farms [1]	4,840	5,394	3,100	-36	112,226	116,062	86,854
TOTAL	14,840	20,394	12,100	-18	160,816	210,912	135,844

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1990	Mar. 1, 1991*	June 1, 1991	June 1, 1990	Mar. 1, 1991*	June 1, 1991
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.8
North Central	27.0	48.6	34.4	6.5	8.5	4.2
Northeast	14.9	23.5	16.3	1.8	2.8	1.9
Central	8.1	12.3	7.9	2.2	3.7	2.0
Southwest	0.5	1.4	1.0	1.1	2.2	1.3
South Central	3.8	4.0	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.5
Southeast	2.5	4.7	2.8	0.5	0.5	0.4
STATE	57.2	95.3	65.0	14.8	20.4	12.1

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 41 million eggs in the March through May 1991 quarter, down from 45 million produced during the same quarter last year. Layers for the 1991 quarter averaged 615,000 compared with 670,000 in 1990. The rate of lay in the 1991 quarter was 72.2 eggs per 100 layers compared with 72.7 per 100 layers in the 1990 quarter.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.3 billion eggs during the March through May quarter, up slightly from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.8 billion table eggs, 2.28 billion broiler-type hatching eggs and 200 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 271 million head, down 1 percent from the 273 million head a year ago.

All layers in the **U.S.** on June 1, 1991 totaled 272 million head, compared with 269 million head a year ago. The 272 million layers consisted of 227 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.88 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1991 averaged 68.7 Eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.9 For June 1, 1990.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.71 billion eggs during May, down 1 percent from the 4.77 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during May averaged 223 million head, virtually unchanged from a year ago.

MAY 1991 MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during May totaled 11.2 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from production in these same states in May 1990. April revised production at 10.9 billion pounds was 1 percent above April 1990. Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,335 pounds for May, 11 pounds more than May 1990. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.42 million head, 10,000 head less than April 1991 and 80 thousand less than May 1990.

During the January-March period, the 21 major states produced 31.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.6 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 13.3 billion pounds for May 1991.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
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  Small Grains
  Pasture & Range

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Winter Wheat--Selected States
Barley County Estimates
May Prices Received
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Winter Wheat--by District

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION PROSPECTS DOWN SLIGHTLY

Montana's winter wheat production forecast now stands at 62.7 million bushels, slightly below the May 1 estimate, and 28% under last year's total, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Acres for harvest at 1.9 million are down 200 thousand from the previous month. The May report did not fully reflect all of the abandonment that resulted from dry soils and cold weather last winter.

Yield per acre, at 33 bushels, is up 3 bushels from the May 1 forecast and reflects good rains during May. Many winter wheat fields have bare spots because of winter kill. The production forecast is based on conditions as of June 1.

Winter wheat production for the U.S. is forecast at 1.45 billion bushels, off 3 percent from May 1 and down 29 percent from 1990. Yields are now expected to average 36.0 bushels per acre, down 0.9 and 4.7 bushels per acre from May 1 and 1990, respectively. Sharp declines in most soft red winter yields paved the way for the overall decline in winter wheat production.

1990 COUNTY BARLEY ESTIMATES

The 1990 barley county estimates will soon be available for distribution. We're publishing the "all barley" figures in this publication, but estimates by class and cropping practice are available from the office upon request. These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on acreage and production surveys conducted last fall. Nearly 6,099 questionnaires were tabulated including 4,000 completed by telephone to ensure better coverage in each county. Thanks to those who provided information!

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT: ACRES, YIELD, & PRODUCTION--SELECTED STATES, 1989-1991

STATE	AREA HARVESTED 1990	AREA HARVESTED IND 1991	YIELD 1990	YIELD IND 1991	PRODUCTION 1989	PRODUCTION 1990	PRODUCTION IND 1991
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CA	560	360	76.0	80.0	43,890	42,560	28,800
CO	2,550	2,400	33.0	29.0	57,200	84,150	69,600
ID	920	770	75.0	68.0	56,700	69,000	52,360
IL	1,900	1,500	48.0	40.0	105,020	91,200	60,000
KS	11,800	10,800	40.0	34.0	213,600	472,000	367,200
MO	2,000	1,550	38.0	37.0	86,950	76,000	57,350
MT	**2,500**	**1,900**	**35.0**	**33.0**	**54,000**	**87,500**	**62,700**
NE	2,250	2,050	38.0	35.0	55,350	85,500	71,750
ND 1/	160	70	27.0	28.0	2,320	4,320	1,960
OH	1,350	1,100	59.0	54.0	62,730	79,650	59,400
OK	6,300	5,200	32.0	27.0	153,900	201,600	140,400
OR	910	805	60.0	54.0	48,900	54,600	43,470
SD	1,600	1,300	36.0	38.0	35,100	57,600	49,400
TX	4,200	2,800	31.0	26.0	60,000	130,200	72,800
WA	2,200	900	63.0	52.0	68,900	138,600	46,800
WY 1/	205	195	29.0	28.0	4,246	5,945	5,460
US	49,976	40,304	40.7	36.0	1,454,642	2,033,299	1,449,418

1/ ESTIMATES FOR CURRENT YEAR CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER FORECAST.

BARLEY: ACREAGE, YIELD, and PRODUCTION, by COUNTIES and DISTRICTS, 1990

COUNTY and DISTRICT	TOTAL SEEDED ACRES	TOTAL HARVESTED ACRES	YIELD PER ACRE BUSHELS	PRODUCTION BUSHELS
Deerlodge	1,300	800	73.8	59,000
Flathead	32,600	30,300	70.0	2,124,000
Granite	1,200	400	65.0	26,000
Lake	10,000	8,100	55.7	451,000
Lincoln	100	100	70.0	7,000
Mineral	100	100	70.0	7,000
Missoula	2,700	2,100	33.8	71,000
Powell	4,000	1,300	51.5	67,000
Ravalli	6,200	5,100	57.1	291,000
Sanders	800	700	45.7	32,000
NORTHWEST	59,000	49,000	64.0	3,135,000
Blaine	37,800	33,100	36.3	1,200,000
Chouteau	180,000	152,000	38.0	5,775,000
Glacier	100,000	95,000	40.6	3,860,000
Hill	65,000	62,000	27.1	1,680,000
Liberty	45,200	43,500	42.4	1,843,000
Phillips	38,000	30,400	22.9	696,000
Pondera	120,000	113,000	56.6	6,392,000
Teton	129,000	122,000	60.7	7,400,000
Toole	73,000	70,000	45.8	3,206,000
NORTH CENTRAL	788,000	721,000	44.5	32,052,000
Daniels	19,200	12,700	14.7	187,000
Dawson	25,000	19,100	20.8	398,000
Garfield	14,200	11,700	26.2	306,000
McCone	28,300	16,100	16.1	260,000
Richland	34,600	20,500	24.7	507,000
Roosevelt	25,400	12,700	14.7	187,000
Sheridan	27,500	21,100	16.0	337,000
Valley	33,800	25,100	14.7	369,000
NORTHEAST	208,000	139,000	18.4	2,551,000
Broadwater	15,900	15,200	45.5	692,000
Cascade	65,000	57,000	43.7	2,490,000
Fergus	99,000	93,000	31.4	2,919,000
Golden Valley	7,100	3,600	25.6	92,000
Judith Basin	61,000	56,000	24.3	1,358,000
Lewis & Clark	12,500	12,200	57.7	704,000
Meagher	16,600	9,300	34.4	320,000
Musselshell	8,000	6,900	29.3	202,000
Petroleum	2,800	1,700	35.3	60,000
Wheatland	19,100	17,100	23.8	407,000
CENTRAL	307,000	272,000	34.0	9,244,000
Beaverhead	13,600	9,700	42.4	411,000
Gallatin	53,000	49,200	56.3	2,768,000
Jefferson	3,600	1,600	26.9	43,000
Madison	11,100	9,000	56.2	506,000
Silver Bow	700	500	62.0	31,000
SOUTHWEST	82,000	70,000	53.7	3,759,000
Big Horn	24,400	21,700	62.4	1,355,000
Carbon	14,400	13,400	71.7	961,000
Park	11,400	8,700	40.6	353,000
Stillwater	17,400	16,400	22.7	372,000
Sweetgrass	4,500	3,400	26.5	90,000
Treasure	3,100	2,500	84.4	211,000
Yellowstone	25,800	22,900	60.6	1,387,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	101,000	89,000	53.1	4,729,000
Carter	5,400	3,400	23.2	79,000
Custer	8,000	5,700	37.0	211,000
Fallon	10,200	6,800	10.9	74,000
Powder River	5,700	4,600	28.7	132,000
Prairie	7,200	5,600	32.5	182,000
Rosebud	11,000	9,200	34.8	320,000
Wibaux	7,500	4,700	23.8	112,000
SOUTHEAST	55,000	40,000	27.8	1,110,000
MONTANA	1,600,000	1,380,000	41.0	56,580,000

MAY PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farm prices continue to be strong for livestock. Compared with a month earlier, mid-May prices were higher for lambs, hogs, steers and heifers. Calves and sheep were unchanged. Higher prices during mid-May were also noted for all wheat and barley, but all hay and oats were lower. When compared to prices received a year ago, most crop prices were lower.

Compared with the previous month, May's prices were as follows: all wheat was $2.79 a bushel--up 14 cents; barley was $2.61 a bushel--up 9 cents; oats were $1.30 a bushel--down 1 cent; all hay was $58 a ton--down $2.00; steers and heifers were $86.70 a cwt.--up $1.60; cows were $55.10 a cwt.--up $1.20; calves were $101 a cwt.--unchanged, lambs were $52--up $2.00.

The May Montana prices received index for all farm products was 168 (1977=100), 3 points higher than last month but 8 points below May 1990. The all crops index was 125, up 5 points from April but 21 points below last year. The livestock and products index, at 206, was unchanged from April and up 4 points from May 1990.

The **U.S.** May all farm products index of prices received increased 3 points from April to 152 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of potatoes, lettuce, and hogs were partially offset by lower prices for cattle, eggs, and corn.

The index was 2 points below a year ago. Lower prices for milk, wheat, hogs, and corn were the major contributors to the decline from May 1990. Higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, lettuce, and apples were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1991	MONTANA May 15 1991	U.S. May 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.51	2.55	2.72	2.70
Durum	Bu.	3.27	2.66	2.70	2.66
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.50	2.80	2.90	2.62
All Wheat	Bu.	3.50	2.65	2.79	2.67
Barley, All	Bu.	2.21	2.52	2.61	2.03
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.91
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.15
Oats	Bu.	1.29	1.31	1.30	1.15
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	61.00	59.00	89.00
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	52.00	51.00	61.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	60.00	58.00	84.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	78.40	85.10	86.70	80.80
Cows	Cwt.	52.90	53.90	55.10	53.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	68.20	71.30	70.90	77.20
Calves	Cwt.	98.00	101.00	101.00	106.00
Sheep	Cwt.	12.70	19.40	19.40	22.70
Lambs	Cwt.	55.90	50.00	52.00	58.30
Hogs	Cwt.	56.70	46.40	48.30	54.70
All Milk	Cwt.	12.95	11.60	11.50	11.30
Eggs	Doz.	.49	.58	.55	.60
Wool 2/	Lb.	.96	.45	.50	.67
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	176	165	168	152
All Crops	Pct.	146	120	125	137
Livestock & Products	Pct.	202	206	206	166

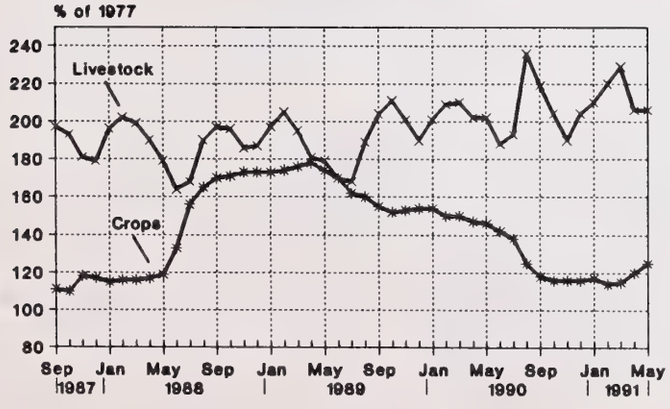
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

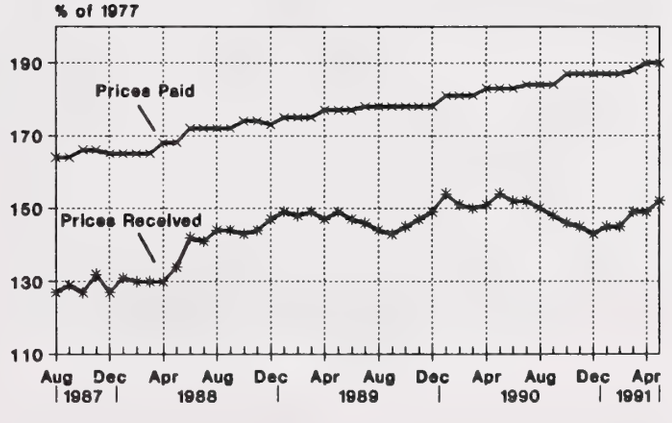
INDEX 1977=100	Apr. 1990	May 1990	Apr. 1991	May 1991
Prices Received	151	154	149	152
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	183	2/183	190	3/190
Ratio 1/	83	84	78	80

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1990 prices paid index. 3/ April 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



JUNE 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition rating, of 91 percent of normal is the best June rating since 1978. Rains, which fell over much of the state during May, allowed grasses to grow and develop much better than in recent years. The effects of persistent drought during past years is still evident in north eastern Montana where ranges are green but growth has been slower.

MONTANA, June 1, 1991
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1989	1990	1991
Northwest	84	93	90
North Central	91	86	89
Northeast	85	54	86
Central	90	92	91
Southwest	81	87	89
South Central	93	95	93
Southeast	85	84	96
Montana	87	85	91

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--June 1, 1991 1/

District	1989	1990	1991	% chg. 91/90
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	388	1,045	918	88
N Central	22,600	48,439	33,480	69
Northeast	3,947	6,600	5,000	76
Central	14,116	15,968	11,780	74
Southwest	1,860	1,732	1,205	70
S Central	7,481	9,478	7,497	79
Southeast	3,608	4,238	2,820	67
MONTANA	54,000	87,500	62,700	72

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Crop Acreage
Letter to JAS Respondents
Grain Stocks

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
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REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

April Milk Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
April Farm Labor
Potato Stocks
1990 Milk Production
April Egg Production
April Red Meat Production
featuring...Glacier County

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CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 6 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed May 1, 1991, for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.68 million head, up 6 percent from a year ago and 7 percent above May 1, 1989. This is the largest May number on feed since 1973.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.72 million, up 10 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. This is the largest number of April marketings on record.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during April totaled 1.46 million, up 6 percent from last year but 5 percent below April 1989. Net placements of 1.33 million for April were up 7 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1989.

Other disappearance totaled 128 thousand head compared to 125 thousand in April 1990 and 124 thousand in April 1989.

PLEASE RETURN

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION

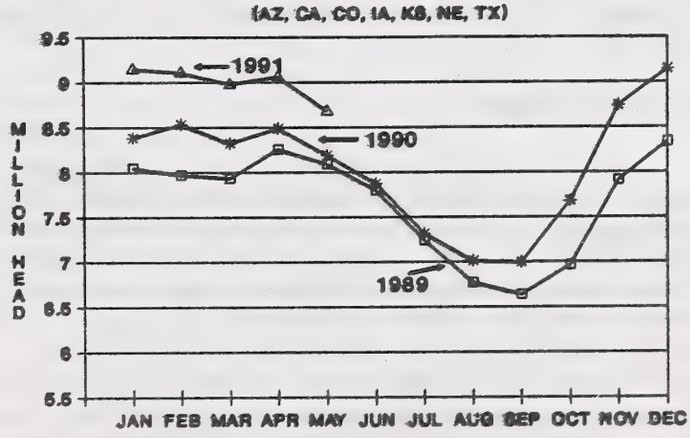
Milk production in the 21 major states during April totaled 10.9 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same states in April 1990. March revised production at 11.1 billion pounds was 1 percent above March 1990.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,294 for April, 21 pounds more than April 1990.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.43 million head, 36 thousand head less than March 1991 and 69 thousand less than April 1990.

During the January-March period, the 21 major states produced 31.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.6 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.9 billion pounds for April 1991.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



FARM WAGES FOR APRIL

There were 2.95 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 7-13, 1991. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.48 million of the total, along with 436 thousand unpaid workers, and 826 thousand workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 206 thousand workers.

Farm operators in the Mountain I region, which includes Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, paid their hired workers an average of $5.11 per hour during the April 1991 survey week. This rate was up 27 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.23 per hour compared with $5.10 last April. Field workers received an average of $4.96 per hour, down 4 cents from the April 1990 survey week. Livestock workers in the Mountain I region earned $4.93 per hour, compared with $4.34 a year earlier.

In the U.S., self-employed farm operators worked an average of 36.7 hours, nine-tenths of an hour more than the comparable week in 1990. Unpaid workers averaged 34.3 hours, 1.3 hours above last year. Hired employees worked 40.0 hours, two-tenths of an hour more than in April of last year.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 41 percent of the hired workers in the U.S. during the survey week. This compares with 44 percent last year.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 7-13, 1991 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	5.98	5.08	5.54	8.43	3/	5.96	3/	5.79
NORTHEAST II	5.50	5.01	5.30	7.85	6.69	5.55	6.46	5.43
APPALACHIAN I	4.31	5.30	4.60	7.75	6.22	4.50	3/	5.25
APPALACHIAN II	4.98	4.90	4.94	10.32	3/	5.09	3/	6.62
SOUTHEAST	4.66	6.36	5.03	8.61	7.10	4.71	5.67	6.59
FLORIDA	5.39	5.88	5.45	10.98	8.73	5.32	6.81	7.63
LAKE	5.86	5.07	5.38	7.15	6.62	5.31	3/	5.94
CORNBELT I	5.94	5.46	5.80	9.12	6.35	5.96	3/	7.26
CORNBELT II	4.99	5.20	5.09	8.39	5.49	5.06	3/	6.33
DELTA	5.14	5.01	5.09	8.30	3/	4.89	3/	6.08
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.45	4.99	5.23	7.67	7.16	5.48	3/	5.34
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.73	4.96	4.82	7.73	5.63	4.85	3/	5.41
MOUNTAIN I	4.96	4.93	4.95	5.75	5.60	5.23	3/	5.04
MOUNTAIN II	5.62	5.21	5.44	6.98	3/	5.74	3/	5.62
MOUNTAIN III	4.98	5.11	5.03	7.74	3/	4.95	3/	5.94
PACIFIC	5.74	5.95	5.78	7.90	8.20	5.47	6.80	7.24
CALIFORNIA	5.69	6.91	5.82	10.90	8.94	5.77	6.65	9.50
HAWAII	7.95	3/	7.88	14.30	8.61	8.01	3/	11.98
U. S.	5.45	5.35	5.42	8.82	7.39	5.44	6.59	6.42

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

POTATO STOCKS

Potato stocks on hand May 1, 1991, in Montana, nearing the end of the seed season, totaled 230,000 cwt, representing 9 percent of total production. This is 130,000 cwt more than a year ago. For the Nation, May 1 potato stocks totaled 54.4 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year but 8 percent below two years ago. Stocks contain 16 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage states, the same as last year.

Disappearance for the season so far in the U.S. is a record 282 million cwt of potatoes, 6 percent above last year. Processors used 132 million cwt, a gain of 8 percent over last year and 21 percent above two years ago. Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled a record high 282 million cwt of potatoes, up 6 percent from last year and 14 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was estimated at 26.0 million cwt, 11 percent above the 23.4 million cwt lost last year and 9 percent above two years ago when losses were 23.9 million cwt.

Western potato stocks totaled 42.1 million cwt in six states, up 5 percent from last year but 14 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 7 percent from last year and accounted for over half the western holdings. Oregon holdings were down 10 percent and Washington stocks were up 25 percent. Colorado was down 14 percent from a year ago while California stocks were off 9 percent.

1990 MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, & INCOME

Montana's 1990 milk production at 338 million pounds is up 11 million from last year. The rate per cow, at 14,083 pounds, increased 3 percent from 1989. The number of milk cows averaged 24,000 for 1990, unchanged from a year ago.

Cash receipts from milk marketings during 1990 totaled $44.5 million, compared with $42.0 million last year. Producer returns averaged $13.70 per hundredweight, up $.08 from 1989 returns. Returns were $3.90 per pound of milkfat in 1990, compared with $3.84 per pound in 1989.

U.S. milk production increased 3 percent in 1990 to 148 billion pounds. The rate per cow at 14,642 was 398 pounds above 1989. The annual average number of cows on farms at 10.1 million head was 1 thousand more than the 1989 average.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1990 at $20.2 billion, was 4 percent above 1989. Producer returns averaged $13.81 per hundredweight, 20 cents per hundredweight above the 1989 average. Marketings totaled 146 billion pounds 3 percent above 1989. Marketings include whole milk and producer separated cream sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

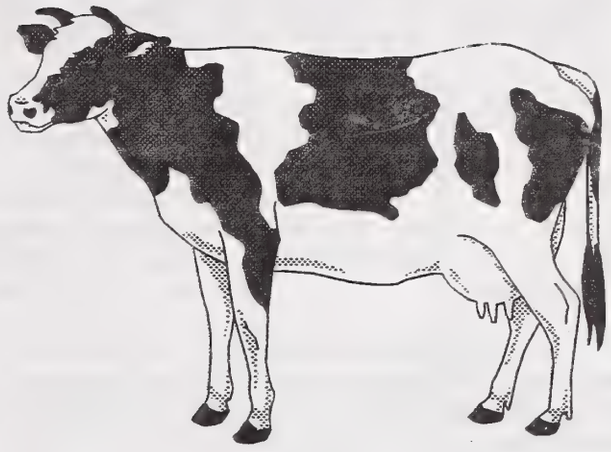
An estimated 2.05 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1 percent below 1989. Calves were fed 74 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households as milk, cream, and butter.

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.59 billion during April 1991, down 1 percent from the 5.65 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.78 billion table eggs, 744 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 65.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during April averaged 270 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,070 eggs, compared with 2,080 in April 1990.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1991, totaled 269 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 269 million layers consisted of 225 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 41.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.77 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of eggs laid per day on May 1, 1991, averaged 68.2 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from last year's 68.9 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.62 billion eggs during April, down 2 percent from the 4.71 billion eggs produced a year ago. The number of layers during April 1991 averaged 223 million, down 1 percent from the 226 million a year ago.



APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in April 1991. This production is up 24 percent from April 1990, and up 30 percent from last month's production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,500 head is up 300 head over last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,180 pounds, compared with 1,114 pounds last April. Hog slaughter, at 2,400 head was up 700 head from a year ago. Average liveweight was 233 pounds, up 3 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.29 billion pounds, 8 percent above a year earlier. Beef production totaled 1.87 billion pounds. This was up 7 percent from a year earlier. The head kill totaled 2.74 million, up 5 percent. The average liveweight increased 8 pounds to 1,145. Veal production at 23.0 million pounds was up 4 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 109 thousand head, down 17 percent. The average liveweight increased 85 pounds to 362.

Pork production at 1.36 billion pounds was up 9 percent. Hog kill totaled 7.49 million head, up 8 percent from last year. The average liveweight increased 3 pounds to 252.

Lamb and mutton production at 29.0 million pounds was down 5 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 457 thousand head, down 6 percent. The average liveweight increased 3 pounds to 127.

January-April red meat production was 12.7 billion pounds and was up 1 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was down fractionally, while veal was up 5 percent, pork was up 2 and lamb and mutton was up 3 percent.

featuring...*GLACIER COUNTY*

Glacier County was created in April of 1919. It occupies 1,916,454 acres of north central Montana. The Canadian border defines it's northern boundary, and the crest of the main range of the Rocky Mountains, its western boundary. Cut Bank is the county seat and this area has an annual average precipitation of 11.99 inches. Nearly one half of Glacier National Park lies within the county's boundaries as the western border of Glacier County runs down the center of the park. The rugged mountains in the west give way to sloping plains in the eastern portion of the county. The Blackfeet Indian Reservation occupies all but the extreme eastern edge of the rest of the county. The east-west length of Glacier County is traversed by the Milk River, Cut Bank Creek, and the Two Medicine River.

The main agricultural industries in the county include hog raising--for which the county ranked 1st in December 1, 1988 inventory--also barley and spring wheat production for which Glacier County ranked 4th for both. Some cattle and sheep are also raised, while other crops produced include durum wheat, winter wheat, oats, and hay.

Crops contributed the greatest amount in cash receipts with $16,399,000 in 1988. Livestock and livestock products brought $15,326,000, and government payments added $11,335,000 for a total cash return of $43,060,000 and a rank of 18th for total cash receipts in 1988.

Glacier County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,916,454	Total Cropland	Acres	484,202
Land in Farms	Acres	1,646,324	Harvested Cropland	Acres	267,313
Number of Farms		405	Irrigated Land	Acres	27,712
Average size Farms	Acres	4,065			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	25,995	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	121,734	Calves	No. Head	31,873
Barley	Acres	109,052	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	5,017
Oats	Acres	2,543	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	12,210

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Crop Production
Pasture & Range
Winter Wheat Production
Sweet Cherries Production

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

301 S. PARK
P.O. BOX 4369
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Hay Stocks
1990 Manufactured Dairy
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Montana Sheep & Lamb Losses
April Prices Received
Egg Receipts

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION AND HAY STOCKS

Montana's wheat growers expect to harvest 89 percent of the winter wheat planted last fall. Based on May 1 condition, 2.1 million acres remain for harvest, down 16 percent from the acreage harvested in 1990.

Montana's winter wheat production is forecast at 63.0 million bushels, down 28 percent from last year. This year's winter wheat projected yield, at 30 bushels per acre, is down 5 bushels from last year.

Winter wheat condition was rated in mostly fair to good condition on May 1. April's moisture helped the crop that withstood a very dry fall and winter. Soil moisture is rated short to adequate in the major growing areas of the state, and the eastern part of Montana has serious moisture reserve problems.

For the Nation, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.50 billion bushels, down 26 percent from 1990. Yields are expected to average 36.9 bushels per acre, down 3.8 bushels from last year. The area to be harvested as grain is expected to total 40.5 million acres, down 19 percent from the previous year. Above normal March temperatures pushed the Kansas crop ahead of normal and caused moisture stress in the Central and Western districts.

Hay stocks on Montana farms as of May 1, 1991, totaled 1.1 million tons, 26 percent above a year ago and more than 3.5 times the May 1, 1989 level. Stocks are up because of a good 1990 crop and relatively mild winter. This year's stocks represent 25 percent of 1990 production.

Nationally, hay stocks on farms totaled 27.1 million tons on May 1, 1991. This is about the same as as last year and 55 percent more than on hand May 1, 1989. Disappearance of hay during the December 1, 1991 to May 1, 1991 period totaled 77.9 million tons. This compares with 74.1 million tons during the same period a year ago.

WINTER WHEAT: ACRES, YIELD, & PRODUCTION--SELECTED STATES, 1989-1991

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1990	IND 1991	1990	IND 1991	1989	1990	IND 1991
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CA	560	360	76.0	80.0	43,890	42,560	28,800
CO	2,550	2,400	33.0	29.0	57,200	84,150	69,600
ID	920	770	75.0	68.0	56,700	69,000	52,360
IL	1,900	1,500	48.0	54.0	105,020	91,200	81,000
KS	11,800	10,800	40.0	34.0	213,600	472,000	367,200
MO	2,000	1,550	38.0	46.0	86,950	76,000	71,300
MT	2,500	2,100	35.0	30.0	54,000	87,500	63,000
NE	2,250	2,050	38.0	34.0	55,350	85,500	69,700
ND	160	70	27.0	28.0	2,320	4,320	1,960
OH	1,350	1,100	59.0	54.0	62,730	79,650	59,400
OK	6,300	5,200	32.0	26.0	153,900	201,600	135,200
OR	910	805	60.0	57.0	48,900	54,600	45,885
SD	1,600	1,300	36.0	34.0	35,100	57,600	44,200
TX	4,200	2,800	31.0	24.0	60,000	130,200	67,200
WA	2,200	900	63.0	52.0	68,900	138,600	46,800
WY	205	195	29.0	28.0	4,246	5,945	5,460
US	49,976	40,504	40.7	36.9	1,454,642	2,033,299	1,495,943

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--May 1, 1991 1/

District	1989	1990	1991	% chg. 91/90
	----1,000 bushels ----			
Northwest	388	1,045	850	81
N Central	22,600	48,439	31,860	66
Northeast	3,947	6,600	5,620	85
Central	14,116	15,968	12,170	76
Southwest	1,860	1,732	1,570	91
S Central	7,481	9,478	7,950	84
Southeast	3,608	4,238	2,980	70
MONTANA	54,000	87,500	63,000	72

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

1990 U.S MANUFACTURED DAIRY

U.S. production of butter in the United States during 1990 totaled 1.30 billion pounds, 1/2 percent more than was produced in 1989. Wisconsin, the leading state, accounted for 25 percent of production followed by California with 21 percent and Minnesota with 9 percent.

Total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 6.06 billion pounds, 8 percent above the 1989 production. Wisconsin was the leading state with 32 percent of production. American type cheese production at 2.89 billion pounds, was 8 percent above, 1989 and accounted for 48 percent of total cheese in 1990. Italian varieties continued their increase to a record 2.21 billion pounds, 8 percent above the 1989 production. Mozzarella accounted for 78 percent of the Italian production followed by ricotta with 9 percent and provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading state in Italian cheese production with 31 percent of production. Creamed cottage cheese at 531 million pounds was down 7 percent from 1989, while lowfat cottage cheese at 302 million pounds was up slightly.

Ice cream production totaled 81 million gallons, down 2 percent. Ice milk at 349 million gallons was down 7 percent. Milk sherbet at 49.8 million gallons was down 5 percent. Frozen yogurt production at 119 million gallons was up 44 percent. The 303 million gallons of soft products (ice cream, ice milk, sherbet, and mellorine) made during 1990 accounted for 24 percent of the total frozen dairy products, excluding yogurt. Ice milk made up the major portion of (85 percent) of soft production. Soft frozen dairy products are sold from direct-serve soft freezer and milk shake machines.

Nonfat dry milk for human food production, at 877 million pounds was virtually unchanged from 1989 production. Dry buttermilk production at 55.9 million pounds was down 8 percent.

Whole milk used for dairy products used 60.6 percent of all milk marketed in the United States compared with 59.4 percent in 1989. Whole milk used for manufacturing (based on milk fat content) totaled 88.6 billion pounds 5 percent more than 1989. The milk equivalent used for butter production consumed 31 percent of milk sold while cheese accounted for 50 percent.

MONTANA MAY 1 PASTURE & RANGE CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition was reported 73% of normal May 1, 1991. This was 7 points below last year and the same as 1989. Grass growth was slow because soil moisture was short in most areas and late April temperatures were cool.

Conditions were at lowest levels in the northeast part of the state where drought conditions persisted since last year.

MONTANA, May 1, 1991
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

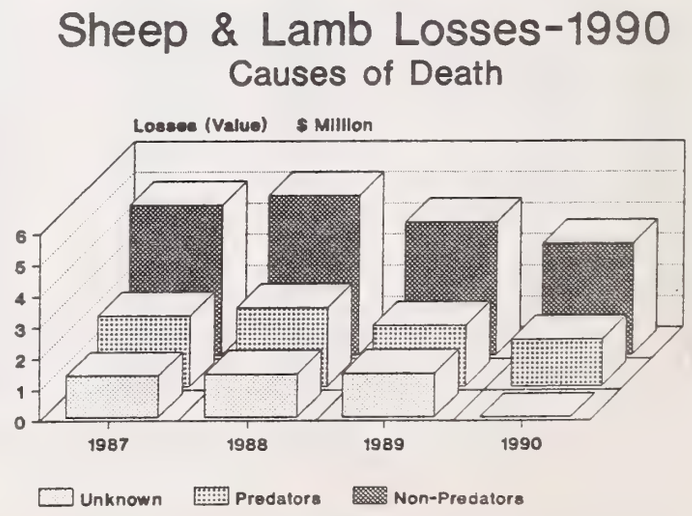
District	1989	1990	1991
Northwest	77	91	82
North Central	73	85	68
Northeast	61	49	44
Central	72	89	76
Southwest	74	78	80
South Central	80	91	80
Southeast	54	76	79
Montana	73	80	73

MONTANA SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES--1990

Montana sheepmen lost 133,000 sheep and lambs to weather, predators, disease and other causes in 1990. Total loss was 6 percent lower than 1989 and represented a value of $5.7 million. The 1990 dollar loss was 25 percent less than the previous year.

Predators caused a $1.5 million loss, non-predator factors caused $3.6 million and unknown causes claimed $0.7 million. Coyote predation remained the single largest cause of death with a $1.1 million loss. This is 20 percent of total value of death losses.

Lambs killed by all predators amounted to 31,500, up 12 percent from last year. Sheep killed by predators totaled 7,600, down 1 percent. Lambs lost to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes totaled 52,900, up 1 percent from 1989. Sheep losses to non-predator factors totaled 27,000, 5 percent less than last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes were 8,600, down 50 percent, and sheep were 5,400, down 23 percent from last year.



MONTANA FARM PRICES STRENGTHEN

Montana farmers received higher prices during mid-April for most of the products they sold compared with a month earlier. Higher prices were received for all wheat, barley, all hay, calves, lambs, and hogs. Lower prices were noted for oats, sheep, milk, eggs, and wool. Steers, heifers, and cows were unchanged.

The April Montana prices received index for all farm products was 174 (1977=100), unchanged from March but 2 points below April 1990. The all crops index, at 124, was up 9 points from March but 23 points below last year. The livestock and products index, at 221, was down 8 points from March but up 19 points from a year ago in April.

The **U.S.** April all farm products index of prices received was unchanged from March at 149 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of potatoes, onions, cotton, and wheat had the largest upward effect on the index while price decreases for eggs, hogs, cattle, and tomatoes had the greatest effect on the downside.

The index was 2 points below a year ago. Lower prices for milk, wheat, potatoes, and hogs were the major contributors to the decline from April 1990. Higher cattle, tomato, apple, and peanut prices were partially offsetting.

At 111, the April index of food grains was up 3.7 percent from March, but 22 percent lower than April 1990. Wheat averaged $2.63 per bushel, up 10 cents from March.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1991	MONTANA Apr. 15 1991	U.S. Apr. 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.58	2.46	2.64	2.63
Durum	Bu.	3.30	2.56	2.75	2.69
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.56	2.71	2.89	2.62
All Wheat	Bu.	3.56	2.55	2.73	2.63
Barley, All	Bu.	2.18	2.36	2.60	2.12
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.95
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.36
Oats	Bu.	1.22	1.28	1.21	1.17
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	60.00	61.00	93.40
All Other Hay	Ton	59.00	52.00	52.00	61.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	59.00	60.00	88.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	79.40	89.20	89.20	82.30
Cows	Cwt.	51.80	54.40	54.40	52.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	69.70	81.90	78.10	78.20
Calves	Cwt.	92.80	103.00	104.00	104.00
Sheep	Cwt.	22.00	25.60	23.40	23.00
Lambs	Cwt.	55.90	46.20	50.00	53.60
Hogs	Cwt.	49.30	46.40	46.60	50.60
All Milk	Cwt.	12.85	11.60	11.50	11.30
Eggs	Doz.	.69	.84	.58	.65
Wool 2/	Lb.	.87	.55	.45	.58
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	176	174	174	149
All Crops	Pct.	147	115	124	131
Livestock & Products	Pct.	202	229	221	166

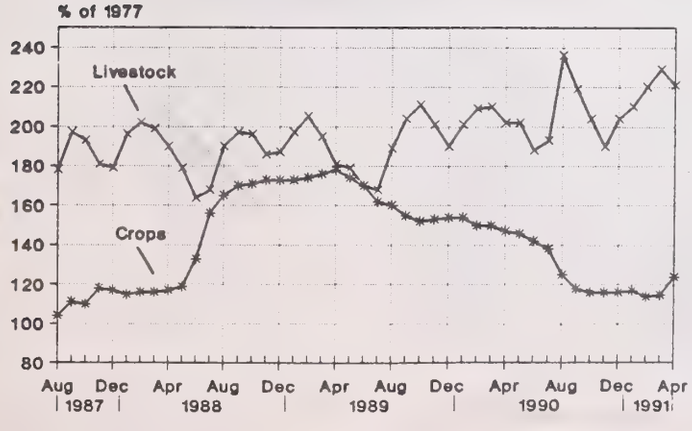
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

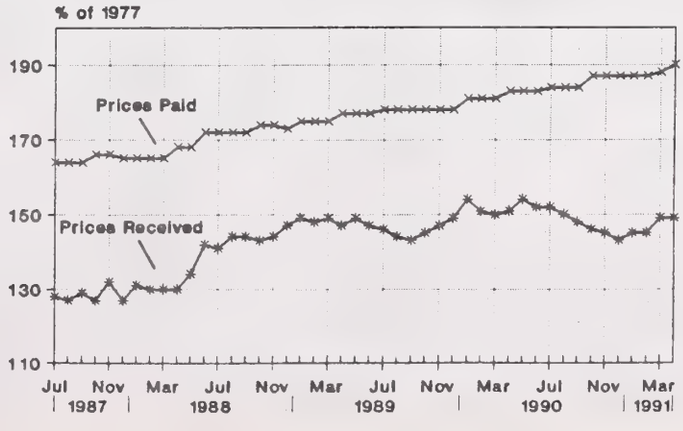
INDEX 1977=100	Mar. 1990	Apr. 1990	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1991
Prices Received	150	151	149	149
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/181	183	3/188	190
Ratio 1/	83	83	79	78

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1990 prices paid index. 3/ January 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA EGG RECEIPTS DOWN

Montana egg sales brought 13% less value to producers in 1990 compared with 1989. Value of production at $9.7 million was derived from 172 million eggs produced. Egg production was 4% below 1989. The average price recieved by producers in 1990 was 68 cents per dozen compared with 75 cents last year.

The U.S. combined value of production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1990, was $14.9 billion, down 1 percent from the $15.0 billion in 1989. Of the combined total, 56 percent was from broilers, 27 percent from eggs, 16 percent from turkeys, and 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 1990 was $8.37 billion, down 5 percent from the $8.78 billion in 1989. The total number of broilers produced in 1990 was 5.86 billion, up 6 percent from 1989. The increased production was offset by lower prices. The 1990 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 32.6 cents per pound, compared to 36.6 cents per pound in 1989.

Value of egg production in 1990 was $4.04 billion, up 5 percent from the $3.86 billion in 1989. Egg production totaled 67.8 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 67.2 billion eggs produced in 1989. In 1990 eggs averaged 71.6 cents per dozen, compared with 68.9 cents in 1989.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 1990 was $94.5 million, down 32 percent from the $138 million a year ago. Prices averaged 9.6 cents per pound compared with 14.9 cents in 1989.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1989-1990 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1989	MONTANA 1990	UNITED STATES 1989	UNITED STATES 1990
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	000 Head	82	74	35,975	34,724
Sold	000 Head	703	645	199,032	208,085
Pounds Sold	000 Lbs.	2,812	2,580	926,525	981,619
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	7.0	4.5	14.9	9.6
Value of Sales	000 Dols.	197	116	138,421	94,540
EGGS					
Produced	Million	180	172	67,236	67,832
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	75.0	68.0	68.9	71.6
Value of Prod.	000 Dols.	11,250	9,747	3,861,469	4,044,696

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1, previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Milk PDI
- Farm Labor
- Barley County Estimates
- Egg Production
- Slaughter
- Milk Production
- Potato Stocks
- Cattle on Feed

JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Meat Animals Prod., Disp., & Income
All Wheat County Estimates
March Red Meat Production
Farmland Values
March U.S. Egg Production
January-March Milk Production
13 State Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks

1990 COUNTY WHEAT ESTIMATES

The 1990 wheat county estimates will soon be available for distribution. We're publishing the "all wheat" figures in this publication, but estimates by class and cropping practice are available from the office upon request.

These estimates are the only county figures published for Montana. They are based on acreage and production surveys conducted last fall. Nearly 6,099 questionnaires were tabulated including 4,000 completed by telephone to ensure better coverage in each county. Thanks to those who provided information!

1990 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Montana's total marketing of meat animals in 1990 was 1,116 million pounds, 11 percent less than the 1,258 marketed during 1989. Cash receipts from these marketings, at $786.4 million, decreased 8 percent from a year earlier.

Total U.S. marketings of meat animals during 1990 decreased slightly from 1989. Larger cattle and sheep marketings were offset by decreased marketings of hogs and pigs. Higher U.S. prices received for cattle and hogs and lower sheep and lamb prices resulted in total cash receipts increasing to $51.7 billion, up 10 percent from 1989.

The percentage breakdown of contributions to total U.S. cash receipts from marketings of meat animals by species in 1990 were: cattle and calves, 77 percent; hogs and pigs, 22 percent; sheep and lambs, 1 percent.

Production of meat animals during 1990 totaled 62.8 billion pounds, down fractionally from the 1989 production of 63.0 billion pounds. The value of meat animal production was $42.2 billion in 1990 compared with $37.8 billion in 1989.

PLEASE RETURN

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS AND CASH RECEIPTS, 1989-90

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA 1989	MONTANA 1990	UNITED STATES 1989	UNITED STATES 1990
CATTLE & CALVES					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,131.5	982.1	52,765.2	53,038.4
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	68.20	70.60	69.50	74.60
Calves	Dols./Cwt	88.40	95.30	90.80	74.60
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols	797.5	725.5	36,894.3	39,747.1
HOGS & PIGS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	88.6	84.0	22,177.0	21,393.1
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	38.3	50.00	42.50	53.70
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	34.2	42.2	9,466.0	11,516.4
SHEEP & LAMBS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	37.4	49.7	828.0	879.8
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	20.80	17.60	24.40	23.20
Lambs	Dols/Cwt	65.80	48.30	66.10	55.50
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	20.8	18.7	489.2	412.5
Total Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,257.5	1,115.8	75,770.20	75,311.3
Total Receipts	Mil. Dols.	852.5	786.4	46,849.5	51,676.0

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties & Districts, 1990

COUNTY & DISTRICT	Acres				Yield Per Acre	Production
	Gross Seeded	Reseeded [1]	Net Seeded	Harvested for Grain		
Deerlodge	1,300	0	1,300	1,300	53.1	69,000
Flathead	13,200	200	13,000	12,600	55.5	699,000
Granite	900	0	900	900	36.7	33,000
Lake	17,900	0	17,900	17,200	54.7	940,000
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Mineral	400	0	400	400	37.5	15,000
Missoula	4,900	0	4,900	4,600	37.6	173,000
Powell	1,400	0	1,400	1,300	36.9	48,000
Ravalli	2,900	0	2,900	2,700	33.0	89,000
Sanders	3,100	0	3,100	3,000	42.0	126,000
NORTHWEST	**46,000**	**200**	**45,800**	**44,000**	**49.8**	**2,192,000**
Blaine	205,100	900	204,200	195,000	25.4	4,953,000
Chouteau	565,400	1,600	563,800	527,000	38.8	20,439,000
Glacier	148,600	800	147,800	144,500	28.4	4,111,000
Hill	517,700	4,800	512,900	504,600	30.7	15,478,000
Liberty	263,800	400	263,400	256,500	38.0	9,751,000
Phillips	148,200	900	147,300	135,200	18.7	2,525,000
Pondera	209,600	1,300	208,300	205,200	42.5	8,721,000
Teton	176,100	1,200	174,900	171,000	40.0	6,842,000
Toole	250,300	0	250,300	246,000	32.4	7,970,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,484,800**	**11,900**	**2,472,900**	**2,385,000**	**33.9**	**80,790,000**
Daniels	208,600	100	208,500	177,900	12.0	2,139,000
Dawson	159,000	2,200	156,800	139,000	18.9	2,623,000
Garfield	122,100	700	121,400	105,100	26.1	2,745,000
McCone	218,700	3,600	215,100	165,500	15.6	2,587,000
Richland	167,100	2,200	164,900	126,000	19.7	2,479,000
Roosevelt	326,500	4,100	322,400	229,000	12.7	2,902,000
Sheridan	279,500	1,400	278,100	261,000	15.6	4,060,000
Valley	303,500	1,300	302,200	245,500	12.8	3,151,000
NORTHEAST	**1,785,000**	**15,600**	**1,769,400**	**1,449,000**	**15.7**	**22,686,000**
Broadwater	46,100	0	46,100	44,100	30.8	1,359,000
Cascade	161,800	2,500	159,300	135,800	34.2	4,641,000
Fergus	187,100	4,800	182,300	176,100	36.8	6,480,000
Golden Valley	52,000	0	52,000	47,000	25.8	1,212,000
Judith Basin	94,000	0	94,000	90,000	27.8	2,506,000
Lewis & Clark	19,000	800	18,200	18,000	39.0	702,000
Meagher	12,500	0	12,500	11,000	23.0	253,000
Musselshell	35,000	0	35,000	29,000	29.1	843,000
Petroleum	24,500	0	24,500	23,000	26.4	608,000
Wheatland	45,000	1,500	43,500	42,000	22.3	936,000
CENTRAL	**677,000**	**9,600**	**667,400**	**616,000**	**31.7**	**19,540,000**
Beaverhead	9,300	0	9,300	8,300	38.1	316,000
Gallatin	48,300	100	48,200	46,900	48.3	2,267,000
Jefferson	4,500	0	4,500	4,500	13.1	59,000
Madison	10,700	0	10,700	10,100	30.3	306,000
Silver Bow	400	0	400	400	22.5	9,000
SOUTHWEST	**73,200**	**100**	**73,100**	**70,200**	**42.1**	**2,957,000**
Big Horn	143,800	100	143,700	140,600	34.4	4,837,000
Carbon	19,700	0	19,700	19,100	31.2	596,000
Park	14,600	0	14,600	14,100	35.1	495,000
Stillwater	56,600	0	56,600	54,500	28.0	1,527,000
Sweetgrass	5,500	100	5,400	5,000	26.0	130,000
Treasure	6,000	0	6,000	6,000	51.7	310,000
Yellowstone	101,100	0	101,100	96,000	30.7	2,949,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**347,300**	**200**	**347,100**	**335,300**	**32.3**	**10,844,000**
Carter	42,000	1,700	40,300	37,000	19.8	734,000
Custer	48,500	0	48,500	46,000	21.5	991,000
Fallon	54,500	500	54,000	47,000	16.8	791,000
Powder River	31,500	300	31,200	29,000	30.6	887,000
Prairie	41,000	0	41,000	35,000	28.4	995,000
Rosebud	56,100	0	56,100	52,100	30.3	1,579,000
Wibaux	58,100	900	57,200	39,400	22.3	879,000
SOUTHEAST	**331,700**	**3,400**	**328,300**	**285,500**	**24.0**	**6,856,000**
MONTANA	**5,745,000**	**41,000**	**5,704,000**	**5,185,000**	**28.1**	**145,865,000**

[1] Winter wheat reseeded to spring wheat.

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.032 million pounds of red meat in March 1991. This production is down 15 percent from March 1990, and down 5 percent from last month's production.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,200 head was down 200 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,065 pounds, down 30 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 2,000 head, was unchanged from last year. Average liveweight of hogs, at 219 pounds, was down 13 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in March 1991 totaled 3.08 billion pounds, down 5 percent from last year. January-March red meat production, at 9.46 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1991 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, up 5; pork, down fractionally; lamb and mutton, up 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

FARMLAND VALUE UP 2 PERCENT

Montana farm real estate values rose 2 percent during 1990. On January 1, 1991, the value of farmland and buildings averaged $243 per acre, compared with $238 per acre last year. This year's figure is 22 percent above the 10-year low of $200 dollars per acre recorded in 1987.

U.S. farm real estate values rose 2 percent during 1990, marking the fourth straight increase since their slide in the mid-1980's. On January 1, 1991, the value of farmland and buildings averaged $682 per acre, 14 percent above the 1987 low, but still 17 percent below the record $823 in 1982.

However, after adjusting for inflation of just over 4 percent during 1990, the real value of U.S. farm real estate dropped 2 percent below January 1990 and remained 46 percent below the inflation-adjusted peak in 1981. Because inflation rates of 3 to 4 percent in recent years have partially offset gains in nominal farmland values, a sustained recovery of real farmland values has not yet occurred.

Higher grazing land values and record cattle prices helped support a 7 percent gain in farmland values in the **Mountain States.** Values also advanced 4 percent in the Pacific region. The general economic slowdown in 1990 dampened investor activity, particularly near urban areas. This, in turn, reduced the demand for farmland for nonagricultural uses, putting downward pressure on farmland prices.

MARCH U.S. EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.88 billion during March 1991, up 1 percent from the 5.83 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.05 billion table eggs, 759 million broiler-type hatching eggs, and 69.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during March averaged 272 million, down fractionally from a year ago. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,163 eggs, compared with 2,143 in March 1990.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1991, totaled 270 million, down 1 percent from last year's 272 million layers. The 270 million layers consisted of 227 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.87 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1991, averaged 70.0 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from last year's 69.7 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.86 billion eggs during March, down slightly from the 4.88 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during March averaged 225 million, down 1 percent from the 227 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 83 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, December 1990 through February 1991.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

Milk cows on **Montana** farms produced 84 million pounds of milk in the January-March quarter of 1991. This production is up 4 percent from the comparable period in 1990. The average number of milk cows on farms for the quarter was 24,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 3,490 pounds for the three months, up 3 percent from last year.

Montana dairymen fed an average of 16 pounds of grain concentrates per cow on April 1, 1991, up a half-pound from last year. The value of grain fed was $6.90 per cwt, down 40 cents from 1990.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.5 billion pounds, 2 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 10.1 million head, 23 thousand less than the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1 1991, averaged 17.6 pounds, 0.5 of a pound less than April 1, 1990. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1, averaged $7.77 per hundredweight, $0.23 less than that of April 1, 1990.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS UP 27 PERCENT

There were 1.4 million cwt of potatoes stored in Montana on April 1, 1991, up 27 percent from the 1.1 million cwt on April 1 of last year. These April 1 stocks represent 56 percent of 1990 production.

U.S. potato stocks totaled 91.9 million cwt on April 1, 1991, up 9 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. This is 27 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage states, the same as last year. Disappearance for the season so far is a record 244 million cwt of potatoes, 5 percent above last year. Processors used 116 million cwt, a gain of 7 percent over last year and 21 percent above two years ago.

Western potato stocks totaled 69.1 Million cwt in six states, up 7 percent from last year but 6 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 13 percent from last year and accounted for 57 percent of the western holdings. Oregon holdings are up by 2 percent and Washington stocks are up 7 percent. Colorado is down 9 percent from a year ago while California stocks are off 28 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

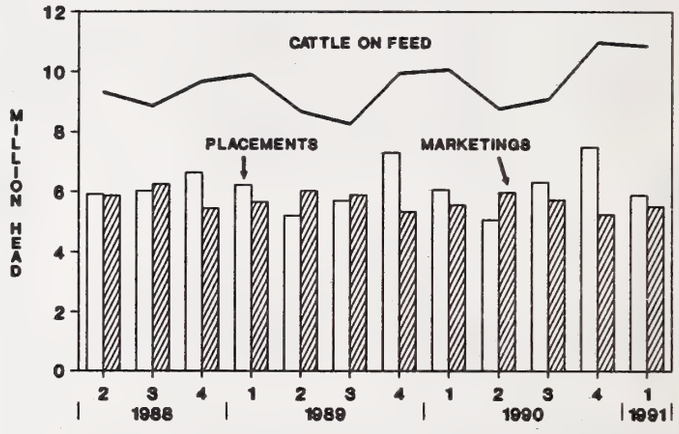
Cattle and calves on feed April 1, 1991, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly states totaled 10.9 million head, up 8 percent from April 1, 1990, and 10 percent above 1989. This is the largest April on feed number since 1973.

The cattle on feed inventory included 7.11 million steers and steer calves, 10 percent above last year and 12 percent above 1989. This group represented 65 percent of the total April number on feed, compared to 64 percent for both last year and 1989. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.70 million, 4 percent above last year and 5 percent above 1989.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the January-March 1991 quarter totaled 5.89 million, down 3 percent from 1990 and 5 percent below 1989. **Other disappearance** of 462 thousand head leaves net **placements** at 5.43 million. **Marketings** of fed cattle for slaughter during January-March totaled 5.54 million, 1 percent below 1990 and 2 percent below the same period in 1989.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



JAMES K. SANDS, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Ag Prices	Milk PDI
Dairy Products--Annual	
Crop Production	
Winter Wheat Production	
Pasture & Range	Hay Stocks

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
March Ag Prices
Grain Stocks
Hogs & Pigs
Wool & Mohair

1990 WOOL and MOHAIR PRODUCTION

Montana 1990 wool production amounted to 6.226 million pounds, 8 percent above the 1989 output. Wool growers sheared 630,000 sheep in 1990, 53,000 more than in the previous year. Fleece weight averaged 9.9 pounds per head compared with 10 pounds in 1989. Value of wool produced was $5.7 million, down 28 percent from 1989.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1990 was 88.3 million pounds, down 1 percent from last year. Sheep and lambs shorn during 1990 totaled 11.2 million head, a decrease of 1 percent from 1989. Average fleece weight of shorn wool was 7.86 pounds per head, down 0.03 pounds from 1989. Total value of shorn wool was $69.7 million, down 37 percent from $111 million in 1989.

Mohair production in the five major producing states during 1990 was 16.3 million pounds, down 6 percent from 1989. Goats and kids clipped, at 2.17 million head, were down 12 percent from 1989. Average weight per head clipped was 7.5 pounds compared with 7.0 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair production was $15.1 million, down 44 percent from 1989.

Planting intentions, grain stocks, and hog estimates in this issue are are the result of surveying approximately 1,500 Montana farmers and ranchers during March. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis.

For those operators who responded to the survey a SPECIAL THANKS! Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1991

Montana farmers intend to plant 7.1 million acres, about 7 percent less than last year. Farmers were surveyed on March 1. Plans are preliminary, depending on changes in weather, market conditions, etc.

The state's all wheat acreage is expected to be 5.045 million acres, down 12 percent from last year. Winter wheat seeded last fall is down 13 percent from a year ago, at 2.35 million acres. Hard spring wheat, at 2.5 million acres, is expected to be down 11 percent. Durum is down 20 percent with 195,000 acres expected to be planted.

Barley planted acreage is expected to be up 9 percent, at 1.75 million acres. Oats planting intentions are up 6 percent, at 170,000 acres; and they expect to harvest 115,000 acres for grain compared with 70,000 acres in 1990. Sugar beet intended plantings, at 57,000 acres, are up 3 percent; dry beans, at 12,000 acres, are down 11 percent; and corn, at 70,000 acres, is up 8 percent. Farmers expect to harvest 2.2 million acres of all hay which reflects an increase of 2 percent.

U.S. all wheat area planted is expected to total 69.0 million acres, down 11 percent from 1990. Winter wheat seeded area is estimated at 51.0 million acres, down 10 percent. The current total is fractionally higher than that published in the winter wheat and rye seedings report released January 11, 1991.

Washington's winter wheat crop has been badly damaged by December freezes. The extent of the winter kill ranges from none to nearly all in areas of several counties. A small percentage of this acreage was reseeded to winter wheat varieties during February. In Kansas, infestations of army cut worms are widespread; localized damage has been moderate to severe.

U.S. durum wheat area planted is expected to total 3.29 million acres, down 8 percent from 1990. Arizona and California seedings were complete in February. The northern durum states' (Minnesota, Montana, and the Dakotas) acreage is down 7 percent. South Dakota growers plan to increase durum acreage over a year ago.

U.S. other spring wheat seeded area is expected to total 14.7 million acres, off 12 percent from last year. Acreage is down in all states, except Washington.

U.S. barley producers intend to plant 8.71 million acres of barley, up 6 percent from the 8.20 million acres seeded in 1990. Growers in North Dakota expect to plant 2.80 million acres, an 8 percent increase. Acreage to be seeded in Minnesota, at 850 thousand, is the same as last year.

PLANTED ACREAGE, 1989-1990, and INTENDED 1991, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1989	1990	1991	91/90	1989	1990	1991	91/90
		-- Acres --		Pct.		-- Acres --		Pct.
All Wheat	6,340.0	5,745.0	5,045.0	88	76,615.0	77,286.0	69,022.0	89
Winter Wheat	2,500.0	2,700.0	2,350.0	87	55,091.0	56,998.0	51,033.0	90
Durum	340.0	245.0	195.0	80	3,791.0	3,565.0	3,291.0	92
Hard Spring	3,500.0	2,800.0	2,500.0	89	17,733.0	16,723.0	14,698.0	88
Barley	1,700.0	1,600.0	1,750.0	109	9,105.0	8,210.0	8,705.0	106
Oats (Planted)	250.0	160.0	170.0	106	12,085.0	10,423.0	9,518.0	91
(Harvested)	145.0	70.0	115.0	164	6,882.0	5,940.0	5,372.0	90
Corn	80.0	65.0	70.0	108	72,221.0	74,171.0	76,124.0	103
Sugar Beets	52.7	55.2	57.0	103	1,324.4	1,400.4	1,399.6	100
Dry Beans	6.0	13.5	12.0	89	1,824.6	2,178.6	1,872.5	86
All Hay (Harvested)	2,350.0	2,150.0	2,200.0	102	63,300.0	61,557.0	61,408.0	100

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
DISTRICT	Mar. 1, 1990	Dec. 1, 1990*	Mar. 1, 1991	Mar. 1, 1990	Dec. 1, 1990*	Mar. 1, 1991
		-----Million Bushels-----				
Northwest	1.9	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.6	1.1
North Central	47.5	69.4	48.7	15.2	20.7	7.6
Northeast	25.9	25.8	22.9	3.8	3.3	2.7
Central	11.0	18.2	12.5	6.7	8.1	3.9
Southwest	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.5	2.9	2.2
South Central	6.4	6.0	4.0	6.8	2.5	2.1
Southeast	4.9	6.0	4.7	0.8	1.0	0.6
STATE	99.4	128.4	95.0	36.0	40.1	20.2

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1990	Dec. 1, 1990*	Mar. 1, 1991	% Chg. '91/'90	Mar. 1, 1990	Dec. 1, 1990*	Mar. 1, 1991
		----Thousand Bushels----		-Pct.-		------Thousand Bushels------	
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	75,000	110,000	73,000	-3	376,000	763,200	532,920
Off Farms [1]	24,440	18,352	22,000	-10	567,109	1,144,838	862,726
TOTAL	99,440	128,352	95,000	-4	943,109	1,908,038	1,395,646
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	25,000	64,000	42,000	+68	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	8,437	9,335	11,400	+35	--	--	--
TOTAL	33,437	73,335	53,400	+60	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	50,000	46,000	31,000	-38	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	16,003	9,017	10,600	-34	--	--	--
TOTAL	66,003	55,017	41,600	-37	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--	--	46,898	86,315	58,759
Off Farms [1 4]	--	--	--	--	31,545	25,811	23,657
TOTAL	7,667	6,865	5,900	-23	78,443	112,126	82,416
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,910,500	4,874,000	3,064,500
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	1,901,921	2,066,289	1,724,154
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	4,812,421	6,940,289	4,788,654
OATS							
On Farms	5,200	4,600	3,000	-42	140,000	194,700	138,600
Off Farms [1]	200	269	200	--	74,749	99,398	90,799
TOTAL [4]	5,400	4,869	3,200	-41	214,749	294,098	229,399
BARLEY							
On Farms	27,000	34,000	15,000	-44	102,825	176,400	94,556
Off Farms [1]	9,000	6,117	5,200	-42	149,870	129,327	115,862
TOTAL	36,000	40,117	20,200	-44	252,695	305,727	210,418

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MARCH PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farm prices continue to be strong for beef cattle. Mid-March steer and heifer prices hit a record $91.10 per cwt, up $1.40 from February and $10.30 above a year ago. Cows were up $2.70 from February. Calves, at $107.00 per cwt, were up $2.00 from February.

Prices were mixed for other Montana livestock. Mid-March lamb prices were $42.20 per cwt, $1.00 above last month but $22.10 below March 1990. Sheep, at $20.50 per cwt, were unchanged from last month but down $4.10 compared with a year ago. Hog prices for mid-March were down $1.90 from last month and $1.80 below a year ago.

During mid-March, Montana farmers received $2.63 a bushel for all wheat, up 10 cents from last month but 98 cents per bushel below March 1990. Barley prices, at $2.35 per bushel, were up 10 cents from February and 11 cents above a year ago.

The Montana farm price index for all products in March was 176 percent of its 1977 base, up 7 points from February but down 5 points from March 1990. The decrease from 1990 is caused primarily by the food grains index, which, at 115 points, is down 43 points from a year ago.

Nationally, the March all farm products index of prices received increased 3 points from February to 148 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of eggs, oranges, cattle, and upland cotton were partially offset by lower prices for milk, sweet corn, celery, and strawberries. The index was 2 points below a year ago.

For the U.S., the March cattle price and March calf price were each at record high levels. The cattle price exceeded the previous record in February 1991 by $1.00, while the calf price exceeds its previous record, also set in February, by $2.00. Higher citrus prices reflected shorter supplies caused by the December freeze in California and also higher quality Valencia oranges moving to market. Egg prices reflected a strong seasonal demand. The cotton price was at the highest level since January 1981. Corn, oats, and sorghum prices increased slightly. Rice and wheat prices were also up but soybeans were lower than last month.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1991	MONTANA Mar. 15 1991	U.S. Mar. 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.68	2.43	2.51	2.51
Durum	Bu.	3.31	2.55	2.63	2.62
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.58	2.65	2.77	2.50
All Wheat	Bu.	3.61	2.53	2.63	2.52
Barley, All	Bu.	2.24	2.25	2.35	2.07
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.91
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.27
Oats	Bu.	1.43	1.28	1.29	1.15
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	60.00	60.00	90.40
All Other Hay	Ton	59.00	53.00	52.00	60.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	59.00	59.00	84.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	80.80	89.70	91.10	81.70
Cows	Cwt.	52.60	54.20	56.90	52.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	73.70	76.70	80.80	78.00
Calves	Cwt.	91.60	105.00	107.00	106.00
Sheep	Cwt.	24.60	20.50	20.50	23.50
Lambs	Cwt.	64.30	41.20	42.20	48.60
Hogs	Cwt.	47.10	47.20	45.30	52.20
All Milk	Cwt.	13.65	11.45	11.25	11.50
Eggs	Doz.	.80	.66	.84	.75
Wool 2/	Lb.	.93	.55	.55	.48
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	181	169	176	148
All Crops	Pct.	150	114	118	126
Livestock & Products	Pct.	210	220	228	169

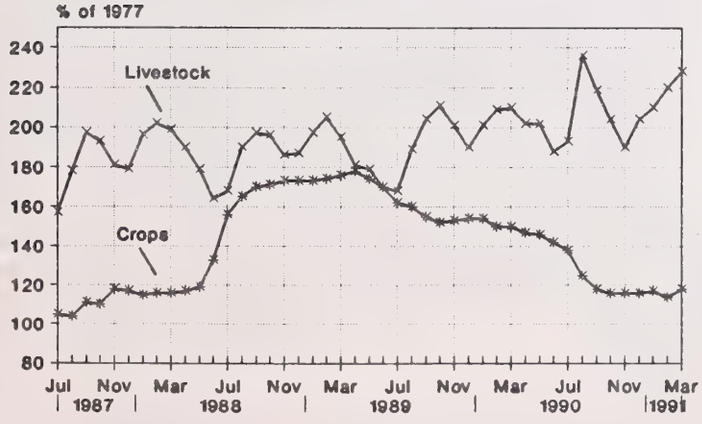
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

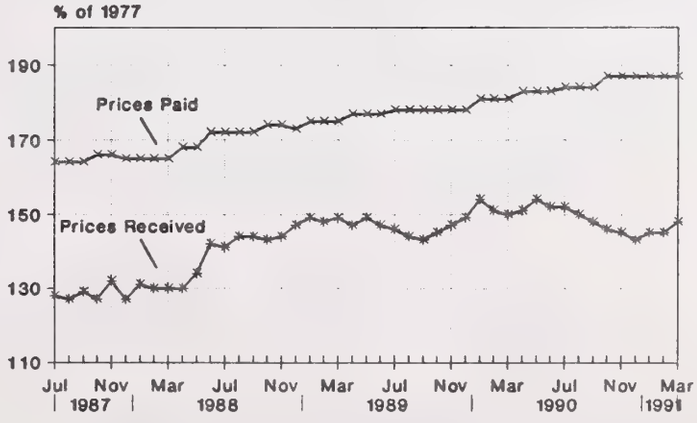
INDEX 1977=100	Feb. 1990	Mar. 1990	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1991
Prices Received	151	150	145	148
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/181	2/181	3/187	3/187
Ratio 1/	83	83	78	79

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1990 prices paid index. 3/ January 1991 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MARCH 1 U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY

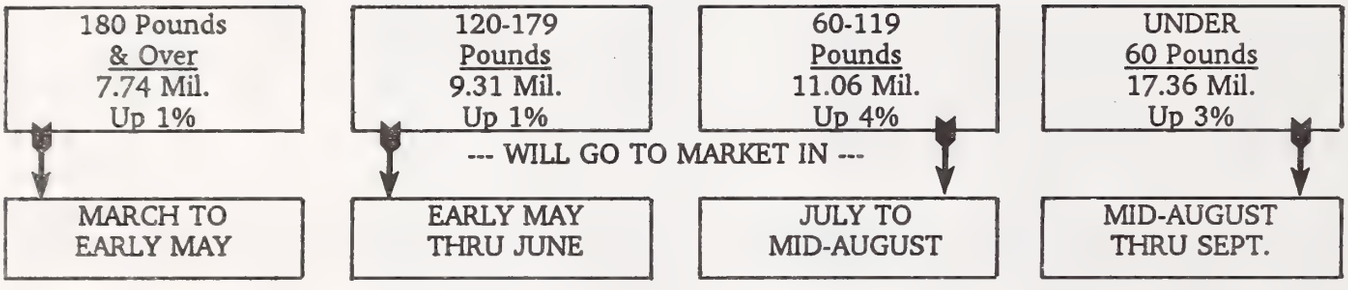
U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs was estimated at 52.4 million head on March 1, 1991. This is 2 percent above March 1, 1990, but 4 percent below the December 1, 1990, inventory. Breeding hog inventory, at 6.88 million, was up 1 percent from last year. Market hog inventory, at 45.5 million, was 3 percent above a year ago.

The U.S. pig crop for December 1990-February 1991 totaled 21.0 million head, 3 percent above 1990, but 1 percent below the same period in 1989. A total of 2.67 million sows farrowed during December 1990-February 1991, 3 percent above a year earlier, but 2 percent below the same period two years ago. The litter size during this period averaged 7.87, a new record high for the December-February quarter. This compares to the last two years of 7.83 and 7.77.

There were 2.41 million sows farrowed during the quarter, an increase of 2 percent from last year. Sows farrowing averaged 7.89 pigs per litter, a new record high for the December-February period, compared with 7.83 last year and 7.79 in 1989.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.17 million sows farrow during the March-May 1991 period, 1 percent above the actual farrowings for the same period a year ago. Farrowing intentions for the June-August 1991 period of 2.94 million sows, is up 2 percent from the actual farrowings a year earlier.

MARCH 1 U.S. MARKET HOGS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR



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Meat Animals PDI	Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Prod.	Cattle on Feed

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

February Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
1990 Annual Red Meat Production
Ag Chemical Usage
Egg Production
U.S. Potato Stocks
U.S. February Milk Production
featuring...Garfield County

FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds of red meat in February 1991, down 13 percent from last month, but up 4 percent from February 1990.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,300 head, is up 100 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,080 pounds, down 24 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter totaled 1,800 head, unchanged from a year ago. Average live weight, at 215 pounds, was down 15 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in February 1991 totaled 2.95 billion pounds, down 1 percent from last year. January-February red meat production, at 6.38 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1991 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, up 1; veal, up 12; pork, up 1; lamb and mutton, up 3. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Beef production, at 1.69 billion pounds, was down 1 percent. Head kill totaled 2.47 million, down 1 percent. The average live weight increased 22 pounds to 1,163. Veal production, at 26.0 million pounds, was up 10 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 125 thousand head, down 16 percent, and the average live weight increased 81 pounds to 348. Pork production, at 1.20 billion pounds, was down 1 percent. Hog kill totaled 6.64 million head, down 3 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 250. Lamb and mutton production, at 30.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 461 thousand head, up 5 percent. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 129.

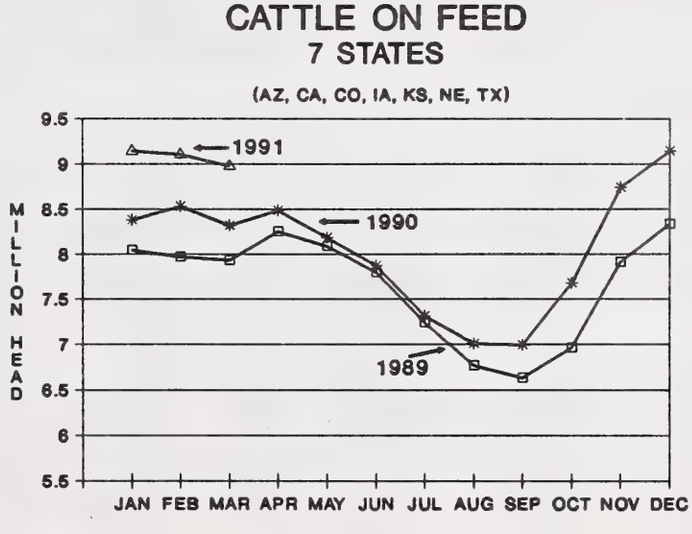
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed March 1, 1991, for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.97 million head, up 8 percent from a year ago and 13 percent above March 1, 1989. This is the largest March number on feed since 1974.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.48 million, down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during February totaled 1.47 million, up 6 percent from last year but 9 percent below February 1989. Net placements of 1.35 million for February were up 5 percent from last year but 10 percent below 1989.

Other disappearance totaled 113 thousand head compared to 95 thousand in February 1990 and 115 thousand in February 1989.



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1990 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana's 1990 red meat production totaled 20.6 million pounds, up 48 percent from 1989. There were 28,100 cattle slaughtered, up 73 percent from last year. Hog slaughter for 1990, at 25,100 head, was down 8 percent from a year ago. There were 3,600 head of sheep and lambs slaughtered, up 44 percent from 1989.

Red meat production for the United States during 1990 totaled 38.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 1989. Production included beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton slaughter in commercial plants and on farms. Beef production was 22.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 1989. Veal production was 327 million pounds, down 8 percent from 1989. Pork production was 15.4 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 1989. Lamb and mutton production totaled 362 million pounds, up 4 percent from 1989.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1990 totaled 33.2 million head, down 2 percent from 1989, with federal inspection comprising 97.4 percent of the total. Calf slaughter, at 1.79 million head, was down 18 percent from the previous year with 97.3 percent under federal inspection. Hog kill totaled 85.1 million head, down 4 percent from 1989 with federal inspection comprising 97.4 percent. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter at 5.65 million head, was up 3 percent from 1989 with federal inspection comprising 96.7 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered commercially in 1990 was 1,136 pounds, up 2 pounds from 1989. The calf average live weight was 284 pounds for 1990, an increase of 19 pounds from the previous year. Average live weight for hogs increased 1 pound to 249. Sheep and lambs averaged 125 pounds live weight, up 1 pound from 1989.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER BY SPECIES AND TOTAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION, MONTANA, 1990

Month	Cattle	Pork	Sheep & Lambs	Meat
	Number of Head			(000) Lbs.
JAN	1,600	2,300	100	1,342
FEB	1,200	1,800	100	1,050
MAR	1,400	2,000	100	1,210
APR	1,200	1,700	100	1,079
MAY	1,700	1,900	100	1,327
JUN	1,500	1,600	200	1,210
JUL	1,500	2,100	300	1,311
AUG	2,000	2,600	700	1,736
SEP	1400	2,000	500	1,226
OCT	5,000	2,600	500	3,169
NOV	6,300	2,200	400	3,859
DEC	3,200	2,200	300	2,083
TOTAL	28,100	25,100	3,600	20,602

FEDERALLY INSPECTED AND COMMERCIAL MEAT PRODUCTION, BY MONTHS; FARM MEAT PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES, 1990 1/

MONTH	BEEF		VEAL		PORK 3/		LAMB AND MUTTON		TOTAL RED MEAT 3/	
	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL
	MILLION POUNDS									
COM'L 2/										
JAN	1,890	1,932	26	27	1,330	1,363	31	32	3,277	3,355
FEB	1,669	1,706	23	24	1,184	1,213	28	29	2,904	2,971
MAR	1,830	1,870	26	28	1,300	1,329	31	32	3,188	3,259
APR	1,709	1,748	22	22	1,220	1,248	30	31	2,980	3,049
MAY	1,965	2,007	24	25	1,229	1,257	30	31	3,248	3,321
JUN	1,945	1,981	24	25	1,116	1,142	27	27	3,111	3,175
JUL	1,908	1,945	24	25	1,076	1,103	26	27	3,034	3,101
AUG	2,024	2,063	27	28	1,278	1,310	29	30	3,357	3,430
SEP	1,779	1,815	25	26	1,199	1,228	26	27	3,028	3,095
OCT	1,995	2,044	30	31	1,357	1,392	31	32	3,412	3,498
NOV	1,798	1,842	27	28	1,340	1,373	29	30	3,194	3,273
DEC	1,640	1,681	26	27	1,306	1,342	29	30	3,001	3,080
TOTAL COM'L		22,634		316		15,299		357		38,606
FARM		109		11		54		5		179
TOTAL	22,152	22,743	303	327	14,933	15,353	348	362	37,736	38,785

1/ MONTHS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. 2/ BASED ON PACKERS' DRESSED WEIGHT AND EXCLUDES FARM SLAUGHTER. 3/ EXCLUDES LARD AND RENDERED PORK FAT.

CHEMICAL USE SERIES NOW AVAILABLE FOR U.S.

The first of a series of NASS publications covering on-farm fertilizer and agricultural chemical use is now available. The data presented in this publication were funded through the President's Water Quality Initiative and begin the process of developing a data series on chemical use.

The Water Quality Initiative is a multi-agency program designed to provide farmers, ranchers, and foresters the knowledge and technical means to respond independently and voluntarily to on- and off-farm environmental concerns. In the past, farm level data have been inadequate to determine the magnitude of water quality problems or the benefits and costs of alternative solutions for the farmer and other affected parties. These data will help fill some of the data needs that analysts require to find solutions to the complex environmental issues of the 1990's.

On-farm fertilizer and chemical use data for 1990 corn, cotton, potatoes, rice, soybeans, winter wheat, other spring wheat, and durum wheat are included in this publication.

Wheat Highlights

- Winter wheat was surveyed in 12 states. Herbicides were used on 34 percent of the acreage. Insecticide and fungicide use were also collected, although these pesticides were not used on significant acreages at the 12 state level. Nitrogen was applied on 83.7 percent of the acreage. Phosphorous and potassium were applied on 47.8 and 18.1 percent of the acreage, respectively. The two most commonly used herbicides were 2,4-D and chlorsulfuron, which were used on 16 percent and 13 percent of the acreage, respectively.

- Herbicides were used on 89 percent of the other spring wheat acreage in the 4 states surveyed (MN, MT, ND, SD). Insecticides and fungicides were used by growers, but not on a significant portion of the acreage. A total of 68.4 percent of the acreage was treated with nitrogen fertilizer. Phosphorous and potassium were applied on 61.0 and 24.3 percent of the acreage, respectively. The two most commonly used herbicides were 2,4-D and MCPA, which were used on 53 percent and 32 percent of the acreage, respectively.

- In North Dakota, durum wheat growers applied herbicides to 90 percent of the acreage. Data about insecticides and fungicides were collected but amount of acreage receiving these chemicals was not significant. A total of 58.0 percent of the acreage received a nitrogen fertilizer treatment and phosphorous was applied on 56.0 percent of the acreage. Relatively little potassium was applied. The two most commonly used herbicides were also 2,4-D and MCPA, which were used on 50 and 34 percent of the acreage, respectively.

If you would like additional information, call or write our office.

EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 38 million eggs in the December 1990 through February 1991 quarter, compared with 44 million during the same quarter last year. Layers for the 1991 quarter averaged 580,000 compared with 670,000 in 1990.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.0 billion eggs during the December through February quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.7 billion table eggs, 2.10 billion broiler-type hatching eggs, and 180 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 273 million, up 1 percent from the 271 million a year ago.

All layers in the **U.S.** on March 1, 1991, totalled 273 million, compared with 271 million a year ago. The 273 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.95 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1991, averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.5 for March 1, 1990, and 68.2 on February 1, 1991.

U.S. POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT

Potato stocks on hand March 1,1991 in **Montana** totaled 1.9 million cwt, compared with 1.8 million cwt held a year earlier. Stocks in storage represent 76 percent of production.

For the **U.S.**, March 1, 1991 potato stocks totaled 126 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. This is 38 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 37 percent last year. Disappearance for the season so far is a record 210 million cwt of potatoes, up 5 percent from last year and 16 percent above 2 years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 22.3 million cwt, 13 percent above last year. Processors used 101 million cwt, a gain of 7 percent over last year.

Western potato stocks totaled 92.4 million cwt in six States, up 7 percent from last year but 3 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 16 percent from last year and accounted for 56 percent of the western holdings. **Montana**, with seed potatoes, is up 6 percent; Oregon holdings are up by 3 percent. Washington stocks are off 1 percent and Colorado is down 6 percent from a year ago. California stocks are off 26 percent.

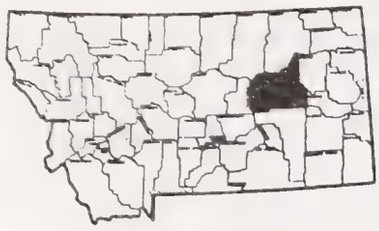
U.S. FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during February totaled 9.96 billion pounds, 2 percent above production in these same states in February 1990. January revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds, was 3 percent above January 1990.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,174 pounds for February, 33 pounds more than February 1990. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.49 million head, 22 thousand less than January 1991 and 35 thousand head less than February 1990.

During the October-December period, the 21 major states produced 30.7 billion pounds of milk, 84.6 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 11.8 billion pounds for February 1991.

featuring...GARFIELD COUNTY



Garfield County lies in east central Montana and the landscape is generally rolling. The entire northern and half of the eastern boundaries are comprised of the Fort Peck Lake. The Mussellshell River makes up the western boundary. Portions of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge lie along the banks of Fort Peck Lake within the county. The Fort Peck Dam makes up a section of the extreme northeastern boundary.

Sheep raising is a main agricultural interest in the county as it ranked 2nd in sheep numbers in the January 1, 1989 inventory. The cattle count for the same date showed Garfield County ranked 14th place among the counties for cattle raising. Some hogs are also produced as the county ranked 35th in the December 1, 1988 hog inventory.

Crops grown in the county include oats, winter wheat, spring wheat, and barley, with the county ranking 14th, 15th, 17th, and 23rd, respectively, for those crops.

Cash receipts in 1988 netted Garfield County a total of $29,275,000. The livestock portion of that total amounted to $17,183,000, while crops added $3,575,000. Government payments made up the difference with $8,517,000.

Garfield County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	2,874,342	Total Cropland	Acres	334,925
Land in Farms	Acres	2,063,133	Harvested Cropland	Acres	149,904
Number of Farms		297	Irrigated Land	Acres	2,468
Average size Farms	Acres	6,947			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	24,664	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	98,035	Calves	No. Head	50,458
Barley	Acres	22,060	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	72,473
Oats	Acres	3,856	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,706

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

March Ag Prices
Prospective Plantings
Wool & Mohair
Grain Stocks
Hogs & Pigs

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat & Barley Movement
Montana's Rank
February Prices Received
featuring...Gallatin County

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1990, at 58.5 million bushels, was 30 percent above the same period last year.

Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 26 percent above the previous June-November period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was up 115 percent. Shipments to other destinations (primarily Colorado and Arizona) were up 280 percent.

Rail movement amounted to 52.3 million bushels, up from 39.3 million shipped by rail during the same period in 1989. Trucks carried 6.3 million bushels compared with 5.6 million the previous June-November period.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1990 was 17.9 million bushels, up 60 percent from the same period last year. Barley shipped west amounted to 14.9 million bushels, up 54 percent from the 9.7 million bushels in the June-November 1989 period. Eastern shipments totalled 2.7 million bushels, up 136 percent from the 1.2 million bushels the previous year. Movement to other destinations, totalling 242,000 bushels, was down 22 percent from the same period last year.

Wheat & Barley Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination 1/

Agricultural Statistics District	June-Nov. 1989	June-November 1990			June-Nov. 1989	June-Nov. 1990
	All Wheat	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Barley
	(000) Bushels					
West 3/	1,557	290	1,680	1,970	4,195	6,650
North Central	20,520	12,844	19,013	31,857	4,647	7,552
Northeast	7,170	616	5,598	6,214	409	200
Central	9,439	6,686	1,968	8,654	1,818	3,518
South Central	4,049	7,224	790	8,014	129	9
Southeast	2,229	889	925	1,814	1	4
Trucked East	97	56	66	122	165	205
Trucked West	5,386	3,089	2,797	5,886	1,430	1,348
Trucked Other 4/	138	32	233	265	301	113
TOTAL BY TRUCK	5,621	3,177	3,096	6,273	1,896	1,666
Rail East	616	466	947	1,413	997	2,538
Rail West	38,438	24,898	24,580	49,478	8,297	13,600
Rail Other 4/	289	8	1,351	1,359	9	129
TOTAL BY RAIL	39,343	25,372	26,878	52,250	9,303	16,267
TOTAL SHIPPED	44,964	28,549	29,974	58,523	11,199	17,933

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

MONTANA'S RANK HIGHLIGHTS

♠ Income from cash receipts, excluding Government payments, for crops and livestock gained in rank from 1988 to 1989: crops rose from 34 in 1988 to 31 in 1989; and livestock rose from 31 to 30.

♠ Several commodities ranked higher in 1991. They are: all cows from 10 to 9; beef cows from 7 to 6; milk cows from 43 to 42; cattle on feed from 21 to 20; winter wheat from 11 to 6; durum wheat from 4 to 3; and all hay from 15 to 14.

♠ The following commodities fell from 1990 to 1991: hogs and pigs from 25 to 35; all chickens from 41 to 42; all wheat from 4 to 5; spring wheat other than durum from 3 to 4; oats from 15 to 17; dry beans from 13 to 14; and corn for silage from 20 to 24.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM		UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Land in farms and ranches	60,500,000	acres	1990	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:				
Total	1,609,736,000	dollars	1989	33
Crops	710,482,000	dollars	1989	31
Livestock	899,254,000	dollars	1989	30

LIVESTOCK INVENTORY AND WOOL PRODUCTION

All Cattle & Calves	2,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 1991	13
All Cows	1,452,000	head	Jan. 1, 1991	9
Beef Cows	1,428,000	head	Jan. 1, 1991	6
Milk Cows	24,000	head	Jan. 1, 1991	42
Cattle on Feed	90,000	head	Jan. 1, 1991	20
Hogs and Pigs	185,000	head	Dec. 1, 1990	35
Sheep and Lambs	683,000	head	Jan. 1, 1991	5
Wool Production	5,690,000	pounds	1989	5
All Chickens	760,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1990	42

CROPS (Production)

All Wheat	145,865,000	bushels	1990	5
Winter Wheat	87,500,000	bushels	1990	6
Durum Wheat	4,465,000	bushels	1990	3
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	53,900,000	bushels	1990	4
Barley	56,580,000	bushels	1990	2
Oats	2,800,000	bushels	1990	17
All Hay	4,495,000	tons	1990	14
Alfalfa Hay	3,375,000	tons	1990	9
Dry Beans	220,000	cwt	1990	14
Potatoes--fall	2,492,000	cwt	1990	15
Sugarbeets	1,240,000	tons	1990	8
Corn				
Grain	855,000	bushels	1990	41
Silage	1,045,000	tons	1990	24

FEBRUARY PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farm prices continue strong for beef cattle and hogs, but weak for wheat.

The February 1991 index of prices received by Montana farmers for all products, at 169 points (1977=100), is down 11 points from a year ago. The decrease is mainly due to a 35 point drop in the crops index. The food grain index, at 112, compares with 158 a year ago, while the feed grain index, at 128, is up from last year's 123. By contrast, the livestock and products index, at 218, is 9 points above last year in spite of decreases for dairy and wool.

During mid-February, Montana farmers received $2.55 for all wheat compared with $3.62 last year. Steer and heifer prices were $88.90, compared with $81.70 a year ago; lamb prices, at $42.50, were down from $67.30. Montana's all hay price was $59.00, compared with $70.00 last February.

Nationally, the February all farm products index of prices received decreased 1 point from January to 144 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of eggs, lettuce, oranges, and onions were partially offset by higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, sweet corn, and hogs. The index was 7 points below a year ago.

U.S. corn prices continued unchanged from January, wheat prices were up slightly, but soybean prices were down from a month earlier. Market egg prices dropped off sharply from the previous month. Cattle and hog prices increased moderately from January. Steers and heifers, cows, and calf prices were all at record-high levels. The average price for oranges was down. The high price commanded for California fresh oranges was offset by an unusually large proportion of freeze-damaged oranges moving to processors.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1991	MONTANA Feb. 15 1991	U.S. Feb. 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.70	2.53	2.42	2.40
Durum	Bu.	3.14	2.73	2.55	2.70
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.57	2.70	2.69	2.42
All Wheat	Bu.	3.62	2.62	2.55	2.43
Barley, All	Bu.	2.22	2.24	2.34	2.04
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.94
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.21
Oats	Bu.	1.37	1.25	1.02	1.16
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	64.00	60.00	87.30
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	54.00	53.00	60.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	63.00	59.00	80.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	81.70	87.20	88.90	82.10
Cows	Cwt.	52.50	49.50	51.70	50.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	72.70	72.00	75.90	77.30
Calves	Cwt.	93.00	102.00	104.00	102.00
Sheep	Cwt.	25.30	25.20	17.60	24.90
Lambs	Cwt.	67.30	44.80	42.50	48.30
Hogs	Cwt.	46.10	46.90	49.30	51.00
All Milk	Cwt.	14.45	12.00	11.90	11.60
Eggs	Doz.	.64	.81	.66	.67
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.10	.65	.55	.42
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	180	165	169	144
All Crops	Pct.	150	117	115	122
Livestock & Products	Pct.	209	210	218	166

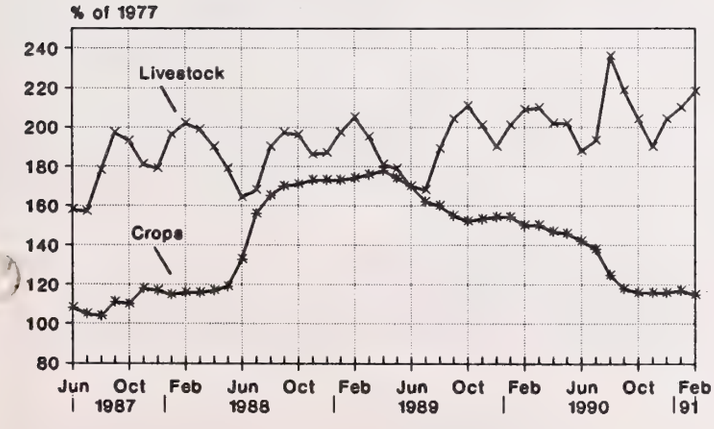
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

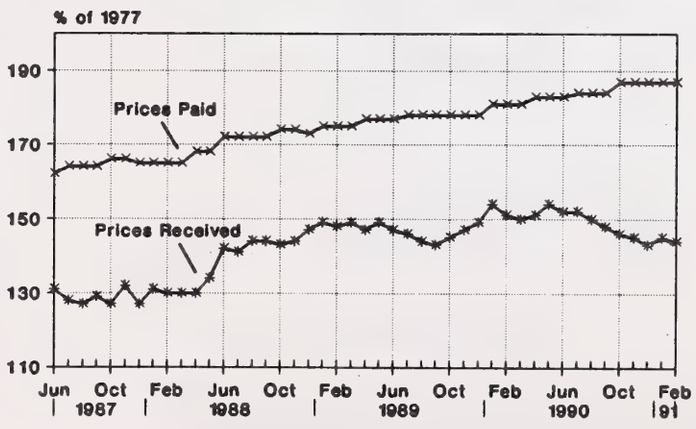
INDEX 1977=100	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1990	Jan. 1991	Feb. 1991
Prices Received	154	151	145	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	181	2/181	187	3/187
Ratio 1/	85	83	78	77

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1990 prices paid index. 3/ January 1991 prices paid index.

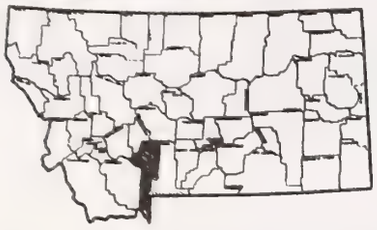
MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



*featuring...*GALLATIN COUNTY



Gallatin County is located on the headwaters of the Missouri River in southern Montana, at the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park. Between one-third and one-half of the county is contained within the Gallatin National Forest. Created in February of 1865 and covering 1,606,259 acres of land, Gallatin County is a prime agricultural area. The county seat is Bozeman and this area has an annual average precipitation of 18.63 inches.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products turned in $42,793,000 for Gallatin County in 1988. Crops returned $29,537,000 and government payments added $3,552,000. Total cash receipts for the county in 1988 amounted to $75,882,000.

Being one of the larger cattle raising areas, Gallatin County ranked 8th in the January 1, 1989 cattle inventory. The county was in 21st place in the 1989 sheep inventory, and 20th in the December 1, 1988 hog count. Major crops raised in the area include hay, barley, and wheat. Gallatin County was in 4th place in the county rankings for 1989 all hay production, 8th in barley production, and 22nd in all wheat production for 1989.

Gallatin County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,606,259	Total Cropland	Acres	305,160
Land in Farms	Acres	731,603	Harvested Cropland	Acres	172,273
Number of Farms		850	Irrigated Land	Acres	99,806
Average size Farms	Acres	861			
CROPS–Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	74,656	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	46,146	Calves	No. Head	71,679
Barley	Acres	46,735	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	8,527
Oats	Acres	2,456	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	4,083

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Annual Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Slaughter
Ag Chemical Usage

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

January Red Meat Production
7-State Cattle on Feed
January Labor
January Milk Production
February 1 Potato Stocks
January Egg Production
1990 Honey Production

JANUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in January 1991. This production is down 6 percent from January 1990 and down 40 percent from last month.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,500 head, was down 100 head from a year ago. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,075 pounds, up 9 pounds from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,200 head, was down 100 head from last year, while average liveweight at 220 pounds, was down 26 pounds from January 1990.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in January 1991 totaled 3.43 billion pounds, up 2 percent from last year.

Comparing January 1991 with January 1990:

- Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was up 2 percent. Head kill totaled 2.88 million, up 1 percent. The average liveweight decreased 1 pound to 1,143.
- Veal production, at 31.0 million pounds was up 14 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 154 thousand head, down 14 percent, and the average liveweight increased 65 pounds to 317.
- Pork production, at 1.40 billion pounds, was up 2 percent. Hog kill totaled 7.65 million head, up slightly from last year. The average liveweight increased 2 pounds to 251.
- Lamb and mutton production, at 33.0 million pounds, was up 2 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 508 thousand head, up 4 percent from last year. The average liveweight decreased 2 pounds to 127.

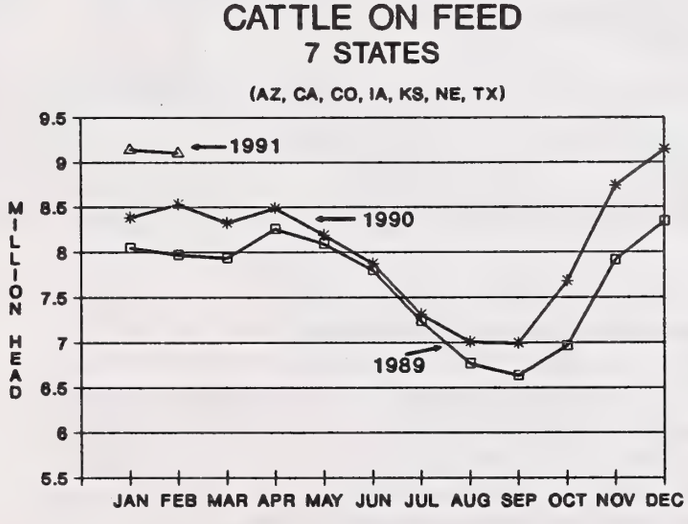
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 7 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed February 1, 1991, for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 9.10 million head, up 7 percent from a year ago and 14 percent above February 1, 1989. This is the largest February number on feed since 1974.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.71 million, up 4 percent from last year and 2 percent above two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during January totaled 1.79 million, down 6 percent from last year but 5 percent above January 1989. Net placements of 1.67 million for January was down 7 percent from last year but 4 percent above 1989.

Other disappearance totaled 118 thousand head compared to 114 thousand in January 1990 and 104 thousand in January 1989.



U.S. FARM WAGES AVERAGED $6.00 PER HOUR

There were 2.61 million people working on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 1991. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.40 million of the total, along with 339,000 unpaid workers, and 706,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 168,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $6.00 per hour during the January 1991 survey week. This rate was up 30 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.62 per hour compared with $5.30 last January. Field workers received an average of $5.69 an hour, up 35 cents from the January 1990 survey week. Livestock workers earned $5.32 compared with $4.99 per hour a year earlier.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 30.5 hours, 0.1 hour less than the comparable week in 1990. Unpaid workers averaged 32.5 hours, 0.2 hours above last year. Hired employees worked 37.9 hours, the same number of hours as last January.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 45 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. This compares with 46 percent during the January 1990 survey week. Six percent of the workers received both housing and meals, and another 15 percent received housing, but no meals.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JANUARY 6-12, 1991 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	6.18	4.94	5.41	8.40	3/	5.78	3/	5.76
NORTHEAST II	5.45	4.76	4.97	9.00	6.20	5.57	3/	4.98
APPALACHIAN I	5.35	4.86	5.02	7.15	3/	4.89	3/	5.76
APPALACHIAN II	4.61	5.29	5.08	8.55	7.91	4.99	3/	6.05
SOUTHEAST	5.10	5.42	5.25	9.91	7.80	5.02	6.52	6.30
FLORIDA	5.80	5.50	5.74	10.97	9.76	5.69	5.90	7.9
LAKE	6.14	4.84	4.99	6.94	6.50	5.53	3/	5.06
CORNBELT I	5.92	5.06	5.36	8.16	6.23	5.88	3/	6.53
CORNBELT II	4.78	5.71	5.43	9.14	5.31	5.39	3/	5.77
DELTA	5.45	4.57	5.00	9.02	3/	4.63	3/	5.92
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.44	5.29	5.31	7.47	3/	5.44	3/	5.47
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.55	4.94	4.78	8.26	6.78	4.89	3/	5.44
MOUNTAIN I	5.03	5.02	5.02	6.66	3/	5.26	3/	5.52
MOUNTAIN II	5.09	5.46	5.38	7.74	5.18	5.46	3/	6.04
MOUNTAIN III	5.09	5.15	5.12	8.31	3/	5.21	3/	6.38
PACIFIC	6.08	6.53	6.28	10.35	6.71	6.28	3/	7.58
CALIFORNIA	5.88	6.80	6.06	11.60	8.98	5.93	6.58	9.40
HAWAII	7.72	3/	7.69	14.58	3/	7.97	3/	12.70
U. S.	5.69	5.32	5.50	9.17	7.58	5.62	6.31	6.48

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the **21 major states** during January totaled 10.7 billion pounds, 3 percent above production in these same states in January 1990. December revised production, at 10.5 billion pounds, was 4 percent above December 1989.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,252 pounds for January, 35 pounds more than January 1990.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.51 million head, 36 thousand less than December 1990 and 25 thousand head less than January 1990.

During the October-December period, the 21 major states produced 30.7 billion pounds of milk, 84 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.6 billion pounds for January 1991.

FEBRUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana potato producers had 2 million cwt of potatoes on hand February 1, up 0.1 million cwt from a year ago. Most of the potatoes will be utilized as seed for the 1991 potato crop. The stocks represent 80 percent of Montana's 1990 production.

Western states potato stocks totalled 111 million cwt on February 1, 1990, up 6 percent from last year but 1 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho stocks are up 14 percent from last year and accounted for 55 percent of the western holdings. Washington stocks are off 2 percent and Colorado stocks are down 3 percent from a year ago. California stocks, off the greatest amount of any western state, are 25 percent below a year earlier.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through January for the **U.S.** totalled a record high 182 million cwt of potatoes, up 6 percent from last year and 18 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 20.1 million cwt, 11 percent above the 18.1 million cwt lost last year and 6 percent above two years ago when losses were 19.0 cwt.

Processing in the 8 major states claimed 86.8 million cwt of potatoes from the 1990 crop so far, 7 percent above a year ago and 27 percent above 1988. January usage was 14.4 million cwt compared with 14.0 million cwt last year and 11.2 million cwt two years ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1990 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1991

STATE	CROP OF 1989			CROP OF 1990		
	PROD	STOCKS FEB 1, 1990	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS FEB 1, 1991	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	6,440	3,200	50	6,232	2,400	39
CO	20,603	11,700	57	22,100	11,400	52
ID	102,475	53,000	52	112,340	60,500	54
ME	22,000	10,900	50	20,520	10,100	49
MI	7,350	2,200	30	9,240	3,000	32
MN	13,860	6,300	45	14,280	8,000	56
MT	2,228	1,900	85	2,492	2,000	80
NE	2,528	900	36	2,837	1,150	41
NY-LI	1,898	200	11	1,950	150	8
NY-UPST	4,730	1,300	27	5,940	1,500	25
ND	15,070	7,800	52	16,675	9,100	55
OH	1,462	90	6	1,911	110	6
OR	23,308	10,000	43	23,014	10,100	44
PA	4,715	1,600	34	5,400	1,600	30
WA	64,310	25,100	39	67,980	24,500	36
WI	23,120	8,100	35	23,075	8,700	38
15 STATES	316,097	144,290	46	335,986	154,310	46

JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totalled 5.81 billion during January 1991, up 2 percent from the 5.70 billion eggs produced a year ago. Production included 5.02 billion table eggs, up 1 percent from last year; 727 million broiler-type hatching eggs, up 8 percent from last year; and 64 million egg-type hatching eggs, down 6 percent from last year. The total number of layers during January averaged 273 million, up 1 percent from the 272 million in January 1990. January 1991 egg production per 100 layers was 2,127 eggs, compared with 2,098 in January 1990.

All layers in the **U.S.** on February 1, 1991, totalled 274 million, slightly above a year ago. The 274 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 40.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.90 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1991, averaged 68.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from last year's 67.2 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.82 billion eggs during January 1991, up 2 percent from the 4.75 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during January averaged 227 million, up fractionally from the 226 million a year ago.

MONTANA & U.S. 1990 HONEY PRODUCTION UP

Montana beekeepers produced 7.7 million pounds of honey in 1990, up 22 percent from last year's level. There were 95,000 colonies producing honey in 1990, down 5000 colonies from 1989. Yield per colony, at 81 pounds, was up 29 percent.

Montana honey producers received an average of 48 cents per pound last year, up a penny from 1989. The total value of the 1990 crop is estimated at $3.7 million, up 25 percent from 1989. Honey stocks held by producers on December 15, 1990 totaled 1.2 million pounds, up 41 percent from December 15, 1989. Honey stocks held by producers does not include stocks under loan.

U.S. honey production in 1990 from producers with 5 or more hives, totaled 196 million pounds, up 11 percent from 1989. There were 3.19 million colonies producing honey, down 7 percent from 1989. Yield per colony averaged 61.5 pounds, up from the unusually low 51.4 pounds in 1989. Colonies that produced in more than one state were counted in each state, and yields may be understated at the state level. Producer honey stocks were 30.7 million pounds on December 15, 1990. Weather conditions for honey production were highly variable between regions in 1990. Bee populations were reduced significantly in some areas due to adverse weather, disease, and mite infestations.

Prices for the 1990 crop averaged 52.8 cents per pound, up 3 cents from the 1989 price of 49.8 cents per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting state average prices by the state quantities sold. Prices increased for most types of honey in 1990 except for the extra light amber and amber honey retailed by producers. Government payments are excluded from the honey prices quoted in this article.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Montana's Rank
February Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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RELEASED: February 11, 1991

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle and Calves Inventory
Sheep and Lambs Inventory
January Ag Prices Received

PLEASE RETURN

A SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January 1 cattle and sheep inventory survey. Field and telephone enumerators contacted nearly 1,700 Montana farmers and ranchers early in January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

CATTLE INVENTORY--JANUARY 1, 1991

Montana's January 1, 1991, cattle and calf inventory of 2.4 million head is up 4 percent from the revised January 1, 1990, inventory of 2.3 million. The inventory included 1.428 million beef cows, up 8 percent from January 1, 1990, and 323,000 beef cow replacement heifers, down 1 percent from last January.

Milk cow numbers remained unchanged at 24,000 head, and milk cow replacement heifers increased to 8,000 head--up from 7,000 last year. Other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more, at 168,000 head, were up 1 percent from 1990; steers weighing 500 pounds or more increased from last January to 190,000 on hand, up 5 percent. There were 180,000 calves on hand weighing less than 500 pounds, down 7 percent from the 193,000 on hand January 1, 1990. The 1990 calf crop was 1,400,000 head, up 4 percent from 1989. The average value per head in the 1991 inventory was $755 compared with $675 a year earlier.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 1991, totaled 99.4 million head, up 1 percent from the revised 98.2 million on January 1, 1990, and up 1 percent from the revised 98.1 million two years ago. This continues the recent upward trend in cattle inventories showing the second January increase since 1982.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.8 million, were up 1 percent from both the 43.4 million a year ago and the 43.3 million of two years ago.

- Beef cows, at 33.6 million, were 1 percent above January 1, 1990, and 2 percent above two years ago.
- Milk cows, at 10.2 million, were virtually unchanged from January 1, 1990, but 1 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1991, and the percentage changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 18.2 million, up 3 percent and up 6 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.59 million, up 3 percent and up 4 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.19 million, down 1 percent but up 1 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.38 million, up 4 percent and up 10 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, up 4 percent and up 7 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.23 million, up 1 percent and up 2 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 18.7 million, down 2 percent and down 6 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 12.7 million, up 10 percent and up 11 percent.

The nation's calf crop was 39.9 million head, down 1 percent from the 40.1 million born in 1989.

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1990-91

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1990	1991	% Change '91/'90	1990	1991	% Change '91/'90
	----000 Head----			----000 Head----		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,300	2,400	+4	98,162	99,436	+1
Cows & Heifers that have calved						
Beef Cows	1,328	1,428	+8	33,200	33,620	+1
Milk Cows	24	24	0	10,153	10,159	0
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	325	323	-1	5,418	5,585	+3
For milk cow replacement	7	8	+14	4,227	4,194	-1
Other heifers	167	168	+1	8,028	8,383	+4
Steers 500 pounds and over	181	190	+5	15,911	16,548	+4
Bulls 500 pounds and over	75	79	+5	2,195	2,228	+1
Calves less than 500 pounds	193	180	-7	19,031	18,720	-2
All cattle value ($1,000)	1,552,500	1,812,000	+17	60,285,432	64,900,175	+8
Value per head (Dollars)	675	755	+12	614	653	+6

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS--1989 AND 1990

ITEM	1989	1990	% Change '90/'89	1989	1990	% Change '90/'89
Calves born during year (1,000 head)	1,350	1,400	+4	40,102	39,879	-1
Number cattle farms 1/	14,700	14,000	-5	1,323,300	1,288,610	-3

1/ Actual number.

JANUARY 1, 1991 SHEEP INVENTORY

The number of sheep and lambs on Montana farms and ranches totaled 683,000 head on January 1, 1991. This inventory is up 3 percent from last year and represents the largest inventory since 750,000 head were recorded January 1, 1974. Ewes one year and older, at 504,000 head, were up 3 percent from last year, while ewe lambs 3 months old and older were down 6 percent. The 1990 lamb crop, at 535,000 head, is up 7 percent from a year ago. Sheep and lambs on feed, at 33,000 head, jumped 43 percent over last year's level and is the largest number since 1985 when 45,000 head were fed. The average value of sheep and lambs on January 1, 1991, was $64.00 per head, down $21.00 from last year.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1991, totaled 11.2 million head, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The value of sheep and lambs on hand totaled $735 million, 18 percent below a year earlier. The average value per head was $65.60, down 17 percent from a year earlier. Stock sheep inventory decreased to 9.47 million head on January 1, 1991, down 1 percent from 9.60 million last year. Ewes one year old and older, at 7.43 million head, was down 2 percent. Ewe lamb inventory totaled 1.34 million head, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1991, for the slaughter market in the 25 major feeding states totaled 1.73 million head, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The 1990 lamb crop of 7.70 million head decreased slightly from the 1989 lamb crop. The 1990 lambing rate was 101 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1990, compared with 107 in 1989.

SHEEP and LAMBS INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1990-91

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1990	1991	% Change '91/'90	1990	1991	% Change '91/'90
	----000 Head----			----000 Head----		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	663	683	+3	11,363	11,200	-1
On feed	23	33	+43	1,762	1,730	-2
Stock sheep	640	650	+2	9,601	9,471	-1
Lambs						
Ewes	124	117	-6	1,324	1,342	+1
Wethers and rams	9	12	+33	312	351	+13
One year old & older						
Ewes	490	504	+3	7,609	7,429	-2
Wethers and rams	17	17	0	356	349	-2
All sheep value ($1,000)	56,355	43,712	-22	901,545	734,868	-18
Value per head (Dollars)	85.00	64.00	-25	79.30	65.60	-17

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS--1989 AND 1990

ITEM	1989	1990	% Change '90/'89	1989	1990	% Change '90/'89
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	500	535	+7	7,725	7,704	0
Number of sheep farms 1/	2,800	2,800	0	111,140	109,690	-1

1/ Actual number.

JANUARY AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

The January 1991 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers was unchanged from December 1990 at 162 percent of the 1977 January-December average. The all crops index was down 2 points while the livestock and products index moved up 1 point from last month. Compared with last year, the all crops index was down 40 points while the livestock index was up 4 points.

Individual commodity prices show all wheat at $2.50, down 9 cents per bushel from December and $1.24 below January a year ago. Barley was $2.30 per bushel, up 8 cents from last month and 13 cents above the previous year. Oats, at $1.34 per bushel, was up 7 cents from December but remained 3 cents below January 1990. Hay prices slipped $3.00 per ton below December and averaged $8.00 below last year.

January cow, steer and heifer prices moved down from December, but with marketings expected to consist of more steers and heifers, the all beef cattle price moved up $1.40 per hundredweight. Calves were unchanged from the previous month at $101.00 per hundredweight.

Sheep prices advanced $1.90 and lambs were up $1.30 per hundredweight, but remained substantially below last year. Hog prices were up $1.00, reaching a level $5.90 per hundredweight above last year. Milk prices eased down 5 cents per hundredweight, to average $3.45 below January 1990. Eggs were down from last month and last year. Wool showed no change at 45 cents below a year ago.

The January U.S. all farm products index of prices received increased 1 point from last month to 144 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of hogs, broilers, and eggs were partially offset by lower prices for soybeans, milk, and tomatoes. The index was 10 points below a year ago. The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates for January was 187 percent of its 1977 average. The index was unchanged from October and was up 6 points from last year. Since last surveyed in October 1990, prices were significantly lower for fuels while feeder cattle and calf prices were slightly higher.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1990	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1990	MONTANA Jan. 15 1991	U.S. Jan. 15, 1991
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.84	2.48	2.33	2.30
Durum	Bu.	3.05	2.51	2.50	2.60
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.69	2.69	2.65	2.36
All Wheat	Bu.	3.74	2.59	2.50	2.32
Barley, All	Bu.	2.17	2.22	2.30	2.13
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.97
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.46
Oats	Bu.	1.37	1.27	1.34	1.12
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	72.00	67.00	64.00	88.10
All Other Hay	Ton	62.00	57.00	54.00	63.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	71.00	66.00	63.00	82.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	81.40	87.50	86.20	81.40
Cows	Cwt.	48.60	51.40	50.80	48.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	69.90	68.90	70.30	76.00
Calves	Cwt.	88.80	101.00	101.00	96.30
Sheep	Cwt.	27.80	22.60	24.50	27.40
Lambs	Cwt.	58.00	43.20	44.50	48.60
Hogs	Cwt.	40.00	44.90	45.90	49.30
All Milk	Cwt.	15.30	11.90	11.85	11.70
Eggs	Doz.	.85	.84	.81	.79
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.10	.65	.65	.38
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	179	162	162	144
All Crops	Pct.	154	116	114	122
Livestock & Products	Pct.	201	204	205	165

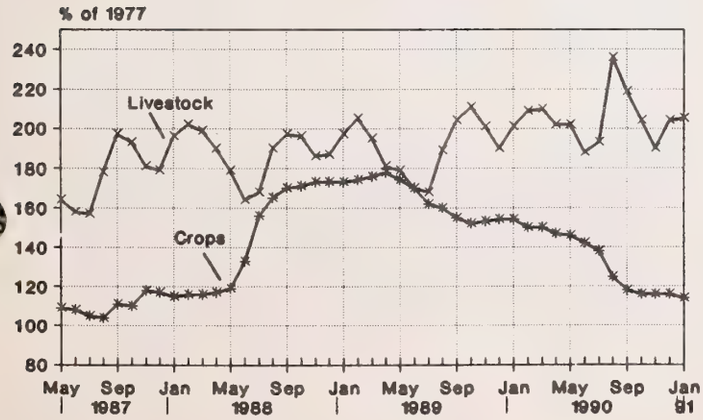
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

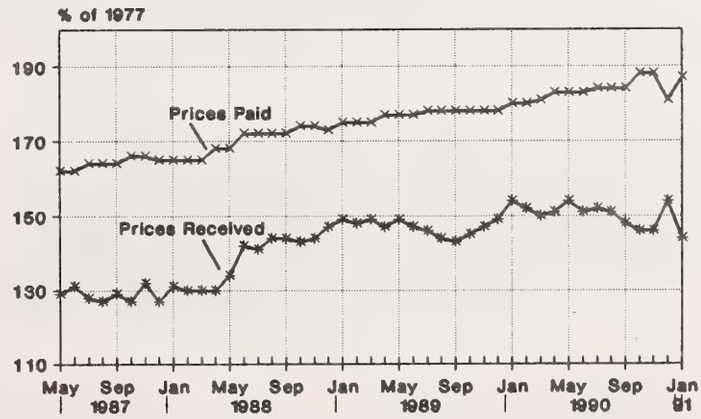
INDEX 1977=100	Dec. 1989	Dec. 1990	Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991
Prices Received	149	154	143	144
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/178	181	3/187	187
Ratio 1/	84	85	76	77

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1989 prices paid index. 3/ October 1990 prices paid index.

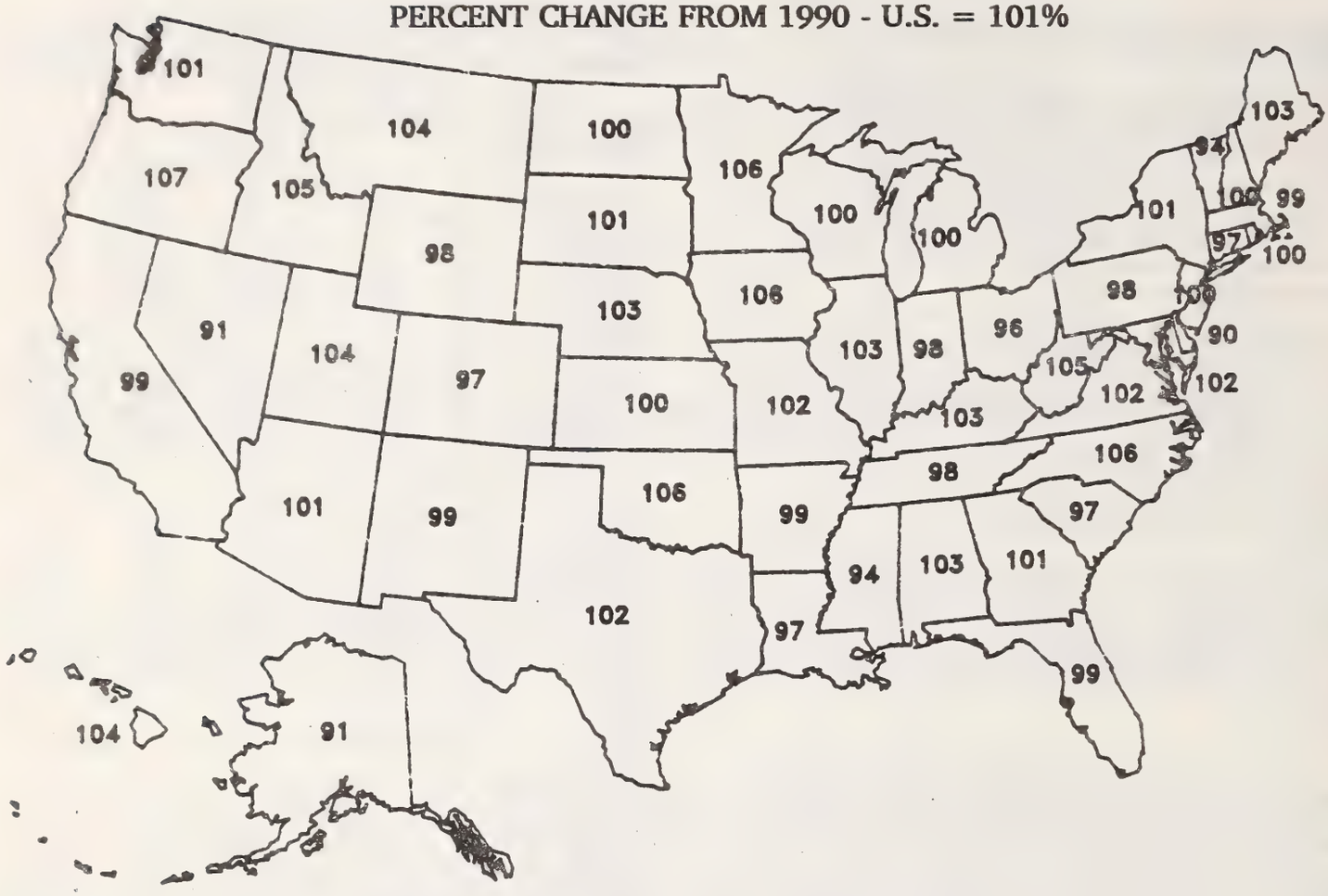
MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



JANUARY 1, 1991, ALL CATTLE & CALVES
PERCENT CHANGE FROM 1990 - U.S. = 101%



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Slaughter	
Farm Labor	Honey
Potato Stocks	Milk Production
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

301 S. PARK
P.O. BOX 4369
HELENA, MONTANA 59604

ISSUE: 91-02 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: February 4, 1991

HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Crop Production
December Red Meat Production
13 State Cattle on Feed
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, & Price
January 1 Potato Stocks
October-December Milk Production
1990 Annual Egg Production
December Egg Production

MONTANA'S 1990 PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Montana's all wheat production in 1990, at 145.9 million bushels, was 16 percent above the 20-year average, about the same as a year ago. Even though year to year fluctuations in production have been significant, total wheat production has been mostly static the last two decades.

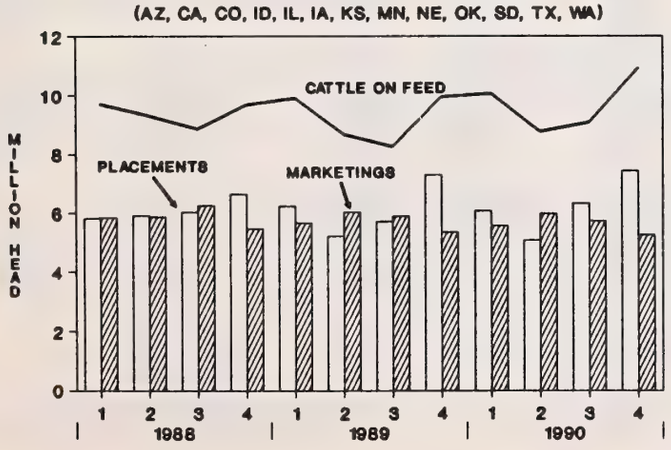
For barley, production in 1990 was 3 percent below the 20-year average, down sharply from a year ago. Barley acreage increased dramatically during the early part of the 1980's but has been mostly decreasing since 1986.

Montana's 1990 crop season was characterized by abnormal dryness in the eastern third of the state and relatively good growing conditions elsewhere.

SEE ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY TABLE ON INSIDE PAGE.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.1 million pounds of red meat in December 1990. This production is down 46 percent from last month, but up 92 percent from last year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 3,200 head, is up 1,800 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,060 pounds, up 168 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 2,200 head is up 300 head from last year while average live weight was 224 pounds, down 4 pounds from December 1989.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in December 1990 totaled 3.08 billion pounds, down 3 percent from last year. January-December red meat production, at 38.6 billion pounds was down 2 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, down 7; pork, down 3; lamb and mutton, up 5. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 10% IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed January 1, 1991, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly states totaled 10.9 million head, up 10 percent from January 1, 1990, and 13 percent above 1989. This is the largest January number on feed since 1979.

The cattle on feed inventory included 7.07 million steers and steer calves, 9 percent above last year and 14 percent above 1989. This group represented 65 percent of the total January number on feed, the same as last year and 64 percent in 1989. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.80 million, 11 percent above both last year and 1989.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the October-December 1990 quarter totaled 7.45 million, up 2 percent from 1989 and 12 percent above 1988. **Other disappearance** of 347 thousand head leaves **net placement** at 7.10 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during October-December totaled 5.25 million, 2 percent below 1989 and 4 percent below the same period in 1988. Cattle feeders **expect to market** 5.75 million head during the January-March quarter of 1991. This would be up 3 percent from the first quarter marketings in 1990 and 2 percent above 1989.

1990 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY 1/

		MONTANA								U.S.
		Acreage		Production				Season Avg. Price Per Unit	Value of Prod.	Production
	Year	Planted	Harv.	Unit	Yield Per Acre	Total	% Chg. From Prev. Year			
		Thousands				Thous.	%	$	Thous.$	Thous.
Winter Wheat	1987	2,300	2,200	Bu.	36.0	79,200	+24	2.66	210,672	1,565,381
	1988	2,450	2,100		19.0	39,900	-50	3.86	154,014	1,561,910
	1989	2,500	1,500		36.0	54,000	+35	3.73	201,420	1,454,642
	1990	2,700	2,500		35.0	87,500	+62	2.65	231,875	2,033,299
Durum Wheat	1987	195	190	Bu.	28.0	5,320	+23	3.40	18,088	92,617
	1988	280	230		9.0	2,070	-61	5.20	10,764	44,831
	1989	340	335		18.0	6,030	+191	3.31	19,959	92,229
	1990	245	235		19.0	4,465	-26	2.90	12,949	122,171
Other Spring Wheat	1987	2,400	2,300	Bu.	29.0	66,700	-5	2.78	185,426	449,687
	1988	2,000	1,500		12.0	18,000	-73	4.10	73,800	205,460
	1989	3,500	3,400		25.0	85,000	+372	3.64	309,400	489,747
	1990	2,800	2,450		22.0	53,900	-37	2.85	153,615	583,124
All Wheat	1987	4,895	4,690	Bu.	32.2	151,220	+9	2.74	414,186	2,107,685
	1988	4,730	3,830		15.7	59,970	-60	3.98	238,578	1,812,201
	1989	6,340	5,235		27.7	145,030	+142	3.66	530,779	2,036,618
	1990	5,745	5,185		28.1	145,865	+1	2.73	398,439	2,738,594
Barley	1987	2,300	2,100	Bu.	45.0	94,500	+11	1.82	171,990	521,499
	1988	1,800	1,250		24.0	30,000	-68	2.82	84,600	289,994
	1989	1,700	1,600		43.0	68,800	+129	2.21	152,048	404,203
	1990	1,600	1,380		41.0	56,580	-18	2.25	127,305	418,856
Oats	1987	235	110	Bu.	55.0	6,050	+46	1.49	9,015	373,713
	1988	210	90		31.0	2,790	-54	2.26	6,305	217,600
	1989	250	145		46.0	6,670	+139	1.42	9,471	373,587
	1990	160	70		40.0	2,800	-58	1.05	2,940	357,149
Corn for Grain 2/	1987	80	15	Bu.	105.0	1,575	+5	2.20	3,465	7,131,300
	1988	90	20		110.0	2,200	+40	3.15	6,930	4,928,6
	1989	80	4		80.0	320	-85	2.60	832	7,525,4
	1990	65	9		95.0	855	+167	2.50	2,138	7,933,068
Corn for Silage	1987	–	64	Tons	18.0	1,152	-4	–	–	86,442
	1988	–	67		19.0	1,273	+11	–	–	78,791
	1989	–	75		18.0	1,350	+6	–	–	86,109
	1990	–	55		19.0	1,045	-23	–	–	86,844
Potatoes (Fall)	1987	8.0	7.9	Cwt.	300.0	2,370	+6	5.65	13,391	344,998
	1988	7.8	7.7		280.0	2,156	-9	7.75	16,709	313,558
	1989	8.2	8.1		275.0	2,228	+3	8.25	18,381	324,673
	1990	9.0	8.9		280.0	2,492	+12	8.75	21,805	344,317
Dry Beans	1987	5.8	5.7	Cwt.	21.9	125	+29	12.00	1,500	26,031
	1988	4.4	4.0		19.0	76	-39	28.00	2,128	19,253
	1989	6.0	5.9		22.0	130	+71	27.50	3,575	23,729
	1990	13.5	13.0		16.9	220	+69	13.60	2,992	32,429
Sugar beets	1987	49.2	48.9	Tons	22.2	1,086	+7	42.20	45,829	28,072
	1988	49.6	48.9		21.1	1,032	-5	45.20	46,646	24,810
	1989	52.7	51.9		19.9	1,033	0	43.60	45,039	25,131
	1990	55.2	55.1		22.5	1,240	+20	–	–	27,593
Alfalfa Hay	1987	–	1,300	Tons	2.20	2,860	-4	–	–	84,225
	1988	–	1,100		1.90	2,090	-27	–	–	69,304
	1989	–	1,350		2.20	2,970	+42	–	–	77,370
	1990	–	1,350		2.50	3,375	+14	–	–	83,555
All Hay 3/	1987	–	2,200	Tons	1.91	4,210	-3	45.00	189,450	147,457
	1988	–	1,800		1.55	2,790	-34	85.00	237,150	126,010
	1989	–	2,350		1.90	4,470	+60	69.50	310,665	145,512
	1990	–	2,150		2.09	4,495	+1	67.00	301,165	146,985
Sweet Cherries 4/	1987	–	–	Tons	–	2,600	+160	877.00	2,280	212,820
	1988	–	–		–	1,900	-27	548.00	1,042	184,510
	1989	–	–		–	–	–	–	–	190,93
	1990	–	–		–	150	–	1,670.00	250	132,3
All Main Crops	1987	–	–		–	–	–	–	805,277 5/	–
	1988	–	–		–	–	–	–	593,442 5/	–
	1989	–	–		–	–	–	–	1,025,751 5/	–
	1990	–	–		–	–	–	–	911,098 5/	–

[1] All estimates for 1990 are preliminary. [2] Planted acreage of corn for all purposes. [3] Price of baled hay. [4] Utilized production in actual tons. [5] Excludes sugar beets value.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1972-1991

Year Beginning June	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 3/	Total				
	—Million Bushels—											$
1972 ..	983	1,546	1	2,530	532	67	200	799	1.135	1,934	597	1.76
1973 ..	3/ 597	1,711	3	2,311	544	84	126	754	1,217	1,971	340	3.95
1974 ..	340	1,782	3	2,125	545	92	35	672	1,018	1,690	435	4.09
1975 ..	435	2,127	2	2,564	589	99	38	726	1,173	1,899	666	3.55
1976 ..	666	2,149	2	2,817	588	92	74	754	950	1,704	1,113	2.73
1977 ..	1,113	2,046	2	3,161	586	80	193	859	1,124	1,983	1,178	2.33
1978 ..	1,178	1,776	2	2,955	592	87	158	837	1,194	2,061	924	2.97
1979 ..	924	2,134	2	3,060	596	101	86	783	1,375	2,158	902	3.78
1980 ..	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.91
1981 ..	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.66
1982 ..	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.55
1983 ..	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	642	100	369	111	1,429	2,540	1,399	3.53
1984 ..	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	405	1,154	1,424	2,578	1,425	3.38
1985 ..	1,425	2,425	15	3,865	678	93	274	1,045	915	1,960	1,905	3.15
1986 ..	1,905	2,092	21	4,018	696	84	413	1,193	1,004	2,197	1,821	2.42
1987 ..	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 ..	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ..	702	2,037	23	2,762	731	101	160	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . 4/	536	2,379	30	3,305	755	88	450	1,293	1,025	2,318	987	2.60
1991 . 4/	987											

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Excludes an abnormally large volume of grain in transit. 4/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

VALUE OF MONTANA CROP PRODUCTION DOWN 15 PERCENT

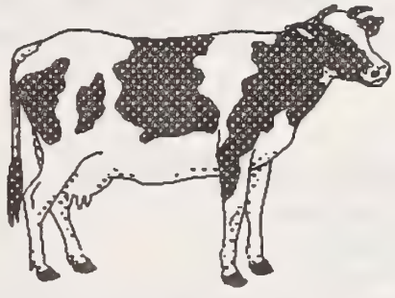
Montana's 1990 crop production is valued at 911.1 million dollars, 15 percent less than a year ago. The decrease is mainly due to sharply lower prices for wheat. The production of wheat, barley, and hay contributed almost 91 percent of total crop value in 1990.

The value of the state's wheat production in 1990, at 398.4 million, was down 25 percent from last year. Hay production, valued at 301.2 million, was down 3 percent, while barley's value, at 127.3 million, was down 16 percent. All production value estimates for 1990 exclude sugar beets which totaled 45 million in 1989, the latest year available.

JANUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS

There were 2.2 million cwt of potatoes stored in **Montana** on January 1, 1991, up 10 percent from a year ago on January 1. The January stocks represent 88 percent of the state's 1990 production.

For the **15 major fall potato states**, there were 186 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1991, up 7 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. January storage accounted for 55 percent of fall production this year the same as a year ago. Processors in the 8 major processing states used 72.4 million cwt of fall potatoes so far this season, up 8 percent from last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent reds, 15 percent whites, and 82 percent russets, with more russets and fewer whites than a year ago.



OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk cows on **Montana** farms produced 84 million pounds of milk in the October-December quarter of 1990. This production is up 1 percent from the comparable period in 1989. The average number of milk cows on farms for the quarter was 24,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 3,520 pounds for the three months, up 1 percent from last year.

Montana dairymen fed an average of 15 pounds of grain concentrates per cow on January 1, 1991, unchanged from last year. The value of grain fed was $6.95 per cwt, down 55 cents from 1990.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 36.3 billion pounds, 4 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 10.2 million head, 42 thousand head above the same period last year. Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1991, averaged 17.6 pounds, 0.3 pound less than January 1, 1990. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged $7.84 per hundredweight, $0.18 below the January 1, 1990 price.

1990 EGG PRODUCTION

There were 172 million eggs produced in **Montana** during the year ending November 30, 1990, down 4.5 percent from last year's production. Layer numbers during 1990 averaged 658,000 compared with 702,000 a year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1990 was 261 eggs, up from 256 eggs per layer in 1989.

There were 760,000 chickens on Montana farms on December 1, 1990, compared with 890,000 on hand last year. The inventory value was $1,748,000, down from $2,270,000 on December 1, 1989.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1990, totaled 67.8 billion eggs, up 1 percent from last year's total of 67.2 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1990 averaged 270 million layers, up slightly from 1989. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1990 was 252 eggs, up from the 1989 average of 250 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand in the U.S. on December 1, 1990, (excluding broilers) was 352 million head, 1 percent below last year. The total value was $806 million, up from $771 million on December 1, 1989.

DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 1991, totaled 272 million, compared with 271 million a year ago. The 272 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 39.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.82 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 1991, averaged 69.1 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from last year's 68.1 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.86 billion eggs during December, up 1 percent from the 4.82 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during December averaged 226 million, virtually unchanged from last year.

Data for the 30 quarterly states were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 83 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, September through November 1990.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Ag Prices
Sheep Inventory
Cattle Inventory

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 91-01 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: January 17, 1991

301 S. PARK
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Hay Stocks
Grain Stocks
December Prices Received
Hogs & Pigs Inventory

Crop acreage, grain stocks and hog and pig estimates included in this issue of the Reporter are the results of surveying approximately 1,800 Montana farmers and ranchers during December. Names were selected on a probability basis. A SPECIAL THANKS to those of you interviewed for this very important end of season survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

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WINTER WHEAT SEEDED ACRES DECREASE

Montana farmers seeded 2.35 million acres of winter wheat last fall for harvest in 1991. This is down 13 percent from last year, and is 6 percent below the 10-year average.

Winter wheat crop condition was rated mostly fair to good before the abnormally cold weather of late December. Any freeze damage that could have occurred during the first days of very low temperatures, before more snowfall came, cannot be assessed until growth starts in the early spring. There is serious concern that winter damage may be present. Soils remain mostly abnormally dry and stands are spotty in some locations.

Nationally, major hard red winter production states in the Plains plus Montana have seedings totaling 6 percent less than in 1990. Moisture was favorable for seeding in Colorado; the crop is off to a good start, though top growth is short in some areas. Late September rains replenished surface moisture supplies in Kansas allowing rapid seeding progress. Emerged stands in Kansas are rated in good to excellent condition; early November rains boosted secondary root growth.

Dry soils prevented some acreage from being planted in South Dakota; northwestern fields are moisture stressed. Seeding in Oklahoma ran one to two weeks ahead of average. The crop is in good condition with ample soil moisture. Early emergence of the Texas crop was good, since then, windy, dry conditions have slowed growth in parts of the state.

Seeded area in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) is off 9 percent from 1990. Michigan seedings are down 31 percent as poor weather limited planting progress.

HAY STOCKS AND 1990 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana farmers and ranchers had 4.0 million tons of hay on hand December 1, 1990, 5 percent more than a year ago. Stocks are up because of open fall grazing. Producers harvested 4.50 million tons of all hay from 2.15 million acres in 1990, up from the 4.47 million tons produced in 1989. There were 3.38 million tons of alfalfa hay and 1.12 million tons of other hay produced in 1990.

The state's total wheat crop for 1990 is now placed at 145.9 million bushels, up slightly from last year's crop of 145.0 million bushels. Production by classes: winter wheat, at 87.5 million bushels, up 62 percent from a year earlier; spring wheat (other than durum), at 53.9 million bushels, down from 85.0 million bushels in 1989; and durum wheat, at 4.47 million bushels, down 1.56 million bushels from last year. Barley production for 1990 was 56.6 million, down from 68.8 million last year. The 1990 oats production was 2.80 million bushels compared with 6.67 million bushels last year.

Sugar beets production for 1990 was 1,240,000 tons, up from the 1,033,000 tons in 1989. Dry bean production, at 220,000 cwt, compares with 130,000 cwt produced in 1989. Potato production for 1990, at 2,492,000 cwt, is up 12 percent from the 2,228,000 cwt harvested last year.

Nationally, hay stocks on farms totaled 105 million tons on December 1, 1990. This is 4 percent more than on hand a year earlier.

MONTANA'S GRAIN STOCKS BELOW LAST YEAR

Stocks of wheat in all storages in Montana on December 1, 1990, totaled 131 million bushels, 8 percent less than a year ago. Farm storages, at 110 million bushels, were down 4 percent, while elevators held 21 million, down 25 percent. On-farm bins held 64 million bushels of winter wheat--up 49 percent, and 46 million bushels of all spring wheat--down 35 percent. In elevators, there were 10 million bushels of winter wheat--the same as last year, and 11 million bushels of all spring wheat--down 39 percent. Durum in all storage positions totaled 7 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year.

Barley stocks totaled 43 million bushels, down 22 percent from a year ago. On farm storages held 34 million, down 24 percent, and elevators held 9 million down 10 percent. Oats stocks in Montana totaled 5.3 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 1990, is estimated at 1.91 billion bushels, up 34 percent from December 1, 1989. Farm stocks are 762 million bushels, up 29 percent from December 1989. Off-farm stocks, at 1.15 billion bushels, are up 38 percent from last year. The indicated disappearance from all positions for the September-November quarter is 500 million bushels, up 1 percent from the same period in 1989.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Dec. 1, 1989	Sep. 1, 1990*	Dec. 1, 1990	Dec. 1, 1989	Sep. 1, 1990*	Dec. 1, 1990
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	2.6	1.9	1.6	1.7	4.7	2.5
North Central	73.7	90.6	69.8	28.8	29.7	21.5
Northeast	30.2	30.0	27.3	6.5	3.6	3.4
Central	15.8	23.6	18.6	8.7	8.6	8.3
Southwest	3.3	3.4	1.6	2.5	5.3	2.7
South Central	8.9	11.9	5.7	4.7	4.0	3.5
Southeast	7.6	8.1	6.4	2.1	1.1	1.1
STATE	142.1	169.5	131.0	55.0	57.0	43.0

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1989	Sept. 1, 1990*	Dec. 1, 1990	% Chg. '90/'89	Dec. 1, 1989	Sept. 1, 1990*	Dec. 1, 1990
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	114,000	145,000	110,000	-4	592,000	1,000,000	762,000
Off Farms [1]	28,119	24,527	21,000	-25	830,490	1,409,504	1,147,486
TOTAL	142,119	169,527	131,000	-8	1,422,490	2,409,504	1,909,486
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	43,000	83,000	64,000	+49	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	9,957	13,944	10,000	--	--	--	--
TOTAL	52,957	96,944	74,000	+40	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	71,000	62,000	46,000	-35	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	18,162	10,583	11,000	-39	--	--	--
TOTAL	89,162	72,583	57,000	-36	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--	--	61,827	100,050	86,315
Off Farms [1 4]	--	--	--	--	38,361	31,330	25,946
TOTAL	8,092	8,889	7,000	-13	100,188	131,380	112,261
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,698,800	754,800	4,874,000
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	2,383,275	589,657	2,066,013
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	7,082,075	1,344,457	6,940,013
OATS							
On Farms	--	5,200	4,600	--	--	234,700	194,700
Off Farms [1]	--	500	700	--	--	117,009	99,730
TOTAL [4]	--	5,700	5,300	--	--	351,709	294,430
BARLEY							
On Farms	45,000	50,000	34,000	-24	186,440	258,400	176,4
Off Farms [1]	9,995	7,000	9,000	-10	164,168	152,453	132,210
TOTAL	54,995	57,000	43,000	-22	350,608	410,853	308,610

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

DECEMBER PRICES RECEIVED

The Montana farm price index for all products in December was 158 percent of its 1977 base, up 3 points from November, and down 15 points from last year. The all wheat price declined for the twelfth straight month, dropping 2 cents from last month, and $1.22 from a year ago. Prices for most farm products are below last year except for prices for beef cattle which remain high.

The all crops index held steady with last month at 116, but has dropped 38 points from December 1989. Barley prices were up 12 cents from November, and 26 cents from last year. The livestock and products index of 196 compares with 190 for both last month and a year ago. Calf prices, at $100.00 per cwt, were up $2.80 from last month and up $12.40 from December 1989. Steers and heifers, at $87.30, were up $1.80 from November and up $6.70 from December 1989. Lamb prices rose 70 cents from November, and dropped $20.40 from a year ago. Hog prices, at $36.30, declined $8.20 from November and $7.70 from December 1989.

Nationally, the December all farm products index of prices received decreased 1 point from November to 145 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of milk, hogs, and lettuce were partially offset by higher prices for cattle, peanuts, and eggs. Fruit and vegetable data for the December report were collected prior to the unseasonably cold weather which hit California about December 21. Consequently, the fruit and vegetable prices in this report do not reflect the effect of the adverse weather.

Steer and heifer prices were at a new record high, up $1.70 from the previous high set in November this year. Prices of cows increased $1.10 from November, reversing a three month decline. The all cattle price was a record high, $1.50 above the previous record set in August 1990. Hog prices were off sharply in November and continued a downward trend in December. Oats and wheat were each at their lowest level for the month of December since 1972, corn increased slightly from November while the soybean price decreased slightly. The all farm products index was 4 points below a year ago. Lower milk and wheat prices were the major contributors to the decline. Higher prices for cattle, peanuts, lettuce, and apples were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1990	MONTANA Dec. 15 1990	U.S. Dec. 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.87	2.47	2.44	2.38
Durum	Bu.	3.33	2.70	2.62	2.51
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.73	2.67	2.68	2.35
All Wheat	Bu.	3.77	2.57	2.55	2.38
Barley, All	Bu.	2.12	2.26	2.38	2.09
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.89
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.41
Oats	Bu.	1.51	1.05	1.08	1.10
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	68.00	67.00	86.50
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	62.00	57.00	63.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	67.00	66.00	80.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	80.60	85.50	87.30	82.90
Cows	Cwt.	47.00	48.20	49.20	49.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	64.70	63.20	66.30	77.60
Calves	Cwt.	87.60	97.20	100.00	97.20
Sheep	Cwt.	26.70	20.20	22.00	25.50
Lambs	Cwt.	64.90	43.80	44.50	49.60
Hogs	Cwt.	44.00	44.50	36.30	47.60
All Milk	Cwt.	15.20	13.66	12.05	12.20
Eggs	Doz.	.74	.73	.84	.77
Wool 2/	Lb.	.82	.65	.65	.48
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	173	155	158	145
All Crops	Pct.	154	116	116	122
Livestock & Products	Pct.	190	190	196	166

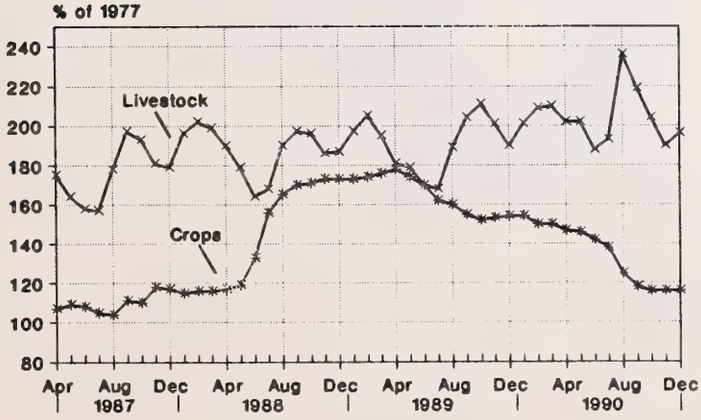
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

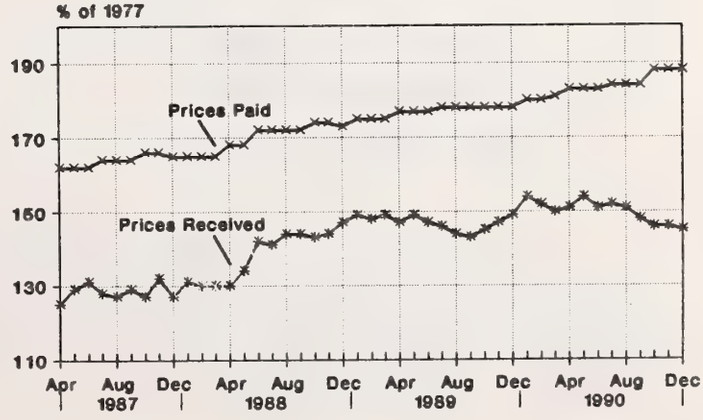
INDEX 1977=100	Nov. 1989	Dec. 1989	Nov. 1990	Dec. 1990
Prices Received	147	149	146	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/178	2/178	3/188	3/188
Ratio 1/	83	84	78	77

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1989 prices paid index. 3/ October 1990 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



DECEMBER 1, 1990 HOG INVENTORY

Montana's hog inventory on December 1, 1990, totaled 185,000 head, down 16 percent from last year. Hogs on hand for breeding, at 24,000 head, were down 20 percent from last year, and market class hogs, at 161,000, were down 15 percent. The 1990 pig crop, at 357,000 head, was down 12 percent from a year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 54.6 million head on December 1, 1990. This is 1 percent above December 1, 1989, but 2 percent below the September 1, 1990, inventory which was revised downward by 360 thousand head.

-- Breeding hog inventory, at 6.87 million, is virtually unchanged from last year but 3 percent below two years ago.

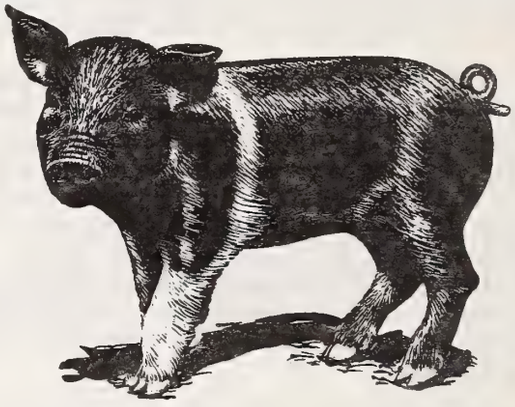
-- Market hog inventory, at 47.7 million, is 2 percent above a year ago but 1 percent below two years ago.

The U.S. pig crop for 1990 totaled 90.1 million head, 2 percent below 1989 and 3 percent below the 1988 pig crop.

-- December 1989-May 1990 pig crop, estimated at 45.3 million head, is 4 percent below a year earlier and 3 percent below the comparable period in 1988.

-- June-November 1990 pig crop, estimated at 44.8 million head, is slightly below last year and 3 percent below the June-November 1988 pig crop.

A total of 5.70 million sows farrowed during June-November 1990, 1 percent below a year earlier and 6 percent below the June-November 1988 period. The litter size during this period averaged a record high 7.86, compared to the previous record of 7.76 in 1989 and 7.62 in 1988.



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Crop Production	Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks	Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production	Crop Values
Chicken Inventory	Slaughter
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, & Price	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Quarterly Egg Production
featuring...FLATHEAD COUNTY

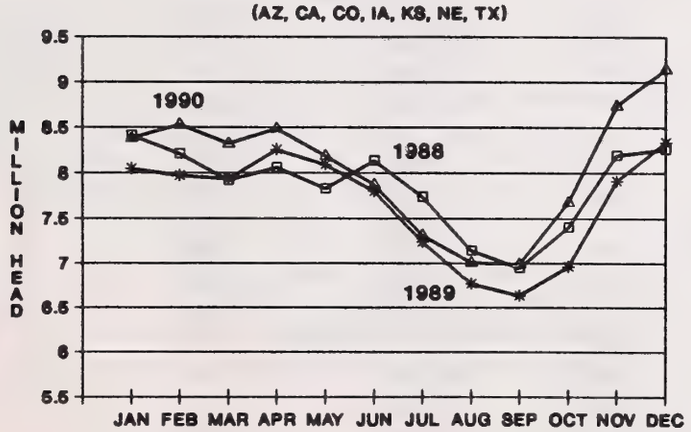
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 10 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed December 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 9.14 million head, up 10 percent from a year ago and 11 percent above December 1, 1988. This is the largest December number on feed since 1978. Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.51 million, up 1 percent from last year but fractionally below two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during November totaled 2.01 million, up slightly from last year's record high number and 19 percent above November 1988. Net placements of 1.91 million for November were fractionally above last year and 21 percent above 1988.

Other disappearance totaled 95 thousand head compared to 91 thousand in November 1989 and 112 thousand in November 1988.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



NOVEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 3.9 million pounds of red meat in November 1990. This production is up 22 percent from last month and up 206 percent from last year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 6,300 head, is up 4,700 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,076 pounds, 134 pounds above a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 2,200 head, was unchanged from last year while average live weight, at 219 pounds, was down 11 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in November 1990 totaled 3.28 billion pounds, down 4 percent from last year. January-November red meat production, at 35.5 billion pounds was down 2 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 1; veal, down 8; pork, down 4 and lamb and mutton, up 5. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Kill days in November 1990 included 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays. Kill days in November 1989 consisted of 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays. Comparing November 1990 with November 1989: beef production, at 1.84 billion pounds, was down 3 percent. Head kill totaled 2.70 million, down 3 percent. The average live weight decreased 9 pounds to 1,144.

Veal production, at 29.0 million pounds was up 4 percent. Calf slaughter totaled 155 thousand head, down 15 percent. The average live weight increased 38 pounds to 294. Pork production, at 1.37 billion pounds was down 5 percent. Hog kill totaled 7.54 million head, down 6 percent from last year. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 253. Lamb and mutton production, at 30.0 million pounds was down 3 percent from last year. Slaughter totaled 481 thousand head, down fractionally. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 125.

May you & yours
have a Happy &
Prosperous New Year!

PLEASE RETURN

POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

Producers harvested 8,900 acres of potatoes in Montana and total production was 2,492,000 cwt. Last year, 8,100 acres were harvested providing 2,228,000 cwt of potatoes. Montana producers have 2,300,000 cwt of potatoes in storage as of December 1, compared with 2,100,000 cwt a year ago. The December 1 stocks represent 92 percent of the 2,492,000 cwt produced during 1990.

Fall potato production is estimated at 344 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1988. Area harvested totaled 1.15 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. The average yield is 298 cwt per acre, down 1 cwt from last year but 6 cwt above two years ago.

Nine western states produced 239 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 7 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Farmers harvested 683 thousand acres of potatoes, up 10 percent, while the average yield of 350 cwt per acre was down 3 percent from a year ago. Washington production of nearly 68 million cwt was up 6 percent from last year which is 3 percent better than the November 1 forecast. Idaho production of 112 million cwt was up 10 percent from last year pushed by a substantial increase in acreage. A good crop of potatoes from Colorado's San Luis Valley was 7 percent better than 1989. Montana and Utah had better crops than last year, but both states fell below the November forecast. Oregon, California and Wyoming potatoes were below a year ago.

Storages in the 15 major potato states held 217 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1990, up 8 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago storage accounted for 65 percent of fall production this year compared with 64 percent a year ago. Processors in the 8 major processing states used 58.0 million cwt of fall potatoes so far this season, up 7 percent from last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent reds, 16 percent whites, and 81 percent russets, the same as a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 storage states from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record 119 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 4 percent from last year and 20 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 15.6 million cwt, up 7 percent from the 14.5 million cwt lost last year and 3 percent above the 15.1 million cwt lost from the 1988 crop. Processing accounted for a record 58.0 million cwt of fall potatoes so far this season, a gain of 7 percent over a year ago and 28 percent above two years ago.

Six western states held 153 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, a gain of 8 percent from last year and 4 percent above December 1988 stocks. Over half of this storage is in Idaho where 79.5 million cwt are held. Idaho stocks were up 13 percent from a year ago and have gone into storage in good condition. Oregon and Montana stocks are each up 10 percent from last year. Washington holdings are up 3 percent from a year ago showing the effects of heavy movement so far this season. Fall potato stocks in Colorado's San Luis Valley are up 4 percent and appear to be clean after earlier frosted potatoes were sorted out. California stocks are 13 percent below last year.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1989 AND DECEMBER 1, 1990

STATE	CROP OF 1989			CROP OF 1990		
	PROD	STOCKS DEC 1, 1989	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS DEC 1, 1990	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
California	6,440	4,600	71	6,232	4,000	64
Colorado	20,603	15,650	76	22,100	16,200	73
Idaho	102,475	70,500	69	112,340	79,500	71
Maine	22,000	16,000	73	20,520	14,900	73
Michigan	7,350	4,000	54	9,240	5,000	54
Minnesota	13,860	8,900	64	14,280	10,200	71
Montana	2,228	2,100	94	2,492	2,300	92
Nebraska	2,528	1,450	57	2,837	1,850	65
New York-Long Island	1,898	800	42	1,950	750	38
-Up State	4,730	2,300	49	5,940	2,900	49
North Dakota	15,070	11,000	73	16,675	12,800	77
Ohio	1,462	350	24	1,911	400	21
Oregon	23,308	13,800	59	23,014	15,200	66
Pennsylvania	4,715	2,900	62	5,400	2,550	47
Washington	64,310	34,500	54	67,980	35,500	52
Wisconsin	23,120	13,200	57	23,075	13,250	57
15 STATES	316,097	202,050	64	335,986	217,300	65

U.S. NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during November totaled 10.0 billion pounds, 4 percent above production in these same states in November 1989. October revised production, at 10.2 billion pounds, was 4 percent above October 1989.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,171 pounds for November, 39 pounds more than November 1989.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.55 million head, 12 thousand more than October 1990 and 23 thousand head more than November 1989.

During the July-September period, the 21 major states produced 31.2 billion pounds of milk, 85.0 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 11.8 billion pounds for November 1990.

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 41 million eggs in the September-November quarter, 9 percent less than the same quarter last year. The number of layers for the quarter averaged 635,000 compared with 690,000 in 1989. The rate of lay in the 1990 quarter was 70.6 eggs per 100 layers compared with 71.3 in the 1989 quarter.

The **nation's** laying flocks produced 17.0 billion eggs during the September through November quarter, up 2 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.8 billion table eggs, 2.07 billion broiler-type hatching eggs and 181 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 273 million, up 2 percent from the 269 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1990, totaled 275 million, up 2 percent from the 271 million layers a year ago. The 275 million layers consisted of 234 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 38.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.78 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1990, averaged 69.7 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.75 billion eggs during November, up 2 percent from the 4.63 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during November averaged 227 million, up 1 percent from a year ago.

MORE DOLLARS GO FOR CONSERVATION

Conservation expenditures by USDA and related state and local conservation efforts may top $3.4 billion this year. That's up over $500 million from 1989 and over 2.5 times the 1986 level.

The $1.8 billion spent by USDA on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is up almost $1.1 billion from 1987 and accounts for most of the increase. However, the net cost of the CRP is less than this amount because of its supply control benefits that cut back USDA expenses on commodity price support programs.

State and local government appropriations to promote soil and water conservation have increased steadily in recent years. Ins some states, these increases have been used to supplement federal CRP rental payments and to help landowners defray the cost of establishing vegetative cover.

IN REVIEW

* Food prices should average 5-7% higher this year. Double-digit price gains in the first half of the year for fruits, pork, eggs, and dairy products are behind the gains. However, gains in the second half of this year are expected to be modest. This assumes that most of the evolving oil price shock will take until next year to hit food prices.

* Global conditions now point to a bumper wheat crop. For the marketing year beginning June 1, average farm prices for U.S. farmers should average about $2.65-$3.05/bushel, down from the $3.72 average of the past 2 years.

* For 45% of all U.S. farm operators, farming is a second job. Off-farm income growth has been critical to boosting farm operator household incomes. Off-farm income has exceeded net farm business income (net cash farm income less depreciation) since 1973.

* Thirty-eight percent of all direct government farm payments went to farm households with a farm net worth of $500,000 or more. Over 85% of all direct payments went to farm households with over $100,000 in net worth.

* The general trade embargo will significantly cut Iraq's food supplies. Because imports usually supply more than 75% of Iraq's caloric needs, its citizens will see very tight food markets in coming months. Last year, about one-fourth of Iraq's ag imports came from the U.S.

featuring...FLATHEAD COUNTY

Flathead County lies in the extreme northwestern portion of Montana. It was created in February of 1893 and has a land area of 3,271,910 acres. Major portions of the Flathead National Forest lie within the boundaries of the county. The northeastern corner of Flathead County is occupied by 577 majestic square miles of Glacier National Park. Several of Montana's beautiful lakes are also within the boundaries of Flathead County. The northern half of Flathead Lake, famous for the cherry orchards that line its shore, is one of those lakes. Timber is the county's biggest natural resource. Kalispell is the county seat, and this area has an average annual precipitation of 15.93 inches and 135 frost-free days.

In 1988, Flathead County ranked 29th in the state for all cash receipts from farming with $27,691,000. The breakdown of this total shows that livestock and livestock products brought in $14,675,000, and crops generated $13,016,000 for rankings of 26th and 16th, respectively. Government payments account for the remaining $1,343,000.

In 1989 crop production, Flathead County ranked 10th in barley, 21st in spring wheat, and 22nd in all hay production. The county is high in fruit production with apples, cherries, plums, and berries being profitable crops. On the livestock side, Flathead County ranked 11th in hog numbers in December 1, 1988. Some cattle and sheep are also raised.

Flathead County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	3,271,910	Total Cropland	Acres	105,359
Land in Farms	Acres	258,633	Harvested Cropland	Acres	69,717
Number of Farms		825	Irrigated Land	Acres	33,981
Average size Farms	Acres	313			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	32,271	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	9,967	Calves	No. Head	24,648
Barley	Acres	23,281	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	1,556
Oats	Acres	1,572	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	6,664

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Hogs & Pigs
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Grain Stocks

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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ntana crop and livestock REPORTER

RELEASE RETAINED

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 90-23 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: December 13, 1990

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SEASON'S GREETINGS!

Carol Carlson

Ann Bissell

Wendy B.

Merry Christmas from the Ag Stats to you,
The New Year is approaching--1990 just flew,

The older we get, the faster they go,
Each one is a challenge to learn and to grow.

Violet

Ray Stack

The harvest is done, the crops are in the bin,
Prices are terrible, but they'll go up again.

The drought is still with us as we see the dust blow,
It seems Old Mother Nature forgot how to snow.

Although we often dwell on the dark side of things,
We're thankful for food when the dinner bell rings.

Curt

Billye

Vicki McCall

Carol Steffy

Livestock is like gold over mountain and pass,
They fertilize fields and harvest the grass.

The check from the calves fills us with cheer,
In hopes of a new pickup--maybe next year!

We thank you for helping us gather yields and counts,
'Cause when you say "No" our anxiety mounts.

Linda

Bonnie Heller

Our staff hopes this finds you all in good health,
And may '91 bring your family new wealth.

To good crops and good prices we'll all raise a cheer,
And to peace and God's blessings throughout the New Year.

By Lyle Pratt

Lyle Pratt

Steve

Perry

Ron

U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter production was 105 million pounds in October, 10 percent above October 1989 and 24 percent above September 1990.

American type cheese production totaled 237 million pounds, 13 percent above October 1989 and 7 percent above September 1990.

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 504 million pounds, 9 percent above October 1989 and 6 percent above September 1990.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 44.5 million pounds, 1 percent below October 1989 but 4 percent above September 1990.

Lowfat cottage cheese production was 25.0 million pounds, 3 percent above October 1989 and 4 percent above September 1990.

Canned evaporated and condensed milk production at 49.1 million pounds was 37 percent above October 1989 and 5 percent above September 1990.

Frozen desserts: (comparisons with October 1989) ice cream (hard)--61.9 million gallons, up 6 percent. Ice milk--26.4 million gallons, down 7 percent. Sherbet (hard)--3.09 million gallons, up 2 percent.

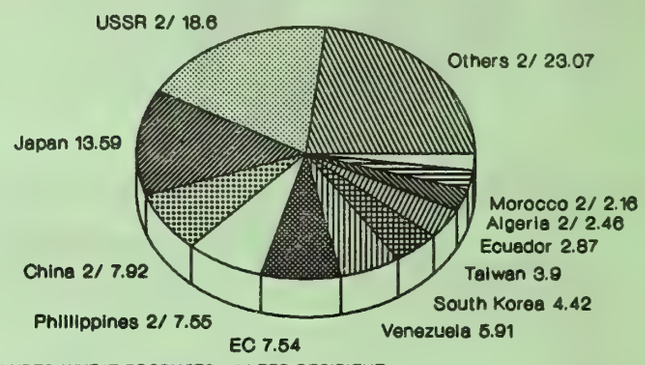
U.S. 1989/90 WHEAT EXPORTS BY CLASS

Tight supplies of Hard Red Winter (HRW), ample supplies of Soft Red Winter (SRW), declines in Chinese and Indian imports, and relatively high prices for certain classes, led to a change in the mix of wheat exported and the destinations of the exports in 1989/90. Hard Red Spring (HRS) and SRW exports expanded to pick up part of the slack created by the tight HRW supplies. Durum exports rebounded to a more typical share of the export market.

The sharpest decline in exports was due to India's absence from the U.S. market (78 million bushels in 1988/89), and a decline of over 90 million bushels in Chinese imports. Soviet imports also declined by 13 percent from a year earlier. The decline in exports was partially offset by a 15 million bushel increase in Japanese imports. There was little change in total exports to Egypt, our fourth largest buyer in 1989/90.

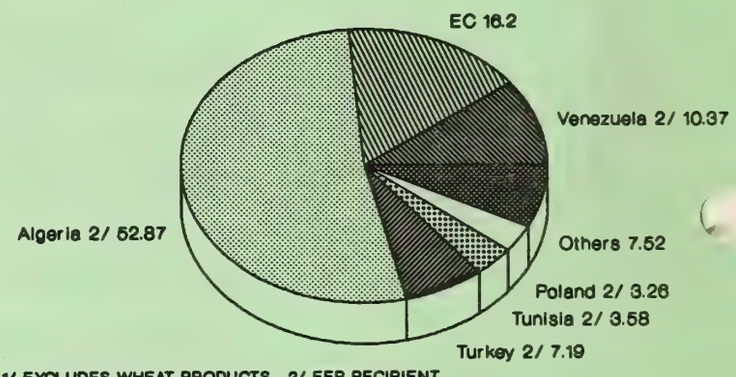
Drought and winter kill limited the availability of HRW for export. HRW exports comprised 29 percent of total wheat exports in 1989/90 compared to almost 45 percent a year earlier. Since 1954/55 at least 40 percent of wheat exports have been HRW.

U.S. HARD RED SPRING WHEAT EXPORTS 1/
JUNE 1989-MAY 1990
(PERCENTS)



1/ EXCLUDES WHEAT PRODUCTS. 2/ EEP RECIPIENT.
SOURCE: WHEAT SITUATION OUTLOOK--AUGUST 1990.

U.S. DURUM WHEAT EXPORTS 1/
JUNE 1989-MAY 1990
(PERCENTS)



1/ EXCLUDES WHEAT PRODUCTS. 2/ EEP RECIPIENT.
SOURCE: WHEAT SITUATION OUTLOOK--AUGUST 1990.

While both China and the USSR decreased total imports from the United States, their reductions in HRW imports were even larger. China reduced HRW imports by almost 100 million bushels, while increasing HRS imports by about 10 million bushels. The USSR reduced HRW imports by about 90 million bushels. However, the Soviets substituted HRS and SRW for the HRW imports. Soviet imports of HRS increased by 35 million bushels and the Soviets imported almost 30 million bushels of SRW. This is the first time that the Soviets imported SRW from the United States since 1977/78.

With the recovery of the North Dakota durum crop in 1989, durum exports returned to a more normal share of total wheat exports. Exports to Algeria accounted for almost 53 percent of durum exports. Over three-quarters of Algerian sales occurred with Export Enhancement Program (EEP) bonuses averaging about $18.60 per ton. Durum exports to Italy, Turkey, and Venezuela combined to account for over 60 percent of the remaining durum grain exports.

NOVEMBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers have received lower prices for their wheat for the eleventh straight month. November's all wheat price, at $2.53 a bushel, is down 8 cents from October and down $1.17 from a year ago. Wheat prices have not been near $2.50 a bushel since September 1987. The sagging prices are mainly due to an increase in global supplies coupled with a weakened export demand. Barley prices increased slightly during November reflecting increased marketings of malt barley in relation to feed barley. The November price, at $2.32, compares with $2.17 a year ago.

Livestock price changes were mixed from a month ago but generally remain above year ago levels. Steers and heifers, at $86.40 per cwt during November, were up $1.40 from October and $2.70 above a year ago. Calves, at $96.40, were up $1.70 from October and $8.80 above a year ago. Cows were down $3.00 from the previous month but up $1.40 from last year. Hogs, at $49.10 in November, were $1.60 under October but $9.60 above a year ago.

The Montana index of prices received for all farm products in November, at 160 (1977=100), compares with 162 in October and 178 a year ago. The all crops index, at 115, is down 1 point from last month and down 37 points from last year. The livestock and products index, at 201 is down 3 points from October but the same as a year ago.

For the nation, the November all farm products index of prices received decreased 1 point from October to 145 percent of its January-December 1977 average, decreases in the prices of hogs, milk, soybeans, and corn were partially offset by higher prices for oranges, lettuce, and strawberries. Steer and heifer prices were at an all time record high, up 1 percent from the previous record of $80.20 a month earlier. Hog prices moved up in October but dropped off sharply in November. Wool was at the lowest price level since January of 1986. Milk moved to the lowest level since July of 1989.

The November soybean price was at the lowest level since November of 1987, while the all wheat price was the lowest since August of 1987. The corn price continued a downward trend which began in July. The all farm products index was 2 points below a year ago. Lower milk, wheat, and corn prices were the major contributors to the decline from November 1989. Higher prices for cattle, lettuce, and hogs were partially offsetting.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1990	MONTANA Nov. 15 1990	U.S. Nov. 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.81	2.51	2.46	2.36
Durum	Bu.	3.26	2.68	2.46	2.45
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.63	2.75	2.64	2.34
All Wheat	Bu.	3.70	2.61	2.53	2.36
Barley, All	Bu.	2.17	2.24	2.32	2.11
Feed	Bu.	–	–	–	1.99
Malt	Bu.	–	–	–	2.32
Oats	Bu.	1.40	1.19	1.15	1.11
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	65.00	68.00	86.50
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	58.00	62.00	65.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	64.00	67.00	81.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	83.70	85.00	86.40	81.00
Cows	Cwt.	45.40	49.80	46.80	47.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	70.20	70.30	68.60	75.70
Calves	Cwt.	87.60	94.70	96.40	92.80
Sheep	Cwt.	26.60	14.40	14.70	22.70
Lambs	Cwt.	60.00	47.00	45.70	48.90
Hogs	Cwt.	39.50	50.70	49.10	49.70
All Milk	Cwt.	15.10	14.30	13.10	12.80
Eggs	Doz.	.83	.74	.73	.73
Wool 2/	Lb.	.89	.70	.65	.58
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	178	162	160	145
All Crops	Pct.	152	116	115	123
Livestock & Products	Pct.	201	204	201	166

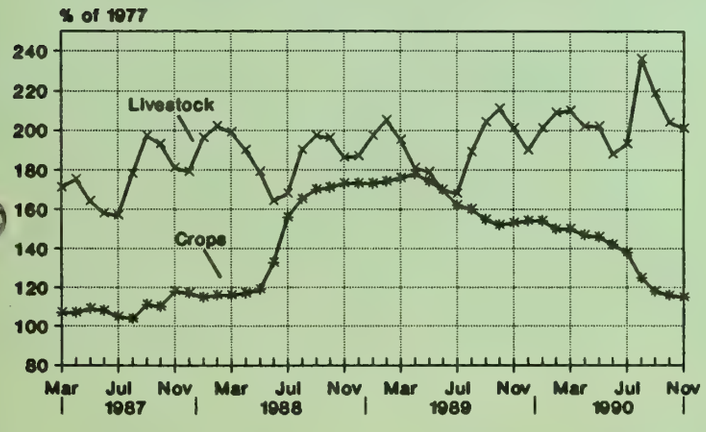
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

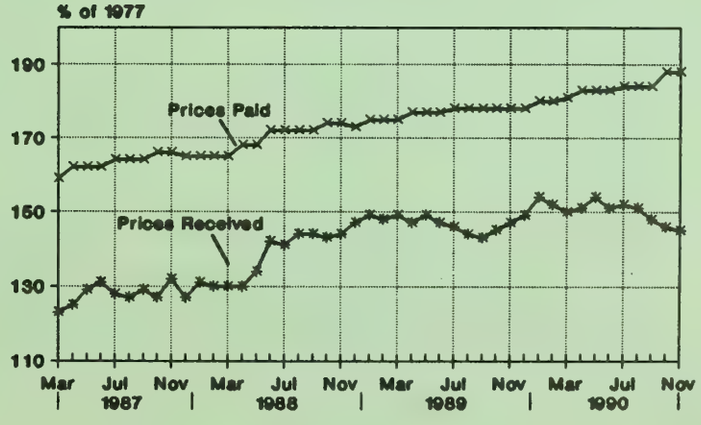
INDEX 1977=100	Oct. 1989	Nov. 1989	Oct. 1990	Nov. 1990
Prices Received	145	147	146	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	178	2/178	188	3/188
Ratio 1/	81	83	78	77

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1989 prices paid index. 3/ October 1990 prices paid index.

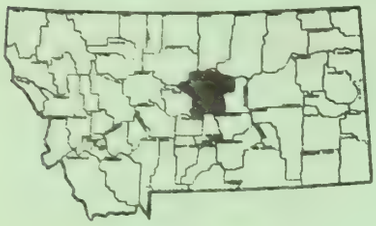
MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



*featuring...*FERGUS COUNTY



Prior to 1925, Fergus County was known as the largest county in the United States. Judith Basin and Petroleum counties were created in 1920 and 1925, respectively, from portions of the area known as Fergus County. This still left Fergus County with a land area of approximately 2,777,689 acres.

The entire northern border of the county is formed by a portion of the Missouri River. The land along the river is known as the Missouri Breaks. The Judith Mountains lie in the center of the county, while the Big Snowy and Little Snow Mountains lie along the southern boundary.

Fergus County is a major livestock producing area in the state. In the January 1, 1989 cattle inventory the county ranked 5th, and came up 14th for the January 1 sheep inventory. The December 1, 1988 hog count showed Fergus County in 14th place for number of hogs.

In 1989 crop production, the county ranked 9th in the state for oats and 3rd for all hay; 5th in barley production; 4th in winter wheat production; and 12th in all wheat production. Cash receipts for livestock in 1988 totaled $26,040,000, while crops contributed $24,406,000. Government payments added $10,937,000 for a total cash return of $61,383,000 and a rank of 8th among the counties.

Fergus County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	2,777,689	Total Cropland	Acres	658,277
Land in Farms	Acres	2,143,210	Harvested Cropland	Acres	359,485
Number of Farms		838	Irrigated Land	Acres	12,036
Average size Farms	Acres	2,558			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	110,169	All Cattle & Calves	No. Head	98,763
All Wheat	Acres	145,444	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	10,102
Barley	Acres	101,240	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	5,563
Oats	Acres	4,078			

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 90-22 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: November 29, 1990

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- October Red Meat Production
- 7 State Cattle on Feed
- Malting Barley Production
- October Farm Labor
- October Milk Production
- October Egg Production

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CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 10 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed November 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 7 states preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.74 million head, up 10 percent from a year ago and 7 percent above November 1, 1988. This is the largest November number on feed since 1978.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.61 million, down 1 percent from last year but 2 percent above two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 states during October totaled 2.75 million, up 4 percent from last year and 12 percent above October 1988. Net placements of 2.66 million for October were 3 percent above last year and 13 percent above 1988.

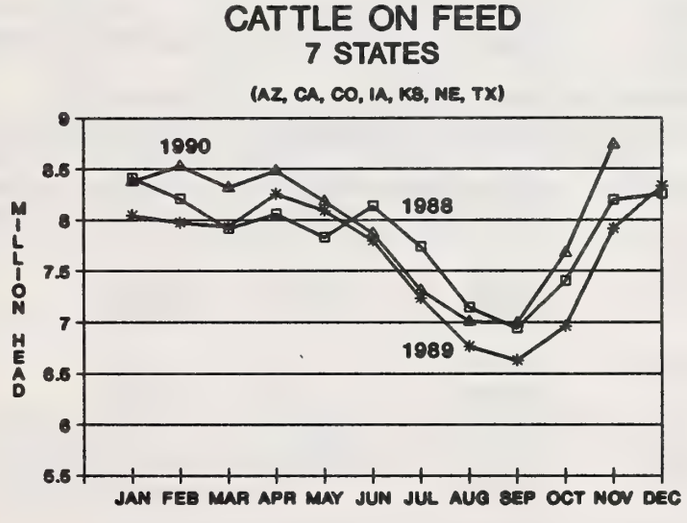
Other disappearance totaled 87 thousand head compared to 71 thousand in October 1989 and 84 thousand in October 1988.

PLEASE RETURN

OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in October 1990. This production is up 159 percent from last month and up 163 percent from last year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 5,000 head, is up 3,600 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,015 pounds, up a pound from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 2,600 head, was up 200 head from last year while average live weight, at 223 pounds, was down 9 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in October 1990 totaled 3.49 billion pounds, down 1 percent from last year. January-October red meat production, at 32.2 billion pounds was down 2 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 1; veal, down 10; pork, down 3; lamb and mutton, up 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

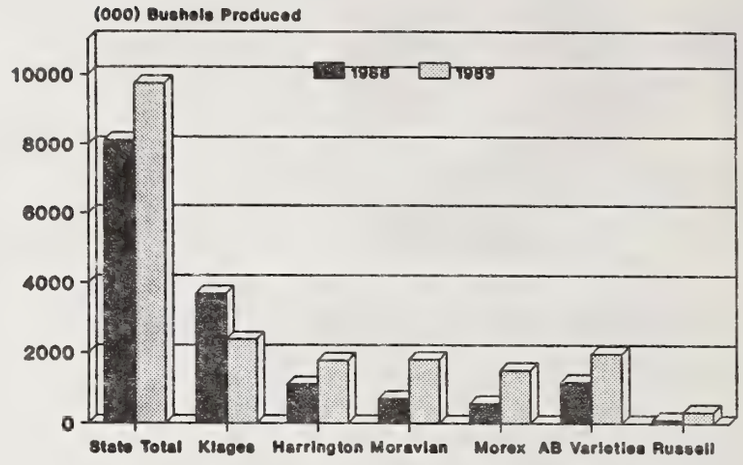


MONTANA MALTING BARLEY–1989 CROP

Maltsters and brewers purchased 9.8 million bushels of Montana's 1989 barley crop to make malt. This was 20 percent more than 1988, but 10 percent less than 1987. The 1989 barley utilization represented 14 percent of the total 1989 barley crop compared with 27 percent in 1988 and 11 percent in 1987.

Montana growers planted 1.7 million acres of barley in 1989. Of the total, about 659 thousand acres were planted to approved malting varieties. If the yield for malting varieties equaled the 66 bushels state average for irrigated barley then nearly 44 million bushels of malting type barley were produced. Since only 9.8 million bushels were used for malt the remaining 34 million bushels either did not make the malting grade or exceeded the demand for malting barley. The top four approved malting varieties for seeded acreage reflect the following malting utilization percentage to production: Harrington 10%, Klages 22%, Clark 3%, Morex 59%.

MONTANA BARLEY VARIETIES USED TO PRODUCE MALT



This survey was requested and funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

A special thanks to the maltsters, brewers, and grain firms who cooperated in furnishing data.

MONTANA BARLEY USED TO PRODUCE MALT, 1988-89

VARIETY	CROP YEAR [1]	DISTRICTS N.CENTRAL [2]	CENTRAL	S.WEST	S.CENTRAL	S. EAST	STATE BUSHELS	PROTEIN
KLAGES	1988	3,338,612	293,123	20,000	40,000	0	3,691,735	13.2
	1989	1,870,000	140,000	242,361	128,650	0	2,381,011	13.3
HARRINGTON	1988	1,063,278	35,000	8,000	0	0	1,106,278	13.6
	1989	1,575,000	200,000	0	0	0	1,775,000	13.5
MORAVIAN	1988	186,000	0	0	514,000	0	700,000	13.1
	1989	600,000	0	0	1,200,000	0	1,800,000	12.2
MOREX	1988	356,000	0	208,000	0	0	564,000	13.8
	1989	500,000	85,000	509,578	237,792	170,208	1,502,578	13.1
AB VARIETIES	1988	1,049,493	114,956	0	0	0	1,164,449	n.a.
	1989	1,420,000	0	0	548,458	0	1,968,458	n.a.
RUSSELL	1988	96,000	8,000	0	0	0	104,000	13.0
	1989	127,500	175,000	25,000	0	0	327,500	12.6
CLARK	1988	214,500	166,680	0	0	0	381,180	14.0
	1989	0	225,000	0	0	0	225,000	12.8
BEARPAW	1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	1989	0	8,000	0	0	0	8,000	13.0
LEWIS	1988	20,000	0	35,000	0	0	55,000	13.0
	1989	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
PIROLINE	1988	350,000	0	0	0	0	350,000	14.0
	1989	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	1988	6,673,883	617,759	271,000	554,000	0	8,116,642	13.2
	1989	6,092,500	600,000	776,939	2,114,900	170,208	9,754,547	13.0

[1] Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30. [2] Includes Northwest.

NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWN, WAGE RATES INCREASE

A total of 3.32 million persons worked on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 1990. This compares with 3.38 million workers in October 1989. The workforce was comprised of 1.56 million self-employed farm operators, 528,000 unpaid workers, and 935,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Rounding out the total were 296,000 agricultural service employees doing work on farms and ranches during the survey week.

The all hired farm worker wage rate for the October 1990 survey week averaged $5.64 per hour, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.44 per hour compared with $5.23 In October 1989. Wage rates for field and livestock workers were $5.41 And $5.00, respectively. During October 1989, field workers made $5.22 while livestock workers averaged $4.76 per hour.

During the current survey week, self-employed persons worked an average of 40.0 hours, 2.5 fewer hours than in the comparable week in 1989. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, put in 37.5 hours compared with 40.2 hours a year earlier. Hired workers spent an average of 41.3 hours doing agricultural work, down one hour from October of last year.

Benefits, in addition to cash wages, such as housing and meals, were provided to 42 percent of the hired workers during the survey week both this year and last year. This year, 5 percent of the workers received both housing and meals, and another 14 percent received housing but no meals.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, OCTOBER 7-13, 1990 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	6.17	4.50	5.41	7.05	3/	5.83	7.34	4.85
NORTHEAST II	5.45	4.54	5.16	8.20	5.69	5.62	6.52	5.08
APPALACHIAN I	4.59	4.39	4.52	7.39	3/	4.68	3/	4.88
APPALACHIAN II	4.43	4.79	4.58	7.69	6.94	4.61	3/	5.41
SOUTHEAST	4.97	4.63	4.83	8.94	3/	5.15	6.68	4.82
FLORIDA	5.68	5.48	5.64	10.35	8.98	5.76	6.14	7.92
LAKE	5.21	4.61	4.97	7.29	7.13	5.52	5.94	4.65
CORNBELT I	5.29	5.16	5.25	7.74	6.59	5.49	3/	6.05
CORNBELT II	4.78	5.20	4.95	7.10	3/	5.20	3/	5.05
DELTA	4.33	4.66	4.39	7.86	3/	4.29	3/	5.47
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.40	5.00	5.28	7.54	3/	5.85	3/	4.97
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.74	4.78	4.76	7.65	6.50	4.72	3/	5.44
MOUNTAIN I	5.06	4.47	4.92	5.52	3/	5.15	3/	4.67
MOUNTAIN II	5.24	5.04	5.17	7.27	3/	5.61	3/	5.16
MOUNTAIN III	5.04	4.90	4.98	7.64	6.72	5.24	3/	5.74
PACIFIC	6.37	5.87	6.28	9.05	6.28	5.86	6.83	7.85
CALIFORNIA	5.67	6.50	5.75	10.30	8.80	5.69	7.36	8.62
HAWAII	8.02	3/	7.89	13.54	3/	8.04	3/	11.40
U. S.	5.41	5.00	5.30	8.52	7.14	5.44	6.83	5.84

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

OCTOBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during October totaled 10.2 billion pounds, 4 percent above production in these same states in October 1989. September revised production, at 10.0 billion pounds, was 4 percent above September 1989.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,199 pounds for October 38 pounds more than October 1989. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.54 million head, 1 thousand more than September 1990 and 31 thousand head more than October 1989.

During the July-September period, the 21 major states produced 31.2 billion pounds of milk, 85 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.0 billion pounds for October 1990.

OCTOBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.76 billion eggs during October 1990, up 2 percent from the 5.65 billion eggs produced a year ago. Production included 5.00 billion table eggs, 701 million broiler-type hatching eggs and 60.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The average number of layers during October was 270 million, up slightly from the 268 million birds a year ago. The October 1990 egg production averaged 2,137 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 2,104 eggs per 100 layers in October 1989.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1990 totaled 270 million, compared with 269 million a year ago. The 270 million layers consisted of 231 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 36.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.67 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1990 averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 3 percent from last year's 67.7 eggs per 100 layers.

END-OF-YEAR SURVEYS UNDERWAY

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service began contacting farmers and ranchers across the state in early November for final 1990 acreage, yield, and production totals and end-of-year livestock and poultry inventories.

Insects and variable weather conditions again this year have had an impact on Montana agriculture, and these surveys will help our office summarize where the industry stands at the end of 1990.

Information from these confidential surveys conducted by mail, telephone, or in person will also help producers make their plans for the coming year. Sound production and marketing decisions require good, reliable information and advanced planning. These reports provide producers with solid facts and figures they can incorporate into their plans.

These are sample surveys, so if you are contacted, it is important to provide the requested information, since one producers represents similar operations of the same type and size. Our estimates can be no better than the numbers producers provide.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Ag Prices Received
Manufactured Dairy Products
Christmas Letter

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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Montana crop and livestock REPORTER

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Range & Pasture Feed Condition
Manufactured Dairy Products
October Ag Prices Received
featuring...Fallon County

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA NOVEMBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana pasture and range feed condition on November 1, at 67 percent of normal, compares with 84 percent last year and the 5 year average of 68 percent. Drought in most of the eastern third of the state is mainly responsible for the decrease from a year ago. Grazing in Montana is being supplemented with crop and hay land residue.

MONTANA, November 1, 1990
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1988	1989	1990
Northwest	57	92	83
North Central	34	90	64
Northeast	22	62	31
Central	44	95	75
Southwest	46	77	78
South Central	41	90	79
Southeast	22	78	57
Montana	37	84	67

U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter production was 84.8 million pounds in September, 4 percent above September 1989 and 1 percent above August 1990.

American type cheese production totaled 221 million pounds, 8 percent above September 1989 but 4 percent below August 1990. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 477 million pounds, 6 percent above September 1989 but 2 percent below August 1990.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 42.8 million pounds, 7 percent below September 1989 and 11 percent below August 1990. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 24.2 million pounds, 4 percent below September 1989 and 11 percent below August 1990.

Canned evaporated and condensed milk production at 46.9 million pounds, was 26 percent above last September but 8 percent below August 1990.

Frozen desserts: (compared with September 1989) ice cream (hard)--62.9 million gallons, down 1 percent. Ice milk--27.8 million gallons, down 14 percent. Sherbet (hard)--3.35 million gallons, down 12 percent.

1990 AVERAGE CROP YEAR

The 1990 crop season is about over--yields and Montana production were about average--except in the east where drought took it's toll.

A look at the moisture situation through October for the past three years provides some interesting comparisons. For example, accumulated moisture through October 1990 was above average in only 6 of the 43 reporting stations. A year ago, 23 stations were above average and in 1988--5 stations. It looks as if 1990 was more like 1988--when drought devastated crops and pastures.

A closer look by districts shows the western two-thirds of the state received less moisture in 1990 than in 1989, but remained above 1988 totals. Precipitation in the eastern third was also below 1989 totals and was only slightly better than in 1988.

This means good winter precipitation is urgently needed to rebuild soil moisture reserves to protect the 1991 winter wheat crop and rejuvenate pastures.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS, NOVEMBER 1, 1990

U.S. weather was nearly ideal for winter wheat seedings early in October and favorable for growing wheat later in the month. Dry weather was prevalent early in the month, with favorable moisture later in the month. At the beginning of October, wheat planting was 60 percent complete, 2 points below the 5-year average. By month's end, wheat was in mostly good condition, with 91% of the crop planted, 1 point ahead of normal. Seventy-nine percent of the crop was emerged, 1 point ahead of normal.

U.S. corn production is forecast to be 7.93 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last month but 5 percent above the 1989 production. The U.S. average yield per acre is forecast at 119.0 bushels, down 1.3 bushels from last month but 2.8 bushels above the 1989 average yield.

Fall potato production for the U.S. is forecast at 342 million cwt this season, up 5 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.15 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and 7 percent above 1988. The average yield is forecast at 298 cwt per acre, down 1 cwt from last year but 6 cwt above two years ago. Montana's fall potato production is forecast at 2.6 million cwt, up 16 percent from 1989.

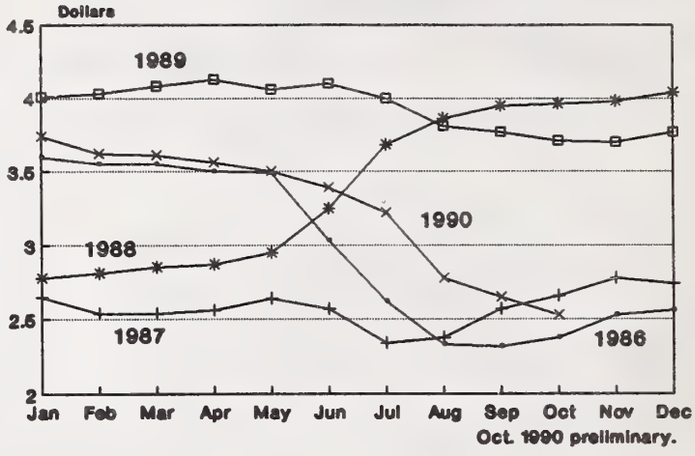
The sugar beet production forecast of 27.0 million tons is down fractionally from the October 1 forecast but 8 percent above last year's harvest. The increase from a year ago is the combination of higher yields and a 6 percent increase in acreage. Yields are expected to average 19.7 tons per acre, nationally, compared with 19.4 tons in 1989. Production is expected to be up in all states except California and Minnesota. Montana sugar beet production is forecast at 1.2 million tons, up 17 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 22.0 tons per acre compared with 19.9 last season.

MONTANA ALL WHEAT, LAMB AND CALF PRICES

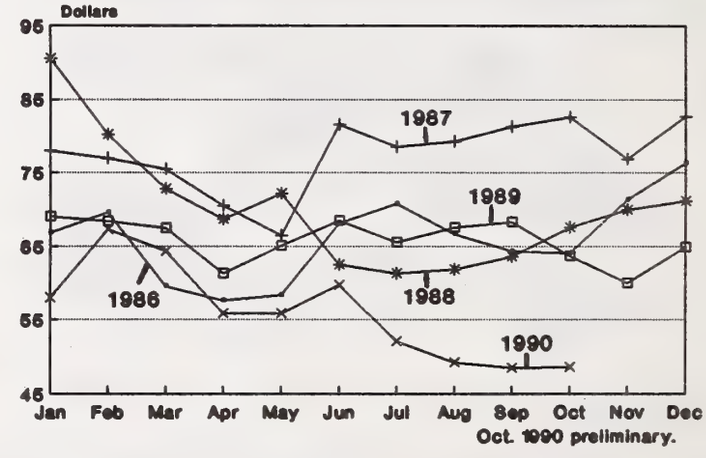
A look at prices over the past few years leads one to appreciate the difficulties of "topping the market." You may recall not so many years ago when a change of 5 cents over a year was normal. With worldwide markets and modern communications systems, markets react faster to many bits and pieces of information.

We charted monthly Montana wheat, lamb and calf prices from 1986 through October 1990. These are prices producers received a the point of first sale. The charts show since April 1990, calf prices moved to their highest levels in 5 years and, in fact, hit a record high in August. In contrast, lamb prices have dropped sharply since April and are at their lowest levels in 5 years. October 1990 wheat prices are averaging $2.53, near the 1986 and 1987 levels and sharply below the January-May levels. We have seen big swings in wheat prices during three of the past 5 years--1986, 1988, and 1990; 1987 and 1989 were relatively stable.

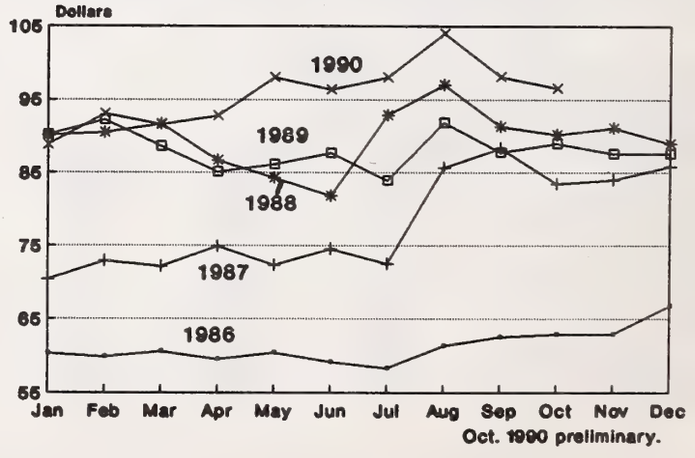
All Wheat Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1986-1990



Lamb Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1986-1990



Calf Prices Received
By Montana Farmers 1986-1990



OCTOBER PRICES RECEIVED

Montana wheat prices were down in October compared with September, continuing a decline that started last December. The winter wheat mid-October price of $2.47 per bushel is the lowest since September 1987, and compares with $3.76 a bushel in October 1989. The mid-October barley price of $2.09 a bushel compares with $2.06 a year ago, but is down from the $2.46 peak reached two months ago.

Steer and heifer prices at $85.30 per cwt were up 10 cents from last month and a dollar above October 1989. Cow prices at $51.10 per cwt declined $1.80 from September but they are $4.90 above October 1989. Hog prices in October at $54.70 were well above both last month's $49.00, and last October's $42.20 prices.

The Montana index of prices received for all farm products in October at 168 (1977=100) compares with 171 in September and 182 in October 1989. The all crops index at 113 is down 5 points from September and down 39 points from a year ago. The livestock and products index at 218 is down 1 point from September but up 7 points from last year.

For the nation, the October all farm products index of prices received decreased 1 point from September to 147 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of broilers, milk, corn, and apples were partially offset by higher prices for hogs, tomatoes, strawberries and eggs.

Prices of most food and feed grains were down from September. Oats, rice, and durum wheat countered the trend with price increases. Soybean and sunflower prices decreased while peanut prices increased. The October all hog price increased moderately over September while the all cattle price was up slightly. The steer and heifer price was at a record high for October. Broiler prices decreased sharply from September due partially to large supplies and weaker seasonal demand.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Oct. 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept 1990	MONTANA Oct. 15 1990	U.S. Oct. 15, 1990
		—Dollars—			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.76	2.53	2.47	2.39
Durum	Bu.	3.34	2.97	2.67	2.53
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.68	2.82	2.61	2.34
All Wheat	Bu.	3.71	2.65	2.53	2.39
Barley, All	Bu.	2.06	2.21	2.09	2.04
Feed	Bu.	–	–	–	1.93
Malt	Bu.	–	–	–	2.24
Oats	Bu.	1.56	1.25	1.19	1.16
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	67.00	65.00	91.70
All Other Hay	Ton	62.00	57.00	58.00	65.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	66.00	64.00	86.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	84.30	85.20	85.30	79.30
Cows	Cwt.	46.20	52.90	51.10	50.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	75.50	77.30	76.80	75.10
Calves	Cwt.	89.00	98.10	96.50	95.60
Sheep	Cwt.	17.40	13.00	15.00	19.80
Lambs	Cwt.	63.70	48.50	48.60	52.80
Hogs	Cwt.	42.20	49.00	54.70	56.90
All Milk	Cwt.	14.50	14.21	13.96	13.60
Eggs	Doz.	.70	.63	.74	.74
Wool 2/	Lb.	.92	.70	.70	.84
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	182	171	167	147
All Crops	Pct.	152	118	113	121
Livestock & Products	Pct.	211	219	218	171

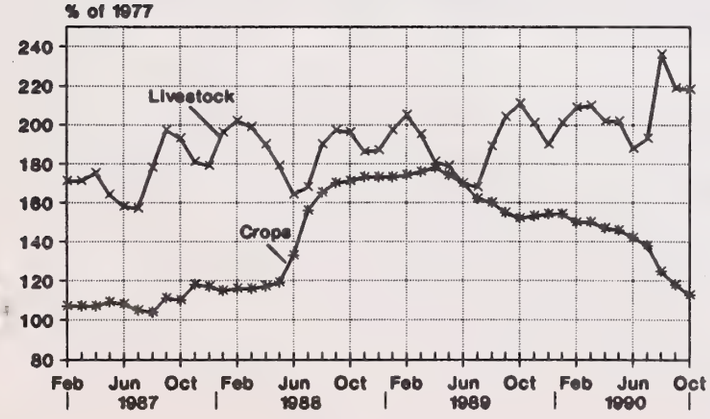
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

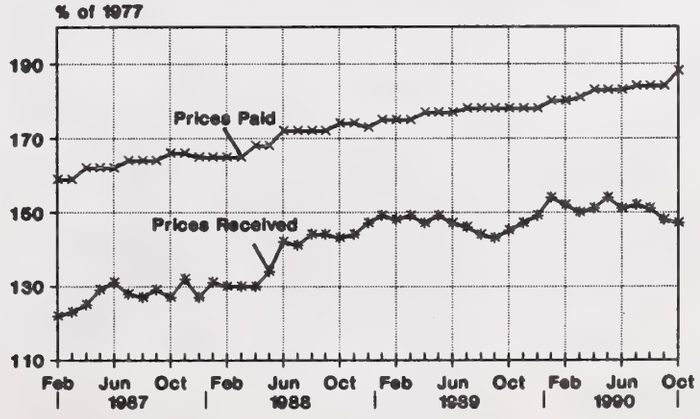
INDEX 1977=100	Sept 1989	Oct. 1989	Sept 1990	Oct. 1990
Prices Received	143	145	148	147
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/178	178	3/184	188
Ratio 1/	80	81	80	78

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1989 prices paid index. 3/ July 1990 prices paid index.

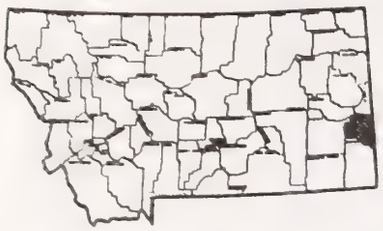
MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



*featuring...*FALLON COUNTY



Fallon County occupies 1,038,630 acres of prairie land in eastern Montana along the Montana/North Dakota border. It was created December 9, 1913 and has an average annual precipitation of 13.21 inches, based on observations at Plevna, Montana, located near the center of Fallon County.

Dryland farming is the main interest in the county and a wide variety of crops are raised in the area. In 1989 crop production, Fallon County ranked 24th in oats production, 22nd in spring wheat, 26th in durum wheat, and 40th in winter wheat production. Barley, hay and corn are also grown in the area.

Cattle and hogs are the major livestock interests in the county. The January 1, 1989 cattle and calves inventory showed Fallon County ranked 31st and the December 1, 1988 hog inventory showed them at 24th place in the hog producing counties. Sheep are also raised in Fallon County and ranked 23rd in the January 1, 1989 inventory.

Cash receipts in 1988 for crops produced in the county came to $1,585,000. Livestock and livestock products receipts turned in $11,255,000, while government payments added $6,380,000 for a total cash return of $19,220,000 in 1988.

Fallon County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,038,630	Total Cropland	Acres	259,680
Land in Farms	Acres	919,615	Harvested Cropland	Acres	105,912
Number of Farms		324	Irrigated Land	Acres	1,709
Average size Farms	Acres	2,838			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	40,934	All Cattle & Calves	No. Head	35,358
All Wheat	Acres	50,700	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	7,189
Barley	Acres	11,107	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	3,765
Oats	Acres	2,926			

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Labor
Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Milk Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

September Red Meat Production
13 State Quarterly Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production
September Egg Production
featuring...Deer Lodge County

PLEASE RETURN

CATTLE ON FEED UP 10 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed October 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly states totaled 9.10 million head, up 10 percent from October 1, 1989, and 3 percent above 1988.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.92 million steers and steer calves, 13 percent above last year and 3 percent above 1988. This group represented 65 percent of the total October number on feed, compared to 63 percent last year and 65 percent in 1988. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.14 million, 5 percent above last year and 2 percent above 1988.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the July-September 1990 quarter totaled 6.34 million, up 11 percent from 1989 and 5 percent above 1988. Other disappearance of 261 thousand head leaves net placements at 6.08 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during July-Sept totaled 5.74 million, 3 percent below 1989 and 8 percent below the same period in 1988.

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.50 million head during the October-December quarter of 1990. This would be up 2 percent from the fourth quarter marketings in 1989 and 1 percent above 1988.

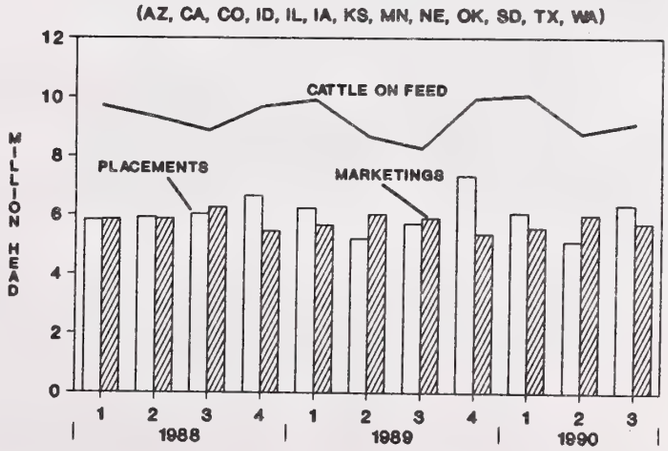
SEPTEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in September 1990. This production is down 29 percent from last month, but up 12 percent from last year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, is up 200 head from a year ago. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,061 pounds, up 73 pounds from last year. Hog slaughter, at 2,000 head, was down 400 head from September 1989. Average live weight was 223 pounds, down 3 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in September 1990, totaled 3.09 billion pounds, down 7 percent from last year. January-September red meat production, at 28.7 billion pounds was down 2 percent from last year. The percentage changes from 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 1; veal, down 11; pork, down 4; lamb and mutton, up 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES

(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



NATION'S SEPTEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.53 billion eggs during September 1990, up 2 percent from the 5.44 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.78 billion table eggs, 689 million broiler-type hatching eggs and 62.0 million egg-type hatching eggs. The average number of layers during September 1990 was 268 million, up fractionally from the 267 million birds a year ago. The September 1990 egg production averaged 2,062 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 2,037 eggs per 100 layers in September 1989.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1990 totaled 269 million, compared with 267 million a year ago. The 269 million layers consisted of 228 million for table or commercial type eggs, 37.9 million for broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.87 million for egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1990 averaged 68.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 68.0 eggs per 100 layers on October 1, 1989, but down 1 percent from the 68.9 eggs per 100 layers on September 1, 1990.

JULY-SEPTEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk cows on **Montana** farms produced 90 million pounds of milk in the July-September quarter of 1990. This production is up 6 percent from the comparable period in 1989. The average number of milk cows on farms for the quarter was 24,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 3,740 pounds for the three months, up 5 percent from last year.

Montana dairymen fed 15 pounds of grain concentrates per cow on October 1, 1990, 3 percent more than a year ago. The value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows was $6.95 per cwt, 15 cents more than last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the **U.S.** was 36.7 billion pounds, 4 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 10.1 million head, 26 thousand head below the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on October 1, 1990, averaged 17.1 pounds, 0.2 of a pound above October 1, 1989.

The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on October 1, averaged $8.04 per hundredweight, $0.04 below the October 1, 1989 price.

AMERICAN DIET CHANGES OVER 2 DECADES

If "you are what you eat," the consumer of the 1990s probably has broccoli sticking out of his or her ears and a pocketful of oat bran.

Diets have changed a lot in 20 years as health and dietary concerns become more important to consumers. That's changed the mix of food products purchased by consumers. Also, consumer income is generally higher and new food products (particularly convenience foods) have changed eating habits.

Looking at demographics, we have an aging population (which is consuming more cereals, bakery products, and beverages); smaller households, more two-earner households, more single-person households; and an increasing proportion of ethnic minorities in the U.S. population (whites, blacks, and others allocate their food dollar very differently), all of which affects food consumption. Some food consumption highlights:

**Meat, poultry, fish:* Last year, total consumption hit a record 187 pounds per person. Pork consumption averaged 44 pounds per person (boneless basis), about the same amount since 1970. At 65 pounds per capita, beef was down 24 pounds from the high of 89 pounds in 1976 when supplies were a record high. Americans consumed 70% more chicken last year than the early 1970's. Turkey consumption rose to 14.2 pounds, gaining an average of almost 10% annually between 1985 and 1990. Consumption of fish rose 4.2 pounds per person since 1971 to 15.7 pounds annually.

* *Eggs:* Back in 1971, the average American consumed 310 eggs. Last year, that number dropped to 235. However, consumption of eggs in the form of egg products rose from 36 eggs per capita in 1971 to 45 in 1989. That's because more food service establishments (fast food and others) are using eggs and food products with eggs like pasta and baked goods.

* *Dairy products:* Total fluid milk consumption has declined steadily from 271 pounds in 1971 to 229 pounds in 1988. That's mostly because whole milk consumption has dropped. Lowfat and skim milk, on the other hand, gained from 20% of all milk consumed to 54%. Cheese consumption has nearly doubled during the same period. Awareness of the need for calcium in the diet has been partly responsible for the recent upturn in consumption of dairy products.

* *Fresh fruits and vegetables:* In 1988, total per capita consumption of 9 major commercial fresh vegetables reached a record high. Americans ate more onions, lettuce, tomatoes, carrots, broccoli, asparagus, cauliflower, and celery. Fruit consumption totaled 94 pounds per person in 1988, 19 pounds per person in 1988, 19 more pounds than the 1971-73 average.

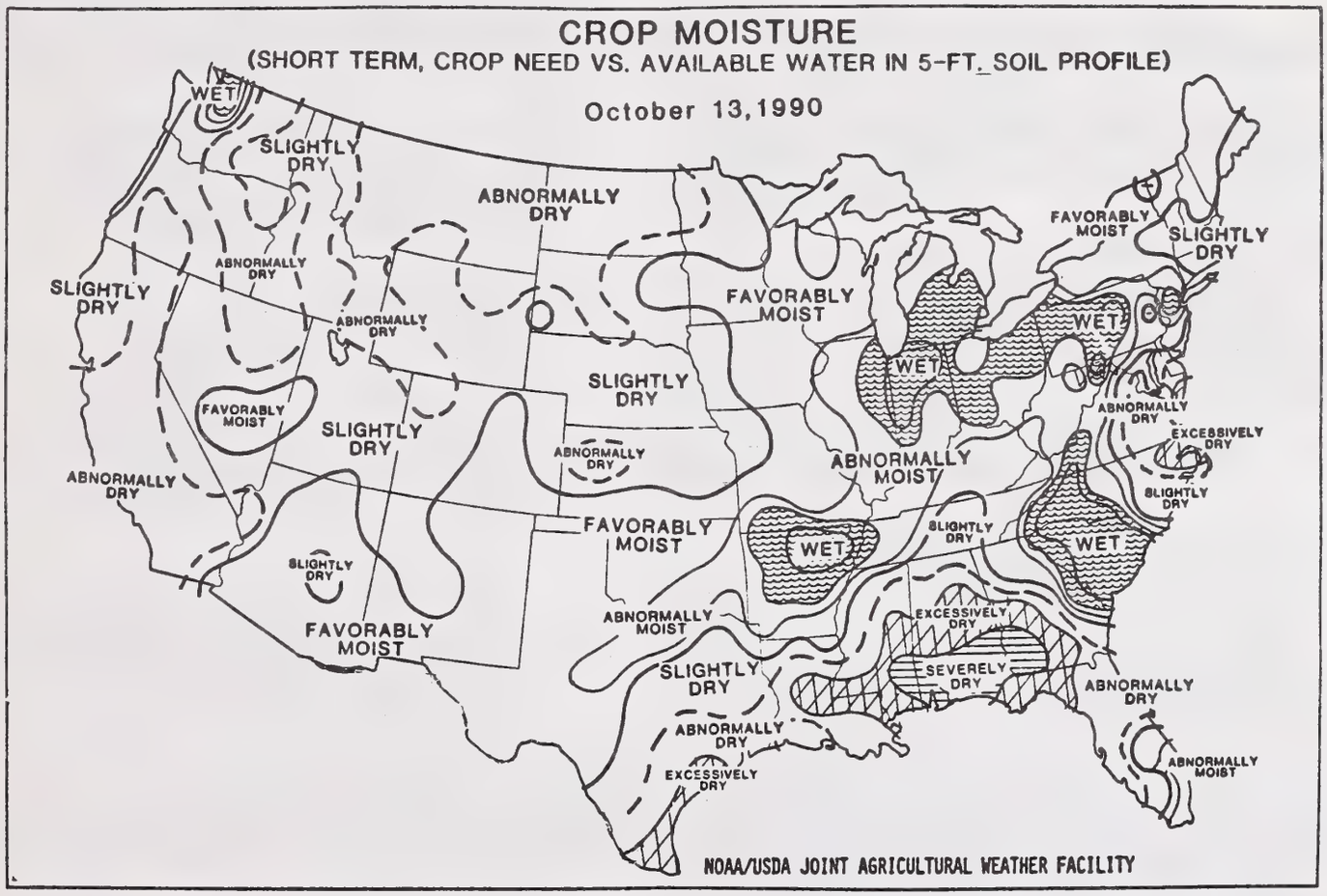
Convenience seems to be the trigger for many new food products. Developments in packaging, for example, have encouraged higher consumption of some dairy products. Consumers can now buy individually wrapped cheese slices, packaged shredded cheese, and frozen prepared dairy products like quiche.

MOISTURE SITUATION FOR MONTANA

This week's crop-weather report showed some improvement in the moisture situation. Some precipitation was reported in all divisions although coverage was spotty. Cooler temperatures kept soils from drying out and helped the winter wheat make optimum use of moisture.

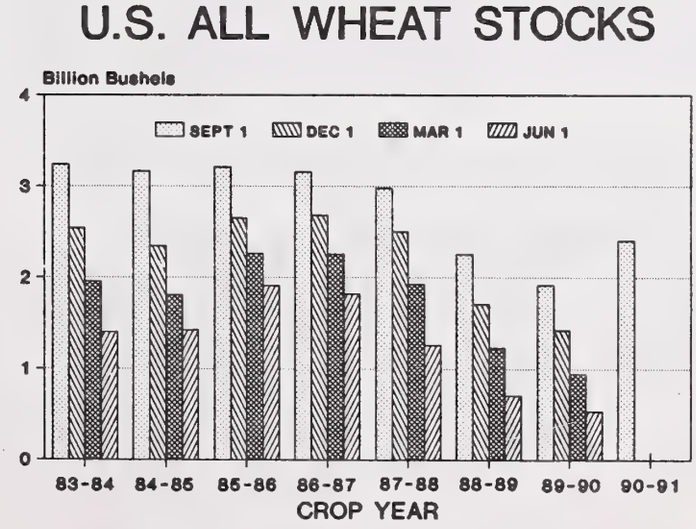
Seeding of winter wheat is virtually complete, ahead of normal for this date. Poor germination in some areas has resulted in poor to marginal stands; even so, emergence is about 80 percent--well ahead of the normal average of 65 percent. Condition is rated over 70 percent fair to poor. More moisture is the key to improvement. Dry bean, corn silage, and sugar beet harvest is about done. Potato harvest is nearing 90 percent completion.

The livestock situation shows pasture and range condition is mostly fair to good. Cattle and sheep are 2/3 to 3/4 moved from summer ranges--a little later than average. The forecast through October 29 calls for above normal temperatures and normal precipitation west, below normal east.



U.S. ALL WHEAT STOCKS

U.S. all wheat stored on September 1, 1990, is estimated at 2.40 billion bushels, up 25 percent from September 1, 1989. On-farm stocks total 995 million bushels, up 20 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 1.41 billion bushels, are up 30 percent from last year. The indicated first quarter disappearance from all positions is 890 million bushels, up 9 percent from the same period in 1989.



featuring...*DEER LODGE COUNTY*

Deer Lodge County is located in western Montana and occupies approximately 473,734 acres. Most of the terrain is mountainous, being covered by parts of the Deer Lodge, and Beaverhead National Forests. A section of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness lies along the western boundary. The Continental Divide makes up a portion of the eastern border of Deer Lodge County, cuts through the center, and runs along most of the western boundary. The Big Hole River defines the county's border to the south.

Because of the mountainous landscape, Deer Lodge County is, understandably not a large agricultural area. In spite of this, spring wheat, barley, oats, and hay, as well as some potatoes are all grown in the county. The major part of the cropland is irrigated. Cash receipts for crops in 1988 totaled $533,000.

Livestock interests include cattle, sheep, and hog raising. Receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products came to $3,315,000 in 1988. Total cash receipts for Deer Lodge County in 1988 amounted to $4,046,000.

Deer Lodge County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	473,734	Total Cropland	Acres	21,663
Land in Farms	Acres	152,109	Harvested Cropland	Acres	11,579
Number of Farms		72	Irrigated Land	Acres	18,530
Average size Farms	Acres	2,113			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	9,653	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	[2]	Calves	No. Head	9,248
Barley	Acres	800	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	336
Oats	Acres	0	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	[2]

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture. [2] Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Ag Prices
Special Malting Barley
Dairy Products
Pasture & Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

August Manufactured Dairy
October 1 Crop Production
September Ag Prices Received
September 1 U.S. Hog Inventory

AUGUST U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

U.S. butter production was 83.8 million pounds in August, 4 percent above August 1989 but 2 percent below July 1990.

American type cheese production totaled 229 million pounds, 9 percent above August 1989 but 3 percent below July 1990. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 488 million pounds, 7 percent above August 1989 but 3 percent below July 1990. Creamed cottage cheese production was 48.1 million pounds, 8 percent below August 1989 but was 4 percent above July 1990. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 27.1 million pounds, 1 percent above August 1989 and 3 percent above July 1990.

Canned evaporated and condensed milk production at 50.8 million pounds was 23 percent above August 1989 and 3 percent above July 1990. Frozen desserts: (Comparisons with August 1989) Ice cream (hard)--76.5 million gallons, down 1 percent. Ice milk--37.1 millon gallons, down 6 percent. Sherbet (hard) 4.43 million gallons, down 6 percent.

MONTANA, October 1, 1990
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1988	1989	1990
Northwest	54	89	85
North Central	25	92	66
Northeast	20	71	38
Central	36	93	83
Southwest	45	78	81
South Central	35	86	84
Southeast	17	80	61
Montana	32	85	72

WHEAT CROP DOWN FROM SEPTEMBER

Montana's 1990 all wheat crop was estimated on October 1 at 147.8 million bushels, 2.2 million bushels less than the September 1 estimate. The reduction is due to 250 thousand fewer spring wheat and 100 thousand fewer winter wheat acres harvested, but was partially offset by higher spring wheat and durum wheat yields.

Total winter wheat production is estimated at 87.5 million bushels, durum at 4 million, and hard spring wheat at 56.4 million. The per acre yield of winter wheat is 35 bushels, spring wheat is 23 bushels, and durum is 17. Both spring wheat and durum yield estimates increased from the previous estimate. Harvest data from the September Ag Survey was used to estimate the end of season acreage and production for Montana and U.S. small grains.

Barley production, at 55.8 million, is up 3.2 million bushels from earlier forecasts. The average barley yield was 39 bushels. Oats production, at 3.60 million bushels, is unchanged from September 1 and had an average yield of 45 bushels. Montana's hay production estimate of 5.2 million tons is 19 percent higher than the August forecast. The increase is due mainly to favorable late season growing and harvesting weather.

For the Nation, all wheat production for 1990 is estimated at 2.74 billion bushels, down slightly from the September 1 forecast but up 35 percent from 1989. Yields averaged a record high 39.6 bushels per acre, up 6.9 bushels per acre from a year ago. Area harvested, at 69.4 million acres, was up 12 percent from last year. The U.S. barley production is estimated at 419 million bushels, 4 percent above last year's crop of 404 million bushels. Average yield per acre, at 55.2 bushels, was up 6.6 bushels from the 1989 yield. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 7.59 million acres, 9 percent less than last year.

OCTOBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition, at 72% of normal on October 1, is 5 points lower than September 1, and 13 points under a year ago. Dry and unseasonally warm weather during September stopped grass growth and caused grasses to be brittle in the drier areas. Where previous grass growth was more lush the dry fall weather gave concern for fire. Regardless of the relatively low feed condition, ranges and pastures in much of Montana were still providing good grazing for livestock.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, OCTOBER 1, 1990 [1]

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT 1989	WINTER WHEAT 1990 [2]	WINTER WHEAT Chg.	ALL SPRING WHEAT 1989	ALL SPRING WHEAT 1990 [2]	ALL SPRING WHEAT Chg.	BARLEY 1989	BARLEY 1990 [2]	BARLEY Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
Northwest	388	1,360	351	2,082	1,097	53	3,618	3,650	101
North Central	22,600	50,250	222	51,102	37,158	73	35,648	32,380	91
Northeast	3,947	6,520	165	26,563	14,303	54	5,634	2,460	44
Central	14,116	15,260	108	4,425	2,570	58	13,033	8,110	62
Southwest	1,860	1,450	78	1,392	1,537	110	4,290	4,580	107
South Central	7,481	8,890	119	1,563	1,240	79	4,455	3,790	85
Southeast	3,608	3,770	104	3,903	2,440	63	2,122	800	38
Montana	54,000	87,500	162	91,030	60,345	66	68,800	55,770	81

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

ALL WHEAT and BARLEY: YIELD AND PRODUCTION--SELECTED STATES

STATE	ALL WHEAT YIELD 1989[1]	ALL WHEAT YIELD 1990	ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION 1989[1]	ALL WHEAT PRODUCTION 1990	BARLEY YIELD 1989[1]	BARLEY YIELD 1990	BARLEY PRODUCTION 1989[1]	BARLEY PRODUCTION 1990
	BUSHELS		1,000 BUSHELS		BUSHELS		1,000 BUSHELS	
Colorado	27.4	33.6	62,100	86,950	76.0	75.0	12,160	11,250
Idaho	66.7	74.1	91,420	101,460	70.0	72.0	59,500	56,160
Kansas	24.0	40.0	213,600	472,000	32.0	44.0	576	924
Minnesota	38.0	48.4	102,504	138,620	55.0	63.0	44,000	50,400
Montana	27.7	28.5	145,030	147,845	43.0	39.0	68,800	55,770
Nebraska	27.0	38.0	55,350	85,500	26.0	40.0	650	880
North Dakota	23.5	35.3	242,320	385,220	37.0	53.0	98,050	132,500
Oklahoma	27.0	32.0	153,900	201,600	40.0	41.0	800	697
Oregon	58.5	59.6	53,835	57,674	67.0	70.0	12,060	8,750
South Dakota	23.6	33.8	83,080	128,004	35.0	49.0	19,250	24,500
Texas	20.0	31.0	60,000	130,200	32.0	38.0	480	608
Washington	48.7	61.0	110,610	151,200	58.0	56.0	28,420	21,840
United States	32.7	39.6	2,036,618	2,743,624	48.6	55.2	404,203	418,921

[1] Revised.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--OCTOBER 1, 1990

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED 1989	ACRES PLANTED 1990 [1]	ACRES HARVESTED 1989	ACRES HARVESTED 1990 [1]	YIELD 1989	YIELD 1990 [1]	PRODUCTION 1989	PRODUCTION 1990 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,500	2,700	1,500	2,500	36.0	35.0	54,000	87,500
Durum Wheat	Bu.	340	245	335	235	18.0	17.0	6,030	3,995
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,500	2,800	3,400	2,450	25.0	23.0	85,000	56,350
All Wheat	Bu.	6,340	5,745	5,235	5,185	27.7	28.5	145,030	147,845
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	80	65	4	6	80.0	93.0	320	558
Oats	Bu.	250	160	145	80	46.0	45.0	6,670	3,600
Barley	Bu.	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,430	43.0	39.0	68,800	55,770
Dry Beans	Cwt.	6.0	14.5	5.9	14.0	22.0	23.0	130	322
Sugarbeets	Ton	52.7	55.0	51.9	55.0	19.9	20.5	1,033	1,128
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.2	9.0	8.1	8.9	275.0	3/	2,228	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,350	1,450	2.20	2.50	2,970	3,625
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,050	1.50	1.50	1,500	1,575
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,350	2,500	1.90	2.08	4,470	5,200
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	55,091	56,998	41,509	49,976	35.0	40.7	1,454,642	2,036,059
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,791	3,565	3,673	3,502	25.1	34.8	92,229	121,701
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,733	16,723	17,007	15,875	28.8	36.9	489,747	585,864
All Wheat	Bu.	76,615	77,286	62,189	69,353	32.7	39.6	2,036,618	2,743,624
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	72,296	74,474	64,781	66,691	116.2	120.3	7,527,152	8,021,697
Oats	Bu.	12,085	10,423	6,882	5,955	54.3	60.2	373,587	358,288
Barley	Bu.	9,125	8,246	8,313	7,594	48.6	55.2	404,203	418,921
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,857.6	2,219.0	1,689.9	2,127.9	14.40	15.06	24,333	32,036
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,324.2	1,397.1	1,294.7	1,369.2	19.4	19.8	25,129	27,105
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,102.4	1,166.0	1,086.0	1,151.8	299.0	3/	324,673	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,939	24,925	2.98	3.42	77,208	85,342
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,456	36,809	1.82	1.80	68,237	66,115
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,395	61,734	2.29	2.45	145,445	151,457

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 8, 1990.

SEPTEMBER PRICES RECEIVED

The September 1990 Index of Prices Received by Montana farmers and ranchers was down 6 points from the previous month and 3 points below last year's September index. The index was 178 percent of the January-December 1977 average.

The all crops index led the decline, falling off 9 points, and the livestock and products index was down 1 point. Compared with last year, the crops index is down 39 points, while the livestock and products index is up 31 points.

Mid-September individual commodity prices were down for all items except oats, beef cattle, and milk. Durum was down 56 cents; other spring wheat, down 43 cents; and winter wheat was 9 cents below August. These changes pulled the all wheat price down 25 cents from August and $1.24 below September 1989.

The mid-September barley price is 1 cent below August but is 24 cents above the previous year. Oats are up 1 cent from last month but 39 cents below September 1989. Steers and heifers were down slightly, cows down $1.00, and calves were down $2.00 per cwt from last month. Sheep fell off $3.70 and lambs $2.80 from the previous month.

The September all farm products index of prices received decreased 3 points from August to 148 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in corn, hogs, potatoes, and cattle prices more than offset higher prices for apples, tobacco, broilers, and eggs.

Milk prices were at a record high for September. After reaching record-high levels in August 1990, cattle prices were down slightly in September. September hog prices were off sharply from August. The 25 cents per bushel drop in the corn price from August to September was the largest month to month decrease since a 28 cent decline during the same two months in 1986. Wheat declined 10 cents in September after dropping 21 cents in August, 29 cents in July, and 32 cents in June.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Sept 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1990	MONTANA Sept 15, 1990	U.S. Sept 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.80	2.57	2.48	2.51
Durum	Bu.	3.22	3.13	2.57	2.41
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.76	3.01	2.58	2.41
All Wheat	Bu.	3.77	2.78	2.53	2.48
Barley, All	Bu.	2.21	2.46	2.45	1.94
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.77
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.16
Oats	Bu.	1.45	1.05	1.06	1.07
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	67.00	67.00	91.00
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	57.00	57.00	65.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	66.00	66.00	85.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	77.20	88.30	88.20	78.50
Cows	Cwt.	48.90	54.20	53.20	53.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	72.20	84.40	84.70	75.50
Calves	Cwt.	87.80	104.00	102.00	98.20
Sheep	Cwt.	20.30	19.70	16.00	21.80
Lambs	Cwt.	68.30	49.20	46.40	52.60
Hogs	Cwt.	39.30	52.30	47.30	52.60
All Milk	Cwt.	13.60	14.35	14.65	14.40
Eggs	Doz.	.70	.68	.63	.69
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.25	.80	.70	.72
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	181	184	178	148
All Crops	Pct.	155	125	116	123
Livestock & Products	Pct.	204	236	235	173

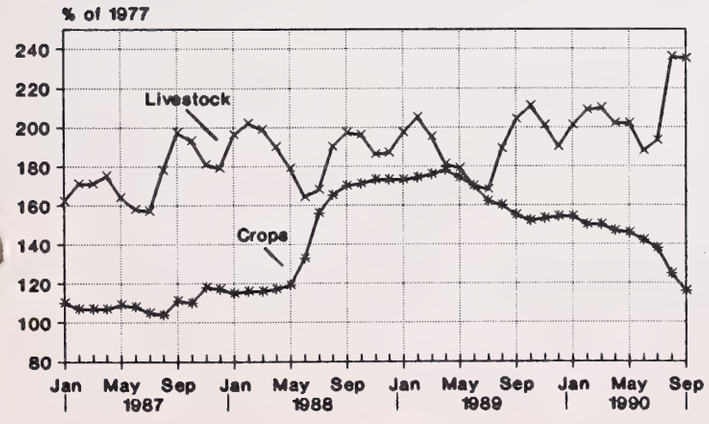
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

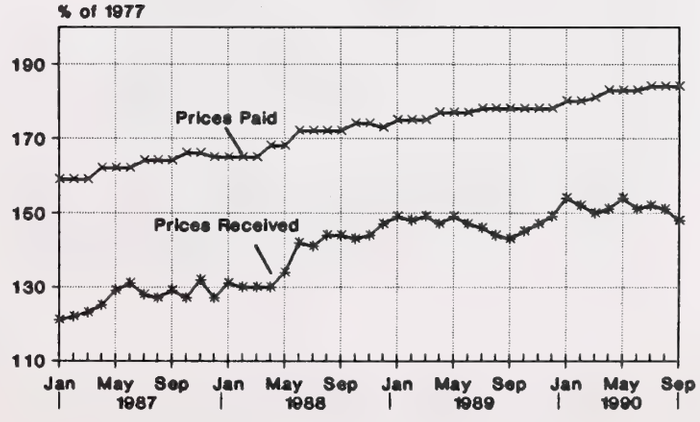
INDEX 1977=100	Aug. 1989	Sept 1989	Aug. 1990	Sept 1990
Prices Received	145	143	151	148
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/178	2/178	3/184	3/184
Ratio 1/	81	80	82	80

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1989 prices paid index. 3/ July 1990 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



SEPTEMBER 1 U.S. HOG INVENTORY

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the U.S. on September 1, 1990, is estimated at 56.3 million head. This estimate is 2 percent below September 1, 1989 but 4 percent above the June 1, 1990 inventory which was revised downward by 240 thousand head.

--- Breeding inventory at 6.86 million head is down slightly from September 1, 1989, and down 4 percent from June 1, 1990.

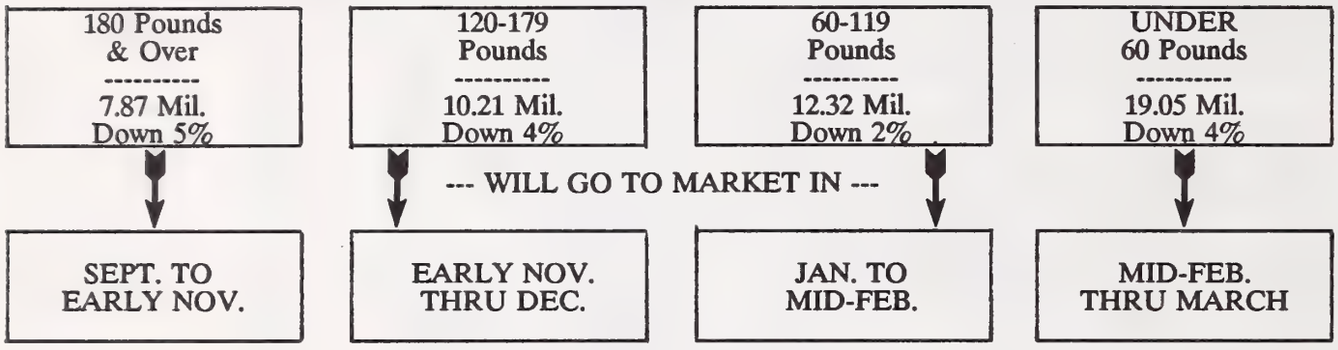
--- Market hog inventory at 49.4 million head is 3 percent below September 1, 1989, but 5 percent above June 1, 1990.

The June-August 1990 U.S. pig crop was 22.9 million head, 2 percent less than 1989. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.91 million head, 3 percent below a year earlier. Pigs saved per litter was 7.88 compared to 7.79 during the same period in 1989.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.85 million sows farrow during the September-November quarter, 2 percent more than the actual farrowings during the same period last year but 4 percent below 1988.

U.S. farrowing intentions for the December 1990-February 1991 quarter, at 2.63 million sows, is 2 percent above 1990 but down 3 percent from the 1989 period.

SEPTEMBER 1 U.S. MARKET HOGS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR



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Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

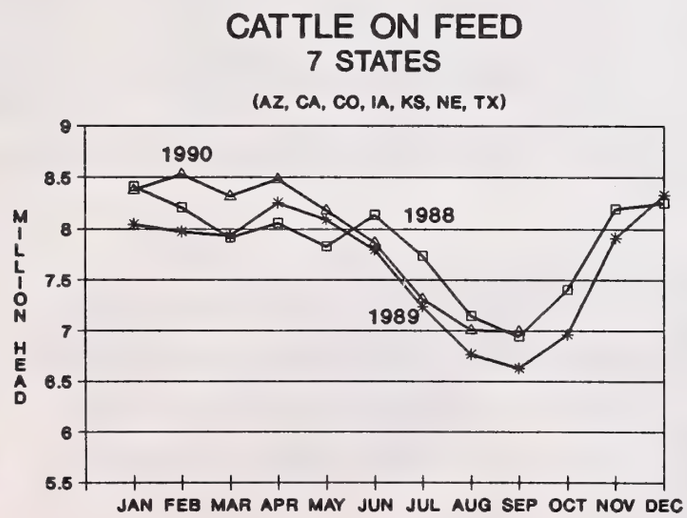
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Egg Production
Grain Stocks
Egg Production
Cash Receipts
*featuring...*Dawson County

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 5 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed September 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 6.99 million head, up 5 percent from a year ago and 1 percent above September 1, 1988.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during August totaled 1.67 million, down 2 percent from last year and 7 percent below two years ago. PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during August totaled 1.74 million, up 6 percent from last year and 5 percent above August 1988. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.65 million for August was 6 percent above last year and 4 percent above 1988.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 82 thousand head compared to 76 thousand in August 1989 and 66 thousand in August 1988.



JUNE-AUGUST EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 43 million eggs in the June-August quarter, 9 percent less than the same quarter last year. The number of layers for the quarter averaged 670,000 compared with 710,000 in 1989. The rate of lay in the 1990 quarter was 69.1 eggs per 100 layers compared with 71.3 eggs per 100 layers in the 1989 quarter.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 16.9 billion eggs during the June through August quarter, up 1 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.6 billion table eggs, 2.16 billion broiler-type hatching eggs, and 205 million egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 267 million, up slightly from the 266 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1990 totaled 267 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 267 million layers consisted of 226 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 37.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 2.93 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1990 averaged 68.9 eggs per 100 layers, compared with 67.7 eggs per 100 layers on September 1, 1989. Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.76 billion eggs during August, up 3 percent from the 4.64 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during August averaged 222 million, up slightly from a year ago.

AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds of red meat in August 1990. This production is up 32 percent from last month, and up 4 percent from last year. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 2,000 head, is up 200 head from a year ago. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,077 pounds, up 26 pounds from last year. Hog slaughtered, at 2,600 head, is up 500 head from August 1989. Average live weight was 221 pounds, down 9 pounds from last year.

U.S. commercial red meat production in August 1990 totaled 3.43 billion pounds, down 2 percent from last year. January-August red meat production, at 25.6 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down slightly; veal, down 11; pork, down 3; lamb and mutton, up 7. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

Montana's stocks of all wheat on September 1, 1990 totaled 162 million bushels, 7 percent less than a year ago. Stocks of wheat held on farms, at 140 million bushels, were down 7 percent, while off-farm stocks, at 22 million, were down 9 percent. Winter wheat stocks in all positions, at 93 million, were up 45 percent from last year. Hard spring wheat stocks, at 60 million, were down 41 percent, and durum stocks, at 9 million, were unchanged. Barley stored, in Montana on September 1, at 57 million bushels, was down 16 percent. There were 6.5 million bushels of oats in all storage positions on September 1.

Nationally, all wheat stored on September 1, 1990 is estimated at 2.40 billion bushels, up 25 percent from September 1, 1989. On-farm stocks total 995 million bushels, up 20 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 1.41 billion bushels, are up 30 percent from last year. The indicated first quarter disappearance from all positions is 890 million bushels, up 9 percent from the same period in 1989. Durum wheat stocks on September 1, 1990, are 131 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year.

Farm stocks are placed at 99.8 million bushels, up 26 percent from September 1989. Barley stored in all positions on September 1, 1990, is estimated at 411 million bushels, down 1 percent from September 1, 1989. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 258 million are stored on farms, 2 percent above a year earlier. Off farm stocks, at 152 million, are 7 percent below last year. Oat stocks in all positions on September 1, 1990, totaled 353 million bushels. Of the total stocks, 236 million bushels are stored on farms.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1989	Jun. 1, 1990*	Sept. 1, 1990	% Chg. '90/'89	Sept. 1, 1989	Jun. 1, 1990*	Sept. 1, 1990
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	150,000	44,000	140,000	-7	832,000	212,500	995,000
Off Farms [1]	24,265	13,158	22,000	-9	1,085,246	323,955	1,406,977
TOTAL	174,265	57,158	162,000	-7	1,917,246	536,455	2,401,977
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	52,000	19,000	80,000	+54	--	--	--
Off Farms	12,130	4,807	13,000	+7	--	--	--
TOTAL	64,130	23,807	93,000	+45	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	98,000	25,000	60,000	-39	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	12,135	8,351	9,000	-26	--	--	--
TOTAL	110,135	33,351	69,000	-37	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--		79,150	30,836	99,750
Off Farms [1 4]	--	--	--		42,431	19,385	31,441
TOTAL	9,020	6,656	9,000	--	121,581	50,221	131,191
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	967,500	1,623,500	754,800
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	962,928	1,219,708	589,689
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	1,930,428	2,843,208	1,344,489
OATS							
On Farms		2,500	6,000	--	--	82,850	235,500
Off Farms [1]		162	500	--	--	74,062	117,009
TOTAL		2,662	6,500	--	--	156,912	352,509
BARLEY							
On Farms	60,000	10,000	50,000	-17	253,350	48,590	258,400
Off Farms [1]	7,503	4,840	7,000	-7	163,598	112,226	152,453
TOTAL	67,503	14,840	57,000	-16	416,948	160,816	410,853

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sep. 1, 1989	Jun. 1, 1990*	Sep. 1, 1990	Sep. 1, 1989	Jun. 1, 1990*	Sep. 1, 1990
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	4.5	0.4	2.1	1.6	0.6	4.7
North Central	85.9	27.0	86.9	31.2	6.5	29.4
Northeast	37.3	14.9	30.0	12.9	1.8	3.6
Central	23.9	8.1	19.9	8.0	2.2	8.2
Southwest	5.2	0.5	3.1	4.3	1.1	5.5
South Central	9.1	3.8	11.9	6.9	2.1	4.5
Southeast	8.4	2.5	8.1	2.6	0.5	1.1
STATE	174.3	57.2	162.0	67.5	14.8	57.0

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during August totaled 10.5 billion pounds, 4 percent above the production in these same states in August 1989. July revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds, was 5 percent above July 1989.

Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,232 pounds for August, 48 pounds more than August 1989.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.53 million head, 19 thousand head more than August 1989 and 16 thousand head more than July 1990.

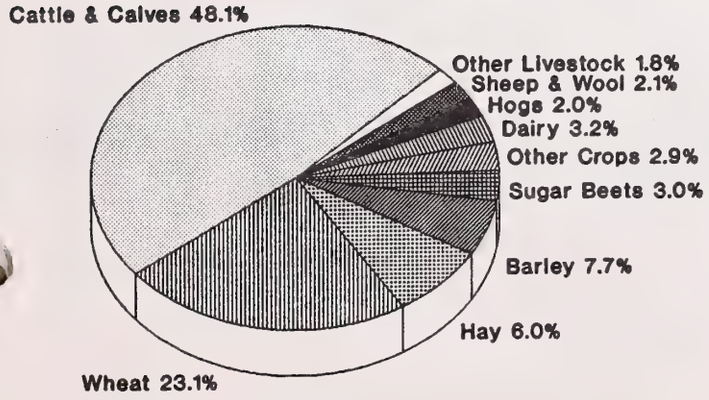
During the April-June period, the 21 major states produced 32.8 billion pounds of milk, 85.0 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states , the U.S. production would be 12.4 billion pounds for August 1990.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1985-1989 [1]

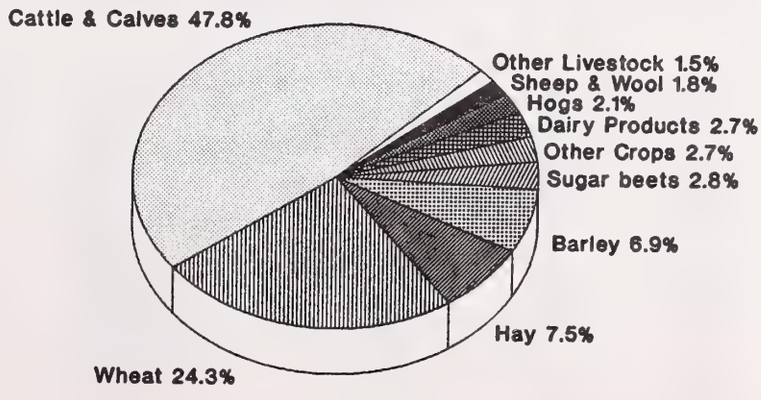
ITEM	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
			--Thousand Dollars--		
LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	689,332	484,121	641,623	693,345	769,561
Dairy products	43,852	41,338	40,878	41,254	43,292
Sheep and lambs	27,350	20,451	21,582	21,286	20,760
Wool	3,743	3,867	5,268	8,386	7,738
Hogs and pigs	21,954	23,147	30,836	28,613	34,181
Eggs	8,585	9,380	8,542	7,760	11,250
Chickens	168	189	149	174	197
Other 2/	11,322	15,395	15,824	15,444	12,275
TOTAL	806,306	597,888	764,702	816,262	899,254
CROPS					
Wheat	257,413	269,927	368,918	308,101	390,731
Barley	60,799	87,954	132,538	120,864	110,547
Sugar beets	28,791	39,726	42,463	46,646	45,829
Hay	74,956	68,414	69,899	98,002	119,930
Potatoes	15,844	9,367	12,311	11,565	15,225
Oats	1,247	870	1,594	2,205	2,112
Dry beans	2,011	1,570	1,473	1,752	2,709
Corn	1,538	1,305	1,452	2,177	1,712
Cherries	2,255	480	2,280	1,042	0
All other 3/	8,768	19,557	22,160	24,350	21,687
TOTAL	453,622	499,170	655,088	616,704	710,482
ALL COMMODITIES	1,259,928	1,097,058	1,419,790	1,432,966	1,609,736

[1] Revised [2] Includes honey, beeswax, bees; turkey & turkey eggs; rabbits; mink; and others [3] Includes other field crops and fruits; vegetables; seeds; and greenhouse, nursery and forest products.

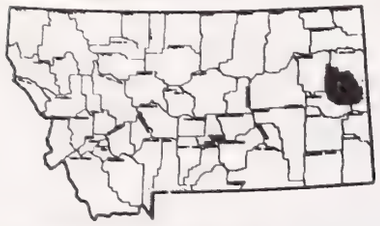
Cash Receipts 1985-88 Average



Cash Receipts 1989



featuring...*DAWSON COUNTY*



Dawson County occupies approximately 1,519,379 acres of land in east central Montana. The Yellowstone River flows through the southern half of the county. The land immediately adjacent to the river and its tributaries is hilly and broken, while a portion of the Big Sheep Mountain range is situated in the northwestern section.

Most of the acres for harvest in the county are non-irrigated. Crop production provides the largest share of cash receipts from the sale of agricultural products. The county ranked 15th for winter wheat, 16th for hard spring wheat, 17th for durum wheat, and 24th for oats production in 1988. Corn, sugar beets, and dry beans are also produced in this county.

Cattle, sheep, and hogs are raised in Dawson County. The January 1, 1988 livestock inventories shows the county ranking 31st and 38th in cattle and sheep numbers, respectively. Hog numbers for December 1987 put the county 32nd among the hog producing counties.

Cash receipts from the sale of crops totaled $13,144,000, and livestock receipts came to $10,108,000. Government payments added $7,935,000 for a total of $31,187,000 in cash receipts for Dawson County in 1988.

Dawson County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	1,519,379	Total Cropland	Acres	464,578
Land in Farms	Acres	1,326,655	Harvested Cropland	Acres	219,228
Number of Farms		499	Irrigated Land	Acres	14,462
Average size Farms	Acres	2,659			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	30,847	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	135,804	Calves	No. Head	37,573
Barley	Acres	37,056	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	3,387
Oats	Acres	5,187	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	2,077

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

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Monthly Ag Prices
Crop Production
Grains & Hay
Pasture & Range
Hogs & Pigs
Dairy Products

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- U.S. Manufactured Dairy Products
- Crop Production Forecast
- Pasture & Range Feed Condition
- August Prices Received
- Grain Movement

JULY U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Butter production was 85.1 million pounds in July, 17 percent above July 1989 but 11 percent below June 1990.

American type cheese production totaled 236 million pounds, 7 percent above July 1989 but 6 percent below June 1990. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 503 million pounds, 10 percent above July 1989 but 5 percent below June 1990. Creamed cottage cheese production was 46.3 million pounds 2 percent below July 1989 but 2 percent above June 1990. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 26.3 million pounds, 5 percent above July 1989 but 1 percent below June 1990.

Canned evaporated and condensed milk production at 49.3 million pounds was 18 percent above July 1989 but 8 percent below June 1990. Frozen desserts: (comparisons with July 1989) ice cream (hard)--83.6 million gallons, up 9 percent. Ice milk--36.4 million gallons, down 4 percent. Sherbet (hard)--5.25 million gallons, up 6 percent.

SEPTEMBER 1 CROP PRODUCTION

Montana's 1990 wheat crop was forecast on September 1 to be 150.0 million bushels, up 2 percent from the August 1 forecast and 4% larger than 1989. Winter wheat production is expected to be 91.0 million bushels with a yield of 35 bushels. Hard spring wheat production is forecast at 56.7 million bushels, up from 54.0 million bushels forecast last month but still way below 1989 production. The average yield for hard spring wheat is 21.0 bushels per harvested acre, one bushel higher than anticipated in August but still below 7 of the past 10 years. Producers in northeastern Montana were the most affected by summer's drought conditions and many fields were not cut for grain. Yields for grain crops are based upon the acreage harvested for grain and excludes acreages cut for hay, pastured, or abandoned. Durum wheat production, at 3.29 million bushels, was unchanged from August, but is down from 6.03 million bushels harvested last year. Barley in Montana is forecast at 52.5 million bushels, the same as the August estimate and 24 percent less than last year. Other crop estimates for Montana are: Oats, 4.2 million bushels, 37 percent less than last year; all hay, at 4.37 million tons, is down 2 percent from 1989; and sugar beets, at 1.1 million tons, is up 6 percent. Harvesting was right on schedule on September 1 with winter wheat harvest nearly completed and other small grains about 80 percent harvested. Harvest progress was interrupted by heavy rains in late August which caused some crop damage including sprouting of malting barley.

For the nation, all wheat production is forecast at 2.76 billion bushels, up 2 percent from August 1 and 35 percent more than the 1989 production. Average yield is forecast at 39.4 bushels per acre, equalling the record high of 1983, and 6.6 bushels per acre more than last year. Harvested area is still expected to total 69.9 million acres, up 12 percent from 1989. Durum wheat production is now forecast at 121 million bushels, up 12 percent from last month and up 31 percent from 1989. Other spring wheat production for 1990 is now forecast at a record 581 million bushels, 7 percent more than the August 1 forecast and 19 percent more than the 1989 production. Barley production is forecast at 409 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 1 percent above 1989. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 52.9 bushels.

SEPTEMBER 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition, at 77 percent of normal on September 1, is 2 points higher than August 1, but 12 points under a year ago. Good rains the last of August, together with warm days, greened ranges in many areas of Montana. Even though the eastern areas improved, they are still in the severe drought category. Condition in the rest of Montana is mostly good to excellent.

MONTANA, September 1, 1990
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1988	1989	1990
Northwest	53	88	94
North Central	21	91	76
Northeast	21	61	44
Central	32	92	88
Southwest	43	80	86
South Central	31	92	86
Southeast	15	86	69
Montana	29	89	77

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--SEPTEMBER 1, 1990

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,500	2,700	1,500	2,600	36.0	35.0	54,000	91,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	340	245	335	235	18.0	14.0	6,030	3,290
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,500	2,800	3,400	2,700	25.0	21.0	85,000	56,700
All Wheat	Bu.	6,340	5,745	5,235	5,535	27.7	27.0	145,030	150,990
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	80	65	4	6	80.0	93.0	320	558
Oats	Bu.	250	160	145	105	46.0	40.0	6,670	4,200
Barley	Bu.	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,500	43.0	35.0	68,800	52,500
Dry Beans	Cwt.	6.0	14.5	5.9	14.0	22.0	23.0	130	322
Sugarbeets	Ton	52.7	55.0	51.9	55.0	19.9	20.5	1,033	1,128
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.2	9.0	8.1	8.9	275.0	3/	2,228	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,350	1,450	2.20	2.00	2,970	2,900
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,050	1.50	1.40	1,500	1,470
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,350	2,500	1.90	1.75	4,470	4,370
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	55,091	57,028	41,469	50,102	35.1	41.0	1,453,842	2,054,287
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,791	3,570	3,673	3,500	25.1	34.4	92,229	120,505
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,733	16,728	17,007	16,284	28.8	35.7	489,747	580,692
All Wheat	Bu.	76,615	77,326	62,149	69,886	32.8	39.4	2,035,818	2,755,484
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	72,296	74,474	64,781	66,691	116.2	121.7	7,527,152	8,118,117
Oats	Bu.	12,080	10,420	6,874	6,187	54.4	59.0	373,778	365,337
Barley	Bu.	9,175	8,277	8,303	7,746	48.6	52.9	403,443	409,483
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,857.6	2,219.0	1,689.9	2,127.9	14.40	14.78	24,333	31,446
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,324.2	1,397.1	1,294.7	1,369.2	19.4	19.9	25,129	27,295
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,101.8	1,166.0	1,281.5	1,359.6	289.0	3/	370,444	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,939	24,925	2.98	3.30	77,208	82,167
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,456	36,809	1.82	1.80	68,237	66,295
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,395	61,734	2.29	2.40	145,445	148,462

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 8, 1990.

ALL WHEAT: SELECTED STATES, 1988-1990

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1989	IND 1990	1989	IND 1990	1988	1989	IND 1990
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
CO [1]	2,270	2,590	27.4	34.0	79,540	62,100	86,950
ID	1,370	1,370	66.7	73.0	75,520	91,420	99,660
KS [1]	8,900	11,800	24.0	40.0	323,000	213,600	472,000
MN	2,699	2,854	38.0	48.0	51,730	102,504	135,647
MT	5,235	5,535	27.7	27.0	59,970	145,030	150,990
NE [1]	2,050	2,250	27.0	38.0	72,000	55,350	85,500
ND	10,330	11,070	23.5	35.0	103,390	242,320	383,380
OK [1]	5,700	6,300	27.0	33.0	172,800	153,900	207,900
OR [1]	920	972	58.5	60.0	51,800	53,835	58,010
SD	3,520	3,885	23.6	34.0	38,006	83,080	132,905
TX [1]	3,000	4,200	20.0	31.0	89,600	60,000	130,200
WA	2,270	2,480	48.7	63.0	124,620	110,610	156,440
U.S.	62,149	69,886	32.8	39.4	1,812,201	2,035,818	2,755,484

[1] Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, SEPTEMBER 1, 1990 [1]

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1989	1990 [2]	Chg.	1989	1990 [2]	Chg.	1989	1990 [2]	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
Northwest	388	1,070	276	2,082	1,514	73	3,618	2,900	80
North Central	22,600	51,790	229	51,102	36,252	71	35,648	29,600	83
Northeast	3,947	7,190	182	26,563	12,486	47	5,634	3,300	59
Central	14,116	16,330	116	4,425	2,520	57	13,033	8,800	68
Southwest	1,860	1,670	90	1,392	1,350	97	4,290	3,100	72
South Central	7,481	9,250	124	1,563	1,650	106	4,455	3,200	72
Southeast	3,608	3,700	103	3,903	4,218	108	2,122	1,600	75
MONTANA	54,000	91,000	169	91,030	59,990	66	68,800	52,500	76

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

AUGUST PRICES RECEIVED

Montana grain prices fell in August to their lowest level since early 1988. The State's all wheat price during mid-August, at $2.79 per bushel, was down 43 cents from July, and $1.02 below August 1989. Barley, at $1.96 per bushel, was down 46 cents from a month earlier and 67 cents below last year.

Cattle prices in Montana continue at high levels. The mid-August calf price, at $99.00 per cwt, is a record high and compares with $91.80 for August 1989. Cows, at $54.40, are down slightly from July but are $5.90 above last year. Steers and heifers, at $81.60, are the highest since February and are $5.20 above last year.

Montana's August all farm products index, at 165, is down 2 points from July and is 11 points under a year ago, mainly due to falling grain prices. The all crops price index, at 119, compares with 138 in July and 160 last August. The livestock and products index, at 207, compares with 193 in July and 189 a year ago. The rise in the livestock index was tempered by lower prices for hogs.

Nationally, the August all farm products index of prices received decreased 2 points from July to 150 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lower prices for hogs, grapefruit, and corn were partially offset by higher prices for cattle, eggs, and milk. The beef cattle price, at $75.40 per cwt, was a record high. The milk price was a record for August.

The all crops index was 126, down 3.1 percent from July and 1.6 percent below a year earlier. Wheat and feed grains were below the previous month. Soybeans were up from July.

The livestock and products index, at 174, was up 0.6 percent from July and increased 8.1 percent from August 1989. Compared with July, higher prices for beef cattle, calves, milk, and eggs more than offset lower prices for hogs and broilers.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Aug. 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1990	MONTANA Aug. 15, 1990	U.S. Aug. 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.82	3.01	2.59	2.59
Durum	Bu.	3.65	3.28	2.63	2.56
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.81	3.29	2.88	2.60
All Wheat	Bu.	3.81	3.22	2.79	2.59
Barley, All	Bu.	2.61	2.40	1.96	2.10
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.87
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.43
Oats	Bu.	1.24	1.29	1.18	1.09
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	68.00	67.00	90.30
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	57.00	57.00	65.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	67.00	66.00	84.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	76.40	80.00	81.60	78.80
Cows	Cwt.	48.50	54.70	54.40	54.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	63.80	63.10	70.70	75.40
Calves	Cwt.	91.80	98.00	99.00	98.50
Sheep	Cwt.	18.20	17.10	19.60	23.90
Lambs	Cwt.	67.60	52.10	52.10	53.30
Hogs	Cwt.	40.80	56.60	53.70	56.00
All Milk	Cwt.	12.95	13.95	14.45	14.40
Eggs	Doz.	.65	.55	.68	.66
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.40	.80	.80	.74
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	176	167	165	150
All Crops	Pct.	160	138	119	126
Livestock & Products	Pct.	189	193	207	174

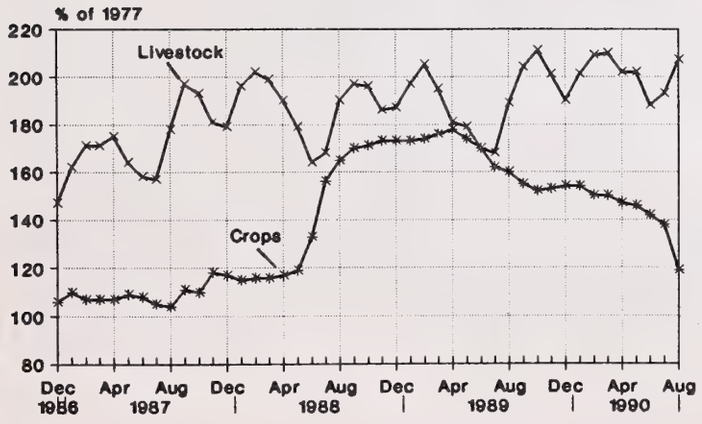
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

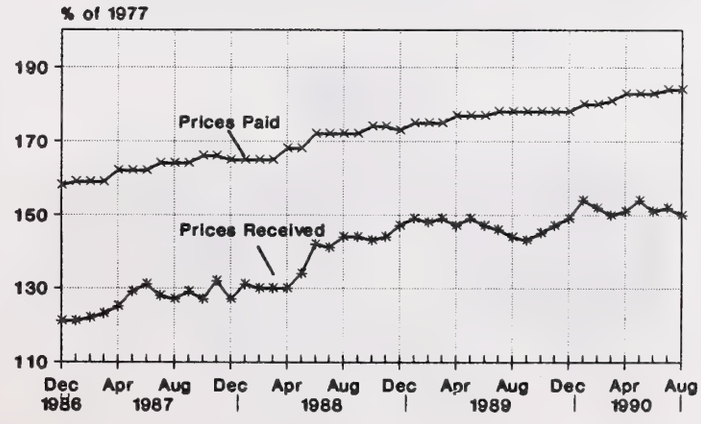
INDEX 1977=100	July 1989	Aug. 1989	July 1990	Aug. 1990
Prices Received	147	145	152	150
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	178	2/178	184	3/184
Ratio 1/	83	81	83	82

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ July 1989 prices paid index. 3/ July 1990 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations in December 1989-May 1990, at 57.2 million bushels, was 42 percent above the same period last year. Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 1.0 million bushels, 2.8 times more than last year. Movement to the west was up 41 percent, at 55.7 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly south and southeast of Montana, received .5 million bushels--up 9 percent from last year.

Rail movement amounted to 50.6 million bushels--88 percent of total shipments compared with 86 percent in the 1988-89 period.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations, December 1989-May 1990, was 21.9 million bushels, up 27 percent from the same period last year. Shipments to western destinations were up 77 percent and eastern destinations were down 30 percent. Barley hauled by rail was 91 percent of total movement, one percent more than the 1988-89 period.

WHEAT SHIPPED OUT OF STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE, AND DESTINATION [1]

Agricultural Statistics District	Dec. 1988 -May 1989 All Wheat	December 1989-May 1990 Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat [2]	All Wheat	Dec. 1988 -May 1989 Barley	Dec. 1989 -May 1990 Barley
		--(000) bushels--				
West [3]	1,515	472	1,258	1,730	4,393	5,295
North Central	21,834	10,055	21,294	31,349	9,244	11,245
Northeast	5,729	719	5,541	6,260	384	533
Central	8,430	7,767	3,570	11,337	3,136	4,641
South Central	2,159	3,787	531	4,318	8	222
Southeast	708	1,428	758	2,186	51	2
Trucked East	173	72	168	240	403	329
Trucked West	5,185	3,400	2,696	6,096	1,053	1,249
Trucked Other [4]	463	119	155	274	240	370
Total By Truck	5,821	3,591	3,019	6,610	1,696	1,948
Rail East	175	15	707	722	6,190	4,281
Rail West	34,354	20,594	28,998	49,592	8,352	15,375
Rail Other [4]	25	28	228	256	978	335
Total By Rail	34,554	20,637	29,933	50,570	15,520	19,991
Total Shipped	40,375	24,228	32,952	57,180	17,216	21,939

[1] This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. [2] Includes durum. [3] Northwest and Southwest combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4] Other and unknown.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Egg Production
Slaughter
Grain Stocks

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

ISSUE: 90-16 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: August 30, 1990

301 S. PARK
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HELENA, MONTANA 59604

HIGHLIGHTS:

July Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
All Hay County Estimates
Farm Labor
July Egg Production
July Milk Production

PLEASE RETURN

JULY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in July 1990. This production is 8 percent more than last month and 21 percent more than July 1989.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,500 head, is up 200 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,094 pounds, up 156 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter at 2,100 head, was down 100 head from last year. Average liveweight was 228 pounds, down 5 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in July 1990 totaled 3.10 billion pounds, up 2 percent from last year. January-July red meat production, at 22.2 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: Beef, down slightly; veal, down 12; pork, down 3; lamb and mutton, up 8. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

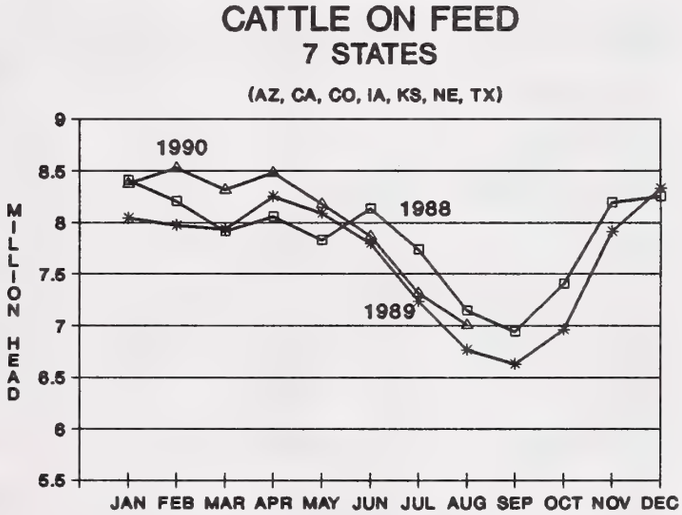
7 STATE CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed August 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.00 million head, up 4 percent from a year ago but 2 percent below August 1, 1988.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during July totaled 1.75 million, up 3 percent from last year but 2 percent below two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during July totaled 1.52 million, up 18 percent from last year and 22 percent above July 1988. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.44 million for July were 18 percent above last year and 21 percent above 1988.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 77 thousand head compared to 63 thousand in July 1989 and 62 thousand in July 1988.



ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1989

COUNTY & DISTRICT	TOTAL			IRRIGATED		NON-IRRIGATED	
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre
		-----Tons-----			-Tons-		-Tons-
Deer Lodge	11,000	2.5	28,000	11,000	2.5	0	0.0
Flathead	35,000	2.3	81,500	19,500	2.9	15,500	1.6
Granite	32,000	2.2	71,000	31,000	2.3	1,000	1.0
Lake	67,000	2.5	165,000	49,000	3.0	18,000	1.1
Lincoln	13,000	2.2	28,500	8,500	2.7	4,500	1.2
Mineral	3,500	1.7	6,000	1,500	2.7	2,000	1.0
Missoula	28,000	2.2	62,500	22,500	2.4	5,500	1.4
Powell	59,000	2.2	130,000	53,500	2.3	5,500	1.1
Ravalli	44,500	3.1	136,500	43,000	3.1	1,500	1.0
Sanders	37,000	1.9	71,000	20,500	2.8	16,500	0.8
NORTHWEST	**330,000**	**2.4**	**780,000**	**260,000**	**2.7**	**70,000**	**1.1**
Blaine	41,000	2.1	86,000	23,000	2.7	18,000	1.3
Chouteau	31,000	2.0	61,000	11,500	2.7	19,500	1.5
Glacier	29,000	1.9	56,500	12,500	2.8	16,500	1.3
Hill	16,500	1.6	26,500	3,000	2.8	13,500	1.3
Liberty	6,500	1.6	10,500	1,000	2.5	5,500	1.5
Phillips	65,000	1.8	116,500	31,500	2.5	33,500	1.1
Pondera	24,000	2.2	52,500	12,000	3.0	12,000	1.4
Teton	48,000	2.4	117,000	31,500	3.0	16,500	1.3
Toole	14,000	1.7	23,500	3,000	3.0	11,000	1.3
NORTH CENTRAL	**275,000**	**2.0**	**550,000**	**129,000**	**2.8**	**146,000**	**1.3**
Daniels	24,500	0.9	23,000	1,500	2.7	23,000	0.8
Dawson	42,000	1.3	56,000	7,000	2.9	35,000	1.0
Garfield	27,000	1.3	35,000	3,500	2.6	23,500	1.1
McCone	47,000	1.3	62,500	5,000	2.5	42,000	1.2
Richland	44,500	1.4	64,500	8,000	3.2	36,500	1.1
Roosevelt	40,000	1.3	52,500	8,000	2.7	32,000	1.0
Sheridan	35,000	1.1	40,000	5,000	2.8	30,000	0.9
Valley	58,000	1.8	101,500	27,000	2.7	31,000	0.9
NORTHEAST	**318,000**	**1.4**	**435,000**	**65,000**	**2.8**	**253,000**	**1.0**
Broadwater	27,500	2.8	78,000	25,500	3.0	2,000	1.0
Cascade	68,000	1.7	113,000	14,000	2.7	54,000	1.4
Fergus	121,000	1.7	203,000	16,000	2.4	105,000	1.6
Golden Valley	17,500	1.9	32,500	7,000	2.9	10,500	1.2
Judith Basin	54,000	1.7	94,000	8,000	2.6	46,000	1.6
Lewis & Clark	42,000	2.4	101,000	29,000	2.8	13,000	1.5
Meagher	44,000	1.9	85,500	35,000	2.1	9,000	1.2
Musselshell	31,000	1.5	46,500	7,500	2.8	23,500	1.1
Petroleum	17,000	2.0	33,500	9,500	2.5	7,500	1.3
Wheatland	20,000	2.1	41,000	13,500	2.4	6,500	1.4
CENTRAL	**442,000**	**1.9**	**828,000**	**165,000**	**2.6**	**277,000**	**1.4**
Beaverhead	146,000	2.1	303,000	140,000	2.1	6,000	1.0
Gallatin	77,000	2.5	191,500	53,000	3.0	24,000	1.4
Jefferson	34,000	2.3	77,000	28,000	2.5	6,000	1.2
Madison	95,000	2.4	231,500	88,000	2.5	7,000	1.1
Silver Bow	8,000	2.4	19,000	7,000	2.6	1,000	1.0
SOUTHWEST	**360,000**	**2.3**	**822,000**	**316,000**	**2.4**	**44,000**	**1.3**
Big Horn	64,000	2.0	125,500	21,000	3.3	43,000	1.3
Carbon	52,000	2.2	114,500	36,000	2.6	16,000	1.2
Park	59,000	2.3	137,000	52,000	2.5	7,000	1.4
Stillwater	56,000	1.5	86,500	17,500	2.6	38,500	1.1
Sweet Grass	52,000	1.9	97,000	29,000	2.4	23,000	1.2
Treasure	12,000	2.3	28,000	6,500	3.1	5,500	1.5
Yellowstone	55,000	2.1	114,500	26,000	3.1	29,000	1.2
SOUTH CENTRAL	**350,000**	**2.0**	**703,000**	**188,000**	**2.7**	**162,000**	**1.2**
Carter	58,000	0.9	54,500	2,500	2.8	55,500	0.9
Custer	36,000	1.7	61,500	10,500	3.2	25,500	1.1
Fallon	46,000	0.9	42,500	2,500	2.2	43,500	0.9
Powder River	48,000	1.3	64,000	11,000	2.4	37,000	1.0
Prairie	18,000	1.4	26,000	5,000	2.8	13,000	0.9
Rosebud	47,000	1.7	81,500	19,000	2.8	28,000	1.0
Wibaux	22,000	1.0	22,000	1,500	2.3	20,500	0.9
SOUTHEAST	**275,000**	**1.3**	**352,000**	**52,000**	**2.7**	**223,000**	**0.9**
MONTANA	**2,350,000**	**1.9**	**4,470,000**	**1,175,000**	**2.6**	**1,175,000**	**1.2**

NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWN, WAGE RATES INCREASE

There were 3.69 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 1990. This number was down 3 percent from the 3.80 million workers during the comparable week in 1989. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.62 million of the total, along with 605,000 unpaid workers, and 1.11 million workers hired directly by the farm operators. Agricultural service employees made up the remaining 356,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their workers an average rate of $5.30 per hour during the July 1990 survey week. This rate was up 7 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid an hourly wage earned $5.06 compared with $5.08 last July. Field workers received an average of $5.05 per hour, up 9 cents from the July 1989 week. Livestock workers earned $4.90 compared with $4.79 per hour a year earlier.

Self-employed operators worked an average of 40.7 hours, 1.0 hour less than the comparable week in 1989. Unpaid workers averaged 37.9 hours, 0.5 hour below last year. Hired employees worked 39.9 hours compared with 39.6 hours last July.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 43 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. This compares with 45 percent during the July 1989 survey week. The Farm Costs and Returns Survey, conducted in February 1990, showed that the value of Social Security taxes, insurance, and retirement benefits was 12 percent of the $11.3 billion spent on farm labor during 1989. This compares with 12 percent of the $10.2 billion labor expenditure in 1988. In addition, workers received housing, food, transportation, and other non-cash benefits during 1989 valued at $468.7 million.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JULY 8-14, 1990 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	5.38	4.65	5.08	7.48	7.43	5.60	3/	4.95
NORTHEAST II	5.20	4.65	5.03	7.97	6.89	5.34	6.44	5.39
APPALACHIAN I	4.40	4.87	4.48	6.48	3/	4.36	5.41	5.14
APPALACHIAN II	4.75	4.82	4.78	8.28	3/	4.85	3/	5.25
SOUTHEAST	4.10	5.05	4.23	7.43	3/	4.24	3/	5.39
FLORIDA	5.32	5.59	5.36	9.77	7.98	5.48	5.51	6.82
LAKE	5.06	4.26	4.75	6.91	7.36	4.95	6.19	4.84
CORNBELT I	5.18	4.93	5.09	7.19	6.10	5.28	3/	5.79
CORNBELT II	4.49	4.81	4.61	6.09	3/	4.69	3/	5.18
DELTA	4.41	4.30	4.39	8.27	3/	4.28	5.01	5.06
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.05	5.29	5.08	3/	3/	5.24	3/	5.02
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.32	4.26	4.30	7.36	3/	4.29	3/	5.18
MOUNTAIN I	4.58	4.83	4.69	3/	3/	4.98	3/	4.58
MOUNTAIN II	4.71	4.95	4.77	7.50	3/	4.73	3/	5.48
MOUNTAIN III	4.51	5.16	4.71	7.94	3/	4.79	3/	5.96
PACIFIC	5.25	6.33	5.30	9.19	3/	5.16	5.96	7.42
CALIFORNIA	5.68	6.64	5.78	10.84	3/	5.52	7.52	9.33
HAWAII	7.97	3/	7.88	13.18	3/	8.08	3/	11.45
U. S.	5.05	4.90	5.02	7.93	7.32	5.06	6.13	5.75

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

JULY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.72 billion during July 1990, up 2 percent from the 5.63 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.93 billion for table eggs, 727 million for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 69 million for egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during July averaged 266 million, up fractionally from a year ago. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,150 eggs, compared with 2,117 in July 1989.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 1990 totaled 267 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 267 million layers consisted of 226 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 37.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.08 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 1990 averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from last year's 67.9 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.72 billion eggs during July, up 1 percent from the 4.66 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during July averaged 220 million, down fractionally from a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 83 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, March through May 1990.

JULY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during July totaled 10.7 billion pounds, 5 percent above production in these same states in July 1989. June revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds, was 4 percent above June 1989.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,258 pounds for July, 59 pounds more than July 1989. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.51 million head, 4 thousand less than June 1990 but 17 thousand head more than July 1989.

During the April-June period, the 21 major states produced 32.8 billion pounds of milk, 85.0 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.6 billion pounds for July 1990.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Ag Prices Received
Manufactured Dairy Products
Wheat & Barley Movement
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat & Barley Varieties
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Crop Production
Monthly Ag Prices
June U.S. Manufactured Dairy

WHEAT and BARLEY VARIETIES

Montana's wheat and barley varieties report was made possible with funds provided by the **Montana Wheat & Barley Committee** and the American Malting Barley Improvement Association, Inc. A more detailed varietal report may be obtained from our office upon request.

AUGUST 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition on August 1, at 75 percent of normal, was down 8 points (10 percent) from a month earlier. This was 13 points under last year. Hot and dry weather during July was hard on ranges and except for high elevation pastures, grass growth deteriorated. Where grass growth had been lush earlier, fire danger became a major concern.

MONTANA, August 1, 1990
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION
By Districts as a Percent of Normal

District	1988	1989	1990
Northwest	69	86	92
North Central	23	90	77
Northeast	23	71	38
Central	41	95	83
Southwest	47	78	82
South Central	39	95	85
Southeast	18	90	69
Montana	36	88	75

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY VARIETIES 1986-1990

	PERCENT OF TOTAL SEEDED ACREAGE				
VARIETY	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
WINTER WHEAT					
Neeley	9.0	13.7	25.5	22.8	25.3
Redwin	25.9	21.5	19.6	19.8	14.3
Rocky	9.0	8.7	9.0	12.0	10.4
Tiber	--	--	0.3	1.9	9.4
Winalta	13.8	11.2	9.8	9.7	8.2
Norstar	12.7	11.3	8.7	7.6	7.2
Cree	2.6	4.2	2.9	3.1	3.9
Centurk	7.2	6.1	3.8	3.0	2.7
Roughrider	2.6	4.5	4.1	2.0	1.9
Cheyenne	2.4	3.4	1.7	1.4	1.7
Sage	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.6	1.5
Weston	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.6	1.4
Other & Unknown	13.7	13.8	12.4	14.5	12.1
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
SPRING WHEAT					
Newana	22.9	21.0	16.2	19.3	17.3
Rambo	--	0.4	6.6	8.4	16.9
Lew	11.5	10.4	10.4	9.7	11.4
Len	11.9	11.3	15.1	16.1	11.0
Stoa	4.4	4.2	10.3	8.0	9.3
Fortuna	18.2	19.7	11.8	13.8	9.1
Amidon (ND 606)	--	--	--	0.6	4.6
Olaf	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.2	4.1
Pondera	1.9	3.0	1.8	2.5	2.1
Glenman	0.3	1.7	1.1	2.2	1.6
Other & Unknown	23.2	22.6	20.8	13.2	12.6
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
DURUM WHEAT					
Vic	29.6	52.1	29.7	27.4	24.6
Medora	--	1.4	8.6	7.8	19.6
Monroe	--	0.3	6.1	8.3	14.4
Westbred Laker	0.3	3.0	4.0	15.2	11.4
Ward	19.5	12.3	17.0	18.5	10.5
Crosby	8.3	9.9	14.7	6.3	4.4
Wakooma	--	--	0.7	1.3	4.1
Other & Unknown	42.3	21.0	19.2	15.2	11.0
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
BARLEY					
Harrington	1.9	9.4	10.5	15.6	23.1
Hector	33.9	31.9	31.8	29.8	22.2
Piroline	18.7	13.0	11.3	7.3	7.5
Klages	11.5	14.6	11.0	9.8	7.3
Gallatin	--	0.1	2.6	6.0	5.5
Clark	16.7	10.9	6.7	7.2	4.6
Morex	0.8	1.2	1.9	2.3	4.2
Moravian III	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.2	2.6
Bowman	1.7	2.9	5.1	3.0	2.5
AB 1202	--	--	0.3	1.2	2.4
Lewis	0.6	1.8	3.2	2.4	2.1
AB 2601	--	--	--	1.4	2.1
Kimberly	1.1	2.7	2.5	2.4	1.9
Other & Unknown	12.7	11.0	12.1	10.4	12.0
STATE TOTAL	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

PLEASE RETURN

AUGUST 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's all wheat August 1 forecast is 148.3 million bushels, down 2 percent from the July estimate. Hot and dry weather conditions along with some hail damage reduced winter wheat production to 91.0 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July estimate. Spring wheat, however, remains unchanged at 54.0 million bushels. Forecast durum wheat production is holding steady from the July 1 estimate at 3.29 million bushels. The state's all wheat crop forecast is up 2 percent from last year's final production figures. Yield prospects on August 1 were 35 bushels for winter wheat, 20 bushels for spring wheat, and 14 bushels for durum wheat.

The state's barley crop is forecast at 52.5 million bushels, unchanged from July 1. Barley yield is estimated to be 35 bushels per acre. Oats production is forecast at 4.2 million bushels, down 2 percent from last month. Hay production in Montana, at 4.37 million tons, is down 2 percent from last year. Alfalfa hay is forecast at 2.9 million tons, while other hay is estimated to be 1.47 million tons.

United States all wheat production is forecast at 2.71 billion bushels, up 33 percent from 1989 and up fractionally from July 1. Average yield is 38.7 bushels per acre, 0.1 of a bushel higher than July 1 and 5.9 bushels more than last year.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 2.05 billion bushels, up 41 percent from 1989 and up 1 percent from July 1. Durum wheat production is now forecast at 108 million bushels, up 17 percent from 1989 but down 7 percent from the July 1 forecast. Other spring wheat production for 1990 is now forecast at 543 million bushels, down 1 percent from July 1 but up 11 percent from 1989.

Barley production is forecast at 403 million bushels, down 3 percent from last month, but virtually unchanged from the 1989 crop. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 52.0 bushels, compared with last season's 48.6 bushels. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 7.75 million acres, is 7 percent below last year's 8.30 million acres. Yields in Minnesota and North Dakota are up 5 and 11 bushels, respectively, from last year.

All hay production, at 148 million tons, is up 2 percent from 1989. Higher yields, partially offset by lower acreage, have resulted in the larger hay crop.

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--AUGUST 1, 1990

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,500	2,700	1,500	2,600	36.0	35.0	54,000	91,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	340	245	335	235	18.0	14.0	6,030	3,290
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,500	2,800	3,400	2,700	25.0	20.0	85,000	54,000
All Wheat	Bu.	6,340	5,745	5,235	5,535	27.7	27.0	145,030	148,290
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	80	65	4	6	80.0	93.0	320	558
Oats	Bu.	250	160	145	105	46.0	40.0	6,670	4,200
Barley	Bu.	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,500	43.0	35.0	68,800	52,500
Dry Beans	Cwt.	6.0	14.5	5.9	14.0	22.0	23.0	130	322
Sugarbeets	Ton	52.7	55.4	51.9	55.0	19.9	20.0	1,033	1,100
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.2	9.0	8.1	8.9	275.0	3/	2,228	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,350	1,450	2.20	2.00	2,970	2,900
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,050	1.50	1.40	1,500	1,470
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,350	2,500	1.90	1.75	4,470	4,370
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	55,091	57,028	41,469	50,102	35.1	41.0	1,453,842	2,054,287
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,791	3,570	3,673	3,500	25.1	30.9	92,229	108,019
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,733	16,728	17,007	16,284	28.8	33.4	489,747	543,252
All Wheat	Bu.	76,615	77,326	62,149	69,886	32.8	38.7	2,035,818	2,705,558
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	72,296	74,474	64,781	66,706	116.2	117.7	7,527,152	7,850,164
Oats	Bu.	12,080	10,420	6,874	6,187	54.4	59.0	373,778	365,337
Barley	Bu.	9,175	8,277	8,303	7,746	48.6	52.0	403,443	402,513
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,857.6	2,219.0	1,689.9	2,127.9	14.40	15.76	24,333	33,541
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,324.2	1,397.1	1,294.7	1,377.2	19.4	20.4	25,129	28,107
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,101.8	1,166.0	1,086.4	1,151.8	299.0	3/	324,726	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,939	24,925	2.98	3.30	77,208	82,167
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,456	36,809	1.82	1.80	68,237	66,295
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,395	61,734	2.29	2.40	145,445	148,462

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available November 8, 1990.

JULY AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

The July index of prices received by **Montana** farmers and ranchers was down 5 points from the previous month. The index was 3 points below a year ago, at 162 percent of its January-December 1977 average.

The all crops index dropped 16 points from June and is 36 points below the July 1989 index. Winter wheat led the month to month decline, falling off 56 cents per bushel; durum was down 42 cents; other spring wheat, down 36 cents; barley, down 28 cents and oats, off 8 cents. Alfalfa hay was up $1.00 per ton from June and averaged $68.00--the same as July 1989.

The livestock and products index only partially offset the crops decline as advancing livestock prices pushed the livestock index up 6 points over June. Mid-July cow prices were up $1.30 per cwt, calves were up $2.40, sheep were up $.30 per cwt, and milk was up $.85 per cwt.

Steer and heifer prices were down $.20 per cwt but were still $5.90 per cwt above a year ago. Lambs were down $1.60 from June and down $7.40 from last years July level. Hogs were down $.10 from June but $20.60 above July last year. Eggs were down 7 cents per dozen and 15 cents below a year ago.

The July all farm products index of prices received by **U.S.** farmers was unchanged from June, at 151 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Lettuce, apples, and milk increased in price while cattle, wheat, and eggs were lower. The index was 4 points above a year ago. Higher hog, cattle, and milk prices contributed to the increase over a year earlier while wheat, soybeans, and potatoes were lower.

The July index of prices paid for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates was 184 percent of its 1977 average. The index was 1 point above April of this year and 6 points above July 1989. Since surveyed in April, higher prices for feeder cattle and calves, corn and commercial feeds, and gasoline were partially offset by lower prices for feeder pigs, diesel fuel, alfalfa hay, and building materials.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. July 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1990	MONTANA July 15, 1990	U.S. July 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.98	3.37	2.81	2.78
Durum	Bu.	3.79	3.38	2.96	3.05
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.04	3.40	3.04	2.96
All Wheat	Bu.	4.00	3.39	2.97	2.81
Barley, All	Bu.	2.15	2.19	1.91	2.01
Feed	Bu.	–	–	–	1.97
Malt	Bu.	–	–	–	2.07
Oats	Bu.	1.85	1.26	1.18	1.22
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	68.00	67.00	68.00	93.50
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	57.00	57.00	65.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	67.00	66.00	67.00	85.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	69.20	75.30	75.10	75.40
Cows	Cwt.	48.00	55.10	56.40	53.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	55.20	60.60	62.90	72.40
Calves	Cwt.	83.90	96.40	98.80	97.00
Sheep	Cwt.	19.40	17.10	17.40	21.70
Lambs	Cwt.	65.50	59.70	58.10	55.10
Hogs	Cwt.	37.40	58.10	58.00	60.10
All Milk	Cwt.	12.40	13.10	13.95	14.10
Eggs	Doz.	.70	.62	.55	.56
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.41	.80	.80	.80
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	165	167	162	151
All Crops	Pct.	162	142	126	131
Livestock & Products	Pct.	168	188	194	171

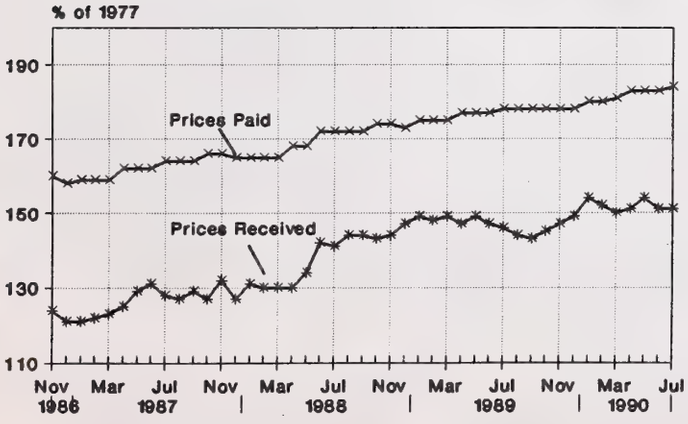
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

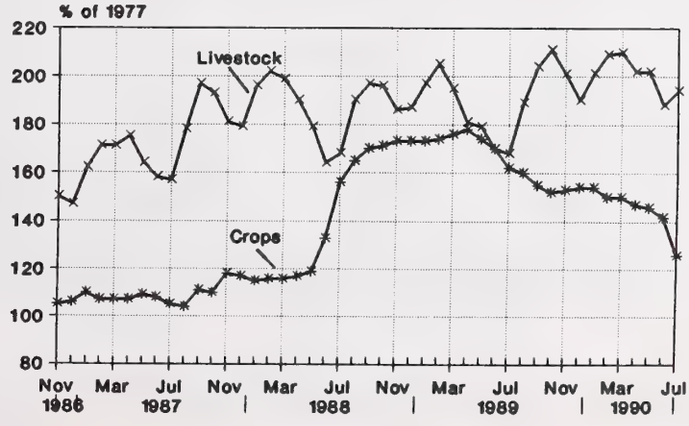
INDEX 1977=100	June 1989	July 1989	June 1990	July 1990
Prices Received	148	147	151	151
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/177	178	3/183	184
Ratio 1/	84	83	83	82

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1989 prices paid index. 3/ April 1990 prices paid index.

UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1990 [1]

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1989	1990 [2]	Chg.	1989	1990 [2]	Chg.	1989	1990 [2]	Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
Northwest	388	1,070	276	2,082	1,534	74	3,618	3,570	99
North Central	22,600	51,790	229	51,102	33,672	66	35,648	29,000	81
Northeast	3,947	7,190	182	26,563	12,906	49	5,634	3,410	61
Central	14,116	16,330	116	4,425	2,110	48	13,033	8,110	62
Southwest	1,860	1,670	90	1,392	1,450	104	4,290	3,540	83
South Central	7,481	9,250	124	1,563	1,470	94	4,455	3,150	71
Southeast	3,608	3,700	103	3,903	4,148	106	2,122	1,720	81
MONTANA	54,000	91,000	169	91,030	57,290	63	68,800	52,500	76

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

JUNE U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter production was 95.9 million pounds in June, 1 percent below June 1989 and 20 percent below May 1990. American-type cheese production totaled 253 million pounds, 8 percent above June 1989 but 5 percent below May 1990.

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 529 million pounds, 9 percent above June 1989 but 3 percent below May 1990.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 45.4 million pounds, 11 percent below June 1989 and 9 percent below May 1990.

Lowfat cottage cheese production was 26.6 million pounds, virtually unchanged from June 1989 but 5 percent below May 1990.

Canned evaporated and condensed milk production, at 53.7 million pounds, was 3 percent above June 1989 and 7 percent above May 1990.

Frozen desserts: (comparisons with June 1989)
Ice cream (hard)--78.4 million gallons, down 3 percent.
Ice milk--35.8 million gallons, down 13 percent.
Sherbet (hard)--4.81 million gallons, down 14 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates
Farm Labor
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Cattle Inventory
Quarterly Cattle on Feed
June Red Meat Production
April-June Milk Production
Farm Numbers & Land in Farms
Mink Pelt Production
June Egg Production
featuring...Daniels County

U.S. CATTLE INVENTORY UNCHANGED

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of July 1, 1990, totaled 108.9 million head, virtually unchanged from the July 1 level of both a year ago and two years ago. This is the second consecutive year that the inventory level has shown a small increase in number.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 44.4 million, were up fractionally from 44.3 million on both July 1, 1989, and two years ago.

- Beef cows, at 34.3 million, were up slightly from July 1, 1989, and 1 percent above July 1988.
- Milk cows, at 10.1 million, were unchanged from July 1, 1989, but 1 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1990, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, up 1 percent and 2 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.20 million, up 4 percent and 8 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.30 million, down 4 percent and 2 percent.
- Other heifers, 7.30 million, up 1 percent and unchanged.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.7 million, up 1 percent from both years.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.20 million, unchanged from both years.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.8 million, down fractionally and 1 percent.

U.S. CALF CROP DOWN FRACTIONALLY

The 1990 calf crop is expected to be 40.0 million, down fractionally from 1989 and 1 percent below 1988. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.9 million, down 1 percent from a year ago and 1988.

CATTLE & CALVES: NUMBER BY CLASS & CALF CROP, UNITED STATES, JULY 1, 1988-90

CLASS	1988	1989	1990	1990 AS % 1989
		1,000 Head		Percent
Cattle and Calves	108,500	108,600	108,900	100
Cows and Heifers that have calved:	44,300	44,300	44,400	100
Beef cows	34,050	34,200	34,300	100
Milk cows	10,250	10,100	10,100	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over	16,500	16,700	16,800	101
for Beef cow replacement	4,800	5,000	5,200	104
for Milk cow replacement	4,400	4,500	4,300	96
Other Heifers	7,300	7,200	7,300	101
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,500	14,500	14,700	101
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,200	2,200	2,200	100
Calves under 500 pounds	31,000	30,900	30,800	100
Calf crop 1/	40,588	40,142	40,000	100

1/ For the current year, the calf crop is the number of calves born before July 1 plus the number expected to be born on and after July 1.

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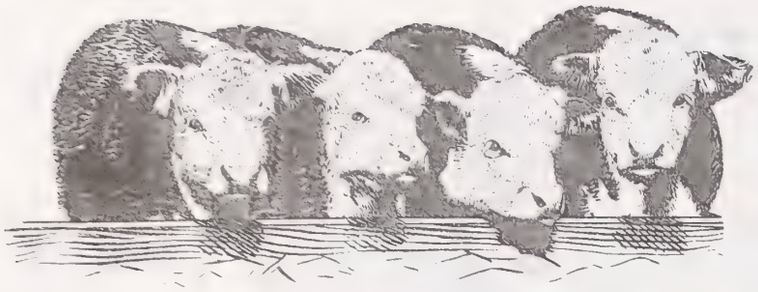


CATTLE ON FEED UP 1 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed July 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly states totaled 8.76 million head, up 1 percent from July 1, 1989, but 6 percent below 1988.

The cattle on feed inventory included 5.63 million steers and steer calves, 3 percent above last year but 6 percent below 1988. This group represented 64 percent of the total July number on feed, compared to 63 percent last year and 64 percent in 1988. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.09 million, 3 percent below last year and 6 percent below 1988.

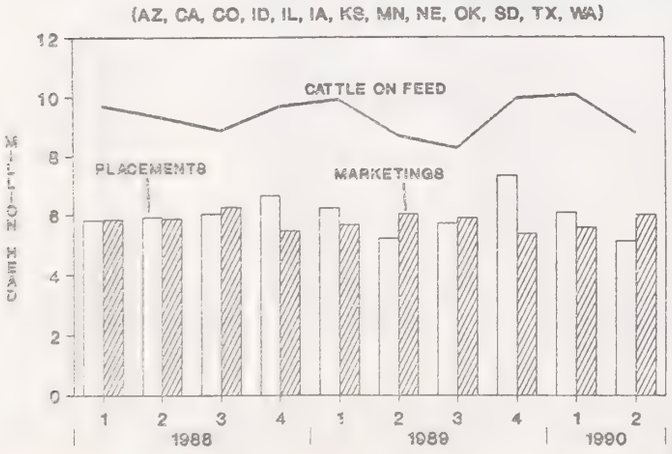
Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the April-June 1990 quarter totaled 5.11 million, down 2 percent from 1989 and 14 percent below 1988. This is the lowest April-June placement total since 1975. Other disappearance of 400 thousand head leaves net placements at 4.71 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 6.01 million, slightly below 1989 but 2 percent above the same period in 1988.

EXPECTED MARKETINGS FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER UP SLIGHTLY

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.91 million head during the July-September quarter of 1990. This would be up fractionally from the third quarter marketings in 1989 but 6 percent below 1988.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in June 1990. This production is down 9 percent from last month and down 5 percent from June 1989.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,500, is down 100 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,079 pounds, up slightly from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 1,600 head, was down 600 head from last year. Average liveweight was 239 pounds, up 3 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in June 1990 totaled 3.17 billion pounds, down 5 percent from last year. January-June red meat production, at 19.1 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 1; veal, down 13; pork, down 3; lamb and mutton, up 8. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughter on farms.

APRIL-JUNE MILK PRODUCTION

Milk cows on **Montana** farms produced 86 million pounds of milk in the April-June quarter of 1990. This production is up 2 percent from the comparable period in 1989. The number of milk cows on farms for the quarter was 24,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 3,600 pounds for the three months, up 3 percent from last year.

Montana dairymen fed 15 pounds of grain concentrates per milk cow daily for the quarter, up a half pound from the same quarter last year. The value of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows was $7.00 per cwt, down 40 cents from last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the **U.S.** was 38.5 billion pounds, 2 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 10.1 million head, 8 thousand head above the same period last year.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on July 1, 1990, averaged 17.3 pounds, 0.2 pound above July 1, 1989.

The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on July 1 averaged $8.11 per cwt, $0.11 below the July 1, 1989 price.

MONTANA FARM NUMBERS UNCHANGED--U.S. DOWN 1 PERCENT

The number of **Montana** farms, at 24,700, remained unchanged from 1989. This discontinues a trend of slightly increased numbers of farms that began in 1975. Montana has 60.5 million acres in farms and ranches in 1990, down from 60.6 million in 1989. The average size of operation declined slightly to 2,449 acres, down from 2,453 acres last year.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 1990 is estimated at 2.14 million, down 1 percent from 1989. Total land in farms is 988 million acres, fractionally below last year. Since the number of farms has declined faster than land in farms, the average farm size increased from 457 acres in 1989 to 461.

	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
Year	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms	Number of Farms	All Land in Farms	Average size of Farms
	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres	Thousands	Million Acres	Acres
1983	24.1	61.3	2,544	2,378.6	1,023.4	430
1984	24.2	61.1	2,525	2,333.8	1,017.8	436
1985	24.3	61.0	2,510	2,292.5	1,012.1	441
1986	24.4	60.9	2,496	2,249.8	1,005.3	447
1987	24.5	60.8	2,482	2,213.0	998.9	451
1988	24.6	60.7	2,467	2,197.1	994.5	453
1989	24.7	60.6	2,453	2,170.5	991.2	457
1990	24.7	60.5	2,449	2,173.2	987.7	461

MINK PELT PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1989 totaled 4.60 million pelts, up 3 percent from 1988. Wisconsin, the major mink producing state, produced 1.16 million pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production was: standard--46 percent; ranch wild--12.7 percent; mahogany--11.5 percent; demi-buff--9.6 percent; and gunmetal--6.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 13.4 percent.

Mink pelts sold during the 1989 crop year were valued at $118.7 million dollars, down 17 percent from 143.8 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1989 crop year was $25.80, compared with $32.30 in 1988 and $43.00 in 1987.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1990 totaled 921 thousand, down 23 percent from 1989. Many mink producers reported the low mink price motivated them to "pelt out" and reduce or close out their mink operation.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1990 by color class are: standard--54.7 percent; ranch wild--10.5 percent; demi-buff--7.9 percent; gunmetal--7.8 percent; and mahogany--5.6 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 13.5 percent.

There were 952 mink farms producing pelts in 1989, down 7 percent from a year ago. Leading states were Wisconsin with 204 farms, Utah with 175 farms, and Minnesota with 119.

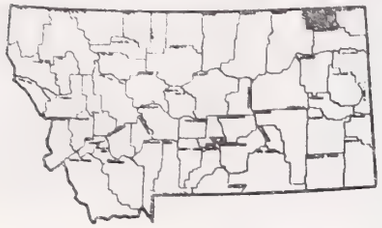
JUNE U.S. EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.54 billion during June 1990, up 1 percent from the 5.49 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.76 billion for table eggs, 710 million for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 69.0 million for egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during June averaged 267 million, up fractionally from a year ago. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,072 eggs, compared with 2,059 in June 1989.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1990 totaled 266 million, down fractionally from a year ago. The 266 million layers consisted of 225 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 37.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.13 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1990 averaged 69.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from last years 68.5 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.57 billion eggs during June, up 1 percent from the 4.54 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during June averaged 221 million, down fractionally from a year ago.

featuring...*DANIELS COUNTY*



Daniels County is situated in the northeastern corner of Montana, bordered on the south by the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and to the north by Canada. It was created in May of 1920 and covers approximately 913,216 acres of land. The land is characterized mainly by rolling prairie. The Poplar River, which eventually empties into the Missouri River, cuts through the middle of the county. The West Fork of the Poplar River crosses the southwestern corner of the county. Scobey is the county seat.

Daniels County has become a major spring and durum wheat producing area, ranking 6th for both crops in 1988 production. Other crops grown include barley and oats, along with some winter wheat and hay. Livestock raising is also a major part of the agricultural industry in Daniels County as it ranked 19th in hog numbers in the December 1, 1987 hog inventory. Sheep and cattle are also raised in the area.

Wheat and other crops produced in Daniels County brought in $10,392,000 in 1987 cash receipts. Livestock returned $4,479,000 the same year, while government payments added $11,176,000. The total cash return for Daniels County in 1987 was $26,047,000.

Daniels County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	913,216	Total Cropland	Acres	511,961
Land in Farms	Acres	780,023	Harvested Cropland	Acres	246,718
Number of Farms		381	Irrigated Land	Acres	999
Average size Farms	Acres	2,047			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	13,332	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	180,207	Calves	No. Head	11,275
Barley	Acres	39,518	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	2,186
Oats	Acres	3,116	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	4,722

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Ag Prices
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Dairy Products
Crop Production
  Grains & Hay
  Pasture & Range

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Production
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Monthly Prices Received
Manufactured Dairy Products

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JULY 1 CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST

Montana's all wheat crop was forecast at 150.9 million bushels on July 1, the sixth largest crop on record and up 4 percent from last year. This production level forecast is based on conditions as of July 1 and does not reflect conditions which have occurred since the first of the month in the major wheat growing areas.

A projected 73 percent increase in winter wheat harvested acreage resulted in the higher wheat crop production. By class, winter wheat production is forecast at 93.6 million bushels, up 73 percent from last year. Spring wheat production is estimated at 54.0 million bushels, down 36 percent from last year. Durum wheat production is estimated at 3.29 million bushels, down 45 percent from last year. Yield prospects on July 1 were 36 bushels per acre for winter wheat, 20 bushels for hard spring wheat, and 14 bushels for durum wheat.

Barley, second only to wheat as the State's most important crop, is forecast to be 52.5 million bushels, down 24 percent from last year. Barley yield is estimated to be 35 bushels to the acre. Oats production is forecast at 4.3 million bushels, 35 percent less than last year. Acres of hay for harvest, at 2.5 million acres, are up 6 percent from last year.

Winter wheat production for the **U.S.** is forecast as of July 1, at 2.04 billion bushels, up 40 percent from 1989. Yields are expected to average 40.6 bushels per acre, up 5.5 bushels from last year.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 549 million bushels, up 12 percent from 1989. If realized, this would be a record high production. Yields are forecast at 33.5 bushels per acre. This is 4.7 bushels per acre higher than last season's average yield.

Barley production is forecast at 414 million bushels. This is 3 percent above the 1989 production of 403 million bushels. Yields are expected to average 53.5 bushels per acre, 4.9 bushels more than last year.

Oat production is forecast at 375 million bushels, virtually the same as the 374 million bushels harvested last season. The expected yield per acre is forecast at 60.1 bushels compared with last season's average of 54.4 bushels.
(Tables on inside and back)

JULY 1 PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition was rated good to excellent (83 percent of normal) on July 1. This is a slight decrease from June 1. However, in the northeast district condition was rated severe drought. Compared with a year earlier, condition was down 11 points and reflect the dry condtions in the eastern part of the state. Cool and wet weather during most of June was conducive to good grass growth on pastures and ranges.

MONTANA, JULY 1, 1990
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION
By District as a Percent of Normal

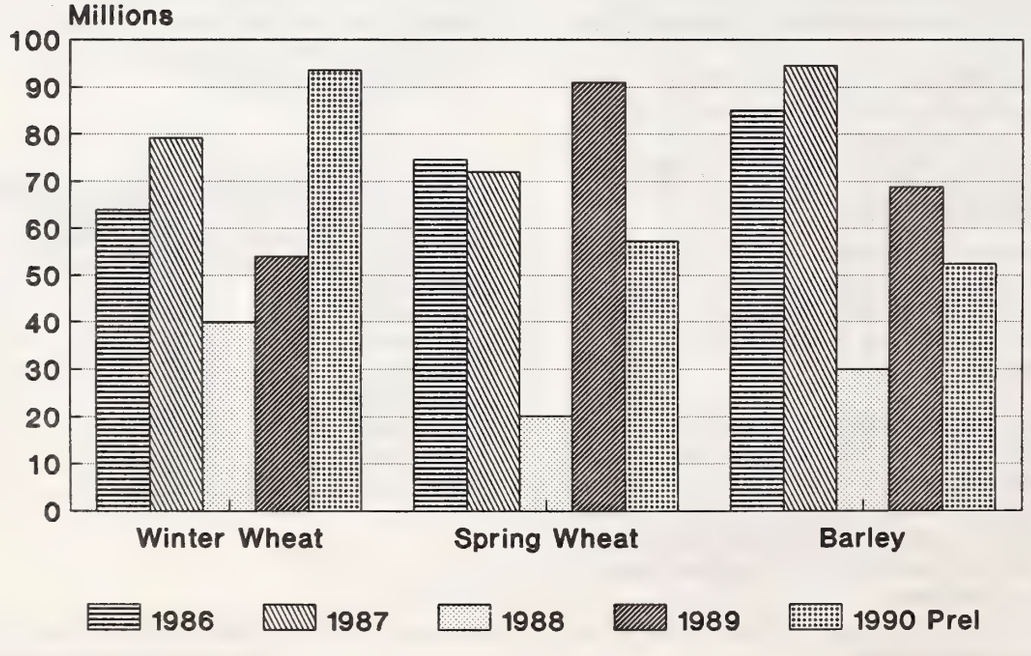
District	1988	1989	1990
Northwest	83	93	97
N. Central	24	96	84
Northeast	24	84	45
Central	49	96	94
Southwest	71	86	89
S. Central	53	97	92
Southeast	23	93	78
Montana	45	94	83

CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST--JULY 1, 1990

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,500	2,700	1,500	2,600	36.0	36.0	54,000	93,600
Durum Wheat	Bu.	340	245	335	235	18.0	14.0	6,030	3,290
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,500	2,800	3,400	2,700	25.0	20.0	85,000	54,000
All Wheat	Bu.	6,340	5,745	5,235	5,535	27.7	27.0	145,030	150,890
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	80	65	4	6	80.0	3/	320	3/
Oats	Bu.	250	160	145	105	46.0	41.0	6,670	4,305
Barley	Bu.	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,500	43.0	35.0	68,800	52,500
Dry Beans	Cwt.	6.0	14.5	5.9	14.0	22.0	3/	130	3/
Sugarbeets	Ton	52.7	55.4	51.9	55.0	19.9	3/	1,033	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.2	9.0	8.1	8.9	275.0	3/	2,228	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,350	1,450	2.20	3/	2,970	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,050	1.50	3/	1,500	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,350	2,500	1.90	3/	4,470	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	55,091	57,028	41,469	50,102	35.1	40.6	1,453,842	2,035,087
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,791	3,570	3,673	3,500	25.1	32.7	92,229	114,293
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,733	16,728	17,007	16,384	28.8	33.5	489,747	548,812
All Wheat	Bu.	76,615	77,326	62,149	69,986	32.8	38.6	2,035,818	2,698,192
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	72,296	74,574	64,781	67,116	116.2	3/	7,527,152	3/
Oats	Bu.	12,080	10,420	6,874	6,237	54.4	60.1	373,778	374,547
Barley	Bu.	9,175	8,277	8,303	7,746	48.6	53.5	403,443	414,350
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,857.6	2,192.0	1,689.9	2,102.9	14.40	3/	24,333	3/
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,332.8	1,397.1	1,294.7	1,477.3	19.6	3/	25,553	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,101.8	--	1,281.9	1360.6	289.0	3/	370,497	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,939	24,925	2.98	3/	77,208	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,456	36,809	1.82	3/	68,237	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,395	61,734	2.29	3/	145,445	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available August 9, 1990.

Montana Small Grains Production
July 1, 1990



JUNE AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana wheat prices have continued a downward trend which started last December. The mid-June all wheat price of $3.32 per bushel is 78 cents under June 1989. Montana farmers also received less for barley in June than a year ago--$2.22 per bushel compared with $2.41.

Livestock prices in Montana are mostly above last year's level. All beef cattle in June, at $63.00 per cwt, are $7.90 above last year and hogs, at $58.10 per cwt, are $21.30 higher than June 1989. Sheep, lambs, and wool are all down in price.

The Montana June index of prices received by farmers for all farm products was 168 percent of the 1977=100 base, down 2 points from last year. The all crops index was 140 compared with 170 a year ago, while the livestock and products index at 194 compares with 170 last year.

Nationally, the June all farm products index of prices received decreased 2 points from May to 152 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of oranges, wheat, hay, and soybeans were partially offset by higher prices for tomatoes, corn, eggs, and grapefruit.

Cattle, calf, hog, and lamb prices were lower than a month earlier but eggs and milk were higher. Wheat, oilseeds, and barley were lower while corn and sorghum increased in price from May.

The index was 4 points above a year ago. Higher hog, cattle, milk, and grapefruit prices were the major contributors to the increase over 1989. Soybeans, wheat, oranges, and broilers were lower.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. June 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. May 1990	MONTANA June 15, 1990	U.S. June 15, 1990
			--Dollars--		
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.09	3.51	3.26	3.10
Durum	Bu.	4.11	3.27	3.45	3.52
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.12	3.50	3.35	3.35
All Wheat	Bu.	4.10	3.50	3.32	3.15
Barley, All	Bu.	2.41	2.21	2.22	2.22
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.05
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.43
Oats	Bu.	1.90	1.29	1.20	1.37
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	86.00	68.00	67.00	96.30
All Other Hay	Ton	73.00	58.00	57.00	64.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	85.00	67.00	66.00	87.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	71.30	78.40	78.70	78.10
Cows	Cwt.	46.40	52.80	54.50	53.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	55.10	68.20	63.00	74.20
Calves	Cwt.	87.70	98.00	99.00	100.00
Sheep	Cwt.	23.40	12.70	12.00	19.00
Lambs	Cwt.	68.50	55.90	53.30	56.90
Hogs	Cwt.	36.80	56.70	58.10	60.20
All Milk	Cwt.	12.35	12.95	13.55	13.60
Eggs	Doz.	.64	.49	.62	.63
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.35	.80	.80	.93
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	170	176	168	152
All Crops	Pct.	170	146	140	130
Livestock & Products	Pct.	170	202	194	172

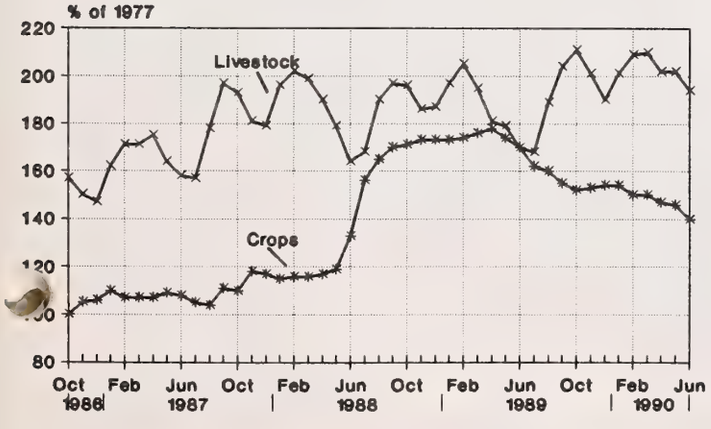
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

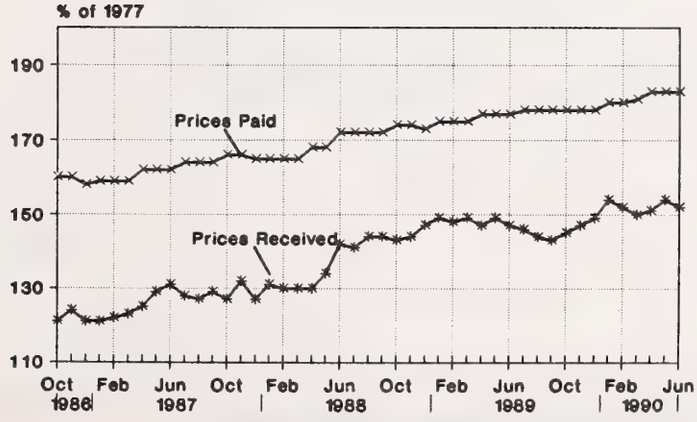
INDEX 1977=100	May 1989	June 1989	May 1990	June 1990
Prices Received	149	148	154	152
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/177	2/177	3/183	3/183
Ratio 1/	84	84	84	83

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ April 1989 prices paid index. 3/ April 1990 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1990 [1]

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT 1989	WINTER WHEAT 1990 [2]	WINTER WHEAT Chg.	ALL SPRING WHEAT 1989	ALL SPRING WHEAT 1990 [2]	ALL SPRING WHEAT Chg.	BARLEY 1989	BARLEY 1990 [2]	BARLEY Chg.
	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.	--(000) Bu.--		Pct.
Northwest	388	935	241	2,082	1,364	66	3,618	3,060	85
North Central	22,600	51,780	229	51,102	34,450	67	35,648	27,180	76
Northeast	3,947	6,810	173	26,563	11,750	44	5,634	3,325	59
Central	14,116	18,430	131	4,425	2,743	62	13,033	9,975	77
Southwest	1,860	1,750	94	1,392	1,220	88	4,290	3,505	82
South Central	7,481	9,455	126	1,563	1,600	102	4,455	3,480	78
Southeast	3,608	3,840	106	3,903	4,163	107	2,122	1,975	93
MONTANA	54,000	93,600	173	91,030	57,290	63	68,800	52,500	76

[1] District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. [2] Preliminary.

MAY U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

U.S. Butter production was 120 million pounds in May, 1 percent below May 1989 but was unchanged from April 1990. American type cheese production totaled 265 million pounds, 7 percent above May 1989 and 6 percent above April 1990.

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 545 million pounds, 9 percent above May 1989 and 6 percent above April 1990. Creamed cottage cheese production was 50.1 million pounds, 2 percent below May 1989 but was 12 percent above April 1990. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 28.1 million pounds, 3 percent above May 1989 and 10 percent above April 1990.

Canned evaporated and condensed milk production at 50.3 million pounds was 5 percent below May 1989 but 7 percent above April 1990.

Frozen desserts: (comparisons with May 1989) Ice cream (hard)--74.6 million gallons, down 2 percent. Ice milk--34.9 million gallons, down 9 percent. Sherbet (hard)--4.79 million gallons, down 7 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Farm Nos. & Land in Farms
Egg Production
Cattle Inventory
Mink

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1990 Crop Acreages
Cattle on Feed
Grain Stocks
Milk Production
Quarterly Egg Production
May Red Meat Production

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 2,200 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. For those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey a SPECIAL THANKS. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

1990 CROP ACREAGES

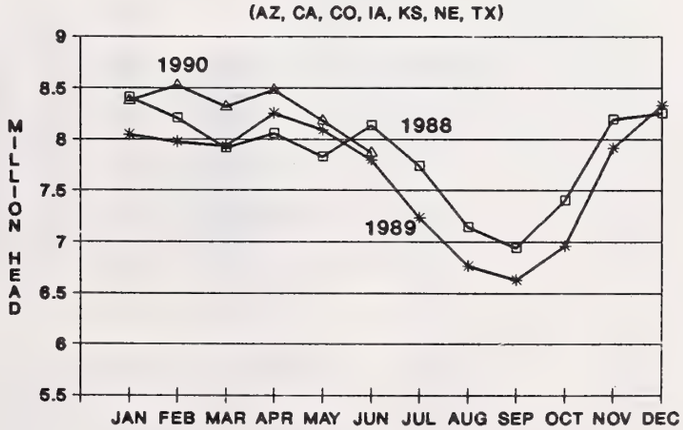
Montana farmers intend to harvest the largest winter wheat acreage since 1978. **Winter wheat** acres to be harvested are forecast at 2.6 million acres, up 73 percent from last year when severe winter kill reduced the crop. Farmers planted 2.8 million acres of **spring wheat**, down 20 percent from last year but up 40 percent from two years ago. **Durum wheat** planted acreage came in at 245,000 acres, down 28 percent from last year. Montana farmers planted 1.6 million acres of **barley**, down 6 percent from last year. **Oats** planted, at 160,000 acres, is down 36 percent from last year.

U.S. all wheat seeded area for 1990 is estimated at 77.3 million acres, up 1 percent from 1989. Area for grain is expected to total 70.0 million acres, up 13 percent from last year. This would be the largest harvested acreage since 1982. Winter wheat area planted for 1990 is estimated at 57.0 million acres, up 4 percent from 1989. Acreage for grain is expected to total 50.1 million acres, up 21 percent from a year ago, but off 1 percent from the June 1 forecast. Durum wheat seeded acreage for 1990 is estimated at 3.57 million acres, down 6 percent from 1989. Acres for grain is placed at 3.50 million acres, off 5 percent from last year. Area for harvest is down sharply in Arizona, California, Montana and South Dakota, being off 48, 46, 30, and 29 percent, respectively. Harvested area is up 50 thousand acres in North Dakota and is unchanged in Minnesota from 1989. Other spring wheat growers have seeded 16.7 million acres for 1990, down 6 percent from 1989. Plans are to harvest 16.4 million acres for grain, down 4 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 1 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed June 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.87 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago but 3 percent below June 1, 1988. MARKETINGS of fed cattle during May totaled 1.80 million, up 3 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. This is the largest May total since the 7 State series began in 1972. PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during May totaled 1.63 million, up fractionally over last year but 25 percent below the record high of May 1988. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.48 million for May is 2 percent above last year but 27 percent below 1988. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 150 thousand head compared to 164 thousand in May 1989 and 146 thousand in May 1988.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



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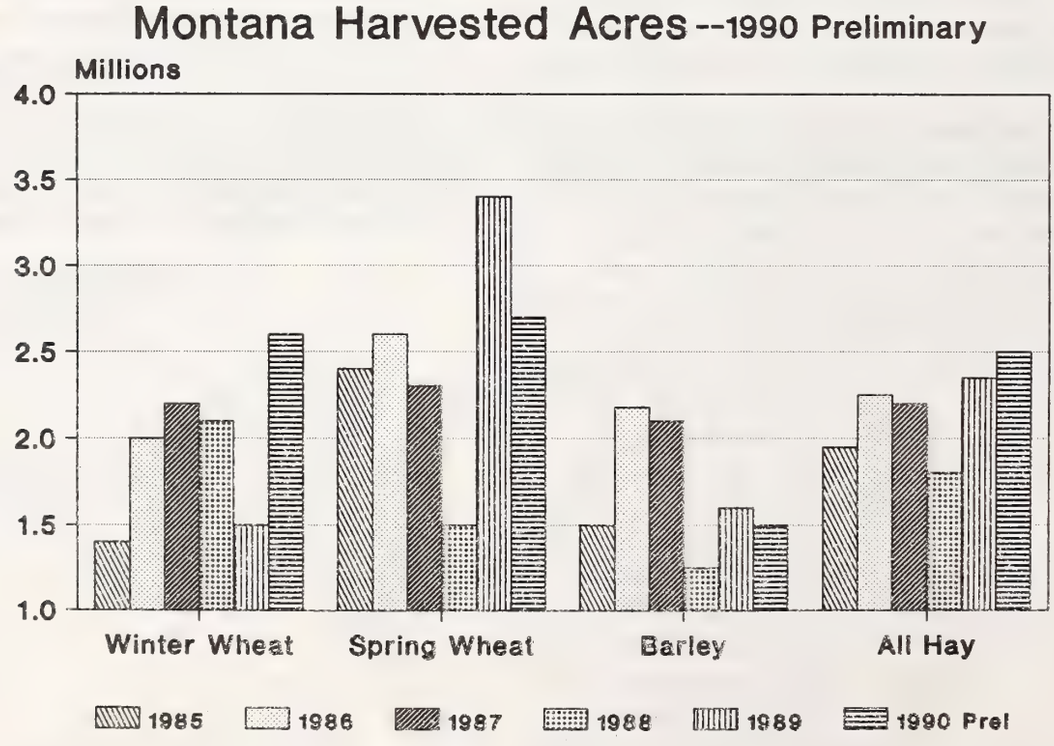
ACRES PLANTED AND FOR HARVEST--JUNE 1990

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]	1989	1990 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,500	2,700	1,500	2,600	36.0	3/	54,000	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	340	245	335	235	18.0	3/	6,030	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,500	2,800	3,400	2,700	25.0	3/	85,000	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	6,340	5,745	5,235	5,535	27.7	3/	145,030	3/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	80	65	4	6	80.0	3/	320	3/
Oats	Bu.	250	160	145	105	46.0	3/	6,670	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,500	43.0	3/	68,800	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	6.0	14.5	5.9	14.0	22.0	3/	130	3/
Sugarbeets	Ton	52.7	55.4	51.9	55.0	19.9	3/	1,033	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	8.1	--	7.8	--	275.0	3/	2,228	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,300	1,450	2.20	3/	2,970	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,050	1.50	3/	1,500	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,300	2,500	1.90	3/	4,470	3/
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	55,091	57,028	41,469	50,102	35.1	3/	1,453,842	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,791	3,570	3,673	3,500	25.1	3/	92,229	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	17,733	16,728	17,007	16,384	28.8	3/	289,747	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	76,615	77,326	62,149	69,986	32.8	3/	2,035,818	3/
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	72,296	74,574	64,781	67,116	116.2	3/	7,527,152	3/
Oats	Bu.	12,080	10,420	6,874	6,236	54.4	3/	373,778	3/
Barley	Bu.	9,175	8,277	8,303	7,746	48.6	3/	403,443	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,857.6	2,192.0	1,689.9	2,102.9	14.40	3/	24,333	3/
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,332.8	1,397.1	1,294.7	1,477.3	19.6	3/	25,553	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,101.8	--	1,086.4	--	299.0	3/	324,726	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	25,939	24,925	2.98	3/	77,208	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	37,456	36,809	1.82	3/	68,237	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,395	61,734	2.29	3/	145,445	3/

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes. [3] Production forecast available July 12, 1990.



JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

All wheat stored in **Montana** on June 1, 1990 totaled 56 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. June 1 stocks are that amount of wheat left over from the 1989 and earlier years crop production. This year's carryover stocks are 35 percent under the 10-year average, and represent nearly 39 percent of 1989 production. Winter wheat in store, at 24.2 million bushels, was down 11 percent and all spring wheat, at 31.8 million bushels, was up 32 percent. Wheat stored on farms was 79 percent of the total. Barley stocks on June 1 totaled 15 million bushels, up 1 percent from last June. Oats stocks, at 3.2 million bushels, were over twice last year's level. **Nationally**, old crop wheat stocks in all positions June 1, 1990 is placed at 535 million bushels, down 24 percent from last June 1 to the lowest carry-over since 1975. Farm stocks, at 213 million bushels, are down 26 percent from a year ago. Off-farms stocks are 322 million bushels, down 22 percent.

JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jun. 1, 1989	Mar. 1, 1990*	Jun. 1, 1990	% Chg. '90/'89	Jun. 1, 1989	Mar. 1, 1990*	Jun. 1, 1990
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	39,000	75,000	44,000	+13	289,000	376,000	212,500
Off Farms [1]	12,095	24,440	12,000	-1	412,626	567,120	322,348
TOTAL	51,095	99,440	56,000	+10	701,626	943,120	534,848
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	20,500	25,000	19,000	-7	--	--	--
Off Farms	6,578	8,437	5,200	-21	--	--	--
TOTAL	27,078	33,437	24,200	-11	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	18,500	50,000	25,000	+35	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	5,517	16,003	6,800	+23	--	--	--
TOTAL	24,017	66,003	31,800	+32	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--		34,201	46,898	30,836
Off Farms [1 4]	--	--	--		25,813	31,545	19,029
TOTAL	3,234	7,667	6,300	+95	60,014	78,443	49,865
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,022,000	2,910,500	1,619,500
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	1,397,302	1,902,199	1,219,866
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	3,419,302	4,812,699	2,839,366
OATS							
On Farms	1,400	5,200	2,500	+79	59,930	140,000	82,850
Off Farms [1]	150	200	700	+367	38,404	74,747	74,590
TOTAL	1,550	5,400	3,200	+106	98,334	214,747	157,440
BARLEY							
On Farms	10,000	27,000	10,000	NC	84,519	102,825	48,590
Off Farms [1]	4,856	9,000	5,000	+3	111,877	149,830	112,385
TOTAL	14,856	36,000	15,000	+1	196,396	252,655	160,975

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Jun. 1, 1989	Mar. 1, 1990*	Jun. 1, 1990	Jun. 1, 1989	Mar. 1, 1990*	Jun. 1, 1990
			-----Million Bushels-----			
Northwest	0.2	1.9	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.6
North Central	24.9	47.5	27.5	5.9	15.2	6.5
Northeast	14.6	25.9	14.5	2.7	3.8	1.8
Central	4.7	11.0	6.3	1.8	6.7	1.9
Southwest	1.0	1.8	0.5	1.1	1.5	1.2
South Central	3.7	6.4	4.3	2.5	6.8	2.4
Southeast	2.0	4.9	2.5	0.3	0.8	0.6
STATE	51.1	99.4	56.0	14.9	36.0	15.0

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major states during May totaled 11.2 billion pounds, 2 percent above production in these same states in May 1989. April revised production, at 10.8 billion pounds, was 1 percent above April 1989. Production per cow in the 21 major states averaged 1,317 pounds for May, 22 pounds more than May 1989. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major states was 8.51 million head, 3 thousand more than April 1990 but 6 thousand head less than May 1989. During the January-March period, the 21 major states produced 31.3 billion pounds of milk, 84.8 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 13.2 billion pounds for May 1990.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 45 million eggs in the March through May quarter, down 2 percent from the same quarter last year. Layers for the 1990 quarter averaged 670,000 compared with 710,000 in 1989. The rate of lay in the 1990 quarter was 72.7 eggs per 100 layers compared with 69.8 per 100 layers in the 1989 quarter. The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 17.3 billion eggs during the March through May quarter, up 1 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.9 billion for table eggs, 2.16 billion for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 225 million for egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 271 million head, up 1 percent from the 268 million head a year ago.

All layers in the **U.S.** on June 1, 1990 totaled 269 million head, compared with 267 million head a year ago. The 269 million layers consisted of 227 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 38.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 3.16 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1990 averaged 68.9 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.7 for June 1, 1989. Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.77 billion eggs during may, up 1 percent from the 4.71 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during May averaged 224 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago.

MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds of red meat in May 1990. This production is up 23 percent from last month and up 19 percent from May 1989. The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,700 head, is up 400 head from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered is 1,086 pounds, up 3 percent from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 1,900 head, is down 500 head from May 1989. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered is 234 pounds, down 1 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in May 1990 totaled 3.32 billion pounds, down 2 percent from last year. January-May red meat production, at 15.9 billion pounds was down 1 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down fractionally; veal, down 14; pork, down 2; lamb and mutton, up 9. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Monthly Ag Prices
Crop Production
Small Grains
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Hogs & Pigs
Dairy Products

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Poultry PDI
Farm Labor
Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter

APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.63 billion during April 1990, up 1 percent from the 5.56 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.86 billion for table eggs, 698 million for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 73.0 million for egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during April averaged 271 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,080 eggs, compared with 2,076 in April 1989.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1990 totaled 269 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 269 million layers consisted of 227 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 38.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.27 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1990 averaged 68.7 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from last year's 68.8 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.71 billion eggs during April, up 2 percent from the 4.63 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during April averaged 226 million, up 1 percent from the 223 million a year ago.

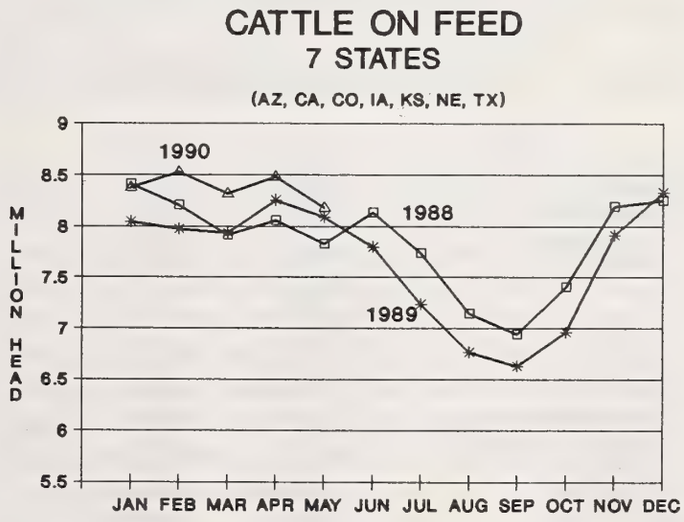
CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 1 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed May 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.18 million head, up 1 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above May 1, 1988. This is the largest May on feed total in the 7 States since 1974.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle during April totaled 1.55 million, down 2 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during April totaled 1.38 million, down 11 percent from last year and 9 percent below April 1988. This is the smallest number placed in April since 1980. NET PLACEMENTS of 1.25 million for April is 12 percent below last year and 9 percent below 1988.

OTHER DISAPPEARANCE totaled 125 thousand head compared to 124 thousand in April 1989 and 139 thousand in April 1988.



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APRIL MILK PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

Milk production in the 21 major States during April totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same states in April 1989. March revised production, at 11.0 billion pounds, was 2 percent above March 1989.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,274 pounds for April, 19 pounds above April 1989.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.51 million head, 2 thousand head below March 1990 and 16 thousand head below April 1989.

During the January-March period, the 21 major States produced 31.3 billion pounds of milk, 84.8 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 12.8 billion pounds for April 1990.

APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds of red meat in April 1990. This is down 11 percent from last month and is down 2 percent from April 1989.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,200 head, is down 100 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered, at 1,118 pounds, was up 14 percent from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 1,700 head, is down 600 head from April 1989. Average live weight was 237 pounds, up 1 pound from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in April 1990 totaled 3.05 billion pounds, down 3 percent from last year. January-April red meat production, at 12.6 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down fractionally; veal, down 14; pork, down 1; lamb and mutton, up 9. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

FARM WAGES AVERAGED $5.54 FOR APRIL

A total of 2.96 million persons worked on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 8-14, 1990. The work force was comprised of 1.50 million self-employed farm operators, 427,000 unpaid workers, and 833,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Rounding out the total were 203,000 agricultural service employees doing work on farms and ranches during the survey week.

The all hired farm worker wage rate for the April 1990 survey week averaged $5.54 per hour, up 19 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.23 per hour compared with $5.06 last April. Wage rates for field and livestock workers were $5.20 And $4.94, respectively. During April 1989, field workers made $5.14 while livestock workers averaged $4.71 per hour.

During the current survey week, self-employed persons worked an average of 35.8 hours, 3.8 fewer hours than in the comparable week in 1989. Unpaid workers, who worked 15 hours or more during the week, put in 33.0 hours compared with 34.1 hours a year earlier. Hired workers spent an average of 39.8 hours doing agricultural work, down 0.4 hour from April of last year.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 44 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. Last year 47 percent of the work force received benefits in addition to cash wages. This year, 7 percent of the workers received both housing and meals, and another 15 percent received housing but no meals.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, APRIL 8-14, 1990 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	5.75	4.94	5.31	7.57	7.63	5.58	3/	5.52
NORTHEAST II	5.45	3.85	4.98	8.59	7.11	5.37	3/	5.70
APPALACHIAN I	4.47	4.54	4.49	9.79	3/	4.39	3/	5.69
APPALACHIAN II	4.33	4.48	4.42	8.24	3/	4.55	3/	4.87
SOUTHEAST	4.31	5.02	4.52	10.01	3/	4.69	3/	5.58
FLORIDA	5.44	4.79	5.33	10.29	8.21	5.32	6.77	7.19
LAKE	5.38	4.84	5.01	7.74	7.30	5.08	3/	5.74
CORNBELT I	4.65	5.21	4.79	9.72	6.97	4.86	3/	7.25
CORNBELT II	5.22	4.77	5.01	6.42	5.55	5.22	3/	4.87
DELTA	4.53	4.02	4.34	7.01	3/	4.59	3/	4.43
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.34	4.74	4.97	8.41	6.46	5.55	4.81	5.27
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.74	4.87	4.81	7.27	5.89	4.91	3/	5.39
MOUNTAIN I	5.00	4.34	4.71	6.48	3/	5.10	3/	4.62
MOUNTAIN II	5.28	4.93	5.05	7.75	3/	5.39	3/	5.36
MOUNTAIN III	4.74	4.88	4.81	7.75	6.61	4.85	5.85	5.68
PACIFIC	5.28	6.40	5.47	8.36	3/	5.50	6.20	6.69
CALIFORNIA	5.71	6.50	5.85	10.75	9.32	5.71	7.33	8.75
HAWAII	7.98	3/	7.92	12.98	8.36	8.00	3/	12.01
U. S.	5.20	4.94	5.11	8.94	7.40	5.23	6.76	6.05

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

MODELING THE U.S. POTATO INDUSTRY

The U.S. potato industry has changed over the past 35 years:

- consumers increased demand for convenience foods;
- production shifted to the Western states; and
- processors developed freezing technology.

The potato industry is a significant producer of revenue for U.S. agriculture. But its contributions vary year to year by hundreds of millions of dollars.

While the number of acres used to produce potatoes increased only slightly during the last 35 years, the number of farms has decreased dramatically from almost 1-1/2 million in 1954 to less than 15,000 in 1987. Going into the 1990's, farmers harvest an average of nearly 90 acres per farm versus less than 1 acre per farm in the early 1950's.

POTATO GROWING SHIFTING TO THE WEST

Another structural change in the potato industry is the regional shift in share of production. The shift from East to West can be explained in part by the West's advantage in yield because of better growing conditions. Another factor behind the regional shift is the expansion of potato processing. The West's climate is more consistent and suitable for processing varieties such as Russet Burbank.

MANY ARE COLD, MORE ARE FROZEN

Changes in storage technology and marketing followed the introduction of frozen potatoes. First introduced in 1945, the freezing process was done on 8% of the potatoes consumed in 1961, rising rapidly to 37% in 1988.

Annual per capita use increased from about 110 pounds in the mid-1950's to about 120 pounds in the 1980's.

Although farm prices have increased over the years, prices in constant dollar terms declined. The average value per hundredweight for U.S. growers rose from $1.98 in the mid-1950's to $4.83 in the mid-1980's.

Generally, retail prices of fresh and frozen potatoes haven't followed the same annual trend. In 1960, the ratio of frozen to fresh potato retail prices was about 5 to 1; by the mid-1980's, it was 2.8 to 1.

Put it all together and the U.S. potato industry changed in response to changes in demand and supply. The increased demand for convenience foods was met by supplying new products--mainly frozen potatoes. The industry also pursued lower costs by shifting production to the Western states and increasing acreage per farm and yields.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

Will 1990-91 make 3 favorable years in a row for potato growers? One of the most important variables is planted acres. A few factors indicating an increase in 1990 area planted include:

- back-to-back years of very strong potato prices--an unusual occurrence in the up-and-down potato industry;
- lower expected prices for commodities such as wheat, corn, and feed barley--which compete with potatoes for prime land;
- favorable processing contract prices in most states; and
- continued strong domestic and export demand for processed products.

Potato acreage should increase this year. Tempering that, however, could be:

- concern of potato growers and potato grower organizations about the potential effects of acreage increases on grower incomes;
- availability--and high cost--of seed potatoes caused by strong processor demand for all potatoes, including culls that would normally go for seed;
- crop rotation patterns which may not favor potato acreage this year; and
- attractive prices for dry edible beans, alfalfa hay, and possibly sugar beets.

When all of these factors are combined, it appears that if enough seed is available, U.S. planted acreages could rise 2-5% in 1990, resulting in harvested area of about 1.3 million acres. Assuming average weather and yields somewhat below trend (due to continued dryness in the Red River Valley of North Dakota), production for 1990/91 could total between 385-395 million hundredweight. If the Valley receives significant rainfall this spring and normal moisture during the season, output would probably go into the higher end of the range.

(Information for this article was taken from the Vegetables and Specialties Situation and Outlook Report, March 1990.)

POTATO STOCKS

Potato stocks on hand May 1, in **Montana** totaled 100,000 cwt, 35,000 more than a year ago, but only 4 percent of total production. For the **Nation**, May 1, 1990 potato stocks are set at 50.1 million cwt, down 16 percent from last year and the lowest May level since 1981. Stocks account for 16 percent of fall production this year compared with 19 percent last year. Seasonal disappearance totaled 266 million cwt to May 1, up 8 percent from last year.

The **Six Western States**, at 39.6 million cwt, hold the bulk of U.S. potatoes this May 1, but stocks are down 19 percent from last year and 28 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks are off 19 percent from last year. Washington holdings are down one-third, while Oregon stocks are 9 percent below last May. California is down more than 40 percent. Colorado (with a 2 percent gain) and Montana are the only two Western States with more spuds than last year.

EGG RECEIPTS INCREASE

Sharply higher egg prices pushed the value of **Montana** eggs produced in 1989 up 45 percent from 1988. Value of production at $11.3 million was realized from 180 million eggs produced. Egg production was 7 percent below the previous year. The 1989 average price per dozen was 75 cents compared with 48 cents in 1988.

The **U.S.** combined value of production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chicken in 1989, was $15.0 billion, up 20 percent from the $12.5 billion in 1988. Of the combined total, 58 percent was from broilers, 26 percent from eggs, 15 percent from turkeys, and 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 1989 was $140 million, up 47 percent from the $95.3 million a year ago. Prices averaged 14.9 cents per pound live weight compared with 9.2 cents in 1988. Value of egg production in 1989 was $3.85 billion, up 26 percent from the $3.07 billion in 1988. The 4 percent decrease in production was more than offset by a higher price per dozen. In 1989 eggs averaged 68.9 cents per dozen, compared with 52.8 cents in 1988.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1988-1989 1/

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1988	1989	1988	1989
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	000 Head	195	82	37,202	35,847
Sold	000 Head	724	703	224,458	198,978
Pounds Sold	000 Lbs.	2,896	2,812	1,038,817	937,156
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	6.0	7.0	9.2	14.9
Value of Sales	000 Dols.	174	197	95,294	139,943
EGGS					
Produced	Million	194	180	69,655	67,100
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	48.0	75.0	52.8	68.9
Value of Prod.	000 Dols.	7,760	11,250	3,066,739	3,853,999

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1, previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death and other losses during the 12-month period.

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Dairy Products
Crop Production
  Winter Wheat
  Pasture & Range

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Milk PDI
Manufactured Dairy
Pasture & Range Feed Condition
Monthly Ag Prices Received
Sheep & Lamb Losses
Hay Stocks

MONTANA WINTER WHEAT HARVEST EXPECTATIONS UP 73 PERCENT

Montana's wheat growers expect to harvest 96 percent of the winter wheat planted last fall. Based on May 1 conditions, 2.6 million acres remain for harvest, up 73 percent from last year, when 1.0 million acres were abandoned.

Montana's winter wheat production is forecast at 88.4 million bushels, up 64 percent from last year and the largest crop since 1981. This year's winter wheat projected yield, at 34 bushels per acre, is down 6 percent from last year.

Moisture is adequate in the major growing areas of the state, but the eastern part of Montana has serious moisture reserve problems. If dryness persists in that area a significant reduction in winter wheat production will occur.

For the Nation, winter wheat production is forecast at 2.09 billion bushels as of May 1, 1990. This is up 44 percent from the 1.45 billion bushels produced in 1989 and, if realized, will be the highest production level since the record crop of 1981. Area for grain, at 50.8 million acres, is up 23 percent from last season's drought and winter kill reduced level. Yield prospects are forecast at 41.1 bushels per acre, up 6.0 bushels from last year. This would be the second highest average on record. May 1 conditions point to higher yields than last season in most states. Harvested acreage levels are greater than 1989 in most states. Harvested area and yields are up strongly in the major hard red winter states.

WINTER WHEAT: ACRES YIELD & PRODUCTION--SELECTED STATES, 1987-1989

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		
	1989	IND 1990	1989	IND 1990	1988	1989	IND 1990
	1,000 ACRES		BUSHELS		1,000 BUSHELS		
CALIF	570	600	77.0	75.0	40,670	43,890	45,000
COLO	2,200	2,600	26.0	34.0	75,900	57,200	88,400
IDAHO	810	870	70.0	72.0	50,820	56,700	62,640
ILL	1,780	2,050	59.0	58.0	67,500	105,020	118,900
KANS	8,900	11,800	24.0	39.0	323,000	213,600	460,200
MO	1,850	2,000	47.0	50.0	75,950	86,950	100,000
MONT	1,500	2,600	36.0	34.0	39,900	54,000	88,400
NEBR	2,050	2,300	27.0	37.0	72,000	55,350	85,100
N DAK	80	160	29.0	22.0	1,690	2,320	3,520
OHIO	1,230	1,400	51.0	53.0	46,000	62,730	74,200
OKLA	5,700	6,300	27.0	34.0	172,800	153,900	214,200
OREG	815	875	60.0	58.0	46,860	48,900	50,750
S DAK	1,350	1,800	26.0	28.0	21,590	35,100	50,400
TEXAS	3,000	4,400	20.0	29.0	89,600	60,000	127,600
WASH	1,300	2,250	53.0	63.0	108,500	68,900	141,750
WYO	193	170	22.0	24.0	4,290	4,246	4,080
U.S.	41,469	50,836	35.1	41.1	1,561,910	1,453,842	2,091,614

PLEASE RETURN

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST
by Districts--May 1, 1990

District	Winter Wheat			
	1988	1989	1990	% chg. 90/89
NORTHWEST	987	170	850	500
N. CENTRAL	18,757	10,500	49,750	474
NORTHEAST	3,233	3,510	7,500	214
CENTRAL	9,640	7,805	16,000	205
SOUTHWEST	1,630	525	1,400	267
S. CENTRAL	3,959	5,210	7,400	142
SOUTHEAST	1,694	2,280	5,500	241
MONTANA	39,900	30,000	88,400	295

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME--1989

Montana's 1989 milk production at 332 million pounds is down 20 million pounds from last yer. The rate per cow, at 13,833, declined 2 percent from 1988. The average number of milk cows stood at 24,000, down 1,000 head from last year.

Cash receipts from milk marketings during 1989 totaled $43.3 million, compared with $41.3 last year. Producer returns averaged $13.61 per hundredweight, up $1.33 from 1988 returns. Returns were $3.83 per pound of milkfat in 1989 and $3.51 per pound in 1988.

U.S. milk production declined 1 percent in 1989 to 144 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 14,244, was 99 pounds above 1988. The annual average number of cows at 10.1 million head was 1 percent less than the average in 1988.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1989 at $19.4 billion, was 10 percent above 1988. Producer returns averaged $13.65 per hundredweight, $1.31 above the 1988 average. Marketings totaled 142 billion pounds 1 percent below 1988. Marketings include whole milk and producer-separated cream sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 2.10 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 6 percent below 1988. Calves were fed 72 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households as milk, cream, and butter.

MARCH U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

U.S. butter production was 120 million pounds in March, 12 percent below March 1989 but 4 percent above February 1990.

American-type cheese production totaled 255 million pounds, 9 percent above March 1989 and 6 percent above February 1990. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 530 million pounds, 7 percent above March 1989 and 12 percent above February 1990.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 48.8 million pounds, 7 percent below March 1989 but was 11 percent above February 1990. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 27.4 million pounds, 1 percent above March 1989 and 13 percent above February 1990.

Canned evaporated and condensed whole milk, at 53.9 million pounds was 3 percent above March 1989 and 17 percent above February 1990.

Frozen desserts: (comparisons with March 1989) Ice cream (hard) 68.6 million gallons, down 4 percent. Ice milk--31.2 million gallons, down 2 percent. Sherbert (hard)--4.05 million gallons, down 11 percent.

MONTANA PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION

Montana's pasture and range feed condition was rated good to excellent (80 percent of normal) on May 1--7 points higher than last year, and 13 points higher than 1988.

Grass growth was slow to start in the entire eastern part of the state due to dry soils. Rains the end of April improved growth in all but the northeast which remains critically dry.

Cattle and calves moved to summer ranges on May 1 were near 20 percent--about normal for that date.

MONTANA, MAY 1, 1990
PASTURE & RANGE FEED CONDITION
By District as a Percent of Normal

District	1988	1989	1990
Northwest	83	77	91
N. Central	48	73	85
Northeast	55	61	49
Central	74	72	89
Southwest	90	74	78
S. Central	75	80	91
Southeast	52	54	76
Montana	67	73	80

AG PRICES RECEIVED

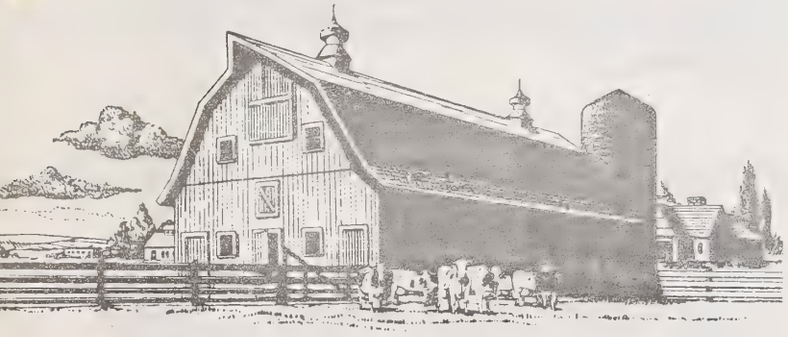
Montana farm prices at mid-April were slightly higher than average for March, mainly because of increases in cattle and calf prices.

The index of prices received by Montana farmers for all farm products the middle of April was 184 compared with the March index of 181. The all crops index, at 150, was unchanged while the livestock and products index was 214, up 4 points from March.

Price increases were noted for winter wheat, durum wheat, barley, alfalfa hay, steers and heifers, calves, and hogs. Prices went down for spring wheat, oats, cows, sheep, lambs, milk, eggs, and wool.

Nationally, the April all farm products index of prices received increased 1 point from March to 151 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of oranges, corn, potatoes, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for tomatoes, milk, eggs, and broilers.

The index was 3 points above a year ago. Higher hog, cattle, and milk prices were the major contributors to the increases over a year ago. Tomatoes, wheat, and soybeans were partially offsetting.



AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Apr. 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1990	MONTANA Apr. 15, 1990	U.S. Apr. 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.05	3.68	3.71	3.53
Durum	Bu.	4.33	3.31	3.59	3.47
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.20	3.58	3.50	3.47
All Wheat	Bu.	4.13	3.61	3.60	3.51
Barley, All	Bu.	2.85	2.24	2.25	2.17
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.99
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.46
Oats	Bu.	2.17	1.43	1.28	1.37
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	105.00	67.00	68.00	99.10
All Other Hay	Ton	94.00	59.00	59.00	65.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	104.00	66.00	67.00	91.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	73.80	80.80	82.00	79.20
Cows	Cwt.	45.70	52.60	51.70	52.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	62.60	73.70	75.90	75.00
Calves	Cwt.	85.10	91.60	95.60	102.00
Sheep	Cwt.	22.60	24.60	21.20	26.20
Lambs	Cwt.	61.30	64.30	51.70	61.80
Hogs	Cwt.	31.40	47.10	47.40	52.90
All Milk	Cwt.	12.05	13.65	12.95	13.10
Eggs	Doz.	.66	.80	.69	.71
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.34	.93	.85	.93
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	180	181	184	151
All Crops	Pct.	178	150	150	132
Livestock & Products	Pct.	181	210	214	169

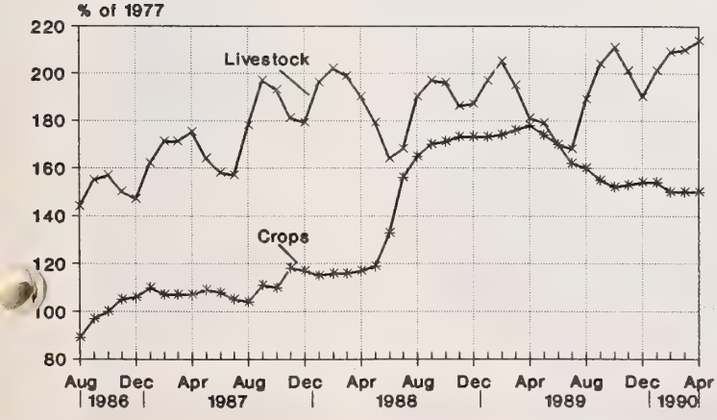
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

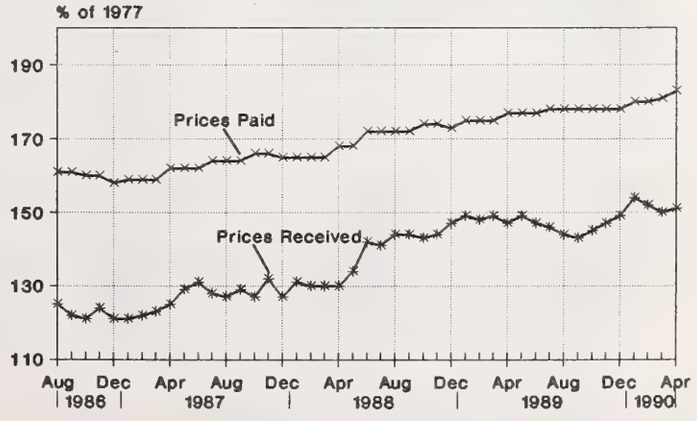
INDEX 1977=100	Mar. 1989	Apr. 1989	Mar. 1990	Apr. 1990
Prices Received	150	148	150	151
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/ 175	177	3/ 181	183
Ratio 1/	86	84	83	83

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1989 prices paid index. 3/ January 1990 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED

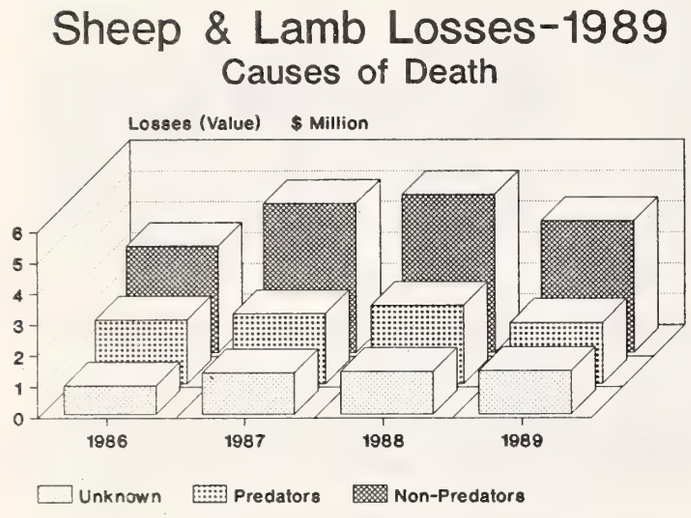


MONTANA SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES--1989

Montana sheepmen lost 141,000 sheep and lambs to weather, predators, disease and other causes in 1989. Total loss was 6 percent lower than 1988 and represented a value of $7.6 million. The 1989 dollar loss was 15 percent less than the previous year.

Predators caused a $2.0 million loss, non-predator factors caused $4.3 million and unknown causes claimed $1.4 million. Coyote predation remained the single largest cause of death with a $1.5 million loss. This is 20 percent of total value of death losses.

Lambs killed by all predators amounted to 28,200, down 16 percent from last year. Sheep killed by predators totaled 7,700, down 19 percent. Lambs lost to weather, disease, and other non-predator causes totaled 52,500, up 3 percent from 1988. Sheep losses to non-predator factors totaled 28,300, 17 percent less than last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes were 17,300, up 11 percent, and sheep were 7,000, up 6 percent from last year.



MAY 1 HAY STOCKS

Hay stocks on **Montana** farms as of May 1, 1990 were 894 thousand tons, nearly 3 times May 1, 1989 stocks, but 24 percent below the May 1, 1988 stocks level. This year's stocks were 20 percent of 1989 production.

Nationally, hay stocks on farms totaled 27.1 million tons on May 1, 1990. This is 55 percent more than on hand a year earlier but nearly the same as the holdings on May 1, 1988. The low stocks of a year ago reflected the small drought reduced crop of 1988 while the 1989 hay crop was of a more usual size. Disappearance of hay during the December 1, 1989 - May 1, 1990 period totaled 74.1 million tons. This compares with 72.8 million tons during the same period a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Poultry PDI
Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter
Barley County Estimates
Milk Production
Potato Stocks

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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ISSUE: 90-08 (0279-0394)
RELEASED: APRIL 27, 1990

HIGHLIGHTS:

Meat Animal PDI
All Wheat County Estimates
Slaughter
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Farm Land Values

1989 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, AND INCOME

Montana's total marketing of meat animals in 1989 was 1,217 million pounds, 8 percent more than the 1,124 marketed during 1988. Cash receipts from these marketings, at $824.5 million, increased 11 percent from a year earlier.

Total **U.S.** marketings of meat animals decreased slightly during 1989 as decreased cattle marketings were only partially offset by larger hog and sheep marketings. Higher prices were received for cattle and hogs while sheep prices declined resulting in total cash receipts increasing to $46.6 billion, up 2 percent from 1988.

The percentage breakdown of contributions to total **U.S.** cash receipts from marketings of meat animals by species in 1989 were: cattle and calves, 79 percent; hogs and pigs, 20 percent; sheep and lambs, 1 percent.

Production of meat animals during 1989 totaled 62.7 billion pounds, down fractionally from the 1988 production of 63.0 billion pounds. The value of meat animal production was $37.6 billion in 1989 compared with $36.8 billion in 1988.

PLEASE RETURN

MEAT ANIMALS: MARKETINGS AND CASH RECEIPTS, 1988-89

ITEM	UNIT	MONTANA		UNITED STATES	
		1988	1989	1988	1989
CATTLE & CALVES					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,009.8	1,090.5	53,761.7	52,449.8
Average Price					
Cattle	Dols./Cwt	65.70	68.20	66.60	69.50
Calves	Dols./Cwt	90.60	88.40	89.20	90.80
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	693.3	769.6	36,201.5	36,675.9
HOGS & PIGS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	77.6	88.6	21,626.2	22,078.6
Average Price	Dols./Cwt	36.60	38.30	42.30	42.50
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	28.6	34.2	9,206.5	9,426.3
SHEEP & LAMBS					
Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	36.8	37.4	825.7	825.3
Average Price					
Sheep	Dols./Cwt	22.20	20.80	25.60	24.40
Lambs	Dols./Cwt	66.30	65.80	69.10	66.10
Cash Receipts	Mil. Dols.	21.3	20.8	478.0	491.1
Total Marketings	Mil. Lbs.	1,124.3	1,216.5	76,213.6	75,353.7
Total Receipts	Mil. Dols.	743.2	824.5	45,886.0	46,593.3

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1989

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ACRES Gross Seeded	Reseeded [1]	Net Seeded	Harvested for Grain	Yield Per Acre	Production
						-----Bushels-----
Deerlodge	1,100	0	1,100	1,000	57.0	57,000
Flathead	24,000	3,700	20,300	18,800	50.1	942,000
Granite	1,200	0	1,200	1,100	33.6	37,000
Lake	30,000	7,000	23,000	22,000	38.2	841,000
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0.0	0
Mineral	300	0	300	300	28.3	8,500
Missoula	7,400	700	6,700	5,600	33.2	186,000
Powell	4,700	200	4,500	3,800	51.8	197,000
Ravalli	3,800	400	3,400	3,300	32.9	108,500
Sanders	2,800	0	2,800	2,400	38.8	93,000
NORTHWEST	**75,300**	**12,000**	**63,300**	**58,300**	**42.4**	**2,470,000**
Blaine	220,600	39,000	181,600	174,500	30.8	5,369,000
Chouteau	620,100	130,000	490,100	472,000	36.9	17,431,000
Glacier	182,000	2,600	179,400	174,800	37.1	6,478,000
Hill	746,600	245,000	501,600	482,500	26.0	12,530,000
Liberty	388,100	145,000	243,100	232,000	33.3	7,730,000
Phillips	157,200	29,000	128,200	124,200	25.0	3,108,000
Pondera	208,400	19,000	189,400	185,000	42.7	7,894,000
Teton	168,100	8,400	159,700	157,000	41.5	6,521,500
Toole	301,100	78,000	223,100	212,000	31.3	6,640,500
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,992,200**	**696,000**	**2,296,200**	**2,214,000**	**33.3**	**73,702,000**
Daniels	202,100	500	201,600	196,000	12.9	2,528,000
Dawson	214,000	43,800	170,200	168,000	23.1	3,881,000
Garfield	102,000	12,800	89,200	88,000	24.3	2,137,000
McCone	223,000	20,500	202,500	199,000	20.8	4,141,500
Richland	199,000	20,500	178,500	174,000	19.3	3,352,500
Roosevelt	329,000	4,000	325,000	312,000	16.4	5,102,000
Sheridan	317,600	1,700	315,900	312,000	14.1	4,386,500
Valley	332,000	8,200	323,800	311,000	16.0	4,981,500
NORTHEAST	**1,918,700**	**112,000**	**1,806,700**	**1,760,000**	**17.3**	**30,510,000**
Broadwater	38,500	1,800	36,700	35,000	32.8	1,149,000
Cascade	162,700	5,700	157,000	155,600	42.8	6,665,000
Fergus	156,500	26,200	130,300	120,000	37.6	4,517,000
Golden Valley	44,000	2,800	41,200	38,000	20.5	778,000
Judith Basin	88,000	5,500	82,500	79,500	36.4	2,890,000
Lewis & Clark	15,000	800	14,200	13,900	39.3	546,000
Meagher	5,600	1,500	4,100	3,600	21.7	78,000
Musselshell	30,000	1,000	29,000	28,000	28.1	788,000
Petroleum	17,800	2,800	15,000	14,500	19.4	282,000
Wheatland	37,000	1,900	35,100	32,900	25.8	848,000
CENTRAL	**595,100**	**50,000**	**545,100**	**521,000**	**35.6**	**18,541,000**
Beaverhead	11,400	400	11,000	10,000	36.4	364,000
Gallatin	50,100	1,100	49,000	47,800	47.5	2,269,000
Jefferson	5,400	0	5,400	4,800	18.1	87,000
Madison	14,800	0	14,800	14,100	36.2	511,000
Silver Bow	700	0	700	700	30.0	21,000
SOUTHWEST	**82,400**	**1,500**	**80,900**	**77,400**	**42.0**	**3,252,000**
Big Horn	100,600	1,500	99,100	94,300	34.1	3,220,000
Carbon	20,300	300	20,000	19,700	30.6	602,000
Park	15,700	500	15,200	14,100	34.4	485,500
Stillwater	57,500	700	56,800	56,300	29.4	1,655,000
Sweet Grass	6,100	0	6,100	5,500	37.5	206,500
Treasure	6,100	0	6,100	5,600	44.5	249,000
Yellowstone	86,000	500	85,500	84,800	31.0	2,626,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**292,300**	**3,500**	**288,800**	**280,300**	**32.3**	**9,044,000**
Carter	56,500	3,800	52,700	50,000	20.3	1,017,000
Custer	71,500	8,200	63,300	61,000	21.5	1,312,000
Fallon	60,200	3,000	57,200	46,100	19.6	902,000
Powder River	30,500	1,500	29,000	27,300	22.1	604,000
Prairie	51,100	13,500	37,600	35,900	24.6	884,000
Rosebud	61,000	500	60,500	58,800	29.5	1,734,000
Wibaux	53,200	4,500	48,700	44,900	23.6	1,058,000
SOUTHEAST	**384,000**	**35,000**	**349,000**	**324,000**	**23.2**	**7,511,000**
MONTANA	**6,340,000**	**910,000**	**5,430,000**	**5,235,000**	**27.7**	**145,030,000**

[1] Winter Wheat Reseeded to Spring Wheat.

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds of red meat in March 1990. This production is up 18 percent from last month and is up 16 percent from March 1989.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head, is up 200 head from last year. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered, at 1,093 pounds, was up 7 percent from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 2,000 head, is down 100 head from March 1989. Average liveweight was 233 pounds, down 1 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** in March 1990 totaled 3.26 billion pounds, down 2 percent from last year. January-March red meat production, at 9.58 billion pounds, was down slightly from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down fractionally; veal, down 13; pork, up fractionally; lamb and mutton, up 6. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

JANUARY-MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

Milk cows on **Montana** farms produced 81 million pounds of milk during the January-March quarter of 1990. This production is up 1 percent from the comparable period in 1989. The number of milk cows on farms for the quarter, at 24,000 head, was unchanged from a year ago. Milk production per cow was 3,390 pounds, up 1 percent from last year.

Montana dairymen fed 15.5 pounds of grain concentrates per milk cow daily for the quarter, up slightly from last year. The value per hundredweight of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows was $7.30, down a nickel from a year ago.

The quarterly production of milk for the **U.S.** was 36.9 billion pounds, 1 percent above January-March 1989. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 10.1 million head, 31 thousand head less than January-March 1989.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1990, averaged 18.1 pounds, 0.4 pounds more than on April 1, 1989. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1, 1990, averaged $8.00 per hundredweight, $0.36 per hundredweight less than the April 1, 1989 value.

U.S. MARCH EGG PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.83 billion during March 1990, up 1 percent from the 5.76 billion produced a year ago. Production included 5.05 billion for table eggs, 707 million for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 75.0 million for egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during March averaged 272 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,146 eggs, compared with 2,137 in March 1989.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1990 totaled 272 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 272 million layers consisted of 231 million layers producing table or commercial-type eggs, 38.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 3.32 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1990 averaged 69.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from last year's 69.5 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg production states produced 4.87 billion eggs during March, up 1 percent from the 4.81 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during March averaged 227 million, up 1 percent from the 225 million a year ago.

Data for the 30 quarterly states were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 83 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, December 1989 through February 1990.

MONTANA POTATO STOCKS DOWN 8 PERCENT

There were 1.1 million cwt of potatoes stored in **Montana** on April 1, down from 1.2 million cwt on April 1, 1989. April 1 stocks represent 49 percent of 1989 production.

U.S. potato stocks on April 1, 1990 totaled 83.5 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year and 21 percent below two years ago. Current stocks account for 26 percent of fall production in the 15 storage States compared with 30 percent a year ago. Seasonal disappearance from harvest to April 1 is a record high 233 million cwt this year, up 9 percent from last year. Major processors (except chips) used a record 109 million cwt to date, up 14 percent from a year ago.

Six Western States held 63.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1990, down 13 percent from last year and 19 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks of 35.0 million cwt are off 14 percent from last year, and made up over half the Western total. Washington stocks are down 19 percent and Oregon is 6 percent short of last year. California storages are off 22 percent from a year ago. Of the Western States, only Colorado shows more potatoes in storage than last year, but only by 1 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 1 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed April 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly States totaled 10.1 million head, up 1 percent from April 1, 1989 and 4 percent above 1988. This is the highest April cattle on feed number since 1978.

The cattle on feed inventory included 6.44 million steers and steer calves, 2 percent above last year and 2 percent above 1988. This group represented 64 percent of the total April number on feed, compared to 64 percent last year and 65 percent in 1988. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.56 million, 1 percent above last year and 6 percent above 1988.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed during the January-March 1990 quarter totaled 6.09 million, down 2 percent from 1989 but 5 percent above 1988. **Other disappearance** of 385 thousand head leaves **net placements** at 5.70 million.

Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during January-March totaled 5.58 million, 1 percent below 1989 and 5 percent below the same period in 1988.

Cattle feeders **expect to market** 6.09 million head during the April-June quarter of 1990. This would be up 1 percent above the second quarter marketings in 1989 and 4 percent above 1988.

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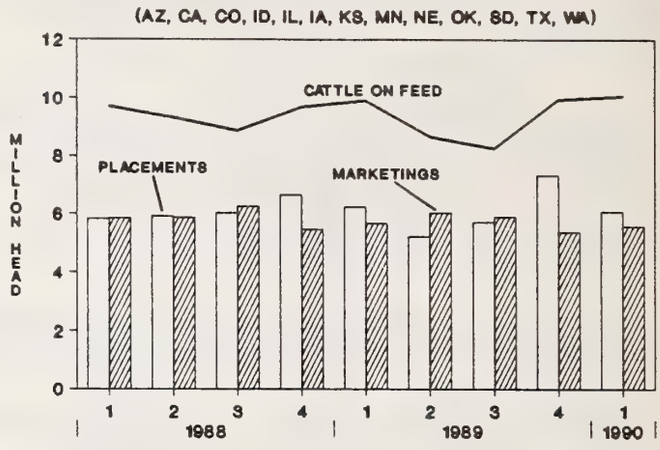
CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES



MONTANA FARMLAND UP 16 PERCENT

The latest information on farmland values has just been released by the Department of Agriculture. The report held some good news for Montana farmers and ranchers. The value of all farmland and buildings rose a sharp 16 percent from 1989 to 1990. The average land value was $243 per acre, up from $209 a year ago, but still below the $276 recorded on sales in 1984. Land values in Montana dropped sharply from 1984 to 1987 then bottomed out and started to recover.

U.S. farmland prices increased a modest 4 percent average $693 per acre. This was the third straight year land prices have increased, but prices are still 16 percent below the record high of $823 per acre set in 1982.

There was also good news about farm debt. Total farm debt at the end of 1989 was 29 percent below the high level recorded in 1983. Interest rates held steady.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
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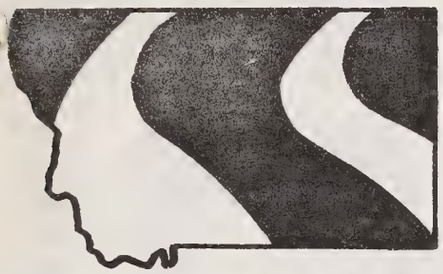

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
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ISSUE: 90-07 (0276-0394)
RELEASED: APRIL 10, 1990

HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
Manufactured Dairy Products
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices
Hogs & Pigs

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1990

Montana farmers, intend to plant 7.9 million acres in 1990, about 6 percent less than last year. Although last year's total planted acreage was greater, considerable winter wheat was abandoned and later reseeded to spring wheat. Farmers were surveyed on March 1 for their planting intentions. Their plans are preliminary, depending on changes in weather, market conditions, etc.

The state's all wheat acreage is expected to be 5.85 million acres. Winter wheat seeded last fall is up 8 percent from a year ago, at 2.7 million acres. Hard spring wheat, at 2.9 million acres, is expected to be down 17 percent. Durum is down 26 percent with 250,000 acres planted.

Barley planted acreage will be holding steady at 1.7 million acres. Oats planting intentions are down 20 percent, at 200,000 acres, and they expect to harvest 120,000 acres for grain compared with 145,000 acres in 1989. Sugar beet intended plantings, at 56,000 acres, are up 6 percent; dry beans, at 8,500 acres, are up 42 percent, and corn, at 82,000 acres, is up 3 percent. Farmers expect to harvest 2.4 million acres of all hay which reflects an increase of 2 percent.

U.S. all wheat area planted for 1990 is expected to total 77.6 million acres, a 1 percent increase from 1989. Winter wheat seeded area for 1990 is now placed at 57.2 million acres, up 4 percent from last season. This current estimate is nearly the same as the seedings published January 11, 1990.

Durum wheat seeded area for 1990 is expected to total 3.35 million acres, down 12 percent from last year. Other spring wheat acreage planted is expected to total 17.0 million acres this year, down 4 percent from 1989. Intentions are for increased acreage in Minnesota and the Dakotas, however, reduced planting intentions in Montana and Washington are more than off-setting. Producers intend to plant 8.89 million acres of barley in 1990, down 3 percent from the 9.18 million acres planted last year.

Planting intentions, grain stocks, and hog estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,600 Montana farmers and ranchers during March. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. For those operators who responded to the survey a SPECIAL THANKS. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

WHEAT SPROUT DAMAGE REPORT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted a special survey in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to determine the extent of sprout damage in wheat stocks held on farms March 1. The survey was conducted at the request of producer organizations in these four states.

For the four states combined, 6.9 percent of the wheat stocks held on farms March 1 was reported by producers to have sprout damage. The reported percentages of March 1 wheat stocks on farms with sprout damage by state were as follows: Idaho, 1 percent; Montana, 8 percent; Oregon, 2 percent, and Washington, 10 percent.

Since the percentage of sprout damage is a small portion of all wheat stored, relative sampling variations can be quite large. Therefore, data users are cautioned to use these percentages as only a general indication of the quantity of sprout damaged wheat on farms March 1.

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PLANTED ACREAGE, 1987-1990, MONTANA and UNITED STATES

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1988	1989	1990	90/89	1988	1989	1990	90/89
Winter Wheat	2,450.0	2,500.0	2,700.0	108.0	48,800.0	55,091.0	57,206.0	103.8
Durum	280.0	340.0	250.0	74.0	3,336.0	3,791.0	3,350.0	88.4
Hard Spring Wheat	2,000.0	3,500.0	2,900.0	83.0	13,393.0	17,733.0	17,000.0	95.9
Barley	1,800.0	1,700.0	1,700.0	100.0	9,831.0	9,175.0	8,888.0	96.9
Oats	210.0	250.0	200.0	80.0	13,910.0	12,080.0	10,997.0	91.0
Corn	90.0	80.0	82.0	103.0	67,717.0	72,296.0	74,804.0	103.5
Sugar Beets	49.6	52.7	56.0	106.0	1,327.2	1,332.8	1,396.1	104.7
Dry Beans	4.4	6.0	8.5	142.0	1,485.4	1,857.6	2,067.0	111.3
All Hay (Harvested)	1,800.0	2,350.0	2,400.0	102.0	65,055.0	63,395.0	62,016.0	97.8

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1, 1989	Dec. 1, 1989*	Mar. 1, 1990	Mar. 1, 1989	Dec. 1, 1989*	Mar. 1, 1990
	-----Million Bushels-----					
Northwest	0.7	2.6	2.3	0.8	1.7	1.2
North Central	34.9	73.7	50.6	11.1	28.8	15.4
Northeast	20.3	30.2	26.8	2.7	6.5	3.7
Central	8.0	15.8	11.0	3.6	8.7	6.6
Southwest	2.3	3.3	1.7	2.0	2.5	1.5
South Central	4.5	8.9	6.5	2.6	4.7	6.8
Southeast	2.7	7.6	5.1	1.2	2.1	0.8
STATE	73.4	142.1	104.0	23.9	55.0	36.0

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

MARCH 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1989	Dec. 1, 1989*	Mar. 1, 1990	% Chg. '90/'89	Mar. 1, 1989	Dec. 1, 1989*	Mar. 1, 1990
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	51,000	114,000	80,000	+57	463,000	592,000	381,000
Off Farms [1]	22,448	28,119	24,000	+7	764,711	831,651	563,428
TOTAL	73,448	142,119	104,000	+42	1,227,711	1,423,651	944,428
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	25,500	43,000	25,000	-2	--	--	--
Off Farms	13,191	9,957	8,000	-39	--	--	--
TOTAL	38,691	52,957	33,000	-15	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	25,500	71,000	55,000	+116	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	9,257	18,162	16,000	+73	--	--	--
TOTAL	34,757	89,162	71,000	+104	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--		43,635	61,827	46,898
Off Farms [1 4]	--	--	--		34,808	38,361	31,678
TOTAL	3,322	8,092	7,800	+135	78,443	100,188	78,576
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,021,000	4,698,800	2,910,500
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	2,182,926	2,380,432	1,902,199
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	5,203,926	7,079,232	4,812,699
OATS							
On Farms	--	--	5,200		--	--	140,000
Off Farms [1]	--	--	200		--	--	74,747
TOTAL	--	--	5,400		--	--	214,747
BARLEY							
On Farms	17,000	45,000	27,000	+59	123,265	186,440	102,82
Off Farms [1]	6,924	9,955	9,000	+30	157,334	164,168	149,830
TOTAL	23,924	54,955	36,000	+50	280,599	350,608	252,655

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat, separately, are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

MARCH AG PRICES RECEIVED

The March 1990 index of prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers was down 1 point from the February index and down 7 points from the same month a year ago.

The all crops index fell off 5 points and is 31 points below last year's March index. The livestock and products index moved up 1 point from February to March and is 15 points above the previous year. Individual commodity prices changed from February to March as follows: Winter wheat, down 20 cents; spring wheat, down 12 cents; oats, down 12 cents; durum, up 1 cent; and barley, up 3 cents per bushel. Alfalfa hay was down $3 per ton and all other hay was down $6 per ton.

On the livestock side, prices were higher for all categories except sheep. Milk was down $1.05 per cwt, and wool was down 17 cents per pound.

The March all farm products index of prices received by U.S. farmers increased 2 points from February to 154 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of hogs, eggs, cattle, and potatoes were partially offset by lower prices for tomatoes, milk, and wheat. The index was 4 points above a year ago. Higher hog, tomato, cattle, and milk prices were the major contributors to the increase over a year ago. Decreases in the prices of corn, soybeans, and wheat were partially offsetting.

Hog and cattle prices moved up sharply from February while the all milk price declined for the second consecutive month. Tomatoes declined sharply from February but continuing short supplies kept prices well above normal for this time of year. Prices of feed grains, food grains, and oilseeds were mixed. Corn and soybean prices increased slightly while the wheat price was down. Hay prices showed a moderate increase from February.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Mar. 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1990	MONTANA Mar. 15, 1990	U.S. Mar. 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.02	3.70	3.50	3.45
Durum	Bu.	4.49	3.14	3.15	3.32
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.20	3.57	3.45	3.38
All Wheat	Bu.	4.08	3.62	3.47	3.42
Barley, All	Bu.	2.77	2.22	2.25	2.22
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.01
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.49
Oats	Bu.	2.24	1.37	1.25	1.39
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	100.00	70.00	67.00	96.90
All Other Hay	Ton	90.00	65.00	59.00	68.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	99.00	70.00	66.00	88.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	75.90	81.70	82.20	79.70
Cows	Cwt.	46.90	52.50	52.90	53.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	67.20	72.70	73.40	75.40
Calves	Cwt.	88.60	93.00	93.50	98.30
Sheep	Cwt.	28.70	25.30	22.00	29.50
Lambs	Cwt.	67.50	67.30	69.00	65.10
Hogs	Cwt.	34.50	46.10	47.70	52.00
All Milk	Cwt.	13.70	14.45	13.40	13.80
Eggs	Doz.	.82	.64	.80	.79
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.40	1.10	.93	.83
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	186	180	179	154
All Crops	Pct.	176	150	145	134
Livestock & Products	Pct.	195	209	210	173

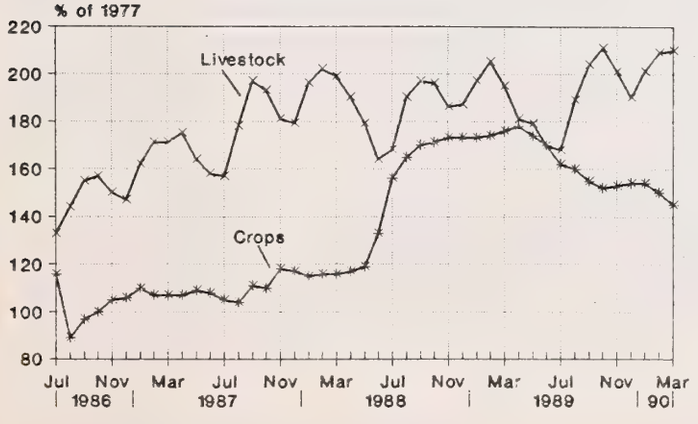
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

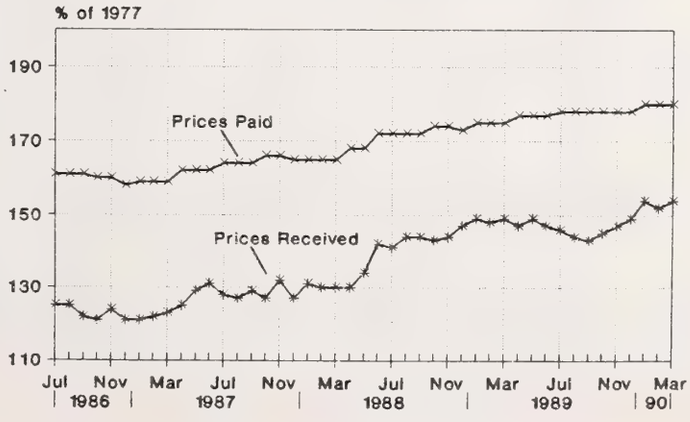
INDEX 1977=100	Feb. 1989	Mar. 1989	Feb. 1990	Mar. 1990
Prices Received	149	150	152	154
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/175	2/175	3/180	3/180
Ratio 1/	85	86	84	86

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1989 prices paid index. 3/ January 1990 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

U.S. Inventory of all hogs and pigs was estimated at 51.7 million head on March 1, 1990.

-- Breeding hog inventory, at 6.81 million, was 4 percent below last year.
-- Market hog inventory, at 44.9 million, was 2 percent below a year ago.

The U.S. pig crop for December 1989-February 1990 totaled 20.3 million head, 4 percent below the comparable period in both 1989 and 1988. A total of 2.59 million sows farrowed during December 1989-February 1990, 4 percent below a year earlier and 5 percent below the same period two years ago. The litter size during this period averaged 7.83, a new record high, compared to the last two years of 7.77 and 7.73.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.19 million sows farrow during the March-May 1990 period, 3 percent below the actual farrowings for the same period a year ago. Farrowing intentions for the June-August 1990 period of 2.91 million sows, are 3 percent below the actual farrowings a year earlier.

FEBRUARY U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Butter production was 116 million pounds in February, 7 percent below February 1989 and 9 percent below January 1990. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 472 million pounds, 12 percent above February 1989 but 2 percent below January 1990.

Creamed cottage cheese production was 43.9 million pounds 6 percent below February 1989 but virtually unchanged from January 1990. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 24.4 million pounds, 1 percent above February 1989 and 2 percent above January 1990.

Frozen desserts: (comparisons with February 1989) Ice cream (hard)--56.3 million gallons, down 5 percent. Ice milk--25.8 million gallons, up 7 percent. Sherbet (hard)--3.28 million gallons, down 5 percent.

MARCH 1 U.S. MARKET HOGS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR

180 Pounds & Over	120-179 Pounds	60-119 Pounds	UNDER 60 Pounds
7.70 Mil. Down 1%	9.41 Mil. Down 1%	10.81 Mil. Down 2%	16.97 Mil. Down 4%
MARCH TO EARLY MAY	EARLY MAY THRU JUNE	JULY TO MID-AUGUST	MID-AUGUST THRU SEPT.

--- WILL GO TO MARKET IN ---

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates
Meat Animal PDI
Sheep & Lamb Losses
Slaughter
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wool and Mohair Production
Cattle on Feed
Annual Slaughter
February Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production
Milk Production
featuring...Custer County

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 5 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Cattle and calves on feed March 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.32 million head, up 5 percent from a year ago and 5 percent above March 1, 1988. This is the largest March on feed total in the 7 States since 1974.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.52 million, down 1 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during February totaled 1.40 million, down 13 percent from last year but 2 percent above February 1988. Net placements of 1.31 million for February are 13 percent below last year but 4 percent above 1988.

Other disappearance totaled 95 thousand head compared to 115 thousand in February 1989 and 126 thousand in February 1988.

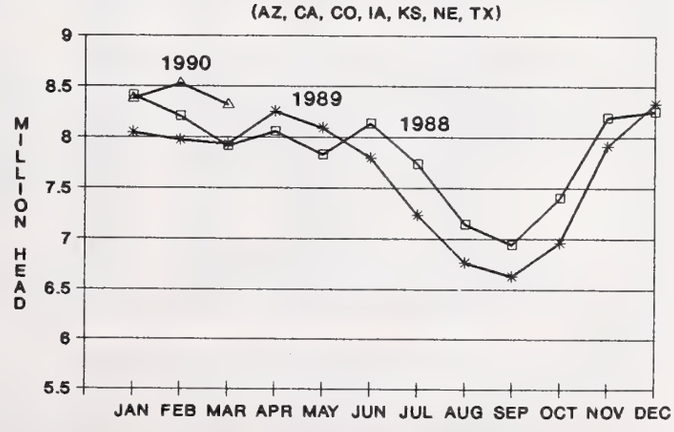
1989 WOOL and MOHAIR PRODUCTION

Montana 1989 wool production amounted to 5.690 million pounds, slightly above the 1988 output. Wool growers sheared 569,000 sheep in 1989, only 2,000 more than in the previous year. Fleece weight averaged 10 pounds per head both years. Value of wool produced was $7.7 million, down 8 percent from 1988.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1989 was 89.2 million pounds, down slightly from last year. Sheep and lambs shorn during 1989 totaled 11.3 million head, a decrease of 2 percent from 1988. Average fleece weight of shorn wool was 7.89 pounds per head, up 0.13 pounds from 1988. Total value of shorn wool was $109 million, down 13 percent from $125 million in 1988.

Mohair production in the five major producing states during 1989 was 17.3 million pounds nearly the same as 1988. Goats and kids clipped, at 2.47 million head were up 6 percent from 1988. Average weight per head clipped was 7.0 pounds compared with 7.5 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair production was $27.2 million, down 17 percent from 1988.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



PLEASE RETURN

1989 RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana's 1989 red meat production totaled 13.9 million pounds, down 14 percent from 1988. There were 16,200 head of cattle slaughtered, down 11 percent from last year. Hog slaughter for 1989, at 27,400 head, was down 10 percent from a year ago. There were 2,500 head of sheep and lambs slaughtered, down 4 percent from 1988.

Red meat production for the United States during 1989 totaled 39.6 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 1988. Production included beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton slaughter in commercial establishments and on farms.

Beef production was 23.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 1988. Veal production was 355 million pounds, down 10 percent from 1988. Pork production was 15.8 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 1988. Lamb and mutton production totaled 348 million, pounds up 4 percent from 1988.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER BY SPECIES NUMBER OF HEAD AND TOTAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTHS, MONTANA, 1989

	CATTLE	PORK	SHEEP & LAMBS	MEAT
				(000) LBS
JAN	1,200	2,400	100	1,125
FEB	1,000	1,900	100	875
MAR	1,200	2,100	100	1,042
APR	1,300	2,300	100	1,105
MAY	1,300	2,400	100	1,114
JUN	1,600	2,200	200	1,279
JUL	1,300	2,200	200	1,086
AUG	1,800	3,100	700	1,676
SEP	1,200	2,400	300	1,092
OCT	1,400	2,400	200	1,205
NOV	1,600	2,200	200	1,259
DEC	1,400	1,900	200	1,086
TOTAL	16,200	27,400	2,500	13,945

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1989 totaled 33.9 million head, down 3 percent from 1988, with federal inspection comprising 97.3 percent of the total. Calf slaughter, at 2.17 million head, was down 13 percent from the previous year with 96.6 percent under federal inspection. Hog kill totaled 88.7 million head, up 1 percent from 1988 with federal inspection comprising 97.3 percent. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter at 5.46 million head, was up 3 percent from 1988 with federal inspection comprising 96.9 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered commercially in 1989 was 1,134 pounds, up 14 pounds from 1988. The calf average live weight was 265 pounds for 1988, an increase of 7 pounds from the previous year. Average live weight for hogs decreased 1 pound to 248. Sheep and lambs averaged 124 pounds live weight, the same as 1988.

FEDERALLY INSPECTED AND COMMERCIAL MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION, BY MONTHS, FARM MEAT AND LARD PRODUCTION ANNUAL, UNITED STATES, 1989 1/

MONTH	BEEF		VEAL		PORK 3/		MUTTON		RED MEAT 3/		LARD
	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	FED INSP	TOTAL	4/ TOTAL
		MILLION POUNDS									
COM'L 2/											
JAN	1,852	1,899	30	32	1,274	1,307	27	27	3,183	3,265	77
FEB	1,705	1,744	27	28	1,175	1,205	26	27	2,933	3,004	71
MAR	1,844	1,887	30	31	1,342	1,373	33	34	3,248	3,325	82
APR	1,717	1,756	26	27	1,292	1,322	25	26	3,059	3,131	78
MAY	1,954	1,999	28	29	1,308	1,341	28	28	3,317	3,397	80
JUN	1,979	2,022	27	29	1,235	1,266	25	26	3,266	3,342	76
JUL	1,852	1,888	26	27	1,081	1,108	24	25	2,982	3,048	
AUG	2,050	2,092	28	29	1,302	1,333	28	29	3,408	3,483	
SEP	1,874	1,913	26	28	1,318	1,349	27	27	3,245	3,317	
OCT	1,992	2,041	30	31	1,387	1,421	29	30	3,438	3,524	
NOV	1,855	1,906	26	28	1,410	1,446	30	31	3,321	3,411	
DEC	1,783	1,827	24	25	1,252	1,288	30	31	3,089	3,171	
TOTAL											
COM'L		22,975		344		15,757		342		39,418	464
FARM		113		11		54		6		184	2
TOTAL	22,456	23,088	326	355	15,375	15,811	334	348	38,491	39,602	5/466

1/ Months may not add to totals due to rounding. 2/ Based on packers dress weight and excludes farm slaughter. 3/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat. 4/ Includes rendered pork fat. 5/ Includes January through June only. Lard production estimates were discontinued in July 1989.

FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.0 million pounds of red meat in February 1990. This production is down 20 percent from last month, but is up 17 percent from February 1989.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,200 head, is up 200 from last year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,065 pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. Hog slaughter, at 1,800 head, is down 100 from last year. Average liveweight for hogs was 236 pounds, down 1 percent from February 1989.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in February 1990 totaled 2.97 billion pounds, down 1 percent from last year. January-February red meat production, at 6.32 billion pounds was up 1 percent from last year. Percentage changes for 1990 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, virtually unchanged; veal, down 15; pork, up 2; lamb and mutton, up 13. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

MONTANA EGG PRODUCTION

Montana laying flocks produced 44 million eggs in the December through February quarter, 5 percent more than the same quarter last year. Layers for the 1990 quarter averaged 670,000 compared with 700,000 in 1989.

The rate of lay in the 1990 quarter was 73.6 eggs per 100 layers compared with 66.8 eggs per 100 layers in the 1989 quarter.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 16.6 billion eggs during the December through February quarter, down 1 percent from the corresponding quarter a year ago. Production included 14.5 billion for table eggs, 1.93 billion for broiler-type hatching eggs and 226 million for egg-type hatching eggs. Layers for the quarter averaged 271 million, down fractionally from the 272 million a year ago.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1990 totaled 271 million, virtually unchanged from a year ago. The 271 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 37.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 3.37 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1990 averaged 68.2 eggs per 100 layers compared with 68.3 for March 1, 1989 and 66.9 on February 1, 1990.

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during February totaled 9.81 billion pounds, 1 percent above production in these same states in February 1989. January revised production, at 10.5 billion pounds, was virtually unchanged from January 1989.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,150 pounds for February, 17 pounds more than February 1989.

The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.53 million head, 8 thousand head less than January 1990 and 35 thousand head less than February 1989.

During the October-December period, the 21 major States produced 29.6 billion pounds of milk, 84.7 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 states not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 States, the U.S. production would be 11.6 billion pounds for February 1990.

PROFIT-WISE, 1990 LOOKS LIKE A GOOD YEAR FOR AGRICULTURE

The good news for American farmers in 1990 is that record commodity receipts are expected this year, along with continued strong livestock profits.

Stockpiles of crops are expected to be lower and export demand should be higher--it already is--so the end result is stable farm expenses and income.

Farmers will rely less on Uncle Sam with higher total receipts and less government payments.

Net cash income is now expected to be more than $50 billion for the 4th consecutive year.

A combination of record-high crop sales and record-tying livestock sales might just raise total farm receipts to $160 billion or more this year.

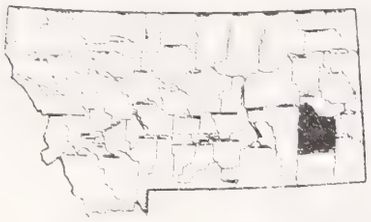
Another banner year is in sight for livestock producers nationwide. Both cattle and hog sales in the U.S. could grow by $250-$500 million, resulting in record high red meat cash receipts. Poultry and dairy farmers aren't expected to fare as well, though.

One of the most positive trends in this year's financial outlook is the leveling off of farm expenses. Right now, it looks like a 15% decline in feed costs.

The combination of slightly higher meat prices and lower feed expenses will make the red meat industry the major "profit center" in this year's ag economy.

And the good news is that direct government payments to farmers will contribute less to the profitability of farming and supply/demand will contribute more--which pencils out as a plus in farming.

featuring...*CUSTER COUNTY*



Custer, one of the original counties of Montana, lies in the southeastern corner of the state. The county consist mainly of rolling country with pronounced breaks along the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers. The Yellowstone River cuts through the northwestern corner of Custer county, while the Tongue River cuts the southwetern corner to join the Yellowstone near Miles City. The Powder River ruins the length of the county in the eastern half.

Livestock production is the main agricultural interest in Custer County. In the January 1, 1988 cattle inventory, Custer County ranked 9th for cattle and 13th for sheep numbers. The county came in 42nd in the December 1, 1987 hog count.

The major crop grown in the area is winter wheat. The county ranked 32nd in production of that crop in 1988. Custer County ranked 29th for all hay production, and 29th for oats production in 1988. Other crops grown include spring and durum wheat, barley and corn.

The abundant livestock production brought in $34,873,000 in cash receipts in 1987. Crops returned $5,148,000, while government payments added $2,972,000 for a total cash return of $42,993,000 for Custer County in 1987.

Custer County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	2,416,582	Total Cropland	Acres	182,166
Land in Farms	Acres	2,183,542	Harvested Cropland	Acres	99,964
Number of Farms		397	Irrigated Land	Acres	34,695
Average size Farms	Acres	5,500			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	43,167	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	40,595	Calves	No. Head	77,505
Barley	Acres	7,542	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	18,627
Oats	Acres	2,047	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,171

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

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Ag Prices Received
Prospective Plantings
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Hogs and Pigs
Dairy Products

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
301 S. PARK
P.O. BOX 4369
HELENA, MONTANA 5960-

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat & Barley Movement
Potato Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Dairy Products
Montana's Rank
featuring....Choteau County

MONTANA WHEAT and BARLEY MOVEMENT

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1989 was 38 percent above shipments from the drought reduced harvest a year earlier. Rail movement amounted to 41.3 million bushels, up from 27.4 million shipped by rail in 1988. Trucks carried 5.8 million bushels compared with 6.8 million the previous June-November period. Shipments to western destinations (primarily export facilities of Washington and Oregon) were 38 percent above the previous period. Wheat movement to eastern destinations was up 16 percent. Shipments to other destinations were up 7 percent.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations in June-November 1989 was 11.7 million bushels, only 57 percent of the previous years relatively large movement. Most of the reduction resulted from reduced shipments to eastern destinations. Rail and truck movement to the east amounted to 1.2 million compared with 10.7 million the previous year. Barley shipped west amounted to 10.3 million bushels--up 12 percent from the 9.2 million bushels in the June-November 1988 period. Movement to other destinations was down 72 percent from the previous year.

WHEAT & BARLEY SHIPPED OUT OF STATE BY DISTRICT OF ORIGIN, MODE & DESTINATION 1/

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICT	JUN-NOV 1988	JUNE-NOVEMBER 1989			JUNE-NOVEMBER 1988	JUNE-NOVEMBER 1989
	All Wheat	Winter Wheat 2/	Spring Wheat	All Wheat	Barley	Barley
	(000) Bushels					
Northwest	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
North Central	14,082	9,258	12,435	21,693	10,869	4,784
Northeast	7,085	1,231	6,271	7,502	481	478
Central	5,913	8,208	1,582	9,790	3,754	1,892
Southwest	3/ 1,713	363	1,183	1,546	3/ 5,549	4,444
South Central	4,080	3,725	553	4,278	60	109
Southeast	1,389	1,432	893	2,325	2	1
Trucked East	224	50	66	116	137	177
Trucked West	6,365	3,240	2,278	5,518	1,154	1,400
Trucked Other 4/	227	85	70	155	650	214
TOTAL BY TRUCK	6,816	3,375	2,414	5,789	1,941	1,791
Rail East	453	209	461	670	10,539	992
Rail West	26,705	20,491	19,786	40,277	8,075	8,916
Rail Other 4/	288	142	256	398	160	9
TOTAL BY RAIL	27,446	20,842	20,503	41,345	18,774	9,917
TOTAL WHEAT SHIPPED	34,262	24,217	22,917	47,134	20,715	11,708

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100 percent coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

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JANUARY U.S. DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter production was 127 million pounds in January, 1 percent below January 1989 but 18 percent above December 1989. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 484 million pounds, 6 percent above January 1989 but virtually unchanged from December 1989. Creamed cottage cheese production was 44.0 million pounds, 8 percent below January 1989 but 10 percent above December 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 23.8 million pounds, 1 percent below January 1989 but 14 percent above December 1989. Frozen desserts: (comparisons with January 1989) Ice cream (hard)--52.0 million gallons, down 7 percent. Ice milk--24.4 million gallons, up 14 percent. Sherbet (hard)--3.16 million gallons, down 1 percent.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 7 PERCENT

Potato stocks on hand March 1 in **Montana** totaled 1.8 million cwt, the same as storages held a year earlier. Stocks in storage represent 81 percent of production. For the **Nation**, March 1, 1990 potato stocks totaled 116 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year, and 17 percent below 1988. Stocks accounted for 37 percent of production in the 15 storage States this year compared with 41 percent last year. Seasonal disappearance to March 1 was 200 million cwt this year, up 11 percent from last year. Processing at 93.7 million cwt is up 16 percent. Shrink and loss of 19.8 million cwt is down 3 percent.

The six Western States stored 85.9 million cwt of potatoes this March 1, down 10 percent from last year and 13 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks at 44.5 million cwt were off 12 percent; Washington with 20.0 million cwt was down 11 percent; and Oregon's 7.80 million cwt was down 10 percent from last year. California stocks were off 10 percent. Among the Western States only Colorado with 9.85 million cwt of potatoes, showed an increase from last year. Disappearance during the season topped 200 million cwt to March 1 up 11 percent from last year and 2 percent above the 1987 crop movement. Shrink and loss at 19.8 million cwt this crop year was 3 percent below last year's 20.5 million cwt and 11 percent below the 22.2 million cwt lost two years ago. February disappearance of 27.4 million cwt was 3 percent above last year.

MONTANA'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK
Land in farms and ranches	60,600,000	acres	1989	2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:				
Total	1,386,053,000	dollars	1988	33
Crops	569,853,000	dollars	1988	34
Livestock	816,200,000	dollars	1988	31
LIVESTOCK and LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS				
All Cattle & Calves	2,350,000	head	Jan. 1, 1990	13
All Cows	1,392,000	head	Jan. 1, 1990	10
Beef Cows	1,368,000	head	Jan. 1, 1990	7
Milk Cows	24,000	head	Jan. 1, 1990	43
Cattle on Feed	80,000	head	Jan. 1, 1990	21
Hogs and Pigs	220,000	head	Dec. 1, 1989	25
Sheep and Lambs	663,000	head	Jan. 1, 1990	5
Wool Production	5,600,000	pounds	1988	5
All Chickens	890,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1989	41
CROPS (Production)				
All Wheat	145,030,000	bushels	1989	4
Winter Wheat	54,000,000	bushels	1989	11
Durum Wheat	6,030,000	bushels	1989	4
Spring Wheat Other than Durum	85,000,000	bushels	1989	3
Barley	68,800,000	bushels	1989	2
Oats	6,670,000	bushels	1989	15
All Hay	4,470,000	tons	1989	15
Alfalfa Hay	2,970,000	tons	1989	9
Dry Beans	130,000	cwt	1989	13
Potatoes--fall	2,228,000	cwt	1989	15
Sugarbeets	1,033,000	tons	1989	8
Corn				
Grain	320,000	bushels	1989	41
Silage	1,350,000	tons	1989	20

FEBRUARY PRICES RECEIVED

The **Montana** farm price index for all products in February was 178 percent of its 1977 base, down 1 point from January, and down 12 points from February 1989. Contributing most to the decline was lower prices received for wheat and barley. The February all wheat price, at $3.59 per bushel, is down 15 cents from January and 44 cents lower than a year ago. Barley, at $2.10 per bushel, was 7 cents under January and 88 cents below a year ago. Hay prices also declined during February, to $70 per ton, down $1.00 from January and down $22.00 from last year.

Livestock prices received by Montana farmers and ranchers were mostly higher, except for sheep and lambs. The February index for livestock prices at 205 percent of the 1977 base, was up 4 points from January, and unchanged from a year ago.

For the **nation**, the February all farm products index of prices received decreased 1 point from January to 153 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Decreases in the prices of milk, eggs, lettuce, and wheat were partially offset by higher prices for cattle, broilers, and tomatoes. The index was 4 points above a year ago.

At 145, the February index for food grains was 4 percent below the previous month and 10 percent below a year earlier. Wheat averaged $3.57 per bushel, down 14 cents from January. Rice was $7.29 per cwt, down 11 cents from the previous month.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Feb. 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1990	MONTANA Feb. 15, 1990	U.S. Feb. 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.93	3.84	3.60	3.65
Durum	Bu.	5.03	3.05	3.10	3.29
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.11	3.69	3.60	3.49
All Wheat	Bu.	4.03	3.74	3.59	3.57
Barley, All	Bu.	2.98	2.17	2.10	2.15
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	1.95
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.51
Oats	Bu.	2.41	1.37	1.35	1.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	93.00	72.00	70.00	94.10
All Other Hay	Ton	83.00	62.00	65.00	66.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	92.00	71.00	70.00	85.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	79.80	81.40	81.30	79.20
Cows	Cwt.	47.80	48.60	50.50	51.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt.	71.50	69.90	72.10	74.60
Calves	Cwt.	92.20	88.80	89.20	95.70
Sheep	Cwt.	26.30	27.80	23.50	31.00
Lambs	Cwt.	68.40	58.00	57.40	61.00
Hogs	Cwt.	38.20	40.00	42.20	48.20
All Milk	Cwt.	13.90	15.30	15.10	14.90
Eggs	Doz.	.66	.85	.64	.70
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.20	1.10	1.10	.70
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	190	179	178	153
All Crops	Pct.	174	154	147	135
Livestock & Products	Pct.	205	201	205	171

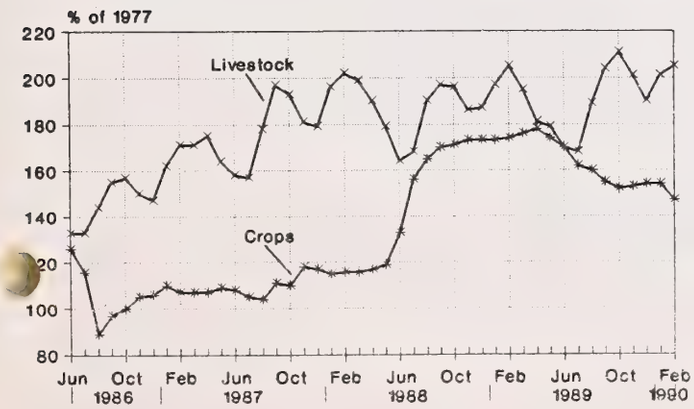
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

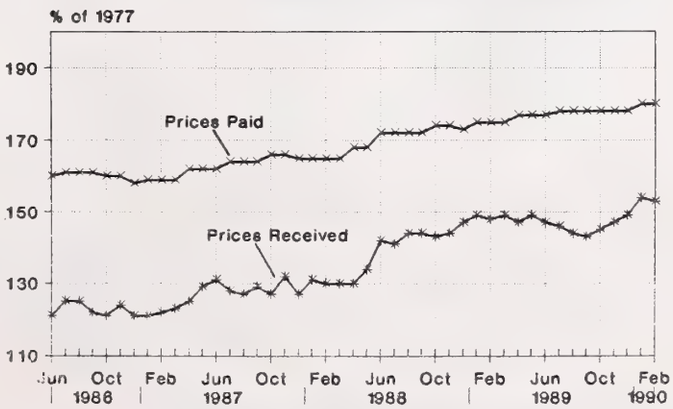
INDEX 1977=100	Jan. 1989	Feb. 1989	Jan. 1990	Feb. 1990
Prices Received	150	149	154	153
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	175	2/175	180	3/180
Ratio 1/	86	85	86	85

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ January 1989 prices paid index. 3/ January 1990 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



featuring...*CHOUTEAU COUNTY*

Chouteau County derives its name from a Frenchman by the name of Pierre Chouteau, who was President of the American Fur Company headquarters at Fort Benton. The landscape in Chouteau County is characterized by gently rolling plain, divided into benches by the Missouri, Marias, and Teton Rivers. The Missouri River traverses the county from west to east, and the Marias and Teton Rivers join the Missouri near Loma, Montana. A northeastern portion of the county is occupied by the Bear Paw Mountains, while the Highwood Mountains and a section of the Lewis & Clark National Forest cover a small area in the south.

Chouteau County ranked 1st for winter wheat production, 4th for barley , 11th for spring wheat, 8th for durum wheat, and 10th for oats production in 1988. The abundant grain crops brought in $36,664,000 in cash receipts in 1987.

While crops are the major agricultural interest, livestock raising is also an important industry in the county. Chouteau County ranked 3rd in the December 1, 1987 hog inventory, and 26th in the January 1, 1988 cattle count. Receipts from livestock totaled $14,555,000 in 1987. Government payments came to $33,518,000 in 1987 and combined with the crop and livestock receipts brings the total cash return for Chouteau County to $84,737,000 in 1987.

Chouteau County, Montana [1]

Land Area	Acres	2,551,980	Total Cropland	Acres	1,307,617
Land in Farms	Acres	2,228,089	Harvested Cropland	Acres	706,275
Number of Farms		795	Irrigated Land	Acres	10,204
Average size Farms	Acres	2,803			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	26,809	All Cattle &		
All Wheat	Acres	432,124	Calves	No. Head	40,668
Barley	Acres	226,449	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	2,218
Oats	Acres	4,559	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	10,385

[1] Data from the 1987 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wool & Mohair
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Annual Slaughter & Slaughter
Quarterly Egg Production

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

January Red Meat Production
7 State Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Honey Production

DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produces 1.1 million pounds of red meat in December 1989. This production is down 14 percent from last month and down 11 percent from December 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head is unchanged from last year, while average liveweight of cattle slaughtered at 892 pounds is down 14 percent from last December.

Hog slaughter, at 1900 head, is 500 head below last December, and average liveweight at 228 pounds, is down 4 percent from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in December 1989 totaled 3.17 billion pounds, down 6 percent from last year. January-December red meat production, at 39.4 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from the previous year.

Percentage changes for 1989 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, down 11; pork, up 1; lamb and mutton, up 4. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 STATES UP 7 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

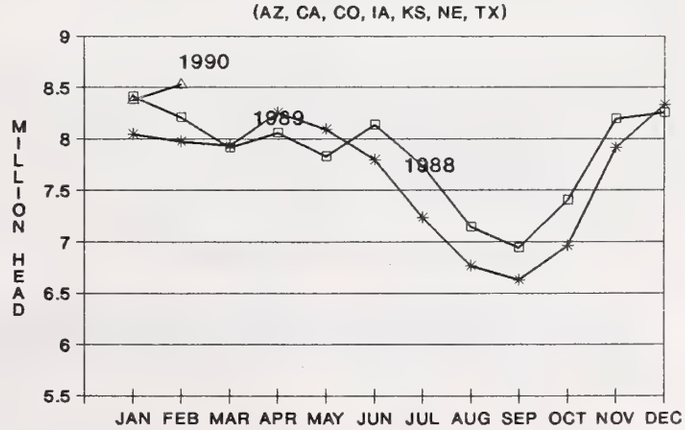
Cattle and calves on feed February 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.53 million head, up 7 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above February 1, 1988. This is the largest February on feed total since 1979.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.63 million, down 3 percent from last year and 7 percent below two years ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during January totaled 1.90 million, up 11 percent from last year and 14 percent above January 1988. This is the second largest placement total in January for the 7 States. Net placements of 1.78 million for January is 11 percent above last year and 14 percent above 1988.

Other disappearance totaled 114 thousand head compared to 104 thousand in January 1989 and 106 thousand in January 1988.

CATTLE ON FEED
7 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, TX)



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U.S. FARM WAGES AVERAGED $5.70 PER HOUR

There were 2.59 million people working on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 7-13, 1990. Self-employed farm operators accounted for 1.43 million of the total, along with 322,000 unpaid workers, and 690,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 143,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $5.70 per hour during the January 1990 survey week. This rate was up 19 cents from a year earlier. Workers paid on an hourly basis earned $5.30 per hour compared with $5.14 last January. Field workers received an average of $5.34 per hour, up 1 cent from the January 1989 week. Livestock workers earned $4.99 compared with $4.83 per hour a year earlier.

Self-employed farm operators worked an average of 30.6 hours, 2.2 hours less than the comparable week in 1989. Unpaid workers averaged 32.3 hours, 0.5 hours below last year. Hired employees worked 37.9 hours, the same number of hours as last January.

Benefits, such as housing and meals, were provided to 46 percent of the hired workers during the survey week. This compares with 53 percent during the January 1989 survey week. Seven percent of the workers received both housing and meals, and another 16 percent received housing, but no meals.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, JANUARY 7-13, 1990 1/

STATE AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER					METHOD OF PAY		
	FIELD	LIVESTOCK	FIELD & LIVESTOCK	SUPER-VISORY	OTHER	HOURLY	PIECE RATE	OTHER
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
NORTHEAST I	6.04	4.32	5.04	8.00	8.09	5.60	3/	5.48
NORTHEAST II	4.66	3.93	4.19	6.95	6.35	5.10	3/	4.09
APPALACHIAN I	4.44	4.54	4.51	6.62	3/	4.56	3/	4.95
APPALACHIAN II	4.19	4.61	4.44	8.33	6.58	4.40	5.67	6.13
SOUTHEAST	4.10	5.02	4.41	10.23	6.04	4.48	3/	6.24
FLORIDA	5.19	5.57	5.22	10.66	9.00	5.20	6.21	8.63
LAKE	6.65	4.48	4.93	8.30	8.33	5.65	3/	4.81
CORNBELT I	5.45	4.86	5.16	7.86	6.54	5.34	3/	6.33
CORNBELT II	5.14	5.24	5.21	8.61	3/	4.97	3/	6.40
DELTA	4.91	4.22	4.54	8.07	3/	4.58	8.43	5.61
NORTHERN PLAINS	5.30	5.72	5.64	8.01	6.21	5.64	3/	6.04
SOUTHERN PLAINS	4.56	4.69	4.63	9.23	6.17	4.54	3/	5.76
MOUNTAIN I	5.04	4.68	4.73	5.71	4.70	4.94	3/	4.90
MOUNTAIN II	4.90	5.16	5.07	7.01	3/	4.74	3/	5.85
MOUNTAIN III	4.96	5.20	5.04	8.92	7.87	4.99	3/	6.15
PACIFIC	6.09	6.44	6.19	9.82	7.54	6.16	7.14	7.62
CALIFORNIA	5.73	6.60	5.91	11.25	9.28	5.79	6.65	8.64
HAWAII	7.72	3/	7.68	13.57	8.72	7.77	7.26	12.52
U. S.	5.34	4.99	5.18	9.13	7.42	5.30	6.63	6.26

1/ EXCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE WORKERS. 2/ REGIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING: NORTHEAST I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. NORTHEAST II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. APPALACHIAN I: NC, VA. APPALACHIAN II: KY, TN, WV. SOUTHEAST: AL, GA, SC. LAKE: MI, MN, WI. CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH. CORNBELT II: IA, MO. DELTA: AR, LA, MS. NORTHERN PLAINS: KS, NE, ND, SD. SOUTHERN PLAINS: OK, TX. MOUNTAIN I: ID, MT, WY. MOUNTAIN II: CO, NV, UT. MOUNTAIN III: AZ, NM. PACIFIC: OR, WA. 3/ INSUFFICIENT DATA.

JANUARY 21 STATE MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 21 major States during January totaled 10.4 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from the production in these same states in January 1989. December revised production, at 10.0 billion pounds, was 2 percent below December 1988.

Production per cow in the 21 major States averaged 1,222 pounds for January, 5 pounds above January 1989. The number of cows on farms in the 21 major States was 8.54 million head, 54 thousand head below January 1989 and 9 thousand head below December 1989.

During the October-December 1989 period the 21 major States produced 84.7 percent of the U.S. production. If producers in the remaining 29 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 21 states, the U.S. production would be 12.3 billion pounds for January 1990.

FEBRUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS

Montana potato producers had 1.9 million cwt of potatoes on hand February 1, the same as a year ago. Most of the potatoes will be utilized as seed for the 1990 potato crop. The stocks held represent 85 percent of Montana's 1989 production.

Western States storages held 104 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1990, down 7 percent from last year and 11 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Washington were each off 9 percent from last year and Oregon was off 10 percent. California stocks were 6 percent below a year ago; while Colorado holdings were up 4 percent.

Disappearance from harvest to February 1 for the **U.S.** was a record high 173 million cwt, up 12 percent from last year and 3 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss so far this season was 18.1 million cwt, down 5 percent from last year's 19.0 million cwt and 12 percent below 20.5 million cwt two years ago. Disappearance during January totaled 30.2 million cwt compared with 26.7 million cwt in 1989 and 29.4 million cwt in January 1988.

Processing usage this season totaled 80.7 million cwt, up 18 percent from last year and 12 percent above two years ago. January usage was 14.0 million cwt compared with 11.2 million cwt last year and 12.7 million cwt processed in January 1988.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1989 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1990

STATE	CROP 0F 1988			CROP OF 1989		
	PROD	STOCKS FEB 1, 1989	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS FEB 1, 1990	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,105	2,600	43	6,600	2,450	37
COLO	19,040	11,200	59	20,603	11,700	57
IDAHO	102,610	58,000	57	102,475	53,000	52
MAINE	22,000	10,700	49	22,000	10,900	50
MICH	7,820	2,400	31	6,900	2,200	32
MINN	12,075	6,900	57	13,860	6,300	45
MONT	2,156	1,900	88	2,228	1,900	85
NEBR	2,128	850	40	2,528	900	36
N Y -LI	1,992	450	23	1,898	350	18
-UPST	4,800	1,700	35	4,730	1,200	25
N DAK	15,525	6,800	44	15,070	7,800	52
OHIO	1,697	50	3	1,462	50	3
OREG	20,735	11,100	54	23,308	10,000	43
PA	3,690	1,500	41	4,715	1,400	30
WASH	63,250	27,700	44	64,310	25,100	39
WIS	20,000	7,200	36	23,460	7,900	34
15 STATES	305,623	151,050	49	316,147	143,150	45

JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 1 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 5.67 billion during January 1990, down 1 percent from the 5.74 billion produced a year ago. Production included 4.93 billion for table eggs, 662 million for broiler-type hatching eggs, and 78 million for egg-type hatching eggs. The total number of layers during January averaged 271 million, virtually unchanged from a year ago. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,090 eggs, compared with 2,111 in January 1989.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 1990 totaled 272 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 272 million layers consisted of 230 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 38.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs and 3.20 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 1990 averaged 66.9 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from last year's 67.4 eggs per 100 layers.

Laying flocks in the 20 major egg producing states produced 4.74 billion eggs during January, down 1 percent from the 4.79 billion produced a year ago. The number of layers during January averaged 226 million, down fractionally from the 227 million a year ago. Data for the 30 quarterly states were estimated based on the percent change in the 20 states conducting monthly surveys. These monthly states accounted for about 83 percent of the U.S. egg production during the 3-month period, September through November 1989.

MONTANA 1989 HONEY PRODUCTION UP, U.S. DOWN

Montana beekeepers produced 6.3 million pounds of honey in 1989, up 25 percent from 1988's production. There were 100,000 colonies in production during the year, down 5,000 from the previous year. Yield per colony averaged 63 pounds, up 31 percent from 1988. Honey stocks not under loan as of December 15, 1989, totaled 819,000 pounds, compared with 151,000 pounds on hand in 1988. The estimated price of honey, excluding government payments, was 45 cents per pound--down 2 cents from 1988. The value of Montana honey production for 1989 was $2.8 million, up 20 percent from 1988's level.

Nationally, honey production totaled 169 million pounds, down 21 percent from 1988. There were 3.3 million colonies producing honey, up 3 percent from 1988. Yield per colony averaged 51.1 pounds, down from 66.3 pounds in 1988. Colonies that produced in more than one state were counted in each state, and yields may be understated. Producer honey stocks were 31.1 million pounds on December 15. Adverse conditions were encountered in most states and included wet weather, restrictions on movement early in the year, dry weather, disease, and mite infestations throughout the year.

Prices for the 1989 crop averaged 48.4 cents per pound, down 1.6 cents from the 1988 price of 50.0 cents per pound. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops.

At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighing state average prices by the state quantities sold. Prices declined for most types of honey in 1989 except for the extra light amber honey retailed by producers and amber honeys sold to private processors and co-ops.

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Montana's Rank
Ag Prices
Dairy Products
Wheat & Barley Movement
Potato Stocks

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CONCERN FOR WATER AVAILABILITY ON THE RISE

Back in the 1800's, government policies encouraged water supply development, especially in the arid West. Those policies resulted in exploitation of rivers, streams, and groundwater aquifers for irrigated agriculture. The result was the successful settlement of arid and semi-arid western lands.

Now, however, irrigation takes the largest share of the nation's water resources. On the plus side, irrigated agriculture contributes a big amount to the total value of ag products sold. Of the nation's harvested cropland acres, irrigated lands account for 13%, but contribute about 30% to the value of cropland production.

The concern now is about the competition for water resources. Water demands for traditional uses--agriculture, energy, domestic, and industrial--are expected to increase as population grows.

But other concerns have come into play. A higher value is now placed on water remaining in rivers and streams because of environmental interests. There is growing recognition that water, itself, has value for water-quality improvement, fish propagation, and recreational use.

Another concern is arising from outstanding Indian claims to reserved water rights. When Indian reservations were created, the U.S. implicitly established those rights. While uncertain, the amount of water associated with the rights is potentially large.

It all adds up to more concern about the availability of water and its quality--an issue sure to play a big part of agriculture in the 1990's.

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle Inventory
Sheep Inventory
Monthly Ag Prices Received
Manufactured Dairy
U.S. All Cattle & Calves Map

A SPECIAL THANKS goes out to all livestock producers responding to our January 1 cattle and sheep inventory survey. Field and telephone enumerators contacted nearly 1,700 Montana farmers and ranchers early in January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

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CATTLE INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1990

Montana's January 1, 1990 cattle and calf inventory, at 2.35 million head, is down 4 percent from a year earlier. The inventory included fewer beef cows compared with last January, 1.368 million head -- down 1 percent, and more beef cow replacement heifers, 335,000 head -- up 14 percent.

Milk cows numbers declined to 24,000 head, down from 25,000 last year and milk cow replacement heifers remained unchanged at 7,000 head. Other heifers weighing 500 pounds or more, at 167,000 head were up 11 percent from 1989; steers weighing 500 pounds or more showed a large decline from last January with 181,000 on hand, down a sharp 27 percent. There were 193,000 calves on hand weighing less than 500 pounds, down a significant 29 percent from the 270,000 on hand January 1, 1989. The 1989 calf crop was 1,350,000 head equaling the number born during 1988. The average value per head in the 1990 inventory was $680 compared with $645 a year earlier.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1990, totaled 99.3 million head, up slightly from the 99.2 million on January 1, 1989, but down fractionally from the 99.6 million two years ago. This reversed the recent downward trend in cattle inventories and shows the first January 1 yearly increase since 1982.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.9 million, were up fractionally from 43.7 million a year ago, and up 1 percent from 43.5 million two years ago. This was the second consecutive increase in all cows and heifers that have calved following 6 consecutive years of decline.

- Beef cows, at 33.7 million, were 1 percent above January 1, 1989 and two percent above 2 years ago.

- Milk cows, at 10.1 million, were 1 percent below January 1, 1989 and 2 percent below 1988. This is the fourth consecutive year of decline.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1990, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.9 million, up 3 percent and up 4 percent.

- Beef replacement heifers, 5.47 million, down slightly but up 4 percent.

- Milk replacement heifers, 4.29 million, up 2 percent and up 4 percent.

- Other heifers, 8.09 million, up 5 percent and up 3 percent.

- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.1 million, up 2 percent and up 2 percent.

- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.21 million, down fractionally but up 2 percent.

- Calves under 500 pounds, 19.3 million, down 4 percent and down 8 percent.

- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.6 million, up 2 percent but down 2 percent.

See map on back page.

CATTLE and CALVES INVENTORY--JANUARY 1, 1989-90

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1989	1990	% Change '90/'89	1989	1990	% Change '90/'89
	----000 Head---			----000 Head---		
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,450	2,350	-4	99,180	99,337	0
Cows & Heifers that have calved						
Beef Cows	1,380	1,368	-1	33,515	33,705	+1
Milk Cows	25	24	-4	10,212	10,149	-1
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	293	335	+14	5,477	5,474	0
For milk cow replacement	7	7	0	4,205	4,291	+2
Other heifers	150	167	+11	7,725	8,093	+5
Steers 500 pounds and over	248	181	-27	15,679	16,067	+2
Bulls 500 pounds and over	77	75	-3	2,215	2,211	0
Calves less than 500 pounds	270	193	-29	20,152	19,348	-4
All cattle value ($1,000)	1,580,250	1,598,000	+1	60,234,219	63,627,207	+6
Value per head (Dollars)	645	680	+5	607	641	+5

CALF CROP and CATTLE FARMS--1988 AND 1989

ITEM	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1988	1989	% Change '89/'88	1988	1989	% Change '89/'88
Calves born during year (1,000 head)	1,350	1,350	0	40,588	40,142	-1
Number cattle farms	15,400	15,200	-1	1,355,720	1,326,800	-2

SHEEP and LAMB INVENTORY -- JANUARY 1, 1990

There were 663,000 sheep and lambs on **Montana** farms and ranches on January 1, 1990. This inventory is up 11 percent from last January 1, and is the largest number since 675,000 were on hand January 1, 1975. Ewes one year old and over, at 490,000 head were up 13 percent from a year ago, and had the largest percentage increase across all sheep classes. Ewe lambs 3 months old and older jumped 12 percent from last year to 124,000 head. The 1989 lamb crop was 500,000 lambs, 9 percent larger than a year earlier. There were 23,0000 sheep and lambs on feed at the beginning of the year down 23 percent from last year. The average value of sheep and lambs was $87.00 per head, down $3.00 from last year.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 1990 totaled 11.4 million head, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The value of sheep and lambs on hand totaled $998 million, up 11 percent from a year earlier. The average value per head was $87.80, up 6 percent from a year earlier. Stock sheep inventory increased to 9.65 million head on January 1, 1990, up 5 percent from 9.21 million last year. Ewes one year old and older, at 7.65 million head, were up 6 percent. Ewe lamb inventory totaled 1.34 million head, nearly the same as a year earlier. Sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1990 for the slaughter market in the 25 major feeding states totaled 1.72 million head, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The 1989 lamb crop of 7.74 million head increased 7 percent from 1988. The 1989 lambing rate was 108 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1989, compared with 98 in 1988.

SHEEP and LAMB INVENTORY, JANUARY 1, 1989-90

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1989	1990	% Change '90/'89	1989	1990	% Change '90/'89
	----000 Head---			----000 Head---		
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	600	663	+11	10,858	11,368	+5
On feed	30	23	-23	1,646	1,717	+4
Stock sheep	570	640	+12	9,212	9,651	+5
Lambs						
Ewes	111	124	+12	1,344	1,338	+0
Wethers and rams	10	9	-10	346	309	-11
One year old & older						
Ewes	434	490	+13	7,187	7,649	+6
Wethers and rams	15	17	+13	334	356	+7
All sheep value ($000)	54,000	57,681	+7	899,479	997,809	+11
Value per head (Dollars)	90.00	87.00	-3	82.80	87.80	+6

LAMB CROP and SHEEP FARMS--1988 AND 1989

ITEM	MONTANA			UNITED STATES		
	1988	1989	% Change '89/'88	1988	1989	% Change '89/'88
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	460	500	+9	7,206	7,739	+7
Number of sheep farms 1/	2,800	2,700	-4	113,440	111,040	-2

1/ Actual number.

JANUARY AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farm prices increased in January over December for cattle, hay, and milk. Most crop prices were steady with last month while hog prices went down. However, compared with year ago levels, crop prices are down while most livestock prices are up.

Hay is sharply lower in price compared with a year earlier. All wheat this January was $3.78 per bushel compared with $4.01 a year ago. Barley, at $2.27, is down from $2.95 and all hay, at $71.00 per ton, is down from $93.00 a year ago. All beef cattle in January were $71.60 per cwt compared with $68.20 last year. Steers and heifers, at $85.00 per cwt, are up from $81.20.

The January all farm products index for prices received by Montana farmers, at 182 (1977=100), compares with 173 in December and 186 a year ago in January. The all crops index, at 156, is up from 154 in December, but down from 173 last year. The January livestock and products index, at 205, compares with 190 in December and 197 for January 1989.

The **U.S.** all farm products index of prices received by farmers for January increased 4 points from the previous month to 153 percent of its 1977 average. Compared with a year earlier, the index was up 4 points.

The all crops index for January was 135, up 6.3 percent from December but 4.3 percent below a year earlier. A sharp increase in the price of commercial vegetables caused most of the increase in the index.

The livestock and poultry index was 170, unchanged from last month but 7.6 percent above January a year ago. Compared with December, prices for cattle, broilers, and eggs were higher while prices for hogs and turkeys decreased. The all milk price was unchanged from the previous month.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Jan. 1989	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1989	MONTANA Jan. 15, 1990	U.S. Jan. 15, 1990
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.93	3.87	3.85	3.91
Durum	Bu.	4.96	3.33	3.35	3.38
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.16	3.73	3.75	3.67
All Wheat	Bu.	4.01	3.77	3.78	3.83
Barley, All	Bu.	2.95	2.12	2.27	2.36
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.15
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.76
Oats	Bu.	2.31	1.51	1.50	1.40
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	94.00	70.00	72.00	93.50
All Other Hay	Ton	86.00	60.00	62.00	66.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	93.00	69.00	71.00	85.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	81.20	80.60	85.00	77.00
Cows	Cwt.	45.20	47.00	48.70	49.30
Beef Cattle [1]	Cwt.	68.20	64.70	71.60	71.60
Calves	Cwt.	90.20	87.60	89.60	90.20
Sheep	Cwt.	28.00	26.70	29.50	29.20
Lambs	Cwt.	69.00	64.90	66.20	57.40
Hogs	Cwt.	36.60	44.00	40.30	46.90
All Milk	Cwt.	13.75	15.20	15.90	16.10
Eggs	Doz.	.69	.74	.85	.83
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.20	1.10	1.10	.65
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	186	173	182	153
All Crops	Pct.	173	154	156	135
Livestock & Products	Pct.	197	190	205	170

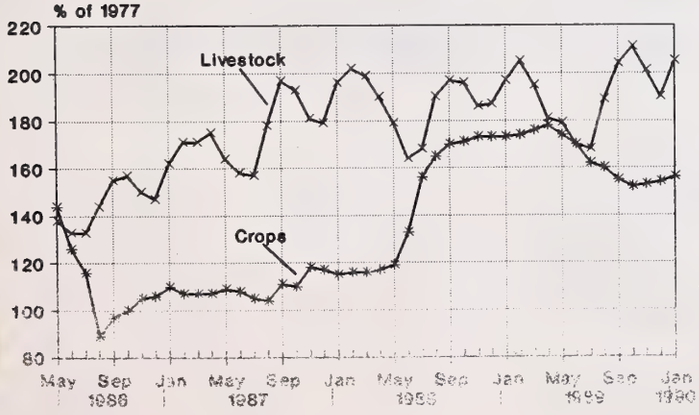
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

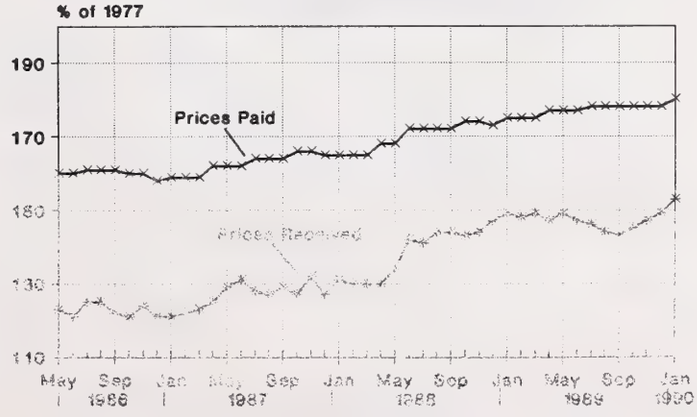
INDEX 1977=100	Dec. 1988	Jan. 1989	Dec. 1989	Jan. 1990
Prices Received	144	149	149	153
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/173	175	3/178	180
Ratio 1/	83	85	84	85

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1988 prices paid index. 3/ October 1989 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



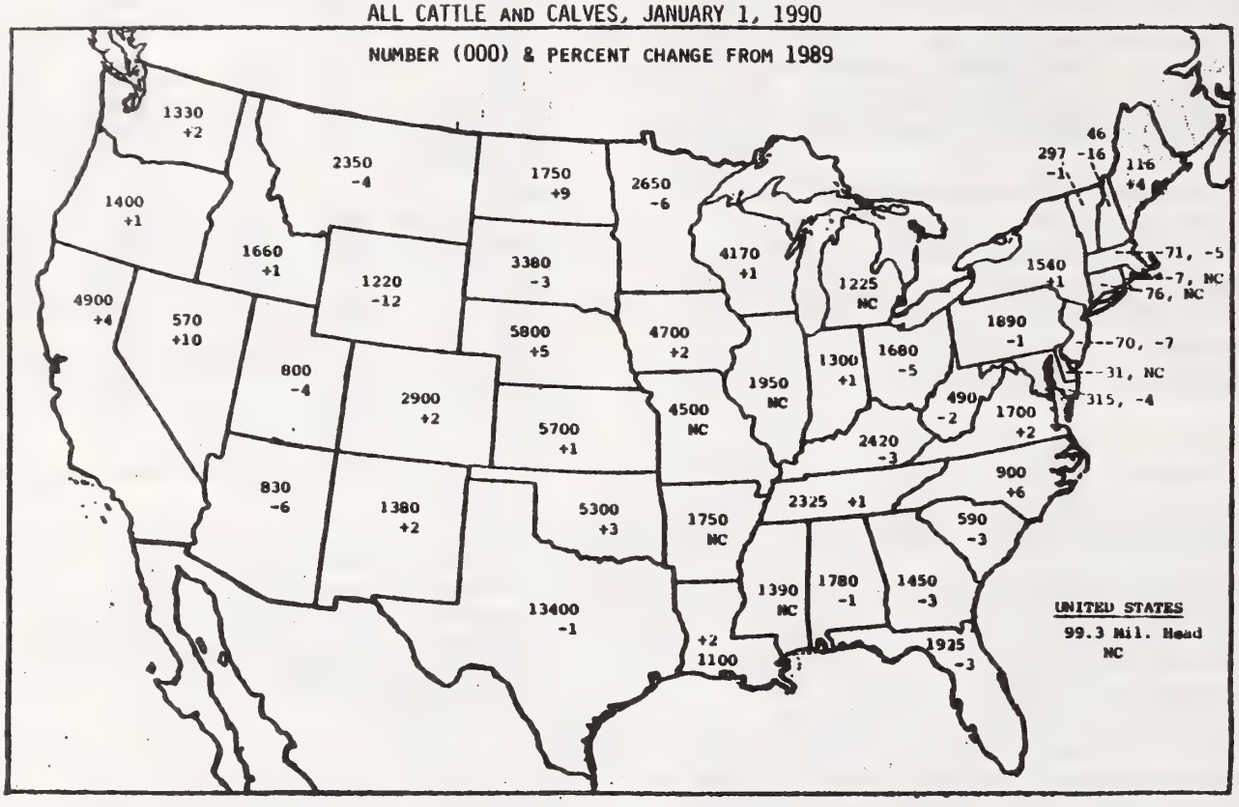
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



DECEMBER U.S. MANUFACTURED DAIRY

Butter production was 108 million pounds in December, 4 percent below December 1988 but 15 percent above November 1989. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 483 million pounds, 1 percent below December 1988 and 6 percent above November 1989. Creamed cottage cheese production was 40.0 million pounds, 14 percent below December 1988 and 8 percent below November 1989. Lowfat cottage cheese production was 21.0 million pounds, virtually unchanged from December 1988 and 7 percent below November 1989. Frozen desserts: (comparisons with December 1988) Ice cream (hard)--51.0 million gallons, down 5 percent. Ice milk--25.3 million gallons, up 14 percent. Sherbet (hard)--2.92 million gallons, down 5 percent.

ALL CATTLE AND CALVES, JANUARY 1, 1990



COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Labor
Honey
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter

LYLE H. PRATT, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

1989 Season Crop Highlights
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Prod.
Slaughter
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, & Price
Quarterly Milk Production
Potato Stocks

MONTANA 1989 CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Crop production in Montana in 1989 was above the average of the 1980s--which included 2 major drought years. All wheat production, at 145 million bushels, was 15 percent above the decade average; barley production, at 68.8 million bushels, was 11 percent above; and all hay production, at 4.5 million tons, was 10 percent above. The value of Montana's crop production, at $1.1 billion, was topped only by the crops of 1981 and 1982.

Planting Montana's 1989 crops was delayed because of cool and wet weather. However, nearly 40 percent of the winter wheat had to be reseeded due to extensive winter kill. Considerable alfalfa acreage also did not survive the winter.

Yet, by the end of June, prospects were mostly improved over 1988's major drought. Hot and dry weather the first half of July diminished prospects somewhat, and the eastern third of Montana continued dry throughout the major part of the growing season.

Harvest was delayed because of the slow seeding start and late August rains. Considerable barley acreage was damaged by sprouting in the head. Spring wheat was also adversely affected. By October 1, harvest was virtually complete for small grains. The state's sugar beet crop suffered from curly top and corn intended for grain was severely frosted in early September.

SEE ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY TABLE ON BACK PAGE

CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed January 1, 1990, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly States totaled 9.94 million head, up 3 percent from January 1, 1989, but down 2 percent from 1988.

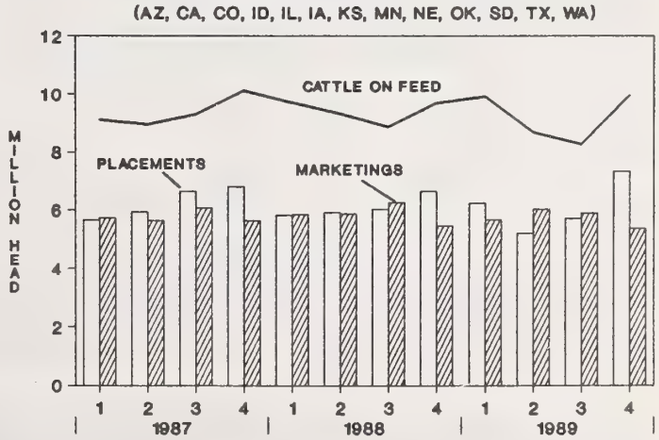
The cattle on feed inventory included 6.46 million steers and steer calves, 4 percent above last year but 2 percent below 1988. This group represented 65 percent of the total January number on feed, compared to 64 percent last year and 65 percent in 1988. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.44 million, fractionally above a year ago but 1 percent below 1988.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during the October-December 1989 quarter totaled 7.32 million, up 10 percent from 1988 and 7 percent above 1987. OTHER DISAPPEARANCE of 293 thousand head leaves NET PLACEMENTS at 7.03 million, compared with 6.30 million in 1988.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle for slaughter during October-December totaled 5.36 million 2 percent below 1988 and 5 percent below the same period in 1987.

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.69 million head during the January-March quarter of 1990. This would be up fractionally from the first quarter marketings in 1989 but 3 percent below 1988.

CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETING
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES
(AZ, CA, CO, ID, IL, IA, KS, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, WA)



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WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1972-1990

Year Beginning June	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 3/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1972	983	1,546	1	2,530	532	67	200	799	1,135	1,934	597	1.76
1973	3/ 597	1,711	3	2,311	544	84	126	754	1,217	1,971	340	3.95
1974	340	1,782	3	2,125	545	92	35	672	1,018	1,690	435	4.09
1975	435	2,127	2	2,564	589	99	38	726	1,173	1,899	666	3.55
1976	666	2,149	2	2,817	588	92	74	754	950	1,704	1,113	2.73
1977	1,113	2,046	2	3,161	586	80	193	859	1,124	1,983	1,178	2.33
1978	1,178	1,776	2	2,955	592	87	158	837	1,194	2,061	924	2.97
1979	924	2,134	2	3,060	596	101	86	783	1,375	2,158	902	3.78
1980	902	2,381	3	3,285	611	113	59	783	1,514	2,296	989	3.91
1981	989	2,785	3	3,777	602	110	135	847	1,771	2,618	1,159	3.66
1982	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2417	1,515	3.55
1983	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	642	100	369	111	1,429	2,540	1,399	3.53
1984	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	405	1,154	1,424	2,578	1,425	3.38
1985	1,425	2,425	15	3,865	678	93	274	1,045	915	1,960	1,905	3.15
1986	1,905	2,092	21	4,018	696	84	413	1,193	1,004	2,197	1,821	2.42
1987	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	735	103	137	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989	4/ 702	2,036	20	2,758	750	100	165	1,015	1,275	2,290	468	3.85
1990	468											

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Excludes an abnormally large volume of grain in transit. 4/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply & Demand Estimates--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

JANUARY 1, 1990 POTATO STOCKS

Montana producers have 2.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage as of January 1, compared with 1.95 million a year ago. The January 1 stocks represent 90 percent of 1989 production.

January 1, 1990 **U.S.** potato stocks are estimated at 173 million cwt. This is down 2 percent from a year ago and 12 percent short of 2 years ago. Remaining storage was 55 percent of the 1989 crop compared with 58 percent a year ago. Storage types are 81 percent russet, 16 percent white, and 3 percent red.

Western states were holding 123 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, 1990, down 4 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho cellars held 61.5 million cwt. the first of this year, down 6 percent from last year. Washington stocks of 30.4 million cwt. were off 5 percent; while Oregon stocks of 12,100 million cwt. were down 8 percent from last year.

Colorado storages held 13.8 million cwt. this year, up 6 percent from last year, and California at 3.30 million cwt. was up 3 percent.

DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Montana slaughter plants produces 1.1 million pounds of red meat in December 1989. This production is down 14 percent from last month and down 11 percent from December 1988.

The number of cattle slaughtered, at 1,400 head is unchanged from last year, while average liveweight of cattle slaughtered at 892 pounds is down 14 percent from last December.

Hog slaughter, at 1900 head, is 500 head below last December, and average liveweight at 228 pounds, is down 4 percent from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States in December 1989 totaled 3.17 billion pounds, down 6 percent from last year. January-December red meat production, at 39.4 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Percentage changes for 1989 accumulated production by individual components were: beef, down 2; veal, down 11; pork, up 1; lamb and mutton, up 4. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION

Milk cows on **Montana** farms produced 83 million pounds of milk during the October-December quarter of 1989. This production is down 5 percent from the comparable period in 1988. The number of milk cows on farms for the quarter, at 24,000 head, was down 1,000 head from a year ago.

Total milk production and the number of milk cows on farms were at the lowest levels since the January-March quarter of 1987 when milk production averaged 76 million pounds, and milk cows numbered 24,000 head. Milk production per cow was 3,470 pounds, down 2 percent from last year.

Montana dairymen fed 15 pounds of grain concentrates per milk cow daily for the quarter, unchanged from last year. The value per hundredweight of grain and concentrates fed to milk cows was $7.50, also unchanged from last year.

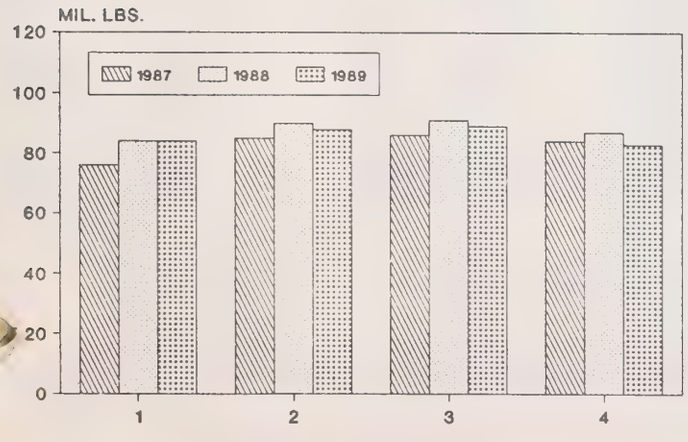
The quarterly production of milk for the **U.S.** was 35.2 billion pounds, 1 percent below October-December 1988.

The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 10.1 million head, virtually unchanged from July-September 1989 but 1 percent less than October-December 1988.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1990 averaged 17.9 pounds, 0.8 pounds less than January 1, 1989.

The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, 1990, averaged $8.02 per hundredweight, $0.38 per hundredweight less than the January 1, 1989 value.

QUARTERLY MILK PRODUCTION
MONTANA, 1987-1989



1989 EGG PRODUCTION

There were 180 million eggs produced in **Montana** during the year ending November 30, 1989, down 7 percent from last year's production. Layer numbers during 1989 averaged 703,000 compared with 773,000 a year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1989 was 256 eggs, up from 251 eggs per layer in 1988.

There were 890,000 chickens on Montana farms December 1, 1989 compared with 910,000 on hand last year. The inventory value was $2,270,000, up from $2,093,000 on December 1, 1988.

U.S. egg production during 1989 totaled 67.1 billion eggs, down 4 percent from last year's total of 69.7 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1989 averaged 269 million layers, down 3 percent from 1988. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1989 was 250 eggs, down from the previous year's average of 251 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand December 1, 1988 (excluding broilers) was 356 million head, virtually unchanged from last year. The total value was $770 million, up from $726 million on December 1, 1988.

CEREAL BILL SPELLS BIG BUCKS TO RETAILERS, NOT FARMERS

Go to your local supermarket and chances are you'll run into a passel of new cereals--"Captain Beebleberries" or the latest in "new, improved oat bran."

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for cereals and bakery products rose a sharp 8.5% from 1988 to 1989 with cereals accounting for a good share of that. With increasing concern about high fiber and other nutritional benefits in cereals, manufacturers are scrambling to keep up the pace and their share of the market.

Most of the new breakfast cereals claim high fiber and added nutrition. Many have added ingredients such as dried fruits and nuts. These added ingredients hike up total manufacturing costs.

Currently, 90% of the price consumers pay for cereal and bakery products goes for manufacturing and distribution. Input prices for packaging, labor, energy, and advertising have risen this year.

With input prices up and more inputs being used (particularly advertising and promotion), basic costs are pushed higher and this shows up at the retail level.

1989 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY 1/

		MONTANA								U.S.
		Acreage		Production						
	Year	Planted	Harv.	Unit	Yield Per Acre	Total	% Chg. From Prev. Year	Season Avg. Price Per Unit	Value of Prod.	Production
		Thousands				Thous.	%	$	Thous.$	Thous.
WINTER WHEAT	1986	2,150	2,000	Bu.	32.0	64,000	+186	2.39	152,960	1,520,433
	1987	2,300	2,200		36.0	79,200	+24	2.66	210,672	1,565,381
	1988	2,450	2,100		19.0	39,900	-50	3.86	150,014	1,561,910
	1989	2,500	1,500		36.0	54,000	+35	3.90	210,600	1,453,842
DURUM WHEAT	1986	165	160	Bu.	27.0	4,320	+200	2.75	11,880	97,907
	1987	195	190		28.0	5,320	+23	3.40	18,088	92,617
	1988	280	230		9.0	2,070	-61	5.20	10,764	44,831
	1989	340	335		18.0	6,030	+191	3.35	20,201	92,229
OTHER SPRING WHEAT	1986	2,700	2,600	Bu.	27.0	70,200	+166	2.62	183,924	472,230
	1987	2,400	2,300		29.0	66,700	-5	2.78	185,426	449,687
	1988	2,000	1,500		12.0	18,000	-73	4.10	73,800	205,460
	1989	3,500	3,400		25.0	85,000	+372	3.75	318,750	489,747
ALL WHEAT	1986	5,015	4,760	Bu.	29.1	138,520	+176	2.52	348,764	2,090,570
	1987	4,895	4,690		32.2	151,220	+9	2.74	414,186	2,107,685
	1988	4,730	3,830		15.7	59,970	-60	3.98	238,578	1,812,201
	1989	6,340	5,235		27.7	145,030	+142	3.79	549,551	2,035,818
BARLEY	1986	2,400	2,180	Bu.	39.0	85,020	+183	1.60	136,032	608,532
	1987	2,300	2,100		45.0	94,500	+11	1.82	171,990	521,499
	1988	1,800	1,250		24.0	30,000	-68	2.82	84,600	289,994
	1989	1,700	1,600		43.0	68,800	+129	2.15	147,920	403,443
OATS	1986	200	90	Bu.	46.0	4,140	+79	1.37	5,672	384,996
	1987	235	110		55.0	6,050	+46	1.49	9,015	373,713
	1988	210	90		31.0	2,790	-54	2.26	6,305	217,600
	1989	250	145		46.0	6,670	+139	1.45	9,672	373,778
CORN FOR GRAIN 2/	1986	80	13	Bu.	115.0	1,495	+43	2.10	3,140	8,225,764
	1987	80	15		105.0	1,575	+5	2.20	3,465	7,131,300
	1988	90	20		110.0	2,200	+40	3.15	6,930	4,928,681
	1989	80	4		80.0	320	-85	2.60	832	7,527,152
CORN FOR SILAGE	1986	--	63	Tons	19.0	1,197	-9	--	--	90,22.
	1987	--	64		18.0	1,152	-4	--	--	86,442
	1988	--	67		19.0	1,273	+11	--	--	78,791
	1989	--	75		18.0	1,350	+6	--	--	86,243
POTATOES (FALL)	1986	7.8	7.7	Cwt.	290.0	2,233	+18	6.65	14,849	318,198
	1987	8.0	7.9		300.0	2,370	+6	5.65	13,391	344,998
	1988	7.8	7.7		280.0	2,156	-9	7.75	16,709	313,558
	1989	8.2	8.1		275.0	2,228	+3	8.25	18,381	324,726
DRY BEANS	1986	4.8	4.5	Cwt.	21.6	97	+70	15.00	1,455	22,960
	1987	5.8	5.7		21.9	125	+29	12.00	1,500	26,031
	1988	4.4	4.0		19.0	76	-39	28.00	2,128	19,253
	1989	6.0	5.9		22.0	130	+71	27.50	3,575	24,333
SUGARBEETS	1986	47.2	46.8	Tons	21.7	1,016	+25	39.10	39,726	25,150
	1987	49.2	48.9		22.2	1,086	+7	42.20	45,829	28,072
	1988	49.6	48.9		21.1	1,032	-5	45.20	46,646	24,810
	1989	52.7	51.9		19.9	1,033	0	--	--	25,553
ALFALFA HAY	1986	--	1,300	Tons	2.30	2,990	+75	--	--	91,865
	1987	--	1,300		2.20	2,860	-4	--	--	84,225
	1988	--	1,100		1.90	2,090	-27	--	--	69,304
	1989	--	1,350		2.20	2,970	+42	--	--	77,208
ALL HAY 3/	1986	--	2,250	Tons	1.92	4,320	+57	51.00	220,320	155,385
	1987	--	2,200		1.91	4,210	-3	45.00	189,450	147,457
	1988	--	1,800		1.55	2,790	-34	85.00	237,150	126,010
	1989	--	2,350		1.90	4,470	+60	71.00	317,370	145,445
SWEET CHERRIES 4/	1986	--	--	Tons	--	1,000	-71	480.00	480	136,760
	1987	--	--		--	2,600	+160	877.00	2,280	212,820
	1988	--	--		--	1,900	-27	548.00	1,042	184,510
	1989	--	--		--	--	--	--	--	--
ALL MAIN CROPS	1986	--	--		--	--	--	--	730,712 5/	--
	1987	--	--		--	--	--	--	805,277 5/	--
	1988	--	--		--	--	--	--	593,442 5/	--
	1989	--	--		--	--	--	--	1,047,301 5/	--

[1] All estimates for 1989 are preliminary. [2] Planted acreage of corn for all purposes. [3] Price of baled hay. [4] Utilized production in actual tons. [5] Excludes sugar beets value.

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A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS
Issued twice monthly by the
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WINTER WHEAT SEEDED ACRES INCREASE

Montana farmers seeded 2.7 million acres of winter wheat last fall for harvest in 1990. This is up 8 percent from last year, and is 9 percent above the 10-year average. Winter wheat crop condition is rated mostly fair to good with snow cover protection generally good but diminishing statewide. Soil moisture has improved during December in most areas with eastern Montana needing a lot of precipitation to replenish depleted subsoil supplies.

Nationally, area seeded for 1990 is expected to total 57.0 million acres, up 3 percent from 1989. This would be the largest winter wheat area since the 1985 crop. Seeding of the 1990 crop started last August in a few states, including Colorado, Texas, and Washington. By September 1, about 3 percent of the intended acreage was seeded. Planting progressed to 98 percent completion as of December 1, 1989. At that time, most of the remaining intended acreage was in California, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas.

The Montana crop production, grain stocks, and hog estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,700 Montana farmers and ranchers during December. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. For those operators that were called and responded to the survey a SPECIAL THANKS. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

PLEASE RETURN

DECEMBER 1 HAY STOCKS

Montana farmers and ranchers had 3.8 million tons of hay on hand December 1, 1989, 40 percent more than a year ago. Stocks are up significantly because of open fall grazing and the drought reduced stocks on hand December 1, 1988. Producers harvested 4.47 millions tons of all hay from 2.35 million acres in 1989, up sharply from the 2.79 million tons produced last year. There were 2.97 million tons of alfalfa hay and 1.50 million tons of other hay produced in 1989.

Nationally, hay stocks on farms totaled 101 million tons on December 1, 1989. This is 12 percent more than on hand a year earlier but 14 percent below the holdings on December 1, 1987. The low stocks of a year ago reflected the drought reduced crop of 1988 while the current hay crop is of a more normal size.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS BY DISTRICTS [1]

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Dec.1, 1988	Sep. 1, 1989*	Dec. 1, 1989	Dec.1, 1988	Sep. 1, 1989*	Dec. 1, 1989
	--- Million Bushels ---					
Northwest	1.5	4.5	2.6	1.4	1.6	1.6
North Central	45.3	85.9	71.3	18.2	31.2	28.9
Northeast	24.4	37.3	28.4	5.0	12.9	6.6
Central	15.1	23.9	14.9	7.7	8.0	9.0
Southwest	3.1	5.2	3.4	2.6	4.3	2.7
South Central	4.7	9.1	8.5	2.2	6.9	4.9
Southeast	4.9	8.4	6.9	0.6	2.6	2.3
STATE	99.0	174.3	136.0	37.7	67.5	56.0

[1] District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. * Revised.

DECEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1988	Sept. 1, 1989*	Dec. 1, 1989	% Chg. '89/'88	Dec. 1, 1988	Sept. 1, 1989*	Dec. 1 1989
	----Thousand Bushels----			-Pct.-	------Thousand Bushels------		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	71,000	150,000	104,000	+47	620,000	832,000	582,000
Off Farms [1]	28,035	24,265	32,000	+14	1,095,902	1,085,246	835,532
TOTAL	99,035	174,265	136,000	+37	1,715,902	1,917,246	1,417,532
WINTER WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	39,000	52,000	39,000	---	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	16,777	12,130	11,900	-29	--	--	--
TOTAL	55,777	64,130	50,900	- 9	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT [2]							
On Farms	32,000	98,000	65,000	+103	--	--	--
Off Farms [1]	11,258	12,135	20,100	+79	--	--	--
TOTAL	43,258	110,135	85,100	+97	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT [3]							
On Farms [4]	--	--	--	--	49,615	79,150	61,827
Off Farms [1 4]	--	--	--	--	40,928	42,431	38,369
TOTAL	4,103	9,020	8,100	+97	90,543	121,581	100,196
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,280,200	967,500	4,698,800
Off Farms [1]	--	--	--	--	2,791,367	962,928	2,380,268
TOTAL [4]	--	--	--	--	7,071,567	1,930,428	7,079,068
BARLEY							
On Farms	26,000	60,000	45,000	+73	182,470	253,350	187,940
Off Farms [1]	11,739	7,503	11,000	- 6	189,648	163,598	165,213
TOTAL	37,739	67,503	56,000	+48	372,118	416,948	353,153

[1] Terminals, mills, interior elevators. [2] Montana stocks for winter wheat, all spring wheat and September barley separately are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. [3] Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. [4] Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Some data revised.

1989 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1988	1989 [1]	1988	1989 [1]	1988	1989 [1]	1988	1989 [1]
MONTANA		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2,450	2,500	2,100	1,500	19.0	36.0	39,900	54,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	280	340	230	335	9.0	18.0	2,070	6,030
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,000	3,500	1,500	3,400	12.0	25.0	18,000	85,000
All Wheat	Bu.	4,730	6,340	3,830	5,235	15.7	27.7	59,970	145,030
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	90	80	20	4	110.0	80.0	2,200	320
Oats	Bu.	210	250	90	145	31.0	46.0	2,790	6,670
Barley	Bu.	1,800	1,700	1,250	1,600	24.0	43.0	30,000	68,800
Dry Beans	Cwt.	4.4	6.0	4.0	5.9	19.0	22.0	76	130
Sugarbeets	Ton	49.6	52.7	48.9	51.9	21.1	19.9	1,032	1,033
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	7.8	8.2	7.7	8.1	280.0	275.0	2,156	2,228
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,350	1.90	2.20	2,090	2,970
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	700	1,000	1.00	1.50	700	1,500
All Hay	Ton	--	--	1,800	2,350	1.55	1.90	2,790	4,470
UNITED STATES		-- 000 Acres --		-- 000 Acres --				-- 000 Units --	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	48,800	55,091	39,800	41,469	39.2	35.1	1,561,910	1,453,842
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,336	3,791	2,847	3,673	15.7	25.1	44,831	92,229
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,393	17,733	10,542	17,007	19.5	28.8	205,460	489,747
All Wheat	Bu.	65,529	76,615	53,189	62,149	34.1	32.8	1,812,201	2,035,818
Corn for Grain [2]	Bu.	67,717	72,296	58,250	64,781	84.6	116.2	4.928,681	7,527,152
Oats	Bu.	13,910	12,080	5,533	6,874	39.3	54.4	217,600	373,778
Barley	Bu.	9,831	9,175	7,636	8,303	38.0	48.6	289,994	403,443
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,485.4	1,857.6	1,353.0	1,689.9	14.23	14.40	19,253	24,333
Sugarbeets	Ton	1,327.2	1,332.8	1,300.7	1,305.3	19.1	19.6	24,810	25,55[illegible]
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,094.9	1,101.8	1,075.4	1,086.4	292.0	299.0	313,558	324,72[illegible]
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	26,750	25,939	2.59	2.98	69,304	77,208
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	38,305	37,456	1.48	1.82	56,706	68,237
All Hay	Ton	--	--	65,055	63,395	1.94	2.29	126,010	145,445

[1] Preliminary. [2] Planted for all purposes.

DECEMBER AG PRICES RECEIVED

Montana farmers received slightly less for the products they sold in December compared with both last month, and a year ago. The December 1989 prices received index for all farm products at 176 (1977=100) was 2 points below November and 4 points below a year ago. Prices for most farm commodities were higher in December than November, but the mix of products sold contained more lower priced items. Contributing most to the decline in the index was the shift to more cow marketings compared to steer, heifer, and calf sales.

The all crops index in December, at 155, was 2 points above November, but 18 points below December 1988. Spring wheat, durum, and hay prices were mainly responsible for the decline from December 1988. The all wheat price, at $3.79, is up 8 cents from November, but is down 25 cents from last December. Barley, at $2.17, is down 1 cent from November and 75 cents from last December.

The livestock and products index, at 194, compares with 201 in November and 187 a year ago. Steers and heifers, at $83.70, equal last month but are up $4.60 from a year ago. Cows, at $47.00, are up $1.60 from November and $2.70 from December 1988. Calves, at $86.80, are down 80 cents from last month and down $2.20 from last December.

Nationally, the December all farm products index of prices received increased 1 point from November to 148 percent of its January-December 1977 average. Increases in the prices of hogs, cattle, milk, and eggs were partially offset by lower prices for lettuce, oranges, cotton, and broilers. The index was 3 points above a year ago. Higher prices for milk, hogs, cattle, and eggs were also the major contributors to the increases over a year earlier, but lower prices for soybeans, lettuce, corn, and broilers were partially offsetting.

The December 1989 all milk price is at a record high. The all hog price is at the highest level since October of 1987. Cattle and calves were up slightly from a month earlier. Wheat and corn prices increased while cotton, soybeans, barley, and sorghum were lower.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED & INDEXES

COMMODITY	UNIT	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Dec. 1988	MONTANA Monthly Avg. Nov. 1989	MONTANA Dec. 15, 1989	U.S. Dec. 15, 1989
		--Dollars--			
PRICES RECEIVED					
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.89	3.81	3.85	3.93
Durum	Bu.	5.53	3.26	3.35	3.38
Hard Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.07	3.63	3.75	3.65
All Wheat	Bu.	4.04	3.71	3.79	3.81
Barley, All	Bu.	2.92	2.18	2.17	2.36
Feed	Bu.	--	--	--	2.06
Malt	Bu.	--	--	--	2.78
Oats	Bu.	2.23	1.40	1.40	1.46
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	67.00	70.00	92.60
All Other Hay	Ton	80.00	58.00	60.00	64.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	89.00	66.00	69.00	84.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt.	79.10	83.70	83.70	76.70
Cows	Cwt.	44.30	45.40	47.00	48.70
Beef Cattle [1]	Cwt.	63.40	70.20	66.50	71.00
Calves	Cwt.	89.00	87.60	86.80	86.90
Sheep	Cwt.	25.60	26.60	27.00	30.10
Lambs	Cwt.	71.20	60.00	66.40	60.40
Hogs	Cwt.	33.90	39.50	41.20	48.90
All Milk	Cwt.	13.55	15.10	15.60	15.90
Eggs	Doz.	.71	.83	.74	.83
Wool 2/	Lb.	1.12	n.a.	1.10	.81
INDEXES (1977=100) 3/					
All Farm Products	Pct.	180	178	176	148
All Crops	Pct.	173	153	155	125
Livestock & Products	Pct.	187	201	194	169

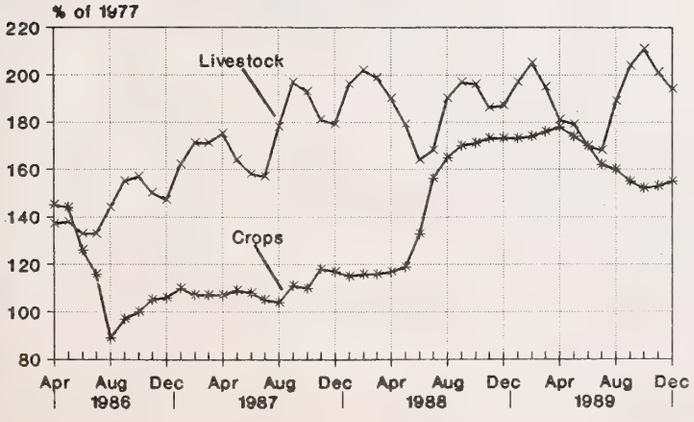
1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Does not include incentive payment. 3/ Prices Received Index not adjusted for seasonal variation.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

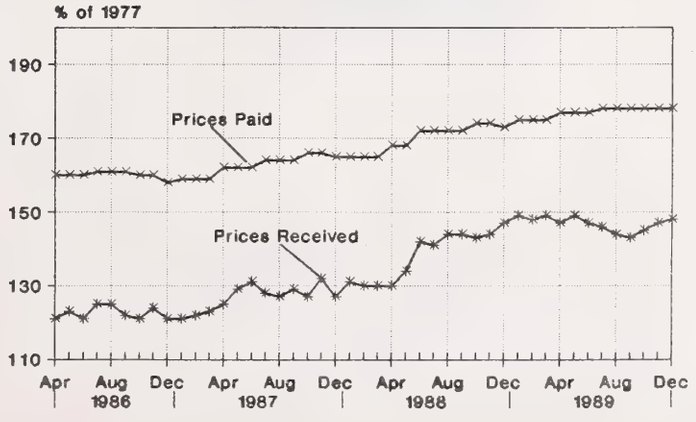
INDEX 1977=100	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1989	Dec. 1989
Prices Received	144	145	147	148
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates	2/173	2/173	3/178	3/178
Ratio 1/	83	84	83	83

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. 2/ October 1988 prices paid index. 3/ October 1989 prices paid index.

MONTANA CROP & LIVESTOCK PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES



UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES PAID & PRICES RECEIVED



DECEMBER HOG & PIG INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

Montana's hog inventory on December 1, 1989 totaled 220,000 head, down 2 percent from last year. Hogs on hand for breeding, at 30,000, were up 3 percent from last year and market class hogs, at 190,000, were down 3 percent.

There were 29,000 sows that farrowed from December 1988 through May 1989, producing a pig crop of 216,000 head. Sows farrowing from June through November, at 25,000 head, produced a pig crop of 190,000 head. The total pig crop for the year, at 406,000, was up 9 percent from last year. There are approximately 1,900 farms with hogs, down 100 from 1988. The value of Montana's hog inventory is estimated at $17.6 million compared with $16.2 million a year ago.

Final estimates are made on all hog numbers shortly after each Census of Agriculture. Data are compared with available check data, Census levels, and survey indications to provide the best estimate of hog numbers. Inventory numbers were lowered slightly. The revised estimates are: 1986, 180,000 head; 1987, 210,000 head; and 1988, 225,000 head. Pig crops were similarly reduced to: 1986, 300,000 pigs; 1987, 344,000 pigs; and 1988, 373,000 pigs born.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs is estimated at 53.9 million head on December 1, 1989. This is 3 percent below a year ago and 1 percent below December 1, 1987.
-- Breeding hog inventory, at 6.87 million, is 3 percent below last year and 3 percent below two years ago.
-- Market hog inventory, at 47.0 million, is 3 percent below a year ago and 1 percent below two years ago.

U.S. **pig crop** for 1989 totaled 91.9 million head, 1 percent below 1988 and 4 percent above the 1987 pig crop.
-- December 1988-May 1989 pig crop, estimated at 47.0 million head, was slightly down from a year earlier and 8 percent above the comparable period in 1987.
-- June-November 1989 pig crop, estimated at 44.9 million head, was 2 percent below last year, and slightly below the June-November 1987 pig crop.

A total of 5.78 million sows farrowed during June-November 1989, 4 percent less than a year earlier and 1 percent below the June-November 1987 period. The litter size during this period averaged a record high 7.76, compared to 7.62 in 1988 and 7.73 in 1987.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 5.77 million sows farrow during the December 1989-May 1990 period, 4 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period a year ago.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Wheat: Supply, Demand, & Price
Annual Crop Summary and Values
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
Slaughter
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office
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"Happy Holidays from All of Us at Montana's Agricultural Statistics Office"

May your holiday season be filled with joyfulness and snow! Spring rains in 2005 improved Montana's agricultural production outlook by putting a dent in the state's six-year drought. In fact, 70% of Montana's counties are currently in a no drought designation. Because of the unusually high spring precipitation, pastures and ranges across most of Montana were excellent. Harvested hay acres hit a new record high in 2005, along with hay yield and production. With a normal snow pack this winter, Montana's agricultural production outlook will also improve for 2006.

Montana's 2005 wheat production grew 17 million bushels, due to increases in winter wheat production. Winter wheat production went up 38% from 2004, setting a new record yield of 45 bushels per acre. Spring wheat production dropped 8% from 2004. Durum wheat production was 12% lower than in 2004. Barley production was also down 19% from 2004. In 2005, value-added agricultural opportunities improved with more producers planting oilseeds and pulse crops.

Montanans have a lot to be thankful for, but Montana's people are what is truly remarkable about Montana. Montana's farmers and ranchers continue to be stewards of the land, working tirelessly to provide for future generations. Because of the remarkable people who make a living from the land, Montana's Agricultural Statistics Office is also hopeful about the future of Montana agriculture.

To everyone involved in Montana's agricultural industry, thank you for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of **Montana's Number One Industry--Agriculture**.

We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,
Peggy Stringer, Director

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2005 Dry Edible Bean Production

Production for Montana's **dry edible bean** crop was estimated at 309,000 cwt., up 8 percent from the 2004 crop. Planted acreage for 2005 is estimated to be 18,000 acres, a 38 percent increase from last year. Harvested area for 2005 is 15,900 acres, a 25 percent increase from 2004. The yield is forecast at 1,940 pounds per acre, 300 pounds less than last year.

Pinto bean production for Montana is estimated at 239,000 cwt, which is 5 percent less than last year. Acres planted, at 12,000, are up 11 percent from 2004. Harvested acres, at 10,000, are 6 percent less than the previous year. The yield is forecast at 2,390 pounds per acre, 10 pounds more than last year.

All chickpea (garbanzo beans) production is forecast at 70,000 cwt for 2005, up 112 percent from 2004. Planted acreage was 6,000 acres, up 172 percent from 2004. Harvested area is estimated at 5,900 acres, up 181 percent from 2004. The yield is forecast at 1,190 pounds per acre, 380 pounds below 2004. **Small Chickpea** (smaller than 20/64 in.) production is forecast at 15,000 cwt. for 2005. Planted acreage was 1,400 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 1,300 acres. The yield is forecast at 1,150 pounds per acre. **Large Chickpea** (larger than 20/64 in.) production is forecast at 55,000 cwt. for 2005. Planted acreage was 4,600 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 4,600 acres. The yield is forecast at 1,200 pounds per acre .

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 27.2 million cwt for 2005, up 4 percent from theOctober forecast and 53 percent above last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.57 million acres, 3 percent above the last forecast and up 29 percent from 2004. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,731 pounds per acre, an increase of 16 pounds from the October forecast and 272 pounds above a year ago. Production is above a year ago in 16 of the 17 producing States. Most notable production increases from last year are Minnesota up 111 percent, Colorado 91 percent higher, and North Dakota increasing 82 percent. Production is up from a year ago for large lima, baby lima, navy, great northern, pinto, light red kidney, dark red kidney, pink, small red, blackeye, and small and large chickpeas. Production decreased from last year for small white, cranberry, and black.

Production in North Dakota is forecast at 8.66 million cwt, 82 percent above 2004. Harvested acres increased 6 percent, while the average yield, at 1,520 pounds per acre, is up 520 pounds from last year. Harvest was essentially complete by mid-October, slightly ahead of average and over two weeks ahead of last year.

Cow-Calf-Feeder Sectors Strong

The cow-calf-yearling sector continues to be the strongest sector of the beef industry. While down from spring 2005 record highs, calf prices remain historically high, about 4 percent above year-earlier levels and almost 20 percent above October-November 2003 levels. Stocker-feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots, although slightly above year-earlier levels, remain cyclically low with strong demand for the tight supplies from both the stocker cattle and cattle feeding sectors. Fall and over-wintering forage conditions appear adequate in most areas for the reduced cattle inventory. (continued on back page.)

U.S. Livestock and Meat Imports and Exports

	2003	2004	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept. 2005
Beef and veal imports		**carcass wt. 1,000 lbs.**		
Australia	1,128,589	1,118,439	779,627	690,298
New Zealand	644,607	645,414	577,194	494,899
Canada	740,065	1,062,420	783,642	876,067
Brazil	206,227	219,393	155,040	145,806
Argentina	87,890	116,606	84,080	83,507
Central America	79,118	93,991	64,610	67,910
Uruguay	103,372	402,898	282,697	423,836
Mexico	15,883	19,495	13,990	19,011
Other	161	576	499	678
Total	3,005,910	3,679,232	2,741,379	2,802,012
Beef and veal Exports				
Japan	918,014	11,609	8,078	11,650
Canada	226,681	56,457	30,723	63,100
Mexico	586,390	333,454	212,619	311,155
South Korea	586,617	648	459	841
Caribbean	21,691	25,002	18,460	17,938
Other	178,856	33,146	21,298	63,702
Total	2,518,249	460,314	291,637	468,386
Cattle imports		**head**		
Mexico	1,239,531	1,370,476	903,240	814,244
Canada	512,353	135	135	212,174
Over 700 lbs.	439,016	--	--	189,907
Immediate slaughter	354,044	--	--	107,645
440-700 lbs.	12,520	--	--	20,509
Total	1,751,896	1,370,611	903,375	1,026,418
Cattle exports				
Mexico	22,437	1,365	675	223
Canada	68,394	14,246	9,269	16,381
Total	98,818	15,721	10,013	17,551

U.S. Livestock and Meat Imports and Exports

	2003	2004	Jan-Sept. 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
Lamb imports		**carcass wt. 1,000 lbs.**		
Australia	75,320	81,256	59,980	70,583
New Zealand	59,159	60,749	51,275	36,262
Total	134,830	142,748	111,753	107,248
Mutton imports				
Total	32,912	38,103	30,682	24,409
Lamband mutton exports				
Total	6,596	8,372	5,509	6,734
Pork imports				
Canada	971,328	885,752	669,373	605,251
Denmark	147,110	138,564	108,792	79,025
Other	66,763	75,149	51,841	62,492
Total	1,185,202	1,099,464	830,006	746,767
Pork exports				
Japan	793,339	920,851	681,359	801,935
Canada	191,505	234,366	167,423	222,408
Mexico	349,983	532,642	377,541	381,205
Russia	16,386	67,069	31,841	66,889
South Korea	79,642	71,177	45,844	132,594
Hong Kong	44,620	32,179	25,611	12,180
China (Mainland)	44,658	84,379	56,297	88,871
China (Taiwan)	70,129	98,544	77,283	47,407
Other	126,436	139,327	92,491	204,382
Total	1,716,698	2,180,534	1,555,689	1,957,870
Hog imports		**head**		
Canada	7,438,063	8,504,972	6,428,690	6,001,678
Under 110 lbs	4,971,044	5,623,494	4,337,292	4,014,980
Under 15 lbs	--	3,087,670	2,383,594	2,055,710
Total	7,438,254	8,505,518	6,429,236	6,002,012
Hog Exports				
Total	169,881	174,010	140,198	130,579

SOURCE: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 17, 2005.

October 2005 Ag Prices Received

October full month crop prices were mixed compared with October 2004 and higher than September 2005. The average price for Montana's winter wheat, at $3.39 per bushel, was the same as a year ago but up $0.13 from September 2005; spring wheat moved down $0.12 from last year but up $0.15 from last month to $3.65 per bushel; durum wheat prices were $0.45 below October 2004, but $0.04 higher than September 2005 to $3.58 per bushel. Feed barley prices were $0.07 above the previous year and $0.09 above the previous month to $1.64, malt barley prices increased $0.11 from a year ago, and were $0.04 above September 2005 to $3.10 per bushel.

The mid-November price for alfalfa hay was $3.00 below October 2005 at $72.00 per ton, but all other hay increased $7.00 from October to $74.00 per ton. The mid-November grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with the winter wheat price at $3.38 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.95; durum wheat was $3.43; all barley was $2.74; feed barley was $1.52; and malt barley was $3.15 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were mostly lower compared with September 2005. Steer and heifer prices increased $12.00 to a new record high price of $119.00 per cwt, but cows dropped $4.00 to $47.70 per cwt. The price for calves decreased $6.00 to $138.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $2.30 to $42.60 per cwt, and lamb prices dropped $5.00 to $119.00 per cwt. The all milk price, at $15.40 per cwt, was down $0.40 from September. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November were $120.00 per cwt; cows were $49.10 per cwt; calves were $143.00 per cwt; and milk prices were $15.50 per cwt.

Nationally, October prices and changes from October 2004 and September 2005 were as follows: winter wheat was $3.33, down $0.01 from last year, but up $0.05 from September; spring wheat was $3.62, up $0.12 from last year and last month; durum wheat was $3.40, down $0.47 from last year and unchanged from last month; the all barley price was $2.41, up $0.12 from last year and $0.05 from September; and steer and heifer prices were $96.60, up $5.50 from last year and up $4.30 from September.

The U.S. mid-November winter wheat price was $3.25 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.64 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.23 per bushel; all wheat was $3.36 per bushel, malt barley was $2.86 per bushel; feed barley was $1.88 per bushel; and all barley was $2.49 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were $97.40 per cwt; cow prices were $45.80 per cwt, calves were $132.00 per cwt; all hog prices were $44.70 per cwt; and all egg price was $0.653 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from October.

The Food Commodities Index, at 119, increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from last month but decreased 3 points (2.5 percent) from November 2004.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	October 2004	November 2004	October 2005	November 2005
Prices Received	114	115	111	113
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	136	135	144	143
Ratio 2/	84	85	77	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct. 2004	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Oct. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2004	Nov. 15, 2005	Nov. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.39	3.26	3.39	3.33	+0.13	nc	3.38	3.25
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.03	3.54	3.58	3.40	+0.04	-0.45	3.43	3.23
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.50	3.65	3.62	+0.15	-0.12	3.95	3.64
All Wheat	Bu.	3.67	3.39	3.51	3.43	+0.12	-0.16	3.62	3.36
Barley, All	Bu.	2.62	2.68	2.74	2.41	+0.06	+0.12	2.74	2.49
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.57	1.55	1.64	1.81	+0.09	+0.07	1.52	1.88
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.99	3.06	3.10	2.72	+0.04	+0.11	1.15	2.86
Oats	Bu.	n/a	n/a	1.80	1.59	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.46
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	85.00	75.00	106.00	-10.00	-3.00	72.00	97.50
All Other Hay	Ton	70.00	70.00	67.00	76.50	-3.00	-3.00	74.00	76.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	82.00	74.00	97.70	-8.00	-1.00	72.00	91.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	115.00	107.00	119.00	96.60	+12.00	+4.00	120.00	97.40
Cows	Cwt	51.20	51.70	47.70	46.60	-4.00	-3.50	49.10	45.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	104.00	91.00	105.00	91.10	+14.00	+1.00	109.00	91.60
Calves	Cwt	127.00	144.00	138.00	134.00	-6.00	+11.00	143.00	132.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	40.70	44.90	42.60	43.70	-2.30	+1.90	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	109.00	124.00	119.00	108.00	-5.00	+10.00	n/a	n./a
All Milk	Cwt	14.90	15.80	15.40	15.50	-0.40	+0.50	15.50	15.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued. n/a-not available nc-no change

ERS Economist Says Cow-Calf Feeder Sectors Strong
(continued from page two)

Wheat pasture conditions in mid-November in the High Plains winter grazing area appear near to somewhat above the favorable conditions of last year, although conditions in Texas are less favorable. Unfortunately, the grazing potential appears poor. The percentage of the wheat crop emerged in Kansas and Oklahoma was well above a year earlier and the 5-year average in mid- November, although conditions in Texas were below average. The Kansas crop was rated 94 percent fair or better, while the Oklahoma crop was rated 88 percent. The Texas crop was only rated 70 percent fair or better. Unfortunately, the overall grazing prospects on the winter wheat crop is marginal at best with dry conditions over the past 6 weeks sharply reducing crop growth and grazing prospects. Stocker/feeder cattle prices continue strong as feed prices remain very favorable. Feeder cattle prices for Oklahoma City, 750- to 800-pound, medium number 1 and 2 steers, are about $2 to $4 per cwt higher than a year earlier, while 500 to 550 pound calves are averaging $8 to $10 per cwt higher.

Cattle slaughter is running slightly behind year-earlier levels, just under 2 percent below 2004, but beef production is only fractionally behind year-earlier levels. Average weights for October 2005 are about 8 pounds higher than October 2004, in part due to the lower proportion of heifers in the slaughter mix. Both steer and heifer weights are averaging well above year-earlier levels. Cow slaughter has begun to rise seasonally, but remains well below year-earlier levels, particularly for beef cow slaughter. Although U.S. imports of slaughter cattle from Canada continue to increase, a slower pace of fed cattle imports and a somewhat slower marketing pace from U.S. feedlots have resulted in a pullback in fourth-quarter beef production estimates, even as slaughter weights remain near record levels.

U.S. Meats Supply and Use, 2004 and Projected 2005 and 2006

Item	Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption	
							Total	Per capita 2/, 3/
				Million pounds 4/				
BEEF								
2004	518	24,650	3,679	28,847	460	637	27,750	66.1
2005 Proj. Oct:	637	24,931	3,816	29,384	639	575	28,170	66.4
Nov:	637	24,787	3,746	29,170	629	610	27,931	65.9
2006 Proj. Oct:	575	26,077	3,780	30,432	640	575	29,217	68.2
Nov:	610	25,852	3,720	30,182	640	575	28,967	67.7
PORK								
2004	532	20,529	1,099	22,160	2,181	543	19,437	51.3
2005 Proj. Oct:	543	20,753	985	22,281	2,729	545	19,007	49.7
Nov:	543	20,727	985	22,255	2,709	545	19,001	49.7
2006 Proj. Oct:	545	21,145	960	22,650	2,765	545	19,340	50.1
Nov:	545	21,145	960	22,650	2,785	545	19,320	50.0
BROILERS								
2004	608	33,699	27	34,334	4,784	713	28,837	84.3
2005 Proj. Oct:	713	34,835	37	35,585	5,351	650	29,583	85.6
Nov:	713	34,816	37	35,566	5,431	675	29,460	85.2
2006 Proj. Oct:	650	35,936	36	36,622	5,475	675	30,472	87.3
Nov:	675	35,936	36	36,647	5,595	695	30,357	87.0
TURKEYS								
2004	354	5,383	5	5,741	442	288	5,010	17.0
2005 Proj. Oct:	288	5,407	8	5,703	583	250	4,870	16.4
Nov:	288	5,426	8	5,723	578	250	4,895	16.5
2006 Proj. Oct:	250	5,462	4	5,716	590	300	4,826	16.1
Nov:	250	5,482	4	5,736	600	300	4,836	16.1

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis. 3/ Population source: Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. 4/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry.
Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, November 10, 2005.

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Cattle on Feed
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Egg Production
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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Farm Labor
World Ag Supply and Demand

October 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 2005, unchanged from last year, but down 6 percent from September's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,800 head, 100 head above a year ago. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 1,139 from the previous year.

During October there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, 100 more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 231 pounds, increased 3 pounds from last year. October sheep slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from October 2004. The average live weight decreased 9 pounds to 116 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in October 2004.

Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 23 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.68 million head, down 2 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,280 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.6 million pounds, 2 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,400 head, down 10 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was 41 pounds above last year, at 371 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 2 percent above October 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 3 percent from October 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2005 commercial red meat production was 37.8 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was virtually unchanged from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

October Milk Production Up 4.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 13.4 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from October 2004. September revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.7 percent from September 2004. The September revision represented a decrease of 27 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,636 pounds for October, 53 pounds above October 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 58,000 head more than October 2004, and 4,000 head more than September 2005.

U.S. November 1 Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.5 million head on November 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2004 and 4 percent above November 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.80 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 1 percent above 2003. Net placements were 2.74 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 880,000, 600-699 pounds were 790,000, 700-799 pounds were 600,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 525,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during October, 12 percent below 2004 and 43 percent below 2003.

October Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.70 billion during October 2005, up one percent from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The number of layers during October 2005 averaged 344 million, down slightly from a year earlier. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,239 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2005, totaled 345 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 345 million layers consisted of 287 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2005, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 1, 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during October 2005 totaled 35.4 million, up 1 percent from October 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.1 million on November 1, 2005, down 11 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 189,000 during October 2005, down 29 percent from October 2004.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during October 2005 totaled 776 million, up 3 percent from October 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 624 million on November 1, 2005, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.94 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during October 2005, up 8 percent from October 2004.

October Farm Labor

There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $9.14 per hour compared with $8.91 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 42.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Northeast I (New England and New York) regions. In California, tightened security at the Mexican border and increased competition from the higher paying construction industry caused farm worker shortages. Fruit and vegetable growers had to leave some acreage unharvested due to the shortage. Thus, fewer workers were hired during the reference week. Declining tobacco acreage in the Appalachian II region continues to greatly decrease the demand for hired workers. In Florida, tropical storms throughout much of the growing season caused significant damage to vegetable and citrus crops and delayed harvest, lessening the need for hired workers. In the Northern Plains and Northeast I regions, rain before and during the reference week delayed field crop harvest and reduced the demand for hired workers.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. In the Southern Plains region, despite rain in south Texas, the reference week was mainly warm and dry, in sharp contrast to the widespread rain before and during last year's reference week. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. Apple harvest in the Pacific region was virtually complete prior to last year's reference week but was still in full swing during the reference week this year. More workers were required to handle the continuation of the harvest. In the Corn Belt II and Southeast regions, the weather was virtually ideal compared to last year's rain and muddy conditions, increasing the demand for hired workers. Continued strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industries in the Northeast II region kept hired worker levels above last year, despite heavy rains across the region.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt II, California, Appalachian II, Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The higher wages in the Corn Belt II region were due to the accelerated corn and soybean harvests which required highly skilled workers for combining and hauling. In California and in the Appalachian II region, wages were up due to a lower percentage of part-time workers. Sugar beet harvest in the Lake region progressed rapidly, necessitating more highly paid machine operators. Wages in the Mountain III region were higher because of more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed their hourly wage higher.

The 2005 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $9.51, up 3 percent from the 2004 annual average wage rate of $9.23. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $8.70, up 25 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $8.84, up 3 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $8.56.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates By State, 2004-05 1/ 2/

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Dollars per Hour					
CO	9.73	9.04	9.14	8.09	9.09	8.32
ID	8.63	8.73	8.00	8.09	8.36	8.43
MT	**9.18**	**9.46**	**8.85**	**8.84**	**8.72**	**9.06**
ND	9.85	10.46	9.89	10.51	9.78	10.42
OR	9.66	9.90	8.91	8.95	8.84	9.06
SD	9.44	9.08	9.02	8.32	9.07	8.74
UT	9.65	9.29	8.54	8.16	8.84	8.57
WA	9.58	9.44	9.03	8.77	9.15	8.98
WY	7.16	8.15	7.01	8.14	6.69	7.48
US 3/	9.23	9.50	8.45	8.69	8.56	8.83

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October. 3/ Excludes AK.

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates

Wheat: No changes are made to U.S. 2005/06 supply and demand forecasts, leaving ending stocks at 530 million bushels, which is down just 10 million from the previous year. Relative to last month, Hard Red Winter (HRW) exports are up 10 million bushels, while Soft Red Winter (SRW) and Durum exports are each down 5 million. Ending stocks of HRW fall to 175 million bushels, the smallest since 1996/97, and SRW and Durum stocks each rise 5 million. This month, the projected 2005/06 price range is narrowed 5 cents on each end to $3.25 to $3.55 per bushel, compared with $3.40 for 2004/05.

Global wheat production in 2005/06 is up nearly 3 million tons from last month; consumption, exports, and imports are little changed, but ending stocks are up 2 million tons. Foreign production is larger due primarily to bigger crops in EU-25, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Turkey, and Argentina; partially offset by smaller crops in Russia and Brazil. Projected global imports are down fractionally due to lower imports by Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Norway. Imports by Brazil and South Korea are up. Forecast exports decline for Ukraine and Iran, but increase for Turkey and Argentina.

Global consumption is little changed from last month. The largest month-to-month consumption increases occur in feed use in Brazil, Australia, and South Korea partially offset by lower consumption in Russia and Argentina. Global 2005/06 wheat ending stocks rise 2.1 million tons, from last month, to 139.5 million, but are down nearly 10 million from the previous year. Compared to last month, the largest increases in foreign stocks are in EU-25, Ukraine, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Australia. The largest reductions occur in Russia and Brazil.

Coarse Grains: This month's outlook for 2005/06 U.S. corn is for increased production, higher domestic consumption, larger stocks, and lower prices. Forecast 2005 corn production is up 175 million bushels from last month to 11.032 billion bushels (the second largest crop on record). A 75-million-bushel increase in corn used to produce ethanol boosts food, seed, and industrial use by an equal amount. Exports and feed and residual use are unchanged. Corn ending stocks are up 99 million bushels from last month and are 207 million higher than the previous year. The projected 2005/06 price range for corn is $1.60 to $2.00 per bushel, down 5 cents on each end from last month, compared with $2.06 for 2004/05.

Forecast U.S. grain sorghum production is up 13 million bushels. Except for a 10-million- bushel increase in grain sorghum feed and residual, no other changes are made in projected use. Grain sorghum ending stocks are up 3 million bushels from last month. The projected 2005/06 price range for grain sorghum is $1.45 to $1.85, down 5 cents on each end from last month, compared with $1.79 for 2004/05.

The global outlook for coarse grains in 2005/06 is for increased production, higher consumption, little change in trade, and larger stocks relative to last month. Foreign production is down less than 1 million tons with the largest declines projected in Brazil, Argentina, and Romania. These losses are partially offset by larger crops in EU-25, Ukraine, and Russia. Foreign 2005/06 coarse grain consumption is little changed with declines in South Korea, Turkey, China, and Japan, mostly offset by increases in EU-25. Global 2005/06 imports and exports are little changed from last month. Imports are down for Japan and South Korea, but up for Brazil. Exports are up for Ukraine, Russia, and Turkey, but down for Argentina, EU-25, and Romania. Global 2005/06 ending stocks rise 2.4 million tons from last month but foreign stocks are down fractionally.

Oilseeds: U.S. oilseed ending stocks for 2005/06 are projected at 11.1 million tons, up 2.4 million tons from last month. Total U.S. oilseed production is projected at 94.9 million tons, up 2.1 million tons from last month mainly due to increased soybean production. Soybean production is forecast at 3,043 million bushels, up 76 million bushels due to increased yields. Soybean crush is raised 25 million bushels due to larger available supplies and higher-than-expected soybean meal use in recent months. Soybean exports are reduced 40 million bushels to 1,075 million bushels based on lower-than-expected sales and shipments, particularly to EU-25 and China. Soybean ending stocks are projected at 350 million bushels, up 90 million from last month. Other oilseed production is forecast higher this month with increases for cottonseed more than offsetting reduced peanut production.

Soybean oil production, consumption, exports, and stocks are all raised this month. Increased soybean oil use for the 2005/06 marketing year primarily reflects expected increases in biodiesel production.

U.S. season-average soybean prices for 2005/06 are projected at $4.95 to $5.75, down 5 cents on both ends of the range. Soybean meal prices are also lower at $155 to $180 per short ton compared with $155 to $185 last month. Soybean oil prices are unchanged at 22 to 25 cents per pound.

Global oilseed production for 2005/06 is projected at 385.3 million tons, up 0.5 million tons from last month. Foreign oilseed production is reduced 1.6 million tons primarily due to lower soybean production. Brazil soybean production is projected at 58.5 million tons, down 1.5 million tons from the previous estimate based on reduced area. Recent Brazilian government surveys indicate lower area as producers face declining prices, stronger local currency, limited access to credit, and higher transportation costs, especially from the center-west region. Russian sunflower seed production is increased 0.5 million tons to 5.8 million tons this month reflecting record harvested area and good yields. Other changes include lower sunflower seed production for Argentina, and reduced cottonseed production for Brazil based on sharply lower cotton planted area. China peanut production is also reduced.

Global oilseed ending stocks for 2005/06 are reduced this month as lower soybean stocks in South America more than offset increased stocks in the United States.

Sugar: Projected U.S. sugar supply for 2005/06 is decreased 397,000 short tons, raw value, from last month. Reduced beginning stocks of 160,000 tons and production of 352,000 tons more than offset increased imports. Production projections are based on processors' reports compiled by the Farm Service Agency. Processor reports from Florida and Louisiana are updated to account for hurricane damage. Imports are increased 115,000 tons to account for 25,000 from Nicaragua following ratification of the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement and 90,000 tons of high-tier imports from Mexico. Use is increased 25,000 tons due to higher deliveries for domestic food use more than offsetting lower exports. Ending stocks are decreased to 667,000 tons, or 6.4 percent of use.
(continued on back page)

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates (continued from page three)

For 2004/05, preliminary year-end data from processors result in supply decreasing 25,000 tons and use increasing 135,000 tons. Ending stocks are decreased to 1.36 million tons, or 12.9 percent of use.

Livestock, Poultry, and Dairy: Note: Due to uncertainties as to the length of the bans on trade in ruminants and ruminant products because of the discovery of BSE in the United States and Canada, forecasts for 2005 and 2006 assume a continuation of policies currently in place among U.S. trading partners. Subsequent forecasts will reflect any announced changes.

The total U.S. meat production forecasts for 2005 and 2006 are reduced from last month mainly because of lower beef output. Beef output in the fourth quarter of 2005 is lowered because the marketing pace has slowed and fewer steers and heifers are expected to be slaughtered. The reduced pace of cattle marketings and lower slaughter is likely to carry through most of 2006, and beef production is lowered in the middle quarters. Forecast pork production for 2005 is slightly lower because pork output was lower than expected in third quarter 2005 due to lighter average carcass weights. Forecast pork production in 2006 is unchanged. Forecast broiler production is also unchanged. Turkey output is expected to be slightly higher at the end of 2005 and the first half of 2006.

Beef imports are reduced slightly in 2005 and 2006. Broiler exports are raised for the third quarter 2005 because of strong shipments through August. Both broiler and pork exports are increased in 2006 as foreign demand is expected to remain firm through the year.

Forecast cattle and hog prices for 2005 are raised as prices have remained relatively strong at the start of the fourth quarter. Cattle prices are also raised for the first three quarters of 2006 reflecting expectations for strong demand for high quality beef and relatively tight supplies of Choice grade cattle. Broiler prices in 2005 and 2006 are reduced slightly. The turkey price forecast for 2005 is raised slightly.

Forecast milk production in 2005 and 2006 is increased from last month. Although recent milk cow numbers and dairy herd replacement prices point to slightly slower growth in milk cow herds, output per cow continues to advance as producer returns are expected to remain favorable. Cheese and butter price forecasts for 2005 and 2006 are lowered from last month to clear increased supplies of those products. Strong domestic and international demand likely will support nonfat dry milk (NDM) and whey prices, thus NDM and whey price forecasts are slightly higher. Class price forecasts are lowered for both 2005 and 2006. The all milk price for 2005 is forecast lower at $15.15 to $15.25 per cwt, and the 2006 forecast is reduced to $13.15 to $14.05 per cwt.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2005

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	-- Million Bushels --											$
1988	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002	777	1,606	81	2,464	919	84	119	1,122	850	1,972	491	3.56
2003	491	2,345	63	2,899	912	80	203	1,194	1,158	2,353	546	3.40
2004	546	2,158	71	2,775	907	79	187	1,172	1,063	2,235	540	3.40
2005 ..... 3/	540	2,098	80	2,718	910	78	200	1,188	1,000	2,188	530	3.25-3.55

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, November 2005--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Dry Pea Production
Austrian Winter Pea Production
Lentil Production
Sugar Beets Production
Fall Potatoes Production
2005 Crop Year Summary
Ag Prices Received

November 1 Crop Production Forecast

Montana **dry edible pea** production is forecast at 2.01 million cwt, up 58 percent from the 2004 estimate. Planted acreage for 2005 is estimated at 135,000 acres, 67,000 acres more than 2004. Harvested acreage is estimated at 118,000 acres, up 55,000 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 1,700 pounds per acre, 310 pounds per acre below 2004.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana is forecast at 176,000 cwt, up 78 percent from last year. Harvested acreage, at 16,000 acres, is expected to be up 5,000 acres from last year. Planted acreage for 2005 is estimated at 21,000 acres, up 7,000 acres from last year. The average yield is forecast at 1,100 lbs per acre, up 200 lbs per acre from 2004.

Montana's **lentil** production is forecast at 1.81 million cwt for 2005, up 79 percent from last year. Planted acreage, at 150,000 acres, is up 72,000 acres from 2004. Harvested acres, at 139,000, are up 67,000 acres from last year. Average yield is expected to be 1,300 lbs per acre, down 100 lbs from last year.

Montana **sugar beet** production is expected to be 1.14 million tons, up 1 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, of 22.8 tons per acre, is up 1.1 tons per acre from 2004. Harvested acreage is down 2,100 acres from last year to 50,000 acres.

Fall potato production in Montana is forecast at 3.43 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 10,900 acres, up 300 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 315 cwt per acre, down 20 cwt per acre from 2004.

The U.S. **dry edible pea** production is estimated at 13.8 million cwt, up 21 percent from the 2004 estimate. Area for harvest, at 761,900 acres, is 50 percent above a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 1,813 pounds per acre, down 436 pounds from last season.

Austrian winter pea production in the United States for Idaho, Montana, and Oregon is forecast at 324,000 cwt, up 11 percent from 2004. Area harvested is forecast at 27,500 acres, up 12 percent from last year. Average yield is expected to be 1,178 pounds per acre, down 10 pounds per acre from last season.

U.S. **lentils** production is forecast at 5.10 million cwt, up 22 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 432,000 acres, up 31 percent from the previous year. Average yield is expected to be 1,181 pounds per acre, down 90 pounds per acre from 2004.

Sugar beet production in the U.S. for 2005 is forecast at 27.3 million tons, 2 percent above the October forecast but 9 percent below last year's production. The yield is forecast at 22.0 tons per acre, up 0.5 ton from October but 0.9 ton below 2004. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States expect to harvest 1.24 million acres, fractionally below last month and 5 percent below last year.

U.S. **fall potatoes** production for 2005 is forecast at 382 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 951,800 acres, is virtually unchanged from the July forecast but 7 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at a record high 402 cwt per acre, 1 cwt above the previous high set last year.

Western States production is forecast at 268 million cwt, down 5 percent from last year. Acreage harvested, at 600,900 acres, decreased 6 percent from last year but the average yield of 445 cwt per acre is up 7 cwt from 2004.

Montana 2005 Crop Year Summary

Seeding of the 2005 winter wheat crop was complete by the end of October and 90 percent had emerged. An estimated 2.10 million acres were seeded, 200,000 acres above 2004. Favorable moisture and growing conditions occurred during the fall. As a result, crop condition was rated 1% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 49% good, and 25% excellent. These ratings were much better than the 2004 crop, which was rated 6% very poor, 20% poor, 55% fair, 18% good, and 1% excellent at that time.

November 2004 temperatures were above normal with limited precipitation throughout the state. By the end of the month, 98% of the winter wheat crop was emerged and 78% was rated good to excellent. Topsoil moisture conditions at the end of the month were rated 17% very short, 44% short, 39% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 36% very short, 38% short, 26% adequate, and 0% surplus.

Montana had above normal temperatures until the last week of December when colder temperatures and snow arrived in the state. At month's end, the winter wheat crop had very little freeze or wind damage and 65% of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

Temperatures during January 2005 were cold and snow fell in most areas of the state during the first half of the month. Above normal temperatures and limited precipitation prevailed the last half of the month. Winter wheat conditions were better than the previous year because of less wind, freeze, and drought damage and were rated 5% very poor, 13% poor, 46% fair, 33% good, and 3% excellent.

The month of February was unseasonably mild with below average precipitation, which caused producers concern about both summer water shortages and wild fires. Winter wheat was greening earlier than normal because of the warm weather and was reported in mostly good to fair condition at month's end. In March, Montana had near normal temperatures and above average precipitation. Topsoil moisture conditions improved, compared to the previous month and was rated 22% very short, 33% short, 41% adequate and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 55% very short, 31% short, 13% adequate, and 1% surplus, better than February, but below 2004. Winter wheat was reported in mostly fair to good condition at month's end. Small grains seeding had just started in some locations. (continued on next page)

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November 1, 2005 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	2,100	1,630	2,050	41.0	45.0	66,830	92,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	570	570	545	565	33.0	28.0	17,985	15,820
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	2,850	2,550	31.0	32.0	88,350	81,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,470	5,270	5,025	5,165	34.5	36.7	173,165	189,670
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	70.0	60.0	15.0	15.0	143	3/	2145	3/
Oats	Bu.	105	85	40.0	33.0	60.0	53.0	2,400	1,749
Barley	Bu.	1,000	950	830	710	59.0	56.0	48,970	39,760
Flaxseed	Bu.	20	55	19	53	18.0	3/	342	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	17.0	12.7	16.5	22.4	24.0	285	396
Dry Peas	Cwt.	68.0	135.0	63.0	118.0	20.1	17.0	1,266	2,006
Lentils	Cwt.	78.0	150.0	72.0	139.0	14.0	13.0	1,008	1,807
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	14.0	21.0	11.0	16.0	9.0	11.0	99	176
Sugar Beets	Ton	53.7	51.2	52.1	50.0	21.7	22.8	1,131	1,140
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9	335.0	315.0	3,551	3,434
Canola	Lbs.	15.0	19.0	15.0	18.0	1,590	1,400	23,850	25,200
Safflower	Lbs.	33.5	39.0	31.0	37.0	680	3/	21,080	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,700	2.30	2.70	3,220	4,590
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,250	1.40	1.60	1,540	2,000
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,950	1.90	2.23	4,760	6,590
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,350	40,320	34,462	33,680	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,493,769
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,561	2,735	2,363	2,691	38.0	37.2	89,893	100,045
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,763	14,036	13,174	13,609	43.2	37.1	568,918	504,456
All Wheat	Bu.	59,674	57,091	49,999	49,980	43.2	42.0	2,158,245	2,098,270
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,930	81,642	73,632	74,333	160.4	148.4	11,807,217	11,032,105
Oats	Bu.	4,085	4,240	1,787	1,823	64.7	63.1	115,695	115,002
Barley	Bu.	4,527	3,922	4,021	3,276	69.6	64.8	279,743	212,196
Flaxseed	Bu.	523	945	516	931	20.3	3/	10,471	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,354.3	1,659.8	1,219.3	1,522.1	14.6	17.2	17,799	26,109
Dry Peas	Cwt.	530.0	808.0	507.8	761.9	22.5	18.1	11,419	13,813
Lentils	Cwt.	345.0	450.0	329.0	432.0	12.7	11.8	4,182	5,101
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	32.5	38.5	24.5	27.5	11.9	11.8	291	324
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,239.3	22.9	22.0	29,956	27,254
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,039.7	972.2	1,166.9	1,084.3	391	389	456,041	421,326
Canola	Lbs.	865	1,153	828	1,125	1,618	1,333	1,339,530	1,499,300
Safflower	Lbs.	175.0	185.0	159.0	173.0	1,105	3/	175,765	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.43	75,383	75,940
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.94	82,391	76,931
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.48	157,774	152,871

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available January 12, 2006. -- Not published.

Crop Year Summary
(continued from front page)

Small grains seeding began in April. By the end of the month, fieldwork was 57% well underway, behind last year's 82%. Most areas of the state received precipitation in April. Topsoil moisture conditions were 64% adequate to surplus compared with 2004 ratings of 32% adequate to surplus. By the end of the month, barley was 54% seeded, with 10% of the crop emerged. The spring wheat crop was 58% seeded, with 10% emerged. Durum wheat was 36% planted with 4% emerged. The corn crop was 8% planted. Oats were 46% seeded with 10% emerged. Potatoes and sugar beet planting had not started. At month's end, winter wheat condition was 21% excellent, 44% good, 29% fair, 5% poor, and 1% very poor.

May brought much needed rain throughout state. Freezing temperatures in some areas caused some damage to winter wheat, cherries, and sugar beets. Spring wheat and barley seeding was nearly complete at month's end, while durum wheat, oats, and corn seeding were above 90% complete. By the end of June, all crop conditions were rated better than 2004 and crop progress was mostly ahead of the previous year. Haying had begun with alfalfa hay harvest at 21% complete and other hay at 17% complete.

Montana received moderate to light precipitation during July. Hot temperatures prevailed the entire month. Winter wheat harvest was 45% complete at month's end, compared to 10% last year and the five-year average of 35%. Harvest had begun for spring wheat, barley, and oats. First cutting of hay was nearly complete and second cutting had begun. (continued on back page)

September Ag Prices Received

September full month crop prices were mostly higher compared to August 2005. Montana's winter wheat price was $3.26 per bushel, up $0.27 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.23 to $3.50 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.16 to reach $3.54 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.08 from the previous month to $1.55; and malt barley prices were down $0.21 to $3.06 per bushel.

The mid-October price for alfalfa hay dropped $10.00 from September to $75.00 per ton and all other hay also was down $3.00 to $67.00 per ton. The mid-October grain prices were mixed with winter wheat price averaging $3.42 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.94; durum wheat $3.28; feed barley was $1.42; and malt barley $3.03.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mostly higher compared to August 2005. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.00 to $107.00 per cwt, but cows decreased $0.70 to $51.70. The price for calves jumped $8.00 to $144.00 per cwt, a new record high. Sheep prices increased $3.30 to $44.90 per cwt, while lamb prices rose $3.00 to $124.00 per cwt. Full month September milk prices increased $0.50 per cwt from August to $15.80. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October were $116.00 per cwt, a new record high; cows $52.40 per cwt; calves $135.00 per cwt; and mid-month October milk prices $15.40 per cwt, down $0.40 from September.

Nationally, prices for September and changes from August were as follows: winter wheat was $3.26, up $0.12; spring wheat was $3.50, up $0.07; durum wheat was $3.40, up $0.01; the all barley price was $2.36, down $0.13, and steer and heifer prices were $92.30, up $4.50 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-October winter wheat price was $3.42 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.79 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.25 per bushel; all wheat was $3.54 per bushel; malt barley was $2.83 per bushel; feed barley was $1.86 per bushel; and all barley was $2.43. Steer and heifer prices were $96.00 per cwt; cow prices were $47.70, calves were $132.00 per cwt; all hog prices were $48.80 per cwt; and all egg prices were $0.51 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 110, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 7 points (6.0 percent) from September. The Crop Index is down 11 points (9.8 percent) while the Livestock Index is unchanged. Producers received lower commodity prices for broilers, corn, eggs, and soybeans. Higher prices were received for cattle, sweet corn, wheat, and turkeys. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Decreased average marketings of dairy, sweet corn, grapes, and wheat offset increased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and cottonseed.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	September 2004	October 2004	September 2005	October 2005
Prices Received	116	114	117	110
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	135	136	142	143
Ratio 2/	86	84	82	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005	Sept. 2005	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2004	Oct. 15, 2005	Oct. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.22	2.99	3.26	3.28	+0.27	+0.04	3.42	3.42
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.08	3.38	3.54	3.40	+0.16	-0.54	3.28	3.25
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.27	3.50	3.50	+0.23	-0.14	3.94	3.79
All Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.15	3.39	3.35	+0.24	-0.18	3.63	3.54
Barley, All	Bu.	2.93	3.04	2.68	2.36	-0.36	-0.25	2.63	2.43
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.61	1.47	1.55	1.82	+0.08	-0.06	1.42	1.86
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.27	3.27	3.06	2.75	-0.21	-0.21	3.03	2.83
Oats	Bu.	1.76	na	na	1.54	na	na	na	1.46
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	79.00	76.00	85.00	107.00	+9.00	+6.00	75.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	68.00	70.00	74.60	+2.00	-1.00	67.00	76.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	74.00	82.00	99.00	+8.00	+5.00	74.00	97.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	109.00	106.00	107.00	92.30	+1.00	-2.00	116.00	96.00
Cows	Cwt	55.00	52.40	51.70	49.80	-0.70	-3.30	52.40	47.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	93.90	91.00	91.00	88.20	nc	-2.90	105.00	90.80
Calves	Cwt	128.00	136.00	144.00	133.00	+8.00	+16.00	135.00	132.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	41.70	41.60	44.90	43.30	+3.30	+3.20	na	na
Lambs 2/	Cwt	110.00	121.00	124.00	110.00	+3.00	+14.00	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	15.20	15.30	15.80	15.30	+0.50	+0.60	15.40	15.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

Crop Year Summary (continued)

Hot weather continued and lasted the entire month of August. Most areas received moderate precipitation during the month. Hail storms in the eastern part of the state caused some damage to crops in a few areas. By month's end, winter wheat harvest was complete and spring grains harvest was well ahead of last year. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 70% complete, the same as 2004.

Montana's 2005 **winter wheat** production was 92.3 million bushels, 38 percent higher than last year's production of 66.8 million bushels. This is the fourth largest crop on record and the highest since 1993 when 102.9 million bushels were produced. Producers seeded 2.10 million acres, 11 percent higher than the 2004 acreage. Producers harvested 2.05 million acres, up 420,000 acres from last year's acreage of 1.63 million acres. The 2005 average yield, at 45.0 bushels per acre, is 4 bushels higher than last year and unchanged from the previous forecast. Yield set a new record high, surpassing the previous high by 3 bushels per acre.

Spring wheat production in Montana was 81.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2004 because fewer acres were seeded and harvested in 2005. The final seeded acreage was 2.6 million acres, down 400,000 acres from last year's acreage of 3.0 million acres. Producers harvested 2.6 million acres, down 300,000 acres from the previous year's acreage of 2.9 million acres. Yields averaged 32.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from the August forecast, but up 1 bushel from the previous year.

Montana **durum wheat** growers seeded 570,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Producers harvested 565,000 acres, up 4 percent from 2004. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels per acre from last year, and down 2 bushel from the previous forecast. Total production for 2005 was estimated at 15.8 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year. For the week ending September 25, durum wheat harvest was 96 percent complete compared to 59 percent last year.

In 2005, Montana producers seeded 950 thousand acres of **barley**, 50,000 acres fewer than the 2004 acreage of 1.0 million acres. This is the lowest acreage seeded since 1953, when 582 thousand acres were seeded. Producers harvested 710,000 acres, 120,000 fewer than the 2004 harvested acreage of 830,000. The final yield for 2005 averaged 56.0 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from last year, and down 4 bushels from the August forecast. Production was estimated at 39.8 million bushels, 8 percent below last year.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 1.7 million bushels, down 27 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 85,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from 2004. Harvested acreage was set at 33,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from last year. Average yield at 53.0 bushels per acre, was 7 bushels below 2004, but unchanged from the previous forecast.

Total production of **alfalfa hay** in Montana is estimated to be 4.59 million tons, up 43 percent from the previous year **Alfalfa hay** yield rose 0.20 ton from the August forecast to 2.70 tons per acre. This would be a new record high for alfalfa yield with the previous record of 2.60 tons per acre set in 1981. Harvested area, at 1.70 million acres, remained unchanged from August, but is 300,000 acres more than 2004. **Other hay** yield was unchanged from August's forecast of 1.60 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 2.00 million tons, up 30 percent from 2004. Other hay harvested area is unchanged from August at 1.25 million acres, but is up 150,000 acres from 2004. **All hay** production is estimated at 6.59 million tons, up 38 percent from last year. **All hay** yield is estimated to be 2.23 tons per acre, up 0.33 ton per acre from last year. This would tie the previous record high all hay yield set in 1995.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Hay Production
Sugar Beet Production
Canola Production
Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Wheat Utilization
Red Meat Production

October 1, 2005 Montana All Hay, Sugar Beets, and Canola Production Forecast

Total production of **alfalfa hay** in Montana is estimated to be 4.59 million tons, up 43 percent from the previous year. Alfalfa hay yield rose 0.20 ton from the August forecast to 2.70 tons per acre. This would be a new record high for alfalfa yield with the previous record of 2.60 tons per acre set in 1981. Harvested area, at 1.70 million acres, remained unchanged from August, but is 300,000 acres more than 2004. **Other hay** yield was unchanged from August's forecast of 1.60 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 2.00 million tons, up 30 percent from 2004. Other hay harvested area is unchanged from August at 1.25 million acres, but is up 150,000 acres from 2004. **All hay** production is estimated at 6.59 million tons, up 38 percent from last year. All hay yield is estimated to be 2.23 tons per acre, up 0.33 ton per acre from last year. This would tie the previous record high all hay yield set in 1995.

Montana's **sugar beet** production is forecast at 1.05 million tons for 2005, the same as September's forecast, but down 7 percent from 2004. Forecasted yield, at 21.0 tons per acre, is unchanged from last month, but down 0.7 ton per acre from last year. Harvested acreage, at 50,000 acres, is unchanged from September, but down 2,100 acres from last year.

Montana **canola** producers expect to harvest 18,000 acres in 2005, compared with 15,000 in 2004. Yield is expected to be 1,400 pounds per acre, down 12 percent from last year. Production is expected to total 25.2 million pounds, compared with 23.9 million pounds last year.

For the **United States**, **alfalfa** and alfalfa mixtures production is forecast at 75.9 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.09 ton from August but down 0.04 ton from 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 22.1 million acres, unchanged from August but up 2 percent from last year. U.S. **other hay** production is forecast at 76.9 million tons, up 1 percent from August but down 7 percent from 2004. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.94 tons, up 0.02 ton from August but down 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 39.6 million acres, is unchanged from August but down 2 percent from the previous year.

Sugar beet production in the U.S. for 2005 is forecast at 26.7 million tons, 2 percent above the September forecast but 11 percent below last year's production. The yield is forecast at 21.5 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton from September but 1.4 tons below 2004. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.24 million acres, virtually the same as last month but 5 percent below last year.

The first U.S. **canola** production forecast for 2005 is 1.50 billion pounds, up 12 percent from 2004. Area planted, at 1.15 million acres, is up 6 percent from the June estimate and up 33 percent from last year. Canola farmers expect to harvest 1.13 million acres, up 5 percent from June and up 36 percent from 2004. The October yield forecast, at 1,333 pounds per acre, is 285 pounds below last year's record high yield.

U.S. September Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during September 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.31 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 59 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2005 averaged 342 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,155 eggs, up 1 percent from September 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2005, totaled 343 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2005, averaged 71.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from October 1, 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during September 2005 totaled 33.8 million, down 8 percent from September 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 31.8 million on October 1, 2005, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 375,000 during September 2005, up 83 percent from September 2004.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during September 2005 totaled 770 million, down slightly from September 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 632 million on October 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.13 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during September 2005, down 8 percent from September 2004.

Montana Agricultural Statistics 2005 Book Available Soon

The annual report contains state and county crop and livestock estimates, farm income, prices, farm numbers, Montana's rank among states, and other statistical data.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics 2005 book will be available in December in printed form or on our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The price for the printed book is $10.00. Those who supply survey information are not charged.

October 1, 2005 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	2,100	1,630	2,050	41.0	45.0	66,830	92,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	570	570	545	565	33.0	28.0	17,985	15,820
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	2,850	2,550	31.0	32.0	88,350	81,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,470	5,270	5,025	5,165	34.5	36.7	173,165	189,670
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	70.0	60.0	15.0	15.0	143	4/	2145	4/
Oats	Bu.	105	85	40.0	33.0	60.0	53.0	2,400	1,749
Barley	Bu.	1,000	950	830	710	59.0	56.0	48,970	39,760
Flaxseed	Bu.	20	55	19	53	18.0	4/	342	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	17.0	12.7	16.5	22.4	24.0	285	396
Dry Peas	Cwt.	68.0	135.0	63.0	125.0	20.1	4/	1,266	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	78.0	170.0	72.0	155.0	14.0	4/	1,008	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	12.0	19.0	8.0	13.0	9.0	4/	72	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	53.7	51.2	52.1	50.0	21.7	21.0	1,131	1,050
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9	335.0	3/	3,551	3/
Canola	Lbs.	15.0	19.0	15.0	18.0	1,590	1,400	23,850	25,200
Safflower	Lbs.	33.5	39.0	31.0	37.0	680	4/	21,080	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,700	2.30	2.70	3,220	4,590
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,250	1.40	1.60	1,540	2,000
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,950	1.90	2.23	4,760	6,590
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,350	40,320	34,462	33,680	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,493,769
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,561	2,735	2,363	2,691	38.0	37.2	89,893	100,045
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,763	14,036	13,174	13,609	43.2	37.1	568,918	504,456
All Wheat	Bu.	59,674	57,091	49,999	49,980	43.2	42.0	2,158,245	2,098,270
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,930	81,642	73,632	74,333	148.9	4/	10,923,099	4/
Oats	Bu.	4,085	4,240	1,787	1,823	64.7	63.1	115,695	115,002
Barley	Bu.	4,527	3,922	4,021	3,276	69.6	64.8	279,743	212,196
Flaxseed	Bu.	523	945	516	931	20.3	4/	10,471	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,354.3	1,659.8	1,219.3	1,522.1	14.6	17.2	17,799	26,109
Dry Peas	Cwt.	530.0	804.0	507.8	772.0	21.6	4/	10,831	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	345.0	450.0	322.0	430.0	12.7	4/	4,084	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	30.5	37.5	21.5	26.5	12.7	4/	272	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,243.3	22.9	21.5	29,956	26,746
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,039.7	970.4	1,022.8	955.7	398	3/	410,023	3/
Canola	Lbs.	865	1,153	828	1,125	1,618	1,333	1,339,530	1,499,300
Safflower	Lbs.	175.0	185.0	159.0	173.0	1,105	4/	175,765	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.43	75,383	75,940
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.94	82,391	76,931
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.48	157,774	152,871

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available November 11, 2005. 4/ Forecast available January 12, 2006.
-- Not published.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.5 million head on October 1, 2005. The inventory was slightly below October 1, 2004 but up 3 percent from October 1, 2003.

The inventory included 6.87 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.55 million head, down 11 percent from 2004.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.36 million, 1percent below 2004 and 5 percent below 2003. Net placements were 2.30 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 565,000, 600-699 pounds were 505,000, 700-799 pounds were 550,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 735,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.82 million, 1 percent above 2004 but 11 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 57,000 during September, 7 percent below 2004 and 10 percent below 2003.

September U.S. Milk Production Up 4.9 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during September 2005 totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 4.9 percent from September 2004. August revised production, at 13.6 billion pounds, was up 4.8 percent from August 2004. The August revision represented an increase of 22 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,597 pounds for September, 64 pounds above September 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 54,000 head more than September 2004, and 1,000 head more than August 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during the July-September quarter totaled 44.0 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from the July-September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 27,000 head more than the same period last year.

Wheat Utilization

The June 2004 - May 2005 total wheat supply was 213.6 million bushels, 16 percent more than the previous year. Total supply is calculated by adding 2004 all wheat production to June 2004 all wheat stocks. Total disposition during June 2004 - May 2005 was 162.3 million bushels, 13 percent more than the quantity marketed during the previous year. Ending stocks of 51.3 million bushels on June 1, 2005 was 27 percent higher than the previous year. Wheat utilization reports are assembled from Grain Movement Reports and Grain Market News data by the USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office. Funding was provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee

Montana shipped 133.3 million bushels out of state during June 2004 - May 2005, 3 percent more than moved during the same period the prior year. Shipments to the Pacific Northwest totaled 90.8 million bushels, 8 percent more than the 2003 - 2004 season, and accounted for 73 percent of the wheat shipped out of state. Pacific Northwest destinations accounted for 78.2 million bushels, while Pacific Northwest processing destinations accounted for 12.6 million bushels.

Inspected exports of hard red winter, hard red spring, hard white, and durum wheat from Pacific ports were 239.3 million bushels, up 16 percent from the previous year. Montana's recorded share of those exports was 33 percent, the same as the previous year

All Wheat Supply and Disposition By Marketing Year, Montana, 2000-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Million Bushels					Percent
SUPPLY						
Beginning Stocks 1/	60.9	51.4	57.3	41.6	40.4	97
Production	135.2	96.6	110.7	142.3	173.2	122
Total Supply	196.1	148.0	168.0	183.9	213.6	116
DISPOSITION						
Recorded movement out of state 2/	125.3	67.7	114.7	120.5	124.1	103
Used for seed in Montana	5.8	6.3	5.8	5.9	5.6	95
Residual 3/	13.6	16.7	5.9	17.1	32.6	191
Total Disposition	144.7	90.7	126.4	143.5	162.3	113
Pacific Northwest exports as a percent of total disposition	57%	41%	53%	48%	48%	
Ending Stocks 1/	51.4	57.3	41.6	40.4	51.3	127

1/ June 1 stocks, All Positions. 2/ Montana Wheat Movement Project
3/ Used for flour, used for livestock feed, handling losses, and other unaccounted disappearance.

All Wheat Recorded Movement by Destination & Marketing Years, Montana, 2000-2004

ITEM	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004/2003
	Million Bushels					Percent
All Destinations	144.2	83.7	130.6	129.2	133.3	103
Out of Montana	125.3	67.7	114.7	120.5	124.1	103
Pacific Northwest Destinations	92.6	44.8	80.9	84.3	90.8	108
Export Destinations	81.8	37.3	67.0	68.7	78.2	114
Export Facilities	76.0	34.9	64.7	65.8	76.7	117
Columbia/Snake River Barge System	5.8	2.4	2.3	2.9	1.5	52
Processing Destinations	10.8	7.5	13.9	15.6	12.6	81
Interior Oregon & Washington Facilities	5.3	2.2	10.7	10.9	9.1	83
Mills	5.5	5.3	3.2	4.7	3.5	74
Non-Pacific Northwest Destinations	32.7	22.9	33.8	36.2	33.3	92
Montana Destinations	18.9	16.0	15.9	8.7	9.2	106
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White, and Durum - Pacific ports 1/	204.4	195.5	200.2	205.5	239.3	116
Montana recorded exports as percent of total Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White and Durum exports from Pacific ports	40%	19%	33%	33%	33%	

1/ California, Oregon, and Washington ports.
PLEASE NOTE: Funding for this data was provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

September 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 2005, up 5 percent from last year, but down 11 percent from the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 1,164 from the previous year.

During September there were 1,600 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 230 pounds, rose 8 pounds from last year. September sheep slaughter in the state totaled 500 head, 100 head fewer than September 2004. The average live weight increased 9 pounds to 125 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in September, up 1 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in September 2004. Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.78 million head, up 1 percent from September 2004. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.2 million pounds, 2 percent above September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,700 head, down 10 percent from September 2004. The average live weight was 43 pounds above last year, at 363 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.74 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.87 million head, 1 percent below September 2004. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.6 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,300 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

January to September 2005 commercial red meat production was 33.9 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

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Ag Prices Received	Lentil Production
2005 Crop Year Summary	Potato Production
Austrian Winter Pea Production	Sugar Beet Production
Dry Beans Production	
Dry Edible Pea Production	

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

survey results summary issued twice monthly by the

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Barley for Malt
Cash Receipts County Estimates
Cattle on Feed
Potato Disposition
Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Egg Production

2004 Barley for Malt Production

Maltsters and brewers purchased 19.7 million bushels of Montana's 2004 barley crop to make malt, up 33 percent from 2003. The average protein of the 2004 malting crop was 12.0 percent, which is 0.2 points lower than the average protein of the 2003 crop.

Montana growers seeded 1.00 million acres of barley in 2004, down 150,000 acres from 2003. Of the total, over 700,000 acres were seeded to malting-type varieties. If the yield of malting varieties equaled the state average yield per planted acre for all barley, then approximately 34.3 million bushels of malting barley would have been produced. Because only 19.7 million bushels were used for malt, the remaining 14.6 million bushels did not make malting grade or exceeded demand for malting barley. The barley utilized for malt represented approximately 40 percent of the 2004 total barley crop, compared with 43 and 24 percent in 2003 and 2002, respectively.

Harrington was the most frequently purchased variety by maltsters and brewers and represented 35 percent of the total purchases. Anheuser-Busch varieties, at 27 percent of total, were the second most commonly purchased. Fifty-two percent of all malt barley purchased was grown in North Central Montana, compared to 60 percent last year. South Central Montana growers produced 18 percent of the total.

The survey was requested and funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee

Montana Barley Purchased to Produce Malt, 2002-2004 Crops

Variety	Crop Year 1/	Districts						State		
		N. Central	Northeast	Central	S. Central	Southeast	Southwest 2/	Bushels	% Protein 3/	% Plump 3/
Anheuser-Busch Varieties	2002	2,105,000		919,000	306,000			3,330,000	12.8	
	2003	4,190,000		762,000	520,000			5,472,000	12.1	
	2004	3,985,000		790,000	426,000		25,000	5,226,000	11.7	86
Harrington	2002	2,692,000		548,000			196,000	3,436,000	13.3	
	2003	4,336,000	81,000	217,000	126,000	9,000	1,088,000	5,857,000	12.7	
	2004	4,987,000	193,000	1,045,000	620,000			6,845,000	12.0	84
Legacy	2002									
	2003	294,000	295,000	73,000		33,000		695,000	12.5	
	2004	190,000	1,400,000	55,000		350,000		1,995,000	12.9	78
Metcalfe	2002									
	2003									
	2004	510,000		145,000				655,000	11.6	84
Moravian 37	2002	617,000	88,000		1,790,000			2,495,000	12.8	
	2003	80,000	120,000		2,200,000	59,000		2,459,000	11.2	
	2004	442,000			2,348,000			2,790,000	11.3	92
Tradition	2002									
	2003									
	2004	210,000	1,000,000	90,000		750,000		2,050,000	12.9	77
Other	2002						28,000	28,000	11.8	
	2003					295,000		295,000	12.7	
	2004	5,000			53,000		75,000	133,000	11.2	93
Total	2002	5,414,000	88,000	1,467,000	2,096,000		224,000	9,289,000	13.0	
	2003	8,900,000	496,000	1,052,000	2,846,000	396,000	1,088,000	14,778,000	12.2	
	2004	10,329,000	2,593,000	2,125,000	3,447,000	1,100,000	100,000	19,694,000	12.0	84

1/ Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30. 2/ Includes Northwest. 3/ Computed prior to rounding purchases.
The survey was requested and funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee

Cash Receipts from the Sale of Principal Products and Government Payments, 2003

County and District	Livestock and Livestock Products		Crops		Total Cash Receipts		Government Payments	All Cash Receipts 1/	
	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols.	(000) Dols	Rank
Deer Lodge	3,836	53	988	54	4,824	54	195	5,019	54
Flathead	9,478	41	18,286	18	27,764	32	1,199	28,963	35
Granite	8,912	45	1,285	52	10,197	49	285	10,482	51
Lake	23,656	20	14,187	22	37,843	22	1,145	38,988	27
Lincoln	2,333	55	2,988	43	5,321	53	--	5,321	53
Mineral	1,044	56	250	56	1,294	56	--	1,294	56
Missoula	5,250	52	3,265	42	8,515	52	144	8,659	52
Powell	17,710	29	1,861	50	19,571	41	422	19,993	43
Ravalli	21,573	22	9,470	25	31,043	28	648	31,691	33
Sanders	8,127	47	5,982	34	14,109	46	222	14,331	47
NORTHWEST	**101,919**	**--**	**58,562**	**--**	**160,481**	**--**	**4,260**	**164,741**	**--**
Blaine	26,075	17	16,935	20	43,010	14	13,073	56,083	13
Chouteau	14,170	35	54,402	1	68,572	2	33,904	102,476	2
Glacier	20,752	23	16,270	21	37,022	23	10,990	48,012	17
Hill	11,187	38	44,757	2	55,944	11	29,005	84,949	3
Liberty	9,167	42	22,927	10	32,094	26	14,829	46,923	18
Phillips	29,068	13	9,444	26	38,512	19	11,901	50,413	16
Pondera	16,560	32	30,972	4	47,532	12	14,897	62,429	12
Teton	27,825	14	28,781	7	56,606	10	15,155	71,761	6
Toole	8,191	46	21,430	13	29,621	30	15,138	44,759	24
NORTH CENTRAL	**162,995**	**--**	**245,918**	**--**	**408,913**	**--**	**158,892**	**567,805**	**--**
Daniels	6,404	50	19,204	15	25,608	34	9,437	35,045	30
Dawson	18,484	27	18,274	19	36,758	24	8,107	44,865	23
Garfield	31,877	10	6,056	33	37,933	20	8,256	46,189	19
McCone	13,584	36	18,508	17	32,092	27	9,861	41,953	25
Richland	25,520	19	32,770	3	58,290	8	8,828	67,118	9
Roosevelt	12,772	37	28,327	8	41,099	17	12,039	53,138	15
Sheridan	10,834	39	30,422	5	41,256	16	12,670	53,926	14
Valley	38,654	5	22,142	12	60,796	7	12,620	73,416	5
NORTHEAST	**158,129**	**--**	**175,703**	**--**	**333,832**	**--**	**81,818**	**415,650**	**--**
Broadwater	6,212	51	9,366	27	15,578	45	2,742	18,320	44
Cascade	35,988	6	22,225	11	58,213	9	9,989	68,202	8
Fergus	44,718	3	18,968	16	63,686	4	12,184	75,870	4
Golden Valley	7,220	48	2,019	48	9,239	51	3,851	13,090	48
Judith Basin	25,724	18	6,852	32	32,576	25	6,503	39,079	26
Lewis & Clark	14,492	34	9,716	24	24,208	36	901	25,109	37
Meagher	19,690	26	1,916	49	21,606	39	1,143	22,749	40
Musselshell	15,892	33	3,516	40	19,408	42	3,136	22,544	41
Petroleum	7,119	49	2,404	46	9,523	50	2,268	11,791	49
Wheatland	16,827	31	2,304	47	19,131	43	3,824	22,955	39
CENTRAL	**193,882**	**--**	**79,286**	**--**	**273,168**	**--**	**46,541**	**319,709**	**--**
Beaverhead	56,235	2	8,547	28	64,782	3	1,695	66,477	10
Gallatin	32,731	9	29,811	6	62,542	6	3,528	66,070	11
Jefferson	8,956	44	1,810	51	10,766	48	273	11,039	50
Madison	30,151	12	7,734	29	37,885	21	1,028	38,913	28
Silver Bow	2,362	54	330	55	2,692	55	--	2,692	55
SOUTHWEST	**130,435**	**--**	**48,232**	**--**	**178,667**	**--**	**6,524**	**185,191**	**--**
Big Horn	41,350	4	21,250	14	62,600	5	7,568	70,168	7
Carbon	30,674	11	12,655	23	43,329	13	2,327	45,656	20
Park	16,887	30	5,852	35	22,739	38	1,090	23,829	38
Stillwater	23,174	21	4,430	38	27,604	33	5,304	32,908	32
Sweetgrass	19,834	25	1,245	53	21,079	40	739	21,818	42
Treasure	10,531	40	5,561	36	16,092	44	1,039	17,131	45
Yellowstone	85,419	1	28,087	9	113,506	1	7,374	120,880	1
SOUTH CENTRAL	**227,869**	**--**	**79,080**	**--**	**306,949**	**--**	**25,441**	**332,390**	**--**
Carter	26,258	16	2,716	45	28,974	31	6,338	35,312	29
Custer	34,827	7	6,972	30	41,799	15	3,845	45,644	21
Fallon	20,610	24	3,706	39	24,316	35	5,041	29,357	34
Powder River	27,423	15	2,893	44	30,316	29	4,497	34,813	31
Prairie	18,021	28	5,007	37	23,028	37	4,499	27,527	36
Rosebud	33,289	8	6,931	31	40,220	18	4,789	45,009	22
Wibaux	9,092	43	3,309	41	12,401	47	3,248	15,649	46
SOUTHEAST	**169,520**	**--**	**31,534**	**--**	**201,054**	**--**	**32,257**	**233,311**	**--**
MONTANA	**1,144,749**	**--**	**718,315**	**--**	**1,863,064**	**--**	**355,806**	**2,218,870**	**--**

1/ Includes estimates of inter-farm sales and intra-state sales. SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.0 million head on September 1, 2005. The inventory was slightly above September 1, 2004 and 2 percent above September 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 1.99 million, 5 percent below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest placements for the month of August since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.94 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 418,000; 600-699 pounds were 385,000; 700-799 pounds were 540,000; and 800 pounds and greater were 650,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 2.03 million, 6 percent above 2004, but 2 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 53,000 during August, 5 percent below 2004 and 12 percent below 2003.

2004 Potato Production

Montana's 2004 potato production totaled 3,551,000 cwt, 6 percent above last year and 10 percent above 2002's production. Producers harvested 10,600 acres, unchanged from last year, but 200 acres more than two years ago. Potato yields averaged 335 cwt per acre compared with 315 cwt in 2003 and 310 cwt in 2002.

Value of production from the 2004 crop was $26.6 million, up 5 percent from 2003. The average price was $7.50 per cwt, a decrease of $0.10 from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 2004 potato crop totaled $23.4 million, which is 6 percent above last year's crop. Producers sold 3,119,000 cwt from the 2004 crop compared with 2,909,000 cwt a year ago.

U.S. total 2004 potato production is estimated at 456 million cwt, down fractionally from the estimate made in the January Annual Crop Summary and less than 1 percent below the 2003 crop. Harvested area, at 1.17 million acres, decreased 7 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 391 cwt per acre is up 24 cwt from 2003 and 29 cwt above the average yield from the 2002 crop. This is a record high yield, 10 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

Winter potato production in 2004 is 4.82 million cwt, an increase of 20 percent from 2003. Harvested area, at 18,500 acres, is up 29 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 260 cwt per acre is down 22 cwt from 2003. Spring potatoes final estimate for 2004, at 22.7 million cwt, decreased 7 percent from the previous year. Harvested acres, at 72,200, are down 15 percent from 2003. The average yield of 314 cwt per acre is 26 cwt above 2003 and a record high, 14 cwt above the previous record high set in 1999. Summer potato production is 18.3 million cwt for 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Harvested area, at 53,900 acres, is down 8 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 340 cwt per acre is a record high, 20 cwt above the previous record high set in 2003. Fall potatoes are finalized at 410 million cwt for 2004, virtually unchanged from the 2003 crop. Area harvested in 2004 is estimated at 1.02 million acres, down 6 percent from a year earlier. The average yield, at 401 cwt per acre, is up 25 cwt from a year earlier and a record high, 9 cwt above the previous record high set in 2000.

The value of all potatoes sold in 2004 is estimated at $2.34 billion, down 5 percent from the previous year. The average price, at $5.67 per cwt, is down $0.22 from a year earlier. Sales from the 2004 potato crop totaled 414 million cwt, down 1 percent from 2003. Sales account for 91 percent of 2004 production. Non-sales account for 42.2 million cwt, 3 percent above the previous year. Over the past 5 years, 91 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other nine percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

Processors used 259 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2004 crop, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 130 million cwt, 2 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 22.9 million cwt are down 7 percent from 2003. Sales for livestock feed, at 1.94 million cwt, are down 3 percent from a year earlier.

Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 50.1 million cwt in 2004, down 5 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 155 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 3 percent. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 48.5 million cwt, virtually unchanged from 2003. Canning use, at 3.84 million cwt, fell 10 percent. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 1.53 million cwt of potatoes, 11 percent above the previous year.

Shrinkage and loss is estimated at 37.4 million cwt for 2004, up 6 percent from 2003. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.18 million cwt, 23 percent below the previous season. Growers kept 3.61 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 10 percent from a year earlier.

August Milk Production Up 4.6 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during August totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 4.6 percent from August 2004. July revised production, at 13.7 billion pounds, was up 4.2 percent from July 2004. The July revision represented a decrease of 6 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,665 pounds for August, 64 pounds above August 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.15 million head, 52,000 head more than August 2004, and 9,000 head more than July 2005.

August 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 2005, down 1 percent from last year, but 17 percent higher than July 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,900 head, unchanged from one year ago. The average live weight rose 14 pounds to 1,143 pounds.

During August there were 2,000 hogs slaughtered, compared with 2,100 one year ago. The average live weight, at 230 pounds, was up 7 pounds from last year. August sheep slaughter in the state totaled 500 head, unchanged from August 2004. The average live weight increased four pounds to 130 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.10 billion pounds in August, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in August 2004. Beef production, at 2.32 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.99 million head, up 6 percent from August 2004. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.7 million pounds, 2 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 65,600 head, down 10 percent from August 2004. The average live weight was 25 pounds above last year, at 347 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.75 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.98 million head, 3 percent above August 2004. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 263 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was up 1 percent from August 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,300 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 4 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2005 commercial red meat production was 30.0 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 8 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

August Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.56 billion during August 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.46 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2005 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,219 eggs, up 1 percent from August 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 2005, totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 341 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2005, averaged 71.6 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from August 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during August 2005 totaled 39.0 million, up 6 percent from August 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 32.5 million on September 1, 2005, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 261,000 during August 2005, down 18 percent from August 2004.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during August 2005 totaled 812 million, up slightly from August 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 652 million on August 1, 2005, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.48 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during August 2005, up 3 percent from August 2004.

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Hay Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat and Barley Movement
Wheat Supply and Demand
All Sheep & Lambs County Estimates
Milk Cow County Estimates
Ag Prices Received

Wheat and Barley Movement

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations during January 2005 through June 2005 was 59.3 million bushels, which was down 5% from the previous year.

Over 83% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 49.1 million bushels, down 2% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations during this period totaled 4.3 million bushels, down 4% from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 5.9 million bushels, down from 7.6 million bushels a year ago.

Wheat shipped by rail amounted to 56.4 million bushels, 95% of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 2.9 million bushels compared with 2.8 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 5% of the total, which was up slightly from the previous year.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations during the January 2005 to June 2005 period was 11.8 million bushels, up 22% from the same period last year. Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for western destinations were up 40% from the same period last year, at 3.2 million bushels. Shipments to eastern destinations rose from 6.5 million bushels last year to 7.3 million bushels this year. Shipments to other destinations went up from 0.8 million bushels last year to 1.2 million bushels this year.

Barley shipped by rail amounted to 10.8 million bushels, up 1.9 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 92% of total movement, down slightly from the same period last year.

U.S. and World Wheat Supply and Demand

Projected U.S. 2005/06 ending stocks of **wheat** are down 10 million bushels from last month due to higher food use, partially offset by larger imports. No changes were made to total exports, though hard red winter wheat exports are up, durum is unchanged, and exports are down for other classes. Imports are 10 million bushels larger than last month. Food use rises 20 million bushels due to recently revised mill grind estimates released by the Bureau of the Census for calendar year 2004. The projected 2005/06 price range is $3.00 to $3.40 per bushel, up 15 cents on the low end and up 25 cents on the high end from last month.

Global wheat production in 2005/06 is nearly unchanged from last month, consumption and trade up slightly, but ending stocks are down. Smaller crops are projected for the EU-25 (down 2 million tons) and Argentina (down 1 million), offset by larger crops in Russia (up 1.5 million) as well as bigger crops in Canada, Ukraine, Syria, and Belarus. Projected global imports are up slightly with the largest change a 0.4 million ton increase in Nigeria's imports. Forecast exports rise for Russia (up 1 million tons), Ukraine (up 0.5 million), and Turkey (up 0.4 million) in contrast to a 1 million ton decline in Argentina's exports.

Global consumption increases fractionally. The largest month-to-month consumption changes occur in Nigeria (up 0.4 million tons), Turkey (down 0.3 million), and Canada (up 0.2 million). Global 2005/06 wheat ending stocks fall 1.8 million tons with the largest declines forecast for the EU-25 (down 2 million tons), partially offset by increased stocks in Russia, Syria, Canada, and several other countries.

Wheat and Barley Shipments out of Montana from January 2005 through June 2005 1/

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	Barley	Durum Wheat	Hard White Wheat	Soft White Wheat	Spring Wheat	Winter Wheat	Total Wheat
	(000) Bushels						
Shipments By Truck							
West	407	46	81	10	752	1,293	2,182
East	243	441	18	0	26	1	486
Other & Unknown	290	0	1	5	64	178	248
Total Shipments by Truck	940	487	100	15	842	1,472	2,916
Shipments By Rail							
West	2,839	496	301	34	24,195	21,858	46,884
East	7,064	3,772	0	0	0	51	3,823
Other & Unknown	926	2,291	0	0	3,038	318	5,647
Total Shipments by Rail	10,829	6,559	301	34	27,233	22,227	56,354
Total Shipments-Truck & Rail	11,769	7,046	401	49	28,075	23,699	59,270

1/ Data is reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers and is expanded to represent 100% of elevator capacity.

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Milk Cows and Sheep and Lambs Inventories by Counties, January 1, 2003-2005

County and District 1/	Milk Cows and Heifers That Have Calved				All Sheep and Lambs			
	2003	2004	2005	Rank	2003	2004	2005	Rank
Deer Lodge	–	–	–	–	1,100	1,200	600	48
Flathead	900	900	800	5	600	700	700	47
Granite	–	–	–	–	500	500	–	–
Lake	1,100	1,000	900	3	1,800	1,600	1,800	37
Lincoln	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mineral	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Missoula	–	–	–	–	1,800	1,500	1,800	37
Powell	–	–	–	–	900	800	800	44
Ravalli	1,600	1,500	1,400	2	4,500	3,800	4,100	25
Sanders	–	–	–	–	–	600	600	48
Other	400	400	400	–	1,000	300	600	–
NORTHWEST	**4,000**	**3,800**	**3,500**	–	**12,200**	**11,000**	**11,000**	–
Blaine	–	–	–	–	9,300	11,900	–	–
Chouteau	–	–	–	–	1,000	1,200	1,300	41
Glacier	500	600	600	9	500	700	800	44
Hill	–	–	–	–	–	1,000	1,200	43
Liberty	500	600	600	9	–	–	–	–
Phillips	–	–	–	–	4,100	4,500	5,200	21
Pondera	500	600	700	6	4,500	4,600	5,000	22
Teton	500	500	500	12	6,900	7,200	7,400	11
Toole	–	–	500	12	1,800	1,900	2,100	33
Other	900	800	500	–	900	–	10,000	–
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,900**	**3,100**	**3,400**	–	**29,000**	**33,000**	**33,000**	–
Daniels	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dawson	–	–	–	–	7,500	6,400	5,600	18
Garfield	–	–	–	–	36,100	33,000	30,200	2
McCone	–	–	–	–	7,100	6,000	6,000	17
Richland	–	–	–	–	7,100	7,000	7,000	14
Roosevelt	–	–	–	–	3,800	4,000	2,500	31
Sheridan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Valley	–	–	–	–	4,900	6,000	3,000	28
Other	–	–	–	–	1,500	1,600	1,700	–
NORTHEAST	–	–	–	–	**68,000**	**64,000**	**56,000**	–
Broadwater	–	–	–	–	–	3,400	–	–
Cascade	700	700	700	6	10,100	9,800	8,000	10
Fergus	–	–	500	12	6,700	6,400	7,400	11
Golden Valley	–	–	–	–	–	10,700	12,000	6
Judith Basin	–	–	–	–	7,600	7,500	7,300	13
Lewis & Clark	–	–	–	–	3,800	3,200	–	–
Meagher	–	–	–	–	5,000	4,500	5,000	22
Musselshell	–	–	–	–	6,700	5,900	5,300	20
Petroleum	–	–	–	–	3,200	3,100	2,000	36
Wheatland	–	–	600	9	16,100	15,500	17,000	3
Other	1,600	1,500	700	–	15,800	–	6,000	–
CENTRAL	**2,300**	**2,200**	**2,500**	–	**75,000**	**70,000**	**70,000**	–
Beaverhead	–	–	–	–	16,000	15,200	16,000	4
Gallatin	6,600	6,700	6,100	1	5,000	4,800	5,000	22
Jefferson	–	–	–	–	–	–	800	44
Madison	–	–	–	–	4,900	5,100	–	–
Silver Bow	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	200	200	200	–	1,100	900	7,200	–
SOUTHWEST	**6,800**	**6,900**	**6,300**	–	**27,000**	**26,000**	**29,000**	–
Big Horn	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Carbon	–	–	–	–	8,800	8,200	8,700	9
Park	–	–	–	–	2,100	2,000	2,100	33
Stillwater	–	–	–	–	6,000	5,700	7,000	14
Sweetgrass	–	–	–	–	8,700	8,900	9,900	8
Treasure	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Yellowstone	1,100	1,000	900	3	4,600	3,700	3,500	27
Other	300	300	200	–	1,600	1,500	1,800	–
SOUTH CENTRAL	**1,400**	**1,300**	**1,100**	–	**31,800**	**30,000**	**33,000**	–
Carter	–	–	–	–	40,200	39,600	43,000	1
Custer	–	–	–	–	5,600	5,300	5,600	18
Fallon	–	–	–	–	2,300	2,300	2,500	31
Powder River	–	–	–	–	12,000	11,500	14,200	5
Prairie	–	–	–	–	3,600	3,800	3,800	26
Rosebud	–	–	–	–	1,900	2,000	2,100	33
Wibaux	–	–	–	–	1,400	1,500	1,800	37
Other	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SOUTHEAST	–	–	–	–	**67,000**	**66,000**	**73,000**	–
OTHER DISTRICTS	**600**	**700**	**1,200**		–	–	–	
MONTANA	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	–	**310,000**	**300,000**	**305,000**	–

1/ Counties with less than 500 head or individual operators with 60 percent or more of the total are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

July Agricultural Prices Received

Montana's July full month crop prices were mostly lower compared to June 2005. Montana's winter wheat price was $3.21 per bushel, down $0.13 from June; spring wheat dropped $0.26 to $3.43 per bushel; and durum wheat prices decreased $0.25 to $3.53 per bushel. Feed barley prices were down $0.06 from the previous month to $1.54 and malt barley decreased $0.05 to $3.27 per bushel.

The mid-August price for alfalfa hay in Montana was up $1.00 from July 2005 to $76.00 per ton and all other hay was up $1.00 to $68.00 per ton. The mid-August grain prices were lower with winter wheat price at $2.96 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.45; durum wheat was $3.43; feed barley was $1.43; and malt barley was $3.27 per bushel.

Montana's livestock prices for the full month of July were mostly lower compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $4.00 to $102.00 per cwt and cows were down $3.40 to $56.20. The price for calves dropped $2.00 to $129.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $3.90 to $35.70 per cwt, and lamb prices fell $11.00 to $126.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $0.60 per cwt from June to $14.20 per cwt in July. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August were $104.00 per cwt; cows were $52.50 per cwt; calves were $135.00 per cwt; and the mid-August milk price was $15.00 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for July and changes from June were as follows: winter wheat was $3.15, unchanged; spring wheat was $3.45, down $0.08; durum wheat was $3.71, up $0.04; the all barley price was $2.38, down $0.19; steer and heifer prices were $88.40, down $3.50 per cwt; cows were $53.80, down $3.20; calves were $132.00, down $6.00; sheep were 40.30, down $0.60; lambs were 109.00, down $5.00 and the all milk price was $14.80, down $0.30.

The U.S. mid-August winter wheat price was $3.11 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.33 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.41 per bushel; all wheat was $3.21 per bushel; malt barley was $3.03 per bushel; feed barley was $1.90 per bushel; all barley was $2.75 per bushel; and oats were $1.53 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were $88.00 per cwt; cow prices were $51.90 per cwt; calves were $131.00 per cwt; all hogs were $50.00 per cwt; and all egg prices were $0.47 per dozen. The mid-August all milk price was $14.70 cwt.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 117, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.8 percent) from July. The Crop Index is down 2 points (1.7 percent) while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received lower commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs, and sweet corn. Higher prices were received for lettuce, peaches, strawberries, and turkeys. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and calves offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	July 2004	August 2004	July 2005	August 2005
Prices Received	124	120	118	117
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	135	135	141	141
Ratio 2/	92	89	84	83

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		July 2004	June 2005	July 2005	July 2005	June 2005	July 2004	Aug. 15, 2005	Aug. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.66	3.34	3.21	3.15	-0.13	-0.45	2.96	3.11
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.22	3.78	3.53	3.71	-0.25	-0.69	3.43	3.41
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.85	3.69	3.43	3.45	-0.26	-0.42	3.45	3.33
All Wheat	Bu.	3.87	3.57	3.38	3.20	-0.19	-0.49	3.29	3.21
Barley, All	Bu.	1.92	2.91	2.97	2.38	+0.06	+1.05	2.96	2.75
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.91	1.60	1.54	1.98	-0.06	-0.37	1.43	1.90
Malt Barley	Bu.	N/A	3.32	3.27	2.66	-0.05	NC	3.27	3.03
Oats	Bu.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.59	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.53
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	77.00	75.00	109.00	-2.00	-3.00	76.00	109.00
All Other Hay	Ton	74.00	67.00	67.00	75.90	NC	-7.00	68.00	74.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	76.00	74.00	99.70	-2.00	-3.00	74.00	99.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	114.00	106.00	102.00	88.40	-4.00	-12.00	104.00	88.00
Cows	Cwt	59.10	59.60	56.20	53.80	-3.40	-2.90	52.50	51.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	97.00	73.50	74.10	85.30	+0.60	-22.90	82.40	84.70
Calves	Cwt	128.00	131.00	129.00	132.00	-2.00	+1.00	135.00	131.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	37.20	39.60	35.70	40.30	-3.90	-1.50	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	112.00	137.00	126.00	109.00	-11.00	+14.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	19.40	14.80	14.20	14.80	-0.60	-5.20	15.00	14.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

U.S. and World Ag Supply and Demand (continued)

This month's outlook for 2005/06 U.S. **corn** is for increased production, higher domestic consumption, larger stocks, and lower prices. Forecast 2005 corn production is up 289 million bushels from last month to 10.639 billion bushels. Projected beginning stocks of 2005/06 corn rise 15 million bushels due to a reduction in 2004/05 exports. Projected 2005/06 exports are up 50 million bushels due to increased imports by Mexico and Egypt. Feed and residual use rises 75 million bushels but other domestic consumption is unchanged. Corn ending stocks are up 179 million bushels from last month but are 46 million lower than the previous year. Corn prices in 2005/06 are projected to average $1.70 to $2.10, down 10 cents on each end from last month compared with $2.06 for 2004/05.

U.S. **oilseed** ending stocks for 2005/06 are projected at 7.1 million tons, up 0.8 million tons from last month as larger production more than offsets increased use. Oilseed production is projected at 89.5 million tons, up 2.0 million tons from last month. Soybean production is forecast at 2,856 million bushels, up 65 million bushels from last month based on improved yield prospects. Other oilseed production is also higher, with an increase for cottonseed more than offsetting lower peanut production. Soybean exports are raised this month due to lower prices and reduced competitor supplies. Crush is raised based on improved demand prospects for soybean meal. Soybean ending stocks are projected at 205 million bushels, up 25 million from last month.

U.S. prices are projected lower this month. Season-average soybean prices for 2005/06 are projected at $5.15 to $6.05 compared with $5.50 - $6.50 per bushel last month. Soybean meal prices are projected at $165 to $195 per short ton, down $10 on both ends of the range. Soybean oil prices are projected lower at 21.5 to 24.5 cents per pound. Global oilseed production for 2005/06 is projected at 379.3 million tons, up 2.0 million tons from last month but down 0.7 million tons from 2004/05. Foreign oilseed production is little changed as reduced soybean production is offset by increased rapeseed, sunflowerseed, cottonseed, and palm kernel production. Brazilian soybean production is projected at 60 million tons, down 2 million tons from the previous estimate based on reduced area. Steadily declining soybean prices this summer and higher costs for inputs and transportation are expected to result in lower area for the first time in 7 years. Foreign rapeseed production is raised 2 percent this month based on increases for Canada, EU-25, and Bulgaria. Other changes include increased sunflowerseed production for Bulgaria, and higher cottonseed production for India. Indonesian palm oil production is raised this month for both 2004/05 and 2005/06.

Global oilseed stocks for 2005/06 are reduced this month as lower beginning stocks and increased crush more than offset larger oilseed production.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2005

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	-- Million Bushels --											$
1988	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002	777	1,606	81	2,464	919	84	119	1,122	850	1,972	491	3.56
2003	491	2,345	63	2,899	912	80	203	1,194	1,158	2,353	546	3.40
2004	546	2,158	71	2,775	907	79	187	1,173	1,063	2,235	540	3.40
2005 3/	540	2,167	80	2,787	910	78	200	1,188	975	2,163	624	3.00-3.40

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 2005--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Barley Utilized for Malt
Cash Receipts County Estimates
Potato Disposition
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Red Meat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Mushroom Sales
July Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
All Cattle & Calves and Beef Cow County Estimates
All Hay County Estimates
Farm Labor
July Egg Production
U.S. & Canadian Cattle

U.S. Mushroom Sales for 2004-05

Sales of the 2004-05 U.S. mushroom crop are 853 million pounds, virtually unchanged from the 2003-04 season but 1 percent above the 2002-03 season. Value of sales for the 2004-05 U.S. mushroom crop is $908 million, down 1 percent from the previous season but 2 percent above the 2002-03 season. The number of growers, at 275, is down 3 from last season. The average price is $1.06 per pound, down 2 cents from 2003-04.

Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 838 million pounds, virtually unchanged from both the 2003-04 and 2002-03 seasons. **Fresh market** sales were 696 million pounds, down 1 percent from last season. Processing sales were 142 million pounds, 3 percent above last season. Value of sales for all Agaricus mushrooms totaled $862 million, down 2 percent from the previous season but 1 percent higher than 2002-03. Pennsylvania accounted for 59 percent of the total volume of sales and California contributed 14 percent. **Brown mushrooms**, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 101 million pounds, up 4 percent from last season but 9 percent below the 2002-03 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 12 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2004-05 season is $130 million, 15 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown **specialty** mushrooms in 2004-05 is $46.1 million, up 14 percent from the 2003-04 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area. The average price per pound received by growers, at $3.06, is up 3 cents from the previous season.

Sales of **Shiitake** mushrooms totaled 8.61 million pounds for the 2004-05 season, up 15 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at $3.21, is down 3 cents from 2003-04. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 5.11 million pounds, is up 22 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at $2.33, is up 25 cents from the previous season. Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, are 1.33 million pounds, down 20 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at $4.90, is up 41 cents from 2003-04.

Growers sold 35.0 million pounds of mushrooms that were **certified organic** during the 2004-05 growing season, down 1 percent from 2003-04. Out of the 35.0 million pounds, 6.01 million pounds, or 17 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 8.31 million pounds, or 23 percent sold as certified organic during the 2003-04 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 74 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 1 percent of the 2004-05 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 35, up 4 from the previous season. These growers represent 13 percent of the 275 total mushroom producers.

U.S. July Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during July totaled 13.7 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from July 2004. June revised production, at 13.7 billion pounds, was up 5.6 percent from June 2004. The June revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 28 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,682 pounds for July, 59 pounds above July 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.14 million head, 48,000 head more than July 2004, and 12,000 head more than June 2005.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.1 million head on August 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above August 1, 2004 and 5 percent above August 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.68 million, 2 percent below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest placements for the month of July since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.62 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000, 600-699 pounds were 338,000, 700-799 pounds were 465,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.92 million, slightly below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of July since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during July, 3 percent above 2004 but unchanged from 2003.

July 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 2005, unchanged from July 2004, but up 23 percent from June 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, unchanged from one year ago. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 1,152 pounds.

There were 1,500 hogs slaughtered in Montana during July, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 236 pounds, increased 13 pounds from last year. July sheep slaughter totaled 300 head, unchanged from July 2004. The average live weight increased 13 pounds to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in July, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in July 2004. U.S. beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 2 percent from July 2004. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds. Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 7 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,600 head, down 15 percent from July 2004. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 350 pounds.

U.S. pork production totaled 1.51 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.66 million head, 5 percent below July 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 264 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 13.5 million pounds, was down 5 percent from July 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,800 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 6 pounds from July a year ago.

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All Hay Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2004

County and District	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested 1/	Yield	Production		Harvested 1/	Yield	Production	Harvested 1/	Yield	Production
	Acres	Tons	Tons	Rank	Acres	Tons	Tons	Acres	Tons	Tons
Deer Lodge	13,500	2.22	30,000	43	13,500	2.22	30,000	--	--	--
Flathead	44,000	2.64	116,000	17	20,200	3.54	71,500	23,800	1.87	44,500
Granite	30,000	2.38	71,400	27	29,300	2.39	70,000	700	2.00	1,400
Lake	52,000	2.74	142,500	10	40,000	3.23	129,000	12,000	1.13	13,500
Lincoln	8,000	2.10	16,800	53	4,400	2.75	12,100	3,600	1.31	4,700
Mineral	3,000	1.33	4,000	56	800	2.50	2,000	2,200	0.91	2,000
Missoula	21,500	2.50	53,800	35	15,500	2.93	45,400	6,000	1.40	8,400
Powell	54,000	2.18	117,600	15	51,500	2.23	115,000	2,500	1.04	2,600
Ravalli	43,000	3.14	135,000	12	43,000	3.14	135,000	--	--	--
Sanders	29,000	1.65	47,900	38	14,800	2.09	31,000	14,200	1.19	16,900
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**298,000**	**2.47**	**735,000**	**--**	**233,000**	**2.75**	**641,000**	**65,000**	**1.45**	**94,000**
Blaine	80,000	2.33	186,500	6	41,100	3.24	133,000	38,900	1.38	53,500
Chouteau	39,800	1.71	67,900	28	10,300	3.24	33,400	29,500	1.17	34,500
Glacier	46,000	1.50	69,100	29	11,000	2.83	31,100	35,000	1.09	38,000
Hill	19,200	1.43	27,400	44	2,000	2.70	5,400	17,200	1.28	22,000
Liberty	15,500	1.63	25,200	47	5,000	2.20	11,000	10,500	1.35	14,200
Phillips	74,000	1.86	138,000	11	36,500	2.37	86,500	37,500	1.37	51,500
Pondera	33,500	2.31	77,400	26	16,100	3.66	58,900	17,400	1.06	18,500
Teton	71,500	2.92	208,800	3	53,500	3.46	185,000	18,000	1.32	23,800
Toole	28,500	1.25	35,700	41	4,500	3.27	14,700	24,000	0.88	21,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**408,000**	**2.05**	**836,000**	**--**	**180,000**	**3.11**	**559,000**	**228,000**	**1.21**	**277,000**
Daniels	37,300	1.70	63,400	36	500	3.80	1,900	36,800	1.67	61,500
Dawson	55,700	1.06	58,900	32	7,000	3.63	25,400	48,700	0.69	33,500
Garfield	62,200	0.83	51,400	34	3,500	1.54	5,400	58,700	0.78	46,000
McCone	41,300	1.36	56,000	37	5,000	3.10	15,500	36,300	1.12	40,500
Richland	60,000	1.78	107,000	20	16,000	4.06	65,000	44,000	0.95	42,000
Roosevelt	85,000	1.55	132,000	13	11,000	2.77	30,500	74,000	1.37	101,500
Sheridan	57,500	1.38	79,300	25	3,500	3.23	11,300	54,000	1.26	68,000
Valley	91,000	2.21	201,000	4	34,500	3.59	124,000	56,500	1.36	77,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**490,000**	**1.53**	**749,000**	**--**	**81,000**	**3.44**	**279,000**	**409,000**	**1.15**	**470,000**
Broadwater	33,000	3.29	108,600	19	29,200	3.53	103,000	3,800	1.47	5,600
Cascade	88,000	1.67	146,700	9	18,600	3.67	68,200	69,400	1.13	78,500
Fergus	178,500	1.10	196,400	5	16,200	1.67	27,000	162,300	1.04	169,400
Golden Valley	15,000	1.17	17,500	52	7,200	1.81	13,000	7,800	0.58	4,500
Judith Basin	78,000	1.24	97,100	23	11,200	3.00	33,600	66,800	0.95	63,500
Lewis & Clark	45,000	2.61	117,400	16	38,000	2.88	109,500	7,000	1.13	7,900
Meagher	56,000	2.18	121,900	14	45,000	2.43	109,500	11,000	1.13	12,400
Musselshell	23,000	1.36	31,300	42	10,200	2.30	23,500	12,800	0.61	7,800
Petroleum	14,500	1.25	18,100	51	5,000	2.04	10,200	9,500	0.83	7,900
Wheatland	36,000	1.47	53,000	33	17,400	2.10	36,500	18,600	0.89	16,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**567,000**	**1.60**	**908,000**	**--**	**198,000**	**2.70**	**534,000**	**369,000**	**1.01**	**374,000**
Beaverhead	97,500	2.15	210,000	2	94,500	2.18	206,000	3,000	1.33	4,000
Gallatin	67,000	3.38	226,200	1	52,000	3.89	202,500	15,000	1.58	23,700
Jefferson	19,000	2.48	47,200	39	17,500	2.60	45,500	1,500	1.13	1,700
Madison	61,000	2.75	167,600	7	58,000	2.80	162,500	3,000	1.70	5,100
Silver Bow	6,500	2.15	14,000	54	5,000	2.70	13,500	1,500	0.33	500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**251,000**	**2.65**	**665,000**	**--**	**227,000**	**2.78**	**630,000**	**24,000**	**1.46**	**35,000**
Big Horn	55,000	1.81	99,700	22	17,800	3.49	62,200	37,200	1.01	37,500
Carbon	42,000	2.53	106,300	21	37,000	2.74	101,500	5,000	0.96	4,800
Park	66,000	2.28	150,600	8	57,000	2.44	139,000	9,000	1.29	11,600
Stillwater	33,500	1.33	44,400	40	12,900	2.59	33,400	20,600	0.53	11,000
Sweetgrass	38,500	1.76	67,600	30	28,300	2.17	61,500	10,200	0.60	6,100
Treasure	9,000	2.63	23,700	49	5,000	4.38	21,900	4,000	0.45	1,800
Yellowstone	50,000	2.17	108,700	18	24,000	3.81	91,500	26,000	0.66	17,200
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**294,000**	**2.04**	**601,000**	**--**	**182,000**	**2.81**	**511,000**	**112,000**	**0.80**	**90,000**
Carter	33,500	0.70	23,500	50	1,000	2.30	2,300	32,500	0.65	21,200
Custer	36,000	2.35	84,500	24	18,500	3.79	70,200	17,500	0.82	14,300
Fallon	29,200	0.87	25,300	46	1,000	1.00	1,000	28,200	0.86	24,300
Powder River	25,000	1.09	27,300	45	10,000	1.79	17,900	15,000	0.63	9,400
Prairie	17,300	1.62	28,100	47	5,300	3.49	18,500	12,000	0.80	9,600
Rosebud	30,000	2.16	64,700	31	15,200	3.63	55,100	14,800	0.65	9,600
Wibaux	21,000	0.60	12,600	55	--	--	--	21,000	0.60	12,600
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**192,000**	**1.39**	**266,000**	**--**	**51,000**	**3.24**	**165,000**	**141,000**	**0.72**	**101,000**
MONTANA	**2,500,000**	**1.90**	**4,760,000**	**--**	**1,152,000**	**2.88**	**3,319,000**	**1,348,000**	**1.07**	**1,441,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres harvested or individual operations with more than 60 percent of acres harvested are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

All Cattle and Calves and Beef Cows Inventories by Counties, January 1, 2003-2005

District	All Cattle and Calves				Beef Cows and Heifers That Have Calved			
	2003	2004	2005	Rank	2003	2004	2005	Rank
Deer Lodge	8,900	8,800	8,900	52	6,200	6,200	6,500	53
Flathead	15,000	13,900	11,900	51	6,100	7,300	6,600	51
Granite	21,900	21,000	21,300	41	15,000	15,300	15,800	40
Lake	46,000	46,000	44,000	21	30,300	32,000	30,100	17
Lincoln	3,300	2,800	2,900	55	2,100	2,000	1,800	55
Mineral	1,000	900	700	56	600	500	400	56
Missoula	10,900	8,600	8,700	53	6,800	6,400	6,600	51
Powell	44,000	44,000	41,000	26	28,600	29,900	29,600	18
Ravalli	34,000	35,000	34,000	32	17,900	18,300	18,700	35
Sanders	19,000	18,000	17,600	45	12,400	12,100	12,900	42
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**204,000**	**199,000**	**191,000**	**--**	**126,000**	**130,000**	**129,000**	**--**
Blaine	65,000	64,000	67,000	11	40,000	43,000	46,000	6
Chouteau	35,000	34,000	34,000	32	22,100	21,800	23,700	29
Glacier	42,000	41,000	43,000	23	29,600	31,000	32,800	15
Hill	22,500	22,500	21,000	42	15,300	16,000	16,200	39
Liberty	13,500	12,700	12,400	50	8,300	8,700	8,800	50
Phillips	73,000	71,000	69,000	10	46,000	47,000	47,000	5
Pondera	24,300	24,000	23,300	38	15,800	15,900	16,600	38
Teton	52,000	51,000	45,000	20	29,000	34,000	25,200	27
Toole	13,700	13,800	13,300	48	8,900	10,600	9,700	48
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**341,000**	**334,000**	**328,000**	**--**	**215,000**	**228,000**	**226,000**	**--**
Daniels	16,400	14,600	14,600	47	11,800	11,700	11,900	45
Dawson	46,000	45,000	39,000	28	28,800	28,100	26,200	24
Garfield	63,000	62,000	61,000	12	40,000	39,000	37,000	12
McCone	34,000	33,000	28,000	35	23,100	22,900	20,300	34
Richland	66,000	59,000	56,000	17	30,600	30,300	26,900	21
Roosevelt	31,400	32,400	31,300	34	20,600	22,800	23,500	30
Sheridan	27,200	28,000	24,100	37	16,100	16,200	17,200	37
Valley	84,000	88,000	86,000	5	49,000	57,000	51,000	4
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**368,000**	**362,000**	**340,000**	**--**	**220,000**	**228,000**	**214,000**	**--**
Broadwater	18,800	17,300	16,600	46	12,000	11,900	11,400	46
Cascade	69,000	68,000	70,000	9	44,000	44,000	45,000	8
Fergus	98,000	95,000	94,000	3	68,000	67,000	67,000	2
Golden Valley	15,000	13,000	13,200	49	8,700	8,200	8,900	49
Judith Basin	53,000	54,000	58,000	13	30,300	32,000	32,500	16
Lewis & Clark	41,000	40,000	40,000	27	25,000	26,200	26,200	24
Meagher	47,000	48,000	47,000	19	26,200	27,100	27,900	20
Musselshell	37,000	36,600	37,100	29	22,400	22,800	23,000	31
Petroleum	19,200	17,700	18,000	44	12,100	12,800	12,700	43
Wheatland	29,000	26,400	26,100	36	19,300	18,000	17,400	36
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**427,000**	**416,000**	**420,000**	**--**	**268,000**	**270,000**	**272,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	139,000	133,000	138,000	1	76,000	78,000	79,000	1
Gallatin	54,000	54,000	57,000	15	22,900	22,800	22,700	32
Jefferson	24,000	23,500	22,300	40	14,800	14,800	15,100	41
Madison	73,000	70,000	73,000	8	45,000	45,000	45,000	8
Silver Bow	6,000	5,500	5,700	54	4,300	4,400	4,200	54
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**296,000**	**286,000**	**296,000**	**--**	**163,000**	**165,000**	**166,000**	**--**
Big Horn	89,000	87,000	90,000	4	55,000	58,000	56,000	3
Carbon	55,000	56,000	57,000	15	28,700	29,600	26,600	23
Park	41,000	42,000	42,000	24	25,900	26,000	26,700	22
Stillwater	48,000	49,000	44,000	21	26,500	28,500	24,200	28
Sweetgrass	41,000	40,000	36,000	30	26,900	27,000	25,300	26
Treasure	25,000	23,000	23,000	39	10,000	9,900	10,200	47
Yellowstone	130,000	128,000	120,000	2	35,000	40,000	34,000	14
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**429,000**	**425,000**	**412,000**	**--**	**208,000**	**219,000**	**203,000**	**--**
Carter	57,000	53,000	53,000	18	38,000	36,000	36,000	13
Custer	89,000	84,000	74,000	7	47,000	46,000	39,000	11
Fallon	43,000	45,000	42,000	24	26,500	29,000	28,000	19
Powder River	61,000	62,000	58,000	13	39,000	41,000	40,000	10
Prairie	35,000	35,000	36,000	30	19,500	20,500	21,000	33
Rosebud	78,000	78,000	81,000	6	49,000	47,000	46,000	6
Wibaux	22,000	21,000	19,000	43	13,000	12,500	12,000	44
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**385,000**	**378,000**	**363,000**	**--**	**232,000**	**232,000**	**222,000**	**--**
MONTANA	**2,450,000**	**2,400,000**	**2,350,000**	**--**	**1,432,000**	**1,472,000**	**1,432,000**	**--**

Hired Workers Up 2 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,332,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 930,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 402,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.39 per hour during the July 2005 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.62 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned $9.25 per hour compared with $8.74 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.78 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) regions. In California, the cool, wet spring caused considerable delays in planting and slowed development of most field and vegetable crops. The slow start to the growing season continued to keep crop progress behind normal through early July, reducing the need for hired workers. Moderate to heavy rainfall from Hurricane Dennis hampered fieldwork in both Appalachian regions, greatly decreasing the demand for hired workers. In the Delta region, the hot, dry weather in Arkansas was more than offset by the rain and wet conditions in Louisiana and Mississippi, causing the overall demand for workers in the region to decline. In the Southern Plains region, season-long dry conditions over much of Texas severely curtailed hay growth and production. With less hay acreage for harvest, fewer workers were needed. The cool, wet spring in the Mountain I region delayed crop development. Field activities that normally would have been ongoing during the reference week were pushed back due to the slow growth. Therefore, hired worker demand was lower.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) regions. Persistent dryness in the Corn Belt II region caused pasture condition to deteriorate, necessitating more supplemental feeding and increasing the need for livestock workers. The dry conditions led to greater insect pressure on developing crops, resulting in more pesticide applications, which also raised the demand for hired workers. Warm, dry weather in the Lake and Northern Plains regions allowed field activities to progress rapidly, causing more hired workers to be needed. Despite hurricane moisture in the eastern half of the Corn Belt I region, dry conditions quickly returned, causing increased insect pressure in corn and soybeans. Therefore, more workers were needed for pesticide spraying.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), Corn Belt II, Southern Plains, Mountain I, and Appalachian II regions. The higher wages in the Northeast II region were due to a smaller percentage of part time workers in the work force. In the Corn Belt II region, wages were up due to a higher percentage of skilled workers needed for crop spraying. Wages in the Southern Plains, Mountain I, and Appalachian II regions were higher because of more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed their hourly wage higher. Also, the Southern Plains and Appalachian II regions had fewer part time workers as a percent of the total.

July Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.56 billion during July 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs, and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2005 averaged 340 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,222 eggs, up 1 percent from July 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2005, totaled 340 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 340 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2005, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, same as a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2005 totaled 35.3 million, up 1 percent from July 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.3 million on August 1, 2005, up 12 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 242,000 during July 2005, up 9 percent from July 2004.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during July 2005 totaled 808 million, up slightly from July 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 663 million on July 1, 2005, down slightly from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.66 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during July 2005, down slightly from July 2004.

July 1, 2005, U.S. and Canadian Cattle Inventory Up 1 Percent

All cattle and calves in the U.S. and Canada combined totaled 121.8 million head on July 1, 2005, up1 percent from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 49.4 million head, was up 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2005 totaled 104.5 million head, 1 percent above the 103.6 million on July 1, 2004 and 1 percent above the 103.9 million two years ago.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of July 1, 2005, totaled 17.3 million head, up 3 percent from the 16.8 million on July 1, 2004, and 10 percent above the 15.7 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 6.6 million, was up 2 percent from the 6.4 million on July 1, 2004, and 10 percent above the 6.0 million from two years ago.

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COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Cow County Estimates
All Sheep and Lambs County Estimates
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Wheat and Barley Movement
Barley Utilized for Malt

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USDA-NASS Montana Field Office

Issue: 05-15 Released: August 15, 2005

HIGHLIGHTS:

August 1 Crop Production
Cash Rents
Land Values
Ag Prices Received
Farm Production Expenditures
Farm Computer Use

August 1 Crop Production

Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 1 percent lower than last month's forecast, but 11 percent higher than last year's crop. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest 191.6 million bushels of all wheat, up from the 173.2 million bushels harvested last year, but 2.0 million bushels below July's forecast. The area for harvest is expected to be 5.1 million acres, unchanged from last month, but 2 percent above last year. This is the last forecast until the final small grains summary is published on September 30, 2005.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 45.0 bushels per acre, is up 2 bushels from July, and is 4 bushels per acre higher than last year, and if realized, would be a record harvested yield surpassing the previous record of 42.0 bushels per acre in 1993. Production is forecast to be 92.3 million bushels, up from 66.8 million bushels last year, and up 4.1 million bushels from July. Acreage expected to be harvested is unchanged from the July forecast, but is up 420,000 acres from last year to 2,050,000 acres. For the week ending August 7, winter wheat was 74 percent harvested compared with 34 percent last year and the five-year average of 60 percent.

Spring wheat production forecast is 82.5 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year's production. The expected yield of 33.0 bushels per acre is down 2 bushels from last month, but up 2 bushels from last year. Dry and hot conditions during July ripened the spring wheat crop quickly. Acres for harvest are unchanged from July at 2.5 million, but down 350,000 from last year. The crop was rated better than this time last year at 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Ninety-two percent of the crop was turning for the week ending August 7, compared with 71 percent last year and the 5-year average of 83 percent. Harvest is underway with 15 percent complete compared with 2 percent last year and 13 percent for the five-year average. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 16.8 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year, and down 6 percent from July. The expected yield of 30.0 bushels per acre is 2 bushels below last month, and 3 bushels fewer than the 2004 yield. Harvested acres are up 3 percent from 2004 to 560,000.

Barley yields are expected to average 60.0 bushels per acre in 2005, 1 bushel better than last year, but unchanged from July. If realized this would be a record high yield surpassing the previous record of 59.0 bushels per acre last year. Barley production is forecast to be 45.0 million bushels compared with 49.0 million produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 750,000 acres, down 80,000 from 2004. For the week ending August 7, barley condition was reported to be 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Harvest for the week ending August 7 was reported to be 14 percent complete compared with 8 percent last year and 18 percent for the five-year average.

Oat producers expect to harvest 2.1 million bushels of grain, 12 percent lower than last year. The 2005 area for harvest is expected to be 40,000 acres, unchanged from 2004. The expected yield of 53.0 bushels is 7 bushels fewer than last year's yield, but unchanged from July. As of August 7, the condition of the oat crop was reported to be 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Harvest was reported to be 22 percent complete compared with 5 percent last year and 14 percent for the five-year average.

Sugar beet production is forecast to be 1.0 million tons, down 8 percent from last year. The expected yield, at 20.7 tons per acre, is down 5 percent from the 21.7 tons per acre last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 50,000 acres, down 2,100 acres from last year. **All dry edible bean** growers expect to harvest 16,500 acres this year, up 30 percent from last year's figure, and up 22 percent from July. Yield is estimated at 24.0 cwt, 1.6 cwt per acre better than the previous year. All dry bean production is expected to be 396,000 cwt, up 39 percent from last year's figure.

Alfalfa hay is expected to yield 2.5 tons per acre in 2005, up 0.2 tons per acre from the previous year. Growers plan to harvest 1.7 million acres, up 300,000 acres from last year. Production is expected to reach 4.3 million tons, a 32 percent increase from the 2004 production figure and a new record production if realized. As of August 7, 100 percent of first cutting and 19 percent of second cutting had been completed for alfalfa hay. The average yield for **other hay** is forecast to be 1.6 tons per acre, up 0.2 tons per acre from last year. Production of other hay is forecast at 2.0 million tons, a 30 percent increase from 2004, and, if realized, will be a new record production. As of August 7, 98 percent of first cutting and 15 percent of second cutting of other hay had been completed.

U.S. **all wheat** production, at 2.17 billion bushels, is down 2 percent from the July forecast but up slightly from 2004. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.0 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from last month and 0.2 bushel below last year.

In the United States, the final **winter wheat** production forecast is 1.52 billion bushels. This is down slightly from last month but 1 percent above 2004. Area harvested for grain totals 34.3 million acres, unchanged from last month but down 1 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is forecast at 44.4 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from last month. Hard Red production is down 1 percent from a month ago to 913 million bushels. Soft Red is up 2 percent from last month and now totals 320 million bushels. White production totals 288 million bushels, up slightly from last month. Of the White production total, 26.4 million bushels are Hard White and 261 million bushels are Soft White. This is the first year that production levels for Hard White and Soft White are available.

U.S. **durum wheat** production is forecast at 93.0 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month but up 3 percent from 2004. The U.S. yield is forecast at 37.9 bushels per acre, 0.5 bushel less than last month. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 2.45 million acres, unchanged from last month but 4 percent more than last year.

For the U.S., **other spring wheat** production is forecast at 553 million bushels, down 6 percent from last month and 3 percent below 2004. Acreage intended for harvest is unchanged from last month. The U.S. yield is forecast at 40.6 bushels per acre, 2.6 bushels less than on July 1. Of the production total, 516 million is Hard Red Spring wheat, down 6 percent from last month.

U.S. **barley** production for 2005 is forecast at 237 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July forecast and 15 percent below 2004. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 68.2 bushels per acre, down 1.8 bushels from July and down 1.2 bushels from last year. Area harvested, at 3.47 million acres, is unchanged from last month but down 14 percent from 2004. (Continued on back page)

August 1, 2005 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	2,150	1,630	2,050	41.0	45.0	66,830	92,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	570	570	545	560	33.0	30.0	17,985	16,800
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	2,850	2,500	31.0	33.0	88,350	82,500
All Wheat	Bu.	5,470	5,320	5,025	5,110	34.5	37.5	173,165	191,550
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	70.0	65.0	15.0	16.0	143	5/	2145	5/
Oats	Bu.	105	95	40.0	40.0	60.0	53.0	2,400	2,120
Barley	Bu.	1,000	950	830	750	59.0	60.0	48,970	45,000
Flaxseed	Bu.	20	55	19	53	18.0	5/	342	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	17.0	12.7	16.5	22.4	24.0	285	396
Dry Peas	Cwt.	68.0	135.0	63.0	125.0	20.1	5/	1,266	5/
Lentils	Cwt.	78.0	170.0	72.0	155.0	14.0	5/	1,008	5/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	12.0	19.0	8.0	13.0	9.0	5/	72	5/
Sugar Beets	Ton	53.7	51.2	52.1	50.0	21.7	20.7	1,131	1,035
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9	335.0	4/	3,551	4/
Canola	Lbs.	15.0	23.0	15.0	22	1,590	3/	23,850	3/
Safflower	Lbs.	33.5	39.0	31.0	37.0	680	5/	21,080	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,700	2.30	2.50	3,220	4,250
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,250	1.40	1.60	1,540	2,000
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,950	1.90	2.12	4,760	6,250
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,350	41,408	34,462	34,271	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,520,848
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,561	2,573	2,363	2,453	38.0	37.9	89,893	92,955
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,763	14,099	13,174	13,637	43.2	40.6	568,918	553,375
All Wheat	Bu.	59,674	58,080	49,999	50,361	43.2	43.0	2,158,245	2,167,178
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,930	81,592	73,632	74,368	148.9	5/	10,923,099	5/
Oats	Bu.	4,085	4,342	1,792	1,976	64.7	64.7	115,935	127,819
Barley	Bu.	4,527	3,970	4,021	3,471	69.4	68.2	279,253	236,729
Flaxseed	Bu.	523	945	516	931	20.3	5/	10,471	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,354.3	1,668.8	1,219.3	1,530.8	14.6	16.9	17,799	25,829
Dry Peas	Cwt.	530.0	804.0	507.8	772.0	21.6	5/	10,831	5/
Lentils	Cwt.	345.0	450.0	322.0	430.0	12.7	5/	4,084	5/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	30.5	37.5	21.5	26.5	12.7	5/	272	5/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,247.8	22.9	21.3	29,956	26,639
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,039.7	970.4	1,022.8	955.7	398	4/	410,023	4/
Canola	Lbs.	865	1,092	828	1,067	1,618	3/	1,339,530	3/
Safflower	Lbs.	175.0	185.0	159.0	173.0	1,105	5/	175,765	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.34	75,383	73,849
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.92	82,391	76,068
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.43	157,774	149,917

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available October 12, 2005. 4/ Forecast available November 11, 2005.
5/ Forecast available January 12, 2006. -- Not published.

2005 Cash Rents

The average cash rent for Montana cropland rose slightly from last year to $25.00 per acre. The average cash rent for irrigated cropland, at $53.00, increased by $4.00 per acre from a year ago. The non-irrigated cropland average increased slightly from 2004 to $19.50 per acre. Average pasture rents increased from $5.00 in 2004 to $5.90 per acre in 2005.

Nationally, cash rents per acre paid to landlords for cropland rose 2.0 percent while pasture rents increased 7.3 percent for the 2005 crop and grazing year. Cropland cash rents paid in 2005 averaged $78.00 per acre, compared with $76.50 per acre for 2004. Pasture cash rents averaged $10.30 per acre, 70 cents higher than the $9.60 per acre in 2004. The increases in cropland and pasture rental rates continue to reflect producers' optimism following the combination of high production and price levels of major U.S. agricultural commodities in 2004.

Cropland cash rents reported in 2005 increased in all regions except the Mountain region, where rental rates declined 50 cents to $62.00 per acre. The Southern Plains region, at $30.50 per acre, was unchanged. In the remaining regions, increases in cropland cash rents varied from 2.4 percent in the Lake States to 7.9 percent in the Southeast region. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions, which together accounted for slightly more than one half of cash-rented cropland acreage, increased 2.6 and 6.0 percent, respectively, from 2004. Cropland cash rents increased $3.00 per acre, to $117.00, in the Corn Belt and $3.00 per acre, to $53.00, in the Northern Plains.

Pasture cash rents declined 10 cents to $19.00 per acre in the Southeast while the Northeast and Pacific regions were unchanged from a year earlier. In the Northern Plains and Southern Plains regions, which account for two-thirds of the cash-rented pasture acreage, rental rates were up 1.7 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively. Wisconsin, at $38.00 per acre, continues to lead the Nation with the highest per acre pasture rent.

Farm Real Estate Values Up

The average value of farm real estate in Montana on January 1, 2005 was $445 per acre, up $35.00 from 2004 The average value of cropland rose $50.00 to $609 per acre, compared with a year ago. The average value of irrigated cropland was $1,800, $120.00 more than a year ago, while non-irrigated cropland gained $40.00 per acre to $440 per acre on January 1, 2005. Pasture values increased $35.00 to $320.00 per acre. Montana farm real estate values have been steadily increasing over the past six years.

Farm real estate values in the United States, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged $1,510 per acre on January 1, 2005, up 11.0 percent from 2004. This is the largest percentage increase since 1981, when farm real estate values rose 11.1 percent from the previous year. The $150 per acre increase is the largest dollar increase on record. The previous record was 1980, when values climbed $109 per acre above the 1979 value.

U.S. cropland and pasture values rose by 11.3 and 9.5 percent, respectively, from January 1, 2004. Cropland values averaged $1,970 per acre and pasture values averaged $694 per acre on January 1, 2005, compared with $1,770 and $634 per acre, respectively, a year earlier. The value of other land and buildings increased 11.9 percent.

The increase in farm real estate values was driven by a combination of factors, including low interest rates, high commodity production and prices, and strong demand for nonagricultural land uses. (Continued)

Farm Real Estate Values (continued)

Nationally, survey data indicated that agricultural land with potential for immediate development (expected land use if sold) was valued at more than $6,050 per acre. The survey also indicated that agricultural land with potential for future development was valued at nearly $5,400 per acre, about $1,400 higher than the 2004 indication. Demand for farm real estate as an investment continued to be strong.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 8.2 percent in the Delta and Southern Plains regions to 13.2 percent in the Northeast and Southeast Regions. The highest farm real estate values were in the Northeast region, where urban influences have pushed the average value to $4,020 per acre. In the Corn Belt region, farm real estate values rose 10.9 percent, to $2,550 per acre. The Mountain region, with its expanse of pasture and rangeland, had the lowest farm real estate value, at $599 per acre.

Cropland values in the Southeast region, at $2,960, had the highest average increase in cropland value, up $500 per acre. In the Corn Belt region cropland values rose 12.2 percent, to $2,750 per acre and the Lake States increased 9.4 percent, to $2,220 per acre. Together, the Corn Belt and Lake States regions account for nearly one-third of the U.S. total cropland acres. Pasture values in the Northeast and Appalachian regions had the highest average increase in pasture value, up $300 per acre. In the Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Mountain, and Pacific regions (17 western states) pasture values per acre respectively increased 16.5 percent, 11.4 percent, 14.6 percent, and 9.8 percent. Together, the 17 western states account for about 87 percent of the total pasture acres on farms in the 48 States.

June 2005 Ag Prices Received

June full month crop prices were higher when compared with May 2005. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.34 per bushel, unchanged from the previous month; spring wheat rose $0.39 to $3.69 per bushel; and durum wheat prices increased $0.13 to $3.78 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped $0.11 from the previous month to $1.60, but malt barley prices were up $0.12 to $3.32 per bushel.

The mid-July price for alfalfa hay decreased $2.00 to $75.00 per ton, and all other hay was unchanged at $67.00 per ton. Mid-July grain prices were mixed with winter wheat averaging $3.09 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.89 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.77 per bushel, and feed barley was $1.39 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of June were mostly lower than the the previous month. Steer and heifer prices dropped $7.00 to $106.00 per cwt, cows decreased $1.80 to $59.60, and calves fell $9.00 to $131.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $4.70 to $39.60 per cwt, but lamb prices jumped $12.00 to a new record high of $137.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $0.20 per cwt from last month to $14.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July were $103.00 per cwt; cows, $57.90 per cwt; calves, $134.00 per cwt; and milk prices, $14.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for June and changes from May were as follows: winter wheat was down $0.08 to $3.15; spring wheat was $3.53, up $0.16; durum wheat was unchanged at $3.67; the all barley price was $2.57, up $0.11, and steer and heifer prices were $91.90, down $4.50 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-July winter wheat price was $3.20 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.51 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.52 per bushel; all wheat was $3.25 per bushel; malt barley was $2.60 per bushel; feed barley was $1.80 per bushel; and all barley was $2.27. Steer and heifer prices were $89.60 per cwt; cow prices were $55.60; calves were $133.00 per cwt; all hog prices were $49.30 per cwt; and all egg prices were $0.53 per dozen.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	June 2004	July 2004	June 2005	July 2005
Prices Received	128	124	120	119
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	135	135	140	140
Ratio 2/	95	92	86	85

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		June 2004	May 2005	June 2005	June 2005	May 2005	June 2004	July 15, 2005	July 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.50	3.34	3.34	3.15	N.C.	-0.16	3.09	3.20
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.26	3.65	3.78	3.67	+0.13	-0.48	3.77	3.52
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.92	3.30	3.69	3.53	+0.39	-0.23	3.89	3.51
All Wheat	Bu.	3.76	3.35	3.57	3.23	+0.22	-0.19	3.58	3.25
Barley, All	Bu.	2.45	2.80	2.91	2.57	+0.11	+0.46	2.96	2.27
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.04	1.71	1.60	2.07	-0.11	-0.44	1.39	1.80
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.11	3.20	3.32	2.88	+0.12	+0.21	N/A	2.60
Oats	Bu.	N.A.	1.92	N.A.	1.91	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1.63
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	76.00	77.00	112.00	+1.00	+4.00	75.00	109.00
All Other Hay	Ton	69.00	73.00	67.00	73.60	-6.00	-2.00	67.00	75.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	75.00	76.00	102.00	+1.00	+3.00	74.00	99.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	112.00	113.00	106.00	91.90	-7.00	-6.00	103.00	89.60
Cows	Cwt	56.20	61.40	59.60	57.00	-1.80	+3.40	57.90	55.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	93.00	84.10	73.50	88.50	-10.60	-19.50	77.70	86.30
Calves	Cwt	125.00	140.00	131.00	138.00	-9.00	+6.00	134.00	133.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	33.50	44.30	39.60	40.90	-4.70	+6.10	N.A.	N.A.
Lambs 2/	Cwt	117.00	125.00	137.00	114.00	+12.00	+20.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	19.10	15.00	14.80	14.50	-0.20	-4.30	14.90	14.80

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

August 1 Crop Production
(continued from front page)

Oats production in the U.S.is forecast at 128 million bushels, 3% below the July 1 forecast but 10% above last year's 116 million bushels. The forecasted yield is 64.7 bushels per acre, down 1.8 bushels from July 1 but unchanged from 2004. Growers expect to harvest 1.98 million acres for grain, unchanged from last month but up 10% from last year.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 25.8 million cwt in 2005, up 45% from last year and 15% above 2 years ago. Production is expected to be above last year in 16 of the 17 producing States. These increases are mostly the result of higher acreage. Eleven of the 17 States also have higher yields than last year.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production for the U.S. is forecast at 73.8 million tons, down 2% from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.34 tons per acre, a decrease of 0.13 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 22.1 million acres, unchanged from June but up 2% from 2004. Yields are the same or below last year's level in 19 States. Across most of the Corn Belt and southern Great Plains, weather conditions throughout the growing season have been less than favorable.

U.S. **other hay** production is forecast at 76.1 million tons, down 8% from 2004. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.92 tons, down 0.13 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 39.6 million acres, is unchanged from June but down 2% from the previous year. Yields are at or below last year's level in 18 States. Dry conditions across much of the Corn Belt and southern Great Plains have contributed to decreased yield expectations.

U.S. **sugar beets** production for 2005 is forecast to be 26.6 million tons. If realized, this would be 11% below last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugar beet producing states expect to harvest 1.25 million acres, down 1% from the June estimate and down 5% from last year. The yield is forecast at 21.3 tons per acre, 1.6 tons below 2004.

Farm Production Expenditures

In 2004, farm production expenditures totaled $210.7 billion in the U.S., up 5.1% from the revised 2003 total of $200.5 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were tractors and self-propelled farm machinery up 24.3%; fuels, up 19.4%; fertilizer, up 14.0%; feed, up 9.1% and labor up, 5.5%. Farm services and interest were the only expenditure categories to show a decrease being down 2.2 and 4.3%, respectively. The rent expenditure was unchanged from the previous year. The largest two expenditure categories were feed, which accounted for 14.2% of the U.S. total production expenses and farm services which accounted for 12.5% of the U.S. total production expenses. The farm services category includes expense items such as custom work, utilities, marketing charges, veterinary services, transportation costs, and miscellaneous business expenses.

The average expenditures per U.S. farm in 2004 were $99,983 compared to $94,542 as revised for 2003. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 2004 spent $14,236 on feed; $12,480 on farm services; $10,914 on labor; $9,016 on livestock and poultry purchases; and $7,782 on rent. Revised estimates for 2003 indicated U.S. farms spent an average of $12,967 on feed; $12,684 on farm services; $10,279 on labor; $8,723 on livestock and poultry purchases; and $7,733 on rent.

Expenditures by farm production region in 2004 reveal that total expenditures were up in each region except the West. Expenditures also reveal that taxes, labor, fuels, and tractors and self-propelled farm machinery expenditure categories showed increases in each region, while the other expenditure categories show more variation across regions. The farm production region contributing most to the total 2004 U.S. farm production expenditures was the Midwest, with expenses of $59.9 billion, 28.4% of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the Midwest were up 6.8% from the 2003 level of $56.1 billion. In total expenditures, the Midwest was followed by the West, at $47.7 billion (2003 - $48.4 billion); Plains, at $47.5 billion (2003 - $43.5 billion); Atlantic, at $32.1 billion (2003 - $29.6 billion); and South, at $23.6 billion (2003 - $23.0 billion).

The U.S. economic class contributing most to the 2004 U.S. farm production expenditures was the $1,000,000 and Over class, with expenses of $73.2 billion, 34.7% of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the $1,000,000 and Over class were up 11.1% from the 2003 level of $65.9 billion. In total expenditures, the $1,000,000 and Over class was followed by the $250,000 - $499,999 class, at $31.3 billion (2003 - $30.1 billion); and $500,000 - $999,999 class, at $29.7 billion (2003 - $29.4 billion).

Expenditure estimates by type of farm reveal that crop farms, with expenses of $105.8 billion, contributed 50.2% of the 2004 U.S. farm production expenditures. Expenditures for crop farms were up 2.8% from the revised 2003 level of $103.0 billion. Livestock Farm expenses of $104.9 billion were up 7.5% from the revised 2003 level of $97.6 billion.

Farm Computer Use

Montana farms and ranches that have Internet access reached 70% in 2005, the second highest percentage in the Nation. The 70% with Internet access in 2005 compares with 63% in 2003, 57% in 2001 and 38% in 1999. Seventy-five percent of farms and ranches had access to a computer in 2005, third highest nationally, compared with 72% two years ago and 71% in 2001. Seventy-three percent of all Montana farms and ranches own or lease a computer, up from 70% in 2003. Farms and ranches using computers for their agricultural business dropped from 44% in 2003 to 40% in 2005.

Farm computer usage numbers are also published by regions. Montana is included with Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. In 2005, 69% of the farms and ranches in this region have access to a computer, 66% own or lease a computer; 36% are using a computer for their agricultural business; and 62% have Internet access. Computer access for crop farms in the region decreased two points to 67%. The percentage of crop farms having Internet access rose 1% to 60%. The percentage of livestock producers in the region that had access to computers increased to 71%, compared with 70% two years ago. Sixty-four percent of the livestock producers in the region have Internet access, compared with 60% in 2003.

A total of 51% of U.S. farms now have Internet access, compared to 48% with Internet access in 2003. Fifty-eight percent of farms have access to a computer in 2005, the same level as 2003. Fifty-five percent of all U.S. farms own or lease a computer, up slightly from 54% in 2003. Farms using computers for their farm business increased 1% from 2003 to 31% in 2005.

In 2005, seventy-nine percent of U.S. farms with sales and government payments of $250,000 or more have access to a computer, 77% own or lease a computer, 66% are using a computer for their farm business, and 72% have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between $100,000 and $249,999, the figures are: 69% have access to a computer, 67% own or lease a computer, 51% are using a computer for their farm business, and 59% have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between $10,000 and $99,999, there were 54% that reported having computer access, 51% own or lease a computer, 33% use a computer for their farm business, and 46% have Internet access.

For crop farms, 60% have computer access and 33% use a computer for their farm business in 2005, the same as 2003. Internet access for crop farms has increased to 52% in 2005 compared to 49% in 2003. For livestock farms, 57% have computer access and 50% have Internet access. The use of a computer for farm business has increased to 29% for livestock farms, up 2% from 2003.

In 2005, twelve percent of the U.S. farms access Federal Government Web sites other than USDA, compared with 11% in 2003. Four percent of farms conduct business with a USDA Web site, up from 3% in 2003. Farms conducting business with any other Federal Government Web site dropped from 5% in 2003 to 3% in 2005. Also, 5% of the farms used a toll-free customer service number during the July 2004 to June 2005 period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates
Cattle and Beef Cow County Estimates
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US and Canadian Cattle
Red Meat Production
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Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 U.S. Cattle Inventory
July 1 U.S. Sheep Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Mink Production
Red Meat Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Quarterly Milk Production
Egg Production

U.S. July 1 Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2005, totaled 104.5 million head, 1 percent above the 103.6 million on July 1, 2004 and 1 percent above the 103.9 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.8 million, were 1 percent above the 42.5 million on July 1, 2004 and slightly above the 42.7 million two years ago.

Beef cows, at 33.8 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2004 and up slightly from two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.05 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2004 but down 1 percent from two years ago. Other class estimates on July 1, 2005 and the changes from July 1, 2004, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.2 million, up 2 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.0 million, up 4 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.7 million, up 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 7.5 million, down 1 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.4 million, up 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, up 2 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 29.0 million, up slightly.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 12.0 million, up 2 percent.

The 2005 calf crop is expected to be 37.8 million, up slightly from 2004 but down slightly from 2003. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.5 million, up slightly from 2004 but down 1 percent from 2003.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.4 million head on July 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above July 1, 2004 and 5 percent above July 1, 2003. The inventory included 6.81 million steers and steer calves, up 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 65 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.53 million head, down 5 percent from 2004.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.77 million, 7 percent above 2004 and 6 percent above 2003. Net placements were 1.71 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 412,000, 600-699 pounds were 347,000, 700-799 pounds were 480,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 530,000. Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.07million, 1 percent below 2004 and 7 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during June, 10 percent below 2004 but 3 percent above 2003.

Cattle on feed July 1, 2005, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 12.0 million, up 2 percent from the 11.8 million on July 1, 2004 and up 2 percent from July 1, 2003. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 87 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2005, up from 86 percent on July 1, 2004.

U.S. July 1 All Sheep and Lamb Inventory

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2005, totaled 7.80 million head, 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.66 million head on July 1, 2005 was 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.14 million head, were 1 percent above last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.79 million ewes one year old and older, 185,000 rams one year old and older, and 680,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 3.06 million head was comprised of 1.81 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 350,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 260,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 90,000.

The 2005 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.12 million head, up 1 percent from the 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2005 totaled 3.65 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2005.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.0 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 19.2 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.7 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) for 14.7 percent.

U.S. Pelt Production Up 1 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2004 totaled 2.56 million pelts, up 1 percent from 2003. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 768,000 pelts. Utah the second largest producing state, produced 580,000 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2004 follows: Black at 45.1 percent, Mahogany at 22.2 percent, Blue Iris at 11.7 percent, Demi/Wild at 6.1 percent, Sapphire at 5.3 percent, and White at 4.1 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 5.5 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 2004 crop year were valued at 124 million dollars, up 21 percent from $102 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2004 crop year was $48.40, up from $40.10 in 2003. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2005 totaled 642,100, up 6 percent from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2005 by color class are: Black at 46.8 percent, Mahogany at 20.0 percent, Blue Iris at 10.7 percent, Demi/Wild at 5.9 percent, Sapphire at 5.9 percent and white at 4.2 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6.5 percent. (Continued on next page.)

Mink Production (Continued from front page)

There were 296 mink farms producing pelts in 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms and Minnesota with 28. There were 17 mink farms which also raised fox in 2004, down from 18 the previous year.

U.S. June 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2005, up 4 percent from June 2004, and 13 percent higher than the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, unchanged from one year ago. The average live weight decreased 16 pounds to 1,175 pounds.

During June there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 246 pounds, was up 14 pounds from last year. June sheep slaughter in the state totaled 100 head, unchanged from June 2004. The average live weight increased 4 pounds to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.96 billion pounds in June, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in June 2004. Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, down 2 percent from June 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,246 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.2 million pounds, 1 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,900 head, down 11 percent from June 2004. The average live weight was 31 pounds above last year, at 368 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.55 million head, 1 percent above June 2004. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 268 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was down 1 percent from June 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 222,900 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 4 pounds from June a year ago.

January to June 2005 commercial red meat production was 22.2 billion pounds, down slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Montana 2005 Wheat and Barley Varieties

The top four **winter wheat** varieties account for 54.7 percent of the acreage seeded for harvest in 2005. The top four varieties seeded for 2004 accounted for 60.9 percent of the total winter wheat acreage for the state. **Rampart** remains the most popular winter wheat variety with 503,200 acres seeded this year, compared to last year's acreage of 543,400. **Neeley** stays in second place this year with 261,400 acres seeded, which accounts for 12.2 percent of the total winter wheat acreage in the state. **Tiber** remains in third place with 253,200 acres seeded, which is up from last year's acreage of 176,400. **Morgan** is the fourth leading variety in the state this year. A total of 159,300 acres were seeded, which is up from 144,100 acres seeded in 2004. This acreage accounts for 7.4 percent of the total acres seeded.

The top four **spring wheat** varieties account for 71.9 percent of the acreage seeded for harvest in 2005. The top four varieties seeded for 2004 accounted for 71.6 percent of the total spring wheat acreage for the state. **McNeal** is the leading spring wheat variety seeded for the eigth consecutive year, accounting for 28.8 percent of the acreage, or 748,200 acres, which is down more than 200,000 acres from 2004. **Reeder** remains in second place with 613,200 acres seeded this year, which is down from last year's acreage of 681,800. This acreage accounts for 23.6 percent of the total acres seeded. **Ernest** stays in third place this year with 298,600 acres seeded, which accounts for 11.5 percent of the spring wheat acres seeded in Montana. **Conan** is the fourth leading variety for the second year in a row with 208,200 acres seeded, or 8.0 percent of the state's spring wheat acreage.

The top four **durum wheat** varieties account for 82.6 percent of the total acreage in the state for 2005. The top four varieties in 2004 accounted for 86.3 percent of the total durum wheat acreage. **Mountrail** remains the top durum wheat variety in the state for the second year in a row with 288,900 acres seeded, or 50.6 percent of the durum wheat acreage. This year's acreage is up from the 240,200 acres that were planted in 2004. **Kyle** is in second place again this year, after spending seven consecutive years at the top from 1997 to 2003. There were 121,300 acres seeded in the state, accounting for 21.3 percent of the total acres. **AC Avonlea** stays the third most popular variety this year with 30,800 acres seeded or 5.4 percent of the state's durum wheat. **Lebsock** joins the top four list this year, with 29,700 acres seeded, or 5.2 percent of the state's durum wheat acreage.

Montana farmers seeded 950,000 acres of **barley** in 2005, down from 1.0 million acres in 2004. Fifty percent of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association Inc. for use in Montana. **Harrington** remains the top malting variety planted in the state for the twelfth year in a row. It was seeded on 268.7 thousand acres or 28.3 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **AC Metcalfe** stays in second place this year, with 83.0 thousand acres planted, which accounts for 8.7 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **B 1202** moves into third place this year, after being ranked fourth in 2004. It accounts for 47.7 thousand of the barley acres seeded this year, or 5.0 percent of the acreage. **B Merit** drops to the fourth most popular malting variety, with 43.4 thousand acres seeded, or 4.6 percent of Montana's barley acreage.

Haybet remains the most popular **forage** barley for the sixth year in a row, with 163.4 thousand acres seeded, which accounts for 17.2 percent of the total barley acres seeded in Montana for 2005. **Westford** is the second most popular forage barley for the third year in a row, with 20.1 thousand acres or 2.1 percent of the state barley acres seeded in 2005. **Baronesse** is the most popular **feed** barley again in 2005. It represents 3.7 percent of the total acreage or 35.3 thousand acres seeded in Montana for 2005. **Bowman** is the second leading feed variety this year with 24.0 thousand acres or 2.5 percent of the barley acres seeded in 2005. This report was made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Winter Wheat

Variety 1/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 2/	2005
Rampart	9.0	13.8	15.9	19.6	25.7	28.6	23.4
Neeley	20.8	19.2	22.6	19.9	16.8	15.4	12.2
Tiber	17.3	11.3	10.9	11.2	9.5	9.3	11.8
Morgan	7.0	8.3	10.0	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.4
Rocky	8.2	6.9	8.9	11.1	8.0	6.0	7.0
Vanguard	7.0	9.4	6.7	9.1	6.7	7.6	6.3
CDC Falcon	--	--	--	--	0.4	1.8	3.7
Redwin	4.7	6.4	4.0	5.0	3.0	2.4	3.4
Tomahawk	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	1.6	1.8
Winalta	1.7	1.1	2.1	0.9	1.2	0.7	1.8
Pryor	--	--	--	--	--	0.6	1.6
Promontory	--	--	0.4	0.2	1.3	0.8	1.6
Jagalene	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.4
Judith	1.0	2.3	0.3	0.5	--	1.3	1.3
Quantum 542	1.4	2.2	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.6	1.0
Big Horn	3.6	3.3	3.0	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.0
Clearfield	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.9
Nuwest **	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.8
Cheyenne	--	0.6	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.7
Big Sky	--	--	--	--	--	0.9	0.7
Nufrontier	--	--	--	0.3	1.5	1.2	0.6
Erhardt	--	--	0.2	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.5
Harding	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.5
Other & Unknown	17.2	13.9	10.1	10.0	13.0	10.3	8.6
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted.2/ Revised.**White wheat variety.

Spring Wheat

Variety 1/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 2/	2005
McNeal	40.4	48.8	49.2	38.8	35.9	31.7	28.8
Reeder	--	0.1	3.4	9.1	18.4	22.7	23.6
Ernest	9.4	10.7	10.1	11.4	11.0	10.0	11.5
Conan	--	1.0	3.1	5.0	3.7	7.1	8.0
Fortuna	5.0	4.9	5.1	7.8	3.8	4.6	6.5
Hank	--	--	--	0.3	1.2	1.7	2.4
Amidon	14.2	10.9	7.8	6.2	4.0	3.0	2.2
Scholar	--	--	0.5	1.9	3.0	2.2	1.6
Lew	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.8	2.4	1.6
Choteau	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.6
Westbred Rambo	6.7	5.3	3.2	3.8	2.7	3.2	1.3
Westbred 936	1.7	3.5	1.5	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1
Westbred 926	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.9
Parshall	--	--	0.5	1.4	1.6	1.1	0.8
Gunner	--	--	--	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7
Len	1.2	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4
Grandin	3.1	3.3	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.4
Abbey	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Westbred Express	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Newana	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2
Other & Unknown	13.3	5.9	9.5	7.1	7.1	6.2	5.8
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted.2/ Revised.

Durum Wheat

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 1/	2005
Mountrail	--	0.9	9.6	26.9	35.7	42.1	50.6
Kyle	55.3	52.5	45.3	40.2	38.0	34.1	21.3
AC Avonlea	--	1.4	3.9	3.4	4.3	7.2	5.4
Lebsock	--	--	--	0.3	3.4	2.3	5.2
Alzada	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.9
Monroe	4.8	2.9	3.3	1.2	3.4	1.7	1.8
Ward	4.4	2.3	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.8	1.7
Pierce	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.2
Ben	4.1	7.8	8.0	5.6	4.3	2.6	1.1
Vic	8.1	2.6	1.6	1.4	0.1	0.7	0.9
Maier	--	--	0.7	--	0.3	0.4	0.7
Plaza	--	--	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.7
Voss	--	--	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.3
Crosby	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Renville	5.3	5.3	6.5	2.8	2.1	0.1	0.2
Other & Unknown	17.1	23.9	17.3	14.0	4.2	4.9	6.7
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised.

Barley

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 1/	2005
Harrington *	49.6	49.9	45.7	47.6	47.1	39.8	28.3
Haybet	4.5	6.5	10.2	10.5	9.9	10.4	17.2
AC Metcalfe *	--	--	--	--	0.7	4.9	8.7
B 1202 *	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.6	4.9	3.9	5.0
B Merit *	1.2	1.6	1.1	2.6	3.8	4.3	4.6
Moravian 37	0.1	1.5	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.0	3.9
Baronesse	7.6	6.2	5.0	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.7
Bowman	2.7	2.8	2.1	3.0	2.1	1.4	2.5
Westbred Xena	--	--	--	--	0.9	0.9	2.5
Hector	4.9	3.7	2.7	3.1	1.8	2.5	2.1
Westford	0.1	1.2	2.7	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.1
Gallatin	4.0	2.2	3.3	1.9	2.9	3.5	1.7
Tradition *	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.7
Valier	--	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.9	2.3	1.5
Legacy *	--	--	--	0.6	1.0	2.8	1.4
Conrad	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.4
Horsford	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.3
Lewis	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9	0.9
Stark	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
Piroline	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.8
Hays	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.8
Conlon *	--	--	--	--	--	0.9	0.7
Haxby	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Other & Unknown	12.3	13.0	12.4	7.1	8.1	8.2	5.7
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. *Denotes variety recommended by the American Malting Barley Association for planting in Montana in 2005.

June Milk Production Up 5.4 Percent in 23 Major States

Milk production in the 23 major States during June totaled 13.7 billion pounds, up 5.4 percent from June 2004. May revised production, at 14.3 billion pounds, was up 4.6 percent from May 2004. The May revision represented an increase of 26 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,683 pounds for June, 76 pounds above June 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.13 million head, 47,000 head more than June 2004, and 9,000 head more than May 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during the April-June quarter totaled 45.6 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from the April-June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.04 million head, 34,000 head more than the same period last year.

U.S. June Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during June 2005, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 61 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2005 averaged 341 million, down slightly from a year earlier. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,151 eggs, up 1 percent from June 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2005, totaled 340 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 340 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.59 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2005, averaged 72.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2005 totaled 34.5 million, down 8 percent from June 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.0 million on July 1, 2005, down 7 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 184,000 during June 2005, down 13 percent from June 2004.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during June 2005 totaled 796 million, up 1 percent from June 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on July 1, 2005, down slightly from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 7.11 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2005, up 3 percent from June 2004.

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- Farm Production Expenditures
- Ag Prices Received
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- Small Grain Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grain Production
Potato Acreage
Dry Edible Peas & Lentils Forecast
Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates
Ag Prices Received

July 1, 2005 Crop Production

Based on July 1 conditions, Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 193.6 million bushels, up 12% from last year. The area for harvest is expected to be 5.11 million acres, unchanged from the June Acreage report, but up 2% from last year.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 43.0 bushels per acre, is up 2 bushels from last month's forecast and up 2 bushels from last year. If realized, this would be a record high yield surpassing the previous record of 42.0 bushels per acre in 1993. Production is forecast at 88.2 million bushels, up 32% from last year. The rainfall received during the past month improved conditions and yield. Crop development is ahead of normal as the crop was 69% turning color for the week ending July 10, compared with 39% last year and 62% for the 5-year average.

The first **spring wheat** production forecast is 87.5 million bushels, down 1% from last year's production due to less harvested acreage. The harvested acres are expected to be 2.5 million acres, down 350,000 acres from last year. The expected yield of 35.0 bushels per acre is up 4.0 bushels per acre from last year. Crop progress is ahead of last year and the five year average at 88% boot and 63% headed for week ending July 10. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 17.9 million bushels, down slightly from last year due to lower expected yield. Harvested acreage is expected to be 560,000 acres, up 3% from 2004. The expected yield of 32.0 bushels per acre is down 1 bushel from last year

Barley yields are expected to average 60.0 bushels per acre in 2005, 1 bushel better than last year. If realized, this would be a record high yield surpassing the previous record of 59.0 bushels per acre last year. Barley production is forecast at 45.0 million bushels compared with 49.0 million bushels produced last year due to fewer acres harvested. Growers expect to harvest 750,000 acres, down 80,000 acres from 2004. Crop development is about the same progress as last year, with 94% reaching boot stage by July 10, and 66% of the crop is headed. **Oats** producers expect to harvest 2.1 million bushels of grain, 12% fewer than was produced last year. The 2005 area for harvest is expected to be 40,000 acres, unchanged from 2004. The expected yield of 53.0 bushels is 7 bushels below last year's yield.

Montana **potato** producers planted 11,000 acres during 2005, up 3% from last year. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 10, 2005. Pulse crop growers increased their acreage this year. **Dry edible pea** planted acreage is 135,000, with producers expecting to harvest 125,000 of those acres. Last year, growers planted 68,000 acres of dry edible peas and harvested 63,000 acres. **Lentil** growers planted 170,000 acres this year, up 92,000 acres from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 155,000 of those acres. Last year 78,000 acres of lentils were planted, while 72,000 acres were harvested. **Austrian winter pea** planted acreage is up 7,000 acres from last year to 19,000 acres. Producers expect to harvest 13,000 acres of this year's crop as peas, with the remaining acreage being hayed or grazed.

U.S. **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels. This is down 1 percent from last month but 2 percent above 2004. The U.S. yield is forecast at 44.5 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from last month. Hard red winter, at 924 million bushels, is down 4 percent from a month ago. Soft red winter, at 315 million bushels, is up 5 percent from the last forecast. White winter is up 1 percent from last month and now totals 287 million bushels. Of this total, 27.0 million bushels are hard white and 260 million bushels are soft white. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 94.1 million bushels, up 5 percent from 2004. The U.S. yield is forecast at 38.4 bushels per acre, 0.4 bushel more than last year. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 589 million bushels, up 3 percent from 2004. The U.S. yield is forecast at 43.2 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's record high. Of the total production, 552 million bushels are hard red spring wheat, up 5 percent from last season.

Nationally, **barley** production for 2005 is forecast at 243 million bushels, 13 percent below 2004. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 70.0 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last year. If realized, this would be the highest yield on record. Area for harvest, at 3.47 million acres, is down 14 percent from 2004 and the lowest since 1890.

Dry edible peas planted acreage for the United States in 2005 is estimated at 804,000 acres, up 52 percent from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 772,000 acres, also up 52 percent from 2004. U.S. planted acreage of **Austrian winter peas** in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon is estimated at 37,500 acres up 23 percent from 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 26,500 acres, up 23 percent from last year. U.S. **lentils** planted acreage in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 450,000 acres, up 30 percent from 2004. Harvested acreage is estimated at 430,000, up 31 percent from last year. Area planted to fall **potatoes** in the United States for 2005 is estimated at 970,400 acres, down 7 percent from last year and 12 percent below 2003. Harvested acres are forecast at 955,700, down 7 percent from 2004 and 12 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest planted and harvested acres since 1957. (See table on page 2)

July 1, 2005 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	2,150	1,630	2,050	41.0	43.0	66,830	88,150
Durum Wheat	Bu.	570	570	545	560	33.0	32.0	17,985	17,920
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	2,850	2,500	31.0	35.0	88,350	87,500
All Wheat	Bu.	5,470	5,320	5,025	5,110	34.5	37.9	173,165	193,570
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	70.0	65.0	15.0	16.0	143	6/	2145	6/
Oats	Bu.	105	95	40.0	40.0	60.0	53.0	2,400	2,120
Barley	Bu.	1,000	950	830	750	59.0	60.0	48,970	45,000
Flaxseed	Bu.	20	55	19	53	18.0	6/	342	6/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	14.0	12.7	13.5	22.4	3/	285	3/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	68.0	135.0	63.0	125.0	20.1	6/	1,266	6/
Lentils	Cwt.	78.0	170.0	72.0	155.0	14.0	6/	1,008	6/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	12.0	19.0	8.0	13.0	9.0	6/	72	6/
Sugar Beets	Ton	53.7	51.2	52.1	49.8	21.7	3/	1,131	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9	335.0	5/	3,551	5/
Canola	Lbs.	15.0	23.0	15.0	22	1,590	4/	23,850	4/
Safflower	Lbs.	33.5	39.0	31.0	37.0	680	6/	21,080	6/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,700	2.30	3/	3,220	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,250	1.40	3/	1,540	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,950	1.90	3/	4,760	3/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,350	41,408	34,462	34,271	43.5	44.1	1,499,434	1,525,302
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,561	2,573	2,363	2,453	38.0	38.4	89,893	94,075
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,763	14,099	13,174	13,637	43.2	43.2	568,918	588,740
All Wheat	Bu.	59,674	58,080	49,999	50,361	43.2	43.8	2,158,245	2,208,117
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,930	81,592	73,632	74,368	148.9	3/	10,923,099	3/
Oats	Bu.	4,085	4,342	1,792	1,976	64.7	66.5	115,935	131,314
Barley	Bu.	4,527	3,970	4,021	3,471	69.4	70.0	279,253	242,877
Flaxseed	Bu.	523	945	516	931	3/	6/	3/	6/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,354.3	1,674.0	1,219.3	1,567.4	15.0	3/	18,693	3/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	530.0	804.0	507.8	772.0	21.6	6/	10,831	6/
Lentils	Cwt.	345.0	450.0	322.0	430.0	12.7	6/	4,084	6/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	30.5	37.5	21.5	26.5	12.7	6/	272	6/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,257.5	22.4	3/	29,765	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,039.7	970.4	1,022.8	955.7	398	5/	410,023	5/
Canola	Lbs.	865	1,092	828	1,067	1,618	4/	1,339,530	4/
Safflower	Lbs.	175.0	185.0	159.0	173.0	1,105	6/	175,765	6/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,707	22,118	3.48	3/	77,371	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	40,209	39,605	2.25	3/	88,549	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,916	61,723	2.69	3/	165,920	3/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available August 12, 2005. 4/ Forecast available October 12, 2005. 5/ Forecast available November 11, 2005. 6/ Forecast available January 12, 2006. -- Not published.

U.S. Wheat Supply and Demand

Projected U.S. 2005/06 ending stocks of wheat are up 81 million bushels from last month due to larger beginning stocks and higher production. Forecast winter wheat production is 20 million bushels less than last month because of lower harvested area. The first survey-based spring wheat (including durum) production forecast is up 89 million bushels from last month's projection due to higher yields. Total wheat supplies are up because of increases in production and reported carry-in stocks. Projected 2005/06 use is unchanged from last month but is down 118 million bushels from last year. The first wheat supply and demand projections by class for 2005/06 indicate a large increase in the year-to-year stocks for hard red winter, with smaller increases in the stocks of other classes. The 2005/06 projected price range is $2.60 to $3.10 per bushel, down 5 cents on each end from last month compared with an estimated $3.40 for 2004/05.

Projected 2005/06 global wheat production is down fractionally from last month, use is nearly unchanged, trade is up, and stocks are down slightly. Foreign production is down 1.7 million tons due mostly to smaller crops in India (down 1.5 million) and Algeria (down 1.1 million). This is partially offset by larger crops in Ukraine, the EU-25, and Canada. (Continued on back page)

May 2005 Prices Received

May 2005 full month crop prices were mostly lower compared with April 2005. When compared with April 2005, Montana's winter wheat price was $3.34 per bushel, down $0.06; spring wheat price was down $0.16 to $3.30 per bushel; durum wheat prices decreased $0.15 to $3.65 per bushel; feed barley was up $0.05 to $1.71 per bushel; and malt barley was $3.20 per bushel, down $0.07. Oats were $1.92 per bushel for the full month of May 2005.

The mid-June price for alfalfa hay rose $1.00 to $77.00 per ton, but all other hay dropped $6.00 to $67.00 per ton. Mid-June grain prices were mixed when compared with May. The winter wheat price averaged $3.24 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.75 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.67 per bushel, malt barley was $3.07 per bushel and feed barley was $1.65 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mostly higher when compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices rose $6.00 to $113.00 per cwt; cows increased $1.90 to a record full-month high of $61.40 per cwt. The average price for calves were $6.00 higher to a new record full-month high of $140.00 per cwt. Sheep prices were up $0.90 to $44.30 per cwt and lamb prices jumped $10.00 to $125.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $0.40 per cwt from April to $15.00 per cwt. Mid-month June steer and heifer prices were $105.00 per cwt; cows were $58.80 per cwt; calves were $132.00 per cwt; and milk prices were $15.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for May and changes from April were as follows: winter wheat was $3.23, down $0.04, spring wheat was $3.37, down $0.02; durum wheat was $3.67 up $0.04; the all barley price was $2.46, up $0.14; and steer and heifer prices were $96.40, down $1.90 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-June winter wheat price was $3.06 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.54 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.62 per bushel; all wheat was $3.17 per bushel; malt barley was $2.79 per bushel; feed barley was $1.66 per bushel; and all barley was $2.36. Steer and heifer prices were $93.10 per cwt; cow prices were $57.30, calves were $140.00 per cwt; all hog prices were $51.00 per cwt; and all egg prices were $0.450 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in June, at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from May.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	May 2004	June 2004	May 2005	June 2005
Prices Received	129	128	120	120
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	135	135	139	139
Ratio 2/	96	95	86	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		May 2004	April 2005	May 2005	May 2005	April 2005	May 2004	June 15, 2005	June 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.88	3.40	3.34	3.23	-0.06	-0.54	3.24	3.06
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.36	3.80	3.65	3.67	-0.15	-0.71	3.67	3.62
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.04	3.46	3.30	3.37	-0.16	-0.74	3.75	3.54
All Wheat	Bu.	4.02	3.50	3.35	3.31	-0.15	-0.67	3.59	3.17
Barley, All	Bu.	2.81	2.84	2.80	2.46	-0.04	-0.01	2.69	2.36
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.01	1.66	1.71	1.71	+0.05	-0.30	1.65	1.66
Malt Barley	Bu.	N/A	3.27	3.20	2.90	-0.07	NC	3.07	2.79
Oats	Bu.	1.67	1.74	1.92	1.64	+0.18	+0.25	N/A	1.56
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	72.00	75.00	76.00	116.00	+1.00	+4.00	77.00	112.00
All Other Hay	Ton	67.00	67.00	73.00	76.10	+6.00	+6.00	67.00	73.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	71.00	73.00	75.00	107.00	+2.00	+4.00	76.00	102.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	99.00	107.00	113.00	96.40	+6.00	+14.00	105.00	93.10
Cows	Cwt	55.10	59.50	61.40	58.50	+1.90	+6.30	58.80	57.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	81.90	86.10	84.10	92.40	-2.00	+2.20	69.40	89.50
Calves	Cwt	117.00	134.00	140.00	141.00	+6.00	+23.00	132.00	140.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	39.50	43.40	44.30	44.50	+0.90	+4.80	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	111.00	115.00	125.00	115.00	+10.00	+14.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	15.00	15.40	15.00	14.80	-0.40	NC	15.10	14.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

Wheat Supply and Demand

Projected global imports are up 1.75 million tons with the most noteworthy changes being a 1 million increase in India's imports (the first significant imports in 6 years) and 0.6 million by Algeria. Forecast exports rise for Ukraine, Canada, and Iran. Global 2005/06 wheat stocks fall slightly with the largest declines forecast for Romania, Russia, India, and Algeria, which are only partially offset by increases in the United States and the EU-25.

OILSEEDS: U.S. oilseed ending stocks for 2005/06 are projected at 7.0 million tons, down 1.1 million tons from last month. U.S. oilseed production is projected at 89.1 million tons, down 0.1 million tons. Reduced soybean, cottonseed, and sunflowerseed production are only partly offset by higher peanut and canola production. Soybean production is projected at 2,890 million bushels (78.7 million tons), down 5 million bushels from last month because planted and harvested area in the Acreage report are below the June projections.

U.S. 2005/06 soybean stocks are reduced to 210 million bushels reflecting reduced supplies and higher projected use. Supplies are reduced due to lower beginning stocks and slightly reduced production. Soybean crush is raised due to improved prospects for soybean meal use. Soybean oil production, exports, and stocks are all increased due to higher soybean crush.

Price projections for soybeans and products are all higher this month. The U.S. season average soybean price for 2005/06 is projected at $5.10 to $6.10 per bushel, up 15 cents on both ends of the range. Soybean meal prices are projected at $165 to $195 per short ton, up $5.00 on both ends of the range. Soybean oil prices are projected at 21 to 24 cents per pound, up 0.5 cents on both ends of the range

Global oilseed production for 2005/06 is increased 1.7 million tons to 378.7 million tons. Foreign production is projected up 1.8 million tons, more than offsetting a small
reduction for the United States. Rapeseed production is increased for Canada based on higher harvested area. Other changes include reduced sunflowerseed production for the EU-25 and increased cottonseed production for China, India, and Pakistan.

Global oilseed production for 2004/05 is reduced this month mainly reflecting a 2-million ton reduction in the Brazil soybean crop. The crop is estimated at 51 million
tons based on survey results recently released by the Brazilian Government.

U.S. soybean crush for 2004/05 is projected at 1,690 million bushels, up 15 million bushels from last month. The increase reflects stronger-than-expected growth in domestic soybean meal use through the third quarter of the marketing year. Residual use is raised 15 million bushels this month. Supply estimates and reported use through May coupled with the June 1 stocks estimate indicate a higher residual for 2004/05. Ending stocks for 2004/05 are projected at 290 million bushels, down 30 million bushels.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2005

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1988 ..	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ..	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 ..	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 ..	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 ..	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 ..	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 ..	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 ..	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 ..	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 ..	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 ..	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 ..	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 ..	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 ..	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002 ..	777	1,606	81	2,464	919	84	119	1,122	850	1,972	491	3.56
2003 ..	491	2,345	63	2,899	907	80	207	1,193	1,159	2,353	546	3.40
2004 ..	546	2,158	71	2,776	895	79	202	1,176	1,060	2,236	540	3.40
2005 . 3/	540	2,208	70	2,818	890	78	200	1,168	950	2,118	700	2.60-3.10

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 2005--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

June Crop Acreages
Sweet Cherry Produciton
Milk Production
May Egg Production
June 1 Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Quarterly Hogs & Pigs Inventory

June 1, 2005 Crop Acreages

Small Grain Acreage

All wheat seeded acreage in Montana is estimated to be 5.32 million acres, down 3% from last year. **Spring wheat** producers seeded an estimated 2.60 million acres, down 13% from last year. Planted acreage is the lowest since 1991 when 2.6 million acres were also planted. Acres intended to be harvested, at 2.5 million, are down 12% from the previous year. Due to the rainfall this spring, the condition of the spring wheat crop for the week ending June 26 is better than a year ago and was rated mostly good with 10% excellent, 66% good, 20% fair, 3% poor, and 1% very poor. Currently, 61% of the spring wheat crop is in the boot stage, with 20% of the crop headed which is ahead of last year and the 5-year average. **Winter wheat** acreage seeded remained unchanged from the March 1 estimate at 2.15 million acres, but up 13 percent from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 2.05 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 420,000 acres from last year's acreage. The winter wheat crop condition is rated 14% excellent, 38% good, 34% fair, 11% poor and 3% very poor for the week ending June 26. The winter wheat crop development is slightly ahead of last year for the boot stage and headed at 99% and 81%, respectively. **Durum wheat** acreage, at 570,000 acres, is unchanged from a year ago, but up 10,000 acres from the March intentions. Acreage of durum wheat intended to be harvested is estimated at 560,000 acres, up 3 percent from last year.

Montana **barley** growers seeded an estimated 950,000 acres, which is down 5% from last year's final estimate. This would be the lowest barley planted acreage since 1953 when 582,000 acres were planted. The State's barley growers intend to harvest 750,000 acres for grain this year, which is 10% below the previous year's final estimate. Planted acreage for **oats**, at 95,000 acres, is down 10,000 acres from the previous year, but 5,000 acres more than intended plantings on March 1, 2005. This would be the lowest planted acres on record. Growers intend to harvest 40,000 acres of the oat crop for grain, unchanged from a year ago.

U.S. **all wheat** planted area is estimated at 58.1 million acres, down 3 percent from 2004. Harvested area is expected to total 50.4 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. The 2005 **winter** wheat planted area, at 41.4 million acres, is 4 percent below last year and down less than 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 30.3 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.5 million acres Soft Red Winter, 0.8 million acres Hard White Winter, and 3.7 million acres Soft White Winter. Acreage planted to **other spring** wheat for 2005 is estimated at 14.1 million, up 2 percent from 2004. Of this total, about 13.5 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The **durum** planted area for 2005 is estimated at 2.57 million acres, up fractionally from last year.

Barley growers in the U.S. seeded 3.97 million acres for 2005, down 12 percent from the 4.53 million acres seeded a year ago, and the lowest since barley planted acreage estimates began in 1926. Acres for harvest, at 3.47 million, are down 14 percent from the 2004 level, and the lowest since 1890.

Nationally, **oats** acres seeded for the 2005 crop year totaled 4.34 million acres, up 6 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 1.98 million acres for grain, up 10 percent from the 2004 harvested acreage of 1.79 million.

Row Crop, Hay and Oilseed Acreages

Montana hay producers expect to harvest an estimated 2.95 million acres of **all hay**, 450,000 acres above last year, and 450,000 acres more than the March 1, 2005 intentions. This is a new record high for all hay harvested. The previous record was set in 2001 at 2.65 million acres. Of the total hay expected for harvest, 1.70 million acres are expected to be **alfalfa hay**, which is up 300,000 acres from last year's figure. Alfalfa hay harvested ties the previous high set in 1999, 1998, and 1996. Producers expect to harvest 1.25 million acres of **other hay**, which is up 150,000 acres from a year ago.

Montana **corn** growers planted 65,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from a year ago, and 6,000 acres fewer than the March 1 intentions. Acreage intended for harvest as grain, at 16,000 acres, is up 1,000 acres from a year ago. **Sugar beet** producers planted an estimated 51,200 acres, down 5 percent from 2004. Producers intend to harvest 49,800 of those acres, down 2 percent from 2004.

Farmers in Montana planted 14,000 acres of **dry beans** in 2005, up 8 percent from last year. Producers are looking to harvest 13,500 acres of dry beans this season, 6 percent more than last year.

Flaxseed growers in Montana planted an estimated 55,000 acres this year, up 35,000 from last year's acreage and up 20,000 acres from March 1 intentions. This would be the largest flaxseed acreage since 1957 when 74,000 acres were planted. Producers intend to harvest 53,000 acres of flaxseed this year, up from 19,000 acres during the 2004 crop year. **Canola** producers planted 23,000 acres for 2005 and expect to harvest 22,000 acres. **Safflower** producers planted 39,000 acres and expect to harvest 37,000 acres in 2005. This is the first time canola and safflower estimates were published at the state level since the National program began.

U.S. **corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 81.6 million acres, up 1 percent from 2004 and 4 percent above 2003. Farmers increased corn plantings 179,000 acres from their March intentions.

Sugar beets area planted for the U.S. totaled 1.28 million acres, down 1 percent from the March intentions and down 5 percent from 2004. The area for harvest is forecast at 1.26 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004. Planted area decreased from 2004 in all States, except Wyoming.

U.S. **hay** producers expect to harvest 61.7 million acres of all hay in 2005, down fractionally from 2004. Harvested area of **alfalfa** and alfalfa mixtures is forecast at 22.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. **All other hay** harvested area is expected to total 39.6 million acres, down 2 percent. (Continued on next page)

Crop Acres (continued fro front page)

Declines in alfalfa hay acres are expected in States along the Pacific coast and in the central Great Plains.

U.S. **dry bean** growers planted 1.67 million acres for 2005, up 24 percent from last year and 19 percent above two years ago. The June planted acres estimate is 1 percent above growers' plans in March. Acres to be harvested are forecast at 1.57 million, up 29 percent from last year and 16 percent above 2003. High prices for the 2004 crop and low inventories contributed to the increase in planted and harvested acres. Thirteen of the 17 dry bean States have increased planted acreage from a year ago, 3 are unchanged, while Texas growers planted less than 2004.

Flaxseed area planted in 2005, at 945,000 acres, is up 81 percent from last year's total of 523,000 acres. Area for harvest, forecast at 931,000 acres, is 80 percent above the harvested area in 2004. **Canola** producers planted 1.09 million acres in 2005, up 26 percent from 2004, and the first increase in U.S. acreage since 2000. U.S. **safflower** planted area increased 6 percent from 2004, to 185,000 acres in 2005. Area for harvest is forecast at 173,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year. This is the first time State-level estimates have been published in the June Acreage report.

Sweet Cherry Production Forecast

The Montana sweet cherry crop is forecast at 1,300 tons, 45 percent below last year and would be the lowest since 2000 when 1,100 tons were produced. Production is down due to late April freezing temperatures which hurt most orchards in the Flathead growing area during late flowering. While freeze damage was spotty, orchards that were closer to the lake survived the frost better than orchards farther away or at higher elevations. Rainfall during pollination did result in weak pollination in some orchards. While production will be significantly hurt by the frost, production will not be as bad as 1989 and 1991 when the entire crop was lost due to frost damage.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 226,550 tons, down 20 percent from 2004 and 8 percent below 2003. Beginning with this 2005 forecast, Pennsylvania is no longer in the sweet cherry estimating program. The Washington crop forecast of 120,000 tons is unchanged from the June Crop Production report. The crop is 10 percent below the record high production of 2004 but 2 percent above the crop of 2003. Washington's crop experienced poor weather during bloom that hindered bee activity and pollination. Frost during April was also a problem. Fruit set is reported to be lighter than last year as many growers are reporting smaller fruit clusters.

Oregon production is forecast at 29,000 tons, down 17 percent from the previous forecast and 33 percent below 2004. Oregon sweet cherries experienced an early spring in February until bloom in March, when rain, wind, and frost killed off many blooms. Some orchards in the Willamette Valley were hit hard and those growers may declare a crop failure.

Idaho is expecting a sweet cherry crop of 2,200 tons, down 29 percent from last year and 24 percent below 2003. Production is forecast to be down from recent years due to a cool spring which hampered pollination but high quality fruit is reported.

Utah is forecasting production to be 1,100 tons, down 31 percent from 2004 and a 50 percent decrease from the 2003 crop. Frost during bloom, combined with hail at the beginning of fruit maturity, reduced crop potential.

June 2005 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/	2004	2005 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	2,150	1,630	2,050	41.0	41.0	66,830	84,050
Durum Wheat	Bu.	570	570	545	560	33.0	3/	17,985	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,000	2,600	2,850	2,500	31.0	3/	88,350	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,470	5,320	5,025	5,110	34.5	3/	173,165	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	70.0	65.0	15.0	16.0	143	7/	2145	7/
Oats	Bu.	105	95	40	40	60.0	3/	2,400	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,000	950	830	750	59.0	3/	48,970	3/
Flaxseed	Bu.	20	55	19	53	18.0	7/	342	7/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	14.0	12.7	13.5	22.4	4/	285	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	68.0	3/	63.0	3/	20.1	7/	1,266	7/
Lentils	Cwt.	78.0	3/	65.0	3/	14.0	7/	1,008	7/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	12.0	3/	8.0	3/	9.0	7/	72	7/
Sugar Beets	Ton	53.7	51.2	52.1	49.8	21.7	4/	1,131	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	3/	10.6	3/	335.0	6/	3,551	6/
Canola	Lbs.	15.0	23.0	15.0	22.0	1,590	5/	23,850	5/
Safflower	Lbs.	33.5	39.0	31.0	37.0	680	7/	21,080	7/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,700	2.30	4/	3,220	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,100	1,250	1.40	4/	1,540	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,950	1.90	4/	4,760	4/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,350	41,408	34,462	34,271	43.5	3/	1,499,434	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,561	2,573	2,363	2,453	38.0	3/	89,893	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,763	14,099	13,174	13,637	43.2	3/	568,918	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	59,674	58,080	49,999	50,361	43.2	3/	2,158,245	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,930	81,592	73,632	74,368	148.9	4/	10,923,099	4/
Oats	Bu.	4,085	4,342	1,792	1,976	64.7	3/	115,935	3/
Barley	Bu.	4,527	3,970	4,021	3,471	69.4	3/	279,253	3/
Flaxseed	Bu.	523	945	516	931	3/	7/	3/	7/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,354.3	1,674.0	1,219.3	1,567.4	15.0	4/	18,693	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	527.0	3/	500.8	3/	21.6	7/	10,831	7/
Lentils	Cwt.	345.0	3/	322.0	3/	12.7	7/	4,084	7/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	30.5	3/	21.5	3/	12.7	7/	272	7/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,257.5	22.4	4/	29,765	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,043.7	3/	1,024.5	3/	398	6/	407,786	6/
Canola	Lbs.	865	1,092	828	1,067	1,618	5/	1,339,530	5/
Safflower	Lbs.	175.0	185.0	159.0	173.0	1,105	7/	175,765	7/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	21,707	22,118	3.48	4/	77,371	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	40,209	39,605	2.25	4/	88,549	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	61,916	61,723	2.69	4/	165,920	4/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available July 12, 2005 4/ Forecast available August 12, 2005. 5/ Forecast available October 12, 2005. 6/ Forecast available November 11, 2005. 7/ Forecast available January 12, 2006. -- Not published.

May U.S. Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during May totaled 14.2 billion pounds, up 4.4 percent from May 2004. April revised production, at 13.6 billion pounds, was up 3.4 percent from April 2004. The April revision represented an increase of 0.3 percent or 35 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,754 pounds for May, 62 pounds above May 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.12 million head, 54,000 head more than May 2004, and 9,000 head more than April 2005.

May U.S. Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.56 billion during May 2005, up one percent from last year. Production included 6.43 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 65 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 2005 averaged 342 million, down slightly from a year earlier. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,210 eggs, up one percent from May 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 2005, totaled 342 million, down one percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.70 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 2005, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

June 1, 2005 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on June 1, 2005 were 51.3 million bushels, up 27 percent from a year ago. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 40.0 million bushels, up 43 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted to 11.3 million bushels, down 9 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the March - May 2005 quarter was up 14 percent from the same quarter last year to 37.3 million bushels. Last year, disappearance during the quarter was 32.8 million bushels.

Barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2005 were 14.8 million bushels, up 64 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm jumped from 4.0 million bushels a year ago to 9.0 million bushels this year. Off-farm storage of barley, at 5.8 million bushels, increased 16 percent from 2004. Disappearance of barley for the March - May 2005 quarter was up 62 percent from the same quarter last year to 11.3 million bushels. Disappearance last year during this quarter was 7.0 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were 865,000 bushels, up 13 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 800,000 bushels, up 14 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were unchanged from last year at 65,000 bushels.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 2005 totaled 540 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 161 million bushels, up 22 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 379 million bushels, are down 9 percent from a year ago. The March - May 2005 indicated disappearance is 445 million bushels, down 6 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. durum wheat stocks in all positions on June 1, 2005 totaled 37.2 million bushels, up 41 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 24.1 million bushels, are up 77 percent from June 1, 2004. Off-farm stocks totaled 13.1 million bushels, up 3 percent from a year ago. The March - May 2005 indicated disappearance of 18.5 million bushels is up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks for the United States in all positions on June 1, 2005 totaled 129 million bushels, up 7 percent from June 1, 2004. On-farm stocks are estimated at 41.1 million bushels, 45 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 87.6 million bushels, are 5 percent below June 1, 2004. The March - May 2005 indicated disappearance is 62.0 million bushels, 90 percent above the same period a year earlier.

U.S. oats stored in all positions on June 1, 2005 totaled 58.0 million bushels, 11 percent below the stocks on June 1, 2004. Of the total stocks on hand, 25.4 million bushels are stored on farms, 8 percent lower than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 32.6 million bushels, 13 percent below the previous year. Indicated disappearance during March - May 2005 totaled 24.5 million bushels, compared with 30.2 million bushels from the same period a year ago.

Nationally, corn stocks in all positions on June 1, 2005 totaled 4.32 billion bushels, up 45 percent from June 1, 2004. This is the highest June 1 stocks level since 1988. Of the total stocks, 2.46 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 60 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 1.86 billion bushels, are up 30 percent from a year ago. The March - May 2005 indicated disappearance is 2.44 billion bushels, compared with 2.30 billion bushels during the same period last year.

June 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 2004	Mar. 1, 2004	June 1, 2005	'05/'04	June 1, 2004	Mar. 1, 2004*	June 1, 2005
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	28,000	67,000	40,000	143%	131,880	304,710	161,275
Off Farms 1/	12,390	21,630	11,330	91%	414,559	679,681	378,566
TOTAL	40,390	88,630	51,330	127%	546,439	984,391	539,841
DURUM WHEAT 2/, 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	13,600	35,200	24,100
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	12,712	20,496	13,094
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	26,312	55,696	37,194
BARLEY							
On Farms	4,000	16,500	9,000	225%	28,320	79,680	41,100
Off Farms 1/	4,990	9,620	5,780	116%	91,988	111,001	87,604
TOTAL	8,990	26,120	14,780	164%	120,308	190,681	128,704
OATS							
On Farms	700	1,400	800	114%	27,500	43,500	25,350
Off Farms 1/	65	110	65	100%	37,348	38,946	32,613
TOTAL	765	1,510	865	113%	64,848	82,446	57,963
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,540,000	4,137,000	2,462,300
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,430,140	2,618,261	1,857,657
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	2,970,140	6,755,261	4,319,957

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operaations. * Revised.

June 1 Potato Stocks for Major States

The 15 major potato States held 51.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2005, up 11 percent from both last year and June 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 13 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 2 percentage points above last year. Disappearance of 352 million cwt of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 31.1 million cwt so far this season, is up 4 percent from last year and 14 percent above the same date in 2003. Processors in the 9 major States have used 173 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 36.0 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 11 percent below the same date in 2003.

May 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.0 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 2005, up 7 percent from May 2004 and up 1 percent from April 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, 100 head above one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,175 pounds, increased 6 pounds from last year.

During May there were 800 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 244 pounds, was up 1 pound from last year. May sheep slaughter in the State totaled 100 head, unchanged from May 2004. The average live weight increased 5 pounds to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in May, up 3 percent from the 3.60 billion pounds produced in May 2004. Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 2 percent from May 2004. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,224 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.2 million pounds, 4 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,500 head, down 10 percent from May 2004. The average live weight was 22 pounds above last year, at 376 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.61 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.03 million head, 6 percent above May 2004. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was up 14 percent from May 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 208,000 head, 10 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 5 pounds from May a year ago.

January to May 2005 commercial red meat production was 18.3 billion pounds, down slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

June 1 U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.77 million head on June 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above June 1, 2004 and 2 percent above June 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.22 million, 6 percent below 2004 and 4 percent below 2003. Net placements were 2.13 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 435,000, 600-699 pounds were 390,000, 700-799 pounds were 663,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 735,000. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.0 million, 1 percent below 2004 and 11 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 96,000 during May, 22 percent above 2004 and 48 percent above 2003.

U.S. June 1, 2005Hog Inventory Up Slightly

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2005 was 60.8 million head. This was up slightly from June 1, 2004, and up 2 percent from March 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 5.98 million head, was up 1 percent from both June 1, 2004 and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.8 million head, was up slightly from last year, and up 2 percent from last quarter.

The March - May 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 25.9 million head, was up 1 percent from both 2004 and 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.02 for the March - May 2005 period, compared to 8.93 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the June-August 2005 quarter, virtually unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004, but down one-half of one percent from 2003. Intended farrowings for September-November 2005, at 2.88 million sows, are unchanged from the same period in 2004, but up 1 percent from 2003.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 40 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
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Aus.Winter Pea Production
Dry Peas & Lentils Production
Potato Production
Sweet Cherries Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production Forecast
Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates
Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received

June 1 Crop Production

Based on June 1 conditions, Montana **winter wheat** producers are expecting a yield of 41 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's final yield and unchanged from the May 1 forecast. If realized, the total production of 84.05 million bushels would be up 26 percent from last year's 66.8 million bushels due to higher harvested acreage. In the fall of 2004, Montana producers seeded 2.15 million acres of winter wheat, up 250,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 2.05 million acres, up 420,000 acres from last year.

As of June 5th, Montana's winter wheat crop was rated much better than a year ago at this time with 3% very poor, 10% poor, 35% fair, 37% good, and 15% excellent compared with 6% very poor, 15% poor, 46% fair, 28% good, and 5% excellent a year ago. The moisture received during May has helped fields hurt by frost damage earlier in the month as well as crop conditions. However, the cool weather is beginning to hinder crop progress as 3 percent of the crop has headed as of June 5th which is behind last year's 13 percent and the five year average of 17 percent.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the May 1 forecast but up 3 percent from 2004. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.1 bushels per acre, down 1.3 bushels from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, unchanged from last month. As of May 29, heading had reached 81 percent in the 18 major States, equal to the 5-year average. Progress trailed the average during most of May due primarily to below average temperatures. Harvest was underway in the southern-most portions of the winter wheat growing areas.

Forecasted head counts from the objective yield surveys in the 6 Hard Red Winter States (Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas) are above last year's final counts, except in Oklahoma. The greatest impact on yield since May 1 was seen in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska where yields declined 3, 4, and 2 bushels, respectively. Expectations improved in South Dakota where growers now anticipate a record high crop for both yield and production.

Forecasted head counts from the objective yield surveys in the 3 Soft Red Winter States (Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio) are above last year's final counts in Illinois and Ohio, but lower in Missouri. Indicated head weights are above last year in Missouri and Ohio, but below in Illinois. Cooler than normal temperatures during May slowed crop development across the SRW growing area. Overall, yield expectations remain good, with mostly minor changes from last month.

The Pacific Northwest States (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) received much needed rainfall during May, improving yield prospects. Forecasted head counts from the objective yield survey in Washington are well above average and last year's final counts. The Idaho yield is now forecast at a record high level.

On May 1, thirty percent of the winter wheat crop was headed in the United States, 6 points behind last year and 1 point behind normal. By month's end, however, progress had reached the normal pace of 81 percent complete but still trailed last year's pace by 5 points. Heading was well ahead of normal in the Pacific Northwest, where warm, moist weather favored development. In the eastern Corn Belt, however, heading lagged behind normal due to cool weather. In the Great Plains, heading progressed at a near-normal pace. Condition of the crop declined throughout the month as freezes, dry weather, and hailstorms took their toll on the crop.

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected U.S. 2005/06 ending stocks of wheat are down 59 million bushels from last month due to smaller beginning stocks and lower production. Beginning stocks are down 14 million bushels with higher projected food use and exports for 2004/05. Forecast winter wheat production is 45 million bushels less than last month because of lower yields. Projected use is unchanged from last month but is down 131 million bushels from last year. The 2005/06 projected price range is $2.65 to $3.15 per bushel, up 10 cents on each end from last month compared with an estimated $3.39 for 2004/05.

The 2005/06 global wheat outlook has shifted modestly from last month with projected production falling, imports increasing, and stocks declining. Foreign production is down 1.6 million tons due mostly to smaller crops in Australia (down 1.5 million), the EU-25, Argentina, India, and Morocco. These declines are partially offset by larger crops in Russia (up 2 million tons) and Turkey. Projected global imports are up fractionally, mostly due to larger imports by Morocco, Tunisia, and Nigeria. The pattern of global exports has shifted from last month with larger exports projected for Russia and Turkey and smaller exports for Australia, Argentina, and India. Global consumption rises fractionally due largely to increased wheat feeding in Russia. Global wheat stocks fall with the largest declines in the United States and Australia.

Except for small increases to U.S. barley exports and oat imports, no other changes are projected for 2004/05 feedgrains relative to last month. Similarly, the outlook for 2005/06 is unchanged from last month for production, use, and prices. The 2005/06 projected price range for corn is $1.55 to $1.95, compared with $2.00 to $2.10 for 2004/05.

The most noteworthy change in the global outlook for 2004/05 is in Brazil with a 2-million-ton reduction in the corn crop, lower imports, smaller feed use and exports, and a 0.4-million-ton drop in ending stocks. The global outlook for 2005/06 is for decreased coarse grains production, lower use, and a moderate drop in stocks relative to last month. Smaller crops are projected in Ukraine (down 1.5 million tons), Russia (down 1 million), Argentina and Australia (each down 0.5 million), and several other countries. (continued on back page)

Barley Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2004

County and District	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted 1/	Harvested	Yield	Production		Planted 1/	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	Rank	Acres	Acres	Tons	Tons
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	6,700	6,200	77	478,000	23	2,800	2,600	86	224,000
Granite	1,000	400	80	32,000	48	1,000	400	80	32,000
Lake	3,500	2,500	65	163,000	36	3,000	2,100	67	141,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	600	300	23	7,000	52	--	--	--	--
Powell	3,100	1,200	66	79,000	43	2,800	900	81	73,000
Ravalli	1,300	1,000	84	84,000	42	1,100	800	100	80,000
Sanders	1,000	200	55	11,000	51	--	--	--	--
Other	800	200	50	10,000	--	1,300	200	55	11,000
NORTHWEST	**18,000**	**12,000**	**72**	**864,000**	**--**	**12,000**	**7,000**	**80**	**561,000**
Blaine	26,300	21,000	52	1,102,000	13	5,700	3,600	67	240,000
Chouteau	43,000	42,000	50	2,114,000	6	--	--	--	--
Glacier	101,000	97,000	46	4,455,000	3	12,600	11,500	64	731,000
Hill	20,500	20,000	62	1,239,000	11	--	--	--	--
Liberty	21,500	20,700	38	783,000	17	2,100	1,900	76	144,000
Phillips	28,700	18,300	48	876,000	14	2,300	600	68	41,000
Pondera	118,000	117,000	66	7,729,000	2	46,000	45,600	87	3,956,000
Teton	100,000	99,000	80	7,948,000	1	59,000	58,300	100	5,819,000
Toole	47,000	46,000	43	1,995,000	7	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,300	900	84	76,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**506,000**	**481,000**	**59**	**28,241,000**	**--**	**129,000**	**122,400**	**90**	**11,007,000**
Daniels	4,200	1,900	56	107,000	39	--	--	--	--
Dawson	22,400	12,200	36	444,000	24	1,500	1,100	101	111,000
Garfield	15,600	3,600	36	129,000	38	--	--	--	--
McCone	19,600	8,100	44	360,000	28	--	--	--	--
Richland	23,300	20,900	61	1,275,000	10	6,200	6,100	102	625,000
Roosevelt	12,100	10,000	67	669,000	20	--	--	--	--
Sheridan	12,600	10,700	62	664,000	21	--	--	--	--
Valley	14,200	9,600	46	438,000	25	3,300	1,500	73	110,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	2,300	104	240,000
NORTHEAST	**124,000**	**77,000**	**53**	**4,086,000**	**--**	**15,000**	**11,000**	**99**	**1,086,000**
Broadwater	9,500	9,400	80	755,000	18	6,200	6,200	101	627,000
Cascade	46,000	44,000	59	2,583,000	4	12,600	12,200	97	1,189,000
Fergus	42,000	33,000	43	1,430,000	9	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	7,900	6,400	30	190,000	33	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	25,500	17,600	45	795,000	16	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	--	--	--	--	--	6,800	6,200	89	550,000
Meagher	9,500	8,000	61	487,000	22	4,700	3,800	82	313,000
Musselshell	6,700	3,700	38	139,000	37	2,300	400	55	22,000
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	14,400	12,600	25	318,000	29	--	--	--	--
Other	14,500	12,300	64	783,000	--	7,400	3,700	66	246,000
CENTRAL	**176,000**	**147,000**	**51**	**7,480,000**	**--**	**40,000**	**32,500**	**91**	**2,947,000**
Beaverhead	5,700	4,000	102	406,000	26	5,100	3,900	103	403,000
Gallatin	28,900	27,000	80	2,147,000	5	11,000	10,400	93	968,000
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	4,700	2,500	74	186,000	34	3,600	1,400	91	128,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1,700	500	58	29,000	--	1,300	300	73	22,000
SOUTHWEST	**41,000**	**34,000**	**81**	**2,768,000**	**--**	**21,000**	**16,000**	**95**	**1,521,000**
Big Horn	18,200	14,400	86	1,238,000	12	8,800	8,500	108	922,000
Carbon	9,500	8,800	93	816,000	15	8,300	7,900	100	790,000
Park	6,500	4,400	64	281,000	30	4,400	2,600	77	200,000
Stillwater	18,000	8,500	32	273,000	31	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	3,000	1,700	54	91,000	41	--	--	--	--
Treasure	3,600	3,400	108	367,000	27	3,000	2,900	120	349,000
Yellowstone	23,200	21,800	80	1,740,000	8	14,300	13,900	107	1,492,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	3,200	2,000	86	171,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**82,000**	**63,000**	**76**	**4,806,000**	**--**	**42,000**	**37,800**	**104**	**3,924,000**
Carter	13,500	2,300	29	67,000	46	--	--	--	--
Custer	7,000	1,700	56	95,000	40	1,400	800	84	67,000
Fallon	7,000	2,000	28	55,000	47	--	--	--	--
Powder River	6,000	2,100	34	72,000	45	--	--	--	--
Prairie	8,500	4,600	38	173,000	35	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	6,100	2,300	103	238,000	32	3,500	2,000	115	229,000
Wibaux	4,900	1,000	25	25,000	50	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,100	500	96	48,000
SOUTHEAST	**53,000**	**16,000**	**45**	**725,000**	**--**	**6,000**	**3,300**	**104**	**344,000**
MONTANA	**1,000,000**	**830,000**	**59**	**48,970,000**	**--**	**265,000**	**230,000**	**93**	**21,390,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

April 2005 Prices Received

April 2005 full month crop prices were mixed compared with March 2005. When compared with March 2005, Montana's winter wheat price was $3.40 per bushel, up $0.06; spring wheat price was down $0.26 to $3.46 per bushel; durum wheat prices decreased $0.14 to $3.80 per bushel; feed barley was unchanged at $1.66 per bushel; and malt barley was $3.27 per bushel, up $0.07. Oats were $1.74 per bushel for the full month of April 2005.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay rose $1.00 to $76.00 per ton, but all other hay jumped $6.00 to $73.00 per ton. Mid-May grain prices were mixed when compared with April. The winter wheat price averaging $3.39 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.83 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.66 per bushel, malt barley was $3.37 per bushel and feed barley was $1.67 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were mixed when compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were unchanged at $107.00 per cwt, while cows increased $2.00 to a record full-month high $59.50. The average price for calves was $3.00 higher to $134.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $9.00 to $43.40 per cwt and lamb prices fell $10.00 to $115.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.70 per cwt from March to $15.40 per cwt. Mid-month May steer and heifer prices were $109.00 per cwt; cows were a new record high at $62.00 per cwt; calves were also a new record high at $140.00 per cwt; and milk prices were $14.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was $3.27, down $0.05, spring wheat was $3.39, down $0.12; durum wheat was $3.63 down $0.04; the all barley price was $2.32, down $0.14; and steer and heifer prices were $98.30, up $2.80 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was $3.13 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.52 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.57 per bushel; all wheat was $3.28 per bushel; malt barley was $3.02 per bushel; feed barley was $1.91 per bushel; and all barley was $2.53. Steer and heifer prices were $96.90 per cwt; cow prices were $58.70, calves were $141.00 per cwt; all hog prices were $55.40 per cwt; and all egg prices were $0.469 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from April.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	April 2004	May 2004	April 2005	May 2005
Prices Received	125	129	122	122
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	133	135	139	139
Ratio 2/	94	96	88	88

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		April 2004	March 2005	April 2005	April 2005	March 2005	April 2004	May 15, 2005	May 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.34	3.40	3.27	+0.06	-0.37	3.39	3.13
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.15	3.94	3.80	3.63	-0.14	-0.35	3.66	3.57
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.99	3.72	3.46	3.39	-0.26	-0.53	3.83	3.52
All Wheat	Bu.	3.93	3.57	3.50	3.35	-0.07	-0.43	3.65	3.28
Barley, All	Bu.	2.84	2.72	2.84	2.32	+0.12	NC	2.91	2.53
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.08	1.66	1.66	1.54	NC	-0.42	1.67	1.91
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.17	3.20	3.27	2.74	+0.07	+0.10	3.37	3.02
Oats	Bu.	2.04	N/A	1.74	1.65	N/A	-0.30	N/A	1.58
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	76.00	75.00	103.00	-1.00	+5.00	76.00	116.00
All Other Hay	Ton	67.00	69.00	67.00	75.40	-2.00	NC	73.00	76.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	74.00	73.00	96.90	-1.00	+4.00	75.00	107.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	95.20	107.00	107.00	98.30	NC	+11.80	109.00	96.90
Cows	Cwt	52.20	57.50	59.50	57.10	+2.00	+7.30	62.00	58.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	79.70	89.70	86.10	94.00	-3.60	+6.40	83.60	92.90
Calves	Cwt	114.00	131.00	134.00	140.00	+3.00	+20.00	140.00	141.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	34.80	52.40	43.40	44.40	-9.00	+8.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	107.00	125.00	115.00	114.00	-10.00	+8.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.50	14.70	15.40	15.20	+0.70	+0.90	14.70	14.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

World Ag Supply & Demand (continued from front page)

Global coarse grain use in 2005/06 is down fractionally with the largest declines occurring in Russia, Ukraine, and Australia. Consumption is up in Egypt, Iran, and Tunisia. Global imports are down slightly as smaller imports by Turkey, Russia, Indonesia, and Chile are only partially offset by larger imports by Egypt, Morocco, Brazil, and Iran. Exports from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine, and Kazakstan are lower while exports by the EU-25 and South Africa rise. Global ending stocks drop just over 2 million tons with the largest declines occurring in Russia, Ukraine, and Australia. Stocks are up in Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, and several other countries.

U.S. oilseed production for 2005/06 is projected at 89.2 million tons, unchanged from last month. Soybean production is forecast at 2,895 million bushels, or 78.8 million tons. A projected decrease in 2004/05 soybean ending stocks this month for South America is expected to provide increased U.S. export opportunities. As a result, 2005/06 U.S. soybean exports are increased 10 million bushels to 1,135 million bushels. Prospects for increased exports and reduced soybean supplies result in a slight decrease in soybean crush from last month. U.S. soybean ending stocks are projected at 255 million bushels, down 25 million bushels from last month.

The U.S. season-average soybean price for 2005/06 is projected at $4.95 to $5.95 per bushel, up 25 cents on both ends of the range. Soybean meal prices are projected at $160 to $190 per short ton, up $10.00 on both ends of the range. Soybean oil prices are projected at 20.5 to 23.5 cents per pound, up 0.5 cents on both ends of the range.

Global oilseed production for 2005/06 is projected at 377.0 million tons, down 4.1 million tons (1 percent) from 2004/05. Foreign oilseed production is projected at 287.8 million tons, up 3.2 million tons from 2004/05. Global soybean production is projected to increase 3.4 million tons to a record 219.7 million tons. Although U.S. soybean production is expected to decline from last year's record level, a rebound in yields and production in Brazil will push South American soybean production to a record 108 million tons, accounting for just below half of 2005/06 global production. The Brazilian soybean crop is projected at a record 62 million tons, up 17 percent from the drought-reduced 2004/05 crop. Global production of high-oil content seed is down 5 percent as lower rapeseed production is only partly offset by increased sunflower seed production. Rapeseed production is projected lower for China, the EU-25, Canada, and India. Sunflower seed production is higher for Ukraine as producers expand plantings from 2004/05.

Global protein meal consumption is projected to increase 3 percent in 2005/06, primarily due to gains for soybean meal. Protein meal consumption in China is projected to increase 8 percent, with a 15 percent increase in soybean meal more than offsetting decreased consumption of rapeseed and cottonseed meal. World soybean trade increases 7 percent to 65.6 million tons, nearly all of which is due to higher imports for China to a record 27.0 million tons. Global vegetable oil consumption is projected to increase 5 percent for 2005/06 led by gains for China, India, and the EU-25. Global oilseed crush is projected to increase 3 percent, and oilseed stocks are projected to increase 3.5 million tons to a record 58.2 million tons.

Changes for 2004/05 for the U.S. include increased soybean crush and exports and reduced ending stocks. Global soybean ending stocks are also reduced, reflecting the effect of reduced Brazil soybean production for 2003/04. The crop is reduced from 52.6 million tons to 50.5 million tons based on analysis of crush and trade statistics for the marketing year.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2004

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002 . .	777	1,606	81	2,464	919	84	119	1,122	850	1,972	491	3.56
2003 . .	491	2,345	63	2,899	907	80	207	1,193	1,159	2,353	546	3.40
2004 . .	546	2,158	71	2,776	895	79	215	1,189	1,060	2,249	527	3.39
2005 . 3/	527	2,140	70	2,737	890	78	200	1,168	950	2,118	619	2.65-3.15

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 2005--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Hogs & Pigs
Milk Production	Grain Stocks
Cattle on Feed	Crop Acreages
Egg Production	
Sweet Cherry Production	
Red Meat Production	

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Wheat Ag Chemical Use
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
April Farm Labor

April 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.0 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 2005, down 1 percent from April 2004 and down 9 percent from March 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,200 head, 100 head below one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,174 pounds, decreased 7 pounds from last year.

During April there were 900 hogs slaughtered, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 247 pounds, was down 3 pounds from last year. April sheep slaughter in the State totaled 200 head, up from 100 head in April 2004. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 120 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in April, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in April 2004. Beef production, at 1.89 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, down 5 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,220 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 7 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,600 head, down 13 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was 23 pounds above last year, at 353 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.44 million head, 2 percent below April 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2005 commercial red meat production was 14.6 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was down slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 8 percent.

Livestock County Estimates Available

The January 1, 2005 livestock inventory county estimates for all cattle and calves, beef cows, milk cows, sheep and lambs, and December 1, 2004 county estimates for hogs and pigs, and district estimates for chickens are now completed. These estimates are available on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/.

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. The county estimates are based on livestock surveys conducted at the end of 2004 and beginning of 2005. Questionnaires were sent to a sample of farmers and ranchers throughout Montana asking for information on the livestock inventories. About 6,900 questionnaires were tabulated and summarized. Thank you to all the farmers and ranchers who participated in the survey!

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on May 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above May 1, 2004 and 1 percent above May 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.66 million, 4 percent above 2004 but 11 percent below 2003. Net placements were 1.57 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 340,000, 600-699 pounds were 225,000, 700-799 pounds were 500,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 595,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.80 million, 5 percent below 2004 and 9 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during April, 7 percent below 2004 but 43 percent above 2003.

April Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from April 2004. March revised production, at 13.8 billion pounds, was up 2.9 percent from March 2004. The March revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 20 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,679 pounds for April, 43 pounds above April 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.11 million head, 44,000 head more than April 2004, and 12,000 head more than March 2005.

Wheat 2004 Agricultural Chemical Use

Durum wheat producers in Montana applied a total of 32.5 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer to 96 percent of the 570,000 acres planted for the 2004 crop. Eighty-four percent of the planted acreage received a total of 11.8 million pounds of phosphate fertilizer, while 0.6 million pounds of potash were used on 10 percent of the acres. Durum wheat producers applied 508 million pounds of herbicides to 99 percent of the 2004 durum wheat planted acres. The top three herbicides applied were dicamba with 56 percent, followed by glyphosate with 46 percent, and MCPA with 30 percent of the acreage sprayed.

Montana other spring wheat producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 79 percent of the acreage planted for the 2004 crop. A total of 134.6 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer were applied to the 3.0 million acres of other spring wheat planted in Montana during 2004. Of the planted acreage, 69 percent received phosphate fertilizer, while potash was used on 13 percent of the acres. Total phosphate application was 72.6 million pounds and potash totaled 9.0 million pounds. Other spring wheat producers applied 1,652 million pounds of herbicides to 95 percent of the 2004 other spring wheat acres planted. The most common herbicides applied were glyphosate with 40 percent of the acreage sprayed, followed by 2,4-D with 33 percent, and dicamba with 28 percent. (continued on next page)

Wheat 2004 Ag Chemical Use
(continued from front page)

Winter wheat producers in the State applied 83.0 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer to 92 percent of the 1.9 million acres planted for the 2004 crop. Of the planted acreage, 83 percent received 47.3 million pounds of phosphate fertilizer, while 3.9 million pounds of potash was applied to 21 percent of the acres. Winter wheat producers used 2,533 million pounds of herbicides on 95 percent of the winter wheat acres planted. The top three herbicides applied were glyphosate with 75 percent of the acreage sprayed, 2,4-D with 67 percent, and metsulphuron-methyl with 22 percent.

Nationally, two Program States, Montana and North Dakota, were surveyed for durum wheat in the 2004 ARMS phase II survey. Nitrogen was the most commonly used fertilizer for producers of durum wheat. At the Program State level, 36 pounds of nitrogen were applied per acre per application; 147.8 million total pounds of nitrogen were applied to the fields in 2004. The rate per application in the Program States was 24 pounds of phosphate per acre, with a total of 46.9 million pounds applied. Potash had the lowest coverage and smallest rate per application of all fertilizers reported. The rate per application of potash for the Program States was 9 pounds per acre, with 1.7 million total pounds applied to the fields.

None of the durum wheat growers reported any insecticides in this survey. Herbicides were applied to 99 percent of the durum wheat planted. Fenoxaprop was the most widely applied herbicide with 48 percent of the planted acreage being treated. It was applied at a rate of 0.05 pounds per acre per application; 67,000 total pounds were applied in the Program States. The next three most widely applied herbicides to durum wheat were glyphosate, MCPA, and 2,4-D. They were applied to 46, 45, and 36 percent, respectively, of the planted acreage. There were not enough reports available to publish any fungicide data.

States surveyed for other spring wheat included Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington. Nitrogen fertilizer was applied to 93 percent of the 2004 spring wheat planted acreage in the Program States. Spring wheat growers in the Program States applied nitrogen on average 2.0 times per acre, putting down 48 pounds of nitrogen per acre per treatment. Fertilizers with phosphate were applied to 79 percent of the planted acreage and 25 percent of the planted acreage received potash applications.

Spring wheat producers in the States surveyed treated 96 percent of their planted acreage with herbicides. MCPA was the most widely applied herbicide with 46 percent of the planted acreage being treated in the Program States. It was applied at a rate of 0.29 pounds per acre per application; a total of 1.845 million pounds of the active ingredient were applied in the Program States. The next four active ingredients that round off the top five used active ingredients were also herbicides. They were fenoxaprop, glyphosate, 2,4-D, and bromoxynil octanoate. The percentages of acres treated were 31, 23, 20, and 19 percent, respectively.

Insecticides were applied to only 2 percent of the other spring wheat acres planted in the Program States. No active ingredient was applied on more than 1 percent of the acres planted. Fungicides were applied to 20 percent of acres planted in the Program States. The most commonly used fungicide was tebuconazole, which was only applied to 12 percent of the acres planted in the Program States.

Winter wheat producers in the Program States (Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington) applied nitrogen fertilizer to 84 percent of the winter wheat planted acreage. The average number of nitrogen applications per acre was 2.0 with an average application rate of 44 pounds per acre; 2,733 million total pounds were applied. Phosphate was applied on 55 percent of the winter wheat planted acreage in the Program States; 934 million total pounds were applied. Potash was applied to 16 percent of the planted winter wheat acreage in the Program States.

In the Program States, 45 percent of the winter wheat planted acreage was treated with herbicides. The most widely used herbicides were metsulfuron-methyl, applied to 15 percent of the winter wheat acreage, followed by glyphosate and 2,4-D, both applied to 13 percent of the planted acreage in the States surveyed.

Insecticide applications were made to 7 percent of the winter wheat planted acres in 2004. Chlorpyrifos, the most widely used insecticide, was only applied to 3 percent of Program State acres planted. Fungicides were applied to 2 percent of Program State acreage. No active ingredients were applied to more than 1 percent of the total Program State acreage.

May Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 400,000 cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2005, down 60 percent from the previous year. Eleven percent of the 2005 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 30 percent last year at this time.

The 15 major potato States held 87.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2005, up 2 percent from last year and 5 percent above May 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 22 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year.

Disappearance of 316 million cwt from the start of harvest to May 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 29.0 million cwt, is up 5 percent from last year and 12 percent above the same date in 2003.

Processors have used 154 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below two years ago. April usage, at 17.8 million cwt, is 7 percent above last year and up 8 percent from two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing increased 3 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing decreased less than 1 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 31.4 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 62.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, up 6 percent from last year but less than 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 17 percent from last year, Colorado's potato sheds stored 7 percent more, and Washington's stocks increased 3 percent from last year. Montana's potato stocks are down 60 percent, Oregon's sheds hold 38 percent less than last year, and California's stocks decreased 29 percent from a year ago.

Central States accounted for 18.6 million cwt of potato stocks on May 1, down 12 percent from last year but 19 percent above two years ago. Michigan's potato stocks are down 27 percent, North Dakota's potato sheds stored 13 percent less than last year, and Minnesota's and Wisconsin's stocks both decreased 7 percent. Nebraska and Ohio's potato stocks combined decreased 24 percent from last year.

Eastern States stored 5.49 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, up 28 percent from last year and 29 percent above two years ago. Maine's potato sheds hold 24 percent more than last year. Pennsylvania and New York's stocks combined increased 95 percent from a year ago.

Hired Workers Down 10 Percent, Wage Rates Up 1 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 978,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 10-16, 2005, down 10 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 746,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 232,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.34 per hour during the April 2005 reference week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.55 per hour, up 8 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned $9.23 per hour compared with $8.95 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.73 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. In California, a weak El Nino weather pattern brought unseasonably cool temperatures and record rainfall to the southern half of the State from January through March, affecting quality and interrupting planting, harvesting, and crop development. The wet weather had the largest impact on vegetable crops and nursery and floriculture production, which kept the demand for hired workers well behind the previous year. Field work in Florida was hampered by wet soils in northern areas, and estimated citrus production was down considerably from 2004. These factors combined to reduce the need for hired workers. In the Mountain II region, heavy snowfall and rains in Colorado slowed field activities, so fewer workers were required. The cool, wet spring and below normal soil temperatures in the Northeast II region delayed planting of field and vegetable crops and slowed the development of hay and pastures. Thus, the demand for hired workers was lower. In the Northern Plains region, wet conditions limited field activities and lessened the need for hired workers.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. Ideal weather conditions in the Southern Plains region allowed land preparation and planting to progress rapidly, increasing the need for field workers. In the Delta region, Louisiana's warm, dry weather more than offset the wet conditions experienced in Arkansas and Mississippi, which led to greater demand for hired workers. In the Mountain III region, continued expansion in the dairy, vegetable, nursery, and greenhouse industries necessitated more hired workers. Strong demand from vegetable, tobacco, and Christmas tree operations in the Appalachian I region kept worker numbers above last year.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains, Mountain III, Northern Plains, and Florida regions. The higher wages in the Southern Plains were due to a larger concentration of full time workers. In the Mountain III and Florida regions, wages were up due to a higher percentage of skilled vegetable, nursery, and greenhouse workers. Wages in the Northern Plains region were higher because of more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed their hourly wage higher.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., April 11-17, 2004 & April 10-16, 2005 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	9.47	9.01	8.81	8.51	9.18	8.83	10.35	9.47
Northeast II	8.68	9.24	8.87	8.62	8.73	9.05	9.25	9.65
Appalachian I	8.01	8.38	8.38	8.85	8.14	8.50	8.82	9.07
Appalachian II	8.48	8.38	8.62	7.69	8.55	8.08	9.06	8.59
Southeast	7.88	8.41	8.71	8.30	8.12	8.38	8.42	8.83
FL	7.85	8.20	8.60	9.90	7.94	8.37	8.79	9.31
Lake	9.20	8.99	9.95	10.05	9.60	9.45	10.10	9.95
Cornbelt I	9.04	8.84	8.87	9.17	9.00	8.91	9.74	9.51
Cornbelt II	9.04	8.85	9.03	9.27	9.04	9.06	9.48	9.38
Delta	7.75	7.37	7.47	7.18	7.70	7.34	7.86	7.64
Northern Plains	8.87	9.33	8.51	9.69	8.73	9.46	8.95	9.70
Southern Plains	7.50	8.13	7.93	9.15	7.62	8.53	8.13	9.28
Mountain I	8.14	7.89	8.41	8.49	8.31	8.23	8.57	8.43
Mountain II	9.66	7.70	8.83	8.41	9.29	8.02	9.84	8.50
Mountain III	7.55	7.95	8.20	9.40	7.81	8.51	8.37	9.18
Pacific	9.02	8.87	10.16	10.78	9.16	9.23	9.91	9.95
CA	8.42	8.59	9.83	10.34	8.56	8.82	9.30	9.48
HI 3/	9.51	9.67			9.66	9.79	11.26	11.33
US 4/	8.47	8.55	8.95	9.23	8.59	8.73	9.23	9.34

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

April Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.39 billion during April 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.29 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 63 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2005 averaged 344 million, up slightly from a year earlier. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,148 eggs, unchanged from April 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2005, totaled 343 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2005, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 2 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2005 totaled 38.3 million, up 2 percent from April 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.9 million on May 1, 2005, up 8 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 308,000 during April 2005, down 10 percent from April 2004.

Broiler Hatch Up 2 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2005 totaled 790 million, up 2 percent from April 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 663 million on May 1, 2005, up slightly from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.80 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2005, up 6 percent from April 2004.

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 05-09 Released: May 12, 2005

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Meat Animals PDI
- Milk PDI
- Poultry PDI
- Ag Prices

May 1 Crop Production and Hay Stocks

Based on May 1 conditions, **Montana winter wheat** producers are expecting a yield of 41 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's final yield. If realized, the total production of 84.1 million bushels would be up 26 percent from last year's 66.8 million bushels due to higher harvested acreage. In the fall of 2004, Montana producers seeded 2.15 million acres of winter wheat, up 250,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 2.05 million acres, up 420,000 acres from last year.

As of May 8th, Montana's winter wheat crop was rated significantly better than a year ago with 1% very poor, 5% poor, 27% fair, 58% good, and 9% excellent compared with 15% very poor, 26% poor, 39% fair, 17% good, and 3% excellent a year ago. The mild spring conditions in April helped the winter wheat break dormancy ahead of normal. The moisture received this spring has been beneficial for crop development as 3 percent of the acreage has reached the boot stage compared with the normal of 1 percent. Concerns over low temperatures at the end of April into May as well as reports of infestations of Russian wheat aphids, brown mites, and army cutworms could impact yield potential and harvested acreage.

On May 1, Montana **hay** producers had an estimated 860,000 tons of hay on hand, 70,000 tons more than they had on hand a year ago. Hay production for 2004 was 4.8 million tons, 3 percent larger than the 2003 crop. Disappearance from December 2004 to May 1, 2005 totaled 3.57 million tons, up 12 percent from the same period a year earlier.

United States winter wheat production is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 2004. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.4 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season.

Hard Red production is up 18 percent from a year ago to 1.01 billion bushels. Soft Red is down 21 percent and totals 302 million bushels. White production totals 283 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 31.2 million bushels are Hard White and 251 million bushels are Soft White. This is the first year that production levels for Hard White and Soft White are available; therefore, there are no previous year comparisons.

All hay stored in the United States on farms May 1, 2005 totaled 27.7 million tons, up 7 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2004 - May 1, 2005, totaled 86.6 million tons, 2 percent greater than the disappearance of 85.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Twenty-six of the 48 reporting States had higher hay stocks than a year ago. Many of the States reporting an increase in stocks were located in the northern Great Plains and the central Corn Belt. The increase in hay stocks from May 2004 in some areas can be attributed to higher hay production during 2004, mild winter conditions, and sufficient early season pasture growth, reducing the need for supplemental feeding.

Winter Wheat: Acreage, Yield, & Production, by Selected States & U.S. 2004 & Forecast May 1, 2005

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	1,700	2,450	27.0	35.0	45,900	85,750
ID	700	730	90.0	90.0	63,000	65,700
KS	8,500	9,600	37.0	44.0	314,500	422,400
MT	1,630	2,050	41.0	41.0	66,830	84,050
NE	1,650	1,700	37.0	45.0	61,050	76,500
OK	4,700	4,300	35.0	34.0	164,500	146,200
OR	780	840	61.0	55.0	47,580	46,200
SD	1,250	1,400	45.0	45.0	56,250	63,000
TX	3,500	3,500	31.0	30.0	108,500	105,000
US	34,462	35,069	43.5	45.4	1,499,434	1,590,862

2004 Meat Animals Production Disposition and Income

Cash receipts from the 2004 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled $1.2 billion, up 15 percent from 2003. This is the second straight year that the cash receipts from the marketing of cattle, sheep, and hogs has exceeded one billion dollars for the State. Cash receipts for all three livestock classes were up from the previous year due to higher prices received.

Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves during 2004 were up 15 percent from 2003 to a new record high of $1.1 billion. This is the first time that cattle and calf cash receipts have exceeded one billion dollars. The previous record high was in 2000 when cash receipts totaled $967.5 million. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.32 million head, were down 1 percent from 2003. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased 7 percent from the previous year to 285,000 head. The average price received in 2004 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs increased $8.80 per cwt to $91.00 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased $19.00 per cwt to $125.00 per cwt. The January 1, 2005 value of cattle and calf inventory was $2.5 billion, up 11 percent from 2004.

Cash receipts from the sale of hogs in Montana jumped 29 percent from 2003 to $38.8 million. Marketings of hogs and pigs dropped 8 percent from the previous year to 317,500 head. The average prices received for hogs increased $12.60 from 2003 to $52.30 per cwt. The value of the hog and pig inventory on December 1, 2004 was $18.2 million, up 55 percent from last year.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in Montana were up 4 percent from the previous year to $23.3 million. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2004 were 48,000 and 194,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were up 6,000 head from last year, but lamb marketings were down 24,000 head. The average price for lambs rose $9.00 to $112.00 per cwt and sheep were $4.70 above last year at $39.50 per cwt. The January 1, 2005 sheep and lamb inventory value was $39.7 million, up 10 percent from 2004.

In the U.S., the 2004 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs totaled $62.6 billion, up 11 percent from 2003. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 5 percent, hogs and pigs increased 35 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 3 percent.

Total 2004 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 11 percent to $62.2 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production decreased for all cattle and calves and sheep and lambs, but increased for hogs and pigs. Average prices were up for all three species.

Cash receipts in the United States from the marketings of cattle and calves increased from $45.1 billion in 2003 to $47.3 billion in 2004, a 5 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 53.8 billion pounds in 2004, down 5 percent from 2003. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $85.90, an increase of $6.20 from 2003. For calves, the annual average price increased $17.00 to $119.00.

U.S. cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $14.3 billion during 2004, up 35 percent from 2003. Marketings totaled 27.8 billion pounds in 2004, up 2 percent from 2003. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from $37.20 in 2003 to $49.30 in 2004.

Cash receipts in the United States from the marketings of sheep and lambs in 2004 were $521 million, up 3 percent from 2003. Marketings decreased 6 percent to 572 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from $34.90 in 2003 to $38.80 in 2004, while for lambs, the annual average price increased from $94.40 to $101.00.

2004 Milk Production, Disposition and Income

Montana's dairies produced 347 million pounds of milk in 2004, up slightly from 2003. There was an average of 18,000 milk cows on farms and ranches during the year, unchanged from the previous year. The average number of pounds produced per cow in 2004 was 19,278 pounds, 111 pounds more than 2003.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were $53.2 million dollars, up 26 percent from 2003. Producers received an average of $15.50 per cwt, an increase of $3.10 per cwt from last year. Total marketings of milk, at 343 million pounds, were up 1 percent from a year ago. A total of 4 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 2 million pounds of which were fed to calves and 2 million pounds consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 0.2 percent in 2004 to 170.8 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 18,957 pounds, was 197 pounds above 2003. The annual average number of milk cows on farms, at 9.01 million head, was 73,000 head less than 2003.

U.S. cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2004 totaled $27.4 billion, 29 percent above 2003. Producer returns averaged $16.13 per cwt, 29 percent above 2003. Marketings totaled 170 billion pounds, 0.2 percent above 2003. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.11 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1.3 percent less than 2003. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

2004 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 2004 was $5.9 million, up 1 percent from last year. Egg production in 2004 totaled 107 million eggs, unchanged from the previous year. The average price for eggs was $0.657 per dozen, up slightly from 2003.

For the United States, the combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2004, was $28.9 billion, up 24 percent from the $23.3 billion in 2003. Of the combined total, 71 percent was from broilers, 18 percent from eggs, 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2004 was $20.4 billion, up 34 percent from 2003. The total number of broilers produced in 2004 was 8.74 billion, up 3 percent from 2003. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2004 was 45.8 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2003. The 2004 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 44.6 cents per pound, compared with 34.6 cents in 2003.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2004 was $58.0 million, up 21 percent from the $47.8 million a year ago. Prices averaged 5.8 cents per pound, compared with 4.9 cents in 2003. The number of chickens sold in 2004 totaled 192 million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

Value of all egg production in 2004 was $5.30 billion, down 1 percent from the $5.33 billion in 2003. Egg production totaled 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 87.5 billion eggs produced in 2003. In 2004, all eggs averaged 71.4 cents per dozen, compared with 73.2 cents in 2003.

Agricultural Prices Received for March 2005

March 2005 full month crop prices were mixed when compared with the previous month. When comparing March 2005 prices with February 2005, winter wheat was $3.34 per bushel, down $0.05; the spring wheat price decreased $0.05 to $3.72 per bushel; but the durum wheat price increased $0.18 to $3.94 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose $0.05 to $1.66 per bushel, and malt barley prices increased $0.07 to $3.20 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay dropped $1.00 to $75.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $2.00 to $67.00 per ton. Mid-April grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat at $3.43 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.54 per bushel; durum wheat was $4.00 per bushel; feed barley was $1.65 per bushel; and malt barley was $3.30 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mixed when compared with the previous month. March 2005 price comparisons with February 2005 are as follows: the steer and heifer price increased $1.00 to $107.00 per cwt; cows increased $3.10 per cwt to $57.50; calves were up $4.00 to $131.00 per cwt; sheep prices were down $0.50 to $52.40 per cwt; lamb prices dropped $7.00 to $125.00 per cwt; and milk decreased $1.30 to $14.70 per cwt. The mid-April steer and heifer price was $106.00 per cwt; cows were $58.60 per cwt; calves were $132.00 per cwt; and milk prices were $15.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was $3.32, up $0.05; spring wheat was $3.51, up $0.01; durum wheat was $3.67, down $0.04; the all barley price was $2.46, up $0.09; steer and heifer prices were $95.50, up $2.20 per cwt; beef cattle were $91.30, up $2.30 per cwt; calves were $135.00, up $7.00 per cwt; sheep were $48.20, down $3.10; lambs were $114.00, unchanged from February and all milk was $15.60, up $0.10 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was $3.12 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.41 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.66 per bushel; all wheat was $3.27 per bushel; malt barley was $2.80 per bushel; and feed barley was $1.76 per bushel. The steer and heifer price was $95.60 per cwt; cow prices were $57.10 per cwt; all beef cattle were $91.60 per cwt; calves were $139.00 per cwt; all hog prices were $50.20 per cwt; and all egg prices were $0.469 per dozen.

The preliminary April All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers, at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point (0.8 percent) above the March Index, but down 5 points (4.0 percent) from April 2004.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	March 2004	April 2004	March 2005	April 2005
Prices Received	121	125	119	120
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	132	133	139	140
Ratio 2/	92	94	86	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		March 2004	February 2005	March 2005	March 2005	February 2005	March 2004	April 15, 2005	April 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.39	3.14	3.32	-0.05	-0.31	3.43	3.12
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.11	3.76	3.94	3.67	+0.18	-0.17	4.00	3.66
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.97	3.77	3.72	3.51	-0.05	-0.25	3.54	3.41
All Wheat	Bu.	3.89	3.61	3.57	3.41	-0.04	-0.32	3.54	3.27
Barley, All	Bu.	3.00	2.77	2.72	2.46	-0.05	-0.28	2.79	2.48
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.15	1.61	1.66	1.68	+0.05	-0.49	1.65	1.76
Malt Barley	Bu.	NA	3.13	3.20	2.74	+0.07	NA	3.30	2.80
Oats	Bu.	1.63	NA	NA	1.74	NA	NA	NA	1.57
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	73.00	74.00	76.00	96.40	+2.00	+3.00	75.00	103.00
All Other Hay	Ton	65.00	66.00	69.00	70.40	+3.00	+4.00	67.00	75.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	71.00	72.00	74.00	89.10	+2.00	+3.00	73.00	96.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	96.00	106.00	107.00	95.50	+1.00	+11.00	106.00	95.60
Cows	Cwt	48.60	54.40	57.50	55.00	+3.10	+8.90	58.60	57.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	86.00	93.60	89.70	91.30	-3.90	+3.70	87.00	91.60
Calves	Cwt	114.00	127.00	131.00	135.00	+4.00	+17.00	132.00	139.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	32.90	52.90	52.40	48.20	-0.50	+19.50	NA	NA
Lambs 2/	Cwt	121.00	132.00	125.00	114.00	-7.00	+4.00	NA	NA
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	16.00	14.70	15.60	-1.30	+1.10	15.70	15.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

U.S. Agricultural Trade 1/, Fiscal Years, Calendar Years, Year-to-date, and Current Month

	Fiscal years 2/				Fiscal year-to-date		March
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005
	Billion dollars						
Agricultural exports	52.698	53.291	55.987	62.297	34.571	32.943	5.504
Agricultural imports 3/	39.027	40.954	45.686	52.701	25.814	28.474	5.306
Trade balance 4/	13.671	12.338	10.301	9.596	8.757	4.468	0.198

	Calendar years				Calendar year-to-date		March
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005
	Billion dollars						
Agricultural exports	53.659	53.115	59.364	61.309	16.236	15.597	5.504
Agricultural imports 3/	39.366	41.909	47.376	54.019	13.156	14.498	5.306
Trade balance 4/	14.293	11.205	11.988	7.290	3.081	1.099	0.198

1/ USDA defines agriculture to include: live animals, meat, and products of livestock, poultry, and dairy; hides and skins (but not leather products); animal fats and greases; food and feed grains and grain products; oilseeds and oilseed products; fruits, nuts, and vegetables and products of these; juices, wine, and malt beverages (not distilled spirits); essential oils; planting seeds; raw cotton, wool, and other fibers (not manufactured products of these); unmanufactured tobacco (not manufactured tobacco products); sugar and sugar products; coffee, cocoa, tea, and products of these; rubber and allied products; and stock for nurseries and greenhouses, spices, and crude or natural drugs. Fish, shellfish, and forestry products are not included in "agriculture."
2/ October 1 of previous year through September 30 of current year.
3/ Customs value.
4/ Exports minus imports.
Data are not seasonally adjusted.
Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, using data summed from the Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Ag Chemical Use
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Cattle & Beef Cow County Estimates
Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Specialty Crops County Estimates
Potato Stocks
Montana's Rank
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production

Specialty Crop County Estimates for 2004

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service released county estimates for the 2004 pulse crops and oilseeds. This is the sixth year of the data series. County-level data are not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

All dry bean production for 2004 totaled 285,000 cwt. The South Central district produced the greatest at 107,000 cwt, followed by the Northeast district with 80,000 cwt and the Southeast district at 71,000 cwt. **Pinto bean** production during 2004 was 252,000 cwt for the State. Carbon County had the highest pinto bean production with 60,000 cwt. The second and third leading counties were Yellowstone and Prairie with 38,000 cwt. and 36,000 cwt, respectively. The South Central district produced the largest crop of pinto beans at 107,000 cwt, followed by the Southeast district with 71,000 cwt. As for **garbanzo beans**, county-level data was not published to avoid disclosure of individual information. Total garbanzo bean production totaled 33,000 cwt, of which the Northeast district produced 26,000 cwt.

Sheridan was the number one **lentil** producing county again in 2004, with 505,000 cwt harvested. The number two county was Daniels with total production of 177,000 cwt., and third was Roosevelt County with 123,000 cwt. Growers from the Northeast district produced 91 percent of the State's lentils. **Dry edible pea** estimates indicate that Valley County was the largest producer in 2004 with 314,000 cwt grown, followed by Sheridan County at 220,000 cwt, and Roosevelt County at 217,000 cwt. Northeast district farmers produced 76 percent of the State's dry peas. Liberty was the leading county in **Austrian winter pea** production during 2004 with 17,000 cwt and Richland County was second with 3,200 cwt. produced. The North Central district produced 54 percent of the State's Austrian winter peas in 2004.

Daniels was by far the largest **canola** producing county in 2004 with 7.6 million pounds, or 32 percent of the State's canola harvest. The second largest county was Pondera with 4.5 million pounds produced, followed by Sheridan County with 2.1 million pounds. The Northeast district produced 57 percent of the crop. Richland was the number one **safflower** producing county with 5.5 million pounds. The next leading county was Dawson at 3.2 million pounds, followed by Roosevelt's production of 2.6 million pounds. Seventy-five percent of the State's safflower was produced in the Northeast district.

Sheridan led the State in **flaxseed** production for 2004 with 148,000 bushels. The next largest county was Valley with 104,000 bushels, followed by Roosevelt County at 15,000 bushels. Ninety-six percent of the State's flaxseed was produced in the Northeast district. Montana's total **sunflower** production was 4.4 million pounds in 2004. The Northeast district accounted for 4.0 million pounds. Data for the other districts was combined to avoid disclosing individual information. Valley County led the State in **mustard seed** production with 2.6 million pounds. Ninety-four percent of Montana's mustard seed was produced in the Northeast district.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted and harvested acres by county, district, and State levels are now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They are available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2004. Thanks to those who participated!

April 1, 2005 Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 2.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2005, down 13 percent from the previous year. Fifty-six percent of the 2004 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 69 percent in 2004.

The 15 major potato States held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2005, up 3 percent from both last year and April 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 32 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year.

Disappearance of 274 million cwt from the start of harvest to April 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 26.8 million cwt, is up 6 percent from last year and 11 percent above the same date in 2003.

(continued on page two)

April 1, 2005 Potato Stocks

(continued from front page)

Processors have used 136 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. March usage, at 16.6 million cwt, is 3 percent below last year and down 8 percent from two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased 3 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processing decreased 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 27.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 91.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 6 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's and Colorado's potato stocks are both up 13 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 2 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 26 percent, Montana's sheds hold 13 percent less than last year, and California's stocks decreased 10 percent from a year ago.

March 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2005, down 8 percent from March 2004 and 4 percent below February 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,147 pounds, increased 8 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 239 pounds, dropped 11 pounds from last year. March sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up 100 head from March 2004. The average live weight dropped 12 pounds to 124 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in March 2004.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 5 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,238 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 6 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,900 head, down 11 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was 20 pounds above last year, at 328 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 1 percent below March 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.5 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 280,300 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2005 commercial red meat production was 11.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on April 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above April 1, 2004 and 1 percent above April 1, 2003. The inventory included 6.99 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.80 million head, down 6 percent from 2004.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.76 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 13 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of March since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.69 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 299,000, 600-699 pounds were 320,000, 700-799 pounds were 614,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 527,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, up slightly from 2004 and 9 percent above 2003. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during March, 3 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003.

March Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.73 billion during March 2005, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 63 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2005 averaged 347 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,225 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2005, totaled 345 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 345 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2005, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 40.0 million, up 6 percent from March 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.1 million on April 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 314,000 during March 2005, down 22 percent from March 2004.

The March 2005 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 816 million, was up 3 percent from March of the previous year. There were 658 million eggs in incubators on April 1, 2005, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.08 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2005, up 4 percent from March 2004.

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	60,100,000	acres	2004	2	6.4
Number of farms and ranches	28,000	farms/ranches	2004	30	1.3
Average Farm Size	2,146	acres	2004	4	N/A
Income from cash receipts, excluding government payments:					
Total	1,892,144	thousand dollars	2003	34	0.9
Crops	786,878	thousand dollars	2003	31	0.7
Livestock	1,105,266	thousand dollars	2003	30	1.0
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,350,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	12	2.5
All Cows	1,450,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	9	3.4
Beef Cows	1,432,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	7	4.3
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	39	0.2
Cattle on Feed	60,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	23	0.4
All Sheep and Lambs	305,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	6	5.0
Breeding Sheep	280,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	5	6.2
Hogs and Pigs	165,000	head	Dec. 1, 2004	26	0.3
All Chickens	480,000	birds	Dec. 1, 2004	38	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,520,000	head	2004	7	4.0
Lamb Crop	270,000	head	2004	4	6.6
Pig Crop	310,000	head	2004	29	0.3
Wool Production	2,472,000	pounds	2004	6	6.6
Egg Production	107,000,000	eggs	2004	38	0.1
Honey Production	10,780,000	pounds	2004	5	5.9
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	173,165,000	bushels	2004	3	8.0
Winter Wheat	66,830,000	bushels	2004	5	4.5
Durum Wheat	17,985,000	bushels	2004	2	20.0
Other Spring Wheat	88,350,000	bushels	2004	3	15.5
Barley	48,970,000	bushels	2004	3	17.5
Oats	2,400,000	bushels	2004	14	2.1
All Hay	4,760,000	tons	2004	14	3.0
Alfalfa Hay	3,220,000	tons	2004	9	4.3
Dry Beans, All	285,000	cwt	2004	10	1.6
Pinto Beans	252,000	cwt	2004	6	3.2
Garbanzo Beans, All	33,000	cwt	2004	7	5.6
Lentils	1,008,000	cwt	2004	3	24.1
Dry Edible Peas	1,266,000	cwt	2004	3	11.1
Austrian Winter Peas	72,000	cwt	2004	2	27.3
Potatoes--fall	3,551,000	cwt	2004	16	0.8
Sugar Beets	1,131,000	tons	2004	6	3.8
Flaxseed	342,000	bushels	2004	2	3.3
Corn for Grain	2,145,000	bushels	2004	40	1/
Corn for Silage	1,122,000	tons	2004	25	1.0

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

March U.S. Milk Production Up 3.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 13.8 billion pounds, up 3.1 percent from March 2004. February revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was down 0.5 percent from February 2004. However, production was up 3.1 percent on a per day basis after adjusting for the leap year. The February revision represented an increase of 30 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,704 pounds for March, 43 pounds above March 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.10 million head, 38,000 head more than March 2004, and 21,000 head more than February 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 43.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.00 million head, 2,000 head more than the same period last year.

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Issue: 05-06 (0279-0394) Released: March 28, 2005

HIGHLIGHTS:

Montana Grain Movement
2004 Red Meat Production
2004 Sweet Cherry Production
February Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Structure & Characteristics of US Farms - ERS

Montana Grain Movement

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations during June 2004 through November 2004 was 55.8 million bushels, which was up 7% from the previous year.

Over 84% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 47 million bushels, up 14% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations during this period have totaled 4.6 million bushels, up 4% from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 4.3 million bushels, down from 6.8 million bushels a year ago.

Wheat shipped by rail, amounted to 53.4 million bushels, 96% of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 2.4 million bushels compared with 3.3 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 4% of the total, which was down 2 percentage points from the previous year.

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June 2004 to November 2004 period was 7.2 million bushels, up 14% from the same period last year.

Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for western destinations were down 53% from the same period last year, at 1.3 million bushels. Shipments to eastern destinations rose from 3.3 million bushels last year to 5.2 million bushels this year. While shipments to other destinations went up from 0.3 million bushels last year to 0.7 million bushels this year.

2004 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 15.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2004, compared with 16.0 million pounds in 2003, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 18,600 cattle slaughtered during 2004, down 2 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 21.3 million pounds was down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 9 pounds to 1,150 pounds.

There were 14,600 hogs slaughtered in Montana, down 3 percent from 2003. Total live weight at 3.4 million pounds was down 3 percent from last year. The average live weight was 235 pounds per head compared with 234 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,700 head, unchanged from 2003. The average live weight at 122 pounds was 4 pounds lighter than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2004 decreased 1 percent from 2003 to 456,000 pounds.

The number of federally inspected slaughter plants in Montana on January 1, 2005 was 9, down 1 plant from 2004. There were 141 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2005, down 1 from the same date a year ago. (Continued on next page.)

Wheat and Barley Shipments out of Montana from June through November, 2003-2004 1/

	Barley		Durum Wheat		Hard White Wheat		Soft White Wheat		Spring Wheat		Winter Wheat		Total Wheat	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	(000 Bushels													
Shipments By Truck														
West	210	374	2	0	24	13	26	19	950	772	1,520	1,113	2,522	1,917
East	60	129	188	68	0	4	4	1	18	13	34	5	244	91
Other & Unknown	287	153	52	0	0	0	0	0	222	142	309	274	583	416
Total Shipments	557	656	242	68	24	17	30	20	1,190	927	1,863	1,392	3,349	2,424
Shipments By Rail														
West	2,496	906	172	139	19	41	0	0	25,658	26,975	12,774	17,876	38,623	45,031
East	3,203	5,056	3,769	4,058	3	0	0	0	426	473	17	0	4,215	4,531
Other & Unknown	58	579	1,738	1,113	0	24	0	0	2,773	1,779	1,711	929	6,222	3,845
Total Shipments	5,757	6,541	5,679	5,310	22	65	0	0	28,857	29,227	14,502	18,805	49,060	53,407
Total by Rail & Truck	6,314	7,197	5,921	5,378	46	82	30	20	30,047	30,154	16,365	20,197	52,409	55,831

1/ Data is reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers and is expanded to represent 100% of elevator capacity.

2004 Red Meat Production
(continued from front page)

Red meat production for the United States totaled 45.6 billion pounds in 2004, 2 percent below last year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.4 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 136 million pounds. Beef production, at 24.7 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Veal production totaled 176 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year, and set a new record low. Pork production, at 20.5 billion pounds, was 3 percent above last year, setting a new record high. Lamb and mutton production totaled 199 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2004 totaled 32.7 million head, down 8 percent from 2003, with federal inspection comprising 98.2 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,240 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 50.4 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.2 percent, dairy cows 7.3 percent, other cows 8.4 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 842,400 head, down 16 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 330 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 103 million head, up 3 percent from 2003 with 98.9 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 267 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.84 million head, was down 5 percent from 2003 with 94.3 percent federally inspected. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2003 to 136 pounds.

There were 825 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2005 compared with 855 last year. Of these, 689 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2004 with 13 slaughtering almost 52 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 664 plants, with 13 accounting for slightly over 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 13 of the 234 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 83 percent of the total and 4 of the 500 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2004 comprised about 60 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for almost 52 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2004, similar to 2003.

2004 Sweet Cherry Production

Montana sweet cherry producers harvested a total of 2,360 tons in 2004, 15 percent more than the 2003 production of 2,060 tons and slightly higher than the 2,350 tons produced in 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Utilization of the 2004 crop was 2,220 tons, 20 percent higher than the 1,850 tons utilized in 2003 and equal to the 2002 utilization. The value of production for 2004 was $4.5 million compared with the 2003 value of $3.2 million. The average price received for cherries during 2004 was $2,020 per ton compared with $1,710 in 2003.

Sweet cherry producers in the United States harvested 282,060 tons in 2004, up 15 percent from the 2003 total of 245,700 tons and 56 percent higher than the 2002 crop of 181,355 tons. Producers utilized 278,160 tons in 2004, 14 percent higher than the 243,580 tons utilized in 2003 and 57 percent more than the 2002 total of 177,305 tons utilized. Value of production for the 2004 crop totaled $435.7 million, which is 27 percent higher than the 2003 total of $342.1 million. The price per ton averaged $1,570 in 2004 compared with $1,410 in 2003.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 2005, up 3 percent from last month, but down 2 percent from February of 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, down 7 percent from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,143 pounds decreased 7 pounds from last year.

During February 1,100 hogs were slaughtered, down from 1,200 head a year ago. The average live weight of 240 pounds was down 1 pound from last year. February sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, down 100 head from February 2004. The average live weight dropped 7 pounds from last year to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.42 billion pounds in February, up 1 percent from the 3.40 billion pounds produced in February 2004.

Beef production, at 1.77 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.34 million head, down 4 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.1 million pounds, 16 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,900 head, down 13 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was 8 pounds below last year, at 328 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, 3 percent above February 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.2 million pounds, was up 3 percent from February 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 215,000 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 1 pound from February a year ago.

January to February 2005 commercial red meat production was 7.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 17 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

February Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 12.2 billion pounds, down 0.7 percent from February 2004. However, production was 2.8 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year. January revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 1.5 percent from January 2004. The January revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 29 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,516 pounds for February, 15 pounds below February 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.07 million head, 23,000 head more than February 2004, but 9,000 head less than January 2005.

U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2004 and 6 percent above March 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, 6 percent below 2004 and 8 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.45 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 277,000, 600-699 pounds were 308,000, 700-799 pounds were 526,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 412,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.63 million, 4 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 76,000 during February, 10 percent above 2004 and 7 percent above 2003.

March Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 3.2 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2005, up 14 percent from the previous year. Ninety percent of the 2004 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 168 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2005, up 1 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 42 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year.

Disappearance of 235 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 24.6 million cwt, is up 9 percent from last year and 10 percent above the same date in 2003.

Processors used 119 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. February usage, at 18.4 million cwt, is 2 percent below both last year and two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased 2 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processing decreased 1 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 23.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 15 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 118 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, up 4 percent from last year but 2 percent below two years ago. Montana's potato stocks are up 14 percent from last year, Idaho's storages hold 10 percent more, and Colorado's potato sheds stored 4 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 18 percent and Washington's sheds hold 2 percent less than last year. California's stocks are unchanged from a year ago.

February Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 6.91 billion during February 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 5.90 billion table eggs, and 1.01 billion hatching eggs, of which 956 million were broiler-type and 58 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2005 averaged 349 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,980 eggs, down 3 percent from February 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2005, totaled 349 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2005, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February totaled 32.9 million, up 3 percent from February 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.7 million on March 1, 2005, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 208,000 during February 2005, down 27 percent from February 2004.

The February 2005 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 731 million, was up slightly from February of the previous year. There were 659 million eggs in incubators on March 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.21 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2005, down 2 percent from February 2004.

Structure and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms - ERS

Most farms in the U.S. are family farms (97 percent in 2001). Even the largest farms tend to be family farms. For example, 86 percent of the farms with sales of $1 million or more in 2001 were family farms.

Small family farms (sales less than $250,000) accounted for 90 percent of the farms in the U.S. but produced a modest share (28 percent) of farm output in 2001. Large (sales of $250,000 to $499,999) and very large family farms (sales of $500,000 or more) accounted for only 7 percent of farms but 58 percent of the value of production in 2001. Nonfamily farms accounted for another 3 percent of farms and 14 percent of the value of production.

Small farms made higher proportionate contributions to the production of specific commodities, including oats, tobacco, hay, wheat, soybeans, corn and beef cattle. Small farms also held about 68 percent of all farm assets, including 60 percent of the land owned by farms. As custodians of the bulk of farm assets—including land—small farms have a large role in natural resource and environmental policy.

In 2001, three-fourths of commodity-related payments went to high-sales small farms (sales of $100,000 to $250,000), large family farms, and very large family farms. In contrast, over 50 percent of payments from the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve Programs went to retirement and residential/lifestyle farms.

In general, farm households are not a low-income group. Farm household income has been at or above the average for all U.S. households in recent years but varies substantially across households. Household income averaged $64,500 for farm operators in 2001, 11 percent higher than the average for all U.S. households. Even though farm household income averages more than all U.S. households, farm households received most of their income (91 percent) from off-farm sources.

Operators of residential/lifestyle farms, large family farms, and very large family farms had average incomes well above the average for all U.S. households. Operators in the limited-resource, retirement, and low-sales groups had average incomes that were below the national average.

The report relies extensively on data from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) conducted by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The full report, "Structural and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms: 2004 Family Farm Report," can be found can be found under the Economic Research Service website at www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AIB797/.

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Issue: 05-05 (0279-0394) Released: March 8, 2005

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sheep & Lamb Losses
- All Wheat County Estimates
- Ag Prices Received
- Honey Production
- Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production

2004 Sheep & Lamb Losses

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 44,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2004, representing a total value of $3.8 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost decreased 14,000 head from last year and the total value of inventory lost was almost 17 percent lower than a year ago. The January 1, 2004 inventory is 3 percent lower than the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 7.5 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born, down 2 percentage points from last year.

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 13,700 head, down 4,000 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 10,800 head, down 22 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 2,900, down 1,000 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated $1.1 million in losses in 2004, down from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.3 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 31 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 67 percent of the predator caused losses and 21 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $0.7 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.3 million in 2004, compared with $2.6 million in 2003. Non-predatory losses accounted for 59 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses were diseases at 9,800 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 8,900 head, 14 percent lower than 2003. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 17,100 head, 5,600 head lower than a year ago.

Producers reported less sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. This resulted in a 41 percent decrease in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 3,100 head, compared with 4,500 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 1,200 sheep, 1,600 head less than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes decreased to $0.4 million.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Death Losses by Cause, Montana, 2003-2004

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Predators												
Fox	--	--	--	--	1,000	700	61.8	47.0	1,000	700	61.8	47.0
Dog	600	400	70.2	52.0	400	300	24.7	20.2	1,000	700	94.9	72.2
Coyote	2,100	1,500	245.7	195.0	9,700	7,700	599.5	517.4	11,800	9,200	845.2	712.4
Eagle	100	--	11.7	--	1,100	700	68.0	47.0	1,200	700	79.7	47.0
Bobcat	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bear	300	500	35.1	65.0	500	400	30.9	26.9	800	900	66.0	91.9
Mountain Lion	100	--	11.7	--	300	500	18.5	33.6	400	500	30.2	33.6
Wolf	300	300	35.1	39.0	200	200	12.4	13.4	500	500	47.5	52.4
Other Animals	--	--	--	--	100	100	6.2	6.7	100	100	6.2	6.7
Unknown Predators	400	200	46.8	26.0	500	200	30.9	13.4	900	400	77.7	39.4
Total Predators	**3,900**	**2,900**	**456.3**	**377.0**	**13,800**	**10,800**	**852.9**	**725.6**	**17,700**	**13,700**	**1,309.2**	**1,102.6**
Non-Predators												
Digestive	4/	500	4/	65.0	4/	2,400	4/	161.3	4/	2,900	4/	226.3
Respiratory	4/	800	4/	104.0	4/	3,800	4/	255.4	4/	4,600	4/	359.4
Metabolic	4/	300	4/	39.0	4/	600	4/	40.3	4/	900	4/	79.3
Other Diseases	4/	900	4/	117.0	4/	500	4/	33.6	4/	1,400	4/	150.6
Total All Diseases	**2,100**	**2,500**	**245.7**	**325.0**	**6,100**	**7,300**	**377.0**	**490.6**	**8,200**	**9,800**	**622.7**	**815.6**
Weather Conditions	600	500	70.2	65.0	5,700	4,900	352.3	329.3	6,300	5,400	422.5	394.3
Poison	600	500	70.2	65.0	500	400	30.9	26.9	1,100	900	101.1	91.9
Lambing Complications	1,400	1,300	163.8	169.0	7,200	3,500	445.0	235.2	8,600	4,800	608.8	404.2
On Back	800	400	93.6	52.0	100	100	6.2	6.7	900	500	99.8	58.7
Old Age	3,700	3,400	432.9	442.0					3,700	3,400	432.9	442.0
Theft	700	--	81.9	--	800	--	49.4	--	1,500	--	131.3	--
Other	400	300	46.8	39.0	2,300	900	142.1	60.5	2,700	1,200	188.9	99.5
Total Non-Predators	**10,300**	**8,900**	**1,205.1**	**1,157.0**	**22,700**	**17,100**	**1,402.9**	**1,149.2**	**33,000**	**26,000**	**2,608.0**	**2,306.2**
Unknown Causes	**2,800**	**1,200**	**327.6**	**156.0**	**4,500**	**3,100**	**278.1**	**208.3**	**7,300**	**4,300**	**605.7**	**364.3**
Total Loss	**17,000**	**13,000**	**1,989.0**	**1,690.0**	**41,000**	**31,000**	**2,533.9**	**2,083.1**	**58,000**	**44,000**	**4,522.9**	**3,773.1**

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 4/ Not available. – Denotes less than 100 head.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2004

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Pro-duction Bu.
					Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	20,300	20,300	20,100	67.4	1,354,000	25	9,300	9,200	76.4	703,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	11,500	11,500	10,800	66.8	721,000	28	7,400	6,900	79.1	546,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,000	2,000	1,800	61.7	111,000	46	--	--	--	--
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	1,400	1,400	1,100	72.7	80,000	47	800	700	91.4	64,000
Sanders	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1,800	1,800	1,700	54.1	92,000	--	1,700	1,600	68.1	109,000
NORTHWEST	**37,000**	**37,000**	**35,500**	**66.4**	**2,358,000**	**--**	**19,200**	**18,400**	**77.3**	**1,422,000**
Blaine	188,800	181,700	176,600	35.7	6,301,000	10	5,500	5,400	54.6	295,000
Chouteau	537,300	534,300	517,300	45.5	23,560,000	1	1,500	1,500	62.0	93,000
Glacier	140,500	135,300	120,600	27.9	3,368,000	18	3,000	3,000	41.7	125,000
Hill	518,500	454,700	431,400	36.6	15,780,000	2	--	--	--	--
Liberty	255,500	236,500	221,400	29.0	6,422,000	9	1,500	1,500	64.0	96,000
Phillips	122,900	120,800	113,000	35.5	4,010,000	17	4,200	4,000	63.5	254,000
Pondera	173,400	162,600	156,300	36.7	5,739,000	11	8,800	8,800	68.6	604,000
Teton	148,000	138,200	128,900	40.5	5,221,000	13	7,000	6,500	59.5	387,000
Toole	231,000	228,100	220,000	25.6	5,638,000	12	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	1,000	56.0	56,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,315,900**	**2,192,200**	**2,085,500**	**36.5**	**76,039,000**	**--**	**32,500**	**31,700**	**60.3**	**1,910,000**
Daniels	266,100	266,100	250,100	30.5	7,623,000	7	--	--	--	--
Dawson	160,900	160,800	140,600	19.7	2,776,000	21	3,000	2,800	54.6	153,000
Garfield	102,000	101,900	94,000	24.5	2,305,000	22	--	--	--	--
McCone	235,000	235,000	227,300	29.5	6,713,000	8	2,200	2,200	67.7	149,000
Richland	162,800	162,800	156,600	29.2	4,568,000	15	12,200	12,100	73.3	887,000
Roosevelt	353,700	353,700	347,200	35.3	12,253,000	3	4,600	4,500	59.1	266,000
Sheridan	342,000	342,000	324,000	33.3	10,793,000	4	--	--	--	--
Valley	306,500	306,500	301,200	35.6	10,721,000	5	6,500	6,100	62.6	382,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	1,000	71.0	71,000
NORTHEAST	**1,929,000**	**1,928,800**	**1,841,000**	**31.4**	**57,752,000**	**--**	**29,500**	**28,700**	**66.5**	**1,908,000**
Broadwater	39,800	39,800	37,800	47.2	1,786,000	24	9,700	9,600	87.2	837,000
Cascade	136,100	134,600	125,300	39.0	4,891,000	14	1,700	1,700	67.1	114,000
Fergus	182,500	182,500	178,500	45.2	8,073,000	6	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	23,700	23,600	19,000	29.2	554,000	32	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	89,000	89,000	83,600	36.4	3,046,000	20	600	500	74.0	37,000
Lewis & Clark	12,600	12,100	11,700	37.2	435,000	38	1,800	1,800	83.3	150,000
Meagher	11,600	10,700	9,900	34.6	343,000	43	--	--	--	--
Musselshell	32,800	32,800	32,000	22.1	708,000	29	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	27,500	23,900	21,800	23.4	511,000	35	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	50,900	47,500	40,800	16.4	669,000	31	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,400	3,100	72.3	224,000
CENTRAL	**606,500**	**596,500**	**560,400**	**37.5**	**21,016,000**	**--**	**17,200**	**16,700**	**81.6**	**1,362,000**
Beaverhead	7,400	7,400	7,300	53.0	387,000	40	4,400	4,400	73.2	322,000
Gallatin	53,200	52,500	50,900	64.0	3,259,000	19	19,100	18,800	88.7	1,668,000
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	8,300	8,300	8,200	63.7	522,000	34	5,300	5,300	80.0	424,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1,100	1,100	1,100	50.9	56,000	--	400	400	77.5	31,000
SOUTHWEST	**70,000**	**69,300**	**67,500**	**62.6**	**4,224,000**	**--**	**29,200**	**28,900**	**84.6**	**2,445,000**
Big Horn	113,200	110,700	107,200	37.4	4,013,000	16	11,300	11,200	67.5	756,000
Carbon	6,800	6,800	5,100	34.9	178,000	45	--	--	--	--
Park	11,000	9,900	9,200	40.2	370,000	41	2,000	1,800	76.7	138,000
Stillwater	35,000	34,800	31,700	21.1	670,000	30	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	1,400	1,400	1,200	26.7	32,000	50	--	--	--	--
Treasure	6,700	6,700	6,600	63.3	418,000	39	3,500	3,500	90.9	318,000
Yellowstone	83,900	83,500	79,000	27.1	2,139,000	23	2,600	2,600	90.0	234,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,300	900	68.9	62,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**258,000**	**253,800**	**240,000**	**32.6**	**7,820,000**	**--**	**20,700**	**20,000**	**75.4**	**1,508,000**
Carter	45,700	45,700	29,500	17.3	511,000	35	--	--	--	--
Custer	28,800	28,000	20,000	17.9	357,000	42	--	--	--	--
Fallon	46,200	45,500	35,600	21.6	768,000	27	--	--	--	--
Powder River	20,800	20,800	14,800	18.3	271,000	44	--	--	--	--
Prairie	27,300	26,500	20,200	26.5	536,000	33	2,700	2,700	74.1	200,000
Rosebud	44,000	43,700	41,600	24.3	1,012,000	26	1,000	1,000	86.0	86,000
Wibaux	40,800	40,800	33,400	15.0	501,000	37	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	500	300	80.0	24,000
SOUTHEAST	**253,600**	**251,000**	**195,100**	**20.3**	**3,956,000**	**--**	**4,200**	**4,000**	**77.5**	**310,000**
MONTANA	**5,470,000**	**5,328,600**	**5,025,000**	**34.5**	**173,165,000**	**--**	**152,500**	**148,400**	**73.2**	**10,865,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat.

January 2005 Ag Prices Received

January 2005 full-month crop prices were mostly lower compared with December 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.52 per bushel, down $0.04 from the previous month; spring wheat dropped $0.22 to $3.85 per bushel; and durum wheat prices dropped $0.12 to $3.68 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose $0.06 from the previous month to $1.67, but malt barley prices decreased $0.04 to $3.06 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay dropped $4.00 to $74.00 per ton from January and all other hay decreased $2.00 to $66.00 per ton. Mid-February grain prices were mostly lower than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.35 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.79 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.75 per bushel, malt barley was $2.99 per bushel and feed barley averaged $1.66 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mostly higher than the previous month. Beef cattle jumped $8.40 to 95.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices decreased $2.00 to $107.00 per cwt. Cows rose $2.20 to $51.50. The average price for calves was unchanged at $127 per cwt. Sheep prices jumped $8.40 to a record high $59.50 per cwt and lamb increased $9.00 to a record high $126.00 per cwt. Milk prices rose $1.00 from last month to $15.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $104.00 per cwt.; cows averaged $53.90 per cwt.; calves averaged $124.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $16.60 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was $3.66, up $0.03; spring wheat was $3.66, down $0.09; durum wheat was $3.97, up $0.01; the all barley price was $2.71, down $0.14, and steer and heifer prices were $85.40, down $10.30 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was $3.60 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.75 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.03 per bushel, all wheat was $3.68 per bushel, malt barley was $2.88 per bushel, feed barley was $2.13 per bushel, and all barley was $2.62. Steer and heifer prices were $81.60 per cwt, cow prices were $46.20, calves were $110 per cwt., all hog prices were $43.20 per cwt., and market egg prices were $0.75 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) above the January Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from January while the All Crops Index increased 2 points (1.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, broilers, corn, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, lettuce, eggs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco, and wheat. This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 14 points (14 percent) from February 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from last month to 114, and is 18 points (19 percent) above February 2003.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	January 2004	February 2004	January 2005	February 2005
Prices Received	112	116	111	113
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	130	131	134	134
Ratio 2/	86	89	83	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 2004	Dec. 2004	Jan. 2005	Jan. 2005	Dec. 2004	Jan. 2004	Feb. 15, 2005	Feb. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.56	3.52	3.27	-0.04	-0.02	3.35	3.24
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.98	3.80	3.68	3.62	-0.12	-0.30	3.75	3.59
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.63	3.85	3.60	+0.22	+0.05	3.79	3.55
All Wheat	Bu.	3.72	3.62	3.69	3.42	+0.07	-0.03	3.59	3.38
Barley, All	Bu.	2.52	2.89	2.77	2.42	-0.12	+0.25	2.71	2.48
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.03	1.61	1.67	1.65	+0.06	-0.36	1.66	1.74
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.40	3.10	3.06	2.75	-0.04	-0.34	2.99	2.77
Oats	Bu.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.64	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.58
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	78.00	78.00	90.90	N/C	+4.00	74.00	91.90
All Other Hay	Ton	67.00	69.00	68.00	70.60	-1.00	+1.00	66.00	70.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	72.00	76.00	76.00	84.20	N/C	+4.00	72.00	84.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	94.20	109.00	107.00	94.40	-2.00	+12.80	104.00	93.80
Cows	Cwt	45.30	49.30	51.50	50.50	+2.20	+6.20	53.90	52.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	80.00	87.50	95.90	89.40	+8.40	+15.90	92.00	89.60
Calves	Cwt	117.00	127.00	127.00	125.00	N/C	+10.00	124.00	128.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	43.90	51.10	59.50	53.50	+8.40	+15.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	114.00	117.00	126.00	114.00	+9.00	+12.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.30	14.70	15.70	15.90	+1.00	+1.40	16.60	15.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued. N/A - Not Available. N/C - No Change.

2004 Honey Production

Montana honey producers with five or more colonies during 2004 produced 10.8 million pounds of honey, up 13 percent from 2003. The estimate of honey production includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 140,000 colonies producing honey in 2004, compared with 145,000 colonies in 2003. The honey yield per colony was 77 pounds, up 11 pounds from a year ago. Stocks on hand on December 15, 2004 was estimated at 3.8 million pounds, up from 1.9 million pounds in 2003.

Prices for Montana honey dropped 38 cents per pound from last year to $1.06 per pound in 2004. The value of 2004 honey production was $11.4 million dollars, down 17 percent from last year.

Honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2004 were lower than the previous year for all color classes except the all other honey, area specialties class. Honey prices for 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

2004 Chicken Inventory and Egg Production

There were 480,000 total chickens on **Montana** farms and ranches on December 1, 2004, down 1 percent from a year ago. The December 1, 2004 inventory included 350,000 layers 20 weeks old and older and 129,000 total pullets. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2004 was $1.6 million, up 5 percent from last year. The average value per bird, at $3.30, was up $0.20 per bird from 2003.

Montana chickens produced 107 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 2004, unchanged from last year. The state had an average of 355,000 layers in 2004, unchanged from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 302 eggs, up from 301 in 2003.

Layer numbers in the United States during 2004 averaged 342 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2004 was 260 eggs, up slightly from the 2003 average of 259. U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 2004 totaled a record high 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from 2003. Table egg production, at 76.2 billion eggs, was up 2 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, up slightly from 2003.

The U.S. total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2004 (excluding commercial broilers) was 454 million birds, up 1 percent from last year. U.S. total value of all chickens on December 1, 2004 was $1.12 billion, up slightly from December 1, 2003. The average value decreased from $2.48 per bird on December 1, 2003, to $2.47 per bird on December 1, 2004.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Grain Movement	Egg Production
Annual Red Meat Production	Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks	Sweet Cherry Production
Milk Production	
Cattle on Feed	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Red Meat Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Annual Crop Production Table
Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates
Annual Oilseeds Production Table

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on January 1, 2005. The inventory was slightly above January 1, 2004 and 6 percent above January 1, 2003. The inventory included 7.19 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.05 million head, down 7 percent from January 1, 2004.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.83 million, 5 percent above 2003 and 14 percent above 2002. This is the highest placements for the month of December since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.74 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 465,000, 600-699 pounds were 558,000, 700-799 pounds were 489,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 322,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.78 million, 2 percent above 2003 but 1 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 92,000 during December, 2 percent above 2003 but 7 percent below 2002.

U.S. Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.3 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2005, down slightly from the previous year. Ninety-three percent of the 2004 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato states held 238 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of the 2004 fall storage states' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 11 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody), and 83 percent russets, with a smaller percentage of reds and round whites but a larger percentage of long whites and russets than a year ago.

Disappearance of 165 million cwt from the start of harvest to January 1, is down 3 percent from last year and 6 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 20.0 million cwt, is up 15 percent from last year and 10 percent above the same date in 2003.

Processors used 86.0 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased less than 1 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processed 1 percent less than last season. December usage, at 15.2 million cwt, is 1 percent below last year and down 2 percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 17.0 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003.

December Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 2004, up 10 percent from the previous December, and up 3 percent from November 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,147 pounds, decreased 13 pounds from 2003.

During December there were 1,400 hogs slaughtered, up 8 percent from a year ago. The average live weight, at 241 pounds, rose 4 pounds from last year. December sheep slaughter in the state totaled 400 head, 100 head above December 2003. The average live weight decreased 10 pounds from last year to 119 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in December 2003.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.69 million head, up 1 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,268 pounds. Veal production totaled 14.9 million pounds, 22 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,700 head, down 23 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 334 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.86 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.25 million head, 1 percent below December 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent from December 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,400 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2004 commercial red meat production was 45.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 6 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Milk Production

Milk production in Montana during the October-December 2004 quarter totaled 86 million pounds, unchanged from the same quarter a year ago, but down 2 million pounds from the July - September 2004 quarter. Montana milk producers have 18,000 milk cows on farms, unchanged from a year ago.

Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 41.9 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.02 million head, 7,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major states during December totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from December 2003. November revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from November 2003. The November revision represented an increase of 5 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,602 pounds for December, 6 pounds above December 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major states was 7.76 million head, 47,000 head more than December 2003, but 4,000 head less than November 2004.

2004 Annual Crop Summary 1/

Crop	MONTANA							US Production (000)
	Year	Planted Acres (000)	Harvested Acres (000)	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production (000)	Season Avg. Price Dollars	Value of Production (000)	
Winter Wheat	2002	1,450	780	28.0	21,840	$3.73	$81,463	1,137,001
	2003	1,900	1,820	37.0	67,340	$3.56	$239,730	1,716,721
	2004	1,900	1,630	41.0	66,830			1,499,434
Durum Wheat	2002	590	565	23.0	12,995	$4.49	$58,348	79,960
	2003	640	630	23.0	14,490	$4.07	**$58,974	96,637
	2004	570	545	33.0	17,985			89,893
Other Spring Wheat	2002	3,750	3,450	22.0	75,900	$4.08	$309,672	388,917
	2003	2,900	2,750	22.0	60,500	$3.78	$228,690	531,402
	2004	3,000	2,850	31.0	88,350			568,918
All Wheat	2002	5,790	4,795	23.1	110,735	$4.04	$449,483	1,605,878
	2003	5,440	5,200	27.4	142,330	$3.73	$530,891	2,344,760
	2004	5,470	5,025	34.5	173,165			2,158,245
Barley	2002	1,180	930	42.0	39,060	$2.86	$111,712	226,906
	2003	1,150	850	40.0	34,000	$2.93	$99,620	278,283
	2004	1,000	830	59.0	48,970			279,253
Oats	2002	135	50	46.0	2,300	$2.02	$4,646	116,002
	2003	120	*45	44.0	1,980	$1.70	$3,366	144,383
	2004	105	40	60.0	2,400			115,935
Corn for Grain 2/	2002	65	13	140.0	1,820	$2.45	$4,646	8,966,787
	2003	68	17	140.0	2,380	$2.65	$6,307	10,089,222
	2004	70	15	143.0	2,145			11,807,217
		(000)	(000)	Tons	(000)		(000)	(000)
Corn for Silage	2002	--	49	22.0	1,078	--	--	102,293
	2003	--	49	**24.0	1,176	--	--	107,378
	2004	--	51	22.0	1,122	--	--	107,336
Sugar Beets	2002	58.0	55.9	19.6	1,096	$41.00	$44,936	27,707
	2003	51.7	51.5	**25.4	1,308	--	--	30,710
	2004	53.7	52.1	21.7	1,131	--	--	29,932
Alfalfa Hay	2002	--	1,500	2.00	3,000	$85.00	$255,000	73,014
	2003	--	1,600	2.10	3,360	$75.00	$252,000	76,273
	2004	--	1,400	2.30	3,220			75,383
Other Hay	2002	--	1,100	1.40	**1,540	$74.50	$114,730	76,453
	2003	--	850	1.50	1,275	$68.50	$87,338	81,312
	2004	--	1,100	1.40	1,540			82,391
All Hay 3/	2002	--	2,600	1.75	4,540	$82.50	$369,730	149,467
	2003	--	2,450	1.89	4,635	$73.50	$340,672	157,585
	2004	--	2,500	1.90	4,760			157,774
Sweet Cherries 4/	2002	--	--	--	2,220	**$1,840.00	**$3,791	274,180
	2003	--	--	--	1,920	$1,600.00	$2,884	326,799
	2004	--	--	--				
		(000)	(000)	Cwt.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Fall Potatoes	2002	10.5	10.4	310	3,224	$8.25	$26,598	413,581
	2003	10.7	10.6	315	3,339	$8.00	$26,712	410,588
	2004	10.7	10.6	335	3,551			410,023
All Dry Beans	2002	26.9	23.0	16.0	367	$15.20	$5,578	30,312
	2003	13.0	12.8	18.2	233	$17.60	$4,241	22,492
	2004	13.0	12.7	22.4	285			17,799
Pinto Beans 5/	2002	13.5	12.9	22.5	290	--	--	13,188
	2003	*9.7	*9.7	*21.5	209	--	--	10,453
	2004	10.8	10.6	23.8	252			7,814
Garbanzo Beans 5/	2002	12.7	9.6	7.6	73	--	--	860
	2003	*3.2	*3.0	*7.3	*22	--	--	772
	2004	2.2	2.1	15.7	33			622
All Other Beans 5/	2002	0.7	0.5	0.7	4	--	--	860
	2003	0.1	0.1	2.0	2	--	--	772
	2004	0.0	0	0.0	0			
Lentils 5/	2002	25.0	22.0	*7.5	*165	$13.80	*$2,277	2,571
	2003	**30.0	**26.0	10.5	**273	**$14.50	**$3,958	2,442
	2004	78.0	72.0	14.0	1,008			4,182
Dry Peas	2002	32.0	27.0	*8.0	216	**$7.20	$1,555	4,727
	2003	33.0	31.0	14.5	450	$6.10	$2,745	5,202
	2004	**68.0	**63.0	**20.1	**1,266			11,419
Austrian Winter Peas 6/	2002	9.5	3.5	7.2	25	$10.00	$250	183
	2003	9.5	7.0	8.0	56	$12.30	$689	174
	2004	12.0	8.0	9.0	72			264

1/ All estimates for 2004 are preliminary and season average price and value of production for 2004 are not yet available. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/ Data series begun in 1998. 6/ Data series begun in 2001.
-- Not Available * Record Low ** Record High

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected U.S. 2004/05 ending stocks of wheat are 583 million bushels, 30 million bushels more than last month. Projected feed and residual use is down 25 million bushels because December 1 wheat stocks imply less use in the September-November quarter than expected. Seed use falls 5 million bushels because winter wheat seedings were lowered than expected. All wheat food use and exports are unchanged from last month but offsetting changes are made in HRS and SRW exports. The projected price range is narrowed 5 cents on each end to $3.25 to $3.45 per bushel.

Winter wheat seedings are projected at 41.57 million acres, 4 percent less than last year. Compared with the previous year, seeded acreage of Hard Red Winter is 1 percent lower, Soft Red Winter is 19 percent lower, and White Wheat is 4 percent higher.

Projected 2004/05 global wheat production, use, and stocks are up slightly from last month. Global wheat production is raised 2.6 million tons to a record 621 million tons, up 12 percent from last year. Larger crops are projected for the EU-25 (up 1.4 million tons) and Argentina (up 1 million tons), with a smaller increase for Uruguay. In addition, Australia's 2003/04 crop increases 1.34 million tons based on an official estimate by the Australian government. Australia's 2004/05 crop is unchanged from last month. Global consumption is raised fractionally from last month. Global imports and exports are up slightly from last month. Egypt's imports are up 0.5 million tons. Projected exports of Argentina increase 1 million tons while the EU-25's decrease by 0.5 million tons. Global ending stocks are 2.5 million tons larger than last month's projection with the largest changes occurring in the EU-25 (up 1.4 million tons), and the United States (up 0.8 million tons).

U.S. oilseed production for 2004/05 is estimated at 96.6 million tons, down 0.3 million tons from last month, but up 20.0 million tons from last year. Increased canola, cottonseed, and peanut production are more than offset by decreases for soybeans and sunflowerseed. Soybean production is estimated at a record 3,141 million bushels, down 9 million bushels from the previous estimate, based on slightly reduced yield and harvested area.

The U.S. season-average soybean price range for 2004/05 is projected at $4.75 to $5.45 per bushel, up 15 cents on both ends of the range. Soybean meal prices are projected at $150 to $165 per short ton compared with $145 to $170 in December.

Global oilseed production for 2004/05 is projected at a record 391.4 million tons, up 0.9 million tons from last month. Foreign production is projected at 294.8 million tons, up 1.2 million tons. Global sunflowerseed production is projected at 25.4 million tons, up 0.3 million tons from last month. Russia's sunflowerseed crop is raised 400,000 tons to 4.8 million tons, reflecting increased harvested area. Other oilseed production changes include a 0.6-million-ton increase in cottonseed production for Pakistan and reduced cottonseed production for China. Indonesia's palm oil production is raised 0.3 million tons to a record 11.8 million tons.

Projected total U.S. meat production for 2005 is raised this month. Beef production is raised as USDA's regulations on meat and ruminant imports from minimal-risk countries are expected to allow for the resumption of imports of under-30-month-old cattle from Canada effective March 7. As a result of the rule, imports of slaughter cattle under 30 months of age and feeder cattle are expected to lead to higher levels of slaughter and beef production. Beef production for 2005 is projected at 26 billion pounds, 6 percent above last year and about 1.25 billion pounds above last month. The December Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report indicated that despite relatively strong hog prices and prospects for moderating feed costs, producers are taking a cautious approach toward expansion. Based on slight increases in recent and intended farrowings, projected growth in 2005 pork production is slowed from last month.

Meat trade forecasts are little changed from last month. Beef imports for 2004 are raised based on higher imports from Oceania. Pork and broiler export estimates for 2004 are raised from last month. Trade forecasts for 2005 are little changed.

Cattle price forecasts for 2005 are lowered from last month, reflecting larger supplies of cattle following resumption of imports from Canada. Price forecasts are reduced as a result of expected large imports of under-30- month-old steers and heifers for immediate slaughter and later-year marketings of Canadian feeder cattle placed in U.S. feedlots after trade is resumed. Hog price forecasts are lowered slightly from last month as large beef supplies are expected to pressure hog prices.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2004

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002 . .	777	1,606	81	2,464	919	84	119	1,122	850	1,972	491	3.56
2003 . .	491	2,345	68	2,904	907	80	212	1,198	1,159	2,357	546	3.40
2004 . 3/	546	2,158	65	2,770	910	77	200	1,187	1,000	2,187	583	3.25-3.45

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 2005--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

2004 Annual Oilseed Summary 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA Planted Acres (000)	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production (000)	Season Avg. Price	Value of Production (000)	US Production (000)
Flaxseed 2/	2002	17.0	15.0	**13.0	195	**$6.15	$1,199	11,863
	2003	17.0	17.0	**13.0	221	$5.80	**$1,282	10,516
	2004	20.0	19.0	18.0	342			10,471
		(000)		Lbs.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Canola 2/	2002	37.5	34.5	*860	29,670	--	--	1,552,520
	2003	*28.0	*27.0	940	*25,380	--	--	1,512,250
	2004	15.0	15.0	1590	23,850			
Mustard Seed 2/	2002	**27.0	**25.0	*440	11,000	--	--	123,450
	2003	20.5	20.2	610	12,322	--	--	77,372
	2004	11.5	11.4	700	7,980,000			
Safflower 2/	2002	39.5	38.0	800	30,400	--	--	297,980
	2003	**42.5	**42.0	*770	32,340	--	--	272,555
	2004	33.5	31.0	680	21,080,000			
Sunflower 2/	2002	*1.7	1.6	580	928	--	--	2,489,606
	2003	2.6	*1.2	763	915	--	--	2,665,226
	2004	5.0	4.5	975	195,000			

1/ All estimates for 2004 are preliminary and season average price and value of production for 2004 are not yet available.
2/ Data series begun in 1999. -- Not Available * Record Low ** Record High

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Hogs and Pigs Inventory
Egg Production

November Milk Production Up 1.2 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from November 2003. October revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from October 2003. The October revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 9 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,526 pounds for November, 9 pounds above November 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 44,000 head more than November 2003, but unchanged from October 2004.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above December 1, 2003 and 4 percent above December 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.74 million, 10 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002. This is the lowest placements for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.64 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 590,000, 600-699 pounds were 557,000, 700-799 pounds were 326,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 270,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.63 million, 6 percent above 2003 but 6 percent below 2002. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 108,000 during November, 11 percent above 2003 and 20 percent above 2002.

November Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 2004. Red meat production was down 7 percent from the previous month, but 12 percent above the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,500 head, which is 200 head above a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,132 pounds, was down 1 pound from 2003. During November there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 250 pounds, increased 2 pounds from 2003. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, is unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from last year to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in November, up 7 percent from the 3.53 billion pounds produced in November 2003.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.54 million head, up 4 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was up 35 pounds from the previous year, at 1,271 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.8 million pounds, 9 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,000 head, down 13 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was 14 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, a new monthly record, and was up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.96 million head, 4 percent above November 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was up 1 percent from November 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,100 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 2 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2004 commercial red meat production was 41.5 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Potato Stocks Up 1 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.2 million cwt or 83 percent of 2004 production on December 1, 2004, compared with 2.7 million cwt or 77 percent held in 2003. Potato production totalled 3,876,000 cwt in 2004 and 3,528,000 cwt in 2003.

The 15 major potato States held 272 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 67 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Disappearance of 132 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 3 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.8 million cwt, is up 12 percent from last year and 8 percent above the same date in 2002.

Processors used 70.7 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 13.4 million cwt of the total processing, down 6 percent from last year and 15 percent below the same date in 2002.

Western States held 184 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, up 3 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago.

Production of fall potatoes for 2004 is forecast at 410 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from last month but virtually unchanged from last year for comparable States. South Dakota and Utah were dropped from the program starting in 2004. Area harvested, at 1.03 million acres, is up less than 1 percent from November but 6 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 399 cwt per acre, 14 cwt above last month and 23 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, 7 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

Western States production is forecast at 281 million cwt, virtually unchanged from the November forecast but up 3 percent from last year for comparable States. Acreage harvested, at 642,200 acres, decreased 3 percent from last year, but the average yield of 437 cwt per acre is up 23 cwt from 2003. Record high yields in Idaho increased production 7 percent from the previous year. Favorable growing conditions during the season contributed to the good size and quality of the tubers. Production in Washington went up 1 percent from last year. Colorado's production decreased 2 percent as more acres were abandoned due to higher disease rates and water management issues. Oregon growers expect to harvest 19.8 million cwt of potatoes, down 6 percent from last year. This decrease is due to a 13 percent reduction in harvested acres but yields are forecast at 41 cwt above last season. California's production is up 10 percent from last year. Ideal weather and excellent soil conditions increased yields 85 cwt from 2003 to 510 cwt per acre, more than offsetting the decrease in harvested acres.

Central States production is forecast at 101 million cwt, up 1 percent from the November forecast but down 7 percent from last year for comparable States. Harvested area, estimated at 289,600 acres, is up 1 percent from November but 11 percent below a year ago. Average yields, at 349 cwt per acre, are up 2 cwt from last month and 14 cwt above a year ago. Production in Michigan is 9 percent below 2003 and Minnesota's production is down 15 percent from last year. A record high yield of 430 cwt per acre in Minnesota does not make up for the 24 percent decrease in harvested acres. Due to very wet spring conditions producers planted less potato acreage and reported higher rates of abandonment in Minnesota and Michigan. North Dakota growers expect a record high yield of 265 cwt per acre, 20 cwt above the pervious record set in 2003.

Eastern States production is forecast at 27.9 million cwt, up 2 percent from the November forecast and up less than 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest totaled 95,200 acres, up 1 percent from last month but 8 percent below last year. Average yield, at 293 cwt per acre, is up 4 cwt from November and 23 cwt above last season.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2003-2004 1/

STATE	2003 CROP			2004 CROP		
	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2003	% of Production	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2004	% of Production
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
CA	3,528	2,700	77	3,876	3,200	83
CO	23,652	17,500	74	23,148	17,200	74
ID	123,180	86,000	70	131,970	93,500	71
ME	17,030	13,500	79	19,220	15,000	78
MI	15,015	9,200	61	13,650	8,600	63
MN	22,330	14,000	63	18,920	13,000	69
MT	**3,339**	**3,100**	**93**	**3,551**	**3,400**	**96**
NE	9,744	6,500	67	8,938	5,800	65
NY	6,510	2,700	41	5,184	2,900	56
ND	27,440	19,400	71	26,765	19,600	73
OH	1,097	300	27	1,080	200	19
OR	20,991	18,000	86	19,775	17,000	86
PA	3,375	1,900	56	2,530	1,200	47
WA	93,150	51,000	55	93,810	50,000	53
WI	32,800	22,100	67	30,710	21,000	68
15 States	403,181	267,900	66	403,127	271,600	67

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2004 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

Montana Hog Inventory Down 3 Percent from 2003, U.S. Inventory Up Slightly

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2004 was 165,000 head, 3 percent below a year ago. Breeding stock was down 6 percent from last December to 17,000 head. Market hog numbers decreased to 148,000 head, down 3 percent from last year.

There were 32,500 sows farrowed in Montana during the December 2003 through November 2004 season, down 12 percent from a year ago. The number of pigs saved per litter increased slightly to 9.54 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 310,000 head, a 8 percent decrease from last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004 was 60.5 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2003, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2004. U.S. Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2003, but up slightly from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.5 million head, was up slightly from last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 2004 U.S. pig crop for the United States, at 25.6 million head, was up slightly from 2003 and up 2 percent from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, down slightly from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.96 for the September-November period, compared to 8.93 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the December 2004-February 2005 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in 2004, and 3 percent above 2003. Intended farrowings for March-May 2005, at 2.87 million sows, are down slightly from the same period in 2004, and down 1 percent from the same period in 2003.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 2002-2004

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	2002	2003	2004	'04/'03	2002	2003	2004	'04/'03
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	175	170	165	97	59,554	60,044	60,501	100
Breeding Hogs	20	18	17	94	6,058	6,009	5,969	99
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	51	50	48	96	19,485	19,778	19,636	99
60-119 lbs.	39	37	37	100	13,033	13,238	13,439	102
120-170 lbs.	34	35	33	94	10,875	11,109	11,286	102
180 lbs. & over	31	30	30	100	10,103	10,311	10,171	99
Total	155	152	148	97	53,496	54,434	54,531	100
Sows Farrowed								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	36.0	37.0	32.5	88	11,492	11,428	11,446	100
Pig Crop								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	328	338	310	92	101,678	101,491	102,305	101
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	9.11	9.14	9.54	104	8.85	8.88	8.94	101
1/ December previous year.								

November Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.46 billion during November 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.42 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 980 million were broiler-type and 59 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2004 averaged 343 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,170 eggs, up slightly from November 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2004, totaled 343 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2004, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg-producing States produced 6.98 billion eggs during November 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 321 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Grain Stocks
Pulse and Oilseed Crops

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Wendy Bruski, Editor
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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 04-23 (0279-0394) Released: December 10, 2004

"Happy Holidays from All of Us at Montana Agricultural Statistics Service"

May your holiday season be filled with joyfulness and precipitation! Timely rains throughout 2004 have improved Montana's agricultural production outlook by putting a dent in the persistent drought Montana has suffered for more than five years. Wheat production in Montana grew by 31 million bushels due to increases in spring and durum wheat production. Montana's 2004 spring wheat production went up 22 percent from the 2003 crop; durum wheat production rose 24 percent; and barley production jumped 44 percent. In 2004, value-added agricultural opportunities improved with the scheduled spring 2005 completion of the malt barley plant in Great Falls. The plant will require 16 million bushels of malt grade barley annually, which is 1.2 million bushels more malt barley than Montana producers sold in 2003.

Montanans have a lot to be thankful for, but Montana's people are what is truly remarkable about Montana. Montana's farmers and ranchers continue to be stewards of the land, working tirelessly to provide for future generations. Because of the remarkable people who make a living from the land, Montana Agricultural Statistics Service is also hopeful about the future of Montana agriculture.

To everyone involved in Montana's agricultural industry, thank you for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of **Montana's Number One Industry--Agriculture**.

Curt Lund, the deputy director for Montana Agricultural Statistics Service, has decided to retire after 37 years of service - of which 17 years were spent in Montana. Curt's devoted service to agriculture shone in the outstanding job he did for Montana's agricultural industry. He will truly be missed in our office.

We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season.

STATE DOCUMENT
DEC 9 2004
MONTANA

Sincerely,
Peggy Stringer
Director

2004 Dry Edible Bean Production

Production for Montana's **dry edible bean** crop was estimated at 272,000 cwt., up 17 percent from the 2003 crop. Planted acreage for 2004 is estimated to be 13,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Harvested area for 2004 is 12,800 acres, unchanged from 2003. The yield is forecast, at 2,130 pounds per acre, 310 pounds better than last year.

Pinto bean production for Montana is estimated at 244,000 cwt, which is 17 percent more than last year. Acres planted, at 10,800, are up 11 percent from 2003. Harvested acres, at 10,600, are 9 percent higher than the previous year. The yield is forecast at 2,300 pounds per acre, 150 pounds more than last year.

All chickpea (garbanzo beans) production is forecast at 28,000 cwt for 2004, up 27 percent from 2003. Planted acreage was set at 2,200 acres, down 31 percent from 2003. Harvested area is estimated, at 2,200 acres, down 27 percent from 2003. The yield is forecast, at 1,270 pounds per acre, 540 pounds above 2003. **Small Chickpea** (smaller than 20/64 in.) production is forecast at 4,000 cwt. for 2004. Planted acreage was set at 500 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 500 acres. The yield is forecast at 800 pounds per acre. **Large Chickpea** (larger than 20/64 in.) production is forecast at 24,000 cwt. for 2004. Planted acreage was set at 1,700 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 1,700 acres. The yield is forecast at 1,410 pounds per acre .

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 18.1 million cwt for 2004, down 3 percent from the October forecast and 19 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.23 million acres, 2 percent below the last forecast and down 9 percent from 2003. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,479 pounds per acre, a decrease of 16 pounds from the October forecast and 191 pounds below a year ago. Production is below a year ago in 12 of the 18 producing States. Most notable is a 39 percent production decrease from last year in both Minnesota and North Dakota where an early frost in mid-August severely damaged the crop. Production is down from a year ago for large lima, baby lima, navy, great northern, pinto, light red kidney, dark red kidney, pink, and blackeye. Production increased from last year for small white, small red, cranberry, black, and small and large chickpeas.

Idaho production is expected to be 9 percent above the previous year at 1.64 million cwt. Wet weather this fall delayed harvest for some farmers. Colorado production, at 1.27 million cwt, is an increase of 9 percent from 2003. Growing conditions in Colorado were good for irrigated acreages but dryland beans were stressed by lack of moisture. Production in South Dakota increased 23 percent, Montana 17 percent, and Washington 16 percent.

ERS Economist Says Beef Production Pushed Up By Weights

Sharply reduced fed cattle slaughter from a year earlier and prospects for the best wheat grazing in years have resulted in a gain in stocker/feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots. Through the first three-quarters of this year net feedlot placements were nearly 9 percent below a year earlier. Cattle Feedlot breakevens moved up to the low $90s per cwt and are expected to remain in this range through the winter quarter. Yearling feeder cattle prices for marketings in October through February are ranging from $113 to $117 per cwt, even with lower feed costs, breakevens have continued to rise since mid summer. Packer spreads also remain lower, with the third quarter spread averaging 31.2 cents a pound, down from 43.4 cents a year earlier. Retail prices for Choice beef peaked at midyear at $4.17 a pound, and have been declining through early fall. The wholesale-retail spread remains wide, averaging $2 a pound in the third quarter, up from $1.50 a year earlier when beef supplies were very tight. The slow fed cattle marketing pace is resulting in heavier steer/heifer slaughter weights adding to already large total meat supplies. Beef production this fall through the first half of 2005 is expected to average above a year earlier, even with sharply reduced cow slaughter. Larger supplies of beef and competing meats are expected to result in per capita meat consumption near to above year-earlier levels through 2005.

Stocker/feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots on October 1 were up from a year ago, with most weight groups remaining at or near record prices. Many of these cattle will be grazed this winter and begin to come off pasture in early February through March, bolstering feedlot placements and 2005 beef production.

U.S. Livestock and Meat Imports and Exports

	2002	2003	Jan-Sept 2003	Jan-Sept. 2004
Beef and veal imports		**carcass wt. 1,000 lbs.**		
Australia	1,136,758	1,128,589	828,079	779,612
New Zealand	603,931	644,607	551,906	577,241
Canada	1,090,894	740,065	460,578	783,416
Brazil	200,785	206,227	153,026	155,102
Argentina	85,349	87,890	58,668	840,080
Central America	68,325	79,118	55,493	64,610
Uruguay	14,095	103,372	49,926	282,707
Mexico	16,707	15,883	11,188	14,048
Other	756	161	148	499
Total	3,217,599	3,005,910	2,170,011	2,741,315
Beef and veal Exports				
Japan	771,074	918,014	698,629	8,521
Canada	240,550	226,681	184,484	29,933
Mexico	629,252	586,390	471,071	212,934
South Korea	597,301	586,617	445,423	979
Caribbean	23,015	21,691	15,491	18,631
Other	186,513	178,856	125,507	21,614
Total	2,447,704	2,518,249	1,940,605	292,612
Cattle imports		**head**		
Mexico	816,460	1,239,531	673,582	903,551
Canada	1,686,508	512,353	508,322	2,981
Over 700 lbs.	1,259,536	439,016	439,016	--
Immediate slaughter	1,024,378	354,044	354,044	--
440-700 lbs.	221,782	12,520	11,500	903
Total	2,502,973	1,751,896	1,181,916	906,532
Cattle exports				
Mexico	106,019	22,437	16,402	719
Canada	134,220	68,394	59,091	25,110
Total	244,394	98,818	81,958	25,898

U.S. Livestock and Meat Imports and Exports

	2002	2003	Jan-Sept. 2003	Jan-Sept 2004
Lamb imports		**carcass wt. 1,000 lbs.**		
Australia	68,073	75,320	53,193	59,991
New Zealand	48,565	59,159	45,435	51,494
Total	117,047	134,830	98,872	111,983
Mutton Imports				
Total	42,886	32,912	20,330	30,705
Lamband mutton exports				
Total	7,101	6,596	4,930	5,521
Pork imports				
Canada	879,949	971,328	724,156	669,402
Denmark	123,013	147,110	113,108	108,792
Other	67,675	66,763	51,260	51,856
Total	1,070,727	1,185,202	888,523	830,050
Pork exports				
Japan	775,945	793,339	624,437	681,151
Canada	188,351	191,505	130,814	165,276
Mexico	313,695	349,983	228,868	380,712
Russia	41,397	16,386	11,928	31,761
South Korea	70,836	79,642	62,960	45,515
Hong Kong	28,393	44,620	28,264	25,398
China (Mainland)	23,803	44,658	32,676	56,062
China (Taiwan)	50,758	70,129	44,676	760,893
Other	119,051	110,436	90,976	92,671
Total	1,612,228	1,716,698	1,255,600	1,555,438
Hog imports		**head**		
Canada	5,740,073	7,438,063	5,278,179	6,428,690
Under 110 lb	3,757,882	4,971,044	3,639,967	4,337,292
Total	5,740,675	7,438,254	5,278,370	6,429,236
Hog Exports				
Total	205,121	169,881	89,483	139,992

SOURCE: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 23, 2004.

October Ag Prices Received

October full month crop prices were mixed compared with October 2003 and September 2004. The average price for Montana's winter wheat, at $3.39 per bushel, was down $0.16 from a year ago, but up $0.17 from September 2004; spring wheat moved up $0.17 from last year and $0.13 from last month to $3.77 per bushel; durum wheat prices were $0.03 higher than October 2003, but $0.05 lower than September 2004 to $4.03 per bushel. Feed barley prices fell $0.50 from the previous year and $0.04 from the previous month to $1.57, malt barley prices also dropped $0.23 from a year ago and $0.28 from September 2004 to average $2.99 per bushel.

The mid-November price for alfalfa hay was unchanged from October 2004 at $78.00 per ton, but all other hay dropped $1.00 from October to $69.00 per ton. The mid-November grain prices were mostly higher from the previous month with the winter wheat price averaging $3.47 per bushel; spring wheat was $4.01; durum wheat was $3.77; all barley was $2.64; feed barley averaged $1.70; and malt barley averaged $2.97 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were mostly lower compared with September 2004. Steer and heifer prices jumped $6.00 to $115.00 per cwt., but cows dropped $3.80 to $51.20. The average price for calves decreased $1.00 to $127.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $1.00 to $40.70 per cwt, and lamb prices also dropped $1.00 to $109.00 per cwt. The all milk price, at $14.90 per cwt., was down $0.30 per cwt. from September. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November averaged $112.00 per cwt.; cows averaged $49.10 per cwt.; calves averaged $126.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $15.70 per cwt.

Nationally, October prices and changes from October 2003 and September 2004 were as follows: winter wheat was $3.34, down $0.03 from last year, but up $0.08 from September; spring wheat averaged $3.51, down $0.02 from last year, but up $0.03 from last month; durum wheat was $3.89, unchanged from last year, but down $0.01 from September; the all barley price was $2.29, down $0.45 from last year and down $0.14 from September; and steer and heifer prices averaged $91.00, down $6.80 from last year, but up $1.70 per cwt. from September.

The U.S. mid-November winter wheat price was $3.39 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.62 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.75 per bushel; all wheat was $3.51 per bushel, malt barley was $2.78 per bushel; feed barley was $1.75 per bushel; and all barley was $2.42. Steer and heifer prices were $89.10 per cwt.; cow prices were $48.60, calves were $124.00 per cwt.; all hog prices were $55.30 per cwt; and all egg price was $0.612 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point above October. The Crop Index remained unchanged from October while the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.9 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, eggs, hogs, strawberries, and grapes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, oranges, soybeans, corn, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, and cotton offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, and potatoes. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.7 percent) from November 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from last month to 120. The index is unchanged from November 2003.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	October 2003	November 2003	October 2004	November 2004
Prices Received	113	116	113	114
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	129	129	135	134
Ratio 2/	88	90	84	85

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct. 2003	Sept. 2004	Oct. 2004	Oct. 2004	Sept. 2004	Oct. 2003	Nov. 15, 2004	Nov. 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.22	3.39	3.34	+0.17	-0.16	3.47	3.39
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.00	4.08	4.03	3.89	+0.05	+0.03	3.77	3.75
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.60	3.64	3.77	3.51	+0.13	+0.17	4.01	3.62
All Wheat	Bu.	3.61	3.57	3.67	3.44	+0.10	+0.06	3.83	3.51
Barley, All	Bu.	2.68	2.93	2.62	2.29	-0.31	-0.06	2.64	2.42
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.04	1.61	1.57	1.57	-0.04	-0.50	1.70	1.75
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.22	3.27	2.99	2.74	-0.28	-0.23	2.97	2.78
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.76	N/A	1.45	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.36
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	77.00	79.00	78.00	97.80	-1.00	+1.00	78.00	94.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	71.00	70.00	68.60	-1.00	-1.00	69.00	67.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	77.00	75.00	89.80	-2.00	NC	76.00	86.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	93.20	109.00	115.00	91.00	+6.00	+18.80	112.00	89.10
Cows	Cwt	49.60	55.00	51.20	49.90	-3.80	+1.60	49.10	48.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	90.60	93.90	104.00	86.10	+10.10	+13.40	93.80	84.20
Calves	Cwt	107.00	128.00	127.00	126.00	-1.00	+20.00	126.00	124.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	35.70	41.70	40.70	40.70	-1.00	+5.00	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	106.00	110.00	109.00	98.20	-1.00	+3.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.90	15.20	14.90	15.50	-0.30	NC	15.70	15.80

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued.

U.S. Meats Supply and Use, 2003 and Projected 2004 and 2005

Item	Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption	
							Total	Per capita 2/, 3/
				Million pounds 4/				
BEEF								
2003	691	26,339	3,006	30,036	2,519	518	26,999	64.9
2004 Proj. Oct:	518	24,524	3,587	28,629	446	625	27,558	65.6
Nov:	518	24,599	3,551	28,668	443	625	27,600	65.7
2005 Proj. Oct:	625	24,601	3,660	28,886	600	575	27,711	65.3
Nov:	625	24,876	3,660	29,161	620	575	27,966	65.9
PORK								
2003	533	19,966	1,185	21,684	1,717	532	19,435	51.8
2004 Proj. Oct:	532	20,573	1,115	22,220	2,069	420	19,731	52.1
Nov:	532	20,594	1,130	22,256	2,080	510	19,666	51.9
2005 Proj. Oct:	420	20,971	1,115	22,506	2,115	460	19,931	52.1
Nov:	510	20,821	1,215	22,546	2,115	520	19,911	52.0
BROILERS								
2003	763	32,399	12	33,173	4,920	608	27,645	81.6
2004 Proj. Oct:	608	33,758	24	34,391	4,357	700	29,334	85.7
Nov:	608	33,768	28	34,405	4,507	700	29,198	85.3
2005 Proj. Oct:	700	34,848	12	35,560	4,600	650	30,310	87.7
Nov:	700	34,848	28	35,576	4,955	650	29,971	86.7
TURKEYS								
2003	333	5,576	2	5,911	484	354	5,074	17.4
2004 Proj. Oct:	354	5,322	4	5,680	431	275	4,974	16.9
Nov:	354	5,383	4	5,741	450	275	5,016	17.1
2005 Proj. Oct:	275	5,502	4	5,781	455	300	5,026	16.9
Nov:	275	5,502	4	5,781	510	300	4,971	16.7

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis. 3/ Population source: Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. 4/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry.
Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, November 12, 2004.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Hog & Pig Inventory

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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 04-22 (0279-0394) Released: November 24, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Farm Labor
World Ag Supply and Demand

October Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 2004, unchanged from last year, but up 10 percent from September's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 16 pounds to 1,133 from the previous year.

During October there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered, 200 more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 243 pounds, dropped 8 pounds from last year. October sheep slaughter totaled 500 head, 100 head more than October 2003. The average live weight increased 2 pounds to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.92 billion pounds in October, down 6 percent from the 4.16 billion pounds produced in October 2003.

U.S. beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 9 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds.

Veal production in the U.S. totaled 12.4 million pounds, 24 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 62,500 head, down 28 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was 22 pounds above last year, at 330 pounds.

U.S. pork production totaled 1.78 billion pounds, down 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.97 million head, 7 percent below October 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 267 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production in the U.S., at 16.3 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 241,400 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, unchanged from October a year ago.

January to October 2004 commercial red meat production for the U.S. was 37.7 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

October Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during October totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from October 2003. September revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent from September 2003. The September revision represented a decrease of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,576 pounds for October, 15 pounds above October 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 26,000 head more than October 2003, but unchanged from September 2004.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on November 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2003 and 5 percent above November 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.70 million, 3 percent below 2003 but 13 percent above 2002. This is the second lowest placements for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.64 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 912,000, 600-699 pounds were 764,000, 700-799 pounds were 529,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 496,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.80 million, 3 percent below 2003 and 9 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 66,000 during October, 35 percent below 2003 and 21 percent below 2002.

October Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.64 billion during October 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.56 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2004 averaged 344 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,221 eggs, up slightly from October 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2004, totaled 344 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 344 million layers consisted of 287 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.50 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2004, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.15 billion eggs during October 2004, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during October, at 322 million, was up 3 percent from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during October totaled 36.0 million, up 3 percent from October 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 37.0 million on November 1, 2004, up 27 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 268,000 during October 2004, down 14 percent from October 2003.

The October 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 758 million, was up 3 percent from October of the previous year. There were 608 million eggs in incubators on November 1, 2004, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.59 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during October 2004, up 4 percent from October 2003.

Hired Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates Up 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 851,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 322,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.30 per hour during the October 2004 reference week, up 25 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.60 per hour, up 18 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $8.91 per hour compared with $8.64 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.67 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains, Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio), and Mountain I regions. The higher wages in the Southern Plains and Delta regions were due to a larger concentration of salaried workers putting in fewer hours and a lower percentage of part-time seasonal workers in the work force. Corn Belt I wages were up due to a higher percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force. In the Mountain I region, wages were higher because of more salaried livestock workers working fewer hours which pushed their hourly wage higher.

The 2004 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $9.22, up 2 percent from the 2003 annual average wage rate of $9.08. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $8.45, up 14 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $8.55, up 2 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $8.42.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates By State, 2003-04 1/ 2/

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Dollars per Hour					
CO	9.13	9.73	8.27	9.14	8.42	9.09
ID	8.04	8.63	7.63	8.00	7.81	8.36
MT	**8.37**	**9.18**	**8.08**	**8.85**	**7.92**	**8.82**
ND	9.49	9.85	9.32	9.89	9.32	9.78
OR	9.39	9.66	8.47	8.91	8.76	8.84
SD	9.23	9.44	8.46	9.02	8.94	9.07
UT	9.25	9.65	7.92	8.54	8.38	8.84
WA	9.14	9.58	8.50	9.03	8.70	9.15
WY	7.17	7.16	6.70	7.01	6.59	6.69
US 3/	9.08	9.22	8.31	8.45	8.42	8.55

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October. 3/ Excludes AK.

World Ag Supply and Depmand Estimates

The WASDE report incorporates information from a number of statistical reports published by USDA and other government agencies. In turn, the WASDE report provides a framework for more detailed reports issued by USDA Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service.

WHEAT: Projected U.S. 2004/05 ending stocks of wheat are 568 million bushels, 1 million bushels less than last month. Production is down 6 million bushels (mostly in Hard Red Spring wheat) but that is nearly offset by a 5-million-bushel increase in Soft Red Winter (SRW) wheat imports. Seed use rises 1 million bushels. Food use, feed and residual, and exports of wheat are unchanged, but changes are made in the by-class allocation of domestic use and exports. The projected price range is raised 10 cents on the lower end of the range to $3.20 to $3.50 per bushel because of stronger-than-expected prices during the past month.

Projected 2004/05 global wheat production, use, and stocks are up slightly from last month. Global wheat production is raised 1.1 million tons to a record 617 million tons because of larger foreign production. Larger crops are projected for the EU-25 (up 1.2 million tons) and Russia (up 1 million tons), with smaller increases for Argentina and Brazil. Australia's crop is down 1 million tons; Canada's is down 0.5 million tons; and smaller reductions are projected for Algeria and South Africa. Global consumption is raised fractionally from last month. Global imports and exports are up slightly from last month due to changes in a number of countries. The largest change in imports is a 0.3-million-ton increase for Algeria. Relative to last month's projections, Russia's exports are up 1 million tons, Argentina's are up 0.5 million tons, while the exports of Kazakhstan are down 0.5 million tons. Small changes in exports and imports are projected for several other countries. Global ending stocks are 0.7 million tons larger than last month's projection with the largest changes occurring in the EU-25 (up 1.2 million tons), Argentina (down 0.7 million tons), Canada (down 0.5 million tons), and Kazakhstan (up 0.5 million tons).

COARSE GRAINS: Further increases are projected this month for 2004/05 U.S. feed grain production and ending stocks. Forecast corn production, a record 11.741 billion bushels, is up 128 million bushels from last month. Also, grain sorghum production is up 10 million bushels. Due to revisions in harvested area, barley and oat production are both down 1 million bushels Projected feed and residual use of corn, sorghum, and barley are up from last month. Corn and grain sorghum exports are each reduced 25 million bushels due to the slow pace of export sales to date and lower projected imports by Mexico, South Korea, and several other major markets. No change is made to industrial use of corn. (Continued on next page)

World Ag Supply and Depmand Estimates (continued)

Relative to last month, projected ending stocks of corn are up 128 million bushels and sorghum stocks are up 20 million bushels. The projected price range is down 5 cents on each end from last month for corn to $1.70 to $2.10 per bushel. The price range of sorghum is down 15 cents on each end to $1.55 to $1.95 per bushel.

Global 2004/05 coarse grain supply, use, and stocks projections are up from last month. Global production is raised to a record 985 million tons, up 8 million tons from last month and 9 percent larger than 2003/04. Relative to last month, larger crops are projected for China (up 4 million tons), the United States (up 3.5 million tons), and the EU-25 (up nearly 1 million tons). Crop reductions are noted for Brazil (down 0.5 million tons), Australia (down 0.4 million tons), and Bolivia (down 0.3 million tons). Production changes are projected for a number of other countries. Global consumption is raised slightly but global trade is down slightly from last month. Reduced imports are projected for Mexico, South Korea, Egypt, Turkey, the Philippines, Japan, and Brazil. Larger imports by Peru, Iran, Indonesia, and other countries are partially offsetting. Smaller exports are projected for the United States, Australia, and Indonesia but larger exports are projected for the EU-25. Global coarse grain stocks rise 8 million tons from last month and are up 21 million tons from last year. China's stocks increase 4.1 million tons due primarily to the larger corn crop. Ending stocks also rise for the United States, with smaller increases projected for South Africa, South Korea, Russia, Ukraine, and other countries. Notable declines in stocks are projected for Mexico, Brazil, and Australia, with smaller reductions forecast for other countries.

OILSEEDS: U.S. oilseed ending stocks for 2004/05 are projected at 13.8 million tons, up 1.6 million tons from last month due to increased soybean and cottonseed production. U.S. total oilseed production is projected at 96.8 million tons, up 1.6 million tons from last month. Soybean production is forecast at a record 3,150 million bushels, up 43 million bushels from last month based on a record soybean yield of 42.6 bushels per acre. Cottonseed production is forecast up 366,000 short tons from last month.

Projected soybean exports are reduced 15 million bushels, mainly reflecting lower import demand in China. Higher freight rates are expected to moderate stock accumulation by crushers in China. Soybean ending stocks are projected at 460 million bushels, which would be the highest level since 1985/86. Soybean oil use is increased this month reflecting the impact of new tax incentives for biodiesel production.

The U.S. season-average soybean price for 2004/05 is projected at $4.55 to $5.35 per bushel, down 15 cents on both ends of the range. The soybean meal price is projected at $145 to $175 per short ton, down 5 dollars on both ends of the range. The soybean oil price is projected at 21.5 to 24.5 cents per pound, unchanged from last month. Global oilseed production for 2004/05 is projected at a record 388.5 million tons, up 2.7 million tons from last month. Foreign oilseed production is increased 1.1 million tons, primarily due to higher rapeseed, sunflowerseed, and cottonseed production. EU-25 rapeseed production is raised 0.2 million tons to 14.5 million tons, 3.5 million tons higher than last year's drought-reduced crop. Other changes include increased rapeseed production for India and increased sunflowerseed production for Russia. Foreign vegetable oil production is raised 1 million tons to 96.6 million tons, primarily due to higher palm oil production in Malaysia and Indonesia.

SUGAR: Projected U.S. sugar supply for 2004/05 is decreased 259,000 short tons, raw value, from last month, mainly due to lower beginning stocks. Total sugar production is decreased 61,000 tons, based on processors' production projections submitted to the Farm Service Agency. Lower cane sugar production in Florida and Louisiana more than offsets higher U.S. beet sugar production.

For 2003/04, ending stocks of 1.907 million tons are down from 2.105 million tons last month, based on processor reporting of fiscal-year supply, export sales, and domestic deliveries. Total supply is reduced 138,000 tons, due mainly to lower production. Total use is increased 60,000 tons, as higher sales for export and residual statistical discrepancies more than offset lower total deliveries.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRY: Total U.S. meat production forecasts for 2004 and 2005 are raised. Meat production forecasts for 2004 are slightly higher based on actual slaughter in the third quarter and larger expected output in the fourth. Projected meat production in 2005 is raised 130 million pounds as higher beef production more than offsets lower pork production. Projected beef production is raised as feedlot marketings are expected to be higher and cattle weights heavier. Pork production for 2005 is lowered as the recent announcement of anti-dumping duties on Canadian hogs is expected to lead to some shifting from imports of slaughter hogs to imports of pork. Poultry production is changed fractionally.

Beef trade in 2005 is raised to reflect expectations of continued recovery in sales to Mexico. These forecasts do not assume a resumption of beef trade with Japan at this time. The United States and Japan have agreed to resume trade in beef once respective conditions have been met. The conditions are being determined and are subject to approval by each government. As the conditions are worked out, forecasts will be adjusted to reflect new information. Broiler exports for 2004 and 2005 are raised sharply. Forecasts in 2004 are raised based on stronger-than-expected sales to Mexico, Canada, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The recent announcement by China allowing the import of poultry products, coupled with stronger sales to other markets, is expected to result in higher 2005 broiler exports compared to last month. Turkey export forecasts are raised from last month to reflect stronger exports to a number of markets and the expected resumption of trade with China. The pork export forecast is unchanged from last month but pork imports for 2005 are raised as the recently announced anti-dumping duties on Canadian hogs are expected to result in some shift in trade from slaughter hogs to pork.

Cattle price forecasts are reduced slightly in both 2004 and 2005 because of increased beef output. Hog price forecasts for 2004 are raised because of higher-than-expected recent prices. Hog prices are unchanged in 2005. Broiler prices in the fourth quarter of 2004 are reduced.

The milk production forecast for 2004/05 is increased because the cow herd is expected to decline more slowly than forecast last month Milk per cow is unchanged. Commercial use, both fat and skim basis, is expected to be stronger. Milk price forecasts for 2004/05 are raised from last month because of stronger demand for milkfat, especially in the first quarter of the marketing year. Class III and Class IV milk prices are higher than last month as recent cheese and butter prices have strengthened. The all milk price is raised to $13.75 to $14.45 per cwt for 2004/05.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2004

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002 . .	777	1,606	85	2,468	923	83	120	1,126	850	1,976	491	3.56
2003 . .	491	2,345	72	2,909	911	80	211	1,202	1,159	2,362	547	3.40
2004 . 3/	547	2,158	65	2,770	920	82	225	1,227	975	2,202	568	3.20-3.50

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, November 2004--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

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Christmas letter
Livestock & Meat Imports and Exports - ERS
U.S. Meat Supply and Use
Ag Prices Received
Dry Bean Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Dry Pea Production
Austrian Winter Pea Production
Lentil Production
Sugar Beets Production
Fall Potatoes Production
2004 Crop Year Summary
Ag Prices Received

November 1 Crop Production Forecast and Small Grain Reinterview Updates

Montana **dry edible pea** production is forecast at 915,000 cwt, more than double last year's revised estimate. Planted acreage for 2004 is estimated at 68,000 acres, 35,000 acres more than last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 59,000 acres, up 28,000 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 1,550 pounds per acre, 100 pounds per acre more than 2003.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana is forecast at 80,000 cwt, up 24,000 cwt from last year. Harvested acreage, at 8,000 acres, is expected to be up 1,000 acres from last year. Planted acreage for 2004 is estimated at 12,000 acres, up 2,500 acres from last year. The average yield is forecast at 1,000 lbs per acre, up 200 lbs per acre from 2003.

Lentil production in Montana is forecast at 910,000 cwt for 2004, up from 273,000 cwt last year. Planted acreage at 78,000 acres, is up 48,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres, at 65,000, is up 39,000 acres from last year. Average yield is expected to reach 1,400 lbs per acre, up 350 lbs from last year.

Montana **sugar beets** production was forecast at 1.096 million tons, down 16 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, of 21.0 tons per acre, is down 4.4 tons per acre from 2003. Harvested acreage is up 700 acres from last year at 52,200 acres.

Fall potato production in Montana is forecast at 3.498 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 10,600 acres, unchanged from last year. The yield is forecast at 330 cwt per acre, up 15 cwt per acre from the previous year.

U.S. dry edible pea production is forecast at 10.8 million cwt, more than double the 2003 estimate. Area for harvest, at 500,800 acres, is 52 percent above a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 2,163 pounds per acre, up 579 pounds from last season.

U.S. **Austrian winter peas** production for Idaho, Montana, and Oregon in 2004 is forecast at 272,000 cwt, up 56 percent from 2003. Area harvested is forecast at 21,500 acres, up 38 percent from last year. Average yield is expected to be 1,265 pounds per acre, up 150 pounds per acre from last season.

Lentil production for the U.S. is forecast at 4.08 million cwt, up 67 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 322,000 acres, up 36 percent from the previous year. Average yield is expected to be 1,268 pounds per acre, up 238 pounds per acre from 2003.

U.S. **sugar beet** production for 2004 is forecast at 29.8 million tons, 3 percent above the October forecast but 3 percent below last year's production. The yield is forecast at 22.4 tons per acre, up 0.7 ton from October but 0.3 ton below 2003. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States expect to harvest 1.33 million acres, unchanged from last month but 2 percent below last year.

U.S. **fall potatoes** production of fall potatoes for 2004 is forecast at 408 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year for comparable States. South Dakota and Utah were dropped from the program starting in 2004. Area harvested, at 1.02 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but 6 percent below last year. The average yield is
forecast at 398 cwt per acre, 22 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, 6 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

Small Grains survey respondents who reported barley, oats, Durum wheat, or other spring wheat acreage not yet harvested in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming during the surveys conducted to prepare the Small Grains 2004 Summary were re-contacted to determine how many of these acres were actually harvested and record the actual production from those acres. Based on this updated information, several changes were made to the estimates published in the Small Grains 2004 Summary. Because unharvested production is a component of on-farm stocks, changes were made to the September 1 on-farm stocks levels comparable with the production adjustments.

Durum harvested area was reduced 5,000 acres in Montana and 80,000 acres in North Dakota. Yield per acre was increased 1.0 bushel in each of these two States. No changes were made in Minnesota. Other spring wheat harvested area declined 20,000 acres in Minnesota and 50,000 acres each in Montana and North Dakota. Acreage was unchanged in Wyoming, and no changes were made to yield in any of the States. All wheat production in the United States is 2.16 billion bushels, 8 percent below last year and only fractionally below the previous estimate.

In Minnesota, oat harvested area was reduced 10,000 acres, while in North Dakota harvested area was reduced 5,000 acres. Yield per acre increased 2.0 bushels in North Dakota and remained unchanged in Minnesota. Acreage and yield estimates were unchanged in Montana and Wyoming. As a result of the changes in Minnesota and North Dakota, oat production in the United States is 116 million bushels, down 20 percent from last year and down less than 1 percent from the previous estimate.

Barley area harvested in North Dakota was revised to 1.48 million acres, down 10,000 acres from the September estimate. Yield is estimated at 68.0 bushels per acre in Minnesota, a decrease of 2.0 bushels. As a result of these changes, production is down 230,000 bushels in Minnesota and 620,000 bushels in North Dakota. Acreage, yield, and production are unchanged in Montana and Wyoming. Total U.S. production is estimated at 279 million bushels, slightly below the previous estimate but slightly higher than last year's production. See table on next page.

November 1, 2004 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S. Numbers Updated

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	1,900	1,820	1,630	37.0	41.0	67,340	66,[illegible]
Durum Wheat	Bu.	640	570	630	545	23.0	33.0	14,490	17,9[illegible]
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,900	3,000	2,750	2,850	22.0	31.0	60,500	88,350
All Wheat	Bu.	5,440	5,470	5,200	5,025	27.4	34.5	142,330	173,165
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	17.0	15.0	140.0	3/	2,380	3/
Oats	Bu.	120	105	45.0	40.0	44.0	60.0	1,980	2,400
Barley	Bu.	1,150	1,000	850	830	40.0	59.0	34,000	48,970
Flaxseed	Bu.	17.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	13.0	3/	221	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	18.0	12.8	17.0	18.2	20.0	233	340
Dry Peas	Cwt.	33.0	68.0	31.0	59.0	14.5	15.5	450	915
Lentils	Cwt.	30.0	78.0	26.0	65.0	10.5	14.0	273	910
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.5	12.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	56	80
Sugar Beets	Ton	51.7	53.4	51.5	52.2	25.4	21.0	1,308	1,096
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	315.0	330.0	3,339	3,498
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,600	2.10	2.30	3,360	3,680
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	950	1.50	1.70	1,275	1,615
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,550	1.89	2.08	4,635	5,295
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	45,384	43,350	36,753	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,915	2,561	2,869	2,363	33.7	38.0	96,637	89,893
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,842	13,763	13,441	13,174	39.5	43.2	531,402	568,918
All Wheat	Bu.	62,141	59,674	53,063	49,999	44.2	43.2	2,344,760	2,158,245
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	10,113,887	10,923,099
Oats	Bu.	4,597	4,085	2,220	1,792	65.0	64.7	144,383	115,935
Barley	Bu.	5,348	4,527	4,727	4,021	58.9	69.4	278,283	279,253
Flaxseed	Bu.	595	629	583	608	17.9	3/	10,426	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,406.1	1,373.4	1,346.9	1,250.1	16.7	15.0	22,515	18,693
Dry Peas	Cwt.	337.5	527.0	328.5	500.8	15.8	21.6	5,202	10,831
Lentils	Cwt.	246.0	345.0	237.0	322.0	10.3	12.7	2,442	4,084
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	21.1	30.5	15.6	21.5	11.2	12.7	174	272
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,365.4	1,349.8	1,347.9	1,326.0	22.7	22.4	30,583	29,765
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,106.0	1,043.7	1,090.9	1,024.5	376	398	410,588	407,786
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	76,307	77,371
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.25	80,816	88,549
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.69	157,123	165,920

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available January 12, 2005 -- Not published.

Montana Crop Year Summary 2004

November 2003 was abnormally cold and the state received snowfall in most areas. By the end of November, topsoil moisture conditions were rated 27% very short, 46% short, 26% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 51% very short, 38% short, 11% adequate, and 0% surplus.

Seeding of the 2004 winter wheat crop was complete by the end of November and 89 percent had emerged. An estimated 1.90 million acres were seeded, unchanged from 2003. Drier-than-last-year conditions persisted during the planting season. As a result, crop condition was rated 4% very poor, 19% poor, 38% fair, 27% good, and 2% excellent. These ratings were not as good as the 2003 crop, which was rated 2% very poor, 3% poor, 53% fair, 59% good, and 3% excellent.

December was similar to November, bringing normally cold temperatures and snowfall to the vast majority of the state. By the end of the month, the winter wheat crop was rated 8% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 33% good, and 1% excellent. This was a decline from the previous month's rating.

January also brought sub-zero temperatures and snowfall to most of the state. The winter wheat crop condition rating at 5% very poor, 13% poor, 46% fair, 33% good, and 3% excellent, was better than the previous month, but behind the previous year's ratings. Wind damage to the winter wheat crop was rated 29% no damage, 14% light, 19% moderate, and 12% heavy, which was an improvement from 2003's ratings. Freeze and drought damage to the crop was rated 31% none, 37% light, 28% moderate, and 4% heavy. Snow cover for winter wheat was rated 6% very poor, 9% poor, 26% fair, 41% good, and 18% excellent, better than last year.

During the month of February, temperatures were normal, but precipitation was below normal with a few exceptions. March had warmer temperatures and below normal precipitation. By month's end, topsoil moisture condition was rated 22% very short, 28% short, 48% adequate and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 31% very short, 38% short, 30% adequate, and 1% surplus. In addition, wind damage to the winter wheat crop was rated 48% none, 29% light, 18% moderate, and 5% heavy. Freeze and drought damage to the crop was rated 53% none, 29% light, 19% moderate, and 4% heavy. Winter wheat was beginning to break dormancy, and was rated 23% still dormant, 64% greening, and 13% green and growing. Overall, the winter wheat crop condition was rated 8% very poor, 12% poor, 33% fair, 40% good, and 7% excellent.

Small grain seeding began in April. By the end of April fieldwork was 82% well underway, ahead of the previous year. By the end of the month, barley was 85% seeded, with 45% of the crop emerged. The corn crop was 26% planted, with 0% emerged. Dry beans were 7% planted. Oats were 63% seeded with 17% emerged. Continued on back page.

September Ag Prices Received

September full month crop prices were mixed compared with August 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.22 per bushel, down $0.08 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.21 to $3.64 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.16 to reach $4.08 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.06 from the previous month to $1.61; malt barley prices were down $0.13 to $3.27 per bushel; but oats increased $0.20 to $1.76 per bushel.

The mid-October price for alfalfa hay was down $1.00 from September to $78.00 per ton and all other hay also dropped $1.00 to $70.00 per ton. The mid-October grain prices were mostly lower with winter wheat price averaging $3.33 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.62; durum wheat averaged $3.97; feed barley was $1.54; and malt barley averaged $3.20.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mostly lower compared with August 2004. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.00 to $109.00 per cwt., but cows decreased $3.80 to $55.00. The average price for calves fell $11.00 to $128.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.50 to $41.70 per cwt., while lamb prices rose $1.00 to $110.00 per cwt. Full month September milk prices decreased $2.00 per cwt. from August to $15.20. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October averaged $115.00 per cwt.; cows averaged $52.40 per cwt.; calves averaged $127.00 per cwt.; and mid-month October milk prices averaged $15.20 per cwt., unchanged from September.

Nationally, prices for September and changes from August were as follows: winter wheat was $3.26, up $0.07, spring wheat was $3.48, up $0.10; durum wheat was $3.90, up $0.05; the all barley price was $2.43, down $0.36, and steer and heifer prices were $89.30, down $3.20 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-October winter wheat price was $3.29 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.47 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.74 per bushel, all wheat was $3.38 per bushel, malt barley was $2.88 per bushel, feed barley was $1.57 per bushel, and all barley was $2.36. Steer and heifer prices were $91.10 per cwt, cow prices were $50.40, calves were $127.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $51.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.50 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 111, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3.5 percent) below the September Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index declined 6 points (5.4 percent) from September while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, oranges, grapes, and cucumbers. Lower prices were received for corn, soybeans, hogs, broilers, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of soybeans, corn, and cotton offset decreased marketings of dairy, grapes, and sweet corn. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from October 2003.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	September 2003	October 2003	September 2004	October 2004
Prices Received	111	113	115	111
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	128	129	134	134
Ratio 2/	87	88	86	83

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Sept. 2003	Aug. 2004	Sept. 2004	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2004	Sept. 2003	Oct. 15, 2004	Oct. 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.36	3.30	3.22	3.26	-0.08	-0.14	3.33	3.29
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.16	3.92	4.08	3.90	+0.16	-0.08	3.97	3.74
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.43	3.64	3.48	+0.21	+0.12	3.62	3.47
All Wheat	Bu.	3.61	3.45	3.57	3.36	+0.12	-0.04	3.58	3.38
Barley, All	Bu.	3.03	3.11	2.93	2.43	-0.18	-0.10	2.85	2.36
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.10	1.67	1.61	1.64	-0.06	-0.49	1.54	1.57
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.42	3.40	3.27	2.90	-0.13	-0.15	3.20	2.88
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.56	1.76	1.44	+0.20	N/A	1.60	1.37
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	76.00	77.00	79.00	95.50	+2.00	+3.00	78.00	97.80
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	74.00	71.00	65.70	-3.00	NC	70.00	68.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	76.00	77.00	87.70	+1.00	+2.00	75.00	89.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	90.50	108.00	109.00	89.30	+1.00	+18.50	115.00	91.10
Cows	Cwt	49.10	58.80	55.00	53.10	-3.80	+5.90	52.40	50.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	85.90	97.20	93.90	85.80	-3.30	+8.00	104.00	86.40
Calves	Cwt	106.00	139.00	128.00	129.00	-11.00	+22.00	127.00	127.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	32.00	43.20	41.70	41.80	-1.50	+9.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	106.00	109.00	110.00	101.00	+1.00	+4.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.00	17.20	15.20	15.40	-2.00	+2.20	15.20	15.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996

Crop year Summary (coantuned)

Potato planting had not started. The spring wheat crop was 72% seeded and 29% emerged. Sugar beets were 91% planted with 17% emerged. The winter wheat crop condition was rated 18% very poor, 23% poor, 43% fair, 17% good, and 2% excellent.

May brought warmer temperatures and much needed rain and snowfall throughout the state. Precipitation and lower temperatures prevailed the rest of the month, slowing spring planting and crop progress. By the end of June, 55% of the topsoil and 32% of the subsoil in the state was rated adequate for moisture. In addition, crop progress was ahead of or close to normal levels.

Hot, dry weather prevailed across Montana in July. Winter wheat was 11% harvested at the end of the month, significantly behind 2003 and the five-year average. During August, most of the state received significant rainfall the first part of the month. Weather conditions turned mild and dry at mid-month, which helped crop development. Rain fell across the state for the rest of the month, along with cooler temperatures, slowing the harvest of spring grains. At month's end, the spring wheat, durum wheat, barley and oats harvest were well behind last year. Winter wheat was 95% harvested. The weather turned warm and dry again the first part of September, speeding up spring grain harvest, except for durum wheat which was only 68% harvested at the end of the month.

Montana's 2004 winter wheat production was 66.8 million bushels, down 1 percent from last year's crop. Producers seeded 1.90 million acres, unchanged from 2003. Producers harvested 1.63 million acres, down 190,000 acres from last year. The 2004 average yield was 41.0 bushels per acre, 4 bushels higher than 2003.

Spring wheat production in Montana was 88.4 million bushels, up 46 percent from 2003 due to more acres seeded, harvested and higher yields. The final seeded acreage was 3.0 million acres, up 100,000 acres from last year. Producers harvested 2.85 million acres, up 100,000 acres from 2003. Yields averaged 31.0 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from last year.

Montana durum wheat growers seeded 570,000 acres, down 11 percent from last year. Producers harvested 545,000 acres, down 85,000 acres from 2003. The average yield was 33.0 bushels per acre, up 10 bushels from last year. Total production was estimated at 17.99 million bushels, up 24 percent from last year due to higher yields.

Montana growers seeded 1.0 million acres to barley, 150,000 acres fewer than the previous year. This is the lowest acreage number since 2001, when 1.10 million acres were seeded. Producers harvested 830,000 acres, 20,000 fewer than were harvested for grain in 2003. The final yield for 2004 averaged 59.0 bushels per acre, up 19 bushels from last year. Production was estimated at 48.97 million bushels, up 44 percent from last year.

Oat production was estimated at 2.4 million bushels, up 21 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 105,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2003. Harvested acreage was set at 40,000 acres, down 5,000 from last year. Yields averaged 60.0 bushels per acre, 16 bushels above 2003.

Alfalfa hay yield in Montana was estimated at 2.30 tons per acre. Total production of alfalfa hay is estimated at 3.68 million tons, up 10 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 1.60 million for alfalfa, remained unchanged from 2003. Other hay yield is estimated at 1.70 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to total 1.62 million tons, up 27 percent from 2003. Other hay harvested acreage is 950,000 acres, up 100,000 acres from 2003. All hay production is estimated at 5.295 million tons, up 14 percent from last year.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Hay Production
- Sugar Beet Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Annual Bulletin Available
- Milk Production
- Egg Production
- Wheat Utilization
- Red Meat Production

October 1, 2004 Montana All Hay and Sugar Beet Production Forecast

Total production of **alfalfa hay** in Montana is estimated to be 3.680 million tons, up 10 percent from the previous year. **Alfalfa hay** yield rose 0.30 ton to 2.30 tons per acre from the August forecast. Harvested acreage, at 1.60 million acres, remained unchanged from both August and 2003. **Other hay** yield increased 0.10 ton from August's forecast, and is estimated at 1.70 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 1.615 million tons, up 27 percent from 2003. If realized, the other hay yield of 1.70 tons per acre would match the previous record high yield which occurred in 1993 and 1995. Other hay harvested acreage is unchanged from August at 950,000 acres, but is up 100,000 acres from 2003. **All hay** production is estimated at 5.295 million tons, up 14 percent from last year. Hay yields are higher this year due to timely rainfall during the growing season and some producers being able to get three cuttings of hay this year.

Montana's **sugar beet** production is forecast at 1.096 million tons for 2004, the same as September's forecast, but down 16 percent from 2003. Sugar beet yield is expected to drop due to producers replanting beet acreage lost to frost damage and cooler temperatures during the growing season, which slowed crop development. Forecasted yield, at 21.0 tons per acre, is unchanged from last month, but down 4.4 tons per acre from last year. Harvested acreage, at 52,200 acres, is unchanged from September, but up 700 acres from last year. Harvest progress is slightly behind last year with 16 percent of the beets pulled by the week ending October 3, compared with the 5-year average of 20 percent.

U.S. **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** production is forecast at 77.4 million tons, virtually unchanged from the August forecast, but up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.48 tons per acre, unchanged from August but 0.24 ton above last year. Harvested area is 22.2 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 6 percent from 2003. U.S. **other hay** production is forecast at 88.5 million tons, up 5 percent from August and up 10 percent from 2003. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.25 tons, up 0.10 ton from August and 0.22 ton above last year. If realized, both yield and production would be the highest on record. Harvested area is 39.4 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast, but down 1 percent from the previous year.

Sugar beet production for 2004 in the United States is forecast at 28.8 million tons, 1 percent above the September forecast, but 6 percent below last year's production. The yield is forecast at 21.7 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from September, but 1.0 ton below 2003. Growers in the 12 sugar beet producing States expect to harvest 1.33 million acres, virtually unchanged from last month, but 2 percent below last year. As of October 3, harvest progress in the 4 major producing States was behind the 5-year average.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.5 million head on October 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above October 1, 2003 and up slightly from October 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.46 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.96 million head, up 1 percent from 2003.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.37 million, 4 percent below 2003 but 8 percent above 2002. Net placements were 2.31 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 623,000, 600-699 pounds were 474,000, 700-799 pounds were 557,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 720,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 3 percent below 2002. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of September since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 61,000 during September, 3 percent below 2003 but 15 percent above 2002.

Montana Agricultural Statistics 2004 Book Available Soon

The annual report contains state and county crop and livestock estimates, farm income, prices, farm numbers, Montana's rank among states, and other statistical data.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics 2004 book will be available in December or early January in printed form or on our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The price for the printed book is $10.00. Those who supply survey information are not charged.

October 1, 2004 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	1,900	1,820	1,630	37.0	41.0	67,340	66,830
Durum Wheat	Bu.	640	570	630	550	23.0	32.0	14,490	17,600
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,900	3,000	2,750	2,900	22.0	31.0	60,500	89,900
All Wheat	Bu.	5,440	5,470	5,200	5,080	27.4	34.3	142,330	174,330
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	17.0	15.0	140.0	4/	2,380	4/
Oats	Bu.	120	105	45.0	40.0	44.0	60.0	1,980	2,400
Barley	Bu.	1,150	1,000	850	830	40.0	59.0	34,000	48,970
Flaxseed	Bu.	17.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	13.0	4/	221	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	18.0	12.8	17.0	18.2	20.0	233	340
Dry Peas	Cwt.	33.0	50.0	31.0	40.0	14.5	4/	450	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	30.0	38.0	26.0	35.0	10.5	4/	273	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.5	10.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	4/	56	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	51.7	53.4	51.5	52.2	25.4	21.0	1,308	1,096
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	315.0.	3/	3,339	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,600	2.10	2.30	3,360	3,680
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	950	1.50	1.70	1,275	1,615
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,550	1.89	2.08	4,635	5,295
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	45,384	43,350	36,753	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,915	2,561	2,869	2,448	33.7	37.0	96,637	90,468
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,842	13,763	13,441	13,294	39.5	43.1	531,402	573,618
All Wheat	Bu.	62,141	59,674	53,063	50,204	44.2	43.1	2,344,760	2,163,520
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	10,113,887	10,923,099
Oats	Bu.	4,597	4,085	2,220	1,807	65.0	64.5	144,383	116,505
Barley	Bu.	5,348	4,527	4,727	4,031	58.9	69.5	278,283	280,103
Flaxseed	Bu.	595	629	583	608	17.9	4/	10,426	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,406.1	1,373.4	1,346.9	1,250.1	16.7	15.0	22,515	18,693
Dry Peas	Cwt.	337.5	480.0	328.5	454.0	15.6	4/	5,202	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	246.0	300.0	237.0	293.0	10.1	4/	2,442	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	21.1	25.5	15.6	16.6	12.4	4/	183	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,365.4	1,349.8	1,347.9	1,326.0	22.7	21.5	30,583	28,840
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,107.6	1,037.8	1,092.0	1,022.8	377	3/	411,386	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	76,307	77,371
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.25	80,816	88,549
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.69	157,123	165,920

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available November 12, 2004. 4/ Forecast available January 12, 2005 -- Not published.

September Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during September totaled 11.9 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from September 2003. August revised production, at 12.4 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from August 2003. The August revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,529 pounds for September, 18 pounds above September 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 6,000 head less than September 2003, but 4,000 head more than August 2004.

July-September Milk Production Up 1.1 Percent

Milk production in the U.S. during the July-September quarter totaled 42.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the July-September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.03 million head, 40,000 head less than the same period last year.

September Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.32 billion during September 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2004 averaged 343 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,133 eggs, up slightly from September 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2004, totaled 344 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 344 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.61 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2004, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.84 billion eggs during September 2004, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during September, at 321 million, was up 3 percent from a year ago.

Wheat Utilization for 1999-2003 Marketing Years

The June 2002 - May 2003 marketing year total wheat supply was 183.9 million bushels, 9 percent more than a year earlier, and 24 percent above the 2000-01 marketing year. Total supply is calculated by adding 2003 all wheat production to June 2003 all wheat stocks. Total disposition of 143.5 million bushels was 14 percent more than the quantity marketed during the 2001-2002 marketing year. Ending stocks of 40.4 million bushels were 3 percent less than last year. Wheat utilization reports are assembled from Grain Movement Reports and Grain Market News data by the Montana Agriculture Statistics Service. Funding was provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee

Montana shipped 136.1 million bushels out of state during the 2002 - 2003 marketing year, 16 percent more than moved during the same period last year. Shipments to the Pacific Northwest totaled 95.7 million bushels, 16 percent more than the 2001 - 2002 season, and accounted for 70 percent of the wheat shipped out of state. Pacific Northwest export facilities accounted for 69.8 million bushels, while Pacific Northwest processing terminals accounted for 22.8 million bushels.

Inspected exports of hard red winter, hard red spring, hard white, and durum wheat from Pacific ports were 208.3 million bushels, up 4 percent from the previous year. Montana's recorded share of those exports was 35 percent, 2 points above the 2001-2002 marketing year.

All Wheat: Supply and Disposition by Marketing Year, Montana, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002
	Million Bushels					Percent
SUPPLY						
Beginning Stocks 1/	70.6	60.9	51.4	57.3	41.6	73
Production	154.3	135.2	96.6	110.7	142.3	129
Total Supply	224.9	196.1	148.0	168.0	183.9	109
DISPOSITION						
Recorded movement out of state 2/	145.5	125.3	67.7	117.1	136.1	116
Used for seed in Montana	5.7	5.8	6.3	5.8	5.9	102
Residual 3/	12.8	13.6	16.7	3.5	1.5	43
Total Disposition	164.0	144.7	90.7	126.4	143.5	114
Pacific Northwest exports as a percent of total disposition	60%	61%	41%	52%	51%	
Ending Stocks 1/	60.9	51.4	57.3	41.6	40.4	97

1/ June 1 stocks, All Positions. 2/ Montana Wheat Movement Project
3/ Used for flour, used for livestock feed, handling losses, and other unaccounted disappearance.

All Wheat: Recorded Movement by Destination & Marketing Years, Montana, 1999-2003

ITEM	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002
	Million Bushels					Percent
All Destinations	160.9	144.2	83.7	133.2	145.5	109
Out of Montana	145.5	125.3	67.7	117.1	136.1	116
Pacific Northwest Destinations	112.5	98.4	44.8	82.8	95.7	116
Export Destinations	98.3	87.6	37.2	65.6	72.9	111
Export Facilities	91.8	81.8	34.8	63.3	69.8	110
Columbia/Snake River Barge System	6.5	5.8	2.4	2.3	3.1	135
Processing Destinations	14.2	10.8	7.6	17.2	22.8	133
Interior Oregon & Washington Facilities	8.2	5.3	2.2	10.8	13.1	121
Mills	6.0	5.5	5.4	6.4	9.7	152
Non-Pacific Northwest Destinations	33.0	26.9	22.9	34.3	40.4	118
Montana Destinations	15.4	18.9	16.0	16.1	9.4	58
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White, and Durum - Pacific ports 1/	207.4	204.4	195.5	200.2	208.3	104
Montana recorded exports as percent of total Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White and Durum exports from Pacific ports	47%	43%	19%	33%	35%	

1/ California, Oregon, and Washington ports.
PLEASE NOTE: Funding for the above statistics was provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

September Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 2004, down 19 percent from last year, and down 18 percent from the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, down 22 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 3 pounds to 1,143 from the previous year.

During September there were 1,400 hogs slaughtered, 300 fewer than a year ago. The average live weight, at 237 pounds, rose 5 pounds from last year. September sheep slaughter in the state totaled 500 head, 100 head more than September 2003. The average live weight decreased 6 pounds to 120 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in September, down 3 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in September 2003. Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.74 million head, down 13 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was up 38 pounds from the previous year, at 1,266 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 15 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,300 head, down 18 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was 13 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds.

U.S. pork production totaled 1.77 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.00 million head, 5 percent above September 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 243,600 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

January to September 2004 commercial red meat production for the United States was 33.8 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Ag Prices Received
- 2004 Crop Year Summary
- Austrian Winter Pea Production
- Dry Bean Production
- Dry Pea Production
- Lentil Production
- Potato Production
- Sugar Beet Production

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 04-19 (0279-0394) Released: October 1, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS:

2004 Small Grain Summary
September 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Hogs & Pigs

Small Grains Summary

All wheat production, at 174.3 million bushels, is up 22 percent from the 2003 crop of 142.3 million bushels. Montana's 2004 **winter wheat** production was 66.8 million bushels, one percent less than last year's revised production of 67.3 million bushels. Producers seeded 1.90 million acres, unchanged from the revised 2003 acreage. Producers harvested 1.63 million acres, down 190,000 acres from last years revised acreage of 1.82 million acres. The 2004 average yield, at 41.0 bushels per acre, is 4 bushels higher than 2003 and is the highest yield since 1993 when producers averaged a record 42.0 bushels per acre.

Spring wheat production in Montana was 89.9 million bushels, up 49 percent from 2003 due to higher yields and more acres seeded and harvested in 2004. The final seeded acreage was 3.0 million acres, up 100,000 acres from last year's revised acreage of 2.9 million acres. Producers harvested 2.9 million acres, up 150,000 acres from the 2003 revised acreage of 2.75 million acres. Yields averaged 31.0 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the August forecast, and up 9 bushels from 2003. The average yield was the highest since 1995 when it was 35 bushels per acre.

Montana **durum wheat** growers seeded 570,000 acres, down 11 percent from last year. Producers harvested 550,000 acres, down 13 percent from 2003. The average yield was 32.0 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels per acre from last year, and up 3 bushels from the previous forecast. Yields for 2004 were one bushel below the historic high yield of 33 bushels recorded in 1991 and 1992. Total production for 2004 was estimated at 17.6 million bushels, up 21 percent from last year, setting a near all-time production record for Montana's durum producers. For the week ending September 26th, durum wheat harvesting was still not completed with only 60 percent of the acreage harvested which compares with 100 percent last year.

Montana **barley** producers seeded 1.0 million acres of barley in 2004, 150,000 acres fewer than the 2003 revised acreage of 1.15 million acres. This is the lowest acreage seeded since 1953, when 0.6 million acres were seeded. Producers harvested 830,000 acres, 20,000 fewer than the 2003 revised harvested acreage of 850,000 acres. The final yield for 2004 averaged 59.0 bushels per acre, up 19 bushels from last year, and up 8 bushels from the August forecast. The average yield set a new historic high, bettering the previous record of 58.0 bushels per acre in 1993. Production was estimated to be 49.0 million bushels, up 44 percent from last year due to higher yields.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 2.4 million bushels, up 21 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 105,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from 2003. Harvested acreage was set at 40,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Yields averaged 60.0 bushels per acre, 16 bushels above 2003 and 9 bushels higher than the previous estimate, which is the highest oat yield since 1993.

U.S. **winter wheat** production is estimated at 1.50 billion bushels. This is up nearly 1 percent from the August forecast but 13 percent below last year's crop. The U.S. yield is 43.5 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushel from August but 3.2 bushels below last year's final yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 34.5 million acres, 6 percent below 2003. Planted area is 43.4 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous year.

Other spring wheat production in the United States is estimated at 574 million bushels, up 5 percent from the last forecast and up 8 percent from 2003. Harvested area is 13.3 million acres, 1 percent lower than last year. The U.S. yield is a record high 43.1 bushels per acre, 3.6 bushels better than last year and 1.3 bushels higher than the previous record set in 1992. **Durum wheat** production for 2004 totaled 90.5 million bushels, up 2 percent from August 1, but 6 percent less than last year. Grain area harvested totaled 2.45 million acres, 15 percent below a year ago. The U.S. yield is estimated at 37.0 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the last forecast and 3.3 bushels per acre above 2003.

U.S. **barley** production is estimated at 280 million bushels, up 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at a record high 69.5 bushels, is up 3.8 bushels from the last forecast and 10.6 bushels above 2003. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.03 million acres, down 3 percent from August and 15 percent below a year ago. Nationally, harvested area is the smallest since 1894 but yield is a new record high, 7.0 bushels above the previous record of 62.5 bushels set in 1992.

U.S. **oat** production is estimated at 117 million bushels, 9 percent below the August 1 forecast and 19 percent below last year's 144 million bushels. The estimated yield is 64.5 bushels per acre, down 1.5 bushels from August and down 0.5 bushel from a year ago. Harvested area is 1.81 million acres, 7 percent below the August 1 forecast and 19 percent below last year.

Due to the late harvest of small grains, the National Agricultural Statistics Service will recontact survey participants in Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Minnesota that had not finished harvesting at the time of their initial integrview to collect information on final harvested acreage and yield. Any changes in acreage and production as a result of this reinterview will be published in the November Crop Production Report on November 12, 2004.

September 1, 2004 Grain Stocks

Stocks of **all wheat** in Montana on September 1, 2004 were 186.8 million bushels, up 23 percent from a year ago due to a 22 percent increase in all wheat production. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 167.0 million bushels, up 33 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted to 19.8 million bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the June - August 2004 quarter was down 11 percent from the same quarter last year to 27.9 million bushels, compared with 31.5 million a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2004 were 49.3 million bushels, up 40 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farms was 42.0 million bushels, up 50 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was up 1 percent from a year ago to 7.3 million bushels. **Oats** stocks in all positions were 2.6 million bushels, up 13 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 2.5 million bushels, up 14 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were down 17 percent from last year to 50,000 bushels. (Continued on back page.)

September 30, 2004 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,900	1,900	1,820	1,630	37.0	41.0	67,340	66,830
Durum Wheat	Bu.	640	570	630	550	23.0	32.0	14,490	17,600
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,900	3,000	2,750	2,900	22.0	31.0	60,500	89,900
All Wheat	Bu.	5,440	5,470	5,200	5,080	27.4	34.3	142,330	174,330
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	17.0	15.0	140.0	4/	2,380	4/
Oats	Bu.	120	105	45.0	40.0	44.0	60.0	1,980	2,400
Barley	Bu.	1,150	1,000	850	830	40.0	59.0	34,000	48,970
Flaxseed	Bu.	17.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	13.0	4/	221	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	18.0	12.8	17.0	18.2	20.0	233	340
Dry Peas	Cwt.	33.0	50.0	31.0	40.0	14.5	4/	450	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	30.0	38.0	26.0	35.0	10.5	4/	273	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.5	10.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	4/	56	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	51.7	53.4	51.5	53.0	25.4	21.0	1,308	1,113
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	315.0.	3/	3,339	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,600	2.10	2.00	3,360	3,200
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	950	1.50	1.60	1,275	1,520
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,550	1.89	1.85	4,635	4,720
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	45,384	43,350	36,753	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,915	2,561	2,869	2,448	33.7	37.0	96,637	90,468
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,842	13,763	13,441	13,294	39.5	43.1	531,402	573,618
All Wheat	Bu.	62,141	59,674	53,063	50,204	44.2	43.1	2,344,760	2,163,520
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	10,113,887	10,923,099
Oats	Bu.	4,597	4,085	2,220	1,807	65.0	64.5	144,383	116,505
Barley	Bu.	5,348	4,527	4,727	4,031	58.9	69.5	278,283	280,103
Flaxseed	Bu.	595	629	583	608	17.9	4/	10,426	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,406.1	1,360.4	1,346.9	1,301.1	16.7	16.4	22,515	21,323
Dry Peas	Cwt.	337.5	480.0	328.5	454.0	15.6	4/	5,202	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	246.0	300.0	237.0	293.0	10.1	4/	2,442	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	21.1	25.5	15.6	16.6	12.4	4/	183	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,365.4	1,349.8	1,347.9	1,326.3	22.7	21.4	30,583	28,373
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,107.6	1,037.8	1,092.0	1,022.8	377	3/	411,386	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	76,307	77,264
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	80,816	84,499
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.63	157,123	161,763

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available November 12, 2004. 4/ Forecast available January 12, 2005 -- Not published.

September 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 2003	June 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2004	'04/'03	Sept. 1, 2003	June 1, 2004	Sept 1, 2004
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	126,000	28,000	167,000	133%	687,320	131,880	795,600
Off Farms 1/	26,470	12,390	19,780	75%	351,652	414,939	1,146,115
TOTAL	152,470	40,390	186,780	123%	2,038,972	546,819	1,941,715
DURUM WHEAT 2/, 3/							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	58,000	13,600	66,620
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	29,241	13,092	24,658
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	87,241	26,692	91,278
BARLEY							
On Farms	28,000	4,000	42,000	150%	141,900	28,320	176,500
Off Farms 1/	7,230	4,990	7,290	101%	99,730	91,989	115,305
TOTAL	35,230	8,990	49,290	140%	241,630	120,309	291,805
OATS							
On Farms	2,200	700	2,500	114%	82,100	27,500	74,800
Off Farms 1/	60	65	50	83%	49,637	37,348	41,454
TOTAL	2,260	765	2,550	113%	131,737	64,848	116,254
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	484,900	1,540,000	438,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	601,773	1,430,140	519,672
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,086,673	2,970,140	957,672

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

August Ag Prices Received

August full month crop prices were mostly lower compared with July 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.30 per bushel, down $0.36 from the previous month but up $0.03 from the previous year; spring wheat dropped $0.42 to $3.43 per bushel and was $0.05 lower than August 2003; and durum wheat prices decreased $0.30 to $3.92 per bushel and were $0.09 lower than the previous year. Feed barley prices decreased $0.24 from the previous month and $0.32 from the previous year to average $1.67 per bushel. Malt barley prices were $3.40 per bushel, $0.02 lower than August 2003. The August 2004 oat price was $1.56 down $0.17 from the previous year.

The mid-September price for alfalfa hay was up $2.00 from August 2004 to $79.00 per ton, but all other hay decreased $3.00 from August to $71.00 per ton. The mid-September grain prices were mixed with winter wheat price averaging $3.32 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.93; durum wheat was $4.04; feed barley was $1.55; and malt barley averaged $3.35.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were mixed compared to July with cows and steer and heifer prices falling, but calf prices increasing. For August, steer and heifer prices tumbled $6.00 from July to $108.00 per cwt. but were $21.40 per cwt higher than August 2003. Cows held nearly steady from July, falling $0.30 to $58.80 per cwt., but were $11.30 higher than a year ago. Calf prices rocketed to $139.00 per cwt., an increase of $11.00 from July and $33.00 above a year ago, reaching an all-time record high price.

Sheep and lamb producers saw mixed prices for August. Sheep prices jumped $6.00 from July and $17.20 from August 2003 to $43.20 per cwt, but lamb prices fell $3.00 from July to $109.00 per cwt. The all milk price for August was $17.20 per cwt., falling $2.20 from July, but $5.50 higher than a year ago. Steer and heifer prices for mid-month September averaged $110.00 per cwt.; cows averaged $54.00 per cwt.; and calves averaged $133.00 per cwt. The mid-month September all milk price averaged $15.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for August and changes from July were as follows: winter wheat was $3.19, down $0.13 from July and down $0.09 from August 2003, spring wheat was $3.38, down $0.17 from July and $0.04 from a year ago; durum wheat was $3.85, down $0.26 from July but $0.07 above August 2003; the all barley price was $2.79, up $0.25 from July but down $0.12 from August 2003, and steer and heifer prices were $92.50, up $0.70 per cwt. from July and $9.60 above August 2003.

The U.S. mid-September winter wheat price was $3.36 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.64 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.97 per bushel, all wheat was $3.50 per bushel, malt barley was $2.98 per bushel, feed barley was $1.72 per bushel, and all barley was $2.56. Steer and heifer prices were $89.80 per cwt, cow prices were $52.80, calves were $129.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $53.70 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.544 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in September, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, is 6 points (5.0 percent) below the August Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index, declined 7 points (5.9 percent) from August while the Livestock Index decreased 5 points (4.1 percent).

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	August 2003	September 2003	August 2004	September 2004
Prices Received	109	111	120	114
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	127	128	134	133
Ratio 2/	86	87	90	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Aug. 2003	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Aug. 2004	July 2004	Aug. 2003	Sept. 15, 2004	Sept. 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.27	3.66	3.30	3.19	-0.36	-0.03	3.32	3.36
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.01	4.22	3.92	3.85	-0.30	-0.09	4.04	3.97
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.48	3.85	3.43	3.38	-0.42	-0.05	3.93	3.64
All Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.87	3.45	3.27	-0.42	-0.01	3.73	3.50
Barley, All	Bu.	3.14	1.92	3.11	2.79	+1.19	-0.03	3.04	2.56
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.99	1.91	1.67	1.87	-0.24	-0.32	1.55	1.72
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.42	N/A	3.40	3.05	N/A	-0.02	3.35	2.98
Oats	Bu.	1.73	N/A	1.56	1.33	N/A	-0.17	N/A	1.33
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	75.00	78.00	77.00	97.40	-1.00	+2.00	79.00	95.50
All Other Hay	Ton	68.00	74.00	74.00	70.00	N/C	+6.00	71.00	65.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	77.00	76.00	89.80	-1.00	+3.00	77.00	87.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	86.60	114.00	108.00	92.50	-6.00	+21.40	110.00	89.80
Cows	Cwt	47.50	59.10	58.80	54.70	-0.30	+11.30	54.00	52.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	78.00	97.00	97.20	88.90	+0.20	+19.20	103.00	86.30
Calves	Cwt	106.00	128.00	139.00	131.00	+11.00	+33.00	133.00	129.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	26.00	37.20	43.20	38.50	+6.00	+17.20	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	98.10	112.00	109.00	97.80	-3.00	+10.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	11.70	19.40	17.20	15.00	-2.20	+5.50	15.90	15.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Grain Stocks (continued)

In th United States, **all wheat** stored in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 1.94 billion bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 796 million bushels, up 16 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.15 billion bushels, are down 15 percent from a year ago.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions in the U.S. on September 1, 2004 totaled 91.3 million bushels, up 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 66.6 million bushels, are up 15 percent from September 1, 2003. Off-farm stocks totaled 24.7 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 292 million bushels, up 21 percent from September 1, 2003. On-farm stocks are estimated at 177 million bushels, 24 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 115 million bushels, are 16 percent above September 2003.

Oats stored in the United States in all positions on September 1, 2004 totaled 116.3 million bushels, 12 percent below September 1, 2003. Of the total stocks on hand, 74.8 million bushels are stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 41.5 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2004 was 61.4 million head. This was 1 percent above both September 1, 2003, and June 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.98 million head, was up 1 percent from September 1, 2003, and also up 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.4 million head, was 1 percent above last year and 2 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 26.0 million head, was up 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, 1 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.00 for the June-August 2004 period, compared to 8.90 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the September-November 2004 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in both 2003 and 2002. Intended farrowings for December 2004-February 2005, at 2.85 million sows, are up 1 percent from the same period in 2004, and up 3 percent from the same period in 2003.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

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- Hay Production
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- Wheat Utilization
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Egg Production
- Red Meat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Barley Utilized for Malt
Potato Production & Disposition
Milk Production
Egg Production
Cash Receipts County Estimates

Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 2004, down 10 percent from last year, but 17 percent higher than July 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, down from 1,900 head one year ago. The average live weight rose 7 pounds to 1,126 pounds.

During August there were 1,900 hogs slaughtered, compared with 2,100 one year ago. The average live weight, at 225 pounds, was up 4 pounds from last year. August sheep slaughter in the state totaled 500 head, unchanged from August 2003. The average live weight increased one pound to 121 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in August, down 1 percent from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in August 2003.

U.S. beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 8 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.82 million head, down 10 percent from August 2003. The average live weight was up 27 pounds from the previous year, at 1,252 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.9 million pounds, 2 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,800 head, down 9 percent from August 2003. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 320 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year, and was a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.72 million head, 8 percent above August 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.1 million pounds, was down 4 percent from August 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 232,600 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, unchanged from August a year ago.

January to August 2004 commercial red meat production was 29.9 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.97 million head on September 1, 2004. The inventory was 1 percent above September 1, 2003 but 2 percent below September 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.10 million, 12 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002. This is the second lowest placements for the month of August since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.04 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 506,000, 600-699 pounds were 413,000, 700-799 pounds were 565,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 615,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.92 million, 7 percent below 2003 and 10 percent below 2002. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of August since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 56,000 during August, 7 percent below 2003 but 30 percent above 2002.

Barley Utilized for Malt

Maltsters and brewers purchased 14.8 million bushels of Montana's 2003 barley crop to make malt, up 59 percent from 2002, according to a recent survey conducted by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The survey was requested and funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. The average protein of the 2003 malting crop was 12.2 percent, which is 0.8 point lower than the average protein of the 2002 crop.

Montana growers seeded 1.15 million acres of barley in 2003, down 30,000 acres from 2002. Of the total, over 719,000 acres were seeded to malting type varieties. If the yield of malting varieties equaled the state average yield per planted acre for all barley, then approximately 21.3 million bushels of malting type would have been produced. Because only 14.8 million bushels were used for malt, the remaining 6.5 million bushels did not make malting grade or exceeded demand for malting barley. The barley utilized for malt represented approximately 47 percent of the 2003 total barley crop, compared with 24 and 26 percent in 2002 and 2001, respectively.

Harrington was the most frequently purchased variety by maltsters and brewers and represented 41 percent of the total purchases. Anheuser-Busch varieties, at 37 percent of total, were the second most commonly purchased. Sixty-eight percent of all malt barley purchased was grown in north central Montana, compared to 58 percent last year. South central Montana growers produced 19 percent of the total.
(See table on back page)

Montana 2003 Potato Production Up 4 Percent, U.S. Down 1 Percent

Montana's 2003 potato production totaled 3,339,000 cwt., 4 percent above last year and 1 percent above 2001's production. Producers harvested 10,600 acres, 200 more than a year ago and 300 acres more than two years ago. Potato yields averaged 315 cwt. per acre compared with 310 cwt. in 2002 and 320 cwt. in 2001.

Value of production from the 2003 crop was $25.4 million, down 5 percent from 2002. The average price was $7.60 per cwt., a decrease of $0.65 from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 2003 potato crop totaled $22.1 million, which is 9 percent below last year's crop. Producers sold 2,909,000 cwt. from the 2003 crop compared with 2,937,000 cwt. a year ago.

U.S. total 2003 potato production is estimated at 458 million cwt, less than 1 percent below the estimate made in the Annual Crop Summary in January and down fractionally from the 2002 crop. Harvested area, at 1.25 million acres, decreased 1 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 367 cwt per acre is up 5 cwt from 2002 and 9 cwt above the average yield from the 2001 crop. By season, winter production decreased 4 percent, spring rose 9 percent, summer went up 5 percent, and fall fell 1 percent from the previous year.

Winter and spring seasonal estimates for the U.S. are carried forward from earlier revisions. Summer potato production is revised to 18.8 million cwt for 2003, up 5 percent from 2002. Harvested area, at 58,700 acres, is down less than 1 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 320 cwt per acre is 16 cwt above the previous year.

U.S. fall potatoes are finalized at 411 million cwt for 2003, down 1 percent from the 2002 crop. Area harvested in 2003 is estimated at 1.09 million acres, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average yield, at 376 cwt per acre, is up 2 cwt from a year earlier. Final production of fall potatoes is virtually unchanged from the Annual Crop Summary in January.

Value of U.S. all potato sold in 2003 is estimated at $2.46 billion, down 13 percent from the previous year. The average price, at $5.89 per cwt, went down $0.78 from a year earlier. Sales from the 2003 potato crop totaled 417 million cwt, down 1 percent from 2002. Sales accounted for 91 percent of 2003 production. Non sales accounted for 40.8 million cwt, 12 percent above the previous year. Over the past five years, 91 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other 9 percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

U.S. processors used 257 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2003 crop, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 135 million cwt, 3 percent above the previous year. Seed sales of 22.4 million cwt are down 7 percent. Sales for livestock feed, at 2.01 million cwt, are down 34 percent from a year earlier.

Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings in the U.S. totaled 52.8 million cwt in 2003, up 2 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 150 million cwt of raw potatoes, down 2 percent. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 48.4 million cwt, a decrease of 6 percent. Canning use, at 4.81 million cwt, fell 1 percent. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 879,000 cwt of potatoes, 16 percent below the previous year.

U.S. shrinkage and loss is estimated at 35.3 million cwt for 2003, up 14 percent from 2002. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.54 million cwt, 4 percent above the previous season. Growers kept 4.00 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 3 percent from a year earlier.

August Milk Production Up 1.5 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during August totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from August 2003. July revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was up 1.0 percent from July 2003. The July revision represented an increase of 36 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,595 pounds for August, 24 pounds above August 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 5,000 head less than August 2003, but 7,000 head more than July 2004.

August Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.52 billion during August 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.43 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,197 eggs, down slightly from August 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2004, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.03 billion eggs during August 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during August, at 320 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

Montana Cash Receipts from Sale of Principal Products & Government Payments by County - 2002

County and District	Livestock and Livestock Products		Crops		Total Cash Receipts		Government Payments	All Cash Receipts 1/	
	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols.	(000) Dols.	Rank
Deer Lodge	3,324	53	835	54	4,159	53	183	4,342	53
Flathead	8,244	43	17,152	20	25,396	32	851	26,247	33
Granite	8,017	45	1,377	49	9,394	48	428	9,822	49
Lake	23,478	19	16,456	22	39,934	17	1,580	41,514	20
Lincoln	2,315	55	1,364	51	3,679	54	2/	3,679	54
Mineral	908	56	254	55	1,162	56	2/	1,162	56
Missoula	5,756	51	2,179	42	7,935	52	243	8,178	52
Powell	16,858	25	1,802	47	18,660	41	585	19,245	43
Ravalli	17,784	24	7,423	28	25,207	33	1,033	26,240	34
Sanders	8,118	44	3,995	38	12,113	46	473	12,586	47
NORTHWEST	**94,802**	--	**52,837**	--	**147,639**	--	**5,376**	**153,015**	--
Blaine	25,434	16	20,634	14	46,068	13	10,210	56,278	13
Chouteau	14,073	33	44,124	1	58,197	5	20,150	78,347	2
Glacier	15,811	29	18,551	18	34,362	22	8,110	42,472	18
Hill	9,908	38	36,540	2	46,448	12	18,310	64,758	5
Liberty	8,259	42	22,753	11	31,012	25	8,924	39,936	22
Phillips	29,085	7	11,127	24	40,212	16	9,488	49,700	15
Pondera	14,280	31	34,655	3	48,935	11	9,287	58,222	12
Teton	27,601	12	29,110	8	56,711	6	11,271	67,982	4
Toole	9,311	39	22,219	12	31,530	24	10,515	42,045	19
NORTH CENTRAL	**153,762**	--	**239,713**	--	**393,475**	--	**106,265**	**499,740**	--
Daniels	5,303	52	21,593	13	26,896	30	6,845	33,741	28
Dawson	16,320	27	18,059	19	34,379	21	6,000	40,379	21
Garfield	25,871	15	4,139	37	30,010	26	6,576	36,586	26
McCone	12,368	36	16,499	21	28,867	28	7,262	36,129	27
Richland	23,883	18	32,705	5	56,588	7	7,472	64,060	7
Roosevelt	9,263	40	33,431	4	42,694	15	9,092	51,786	14
Sheridan	7,145	47	32,125	6	39,270	18	9,427	48,697	16
Valley	27,206	13	25,637	9	52,843	8	10,630	63,473	8
NORTHEAST	**127,359**	--	**184,188**	--	**311,547**	--	**63,304**	**374,851**	--
Broadwater	6,403	50	10,216	25	16,619	44	2,405	19,024	44
Cascade	30,982	5	20,258	16	51,240	10	8,257	59,497	10
Fergus	41,423	3	20,625	15	62,048	2	8,170	70,218	3
Golden Valley	7,836	46	1,372	50	9,208	49	2,754	11,962	48
Judith Basin	21,717	20	7,400	29	29,117	27	4,050	33,167	29
Lewis & Clark	12,867	34	7,197	30	20,064	37	1,198	21,262	39
Meagher	19,027	23	2,319	41	21,346	35	1,413	22,759	36
Musselshell	11,328	37	2,950	39	14,278	45	2,795	17,073	45
Petroleum	6,828	49	1,208	53	8,036	51	1,182	9,218	51
Wheatland	16,655	26	1,833	46	18,488	42	2,724	21,212	40
CENTRAL	**175,066**	--	**75,378**	--	**250,444**	--	**34,948**	**285,392**	--
Beaverhead	53,399	2	7,730	27	61,129	3	1,893	63,022	9
Gallatin	29,795	6	31,055	7	60,850	4	3,412	64,262	6
Jefferson	7,140	48	2,033	44	9,173	50	539	9,712	50
Madison	27,926	10	8,024	26	35,950	19	1,477	37,427	24
Silver Bow	2,956	54	235	56	3,191	55	108	3,299	55
SOUTHWEST	**121,216**	--	**49,077**	--	**170,293**	--	**7,429**	**177,722**	--
Big Horn	33,697	4	18,729	17	52,426	9	6,361	58,787	11
Carbon	28,362	9	14,340	23	42,702	14	2,068	44,770	17
Park	14,084	32	5,880	34	19,964	39	1,371	21,335	38
Stillwater	19,790	21	4,204	36	23,994	34	3,705	27,699	32
Sweetgrass	19,044	22	1,466	48	20,510	36	876	21,386	37
Treasure	12,661	35	6,331	32	18,992	40	685	19,677	42
Yellowstone	72,324	1	25,625	10	97,949	1	5,437	103,386	1
SOUTH CENTRAL	**199,962**	--	**76,575**	--	**276,537**	--	**20,503**	**297,040**	--
Carter	26,937	14	1,330	52	28,267	29	3,361	31,628	30
Custer	27,798	11	6,149	33	33,947	23	3,187	37,134	25
Fallon	16,206	28	2,090	43	18,296	43	2,789	21,085	41
Powder River	24,508	17	1,878	45	26,386	31	2,551	28,937	31
Prairie	15,434	30	4,548	35	19,982	38	2,992	22,974	35
Rosebud	28,972	8	6,569	31	35,541	20	4,027	39,568	23
Wibaux	8,393	41	2,804	40	11,197	47	2,307	13,504	46
SOUTHEAST	**148,248**	--	**25,368**	--	**173,616**	--	**21,214**	**194,830**	--
MONTANA	**1,020,415**	--	**703,136**	--	**1,723,551**	--	**259,096**	**1,982,647**	--

1/ Includes estimates of inter-farm sales and intra-state sales resulting in larger total cash receipts. 2/ Payments of less than $50,000 are included in State totals..
SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

MONTANA BARLEY PURCHASED TO PRODUCE MALT, 2001-2003 CROPS

VARIETY	CROP 1/ YEAR	DISTRICTS					STATE	
		N. Central 2/	Central	Southwest	S. Central	Southeast 3/	Bushels	Protein 4/
ANHEUSER-BUSCH VARIETIES	2001	3,490,000					3,490,000	12.0
	2002	2,105,000	919,000		306,000		3,330,000	12.8
	2003	4,190,000	762,000		520,000		5,472,000	12.1
HARRINGTON	2001	1,785,000	169,000	372,000	125,000	17,000	2,468,000	12.7
	2002	2,692,000	548,000	196,000			3,436,000	13.3
	2003	5,424,000	217,000		126,000	90,000	5,857,000	12.7
LEGACY	2001							
	2002							
	2003	294,000	73,000			328,000	695,000	12.5
MORAVIAN 37	2001		75,000		1,220,000		1,295,000	11.8
	2002	617,000			1,790,000	88,000	2,495,000	12.8
	2003	80,000			2,200,000	179,000	2,459,000	11.2
MOREX	2001		30,000	134,000			164,000	11.8
	2002							
	2003							
OTHER	2001	71,000	27,000	23,000			121,000	13.1
	2002			28,000			28,000	11.8
	2003					295,000	295,000	12.7
TOTAL	2001	5,346,000	301,000	529,000	1,345,000	17,000	7,538,000	12.2
	2002	5,414,000	1,467,000	224,000	2,096,000	88,000	9,289,000	13.0
	2003	9,988,000	1,052,000		2,846,000	892,000	14,778,000	12.2

1/ Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30. 2/ Includes Northwest. 3/ Includes Northeast. 4/ Computed prior to rounding purchases.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Hogs and Pigs
- Ag Prices Received
- Small Grains Summary
- Grain Stocks

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat Supply & Demand - ERS
Grain Movement
Milk Cow & Sheep County Estimates
Ag Prices Received

U.S. and World Wheat Supply and Demand

Projected U.S. 2004/05 ending stocks of wheat are unchanged from last month as no changes are made to supplies or usage. The projected price range is narrowed by 5 cents on either end to $3.00 to $3.50.

Projected 2004/05 global wheat production and usage are up slightly but stocks are unchanged from last month. At 610.6 million tons, this year's crop is up nearly 2 million tons from last month and exceeds the record of 610 million tons produced in 1997/98. Foreign production is up nearly 2 million tons from last month and is nearly 66 million tons above last year. Noteworthy increases in production from last month are projected for Ukraine (up 1.5 million tons), Romania (up 1.2 million tons), and the EU-25 (up nearly 1 million tons). These increases are partially offset by lower crops in Kazakhstan (down 2 million tons), Australia (down 0.5 million tons), and Uzbekistan (down 0.3 million tons). Global consumption is raised by just over 2 million tons from last month, with half the increase accounted for by higher feed use. Relative to last month, the largest increase in use is a 1-million-ton increase projected for the EU-25, followed by smaller increases in Ukraine and several other countries of the FSU-12. Global imports are nearly unchanged but exports from Kazakhstan are reduced 1 million tons while exports by Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, and Uzbekistan are raised. Projected global ending stocks are unchanged from last month. However, stocks are raised in Romania (up nearly 1 million tons) and Ukraine (up 0.5 million tons) while stocks are lowered by 1 million tons in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan (down 0.7 million tons), and Australia (down 0.5 million tons).

Wheat and Barley Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during December 2003 through May 2004 was 83.6 million bushels, which was up 47% from the previous year. Over 82% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 69.1 million bushels, up 50% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations during this period have totaled 4.5 million bushels, down 12% from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 10.0 million bushels, up from 5.8 million bushels a year ago. Wheat shipped by rail, amounted to 72.1 million bushels, 86% of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 11.6 million bushels compared with 6.8 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 14% of the total, which was up 2 percentage points from the previous year.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during the December 2003 to May 2004 period was 15.5 million bushels, up 43% from the same period last year. Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for western destinations were up 68% from the same period last year, at 4.7 million bushels. Shipments to eastern destinations rose from 4.2 million bushels last year to 10.0 million bushels this year. While shipments to other destinations went down from 3.8 million bushels last year to 0.8 million bushels this year, down 79%. Barley shipped by rail amounted to 14.7 million bushels, up 6.6 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 95% of total movement, up from 75% for the same period last year.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2004

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use: Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total	Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
	---Million Bushels---											$
1988	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002	777	1,606	85	2,468	923	84	119	1,126	850	1,976	491	3.56
2003	491	2,337	72	2,900	911	80	204	1,195	1,159	2,354	546	3.40
2004 ... 3/	546	2,123	60	2,729	920	81	200	1,201	950	2,151	578	3.00-3.50

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, September 2004--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 2002-2004 1/

County & District	Milk Cows and Heifers that Have Calved				All Sheep and Lambs			
	2002	2003	2004	Rank	2002	2003	2004	Rank
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	500	1,100	1,200	42
Flathead	1,100	900	900	5	1,100	600	700	46
Granite	--	--	--	--	500	500	500	50
Lake	1,200	1,100	1,000	3	3,600	1,800	1,600	37
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	--	--	--	--	1,500	1,800	1,500	38
Powell	--	--	--	--	1,000	900	800	45
Ravalli	1,500	1,600	1,500	2	3,900	4,500	3,800	27
Sanders	--	--	--	--	--	--	600	49
Other	400	400	400	--	900	1,000	300	--
NORTHWEST	**4,200**	**4,000**	**3,800**	**--**	**13,000**	**12,200**	**11,000**	**--**
Blaine	--	--	--	--	--	9,300	11,900	5
Chouteau	--	--	--	--	1,500	1,000	1,200	41
Glacier	500	500	600	7	--	500	700	46
Hill	--	--	--	--	900	--	1,000	44
Liberty	600	500	600	7	--	--	--	--
Phillips	--	--	--	--	5,400	4,100	4,500	24
Pondera	600	500	600	7	7,000	4,500	4,600	23
Teton	500	500	500	10	6,400	6,900	7,200	12
Toole	--	--	--	--	1,700	1,800	1,900	36
Other	700	900	800	--	9,100	900	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,900**	**2,900**	**3,100**	**--**	**32,000**	**29,000**	**33,000**	**--**
Daniels	--	--	--	--	500	--	--	--
Dawson	--	--	--	--	8,500	7,500	6,400	14
Garfield	--	--	--	--	35,000	36,100	33,000	2
McCone	--	--	--	--	8,800	7,100	6,000	16
Richland	--	--	--	--	5,300	7,100	7,000	13
Roosevelt	--	--	--	--	2,700	3,800	4,000	26
Sheridan	--	--	--	--	1,900	--	--	--
Valley	--	--	--	--	3,300	4,900	6,000	16
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,500	1,600	--
NORTHEAST	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**66,000**	**68,000**	**64,000**	**--**
Broadwater	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,400	30
Cascade	700	700	700	6	7,700	10,100	9,800	8
Fergus	--	--	--	--	6,100	6,700	6,400	14
Golden Valley	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,700	7
Judith Basin	--	--	--	--	7,300	7,600	7,500	11
Lewis & Clark	--	--	--	--	3,600	3,800	3,200	31
Meagher	--	--	--	--	5,900	5,000	4,500	24
Musselshell	--	--	--	--	7,600	6,700	5,900	18
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	3,100	3,200	3,100	32
Wheatland	--	--	--	--	15,300	16,100	15,500	3
Other	1,700	1,600	1,500	--	13,400	15,800	--	--
CENTRAL	**2,400**	**2,300**	**2,200**	**--**	**70,000**	**75,000**	**70,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	--	--	--	--	18,000	16,000	15,200	4
Gallatin	5,800	6,600	6,700	1	5,900	5,000	4,800	22
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	--	--	--	--	8,000	4,900	5,100	21
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	300	200	200	--	1,100	1,100	900	--
SOUTHWEST	**6,100**	**6,800**	**6,900**	**--**	**33,000**	**27,000**	**26,000**	**--**
Big Horn	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbon	--	--	--	--	8,300	8,800	8,200	10
Park	--	--	--	--	3,300	2,100	2,000	34
Stillwater	--	--	--	--	10,300	6,000	5,700	19
Sweetgrass	--	--	--	--	10,300	8,700	8,900	9
Treasure	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellowstone	1,300	1,100	1,000	3	5,500	4,600	3,700	29
Other	400	300	300	--	3,300	1,600	1,500	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**1,700**	**1,400**	**1,300**	**--**	**41,000**	**31,800**	**30,000**	**--**
Carter	--	--	--	--	43,000	40,200	39,600	1
Custer	--	--	--	--	6,300	5,600	5,300	20
Fallon	--	--	--	--	3,600	2,300	2,300	33
Powder River	--	--	--	--	19,000	12,000	11,500	6
Prairie	--	--	--	--	3,600	3,600	3,800	27
Rosebud	--	--	--	--	3,300	1,900	2,000	34
Wibaux	--	--	--	--	1,200	1,400	1,500	38
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**80,000**	**67,000**	**66,000**	**--**
OTHER DISTRICTS	**1,700**	**600**	**700**	--	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**
MONTANA	**19,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**--**	**335,000**	**310,000**	**300,000**	**--**

1/ Counties with less than 500 head or individual operators having 60 percent or more of the head are combined into :"other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

July 2004 Ag Prices Received

Montana's July full month crop prices were mostly lower compared to June 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.66 per bushel, up $0.16 from June; spring wheat dropped $0.07 to $3.85 per bushel; and durum wheat prices decreased $0.04 to $4.22 per bushel. Feed barley prices fell $0.13 from the previous month to $1.91.

The mid-August price for alfalfa hay in Montana was down $1.00 from July 2004 to $77.00 per ton and all other hay was unchanged at $74.00 per ton. The mid-August grain prices were lower with winter wheat price averaging $2.94 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.41; durum wheat was $3.88; feed barley was $1.77; and malt barley was $2.28.

Montana's livestock prices for the full month of July were mostly higher compared to the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $2.00 to $114.00 per cwt and cows rose $2.90 to $59.10. The average price for calves jumped $3.00 to $128.00 per cwt. In July, steers and heifers, beef cows, and calves reached all-time-record-high prices for any month. Sheep prices rose $3.70 to $37.20 per cwt, but lamb prices fell $5.00 to $112.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.30 per cwt from last month to $19.40 per cwt in July. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $110.00 per cwt; cows averaged $57.90 per cwt; calves averaged $137.00 per cwt; and the mid-August milk price averaged $17.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for July and changes from June were as follows: winter wheat was $3.32, down $0.15; spring wheat was $3.55, down $0.32; durum wheat was $4.11, down $0.29; the all barley price was $2.54, down $0.10, and steer and heifer prices were $91.80, up $1.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-August winter wheat price was $3.02 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.24 per bushel; durum wheat was $3.83 per bushel; all wheat was $3.13 per bushel; malt barley was $2.87 per bushel; feed barley was $1.83 per bushel; and all barley was $2.45. Steer and heifer prices were $91.50 per cwt; cow prices were $55.50; calves were $131.00 per cwt; all hog prices were $56.00 per cwt; and all egg prices were $0.53 per dozen. The mid-August all milk price was $15.00 cwt.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3.2 percent) below the July Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index, declined 2 points (1.7 percent) from July while the Livestock Index decreased 6 points (4.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries, and cantaloup. Lower prices were received for broilers, soybeans, dairy, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy, and broilers.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	July 2003	August 2003	July 2004	August 2004
Prices Received	105	109	124	120
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	127	127	134	135
Ratio 2/	83	86	93	89

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		July 2003	June 2004	July 2004	July 2004	June 2004	July 2003	August 15, 2004	August 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.15	3.50	3.66	3.32	+0.16	+0.51	2.94	3.02
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.07	4.26	4.22	4.11	-0.04	+0.15	3.88	3.83
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.43	3.92	3.85	3.55	-0.07	+0.42	3.41	3.24
All Wheat	Bu.	3.51	3.76	3.87	3.37	+0.11	+0.36	3.41	3.13
Barley, All	Bu.	2.96	2.45	1.92	2.54	-0.53	-1.04	1.79	2.45
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.00	2.04	1.91	2.21	-0.13	-0.09	1.77	1.83
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.39	3.11	n/a	2.67	n/a	n/a	2.28	2.87
Oats	Bu.	1.69	n/a	n/a	1.37	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.31
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	76.00	73.00	78.00	98.40	+5.00	+2.00	77.00	97.40
All Other Hay	Ton	73.00	69.00	74.00	70.90	+5.00	+1.00	74.00	70.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	76.00	73.00	77.00	90.40	+4.00	+1.00	76.00	89.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	84.60	112.00	114.00	91.80	+2.00	+29.40	110.00	91.50
Cows	Cwt	48.20	56.20	59.10	56.30	+2.90	+10.90	57.90	55.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	66.80	93.00	97.00	88.50	+4.00	+30.20	101.00	88.10
Calves	Cwt	102.00	125.00	128.00	131.00	+3.00	+26.00	137.00	131.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	26.20	33.50	37.20	37.40	+3.70	+11.00	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	92.80	117.00	112.00	102.00	-5.00	+19.20	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	11.20	19.10	19.40	16.00	+0.30	+8.20	17.70	15.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat and Barley Shipments Out of Montana, December 2003-May 2004 1/

	Barley	Durum Wheat	Hard White Wheat	Soft White Wheat	Spring Wheat	Winter Wheat	Total Wheat
	(000) Bushels						
Shipments by Truck							
Weat	479	7	24	60	2,216	7,763	10,070
East	87	92	5	15	17	54	183
Other & Unknown	219	16	8	6	855	445	1,330
Total Shipments	785	115	37	81	3,088	8,262	11,583
Shipments by Rail							
West	4,225	285	437	0	33,010	25,336	59,068
East	9,903	3,490	0	0	293	500	4,283
Other & Unknown	568	2,611	32	3	698	5,356	8,700
Total Shipments	14,696	6,386	469	3	34,001	31,192	72,051
Total Shipments	**15,481**	**6,501**	**506**	**84**	**37,089**	**39,454**	**83,634**

1/ Data is reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers; the reported data is expanded to represent 100 percent elevator capacity.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Barley Utilized for Malt
- Cash Receipts County Estimates
- Egg Production
- Potato Disposition
- Red Meat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Mushroom Sales
Farm Labor
July Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
All Cattle & Calves & Beef Cow County Estimates
All Hay County Estimates
Egg Production
U.S. & Canadian Cattle

U.S. Mushroom Sales

Sales of the 2003-04 U.S. mushroom crop was 857 million pounds, up 1 percent from both the 2002-03 and 2001-02 seasons. Value of sales for the 2003-04 U.S. mushroom crop is $920 million, up 3 percent from the previous season and 1 percent above the 2001-02 season. The number of growers, at 278, is up 13 from last season. Average price is $1.07 per pound, up 2 cents from 2002-03.

Sales reported by growers of **Agaricus** mushrooms for fresh market are 701 million pounds, up 1 percent from last season. Value of sales for commercially grown **specialty** mushrooms in 2003-04 is $40.0 million, up 16 percent from the 2002-03 season. Sales of **Shiitake** mushrooms totaled 7.54 million pounds for the 2003-04 season, up 7 percent from last season. Growers received $3.24 per pound, up 16 cents from 2002-03. Sales volume of **oyster** mushrooms, at 3.97 million pounds, is up 11 percent from the previous season. Sales of other **exotic** mushrooms, are 1.65 million pounds, up 28 percent from last season.

Growers sold 34.9 million pounds of mushrooms that were **certified organic** during the 2003-04 growing season, triple the amount certified during 2002-03. Out of the 34.9 million pounds, 7.86 million pounds, or 23 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 3.49 million pounds, or 31 percent sold as certified organic during the 2002-03 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 76 percent of the certified organic mushrooms sold, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 1 percent of the 2003-04 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 31, up 1 percent from the previous season. These growers represent 11 percent of the 278 total mushroom producers.

U.S. Farm Labor

There were 1,293,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 340,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.10 per hour during the July 2004 reference week, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.42 per hour, up 25 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned $8.75 per hour compared with $8.57 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.50 per hour, was up 24 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

July U.S. Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during July totaled 12.5 billion pounds, up 0.7 percent from July 2003. June revised production, at 12.4 billion pounds, was down 0.1 percent from June 2003. The June revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,613 pounds for July, 16 pounds above July 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 27,000 head less than July 2003, but 11,000 head more than June 2004.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.85 million head on August 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above August 1, 2003 but 3 percent below August 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.72 million, 14 percent below 2003 and 7 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.66 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 440,000, 600-699 pounds were 325,000, 700-799 pounds were 499,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 456,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.93 million, 15 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during July, 3 percent below 2003 but 29 percent above 2002.

July 2004 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 2004, down 17 percent from July 2003, and down 1 percent from June 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, down from 1,900 head one year ago. The average live weight increased 9 pounds to 1,136 pounds.

There were 1,400 hogs slaughtered in Montana during July, down 300 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 232 pounds, increased 11 pounds from last year. July sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, down 100 head from July 2003. The average live weight decreased 18 pounds to 110 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in July, down 8 percent from the 4.05 billion pounds produced in July 2003. Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 14 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 15 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,239 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.4 million pounds, 9 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,000 head, down 19 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 325 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.58 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.09 million head, slightly below July 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was down 10 percent from July 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, down 3 pounds from July a year ago.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 2002-2004

County & District	ALL CATTLE & CALVES				BEEF COWS & HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED			
	2002	2003	2004	Rank	2002	2003	2004	Rank
Deer Lodge	8,600	8,900	8,800	52	5,500	6,200	6,200	52
Flathead	15,000	15,000	13,900	48	6,900	6,100	7,300	51
Granite	21,800	21,900	21,000	42	14,700	15,000	15,300	40
Lake	51,000	46,000	46,000	22	32,600	30,300	32,000	16
Lincoln	3,500	3,300	2,800	55	2,500	2,100	2,000	55
Mineral	800	1,000	900	56	500	600	500	56
Missoula	10,500	10,900	8,600	53	7,100	6,800	6,400	52
Powell	49,000	44,000	44,000	25	29,600	28,600	29,900	20
Ravalli	32,000	34,000	35,000	31	16,500	17,900	18,300	35
Sanders	19,800	19,000	18,000	44	13,100	12,400	12,100	44
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**212,000**	**204,000**	**199,000**	**--**	**129,000**	**126,000**	**130,000**	**--**
Blaine	70,000	65,000	64,000	11	45,000	40,000	43,000	10
Chouteau	37,000	35,000	34,000	33	24,600	22,100	21,800	33
Glacier	38,000	42,000	41,000	27	25,700	29,600	31,000	18
Hill	24,800	22,500	22,500	41	17,600	15,300	16,000	38
Liberty	14,300	13,500	12,700	51	9,400	8,300	8,700	49
Phillips	77,000	73,000	71,000	8	48,000	46,000	47,000	5
Pondera	25,500	24,300	24,000	38	17,400	15,800	15,900	39
Teton	55,000	52,000	51,000	19	31,600	29,000	34,000	15
Toole	20,400	13,700	13,800	49	13,700	8,900	10,600	47
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**362,000**	**341,000**	**334,000**	**--**	**233,000**	**215,000**	**228,000**	**--**
Daniels	15,000	16,400	14,600	47	10,600	11,800	11,700	46
Dawson	45,000	46,000	45,000	23	27,600	28,800	28,100	24
Garfield	60,000	63,000	62,000	12	38,000	40,000	39,000	13
McCone	35,500	34,000	33,000	34	21,800	23,100	22,900	29
Richland	66,000	66,000	59,000	14	30,200	30,600	30,300	19
Roosevelt	30,600	31,400	32,400	35	17,600	20,600	22,800	30
Sheridan	26,900	27,200	28,000	36	15,200	16,100	16,200	37
Valley	75,000	84,000	88,000	4	47,000	49,000	57,000	4
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**354,000**	**368,000**	**362,000**	**--**	**208,000**	**220,000**	**228,000**	**--**
Broadwater	22,200	18,800	17,300	46	13,700	12,000	11,900	45
Cascade	68,000	69,000	68,000	10	46,000	44,000	44,000	9
Fergus	103,000	98,000	95,000	3	67,000	68,000	67,000	2
Golden Valley	17,400	15,000	13,000	50	10,300	8,700	8,200	50
Judith Basin	55,000	53,000	54,000	16	31,400	30,300	32,000	16
Lewis & Clark	39,000	41,000	40,000	28	24,000	25,000	26,200	27
Meagher	54,000	47,000	48,000	21	30,700	26,200	27,100	25
Musselshell	33,700	37,000	36,600	30	21,000	22,400	22,800	30
Petroleum	19,400	19,200	17,700	45	12,600	12,100	12,800	42
Wheatland	32,300	29,000	26,400	37	19,300	19,300	18,000	36
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**444,000**	**427,000**	**416,000**	**--**	**276,000**	**268,000**	**270,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	151,000	139,000	133,000	1	78,000	76,000	78,000	1
Gallatin	57,000	54,000	54,000	16	25,000	22,900	22,800	30
Jefferson	23,000	24,000	23,500	39	13,500	14,800	14,800	41
Madison	77,000	73,000	70,000	9	48,000	45,000	45,000	8
Silver Bow	8,000	6,000	5,500	54	5,500	4,300	4,400	54
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**316,000**	**296,000**	**286,000**	**--**	**170,000**	**163,000**	**165,000**	**--**
Big Horn	86,000	89,000	87,000	5	54,000	55,000	58,000	3
Carbon	62,000	55,000	56,000	15	33,100	28,700	29,600	21
Park	43,000	41,000	42,000	26	28,700	25,900	26,000	28
Stillwater	49,000	48,000	49,000	20	29,700	26,500	28,500	23
Sweetgrass	46,000	41,000	40,000	28	28,700	26,900	27,000	26
Treasure	28,000	25,000	23,000	40	12,400	10,000	9,900	48
Yellowstone	122,000	130,000	128,000	2	39,400	35,000	40,000	12
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**436,000**	**429,000**	**425,000**	**--**	**226,000**	**208,000**	**219,000**	**--**
Carter	63,000	57,000	53,000	18	41,000	38,000	36,000	14
Custer	79,000	89,000	84,000	6	42,000	47,000	46,000	7
Fallon	42,000	43,000	45,000	23	27,500	26,500	29,000	22
Powder River	64,000	61,000	62,000	12	39,500	39,000	41,000	11
Prairie	32,000	35,000	35,000	31	18,000	19,500	20,500	34
Rosebud	76,000	78,000	78,000	7	48,000	49,000	47,000	5
Wibaux	20,000	22,000	21,000	42	13,000	13,000	12,500	43
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**376,000**	**385,000**	**378,000**	**--**	**229,000**	**232,000**	**232,000**	**--**
MONTANA	**2,500,000**	**2,450,000**	**2,400,000**	**--**	**1,471,000**	**1,432,000**	**1,472,000**	**--**

ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2003 1/

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production		Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons
			Tons	Rank						
Deer Lodge	14,500	2.42	35,100	44	14,000	2.45	34,300	--	--	--
Flathead	32,500	2.43	79,100	27	16,500	3.23	53,300	16,000	1.61	25,800
Granite	27,000	2.27	61,200	33	25,500	2.34	59,600	1,500	1.07	1,600
Lake	46,500	2.47	115,000	15	33,500	3.16	106,000	13,000	0.69	9,000
Lincoln	7,500	1.80	13,500	55	4,000	2.63	10,500	3,500	0.86	3,000
Mineral	2,000	0.55	1,100	56	--	--	--	2,000	0.55	1,100
Missoula	18,000	1.94	35,000	45	15,500	2.09	32,400	2,500	1.04	2,600
Powell	50,500	2.21	111,700	16	45,500	2.32	105,500	5,000	1.24	6,200
Ravalli	38,500	3.26	125,400	11	38,000	3.29	125,100	--	--	--
Sanders	29,000	1.44	41,900	40	14,500	2.09	30,300	14,500	0.80	11,600
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	1.10	1,100
NORTHWEST	**266,000**	**2.33**	**619,000**	**--**	**207,000**	**2.69**	**557,000**	**59,000**	**1.05**	**62,000**
Blaine	66,000	2.05	135,400	9	41,000	2.80	114,800	25,000	0.82	20,600
Chouteau	37,000	1.55	57,400	34	10,500	3.23	33,900	26,500	0.89	23,500
Glacier	34,000	1.42	48,300	37	10,500	2.12	22,300	23,500	1.11	26,000
Hill	13,500	1.23	16,600	54	1,500	3.47	5,200	12,000	0.95	11,400
Liberty	12,000	1.72	20,600	50	5,000	2.50	12,500	7,000	1.16	8,100
Phillips	53,000	1.61	85,500	23	22,500	2.22	50,000	30,500	1.16	35,500
Pondera	34,500	2.63	90,900	22	21,000	3.52	73,900	13,500	1.26	17,000
Teton	73,500	2.79	205,000	3	61,500	3.07	189,000	12,000	1.33	16,000
Toole	19,500	1.25	24,300	48	4,500	2.53	11,400	15,000	0.86	12,900
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**343,000**	**1.99**	**684,000**	**--**	**178,000**	**2.88**	**513,000**	**165,000**	**1.04**	**171,000**
Daniels	21,500	1.07	23,100	49	500	3.20	1,600	21,000	1.02	21,500
Dawson	46,000	1.34	61,600	32	5,500	3.65	20,100	40,500	1.02	41,500
Garfield	44,500	1.12	49,700	36	5,000	2.22	11,100	39,500	0.98	38,600
McCone	33,500	1.21	40,400	41	4,500	2.91	13,100	29,000	0.94	27,300
Richland	58,500	1.83	106,800	17	12,000	3.98	47,800	46,500	1.27	59,000
Roosevelt	60,500	1.68	101,800	19	12,500	3.21	40,100	48,000	1.29	61,700
Sheridan	37,500	1.20	45,000	38	3,000	2.83	8,500	34,500	1.06	36,500
Valley	66,000	2.24	147,600	6	35,000	3.33	116,700	31,000	1.00	30,900
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**368,000**	**1.57**	**576,000**	**--**	**78,000**	**3.32**	**259,000**	**290,000**	**1.09**	**317,000**
Broadwater	33,000	3.54	116,900	13	32,000	3.61	115,500	1,000	1.40	1,400
Cascade	65,000	1.27	82,300	26	13,500	3.22	43,500	51,500	0.75	38,800
Fergus	156,000	1.23	191,900	4	16,000	2.72	43,500	140,000	1.06	148,400
Golden Valley	16,500	1.07	17,600	53	4,000	2.53	10,100	12,500	0.60	7,500
Judith Basin	82,000	1.29	105,900	18	11,000	2.38	26,200	71,000	1.12	79,700
Lewis & Clark	41,000	2.30	94,100	21	33,500	2.66	89,000	7,500	0.68	5,100
Meagher	48,000	2.42	116,000	14	41,000	2.62	107,600	7,000	1.20	8,400
Musselshell	27,000	1.22	33,000	47	10,000	2.21	22,100	17,000	0.64	10,900
Petroleum	17,500	1.06	18,600	52	8,000	1.58	12,600	9,500	0.63	6,000
Wheatland	30,000	1.46	43,700	39	16,000	2.06	32,900	14,000	0.77	10,800
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**516,000**	**1.59**	**820,000**	**--**	**185,000**	**2.72**	**503,000**	**331,000**	**0.96**	**317,000**
Beaverhead	111,500	2.40	268,000	1	107,500	2.46	264,500	4,000	0.88	3,500
Gallatin	71,500	2.99	213,900	2	56,000	3.45	193,000	15,500	1.35	20,900
Jefferson	20,000	2.56	51,200	35	17,500	2.75	48,200	2,500	1.20	3,000
Madison	66,000	2.74	180,800	5	63,000	2.81	177,000	3,000	1.27	3,800
Silver Bow	7,000	2.73	19,100	51	6,000	3.05	18,300	1,000	0.80	800
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**276,000**	**2.66**	**733,000**	**--**	**250,000**	**2.80**	**701,000**	**26,000**	**1.23**	**32,000**
Big Horn	67,000	2.18	146,000	7	15,500	4.27	66,200	51,500	1.55	79,800
Carbon	57,000	2.34	133,600	10	42,500	2.87	122,000	14,500	0.80	11,600
Park	57,500	2.18	125,100	12	50,000	2.34	117,000	7,500	1.08	8,100
Stillwater	50,500	1.33	67,000	31	15,000	2.90	43,500	35,500	0.66	23,500
Sweetgrass	43,500	1.64	71,500	28	26,000	2.22	57,700	17,500	0.79	13,800
Treasure	13,500	2.81	37,900	42	6,000	4.77	28,600	7,500	1.24	9,300
Yellowstone	57,000	2.51	142,900	8	29,000	4.07	118,000	28,000	0.89	24,900
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**346,000**	**2.09**	**724,000**	**--**	**184,000**	**3.01**	**553,000**	**162,000**	**1.06**	**171,000**
Carter	66,000	1.08	71,000	29	1,500	2.20	3,300	64,500	1.05	67,700
Custer	51,000	1.66	84,500	25	11,500	3.95	45,400	39,500	0.99	39,100
Fallon	61,000	1.16	70,800	30	3,500	2.26	7,900	57,500	1.09	62,900
Powder River	56,000	1.52	85,200	24	9,000	2.74	24,700	47,000	1.29	60,500
Prairie	20,500	1.66	34,000	46	4,000	3.98	15,900	16,500	1.10	18,100
Rosebud	48,500	2.01	97,500	20	21,000	3.28	68,800	27,500	1.04	28,700
Wibaux	32,000	1.13	36,000	43	500	2.00	1,000	31,500	1.11	35,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**335,000**	**1.43**	**479,000**	**--**	**51,000**	**3.27**	**167,000**	**284,000**	**1.10**	**312,000**
MONTANA	**2,450,000**	**1.89**	**4,635,000**	**--**	**1,133,000**	**2.87**	**3,253,000**	**1,317,000**	**1.05**	**1,382,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres harvested or individual operations with more than 60 percent of acres harvested are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

July Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.54 billion during July 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.45 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,207 eggs, down slightly from July 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.40 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2004, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.05 billion eggs during July 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during July, at 319 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during July totaled 34.1 million, down 4 percent from July 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 31.1 million on August 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 243,000 during July 2004, up 6 percent from July 2003.

The July 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 807 million, was up 4 percent from July of the previous year. There were 663 million eggs in incubators on August 1, 2004, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Breeders placed 6.83 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during July 2004, down 3 percent from July 2003.

July 1, 2004 U.S. and Canadian Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 120.4 million head on July 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 48.9 million head, was up 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2004, totaled 103.6 million head, down slightly from the 103.9 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 105.1 million two years ago.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of July 1, 2004, totaled 16.8 million head, up 6 percent from the 15.7 million on July 1, 2003, and 9 percent above the 15.4 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 6.4 million, was up 8 percent from the 6.0 million on July 1, 2003, and 9 percent above the 5.9 million from two years ago.

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All Sheep & Lambs County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement
Wheat Supply & Demand

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Issue: 04-15 (0279-0394) Released: August 13, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS:

August 1 Crop Production
Ag Land Values and Cash Rents
Ag Prices Received
Sheep County Estimates Available
Farm Production Expenditures

August Crop Production

Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 7 percent higher than last month's forecast, and 14 percent higher than last year's drought-reduced crop. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest 157.4 million bushels of all wheat, up from the 137.5 million bushels harvested last year and 9.7 million bushels above July's forecast. The area for harvest is expected to be 4.8 million acres, unchanged from last month, but down 4 percent from last year. This is the last forecast until the final small grains summary is published on September 30, 2004.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 40.0 bushels per acre, is up 2 bushels from July, and is 3 bushels per acre higher than last year. Production is forecast to be 62.0 million bushels, down from 63.6 million bushels last year, but up 3.1 million bushels from July. Acreage expected to be harvested is unchanged from the July forecast, but is down 170,000 acres from last year to 1,550,000 acres. Harvest is underway with 38 percent complete compared with 76 percent last year and 66 percent for the five-year average.

Spring wheat production forecast is 78.3 million bushels, up 32 percent from last year's production. The expected yield of 29.0 bushels per acre is up 2 bushels from last month, and up 7 bushels from last year. Acres for harvest are unchanged from July at 2.7 million and the same as last year. Harvest is underway with 2 percent complete compared with 18 percent last year and 16 percent for the five-year average. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 17.1 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year, and up 7 percent from July. The expected yield of 29.0 bushels per acre is 2 bushels higher than last month, and 6 bushels more than the 2003 average. Harvested acres are down 6 percent from 2003 at 590,000.

Barley yields are expected to average 51.0 bushels per acre in 2004, 12 bushels better than last year, but unchanged from July. Barley production is forecast to be 39.8 million bushels compared with 31.6 million produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 780,000 acres, down 3,000 from 2003. Harvest was reported to be 9 percent complete compared with 20 percent last year and 21 percent for the five-year average.

Oat producers expect to harvest 2.3 million bushels of grain, 16 percent more than last year. The 2004 area for harvest is expected to be 45,000 acres, unchanged from 2003. The expected yield of 51.0 bushels is 7 bushels more than last year's yield and up 3 bushels from July. Harvest was reported to be 6 percent complete compared with 23 percent last year and 18 percent for the five-year average.

Sugar beet production is forecast to be 1.1 million tons, down 15 percent from last year. The expected yield, at 21.0 tons per acre, is down 17 percent from the 25.4 tons per acre last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 53,000 acres, up 1,500 acres from last year. **All dry edible bean** growers expect to harvest 17,000 acres this year, up 33 percent from last year's figure but are unchanged from July. Yield is estimated at 20.0 cwt., 2.0 cwt. per acre better than the previous year. All dry bean production is expected to be 340,000 cwt., up 46 percent from last year's figure.

Alfalfa hay is expected to yield 2.0 tons per acre in 2004, down 0.1 ton per acre from the previous year. Growers plan to harvest 1.6 million acres, unchanged from last year. Production is expected at 3.2 million tons, a 5 percent decrease from the 2003 production figure. As of August 8, 100 percent of first cutting and 28 percent of second cutting had been completed for alfalfa hay. The average yield for **other hay** is forecast to be 1.6 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton per acre from last year. Production of other hay is forecast at 1.5 million tons, a 19 percent increase from 2003. As of August 8, 96 percent of first cutting and 18 percent of second cutting of other hay had been completed.

In the United States, **winter wheat** production forecast is 1.49 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month, but 13 percent below 2003. The U.S. yield is forecast at 42.8 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month. Hard Red Winter, at 853 million bushels, is up 2 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter is down 1 percent from last forecast, at 380 million bushels. White Winter is up 3 percent from last month and totals 256 million bushels.

Nationally, **other spring wheat** production is forecast at 545 million bushels, up 9 percent from last month and 2 percent above 2003. The U.S. yield is forecast at 41.2 bushels per acres, 3.3 bushels more than on July 1. Of the production total, 502 million is Hard Red Spring wheat, up 9 percent from last month.

Durum wheat production is forecast at 89.0 million bushels, up less than 1 percent from last month but down 8 percent from 2003. The U.S. yield is forecast at 35.3 bushels per acre, 2.1 bushels more than last month.

U.S. **barley** production for 2004 is forecast at 273 million bushels, up 4 percent from the July forecast but 1 percent below 2003. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 65.7 bushels per acre, up 2.2 bushels from July and up 6.8 bushels from last year. If realized this would be a record high yield.

Oats production is forecast in the U.S. at 128 million bushels, 5 percent above the July 1 forecast, but 12 percent below last year's 145 million bushels. The forecasted yield is 66.0 bushels per acre, 3.1 bushels above last month and up 1.0 bushel from 2003. If realized, this would be a record high yield.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 21.3 million cwt in 2004, down 5 percent from last year and 30 percent below two years ago. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,639 pounds per acre, a loss of 33 pounds from last year and 104 pounds less than two years ago.

Alfalfa hay and alfalfa mixtures production is forecast at 77.3 million tons, up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.48 tons per acre, 0.24 ton above last year. **Other hay** production in the U.S. is forecast at 84.5 million tons, up 5 percent from 2003. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.15 tons per acre. If realized, this would be a record high yield, breaking last year's previous record of 2.03 tons.

U.S. **sugar beets** production for 2004 is forecast at 28.4 million tons. If realized, this would be 7 percent below last year's production.

August 1, 2004 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,800	1,850	1,720	1,550	37.0	40.0	63,640	62,00
Durum Wheat	Bu.	640	600	630	590	23.0	29.0	14,490	17,11
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,850	2,850	2,700	2,700	22.0	29.0	59,400	78,300
All Wheat	Bu.	5,290	5,300	5,050	4,840	27.2	32.5	137,530	157,410
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	17.0	15.0	140.0	4/	2,380	4/
Oats	Bu.	120	110	45.0	45.0	44.0	51.0	1,980	2,295
Barley	Bu.	1,100	1,000	810	780	39.0	51.0	31,590	39,780
Flaxseed	Bu.	17.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	13.0	4/	221	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	18.0	12.8	17.0	18.2	20.0	233	340
Dry Peas	Cwt.	33.0	50.0	31.0	40.0	14.5	4/	450	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	30.0	38.0	26.0	35.0	10.5	4/	273	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.5	10.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	4/	56	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	51.7	53.4	51.5	53.0	25.4	21.0	1,308	1,113
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	315.0.	3/	3,339	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,600	2.10	2.00	3,360	3,200
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	950	1.50	1.60	1,275	1,520
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,550	1.89	1.85	4,635	4,720
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	44,945	43,450	36,541	34,825	46.7	42.8	1,707,069	1,489,408
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,915	2,592	2,869	2,521	33.7	35.3	96,637	88,951
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,840	13,677	13,429	13,210	39.7	41.2	532,820	544,535
All Wheat	Bu.	61,700	59,719	52,839	50,556	44.2	40.6	2,336,526	2,122,894
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	10,113,887	10,923,099
Oats	Bu.	4,601	4,220	2,224	1,938	65.0	66.0	144,649	127,950
Barley	Bu.	5,299	4,666	4,688	4,152	58.9	65.7	276,087	272,824
Flaxseed	Bu.	595	629	583	608	17.9	4/	10,426	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,406.1	1,360.4	1,346.9	1,301.1	16.7	16.4	22,515	21,323
Dry Peas	Cwt.	337.5	480.0	328.5	454.0	15.6	4/	5,202	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	246.0	300.0	237.0	293.0	10.1	4/	2,442	4/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	21.1	25.5	15.6	16.6	12.4	4/	183	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,365.4	1,349.8	1,347.9	1,326.3	22.7	21.4	30,583	28,373
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,107.6	1,037.8	1,092.0	1,022.8	377	3/	411,386	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	76,307	77,264
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	80,816	84,499
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.63	157,123	161,763

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available November 12, 2004. 4/ Forecast available January 12, 2005 -- Not published.

Farm Real Estate Values Up

The average value of farm real estate in Montana on January 1, 2004 was $410 per acre, up $20.00 from 2003. The average value of cropland rose $11.00 to $521 per acre, compared with a year ago. The average value of irrigated cropland was $1,670, $90 more than a year ago, while non-irrigated cropland gained $10.00 per acre to $380 per acre on January 1, 2004. Pasture values increased $15.00 to $285 per acre. Montana farm real estate values have been steadily increasing over the past five years.

U.S. farm real estate values, of all land and buildings on farms, averaged $1,360 per acre on January 1, 2004, up 7.1 percent from 2003. This is the largest percentage increase since 1994, when farm real estate values rose 8.0 percent from the previous year. The $90 per acre increase is the largest dollar increase since 1980, when values climbed $109 per acre above the 1979 value.

Nationally, cropland and pasture values rose by 7.2 and 6.4 percent, respectively, from January 1, 2003. Cropland values averaged $1,780 per acre and pasture values averaged $644 per acre on January 1, 2004, compared with $1,660 and $605 per acre, respectively, a year earlier. The value of other land and buildings rose 7.5 percent.

The increase in national farm real estate values was driven by a combination of factors, including low interest rates, high commodity production and prices, and strong demand for nonagricultural land uses. Nationally, summarized survey data indicated that agricultural land with potential for immediate development (expected land use if sold) was valued at more than $5,700 per acre. The survey also indicated that agricultural land with potential for future development was valued at nearly $4,000 per acre. Demand for farm real estate as an investment continued, but was limited by strong appreciation of alternative investments.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 5.2 percent in the Mountain region to 10.4 percent in the Lake region. The highest farm real estate values were in the Northeast region, where urban influences drove the average value to $3,400 per acre. In the Corn Belt region, where commodity production and prices were favorable during 2003, farm real estate values rose 8.0 percent, to $2,300 per acre. The Mountain region, with its expanse of pasture and rangeland, has the lowest farm real estate value, at $550 per acre.

Cropland values rose 9.1 percent, to $2,030 per acre, in the Lake region and 8.4 percent, to $2,460 per acre, in the Corn Belt. Together these regions account for nearly one-third of the U.S. total cropland acres. The highest average cropland values, at $3,660 per acre, are in the Pacific region, where a significant portion of the cropland is irrigated.

Cash Rents for 2004

The average cash rent for Montana cropland rose slightly from last year to $24.50 per acre. The average cash rent for irrigated cropland, at $49, increased by $1 per acre from a year ago. The non-irrigated cropland average increased slightly from 2003 to $18.90 per acre. Average pasture rents increased from $4.50 in 2003 to $5 per acre in 2004.

Cash rents paid to U.S. landlords for cropland and pasture during the 2004 crop year rose sharply from 2003. Cropland cash rents paid in 2004 averaged 4.8 percent above a year earlier, advancing to $76.50 per acre, compared with $73 per acre for 2003. Pasture cash rents rose 6.7 percent, from $9 per acre in 2003 to $9.60 per acre in 2004. The increases in cropland and pasture rental rates reflected producers' optimism following the combination of high production and price levels of major U.S. agricultural commodities in 2003. (Continued on next page)

Cash Rents (Continued)

Cropland cash rents increased in all regions of the U.S. except the Pacific region, where rental rates were unchanged. In the remaining regions, increases in cropland cash rents varied from 1.1 percent in the Southeast to 8.9 percent in the Southern Plains. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions, which together account for nearly one half of cash-rented cropland acreage, increased 3.6 and 4.2 percent, respectively, from 2003. Cropland cash rents increased $4 per acre, to $114, in the Corn Belt and $2 per acre, to $50, in the Northern Plains.

The major corn and soybean producing States of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa experienced increases ranging from 2.4 to 3.9 percent for cropland cash rents. Illinois and Iowa cropland cash rents both averaged $126 per acre.

Pasture cash rents rose in all regions, led by an 8.0 percent increase in the Pacific region and a 7.4 percent increase in the Corn Belt. In the Northern Plains and Southern Plains regions, which combine for about two-thirds of the cash-rented pasture acreage, rental rates were up 5.4 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively. Wisconsin continued to lead the Nation with the highest pasture rent, at $37 per acre.

June 2004 Ag Prices Received

Prices received during June by Montana producers for steers and heifers, cows, calves, beef cattle, and milk all reached historic high prices for any month. Steer and heifer prices jumped $13.00 to $112.00 per cwt. and cows rose $1.10 to $56.20. The average price for calves jumped $8.00 to $125.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $6.00 to $33.50 per cwt., but lamb prices rose $6.00 to $117.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $4.10 per cwt. from May to $19.10 per cwt. Cattle and milk prices for mid-July continued higher as steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $114.00 per cwt.; cows averaged $59.10 per cwt.; calves averaged $129.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $19.70 per cwt.

June 2004 full month crop prices were mostly lower compared with May. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.50 per bushel, down $0.38 from the previous month; spring wheat price was down $0.12 to $3.92 per bushel; and durum wheat prices dropped $0.10 to $4.26 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose $0.03 above the previous month to $2.04 per bushel.

The mid-July price for alfalfa hay increased $6.00 to $78.00 per ton, and all other hay increased $7.00 to $74.00 per ton. Mid-July grain prices were lower with winter wheat averaging $3.42 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.75 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.91 per bushel, and feed barley was $1.84 per bushel.

Nationally, prices for June and changes from May were as follows: winter wheat was down $0.25 to $3.47; spring wheat was $3.87, down $0.14; durum wheat was up $0.19 to $4.40; the all barley price was $2.64, down $0.14, and steer and heifer prices were $93.50, up $0.90 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-July winter wheat price was $3.31 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.60 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.99 per bushel, all wheat was $3.36 per bushel, malt barley was $2.81 per bushel, feed barley was $2.08 per bushel, and all barley was $2.50. Steer and heifer prices were $91.10 per cwt, cow prices were $55.90, calves were $128.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $56.90 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.589 per dozen.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	June 2003	July 2003	June 2004	July 2004
Prices Received	107	105	128	122
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	127	127	134	134
Ratio 2/	84	83	96	91

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		June 2003	May 2004	June 2004	June 2004	May 2004	June 2003	July 15, 2004	July 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.25	3.88	3.50	3.47	-0.38	+0.25	3.42	3.31
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.41	4.36	4.26	4.40	-0.10	-0.15	3.91	3.99
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.63	4.04	3.92	3.87	-0.12	+0.29	3.75	3.60
All Wheat	Bu.	3.68	4.02	3.76	3.58	-0.26	+0.08	3.61	3.36
Barley, All	Bu.	2.26	2.81	2.45	2.64	-0.36	+0.19	2.32	2.50
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.12	2.01	2.04	2.20	+0.03	-0.08	1.84	2.08
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.04	N/A	3.11	2.81	N/A	+0.07	N/A	2.81
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.67	N/A	1.61	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.50
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	79.00	72.00	73.00	102.00	+1.00	-6.00	78.00	98.40
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	67.00	69.00	76.90	+2.00	-3.00	74.00	70.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	78.00	71.00	73.00	95.20	+2.00	-5.00	77.00	90.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	79.90	99.00	112.00	93.50	+13.00	+32.10	114.00	91.10
Cows	Cwt	45.70	55.10	56.20	53.60	+1.10	+10.50	59.10	55.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	56.30	81.90	93.00	89.50	+11.10	+36.70	100.00	87.50
Calves	Cwt	97.00	117.00	125.00	125.00	+8.00	+28.00	129.00	128.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	29.10	39.50	33.50	32.10	-6.00	+4.40	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	103.00	111.00	117.00	105.00	+6.00	+14.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	11.00	15.00	19.10	18.20	+4.10	+8.10	19.70	16.53

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Sheep County Estimates

Livestock county estimates for January 1, 2004 sheep and lamb inventory and revisions for 1998-2003 are now available in printed form from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service or you may find them on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ under county data.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. The county and district estimates are based on livestock surveys conducted at the end of 2003 and beginning of 2004.

Questionnaires were sent to a sample of farmers and ranchers throughout Montana asking for information on their livestock inventories. Thanks to all the farmers and ranchers who participated in the survey!

Farm Production Expenditures

U.S. farm production expenditures totaled $198.9 billion in 2003, up 3.0 percent from the revised 2002 total of $193.1 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were farm improvements and construction, up 43.8 percent; feed, up 8.4 percent; trucks and autos, up 7.1 percent and other farm machinery, up 5.4 percent. These increases were partially offset by decreases in interest, down 11.4 percent; farm supplies and repairs, down 9.8 percent; and labor, down 1.4 percent. The largest two expenditure categories were feed, which accounted for 13.6 percent of the U.S. total production expenses, and farm services which accounted for 13.5 percent of the U.S. total production expenses. The farm services category includes expense items such as custom work, utilities, marketing charges, veterinary services, transportation costs, and miscellaneous business expenses.

The average expenditures per U.S. farm in 2003 were $93,785 compared to $89,722 as revised for 2002. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 2003 spent $12,731 on feed; $12,637 on farm services; $9,996 on labor; $8,959 on livestock and poultry purchases; and $7,733 on rent. Revised estimates for 2002 indicated U.S. farms spent an average of $11,570 on feed; $12,452 on farm services; $9,990 on labor; $8,503 on livestock and poultry purchases; and $7,527 on rent.

The Farm Production Region contributing most to the total 2003 U.S. farm production expenditures was the Corn Belt, with expenses of $35.8 billion, 18.0 percent of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the Corn Belt were up 1.6 percent from the 2002 level of $35.2 billion. In total expenditures, the Corn Belt was followed by the Pacific Region at $32.3 billion (2002 - $32.0 billion); Northern Plains at $26.1 billion (2002 - $24.2 billion); Lake States at $19.3 billion (2002 - $19.1 billion); and the Southern Plains at $17.2 billion (2002 - $14.5 billion).

The U.S. Economic Class contributing most to the 2003 U.S. farm production expenditures was the $1,000,000 and Over class, with expenses of $67.6 billion, 34.0 percent of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the $1,000,000 and Over class were up 13.4 percent from the 2002 level of $59.6 billion. In total expenditures, the $1,000,000 and Over class was followed by the $500,000 - $999,999 class at $32.0 billion (2002 - $30.2 billion); $250,000 - $499,999 class at $29.9 billion (2002 - $33.1 billion).

Expenditure estimates by Type of Farm reveal that Crop Farms, with expenses of $102.6 billion, contributed 51.6 percent of the 2003 U.S. farm production expenditures. Expenditures for Crop Farms were up 2.7 percent from the revised 2002 level of $99.9 billion. Livestock Farm expenses of $96.3 billion were up 3.3 percent from the revised 2002 level of $93.2 billion.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates	U.S. & Canadian Cattle
Cattle Cow County Estimates	Cattle on Feed
Beef Cow County Estimates	Farm Labor
Milk Production	Red Meat Production
Mushroom Production	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Cattle Inventory
July 1 U.S. Sheep Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Mink Production
Red Meat Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Quarterly Milk Production
Egg Production

July 1 Cattle Inventory

The all cattle and calf inventory in Montana was 3.35 million head on July 1, 2004, down 1 percent from a year ago. Historic high prices for cattle and calves combined with continued drought in many areas of the State has reduced cattle inventories. Pasture and range conditions are about the same as a year ago and were rated 12% very poor, 18% poor, 38% fair, 27% good, and 5% excellent for the week ending July 18. The lack of rainfall early in the spring and continued drought in many other parts of the State have hurt pasture conditions.

The beef cow inventory in Montana dropped 1 percent from a year ago to 1.462 million head. Milk cow inventory remained unchanged from last year at 18,000 head. The 2004 calf crop is expected to be 1.52 million head, down 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2004, totaled 103.6 million head, down slightly from the 103.9 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 105.1 million two years ago.

U.S. all cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.5 million, were slightly below the 42.7 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 42.9 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.5 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.0 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2003 and down 2 percent from two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2004 and the changes from July 1, 2003 for the U.S., are as follows:
-- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 15.95 million, up slightly.
-- Beef replacement heifers, 4.8 million, up 4 percent.
-- Milk replacement heifers, 3.6 million, unchanged.
-- Other heifers, 7.55 million, down 2 percent.
-- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.2 million, unchanged.
-- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.05 million, down 2 percent.
-- Calves under 500 pounds, 28.9 million, down slightly.
-- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.8 million, down slightly.

The 2004 calf crop is expected to be 37.7 million, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.5 million, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002.

July 1 All Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 2 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2004, totaled 7.65 million head, 2 percent below July 1, 2003. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.55 million head on July 1, 2004 was 1 percent below July 1, 2003. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.11 million head, were 3 percent below last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.75 million ewes one year old and older, 180,000 rams one year old and older, and 620,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 3.03 million head was comprised of 1.80 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 355,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 240,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 75,000.

The 2004 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.08 million head, down 1 percent from the 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2004 totaled 3.61 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2004.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.0 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 20.1 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.9 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) accounted for 13.6 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.12 million head on July 1, 2004. The inventory was 2 percent above July 1, 2003 but 4 percent below July 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.37 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.70 million head, down 1 percent from 2003.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.64 million, 2 percent below 2003 and down slightly from 2002. Net placements were 1.57 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 460,000, 600-699 pounds were 356,000, 700-799 pounds were 448,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 375,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.08 million, 7 percent below 2003 but up slightly from 2002. Other disappearance totaled 70,000 during June, 15 percent above 2003 and 37 percent above 2002.

Cattle on feed July 1, 2004, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 11.8 million, down slightly from July 1, 2003 and 6 percent below July 1, 2002. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 86 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2004, up from 84 percent on July 1, 2003.

U.S. Mink Pelt Production, Down 2 Percent, Value of Pelt Production Up 28 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2003 totaled 2.55 million pelts, down 2 percent from 2002. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 706,000 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2003 follows: Black at 40.2 percent; Mahogany at 21.5 percent; Blue Iris at 16.1 percent; Demi/Wild at 6.4 percent; Sapphire at 5.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.0 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 2003 crop year were valued at $102 million dollars, up 28 percent from $79.8 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2003 crop year was $40.10, up from $30.60 in 2002. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2004 totaled 604,800, up slightly from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2004 by color class are: Black at 45.9 percent; Mahogany at 21.0 percent; Blue Iris at 11.9 percent; Demi/Wild at 5.8 percent; Sapphire at 5.0 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.4 percent.

There were 307 mink farms producing pelts in 2003, down 5 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 69 farms and Minnesota with 31. There were 18 mink farms which also raised fox in 2003, down from 20 the previous year.

June 2004 Red Meat Production up 4 Percent from 2003

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2004, up 4 percent from June 2003, and 15 percent higher than the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, unchanged from one year ago. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 1,164 pounds.

During June there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 246 pounds, was down 1 pound from last year. June sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, unchanged from June 2003. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in June, down 1 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in June 2003.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.99 million head, down 8 percent from June 2003. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.4 million pounds, 11 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,400 head, down 10 percent from June 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above last year, at 338 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.67 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year, and set records monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.50 million head, 10 percent above June 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds below the previous year, at 264 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was up 2 percent from June 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 2 pounds from June a year ago.

Montana 2004 Wheat and Barley Varieties

The top four **winter wheat** varieties account for 60.8 percent of the total acreage seeded for harvest in 2004. **Rampart** acreage continues to climb, with 516,100 acres seeded this year, compared to last year's acreage of 463,400. **Neeley** remains in second place this year with 295,800 acres seeded, or 16 percent of the total winter wheat acreage in Montana. **Tiber** remains in third place with 173,200 acres seeded, which is up from last year's acreage of 170,700. **Morgan** became the fourth leading variety this year, replacing Rocky. A total of 140,400 acres were seeded, which accounts for 7.6 of the total acres seeded.

The top four **spring wheat** varieties account for 71.0 percent of the total acreage seeded for harvest in 2004. **McNeal** is the leading spring wheat variety for the seventh consecutive year, accounting for 31.7 percent of the acreage, or 903,900 acres, which is down more than 100,000 acres from 2003. **Reeder** remains in second place with 622,500 acres seeded up from last year's 525,100 acres. **Ernest** stays in third place this year with 289,100 acres seeded, or 10.2 percent of the total. **Conan** joins the top four list this year with 208,300 acres seeded, or 7.3 percent of the state's total spring wheat acreage.

The top four **durum wheat** varieties account for 85.1 percent of the total durum wheat acreage in the state for 2004. **Mountrail** overtakes Kyle this year to become the top variety in the state, with 245,300 acres seeded, or 40.9 percent of the durum wheat acreage. **Kyle** falls to second place this year, after spending seven consecutive years at the top. There were 203,600 acres seeded, accounting for 33.9 percent of the total acres. **AC Avonlea** became the third most popular variety this year with 45,100 acres seeded or 7.5 percent. **Ward** joins the top four list this year, with 16,500 acres seeded, or 2.8 percent of the state's durum wheat acreage.

Montana farmers seeded 1.0 million acres of **barley** in 2004, down 9 percent from last year. Fifty-three percent of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association Inc. **Harrington** remains the top malting variety planted in the state for the eleventh year in a row. It was seeded on 403.3 thousand acres or 40.3 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **AC Metcalfe** came in second place with 49.5 thousand acres planted, orr 5.0 percent. **Merit** moves up to third place this year, with 44.0 thousand acres seeded, or 4.4 percent. **B 1202** drops to fourth place this year, after eight consecutive years at number two. It accounts for 38.8 thousand acres seeded, or 3.9 percent. (Continued on next page)

Montana Wheat and Barley Varieties (continued)

Haybet remains the most popular forage barley for the fifth year in a row, with 99.0 thousand acres seeded, or 9.9 percent of the total. **Westford** is the second most popular forage barley for the second year in a row, with 23.2 thousand acres or 2.3 percent. **Baronesse** is the most popular feed barley again in 2004. It represents 3.9 percent of the total acreage or 38.9 thousand acres for 2004. **Gallatin** maintains its place as the second most popular feed barley grown for the second year in a row. Statewide, 34.3 thousand acres were seeded, which is 3.4 percent of all barley acreage.

The wheat and barley varieties data were made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Montana Wheat & Barley: Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1998-2004 & Seeded Acreage 2003-2004 1/

Winter Wheat

Variety 2/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 3/	2004
Rampart	1.8	9.0	13.8	15.9	19.6	25.7	27.9
Neeley	20.0	20.8	19.2	22.6	19.9	16.8	16.0
Tiber	14.2	17.3	11.3	10.9	11.2	9.5	9.4
Morgan	2.2	7.0	8.3	10.0	7.3	7.3	7.6
Vanguard	10.3	7.0	9.4	6.7	9.1	6.7	7.6
Rocky	13.4	8.2	6.9	8.9	11.1	8.0	5.9
Redwin	6.1	4.7	6.4	4.0	5.0	3.0	2.5
Big Horn	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.0	1.7	1.8	2.1
CDC Falcon	--	--	--	--	--	0.4	1.7
Tomahawk	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	1.5
AP 502 CL	--	--	--	--	--	0.4	1.5
Judith	4.3	1.0	2.3	0.3	0.5	--	1.3
Nufrontier	--	--	--	--	0.3	1.5	1.2
Big Sky	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.9
Promontory	0.7	--	--	0.4	0.2	1.3	0.8
Pryor	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Winalta	2.9	1.7	1.1	2.1	0.9	1.2	0.7
Nuwest **	--	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.9	1.0	0.6
Quantum 542	1.0	1.4	2.2	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.5
Centurk	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.5
Other & Unknown	18.5	16.3	14.0	9.9	10.0	13.1	9.1
All Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

** Hard white wheat variety.

Spring Wheat

Variety 2/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 3/	2004
McNeal	26.5	40.4	48.8	49.2	38.8	35.9	31.7
Reeder	--	--	0.1	3.4	9.1	18.4	21.8
Ernest	7.6	9.4	10.7	10.1	11.4	11.0	10.2
Conan	--	--	1.0	3.1	5.0	3.7	7.3
Fortuna	6.5	5.0	4.9	5.1	7.8	3.8	4.7
Westbred Rambo	7.9	6.7	5.3	3.2	3.8	2.7	3.2
Amidon	17.2	14.2	10.9	7.8	6.2	4.0	2.9
Lew	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.8	2.4
Scholar	--	--	--	0.5	1.9	3.0	2.3
Hank	--	--	--	--	0.3	1.2	1.8
Parshall	--	--	--	0.5	1.4	1.6	1.1
Westbred 936	1.6	1.7	3.5	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0
Westbred 926	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.1	1.0
Grandin	6.2	3.1	3.3	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.8
Len	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5
Newana	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.5
Hi-Line	3.0	1.7	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.4
Gunner	--	--	--	--	0.4	0.8	0.4
Golden 86 **	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Butte 86	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.2	0.3
Other & Unknown	16.1	11.6	4.8	8.1	6.0	6.5	5.4
All Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

** White wheat variety.

Durum Wheat

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 3/	2004
Mountrail	--	--	0.9	9.6	26.9	35.7	40.9
Kyle	44.5	55.3	52.5	45.3	40.2	38.0	33.9
AC Avonlea	--	--	1.4	3.9	3.4	4.3	7.5
Ward	1.9	4.4	2.3	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.8
Ben	0.2	4.1	7.8	8.0	5.6	4.3	2.7
Lebsock	--	--	--	--	0.3	3.4	2.3
Monroe	7.4	4.8	2.9	3.3	1.2	3.4	1.6
Voss	4.2	--	--	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.8
Vic	8.6	8.1	2.6	1.6	1.4	--	0.7
Maier	--	--	--	--	--	0.3	0.4
Plaza	--	--	--	--	0.8	0.8	0.4
Sceptre	6.8	3.4	2.9	1.5	1.3	--	0.2
Crosby	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
Kamut	--	--	--	--	--	0.4	0.2
Other & Unknown	25.7	19.0	26.3	23.1	15.5	6.0	5.4
All Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Barley

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 3/	2004
Harrington*	42.1	49.6	49.9	45.7	47.6	47.1	40.3
Haybet	3.0	4.5	6.5	10.2	10.5	9.9	9.9
AC Metcalfe	--	--	--	--	--	0.7	5.0
Merit*	0.3	1.2	1.6	1.1	2.6	3.8	4.4
B 1202*	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.6	4.9	3.9
Baronesse	12.1	7.6	6.2	5.0	3.9	4.1	3.9
Gallatin	4.6	4.0	2.2	3.3	1.9	2.9	3.4
Moravian 37	--	0.1	1.5	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.2
Legacy*	--	--	--	--	0.6	1.0	2.8
Hector	6.8	4.9	3.7	2.7	3.1	1.8	2.4
Valier	--	--	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.9	2.4
Westford	--	0.1	1.2	2.7	3.2	2.3	2.3
Lewis	2.1	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9
Bowman	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.1	3.0	2.1	1.4
Horsford	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.2
Robust*	--	--	0.2	0.7	0.4	1.1	1.0
Piroline	2.2	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.9
Stark	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9
Westbred Xena	--	--	--	--	--	0.9	0.8
Conlon	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.8
Other & Unknown	16.0	12.3	12.8	11.7	6.7	7.0	7.2
All Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

*Variety recommended by the American Malting Barley Association for planting in Montana in 2004.

1/ Columns may not sum to all varieties due to rounding. 2/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted. 3/ Revised.

June Milk Production Down 0.2 Percent in 20 Major States

Milk production in the 20 major States during June totaled 12.4 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from June 2003. May revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was down 6 million pounds from May 2003. The May revision represented an increase of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,603 pounds for June, 7 pounds above June 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 44,000 head less than June 2003, but 19,000 head more than May 2004.

Milk production in the U.S. during the April-June quarter totaled 43.7 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the April-June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.00 million head, 112,000 head less than the same period last year.

June Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.27 billion during June 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.20 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,126 eggs, up slightly from June 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.25 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2004, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.79 billion eggs during June 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during June, at 319 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June totaled 38.1 million, up 4 percent from June 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.1 million on July 1, 2004, up 12 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 212,000 during June 2004, down 31 percent from June 2003.

The June 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 786 million, was up 1 percent from June of the previous year. There were 659 million eggs in incubators on July 1, 2004, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.7 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2004, down slightly from June 2003.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Farm Production Expenditures
- Ag Prices Received
- Ag Land Values & Cash Rents
- All Sheep County Estimates
- Crop Production Forecast

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grains Production
Potato Acreage
Dry Edible Peas & Lentils Forecast
Sweet Cherry Forecast
Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates
Ag Prices Received

July Crop Production

Based on July 1 conditions, Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 147.7 million bushels, up 7% from last year The area for harvest is expected to be 4.84 million acres, unchanged from the June Acreage report, but down 4% from last year.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 38.0 bushels per acre, is up 4 bushels from last month's forecast and up 1 bushel from last year. Production is forecast at 58.9 million bushels, down 7% from last year due to lower harvested acres. Winter wheat conditions have improved substantially from last month and were rated 4% very poor, 11% poor, 29% fair, 48% good and 8% excellent for the week ending July 4. Crop development is behind normal as the crop was rated 20% turning color for the week ending July 4, compared with 54% last year and 38% for the 5-year average.

The first **spring wheat** production forecast is 72.9 million bushels, up 23% from last year's production due to higher expected yields. The harvested acres are expected to be 2.7 million, the same as 2003. The expected yield of 27.0 bushels per acre is up 5 bushels per acre from last year. For the week ending July 4, spring wheat conditions are rated slightly higher than 2003 at 3% very poor, 10% poor, 23% fair, 58% good, and 6% excellent. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 15.9 million bushels, up 10% from last year due to higher expected yield. Harvested acreage is expected to be 590,000 acres, down 6% from 2003. The expected yield of 27.0 bushels per acre is up 4 bushels from last year.

Barley yields are expected to average 51.0 bushels per acre in 2004, 12 bushels better than last year. Barley production is forecast to be 39.8 million bushels compared with 31.6 million bushels produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 780,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from 2003. For the week ending July 4, barley condition was rated 1% very poor, 5% poor, 32% fair, 50% good and 12% excellent. Crop development is about the same progress as last year, with 77% reaching boot stage by July 4, and 43% of the crop is headed. The 5-year average for boot stage and headed is 71% and 45%, respectively. **Oats** producers expect to harvest 2.2 million bushels of grain, 9% more than was produced last year. The 2004 area for harvest is expected to be 45,000 acres, unchanged from 2003. The expected yield of 48.0 bushels is 4 bushels better than last year's yield.

Montana **potato** producers planted 10,700 acres during 2004, unchanged from last year. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 12, 2004. Pulse crop growers increased their acreage this year. **Dry edible pea** planted acreage is 50,000 acres with producers expecting to harvest 40,000 of those acres. Last year, growers planted 33,000 acres of dry edible peas and harvested 31,000 acres. **Lentil** growers planted 38,000 acres this year, up 27% from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 35,000 of those acres. Last year 30,000 acres of lentils were planted, while 26,000 acres were harvested. **Austrian winter pea** planted acreage is up slightly from last year. During 2004, 10,000 acres were planted, while 9,500 were planted last year. Only 5,000 acres of this year's crop are expected to be harvested as peas, with the remaining acreage being hayed or grazed.

Winter wheat production in the United States is forecast at 1.47 billion bushels. This is down 4 percent from last month and 14 percent below 2003. The U.S. yield is forecast at 42.2 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from last month. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 88.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2003. The U.S. yield is forecast at 33.2 bushels per acre, 0.5 bushel less than last year. Durum wheat area for 2004 grain harvest is expected to total 2.67 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. **Other Spring wheat** production is forecast at 501 million bushels, down 6 percent from 2003. The U.S. yield is forecast at 37.9 bushels per acre, 1.8 bushels lower than last year. Of the total production, 459 million is Hard Red Spring wheat, down 8 percent from last season

U.S. **barley** production for 2004 is forecast at 264 million bushels, 5 percent below 2003. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 63.5 bushels per acre, up 4.6 bushels from last year. Area for harvest, at 4.15 million acres, is down 11 percent from 2003.

Oats production for the U.S. is forecast at 122 million bushels, 16 percent below last year's 145 million bushels. The forecasted yield is 62.9 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from 2003. Expected area for harvest is 1.94 million acres, down 13 percent from last year.

Nationally, planted acreage of **lentils** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 300,000 acres, up 22 percent from last year and 33 percent above 2002. Harvested acreage is forecast at 293,000, up 24 percent from last year. U.S. planted acreage of **dry edible peas** for 2004 is estimated at 480,000 acres, up 42 percent from last year and 55 percent above 2002. Harvested area is forecast at 454,000 acres, up 38 percent from last year. **Austrian winter peas** planted area in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon is estimated at 25,500 acres, up 21 percent from 2003 and 10 percent above the 2002 season. Harvested area is forecast at 16,600 acres, up 6 percent from last year and 28 percent above two years ago.

Area planted to fall **potatoes** for 2004 in the United States is estimated at 1.04 million acres, down 6 percent from last year and 8 percent below 2002. Harvested acres are forecast at 1.02 million, down 6 percent from 2003 and 7 percent below two years ago. (See table on page 2)

July 1, 2004 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,800	1,850	1,720	1,550	37.0	38.0	63,640	58,900
Durum Wheat	Bu.	640	600	630	590	23.0	27.0	14,490	15,930
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,850	2,850	2,700	2,700	22.0	27.0	59,400	72,900
All Wheat	Bu.	5,290	5,300	5,050	4,840	27.2	30.5	137,530	147,730
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	17.0	15.0	140.0	5/	2,380	5/
Oats	Bu.	120	110	45.0	45.0	44.0	48.0	1,980	2,160
Barley	Bu.	1,100	1,000	810	780	39.0	51.0	31,590	39,780
Flaxseed	Bu.	17.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	13.0	5/	221	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	18.0	12.8	17.0	18.2	3/	233	3/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	33.0	50.0	31.0	40.0	14.5	5/	450	5/
Lentils	Cwt.	30.0	38.0	26.0	35.0	10.5	5/	273	5/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.5	10.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	5/	56	5/
Sugar Beets	Ton	51.7	53.4	51.5	53.0	25.4	3/	1,308	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	10.7	10.6	10.6	315.0.	4/	3,339	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,600	2.10	3/	3,360	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	950	1.50	3/	1,275	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,550	1.89	3/	4,635	3/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	44,945	43,450	36,541	34,825	46.7	42.2	1,707,069	1,469,735
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,915	2,742	2,869	2,671	33.7	33.2	96,637	88,571
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,840	13,677	13,429	13,210	39.7	37.9	532,820	500,765
All Wheat	Bu.	61,700	59,869	52,839	50,706	44.2	40.6	2,336,526	2,059,071
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,362	142.2	3/	10,113,887	3/
Oats	Bu.	4,601	4,220	2,224	1,938	65.0	62.9	144,649	121,860
Barley	Bu.	5,299	4,666	4,688	4,152	58.9	63.5	226,087	263,502
Flaxseed	Bu.	595	629	583	608	3/	5/	10,426	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,406.1	1,424.2	1,346.9	1,325.2	16.7	3/	22,515	3/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	337.5	480.0	328.5	454.0	15.6	5/	5,202	5/
Lentils	Cwt.	246.0	300.0	237.0	293.0	10.1	5/	2,442	5/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	21.1	25.5	15.6	16.6	12.4	5/	183	5/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,365.4	1,340.5	1,347.9	1,310.4	22.2	3/	30,605	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,107.6	1,037.8	1,092.0	1,022.8	377	4/	411,386	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,578	22,226	3.34	3/	76,307	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,764	39,363	2.01	3/	80,816	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,342	61,589	2.50	3/	157,123	3/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available August 12, 2004. 4/ Forecast available November 12, 2004. 5/ Forecast available January 12, 2005 -- Not published.

U.S. Wheat Supply and Demand

Projected U.S. 2004/05 ending stocks of wheat are nearly unchanged from last month. Total wheat production is forecast at 2.059 billion bushels, down slightly from last month and down 277 million bushels from last year. Forecast winter wheat production is 61 million bushels below last month due to lower yields. The first survey-based spring wheat (including durum) production forecast is up from last month's projection due to larger planted area estimates in the June 30 Acreage report and a higher yield. In addition, the harvested-to-planted ratio is higher than assumed last month. Supplies are nearly unchanged from last month with larger reported carryin stocks but imports 5 million bushels lower. Expected use is fractionally lower than last month. Ending stocks are down 1 million bushels from last month and down 52 million bushels from last year. The projected 2004/05 price range is $3.20 to $3.80 per bushel, down 5 cents on each end of the range from last month.

Projected 2004/05 world wheat production is up from last month and although use also increases, ending stocks are up nearly 6 million tons from last month and are almost 2 million tons above the previous year. This would be the first year-to-year increase in ending stocks since 1999/2000. Foreign production is up from last month with notable increases forecast for China, the EU-25, Romania, and Russia. Global trade and consumption are little changed from last month with the notable exception of a 0.5-million-ton increase forecast for Pakistan's imports. Also, Morocco's imports rise and Romania's imports fall from last month's projections. Because of a larger crop and an increase in carryin stocks, China's supplies are up 2.5 million tons from last month. The increased supply is expected to boost ending stocks from last month's projection, but stocks will be down 8 million tons year-to-year. Similarly, the nearly 1-million-ton increase in EU-25 production, although partially offset by a decline in carryin stocks, is forecast to result in an increase in ending stocks. Relative to last month, the ending stocks of Russia are up due to increased production and Kazakhstan's stocks are up due to larger beginning stocks. (See table on back page.)

2004 Sweet Cherry Production

The Montana sweet cherry crop is forecast at 2,200 tons, 15 percent above last year but 6 percent less than 2002. Montana's cherry growing region experienced a warm, early spring and adequate precipitation which contributed to a good bloom. Some growers experienced frost damage during May resulting in bloom damage and reduced production potential. Most growers in Flathead and Lake counties have seen favorable crop conditions thus far. Growers are expecting the outcome of the crop to vary by cherry variety.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 276,550 tons, up 17 percent from 2003 and 52 percent above 2002. The Washington crop, at a record high production of 130,000 tons, is down 4 percent from the June 1 forecast but is 12 percent above 2003. Washington's cherry crop experienced unusually warm conditions during the spring, which contributed to a good bloom. Most growers are reporting crop sizes equal to or greater than a year ago. Rain in early June caused some crop loss due to splitting. Production in California is forecast at 65,000 tons, 5 percent more than last year. Adequate chilling hours and ideal weather conditions during bloom and the growing season have contributed to this production increase. Harvest began in late April and continued through the second week of June. Fruit quality is reported to be excellent. The sweet cherry crop in Oregon is forecast at 43,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 13 percent from 2003. Bing harvest began mid-June in The Dalles and the Hood River Valley. Early variety harvest began the first full week of June.

Agricultural Prices Received

May 2004 full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with April 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.88 per bushel, up $0.11 from the previous month; spring wheat price was up $0.05 to $4.04 per bushel; and durum wheat prices rose $0.21 to $4.36 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped $0.07 from the previous month to $2.01 per bushel.

The mid-June price for alfalfa hay rose $1.00 from May 2004 to $73.00 per ton and all other hay increased $2.00 to $69.00 per ton. Mid-June grain prices were mixed with winter wheat averaging $3.68 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.93 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.30 per bushel, and feed barley was $2.09 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were all higher from the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $3.80 to $99.00 per cwt., reaching an all-time high, while cows increased $2.90 to $55.10. The average price for calves increased to $117.00 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $4.70 to $39.50 per cwt. while lamb prices increased $4.00 to $111.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.50 per cwt from April to $15.00 per cwt. Mid-month June steer and heifer prices averaged $105.00 per cwt.; cows averaged $56.60 per cwt.; calves averaged $118.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $15.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for May and changes from April were as follows: winter wheat was down $0.07 at $3.72; spring wheat was $4.01, up $0.07; durum wheat was $4.21, down $0.01; the all barley price was $2.78, unchanged, and steer and heifer prices were $92.60, down $3.70 per cwt. The U.S. mid-June winter wheat price was $3.49 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.82 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.17 per bushel, all wheat was $3.55 per bushel, malt barley was $3.08 per bushel, feed barley was $2.21 per bushel, and all barley was $2.68. Steer and heifer prices were $93.30 per cwt, cow prices were $52.90, calves were $124.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $56.70 per cwt, and all market egg prices were $0.496 per dozen. The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in June at 129, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from the May Index, but up 22 points (21 percent) from June 2003.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	May 2003	June 2003	May 2004	June 2004
Prices Received	105	107	129	129
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	127	128	134	135
Ratio 2/	83	84	96	96

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		May 2003	April 2004	May 2004	May 2004	April 2004	May 2003	June 15, 2004	June 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.38	3.77	3.88	3.72	+0.11	+0.50	3.68	3.49
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.37	4.15	4.36	4.21	+0.21	-0.01	4.30	4.17
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.65	3.99	4.04	4.01	+0.05	+0.39	3.93	3.82
All Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.93	4.02	3.82	+0.09	+0.38	3.87	3.55
Barley, All	Bu.	2.44	2.84	2.81	2.78	-0.03	+0.37	2.74	2.68
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.13	2.08	2.01	2.39	-0.07	-0.12	2.09	2.21
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.19	3.17	N/A	3.14	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.08
Oats	Bu.	2.03	2.04	1.67	1.70	-0.37	-0.36	N/A	1.55
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	79.00	70.00	72.00	109.00	+2.00	-7.00	73.00	102.00
All Other Hay	Ton	68.00	67.00	67.00	74.90	N/C	-1.00	69.00	76.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	78.00	69.00	71.00	101.00	+2.00	-7.00	73.00	95.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	84.00	95.20	99.00	92.60	+3.80	+15.00	105.00	93.30
Cows	Cwt	45.60	52.20	55.10	52.40	+2.90	+9.50	56.60	52.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	66.00	79.70	81.90	88.40	+2.20	+15.90	79.80	89.40
Calves	Cwt	99.00	114.00	117.00	121.00	+3.00	+18.00	118.00	124.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	33.90	34.80	39.50	36.50	+4.70	+5.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	100.00	107.00	111.00	103.00	+4.00	+11.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	11.10	14.50	15.00	19.40	+0.50	+3.90	15.20	18.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2004

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002 . .	777	1,606	77	2,460	918	84	113	1,115	854	1,969	491	3.56
2003 . .	491	2,337	70	2,898	900	80	217	1,197	1,155	2,352	546	3.40
2004 . 3/	546	2,059	60	2,665	915	81	200	1,196	975	2,171	494	3.20-3.80

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July, 2004--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Mink
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Wheat & Barley Varieties
- Cattle Inventory
- Cattle on Feed
- Sheep Inventory
- Red Meat Production
- Egg Production

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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Issue: 04-12 (0279-0394) Released: June 30, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS:

June Crop Acreages
Sweet Cherry Production
Egg Production
Red Meat Production
June 1 Grain Stocks
Potato Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Hogs & Pigs Inventory

June Crop Acreages

Small Grain Acreage:

All wheat seeded acreage in Montana is estimated to be 5.30 million acres, up slightly from last year. **Spring wheat** producers seeded an estimated 2.85 million acres, unchanged from last year, but up 50,000 acres from what they intended to seed on March 1, 2004. Acres intended to be harvested , at 2.7 million acres, is unchanged from the previous year. The condition of the spring wheat crop for the week ending June 27 is better than a year ago and was rated mostly good with 5% excellent, 66% good, 20% fair, 6% poor, and 3% very poor. Currently, 43% of the spring wheat crop is in the boot stage, with 9% of the crop headed which is behind last year and the 5-year average. **Winter wheat** acreage seeded remained unchanged from the March 1 estimate at 1.85 million acres, but up 3 percent from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 1.55 million acres, down 50,000 acres from the previous forecast and down 170,000 acres from last year's acreage. The winter wheat crop condition is rated 6% excellent, 50% good, 33% fair, 7% poor and 4% very poor for the week ending June 27. The winter wheat crop development is about the same as last year for the boot stage and headed at 97% and 87%, respectively, but only 2% is turning compared with 19% last year and 15% for the five-year average. **Durum wheat** acreage, at 600,000 acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago. Acreage of durum wheat intended to be harvested is estimated at 590,000 acres, down 6 percent from last year. The small grain crops have improved with the May and June rainfall, but cooler temperatures have slowed crop development. Producers are concerned over the continued lack of soil moisture and the possibility of extreme heat during the rest of the growing season.

Montana **barley** growers seeded an estimated 1.0 million acres, which is down 9% from last year's final estimate, but up 50,000 acres from the March 1, 2004 intentions. The state's barley growers intend to harvest 780,000 acres for grain this year, which is 4% below the previous year's final estimate. Planted acreage for **oats**, at 110,000 acres, is down 10,000 acres from the previous year and 20,000 acres less than intended plantings on March 1, 2004. Growers intend to harvest 45,000 acres of the oat crop for grain, unchanged from a year ago.

All wheat planted area for the **United States** is estimated at 59.9 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Harvested area is expected to total 50.7 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. The 2004 **winter wheat** planted area, at 43.5 million acres, is 3 percent below last year, but fractionally up from the previous estimate. Acreage planted to other **spring wheat** for 2004 is estimated at 13.7 million, down 1 percent from 2003. The **Durum** planted area for 2004 is estimated at 2.74 million acres, down 6 percent from last year.

U.S. barley growers seeded 4.67 million acres for 2004, down 12 percent from the 5.30 million acres seeded a year ago. Acres for harvest, at 4.15 million, are down 11 percent from the 2003 level. Acres seeded for the 2004 **oats** crop year totaled 4.22 million, down 8 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 1.94 million acres for grain, 13 percent less than the 2003 harvested acreage of 2.2 million.

Acreage for Row Crops, Hay, and Oilseeds:

Montana **corn** growers planted 60,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from a year ago and 10,000 acres from the March 1 intentions. Acreage intended for harvest as grain, at 15,000 acres, is down 2,000 acres from a year ago. **Sugar beet** producers planted an estimated 53,400 acres, up 3 percent from 2003. Producers intend to harvest 53,000 of those acres, up 3 percent from 2003. Montana's corn and sugar beet plantings were in generally good condition through late-April and early-May, but cooler temperatures have slowed the progress of the crop and a severe mid-May freeze forced some beet growers to replant. An estimated 2.55 million acres of **all hay** are expected to be harvested, 100,000 acres above last year, but 50,000 acres less than the March 1, 2004 intentions. Of the total hay expected for harvest, 1.60 million acres are expected to be **alfalfa hay**,which is unchanged from last year's figure. Producers expect to harvest 950,000 acres of **other hay,** which is up 100,000 acres from a year ago. Farmers planted 18,000 acres of **dry beans** in 2004, up 38 percent from last year and 29 percent above their March 1, 2004 intentions. Producers are looking to harvest 17,000 acres of dry beans this season, 33 percent more than last year's. **Flaxseed** growers in Montana planted an estimated 16,000 acres this year, down 1,000 from last year's acreage. Producers intend to harvest 15,000 acres of flaxseed this year, down from 17,000 acres during the 2003 crop year.

U.S. **corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 81.0 million acres, up 3 percent from 2003 and 2002. Growers expect to harvest 73.4 million acres for grain, up 3 percent from 2003. Farmers increased corn plantings 1.96 million acres from their March intentions. **Sugar beets** area planted totaled 1.34 million acres down 1 percent from the March intentions and down 2 percent from 2003. The area for harvest is estimated at 1.31 million, down 3 percent from 2003.

U.S. producers expect to harvest 61.6 million acres of **all hay** in 2004, 3 percent below 2003. **Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** are estimated at 22.2 million acres, down 6 percent from last year. **All other hay** is estimated at 39.4 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. U.S. **dry bean** growers planted 1.42 million acres for 2004, up 1 percent from last year but 26 percent below two years ago. The June planted acres estimate is 7 percent above growers plans in March. Acres to be harvested are estimated at 1.33 million, down 2 percent from last year and 24 percent below 2002. Acreage planted to **flaxseed** in 2004 is 629,000 acres, up 6 percent from last year's planted acreage of 595,000 acres. Area for harvest, forecast at 608,000 acres, is 4 percent above the harvested area in 2003.

Sweet Cherry Production Forecast

The Montana sweet cherry crop is forecast at 2,200 tons, 15 percent above last year but 6 percent less than 2002. Montana's cherry growing region experienced a warm, early spring and adequate precipitation which contributed to a good bloom. Some growers experienced frost damage during May resulting in bloom damage and reduced production potential. Most growers in Flathead and Lake counties have seen favorable crop conditions thus far. Growers are expecting the outcome of the crop to vary by cherry variety.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 276,550 tons, up 17 percent from 2003 and 52 percent above 2002. The Washington crop, at a record high production of 130,000 tons, is down 4 percent from the June 1 forecast but is 12 percent above 2003. Washington's cherry crop experienced unusually warm conditions during the spring, which contributed to a good bloom. Most growers are reporting crop sizes equal to or greater than a year ago. Rain in early June caused some crop loss due to splitting. Production in California is forecast at 65,000 tons, 5 percent more than last year. Adequate chilling hours and ideal weather conditions during bloom and the growing season have contributed to this production increase. Harvest began in late April and continued through the second week of June. Fruit quality is reported to be excellent. The sweet cherry crop in Oregon is forecast at 43,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but up 13 percent from 2003. Bing harvest began mid-June in The Dalles and the Hood River Valley. Early variety harvest began the first full week of June.

U.S. May Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.50 billion during May 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.39 billion table eggs, and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,192 eggs, up 1 percent from May 2003.

May 2004 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 2004, down 3 percent from May 2003 and down 4 percent from April 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, 100 head below a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,169 pounds, was down 20 pounds from last year. During May there were 900 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 245 pounds, was up 9 pounds from 2003. May sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, unchanged from last year. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.60 billion pounds in May, down 9 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in May 2003. Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was 12 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.84 million head, down 13 percent from May 2003. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,204 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.8 million pounds, 13 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 64,900 head, down 15 percent from May 2003. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 355 pounds. (continued on next page)

June 2004 Crop Acreages, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/	2003	2004 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,800	1,850	1,720	1,550	37.0	3/	63,640	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	640	600	630	590	23.0	3/	14,490	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2,850	2,850	2,700	2,700	22.0	3/	59,400	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,290	5,300	5,050	4,840	27.2	3/	137,530	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	17.0	15.0	140.0	6/	2,380	6/
Oats	Bu.	120	110	45.0	45.0	44.0	3/	1,980	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,100	1,000	810	780	39.0	3/	31,590	3/
Flaxseed	Bu.	17.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	13.0	6/	221	6/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	13.0	18.0	12.8	17.0	18.2	4/	233	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	33.0	3/	31.0	3/	14.5	6/	450	6/
Lentils	Cwt.	30.0	3/	26.0	3/	10.5	6/	273	6/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.5	3/	7.0	3/	8.0	6/	56	6/
Sugar Beets	Ton	51.7	53.4	51.5	53.0	25.4	4/	1,308	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.7	3/	10.6	3/	315.0.	5/	3,339	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,600	1,600	2.10	4/	3,360	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	850	950	1.50	4/	1,275	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,550	1.89	4/	4,635	4/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	44,945	43,450	36,541	34,825	46.7	3/	1,707,069	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,915	2,742	2,869	2,671	33.7	3/	96,637	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	13,840	13,677	13,429	13,210	39.7	3/	532,820	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	61,700	59,869	52,839	50,706	44.2	3/	2,336,526	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,362	142.2	4/	10,113,887	4/
Oats	Bu.	4,601	4,220	2,224	1,938	65.0	3/	144,649	3/
Barley	Bu.	5,299	4,666	4,688	4,152	58.9	3/	276,087	3/
Flaxseed	Bu.	595	629	583	608	3/	6/	10,426	6/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,406.1	1,424.2	1,346.9	1,325.2	16.7	4/	22,515	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	330.0	3/	321.0	3/	15.6	6/	5,202	6/
Lentils	Cwt.	241.0	3/	226.0	3/	10.1	6/	2,442	6/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	20.7	3/	11.6	3/	12.4	6/	183	6/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,365.4	1,340.5	1,347.9	1,310.4	22.2	4/	30,605	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,109.7	3/	1,094.8	3/	378	5/	411,386	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,578	22,226	3.34	4/	76,307	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,764	39,363	2.01	4/	80,816	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,342	61,589	2.50	4/	157,123	4/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available July 12, 2004. 4/ Forecast available August 12, 2004. 5/ Forecast available November 12, 2004. 6/ Forecast available January 12, 2005 -- Not published.

Red Meat Production (continued)
(Continued from page 2)

Pork production totaled 1.50 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.58 million head, 3 percent below May 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound below the previous year, at 266 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 13.0 million pounds, was down 14 percent from May 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 188,500 head, 15 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 1 pound from May a year ago

January to May 2004 commercial red meat production was 18.4 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

June 1, 2004 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on June 1, 2004 were 40.4 million bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 28.0 million bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 12.4 million bushels, down 2 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the March - May 2004 quarter was up 6 percent from the same quarter last year to 32.8 million bushels. This compares with 31.1 million bushels last year.

Barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2004 were 9.0 million bushels, up 47 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 4.0 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley jumped from 1.6 million bushels a year ago to 5.0 million bushels. Disappearance of barley for the March - May 2004 quarter was down 21 percent from the same quarter last year to 7.0 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were 765,000 bushels, down 22 percent from last year. This is the lowest June 1 oat stocks on record for Montana. On-farm stocks of oats were 700,000 bushels, down 22 percent from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were down 13 percent from last year to 65,000 bushels. .

All wheat stored in all positions in the United States on June 1, 2004 totaled 546 million bushels, up 11 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 132 million bushels, down slightly from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 414 million bushels, are up 15 percent from a year ago. The March - May 2004 indicated disappearance is 475 million bushels, up 14 percent from the same period a year earlier. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on June 1, 2004 totaled 26.5 million bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 13.5 million bushels, are down 11 percent from June 1, 2003. Off-farm stocks totaled 13.0 million bushels, down slightly from a year ago. The March - May 2004 indicated disappearance of 17.8 million bushels is down 38 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Nationally, barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2004 totaled 120 million bushels, up 74 percent from June 1, 2003. On-farm stocks are estimated at 28.3 million bushels, 91 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 92.0 million bushels, are 69 percent above June 2003. The March - May 2004 indicated disappearance is 32.6 million bushels, 40 percent below the same period a year earlier.

U.S. oats stored in all positions on June 1, 2004 totaled 64.7 million bushels, 30 percent above June 1, 2003. Of the total stocks on hand, 27.5 million bushels are stored on farms, 33 percent more than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 37.2 million bushels, up 27 percent from a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during March - May 2004 totaled 30.3 million bushels, down 8 percent from the same period a year ago.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on June 1, 2004 totaled 2.97 billion bushels, down slightly from June 1, 2003. Of the total stocks, 1.54 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 1.43 billion bushels, are up 5 percent from the previous year. The March - May 2004 indicated disappearance is 2.30 billion bushels, compared with 2.15 billion bushels during the same period last year.

June 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Jun. 1, 2003	Mar. 1, 2004	Jun. 1, 2004	'04/'03	Jun. 1, 2003	Mar. 1, 2004	Jun. 1, 2004
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	29,000	50,000	28,000	97%	132,110	257,890	131,880
Off Farms 1/	12,590	23,200	12,390	98%	359,306	762,727	414,123
TOTAL	41,590	73,200	40,390	97%	491,416	1,020,617	546,003
DURUM WHEAT 2/, 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	15,100	24,800	13,500
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	13,008	19,447	12,993
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	18,108	44,247	26,493
BARLEY							
On Farms	4,500	8,000	4,000	89%	14,860	51,700	28,320
Off Farms 1/	1,630	7,970	4,990	306%	54,480	101,186	91,991
TOTAL	6,130	15,970	8,990	147%	69,340	152,886	120,311
OATS							
On Farms	900	1,500	700	78%	20,600	45,600	27,500
Off Farms 1/	75	100	65	87%	29,233	49,414	37,232
TOTAL	975	1,600	765	78%	49,833	95,014	64,732
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,620,200	3,030,000	1,540,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,364,718	2,241,459	1,429,685
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	2,984,918	5,271,459	2,969,685

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operaations.

Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 47.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2004, up 3 percent from last year and 10 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 12 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Disappearance of 357 million cwt of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 29.2 million cwt so far this season, is up 7 percent from last year and 9 percent above the same date in 2002. Processors in the 9 major States used 173 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 39.1 million cwt of the total processing, down 3 percent from last year.

May Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during May totaled 13.0 billion pounds, down 0.1 percent from May 2003. April revised production, at 12.6 billion pounds, was down 0.8 percent from April 2003. The April revision represented an increase of 4 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,684 pounds for May, 13 pounds above May 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 71,000 head less than May 2003, and 5,000 head less than April 2004.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.62 million head on June 1, 2004. The inventory was 1 percent above June 1, 2003 but 3 percent below June 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.36 million, 2 percent above 2003 and 4 percent above 2002. Net placements were 2.28 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 495,000, 600-699 pounds were 486,000, 700-799 pounds were 772,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 610,000. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.03 million, 9 percent below 2003 and 7 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 79,000 during May, 22 percent above 2003 and 3 percent above 2002.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2004 was 60.1 million head. This was 1 percent above both June 1, 2003 and March 1, 2004.

Breeding inventory, at 5.91 million head, was down 2 percent from June 1, 2003, and down slightly from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.2 million head, was 1 percent above both last year and last quarter.

The March - May 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was down less than one-half of one percent from 2003, and down 2 percent from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.86 million head, 1 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.93 for the March - May 2004 period, compared to 8.88 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.70 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the June-August 2004 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2003 and 2002. Intended farrowings for September-November 2004, at 2.84 million sows, are down slightly from the same period in 2003, but up slightly from the same period in 2002.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Lentils
Sweet Cherry Production	Austrian Winter Peas
Small Grain Production	Wheat Supply and Demand
Potato Acreage	
Dry Edible Peas	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
World Ag Supply & Demand
Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received

June 1, 2004 Crop Production Forecast

Montana winter wheat producers are expecting a yield of 34 bushels per acre based on June 1 conditions, down 3 bushels from last year, but up 1 bushel from last month's forecast, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Based on the forecast of 1.6 million acres to be harvested, total production would be 54.4 million bushels, down from 63.6 million bushels last year.

Winter wheat growing conditions in Montana improved during the past month due to receiving some much needed precipitation. Condition ratings improved during May, however winter wheat conditions are not as good as a year ago. Conditions for the week ending June 6 were rated 6% very poor, 15% poor, 46% fair, 28% good, and 5% excellent compared with 2% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 50% good, and 23% excellent a year ago. While significant rainfall fell in many areas of the state, the rainfall was not enough to improve subsoil moisture conditions which are currently rated 36% very short, 31% short, and 33% adequate. Producers are concerned that high temperatures, wind, and lack of moisture during the rest of the growing season would hurt yield potential. Crop development is ahead of a year ago with 66% of the crop in the boot stage compared with 58% last year and 48% for the 5-year average for the week ending June 6. Winter wheat is beginning to head as 15% of the acreage has headed compared with 7% a year ago and 18% for the 5-year average.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the May 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2003. Based on June 1 conditions, U.S. yield is forecast at 43.6 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Hard Red production is down 3 percent from a month ago to 887 million bushels. Soft Red is down less than 1 percent from last month, and now totals 397 million bushels. White production totals 247 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month.

Across the Nation, winter wheat heading progressed rapidly across the central Great Plains and southern Corn Belt through the first half of the month. At mid-month, 69 percent of the crop was headed, compared with 63 percent last year and 61 percent for the 5-year average. At that time, heading was ahead of the normal pace throughout the Great Plains and most of the Corn Belt. By May 30, heading had advanced to 87 percent complete, 7 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. The crop was completely headed in Arkansas, California, Kansas, and Oklahoma but heading had just started in Idaho and Montana. Late-month development was most rapid in the northern Corn Belt and Pacific Northwest. Crop condition declined during the month in the Great Plains and Corn Belt, but improved in the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest.

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimartes

Because planting of spring crops is still underway in the Northern Hemisphere and remains several months away in the Southern Hemisphere, these projections are highly tentative. Substantial variation may result from weather developments, economic factors, and policy changes. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecasts are used for U.S. winter wheat. For other U.S. crops, the March 31 NASS Prospective Plantings report is used for planted acreage, and methods used to project harvested acreage and yield are noted on each table.

Projected U.S. 2004/05 ending stocks of wheat are down 4 million bushels from last month as smaller production is partially offset by larger carryin stocks. Forecast winter wheat production is 20 million bushels below last month because of lower yields, especially in several major hard red winter producing States. Projected use is unchanged from last month but is down 190 million bushels from last year. The projected price range is unchanged at $3.25 to $3.85 per bushel.

Forecast 2003/04 U.S. wheat ending stocks are up 15 million bushels due to lower-than-expected exports.

The 2004/05 global outlook for wheat has shifted modestly from last month with projected production rising, trade increasing, and stocks growing. Projected 2004/05 global production is up nearly 5 million tons, with foreign production up just over 5 million tons from last month, led by increases for Russia, the EU-25, China, and Iran. Projected global trade is also up from last month, mostly due to increased imports by Iraq of wheat purchased in 2003/04 but not shipped until 2004/05. This year's EU-25 crop is forecast at a record 128 million tons, up 1 million tons from last month and nearly 21 million tons above last year. As a result of this large crop, EU-25 exports are projected at 15 million tons, up 1 million tons from last month and up nearly 6 million tons from last year. Projected Russian exports are up 1 million tons, offsetting a decline in India's exports. Projected global consumption is raised by nearly 2 million tons. Global ending stocks are up 3 million tons from last month but are still more than 2 million tons below the 2003/04 level. The combined 2004/05 stocks of the major foreign exporters (Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the EU-25) and the former Soviet Union are only marginally higher than last month but are up over 8 million tons from last year.

The 2004/05 outlook for U.S. feed grains is unchanged from last month, with no changes to production, use, and prices. Corn prices in 2004/05 are projected to average $2.55 to $2.95 per bushel, compared with a forecast of $2.45 to $2.55 per bushel for 2003/04.

Except for grain sorghum and barley, 2003/04 feed grain forecasts are unchanged from last month. Grain sorghum exports are lowered 10 million bushels from last month but feed and residual use is raised 10 million bushels. The projected price range for 2003/04 grain sorghum is lowered 5 cents on each end to $2.40 to $2.50 per bushel. Barley imports are raised 5 million bushels. (See table on back page.)

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2003

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
				Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	8,200	7,100	41	292,000	23	3,300	2,800	61	170,000
Granite	900	300	53	16,000	51	900	300	53	16,000
Lake	2,900	1,400	65	91,000	39	2,600	1,200	72	86,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	1,300	200	30	6,000	53	--	--	--	--
Powell	2,700	1,600	59	95,000	37	2,300	1,300	71	92,000
Ravalli	1,200	700	61	43,000	47	800	500	82	41,000
Sanders	1,000	600	35	21,000	50	--	--	--	--
Other	800	100	70	7,000	--	2,100	400	60	24,000
NORTHWEST	**19,000**	**12,000**	**48**	**571,000**	**--**	**12,000**	**6,500**	**66**	**429,000**
Blaine	25,500	18,800	36	686,000	11	6,400	4,700	62	291,000
Chouteau	57,700	40,400	23	914,000	10	--	--	--	--
Glacier	105,000	95,300	32	3,051,000	3	16,700	13,900	56	772,000
Hill	26,800	22,500	29	656,000	13	--	--	--	--
Liberty	21,800	18,600	31	585,000	15	2,000	1,500	71	106,000
Phillips	29,700	14,500	28	410,000	18	2,800	600	57	34,000
Pondera	133,000	117,900	43	5,037,000	1	45,900	41,300	75	3,080,000
Teton	110,000	92,800	54	4,983,000	2	58,000	51,000	80	4,059,000
Toole	56,500	50,700	39	1,973,000	4	1,500	1,100	49	54,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,200	900	69	62,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**566,000**	**471,500**	**39**	**18,295,000**	**--**	**134,500**	**115,000**	**74**	**8,458,000**
Daniels	5,500	2,400	21	51,000	46	--	--	--	--
Dawson	23,800	17,700	36	637,000	14	700	600	88	53,000
Garfield	12,800	2,800	28	77,000	41	--	--	--	--
McCone	19,000	7,300	27	195,000	28	--	--	--	--
Richland	25,000	20,300	52	1,054,000	8	6,300	5,400	97	522,000
Roosevelt	13,800	10,200	37	376,000	21	1,200	600	73	44,000
Sheridan	14,500	10,700	36	383,000	20	--	--	--	--
Valley	17,600	9,100	28	259,000	25	4,100	1,200	41	49,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,200	700	61	43,000
NORTHEAST	**132,000**	**80,500**	**38**	**3,032,000**	**--**	**13,500**	**8,500**	**84**	**711,000**
Broadwater	7,800	7,000	55	388,000	19	4,600	4,100	85	347,000
Cascade	45,300	31,000	39	1,197,000	7	11,900	10,000	81	808,000
Fergus	58,000	40,300	14	553,000	16	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	36,700	19,200	14	274,000	24	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	9,800	7,700	61	470,000	17	6,300	4,800	81	387,000
Meagher	12,300	8,500	26	221,000	26	--	--	--	--
Musselshell	6,200	1,700	24	41,000	48	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	16,500	12,600	13	165,000	32	--	--	--	--
Other	9,400	4,500	36	161,000	--	12,700	5,600	57	320,000
CENTRAL	**202,000**	**132,500**	**26**	**3,470,000**	**--**	**35,500**	**24,500**	**76**	**1,862,000**
Beaverhead	6,900	2,800	75	209,000	27	6,500	2,400	85	203,000
Gallatin	35,200	30,400	41	1,254,000	6	12,800	9,800	68	667,000
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	6,300	3,100	55	172,000	31	6,100	2,900	58	167,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1,600	700	37	26,000	--	1,100	400	48	19,000
SOUTHWEST	**50,000**	**37,000**	**45**	**1,661,000**	**--**	**26,500**	**15,500**	**68**	**1,056,000**
Big Horn	18,900	14,700	67	982,000	9	10,000	8,700	86	744,000
Carbon	10,100	7,700	87	667,000	12	9,200	7,600	88	665,000
Park	6,100	4,300	38	165,000	32	3,500	2,300	60	137,000
Stillwater	16,000	6,600	29	193,000	29	1,500	800	100	80,000
Sweetgrass	3,000	1,100	54	59,000	44	2,000	900	62	56,000
Treasure	4,600	3,400	92	313,000	22	3,400	2,700	109	294,000
Yellowstone	25,300	20,700	71	1,480,000	5	16,400	14,000	94	1,310,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**84,000**	**58,500**	**66**	**3,859,000**	**--**	**46,000**	**37,000**	**89**	**3,286,000**
Carter	10,400	2,900	21	60,000	43	--	--	--	--
Custer	5,500	2,000	49	97,000	35	1,200	700	96	67,000
Fallon	7,900	3,100	31	96,000	36	--	--	--	--
Powder River	6,100	3,800	37	140,000	34	--	--	--	--
Prairie	4,900	2,300	34	78,000	40	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	7,600	2,400	74	178,000	30	4,000	1,700	92	156,000
Wibaux	4,600	1,500	35	53,000	45	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,800	600	75	45,000
SOUTHEAST	**47,000**	**18,000**	**39**	**702,000**	**--**	**7,000**	**3,000**	**89**	**268,000**
MONTANA	**1,100,000**	**810,000**	**39**	**31,590,000**	**--**	**275,000**	**210,000**	**77**	**16,070,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of barley are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

April 2004 Agricultural Prices Received

April 2004 full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with March 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.77 per bushel, up $0.12 from the previous month; spring wheat price was up $0.02 to $3.99 per bushel; and durum wheat prices increased $0.04 to $4.15 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped $0.07 from the previous month to $2.08 per bushel. Malt barley averaged $3.17 per bushel and the all barley price dropped $0.16 from the previous month to $2.84 a bushel.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay rose $2.00 to $72.00 per ton, but all other hay remained unchanged at $67.00 per ton. Mid-May grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.81 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.06 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.15 per bushel, malt barley was $3.10 per bushel and feed barley was $2.13 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were mixed compared to the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $0.80 to $95.20 per cwt., while cows increased $3.60 to $52.20. The average price for calves was unchanged at $114.00 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $1.90 to $34.80 per cwt and lamb prices were down $14.00 to $107.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.90 per cwt from March to $14.50 per cwt. Mid-month May steer and heifer prices averaged $96.70 per cwt.; cows averaged $54.60 per cwt.; calves averaged $112.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged a record high of $19.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was $3.79, up $0.03, spring wheat was $3.94, up $0.02; durum wheat was $4.22, up $0.08; the all barley price was $2.78, down $0.01, and steer and heifer prices were $88.90, up $1.00 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was $3.64 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.90 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.19 per bushel, all wheat was $3.73 per bushel, malt barley was $3.04 per bushel, feed barley was $2.29 per bushel, and all barley was $2.79. Steer and heifer prices were $92.60 per cwt, cow prices were $52.40, calves were $122.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $57.80 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.468 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May at 132, based on 1990-92=100, is 7 points (5.6 percent) above the April Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	April 2003	May 2003	April 2004	May 2004
Prices Received	101	105	125	132
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	128	127	133	134
Ratio 2/	79	83	94	99

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		April 2003	March 2004	April 2004	April 2004	March 2004	April 2003	May 15, 2004	May 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.32	3.65	3.77	3.79	+0.12	+0.45	3.81	3.64
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.27	4.11	4.15	4.22	+0.04	-0.12	4.15	4.19
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.97	3.99	3.94	+0.02	+0.30	4.06	3.90
All Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.89	3.93	3.89	+0.04	+0.22	3.98	3.73
Barley, All	Bu.	2.88	3.00	2.84	2.78	-0.16	-0.04	2.84	2.79
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.24	2.15	2.08	2.16	-0.07	-0.16	2.13	2.29
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.23	n/a	3.17	3.04	n/a	-0.06	3.10	3.04
Oats	Bu.	n/a	1.63	2.04	1.62	+0.41	n/a	n/a	1.64
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	81.00	73.00	70.00	92.70	-3.00	-11.00	72.00	109.00
All Other Hay	Ton	69.00	65.00	67.00	76.00	+2.00	-2.00	67.00	74.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	79.00	71.00	69.00	89.60	-2.00	-10.00	71.00	101.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	82.90	96.00	95.20	88.90	-0.80	+12.30	96.70	92.60
Cows	Cwt	43.50	48.60	52.20	50.50	+3.60	+8.70	54.60	52.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	75.80	86.00	79.70	84.80	-6.30	+3.90	76.10	88.40
Calves	Cwt	95.40	114.00	114.00	117.00	n//c	+18.60	112.00	122.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	31.10	32.90	34.80	37.10	+1.90	+3.70	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	93.00	121.00	107.00	100.00	-14.00	+14.00	n/a	n.a
All Milk	Cwt	11.20	13.60	14.50	18.20	+0.90	+3.28	19.10	20.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2004

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78
2002 . .	777	1,606	77	2,460	918	84	113	1,115	854	1,969	491	3.56
2003 . .	491	2,337	75	2,903	900	82	225	1,207	1,155	2,362	541	3.40
2004 . 3/	541	2,061	65	2,667	915	82	200	1,197	975	2,172	495	3.25-3.85

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, June, 2004--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Potato Stocks
- Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Egg Production
- Sweet Cherry Production
- Red Meat Production
- Hogs & Pigs
- Grain Stocks
- Crop Acreages

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Barley Ag Chem Use
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
April Farm Labor
U.S. Ag Export Forecasts - ERS

April 2004 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 2004, down 6 percent from April 2003, but up 2 percent from March 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, equal to that one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,170 pounds, decreased 10 pounds from last year.

During April there were 900 hogs slaughtered, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 238 pounds, was down 2 pounds from last year. April sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, down from 300 head in April 2003. The average live weight decreased 17 pounds to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in April, down 3 percent from the 3.85 billion pounds produced in April 2003.

Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 9 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,200 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.9 million pounds, 13 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,700 head, down 11 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was 7 pounds below last year, at 329 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.73 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.65 million head, 4 percent above April 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.4 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,000 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2004 commercial red meat production was 14.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 8 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

Livestock County Estimates Now Available

County estimates for the January 1, 2004, cattle and calf inventory are now available at www.nass.usda.gov/mt under county data. District-level estimates for December 1, 2003 All Chickens and county-level estimates for December 1, 2003 Hogs and Pigs and January 1, 2004 Sheep and Lambs will be available at a later date.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county estimates are based on livestock surveys conducted at the end of 2003 and the beginning of 2004.

Questionnaires were sent to a sample of farmers and ranchers throughout Montana asking for information on the livestock inventories. Thank you to all the farmers and ranchers who participated in the survey!

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.36 million head on May 1, 2004. The inventory was 2 percent below May 1, 2003 and 6 percent below May 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.60 million, 14 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002. Net placements were 1.51 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 316,000, 600-699 pounds were 302,000, 700-799 pounds were 567,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 418,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.89 million, 5 percent below both 2003 and 2002. Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during April, 54 percent above 2003 and 17 percent above 2002.

April Milk Production Down 0.9 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.6 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from April 2003. March revised production, at 12.8 billion pounds, was down 1.7 percent from March 2003. The March revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 22 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,630 pounds for April, 3 pounds above April 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 81,000 head less than April 2003, but 2,000 head more than March 2004.

Barley 2003 Agricultural Chemical Use

Montana barley producers applied nitrogen fertilizers to 92 percent of the acreage planted for the 2003 crop. A total of 44.2 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer was applied to the 1.1 million acres of barley planted in Montana. Of the planted acreage 88 percent received phosphate fertilizer while potash was used on 52 percent of the acres. Total application of phosphate was 30.2 million pounds and potash totaled 9.7 million pounds

Barley producers applied 1.005 million pounds of herbicides to 93 percent of the barley acres planted in 2003. The most common herbicide applied was Glyphosate with 45 percent of the acreage sprayed. The next two most popular herbicides applied and percent of acreage sprayed were 2,4-D with 36 percent and MCPA with 20 percent.

Nationally, nitrogen was applied to 93 percent of the 2003 barley planted acreage in the following Program States: California, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Nitrogen applications ranged from 37 percent of the acres treated in Wisconsin to 99 percent in Washington. Barley growers used an average of 1.4 applications per acre while applying 40 pounds of nitrogen per treatment. This computes to a crop year rate per acre of 60 pounds. In the Program States, 79 percent of the acres of barley planted received a phosphate application, while potash was applied to 29 percent of the acreage planted to barley.

Herbicides were applied to 93 percent of the program states barley planted acreage in 2003. MCPA was the most widely applied herbicide with 45 percent of the planted acreage being treated. It was applied at a rate of 0.32 pounds per acre. The next three most widely applied herbicides applied to barley, namely 2,4-D, bromoxynil, and fenoxaprop, were applied to 30, 29, and 28 percent, respectively, of the planted barley acreage.

In 2003 program states, 3 percent of the barley planted acreage was treated with insecticides. The insecticides applied to barley were all put on less than one percent of the planted acres; therefore, no area applied values were published. Based on total pounds applied, methyl parathion at 9,000 pounds, was the most widely used insecticide on barley acres planted in the Program States. Fungicides were applied to 7 percent of the barley planted acreage in the States in the survey program.

May Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 500,000 cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2004, up 25 percent from the previous year. Fifteen percent of the 2003 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 12 percent last year.

The 15 major potato States held 84.8 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2004, up 2 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 21 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 319 million cwt of potatoes is down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 27.0 million cwt so far this season, is up 5 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss includes unmarketable Maine potatoes disposed of through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Processors used 154 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. April usage of 16.7 million cwt is 2 percent above last year and up 1 percent from two years ago. Dehydrators used 34.6 million cwt to date, down 4 percent from last year.

Western States held 59.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, down 6 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 3 percent from last year, Washington decreased 9 percent, and Colorado's storages held 38 percent less. Potato sheds in Oregon stored 10 percent more than last year, California increased 20 percent, and Montana's storages gained 25 percent.

April U.S. Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during April 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.28 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2004 averaged 342 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,148 eggs, up 1 percent from April 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.49 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2004, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.85 billion eggs during April 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during April, at 319 million, was up 1 percent from a year ago.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 1 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during April totaled 37.5 million, down 1 percent from April 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.1 million on May 1, 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 311,000 during April 2004, up 11 percent from April 2003.

Broiler Hatch Up 2 Percent

The April 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 774 million, was up 2 percent from April of the previous year. There were 661 million eggs in incubators on May 1, 2004, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.4 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2004, down 5 percent from April 2003.

Hired Workers Up 15 Percent, Wage Rates Up 1 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 825,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 252,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned $8.95 per hour compared with $8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia) and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) regions and in California. In the Pacific region and California, the development of fruit, vegetables and spring planted crops was nearly two weeks ahead of normal, which heightened the demand for hired workers. Although moderate rains fell in parts of the Southeast region, the majority of the region remained drier than normal. Irrigation of cropland increased and supplemental feeding of livestock became active as pastures deteriorated, both of which caused greater demand for hired workers. In the Appalachian II region, continued expansion in the equine and poultry industries kept the demand for livestock workers at a high level. In the Mountain I region, above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation led to increased farm and ranch activity, which caused a greater need for hired workers.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northeast I (New York and New England) and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. In the Corn Belt I region, declining cattle and poultry inventories lessened the need for livestock workers. Favorable weather prior to the reference week in the Delta region allowed field work to progress rapidly, thereby decreasing the need for workers during the reference week. In the Southern Plains region, growth of pastures and ranges was ahead of normal, which lessened the need for supplemental feeding and reduced the demand for hired workers. Cool temperatures and wet conditions in the Northeast I and Appalachian I regions limited field activity, causing fewer hired workers to be needed.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Appalachian II, Mountain I, Pacific and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The higher wages in the Appalachian II region were mainly because of a higher percentage of equine workers in the work force. In the Mountain I region, wages were up due to a larger concentration of salaried workers putting in fewer hours. The higher wages in the Pacific region were because of the increased skilled worker demand for the rapidly developing fruit. In the Mountain III region, wages were up because of a higher proportion of full-time, salaried workers in the work force.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., April 6-12, 2003 & April 11-17, 2004 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	9.76	9.47	8.55	8.81	9.27	9.18	10.24	10.35
Northeast II	8.75	8.68	8.20	8.87	8.63	8.73	9.68	9.25
Appalachian I	8.18	8.01	8.37	8.38	8.24	8.14	8.77	8.82
Appalachian II	7.32	8.48	7.24	8.62	7.28	8.55	7.64	9.06
Southeast	7.58	7.88	8.78	8.71	8.07	8.12	8.71	8.42
FL	8.05	7.85	8.10	8.60	8.06	7.94	8.86	8.79
Lake	9.31	9.20	9.20	9.95	9.26	9.60	9.90	10.10
Cornbelt I	9.29	9.04	9.32	8.87	9.30	9.00	9.99	9.74
Cornbelt II	9.94	9.04	10.00	9.03	9.97	9.04	10.71	9.48
Delta	7.20	7.75	7.54	7.47	7.25	7.70	7.63	7.86
Northern Plains	9.08	8.87	9.28	8.51	9.16	8.73	9.46	8.95
Southern Plains	7.62	7.50	7.98	7.93	7.75	7.62	8.31	8.13
Mountain I	7.63	8.14	7.68	8.41	7.66	8.31	7.93	8.57
Mountain II	8.32	9.66	8.86	8.83	8.60	9.29	9.43	9.84
Mountain III	7.10	7.55	8.24	8.20	7.52	7.81	7.93	8.37
Pacific	8.82	9.02	9.28	10.16	8.90	9.16	9.34	9.91
CA	8.33	8.39	10.15	10.00	8.48	8.52	9.22	9.26
HI	9.58	9.51	3/	3/	9.63	9.66	11.50	11.26
US 4/	8.40	8.46	8.75	8.95	8.49	8.58	9.16	9.22

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

U.S. Agricultural Exports Forecast

U.S. agricultural exports for fiscal year 2004 are forecast at a record $61.5 billion, exceeding the fiscal 1996 record of $59.8 billion. Forecast exports are increased $2.5 billion from February and are $5.3 billion over fiscal 2003. Since February, horticultural product exports are boosted by $700 million; corn is up $400 million and wheat $300 million. Upward revisions to beef, pork, and cattle by-products raise livestock product exports $1 billion. Volume of bulk exports, at 119.7 million tons, exceeds February by 3.0 million tons, and is the largest since 1995.

Export growth in fiscal 2004 reflects higher volumes and higher unit values for feed grains, rice, cotton, beef, and many horticultural products. The improved outlook is due to favorable exchange rates, strong global economic growth, reduced competition for wheat, corn, and cotton markets, and China's robust demand for oilseeds and cotton. On the other hand, a smaller U.S. soybean crop and BSE-related bans on U.S. beef exports are factors restraining export expansion.

U.S. agricultural imports are forecast at a record $51.5 billion, a gain of $5.8 billion over last year. Horticultural products account for nearly half of the growth. The agricultural trade surplus is forecast at $10 billion.

U.S. Agricultural Trade, Fiscal Years 1999-2004, Year Ending September 30

Item	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Forecast Fiscal year 2004	
						Feb.	May
				Billion dollars			
Exports	49.1	50.7	52.7	53.3	56.2	59.0	61.5
Imports	37.3	38.9	39.0	41.0	45.7	49.5	51.5
Balance	11.8	11.9	13.7	12.3	10.5	9.5	10.0

Reflects forecasts in the May 12, 2004, *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* report.
Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Winter Wheat Production
Wheat Supply & Demand -ERS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Meat Animals PDI
- Milk PDI
- Poultry PDI
- Ag Prices Received

May 1 Crop Production and Hay Stocks

Based on May 1 conditions, **Montana winter wheat** producers are expecting a yield of 33 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from last year's final yield estimate. If realized, the total production of 52.8 million bushels would be down 17 percent from last year's 63.6 million bushels due to lower harvested acreage and yield. In the fall of 2003, Montana producers seeded 1.85 million acres of winter wheat, up 50,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 1.6 million acres, down 120,000 acres from last year. Dry planting conditions in some areas of the State coupled with the lack of spring moisture has resulted in more acres of winter wheat abandoned than normal. Producers are expecting to abandon 250,000 acres compared with 80,000 last year and the 10 year average of 211,000 acres.

As of May 9th, Montana's **winter wheat** crop was rated 14% very poor, 27% poor, 38% fair, 18% good, and 3% excellent, down significantly from last year's ratings of 1% very poor, 6% poor, 20% fair, 55% good, and 18% excellent. The winter wheat crop broke dormancy faster than normal this year due to warmer temperatures. All of the winter wheat acreage was green and growing by the end of April.

On May 1, **Montana hay** producers had an estimated 790,000 tons of hay on hand 163,000 tons less than they had on hand a year ago. Producers began feeding hay earlier than normal and continued heavy feeding all season. Hay production for 2003 was 4.6 million tons, 2 percent larger than the 2002 crop. Disappearance from December 2003 to May 1, 2004 totaled 3.20 million tons, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Winter wheat production for the **United States** is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2003. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, down 4 percent from last season. The portion of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on May 2, at 48 percent, was 7 percentage points lower than a year ago. Hard Red production is down 14 percent from a year ago to 910 million bushels. Soft Red is up 5 percent and totals 399 million bushels. White production totals 242 million bushels, down 9 percent from a year ago.

U.S. all hay stored on farms May 1, 2004 totaled 25.9 million tons, up 17 percent from the previous year. This increase was mainly the result of a higher hay production in 2003. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2003 - May 1, 2004, totaled 84.9 million tons, 5 percent greater than the disappearance of 81.0 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Thirty-three of the 48 reporting States had higher hay stocks than a year ago. Most of the States reporting an increase in stocks were located in the eastern and central Corn Belt, Southeast, central Great Plains, central Rocky Mountains, and along the middle Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. Compared to May 2003, stocks more than doubled in the Ohio Valley due to an increase in production and mild winter weather. Stocks declined in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and North Dakota as a result of additional hay feeding caused by unfavorable weather conditions and a decline in 2003 production compared to 2002.

Winter Wheat: Acreage, Yield, & Production, by Selected States & U.S. 2003 & Forecast May 1, 2004

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,200	1,800	35.0	30.0	77,000	54,000
ID	720	680	80.0	81.0	57,600	55,080
KS	10,000	9,000	48.0	41.0	480,000	369,000
MT	**1,720**	**1,600**	**37.0**	**33.0**	**63,640**	**52,800**
NE	1,820	1,850	46.0	39.0	83,720	72,150
OK	4,600	4,300	39.0	36.0	179,400	154,800
OR	940	840	51.0	53.0	47,940	44,520
SD	1,380	1,440	43.0	38.0	59,340	54,720
TX	3,450	3,600	28.0	33.0	96,600	118,800
WA	1,800	1,700	65.0	63.0	117,000	107,100
WY	145	135	27.0	25.0	3,915	3,375
US	36,541	35,082	46.7	44.2	1,707,069	1,550,395

2003 Meat Animals Production Disposition and Income

Cash receipts from the 2003 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in **Montana** totaled $1.0 billion, up 10 percent from 2002. Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves were up 10 percent from 2002 to $955 million. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.33 million head, were down 6 percent from 2002. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased 17 percent from the previous year to 299,000 head. The average price received in 2003 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs increased $11.70 per cwt to $82.20 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased $15.90 per cwt to $106.00 per cwt.
The January 1, 2004 value of cattle and calf inventory was $2.3 billion, up 13 percent from 2003.

Cash receipts from the sale of hogs in Montana jumped 13 percent from 2002 to $30.1 million. Marketings of hogs and pigs rose 3 percent from the previous year to 343,400 head. The average prices received for hogs increased $3.80 from the previous year to $39.70 per cwt. The value of the hog and pig inventory on December 1, 2003 was $11.7 million, down 9 percent from last year.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in Montana were up16 percent from the previous year to $22.4 million. Lambs experienced a significant increase in price during 2003. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2003 were 42,000 and 218,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were down 21,000 head from last year while lamb marketings were down 6,000 head. The average price for lambs rose $22.70 to $103.00 per cwt. and sheep were $8.20 above last year at $34.80 per cwt. The January 1, 2004 sheep and lamb inventory value was $36.0 million, up 18 percent from the previous year.

The 2003 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the **U.S.** totaled $56.6 billion, up 17 percent from 2002. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 18 percent, while hogs and pigs increased 11 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 18 percent.

Total 2003 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 17 percent to $56.2 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 80 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 19 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for hogs and pigs, but declined for both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up for all three species.

Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased from $38.0 billion in 2002 to $45.1 in 2003, a 19 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 56.8 billion pounds in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $79.70 an increase of $13.20 from 2002. For calves, the annual average price increased $5.60 to $102.00.

Hogs and Pigs: Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $10.6 billion during 2003, up 11 percent from 2002. Marketings totaled 27.2 billion pounds in 2003, down less than one-half of one percent from 2002. The
U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from $33.40 in 2002 to $37.20 in 2003.

Sheep and Lambs: Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2003 were $505 million, up 18 percent from 2002. Marketings decreased 7 percent to 607 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100
pounds live weight for sheep increased from $28.20 in 2002 to $34.90 in 2003 while for lambs, the annual average price increased $20.30 to $94.40.

2003 Milk Production, Disposition and Income

Montana's dairies produced 346 million pounds of milk in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. There was an average of 18,000 milk cows on farms and ranches during the year, unchanged from the previous year. The average number of pounds produced per cow in 2003 was 19,222 pounds, 278 pounds more than 2002.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were $42.2 million dollars, up 2 percent from 2002. Producers received an average of $12.40 per cwt, an increase of $0.10 per cwt from last year. Total marketings of milk, at 340 million pounds, were up 1 percent from a year ago. A total of 6 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 3 million pounds of which were fed to calves and 3 million pounds consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 0.1 percent in 2003 to 170.3 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 18,749 pounds, was 141 pounds above 2002. The annual average number of milk cows on farms, at 9.08 million head, was 55,0[illegible] head less than 2002.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2003 totaled $21.2 billion, 3 percent above 2002. Producer returns averaged $12.55 per hundredweight, 3 percent above 2002. Marketings totaled 169 billion pounds, 0.2 percent above 2002. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.14 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 0.4 percent less than 2002. Calves were fed 86 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

2003 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 2003 was $5.8 million, up 45 percent from last year. Egg production in 2003 totaled 107 million eggs, up 3 percent from the previous year. The average price for eggs was 65 cents per dozen, up 19 cents from 2002.

In the United States, the combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 2003, was $23.3 billion, up 14 percent from the $20.5 billion in 2002. Of the combined total, 65 percent was from broilers, 23 percent from eggs, 12 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2003 was $15.2 billion, up 13 percent from 2002. The total number of broilers produced in 2003 was 8.49 billion, down 1 percent from 2002. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2003 was 44.0 billion pounds, down slightly from 2002. The 2003 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 34.6 cents per pound, compared with 30.5 cents in 2002.

Value of all egg production in 2003 was $5.32 billion, up 24 percent from the $4.28 billion in 2002. Egg production totaled 87.2 billion eggs, down slightly from the 87.3 billion eggs produced 2002. In 2003, all eggs averaged 73.1 cents per dozen, compared with 58.9 cents in 2002. (See table on back page)

March Agricultural Prices Received

March 2004 full month crop prices were higher compared with February 2004. **Montana's** winter wheat average price was $3.65 per bushel, up $0.05 from the previous month; spring wheat price was up $0.04 to $3.97 per bushel; and durum wheat prices increased $0.12 to $4.11 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose $0.04 from the previous month to $2.15, but oats prices dropped $0.03 to $1.63 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay dropped $3.00 to $70.00 per ton and all other hay increased $2.00 to $67.00 per ton. Mid-April grain prices were higher than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.74 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.99 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.17 per bushel, and feed barley was $2.28 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of March in Montana were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $3.70 to $96.00 per cwt. and cows rose $1.00 to $48.60. The average price for calves was up $2.00 to $114.00 per cwt. Sheep prices fell $6.10 to $32.90 per cwt and lamb prices dropped $2.00 to $121.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.80 per cwt from last month to $13.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $96.50 per cwt.; cows averaged $50.80 per cwt.; calves averaged $114.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $15.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was $3.76, up $0.08, spring wheat was $3.92, up $0.09; durum wheat was $4.14, up $0.06; the all barley price was $2.79, up $0.07, and steer and heifer prices were $87.90, up $5.60 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was $3.76 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.88 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.20 per bushel, all wheat was $3.82 per bushel, malt barley was $2.98 per bushel, feed barley was $2.17 per bushel, and all barley was $2.73. Steer and heifer prices were $89.70 per cwt, cow prices were $49.00, calves were $116.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $45.10 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.769 per dozen.

The April All Farm Products Index is 124 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 2.5 percent from the March index and 23 percent above the April 2003 index.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	March 2003	April 2003	March 2004	April 2004
Prices Received	99	101	121	124
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	128	128	133	133
Ratio 2/	77	79	91	93

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	March 2004	February 2004	March 2003	April 15, 2004	April 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.60	3.65	3.76	+0.05	-0.08	3.74	3.76
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.74	3.99	4.11	4.14	+0.12	-0.63	4.17	4.20
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.95	3.93	3.97	3.92	+0.04	+0.02	3.99	3.88
All Wheat	Bu.	4.00	3.81	3.89	3.84	+0.08	-0.11	3.94	3.82
Barley, All	Bu.	2.95	2.98	3.00	2.79	+0.02	+0.05	3.09	2.73
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.16	2.11	2.15	2.20	+0.04	-0.01	2.28	2.17
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.33	3.43	N/A	2.99	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.98
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.66	1.63	1.62	-0.03	N/A	N/A	1.63
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	85.00	75.00	73.00	85.90	-2.00	-12.00	70.00	92.70
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	66.00	65.00	70.90	-1.00	-7.00	66.00	76.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	84.00	73.00	71.00	81.80	-2.00	-13.00	69.00	89.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	76.40	92.30	96.00	87.90	+3.70	+19.60	96.50	89.70
Cows	Cwt	39.80	47.60	48.60	46.60	+1.00	+8.80	50.80	49.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	69.40	83.40	86.00	83.40	+2.60	+16.60	83.70	85.30
Calves	Cwt	93.50	112.00	114.00	115.00	+2.00	+20.50	114.00	116.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	43.00	39.00	32.90	36.70	-6.10	-10.10	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	107.00	123.00	121.00	104.00	-2.00	+14.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	11.30	13.00	13.80	15.40	+0.80	+2.50	15.10	18.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 2002-2003 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		2002	2003	2002	2003
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	37	38	55,330	78,544
Sold	1,000 Head	115	128	199,931	188,168
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	414	422	1,039,118	976,214
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	0.010	0.010	0.048	0.048
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	4	4	49,931	47,679
EGGS					
Produced	Million	104	107	87,252	87,196
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	0.460	0.650	0.589	0.731
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	3,987	5,796	4,281,416	5,315,311

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers. 2/ Includes death, rendered, and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Ag Chemical Use
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Red Meat Production
Cattle & Beef Cow County Estimates Available

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 04-08 (0279-0394) Released: April 29, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS:

Specialty Crops County Estimates
Potato Stocks
Montana's Rank
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production

Specialty Crop County Estimates for 2003

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service released county estimates for the 2003 oilseeds and pulse crops. This is the fifth year of the data series. Data for 1998-2002 are currently being reviewed and will be available soon on our website or by contacting our office. County-level data is not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

All dry bean production for 2003 totaled 233,000 cwt. The south central district produced the most at 92,200 cwt, followed by the Southeast district with 61,400 cwt and the Northeast district produced 58,500 cwt. **Pinto bean** production during 2003 was 209,000 cwt. for the state. Carbon county had the highest pinto bean production with 46,300 cwt. The second and third leading counties were Dawson and Prairie with 38,000 cwt. and 34,300 cwt. produced, respectively. The South Central district produced the largest crop of pinto beans followed by the Southeast district. As for **garbanzo beans**, county-level data was not published to avoid disclosure of individual information. The Northeast district produced the most garbanzo beans at 17,200 cwt., followed by the North Central district with 4,800 cwt.

Sheridan was the number one **lentil** producing county again in 2003, with 106,000 cwt. harvested. The number two county was Roosevelt with total production of 69,500 cwt., and third was Daniels county with 22,000 cwt. Growers from the Northeast district produced 83 percent of the state's lentils. **Dry edible pea** estimates indicate that Sheridan county was the largest producer in 2003 with 91,000 cwt. grown, followed by Valley county at 82,300 cwt., and Roosevelt county at 80,600 cwt. Northeast district farmers produced 74 percent of the state's dry peas. Liberty was the leading county in **Austrian winter pea** production during 2003 with 11,000 cwt. and Richland county was second with 6,600 cwt. produced.

Daniels was by far the largest **canola** producing county in 2003 with 6.0 million pounds, or 24 percent of the state's canola. The second largest county was Sheridan with 4.2 million pounds produced, followed by Valley county with 3.3 million pounds. The Northeast district produced 66 percent of the crop. Richland was the number one **safflower** producing county with 9.7 million pounds. The next leading county was Roosevelt at 4.8 million pounds, followed by Dawson's production of 4.4 million pounds. Seventy-nine percent of the state's safflower was produced in the Northeast district.

Sheridan led the state in **flaxseed** production for 2003 at 84,000 bushels. The next largest county was Valley with 78,000 bushels, followed by Roosevelt County at 12,000 bushels. Ninety-two percent of the state's flaxseed was produced in the Northeast district. Montana's total **sunflower** production was 915,000 pounds in 2003. The South Central district accounted for 110,000 pounds. Data for the other districts was combined to avoid disclosing individual information. The leading **mustard seed**-producing counties were Sheridan with 4.4 million pounds and Valley with 2.3 million pounds. Ninety-two percent of Montana's mustard seed was produced in the Northeast district.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted and harvested acres by county, district, and state levels are now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They are available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2003. Thanks to those who participated!

Montana and U.S. Potato Stocks Up from Last Year

Montana potato producers held 2.1 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2004, up 11 percent from the previous year. Sixty-three percent of the 2003 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 59 percent in 2002.

The 15 major potato States held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2004, up less than 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year.

Disappearance of 278 million cwt of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 25.0 million cwt so far this season, is up 4 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss includes unmarketable Maine potatoes disposed of through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. (Continued on inside page)

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	60,100,000	acres	2003	2	6.4
Number of farms and ranches	28,000	farms/ranches	2003	30	1.3
Income from cash receipts, excluding government payments:					
Total	1,687,481	thousand dollars	2002	34	0.9
Crops	701,983	thousand dollars	2002	32	0.8
Livestock	985,498	thousand dollars	2002	30	1.0
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	10	2.5
All Cows	1,490,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	8	3.6
Beef Cows	1,472,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	7	4.5
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	39	0.2
Cattle on Feed	70,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	22	0.5
All Sheep and Lambs	300,000	head	Jan. 1, 2004	6	4.9
Hogs and Pigs	170,000	head	Dec. 1, 2003	25	0.3
All Chickens	485,000	birds	Dec. 1, 2003	38	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,540,000	head	2003	8	4.1
Lamb Crop	280,000	head	2003	4	6.8
Pig Crop	338,000	head	2003	28	0.3
Wool Production	2,597,000	pounds	2003	5	6.8
Egg Production	107,000,000	eggs	2003	38	0.1
Honey Production	9,570,000	pounds	2003	6	5.3
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	137,530,000	bushels	2003	5	5.9
Winter Wheat	63,640,000	bushels	2003	8	3.7
Durum Wheat	14,490,000	bushels	2003	2	15.0
Other Spring Wheat	59,400,000	bushels	2003	3	11.1
Barley	31,590,000	bushels	2003	3	11.4
Oats	1,980,000	bushels	2003	16	1.4
All Hay	4,635,000	tons	2003	13	3.0
Alfalfa Hay	3,360,000	tons	2003	9	4.4
Dry Beans, All	233,000	cwt	2003	12	1.0
Pinto Beans	209,000	cwt	2003	8	2.0
Garbanzo Beans, All	22,000	cwt	2003	6	5.1
Lentils	273,000	cwt	2003	4	11.2
Dry Edible Peas	450,000	cwt	2003	4	8.7
Austrian Winter Peas	56,000	cwt	2003	2	32.2
Potatoes--fall	3,339,000	cwt	2003	17	0.8
Sugar Beets	861,000	tons	2003	7	2.8
Flaxseed	221,000	bushels	2003	2	2.1
Corn for Grain	2,380,000	bushels	2003	40	1/
Corn for Silage	1,128,000	tons	2003	23	1.1

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

Montana and U.S. Potato Stocks Up from Last Year

(Continued from front page)

Processors used 137 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. March usage of 16.9 million cwt is 6 percent below last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 30.3 million cwt to date, down 5 percent from last year.

Western States held 86.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 5 percent from last year, Washington decreased 7 percent, Colorado's storages held 29 percent less, and California lost 6 percent. Potato sheds in both Oregon and Montana stored 11 percent more than last year at this time.

Central States accounted for 31.8 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, up 22 percent from last year and 21 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks increased 42 percent from last year's level, Minnesota's storages held 25 percent more, Wisconsin went up 3 percent, and Michigan gained 7 percent. Nebraska and Ohio combined are up 25 percent.

Eastern States stored 7.75 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 12 percent from last year and 31 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks are up 3 percent, New York's gained 241 percent, and Pennsylvania stocks increased 25 percent.

March 2004 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2004, up 3 percent from March 2003 and 9 percent above February 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,153 pounds, decreased 16 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 237 pounds, was up 8 pounds from last year. March sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up from 200 head in March 2003. The average live weight rose one pound to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in March 2003.

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, up 4 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,217 pounds. Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, 14 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76,900 head, down 10 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was 15 pounds below last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 9.04 million head, 11 percent above March 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 22.1 million pounds, was up 22 percent from March 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 306,800 head, 17 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2004 commercial red meat production was 11.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.75 million head on April 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2003 and 7 percent below April 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.62 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.06 million head, up 4 percent from 2003.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 8 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.74 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347,000, 600-699 pounds were 346,000, 700-799 pounds were 641,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 470,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, 9 percent above 2003 and 8 percent above 2002. Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during March, 8 percent above 2003 and 3 percent below 2002.

March Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion during March 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2004 averaged 341 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,209 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2004, averaged 72.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.03 billion eggs during March 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 318 million, was up slightly from a year ago.

March U.S. Milk Production Down 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, down 1.8 percent from March 2003. February revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting for leap year, February milk production was down 2.1 percent on a per day basis from last year. The February revision represented a decrease of 35 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March, 10 pounds below March 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004.

January-March Milk Production Down 0.9 Percent

Milk production in the U.S. dur the January-March quarter totaled 4 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 8.99 million head, 153,000 head less than the same period last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk PDI
Meat Animals PDI
Poultry PDI
Ag Prices Received
Winter Wheat Production
Hay Stocks

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Issue: 04-07 (0279-0394) Released: April 1, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
March 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Hogs & Pigs

March 2004 Planting Intentions

Montana **spring wheat** producers expect to seed 2.8 million acres in 2004 down 2 percent from last year. If realized, spring wheat intended seedings would be the lowest seeded acreage since 1993. **Winter wheat** seedings, at 1.85 million acres, are up 3 percent from last year and the largest acreage seeded since 1996. Winter wheat conditions at the end of March 2004 were better than a year ago and were rated 8 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 40 percent good and 7 percent excellent. While conditions are better than a year ago, the lack of precipitation in many areas of the state is a still a major concern for the winter wheat producers. Producers are expecting to plant 620,000 acres of **durum wheat** this spring, down 3 percent from last year's highest planting since 1956. Adding the winter wheat seeded last fall to the other spring and durum wheat intended seedings shows 5.27 million acres of **all wheat** to be planted, down 20,000 acres from 2003.

Montana **barley** producers intend to plant an estimated 950,000 acres, down 14 percent from the previous year and the lowest since 1953. The intended seeded acreage for **oats** is expected to be 130,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the previous year. Growers intend to harvest 50,000 acres of the 2004 oat crop for grain, 5,000 acres more than a year ago. **Corn** growers intend to plant 70,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year. Farmers intend to plant 54,000 acres of **sugar beets**, up 4 percent from 2003. The area planted to **dry beans** is expected to be 14,000 acres, up 8 percent from last year. **Hay** growers are expected to harvest 2.6 million acres, which is up 6 percent from last year's figure.

In the United States, **all wheat** planted area is expected to total 59.5 million acres in 2004, down 4 percent from 2003. **Winter wheat** planted area for the 2004 crop is 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. The 2004 **other spring wheat** planted acreage is estimated at 13.3 million, down 4 percent from last year. Of the total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Area planted to **durum wheat** is intended to total 2.76 million acres, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Growers in the United States intend to seed 4.68 million acres of **barley** for 2004, down 12 percent from last year. North Dakota's expected acreage, at 1.80 million, is also 12 percent below their 2003 planted area. Acres seeded and to be seeded to **oats** is expected to total 4.31 million acres down 6 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.07 million acres for grain, down 7 percent from the 2003 harvested acreage of 2.22 million. Growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2004, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003. Area planted to **sugar beets** for the 2004 crop year is expected to total 1.36 million acres, slightly below the 2003 planted acreage. Prospective planting of **dry beans** in the U.S. totals 1.33 million acres, down 5 percent from last year and 31 percent below two years ago. Relatively low prices for the 2003 crop contribute to the expected reduction in planted acres.

U.S. producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres of **all hay** in 2004, up 1 percent form last year. Adequate soil moisture in most of Texas, lower Mississippi Delta, and Great Lakes States enhanced producers expectations to harvest more hay. Extreme dry conditions have left soil moisture very short and water supplies are expected to be inadequate in the central Great Plains and central Rocky Mountains, which decreased harvest intentions.

The Montana 2004 prospective plantings and grain stocks estimates in this issue are the result of surveying approximately 2,000 Montana farmers in March. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey.

Planted Acreage, 2002-2003 and Intended 2004 Montana and United States

	Montana				United States			
	2002	2003	2004	04/03	2002	2003	2004	04/03
	Thousand Acres			Pct	Thousand Acres			Pct
All Wheat	5,790	5,290	5,270	100	60,318	61,700	59,462	96
Winter Wheat	1,450	1,800	1,850	103	41.766	44,945	43,372	97
Durum Wheat	590	640	620	97	2,913	2,915	2,757	95
Other Spring Wheat	3,750	2,850	2,800	98	15,639	13,840	13,333	96
Barley	1,180	1,100	950	86	5,008	5,299	4,683	88
Oats	135	120	130	108	4,995	4,601	4,312	94
Corn	65	65	70	108	78,894	78,736	79,004	100
Sugar Beets	58.0	51.7	54.0	104	1,427.3	1,365.4	1,358.6	100
Dry Beans	26.9	13.0	14.0	108	1,929.7	1,406.1	1,333.0	95
All Hay Harvested	2,600	2,450	2,600	106	63,942	63,342	63,731	101

March 1, 2004 Grain Stocks

Stocks of **all wheat** in Montana on March 1, 2004 were 73.2 million bushels, up 1 percent from March 1, 2003. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 50.0 million bushels, up 2 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 23.2 million bushels, down 2 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the December -February 2004 quarter was up 18 percent from the same quarter last year to 47.1 million bushels, compared with 39.8 million a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2004 were 16.0 million bushels, up 6 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farms was 8.0 million bushels, down 6 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was up 22 percent from a year ago at 8.0 million bushels. All barley disappearance for the December- February 2004 quarter was 10.1 million bushels, down 18 percent from a year ago. **Oats** stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.6 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 1.5 million bushels down 6 percent from 1.6 million stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm was down 13 percent from last year to 100,000 bushels.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2004 totaled 5.27 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2003. Of the total stocks, 3.03 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.24 billion bushels, are up 2 percent from the previous year. The December 2003 - February 2004 indicated disappearance is 2.68 billion bushels, compared with 2.51 billion bushels during the same period last year.

All **wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2004 totaled 1.02 billion bushels for the U.S., up 12 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 258 million bushels, up 9 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 761 million bushels, are up 14 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2003 - February 2004 disappearance is 501 million bushels, up 21 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **durum wheat** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2004 totaled 44.0 million bushels, down 23 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 24.8 million bushels, are down 22 percent from March 1, 2003. Off-farm stocks totaled 19.2 million bushels, down 23 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2003 - February 2004 disappearance of 22.9 million bushels is up 15 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2004 in the U.S. totaled 151 million bushels, up 23 percent from March 1, 2003. On-farm stocks are estimated at 51.7 million bushels, 41 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 99.8 million bushels, are 15 percent above March 1, 2003. Indicated disappearance during the December 2003 - February 2004 quarter totaled 46.4 million bushels, down fractionally from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2004 totaled 95.1 million bushels, 15 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2003. Of the total stocks on hand, 45.6 million bushels are stored on farms, 30 percent higher than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 49.5 million bushels, 3 percent above a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during December 2003 - February 2004 totaled 24.2 million bushels, compared with 20.9 million bushels for the same period a year ago.

March 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2003	Mar. 1, 2004	'04/'03	Mar. 1, 2003	Dec. 1, 2003*	Mar. 1, 2004
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	49,000	94,000	50,000	102%	236,300	491,925	257,890
Off Farms 1/	23,680	26,310	23,200	98%	670,333	1,028,359	761,141
TOTAL	72,680	120,310	73,200	101%	906,633	1,520,284	1,019,031
DURUM WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	31,700	41,400	24,800
Off Farms 1/, 3/	--	--	--	--	25,149	25,569	19,247
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	56,849	66,969	44,047
BARLEY							
On Farms	8,500	18,000	8,000	94%	36,730	97,200	51,700
Off Farms 1/	6,520	8,090	7,970	122%	86,710	100,679	99,784
TOTAL	15,020	26,090	15,970	106%	123,440	197,879	151,484
OATS							
On Farms	1,600	1,700	1,500	94%	35,000	64,400	45,600
Off Farms 1/	115	110	100	87%	47,879	54,900	49,469
TOTAL	1,715	1,810	1,600	93%	82,879	119,300	95,069
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,940,000	5,286,000	3,030,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,191,873	2,667,775	2,240,641
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	5,131,873	7,953,775	5,270,641

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operaations.
* Revised.

Agricultural Prices Received for February 2004

February 2004 full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with January 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.60 per bushel, up $0.06 from the previous month; spring wheat prices rose $0.13 to $3.93 per bushel; and durum wheat prices increased $0.01 to $3.99 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose $0.08 from the previous month to $2.11, and malt barley prices rose $0.03 to $3.43 per bushel.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay was down $2.00 to $73.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $1.00 to $65.00 per ton. Mid-March grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.63 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.00 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.14 per bushel, feed barley was $2.19 per bushel and malt barley averaged $3.30 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mixed from the the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.90 to $92.30 per cwt, while cows increased $2.30 to $47.60. The average price for calves decreased $5.00 to $112.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $4.90 to $39.00 per cwt but lamb prices rose $9.00 to a historic high of $123.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $1.30 per cwt from last month to $13.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $94.30 per cwt.; cows averaged $47.70 per cwt.; calves averaged $113.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $13.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was $3.68, up $0.02, spring wheat was $3.83, up $0.17; durum wheat was $4.08, up $0.11; the all barley price was $2.72, up $0.01, and steer and heifer prices were $82.30, down $3.10 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was $3.61 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.81 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.15 per bushel, all wheat was $3.71 per bushel, malt barley was $2.97 per bushel, feed barley was $2.14 per bushel, and all barley was $2.71. Steer and heifer prices were $88.60 per cwt, cow prices were $46.70, calves were $114.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $45.10 per cwt, and all egg prices were $1.00 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is 6 points (5.2 percent) above the February Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	February 2003	February 2004	March 2003	March 2004
Prices Received	99	99	116	122
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	128	128	130	131
Ratio 2/	77	77	89	93

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Feb. 2004	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2003	Mar. 15, 2004	Mar. 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.54	3.60	3.68	+0.06	-0.13	3.63	3.61
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.75	3.98	3.99	4.08	+0.01	-0.76	4.14	4.15
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.84	3.80	3.93	3.83	+0.13	+0.09	4.00	3.81
All Wheat	Bu.	3.93	3.72	3.81	3.77	+0.09	-0.12	3.88	3.71
Barley, All	Bu.	2.81	2.52	2.98	2.72	+0.46	+0.17	2.92	2.71
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.18	2.03	2.11	2.16	+0.08	-0.07	2.19	2.14
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.15	3.40	3.43	2.95	+0.03	+0.28	3.30	2.97
Oats	Bu.	1.83	N/A	1.66	1.58	N/A	-0.17	N/A	1.55
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	82.00	74.00	75.00	84.70	+1.00	-7.00	73.00	85.90
All Other Hay	Ton	73.00	67.00	66.00	69.90	-1.00	-7.00	65.00	70.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	81.00	72.00	73.00	79.90	+1.00	-8.00	71.00	81.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	80.00	94.20	92.30	82.30	-1.90	+12.30	94.30	88.60
Cows	Cwt	40.80	45.30	47.60	46.10	+2.30	+6.80	47.70	46.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	73.70	80.00	83.40	78.50	+3.40	+9.70	84.50	84.00
Calves	Cwt	93.50	117.00	112.00	111.00	-5.00	+18.50	113.00	114.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	43.50	43.90	39.00	41.20	-4.90	-4.50	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	103.00	114.00	123.00	107.00	+9.00	+20.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	11.40	14.30	13.00	13.60	-1.30	+1.60	13.70	14.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Weekly Crop-Weather Reports

The 2004 growing season is upon us, and with it begins the weekly Crop-Weather Report. Undoubtedly, this is one of the most useful reports for producers, agribusinesses, and market analysts. The report provides up-to-date conditions and progress of Montana's crops, as well as pertinent data on moisture supplies and weather information.

We will resume publication of the weekly reports April 5, 2004. These reports will continue through November 1 when the last 2004 weekly report will be issued. At that time, monthly reports will resume.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 2 Perent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2004, was 59.3 million head. This was 2 percent above March 1, 2003, but 2 percent below December 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.92 million head, was down 2 percent from March 1, 2003, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 53.4 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 2003 - February 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 2003, and up slightly from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.81 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.85 for the December 2003 - February 2004 period, compared to 8.81 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Montana's Rank
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Specialty Crop County Estimates
- Red Meat Production
- Egg Production

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Annual Red Meat Production
- February Red Meat Production
- Potato Stocks
- February Milk Production
- Crop Revisions for 1997-2002
- Cattle on Feed
- Sheep & Lamb Losses
- Egg Production

2003 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 16.0 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2003, compared with 16.8 million pounds in 2002. There were 19,000 cattle slaughtered during 2003, down 6 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 22.1 million pounds was down 5 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 7 pounds to 1,159 pounds.

There were 15,000 hogs slaughtered in Montana, unchanged from 2002. Total live weight at 3.5 million pounds was unchanged from the last year. The average live weight was 234 pounds per head compared with 236 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,700 head, a decrease of 100 head from a year earlier. The average live weight at 126 pounds was 4 pounds heavier than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2003 decreased one percent from 2002 to 461,000 pounds.

The number of federally inspected slaughter plants in Montana on January 1, 2003 was 10, down one plant from 2002. There were 142 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2004, down 5 from the same date a year ago.

Red meat production for the United States totaled 46.8 billion pounds in 2003, 1.2 percent below last year's record high. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 46.6 billion pounds.

Beef production, at 26.3 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous record high set last year in 2002. Veal production totaled 201.1 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year, and set a new record low. Pork production, at 20.0 billion pounds, was 2 percent above last year, setting a new record high. Lamb and mutton production totaled 203.4 million pounds, falling 9 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2003 totaled 35.5 million head, down 1 percent from 2002, with federal inspection comprising 98.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,231 pounds, down 20 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.2 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 31.7 percent, dairy cows 8 percent, other cows 9.1 percent, and bulls 1.8 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.0 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago with 97.5 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 318 pounds, up 6 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 100.9 million head, up 1 percent from 2002 with 98.8 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 266 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.5 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.98 million head, was down 9 percent from 2002 with 94.2 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from 2002 to 134 pounds.

There were 850 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2004 compared with 879 last year. Of these, 689 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2003 with 15 slaughtering over 56 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 662 plants, with 13 accounting for 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 8 of the 290 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 57 percent of the total and 4 of the 505 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2003 comprised 69 percent of the total head. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for over 52 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2003, similar to 2002.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 2004, up 1 percent from last month but down 12 percent from February of 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300, down 7 percent from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,164 pounds decreased 25 pounds from last year.

During February 1,100 hogs were slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight at 236 pounds was up 4 pounds from last year. February sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up 100 head from February 2003. The average live weight increased 7 pounds from last year to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 3 percent from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2003.

Beef production, at 1.80 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 6 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was down 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,233 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.5 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,500 head, down 14 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was 19 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year and a new record high for February. Hog kill totaled 7.89 million head, 3 percent above February 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 268 pounds. (Continued on next page)

February Red Meat Production
(continued from front page)

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2004 commercial red meat production was 7.1 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 12 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Montana Potato Stocks Up 4 Percent, U.S. Up 1 percent

Montana potato producers held 2.9 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2004, up 4 percent from the previous year. Eighty-seven percent of the 2003 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 167 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from a year ago.

Disappearance of 237 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is down 2 percent from the same period last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 22.6 million cwt, is up 2 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago.

Processors used 120 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 5 percent above two years ago. February usage of 18.8 million cwt is 1 percent above last year and 3 percent above two years ago. Dehydrators used 26.1 million cwt to date, down 7 percent from last year.

Western States held 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 6 percent from last year, Washington decreased 3 percent, Colorado's storages held 21 percent less, and California lost 10 percent. Oregon's sheds stored 11 percent more than last year and Montana increased 4 percent.

February U.S. Milk Production Up 1.7 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be down 1.8 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was down 1.0 percent from January 2003. The January revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,531 pounds for February, 42 pounds above February 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 91,000 head less than February 2003, but 4,000 head more than January 2004.

Montana and U.S. Crops and Grain Stocks 1997-2002

The final estimates for all crops and grains stocks for 1997 to 2002 are now available. The publication contains any changes in crop acres, yield, production, or grain stocks for 1997 to 2002. Montana had mostly minor revisions to acres, yield and production for winter wheat, barley, hay, corn, pulse crops, and oilseeds for some of the years. Hay stocks were also revised for some of the years during this period. You can find the final estimates for all crops and grain stocks on our website www.nass.usda.gov/mt.

The final estimates for the United States were also published and are available on the NASS website /www.usda.gov/nass/. Data included in this publication provide a historic record and a benchmark for current estimates. Revisions were made after a thorough review of the original survey data and all additional data now available, including the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Other data series considered included United States Department of Agriculture farm program administrative records, shipment records, exports, and quantity processed information. The Agricultural Statistics Board evaluated the current acreages with historic totals to ensure comparability with past Census relationships. Production, beginning stocks, and recorded disappearance were compared to historic totals for evaluating ending stocks. The 1998-2002 estimates are considered final and will not be revised again.

At the National level, all revisions to production estimates of major crops (corn, soybeans, all wheat) were less than 1 percent. Revisions were made to 2002 and 2001 corn estimates. The 2002 grain production estimate was revised down 0.5 percent and the 2001 production was revised down fractionally. Changes in harvested acres and yield were made to both large and small corn producing States. The 2002 soybean production was revised down 0.2 percent. Revisions were made primarily in the smaller producing States. The all wheat production estimate for 2002 was revised down 0.8 percent, the 2001 production was revised down 0.5 percent, and the 2000 and 1999 production levels were each revised down 0.2 percent. Changes in harvested acres and yield were made to both large and small wheat producing States.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.98 million head on March 1, 2004. The inventory was up 4 percent from the 10.55 million head on March 1, 2003 but 5 percent below March 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 11 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.54 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 319,000, 600-699 pounds were 351,000, 700-799 pounds were 548,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 392,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.69 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during February, 3 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002.

Sheep and Lamb Losses for 2003

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 58,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2003, representing a total value of more than $4.5 million. While the total number of sheep and lambs lost decreased 9,000 head from last year, the total value of inventory lost was 14 percent higher than a year ago. Higher average market prices this past year resulted in an increase to sheep and lamb values. Total inventory is 7 percent lower than the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 9.5 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born -- slightly less than the previous year.

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 17,700 head, down 3,700 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 13,800 head, down 16 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 3,900, down 1,000 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated $1.3 million in losses in 2003, up 6 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.9 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 31 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 67 percent of the predator caused losses and 20 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $0.8 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.6 million in 2003, 10 percent more than the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 57 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses were lambing complications at 8,600 head.

Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 10,300 head, 6 percent lower than 2002. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 22,700 head, 6,300 head lower than a year ago.

Producers reported a 28 percent increase in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 4,500 head, compared with 3,500 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 2,800 sheep, 600 head more than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes increased to $0.6 million.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Death Losses by Cause, Montana, 2002-2003

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/, 4/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/, 4/	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Predators												
Fox	100	--	9.0	--	1,200	1,000	57.8	61.8	1,300	1,000	66.8	61.8
Dog	500	600	45.0	70.2	500	400	24.1	24.7	1,000	1,000	69.1	94.9
Coyote	2,800	2,100	252.0	245.7	11,100	9,700	534.8	599.5	13,900	11,800	786.8	845.2
Eagle	100	100	9.0	11.7	1,500	1,100	72.3	68.0	1,600	1,200	81.3	79.7
Bobcat	100	--	9.0	--	200	--	9.6	--	300	--	18.6	--
Bear	300	300	27.0	35.1	300	500	14.5	30.9	600	800	41.5	66.0
Mountain Lion	200	100	18.0	11.7	500	300	24.1	18.5	700	400	42.1	30.2
Wolf	300	300	27.0	35.1	200	200	9.6	12.4	500	500	36.6	47.5
Other Animals	200	--	18.0	--	200	100	9.6	6.2	400	100	27.6	6.2
Unknown Predators	300	400	27.0	46.8	800	500	38.5	30.9	1,100	900	65.5	77.7
Total Predators	**4,900**	**3,900**	**441.0**	**456.3**	**16,500**	**13,800**	**795.0**	**852.8**	**21,400**	**17,700**	**1,236.0**	**1,309.1**
Non-Predators												
All Diseases	1,500	2,100	135.0	245.7	6,600	6,100	318.0	377.0	8,100	8,200	453.0	622.7
Weather Conditions	1,900	600	171.0	70.2	11,500	5,700	554.1	352.3	13,400	6,300	725.1	422.5
Poison	800	600	72.0	70.2	700	500	33.7	30.9	1,500	1,100	105.7	101.1
Lambing Complications	1,700	1,400	153.0	163.8	6,200	7,200	298.7	445.0	7,900	8,600	451.7	608.8
On Back	700	800	63.0	93.6	100	100	4.8	6.2	800	900	67.8	99.8
Old Age	2,500	3,700	225.0	432.9					2,500	3,700	225.0	432.9
Theft	300	700	27.0	81.9	600	800	28.9	49.4	900	1,500	55.9	131.3
Other	1,500	400	135.0	46.8	3,300	2,300	159.0	142.1	4,800	2,700	294.0	188.9
Total Non-Predators	**10,900**	**10,300**	**981.0**	**1,205.1**	**29,000**	**22,700**	**1,397.2**	**1,402.9**	**39,900**	**33,000**	**2,378.2**	**2,608.0**
Unknown Causes	**2,200**	**2,800**	**198.0**	**327.6**	**3,500**	**4,500**	**168.6**	**278.1**	**5,700**	**7,300**	**366.6**	**605.7**
Total Loss	**18,000**	**17,000**	**1,620.0**	**1,989.0**	**49,000**	**41,000**	**2,360.8**	**2,533.8**	**67,000**	**58,000**	**3,980.8**	**4,522.8**

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 4/ 2002 revised values for ewes 1+. – Denotes less than 100 head.

February U.S. Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.89 billion during February 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 5.89 billion table eggs, and 1.00 billion hatching eggs, of which 948 million were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2004 averaged 339 million, down slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,033 eggs, up 4 percent from and February 2003 contained 20 weekdays, 1 holiday, and 4 Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2004, totaled 340 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 340 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2004, averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.44 billion eggs during February 2004, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during February, at 316 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

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Hogs & Pigs
Ag Prices Received
Weekly Crop Weather Starts
Grain Stocks
Prospective Plantings

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Issue: 04-05 (0279-0394) Released: March 9, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat & Barley Movement
Farms & Land in Farms
All Wheat County Estimates
Agricultural Prices
Honey Production

Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

The **number of farms** and ranches in Montana increased to 28,000 during 2003, 100 more than the revised number of farms last year. Revisions were made for years 1998 through 2002 to reflect the results of the 2002 Census of Agriculture data. Farms and ranches are sub-grouped by economic classes to give a clearer picture of where the changes occurred. The smallest economic sales category, the $1,000 to $9,999 sales group, contains the largest number of farms at 11,900, up 100 farms from 2002. The next economic sales category, $10,000 to $99,999, shows 10,600 farms in 2003 compared with 10,500 in 2002; and the economic sales class of $100,000 or more is 5,500, down from 5,600 in 2002.

The **land in farms and ranches** is estimated at 60.1 million acres, up 300,000 acres from 2002. Montana's average farm size is 2,146 acres. The economic sales breakdown of land in farm and ranches follows: $1,000 to $9,999 - 4.3 million acres the same as 2002; $10,000 to $99,999 - 17.8 million acres, up from 17.7 million last year; $100,000 or more of sales - 38.0 million acres, up from the 37.8 million acres in 2002. These numbers show that producers are shifting between sales categories with many moving into lower value of sales and others increasing their size of farms and value of sales. The acreage increase in the largest economic sales category reflects the consolidation of operations necessary to compete in today's tough agricultural environment.

The $100,000 to $249,999 sales category has 3,700 farms and ranches, down from 3,800 in 2002 comprising 18.8 million acres of land, up from 18.6 million acres last year. The $250,000 to $499,999 sales category has 1,200 farms and ranches comprising of 10.4 million acres of land compared with 1,200 farms and ranches and 10.5 million acres a year earlier. The $500,000 plus sales category includes 600 farms and ranches comprising of 8.8 million acres of land, equaling the number of farms in 2002, but with an increase of 100,000 acres. (Continued on back page)

Wheat and Barley Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June 2003 - November 2003 period, at 51.0 million bushels, was 15% below the same period last year. Over 80% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 40.9 million bushels, down 22% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations during this period, totaled 4.4 million bushels, up 19% from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 5.8 million bushels, up from 3.9 million bushels a year ago. Wheat shipped by rail, amounted to 42.3 million bushels, 83% of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 8.7 million bushels compared with 3.2 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 17% of the total, compared with 5% last year.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June 2003 - November 2003 period was 6.3 million bushels, down 12% from the same period last year. Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for eastern destinations fell from 3.6 million bushels last year to 3.3 million bushels this year. Shipments to western destinations were up 145% from the same period last year, at 2.7 million bushels. Shipments to other destinations dropped from 1.7 million bushels last year to 0.3 million bushels this year. Barley shipped by rail amounted to 5.8 million bushels, up 0.9 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 91% of total movement, up from 68% for the same period last year.

Shipments Out-of-State	June 2002 -November 2002 1/				June 2003 - November 2003 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	*(000) Bushels*							
West 3/	900	2,147	3,047	808	650	2,218	2,868	455
North Central	4,452	20,797	25,249	5,986	10,607	11,619	22,226	5,593
Northeast	1,632	24,835	26,467	85	89	19,487	19,576	143
Central	889	1,150	2,039	291	1,795	901	2,696	115
South Central	1,990	587	2,577	13	2,187	649	2,836	0
Southeast	82	664	746	0	525	300	825	0
TOTAL SHIPPED	9,945	50,180	60,125	7,183	15,853	35,174	51,027	6,306
Mode & Destination	*(000) Bushels*							
Trucked East	74	220	294	352	38	206	244	60
Trucked West	1,159	1,296	2,455	487	5,565	2,362	7,927	211
Trucked Other 4/	119	380	499	1,440	292	272	564	272
Total By Truck	1,352	1,896	3,248	2,279	5,895	2,840	8,735	543
Rail East	0	3,437	3,437	3,232	20	4,106	4,126	3,203
Rail West	8,392	41,680	50,072	1,384	8,846	24,101	32,947	2,501
Rail Other 4/	201	3,167	3,368	288	1,093	4,126	5,219	59
Total by Rail	8,593	48,284	56,877	4,904	9,959	32,333	42,292	5,763
TOTAL SHIPPED	9,945	50,180	60,125	7,183	15,854	35,173	51,027	6,306

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown destinations.

This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2003

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Pro-duction Bu.
					Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	22,000	22,000	21,300	42.5	906,000	28	9,900	9,300	53.0	493,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	11,800	11,800	10,900	50.6	552,000	34	6,600	6,400	67.5	432,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	1,700	1,700	1,400	33.6	47,000	47	--	--	--	--
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	1,000	1,000	900	46.7	42,000	48	500	500	70.0	35,000
Sanders	900	900	800	23.8	19,000	51	--	--	--	--
Other	1,200	1,200	1,200	51.7	62,000	--	1,300	1,200	60.0	72,000
NORTHWEST	**38,600**	**38,600**	**36,500**	**44.6**	**1,628,000**	**--**	**18,300**	**17,400**	**59.3**	**1,032,000**
Blaine	183,100	183,100	174,500	20.0	3,484,000	17	5,300	5,300	39.6	210,000
Chouteau	531,900	521,800	503,800	33.9	17,082,000	1	--	--	--	--
Glacier	123,300	123,300	121,700	23.2	2,818,000	18	1,200	1,200	46.7	56,000
Hill	441,300	441,300	436,200	29.5	12,884,000	2	--	--	--	--
Liberty	248,500	247,500	232,400	25.5	5,937,000	6	1,800	1,800	57.2	103,000
Phillips	124,500	124,500	116,700	21.5	2,510,000	19	2,700	2,300	36.5	84,000
Pondera	157,000	155,600	148,800	35.3	5,251,000	9	8,900	8,800	64.0	563,000
Teton	122,600	122,500	116,300	35.1	4,082,000	14	5,500	5,400	57.4	310,000
Toole	231,800	231,800	222,300	22.6	5,017,000	11	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	4,200	4,200	56.0	235,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,164,000**	**2,151,400**	**2,072,700**	**28.5**	**59,065,000**	**--**	**29,600**	**29,000**	**53.8**	**1,561,000**
Daniels	297,000	297,000	294,000	18.8	5,536,000	8	--	--	--	--
Dawson	166,300	166,300	161,300	25.2	4,069,000	15	2,400	2,300	65.7	151,000
Garfield	88,000	87,400	83,000	23.4	1,946,000	22	--	--	--	--
McCone	231,100	231,000	225,700	24.9	5,610,000	7	2,800	2,800	55.0	154,000
Richland	156,000	156,000	153,100	27.6	4,219,000	12	12,500	12,400	70.3	872,000
Roosevelt	345,400	345,300	339,300	26.9	9,143,000	3	6,000	5,900	64.4	380,000
Sheridan	359,000	359,000	354,500	23.8	8,453,000	4	1,400	1,400	55.0	77,000
Valley	301,200	300,800	296,600	23.4	6,953,000	5	5,400	5,300	46.0	244,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**1,944,000**	**1,942,800**	**1,907,500**	**24.1**	**45,929,000**	**--**	**30,500**	**30,100**	**62.4**	**1,878,000**
Broadwater	36,600	36,600	35,700	33.1	1,182,000	25	9,800	9,700	68.8	667,000
Cascade	136,100	134,900	121,300	34.1	4,137,000	13	--	--	--	--
Fergus	172,100	172,100	166,500	30.7	5,119,000	10	700	600	41.7	25,000
Golden Valley	23,100	23,100	19,400	22.9	445,000	38	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	82,800	82,800	79,700	25.0	1,995,000	21	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	12,200	12,200	11,900	26.9	320,000	41	--	--	--	--
Meagher	9,700	9,400	8,400	26.5	223,000	44	--	--	--	--
Musselshell	35,600	35,600	27,500	26.0	715,000	30	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	26,200	26,200	23,800	25.0	594,000	32	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	44,200	44,200	39,400	14.6	577,000	33	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,200	6,600	55.6	367,000
CENTRAL	**578,600**	**577,100**	**533,600**	**28.7**	**15,307,000**	**--**	**17,700**	**16,900**	**62.7**	**1,059,000**
Beaverhead	7,400	7,400	7,400	47.7	353,000	40	3,400	3,400	90.0	306,000
Gallatin	49,700	49,700	49,400	47.0	2,322,000	20	16,700	16,700	73.3	1,224,000
Jefferson	2,800	2,800	2,800	28.2	79,000	46	--	--	--	--
Madison	8,700	8,700	8,500	42.7	363,000	39	4,200	4,000	55.5	222,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	100	100	50.0	5,000
SOUTHWEST	**68,600**	**68,600**	**68,100**	**45.8**	**3,117,000**	**--**	**24,400**	**24,200**	**72.6**	**1,757,000**
Big Horn	91,200	91,000	90,100	40.6	3,662,000	16	10,100	9,900	71.7	710,000
Carbon	5,700	5,700	5,200	25.6	133,000	45	--	--	--	--
Park	10,500	10,500	10,300	29.9	308,000	42	1,700	1,700	52.9	90,000
Stillwater	32,900	31,800	24,600	19.7	485,000	36	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	900	900	800	18.8	15,000	53	--	--	--	--
Treasure	4,500	4,500	4,500	60.0	270,000	43	2,300	2,300	90.0	207,000
Yellowstone	87,500	85,200	76,200	24.8	1,893,000	23	1,200	1,200	86.7	104,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	300	53.3	16,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**233,200**	**229,600**	**211,700**	**32.0**	**6,766,000**	**--**	**15,600**	**15,400**	**73.2**	**1,127,000**
Carter	52,200	46,200	31,600	19.2	608,000	31	--	--	--	--
Custer	28,700	28,700	22,100	22.9	506,000	35	--	--	--	--
Fallon	40,100	39,700	34,500	29.0	1,002,000	26	--	--	--	--
Powder River	22,900	22,300	18,700	25.3	474,000	37	--	--	--	--
Prairie	32,700	32,700	30,500	27.7	845,000	29	2,700	2,700	71.9	194,000
Rosebud	46,200	46,200	45,500	29.6	1,345,000	24	900	900	81.1	73,000
Wibaux	40,200	40,100	37,000	25.4	938,000	27	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	300	83.3	25,000
SOUTHEAST	**263,000**	**255,900**	**219,900**	**26.0**	**5,718,000**	**--**	**3,900**	**3,900**	**74.9**	**292,000**
MONTANA	**5,290,000**	**5,264,000**	**5,050,000**	**27.2**	**137,530,000**	**--**	**140,000**	**136,900**	**63.6**	**8,706,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of wheat are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat.

January Ag Prices Received

January 2004 full-month crop prices were lower compared with December 2003. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.54 per bushel, down $0.08 from the previous month; spring wheat remained steady at $3.80 per bushel; and durum wheat prices rose $0.08 to $3.98 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped $0.13 from the previous month to $2.03, and malt barley prices decreased $0.11 to $3.40 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay was up $1.00 to $75.00 per ton from January, but all other hay decreased $1.00 to $66.00 per ton. Mid-February grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.60 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.96 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.00 per bushel, and feed barley was $2.07 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mostly lower than the previous month, except for calves and sheep. Steer and heifer prices decreased $4.70 to $94.20 per cwt, while cows dropped $6.20 to $45.30. The average price for calves increased $3.00 to a record high $117 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $0.90 to $43.90 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $6.00 to $114 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $0.70 per cwt from last month to $14.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $93.50 per cwt.; cows averaged $46.80 per cwt.; calves averaged $111 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $13.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was $3.66, up $0.03; spring wheat was $3.66, down $0.09; durum wheat was $3.97, up $0.01; the all barley price was $2.71, down $0.14, and steer and heifer prices were down $85.40, down $10.30 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was $3.60 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.75 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.03 per bushel, all wheat was $3.68 per bushel, malt barley was $2.88 per bushel, feed barley was $2.13 per bushel, and all barley was $2.62. Steer and heifer prices were $81.60 per cwt, cow prices were $46.20, calves were $110 per cwt., all hog prices were $43.20 per cwt., and market egg prices were $0.75 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) above the January Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from January while the All Crops Index increased 2 points (1.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, broilers, corn, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, lettuce, eggs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco, and wheat. This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 14 points (14 percent) from February 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from last month to 114, and is 18 points (19 percent) above February 2003.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	January 2003	February 2003	January 2004	February 2004
Prices Received	100	99	111	113
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	126	128	130	130
Ratio 2/	79	77	85	87

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2003	Jan. 2003	Feb. 15, 2004	Feb. 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.97	3.62	3.54	3.66	-0.08	-0.43	3.60	3.60
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.62	3.90	3.98	3.97	+0.08	-0.64	4.00	4.03
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.15	3.80	3.80	3.66	0.00	-0.35	3.96	3.75
All Wheat	Bu.	4.16	3.75	3.72	3.68	-0.03	-0.44	3.82	3.68
Barley, All	Bu.	2.80	3.08	2.52	2.71	-0.56	-0.28	2.55	2.62
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.21	2.16	2.03	2.15	-0.13	-0.18	2.07	2.13
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.12	3.51	3.40	2.97	-0.11	+0.28	N/A	2.88
Oats	Bu.	1.88	1.58	N/A	1.46	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.51
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	87.00	77.00	74.00	83.60	-3.00	-13.00	75.00	84.70
All Other Hay	Ton	76.00	68.00	67.00	71.40	-1.00	-9.00	66.00	69.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	85.00	76.00	72.00	79.30	-4.00	-13.00	73.00	79.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	82.70	98.90	94.20	85.40	-4.70	+11.50	93.50	81.60
Cows	Cwt	37.40	51.50	45.30	46.10	-6.20	+7.90	46.80	46.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	76.40	90.40	80.00	80.90	-10.40	+3.60	83.70	77.80
Calves	Cwt	95.80	114.00	117.00	110.00	+3.00	+21.20	111.00	110.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	43.50	43.00	43.90	43.80	+0.90	+0.40	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	103.00	108.00	114.00	104.00	+6.00	+11.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.80	15.00	14.30	13.20	-0.70	+1.50	13.20	13.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Land in Farms (continued)

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. The decline in farms occurred in all sales categories except the $250,000-$499,999 class which remained unchanged. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms continues to reflect consolidation in farming operations and competition for agricultural land for other uses.

The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class $1,000-$9,999 declined 0.2 percent to 1,199,270 in 2003. Farms with sales of $10,000-$99,999 decreased 0.7% from 2002 to 600,530. The number of farms with $100,000-$249,999 in sales was 167,230, a decline of 0.9 percent. In the $250,000-$499,999 sales class, the number of farms was unchanged from the previous year. The number of agricultural operations with $500,000 or more of sales declined 0.4% from 2002. Generally favorable weather, stronger commodity prices, higher value of commodities produced, farm consolidation, and competition for other uses of farmland contributed to the shifting of farms among the sales categories.

2003 Honey Production

Montana honey producers with five or more colonies during 2003 produced 9.6 million pounds of honey, up 13 percent from 2002. The estimate of honey production includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 145,000 colonies producing honey in 2003, compared with 134,000 colonies in 2002. The increase in colonies and honey production is due to more beekeepers who were in the state part of the year. The honey yield per colony was 66 pounds, up 3 pounds from a year ago. Stocks on hand on December 15, 2003 was estimated at 1.9 million pounds, up from 1.1 million pounds in 2002.

Prices for Montana honey increased 10 cents per pound from last year to a record high $1.48 per pound in 2003. The value of 2003 honey production was also a record high at $14.2 million dollars, up 22 percent from last year.

Honey production in the United States from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

U.S. honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2003 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to the 2002 crop prices.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses	February Red Meat Production
Annual Red Meat Production	
Potato Stocks	
Milk Production	
Cattle on Feed	
Egg Production	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Values
Alfalfa Seed Production
Crop County Estimates Available
U.S. & Canadian Cattle Inventory
U.S. Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
U.S. Milk Production
Farm Labor
Potato Stocks
Grazing Fee Rates
Egg Production

2003 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 2003 **all wheat** crop rose 18 percent from 2002 to $525.7 million. Total production was up 25 percent but the season average price decreased $0.19 per bushel. The preliminary 2003 season average price for all wheat was $3.85 per bushel compared with $4.04 last season.

The value of Montana's **winter wheat** crop increased dramatically from last year to $235.5 million due to a large increase in acres harvested. The preliminary season average price was down $0.03 from last year to $3.70 per bushel. **Spring wheat's** value of production was down 26 percent from 2002 to $228.7 million. The season average price decreased $0.23 per bushel to $3.85. **Durum wheat's** season average price dropped $0.24 from 2002 to $4.25 per bushel. The total crop value of $61.6 million was up 6 percent from 2002.

The value of Montana's **oats** crop fell 38 percent from 2002 to $3.37 million. The season average price decreased $0.32 to $1.70 per bushel. Total value of production for **barley** was estimated at $94.8 million, down 17 percent from the previous year. The 2003 season average price, at $3.00, was up 14 cents from 2002. **Corn for grain** value of production for 2003 was estimated at $6.3 million dollars, up 41 percent from 2002. The average price per bushel increased $0.20 to $2.65.

Montana's value of production for **flaxseed** increased 7 percent to $1.28 million dollars in 2003. The price per bushel decreased $0.35 to $5.80. **Dry edible beans** value of production was estimated at $4.1 million, down 25 percent from 2002. The average price rose $2.40 per cwt to $17.60.

Value of production for **dry edible peas** in Montana, at $2.75 million, increased 86 percent from 2002. The average price per cwt decreased $1.10 to $6.10. **Austrian winter peas** value of production for the 2003 crop jumped to $689,000 from $200,000 in 2002. The average price per cwt was $12.30, up $2.30 from last year. **Lentils** value of production jumped to $3.96 million from $2.06 million in 2002. The average price increased $0.70 to $14.50 per cwt.

Montana's value of production for **potatoes** was $26.7 million, up slightly from the previous year. The average price per cwt was $8.00, $0.25 below 2002. **Sugar beets** value of production for 2002 is estimated at $44.94 million, up slightly from the previous year. The season average price jumped $2.20 per ton from 2001 to $41.00.

The 2003 season average price for **all hay** decreased $6.00 from last year to $76.50 per ton. The value of production was down 6 percent to $351.2 million. **Alfalfa hay's** 2003 season average price was estimated at $77.00, down $8.00 from last year while **other hay's** season average price decreased $2.00 to $72.50.

2003 Alfalfa Seed Production

Alfalfa seed production for 2003 was estimated at 2.1 million pounds, up 5% from the revised 2002 production. Harvested acreage at 6,200 was down 500 acres from last year's acreage of 6,700 acres. The state average yield was estimated at 335 pounds per acre, up from the 296 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 460 pounds per acre, up from 370 pounds in 2002 and non-irrigated yields averaged 90 pounds per acre, up 12 pounds from last year.

Producers used an average of 2.7 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre on all acres harvested for alfalfa seed in 2003, compared with 3.1 gallons per acre in 2002. Leaf cutter bees were used on 39% of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 3.8 gallons per acre and 12% of the reported non-irrigated acres at the rate of 0.4 gallons per acre. Alfalfa seed growers who utilized leaf cutter bees produced an average of 23% more seed per acre irrigated acre and 11% more per non-irrigated acre than those that did not use bees to pollinate their crop.

Proprietary varieties made up 23% of this year's production, common uncertified varieties accounted for 76% of the production and common certified varieties represented 1%.

The average price received for the 2003 crop was $1.01 per pound, down 14 cents from last year's average price.

ALFALFA SEED: Estimates by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 2003

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	1,000	390	390,000	1,000	390	390,000	0	0	0
Northeast	700	360	252,000	500	470	235,000	200	80	16,000
Central	400	475	190,000	300	600	180,000	100	100	10,000
South Central	2,800	341	954,000	2,000	443	886,000	800	85	68,000
Southeast	1,300	222	289,000	300	650	195,000	1,000	95	95,000
Montana	**6,200**	**335**	**2,075,000**	**4,100**	**460**	**1,886,000**	**2,100**	**90**	**189,000**

2003 Wheat, Barley, and Oats County Estimates Now Available

The 2003 crop year county estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated crops and non-irrigated crops. Non-irrigated wheat and barley crops are further divided into cropping practices for acres that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates are estimated by practices of irrigated and non-irrigated only. These estimates are available on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

U.S. and Canadian Cattle

This publication is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on January 30, 2004.

All cattle and calves in the **U. S. and Canada combined** totaled 109.5 million head on January 1, 2004, down slightly from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 47.9 million head, was up slightly from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2004, totaled 94.9 million head, 1 percent below the 96.1 million on January 1, 2003. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.9 million was down 1 percent from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003.

All cattle and calves in **Canada** as of January 1, 2004, totaled 14.7 million head, up 9 percent from the 13.5 million on January 1, 2003. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 6.1 million, was up 5 percent from the 5.8 million on January 1, 2003.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on February 1, 2004. The inventory was 4 percent above February 1, 2003 but 4 percent below February 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.75 million, 16 percent below 2003 and 20 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.65 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 362,000, 600-699 pounds were 466,000, 700-799 pounds were 576,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 342,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, down 10 percent from 2003 and down 14 percent from 2002. Other disappearance totaled 94,000 during January, 25 percent above 2003 and 6 percent above 2002.

January 2004 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2004, down 33 percent from last month and down 26 percent from January of 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,200, down 33 percent from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,160 pounds increased by 10 pounds from last year.

During January 1,200 hogs were slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight at 238 pounds was down 4 pounds from last year. January sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, the same as January 2003. The average live weight increased 5 pounds from last year to 128 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in January, down 9 percent from the 4.07 billion pounds produced in January 2003.

Beef production, at 1.92 billion pounds, was 16 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 14 percent from January 2003. The average live weight was 1,249 pounds, down 19 pounds from January a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.0 million pounds, 10 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,000 head, down 16 percent from January 2003. The average live weight was 336 pounds, up 18 pounds from January a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, slightly above January 2003. The average live weight was 269 pounds, up 1 pound from January a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was down 3 percent from January 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 219,200 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

U.S. January Milk Production Down 0.9 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 12.5 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from January 2003. December revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was down 0.2 percent from December 2002. The December revision represented an increase of 0.5 percent or 62 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,620 pounds for January, 5 pounds above January 2003. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 92,000 head less than January 2003, but 5,000 head more than December 2003.

The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2003 was 170.3 billion pounds, 0.1 percent above 2002. Revisions to 2002 production increased the annual total by 0.2 percent. Revised 2003 production was up 0.4 percent from last month's publication. Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 18,749 pounds for 2003, 141 pounds above 2002. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 16 percent from 1994.

The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2003 was 9.08 million head, down 0.6 percent from 2002. The average number of milk cows was revised down 2,000 head for 2002, and down 1,000 head for 2003.

Special Note: This issue contains monthly, quarterly, and annual revisions for 2002-2003. Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the estimates included in this publication. States requiring a 5-year historical revision may carry a disjointed data series from the current historical data series. December 2002 and prior estimates contained in this publication will be republished in the Milk Cows and Production, Final Estimates 1998-2002 publication, which is scheduled for release on April 30, 2004.

Montana Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent, U.S. Up 1 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2004, up 3 percent from the previous year. Ninety percent of the 2003 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 201 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 50 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Stocks by type were 4 percent red, 14 percent round white, 2 percent long white (Shepody), and 80 percent russet, with more reds and round whites and fewer russets than a year ago.

Disappearance of 203 million cwt from the start of harvest to February 1, is down 2 percent from the same period last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 20.6 million cwt, is up 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago.

Processors used 101 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 5 percent from a year ago but 5 percent above two years ago. January usage of 14.6 million cwt is 1 percent below last year and 10 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 22.1 million cwt to date, down 7 percent from last year.

Western States held 136 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 8 percent from last year, Washington decreased 1 percent, Colorado's storages held 20 percent less, and California lost 17 percent. Oregon's sheds stored 8 percent more than last year and Montana increased 3 percent.

Hired Workers Down 5 Percent, Wage Rates Up 1 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 847,000 hired workers on the Nation s farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2004, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 667,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on f1arms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.41 per hour during the January 2004 reference week, up 7 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.39 per hour, up 9 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned $8.84 per hour compared with $8.90 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.55 per hour, was up 5 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Northeast I (New England and New York), Pacific (Oregon and Washington) and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions and in California and Florida.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina) and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi) regions.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) and Delta regions.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., January 12-18, 2003 & January 11-17, 2004 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	10.02	9.72	8.36	8.56	9.12	9.10	10.03	10.10
Northeast II	9.16	8.79	8.34	7.73	8.83	8.38	9.83	9.26
Appalachian I	8.22	8.36	8.58	8.76	8.40	8.53	9.34	9.16
Appalachian II	7.34	8.76	7.87	8.59	7.60	8.66	7.98	9.16
Southeast	7.50	7.67	8.96	7.61	8.12	7.65	8.87	8.10
FL	7.80	7.70	8.30	8.60	7.87	7.77	8.81	8.85
Lake	10.51	10.11	9.44	9.41	9.65	9.60	10.54	10.68
Cornbelt I	9.68	9.98	8.64	10.01	9.01	10.00	9.72	10.70
Cornbelt II	9.24	9.12	9.01	9.79	9.08	9.50	9.50	10.15
Delta	8.56	8.57	7.89	8.71	8.30	8.63	8.63	9.03
Northern Plains	9.18	9.89	9.43	8.78	9.37	9.11	10.00	9.75
Southern Plains	8.13	7.46	8.51	7.97	8.29	7.73	8.85	8.43
Mountain I	8.51	8.29	8.17	8.72	8.25	8.64	8.53	8.92
Mountain II	9.15	8.75	8.73	8.81	8.85	8.80	9.66	9.80
Mountain III	6.92	7.44	8.22	7.98	7.48	7.69	8.12	8.37
Pacific	8.63	8.58	9.93	9.31	8.87	8.78	9.71	9.82
CA	8.22	8.40	10.10	9.30	8.46	8.54	9.44	9.46
HI 3/	9.31	9.26	3/	3/	9.36	9.39	11.04	11.11
US 4/	8.30	8.39	8.90	8.84	8.50	8.55	9.34	9.41

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

Montana and United States Grazing Rates Increase

The average grazing fees paid by Montana producers for grazing livestock on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land was higher for all methods except for per head in 2003. The average amount paid for grazing livestock on an AUM (animal unit month) basis was $15.20 per month, up 10 cents from last year. Cattle producers paid $17.40 per cow-calf pair in 2003, up 10 cents from the previous year. The average per head rate was $15.90 per month, down 40 cents from last year.

In the 17 States that estimate grazing fees in the United States, the average charge on an AUM basis was $12.30 per month in 2003, unchanged from the previous year. Cow-calf rates averaged $14.40 per month, up 20 cents and per head rates averaged $13.10 per month, up 40 cents from 2002.

All grazing fees are for privately-owned, non-irrigated grazing land. Rates charged for public land, irrigated land, and harvested cropland were excluded. The average AUM rate includes reported AUM rates plus reported cow-calf rates that were converted to an AUM basis. The cow-calf rate was converted to AUM basis using the following formula (1 AUM=cow-calf *0.833).

January U.S. Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during January 2004, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.32 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2004 averaged 338 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,184 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2003.

January 2004 contained 22 weekdays, 2 holidays, and 5 Saturdays, compared to January 2003 which contained 23 weekdays, 2 holidays, and 4 Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2004, totaled 338 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.48 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2004, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.88 billion eggs during January 2004, down 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during January, at 315 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle & Calves Inventory
Sheep & Lambs Inventory
Wool & Mohair Production
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production
December Egg Production

January 1, 2004 Cattle Inventory

Montana's January 1, 2004 inventory of cattle and calves was 2.40 million head, down 2% from the revised 2003 inventory of 2.45 million head. Prolonged drought conditions coupled with record high cattle prices during the last half of the year resulted in significant reductions in the number of steers, other heifers, and calves in the inventory. The cattle and calf inventory is the lowest since 1991 when it was 2.35 million head.

The inventory of beef cows that had calved on January 1, 2004 was up 3% from a year ago to 1.472 million head. The number of milk cows in the state was unchanged from year ago to 18,000 head. There were 1.54 million calves born during 2003, up 1% from the previous year.

Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, were up 8% from the previous year to 420,000 head. Milk heifer replacements decreased 3,000 head from last year to 8,000 head. The number of other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more, decreased 25% from last year to 142,000 head. This is the lowest number of other heifers in the inventory since 1982 when 107,000 head were on hand.

The inventory of steers weighing 500 lbs or more, dropped 17% from last year to 200,000 head and is the lowest inventory since 1991. The inventory of calves weighing less than 500 lbs, at 50,000 head, was down 29% from last year. This is the lowest inventory of calves weighing less than 500 lbs on record for January 1. Inventory of bulls, weighing 500 pounds or more, decreased 10,000 head from last year to 90,000 head. The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter was unchanged from a year ago at 70,000 head.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2004, totaled 94.9 million head, 1% below the 96.1 million on January 1, 2003. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.9 million, were down 1% from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003. Beef cows, at 32.86 million, were down slightly from January 1, 2003. Milk cows, at 8.99 million, were down 2% from January 1, 2003.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2004 and the change from January 1, 2003, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.3 million, down 1%.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.52 million, down 2%.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.02 million, down 2%.
- Other heifers, 9.80 million, down 1%.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.3 million, down 2%.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.21 million, down 2%.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 15.2 million, down 2%.
- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.8 million, up 4%.
- The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots, 27.5 million, down 4%.

The 2003 calf crop was estimated at 37.9 million head, down 1% from 2002. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.7 million, down 1% from 2002.

Special Note: Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2004 and revised 2003 estimates. States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series. Any revisions for estimates from January 1, 2003 and prior years will be published in the Cattle, Final Estimates 1999-2003 publications which is scheduled for release on April 30, 2004.

January 1, 2004 Sheep Inventory and 2003 Wool Production

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory was a record low 300,000 head on January 1, 2004, down 3% from last year.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers remain unchanged at 280,000 head. Ewes one year and older were unchanged at 220,000 head. Rams one year and older, at 7,000 head, were down 1,000 head from the previous year. Replacement lambs, at 53,000 head, were up 1,000 head from a year ago. The 2003 lamb crop was 280,000 head, a decrease of 5% from the 2002 lamb crop.

Market sheep and lambs on hand January 1, 2004 totaled 20,000 head down 10,000 head from 2003. Of that total 2,000 head were market sheep. Of the 18,000 head of market lambs, only 6% weighed less than 65 pounds, 22% weighed 65-84 pounds, 44% were in the 85-105 pound category, and 28% were over 105 pounds.

Montana wool growers produced 2.6 million pounds of wool during 2003, down 7% from 2002. The 2003 average price per pound of wool increased 27 cents to $1.03 per pound, which increased the value of all wool produced by 26% for a total value of $2.674 million dollars. The total head shorn decreased 6% from 2002 to 272,000 head. The average fleece weight decreased from 9.6 pounds in 2002 to 9.5 pounds in 2003.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3% from 2003 and 9% below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4% from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4% below last year. Continued on back page.

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January cattle and sheep inventory surveys.

Cattle and Calves Inventory January 1, 2002-2004

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2002	2003	2004	'04/'03	2002	2003	2004	'04/'03
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Cattle and Calves	2,450	2,450	2,400	98%	96,704	96,100	94,882	99%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,470	1,450	1,490	103%	42,229	42,125	41,851	99%
Beef Cows	1,451	1,432	1,472	103%	33,118	32,983	32,860	100%
Milk Cows	19	18	18	100%	9,112	9,142	8,991	98%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	560	590	570	97%	19,778	19,628	19,341	99%
For beef cow replacement	370	390	420	108%	5,561	5,624	5,517	98%
For milk cow replacement	13	11	8	73%	4,060	4,114	4,020	98%
Other heifers	177	189	142	75%	10,057	9,891	9,804	99%
Steers 500 pounds and over	245	240	200	84%	16,799	16,554	16,280	98%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	100	100	90	90%	2,244	2,248	2,206	98%
Calves less than 500 pounds	75	70	50	71%	15,763	15,545	15,204	98%
Cattle on Feed	70	70	70	100%	13,860	13,220	13,811	104%

Calf Crop, 2001-2003

	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,550	1,520	1,540	101%	38,280	38,224	37,903	99%

Sheep and Lambs Inventory January 1, 2002-2004

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2002	2003	2004	'04/'03	2002	2003	2004	'04/'03
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Sheep and Lambs	335	310	300	97%	6,685	6,300	6,090	97%
Breeding sheep	300	280	280	100%	4,913	4,658	4,480	96%
One year old & older								
Ewes	232	220	220	100%	3,980	3,770	3,601	96%
Rams	8	8	7	88%	200	193	189	98%
Replacement Lambs	60	52	53	102%	734	695	691	99%
Market Sheep & Lambs	35	30	20	67%	1,772	1,642	1,610	98%
Sheep	1	1	2	200%	72	67	67	100%
Lambs	34	29	18	62%	1,700	1,575	1,543	98%

Lamb Crop, 2001-2003

Item	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	340	295	280	95%	4,495	4,357	4,120	95%

Sheep and Lambs Shorn and Wool Production

Item	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02
Sheep Shorn (000) Hd.								
All Sheep and Lambs	318	289	272	95%	5,689	5,476	5,057	92%
All Wool Shorn (000 Lbs.)	2,978	2,788	2,597	94%	43,016	41,322	38,114	92%
Wool: Price & Value								
Dollars Per Pound	0.45	0.76	1.03	136%	0.36	0.53	0.72	136%
Value (000 Dollars)	1,340.0	2,119.0	2,675.0	126%	15,311	21,876	27,408	125%

Agricultural Prices Received for December 2003

December full month crop prices were mostly lower compared with November 2003. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.62 per bushel, down $0.03 from the previous month; spring wheat dropped $0.03 to $3.80 per bushel; and durum wheat prices decreased $0.04 to $3.90 per bushel. Feed barley prices were unchanged from the previous month at $2.16, and malt barley prices jumped $0.54 to $3.51 per bushel. Oat prices for December 2003 were $1.58 per bushel.

The mid-January price for alfalfa hay was down $3.00 to $74.00 per ton and all other hay dropped $1.00 to $67.00 per ton. The mid-January grain prices were mixed from the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.67 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.86 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.97 per bushel, and feed barley was $2.05 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were mostly higher than the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $0.40 to $98.90 per cwt. and cows rose $1.70 to $51.50. The average price for calves jumped $4.00 to $114.00 per cwt. Sheep prices were up $0.30 to $43.00 per cwt, but lamb prices dropped $8.00 to $108.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.30 per cwt from last month to $15.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $95.40 per cwt.; cows averaged $45.40 per cwt.; calves averaged $114.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $15.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for December and changes from November were as follows: winter wheat was $3.63, up $0.08, spring wheat was $3.75, up $0.08; durum wheat was $3.96, up $0.05; the all barley price was $2.94, up $0.08, and steer and heifer prices were $95.70, down $4.30 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $3.70 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.73 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.03 per bushel, all wheat was $3.73 per bushel, malt barley was $3.00 per bushel, feed barley was $2.20 per bushel, and all barley was $2.70. Steer and heifer prices were $81.20 per cwt, cow prices were $45.80, calves were $105.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $35.70 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.806 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 111, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) below the December Index. The Livestock Products Index is down 5 points (4.5 percent) from December while the All Crops Index is unchanged. Lower prices received for cattle, lettuce, milk, and tomatoes more than offset higher commodity prices for broilers, soybeans, corn, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, grapes, tobacco, and cottonseed.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (11 percent) from January 2003. The Food Commodities Index, at 112, is 3 points (2.6 percent) below last month but 14 points (14 percent) above January 2003.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	December 2002	January 2003	December 2003	January 2004
Prices Received	100	100	113	111
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	125	126	130	130
Ratio 2/	80	79	87	85

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Dec. 2002	Nov. 2003	Dec. 2003	Dec. 2003	Nov. 2003	Dec 2002	Jan. 15, 2004	Jan. 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.24	3.65	3.62	3.63	-0.03	-0.62	3.67	3.70
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.67	3.94	3.90	3.96	-0.04	-0.77	3.97	4.03
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.48	3.83	3.80	3.75	-0.03	-0.68	3.86	3.73
All Wheat	Bu.	4.45	3.77	3.75	3.69	-0.02	-0.70	3.81	3.73
Barley, All	Bu.	3.00	2.57	3.08	2.94	+0.51	+0.08	3.05	2.70
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.24	2.16	2.16	2.30	0	-0.08	2.05	2.20
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.23	2.97	3.51	3.22	-0.54	+0.28	n/a	3.00
Oats	Bu.	n/a	n/a	1.58	1.58	0	0	n/a	1.50
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	86.00	76.00	77.00	87.90	+1.00	-9.00	74.00	83.60
All Other Hay	Ton	75.00	69.00	68.00	66.90	-1.00	-7.00	67.00	71.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	85.00	74.00	76.00	81.30	+2.00	-9.00	72.00	79.30
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	83.50	98.50	98.90	95.70	+0.40	+15.40	95.40	81.20
Cows	Cwt	36.00	49.80	51.50	49.40	+1.70	+15.50	45.40	45.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	72.60	88.80	90.40	90.50	+1.60	+17.80	85.90	77.40
Calves	Cwt	94.60	110.00	114.00	112.00	+4.00	+19.40	114.00	105.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	40.60	42.70	43.00	44.40	+0.30	+2.40	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	94.00	116.00	108.00	98.40	+8.00	+14.00	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	12.10	14.70	15.00	13.70	+0.30	+2.90	15.10	13.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

January 1, 2004 Sheep Inventory

(continued from front page)

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.61 million head, down 2% from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96% of the total. Market lambs by weight were 27% under 65 pounds, 16% were between 65 - 84 pounds, 23% were between 85 - 105 pounds, and 30% were over 105 pounds.

The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5% from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8% from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8% from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was $0.72 per pound for a total value of $27.4 million dollars, up 25% from $21.9 million dollars in 2002.

December Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion during December 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 995 million were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2003 averaged 339 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,225 eggs, up 2 percent from December 2002.

2003 Chicken Inventory and Egg Production

There were 485,000 total chickens on **Montana** farms and ranches on December 1, 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. The December 1, 2003 inventory included 355,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 40,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 89,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2002 was $1.5 million, up 1 percent from last year. The average value per bird, at $3.10, was unchanged from the 2002.

Montana chickens produced 107 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 2003, up 3 percent from last year. The state had an average of 355,000 layers in 2003, up 4 percent from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 301 eggs, down 1 percent from 2002.

The **U.S.** inventory of chickens on hand on December 1, 2003 (excluding commercial broilers) was 449 million birds, up 1 percent from last year. Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2003 totaled a record high 87.2 billion eggs, up slightly from 2002. Table egg production, at 74.4 billion eggs, was up slightly from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.8 billion eggs, decreased 1 percent from 2002.

U.S. layer numbers during 2003 averaged 335 million, down 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2003 was 259 eggs, up one percent from the 2002 average of 257.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2003 was $1.11 billion, up 5 percent from December 1, 2002. The average value increased from $2.37 per bird on December 1, 2002, to $2.47 per bird on December 1, 2003.

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Private Grazing Fee Rates	Potato Stocks
Alfalfa Seed Production	Milk Production
Crop Values	US & Canadian
Wheat & Barley County	Cattle Cattle on Feed
Estimates	Farm Labor
Red Meat Production	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
December Red Meat Production
Annual Crop Production
Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates
Annual Oilseeds Production

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 6 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on January 1, 2004. The inventory was 6 percent above January 1, 2003 but 3 percent below January 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.84 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.33 million head, up 9 percent from January 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.75 million, 10 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.66 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 503,000, 600-699 pounds were 529,000, 700-799 pounds were 448,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 268,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during December, 9 percent below 2002 and 3 percent below 2001.

Montana Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent; U.S. Stocks Up 1 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.1 million cwt. in storage on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from the previous year. Ninety-three percent of the 2003 Montana potato crop was still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 234 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 58 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Stocks by type show more round whites and fewer russets than a year ago. Disappearance of 170 million cwt of potatoes is down 3 percent from last year but 5 percent above 2001 movement. Shrink and loss, at 17.4 million cwt so far this season, is down 4 percent from last year but 1 percent above the same date in 2001.

Processors in the 9 major States used 86.8 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 6 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 18.4 million cwt of the total processing, down 6 percent from last year. December 1, 2003, stocks were revised up slightly, with changes in Colorado, Nebraska, and New York.

December 2003 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 2003, down 4 percent from the previous December, but up 13 percent from November 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,153 pounds, decreased 10 pounds from 2002.

During December there were 1,500 hogs slaughtered, up 7 percent from a year ago. The average live weight, at 243 pounds, rose 5 pounds from last year. December sheep slaughter in the state totaled 400 head, the same as December 2002. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds from last year to 125 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in December 2002.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 4 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was down 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,244 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19.0 million pounds, 6 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 97,500 head, down 1 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was 17 pounds above last year, at 322 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.35 million head, 8 percent above December 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 262,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 4 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2003 commercial red meat production was 46.5 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

U.S. October-December Milk Production Down 0.6 Percent

Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 41.3 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.01 million head, 141,000 head less than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 12.3 billion pounds, down 0.3 percent from December 2002. November revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was down 0.1 percent from November 2002. The November revision represented an increase of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,589 pounds for December, 14 pounds above December 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 93,000 head less than December 2002, but unchanged from November 2003.

2003 Annual Crop Summary 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA						U.S. Production
		Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg. Price	Value of Production	
		(000)		Bu.	(000) Bu.		(000)	(000)
Winter Wheat	2001	1,300	870	22.0	19,140	$3.07	$58,760	1,361,479
	2002	1,450	750	28.0	21,000	$3.73	$78,330	1,145,602
	2003	1,800	1,720	37.0	63,640	--	--	1,707,069
Durum Wheat	2001	510	495	24.0	11,880	$3.80	$45,144	83,556
	2002	590	565	23.0	12,995	$4.49	**$58,348	79,450
	2003	640	630	23.0	14,490	--	--	96,637
Other Spring Wheat	2001	3,550	2,850	23.0	65,550	$3.06	$200,583	512,008
	2002	3,750	3,450	22.0	75,900	$4.08	$309,672	393,949
	2003	2,850	2,700	22.0	59,400	--	--	532,820
All Wheat	2001	5,360	4,215	22.9	96,570	$3.14	$304,487	1,957,043
	2002	5,790	4,765	23.1	109,895	$4.04	$446,350	1,619,001
	2003	5,290	5,050	27.2	137,530	--	--	2,336,526
Barley	2001	1,100	720	41.0	29,520	$2.65	$78,228	249,420
	2002	1,200	950	42.0	39,900	$2.86	$114,114	226,573
	2003	1,100	810	39.0	31,590	--	--	276,087
Oats	2001	130	60	40.0	2,400	$1.96	$4,704	117,024
	2002	145	55	49.0	2,695	$2.02	$5,444	118,628
	2003	120	*45	44.0	1,980	--	--	144,649
Corn for Grain 2/	2001	65	13	**148.0	1,924	$1.89	$3,636	9,506,840
	2002	65	13	140.0	1,820	$2.45	$4,459	9,007,659
	2003	65	17	140.0	2,380	--	--	10,113,887
Corn for Silage	2001	--	51	22.0	1,122	--	--	102,077
	2002	--	49	22.0	1,078	--	--	104,979
	2003	--	47	**24.0	1,128	--	--	105,864
Sugar Beets	2001	57.4	53.5	21.5	1,150	$38.80	$44,620	25,764
	2002	58.0	55.9	19.6	1,096	--	--	27,718
	2003	51.7	51.5	*25.4	1,308	--	--	30,605
Alfalfa Hay	2001	--	1,450	2.10	3,045	**$95.50	$290,798	80,327
	2002	--	1,400	2.10	2,940	$85.00	$249,900	73,824
	2003	--	1,600	2.10	3,360	--	--	76,307
Other Hay	2001	--	1,000	1.40	1,400	**$87.00	$121,800	76,437
	2002	--	1,200	1.40	1,680	$74.50	**$125,160	77,138
	2003	--	850	1.50	1,275	--	--	80,816
All Hay 3/	2001	--	2,450	1.81	4,445	**$94.00	$412,598	156,764
	2002	--	2,600	1.78	4,620	$82.50	$375,060	150,962
	2003	--	2,450	1.89	4,635	--	--	157,123
Sweet Cherries 4/	2001	--	--	--	1,850	$1,130.00	$2,082	230,380
	2002	--	--	--	2,080	$1,820.00	**$3,791	181,225
	2003	--	--	--	1,730	$1,670.00	$2,884	236,960
		(000)		Cwt.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Fall Potatoes	2001	10.5	10.3	**320	3,296	$9.15	$30,158	393,750
	2002	10.5	10.4	310	3,224	**$11.40	**$36,754	414,317
	2003	10.7	10.6	315	3,339	--	--	411,386
All Dry Beans	2001	43.5	28.5	13.2	376	$17.30	$6,505	19,583
	2002	26.9	23.0	15.7	361	$15.20	$5,487	29,974
	2003	13.0	12.8	18.2	233	--	--	22,515
Pinto Beans 5/	2001	11.5	10.0	*20.0	*200	--	--	8,721
	2002	13.5	12.9	22.2	287	--	--	12,880
	2003	*9.7	*9.7	21.5	209	--	--	10,437
Garbanzo Beans 5/	2001	31.5	18.0	9.5	**171	--	--	1,612
	2002	12.7	9.6	7.4	71	--	--	838
	2003	*3.2	*3.0	*7.3	*22	--	--	434
All Other Beans 5/	2001	0.5	0.5	1.0	5	--	--	747
	2002	0.7	0.5	0.6	3	--	--	1,005
	2003	0.1	0.1	2.0	2	--	--	772
Lentils 5/	2001	22.0	20.0	11.0	220	$11.00	$2,420	2,898
	2002	25.0	21.0	*7.1	*149	$12.50	*$1,863	2,508
	2003	**30.0	**26.0	10.5	**273	--	--	2,442
Dry Peas	2001	26.0	16.5	15.1	249	$4.90	$1,220	3,763
	2002	32.0	27.0	*7.6	205	**$6.90	$1,415	4,242
	2003	33.0	31.0	14.5	450	--	--	5,202
Austrian Winter Peas 6/	2001	9.9	2.5	7.9	20	$11.00	$220	97
	2002	9.5	3.5	5.8	20	$9.35	$187	164
	2003	9.5	7.0	8.0	56	--	--	174

1/ All estimates for 2003 are preliminary and season average price and value of production for 2003 are not yet available. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/Data series begun in 1998. 6/Data series begun in 2001. -- Not Available * Record Low ** Record High

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected U.S. 2003/04 ending stocks of wheat are down 24 million bushels from last month due to increased exports. Projected exports are 25 million bushels above last month because of increased world import demand and the strong pace of exports to date. Both HRW and SRW exports increase 10 million bushels while HRS exports rise by 5 million bushels. Changes in use of the wheat classes result in a 44-million-bushel drop in HRW ending stocks and an increase of 23 million in SRW stocks. The projected 2003/04 wheat price range is up 5 cents on both ends to $3.25 to $3.45 per bushel.

Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 43.46 million acres, 3 percent less than last year.

Global 2003/04 wheat production is projected 2.2 million tons higher this month, due primarily to a larger crop in India. Global consumption increased 2.7 million tons, mainly due to larger food use in India and Ukraine and more wheat feeding in the EU. Global imports are up 1.7 million tons from last month. Projected imports by China are 1 million tons higher because of recent sales agreements made with Canada and Australia as well as the stronger-than-expected pace of purchases from the United States. Projected global ending stocks are down slightly from last month, and are 23 percent less than last year's level.

Note: The recent discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a cow in the State of Washington has caused importers to either ban or restrict the importation of beef from the United States. Trade forecasts in this report reflect actions announced by importing countries as of January 11. Due to uncertainties as to the length of the bans, it is assumed that these restrictions will remain in place until such time as importing countries announce a change in policy. Subsequent forecasts will reflect any announced changes. Although the discovery of a BSE-infected cow has had significant impacts on international trade, the effects on U.S. meat production are expected to be minimal. U.S. beef demand has remained firm and biological lags inherent in the sector are expected to limit changes. Beef production projections for 2004 are unchanged from last month. The January 30 Cattle report will provide an opportunity to reevaluate production forecasts for 2004. Pork production projections are raised due to larger-than-expected December 1, 2003, hog inventories and greater first-half 2004 farrowing intentions. Poultry production projections are little changed from last month. Expected broiler production is unchanged as eggs set data and higher weights continue to point toward an industry expansion. Turkey production is lowered slightly as turkey hatchery data point toward lower production in first-half 2004. The meat production forecast for 2003 is reduced slightly this month as lower beef and turkey production offset stronger-than-expected pork production.

The 2004 beef export forecast is reduced more than 90 percent as Canada remains the only major importer currently accepting beef from the United States, with the restriction that imported beef must be boneless and from animals less than 30 months of age. Beef import forecasts for 2004 are reduced from last month as world markets adjust to bans on imports from the United States. Pork export forecasts for 2003 and 2004 are raised to reflect both the strong pace of exports to date and increased opportunities for sales in Asia following the ban on U.S. beef imports. Poultry export forecasts are raised as sales to Russia and Mexico have been strengthening. Pork and poultry exports are expected to continue to be helped by the declining value of the U.S. dollar.

The increase in supplies of beef now available on the domestic market is expected to pressure cattle prices. Cattle prices in 2004 are now forecast at $72 to $78 per cwt compared to $84 to $91 per cwt last monthPork price forecasts for 2004 are lowered as higher pork production and larger beef supplies pressure red meat markets. Broiler price forecasts for 2004 are unchanged from last month as exports strengthen.

Dairy production forecasts for 2003/04 are lowered 400 million pounds from last month as forecasts of both cow numbers and milk per cow are reduced. Forecast commercial use is lowered slightly from last month but continues to reflect improved demand from 2002/2003. As a result, forecast milkfat-basis CCC net removals are lowered from last month. Milk price forecasts are raised with the Class III price range expected at $11.20 to $11.70 per cwt and the Class IV price at $10.00 to $10.70 per cwt. The higher Class IV price reflects expectations of continued strength in butter prices. The all milk price range is narrowed to $12.40 to $12.90 per cwt.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2003

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1988 ..	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ..	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 ..	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 ..	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 ..	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 ..	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 ..	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 ..	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 ..	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 ..	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 ..	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 ..	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 ..	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 ..	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	191	1,201	962	2,164	777	2.78
2002 ..	777	1,619	77	2,473	918	84	126	1,128	854	1,982	491	3.56
2003.. 3/	491	2,337	75	2,903	910	84	225	1,219	1,125	2,344	559	3.25-3.45

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January, 2004--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

2003 Annual Oilseed Summary 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA						US Production
		Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg. Price	Value of Production	
		Planted	Harvested					
		(000)		Bu.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Flaxseed 2/	2000	16.0	14.0	14.0	196	*$4.00	$784	10,730
	2001	14.0	*12.0	15.0	*180	$4.35	*$783	11,455
	2002	17.0	15.0	*13.0	195	**$6.15	**$1,199	12,569
	2003	17.0	17.0	*13.0	221	--	--	10,426
Canola 2/	2000	**65.0	**58.0	960	55,680	--	--	1,998,310
	2001	58.0	49.5	910	45,045	--	--	1,998,515
	2002	37.5	34.5	*860	29,670	--	--	1,552,520
	2003	*28.0	*27.0	940	*25,380	--	--	1,512,250
Mustard Seed 2/	2000	12.0	*10.0	700	*7,000	--	--	36,930
	2001	*11.0	*10.0	**850	8,500	--	--	41,106
	2002	**27.0	**25.0	*440	11,000	--	--	123,450
	2003	20.5	20.2	610	12,322	--	--	77,372
Safflower 2/	2000	**41.5	**39.0	*770	30,030	--	--	282,545
	2001	*31.0	*28.0	**850	*23,800	--	--	241,665
	2002	39.5	38.0	800	30,400	--	--	297,980
	2003	42.5	42.0	*770	**32,340	--	--	272,555
Sunflower 2/	2000	5.5	4.1	741	3,039	--	--	3,544,428
	2001	2.5	2.0	*370	*740	--	--	3,418,759
	2002	*1.7	1.6	580	928	--	--	2,489,606
	2003	2.6	*1.2	763	915	--	--	2,665,226

1/ All estimates for 2003 are preliminary and season average price and value of production for 2003 are not yet available.
2/ Data series begun in 1999. -- Not Available * Record Low ** Record High

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Late Season Crops & Hay Stocks
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Pulse Crops Production
Oilseeds Crop Production

Winter Wheat Seedings

Montana producers seeded 1.85 million acres of winter wheat last fall for the 2004 crop year, up 50,000 acres or 3 percent from the 2003 crop. This would be the largest planted acreage since 1996 when 2.15 million acres were seeded.

Winter wheat seeding last fall began slowly as producers were concerned about the lack of soil moisture. Winter wheat seeding was completed by October 19. Emergence reached 89% by the end of November compared with 95% for last year. Winter wheat conditions at the end of December were rated at 8% very poor, 15% poor, 43% fair, 33% good, and 1% excellent compared with 1% very poor, 25% poor, 55% fair, 18% good, 1% excellent, respectively a year ago. The snowfall received during December has provided good snow cover and was rated 36% excellent, 38% good, 19% fair, 6% poor, and 1% very poor.

U.S. winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2004 is estimated at 43.5 million acres. This is down 3 percent from 2003. Seeding began last August and advanced ahead of the 5-year average pace throughout the fall. Nearly all of the U.S. acreage was seeded by December 1.

Hard red winter (HRW) wheat seeded area in the United States is about 31.0 million acres, down 4 percent from 2003.

Soft Red Winter (SRW) area, at about 8.3 million acres, is up slightly from last year while white winter wheat seeded area totals about 4.2 million acres, down 7 percent from 2003.

2003 Late Season Crops Summary

Montana producers planted 65,000 acres of **corn** in 2003, unchanged from 2002. Acres harvested for grain were 17,000 acres, 4,000 acres more than in 2002. The average yield was 140.0 bushels per acre, identical to last year. Grain production increased 560,000 bushels from a year ago to 2.380 million bushels due to an increase in acres harvested. The number of acres harvested for corn silage decreased 2,000 acres from 2002 to 47,000 acres. Corn silage yield averaged a record high 24 tons per acre, 2 tons higher than a year ago.

Sugar beet producers in Montana planted 51,700 acres in 2003, down 6,300 acres from last year. Harvested acreage amounted to 51,500 acres, down 4,400 acres from 2002. Yield increased 5.8 tons from last year to average 25.4 tons per acre. Total production of 1.308 million tons, was up 19 percent from the previous year. **Fall potato** production in Montana totaled 3.339 million cwt., up 4 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,600 acres compared with 10,400 in 2002. Potato yields increased 5 cwt. from a year ago to 315 cwt. per acre.

All hay harvested in Montana was down 150,000 acres from last year, to 2.45 million acres. All hay production was 4.635 million tons, up slightly from a year ago due to increases in alfalfa acreage and other hay yield. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage was 1.60 million, up 200,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.1 tons per acre, which is unchanged from the previous year. **Other hay** harvested acreage was 850,000, down 350,000 acres from the previous year. The decrease was mainly due to a reduction in the amount of CRP acreage hayed. The average yield was 1.5 tons per acre, compared with 1.4 tons per acre last year. Montana **hay stocks** were estimated at 3.986 million tons on December 1, down 1 percent from last year. Montana hay producers **seeded** an estimated 120,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2003, which is equal to last year's seedings. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

U.S. corn for grain production is estimated at 10.1 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the November forecast but up 12 percent from the 9.01 billion bushels produced in 2002. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 142.2 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel below the November forecast but up 12.2 bushels from 2002. Both production and yield estimates are the largest on record. **Corn silage** production for the U.S. is estimated at 106 million tons, 1 percent above the 2002 level.

U.S. sugar beets production is estimated at 30.6 million tons, slightly below the November 1 forecast but 10 percent above last year's production. **Fall potatoes** production in the United States for 2003 is estimated at 411 million cwt., down less than 1 percent from the December forecast and 1 percent below last year. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is down 2 percent from last year but 2 percent above two years ago. The average yield is estimated at 377 cwt per acre, 4 cwt above last year.

U.S. all hay production for 2003 is estimated at 157 million tons, down 2 percent from the October 1 forecast but up 4 percent from the 2002 total. **Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** production in 2003 totaled 76.3 million tons. All **other hay** production in 2003 totaled 80.8 million tons. Growers seeded 3.12 million acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2003. U.S. **stocks of all hay** stored on farms totaled 111 million tons on December 1, 2003, up 7 percent from 2002.

2003 Oilseeds Summary

Montana's **flaxseed** production for 2003 was 221,000 bushels, 26,000 bushels higher than last year's figure. Planted and harvested acreages were both 17,000, compared to 2002, when growers planted 17,000 acres and harvested 15,000. The average yield for 2003 was 13.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous year.

Production of **mustard seed** in Montana during 2003 was 12.3 million pounds compared with 11.0 million in 2002. Planted acres of mustard amounted to 20,500 acres with 20,200 acres harvested. During 2002, Montana producers planted 27,000 acres of mustard seed and harvested 25,000 acres. Mustard seed yields averaged 610 pounds per acre this year, which is 170 pounds per acre more than 2002.

Montana **canola** growers planted 28,000 acres in 2003, 9,500 acres less than 2002. Harvested acreage was 27,000 acre, down 7,500 acres from last year. The 2003 canola yield was 940 pounds per acre, up 80 pounds per acre from last year.

Growers produced 32.34 million pounds of **safflower** in Montana during 2003. Safflower plantings in Montana totaled 42,500 acres with 42,000 acres harvested. Yield was 770 pounds per acre, down 30 pounds per acre from last year. The 2002 safflower crop produced 30.4 million pounds from 39,500 planted and 38,000 harvested acres.

Montana's 2003 all **sunflower** production was 915,000 pounds, compared with 928,000 pounds produced in 2002. Producers in the state planted 2,600 acres and harvested 1,200 acres in 2003, compared to 2002 when planted acreage was 1,700 and harvested was 1,600. The average yield is 763 pounds per acre, compared to 580 pounds per acres in 2002. (Continued on back page)

December 1, 2003 Grain Stocks

Stocks of **all wheat** in Montana on December 1, 2003 were 120.3 million bushels, up 7 percent from December 1, 2002. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 94.0 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 26.3 million bushels, up 3 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the September - November 2003 quarter was up 20 percent from the same quarter last year to 32.2 million bushels, compared with 26.8 million a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 2003 were 26.1 million bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farms was 18.0 million bushels, down 18 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was up 16 percent from a year ago at 8.1 million bushels. All barley disappearance for the September - November 2003 quarter was 9.1 million bushels, down 22 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.81 million bushels, down 14 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 1.7 million bushels down 15 percent from 2.0 million stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm was down 4 percent from last year to 110,000 bushels.

The on-farm **storage capacity** of all storage facilities in Montana, normally used for storing grain, was estimated to be 130 million bushels, unchanged from a year ago. There were 167 off-farm storage facilities in Montana on December 1, 2003. The storage capacity of off farm facilities was 68.8 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago.

U.S. all wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2003 totaled 1.52 billion bushels, up 15 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 492 million bushels, up 28 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.03 billion bushels, are up 10 percent from a year ago. The indicated September - November 2003 disappearance is 518 million bushels, up 20 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 2003 for the U.S. totaled 67.0 million bushels, down 13 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 41.4 million bushels, are down 19 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 25.6 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. The indicated September - November 2003 disappearance of 20.3 million bushels is up 26 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on December 1, 2003 totaled 198 million bushels, up 16 percent from December 1, 2002. On-farm stocks are estimated at 97.2 million bushels, 17 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 101 million bushels, are 16 percent above December 2002. Indicated disappearance during the September - November 2003 quarter totaled 43.7 million bushels, down 19 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on December 1, 2003 in the U.S. totaled 119 million bushels, 15 percent above the stocks on December 1, 2002. Of the total stocks on hand, 64.3 million bushels are stored on farms, 22 percent more than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 54.9 million bushels, 7 percent above a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during September - November 2003 totaled 12.5 million bushels, up 58 percent from the same period a year ago.

U.S. **corn** stocks in all positions on December 1, 2003 totaled 7.94 billion bushels, up 4 percent from December 1, 2002. Of the total stocks, 5.29 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 10 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.66 billion bushels, are down 6 percent from the previous year. The September - November 2003 indicated disappearance is 3.26 billion bushels, compared with 2.97 billion bushels during the same period last year.

The United States on-farm **storage capacity** totaled 11.0 billion bushels on December 1, 2003, down 1 percent from December 1, 2002. Iowa continues to lead all States in on-farm storage capacity with 1.65 billion bushels, followed by Illinois and Minnesota with 1.20 billion bushels each; Nebraska, 960 million bushels; and North Dakota with 710 million bushels. The top five States account for 52 percent of the Nation's on-farm storage capacity. On-farm grain storage capacity includes all bins, cribs, sheds, and other structures normally used to store whole grains or oilseeds located on farms.

December 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 2002	Sept. 1, 2003*	Dec. 1, 2003	'03/'02	Dec. 1, 2002	Sept. 1, 2003*	Dec. 1, 2003
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	87,000	126,000	94,000	108%	384,800	687,320	491,925
Off Farms 1/	25,440	26,470	26,310	103%	935,069	1,351,652	1,029,159
TOTAL	112,440	152,470	120,310	107%	1,319,869	2,038,972	1,521,084
DURUM WHEAT							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	50,800	58,000	41,400
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	25,917	29,241	25,569
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	76,717	87,241	66,969
BARLEY							
On Farms	22,000	28,000	18,000	82%	83,400	141,900	97,200
Off Farms 1/	6,990	7,230	8,090	116%	86,601	99,730	100,684
TOTAL	28,990	35,230	26,090	90%	170,001	241,630	197,884
OATS							
On Farms	2,000	2,200	1,700	85%	52,500	82,100	64,300
Off Farms 1/	115	60	110	96%	51,284	49,637	54,918
TOTAL	2,115	2,260	1,810	86%	103,784	131,737	119,218
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,800,000	484,900	5,286,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,837,971	601,773	2,658,779
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	7,637,971	1,086,673	7,944,779

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. * Revised.

Agricultural Prices Received for November 2003

November full month crop prices were mixed compared with October 2003. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.65 per bushel, up $0.10 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.23 to $3.83 per bushel; but durum wheat prices dropped $0.06 to $3.94 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.09 from the previous month to $2.16, but malt barley prices decreased $0.25 to $2.97 per bushel.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay was up $1.00 to $77.00 per ton, but all other hay dropped $1.00 to $68.00 per ton. The mid-December grain prices were mostly lower than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.60 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.75 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.88 per bushel, feed barley was $2.13 per bushel and malt barley averaged $3.63 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were mostly higher than the previous month. Steer and heifer prices jumped $2.30 to $98.50 per cwt, while cows rose $0.20 to $49.80. The average price for calves increased $3.00 to $110.00 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $7.00 to $42.70 per cwt and lamb prices jumped $10.00 to $116.00 per cwt. Milk prices dropped $0.20 per cwt from last month to $14.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $99.20 per cwt.; cows averaged $51.40 per cwt.; calves averaged $114.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $14.60 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for November and changes from October were as follows: winter wheat was $3.55, up $0.18, spring wheat was $3.67, up $0.13; durum wheat was $3.91, up $0.01; the all barley price was $2.41, down $0.36, and steer and heifer prices were $100.00, up $2.20 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-December winter wheat price was $3.62 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.63 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.84 per bushel, all wheat was $3.63 per bushel, malt barley was $2.79 per bushel, feed barley was $1.99 per bushel, and all barley was $2.41. Steer and heifer prices were $98.60 per cwt, cow prices were $49.90, calves were $113.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $34.90 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.739 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 117, based on 1990-92=100, 4 points (3.5 percent) above the October Index. Both the Livestock and Products Index and the All Crops Index were higher in November. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, and wheat. Lower prices were received for cotton, hogs, and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of all milk, cotton, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, and potatoes.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points (20.6 percent) from November 2002. The Food Commodities Index increased 5 points (4.3 percent) above last month to 121, and is 25 points (26.0 percent) above November 2002. This index value is the highest since records began in 1975.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	November 2002	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003
Prices Received	97	100	117	115
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	125	125	130	130
Ratio 2/	78	80	90	88

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov. 2002	Oct. 2003	Nov. 2003	Nov. 2003	Oct. 2003	Nov. 2002	Dec. 15, 2003	Dec. 15, 2003
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.28	3.55	3.65	3.55	+0.10	-0.63	3.60	3.62
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5.04	4.00	3.94	3.91	-0.06	-1.10	3.88	3.84
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4.48	3.60	3.83	3.67	+0.23	-0.65	3.75	3.63
All Wheat	Bu.	4.49	3.61	3.77	3.59	+0.16	-0.72	3.70	3.63
Barley, All	Bu.	2.79	2.68	2.57	2.86	-0.11	-0.22	2.90	2.41
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.23	2.07	2.16	2.44	+0.09	-0.07	2.13	1.99
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.09	3.22	2.97	3.11	-0.25	-0.12	3.63	2.79
Oats	Bu.	1.85	N/A	N/A	1.32	0	0	N/A	1.36
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	83.00	77.00	76.00	88.00	-1.00	-7.00	77.00	87.90
All Other Hay	Ton	75.00	71.00	69.00	64.90	-2.00	-6.00	68.00	66.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	82.00	75.00	74.00	80.70	-1.00	-8.00	76.00	81.30
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	81.00	96.20	98.50	100.00	+2.30	+17.50	99.20	98.60
Cows	Cwt	33.20	49.60	49.80	47.80	+0.20	+16.60	51.40	49.90
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	73.40	90.60	88.80	93.70	-1.80	+15.40	85.80	92.70
Calves	Cwt	87.40	107.00	110.00	112.00	+3.00	+22.60	114.00	113.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	30.90	35.70	42.70	40.10	+7.00	+11.80	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	88.80	106.00	116.00	99.20	+10.00	+27.20	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	11.40	14.90	14.70	14.50	-0.20	+3.30	14.60	13.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

2003 Oilseed Summary (continued)

U.S. production of **flaxseed** in 2003 totaled 10.4 million bushels, down 17 percent from the previous year. Yield is estimated at 17.9 bushels, unchanged from 2002.

U.S. **safflower** production in 2003 totaled 272.6 million pounds, down 9 percent from the previous year. Yield is estimated at 1,286 pounds, down 234 pounds from 2002. U.S. production of **mustard seed** in 2003 totaled 77.4 million pounds, down 37 percent from 2002. Yield is estimated at 723 poundss, up 18 pounds from the previous year.

U.S. **canola** production in 2003 is 1.51 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2002. The canola yield, at 1,416 pounds, is up 198 pounds from last year.

The 2003 **sunflower** production totaled 2.67 billion pounds, 7 percent above the 2002 production but down 22 percent from 2001. The estimated yield per acre, at 1,213 pounds, increased 71 pounds from 2002.

2003 Pulse Crops Summary

Montana's **dry bean** growers produced 233,000 cwt. in 2003, down 35 percent from 2002. Producers planted 13,000 acres of beans this year, down 52 percent from last year, driven mostly by a significant reduction in garbanzo bean acreage. Growers harvested 12,800 acres, which yielded 1,820 lbs. per acre, compared with last year's 23,000 acres harvested and the average yield of 1,570 lbs. per acre. **Pinto bean** production in 2003 was 209,000 cwt., which is 27 percent less than last year. Planted acreage was 9,700, down 3,800 acres from last year. Harvested acreage, at 9,700 acres, is 25 percent below the previous year. The yield was 2,150 lbs. per acre, which is 70 pounds less than last year. **Garbanzo beans** production, at 22,000 cwt., is 69 percent lower than last year due to decreased acreage. Planted acreage was 3,200, down from 12,700 acres last year. Harvested area was 3,000 acres, down 6,600 acres from last year. Because of the continued drought, many producers had to abandon their acreage or chose to graze or hay their fields. The yield was 730 pounds per acre, down from last year's 740 pounds per acre. **Small garbanzo beans** producers planted 2,100 acres, of which 2,000 were harvested with a yield of 900 lbs. per acre. Total production was 18,000 cwt. for 2003. **Large garbanzo beans** producers planted 1,100 acres, of which 1,000 were harvested with a yield of 400 lbs. per acre. Total production of large garbanzo beans was 4,000 cwt.

Dry edible pea production for 2003 in Montana was 450,000 cwt., up 245,000 cwt. from 2002. Planted and harvested acreage was 33,000 and 31,000 acres, respectively. In 2002, growers planted 32,000 acres and harvested 27,000. Average yield for 2003 was 14.5 cwt. per acre, compared with 7.6 cwt. last year. **Austrian winter pea** production in 2003 was 56,000 cwt., which is 36,000 cwt. higher than last year's figure. Planted acreage was 9,500, unchanged from 2002 acreage. Harvested acreage, at 7,000, was double the previous year. The yield was 8.0 cwt. per acre in 2003, compared with 5.8 cwt. in 2002. Producers used fewer acres for forage and hay in 2003.

Montana's 2003 production of **lentils** was 273,000 cwt., up 83 percent from a year ago. Additional harvested area combined with favorable yields in the largest lentil producing counties in the State. Planted area was 30,000 acres and harvested acres were 26,000 acres. In 2002, the planted and harvested acres were 25,000 and 21,000, respectively. The average yield was 10.5 cwt. per acre in 2003, compared with 7.1 cwt. in 2002.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is estimated at 22.5 million cwt. for 2003, down 1 percent from the December forecast and 25 percent below last year.

Production of **dry edible peas** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington is estimated at 5.20 million cwt. for 2003, up 4 percent from the November 1 forecast and 23 percent above 2002. Production of **Austrian winter peas** in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon for the 2003 season is estimated at 174,000 cwt., up 21 percent from the November 1 forecast and 6 percent above 2002.

Production of **lentils** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 2.44 million cwt. for 2003, up 7 percent from the November 1 forecast but 3 percent below 2002.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates
- Annual Crop Production
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Red Meat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Specialty Crops County Estimates
Potato Stocks
Montana's Rank
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Pulse Crops

Specialty Crop County Estimates for 2002

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service released county estimates for the 2002 oilseeds and pulse crops. This is the fourth year of the data series. County-level data is not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Dry bean county estimates for Montana are published for the following classes: all, garbanzo, pinto, and other beans. Pinto bean production during 2002 was 287,000 cwt. for the state. **Carbon** county had the most pinto bean production in the state with 60,500 cwt. The second and third leading counties were **Dawson** and **Prairie** with 55,000 cwt. and 42,300 cwt. produced, respectively. The south-central district produced the largest crop of pinto beans followed by the northeastern district. As for garbanzo beans, **Roosevelt** County produced the most in 2002 at 25,600 cwt. The second leading county was **Sheridan** with 16,200 cwt of production. The northeastern district produced the most garbanzo beans in Montana.

Sheridan was the number one lentil producing county again in 2002, with 54,300 cwt. harvested. The number two county was **Roosevelt** with total production of 24,700 cwt., and third was **Daniels** county with 18,300 cwt. Growers from the northeastern district produced 74 percent of the state's lentils. Dry edible pea estimates indicate that **Roosevelt** county was the largest producer in 2002 with 44,900 cwt. grown, followed by **Sheridan** county at 34,600 cwt., and **Dawson** county at 21,600 cwt. Northeastern district farmers produced 73 percent of the state's dry peas. **Richland** was a leading county in Austrian winter pea production during 2002 with 2,900 cwt. Big Horn county was also a leading county but data was not published to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Sheridan was by far the largest canola producing county in 2002 with 10.4 million pounds, or 35 percent of the state's canola. The second largest county was **Daniels** with 4.6 million pounds produced, followed by **Valley** county with 2.9 million pounds. The northeastern district produced 75 percent of the crop. **Roosevelt** was the number one safflower producing county with 7.7 million pounds. The next leading county was **Richland** at 6.3 million pounds, followed by **Dawson's** production of 4.8 million pounds. Eighty-three percent of the state's safflower was produced in the northeast district.

Sheridan led the state in flaxseed production for 2002 at 78,500 bushels. The next largest county was **Valley** with 55,000 bushels, followed by **Roosevelt** County at 13,500 bushels. Ninety-one percent of the state's flaxseed was produced in the northeast district. The central district accounted for 48 percent of Montana's sunflower production. While the south-central district also produced a large amount of the sunflower crop, data was not published to avoid disclosing individual information. The leading mustard seed producing counties were **Sheridan** with 4.6 million pounds and **Valley** with 2.6 million pounds. Almost all of Montana's mustard seed was produced in the northeast district.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted acres, and harvested acres by county, district, and state levels are now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They are available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2002. Thanks to those who participated!

Montana April 1 Potato Stocks Up 1 Percent, U.S. Stocks Up 4 Percent

Montana potato producers held 1.8 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2003, up 1 percent from the previous year. Fifty-six percent of the 2002 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 54 percent last year.

The 15 major potato States held 125 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2003, up 4 percent from last year but 19 percent below a year ago. Storage accounts for 30 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance, at 286 million cwt, from the start of harvest in 2002 to April 1, is up 7 percent from the same period last year but 6 percent below two years ago. March disappearance was 38.9 million cwt, up 1 percent from a year ago but 12 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 23.9 million cwt, is up 2 percent from last year but 28 percent below two years ago.

Processors used 145 million cwt of 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago. March usage of 18.2 million cwt is 6 percent above last year but 8 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 31.9 million cwt to date.

Western States held 93.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 7 percent from last year but 21 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 9 percent from last year and Colorado's are up 30 percent. Washington's potato stocks are 2 percent above last year but Oregon's storage is down 12 percent. California's stocks are double last year and Montana's are up 1 percent.

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	56,700,000	acres	2002	2	6.0
Number of farms and ranches	28,000	farms/ranches	2002	31	1.3
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	1,785	million dollars	2001	34	0.9
Crops	657	million dollars	2001	34	0.7
Livestock	1,128	million dollars	2001	30	1.1
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,400,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	13	2.5
All Cows	1,420,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	9	3.4
Beef Cows	1,402,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	7	4.3
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	42	0.2
Cattle on Feed	70,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	21	0.5
All Sheep and Lambs	300,000	head	Jan. 1, 2003	7	4.7
Hogs and Pigs	185,000	head	Dec. 1, 2002	25	0.3
All Chickens	480,000	birds	Dec. 1, 2002	39	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,490,000	head	2002	8	3.9
Lamb Crop	315,000	head	2002	4	7.2
Pig Crop	348,000	head	2002	27	0.3
Wool Production	2,691,000	pounds	2002	6	6.5
Egg Production	104,000,000	eggs	2002	39	0.1
Honey Production	8,442,000	pounds	2002	6	4.9
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	109,895,000	bushels	2002	4	6.8
Winter Wheat	21,000,000	bushels	2002	15	1.8
Durum Wheat	12,995,000	bushels	2002	2	16.4
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	75,900,000	bushels	2002	2	19.3
Barley	39,900,000	bushels	2002	3	17.6
Oats	2,695,000	bushels	2002	14	2.3
All Hay	4,620,000	tons	2002	13	3.1
Alfalfa Hay	2,940,000	tons	2002	10	4.0
Dry Beans, All	361,000	cwt	2002	10	1.2
Pinto Beans	287,000	cwt	2002	7	2.2
Garbanzo Beans	71,000	cwt	2002	5	8.5
Lentils	149,000	cwt	2002	4	5.9
Dry Edible Peas	205,000	cwt	2002	4	4.8
Austrian Winter Peas	20,000	cwt	2002	2	12.2
Potatoes--fall	3,224,000	cwt	2002	13	0.8
Sugar Beets	1,096,000	tons	2002	6	4.0
Flaxseed	195,000	bushels	2002	2	1.6
Corn for Grain	1,820,000	bushels	2002	41	1/
Corn for Silage	1,078,000	tons	2002	23	1.0

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

Montana Red Meat Production Up 4 Percent

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2003, up 4 percent from March 2002 and down 2 percent from February 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, equal to that one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,150 pounds, increased 9 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 239 pounds, was up 8 pounds from last year.

March sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up from 200 head in March 2002. The average live weight remained the same, at 121 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.70 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the 3.68 billion pounds produced in March 2002. Beef production, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year.

Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, up 1 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 1,234 pounds, down 7 pounds from March a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.5 million pounds, 10 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 85,100 head, up 10 percent from March 2002. The average live weight was 323 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.62 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.15 million head, 2 percent above March 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, up 1 pound from March a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 264,000 head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from March a year ago.

January - March red meat production was 11.27 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was up 8 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 15 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 8 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.70 million head on April 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below April 1, 2002 and 7 percent below April 1, 2001.

The inventory included 6.72 million steers and steer calves, down 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.92 million head, down 9 percent from 2002.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.04 million, 5 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.98 million.

During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 276,000, 600-699 pounds were 390,000, 700-799 pounds were 744,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 632,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.80 million, 1 percent below 2002 and 6 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 62,000 during March, 10 percent below 2002 and 37 percent below 2001.

U.S. Egg Production Down 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.36 billion during March 2003, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type.

The total number of layers during March 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,181 eggs, down 1 percent from March 2002.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2003, totaled 338 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2003, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.87 billion eggs during March 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 315 million, was down slightly from a year ago.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production Up 1 Percent from the Previous Year

During the January-March 2003 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 84 million pounds of milk, up 1 million pounds from the previous quarter a year ago. The inventory of milk cows was 18,000 head, unchanged from the previous year.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 43.0 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.16 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from March 2002.

February revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from February 2002. The February revision represented a decrease of 8 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,664 pounds for March, 10 pounds above March 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 67,000 head more than March 2002, and 2,000 head more than February 2003.

Will the Farm Act Get Pulses Racing?

Dry peas, lentils, and small chickpeas - pulse crops - are relatively minor in acreage, supply, and use in the U.S. compared with corn, soybeans, and wheat. However, pulses could be poised for expansion due to their inclusion in the 2002 Farm Act.

New marketing loan benefits, combined with agronomic advantages and a growing number of processors, may increase the attractiveness of planting pulse crops, particularly in the Northern Great Plains. Accommodating increased supply is likely to hinge on expanding current markets and creating new ones.

In the U.S., dry peas and lentils have traditionally been produced in the Palouse, an area centered along the borders of eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and northeast Oregon. Chickpeas, on the other hand, have long been grown in California. Since the mid-1990's, acreage of all 3 crops has expanded to the Northern Great Plains, with **North Dakota** emerging as the region's leader.

Processors, exporters, and industry representatives generally agree that if production of these commodities does expand, it will likely occur in the Northern Great Plains rather in the Palouse, because of greater land availability, lower land costs, and flatter terrain. While production outside this region is possible, expansion will likely be constrained by the fact that pulses are cool-season crops. Pulse acreage may increase in Nebraska, **eastern Montana**, Colorado, and Wyoming, while Arizona and New Mexico could see greater acreage planted to chickpeas.

SOURCE: *Will the Farm Act Get Pulses Racing?* Gregory K. Price/AGO-296, November 2002, Economic Research Service/USDA.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Crop Production	Poultry PDI
Hay Stocks	Ag Prices
Winter Wheat Production	Hogs & Pigs
Meat Animals PDI	
Milk PDI	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Planting
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Weekly Crop-Weather Reports Begin
Hogs & Pigs

2003 Planting Intentions

Montana **spring wheat** producers expect to seed 3.1 million acres in 2003 down 17 percent from last year. If these expectations hold, spring wheat seedings would be smallest acreage since 1993. Last years acreage was significantly impacted by the large number of acres of winter wheat abandoned and reseeded to spring wheat. Producer comments indicate that it is too early to tell how much winter wheat acreage will end up being abandoned and reseeded to spring wheat. **Winter wheat** seedings, at 1.85 million acres, are up 28 percent from last year due to more favorable fall planting conditions. Winter wheat conditions are better than a year ago and were rated 4% very poor, 18% poor, 60% fair, 16% good and 2% excellent for the month ending February 2003. While conditions are better than a year ago, the lack of precipitation in most areas of the state is a concern for the winter wheat crop breaking dormancy. Producers are expecting to plant 600,000 acres of **durum wheat** this spring, up 2 percent from a year ago. Adding the winter wheat seeded last fall to the other spring and durum wheat intended seedings shows 5.55 million acres of **all wheat** to be planted, down 4 percent from 2002.

Montana **barley** producers intend to plant an estimated 1.2 million acres, unchanged from the previous year. The intended seeded acreage for **oats** is expected to be 135,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the previous year. Growers intend to harvest 60,000 acres of the 2003 oat crop for grain, 5,000 acres more than a year ago. **Corn** growers intend to plant 60,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Farmers intend to plant 59,000 acres of **sugar beets**, up 2 percent from 2002. The area planted to **dry beans** is expected to be 25,000 acres, down 7 percent from last year. **Hay** growers are expected to harvest 2.6 million acres, which is unchanged from last year's figure.

In the United States, **all wheat** planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres in 2003, up 2 percent from 2002. **Winter wheat** planted area for the 2003 crop is 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002. The 2003 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 14.6 million, down 7 percent from last year. Of the total, about 13.8 million acres are Hard Red **Spring wheat**. Area planted to **Durum wheat** is intended to total 2.83 million acres, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Growers in the United States intend to seed 5.38 million acres of **barley** for 2003, up 6 percent from a year ago. The intended acreage in North Dakota is up 400,000 acres from last year. Acres seeded and to be seeded for **oats** is expected to total 4.83 million, down 4 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.20 million acres for grain, 5 percent more than the 2002 harvested acreage of 2.10 million. Growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but 4 percent above 2001. Area planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2003 crop year is expected to total 1.40 million acres, 2 percent below the 2002 planted area. Prospective plantings of **dry beans** in the U.S. totals 1.52 million acres, down 21 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago. Low prices for the 2002 crop pushed planting intentions down in 11 of the 18 major producing States.

U.S. producers expect to harvest 63.6 million acres of **all hay** in 2003, down 1 percent from 2002. Harvested acres for 2003 are expected to decrease in 17 States. North Dakota, down 900,000 acres, has the largest decrease following the drought conditions last year which resulted in more Conservation Reserve Program land and small grain acres harvested for hay.

The Montana 2003 prospective plantings and grain stocks estimates in this issue are the result of surveying approximately 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers in March. **SPECIAL THANKS** to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey.

Planted Acreage, 2001-2002 and Intended 2003 Montana and United States

	Montana				United States			
	2001	2002	2003	03/02	2001	2002	2003	03/02
	Thousand Acres			Pct	Thousand Acres			Pct
All Wheat	5,360.0	5,790.0	5,550.0	96	59,597.0	60,358.0	61,697.0	102
Winter Wheat	1,300.0	1,450.0	1,850.0	128	41,078.0	41,735.0	44,307.0	106
Durum Wheat	510.0	590.0	600.0	102	2,910.0	2,909.0	2,833.0	97
Other Spring Wheat	3,550.0	3,750.0	3,100.0	83	15,609.0	15,714.0	14,556.0	93
Barley	1,100.0	1,200.0	1,200.0	100	4,967.0	5,073.0	5,379.0	106
Oats	130.0	145.0	135.0	93	4,403.0	5,005.0	4,828.0	96
Corn	65.0	65.0	60.0	92	75,752.0	79,054.0	79,022.0	100
Sugar Beets	57.4	58.0	59.0	102	1,370.5	1,427.9	1,399.3	98
Dry Beans	43.5	26.9	25.0	93	1,435.9	1,922.1	1,522.8	79
All Hay Harvested	2,450.0	2,600.0	2,600	100	63,521.0	64,497.0	63,522.0	99

March 1, 2003 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on March 1, 2003 were 72.7 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 49.0 million bushels, down 21 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 23.7 million bushels, up 13 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the December - February 2003 quarter was up 53 percent from the same quarter last year to 39.8 million bushels, compared with 26.0 million a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003 were 15.0 million bushels, slightly higher than a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 8.5 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was down 7 percent from a year ago at 6.5 million bushels. All barley disappearance for the December - February 2003 quarter was 13.9 million bushels, up 62 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.7 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 1.6 million bushels down 6 percent from 1.7 million stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm was down 23 percent from last year to 115,000 bushels.

All wheat stored in the United States on March 1, 2003 totaled 905 million bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 233 million bushels, down 31 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 672 million bushels, are down 23 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2002 - February 2003 disappearance is 415 million bushels, up slightly from the same period a year earlier. U.S. durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 56.5 million bushels, up 9 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 31.7 million bushels, are up 5 percent from March 1, 2002. Off-farm stocks totaled 24.8 million bushels, up 15 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2002 - February 2003 disappearance of 20.2 million bushels is down 18 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 124 million bushels, down 13 percent from March 1, 2002. On-farm stocks are estimated at 36.7 million bushels, 20 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 86.8 million bushels, are 9 percent below March 1, 2002. Indicated disappearance during the December 2002 - February 2003 quarter totaled 46.5 million bushels, down 13 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in the United States on March 1, 2003 totaled 82.4 million bushels, 12 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2002. Of the total stocks on hand, 35.0 million bushels are stored on farms, 13 percent less than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 47.4 million bushels, 11 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during December 2002 - February 2003 totaled 21.3 million bushels, up 2 percent from the same period a year ago

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2003 totaled 5.13 billion bushels, down 11 percent from March 1, 2002. Of the total stocks, 2.94 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 12 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.19 billion bushels, are down 10 percent from the previous year. The December 2002 - February 2003 indicated disappearance is 2.51 billion bushels, compared with 2.47 billion bushels during the same period last year.

March 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 2002	Dec. 1, 2002	Mar. 1, 2003	'03/'02	Mar. 1, 2002	Dec. 1, 2002*	Mar. 1, 2003
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	62,000	87,000	49,000	79%	338,500	384,800	233,200
Off Farms 1/	20,930	25,440	23,680	113%	871,268	936,199	671,667
TOTAL	82,930	112,440	72,680	88%	1,209,768	1,320,999	904,867
DURUM WHEAT 2/							
On Farms 3/	--	--	--	--	30,200	49,500	31,700
Off Farms 1/, 3/	--	--	--	--	21,690	25,917	24,849
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	51,890	75,417	56,549
BARLEY							
On Farms	8,000	22,000	8,500	106%	46,000	83,400	36,730
Off Farms 1/	6,990	6,990	6,520	93%	95,748	86,601	86,783
TOTAL	14,990	28,990	15,020	100%	141,748	170,001	123,513
OATS							
On Farms	1,700	2,000	1,600	94%	40,200	52,300	35,000
Off Farms 1/	150	115	115	77%	53,158	51,294	47,438
TOTAL	1,850	2,115	1,715	93%	93,358	103,594	82,438
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,355,000	4,800,000	2,940,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,440,263	2,833,427	2,192,318
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	5,795,263	7,633,427	5,132,318

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.
*Revised.

Agricultural Prices Received

February 2003 full month crop prices were generally lower compared with January 2003. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.73 per bushel, down $0.24 from the previous month; spring wheat prices fell $0.31 to $3.84 per bushel; and durum wheat prices increased $0.13 to $4.75 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped $0.03 from the previous month to $2.18, and malt barley prices rose $0.03 to $3.15 per bushel. Oat prices fell $0.05 from the previous month to $1.83.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay was up $3.00 to $85.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $1.00 to $72.00 per ton. Mid-March grain prices were mostly lower than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.50 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.80 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.60 per bushel, feed barley was $2.17 per bushel and malt barley averaged $3.28 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mostly lower than the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $2.70 to $80.00 per cwt, while cows increased $3.40 to $40.80. The average price for calves decreased $2.30 to $93.50 per cwt. Sheep prices remained unchanged at $43.50 per cwt and lamb prices were unchanged at $103.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $1.40 per cwt from last month to $11.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $76.20 per cwt.; cows averaged $41.10 per cwt.; calves averaged $94.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $11.50 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was $3.52, down $0.14, spring wheat was $3.79, down $0.25; durum wheat was $4.24, up $0.01; the all barley price was $2.87, up $0.02, and steer and heifer prices were $78.10, up $0.30 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was $3.27 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.69 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.13 per bushel, all wheat was $3.49 per bushel, malt barley was $3.14 per bushel, feed barley was $2.35 per bushel, and all barley was $2.92. Steer and heifer prices were $76.20 per cwt, cow prices were $39.80, calves were $96.40 per cwt., all hog prices were $35.00 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.687 per dozen.

The March All Farm Products Index is 99 percent of its 1990-92 base, unchanged from the February index but 6.6 percent below the March 2002 index.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	February 2002	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003
Prices Received	99	106	99	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	123	123	128	128
Ratio 2/	80	86	77	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Feb. 2003	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2002	March 15, 2003	March 15, 2003
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.03	3.97	3.73	3.52	-0.24	+0.70	3.50	3.27
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.92	4.62	4.75	4.24	+0.13	+0.83	4.60	4.13
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.98	4.15	3.84	3.79	-0.31	+0.86	3.80	3.69
All Wheat	Bu.	3.05	4.16	3.93	3.68	-0.23	+0.88	3.84	3.49
Barley, All	Bu.	2.73	2.80	2.81	2.87	+0.01	+0.08	2.89	2.92
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.97	2.21	2.18	2.20	-0.03	+0.21	2.17	2.35
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.97	3.12	3.15	3.06	+0.03	+0.18	3.28	3.14
Oats	Bu.	2.16	1.88	1.83	2.09	-0.05	-0.33	N/A	1.94
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	94.00	87.00	82.00	96.40	-5.00	-12.00	85.00	96.20
All Other Hay	Ton	90.00	76.00	73.00	79.40	-3.00	-17.00	72.00	82.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	94.00	85.00	81.00	91.80	-4.00	-13.00	84.00	92.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	83.80	82.70	80.00	78.10	-2.70	-3.80	76.20	76.20
Cows	Cwt	39.50	37.40	40.80	38.90	+3.40	+1.30	41.10	39.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	75.80	76.40	73.70	74.00	-2.70	-2.10	71.30	72.20
Calves	Cwt	102.00	95.80	93.50	97.30	-2.30	-8.50	94.00	96.40
Sheep 2/	Cwt	31.50	43.50	43.50	43.60	0	+12.00	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	69.70	103.00	103.00	92.40	0	+33.30	NA	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.10	12.80	11.40	11.40	-1.40	-1.70	11.50	11.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Weekly Crop-Weather Reports

The 2003 growing season is upon us, and with it begins the weekly Crop-Weather Report. Undoubtedly, this is one of the most useful reports for producers, agribusinesses, and market analysts. The report provides up-to-date conditions and progress of Montana's crops, as well as pertinent data on moisture supplies and weather information.

We will resume publication of the weekly reports April 7, 2003. These will continue through November 3 when the last 2003 weekly report will be issued. At that time, monthly reports will resume.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2003, was 58.1 million head. This was 2 percent below March 1, 2002, and 2 percent below December 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 5.96 million head, was down 4 percent from March 1, 2002, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year and 3 percent below last quarter.

The December 2002-February 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 24.4 million head, was 2 percent less than 2002, and 2 percent more than 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.77 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.81 pigs saved per litter for the December 2002-February 2003 period, compared to 8.74 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.84 million sows farrow during the March-May 2003 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001. Intended farrowings for June-August 2003, at 2.79 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in both 2002 and 2001.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 35 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 31 percent last year.

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2002 through December 2002 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, import, and export data in U.S. level balance sheets. Based on the findings of this review, adjustments of one percent were made to the September 1, 2002 inventory, two percent to the June-August 2002 pig crop, and one percent to the December 1, 2002 inventory.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Montana's Rank
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Specialty Crops Co. Estimates
- Red Meat Production
- Egg Production

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Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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Issue: 03-06 (0279-0394) Released: March 25, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Red Meat Production
February Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Organic Grains, Legumes, Oilseeds
Sheep & Lamb Losses
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

Annual Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 16.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2002, compared with 16.4 million pounds in 2001. There were 20,200 cattle slaughtered during 2002, up 2% from the previous year. The total live weight of 23.3 million pounds was up 2% from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 3 pounds to 1,152 pounds.

There were 15,000 hogs slaughtered in Montana, an increase of 1,300 head from 2001. Total live weight at 3.5 million pounds was up 6% from the last year. The average live weight was 236 pounds per head compared with 244 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,800 head, an increase of 200 head from a year earlier. The average live weight at 122 pounds was 2 pounds heavier than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2002 increased 9% from 2001 to 465,000 pounds.

The number of federally inspected slaughter plants in Montana on January 1, 2003, was 10, down one plant from 2001. There were 147 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2003, up 8 from the same date a year ago.

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the United States totaled 47.3 billion pounds in 2002, a new record high. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 47.2 billion pounds.

Beef production, at 27.2 billion pounds, rose 1% above the previous record high set in 2000. Veal production totaled 205.2 million pounds, up 1% from the record low set last year. Pork production, at 19.7 billion pounds, was 2% above the record high set in 1999. Lamb and mutton production totaled 222.2 million pounds, falling 3% below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2002 totaled 35.7 million head, up 1% from 2001, with federal inspection comprising 98.3% of the total. The average live weight was 1,251 pounds, up 30 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.9% of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.3%, dairy cows 7.4%, other cows 8.7%, and bulls 1.7%.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.05 million head, up 4% from a year ago with 97.5% under federal inspection. The average live weight was 312 pounds, down 8 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 100.3 million head, up 2% from 2001, with 98.7% of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight, at 265 pounds, was up 1 pound from last year. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.5% of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, totaled 3.29 million head, up 2% from 2001, with 94.1% comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight fell 7 pounds from 2001 to 133 pounds.

There were 879 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2003, compared with 881 last year. Of these, 706 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2002 with 15 slaughtering over 56% of the total cattle killed. There were 683 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 13 accounting for 57% of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 268 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 49% of the total and 7 of the 525 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2002 comprised 80% of the total head. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for over 52% of the United States commercial red meat production in 2002.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 2003, down 2% from February 2002 and 6% from January 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, down 6% from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,146 pounds, decreased 1 pound from last year.

During February there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 237 pounds, was up 3% from last year. February sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, the same as February 2002. The average live weight decreased 3% from last year to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.50 billion pounds in February, virtually unchanged from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2002.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 2% below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 2% from February 2002. The average live weight was 1,261 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

Veal production totaled 15.8 million pounds, 10% above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 83,100 head, up 14% from February 2002. The average live weight was 316 pounds, down 10 pounds from February a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.52 billion pounds, up 3% from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.68 million head, 2% above February 2002. The average live weight was 267 pounds, unchanged from February a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was down 16% from February 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,200 head, 14% below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 4 pounds from February a year ago.

National Agricultural Week, March16-22, is a good time to say thanks to all of Montana's agricultural producers that supply food and fiber to people in Montana, across the country, and around the world. Thank you!

Montana Potato Stocks Down 13 Percent, U.S. Up 3 percent

Montana potato producers held 2.8 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2003, down 13 percent from the previous year. Eighty-seven percent of the 2002 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 164 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2003, up 3 percent from last year but 17 percent below 2001. Storage accounts for 40 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance, at 247 million cwt, from the start of harvest in 2002 to March 1, is up 8 percent from the same period last year but 5 percent below two years ago. February disappearance was 33.6 million cwt, virtually unchanged from a year ago but 8 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 22.2 million cwt, is up 2 percent from last year but 24 percent below two years ago.

Processors used 126 million cwt of 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago. February usage of 18.8 million cwt is 2 percent above last year and 3 percent above two years ago. Dehydrators used 28.0 million cwt to date. This processing report does not include chip potatoes from the Klamath Basin of Oregon and California.

Western States held 121 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, up 6 percent from last year but 18 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 7 percent from last year and Colorado's are up 35 percent. Washington's potato stocks are 2 percent above last year, but Oregon's storage is down 14 percent. California's stocks are 67 percent above last year and Montana's are up 14 percent.

February Milk Production Up

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2002. January revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2002. The January revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,485 pounds for February, 13 pounds above February 2002. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 66,000 head more than February 2002, and 3,000 head more than January 2003.

Organic Grains, Legumes, and Oilseeds

Organic farming is one of the fastest growing segments of U.S. agriculture. As consumer interest continues to gather momentum, many U.S. producers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers are specializing in growing, processing, and marketing an ever-widening array of organic agricultural and food products.

Organic grain, oilseed, and legume production relies on ecologically based practices, such as biological pest management and composting, and crops are produced on land that has had no prohibited substances applied to it for at least 3 years prior to harvest. Soil fertility and crop nutrients are managed through tillage and cultivation practices, crop rotations, and cover crops, supplemented with manure and crop waste material and allowed synthetic substances. Crop pests, weeds, and diseases are controlled through physical, mechanical, and biological control management methods.

U.S. farmers produced certified organic grain crops on over 291,000 acres in 1997. A variety of certified organic grains was grown in 35 States in 1997

North Dakota was the top producing State, with over 50,000 acres. Another dozen States - **Montana,** Minnesota, Idaho, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Utah, Kansas, California, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Texas - had at least 10,000 certified organic acres of grain crops

Corn, wheat, and **oats** were grown organically in over 24 States in 1997. **Wheat** was produced under certified organic farming systems on over 125,000 acres in 1997, **corn** was grown on over 42,000 acres, and **oats** and **barley** were each grown on almost 30,000 acres. Other certified organic grain crops - **sorghum, rice** (including wild rice), **spelt, millet, buckwheat**, and **rye** - were grown on under 15,000 acres each. State and private groups certified another 22,967 acres of organic grain crops in 1997 that could not be broken out into acreage for specific crops.

Certified organic grain acreage was well under 1 percent of the U.S. total for **corn, wheat, barley**, and **rice**. However, between 1 and 3.5 percent of the U.S. **oats, millet**, and **rye** crops were certified organic in 1997. About a third of two specialty grain crops - **spelt** (used in cereals and other food products) and **buckwheat** - were grown under certified organic farming systems in 1997.

Soybeans are the top legume crop grown under certified organic farming systems. U.S. growers produced over 82,000 acres of certified organic soybeans in 1997. Organic soybeans accounted for 0.1 percent of total soybean acreage in the United States.

Certified organic **dry peas** and **lentils** were grown on nearly 5,200 acres in the United States in 1997. **Montana** and **North Dakota** led with over 1,500 acres each. Organic dry peas and lentils accounted for about 1 percent of the total dry pea and lentil acreage in the United States in 1997.

Certified organic **dry beans** were grown on over 4,600 acres in 1997, and California had almost a quarter of those acres.

Certified organic oilseeds - including **flax** and **sunflowers** - were grown on 31,400 acres in 18 States in 1997. Certified organic sunflowers were grown on almost 11,000 acres, and flax was grown on over 8,000 acres. **North Dakota** was by far the biggest producer, with over 7,000 acres of flax and 4,500 acres of sunflowers. Certified organic flax represented almost 6 percent of total U.S. flax acreage in 1997, while organic sunflowers represented 0.4 percent of the total sunflower acreage.

SOURCE: *Recent Growth Patterns in the U.S. Organic Foods Market*, Catherine Greene/AIB-777, September 2002, Economic Research Service/USDA.

Sheep and Lamb Losses for 2002

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 67,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2002, representing a total value of more than $4.1 million. While the total number of sheep and lambs lost increased only 1,000 head from last year, the total value of inventory lost was 29 percent higher than a year ago. Higher average market prices this past year resulted in an increase to sheep and lamb values. Total inventory is 7 percent lower than the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 9.9 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born -- slightly more than the previous year.

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 21,400 head, up 1,500 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 16,500 head, down 2 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 4,900, up 1,800 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated $1.3 million in losses in 2002, up 50 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 3.2 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 32 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 65 percent of the predator caused losses and 21 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $809,200.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.5 million in 2002, 24 percent above the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 60 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses was weather conditions at 13,400 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 10,900 head, 19 percent higher than 2001. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 29,000 head, 3,900 head higher than a year ago.

Producers reported less sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. This resulted in a 24 percent decrease in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 3,500 head, compared with 5,100 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 2,200 sheep, 200 head less than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes was $384,200.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.52 million head on March 1, 2003. The inventory was down 9 percent from the 11.52 million head on March 1, 2002 and 10 percent below March 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.66 million, 8 percent below 2002 but 5 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.59 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 263,000, 600-699 pounds were 376,000, 700-799 pounds were 597,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 421,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.73 million, 4 percent below 2002 and 1 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 71,000 during February, 13 percent above 2002 but 12 percent below 2001.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Losses by Cause, Montana, 2001-2002

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Predators												
Fox	–	100	–	9.8	900	1,200	32.3	57.8	900	1,300	32.3	67.6
Dog	500	500	40.0	49.0	600	500	21.5	24.1	1,100	1,000	61.5	73.1
Coyote	2,100	2,800	168.0	274.4	12,200	11,100	437.7	534.8	14,300	13,900	605.7	809.2
Eagle	100	100	8.0	9.8	1,500	1,500	53.8	72.3	1,600	1,600	61.8	82.1
Bobcat	–	100	–	9.8	100	200	3.6	9.6	100	300	3.6	19.4
Bear	200	300	16.0	29.4	300	300	10.8	14.5	500	600	26.8	43.9
Mountain Lion	100	200	8.0	19.6	300	500	10.8	24.1	400	700	18.8	43.7
Wolf	–	300	–	29.4	–	200	–	9.6	–	500	–	39.0
Other Animals	–	200	–	19.6	–	200	–	9.6	–	400	–	29.2
Unknown Predators	100	300	8.0	29.4	900	800	32.3	38.5	1,000	1,100	40.3	67.9
Total Predators	**3,100**	**4,900**	**248.0**	**480.2**	**16,800**	**16,500**	**602.8**	**795.0**	**19,900**	**21,400**	**850.8**	**1,275.2**
Non-Predators												
All Diseases	2,200	1,500	176.0	147.0	8,300	6,600	297.8	318.0	10,500	8,100	473.8	465.0
Weather Conditions	1,200	1,900	96.0	186.2	7,100	11,500	254.7	554.1	8,300	13,400	350.7	740.3
Poison	1,100	800	88.0	78.4	500	700	17.9	33.7	1,600	1,500	105.9	112.1
Lambing Complications	1,800	1,700	144.0	166.6	5,600	6,200	200.9	298.7	7,400	7,900	344.9	465.3
On Back	1,200	700	96.0	68.6	–	100	–	4.8	1,200	800	96.0	73.4
Old Age	5,000	2,500	400.0	245.0					5,000	2,500	400.0	245.0
Theft	300	300	24.0	29.4	500	600	17.9	28.9	800	900	41.9	58.3
Other	700	1,500	56.0	147.0	3,100	3,300	111.2	159.0	3,800	4,800	167.2	306.0
Total Non-Predators	**13,500**	**10,900**	**1,080.0**	**1,068.2**	**25,100**	**29,000**	**900.6**	**1,397.2**	**38,600**	**39,900**	**1,980.6**	**2,465.4**
Unknown Causes	**2,400**	**2,200**	**192.0**	**215.6**	**5,100**	**3,500**	**183.0**	**168.6**	**7,500**	**5,700**	**375.0**	**384.2**
Total Loss	**19,000**	**18,000**	**1,520.0**	**1,764.0**	**47,000**	**49,000**	**1,686.4**	**2,360.8**	**66,000**	**67,000**	**3,206.4**	**4,124.8**

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. – Denotes less than 100 head.

U.S. February Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 6.62 billion during February 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.63 billion table eggs and 985 million hatching eggs, of which 927 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type.

The total number of layers during February 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,957 eggs, up 1 percent from February 2002.

February 2003 contained 20 weekdays, one holiday and four Saturdays, the same as February 2002.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2003, totaled 338 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table type eggs, 57.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.62 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2003, averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.18 billion eggs during February 2003, up slightly from a year ago. The average number of layers during February, at 316 million, was down slightly from a year ago.

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Ag Prices Received
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Grain Stocks
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Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Wheat & Barley Movement
Farms & Land in Farms
All Wheat County Estimates
Agricultural Prices
Hogs & Pigs
Honey

Wheat and Barley Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June - November 2002 period, at 59.5 million bushels, was 74% higher than a year ago.

Over 89% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 52.8 million bushels, up 86% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations were also up during this period, totaling 3.4 million bushels compared with 1.7 million a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 3.3 million bushels, down 17% from year ago.

Wheat shipped by rail, amounted to 56.4 million bushels, 95% of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 3.1 million bushels, 3% higher than last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 5% of the total, lower than a year ago.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June - November 2002 period was 7.5 million bushels, down 14% from the same period last year.

Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for eastern destinations deceased from 5.0 million bushels last year to 3.8 million bushels this year. Shipments to western destinations were down from the same period last year, at 1.9 million bushels. Shipments to other destinations were up 0.7 million bushels from last year to 1.8 million bushels this year.

Barley shipped by rail amounted to 5.2 million bushels, down 2.1 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 69% of total movement, down from 83% from the same period last year.

Land in Farms 2002

The number of farms and ranches in Montana increased to 28,000 during 2002, 500 more than the revised number of farms a year earlier. Farms and ranches are sub-grouped by economic sales classes which give a clearer picture of where the changes occurred. The smallest economic sales category, the $1,000 to $9,999 sales group showed the biggest increase with 500 more farms in 2002, up from 11,000 farms in 2001. With 11,500 farms, the $1,000 to $9,999 sales group contains the largest number of farms. Although many producers in this class left agriculture altogether, the total number of operators in this group increased due to poor economic conditions in 2002. The next economic sales category, $10,000 to $99,999, shows 9,900 farms in 2002 compared with 10,000 in 2001 and the economic sales class of $100,000 or more increased 100 farms from 2001 to 6,600 farms in 2002.

The land in farms and ranches is estimated at 56.7 million acres, unchanged from the previous two years. The economic sales breakdown of land in farm and ranches follows: $1,000 to $9,999 - 3.5 million acres compared with 3.7 million in 2001; $10,000 to $99,999 - 15.7 million acres, down from 15.9 million last year; $100,000 or more of sales - 37.5 million acres, up from the 37.1 million acres in 2001. These numbers show that producers are shifting between sales categories with many moving into lower value of sales and others increasing their size of farms and value of sales. The acreage increase in the largest economic sales category reflects the consolidation of operations that were necessary to compete in today's tough agricultural environment.

(Continued on back page.)

Shipments Out-of-State	June - November 2001 1/				June - November 2002 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	*(000) Bushels*							
West 3/	277	1,717	1,994	919	775	1,805	2,580	833
North Central	2,579	6,007	8,586	7,128	4,712	20,146	24,858	6,323
Northeast	509	18,997	19,506	485	1,941	24,752	26,693	79
Central	295	1,024	1,319	206	882	1,122	2,004	286
South Central	896	510	1,406	36	1,990	587	2,577	13
Southeast	698	650	1,348	0	82	664	746	0
TOTAL SHIPPED	5,254	28,905	34,159	8,774	10,382	49,076	59,458	7,534
Mode & Destination	*(000) Bushels*							
Trucked East	31	248	279	343	64	236	300	327
Trucked West	961	1,254	2,215	357	1,020	1,294	2,314	467
Trucked Other 4/	100	426	526	768	99	399	498	1,558
Total By Truck	1,092	1,928	3,020	1,468	1,183	1,929	3,112	2,352
Rail East	0	1,463	1,463	4,690	0	3,060	3,060	3,456
Rail West	3,975	22,260	26,235	2,281	9,019	41,468	50,487	1,463
Rail Other 4/	187	3,254	3,441	335	180	2,619	2,799	263
Total by Rail	4,162	26,977	31,139	7,306	9,199	47,147	56,346	5,182
TOTAL SHIPPED	5,254	28,905	34,159	8,774	10,382	49,076	59,458	7,534

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data was expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.
Note: Special thanks to the Grain Trade for their cooperation in this project.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2002

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Pro-duction Bu.
					Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	19,900	19,900	19,500	55.1	1,074,000	24	8,500	8,500	60.1	511,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	10,700	10,600	10,300	51.3	528,000	28	6,600	6,300	67.5	425,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,600	2,600	1,700	37.1	63,000	47	--	--	--	--
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	1,100	1,100	900	46.7	42,000	48	500	500	70.0	35,000
Sanders	600	600	500	48.0	24,000	50	--	--	--	--
Other	1,300	1,300	1,300	36.9	48,000	--	1,400	1,300	53.1	69,000
NORTHWEST	**36,200**	**36,100**	**34,200**	**52.0**	**1,779,000**	**--**	**17,000**	**16,600**	**62.7**	**1,040,000**
Blaine	180,000	171,700	163,900	26.5	4,338,000	9	4,600	4,000	50.3	201,000
Chouteau	712,200	555,700	516,100	20.6	10,625,000	1	--	--	--	--
Glacier	136,300	132,100	126,400	23.8	3,014,000	16	1,400	1,400	29.3	41,000
Hill	543,200	462,200	442,400	19.8	8,753,000	2	--	--	--	--
Liberty	366,300	263,000	239,700	19.3	4,619,000	8	--	--	--	--
Phillips	102,000	100,500	93,200	25.5	2,373,000	18	1,900	1,700	40.0	68,000
Pondera	217,800	166,000	146,800	29.1	4,269,000	10	11,800	8,700	51.3	446,000
Teton	154,700	129,100	111,600	24.3	2,709,000	17	4,000	3,600	47.8	172,000
Toole	286,500	261,700	253,200	23.7	6,001,000	7	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,900	2,700	51.9	140,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,699,000**	**2,242,000**	**2,093,300**	**22.3**	**46,701,000**	**--**	**27,600**	**22,100**	**48.3**	**1,068,000**
Daniels	287,000	287,000	276,000	21.8	6,016,000	6	--	--	--	--
Dawson	168,800	168,800	159,200	21.1	3,362,000	15	2,600	2,400	56.3	135,000
Garfield	72,200	71,100	64,000	16.6	1,063,000	25	--	--	--	--
McCone	221,100	220,500	191,500	21.4	4,099,000	12	2,500	2,500	43.2	108,000
Richland	153,500	153,200	144,900	24.1	3,495,000	13	13,000	12,000	58.7	704,000
Roosevelt	322,500	322,300	309,200	25.9	8,004,000	3	3,000	3,000	52.0	156,000
Sheridan	332,000	332,000	321,000	22.3	7,144,000	4	1,500	1,500	45.3	68,000
Valley	295,900	295,200	286,800	24.4	6,998,000	5	6,300	5,400	43.9	237,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**1,853,000**	**1,850,100**	**1,752,600**	**22.9**	**40,181,000**	**--**	**28,900**	**26,800**	**52.5**	**1,408,000**
Broadwater	38,500	38,500	35,300	33.5	1,182,000	23	10,200	7,700	70.1	540,000
Cascade	149,400	138,100	129,300	26.1	3,369,000	14	2,500	2,100	69.5	146,000
Fergus	173,800	162,500	149,700	28.2	4,218,000	11	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	34,200	26,000	10,200	17.2	175,000	41	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	76,700	76,700	62,600	25.8	1,616,000	20	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	11,900	11,900	11,500	39.3	452,000	30	2,500	2,500	70.8	177,000
Meagher	10,200	10,200	9,600	20.8	200,000	39	--	--	--	--
Musselshell	42,500	40,600	27,600	17.8	491,000	29	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	25,400	22,200	13,800	8.3	115,000	43	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	45,400	45,400	40,600	8.9	362,000	33	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,300	1,700	72.9	124,000
CENTRAL	**608,000**	**572,100**	**490,200**	**24.8**	**12,180,000**	**--**	**17,500**	**14,000**	**70.5**	**987,000**
Beaverhead	7,400	7,200	6,000	38.5	231,000	37	3,700	3,500	54.0	189,000
Gallatin	49,000	48,900	47,000	49.4	2,321,000	19	15,100	14,900	75.7	1,128,000
Jefferson	3,000	3,000	2,800	50.4	141,000	42	--	--	--	--
Madison	7,600	7,600	7,200	36.8	265,000	34	3,200	3,200	48.8	156,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	100	100	50.0	5,000
SOUTHWEST	**67,000**	**66,700**	**63,000**	**47.0**	**2,958,000**	**--**	**22,100**	**21,700**	**68.1**	**1,478,000**
Big Horn	115,600	103,200	73,100	17.6	1,287,000	21	10,600	8,400	49.2	413,000
Carbon	6,700	6,700	5,000	22.4	112,000	44	--	--	--	--
Park	9,200	9,200	7,400	29.2	216,000	38	--	--	--	--
Stillwater	36,000	32,900	22,100	11.4	251,000	35	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	3,100	3,100	2,400	14.6	35,000	49	--	--	--	--
Treasure	4,900	4,900	4,200	43.6	183,000	40	2,300	2,300	66.5	153,000
Yellowstone	98,000	85,600	64,300	19.4	1,250,000	22	1,300	1,100	86.4	95,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,900	1,600	40.0	64,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**273,500**	**245,600**	**178,500**	**18.7**	**3,334,000**	**--**	**16,100**	**13,400**	**54.1**	**725,000**
Carter	45,000	43,100	10,800	9.3	100,000	46	--	--	--	--
Custer	27,800	27,800	12,800	19.0	243,000	36	800	600	58.3	35,000
Fallon	44,000	43,300	28,400	14.7	418,000	31	--	--	--	--
Powder River	19,000	17,800	7,900	12.8	101,000	45	--	--	--	--
Prairie	31,700	31,700	16,300	25.2	410,000	32	2,100	2,000	64.5	129,000
Rosebud	47,000	47,000	42,100	19.8	833,000	26	1,900	1,600	74.4	119,000
Wibaux	38,800	38,700	34,900	18.8	657,000	27	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**253,300**	**249,400**	**153,200**	**18.0**	**2,762,000**	**--**	**4,800**	**4,200**	**67.4**	**283,000**
MONTANA	**5,790,000**	**5,262,000**	**4,765,000**	**23.1**	**109,895,000**	**--**	**134,000**	**118,800**	**58.8**	**6,989,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of wheat are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat.

January Agricultural Prices

January 2003 full month crop prices were lower compared with December 2002. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.97 per bushel, down $0.27 from the previous month; spring wheat prices fell $0.33 to $4.15 per bushel; and durum wheat prices decreased $0.05 to $4.62 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped $0.03 from the previous month to $2.21, and malt barley prices fell $0.11 to $3.12 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay was down $5.00 to $82.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $3.00 to $73.00 per ton. Mid-February grain prices were mostly lower than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $3.69 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.11 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.34 per bushel, feed barley was $2.21 per bushel and malt barley averaged $3.05 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mostly higher than the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $0.80 to $82.70 per cwt, while cows increased $1.40 to $37.40. The average price for calves increased $1.20 to $95.80 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $2.90 to $43.50 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $9.00 to $103.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.70 per cwt from last month to $12.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $81.10 per cwt.; cows averaged $41.00 per cwt.; calves averaged $96.30 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.60 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was $3.66, down $0.19, spring wheat was $4.04, down $0.16; durum wheat was $4.23, down $0.01; the all barley price was $2.85, down $0.18, and steer and heifer prices were $77.80, up $2.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was $3.53 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.93 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.17 per bushel, all wheat was $3.71 per bushel, malt barley was $3.13 per bushel, feed barley was $2.23 per bushel, and all barley was $2.85. Steer and heifer prices were $78.90 per cwt, cow prices were $38.10, calves were $97.60 per cwt., all hog prices were $34.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.640 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the January index. Higher prices for cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, broilers, eggs, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and oranges.

U.S. January Pig Crop Down 2 Percent

The January 2003 U.S. pig crop at 8.13 million head, was 2 percent below the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 930 thousand head, 2 percent below last year. The average pigs per litter for January increased to 8.74, compared to 8.73 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on February 1, 2003, was 5.81 million head, down 3 percent from February 1, 2002. U.S. sows and gilts bred during January totaled 1.15 million head, down 3 percent from the previous year.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	January 2002	February 2002	January 2003	February 2003
Prices Received	95	99	99	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	122	123	127	127
Ratio 2/	78	80	78	78

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2002	Feb. 15 2003	Feb. 15 2003
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.10	4.24	3.97	3.66	-0.27	+0.87	3.69	3.53
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.00	4.67	4.62	4.23	-0.05	+0.62	4.34	4.17
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.04	4.48	4.15	4.04	-0.33	+1.11	4.11	3.93
All Wheat	Bu.	3.16	4.45	4.16	3.89	-0.29	+1.00	4.05	3.71
Barley, All	Bu.	2.62	3.00	2.80	2.85	-0.20	+0.18	2.76	2.85
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.94	2.24	2.21	2.17	-0.03	+0.27	2.21	2.23
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.00	3.23	3.12	3.08	-0.11	+0.12	3.05	3.13
Oats	Bu.	1.96	N/A	1.88	2.05	0	-0.08	N/A	2.02
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	95.00	86.00	87.00	97.60	+1.00	-8.00	82.00	96.40
All Other Hay	Ton	91.00	75.00	76.00	79.60	+1.00	-15.00	73.00	79.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	94.00	85.00	85.00	92.90	0	-9.00	81.00	91.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	84.20	83.50	82.70	77.80	-0.80	-1.50	81.10	78.90
Cows	Cwt	37.20	36.00	37.40	36.90	+1.40	+0.20	41.00	38.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	75.70	72.60	76.40	73.20	+3.80	+0.70	75.50	74.60
Calves	Cwt	101.00	94.60	95.80	96.80	+1.20	-5.20	96.30	97.60
Sheep 2/	Cwt	32.50	40.60	43.50	41.30	+2.90	+11.00	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	69.90	94.00	103.00	92.00	+9.00	+33.10	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.30	12.10	12.80	11.70	+0.70	-1.50	12.60	11.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Land in Farms (continued)

The number of farms and ranches in Montana increased to 28,000 during 2002, 500 more than the revised number of farms a year earlier. Farms and ranches are sub-grouped by economic sales classes which give a clearer picture of where the changes occurred. The smallest economic sales category, the $1,000 to $9,999 sales group showed the biggest increase with 500 more farms in 2002, up from 11,000 farms in 2001. With 11,500 farms, the $1,000 to $9,999 sales group contains the largest number of farms. Although many producers in this class left agriculture altogether, the total number of operators in this group increased due to poor economic conditions in 2002. The next economic sales category, $10,000 to $99,999, shows 9,900 farms in 2002 compared with 10,000 in 2001 and the economic sales class of $100,000 or more increased 100 farms from 2001 to 6,600 farms in 2002.

The land in farms and ranches is estimated at 56.7 million acres, unchanged from the previous two years. The economic sales breakdown of land in farm and ranches follows: $1,000 to $9,999 - 3.5 million acres compared with 3.7 million in 2001; $10,000 to $99,999 - 15.7 million acres, down from 15.9 million last year; $100,000 or more of sales - 37.5 million acres, up from the 37.1 million acres in 2001. These numbers show that producers are shifting between sales categories with many moving into lower value of sales and others increasing their size of farms and value of sales. The acreage increase in the largest economic sales category reflects the consolidation of operations that were necessary to compete in today's tough agricultural environment.

Honey Production

Honey produced in Montana by producers with five or more colonies during 2002 was 8.4 million pounds of honey, down 39% from 2001. The estimate of honey production and colonies includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 134,000 colonies producing honey in 2002, compared with 136,000 colonies in 2001. The honey yield per colony was 63 pounds, down 39 pounds from a year ago. Stocks on hand on December 15, 2002 totaled 1.1 million pounds, down 3.5 million pounds from 2001. The improved honey prices resulted in lower percentage of the honey crop on hand December 15, 2002. Prices for Montana honey increased 68 cents per pound from last year to $1.35 per pound in 2002. The value of 2002 honey production was $11.4 million dollars, up 23% from last year.

U.S. honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8% from 2001. There were 2.52million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1% from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8% from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40% from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices for the U.S. increased to a record high during 2002 to 128.6 cents, up 83% from 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2002 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2001 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2002, which caused some revisions to the 2001 crop prices.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses	Egg Production
Annual Red Meat Production	Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks	
Milk Production	
Cattle on Feed	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Values
Alfalfa Seed Production
Crop County Estimates Available
U.S. & Canadian Cattle Inventory
U.S. Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
U.S. Milk Production
Farm Labor
Potato Stocks
Grazing Fee Rates
Egg Production

2002 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 2002 **all wheat** crop rose 54% from 2001 to $466.7 million. Total production was up 14% and the season average price increased $1.11 per bushel. The 2002 season average price for all wheat was $4.25 per bushel compared with $3.14 last season.

The value of Montana's **winter wheat** crop increased 39% from last year to $81.9 million. The preliminary season average price was up 83 cents to $3.90 per bushel. **Spring wheat's** value of production was at $326.4 million, up 63% from 2001. The season average price increased $1.24 per bushel to $4.30. **Durum wheat's** season average price increased 70 cents from 2001 to $4.50 per bushel. The total crop value of $58.5 million was up 30% from 2001 and is the highest durum wheat value of production on record.

The value of Montana's **oats** crop increased 15% from 2001 to $5.39 million. The season average price increased 4 cents to $2.00 per bushel. Total value of production for **barley** was estimated at $115.7 million, up 48% from the previous year. The 2002 season average price, at $2.90, was up 25 cents from 2001.

Montana's value of production for **flaxseed** increased 53% to $1.2 million dollars. The price per bushel increased $1.80 to $6.15. **Dry edible beans** value of production was estimated at $5.5 million, down 16% from 2001. The average price dropped $2.10 per cwt to $15.20.

Value of production for **dry edible peas** in Montana, at $1.42 million, increased 16% from 2001. The average price per cwt increased $2.00 to $6.90. **Austrian winter peas** value of production for the 2002 crop decreased 15% to $187,000. The average price per cwt was $9.35, down $1.65 from last year. Lentils value of production dropped 23% from 2001 to $1.86 million. The average price increased $1.50 to $12.50 per cwt.

Montana's value of production for **potatoes** was $36.75 million, up 22% from the previous year. The average price per cwt was $11.40, $2.25 above 2001.

Sugar beets value of production for 2001 is estimated at $44.62 million, down 3% from the previous year. The season average price jumped $4.10 per cwt from 2000 to $38.80.

The season average price for **all hay** decreased $10.00 from last year to $84.00 per ton. The value of production was down 8% to $379.1 million.

Alfalfa hay's 2002 season average price was estimated at $85.50, down $10.00 from last year while **other hay's** season average price decreased $11.00 to $76.00.

Alfalfa Seed Production Down

Alfalfa seed production for 2002 was estimated at 1.383 million pounds, down 58% from the 3.30 million pounds produced last year. Harvested acreage, at 5,000, was down from 9,000 acres in 2001. The state average yield was estimated at 277 pounds per acre, down from 367 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yield averaged 412 pounds per acre, down from 477 pounds per acre in 2001 and non-irrigated yields averaged 56 pounds per acre, up 12 pounds per acre from last year.

Producers used an average of 3.0 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre harvested for alfalfa seed in 2002, compared with 2.1 gallons per acre in 2001. Leaf cutter bees were used on 72% of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 3.6 gallons per acre and 12% of the reported non-irrigated acres at the rate of 2.0 gallons per acre. Alfalfa seed growers who utilized leaf cutter bees produced an average of 5% more seed per acre irrigated acre and 105% more per non-irrigated acre than those that did not use bees to pollinate their crop.

Proprietary varieties made up 68% of this year's production, down 20 percentage points from last year. Common uncertified varieties accounted for 31% of the production and common certified varieties represented 1 percent.

The average price received for the 2002 crop was $1.15 per pound, down 12 cents from last year's average price.

Montana's north-central district lead regional production by harvesting 36.2% of the state's alfalfa seed. The south-central district was the second largest production area with 28.0 percent.

ALFALFA SEED: Estimates by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 2002

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	1,600	313	501,000	1,300	370	481,000	300	67	20,000
Northeast	600	235	141,000	200	650	130,000	400	28	11,000
Central	400	400	160,000	300	487	146,000	100	140	14,000
South Central	1,400	276	387,000	1,100	341	375,000	300	40	12,000
Southeast	1,000	194	194,000	200	720	144,000	800	63	50,000
Montana	**5,000**	**277**	**1,383,000**	**3,100**	**412**	**1,276,000**	**1,900**	**56**	**107,000**

2002 Wheat, Barley, and Oats County Estimates Now Available

The 2002 crop year county estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated crops and non-irrigated crops as well as crops that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates are estimated by practice of irrigated and non-irrigated only. These estimates are available on our website http:// www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

U.S. and Canadian Cattle

This data is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on January 31, 2003.

All cattle and calves in the **U.S. and Canada combined** totaled 109.5 million head on January 1, 2003, 1 percent below a year earlier. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 47.8 million head, were down slightly from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million on January 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 97.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from the 42.6 million two years ago.

All cattle and calves in **Canada** as of January 1, 2003, totaled 13.4 million head, down 3 percent from the 13.8 million on January 1, 2002, and 2 percent below the 13.6 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.7 million, was down 1 percent from the 5.7 million on January 1, 2002, but relatively unchanged from two years ago.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on February 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below February 1, 2002 and 11 percent below February 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.14 million, 2 percent below 2002 and 6 percent below 2001. Net placements were 2.06 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 433,000, 600-699 pounds were 587,000, 700-799 pounds were 706,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 409,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.97 million, down 5 percent from 2002 and down 4 percent from 2001. Other disappearance totaled 75,000 during January, 16 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001.

Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2003, unchanged from the previous January, but down 12 percent from December 2002. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,800 head, up 6 percent from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,150 pounds, increased 12 pounds from last year.

During January there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 242 pounds, was down 4 percent from last year. January sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, the same as January 2002. The average live weight decreased 2 percent from last year to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.08 billion pounds in January, relatively unchanged from a year ago.

Beef production, at 2.29 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.01 million head, down 2 percent from January 2002. The average live weight was 1,268 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

Veal production totaled 17.9 million pounds, 6 percent above January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 93,800 head, up 7 percent from January 2002. The average live weight was 317 pounds, down 4 pounds from January a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.75 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year and a monthly record high. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, 1 percent above January 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, unchanged from January a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.9 million pounds, was down 10 percent from January 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 238,800 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 7 pounds from January a year ago.

U.S. January Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 12.5 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from January 2002. December revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from December 2001. The December revision represented an increase of 0.6 percent or 70 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,608 pounds for January, 17 pounds above January 2002. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 56,000 head more than January 2002, and 4,000 head more than December 2002. 2002 Annual Milk Production Up 2.6 Percent from 2001

The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2002 was 169.8 billion pounds, 2.6 percent above 2001. Revisions to 2001 production increased the annual total by less than 0.1 percent. Revised 2002 production was up 0.1 percent from last month's publication.

Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 18,571 pounds for 2002, 412 pounds above 2001. Average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 18 percent since 1993. The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2002 was 9.14 million head, up 0.3 percent from 2001. Average number of milk cows was revised down 1,000 head for 2001, and up 2,000 head for 2002 from the previous estimates.

Hired Workers Down One Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent from a Year Ago

There were 884,000 hired workers on the Nation s farms and ranches the week of January 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 724,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 160,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.32 per hour during the January 2003 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.29 per hour, up 4 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned $8.91 per hour compared with $8.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.50 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 37.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.5 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia) and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin) regions.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) and Corn Belt I (Indiana, Illinois and Ohio) regions.

U.S. Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.9 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2003, up 10 percent from the previous year. Ninety percent of the 2002 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 197 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2003, up 3 percent from last year but 16 percent below 2001. Storage accounts for 48 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Stocks by type show more reds and round whites but fewer long whites and russets than a year ago. Disappearance of 213 million cwt, is up 9 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2000 crop movement. Shrink and loss, of 20.4 million cwt so far this season, is up 3 percent from last year but 22 percent below the same date in 2000.

Processors in the 9 major States used 109 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 13 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., January 6-12, 2002 & January 12-18, 2003 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	9.58	10.02	7.80	8.36	8.69	9.12	9.46	10.03
Northeast II	8.71	9.16	6.88	8.34	7.95	8.83	8.87	9.83
Appalachian I	7.73	8.22	7.94	8.58	7.83	8.40	8.72	9.34
Appalachian II	6.72	7.34	7.18	7.87	6.93	7.60	7.29	7.98
Southeast	7.56	7.50	7.61	8.96	7.58	8.12	8.08	8.87
FL	8.15	7.80	8.55	8.30	8.20	7.87	8.97	8.81
Lake	10.22	10.51	8.26	9.44	8.94	9.65	9.91	10.54
Cornbelt I	9.03	9.68	9.22	8.64	9.15	9.01	9.75	9.72
Cornbelt II	8.62	9.24	9.41	9.01	9.26	9.08	9.74	9.50
Delta	7.90	8.56	7.21	7.89	7.61	8.30	7.95	8.63
Northern Plains	8.34	9.18	8.41	9.43	8.39	9.37	9.00	10.00
Southern Plains	7.82	8.13	7.37	8.51	7.57	8.29	8.05	8.85
Mountain I	8.02	8.51	7.74	8.17	7.81	8.25	8.34	8.53
Mountain II	8.54	9.15	8.48	8.73	8.51	8.85	9.15	9.66
Mountain III	7.57	6.92	8.48	8.22	7.85	7.48	8.42	8.12
Pacific	8.18	8.63	9.64	9.93	8.42	8.87	9.21	9.71
CA	8.25	8.20	9.69	10.10	8.36	8.46	9.22	9.38
HI 3/	9.36	9.31	3/	3/	9.33	9.36	10.90	11.04
US 4/	8.25	8.29	8.20	8.91	8.23	8.50	8.97	9.32

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

Grazing Rates Increase

The average grazing fees paid by Montana producers for grazing livestock on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land rose for all methods in 2002. The shortage of pasture and the effects of the prolonged drought are continuing to contribute to the increased rates this year.

The average amount paid for grazing livestock on an AUM (animal unit month) basis was $15.10 per month, up 20 cents from last year. Cattle producers paid $17.30 per cow-calf pair in 2002, up 60 cents from the previous year. The average per head rate was $16.30 per month, up 30 cents from last year.

In the 17 States that estimate grazing fees in the United States, the average charge on an AUM basis was $12.30 per month in 2002, up 40 cents from the previous year. Cow-calf rates averaged $14.20 per month, up 30 cents and per head rates averaged $12.70 per month, up 30 cents from 2001.

All grazing fees are for privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land. Rates charged for public land, irrigated land, and harvested cropland were excluded. The average AUM rate includes reported AUM rates plus reported cow-calf rates that were converted to an AUM basis. The cow-calf rate was converted to AUM basis using the following formula (1 AUM=cow-calf *0.833).

U.S. January Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during January 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 million were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2003 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,170 eggs, compared to 2,143 eggs in January 2002.

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Ag Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle & Calves Inventory
Sheep & Lambs Inventory
Wool & Mohair Production
Ag Prices Received
Hogs & Pigs
Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production
December Egg Production

Cattle and Calf Inventory

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was down 2% from a year ago to 2.40 million head on January 1, 2003. The cattle and calf inventory is the lowest since 1991 when the inventory was 2.35 million head. This would be the third lowest inventory in the past 40 years. Prolonged drought and poor pasture and range conditions have caused producers to continue to cut back their herds and in some cases to liquidate the entire herd. Inventories of beef cows that have calved, milk cow replacements, and calves weighing less than 500 lbs were all down significantly this year.

The inventory of beef cows that had calved on January 1, 2003 was down 4% from July 1, 2002 and down 3 % from a year ago to 1.402 million head. This is the lowest inventory of beef cows since 1991 when there were 1.396 million beef cows on hand. The number of milk cows in the state dropped 1,000 head from year ago to 18,000 head. There were 1.49 million calves born during 2002, down 4% from the previous year.

Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, were up 3% from the previous year to 380,000 head. Milk heifer replacements decreased 2,000 head from last year to 11,000 head. The number of other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more, increased 1% from last year to 179,000 head.

The inventory of steers weighing 500 lbs or more, dropped 2% from last year to 240,000 head. The inventory of calves weighing less than 500 lbs, at 70,000 head, was down 7% from last year. This is the lowest inventory of calves weighing less than 500 lbs on record for January 1. Inventory of bulls, weighing 500 pounds or more, was unchanged from last year at 100,000 head. The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter was unchanged from a year ago at 70,000 head.

There were 12,500 operations in Montana during 2002 with one or more head, down 6% or 800 operations from last year. The number of beef cow operations with one or more beef cows decreased 4% to 11,400, while the number of operations with one or more milk cows dropped 50 operations to 600.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1% below the 96.7 million on January 1, 2002 and 1% below the 97.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million, were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1% from the 42.6 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 32.95 million, were down 1% from both January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2001. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2002 but down slightly from two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2003 and the change from January 1, 2002, are as follows:
- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down slightly.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.61 million, up 1%.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.10 million, up 1%.
- Other heifers, 9.89 million, down 2%.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, down 1%.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.25 million, up slightly.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 15.6 million, down 1%.
- Cattle and calves on feed in the United States for slaughter in all feedlots, 12.9 million, down 7%.

The 2002 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 38.2 million head, down slightly from 2001 and down 1% from 2000. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.9 million, down 1% from 2001 and down 2% from 2000.

The number of operations in the United States with one or more head of cattle totaled 1.03 million during 2002, down 2% from 2001 and 4% below 2000. Beef cow operations in 2002 were down 1% from 2001 and 3% below 2000. Milk cow operations were 6% below last year and 13% below two years ago.

Sheep Inventory and Wool Production

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory set a new record low at 300,000 head on January 1, 2003, down 10% from last year. Drought, unstable prices, and predators in 2002 were key factors in the continued decline.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers decreased 30,000 head from last year to 270,000 head. Ewes one year and older were down 8% to 213,000 head. Rams one year and older, at 8,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year. Replacement lambs, at 49,000 head, were down 11,000 head from a year ago. The 2002 lamb crop was 315,000 head, a decrease of 7% from the 2001 lamb crop.

There were 30,000 market sheep and lambs on hand January 1. Only 1,000 head were market sheep. Of the 29,000 total market lambs, 7% weighed less than 65 pounds, 21% weighed 65-84 pounds, 59% were in the 85-105 pound category, and 14% were over 105 pounds. There were 1,700 sheep and lamb operations with 1 or more head in Montana during 2002, 100 less than a year ago.

Montana wool growers produced 2.7 million pounds of wool during 2002, down 10% from 2001. The 2002 average price per pound of wool increased 31 cents to 76 cents per pound, which increased the value of all wool produced by 53% for a total value of $2.045 million dollars. The total head shorn decreased 12% from 2001 to 279,000 head. The average fleece weight increased from 9.4 pounds in 2001 to 9.6 pounds in 2002.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2003, totaled 6.35 million head, down 5% from 2002 and 9% below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.68 million head on January 1, 2003, down 5% from 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.79 million head, were 5% below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003, totaled 1.67 million head, down 6% from January 1, 2002. Market lambs comprised 96% of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17% were 65 - 84 pounds, 24% 85 - 105 pounds, 29% were over 105 pounds, and 4% were market sheep.

The 2002 lamb crop of 4.36 million head was down 3% from 2001 and established a new record low. The 2002 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2002, unchanged from 2001. The number of operations with sheep during 2002 totaled 64,170, down 19% from 2001 and 3% from 2000.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2002 was 41.2 million pounds, down 4% from 2001. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.45 million head, down 4% from 2001. The average price paid for wool sold in 2002 was $0.53 per pound for a total value of $21.8 million dollars, up 42% from $15.3 million dollars in 2001.

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January cattle and sheep inventory surveys.

Cattle and Calves Inventory January 1, 2001-2003

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Cattle and Calves	2,550	2,450	2,400	98%	97,277	96,704	96,106	99%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,550	1,470	1,420	97%	42,580	42,229	42,099	100%
Beef Cows	1,531	1,451	1,402	97%	33,397	33,118	32,947	99%
Milk Cows	19	19	18	95%	9,183	9,112	9,152	100%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	590	560	570	102%	19,776	19,778	19,601	99%
For beef cow replacement	405	370	380	103%	5,588	5,561	5,608	101%
For milk cow replacement	10	13	11	85%	4,057	4,060	4,104	101%
Other heifers	175	177	179	101%	10,131	10,057	9,890	98%
Steers 500 pounds and over	210	245	240	98%	16,441	16,799	16,590	99%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	110	100	100	100%	2,274	2,244	2,253	100%
Calves less than 500 pounds	90	75	70	93%	16,206	15,763	15,563	99%
Cattle on Feed	60	70	70	100%	14,201	13,860	12,916	93%

Calf Crop and Cattle Operations, 2000-2002

ITEM	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,620	1,550	1,490	96%	38,631	38,280	38,193	100%
Number cattle operations	14,400	13,300	12,500	94%	1,077,560	1,049,910	1,032,670	98%
Operations with beef cattle	12,800	11,900	11,400	96%	830,670	813,650	805,080	99%
Operations with milk cows	650	650	600	92%	105,170	97,510	91,990	94%

Sheep and Lambs Inventory January 1, 2001-2003

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02	2001	2002	2003	'03/'02
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Sheep and Lambs	360	335	300	90%	6,965	6,685	6,350	95%
Breeding sheep	330	300	270	90%	4,967	4,913	4,682	95%
One year old & older								
Ewes	265	232	213	92%	4,091	3,980	3,789	95%
Rams	9	8	8	100%	201	200	192	96%
Replacement Lambs	56	60	49	82%	675	734	702	96%
Market Sheep & Lambs	30	35	30	86%	1,998	1,772	1,668	94%
Sheep	2	1	1	100%	77	72	73	101%
Lambs	28	34	29	85%	1,922	1,700	1,595	94%

Lamb Crop and Sheep Operations,2000-2002

Item	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	365	340	315	93%	4,622	4,495	4,360	97%
Number of sheep operations	2,000	1,800	1,700	94%	66,100	65,120	64,170	99%

Sheep and Lambs Shorn and Wool Production

Item	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01
Sheep Shorn (000) Hd.								
All Sheep and Lambs	347	318	279	88%	6,135	5,689	5,453	96%
All Wool Shorn (000 Lbs.)	3,315	2,978	2,691	90%	46,466	43,016	41,150	96%
Wool: Price & Value								
Dollars Per Pound	0.37	0.45	0.76	169%	0.33	0.36	0.53	147%
Value (000 Dollars)	1,227	1,340.0	2,045.0	153%	15,377	15,311	21,792	142%

Agricultural Prices Received

December full month crop prices were mixed compared with November 2002. Montana's winter wheat average price was $4.24 per bushel, down $0.04 from the previous month; spring wheat remained unchanged from a month ago at $4.48 per bushel; and durum wheat prices decreased $0.37 to $4.67 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.01 from the previous month to $2.24, and malt barley prices increased $0.14 to $3.23 per bushel.

The mid-January price for alfalfa hay was up $1.00 to $87.00 per ton and all other hay increased $1.00 to $76.00 per ton. The mid-January grain prices were mixed from the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $4.08 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.08 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.83 per bushel, feed barley was $2.30 per bushel and malt barley averaged $3.30 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were higher then the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $2.50 to $83.50 per cwt, while cows increased $2.80 to $36.00. The average price for calves increased $7.20 to $94.60 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $9.70 to $40.60 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $5.20 to $94.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.70 per cwt from last month to $12.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $83.60 per cwt.; cows averaged $36.50 per cwt.; calves averaged $96.20 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.00 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for December and changes from November were as follows: winter wheat was $3.85, down $0.31, spring wheat was $4.20, down $0.07; durum wheat was $4.24, down $0.29; the all barley price was $3.03, up $0.24, and steer and heifer prices were $75.10, up $3.10 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $3.47 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.88 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.22 per bushel, all wheat was $3.66 per bushel, malt barley was $3.27 per bushel, feed barley was $2.34 per bushel, and all barley was $3.00. Steer and heifer prices were $77.60 per cwt, cow prices were $35.50, calves were $95.50 per cwt., all hog prices were $31.80 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.529 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January is 99, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from a revised December index. Higher prices for broilers, lettuce, cattle, and hogs more than offset lower prices for wheat, corn, turkeys, and soybeans. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and milk.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.2 percent) above January 2002. Higher prices for soybeans, corn, cattle, and wheat more than offset lower prices for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and broccoli.

The Food Commodities Index increased 1 point (1.0 percent) above last month to 98, and is 1 point (1.0 percent) above January last year.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	December 2001	January 2002	December 2002	January 2003
Prices Received	93	95	98	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	122	122	126	126
Ratio 2/	76	78	78	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Dec. 2001	Nov. 2002	Dec. 2002	Dec. 2002	Nov. 2002	Dec. 2001	Jan. 15, 2003	Jan. 15, 2003
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.14	4.28	4.24	3.85	-0.04	+1.10	4.08	3.47
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.03	5.04	4.67	4.24	-0.37	+0.64	4.83	4.22
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.13	4.48	4.48	4.20	0	+1.35	4.08	3.88
All Wheat	Bu.	3.21	4.49	4.45	4.06	-0.04	+1.24	4.11	3.66
Barley, All	Bu.	2.72	2.79	3.00	3.03	+0.21	+0.28	3.07	3.00
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.96	2.23	2.24	2.22	+0.01	+0.28	2.30	2.34
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.99	3.09	3.23	3.22	+0.14	+0.24	3.30	3.27
Oats	Bu.	2.05	1.85	N/A	2.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.90
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	95.00	83.00	86.00	100.00	+3.00	-9.00	87.00	97.60
All Other Hay	Ton	87.00	75.00	75.00	74.70	0	-12.00	76.00	79.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	94.00	82.00	85.00	92.60	+3.00	-9.00	85.00	92.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	86.00	81.00	83.50	75.10	+2.50	-2.50	83.60	77.60
Cows	Cwt	34.80	33.20	36.00	34.60	+2.80	+1.20	36.50	35.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	76.80	73.40	72.60	70.50	-0.80	-4.20	74.70	72.60
Calves	Cwt	95.40	87.40	94.60	94.70	+7.20	-0.80	96.20	95.50
Sheep 2/	Cwt	33.30	30.90	40.60	37.90	+9.70	+7.30	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	63.70	88.80	94.00	87.20	+5.20	+30.30	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	15.00	11.40	12.10	11.90	+0.70	-2.90	12.00	11.80

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

December U.S. Pig Crop

U.S. pig crop at 7.95 million head, was 1 percent below the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 905 thousand head, 2 percent below last year. The average pigs per litter for December increased to 8.78, compared to 8.66 last year. The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on January 1, 2003, was 5.84 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 2002. U.S. sows and gilts bred during December totaled 1.17 million head, down 2 percent from the previous year.

Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production

There were 480,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 2002, unchanged from a year ago. The December 1, 2002 inventory included 355,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 61,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 63,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2001 was $1.49 million, up 4 percent from last year. The average value per bird, at $3.10, increased $0.10 from the previous year.

Montana chickens produced 104 million eggs during the year ending November 30,2002, up 10 percent from last year. The state had an average of 341,000 layers in 2002, up 6 percent from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 305 eggs, up 3 percent from the previous year.

The U.S. total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2002 (excluding commercial broilers) was 439 million birds, down 1 percent from last year. Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2002 totaled a record high 86.7 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year's total of 85.7 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 73.8 billion eggs, increased 1 percent from 2001. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, decreased slightly.

Layer numbers during 2002 averaged 337 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2002 was 257 eggs, up slightly from the 2001 average of 256. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 2002, totaled 377 million, down 1 percent from December 1, 2001. Of the 377 million potential layers, 89 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2002, was $1.05 billion, down 2 percent from December 1, 2001. The average value decreased from $2.42 per bird on December 1, 2001, to $2.38 per bird on December 1, 2002.

December U.S. Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during December 2002, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.33 billion table eggs and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 992 million were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2002 averaged 337 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,187 eggs, compared to 2188 eggs in December 2001.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Private Grazing Fee Rates	Potato Stocks
Alfalfa Seed Production	Milk Production
Crop Values	Cattle on Feed
Wheat & Barley County Est.	Farm Labor
Red Meat Production	U.S. & Canadian Cattle
Hogs & Pigs	Egg Production

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Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

Issue: 03-02 (0279-0394) Released: January 27, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Annual Crop Production
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price
Annual Oilseed Production

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 8 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on January 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below January 1, 2002 and 10 percent below January 1, 2001. The inventory included 6.53 million steers and steer calves, down 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.98 million head, down 9 percent from January 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.59 million, 1 percent above 2001 but 6 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.49 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 421,000, 600-699 pounds were 507,000, 700-799 pounds were 407,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 255,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.80 million, 1 percent below 2001 but 3 percent above 2000. Other disappearance totaled 99,000 during December, 6 percent above 2001 and 4 percent above 2000.

Montana Potato Stocks Up 8 Percent, U.S. Up 3 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2003, up 8 percent from the previous year. Ninety-three percent of the 2002 Montana potato crop was still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 232 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2003, up 3 percent from last year but 16 percent below 2001. Storage accounts for 56 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Stocks by type show more reds and fewer russets than a year ago. Disappearance of 179 million cwt, is up 10 percent from last year but 3 percent below 2000 crop movement. Shrink and loss of 18.4 million cwt so far in the season is up 6 percent from last year but 14 percent below the same date in 2000.

Processors in the 9 major States used 92.8 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 15 percent from a year ago but 3 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 19.7 million cwt of the total processing. December 1, 2002 stocks were revised up slightly, with changes in California and Pennsylvania.

U.S. October-December Milk Production Up 1.7 Percent

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.5 billion pounds, 1.7 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.15 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from December 2001. November revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from November 2001. The November revision represented a decrease of 0.4 percent or 43 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,567 pounds for December, 18 pounds above December 2001.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.80 million head, 47,000 head more than December 2001, and 6,000 head more than November 2002.

December Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 2002, unchanged from the previous December, but up 7 percent from November 2002. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,000 head, up 5 percent from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,152 pounds, increased 14 pounds from last year.

During December there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 244 pounds, was down 4 percent from last year. December sheep slaughter in the state totaled 400 head, the same as December 2001. The average live weight decreased 2 percent from last year to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in December 2001.

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, down slightly from December 2001. The average live weight was 1,265 pounds, up 9 pounds from December a year ago.

Veal production totaled 18.0 million pounds, 15 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 98,300 head, up 16 percent from December 2001. The average live weight was 305 pounds, down 4 pounds from last year.

Pork production totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.66 million head, 3 percent above December 2001. The average live weight was 268 pounds, unchanged from a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 278,500 head, slightly below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 5 pounds from last year.

January - December red meat production was 47.2 billion pounds, 3 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was up 1 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

2002 Annual Crop Summary 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA						US
		Acres Planted	Acres Harvested	Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg. Price	Value of Production	Production
		(000)		Bu.	(000) Bu.		(000) $	(000)
Winter Wheat	2000	1,500	1,350	33.0	44,550	$2.87	$127,858	1,566,023
	2001	1,300	870	22.0	19,140	$3.07	$58,760	1,361,479
	2002	1,450	750	28.0	21,000	--	--	1,142,802
Durum Wheat	2000	480	470	28.0	13,160	$3.52	**$46,323	109,805
	2001	510	495	24.0	11,880	$3.80	$45,144	83,556
	2002	590	565	23.0	12,995	--	--	79,450
Other Spring Wheat	2000	3,350	3,100	25.0	77,500	$3.03	$234,825	556,632
	2001	3,550	2,850	23.0	65,550	$3.06	$200,583	512,008
	2002	3,750	3,450	22.0	75,900	--	--	394,189
All Wheat	2000	5,330	4,920	27.5	135,210	$3.02	$409,007	2,232,460
	2001	5,360	4,215	22.9	96,570	$3.14	$316,746	1,957,043
	2002	5,790	4,765	23.1	109,895	--	--	1,616,441
Barley	2000	1,250	950	40.0	38,000	$2.38	$90,440	318,728
	2001	1,100	720	41.0	29,520	$2.65	$78,228	249,420
	2002	1,200	950	42.0	39,900	--	--	226,873
Oats	2000	130	50	52.0	2,600	$1.13	$2,938	149,545
	2001	130	60	40.0	2,400	$1.96	$4,704	117,024
	2002	145	55	49.0	2,695	--	--	119,132
Corn for Grain 2/	2000	60	16	140.0	2,240	$1.53	$3,427	9,915,051
	2001	65	13	**148.0	1,924	$2.00	$3,848	9,506,840
	2002	65	13	140.0	1,820	--	--	9,007,659
			(000)	Tons	(000)		(000)	(000)
Corn for Silage	2000	--	42	21.0	882	--	--	102,156
	2001	--	51	22.0	1,122	--	--	102,077
	2002	--	49	**22.0	1,078	--	--	104,979
Sugar Beets	2000	60.7	55.2	23.9	1,319	$34.70	$45,779	32,541
	2001	57.4	53.5	21.5	1,150	--	--	25,764
	2002	58.0	55.9	19.6	1,096	--	--	27,550
Alfalfa Hay	2000	--	1,200	2.10	2,520	**$86.50	$217,980	80,347
	2001	--	1,450	2.10	3,045	$95.50	$290,798	80,327
	2002	--	1,400	2.10	2,940	--	--	73,824
Other Hay	2000	--	800	1.30	1,040	$78.00	$81,120	71,574
	2001	--	1,000	1.40	1,400	**$87.00	**$121,800	76,437
	2002	--	**1,200	1.40	1,680	--	--	77,138
All Hay 3/	2000	--	2,000	1.78	3,560	$85.50	$299,100	151,921
	2001	--	2,450	1.81	4,445	**$94.00	**$397,163	156,764
	2002	--	2,600	1.78	4,620	--	--	150,962
Sweet Cherries 4/	2000	--	--	--	1,050	$1,490.00	$1,569	204,020
	2001	--	--	--	1,670	$762.00	$1,273	219,440
	2002	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
			(000)	Cwt.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Fall Potatoes	2000	11.5	11.3	310	**3,503	$5.75	$20,142	467,504
	2001	10.5	10.3	**320	3,296	$9.15	**$30,158	393,750
	2002	10.5	10.4	310	3,224	--	--	417,228
All Dry Beans	2000	40.5	34.8	14.0	486	$16.30	**$7,922	26,409
	2001	43.5	28.5	13.2	376	$17.30	$6,505	19,583
	2002	26.9	23.0	15.7	361	--	--	29,974
Pinto Beans	2000	**14.5	**13.8	**24.0	**331	--	--	10,670
	2001	*11.5	*10.0	*20.0	*200	--	--	8,721
	2002	13.5	12.9	22.2	287	--	--	12,880
Garbanzo Beans 5/	2000	**25.3	**20.5	*7.3	150	--	--	1,308
	2001	31.5	18.0	9.5	171	--	--	1,612
	2002	12.7	9.6	7.4	*71	--	--	838
All Other Beans 2/	2000	0.7	0.5	1.0	5	--	--	962
	2001	0.5	0.5	1.0	5	--	--	747
	2002	0.7	0.5	0.6	3	--	--	1,005
Lentils 5/	2000	22.0	21.0	10.0	210	*$10.00	$2,100	3,029
	2001	22.0	20.0	11.0	**220	$11.00	$2,420	2,898
	2002	**25.0	21.0	*7.1	*149	--	--	2,508
Dry Peas	2000	28.0	24.0	9.7	233	$5.00	$1,165	3,499
	2001	26.0	16.5	15.1	249	$8.80	$2,191	3,763
	2002	32.0	27.0	7.6	205	--	--	4,242
Austrian Winter Peas 6/	2001	9.9	2.5	7.9	20	$11.00	$220	97
	2002	9.5	3.5	5.8	20	--	--	164

1/ All estimates for 2002 are preliminary, and season average price and value of production for 2002 are not yet available. 2/ Planted for all purposes.
3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/ Data series begun in 1998. 6/ Data series begun in 2001.
-- Not Available * Record Low ** Record High

World Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected U.S. 2002/03 ending stocks of wheat are up 70 million bushels from last month due to reduced domestic use and trade. Projected exports are 25 million bushels below last month because of increased competition. Imports are reduced 5 million bushels because of a dramatically slower pace in recent months and very tight spring wheat supplies in Canada. Feed and residual use is reduced 50 million bushels because December 1 stocks indicate smaller-than-expected use during the first 6 months of the marketing year. The projected 2002/03 wheat price range is reduced 15 cents on each end to $3.50 to $3.80 per bushel.

Global 2002/03 production, consumption, and ending stocks projections are little changed in aggregate from last month, but there are numerous country-specific changes. Global imports are up from last month, largely due to a 1.5-million-ton increase in prospective EU imports to a world-leading 9.5 million tons. Projected exports for Russia are 2 million tons higher because of a stronger than expected pace to date. Projected Australian supplies and exports are up from last month as larger beginning stocks more than offset a smaller prospective crop. These higher export prospects are largely offset by reductions for several countries. Reduced exports for Argentina reflect smaller production prospects, while smaller prospective shipments by India, the EU, and the United States are linked to smaller than expected sales to date. The United States and EU account for most of the rise from last month in projected 2002/03 global ending stocks.

The 2003 total meat production forecast is lowered from last month as higher beef production is more than offset by lower pork and broiler production. The weather-related slow pace of cattle marketings during the last months of 2002 implies increased marketings and slaughter in the first half of 2003. USDA's Cattle report, which will be released January 31, will provide an indication of producer breeding intentions and available supplies of feeder cattle. Pork production is lowered slightly from last month as the December 30 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report showed continued declines in hog inventories and lower intended farrowings than expected. Broiler production forecasts are lowered as weekly eggs set and chicks placed data have been below a year earlier since early fall. First-quarter 2003 Choice steer prices are raised slightly as cattle markets are reflecting concerns over the impacts of winter weather. Hog prices are raised due to tighter hog supplies in 2003. Poultry price forecasts are unchanged as large supplies continue to pressure poultry prices.

Milk production forecasts for 2002/03 are lowered slightly from last month. Although the rate of decline in cow numbers for the year is reduced from last month, gains in milk per cow continue to lag historical trends. Relatively weak milk prices in 2003 are expected to provide little incentive to increase output per cow. Class III prices are expected to be weaker at $9.85 to $10.35 per cwt, down slightly from last month, and Class IV price are forecast at $10.05 to $10.75 per cwt. The all milk price will average $11.35 to $11.85 per cwt.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1985-2002

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1985 ...	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 ...	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 ...	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 ...	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ...	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 ...	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 ...	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 ...	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 ...	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 ...	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 ...	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 ...	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 ...	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 ...	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 ...	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 ...	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 ...	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	82	194	1,202	961	2,164	777	2.78
2002 . 3/	777	1,616	75	2,469	940	86	100	1,126	925	2,051	418	3.50-3.80

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, December 2002--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

2002 ANNUAL OILSEED SUMMARY 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA						US
		Acres Planted	Acres Harvested	Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg. Price	Value of Production	Production
		(000)		Bu.	(000)		$0	(000)
Flaxseed 1/	1999	**21.0	**20.5	**16.0	**328	--	--	7,864
	2000	16.0	14.0	14.0	196	*$4.00	**$784	10,730
	2001	*14.0	*12.0	15.0	*180	**$4.25	*$765	11,455
	2002	17.0	15.0	*13.0	195	--		12,569
		(000)		Lbs.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Canola 2/	1999	60.0	**58.0	**1200	**69,600	--	--	1,363,680
	2000	**65.0	**58.0	960	55,680	--	--	1,998,310
	2001	58.0	49.5	910	45,045	--	--	1,998,515
	2002	*37.5	*34.5	*860	*29,670	--	--	1,552,520
Mustard Seed	1999	21.5	21.0	850	17,850	--	--	48,010
	2000	12.0	10.0	700	7,000	--	--	36,930
	2001	11.0	10.0	**850	8,500	--	--	41,106
	2002	27.0	25.0	440	11,000	--	--	123,450
Safflower 2/	1999	41.0	39.0	850	**33,150	--	--	404,715
	2000	**42.0	**39.0	*770	30,030	--	--	282,545
	2001	31.0	*28.0	**850	*23,800	--	--	241,665
	2002	39.5	38.0	800	30,400	--	--	297,980
Sunflower 2/	1999	**7.8	**7.1	**858	**6,095	--	--	4,341,862
	2000	5.5	4.1	741	3,039	--	--	3,544,428
	2001	2.5	2.0	*370	*740	--	--	3,418,759
	2002	*1.7	*1.6	580	931	--	--	2,497,236

1/ All estimates for 2002 are preliminary and season average price and value of production for 2002 are not yet available.
2/ Data series begun in 1999.
-- Not Available * Record Low ** Record High

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Cattle & Calves Inventory
Sheep & Lambs Inventory
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Hogs & Pigs
Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production
December Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Seedings
- Late Season Crops & Hay Stocks
- Grain Stocks
- Ag Prices Received
- Pulse Crops & Oilseeds Crops

Winter Wheat Seedings

Montana producers seeded 1.75 million acres of winter wheat this fall for the 2003 crop year, up 300,000 acres or 21% from the 2002 crop. This would be the largest planted acreage since 1996, but down from the 1987-96 average of 2.32 million acres planted.

Winter wheat seeding progressed rapidly as conditions this fall were favorable for planting. By the end of October, 98% of the winter wheat acres were seeded, 2 points ahead of the 5 year average. Emergence reached 80% by the end of October compared with 72% for last year and 73% for the 5-year average. Protectiveness of snow cover was rated 97% very poor, 2% poor, and 1% fair for the month ending December 31, 2002 due to the lack of snow received so far this season. The condition of the winter wheat crop has deteriorated since planting, however it is still rated better than a year ago at this time. The condition of the winter wheat crop was rated 1% very poor, 25% poor, 55% fair, 18% good, and 1% excellent for the end of December 2002 compared with 8% very poor, 41% poor, 49% fair, 2% good a year ago.

Winter wheat seedings in the United States for 2003 is estimated at 44.2 million acres. This is up 6% from 2002 and is the largest acreage since 1998. Hard red winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is about 32.1 million acres, up 8 from 2002. Significant acreage increases are reported in all major HRW States. Two major factors, high prices at the time of seeding and last year's drought, contributed to the larger acreage. Prices were very strong this fall, especially during September and October when most of the winter wheat was planted. Last year's drought left soil moisture supplies low. Wheat requires less moisture than many alternate crops in the major HRW States, making it a more appealing option. Additionally, the drought left forage supplies limited, therefore many growers in the southern Great Plains planted wheat in hopes that enough moisture would be received to provide grazing.

2002 Late Season Crops

Montana producers planted 65,000 acres of **corn** in 2002, unchanged from 2001. Acres harvested for grain were 13,000 acres, identical to last year's figure. The average yield was 140.0 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels from last year. Grain production declined 5% from a year ago to 1.820 million bushels due to a reduction in yield. The number of acres harvested for corn silage decreased 2,000 acres from 2001 to 49,000 acres. Corn silage yield averaged 22 tons per acre, unchanged from a year ago.

Sugar beet producers in Montana planted 58,000 acres in 2002, up 600 acres from last year. Harvested acreage amounted to 55,900 acres, up 2,400 acres from last year's PIK-reduced acreage. A significant amount of acreage was lost this year due to frost and freeze conditions. Yield decreased 1.9 tons from last year to average 19.6 tons per acre. Total production of 1.1 million tons, was down 5% from the previous year.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.224 million cwt., down 2% from last year. Producers harvested 10,400 acres compared with 10,300 in 2001. Potato yields decreased 10 cwt. from a year ago to 310 cwt. per acre.

All hay harvested in Montana was up 150,000 acres from last year, to 2.60 million acres. All hay production was 4.62 million tons, up 4% or 175,000 tons from a year ago. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage was 1.40 million, down 50,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.1 tons per acre, which is unchanged from the previous year. **Other hay** harvested acreage was 1.20 million, up 200,000 acres from the previous year due to more CRP acres and small grains being cut for hay. The average yield was 1.4 tons per acre, equal to last year's figure.

Montana **hay stocks** were estimated at 4.019 million tons on December 1, up 12% from last year, but 5% less than the 1992-2001 average stocks held. Montana hay producers seeded an estimated 120,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures during 2002, which is equal to last year's seedings. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

U.S. **corn for grain** production is estimated at 9.01 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from the November forecast but down 5% from the 9.51 billion bushels produced in 2001. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 130.0 bushels per acre, 2.4 bushels above the November forecast but down 8.2 bushels from 2001.

U.S. **sugarbeet** production is estimated at 27.6 million tons, 2% below the November 1 forecast but 7% above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States harvested 1.36 million acres, slightly above the November estimate and 9% above last year's 1.24 million acres. The yield is estimated at 20.3 tons per acre, 0.4 ton below both the November forecast and the 2001 yield.

Production of **fall potatoes** in the U.S. for 2002 is forecast at 417 million cwt, up fractionally from the December forecast and 6% above last year. However, this is 11% smaller than the record high 2000 crop. Area harvested, at 1.11 million acres, is up 4% from last year but 6% below two years ago. The average yield is estimated at 374 cwt per acre, 7 cwt above last year. Production estimates are generally lower this year in Central and Eastern States but higher in the West.

U.S. **all hay production** for 2002 is estimated at 151 million tons, up slightly from the October 1 forecast but down 4% from the 2001 total. The average yield, at 2.34 tons per acre, is up 0.02 ton from the October forecast but down 0.13 ton from the previous year.

(Continued on next page.)

The Montana crop production and grain stocks estimates in this issue are the result of surveying approximately 1,700 Montana farmers and ranchers in December. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey.

(Continued from first page.)

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production in U.S. totaled 73.8 million tons, down 1% from the October forecast and 8% below 2001. This is the lowest production since 1968. The severe drought conditions in the northern and central Great Plains and Rocky Mountains lowered harvested acres from the previous year. U.S. **all other hay production** in 2002 totaled 77.1 million tons, up 2% from the October 1 forecast and up 1% from the 2001 total. Severe drought conditions during the summer resulted in the release of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for hay harvest.

Stocks of all hay stored on U.S. farms totaled 104 million tons on December 1, 2002, down 6% from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from May 2002 - December 2002 totaled 69.7 million tons, compared to 25.1 million tons for the same period a year ago.

December 1, 2002 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on December 1, 2002 were 112.4 million bushels, up 3% from December 1, 2001. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 87.0 million bushels, up 1% from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 25.4 million bushels, up 11% from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the September - November 2002 quarter was up 28% from the same quarter last year to 26.8 million bushels, compared with 20.9 million a year ago. .

Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 2002 were 29.0 million bushels, up 23% from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 22.0 million bushels, up 29% from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was up 6% from a year ago at 7.0 million bushels. All barley disappearance for the September - November 2002 quarter was 11.8 million bushels, up 53% from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.1 million bushels, up 6% from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 2.0 million bushels up 5% from 1.9 million stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm was up 28% from last year to 115,000 bushels.

The on-farm storage capacity of all storage facilities in Montana, normally used for storing grain, was estimated to be 340 million bushels, up 3% from a year ago. There were 175 off-farm storage facilities in Montana on December 1, 2002. The storage capacity of off farm facilities was 69.56 million bushels, up 4% from a year ago.

In the United States, all wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2002 totaled 1.32 billion bushels, down 19% from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 385 million bushels, down 26% from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 936 million bushels, are down 15% from a year ago. The indicated September - November 2002 disappearance is 430 million bushels, down 19% from the same period a year earlier. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 2002 totaled 75.4 million bushels, down 2% from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 49.5 million bushels, are down slightly from December 1, 2001. Off-farm stocks totaled 25.9 million bushels, down 4% from a year ago. The indicated September - November 2002 disappearance of 17.4 million bushels is down 15% from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions in the United States on December 1, 2002 totaled 170 million bushels, down 13% from December 1, 2001. On-farm stocks are estimated at 83.4 million bushels, 10% below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 86.6 million bushels, are 16% below December 2001. Indicated disappearance during the September - November 2002 quarter totaled 54.0 million bushels, up 7% from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. oats stored in all positions on December 1, 2002 totaled 104 million bushels, 9% below the stocks on December 1, 2001. Of the total stocks on hand, 52.3 million bushels are stored on farms, 10% less than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 51.3 million bushels, 9% below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during September - November 2002 totaled 8.12 million bushels, up 5.94 million from the same period a year ago.

December 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 2001	Sept 1, 2002*	Dec. 1, 2002	'02/'01	Dec. 1, 2001	Sept. 1, 2002*	Dec. 1, 2002
	Thousand Bushels			%	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	86,000	112,000	87,000	101%	517890	580,200	384,800
Off Farms 1/	22,880	27,250	25,440	111%	1,105,565	1,170,787	936,199
TOTAL	108,880	139,250	112,440	103%	1,623,455	1,750,987	1,320,999
DURUM WHEAT							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	49,600	66,000	49,500
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	26,997	26,854	25,917
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	76,597	92,854	75,417
BARLEY							
On Farms	17,000	36,000	22,000	129%	92,400	131,600	83,400
Off Farms 1/	6,590	4,760	6,990	106%	102,587	92,419	86,601
TOTAL	23,590	40,760	28,990	123%	194,987	224,019	170,001
OATS							
On Farms	1,900	2,800	2,000	105%	58,100	70,500	52,300
Off Farms 1/	90	95	115	128%	56,117	41,212	51,294
TOTAL	1,990	2,895	2,115	106%	114,217	111,712	103,594
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	5,275,000	586,800	4,800,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,989,715	1,009,626	2,833,427
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	8,264,715	1,596,426	7,633,427

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. * Revised.

Agricultural Prices Received

November full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with October 2002. Montana's winter wheat average price was $4.28 per bushel, up $0.22 from the previous month; spring wheat moved down $0.18 to $4.48 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.07 to $5.04 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.01 from the previous month to $2.23, malt barley prices increased $0.02 to $3.09 per bushel. Oat prices increased $0.01 to $2.23 a bushel.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay was up $3.00 to $86.00 per ton and all other hay held steady at $75.00 per ton. The mid-December grain prices were mixed from the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $4.05 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.44 per bushel, durum wheat was $5.00 per bushel, feed barley was $2.23 per bushel and malt barley averaged $3.11 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were mostly higher then the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $.80 to $81.00 per cwt, while cows fell $1.10 to $33.20. The average price for calves increased $1.20 to $87.40 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $6.50 to $30.90 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $4.70 to $88.80 per cwt. Milk prices fell $0.60 per cwt from last month to $11.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $83.70 per cwt.; cows averaged $35.80 per cwt.; calves averaged $95.80 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $11.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for November and changes from October were as follows: winter wheat was $4.16, down $0.16, spring wheat was $4.27, down $0.17; durum wheat was $4.53, up $0.10; the all barley price was $2.79, up $0.14, and steer and heifer prices were $72.00, up $3.50 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-December winter wheat price was $3.83 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.00 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.25 per bushel, all wheat was $3.93 per bushel, malt barley was $3.13 per bushel, feed barley was $2.29 per bushel, and all barley was $2.85. Steer and heifer prices were $74.80 per cwt, cow prices were $34.20, calves were $93.60 per cwt., all hog prices were $30.00 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.679 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December is 97, based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the November index. Lower prices for wheat, lettuce, broccoli, and eggs more than offset higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, hogs, and strawberries. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn offset increased marketings of wheat, tobacco, milk, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.3 percent) above December, 2001. Higher prices for soybeans, wheat, corn, and cattle more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, lettuce, calves, and dry beans.

The Food Commodities Index declined 1 point (1.0 percent) from last month to 96, but is 2.1 percent above November last year.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Nov. 2001	Dec. 2001	Nov. 2002	Dec. 2002
Prices Received	93	93	98	97
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	122	122	125	125
Ratio 2/	76	76	78	78

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov. 2001	Oct. 2002	Nov. 2002	Nov. 2002	Oct. 2002	Nov. 2001	Dec. 15 2002	Dec. 15 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.12	4.06	4.28	4.16	+0.22	+1.16	4.05	3.83
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.97	4.97	5.04	4.53	+0.07	+1.07	5.00	4.25
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.15	4.66	4.48	4.27	-0.18	+1.33	4.44	4.00
All Wheat	Bu.	3.23	4.59	4.49	4.25	-0.10	+1.26	4.42	3.93
Barley, All	Bu.	2.69	2.77	2.79	2.79	+0.02	+0.10	2.80	2.85
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.95	2.22	2.23	2.32	+0.01	+0.28	2.23	2.29
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.92	3.07	3.09	3.07	+0.02	+0.17	3.11	3.13
Oats	Bu.	1.99	1.98	1.85	1.90	-0.13	-0.14	N/A	1.81
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	99.00	87.00	83.00	101.00	-4.00	-16.00	86.00	100.00
All Other Hay	Ton	87.00	75.00	75.00	75.40	0	-12.00	75.00	74.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	97.00	85.00	82.00	93.60	-3.00	15.00	85.00	92.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	89.50	80.20	81.00	72.00	+0.80	-8.50	83.70	74.80
Cows	Cwt	33.90	34.30	33.20	33.00	-1.10	-0.70	35.80	34.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	81.30	72.90	73.40	67.60	+0.50	-7.90	72.70	70.20
Calves	Cwt	94.20	86.20	87.40	88.20	+1.20	-6.80	95.80	93.60
Sheep 2/	Cwt	25.60	24.40	30.90	32.80	+6.50	+5.30	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	51.70	84.10	88.80	84.10	+4.70	+37.10	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	15.70	12.00	11.40	11.80	-0.60	-4.30	11.90	11.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

2002 Pulse Crops Summary

Montana's **dry bean** growers produced 361,000 cwt. in 2002, down 4% from 2001. Producers planted 26,900 acres of beans this year, down 38% from last year, driven mostly by a significant reduction in garbanzo bean acreage. Growers harvested 23,000 acres, which yielded 1,570 lbs. per acre, compared with last year's 28,500 acres harvested and the average yield of 1,320 lbs. per acre. **Pinto bean** production in 2002 was 287,000 cwt., which is 44% better than last year's figure. Planted acreage was 13,500, up 2,000 acres from last year. Harvested acreage, at 12,900 acres, is 29% above the previous year. The yield was 2,220 lbs. per acre, which is 220 pounds more than last year. The production estimate for **garbanzo beans**, at 71,000 cwt., is 58% lower than last year due to decreased acreage. Planted acreage was 12,700, down from 18,800 acres last year. Harvested area was 9,600 acres, down 8,400 acres from last year. Because of the drought, many producers chose to graze or hay their fields. The yield was 740 pounds per acre, down from last year's 950 pounds per acre.

Dry edible pea production for 2002 in Montana was 205,000 cwt., down 18% from 2001. Planted and harvested acreages are estimated at 32,000 and 27,000 acres, respectively. Average yield was 760 lbs. per acre, which is 50% below last year. **Austrian winter pea** production in 2002 was 20,000 cwt., which is equal to last year's figure. Planted acreage was 9,500, down 400 acres from last year. Harvested acreage, at 3,500, is 1,000 acres above the previous year. The yield was 580 lbs. per acre, which is 210 pounds less than last year. Austrian winter peas are grown primarily as a forage or hay crop in the state, which accounts for the high level of abandonment.

Montana's 2002 production of **lentils** was 149,000 cwt., down 32% from 2001. Planted area was 25,000 acres and harvested acres are set at 21,000. The average yield was 710 lbs. per acre, or 390 pounds less than in 2001.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is estimated at 30.0 million cwt for 2002, 53% above last year. Production of **dry edible peas** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington is estimated at 4.24 million cwt for 2002, 13% above the revised 2001 total. Production of **Austrian winter peas** in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon for the 2002 season is estimated at 164,000 cwt, 69% above 2001. Production of **lentils** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 2.51 million cwt for 2002, 13% below 2001. .

2002 Oilseeds Summary

Montana's **flaxseed** production for 2002 was 195,000 bushels, 15,000 bushels higher than last year's figure. Planted and harvested acreages were 17,000 and 15,000, respectively. The average yield for 2002 was 13.0 bushels per acre, two bushels better than the previous year. Production of **mustard seed** in Montana during 2002 was 11.0 million pounds compared with 8.5 million in 2001. Mustard plantings were set at 27,000 acres with 25,000 acres harvested.. Mustard seed yields averaged 440 pounds per acre this year, which is 410 pounds per acre less than 2001. Montana **canola** growers planted 37,500 acres in 2002, 20,500 acres less than 2001. Of the acres planted, 34,500 were harvested which is 15,000 lower than last year. During the 2002 season canola yield was 860 pounds per acre, down 10 pounds per acre over last year.

Growers produced 30.4 million pounds of **safflower** in Montana during 2002. Safflower plantings in Montana total 39,500 acres with 38,000 acres harvested and a yield of 800 pounds per acre Montana's 2002 all **sunflower** production was 931,000 pounds, compared with 740,000 pounds produced in 2001.

U.S. production of **flaxseed** in 2002 totaled 12.6 million bushels, up 10 % from the previous year. Safflower production in the United States, at 298 million pounds, is up 23 % from 2001. **Mustard seed** production, at 123 million pounds, is more than triple the previous year due to increased acreage.

U.S. **canola** production in 2002, is 1.55 billion pounds, down 22 % from the record production in 2001. Canola yield, at 1,218 pounds, decreased 156 pounds from last year. The 2002 U.S. **sunflower** production totaled 2.50 billion pounds, 27 % below the 2001 production.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Wheat Supply , Disappearance & Price
- Annual Crop Production
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Red Meat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- November Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Red Meat Production
- Potato Production
- Hogs & Pigs Inventory
- November Egg Production

November Milk Production Up 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 11.7 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from November 2001. October revised production, at 12.0 billion pounds, was up 2.1 percent from October 2001. The October revision presented a decrease of 26 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,501 pounds for November, 16 pounds above November 2001. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 54,000 head more than November 2001, and 1,000 head more than October 2002.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 8 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on December 1, 2002. The inventory was 8 percent below December 1, 2001 and 9 percent below December 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.98 million, 4 percent above 2001 but 2 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.89 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 589,000, 600-699 pounds were 660,000, 700-799 pounds were 417,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 311,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.73 million, 4 percent below 2001 and 5 percent below 2000. Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during November, 13 percent above 2001 but 14 percent below 2000.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Down 8 Percent

Cattle on feed December 1, 2002, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.4 million, down 8 percent from the previous year and 8 percent below December 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.67 million, 5 percent above 2001 but 1 percent below 2000. Marketings during November totaled 1.51 million, 2 percent below 2001 and 4 percent below 2000. Other disappearance during November was 80,000 head, 18 percent above 2001 but 10 percent below 2000.

November Red Meat Production Down 2 Percent from the Previous Year

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 2002. Red meat production was down 11 percent from the previous month and 2 percent from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,800 head, which is unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,136 pounds, was down 18 pounds from the previous year. During November there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered in Montana, the same as a year ago. The average live weight, at 247 pounds, was up 12 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, is 100 head less than the previous year. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from last year, to 121 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in November, down 2 percent from the 3.97 billion pounds produced in November 2001.

Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.86 million head, down 1 percent from November 2001. The average live weight was 1,260 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.9 million pounds, 4 percent above November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 91,100 head, up 4 percent from November 2001. The average live weight was 308 pounds, unchanged from November a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.66 million head, 1 percent below November 2001. The average live weight was 268 pounds, down 1 pound from November a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.8 million pounds, was down 9 percent from November 2001 and 6 percent below the previous record low set in 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 271,300 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 6 pounds from November a year ago.

January - November red meat production was 43.3 billion pounds, 3 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

U.S. Potato Production Up, December 1 Stocks Down

Montana producers held 3,050,000 cwt in storage on December 1, 2002. This is 2 percent higher than was on hand in 2001 and represents 95 percent of the total 2002 potato production in Montana.

The 15 major potato States held 265 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2002, up 2 percent from last year but 15 percent below 2000. Storage accounted for 65 percent of the 2002 fall production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 11 percent round white, 3 percent long white (Shepody), and 83 percent russet; with more round whites and fewer long whites and russets than a year ago.

Disappearance, at 146 million cwt, from the start of harvest to December 1, is up 13 percent from the same period last year but 2 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.2 million cwt, is up 10 percent from last year and 14 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 188 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, up 6 percent from last year but 15 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 5 percent from last year and Colorado's are up 29 percent. The return of irrigation water to the Klamath Basin boosted California's stocks 25 percent from last year and helped increase Oregon's stocks by 3 percent. Washington's sheds stored the same amount of potatoes as last year but Montana's stocks are up 2 percent.

Production of fall potatoes for 2002 is forecast at 417 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from November and 6 percent above last year. However, this is 11 percent smaller than the record high 2000 crop. Area harvested, at 1.11 million acres, is up 4 percent from last year but 7 percent below two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 374 cwt per acre, 3 cwt above last month and 7 cwt above last year. Production estimates are generally lower this year in Central and Eastern States but higher in the West. Harvest was completed on schedule in nearly all States.

The nine Western States' production is forecast at 293 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year but 11 percent below 2000. Acreage harvested, at 695,800 acres, gained 8 percent from last year, while the average yield of 422 cwt per acre is up 11 cwt. California growers responded with record high yields with adequate irrigation water available in the Tule Lake Basin. Colorado's production rose 31 percent as farmers had sufficient irrigation water to sustain them through the hot, dry summer weather. Idaho's production increased 11 percent from last year as potatoes were able to size up at the end of the season. Production in Oregon was adjusted upward 31 percent from the November forecast with current storage totals and corrections made in objective yield data. Production now stands at 24.9 million cwt, up 20 percent from last year but 19 percent below 2000. Washington's production forecast is down 5 percent from last month but up 1 percent from 2001 despite lower yields. Production in Nevada and New Mexico rose 10 and 12 percent, respectively, from a year ago. Montana's production is down 3 percent and Utah is down 29 percent.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2001-2002 1/

STATE	2001 CROP			2002 CROP		
	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 2000	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 2001	% OF PROD
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
CA	1,424	1,200	84	4,450	1,500	34
CO	21,357	15,600	73	27,885	20,100	72
ID	120,200	87,500	73	133,385	92,000	69
ME	16,430	12,200	74	16,960	12,600	74
MI	13,950	8,200	59	13,878	7,900	57
MN	18,425	12,000	65	18,700	12,000	64
MT	3,296	3,000	91	3,213	3,050	95
NE	8,400	4,850	58	8,414	5,650	67
NY	5,942	2,400	40	5,500	2,500	45
ND	26,400	19,500	74	23,460	16,000	68
OH	1,097	300	27	1,008	190	19
OR	20,730	17,500	84	24,936	18,000	72
PA	3,173	1,800	57	2,590	1,200	46
WA	94,400	53,000	56	95,200	53,000	56
WI	31,955	19,700	62	31,125	19,500	63
Other States	387,179	258,750	67	410,704	265,190	65

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2002 totaled 29.3 million cwt.

Montana Hog Inventory Up

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2002 was 185,000 head, 9 percent above a year ago. Breeding stock was up 11 percent from last December to 21,000 head. Market hog numbers increased to 164,000 head, up 9 percent from last year.

There were 38,000 sows farrowed in Montana during the period of December 2001 through November 2002. This was unchanged from a year ago. The number of pigs saved per litter increased slightly to 9.16 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 348,000 head, a 1 percent increase from last year. There were 500 farms with one or more hogs in Montana in 2002, down from 550 farms last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2002, was 58.9 million head. This was 1 percent below December 1, 2001, and 2 percent below September 1, 2002.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from December 1, 2001, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent less than 2001, and 1 percent less than 2000. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.83 pigs saved per litter for the September-November 2002 period, compared to 8.82 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 2002-February 2003 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 2 percent above 2001. Intended farrowings for March-May 2003, at 2.85 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period in 2002, and 1 percent below 2001.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 75,350 during 2002, down 7 percent from last year and 13 percent below 2000. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 10 percent of the operations and 75 percent of the inventory. This is the first time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled 75 percent or more of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 2,258, accounted for 53 percent of the total inventory, up from 52 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 2000-2002

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	155	170	185	109	59,138	59,804	58,943	99
Breeding Hogs	18	19	21	111	6,270	6,209	6,012	97
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	51	54	55	102	19,421	19,908	19,461	98
60-119 lbs.	34	38	41	108	12,933	12,924	12,919	100
120-170 lbs.	30	30	35	117	10,846	10,744	10,736	100
180 lbs. & over	22	29	33	114	9,669	10,018	9,815	98
Total	137	151	164	109	52,868	53,594	52,931	99
Sows Farrowed								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	33.5	38.0	38.0	100	11,410	11,385	11,429	100
Pig Crop								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	304	346	348	101	100,748	100,503	100,758	100
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	9.07	9.11	9.16	101	8.83	8.83	8.82	100
Operations with Hogs	650	550	500	91	86,360	80,880	75,350	93

1/ December previous year.

U.S. November Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.25 billion during November 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.23 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 962 million were broiler-type and 57.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2002 averaged 339 million, up slightly from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,140 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,128 eggs in November 2001. November 2002 contained 21 weekdays, two holidays and five Saturdays, compared to 22 weekdays, two holidays and four Saturdays in November 2001.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2002, totaled 339 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 339 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.57 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2002, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.76 billion eggs during November 2002, up slightly from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 316 million, was down slightly from a year ago.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Seeding
Grain Stocks
Late Season Crops

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Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
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"Best Wishes for 2003"

May your holiday season be filled with joy and precipitation! All of us at Montana Agricultural Statistics Service wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.

I cannot believe 2002 is coming to a close; the older you get the more the years run together. Montana farmers and ranchers are made of hardy stock, and they faced another year of persistent drought with optimism saying, "This year was not as bad as last year." Conditions for seeding the 2003 winter wheat crop were some of the best farmers have seen in six years, due largely to August rains. The rains also delayed harvesting of spring seeded crops until October. In fact, some producers had their winter wheat seeded before they harvested their spring wheat. Montanans remain optimistic that precipitation will come and the crops will flourish.

Excluding 2001 production, the 2002 crop was the smallest since 1940. Winter wheat production was 21 million bushels, up slightly from 2001's dismal production. Spring wheat production was 75.9 million bushels, up 16 percent from 2001, due to increased acreage harvested. Farmers had to abandon record numbers of seeded acres, due to the drought. Late spring rains saved producers from a total loss.

Neighbors helped neighbors get through one more year of drought, living up to the saying that "Montana is the Last, Best Place." Drought conditions hit livestock producers hard, creating shortages of feed and water and forcing many ranchers to market livestock earlier than normal at lighter weights. Current cattle inventory as of January 1, 2002, was 2.45 million head. When compared to 2.55 million head in 2001, Montana ranchers decreased cattle by 100,000 head (in one year) due to drought. In many cases, ranchers had to find additional sources of feed, haul water to livestock, cull herds heavily, and in some cases liquidate herds because of feed and water shortages. People who make their living from the land continue to be filled with optimism that the future will be better and the cycle of drought will be broken in 2003. Farmers and ranchers are infinitely optimistic that the snow and rain will fall and resupply the reservoirs and aquifers.

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service is also hopeful about the future of Montana agriculture because of the remarkable people who make a living from the land. To everyone involved in Montana's agriculture, thank you for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of **Montana's Number One Industry--Agriculture**. We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Peggy Stringer

PS. Look for the 2002 Census of Agriculture in your mailbox around mid-December. The Census is conducted every five years and is the most comprehensive source of county agricultural information available.

2002 Dry Edible Bean Production

Production for Montana's **dry edible bean** crop was estimated at 374,000 cwt, down less than 1% from the 2001 crop. Planted acreage for 2002 is estimated to be 26,500 acres, down 39% from last year. Harvested area for this year is 23,000 acres, 19% below 2001. The yield is forecast at 1,630 pounds per acre, 310 pounds better than last year.

Pinto bean production for Montana is estimated to be 289,000 cwt, which is 45% more than last year. Acres planted, at 13,500 is up 17% from 2001. Harvested acreage, at 13,100, is 31% higher than the previous year. The yield is forecast at 2,210 pounds per acre, 210 pounds better than last year. Better availability of irrigation water has led to this year's increase in acreage and production.

Garbanzo bean production is forecast at 77,000 cwt for 2002, compared with 171,000 cwt for last year. Planted acreage was set at 12,600 acres, down 60% from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 9,500 acres. The yield is forecast at 810 pounds per acre, down 15% from last year's 950 pounds per acre. Producers have suggested disease problems and limited marketing channels contributed to the reduction in garbanzo bean acreage.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 30.2 million cwt for 2002, up 9% from the October forecast and 54% above last year. This increase is a rebound from last year's drought reduced production in eastern and central States. Harvested area is forecast at 1.74 million acres, 3% above the last forecast and 39% above 2001. The average U.S. yield of 1,733 pounds per acre climbed 101 pounds above the October forecast and is 164 pounds greater than a year ago. Production is above a year ago in 10 of the 18 producing States. Most notable are a six-fold increase in Michigan after last year's drought and a 70% gain in North Dakota where planted acres are record high. Production is up from last year for all classes except garbanzo, black eye, great northern, and small white. Navies are up 130%, pinto's climbed 49%, and blacks are almost quadrupled from last year. Small red, baby lima, cranberry, and pink are also up sharply.

October U.S. Pig Crop Down

The October 2002 U.S. pig crop at 8.33 million head, was 2% below the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 940 thousand head, 2% below last year. The average pigs per litter for October increased to 8.86, compared to 8.85 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on November 1, 2002, was 5.83 million head, down 2% from November 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during October totaled 1.18 million head, down 1% from the previous year.

ERS Economist Says Fed Cattle Market Strengthens

Fed-steer prices have rallied $5 since early October, reaching the upper $60s per cwt in early November as poor feeding conditions slowed marketings. With weekly beef production running above year-earlier levels, the market strength indicates relatively good product movement in export and domestic channels. Prices strengthened in early November as muddy feedlot conditions resulted in weight loss and reduced marketings.

Although beef production in the October-December quarter is expected to be about 1% over a year earlier, prices for fed cattle are expected to average in the upper $60s per cwt as packers compete for declining numbers of cattle. In recent months, fed-cattle marketings have been brisk relative to inventory levels. On October 1, cattle-on-feed-inventory (7 states) was down 5% from a year earlier. Feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots on October 1 were about unchanged from a year earlier. However, placements are expected to remain below year-earlier levels, as wheat-grazing prospects in the High Plains winter wheat areas are the best in several years. Improved weather conditions will result in more light cattle moved to pasture.

The upturn in prices will likely continue next year as steer and heifer slaughter drops each quarter relative to a year earlier, with the largest year-to-year declines occurring in the second half. Cow slaughter is expected to drop sharply in 2003 as forage conditions improve. Assuming normal winter feeding conditions, gains in average slaughter weight should slow from this year's record pace, but will rise modestly as the proportion of cows in the slaughter mix declines. For the year, beef production is forecast down 5% in 2003. Prospects for reduced beef supplies and higher cattle prices next year depend to a large extent on "normal" forage and grazing conditions in spring and summer, which would encourage producers to retain animals for breeding rather than feeding them for slaughter.

U.S. Livestock & Meat Imports & Exports

	2000	2001	Jan-Sept 2001	Jan-Sept. 2002
Beef & Veal Imports		**Carcass wt.,thousand lb.**		
Australia	1,025,327	1,151,858	907,827	911,038
New Zealand	639,334	637,372	547,006	492,191
Canada	919,068	987,073	736,545	827,262
Brazil	173,584	163,556	113,691	149,122
Argentina	130,806	99,708	73,416	57,106
Central America	70,232	70,103	48,526	48,404
Uruguay	62,237	41,109	38,269	11,027
Mexico	10,890	12,166	8,887	13,128
Other	895	411	368	514
Total	3,032,373	3,163,356	2,474,536	2,509,791
Beef & Veal Exports				
Japan	1,112,417	1,004,062	799,130	580,625
Canada	253,759	233,291	168,305	172,577
Mexico	516,355	531,972	377,035	473,035
South Korea	384,888	345,518	207,882	454,832
Caribbean	21,713	22,337	17,014	16,798
Russia	25,839	7,400	6,412	15,345
Other	153,429	124,703	83,535	122,120
Total	2,468,400	2,269,283	1,659,313	1,835,332
Cattle Imports		**Head**		
Mexico	1,222,569	1,130,168	796,881	470.887
Canada	964,522	1,306,185	960,289	1,186,867
Over 700 lbs.	849,307	1,143,181	857,973	936,314
440-700 lbs.	30,089	45,679	21,359	105,891
Total	2,187,106	2,436,715	1,757,521	1,657,759
Cattle Exports				
Mexico	126,873	143,769	101,905	82,792
Canada	349,732	297,622	147,830	101,558
Total	481,670	448,443	253,880	185,471

U.S. Livestock & Meat Imports & Exports

	2000	2001	Jan-Sept. 2001	Jan-Sept 2002
Lamb Imports		**Carcass wt., thousand lb.**		
Australia	58,400	67,785	49,351	53,207
New Zealand	35,349	39,576	28,744	36,525
Total	95,202	108,215	78,828	90,031
Mutton Imports	34,342	37,511	30,952	33,836
Lamb& Mutton Exports				
Total	4,903	6,511	4,796	4,924
Pork Imports				
Canada	737,194	766,043	553,498	634,287
Denmark	147,963	120,106	89,572	89,632
Poland	23,998	23,976	17,014	16,587
Netherlands	10,749	8,433	6,619	5,207
Hungary	8,722	6,814	4,708	3,138
Other	37,965	25,372	16,590	23,048
Total	966,590	950,745	688,001	771,899
Pork Exports				
Japan	582,961	742,222	547,619	599,475
Canada	138,807	186,234	137,686	144,648
Mexico	291,446	318,480	239,617	233,210
Russia	27,223	82,327	63,985	30,119
South Korea	41,842	38,685	25,725	44,978
Hong Kong	43,735	27,612	21,165	17,575
Caribbean	15,356	23,503	17,662	14,688
Other	145,292	140,397	103,250	114,079
Total	1,286,662	1,559,459	1,156,709	1,198,771
Hog Imports		**Head**		
Canada	4,356,835	5,337,688	3,886,771	4,217,410
Under 110 lb	2,335,848	3,163,962	2,288,476	2,712,437
Total	4,357,564	5,337,688	3,886,771	4,217,410
Hog Exports				
Total	69,228	64,049	23,505	154,232

SOURCE for the above information: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 26, 2002.

Agricultural Prices Received for October

October full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with September 2002. Montana's winter wheat average price was $4.06 per bushel, up $0.07 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.20 to $4.66 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.58 to $4.97 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.09 from the previous month to $2.22, malt barley prices decreased $0.04 to $3.07 per bushel.

The mid-November price for alfalfa hay was down $4.00 to $83.00 per ton and all other hay held steady at $75.00 per ton. The mid-November grain prices were mixed from the previous month with winter wheat price averaging $4.10 per bushel; spring wheat was $4.65; durum wheat was $5.05; feed barley was $2.21; and malt barley averaged $3.28.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $3.80 to $80.20 per cwt, while cows fell $1.70 to $34.30. The average price for calves decreased $4.50 to $86.20 per cwt. Sheep prices rose $3.00 to $24.40 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $5.00 to $84.10 per cwt. Milk prices rose $0.20 per cwt from last month to $12.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November averaged $80.60 per cwt.; cows averaged $31.70 per cwt.; calves averaged $85.50 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for October and changes from September were as follows: winter wheat was $4.37, up $0.23, spring wheat was $4.44, up $0.15; durum wheat was $4.43, up $0.23; the all barley price was $2.65, up $0.01, and steer and heifer prices were $68.50, up $0.50 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-November winter wheat price was $4.15 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.32 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.23 per bushel, all wheat was $4.23 per bushel, malt barley was $3.14 per bushel, feed barley was $2.33 per bushel, and all barley was $2.81. Steer and heifer prices were $70.90 per cwt, cow prices were $32.60, calves were $90.40 per cwt., all hog prices were $27.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.563 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 97, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the October index. Higher prices for soybeans, eggs, cattle, and tomatoes more than offset lower prices for hogs, milk, lettuce, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cotton, milk, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflower.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.3 percent) above November, 2001. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, turkeys, and calves.

The Food Commodities Index increased 2 points (2.1 percent) above last month to 96, but is 1.0 percent below November last year.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	October 2001	November 2001	October 2002	November 2002
Prices Received	94	93	96	97
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	123	122	125	126
Ratio 2/	76	76	77	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct. 2001	Sept. 2002	Oct. 2002	Oct. 2002	Sept. 2002	Oct. 2001	Nov. 15, 2002	Nov. 15, 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.09	3.99	4.06	4.32	+0.07	+0.97	4.10	4.15
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.78	4.41	4.97	4.43	+0.56	+1.19	5.05	4.23
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.18	4.46	4.66	4.44	+0.20	+1.48	4.65	4.32
All Wheat	Bu.	3.23	4.37	4.59	4.37	+0.22	+1.36	4.60	4.23
Barley, All	Bu.	2.57	2.76	2.77	2.65	+0.01	+0.20	2.91	2.81
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.85	2.13	2.22	2.25	+0.09	+0.37	2.21	2.33
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.83	3.11	3.07	2.91	-0.04	+0.24	3.28	3.14
Oats	Bu.	1.87	1.87	1.98	1.85	+0.11	+0.11	N/A	1.87
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	86.00	85.00	87.00	101.00	+2.00	+1.00	83.00	101.00
All Other Hay	Ton	85.00	75.00	75.00	73.40	0	-10.00	75.00	75.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	78.00	83.00	85.00	94.50	+2.00	+7.00	82.00	93.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	94.70	76.40	80.20	68.50	+3.80	-14.50	80.60	70.90
Cows	Cwt	39.20	36.00	34.30	33.60	-1.70	-4.90	31.70	32.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	88.60	66.30	72.90	64.70	+6.60	-15.70	72.30	66.50
Calves	Cwt	99.00	90.70	86.20	91.90	-4.50	-12.80	85.50	90.40
Sheep 2/	Cwt	26.10	21.40	24.40	26.50	+3.00	-1.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	51.60	79.10	84.10	79.90	+5.00	+32.50	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	17.10	12.00	12.00	12.10	0	-5.10	12.20	11.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. Meats Supply and Use, 2001 and Projected 2002 and 2003

Item	Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption	
							Total	Per capita 2/
			Million pounds 3/					
BEEF:								
2001	525	26,212	3,164	29,901	2,269	606	27,026	66.2
2002 Proj. Oct:	606	27,189	3,306	31,101	2,468	625	28,008	67.8
Nov:	606	27,186	3,306	31,098	2,468	675	27,955	67.7
2003 Proj. Oct:	625	25,755	3,305	29,685	2,530	350	26,805	64.3
Nov:	675	25,755	3,305	29,735	2,530	350	26,855	64.4
PORK:								
2001	478	19,160	951	20,588	1,560	536	18,492	50.2
2002 Proj. Oct:	536	19,781	1,057	21,374	1,563	575	19,236	51.6
Nov:	536	19,773	1,057	21,366	1,588	575	19,203	51.5
2003 Proj. Oct:	575	19,442	1,080	21,097	1,600	600	18,897	50.2
Nov:	575	19,442	1,080	21,097	1,620	600	18,877	50.2
BROILERS:								
2001	798	30,938	14	31,749	5,555	712	25,482	76.6
2002 Proj. Oct:	712	32,008	11	32,731	4,868	825	27,038	80.3
Nov:	712	31,987	12	32,710	5,108	825	26,777	79.5
2003 Proj. Oct:	825	32,647	12	33,484	5,450	775	27,259	80.2
Nov:	825	32,647	12	33,484	5,450	775	27,259	80.2
TURKEYS:								
2001	241	5,489	1	5,732	487	241	5,004	17.5
2002 Proj. Oct:	241	5,584	1	5,826	456	325	5,044	17.4
Nov:	241	5,596	1	5,837	456	325	5,056	17.5
2003 Proj. Oct:	325	5,601	1	5,927	490	325	5,111	17.5
Nov:	325	5,601	1	5,927	490	325	5,111	17.5

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis. 3/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry. Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, November 12, 2002.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Milk Production
- Potato Stocks
- Cattle on Feed
- Red Meat Production
- Hogs & Pigs
- Egg Production

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Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 02-22 (0279-0394) Released: November 26, 2002

HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Supply & Demand Estimates
Census of Agriculture
Farm Labor

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on November 1, 2002. The inventory was 9 percent below both November 1, 2001 and November 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.39 million, 12 percent below 2001 and 16 percent below 2000. Net placements were 2.30 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 809,000, 600-699 pounds were 638,000, 700-799 pounds were 521,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 420,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.98 million, 4 percent above 2001 and 3 percent above 2000. Other disappearance totaled 84,000 during October, 24 percent above 2001 and 27 percent above 2000.

October Milk Production Up

Milk production in the 20 major States during October totaled 12.0 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from October 2001. September revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 2.5 percent from September 2001. The September revision represented a decrease of 91 million pounds or 0.7 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,544 pounds for October, 22 pounds above October 2001. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 67,000 head more than October 2001, and 8,000 head more than September 2002.

Red Meat Production Up

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 2002, up 1 percent from last year and 2 percent from the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,000 head, equal to one year ago. The average live weight decreased 19 pounds to 1,139 pounds.

During October there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered, compared with 1,100 one year ago. The average live weight, at 244 pounds, was down 3 pounds from last year. October sheep slaughter in the state totaled 400 head, the same number as October 2001. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 125 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.38 billion pounds in October, up 3 percent from the 4.27 billion pounds produced in October 2001 and a new record high for October. Beef production, at 2.51 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year and a new record high for October. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.27 million head, up 3 percent from October 2001. The average live weight was 1,270 pounds, up 23 pounds from October a year ago.

Veal production totaled 18.7 million pounds, 5 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 100,800 head, up 7 percent from October 2001. The average live weight was 308 pounds, down 10 pounds from October a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.83 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.40 million head, 1 percent above October 2001. The average live weight was 264 pounds, down 3 pounds from October a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.6 million pounds, was down 1 percent from October 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 300,200 head, 4 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 6 pounds from October a year ago.

January - October red meat production was 39.4 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

U.S. October Egg Production Up

U.S. egg production totaled 7.41 billion during October 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.34 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2002 averaged 338 million, up slightly from a year earlier. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,192 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,180 eggs in October 2001.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2002, totaled 338 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.55 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2002, averaged 71.1 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.94 billion eggs during October 2002, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during October, at 317 million, was up slightly from a year ago.

World Supply & Demand Estimates

World supply and demand estimates for wheat incorporate revised estimates of China's wheat consumption and stocks. The changes are due to indications that USDA's previous estimates of China's wheat stocks were too low. The changes reflect information collected by the U.S. Agricultural Attache in Beijing, trade sources, and statements by Chinese officials regarding total grain stocks. Internal prices and trade patterns also strongly suggest stocks are much more abundant than USDA's previous estimates. Since production and trade estimates are unchanged, except for higher projected exports for 2002/03, higher stocks can only be attained by lowering use, specifically non-feed use. Per capita consumption of wheat is reduced slightly starting in 1990/91, with marginally stronger reductions from 1994/95 to 2002/03 as rising incomes led urban consumers to switch to other foods.
(Continued on next page.)

Supply and Demand Estimates

(continued from page one)

Estimates of wheat feed use are raised 2 million tons per year for 2002/03 and the previous 2 years. Old and revised historical supply and demand estimates for China wheat are available at: http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/wasde/wasde.htm.

WHEAT: Projected U.S. 2002/03 ending stocks of wheat are down 13 million bushels from last month due to lower production and smaller projected imports. Estimated production is revised down 8 million bushels because of reduced area. Some of the other spring wheat and durum acres that producers indicated they intended to harvest for grain during the collection of data for the Small Grains Summary 2002 report were not harvested for grain. Projected imports are reduced 5 million bushels from last month. The projected price range is raised 10 cents on the low end to $3.65 to $3.95 per bushel.

Projected world 2002/03 wheat production is down marginally from last month as reductions for Australia, Algeria, and Bulgaria more than offset gains for Kazakstan, Russia, and Afghanistan. The smaller projected Australian crop results in a 2-million-ton reduction in exports for their October-September marketing year. However, relatively strong exports during July-September 2002 result in only a 1-million-ton reduction for the July-June international trade year. Projected global imports are up from last month, led by a 2-million-ton increase for the EU. The larger global imports and reduced Australian exports are offset by higher projected exports for Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe. Global stocks are up sharply due to historical revisions in China stocks.

COARSE GRAINS: Projected 2002/03 ending stocks of corn are up 84 million bushels from last month due to a 34-million-bushel gain in production and reduced use. Projected feed and residual use is up 25 million bushels due to lower sorghum feeding. However, exports are down 75 million bushels because of increased competition. Projected sorghum exports are 25 million bushels above last month due to expanding global imports and reduced competition. In addition, forecast sorghum production is reduced slightly. The smaller crop and expanding exports are only partially offset by lower feed and residual use, lowering ending stocks of sorghum 10 million bushels. The projected price range for corn is down 10 cents on each end of the range to $2.20 to $2.60 per bushel.

Global coarse grain production, trade, and use are down slightly from last month, but ending stocks are higher. There are numerous country-specific production changes from last month, highlighted by larger corn production in Argentina and Eastern Europe, lower corn production in Brazil, lower Mexico sorghum production, and lower production of barley in Australia. The larger corn crops result in expanded corn export prospects for Argentina and Eastern Europe. Plus, projected exports by China are up 500,000 tons. With global imports up only slightly from last month, U.S. export prospects are reduced. U.S. sorghum export prospects are improved because of a sharply smaller sorghum crop in Mexico and reduced exports (and higher imports) for Australia. Larger China corn stocks are due to lower projected feed use in 2002/03 and the previous 2 years because of increased wheat feeding estimates.

OILSEEDS: Projected U.S. oilseed ending stocks for 2002/03 are up this month as increased production is only partially offset by higher use prospects. U.S. oilseed production, at 82.7 million tons, is up 0.8 million tons this month as a larger soybean crop offsets reductions for peanut and cottonseed production. Soybean production is forecast at 2.69 billion bushels, up 36 million bushels from last month, based on a higher average yield.

Projected U.S. soybean stocks are increased 10 million bushels to 185 million bushels as production increases more than use. Soybean exports are projected at 890 million bushels, up 40 million bushels from last month due to stronger than expected early-season shipments, especially to China. However, soybean crush is lowered due to reduced soybean meal export prospects. Soybean meal exports are lowered 0.4 million short tons to 6.2 million tons, based on increased meal exports from South America. Soybean oil ending stocks for 2002/03 are projected at 1,485 million pounds, down 145 million pounds from last month due mostly to reduced production.

The U.S. season-average soybean price range for 2002/03 is lowered 10 cents on each end to $4.95 to $5.85 per bushel. Soybean oil prices are raised 0.5 cents on both ends of the range to 19.5 to 20.5 cents per pound, due to lower projected ending stocks. Soybean meal prices are projected at $155 to $185 per short ton, down $10 on both ends of the range.

Global oilseed production for 2002/03 is projected at 321.7 million tons, up 3.8 million tons from last month. Foreign production is forecast at 238.9 million tons, up 3.0 million tons, based largely on increased soybean production. Soybean production in Argentina is forecast at a record 32.5 million tons, up 1.5 million tons, based on increased area and higher yields. Soybean production for Brazil is raised 1 million tons to a record 49 million tons, based on higher projected area, especially in Southern Brazil as producers switch more area from corn. Soybean production for China is increased 0.8 million tons to 16.4 million tons, based on higher area. Australian rapeseed production is reduced 200,000 tons to 800,000 tons because of severe drought. Global oilseed ending stocks are increased 3.4 million tons this month to 32.8 million tons based on larger soybean stocks.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND DAIRY: Forecast meat production for 2002 and 2003 is little changed this month Third-quarter 2002 poultry production is raised due to higher-than-expected slaughter, but lower eggs set data over the past several weeks point toward slower broiler production growth in the fourth quarter. Third-quarter broiler exports are raised to reflect strong shipments to Russia during August. This month, forecast total egg production is unchanged for 2002 and is raised for 2003. Table egg production is forecast slightly higher, but the gains will be mostly offset by declines in hatching egg production. Livestock and poultry price forecasts are little changed this month.

Projected milk production for 2002/03 is raised from last month. Additional milk production is expected to continue pressuring already weak product markets and lead to larger CCC net removals of nonfat dry milk and generally lower product prices. Pressured by weak butter prices, the Class IV price for 2002/03 is projected to average $10.45 to$11.35 per cwt, and weak cheese prices likely will result in the Class III price averaging $10.10 to $10.80 per cwt. The all milk price is projected at $11.65 to $12.35 per cwt.

(See table on back page.)

2002 Census of Agriculture

Farm and ranch operators across America and Montana are about to participate in the Nation's largest, most detailed statistical portrait of U.S. agriculture – the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Conducted by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census will provide a comprehensive portrait of agriculture at the county, state, and national levels depicting how farms and ranches stand today compared with five years ago.

Census of agriculture report forms will be mailed to farm and ranch operators in late December to collect data for the 2002 calendar year. Operators must complete and return their forms by February 3, 2003.

Data provided by individual farmers and ranchers is held strictly confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). Statistical results are aggregated and published only in geographical summaries to prevent identification of individual farms.

New questions will collect information on multiple operators per farm, production contracts, certified organic acreage, grain storage capacity, computer and Internet use, and new commodities such as bison, deer, elk, llamas, emus, and ostriches. Other questions will be similar to those asked in previous censuses and will focus on key information such as acreage and land use, operator characteristics, crop and livestock production, and agricultural product sales.

Twenty-five percent of operators will also be asked about production expenses, fertilizers and chemicals, machinery and equipment, market value of land and buildings, and income from farm-related sources. Report forms are tailored by region to make them less burdensome and more relevant to respondents in different parts of the country.

How do census of agriculture results help farmers and ranchers?

- **Farm organizations, Congress, and State and local governments** have the facts needed to plan programs that help farmers and ranchers get the most for their investments.
- **Farm machinery manufacturers, grain elevators, slaughter and cold storage, and other agribusinesses** more effectively target their locations to where they are most needed by using county and State statistics, resulting in economic benefit for farm operators.
- **Seed and fertilizer producers** compare yields and other information to help operators do the most effective job.
- **Irrigation specialists, water resource developers, and irrigation equipment manufacturers** convert census knowledge into practical advice for farm operators.
- **State and national lawmakers** use census facts to determine where to allocate funds that will benefit agriculture producers.
- **Farm broadcasters and agricultural editors** convey census results to their audiences and use the data to help focus their stories on important areas of agriculture.
- **Researchers and legislators** use county-level data to define problem areas and help farmers recover from outbreaks of disease and pests.

A farm, for census purposes, is any place from which at least $1,000 worth of agricultural products were produced and sold or could have been sold during the census year. Because a key strength of the census is providing detailed facts about small farms, every response counts – whether from a large or very small operation. By responding completely and accurately, farmers and ranchers can make the 2002 Census of Agriculture an effective tool to help chart the future of their industry.

To find results from previous censuses and a wealth of current statistics on agriculture, visit www.usda.gov/nass/. Results from the 2002 Census of Agriculture will be released in the spring of 2004.

Hired Workers Down 5 Percent, Wage Rates up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.19 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 6-12, 2002, down 5 percent from a year ago. There were 935 thousand workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 250 thousand workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $8.93 per hour during the October 2002 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.30 per hour, up 29 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned $8.44 per hour compared with $8.39 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.33 was up 24 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 41.7 hours a year ago.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates By State, 2001-02 1/ 2/

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Dollars per Hour					
CO	8.22	8.57	7.57	7.90	7.61	8.07
ID	7.95	8.05	7.14	7.50	7.66	7.87
MT	7.62	7.95	7.38	7.86	7.15	7.56
ND	9.27	9.22	9.17	9.28	9.07	9.16
OR	9.10	9.15	8.56	8.37	8.56	8.48
SD	8.21	8.66	8.16	8.11	7.81	8.22
UT	8.51	9.14	7.22	8.47	7.88	8.42
WA	9.02	9.43	8.50	8.47	8.63	8.90
WY	7.20	7.55	6.57	7.05	6.57	6.96
US 3/	8.45	8.80	7.78	8.11	7.86	8.17

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January. 3/ Excludes AK.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1985-2002

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1985 . . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . . .	876	1,957	108	2,941	928	82	193	1,202	961	2,164	777	2.78
2002 . 3/	777	1,616	80	2,474	930	86	150	1,166	950	2,116	358	3.65-3.95

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, November 2002--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Christmas Letter	Ag Prices Received
U.S. Livestock & Meat	Hogs & Pigs
Imports and Exports - ERS	Dry Beans Production
U.S. Meat Supply & Use - ERS	Potato Production

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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HIGHLIGHTS:

November 1 Crop Production
2002 Crop Year Summary
Ag Prices Received

November 1 Crop Production Forecast

Spring wheat production was revised downward to 75.9 million bushels from 80.5 million bushels and **durum wheat** production was revised up to 13.0 million bushels from 12.54 million bushels. Survey respondents who reported durum or other spring wheat acreage not yet harvested in Montana and North Dakota during the surveys conducted to prepare the Small Grains 2002 Summary were re-contacted to determine how many of these acres were actually harvested and record the actual production from those acres. Based on this updated information, harvested acreage was reduced for both durum and other spring wheat in these two States. Durum area declined 5,000 acres in Montana and 50,000 acres in North Dakota. Other spring wheat harvested area declined 50,000 and 100,000 acres in Montana and North Dakota, respectively. The Montana durum yield increased 1.0 bushel from the previous estimate, while the other spring wheat yield declined 1.0 bushel. North Dakota yields for both crops were unchanged from the previous estimate. **All wheat** production in the United States is 1.62 billion bushels, 17 percent below last year, and less than 1 percent lower than the previous estimate. Because unharvested production is a component of **on-farm stocks**, changes were made to the September 1 on-farm stocks levels comparable to the production adjustments.

Montana **dry edible pea** production is forecast to be 204,000 cwt, down 18 percent from last year's revised estimate. Due to a classification change in dry edible pea acreage, dry pea estimates no longer include desi chickpea acreage. Desi chickpea acreage is now included in the garbanzo dry bean acreage. Planted acreage for 2002 is estimated at 32,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres is estimated at 24,000 acres, up from 16,500 acres last year. The yield is forecast at 850 pounds per acre, down from 1,510 pounds per acre last year. The high temperatures during the growing season and lack of rainfall during the critical stages of crop development, severely reduced yields for dry peas and lentils.

Austrian winter pea production in Montana is forecasted to be 24,000 cwt, up 4,000 cwt from last year. Harvested acreage at 3,000 acres is expected to be up 500 acres from last year. Planted acreage for 2002 is estimated to be 9,500 acres, down 400 acres from last year. Most of the Austrian winter pea acres planted this year were harvested as forage or hay rather than for peas. The average yield is forecast to be 800 lbs per acre, up 10 lbs per acre from last year.

Lentil production in Montana is forecast to be 121,000 cwt for 2002, down 45 percent from last year. Planted acreage at 25,000 acres, is expected to be up 3,000 acres from last year. Harvested acres, at 22,000 acres, is up 2,000 acres from last year. Average yield is expected to be 550 lbs per acre down from 1,100 lbs last year.

Montana **sugar beets** production was forecast at 1.14 million tons, down 1 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, of 20.0 tons per acre, is down 1.5 tons per acre from 2001. Late planting and replanting of sugar beets and extreme heat during July and August reduced yields from a year ago. Harvested acreage is up 3,500 acres from last year to 57,000 acres.

Fall potato production in Montana is forecast to be 3.213 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 10,200 acres, down 100 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 315 cwt per acre, down 5 cwt per acre from the previous year. As of November 1, ninety-nine percent of the crop had been harvested which is 6 points ahead of the five-year average.

2002 Montana Crop Year Summary

During the fall of 2001 Montana grain growers seeded 1.45 million acres of winter wheat, 150,000 acres more than the previous year. This is 18 percent below the 1.77 million acres average for the last 10 years.

November 2001 was unseasonably warm and dry. A large, upper-level ridge of high pressure over the western U.S. kept the storm track to the north and thus Pacific storms were unable to move into the area. By the end of November, winter wheat had emerged on 92% of the seeded acreage. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% surplus, 12% adequate, 40% short, and 48% very short. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% surplus, 11% adequate, 36% short, and 53% very short. Warmer and drier than normal conditions prevailed over Montana again in December allowing farmers to do some minor fieldwork. Winter wheat protectiveness of snow cover was rated at 0% excellent, 1% good, 2% fair, 57% poor, and 40% very poor. The lack of snow cover continued to allow wind damage to occur to the winter wheat crop. At the end of December 2001 wind damage was rated at 49% heavy, 19% moderate, 25% light, and 7% none. Freeze and drought damage was estimated at 17% heavy, 49% moderate, 32% light and only 2% with no damage.

Chinook winds brought warmer and drier than normal conditions to Montana during January 2002, allowing farmers to do some minor fieldwork. However, producers were becoming increasingly concerned about the lack of snow cover to protect winter wheat from cold temperatures and gusty winds. As of the end of January, protectiveness of snow cover was rated 0% excellent, 2% good, 15% fair, 14% poor, and 69% very poor. Wind damage to the winter wheat crop was reported to be 28% heavy, 35% moderate, 16% light, and 21% with none at month's end. The overall condition of the winter wheat crop was rated 0% excellent, 2% good, 47% fair, 45% poor, and 6% very poor.

February weather was generally similar to the previous two months with above normal temperatures, below normal precipitation, and insignificant moisture. Snow cover remained mostly inadequate to offer much protection to the winter wheat crop. March showed some improvement, but parched soil rapidly absorbed what moisture did fall. Many areas of the state received near normal amounts of rain or snow the first weeks of April. Precipitation was very light the last part of the month, which allowed producers to make good seeding progress with small grains. Topsoil moisture was rated very short or short for a majority of the state by month's end. Winter wheat was 16% still dormant, 54% greening and 30% green and growing . Some areas of the state received rain the first week in May, but hot, dry conditions prevailed the rest of the month. Topsoil moisture during May continued to be rated very short or short for the majority of the state. Small grains seeding was nearly completed by the last week of May.

November 1, 2002 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/
		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,300	1,450	870	750	22.0	28.0	19,140	21,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	510	590	495	565	24.0	23.0	11,880	12,995
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,550	3,750	2,850	3,450	23.0	22.0	65,550	75,900
All Wheat	Bu.	5,360	5,790	4,215	4,765	22.9	23.1	96,570	109,895
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65	55	13	14	148.0	3/	1,924	3/
Oats	Bu.	130	145	60	55	40.0	49.0	2,400	2,695
Barley	Bu.	1,100	1,200	720	950	41.0	42.0	29,520	39,900
Flaxseed	Bu.	14	17	12	15	15.0	3/	180	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	38.5	23.0	24.0	21.0	13.8	17.0	332	357
Dry Peas	Cwt.	26.0	32.0	16.5	24.0	15.1	8.5	249	204
Lentils	Cwt.	22.0	25.0	20.0	22.0	11.0	5.5	220	121
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.9	9.5	2.5	3.0	7.9	8.0	20	24
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.4	57.8	53.5	57.0	21.5	20.0	1,150	1,140
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.5	10.3	10.3	10.2	320.0	315.0	3,296	3,213
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,450	1,700	2.10	2.00	3,045	3,400
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,150	1.40	1.50	1,400	1,725
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,850	1.81	1.80	4,445	5,125
UNITED STATES		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	41,078	41,735	31,295	29,651	43.5	38.5	1,361,479	1,142,802
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,910	2,909	2,789	2,703	30.0	29.4	83,556	79,450
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,609	15,714	14,549	13,463	35.2	29.3	512,008	394,189
All Wheat	Bu.	59,597	60,358	48,633	45,817	40.2	35.3	1,957,043	1,616,441
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	75,752	78,847	68,808	70,541	138.2	127.6	9,506,840	9,003,364
Oats	Bu.	4,403	5,005	1,905	2,098	61.4	56.8	117,024	119,132
Barley	Bu.	4,967	5,073	4,289	4,135	58.2	54.9	249,420	226,873
Flaxseed	Bu.	585	844	578	821	19.8	3/	11,455	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,429.9	1,874.3	1,243.0	1,690.6	15.7	16.3	19,541	27,594
Dry Peas	Cwt.	206.8	293.7	192.3	267.7	19.4	15.6	3,734	4,178
Lentils	Cwt.	201.0	203.0	197.0	193.0	14.7	12.1	2,898	2,325
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	15.9	17.0	7.1	8.5	13.7	14.2	97	121
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,370.8	1,408.8	1,243.6	1,356.3	20.7	20.7	25,787	28,028
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,091.5	1,148.4	1,073.2	1,117.1	367.0	371.0	393,750	414,962
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09	80,266	74,655
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.87	76,437	75,792
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,511	64,709	2.47	2.32	156,703	150,447

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available January 10, 2003.

2002 Crop Year Summary (cont.)

Rain showers began to fall across the state in June, with some major storm events developing in the north central part of Montana. By the middle of June, much of the state had reached normal levels of precipitation based on April 1 to date averages. Crop conditions improved as a result of the mid-June rains. Sixty-two percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in fair and excellent condition at month's end. On the other-hand, all the moisture slowed haying progress, putting growers behind. Topsoil moisture was rated 8% very short, 28% short, 62% adequate, and 2% surplus.

Precipitation continued to fall during July. Some producers reported hail damage to crops. Winter wheat was only 6% harvested by the end of the month, well behind the five-year average of 26%. The first cutting of alfalfa hay was 97% complete, and the second cutting was 23% finished by month's end. CRP acres were grazed or hayed throughout the state. Montana had hot temperatures and precipitation the first week in August. At month's end, the winter wheat harvest was 94% finished, but the spring wheat, barley, and oats harvest were less than half complete. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 75% complete, compared with 79% last year.

During the first week of September rainfall was received throughout the state, and temperatures returned to more normal levels. The effect of late season precipitation was evident, as producers were behind on harvesting progress. The 2002 winter wheat crop was 74% seeded by month's end, well ahead of the 52% average for the last 5 years.

The September Small Grains Summary shows Montana's 2002 winter wheat production was 21.00 million bushels, up 10% from last year's crop. Producers seeded 1.45 million acres, but harvested only 750,000 acres, 120,000 acres less than were harvested in 2001. The 2002 average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, which is 6 bushels more than last year's average. The final yield was reduced by 2 bushels from the August 1 forecast. Hard red winter represented 99 percent of the acreage for both the 2001 and 2002 crop years. The balance was white wheat.

Spring wheat production in Montana was estimated at 75.9 million bushels, up 16% from 2001. Final seeded acreage was 3.75 million acres, 200,000 acres more than 2001 and 250,000 more than earlier forecast. Producers harvested 3.45 million acres, up 200,000 acres from the earlier forecast and 600,000 acres from last year. Yields averaged 22.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from 2001. Hard red spring represented 99 percent of the acreage for 2001 and 2002 crop years. The balance was white wheat.

Montana durum wheat growers seeded 590,000 acres and harvested 565,000 acres in 2002. The average yield for Montana was 23.0 bushels per acre, 1 bushel less than 2001. Total production was estimated at 12.995 million bushels, down 6 percent from last year. The 2002 production is the third highest on record, as is harvested acreage. Only the 978,000 acres harvested in 1956 and 577,000 acres in 1957 exceed this year's harvested acreage.

September Agricultural Prices

September full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with August 2002. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.99 per bushel, up $0.34 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.83 to $4.46 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.63 to $4.41 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.04 from the previous month to $2.13, and malt barley prices decreased $0.11 to $3.11 per bushel.

The mid-October price for alfalfa hay was up $2.00 to $87.00 per ton and all other hay held steady at $75.00 per ton. The mid-October grain prices were mixed with winter wheat price averaging $4.39 per bushel; spring wheat was $4.89; durum wheat was $4.45; feed barley was $2.05; and malt barley averaged $3.05.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mostly lower compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.50 to $76.40 per cwt, while cows fell $0.60 to $36.00. The average price for calves decreased $0.90 to $90.70 per cwt. Sheep prices fell $2.30 to $21.40 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $3.20 to $79.10 per cwt. Milk prices were up $0.20 per cwt from last month to $12.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October averaged $79.90 per cwt.; cows averaged $33.60 per cwt.; calves averaged $86.70 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for September and changes from August were as follows: winter wheat was $4.14, up $0.51, spring wheat was $4.29, up $0.63; durum wheat was $4.20, up $0.65; the all barley price was $2.66, down $0.04, and steer and heifer prices were $68.00, up $0.90 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-October winter wheat price was $4.41 per bushel, spring wheat was $4.47 per bushel, durum wheat was $4.06 per bushel, all wheat was $4.41 per bushel, malt barley was $2.90 per bushel, feed barley was $2.26 per bushel, and all barley was $2.58. Steer and heifer prices were $67.80 per cwt, cow prices were $33.70, calves were $91.10 per cwt., all hog prices were $31.90 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.54 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October is 95, based on 1990-92=100, down 4 points (4.0 percent) from the September index. Lower prices for broilers, potatoes, corn, and soybeans more than offset increased prices for hogs, wheat, milk, and tobacco. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Decreased marketings of wheat, milk, grapes, and tobacco more than offset increased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and sorghum.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Sept. 2001	Oct. 2001	Sept. 2002	Oct. 2002
Prices Received	106	94	99	95
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	124	123	125	125
Ratio 2/	85	76	79	76

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Sept 2001	Aug. 2002	Sept. 2002	Sept. 2002	Aug. 2002	Sept. 2001	Oct. 15 2002	Oct. 15 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.96	3.65	3.99	4.14	+0.34	+1.03	4.39	4.41
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.56	3.78	4.41	4.20	+0.63	+0.85	4.45	4.06
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.98	3.63	4.46	4.29	+0.83	+1.48	4.89	4.47
All Wheat	Bu.	3.08	3.65	4.37	4.21	+0.72	+1.29	4.77	4.41
Barley, All	Bu.	2.50	3.07	2.76	2.66	-0.31	+0.26	2.70	2.58
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.73	2.09	2.13	2.26	+0.04	+0.40	2.05	2.26
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.92	3.22	3.11	2.97	-0.11	+0.19	3.05	2.90
Oats	Bu.	1.44	2.18	1.87	1.80	-0.31	+0.43	N/A	1.89
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	97.00	86.00	85.00	102.00	-1.00	-12.00	87.00	101.00
All Other Hay	Ton	89.00	77.00	75.00	74.80	-2.00	-14.00	75.00	73.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	96.00	84.00	83.00	95.50	-1.00	-13.00	85.00	94.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	88.00	74.90	76.40	68.00	+1.50	-11.60	79.90	67.80
Cows	Cwt	42.70	36.60	36.00	34.90	-0.60	-6.70	33.60	33.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	82.10	62.60	66.30	64.80	+3.70	-15.80	72.00	64.10
Calves	Cwt	101.00	91.60	90.70	92.00	-0.90	-10.30	86.70	91.10
Sheep 2/	Cwt	28.60	23.70	21.40	26.10	-2.30	-7.20	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	49.60	75.90	79.10	76.10	+3.20	+29.50	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	16.10	11.80	12.00	11.60	+0.20	-4.10	12.20	11.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

2002 Crop Year Summary (cont.)

Barley planted in Montana increased to 1.20 million acres, 100,000 acres more than 2001. Producers harvested 950,000 acres, 230,000 acres more than were harvested for grain in 2001. Final yields averaged 42.0 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year. Production was estimated at 39.9 million bushels, up 35% from last year. The 2002 production is the fifth smallest crop since 1961 when 26.4 million bushels were realized.

Oat production in Montana was 2.695 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 145,000 acres, up 15,000 from last year. Harvested acreage was set at 55,000 acres, down 5,000 from 2001. Yields averaged 49.0 bushels per acre, 9.0 bushels more than last year.

The October alfalfa hay yield forecast was 2.00 tons per acre. If realized this would be 0.1 ton per acre less than last year. Total production of alfalfa hay is estimated to be 3.40 million tons, up 12 percent from last year. The harvested acreage of 1.7 million acres for alfalfa is up 250,000 acres from last year's final estimate. Other hay yield was estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from 2001. Other hay production is expected to be 1.725 million tons, 23 percent more than last year. Harvested acreage is up 150,000 acres from last year. All hay production is estimated at 5.125 million tons, up 15 percent from last year.

Montana sugar beet production was forecast at 1.14 million tons on November 1, down 1 percent from last year. Forecast yield of 20.0 tons per acre was down 1.5 tons per acre from last year's final yield. Potato production in the state is forecast to be 3.213 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 10,200, down 100 acres from last year. Yield is forecast to be 315 cwt per acre, down 5 cwt from the previous year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Hay Production
Sugar Beet Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Hogs & Pigs
Annual Bulletin Available Soon
Census of Agriculture
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Wheat Utilization
Red Meat Production

October 1, 2002 All Hay Production Forecast Up 15 Percent from 2001

Alfalfa hay yield in Montana remains unchanged from the August forecast of 2.0 tons per acre. If realized, this would be 0.1 ton per acre below last year's final estimate. Total production of alfalfa hay is estimated to be 3.4 million tons, up 12 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage at 1.7 million for alfalfa shows a 250,000 acre increase from 2001. **Other hay** yield did not change from August's forecast, and is estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, up 7 percent from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 1.73 million tons, up 23 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is 1,150,000 acres, up 150,000 acres from 2001. Late spring rains and approval to cut hay on CRP land throughout much of the state lead to an overall increase in harvested acreage this year. **All hay** production is estimated at 5.13 million tons, up 15 percent from last year.

Montana **sugar beet** production is forecast at 1.197 million tons, unchanged from last month's forecast, but up 4 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, at 21.0 tons per acre, is unchanged from last month, but is down 0.5 tons per acre from last year. Harvested acreage is forecast to be 57,000 acres, up 3,500 acres from last year. Sugar beet harvest is behind with 14 percent of the beets pulled for the week ending October 6th, compared with the 5-year average of 30 percent.

Nationally, **alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 74.7 million tons, virtually unchanged from August, but down 7 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.09 tons, which is the same as August, but down 0.28 ton from last year. Harvested area is 24.1 million acres, unchanged from the August estimate, but up 1 percent from 2001. The yield, in all but 7 States, is below or at last year's level. The severe drought conditions in the northern and central Great Plains and Rocky Mountains throughout the growing season continue to support a lower yield compared to last year.

Other hay production for the U.S. is forecast at 75.8 million tons, 3 percent below the August forecast, and 1 percent below last year. Yields are expected to average 1.87 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton from the August forecast and 0.06 ton below 2001. Harvested acreage is estimated at 40.6 million, unchanged from the last forecast, but up 2 percent from 2001.

In the U.S., **sugar beet** production is forecast at 28.6 million tons, up slightly from the September 1 forecast and 11 percent above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States expect to harvest 1.37 million acres. This is unchanged from the September estimate, but 10 percent above last year. The yield is forecast at 20.9 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above September and 0.2 ton above 2001.

September Milk Production Up 3.3 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during September totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 3.3 percent from September 2001. August revised production, at 12.2 billion pounds, was up 4.1 percent from August 2001. The August revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 27 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,510 pounds for September, 38 pounds above September 2001. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 56,000 head more than September 2001, but 4,000 head less than August 2002.

September Pig Crop Down 1 Percent

The September 2002 U.S. pig crop at 8.37 million head, was 1 percent below the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 943 thousand head, 2 percent below last year. The average pigs per litter for September increased to 8.87, compared to 8.78 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on October 1, 2002, was 5.87 million head, down 2 percent from October 1, 2001.

U.S. sows and gilts bred during September totaled 1.15 million head, down 2 percent from the previous year.

Montana Agricultural Statistics 2002 Bulletin Available Soon

This annual report contains state and county crop and livestock estimates, farm income, prices, farm numbers, Montana's rank among states, and other statistical data.

The *Montana Agricultural Statistics* bulletin will be available soon in printed form or on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The price for the printed bulletin is $10.00. Those who supply survey information are not charged.

The Census of Agriculture Is Coming

The 2002 Census of Agriculture will appear in your mailbox in late December. It provides official facts representing all U.S. producers and commodities. Don't be left out when decisions are made about you and American agriculture.

You Make it Known - Agriculture Counts!

October 1, 2002 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/
Montana		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,300	1,450	870	750	22.0	28.0	19,140	21,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	510	590	495	570	24.0	22.0	11,880	12,540
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,550	3,750	2,850	3,500	23.0	23.0	65,550	80,500
All Wheat	Bu.	5,360	5,790	4,215	4,820	22.9	23.7	96,570	114,040
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65	55	13	14	148.0	3/	1,924	3/
Oats	Bu.	130	145	60	55	40.0	49.0	2,400	2,695
Barley	Bu.	1,100	1,200	720	950	41.0	42.0	29,520	39,900
Flaxseed	Bu.	14	17	12	15	15.0	3/	180	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	38.5	23.0	24.0	21.0	13.8	17.0	332	357
Dry Peas	Cwt.	31.0	27.0	21.0	25.0	14.0	3/	294	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	22.0	15.0	20.0	14.0	11.0	3/	220	3/
Austrian Winter Peas 5/	Cwt.	9.9	7.0	2.5	2.0	7.9	3/	20	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.4	57.8	53.5	57.0	21.5	21.0	1,150	1,197
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.5	9.0	10.3	8.9	320.0	4/	3,296	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,450	1,700	2.10	2.00	3,045	3,400
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,150	1.40	1.50	1,400	1,725
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,850	1.81	1.80	4,445	5,125
United States		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	41,078	41,735	31,295	29,651	43.5	38.5	1,361,479	1,142,802
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,910	2,909	2,789	2,758	30.0	29.1	83,556	80,245
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,609	15,714	14,549	13,613	35.2	29.5	512,008	401,589
All Wheat	Bu.	59,597	60,358	48,633	46,022	40.2	35.3	1,957,043	1,624,636
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	75,752	78,847	68,808	70,541	138.2	127.2	9,506,840	8,969,836
Oats	Bu.	4,403	5,005	1,905	2,098	61.4	56.8	117,024	119,132
Barley	Bu.	4,967	5,073	4,289	4,135	58.2	54.9	249,420	226,873
Flaxseed	Bu.	585	844	578	821	19.8	3/	11,455	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,429.9	1,874.3	1,243.0	1,690.6	15.7	16.3	19,541	27,594
Dry Peas	Cwt.	211.8	271.5	196.8	263.5	19.2	3/	3,779.0	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	201.0	190.0	197.0	187.0	14.7	3/	2,898.0	3/
Austrian Winter Peas	Cwt.	15.9	15.0	7.1	9.0	13.7	3/	97.0	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,370.8	1,408.8	1,243.6	1,370.8	20.7	20.9	25,787	28,619
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,091.5	1,169.8	1,073.2	1,142.1	367.0	4/	393,750	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09	80,266	74,655
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.87	76,437	75,792
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,511	64,709	2.47	2.32	156,703	150,447

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available January 10, 2003. 4/ Production forecast available November 12, 2002.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.4 million head on October 1, 2002. The inventory was 6 percent below October 1, 2001 and 5 percent below October 1, 2000. The inventory included 6.26 million steers and steer calves, down 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.08 million head, down 8 percent from 2001.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.19 million, 2 percent above 2001 but 19 percent below 2000. Net placements were 2.14 million. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 614,000, 600-699 pounds were 487,000, 700-799 pounds were 582,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 505,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.85 million, 1 percent above 2001 but 7 percent below 2000. Other disappearance totaled 53,000 during September, 15 percent above 2001 but 2 percent below 2000.

September Egg Production Up

U.S. egg production totaled 7.15 billion during September 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.10 billion table eggs and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 989 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2002 averaged 337 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,119 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,103 eggs in September 2001.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2002, totaled 338 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.45 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2002, averaged 70.2 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago. Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.69 billion eggs during September 2002, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during September, at 316 million, was up slightly from a year ago.

Wheat Utilization for 1997-2001 Marketing Years

The June 2000 - May 2001 marketing year total wheat supply was 148.0 million bushels, 25 percent lower than a year earlier, and 34 percent below the 1998-99 marketing year. Total supply is calculated by adding 2001 all wheat production to June 2000 all wheat stocks. Total disposition of 95.7 million bushels was 34 percent less than the quantity marketed during the1999-2000 marketing year. Ending stocks of 52.3 million bushels were 2 percent more than last year. Wheat utilization reports are assembled from Grain Movement Reports and Grain Market News data by the Montana Agriculture Statistics Service. Funding was provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee

Montana shipped 67.7 million bushels out of state during the 2000 - 2001 marketing year, 48 percent less than moved during the same period last year. Shipments to the Pacific Northwest totaled 44.8 million bushels, 49 percent less than the 1999 - 2000 season, and accounted for 66 percent of the wheat shipped out of state. Pacific Northwest export facilities accounted for 34.7 million bushels, while Pacific Northwest processing terminals accounted for 7.6 million bushels.

Inspected exports of hard red winter, hard red spring, hard white, and durum wheat from Pacific ports were 195.5 million bushels, down 4 percent from the previous year. Montana's recorded share of those exports was 19 percent, 24 points below the 1999-2000 marketing year.

ALL WHEAT: Supply and Disposition By Marketing Year, Montana, 1997-2001

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001/2000
	Million Bushels					Percent
SUPPLY						
Beginning Stocks 1/	37.2	67.0	70.6	60.9	51.4	84
Production	181.5	168.8	154.3	135.2	96.6	71
Total Supply	218.7	235.8	224.9	196.1	148.0	75
DISPOSITION						
Recorded movement out of state 2/	123.0	139.4	145.5	131.0	67.7	52
Used for seed in Montana	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.8	6.2	107
Residual 3/	22.6	19.7	12.9	8.0	21.9	274
Total Disposition	151.7	165.2	164.0	144.7	95.7	66
Pacific Northwest exports as a percent of total disposition	59%	64%	60%	60%	39%	
Ending Stocks 1/	67.0	70.6	60.9	51.4	52.3	102

1/ June 1 stocks, All Positions 2/ Montana Wheat Movement Project 3/ Used for flour, used for livestock feed, handling losses, and other unaccounted disappearance.

ALL WHEAT: Recorded Movement by Destination & Marketing Years, Montana, 1997-2001

ITEM	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2001/2000
	Million Bushels					Percent
All Destinations	133.0	150.9	160.9	149.9	83.7	56
Out of Montana	123.0	139.4	145.5	131.0	67.7	52
Pacific Northwest Destinations	100.6	120.4	112.5	98.2	44.8	51
Export Destinations	88.8	105.0	98.3	87.3	37.1	42
Export Facilities	82.6	99.8	91.8	81.5	34.7	43
Columbia/Snake River Barge System	6.2	5.2	6.5	5.8	2.4	41
Processing Destinations	11.8	15.5	14.2	10.8	7.6	70
Interior Oregon & Washington Facilities	6.3	8.6	8.2	5.4	2.2	41
Mills	5.5	6.9	6.0	5.5	5.4	98
Non-Pacific Northwest Destinations	22.4	18.9	32.9	32.8	22.9	70
Montana Destinations	10.0	11.5	15.4	18.9	16.0	85
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White, and Durum - Pacific ports 1/	195.5	227.0	207.4	204.4	195.5	96
Montana recorded exports as percent of total Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White and Durum exports from Pacific ports	45%	46%	47%	43%	19%	

1/ California, Oregon, and Washington ports.

PLEASE NOTE: Funding for the above statistics was provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

September Red Meat Production up 35 Percent from 2001

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 2002. Red meat production was down 11 percent from the previous month, but up 35 percent from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,900 head, which is 500 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,138 pounds, was up 9 pounds from the previous year. During September there were 1,400 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 300 more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 242 pounds, was down 2 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, is the same as the previous year. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from last year, to 125 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.87 billion pounds in September, up 6 percent from the 3.67 billion pounds produced in September 2001.

Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.86 million head, up 2 percent from September 2001. The average live weight was 1,264 pounds, up 24 pounds from September a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.3 million pounds, 9 percent above September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 88,800 head, up 13 percent from September 2001. The average live weight was 303 pounds, down 11 pounds from September 2001.

Pork production totaled 1.64 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year and a monthly record high. Hog kill totaled 8.51 million head, 9 percent above September 2001. The average live weight was 260 pounds, down 2 pounds from September a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.6 million pounds, was up 8 percent from September 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 276,200 head, 13 percent above last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, down 7 pounds from September 2001.

January - September red meat production was 35.0 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 4 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Sugar Beets
Dry Beans Production	2002 Crop Year Summary
Dry Peas	
Aust. Winter Peas & Lentils	
Potatoes	

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Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 02-18 (0279-0394) Released: September 26, 2002

HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Malting Barley
Potato Disposition
Milk Production
Egg Production
County Cash Receipts

Montana August 2002 Red Meat Production Up 19 Percent from the Previous Year

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 2002, up 19 percent from last year and 6 percent from the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,100 head, up from 1,700 head one year ago. The average live weight increased 16 pounds to 1,139 pounds.

During August there were 1,800 hogs slaughtered, compared with 1,700 one year ago. The average live weight, at 231 pounds, was up 1 pound from last year. August sheep slaughter in the state totaled 400 head, down 100 head from August 2001. The average live weight increased 6 pounds to 118 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.14 billion pounds in August, up 2 percent from the 4.06 billion pounds produced in August 2001.

Beef production, at 2.47 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.21 million head, down 1 percent from August 2001. The average live weight was 1,259 pounds, up 31 pounds from August a year ago. Veal production totaled 16.7 million pounds, 3 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 96,000 head, up 2 percent from August 2001. The average live weight was 288 pounds, down 15 pounds from August a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.64 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.54 million head, 2 percent above August 2001. The average live weight was 259 pounds, up 1 pound from August a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.6 million pounds, was down 11 percent from August 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 264,600 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 126 pounds, down 11 pounds from August a year ago.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.13 million head on September 1, 2002. The inventory was 7 percent below September 1, 2001 and 2 percent below September 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.22 million, 1 percent above 2001 but 9 percent below 2000. Net placements were 2.18 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 525,000, 600-699 pounds were 483,000, 700-799 pounds were 625,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 585,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 2.14 million, 2 percent below 2001 and 3 percent below 2000. Other disappearance totaled 43,000 during August, 20 percent below 2001 and 12 percent below 2000.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Down 6 Percent

Cattle on feed September 1, 2002, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.85 million, down 6 percent from the previous year and 1 percent below September 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 1.94 million, 2 percent above 2001 but 7 percent below 2000. Marketings during August totaled 1.81 million, 3 percent below 2001 and 5 percent below 2000. Other disappearance during August was 35,000 head, 24 percent below 2001 and 3 percent below 2000.

Maltsters and Brewers Purchased 7.5 Million Bushels of the 2001 Barley Crop

Maltsters and brewers purchased 7.5 million bushels of Montana's 2001 barley crop to make malt, down 42 percent from 2000, according to a recent survey conducted by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. The survey was requested and funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. The average protein of the 2001 malting crop was 12.2 percent, which is 0.2 point less than the average protein obtained from the 2000 crop.

Montana growers seeded 1.10 million acres of barley in 2001, down 150,000 acres from 2000. Of the total, over 650,000 acres were seeded to malting type varieties. If the yield of malting varieties equaled the state average yield per planted acre for all barley, then approximately 17.4 million bushels of malting type would have been produced. Because only 7.5 million bushels were used for malt, the remaining 9.9 million bushels did not make the malting grade or exceeded demand for malting barley. The barley utilized for malt represented approximately 26 percent of the 2001 total barley crop compared with 34 percent in both 2000 and 1999.

Anheuser Busch varieties were the most frequently purchased by maltsters and brewers and represented 46.3 percent of the total purchases. Harrington varieties were the second most commonly purchased. Seventy-one percent of all malt barley purchased was grown in North Central Montana. South Central Montana growers produced over 17 percent of the total.

(See table on back page.)

2001 Potato Production and Disposition

Montana's 2001 potato production totaled 3,296,000 cwt., 6 percent below last year and 1 percent lower than 1999's production. Producers harvested 10,300 acres, 1,000 less than a year ago and 600 acres fewer than two years ago. Potato yields averaged 320 cwt. per acre compared with 310 cwt. in 2000 and 305 cwt. in 1999.

Value of production from the 2001 crop was $30.2 million, up 50 percent from 2000. The average price was $9.15 per cwt., an increase of $3.40 from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 2001 potato crop totaled $27.0 million, which is 78 percent above last year's crop. Producers sold 2,956,000 cwt. from the 2001 crop compared with 2,638,000 cwt. a year ago.

Total U.S. 2001 potato production is estimated at 438 million cwt., 2 percent below the estimate made in the Annual Crop Summary in January and down 15 percent from the record high 2000 crop. Harvested area, at 1.22 million acres, shrank 9 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 358 cwt. per acre was down 23 cwt. from 2000 and 1 cwt. below the average yield from the 1999 crop. By season, winter production dropped 17 percent, spring slipped less than 1 percent, summer fell 5 percent, and fall dropped 16 percent from the previous year.

Winter and spring seasonal estimates were carried forward from earlier revisions. Summer potato production was revised to 18.2 million cwt. for 2001, down 5 percent from 2000. Harvested area, at 58,800 acres, was down 7 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 310 ct. per acre was record high for summer potatoes and 6 cwt. above the previous year.

Fall potatoes were finalized at 394 million cwt. for 2001, down 16 percent from the record high crop of 2000. Area harvested in 2001 was estimated at 1.07 million acres, down 10 percent from a year earlier. The average yield, at 367 cwt. per acre, was down 25 cwt. from the record high a year ago. Final production of fall potatoes was 2 percent below both the Annual Crop Summary in January and the first forecast made in November 2001.

Value of all potato production in 2001 was estimated at a record high $3.06 billion, up 18 percent from the previous year. The average price, at $6.99 per cwt., jumped $1.91 from a year earlier.

Sales from the 2001 potato crop totaled 401 million cwt., down 14 percent from 2000. Sales accounted for 92 percent of 2001 production. Non sales accounted for 36.6 million cwt., down 25 percent from the previous year. Over the past five years, 91 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other 9 percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

Processors used 251 million cwt. of raw potatoes from the 2001 crop, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 122 million cwt., 12 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 25.1 million cwt. were up 8 percent. Sales for livestock feed, at 3.50 million cwt., were down 65 percent from a year earlier. A government diversion program at the end of the 2000 potato marketing year purchased 6.87 million cwt. of potatoes that were fed to livestock. Current feeding is more in line with the feed utilization of 3.14 million cwt. in 1999.

Chip potato use totaled 54.1 million cwt. in 2001, up 3 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 150 million cwt. of raw potatoes, down 13 percent. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 40.7 million cwt., a drop of 26 percent. Canning use, at 4.31 million cwt., declined 15 percent. Starch, flour and other products were made from 1.16 million cwt. of potatoes, down 41 percent from the previous year.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 31.2 million cwt. for 2001, down 29 percent from 2000. Livestock feed on potato farms and home use totaled 1.25 million cwt., a decrease of 16 percent. Growers kept 4.14 million cwt. for seed on their own farms, up 9 percent from a year earlier.

August U.S. Milk Production Up 3.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during August totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 3.8 percent from August 2001. July revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 2.3 percent from July 2001. The July revision represented an increase 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,568 pounds for August, 48 pounds above August 2001. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 51,000 head more than August 2001, and 3,000 head more than July 2002.

August U.S. Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.35 billion during August 2002, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2002 averaged 336 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,189 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,170 eggs in August 2001. August 2002 contained 22 weekdays, and five Saturdays, compared to August 2001 which contained 23 weekdays, and four Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 2002, totaled 336 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 336 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2002, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.89 billion eggs during August 2002, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during August, at 315 million, was up 1 percent from a year ago.

Cash Receipts from Sale of Principal Products & Government Payments - 2000 1/

County & District	Livestock & Livestock Products		Crops		Total Cash Receipts		Government Payments	All Cash Receipts
	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols.	(000) Dols.
Deer Lodge	3,923	53	742	54	4,665	53	286	4,951
Flathead	9,426	44	15,542	20	24,968	33	1,938	26,906
Granite	9,269	45	980	53	10,249	48	140	10,389
Lake	24,275	21	12,204	22	36,479	20	4,141	40,620
Lincoln	2,368	55	1,170	49	3,538	55	--	3,538
Mineral	906	56	259	55	1,165	56	--	1,165
Missoula	6,509	51	1,825	45	8,334	52	361	8,695
Powell	20,014	24	1,357	48	21,371	38	465	21,836
Ravalli	19,358	25	5,498	33	24,856	34	588	25,444
Sanders	9,431	43	3,459	40	12,890	46	658	13,548
NORTHWEST	**105,479**	--	**43,036**	--	**148,515**	--	**8,577**	**157,092**
Blaine	27,438	17	18,516	16	45,954	14	17,822	63,776
Chouteau	16,781	32	49,077	1	65,858	4	46,370	112,228
Glacier	18,552	26	10,416	24	28,968	30	17,455	46,423
Hill	12,871	38	40,935	2	53,806	10	39,474	93,280
Liberty	9,697	42	19,204	15	28,901	31	20,727	49,628
Phillips	31,411	10	11,198	23	42,609	16	14,996	57,605
Pondera	16,803	31	29,344	6	46,147	13	23,623	69,770
Teton	28,255	13	28,880	7	57,135	7	22,292	79,427
Toole	9,938	40	19,206	14	29,144	29	20,546	49,690
NORTH CENTRAL	**171,746**	--	**226,776**	--	**398,522**	--	**223,305**	**621,827**
Daniels	5,529	52	22,341	11	27,870	32	15,876	43,746
Dawson	16,840	30	17,172	19	34,012	23	11,875	45,887
Garfield	27,497	16	6,395	30	33,892	24	8,165	42,057
McCone	13,995	35	18,180	17	32,175	26	15,622	47,797
Richland	24,959	20	32,459	4	57,418	6	13,649	71,067
Roosevelt	11,367	39	31,130	5	42,497	17	21,200	63,697
Sheridan	9,862	41	36,624	3	46,486	12	18,880	65,366
Valley	27,557	15	25,303	9	52,860	11	23,913	76,773
NORTHEAST	**137,606**	--	**189,604**	--	**327,210**	--	**129,180**	**456,390**
Broadwater	7,336	50	9,170	25	16,506	44	4,604	21,110
Cascade	35,241	5	19,883	13	55,124	9	15,037	70,161
Fergus	48,347	3	18,032	18	66,379	3	15,257	81,636
Golden Valley	8,549	47	1,590	47	10,139	49	4,422	14,561
Judith Basin	27,198	18	7,779	26	34,977	21	8,733	43,710
Lewis & Clark	15,621	34	5,055	35	20,676	41	1,774	22,450
Meagher	21,064	23	1,678	46	22,742	35	1,779	24,521
Musselshell	13,524	36	2,342	44	15,866	45	3,108	18,974
Petroleum	8,311	48	1,139	50	9,450	50	1,496	10,946
Wheatland	17,409	28	2,623	42	20,032	42	4,127	24,159
CENTRAL	**202,600**	--	**69,291**	--	**271,891**	--	**60,337**	**332,228**
Beaverhead	61,168	2	6,894	28	68,062	2	1,700	69,762
Gallatin	31,574	8	24,706	10	56,280	8	5,490	61,770
Jefferson	7,426	49	1,125	51	8,551	51	577	9,128
Madison	31,823	7	7,336	27	39,159	18	1,555	40,714
Silver Bow	3,576	54	183	56	3,759	54	--	3,759
SOUTHWEST	**135,567**	--	**40,244**	--	**175,811**	--	**9,322**	**185,133**
Big Horn	40,727	4	20,699	12	61,426	5	10,425	71,851
Carbon	31,551	9	12,694	21	44,245	15	3,157	47,402
Park	16,935	29	4,385	36	21,320	39	1,488	22,808
Stillwater	25,258	19	4,034	37	29,292	28	5,827	35,119
Sweetgrass	21,328	22	1,071	52	22,399	36	836	23,235
Treasure	13,070	37	5,640	32	18,710	43	1,221	19,931
Yellowstone	78,402	1	25,348	8	103,750	1	9,714	113,464
SOUTH CENTRAL	**227,271**	--	**73,871**	--	**301,142**	--	**32,668**	**333,810**
Carter	29,821	11	3,495	39	33,316	25	3,334	36,650
Custer	28,138	14	6,606	29	34,744	22	3,256	38,000
Fallon	18,320	27	3,789	38	22,109	37	4,377	26,486
Powder River	28,637	12	2,442	43	31,079	27	2,163	33,242
Prairie	15,659	33	5,082	34	20,741	40	3,987	24,728
Rosebud	31,939	6	6,388	31	38,327	19	5,626	43,953
Wibaux	8,620	46	2,939	41	11,559	47	3,813	15,372
SOUTHEAST	**161,134**	--	**30,741**	--	**191,875**	--	**26,556**	**218,431**
MONTANA	**1,141,403**	--	**673,563**	--	**1,814,966**	--	**490,002**	**230,4968**

1/ Includes estimates of inter-farm sales and intra-state sales resulting in larger total cash receipts than shown in USDA estimates on other pages. Payments of less than $50,000 included in State totals.
SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

MONTANA BARLEY USED TO PRODUCE MALT, 1999-2001 CROPS

VARIETY	CROP YEAR 1/	DISTRICTS					STATE	
		N. Central 2/	Central	Southwest	S. Central	Southeast 3/	Bushels	Protein
ANHEUSER-BUSCH VARIETIES	1999	5,345,000	645,000		500,000		6,490,000	12.6
	2000	4,615,000	390,000		530,000		5,535,000	12.2
	2001	3,490,000					3,490,000	12.0
GALENA	1999	680,000					680,000	11.4
	2000	108,000					108,000	12.6
	2001							
HARRINGTON	1999	8,434,000	1,020,000	173,000	500,000		10,127,000	12.9
	2000	4,272,800	325,700	237,600	366,000	28,600	5,230,700	12.8
	2001	1,785,000	169,000	372,000	125,000	17,000	2,468,000	12.7
MORAVIAN 22	1999	112,400			1,425,000		1,537,400	11.3
	2000				1,625,000		1,625,000	11.6
	2001							
MORAVIAN 37	1999							
	2000	120,000					120,000	12.6
	2001		75,000		1,220,000		1,295,000	11.8
MOREX	1999	196,000	295,700				491,700	12.7
	2000	80,700		337,400			418,100	12.6
	2001		30,000	134,000			164,000	11.8
OTHER	1999	48,100	15,700				63,800	12.1
	2000	16,200					16,200	13.2
	2001	71,000	27,000	23,000			121,000	13.1
TOTAL	1999	14,815,500	1,976,400	173,000	2,425,000		19,389,900	12.6
	2000	9,212,700	715,700	575,000	2,521,000	28,600	13,053,000	12.4
	2001	5,346,000	301,000	529,000	1,345,000	17,000	7,538,000	12.2

1/ Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30 2/ Includes Northwest 3/ Includes Northeast

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Small Grains Summary
Hogs & Pigs
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Hogs & Pigs
Wheat Supply & Demand - ERS
Wheat & Barley Movement
Milk Cow & Sheep Co. Estimates
Ag Prices Received

July U.S. Pig Crop Up 2 Percent

The July 2002 U.S. pig crop at 8.68 million head, was 2 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 980 thousand head, 2 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter for July decreased to 8.85, compared to 8.87 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on August 1, 2002, was 5.95 million head, slightly below August 1, 2001.

U.S. sows and gilts bred during July totaled 1.16 million head, up slightly from the previous year.

U.S. Wheat Supply and Demand

The September projection for U.S. 2002/03 ending stocks of wheat are down 60 million bushels from last month due to expanding use and lower imports. Projected imports are reduced 20 million bushels due to the extremely tight supplies of spring wheat in Canada. However, the smaller spring wheat imports are partially offset by projected imports of 7 million bushels of feed wheat. Projected exports are up 50 million bushels from last month because of reduced competition, while projected food use is down 10 million bushels. The lower food use reflects recently released mill grind estimates by the Bureau of the Census. The projected price range is up 25 cents on each end to $3.45 to $4.05 per bushel.

Global wheat production is little changed in aggregate, but numerous country-specific changes will have a dramatic impact on trade patterns. Combined production of the major foreign exporters (Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the EU) is reduced 10.8 million tons from last month due to droughts in Canada and Australia and prolonged rains and flooding in parts of the EU (largely Germany). While the lower EU production will not have an impact on expected EU exports and is partially offset by increased imports, projected EU ending stocks are down about 4 million tons from last month.

The smaller prospective production in Canada and Australia is projected to reduce their combined exports 8 million tons from last month and 13.5 million tons from last year. The lower exports for these countries are offset by reduced global imports and expanding exports by the United States, Russia, Ukraine, and India. Combined exports are up 4 million tons for Russia and Ukraine due to their expanding supplies (production is up more than 10 million tons from last month) and the tight supplies in the major exporters. Projected global ending stocks are down 3 million tons from last month as reductions in the major exporters and China more than offset gains in Russia and Ukraine.

Wheat and Barley Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the December 2001 - May 2002 period, at 33.5 million bushels, was 52% lower than a year ago. Over 84% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 28.0 million bushels, down 56% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations during this period, totaling 2.7 million bushels, down 3% from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 2.8 million bushels, down from 3.5 million bushels a year ago. Wheat shipped by rail, amounted to 30.4 million bushels, 91% of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 3.0 million bushels compared with 3.9 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 9% of the total, compared with 6% last year.
(Continued on back page.)

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1985-2002

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1985	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62
2001	876	1,958	108	2,941	928	81	199	1,208	961	2,169	772	2.78
2002 ... 3/	772	1,686	85	2,543	930	81	175	1,186	950	2,136	407	3.45-4.05

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, September 2002--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 2000-2002 1/

COUNTY & DISTRICT	MILK COWS & HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED				ALL SHEEP & LAMBS			
	2000	2001	2002	Rank	2000	2001	2002	Rank
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	500	500	47
Flathead	1,400	1,300	1,100	5	700	900	1,100	43
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	500	500	47
Lake	1,400	1,200	1,200	4	3,400	3,500	3,600	28
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	--	--	--	--	1,100	1,200	1,500	40
Powell	--	--	--	--	1,100	1,300	1,000	44
Ravalli	1,600	1,500	1,500	2	4,200	4,100	3,900	26
Sanders	--	--	--	--	--	500	--	--
Other	500	500	400	--	1,500	500	900	--
NORTHWEST	**4,900**	**4,500**	**4,200**	**--**	**12,000**	**13,000**	**13,000**	**--**
Blaine	--	--	--	--	--	7,800	--	--
Chouteau	--	--	--	--	1,800	1,700	1,500	40
Glacier	500	500	500	10	--	--	--	--
Hill	--	--	--	--	1,000	1,100	900	45
Liberty	500	600	600	8	--	--	--	--
Phillips	--	--	--	--	4,900	6,000	5,400	24
Pondera	600	600	600	8	6,400	6,800	7,000	17
Teton	500	500	500	10	7,400	7,200	6,400	18
Toole	--	--	--	--	1,600	1,600	1,700	39
Other	600	700	800	--	8,900	800	9,100	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,700**	**2,900**	**3,000**	**--**	**32,000**	**33,000**	**32,000**	**--**
Daniels	--	--	--	--	700	800	500	47
Dawson	--	--	--	--	6,800	7,000	8,500	10
Garfield	--	--	--	--	43,500	44,000	35,000	2
McCone	--	--	--	--	10,000	8,600	8,800	9
Richland	--	--	--	--	5,600	7,100	5,300	25
Roosevelt	--	--	--	--	3,600	4,500	2,700	37
Sheridan	--	--	--	--	1,800	1,800	1,900	38
Valley	--	--	--	--	4,000	4,200	3,300	32
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**500**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**76,000**	**78,000**	**66,000**	**--**
Broadwater	--	--	--	--	4,400	4,200	--	--
Cascade	700	700	700	7	10,300	8,800	7,700	14
Fergus	--	--	--	--	6,500	6,600	6,100	20
Golden Valley	--	--	--	--	10,400	9,400	--	--
Judith Basin	--	--	--	--	8,500	8,600	7,300	16
Lewis & Clark	--	--	--	--	4,000	3,500	3,600	28
Meagher	--	--	--	--	6,100	6,000	5,900	21
Musselshell	--	--	--	--	9,700	8,200	7,600	15
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	4,300	3,700	3,100	35
Wheatland	--	--	--	--	18,800	15,000	15,300	5
Other	1,700	1,700	1,800	--	--	--	13,400	--
CENTRAL	**2,400**	**2,400**	**2,500**	**--**	**83,000**	**74,000**	**70,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	--	--	--	--	17,500	17,000	18,000	4
Gallatin	4,900	5,200	5,600	1	6,400	6,600	5,900	21
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	1,000	900	--	--
Madison	--	--	--	--	7,500	7,000	8,000	13
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	600	500	--	--
Other	200	300	300	--	--	--	1,100	--
SOUTHWEST	**5,100**	**5,500**	**5,900**	**--**	**33,000**	**32,000**	**33,000**	**--**
Big Horn	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbon	--	--	--	--	7,500	7,800	8,300	12
Park	--	--	--	--	3,100	3,400	3,300	32
Stillwater	--	--	--	--	10,700	10,400	10,300	6
Sweetgrass	--	--	--	--	11,100	12,000	10,300	6
Treasure	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellowstone	1,500	1,400	1,300	3	5,800	7,100	5,500	23
Other	600	500	400	--	2,800	3,300	3,300	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**2,100**	**1,900**	**1,700**	**--**	**41,000**	**44,000**	**41,000**	**--**
Carter	--	--	--	--	55,000	45,000	43,000	1
Custer	--	--	--	--	5,900	7,000	6,300	19
Fallon	--	--	--	--	3,400	3,500	3,600	28
Powder River	--	--	--	--	18,300	19,500	19,000	3
Prairie	--	--	--	--	5,100	5,100	3,600	28
Rosebud	--	--	--	--	4,100	4,300	3,300	32
Wibaux	--	--	--	--	1,200	1,600	1,200	42
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**300**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**93,000**	**86,000**	**80,000**	**--**
OTHER DISTRICTS	**--**	**1,800**	**1,700**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**	**--**
MONTANA	**18,000**	**19,000**	**19,000**	**--**	**370,000**	**360,000**	**335,000**	**--**

1/ Counties with less than 500 head or individual operators having 60 percent or more of the head are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Agricultural Prices Received for July

July full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with June 2002. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.41 per bushel, up $0.33 from the previous month; spring wheat moved up $0.23 to $3.31 per bushel; and durum wheat prices gained $0.08 to $3.61 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.16 from the previous month to $2.08, but malt barley prices fell $0.07 to $2.94 per bushel.

The mid-August price for alfalfa hay was up $1.00 to $86.00 per ton and all other hay increased $1.00 to $77.00 per ton. The mid-August grain prices were mostly all higher with winter wheat price averaging $3.65 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.65; durum wheat was $3.85; feed barley was $1.81; and malt barley averaged $2.90.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were mostly lower compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices dropped $1.70 to $74.80 per cwt, while cows fell $4.10 to $36.70. The average price for calves fell $1.30 to $90.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $0.60 to $24.70 per cwt and lamb prices moved up $2.50 to $79.10 per cwt. Milk prices increased $1.00 per cwt from last month to $12.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $74.70 per cwt.; cows averaged $36.50 per cwt.; calves averaged $88.10 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.40 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for July and changes from June were as follows: winter wheat was $3.19, up $0.33, spring wheat was $3.30, up $0.23; durum wheat was $3.61, up $0.08; the all barley price was $2.11, up $0.11, and steer and heifer prices were $66.60, down $1.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-August winter wheat price was $3.65 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.65 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.85 per bushel, all wheat was $3.66 per bushel, malt barley was $2.90 per bushel, feed barley was $1.81 per bushel, and all barley was $2.28. Steer and heifer prices were $ 74.70 per cwt, cow prices were $36.50, calves were $88.10 per cwt., all hog prices were $34.20 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.439 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August was 101, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the July index. Higher prices for corn, wheat, strawberries, and lettuce more than offset decreased prices for hogs, broilers, grapes, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and strawberries.

The current All Farm Products Index is 9 points (8.2 percent) below August, 2001. Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and lettuce more than offset higher prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and grapes. The Food Commodities Index increased by 1 point (1.0 percent) over last month to 99, but was 14 points (12 percent) below August last year.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	July 2001	August 2001	July 2002	August 2002
Prices Received	108	110	100	101
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	124	124	124	124
Ratio 2/	87	89	81	81

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		July 2001	June 2002	July 2002	July 2002	June 2002	July 2001	August 15 2002	August 15 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.10	3.08	3.41	3.19	+0.33	+0.31	3.65	3.59
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.53	3.61	3.44	+0.08	-0.19	3.85	3.51
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.16	3.08	3.31	3.30	+0.23	+0.15	3.65	3.62
All Wheat	Bu.	3.22	3.09	3.36	3.21	+0.27	+0.14	3.66	3.60
Barley, All	Bu.	2.55	2.34	2.45	2.11	+0.11	-0.10	2.28	2.36
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.64	1.92	2.08	1.85	+0.16	+0.44	1.81	1.82
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.03	3.01	2.94	2.47	-0.07	-0.09	2.90	2.82
Oats	Bu.	N/A	2.24	N/A	1.69	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.75
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	92.00	88.00	85.00	102.00	-3.00	-7.00	86.00	101.00
All Other Hay	Ton	82.00	82.00	76.00	72.20	-6.00	-6.00	77.00	71.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	89.00	87.00	84.00	93.60	-3.00	-5.00	84.00	93.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	87.50	76.50	74.80	66.60	-1.70	-12.70	74.70	66.30
Cows	Cwt	45.80	40.20	36.70	37.40	-3.50	-9.10	36.50	36.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	66.70	54.00	53.80	63.80	-0.20	-12.90	60.20	63.60
Calves	Cwt	107.00	91.30	90.00	94.90	-1.30	-17.00	88.10	94.70
Sheep 2/	Cwt	36.30	24.10	24.70	27.50	+0.60	-11.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	63.00	76.60	79.10	75.70	+2.50	+16.10	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	15.50	11.30	12.30	11.20	+1.00	-3.20	12.40	11.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat and Barley Movement (continued)

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during the December 2001 - May 2002 period was 9.0 million bushels, down 16% from the same period last year. Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for eastern destinations rose from 4.7 million bushels last year to 6.4 million bushels this year. Shipments to western destinations were down 82% from the same period last year, at 0.8 million bushels. Shipments to other destinations went up from 1.4 million bushels last year to 1.8 million bushels this year, a 29% increase. Barley shipped by rail amounted to 6.8 million bushels, down 2.8 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 75% of total movement, dow from 90% for the same period last year.

Montana Wheat & Barley Movement, December 2000 through May 2002

Shipments Out-of-State	December 2000 -May 2001 1/				December 2001 - May 2002 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	*(000) Bushels*							
West 3/	808	7,862	8,670	1,222	704	1,688	2,392	697
North Central	12,452	13,992	26,444	8,740	3,023	5,542	8,565	7,634
Northeast	1,129	24,676	25,805	298	2	18,502	18,503	330
Central	2,799	1,429	4,228	447	1,192	1,232	2,424	311
South Central	2,707	789	3,496	22	667	109	777	52
Southeast	545	807	1,352	0	188	634	821	2
TOTAL SHIPPED	20,440	49,555	69,995	10,729	5,776	27,707	33,482	9,026
Mode & Destination	*(000) Bushels*							
Trucked East	15	305	320	160	30	205	234	720
Trucked West	1,354	1,610	2,964	923	1,204	1,295	2,499	448
Trucked Other 4/	137	458	595	28	43	279	322	1,074
Total By Truck	1,506	2,373	3,879	1,111	1,277	1,779	3,055	2,242
Rail East	92	2,397	2,489	4,517	0	2,491	2,491	5,657
Rail West	18,741	41,964	60,705	3,750	4,499	21,002	25,501	400
Rail Other 4/	101	2,821	2,922	1,351	0	2,435	2,435	727
Total by Rail	18,934	47,182	66,116	9,618	4,499	25,928	30,427	6,784
TOTAL SHIPPED	20,440	49,555	69,995	10,729	5,776	27,707	33,482	9,026

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Red Meat Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Malting Barley
- Potato Disposition
- Milk Production
- Egg Production
- Cash Receipts

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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Mushroom Sales
Farm Labor
July Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Cattle & Beef Cow Co. Estimates
All Hay County Estimates
U.S. & Canadian Cattle
Egg Production

U.S. All Mushroom Sales Down

Sales of the 2001-2002 U.S. mushroom crop were 851 million pounds, 1 percent below 2000-2001 and down 2 percent from two seasons ago. Value of sales of the U.S. mushroom crop was $912 million, up 5 percent from the two previous seasons. The number of growers, at 262, is down 4 from last season. Average price was $1.07 per pound, up 6 cents from 2000-2001.

Sales of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market were a record high 695 million pounds, up less than 1 percent from the previous record high set last season. Sales of Agaricus mushrooms for processing were 143 million pounds, 7 percent below last season. Value of sales for all Agaricus Mushrooms totaled a record high $875 million dollars, 6 percent higher than both 2000-2001 and 1999-2000 when the previous record was set.

U.S. Hired Workers Down 12 Percent

There were 1.21 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2002, down 12 percent from a year ago. There were 966,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural Service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 240,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $8.60 per hour during the July 2002 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.91 per hour, up 21 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned $8.37 per hour compared with $7.89 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 0.2 hours from a year ago.

U.S. July Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during July totaled 12.3 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from July 2001. June revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 2.2 percent from June 2001. The June revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 27 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,580 pounds for July, 28 pounds above July 2001. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 40,000 head more than July 2001, and 7,000 head more than June 2002.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.09 million head on August 1, 2002. The inventory was 7 percent below August 1, 2001 and 1 percent below August 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.84 million, 7 percent below 2001 and 4 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.80 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 369,000, 600-699 pounds were 365,000, 700-799 pounds were 591,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 515,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.19 million, 7 percent above 2001 and 5 percent above 2000. Other disappearance totaled 45,000 during July, 24 percent below 2001 but 2 percent above 2000.

July Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 2002, up 31 percent from July 2001 and equal to the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,000 head, up from 1,500 head one year ago. The average live weight increased 5 pounds to 1,145 pounds.

During July there were 1,600 hogs slaughtered, compared with 1,200 one year ago. The average live weight, at 234 pounds, was up 2 pounds from last year. July sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, unchanged from July 2001. The average live weight increased 6 pounds to 118 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in July, up 10 percent from the 3.64 billion pounds produced in July 2001 and a new record high for July. Beef production, at 2.43 billion pounds, was 11 percent above the previous year and a new record high for July. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.19 million head, up 8 percent from July 2001. The average live weight was 1,248 pounds, up 32 pounds from July a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.7 million pounds, 6 percent above July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 95,700 head, up 15 percent from July 2001. The average live weight was 290 pounds, down 22 pounds from July a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.56 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year and a new record high for July. Hog kill totaled 8.07 million head, 8 percent above July 2001. The average live weight was 260 pounds, unchanged from July a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from July 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 257,600 head, 6 percent above last year. The average live weight was 127 pounds, down 13 pounds from July a year ago.

January - July red meat production was 27.0 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 2000-2002

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL CATTLE & CALVES				BEEF COWS & HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED			
	2000	2001	2002	Rank	2000	2001	2002	Rank
	Head				Head			
Deer Lodge	9,500	9,400	8,600	53	5,600	5,600	5,200	54
Flathead	15,700	15,500	14,000	50	7,600	7,400	6,900	52
Granite	24,000	23,000	21,800	42	16,600	15,800	14,700	39
Lake	55,000	53,000	51,000	21	35,300	33,700	32,600	16
Lincoln	3,800	3,600	3,500	55	2,500	2,500	2,600	55
Mineral	900	800	700	56	600	500	500	56
Missoula	11,700	12,000	10,500	52	8,000	8,000	7,300	51
Powell	51,000	50,000	49,000	22	30,000	30,000	29,600	21
Ravalli	34,600	33,000	32,000	34	19,500	19,100	16,500	38
Sanders	21,800	22,700	19,900	46	14,300	14,400	13,100	44
NORTHWEST	**228,000**	**223,000**	**211,000**	--	**140,000**	**137,000**	**129,000**	--
Blaine	71,000	72,000	70,000	9	47,000	47,000	45,000	8
Chouteau	45,000	43,000	37,000	29	29,000	28,600	24,600	28
Glacier	37,000	38,000	34,000	31	24,400	24,300	23,700	29
Hill	28,700	29,000	24,800	39	19,100	18,800	17,600	36
Liberty	15,600	16,000	14,300	49	10,200	10,200	9,400	49
Phillips	78,000	81,000	77,000	4	51,000	51,000	48,000	3
Pondera	29,700	28,900	25,500	38	20,900	19,400	18,400	34
Teton	55,000	56,000	55,000	18	31,900	32,300	31,600	17
Toole	22,000	21,100	20,400	44	14,500	14,400	13,700	40
NORTH CENTRAL	**382,000**	**385,000**	**358,000**	--	**248,000**	**246,000**	**232,000**	--
Daniels	15,200	14,400	12,000	51	10,000	9,000	7,600	50
Dawson	43,000	43,000	44,000	25	28,400	27,900	26,100	26
Garfield	56,000	56,000	59,000	16	38,700	36,500	38,000	14
McCone	35,200	36,400	35,500	30	21,600	21,300	21,800	31
Richland	62,000	61,000	66,000	12	32,300	30,400	28,200	24
Roosevelt	29,200	30,200	27,600	37	18,300	17,500	16,600	37
Sheridan	24,400	27,000	21,900	41	15,700	15,400	13,700	40
Valley	65,000	68,000	69,000	10	43,000	44,000	46,000	7
NORTHEAST	**330,000**	**336,000**	**335,000**	--	**208,000**	**202,000**	**198,000**	--
Broadwater	22,400	22,000	22,200	40	14,800	13,900	13,700	40
Cascade	82,000	72,000	68,000	11	55,000	50,000	47,000	5
Fergus	107,000	109,000	103,000	3	72,000	70,000	68,000	2
Golden Valley	20,300	17,200	17,400	48	12,400	10,500	10,300	48
Judith Basin	64,000	60,000	52,000	20	38,400	35,300	31,400	18
Lewis & Clark	47,000	46,000	39,000	28	26,000	26,000	23,000	30
Meagher	62,000	55,000	54,000	19	36,200	32,000	30,700	19
Musselshell	34,300	32,600	32,700	32	23,100	21,800	21,000	32
Petroleum	23,000	22,200	19,400	47	16,100	15,600	12,600	46
Wheatland	36,000	32,000	32,300	33	22,000	18,900	19,300	33
CENTRAL	**498,000**	**468,000**	**440,000**	--	**316,000**	**294,000**	**277,000**	--
Beaverhead	157,000	153,000	149,000	1	84,000	81,000	79,000	1
Gallatin	57,000	57,000	57,000	17	28,000	28,200	25,000	27
Jefferson	21,200	20,000	21,000	43	13,000	12,900	12,500	47
Madison	78,000	79,000	77,000	4	51,000	50,000	48,000	3
Silver Bow	8,800	9,000	8,000	54	6,000	5,900	5,500	53
SOUTHWEST	**322,000**	**318,000**	**312,000**	--	**182,000**	**178,000**	**170,000**	--
Big Horn	96,000	90,000	76,000	7	60,000	58,000	47,000	5
Carbon	60,000	61,000	62,000	15	32,600	33,900	33,100	15
Park	44,000	45,000	43,000	26	31,200	30,900	28,700	22
Stillwater	57,000	57,000	49,000	22	35,100	33,000	29,700	20
Sweetgrass	49,000	46,000	46,000	24	33,200	30,500	28,700	22
Treasure	31,000	30,000	28,000	36	13,900	13,700	13,400	43
Yellowstone	115,000	115,000	116,000	2	44,000	42,000	39,400	13
SOUTH CENTRAL	**452,000**	**444,000**	**420,000**	--	**250,000**	**242,000**	**220,000**	--
Carter	61,000	64,000	63,000	14	42,000	42,000	41,000	11
Custer	76,000	71,000	77,000	4	41,000	39,000	42,000	10
Fallon	41,000	42,000	42,000	27	26,700	27,700	27,500	25
Powder River	73,000	69,000	64,000	13	43,000	43,000	39,500	12
Prairie	32,100	30,000	32,000	34	18,200	17,900	18,000	35
Rosebud	85,000	79,000	76,000	7	54,000	49,000	44,000	9
Wibaux	19,900	21,000	20,000	45	13,100	13,400	13,000	45
SOUTHEAST	**388,000**	**376,000**	**374,000**	--	**238,000**	**232,000**	**225,000**	--
MONTANA	**2,600,000**	**2,550,000**	**2,450,000**	--	**1,582,000**	**1,531,000**	**1,451,000**	--

ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2001

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Rank	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons
Deer Lodge	10,500	2.48	26,000	48	10,000	2.55	25,500	500	1.00	500
Flathead	37,000	2.62	97,000	17	19,000	3.53	67,000	18,000	1.67	30,000
Granite	28,000	2.43	68,000	30	26,500	2.49	66,000	1,500	1.33	2,000
Lake	66,000	2.69	177,500	4	48,500	3.23	156,500	17,500	1.20	21,000
Lincoln	8,000	1.44	11,500	55	4,000	2.00	8,000	4,000	0.88	3,500
Mineral	2,500	1.20	3,000	56	500	3.00	1,500	2,000	0.75	1,500
Missoula	20,000	2.33	46,500	39	15,500	2.71	42,000	4,500	1.00	4,500
Powell	47,000	2.22	104,500	14	41,500	2.34	97,000	5,500	1.36	7,500
Ravalli	38,000	3.45	131,000	9	36,000	3.56	128,000	2,000	1.50	3,000
Sanders	31,000	1.71	53,000	34	15,500	2.42	37,500	15,500	1.00	15,500
NORTHWEST	**288,000**	**2.49**	**718,000**	**--**	**217,000**	**2.90**	**629,000**	**71,000**	**1.25**	**89,000**
Blaine	66,500	1.39	92,500	19	26,000	2.50	65,000	40,500	0.68	27,500
Chouteau	33,500	1.52	51,000	37	9,500	3.63	34,500	24,000	0.69	16,500
Glacier	35,500	1.17	41,500	41	11,500	2.35	27,000	24,000	0.60	14,500
Hill	26,000	0.56	14,500	52	1,000	2.00	2,000	25,000	0.50	12,500
Liberty	16,500	1.27	21,000	49	4,500	3.00	13,500	12,000	0.63	7,500
Phillips	55,000	1.04	57,000	32	15,000	1.63	24,500	40,000	0.81	32,500
Pondera	35,000	1.61	56,500	33	18,000	2.22	40,000	17,000	0.97	16,500
Teton	62,000	2.33	144,500	6	34,000	3.56	121,000	28,000	0.84	23,500
Toole	15,000	1.30	19,500	50	3,500	3.29	11,500	11,500	0.70	8,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**345,000**	**1.44**	**498,000**	**--**	**123,000**	**2.76**	**339,000**	**222,000**	**0.72**	**159,000**
Daniels	48,000	1.09	52,500	36	1,500	1.67	2,500	46,500	1.08	50,000
Dawson	51,000	1.51	77,000	25	6,000	4.00	24,000	45,000	1.18	53,000
Garfield	36,000	1.07	38,500	42	3,000	2.00	6,000	33,000	0.98	32,500
McCone	48,500	1.44	70,000	27	5,000	3.20	16,000	43,500	1.24	54,000
Richland	60,000	1.84	110,500	13	10,000	4.15	41,500	50,000	1.38	69,000
Roosevelt	68,500	1.88	128,500	10	8,500	3.82	32,500	60,000	1.60	96,000
Sheridan	52,500	1.30	68,500	28	6,500	2.85	18,500	46,000	1.09	50,000
Valley	90,500	1.85	167,500	5	24,500	3.39	83,000	66,000	1.28	84,500
NORTHEAST	**455,000**	**1.57**	**713,000**	**--**	**65,000**	**3.45**	**224,000**	**390,000**	**1.25**	**489,000**
Broadwater	26,500	3.17	84,000	23	23,500	3.43	80,500	3,000	1.17	3,500
Cascade	74,500	1.58	117,500	11	21,000	3.79	79,500	53,500	0.71	38,000
Fergus	136,000	0.98	133,000	8	13,500	2.30	31,000	122,500	0.83	102,000
Golden Valley	17,500	0.86	15,000	51	5,000	1.80	9,000	12,500	0.48	6,000
Judith Basin	57,500	0.77	44,000	40	3,500	2.14	7,500	54,000	0.68	36,500
Lewis & Clark	38,500	2.17	83,500	24	26,500	2.62	69,500	12,000	1.17	14,000
Meagher	38,500	2.19	84,500	22	34,000	2.35	80,000	4,500	1.00	4,500
Musselshell	27,000	1.39	37,500	45	9,000	2.44	22,000	18,000	0.86	15,500
Petroleum	13,000	0.96	12,500	53	6,000	1.33	8,000	7,000	0.64	4,500
Wheatland	29,000	0.91	26,500	47	10,000	1.60	16,000	19,000	0.55	10,500
CENTRAL	**458,000**	**1.39**	**638,000**	**--**	**152,000**	**2.65**	**403,000**	**306,000**	**0.77**	**235,000**
Beaverhead	98,000	2.61	255,500	1	89,000	2.70	240,500	9,000	1.67	15,000
Gallatin	77,000	3.18	245,000	2	58,500	3.76	220,000	18,500	1.35	25,000
Jefferson	20,000	2.42	48,500	38	17,500	2.54	44,500	2,500	1.60	4,000
Madison	68,500	3.13	214,500	3	67,000	3.15	211,000	1,500	2.33	3,500
Silver Bow	5,500	2.27	12,500	53	5,000	2.40	12,000	500	1.00	500
SOUTHWEST	**269,000**	**2.88**	**776,000**	**--**	**237,000**	**3.07**	**728,000**	**32,000**	**1.50**	**48,000**
Big Horn	55,000	1.70	93,500	18	13,500	3.78	51,000	41,500	1.02	42,500
Carbon	50,500	2.30	116,000	12	35,500	2.94	104,500	15,000	0.77	11,500
Park	44,500	1.99	88,500	20	32,500	2.31	75,000	12,000	1.13	13,500
Stillwater	51,000	1.34	68,500	28	14,500	2.72	39,500	36,500	0.79	29,000
Sweetgrass	36,000	1.47	53,000	34	22,000	1.93	42,500	14,000	0.75	10,500
Treasure	13,000	2.65	34,500	46	6,000	4.67	28,000	7,000	0.93	6,500
Yellowstone	44,000	3.23	142,000	7	29,000	4.29	124,500	15,000	1.17	17,500
SOUTH CENTRAL	**294,000**	**2.03**	**596,000**	**--**	**153,000**	**3.04**	**465,000**	**141,000**	**0.93**	**131,000**
Carter	76,500	1.29	99,000	16	4,000	1.50	6,000	72,500	1.28	93,000
Custer	44,000	2.28	100,500	15	17,500	4.14	72,500	26,500	1.06	28,000
Fallon	66,500	1.11	74,000	26	2,500	1.60	4,000	64,000	1.09	70,000
Powder River	63,000	1.07	67,500	31	11,000	2.00	22,000	52,000	0.88	45,500
Prairie	21,500	1.79	38,500	42	4,500	3.89	17,500	17,000	1.24	21,000
Rosebud	43,000	2.06	88,500	20	21,000	3.36	70,500	22,000	0.82	18,000
Wibaux	26,500	1.43	38,000	44	500	3.00	1,500	26,000	1.40	36,500
SOUTHEAST	**341,000**	**1.48**	**506,000**	**--**	**61,000**	**3.18**	**194,000**	**280,000**	**1.11**	**312,000**
MONTANA	**2,450,000**	**1.81**	**4,445,000**	**--**	**1,008,000**	**2.96**	**2,982,000**	**1,442,000**	**1.01**	**1,463,000**

Combined U.S. and Canadian July 1, 2002 Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 120.5 million head on July 1, 2002, 1 percent below a year earlier. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 48.7 million head, were slightly below a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2002, totaled 105.2 million head, 1 percent below the 105.8 million on July 1, 2001 and 1 percent below the 106.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.9 million were slightly below the 43.0 million on July 1, 2001 and 1 percent below 43.2 million two years ago.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of July 1, 2002, totaled 15.3 million head, down 1 percent from the 15.4 million on July 1, 2001, but 2 percent above the 15.0 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.8 million, was down 1 percent from the 5.9 million on July 1, 2001, but relatively unchanged from two years ago.

U.S. July Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during July 2002, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.24 billion table eggs and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2002 averaged 335 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during July 2001. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,190 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,166 eggs in July 2001.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2002, totaled 336 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 336 million layers consisted of 276 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.67 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2002, averaged 70.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.88 billion eggs during July 2002, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during July, at 314 million, was up 1 percent from a year ago.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- August 1 Crop Production
- Sheep & Hog Inventory by County Now Available
- Farm Real Estate Values
- Ag Prices Received
- Farm Production Expenditures

Montana's All Wheat Production Down 19 Percent from Last Month

Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 19 percent lower than last month's forecast, but still 18 percent higher than last year's drought-reduced crop. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest 113.76 million bushels of all wheat, up from the 96.57 million bushels harvested last year. The area for harvest is expected to be 4.88 million acres, unchanged from last month, but up 16 percent from last year. This is the last forecast until the final small grains summary is published on September 30, 2002.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 30.0 bushels per acre, is down 3 bushels per acre from July, but 8 bushels per acre higher than last year. Production is forecast to be 24.0 million bushels, up 25 percent from last year. While the rainfall earlier in the growing season helped plant counts for fields that survived, the extreme heat, winds, and lack of rainfall during July caused poor pollination and fertilization, resulting in plants with lighter head weights or no heads at all. Winter wheat harvest is still behind at 30 percent complete compared with 60 percent last year and 56 percent for the 5-year average.

Spring wheat production forecast is 78.1 million bushels, up 19 percent from last year's drought-reduced production. The expected yield of 22.0 bushels per acre is down 6 bushels from last month and down 1 bushel from last year. The yield potential and condition of the spring wheat crop deteriorated during the month due to the heat and lack of rainfall. Harvest is just underway with 7 percent complete compared with 8 percent last year and 7 percent for the 5-year average. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 11.66 million bushels, down 2 percent from last year and down 19 percent from last month. The expected yield of 22.0 bushels per acre is down 5 bushels from last month and down 2 bushels from last year.

Barley yields are expected to average 45.0 bushels per acre in 2002, 4 bushels better than last year. Barley production is forecast to be 42.75 million bushels compared with 29.52 million produced last year. Harvest was reported to be 9 percent complete.

Oat producers expect to harvest 4.08 million bushels of grain, 70 percent more than was produced last year. The expected yield of 48.0 bushels is 8 bushels better than last year's yield. Harvest was reported to be 7 percent complete for the week ending August 4.

Sugar beet production is forecasted to be 1.197 million tons, up 4 percent from last year. The expected yield, at 21.0 tons per acre is down slightly from the 21.5 tons per acre last year. **Dry edible bean** growers expect to harvest 21,000 of the 24,000 planted acres this year. Harvested acreage is estimated to be down 3,000 acres from 2001. Yield is estimated at 1,700 cwt., 320 cwt. per acre better than the previous year. All dry bean production is expected to be 357,000 cwt., up 8 percent from last year's figure. By class, 14,500 acres of **pintos**, 8,000 acres of **garbanzos,** and 500 acres of **other** beans were planted in 2002. A decrease in planting of large seed type garbanzo beans is leading the overall reduction in bean acreage this year. Subsequently, all bean yield is up based on the larger percentage of irrigated pintos to all beans.

Alfalfa hay is expected to yield 2.00 tons per acre in 2002, down 0.10 tons per acre from the previous year. Growers plan to harvest 1.7 million acres, up significantly from last year's 1.45 million acres. Production is expected at 3.40 million tons, a 12 percent increase over the 2001 figure. As of August 4 , 98 percent of first cutting and 32 percent of second cutting had been completed on alfalfa hay. The average yield for **other hay** is forecast to be 1.50 tons per acre, up 0.10 tons per acre from last year. Production on the 1.150 million acres of other hay expected to be harvested is forecast at 1.73 million tons, an increase of 23 percent from 2001. As of August 4, 90 percent of first cutting and 16 percent of second cutting of other hay had been completed.

Nationally, the final **Winter wheat** production forecast is 1.16 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1971. This is down 2 percent from last month, and 15 percent below 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 38.9 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushels from last month. Other **Spring wheat** production is forecast at 448 million bushels, down 8 percent from last month and 13 percent below 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 29.5 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels less than July 1. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 79.5 million bushels, down 5 percent from last month and 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 29.5 bushels per acre, 1.8 bushels less than last month.

Barley production in United States for 2002 is forecast at 252 million bushels, down 5 percent from the July forecast, but 1 percent above 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 55.9 bushels per acre, down 3.1 bushels from July and down 2.3 bushels from last year. U.S. **oat** production for 2002 is forecast at 143 million bushels, 3 percent less than the July 1 forecast, but 22 percent above last year's 117 million bushels. The forecasted yield is 54.2 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels below the July 1 forecast and down 7.1 bushels from 2001. If realized, this would be the lowest yield since 1991.

U.S. **sugar beet** production for 2002 is forecast at 27.6 million tons. If realized, this would be 7 percent above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States expect to harvest 1.35 million acres, 1 percent less than the June estimate, but 9 percent more than last year. The yield is forecast at 20.4 tons per acre, 0.3 ton below 2001. (Continued on next page.)

(Continued from first page.)

Dry edible bean production in the United States is forecast at 27.2 million cwt in 2002, up 39 percent from last year and 3 percent above two years ago. This is the largest dry bean crop since 1999 when production was 33.1 million cwt. This increase is a rebound from last year's drought reduced production in eastern and central States.

Alfalfa production is forecast at 74.6 million tons in the United States, down 7 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.09 tons, down 0.28 ton from last year. **Other Hay** production forecast for 2002 is 78.0 million tons, up 2 percent from 2001. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.92 tons per acre, down slightly from last year.

August 12, 2002, Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/
MONTANA		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,300	1,400	870	800	22.0	30.0	19,140	24,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	510	540	495	530	24.0	27.0	11,880	11,660
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,550	3,750	2,850	3,550	23.0	22.0	65,550	78,100
All Wheat	Bu.	5,360	5,690	4,215	4,880	22.9	28.7	96,570	113,760
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	55.0	13.0	14.0	148.0	3/	1,924	3/
Oats	Bu.	130	155	60	85	40.0	48.0	2,400	4,080
Barley	Bu.	1,100	1,200	720	950	41.0	45.0	29,520	42,750
Flaxseed	Bu.	14.0	17.0	12.0	15.0	15.0	3/	180	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	38.5	23.0	24.0	21.0	13.8	17.0	332	357
Dry Peas	Cwt.	31.0	27.0	21.0	25.0	14.0	3/	294	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	22.0	15.0	20.0	14.0	11.0	3/	220	3/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.9	7.0	2.5	2.0	7.9	3/	20	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.4	57.8	53.5	57.5	21.5	21.0	1,150	1,197
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.6	9.0	9.5	8.9	320.0	4/	3,040	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,450	1,700	2.1	2.0	3,045	3,400
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,150	1.4	1.5	1,400	1,725
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,850	1.8	1.8	4,445	5,125
UNITED STATES		--Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	41,078	41,362	31,295	29,764	43.5	38.9	1,361,479	1,158,710
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,910	2,760	2,789	2,692	30.0	29.5	83,556	79,545
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,629	15,963	14,569	15,172	35.2	29.5	512,608	448,051
All Wheat	Bu.	59,617	60,085	48,653	47,628	40.2	35.4	1,957,643	1,686,306
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	75,752	78,947	68,808	72,081	138.2	125.2	9,506,840	8,886,009
Oats	Bu.	4,403	5,085	1,905	2,633	61.3	54.2	116,856	142,580
Barley	Bu.	4,967	5,048	4,289	4,499	58.2	55.9	249,590	251,700
Flaxseed	Bu.	585	844	578	821	19.8	3/	11,455	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,429.9	1,864.0	1,243.0	1,690.6	15.7	16.1	19,541	27,207
Dry Peas	Cwt.	211.8	271.5	196.8	263.5	19.2	3/	3,779	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	201.0	190.0	197.0	187.0	14.7	3/	2,898	3/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	15.9	15.0	7.1	9.0	13.7	3/	97	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,370.8	1,408.8	1,243.6	1,370.7	20.7	20.4	25,787	27,601
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,111.1	1,169.8	1,092.5	1,142.1	367.0	4/	400,727	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09	80,266	74,640
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.92	76,437	77,976
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,511	64,709	2.47	2.36	156,703	152,616

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available January 10, 2003.
4/ Acreage forecast available November 12, 2002.

Farm Real Estate Values Up

The average value of farm real estate in Montana on January 1, 2002 was $384 per acre, up $9.00 from 2001. The average value of cropland rose $8.00 to $510 per acre, compared with a year ago. The average value of irrigated cropland was $1,530, $30 more than a year ago, while non-irrigated cropland gained $5.00 per acre to $365 per acre on January 1, 2002. Pasture values increased $5 to $260 per acre. Montana farm real estate values have been steadily increasing over the past five years.

The U.S. farm real estate value, including all land and buildings, averaged $1,210 per acre as of January 1, 2002, up 5.2 percent from the previous year. All states except Delaware, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington showed gains from last year. The $60 per acre increase in farm real estate values continued a climb that began in 1987. The overall increase followed cropland and pasture values, which rose by 4.4 and 5.0 percent, respectively, during 2002. Cropland values had been increasing by more than 5 percent a year, so this represents a slower rate of increase than previous years, likely due to low commodity prices and drought in western States.

The average value of cropland in the U.S. rose 4.4 percent to $1,650 per acre. The largest percent increases, at 8.6 and 5.3 percent, were in the Lake States and Northeast regions, respectively. Cropland values were highest in the Pacific region, at $3,710 per acre, and lowest in the Northern Plains, at $719 per acre.

The average value per acre for pasture in the U.S. increased 5.0 percent, with the great majority of States going up. The Mountain and Southern Plains regions, accounting for half of the pastureland in the U.S., both showed increases from 2001. Pasture values were highest in the Northeast, at $2,330 per acre, and lowest in the Northern Plains, at $251 per acre.

Agricultural Prices Received for June

June full month crop prices were mixed compared with May 2002. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.08 per bushel, up $0.09 from the previous month; spring wheat jumped $0.14 to $3.08 per bushel; and durum wheat prices fell $0.18 to $3.53 per bushel. The average price received for oats increased $0.02 to $2.24 per bushel. Feed barley prices fell $0.27 from the previous month to $1.92, but malt barley prices rose $0.08 to $3.01 per bushel.

The mid-July price for alfalfa hay was down $3.00 to $85.00 per ton and all other hay dropped $6.00 to $76.00 per ton. The mid-July grain prices were mostly all higher with winter wheat price averaging $3.24 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.41; durum wheat was $3.68; feed barley was $1.95; and malt barley averaged $3.10.

Livestock prices for the full month of June were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices dropped $0.30 to $76.50 per cwt, while cows fell $0.60 to $40.20. The average price for calves fell $1.60 to $91.30 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $2.20 to $24.10 per cwt and lamb prices jumped $10.10 to $76.60 per cwt. Milk prices dropped $1.30 per cwt from last month to $11.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $73.10 per cwt.; cows averaged $36.80 per cwt.; calves averaged $90.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for June and changes from May were as follows: winter wheat was $2.91, up $0.18, spring wheat was $2.98, up $0.08; durum wheat was $3.40, up $0.03; the all barley price was $2.08, down $0.16, and steer and heifer prices were $67.00, down $1.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-July winter wheat price was $3.18 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.29 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.71 per bushel, all wheat was $3.22 per bushel, malt barley was $2.39 per bushel, feed barley was $1.89 per bushel, and all barley was $2.07. Steer and heifer prices were $ 66.10 per cwt, cow prices were $37.70, calves were $93.20 per cwt., all hog prices were $38.20 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.576 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July was 100, based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.0 percent) from the June index. Higher prices for wheat, soybeans, hogs, and corn more than offset decreased prices for broilers, milk, eggs, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for grapes, wheat, tobacco, and tomatoes more than offset decreased marketings of milk, cantaloupe, potatoes, and asparagus.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	June 2001	July 2001	June 2002	July 2002
Prices Received	107	108	98	100
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	124	124	123	123
Ratio 2/	86	87	80	81

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		June 2001	May 2002	June 2002	June 2002	May 2002	June 2001	July 15 2002	July 15 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.08	2.99	3.08	2.91	+0.09	0	3.24	3.18
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.71	3.53	3.40	-0.18	-0.18	3.68	3.71
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.29	2.94	3.08	2.98	+0.14	-0.21	3.41	3.29
All Wheat	Bu.	3.25	3.01	3.09	2.93	+0.08	-0.16	3.37	3.22
Barley, All	Bu.	2.04	2.55	2.34	2.09	-0.21	+0.30	2.40	2.07
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.79	2.19	1.92	1.83	-0.27	+0.13	1.95	1.89
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.69	2.93	3.01	2.49	+0.08	+0.32	3.10	2.39
Oats	Bu.	1.60	2.22	2.24	1.95	+0.02	+0.64	2.20	1.79
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	95.00	90.00	88.00	102.00	-2.00	-7.00	85.00	102.00
All Other Hay	Ton	82.00	82.00	82.00	73.20	0	0	76.00	72.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	93.00	89.00	87.00	95.80	-2.00	-6.00	84.00	93.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	90.20	76.80	76.50	67.00	-0.30	-13.70	73.10	66.10
Cows	Cwt	46.20	40.80	40.20	39.30	-0.60	-6.00	36.80	37.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	72.20	57.40	54.00	64.10	-3.40	-18.20	51.30	63.30
Calves	Cwt	105.00	92.90	91.30	94.80	-1.60	-13.70	90.00	93.20
Sheep 2/	Cwt	30.60	21.90	24.10	25.90	+2.20	-6.50	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	75.00	66.50	76.60	72.80	+10.10	+1.60	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	15.40	12.60	11.30	11.60	-1.30	-4.10	12.20	11.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Sheep & Hog County Estimates Now Available

Livestock county estimates for January 1, 2002 sheep and lamb inventory and December 1, 2001, hog and pig inventory are now available in printed form from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service or you may find them under county data on our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. The county and district estimates are based on livestock surveys conducted at the end of 2001 and beginning of 2002. Questionnaires were sent to a sample of farmers and ranchers throughout Montana asking for information on their livestock inventories. Thanks to all the farmers and ranchers who participated in the survey!

Farm Production Expenditures

U.S. farm production expenditures totaled $197.0 billion in 2001, up 3.9% from the revised 2000 total of $189.6 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were tractors and self-propelled machinery up 13.0%; seeds and plants up 10.7%; labor up 6.3% and farm services up 5.1 percent. These increases more than offset a 7.1% decrease in farm improvements and construction. The largest two expenditure categories were farm services, which accounted for 13.6% of the U.S. total production expenses, and feed, which accounted for 12.8% of the U.S. total. The farm services category includes expense items such as custom work, utilities, marketing charges, veterinary services, transportation costs, and miscellaneous business expenses.

The average expenditures per U.S. farm in 2001 were $91,547, compared to $87,543 as revised for 2000. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 2001 spent $12,408 on farm services; $11,711 on feed; $10,224 on labor; $8,783 on livestock and poultry purchases; and $7,807 on rent. Revised estimates for 2000 indicated that U.S. farms spent an average of $11,728 on farm services; $11,312 on feed; $9,558 on labor; $8,311 on livestock and poultry purchases; and $7,434 on rent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates	Farm Labor
Cattle & Beef Cow County Estimates	Mushroom Production
Milk Production	U.S. & Canadian Cattle
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production
	Red Meat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Cattle Inventory
July 1 Sheep Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Hogs & Pigs
Red Meat Production
Mink Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Milk Production
Egg Production

Montana's July Cattle Inventory Down 4 Percent

The all cattle and calf inventory in Montana was 3.35 million head on July 1, 2002, down 4 percent from a year ago and down 11 percent from July 2002. More than 3 years of drought have caused continued reduction of cattle and calf inventories. Rainfall during May, June and early July helped pasture and hay growth in many areas of the state and temporarily relieved drought concerns. However, the lack of moisture and high temperatures since then is causing pasture conditions to deteriorate. Pasture and range conditions have dropped since the end of June and are now rated 26% very poor, 25% poor, 34% fair, 13% good, and 2% excellent for the week ending July 14th. Pasture conditions are rated worse than a year ago at this time.

The beef cow inventory in the state dropped 6 percent from a year ago to 1.462 million head. Milk cow inventory dropped 1,000 head from last year to 18,000 head. The 2002 calf crop is expected to be 1,490,000 million head, down 4 percent from last year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2002, totaled 105.2 million head, 1 percent below the 105.8 million on July 1, 2001 and 1 percent below the 106.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.9 million, were slightly below the 43.0 million on July 1, 2001 and 1 percent below the 43.2 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.8 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2001 and 1 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2001 but were down 1 percent from two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2002 and the changes from July 1, 2001, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.2 million, down 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.6 million, unchanged.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.7 million, up 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 7.9 million, down 4 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.5 million, down 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 29.5 million, down 1 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 12.4 million, down 5 percent.

The United States 2002 calf crop is expected to be 38.4 million, up slightly from 2001 but down 1 percent from 2000. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.0 million, down slightly from 2001 and down 1 percent from 2000.

U.S. All Sheep & Lamb Inventory Totals 8.10 Million Head

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2002, totaled 8.10 million head, 2 percent below July 1, 2001. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.78 million head on July 1, 2002, 2 percent below July 1, 2001. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.32 million head, were 2 percent below last July.

Of the July 1, 2002 breeding herd, 3.98 million head were ewes one year old and older, 185,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 615,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.5 percent of the total sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 21.5 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 17.7 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.1 percent, and Region 5 (all other states) accounted for 11.2 percent.

The 2002 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.31 million head, down 4 percent from the 2001 lamb crop of 4.50 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2002 totaled 3.84 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2002.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.49 million head on July 1, 2002. The inventory was 5 percent below July 1, 2001 but 1 percent above July 1, 2000. The inventory included 6.46 million steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.97 million head, down 11 percent from 2001.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.64 million, 16 percent below 2001 and 1 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.59 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 341,000, 600-699 pounds were 356,000, 700-799 pounds were 513,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 434,000. Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.08 million, 2 percent below 2001 and 5 percent below 2000. Other disappearance totaled 51,000 during June, 34 percent below 2001 and 11 percent below 2000.

U.S. June Pig Crop Up 2 Percent

The June 2002 U.S. pig crop at 8.66 million head, was 2 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 976 thousand head, 1 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter for June increased to 8.87, compared to 8.85 last year. The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on July 1, 2002, was 5.98 million head, slightly above July 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during June totaled 1.19 million head, down slightly from the previous year.

June Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2002, up 28 percent from June 2001 and 5 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,000 head, compared with 1,600 head one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,152 pounds, decreased 12 pounds from last year.

During June there were 1,600 hogs slaughtered, 700 more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 248 pounds, was down 17 pounds from June 2001. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was 100 more than a year ago. Average live weight, at 123 pounds, was 8 pounds heavier than last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.81 billion pounds in June, up 1 percent from the 3.76 billion pounds produced in June 2001. Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, down 2 percent from June 2001. The average live weight was 1,236 pounds, up 38 pounds from June a year ago.

Veal production totaled 14.6 million pounds, 6 percent below June a year ago and a new record low for June. Calf slaughter totaled 75,900 head, down 2 percent from June 2001. The average live weight was 319 pounds, down 14 pounds from June a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.48 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.54 million head, 1 percent above June 2001. The average live weight was 265 pounds, up 2 pounds from June a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.1 million pounds, was down 8 percent from June 2001 and a new record low for June. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,700 head, 1 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 10 pounds from June a year ago.

January - June red meat production was 23.0 billion pounds, 3 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

U.S. Mink Pelt Production

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2001 totaled 2.57 million pelts, down 4 percent from 2000. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 672,000 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard -36.9 percent; Mahogany - 22.6 percent; Gunmetal - 18.4 percent; Demi-buff - 5.0 percent; Sapphire - 4.2 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 12.9 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 2001 crop year were valued at $85.9 million dollars, down 5 percent from $90.6 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2001 crop year was $33.50, down from $34.00 in 2000.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2002 totaled 620,500, down 1 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2002 by color class are: Standard - 38.2 percent; Mahogany - 20.2 percent; Gunmetal - 19.2 percent; Sapphire - 6.2 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 16.2 percent.

There were 324 mink farms producing pelts in 2001, down 7 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 65 farms and Minnesota with 36. There were 21 mink farms which also raised fox in 2001, down from 24 the previous year.

Montana Wheat & Barley Varieties Seeded in 2002

Neeley remained the leading variety of **winter wheat** seeded in Montana for the fifteenth consecutive year, with 263,800 acres planted. Total acres planted decreased 10 percent from last year's 293,200 acres. **Rampart** remained a close second in 2002, with 263,200 thousand acres seeded this crop season. **Tiber** remained in third place with 163,200 acres seeded. **Rocky** replaces Morgan this year as the number four variety in Montana, with 149,400 acres planted in 2002. Rocky accounted for over 10 percent of the state's seeded acreage. These top four varieties accounted for 60.0 percent of the winter wheat acreage seeded in 2002. The top four varieties for 2001 accounted for 59.4 percent of the total acreage for the state.

McNeal was the leading **spring wheat** variety planted for the fifth consecutive year, accounting for over 39 percent of the seeded acreage, with almost 1.48 million acres planted. **Reeder** moved into second place with 396,800 acres planted this year. Last year Reeder was the fifth most popular variety with nearly 119,500 acres. **Ernest** fell to third place in ranking this year with 389,900 thousand acres planted, compared to 277,200 acres last year. **Fortuna** took fourth place for the second year in a row with over 262,600 acres planted statewide. These top four varieties accounted for 67.4 percent of the spring wheat acreage seeded in 2002. The top four varieties for 2001 accounted for 72.2 percent of the seeded acreage.

Kyle continued to be the leading **durum** variety for the sixth consecutive year. There were 216,900 acres planted in the state, accounting for 40.2 percent of the total seeded acres. **Mountrail** remained the second most popular variety of durum wheat in the state for the second year in a row. There were 144,000 acres planted or 26.7 percent of the state's durum wheat. **Ben** took third place ranking again this year with 29,900 acres planted or 5.5 percent of the state total for durum wheat. **Utopia** became the fourth most popular variety this year with 26,800 acres planted or 5.0 percent of the state's durum wheat. These top four varieties account for 77.4 percent of total acres seeded to durum wheat. This compares with the 69.7 percent reported in 2001 for the top four varieties

Harrington remained the top **barley** variety planted in the state for the ninth year in a row. It was seeded on 572.5 thousand acres or 47.7 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **B 1202** maintained the second place malting variety position for the seventh consecutive year with 67.9 thousand acres or 5.7 percent of the barley planted. **Moravian 37** is ranked third among malting barley varieties for the second year in a row with a significant increase in seeded acreage to 54.1 thousand, or 4.5 percent of the state's acreage. **B Merit** rounds out the top four malting varieties again in 2002, with 31.6 thousand acres, or 2.6 percent of seeded acreage.

Haybet remained in the lead position for **feed barley** for the third year in a row, with almost 129 thousand acres planted this year, which accounted for 10.7 percent of the total barley acres seeded in Montana for 2002. This is 16.2 thousand more acres than the 112.6 thousand acres planted in 2001. **Baronesse** was the second most popular feed barley again in 2002. It represents 3.6 percent of the total acreage or 42.9 thousand acres for feed barley seeded in Montana for 2002. This is down from the 55 thousand acres planted last year. **Hector** became the third place choice for feed barley this year with 37.9 thousand acres seeded or 3.2 percent of the barley acreage state-wide. This is compared to the 30.2 thousand acres planted in 2001. **Bowman** is the fourth leading feed-type variety this year with 37.7 thousand acres or 3.1 percent of the state-wide barley acres seeded in 2002. This is compared to the 23.6 thousand acres planted in 2001.

Montana Wheat and Barley: Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1997-2002 2/

Winter Wheat

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 2/	2002
Neeley	24.3	20.0	20.8	19.2	22.6	18.8
Rampart	--	1.8	9.0	13.8	15.9	18.8
Tiber	13.4	14.2	17.3	11.3	10.9	11.7
Rocky	19.1	13.4	8.2	6.9	8.9	10.7
Vanguard	0.8	10.3	7.0	9.4	6.7	8.7
Morgan	--	2.2	7.0	8.3	10.0	7.2
Redwin	10.6	6.1	4.7	6.4	4.0	5.6
McGuire	--	--	--	0.6	0.7	2.2
Big Horn	2.3	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.0	1.6
Nuwest *	0.1	--	0.5	0.4	1.7	1.3
Quantum 542	1.2	1.0	1.4	2.2	2.0	1.0
Winalta	1.9	2.9	1.7	1.1	2.1	1.0
Tomahawk	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.9
Prowers 99	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Norstar	1.8	1.7	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.7
Kestrel	4.0	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.7
NuFrontier	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Warrior	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.4	--	0.6
Roughrider	2.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.6
Judith	3.4	4.3	1.0	2.3	0.3	0.5
Goldenspike	--	--	--	--	--	0.5
Erhardt	--	--	0.1	0.7	--	1.1
Other & Unknown	14.1	15.1	11.9	10.0	8.0	4.4
All Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Spring Wheat

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 2/	2002
McNeal	16.2	26.5	40.4	48.8	49.2	39.4
Reeder	--	--	--	0.1	3.4	10.6
Ernest	3.2	7.6	9.4	10.7	10.1	10.4
Fortuna	6.3	6.5	5.0	4.9	5.1	7.0
Amidon	24.7	17.2	14.2	10.9	7.8	6.4
Conan	--	--	--	1.0	3.1	4.5
Westbred Rambo	10.0	7.9	6.7	5.3	3.2	3.4
Scholar	--	--	--	--	0.5	1.8
Parshall	--	--	--	--	0.5	1.7
Lew	2.5	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.6
Grandin	8.9	6.2	3.1	3.3	1.3	1.4
Westbred 926	2.7	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.4
Westbred 936	1.0	1.6	1.7	3.5	1.5	1.0
Len	3.1	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.2	0.9
Hi-Line	3.1	3.0	1.7	1.1	1.4	0.6
Butte 86	--	--	--	--	--	0.5
Gunner	--	--	--	--	--	0.5
BR 2306	--	--	--	--	--	0.5
Olaf	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Keene	--	--	--	0.3	0.7	0.3
Kulm	0.4	1.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.3
Newana	2.4	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3
Other & Unknown	15.5	14.2	10.8	3.4	6.6	5.1
All Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Durum Wheat

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 2/	2002
Kyle	38.4	44.5	55.3	52.5	45.3	40.2
Mountrail	--	--	--	0.9	9.6	26.7
Ben	--	0.2	4.1	7.8	8.0	5.5
Utopia	--	--	1.4	5.8	6.6	5.0
AC Avonlea	--	--	--	1.4	3.9	3.5
Ward	1.9	1.9	4.4	2.3	3.1	2.8
Renville	8.4	6.0	4.8	5.2	6.8	2.4
AC Morse	--	--	--	--	--	2.0
Munich	--	--	1.0	0.9	0.5	1.6
Vic	7.4	8.6	8.1	2.6	1.6	1.4
Sceptre	5.1	6.8	3.4	2.9	1.5	1.3
Monroe	14.1	7.4	4.8	2.9	3.3	1.0
Plaza	--	--	--	--	--	0.9
Medora	8.7	6.6	3.3	3.5	0.4	0.6
Crosby	5.1	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3
Lebsock	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Voss	1.0	4.2	--	0.0	0.3	0.3
Stockholm	--	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.3
Other & Unknown	9.9	12.7	8.1	10.9	8.3	3.9
All Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Barley

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 2/	2002
Harrington *	33.4	42.1	49.6	49.9	45.7	47.7
Haybet	2.1	3.0	4.5	6.5	10.2	10.7
B 1202 *	5.1	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.7
Moravian 37	--	--	0.1	1.5	3.8	4.5
Baronesse	15.6	12.1	7.6	6.2	5.0	3.6
Hector	8.8	6.8	4.9	3.7	2.7	3.2
Bowman	4.7	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.1	3.1
Westford	--	--	0.1	1.2	2.7	2.9
B Merit *	0.0	0.3	1.2	1.6	1.1	2.6
Gallatin	5.8	4.6	4.0	2.2	3.3	1.8
Horsford	1.7	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.6
Lewis	1.5	2.1	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.6
Stark	0.8	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.2
Piroline	3.4	2.2	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.2
Valier	--	--	--	0.1	0.6	1.1
B 2601	1.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0
Legacy *	--	--	--	--	--	0.6
Menuet	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.5
Robust	--	--	--	0.2	0.7	0.5
Chinook	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Clark	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Other & Unknown	14.6	14.3	10.7	11.0	10.5	4.1
All Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

1/ Columns may not sum to all varieties due to rounding. 2/ Revised

* American Malting Barley Association, Inc. recommended for malting and brewing for Montana.

This report was made possible by funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production Down, U.S. Milk Up

During the April-June 2002 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 85 million pounds of milk, down 2 million pounds from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows numbered 18,000 head, down 1,000 from last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 44.0 billion pounds, 3.0 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.15 million head, 33,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during June totaled 12.3 billion pounds, up 2.0 percent from June 2001. May revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 3.0 percent from May 2001. The May revision represented a decrease of 0.2 percent or 25 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,579 pounds for June, 24 pounds above June 2001. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.78 million head, 29,000 head more than June 2001, and 16,000 head more than May 2002.

U.S. Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.12 billion during June 2002, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.03 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2002 averaged 335 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during June 2001. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,124 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,100 eggs in June 2001.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2002 totaled 335 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 335 million layers consisted of 275 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2002, averaged 70.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.66 billion eggs during June 2002, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during June, at 314 million, was up slightly from a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Small Grain Production
Hay Production
All Sheep County Est Available
Farm Production Expenses
Ag Prices Received
Ag Land Values

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grains & Potato Acreage
Sweet Cherry Production
Ag Prices Received
Wheat Supply & Demand - ERS

Montana's All Wheat Production up 44 percent from 2001

Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 45% higher than last year's drought-reduced crop. Based on July 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest 140.11 million bushels of all wheat, up from the 96.57 million bushels harvested last year. The area for harvest is expected to be 4.88 million acres, up 16% from last year.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 33.0 bushels per acre, is up 3 bushels per acre from June and 11 bushels per acre higher than last year as rainfall during June increased yield potential. Production is forecast to be 26.40 million bushels, up 38% from last year due to the higher expected yield. Acres expected to be harvested is unchanged from the June forecast, but acreage is down 8% from last year to 800,000 acres. Winter wheat conditions aroung the state have seen significant improvement when compared to earlier this spring. Prior to receiving rainfall, conditions were rated for the week ending May 5 at 40% very poor, 22% poor, 29% fair, 8% good and 1% excellent. This compares with conditions for the week ending July 7 at 8% very poor, 20% poor, 43% fair, 24% good, and 5% excellent. Crop development continues to be behind normal as 17% of the crop was rated as turning color for the week ending July 7, compared with 57% last year and 45% for the 5-year average. While favorable weather conditions have led to improved yields, hot, dry weather since July 1 could reduce yield potential if those conditions continue.

The first **spring wheat** production forecast is 99.4 million bushels, up 52% from last year's drought-reduced production. The increased production is due to higher expected yields than last year and more harvested acres. The harvested acres are expected to be 3.55 million, up 25% due to more acres planted this year. The expected yield of 28.0 bushels per acre is up 5 bushels per acre from last year. Spring wheat conditions are much improved over a year ago as conditions for the week ending July 7 were rated 3% very poor, 5% poor, 31% fair, 50% good, and 11% excellent compared with 16% very poor, 25% poor, 36% fair, 20% good, and 3% excellent last year. While the timing of the rainfall was very beneficial, yields could drop if the recent hot, dry weather continues through the rest of the growing season. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 14.31 million bushels, up 20% from last year due to a 7% increase in harvested acres to 530,000 acres and higher expected yield. The expected yield of 27.0 bushels per acre is up 3 bushels from last year.

Barley yields are expected to average 50.0 bushels per acre in 2002, 9 bushels better than last year. Barley production is forecast to be 47.50 million bushels compared with 29.52 million produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 950,000 acres, 230,000 more than harvested in 2001. **Oats** producers expect to harvest 4.59 million bushels of grain, 91% more than was produced last year. The 2002 area for harvest is expected to be 85,000 acres compared with 60,000 harvested for grain in 2001. The expected yield of 54.0 bushels is 14 bushels better than last year's yield.

Montana **potato** producers planted 9,000 acres during 2002, down 600 acres from last year. This is the smallest planted acreage since 1990, when growers also planted 9,000 acres. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 12, 2002. Pulse crop growers reduced their acreage this year. **Dry edible pea** farmers planted an estimated 27,000 acres during 2002, and expect to harvest 25,000 acres. Last year, growers planted 31,000 acres of edible peas and harvested just 21,000 acres. **Lentil** growers planted 15,000 acres this year, down 32% from last year. Producers are expecting to harvest 14,000 of those acres for grain. Last year 22,000 acres of lentils were put in the ground, with 20,000 acres harvested. **Austrian winter pea** acreage is down this year. Seven thousand acres were planted during 2002, while 9,900 were planted last year. Just 2,000 acres of this year's crop is expected to be harvested as peas, with the remaining acreage being hayed or grazed.

Nationally, **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.18 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1971. The production forecast is down 5% from last month and down 13% from 2001. The decline in production from the June forecast is due to a reduction in harvested acreage and a lower forecasted yield. Acres for harvest as grain are forecast at 29.8 million, 1% below the June forecast and down 5% from 2001. This is the smallest harvested acreage since 1917. The U.S. yield is forecast at 39.6 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from last month. Hard red winter, at 634 million bushels, is down 6% from a month ago. White winter is down 1% this month and now totals 203 million bushels. Soft red winter, at 341 million bushels, is down 5% from the last forecast. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 84.1 million bushels, up 1% from 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 31.3 bushels per acre, 1.3 bushels more than last year. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 486 million bushels, down 5% from 2001. The U.S. yield is forecast at 32.0 bushels per acre, 3.2 bushels lower than last year. Of this total, 443 million is hard red spring wheat, down 7% from last season.

Oat production in the U.S. is forecast at 148 million bushels, 26% above last year's 117 million bushels. The forecasted yield is 56.1 bushels per acre, down 5.2 bushels from 2001. Area for harvest is estimated at 2.63 million acres, up 38% from last year. U.S. **barley** production for 2002 is forecast at 265 million bushels, 6% above 2001. Based on July 1 conditions, producers expect to harvest an average of 59.0 bushels per acre, up 0.8 bushel from last year. Area harvested, at 4.50 million acres, is up 210,000 acres from 2001.

Planted acreage of **lentils** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 190,000 acres, down 5% from last year and 12% less than 2000. Harvested acreage is estimated at 187,000, down 5% from last year.

(Continued on next page)

July 1 Crop Production Forecast

(Continued from front page)

Planted acreage of **dry edible peas** for 2002 is estimated at 271,500 acres, up 28% from last year and 44% above 2000. Planted acreage of **Austrian winter peas** in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon is estimated at 15,000 acres and harvested acreage is estimated at 9,000 acres.

Montana and U.S. Sweet Cherry Production Forecast Down

Montana's **sweet cherry** growers expect to produce 1,500 tons this year, a decrease of 26 percent from last year's 2,020 tons, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Growers indicate the late spring, snow during bloom set, and poor pollination as limiting factors to crop production. Bearing acres are also down this season as well.

U.S. **sweet cherry** production is forecast 203,985 tons, down 11 percent from 2001 and 1 percent below 2000. This is the lowest sweet cherry production since 1998 when 196,900 tons were produced.

The Washington crop, at 90,000 tons, is down 5 percent from the previous forecast and 15 percent below last year. Poor pollination and frost combined to reduce the Washington sweet cherry crop. Production in California is forecast at 65,000 tons, 18 percent more than last year. California's production was boosted by an increase in bearing acreage and good weather during bloom. The California forecast was carried forward from the June Crop Production report. The sweet cherry crop in Oregon is forecast at 39,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 2 percent from 2001. Oregon's production was decreased by poor weather during bloom, which more than offset an increase in bearing acres.

The Michigan sweet cherry crop is forecast at 5,500 tons, down 76 percent from last year and 72 percent below 2000. Most sweet cherry producing areas in Michigan received below freezing temperatures in April and May that killed buds or blossoms. Cold, wet, and windy conditions also limited pollination.

Idaho is expecting a sweet cherry crop of 1,700 tons, up 21 percent from last year but 43 percent below 2000. The Idaho crop suffered some freeze damage but not quite as severely as the frost that hit the 2001 crop. Utah is forecasting sweet cherry production to be 400 tons, a decline of 43 percent from last year's crop. A hard frost in Utah has severely reduced fruit set.

New York and Pennsylvania are expecting smaller crops than last season, down 55 and 34 percent, respectively. Frost conditions severely limited crop potential in both States.

JULY 11, 2002, CROP PRODUCTION FORECAST, MONTANA and U.S.

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/
MONTANA		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,300	1,400	870	800	22.0	33.0	19,140	26,400
Durum Wheat	Bu.	510	540	495	530	24.0	27.0	11,880	14,310
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,550	3,750	2,850	3,550	23.0	28.0	65,550	99,400
All Wheat	Bu.	5,360	5,690	4,215	4,880	22.9	28.7	96,570	140,110
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	55.0	13.0	14.0	148.0	3/	1,924	3/
Oats	Bu.	130	155	60	85	40.0	54.0	2,400	4,590
Barley	Bu.	1,100	1,200	720	950	41.0	50.0	29,520	47,500
Flaxseed	Bu.	14.0	17.0	12.0	15.0	15.0	3/	180	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	38.5	23.0	24.0	21.0	13.8	5/	332	5/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	31.0	27.0	21.0	25.0	14.0	3/	294	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	22.0	15.0	20.0	14.0	11.0	3/	220	3/
Austrian Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.9	7.0	2.5	2.0	7.9	3/	20	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.4	57.8	53.5	57.5	21.5	3/	1,150	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	9.6	9.0	9.5	8.9	320.0	4/	3,040	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,450	1,700	2.1	5/	3,045	5/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,150	1.4	5/	1,400	5/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,850	1.8	5/	4,445	5/
UNITED STATES		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	41,078	41,362	31,295	29,764	43.5	39.6	1,361,479	1,178,320
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,910	2,760	2,789	2,692	30.0	31.3	83,556	84,145
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,629	15,963	14,569	15,172	35.2	32.0	512,608	486,226
All Wheat	Bu.	59,617	60,085	48,653	47,628	40.2	3/	1,957,643	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	75,752	78,947	68,808	72,081	138.2	3/	9,506,840	3/
Oats	Bu.	4,403	5,085	1,905	2,633	61.3	56.1	116,856	147,584
Barley	Bu.	4,967	5,048	4,289	4,499	58.2	59.0	249,590	265,330
Flaxseed	Bu.	585	844	578	821	19.8	3/	11,455	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,429.9	1,864.0	1,243.0	1,745.1	15.7	5/	19,541	5/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	211.8	271.5	196.8	263.5	19.2	3/	3,779	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	201.0	190.0	197.0	187.0	14.7	3/	2,898	3/
Austrian Winter Peas	Cwt.	15.9	15.0	7.1	9.0	13.7	3/	97	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,370.8	1,408.8	1,243.6	1,370.7	20.7	3/	25,787	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,111.1	1,169.8	1,092.5	1,142.1	367.0	4/	400,727	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,812	24,134	3.37	5/	81,628	5/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,699	40,575	1.93	5/	80,675	5/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,511	64,709	2.47	5/	162,303	5/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available January 10, 2002. 4/ Acreage forecast available November 12, 2002. 5/ Production forecast available August 12, 2002.

Agricultural Prices Received for May 2002

May full month crop prices were mostly down compared with April 2002. Montana's winter wheat average price was $2.99 per bushel, down $0.05 from the previous month; spring wheat dropped $0.11 to $2.94 per bushel; and durum wheat prices fell $0.04 to $3.71 per bushel. The average price received for oats was down $0.12 to $2.22 per bushel. On the contrary, barley prices rose last month. Feed barley prices increased $0.15 from the previous month to $2.19, while malt barley prices were up a penny to $2.93 per bushel.

The mid-June price for alfalfa hay was down $2.00 to $88.00 per ton, while all other hay remained unchanged at $82.00 per ton. The mid-June winter wheat price averaged $3.06 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.05; durum wheat was $3.60; feed barley was $2.05; and malt barley averaged $2.90.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mostly down compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices fell $0.60 to $76.80 per cwt, while cows were up $0.20 to $40.80. The average price for calves dropped $1.40 to $92.90 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $4.10 to $21.90 per cwt, but lamb prices were up $3.70 to $66.50 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.30 per cwt from last month to $12.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $76.20 per cwt.; cows averaged $39.50 per cwt.; calves averaged $92.50 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.50 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for May and changes from April were as follows: winter wheat was $2.73, down $0.02, spring wheat was $2.90, down $0.02; durum wheat was $3.37, down $0.02; the all barley price was $2.24, up $0.14, and steer and heifer prices were $68.20, down $2.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-June winter wheat price was $2.86 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.84 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.16 per bushel, all wheat was $2.86 per bushel, malt barley was $2.34 per bushel, feed barley was $1.86 per bushel, and all barley was $2.05. Steer and heifer prices were $ 65.80 per cwt, cow prices were $38.70, calves were $94.90 per cwt., all hog prices were $34.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.633 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May was 97, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the revised May index. Higher prices for eggs, broilers, broccoli, and hogs offset decreased prices for cantaloupe, cattle, milk, and peaches. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for wheat, grapes, hay, and cantaloupe more than offset decreased marketings of oranges, tomatoes, strawberries, and sweet corn. Compared with June last year, the All Farm Products Index was down 9 points (8.4 percent). Lower prices for cattle, broilers, hogs, and celery more than offset higher prices for potatoes, corn, eggs, and wheat.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	May 2001	June 2001	May 2002	June 2002
Prices Received	108	107	97	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	124	124	123	123
Ratio 2/	87	86	79	80

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		May 2001	April 2002	May 2002	May 2002	April 2002	May 2001	June 15, 2002	June 15, 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.10	3.04	2.99	2.73	-0.05	-0.11	3.06	2.86
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.64	3.75	3.71	3.37	-0.04	+0.07	3.60	3.16
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.33	3.05	2.94	2.90	-0.11	-0.39	3.05	2.84
All Wheat	Bu.	3.27	3.15	3.01	2.81	-0.14	-0.26	3.09	2.86
Barley, All	Bu.	2.00	2.49	2.55	2.24	+0.06	+0.55	2.46	2.05
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.61	2.04	2.19	1.90	+0.15	+0.58	2.05	1.86
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.66	2.92	2.93	2.56	+0.01	+0.27	2.90	2.34
Oats	Bu.	1.57	2.34	2.22	1.99	-0.12	+0.65	n/a	1.90
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	94.00	93.00	90.00	108.00	-3.00	-4.00	88.00	102.00
All Other Hay	Ton	86.00	84.00	82.00	76.70	-2.00	-4.00	82.00	73.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	93.00	91.00	89.00	102.00	-2.00	-4.00	87.00	95.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	86.60	77.40	76.80	68.20	-0.60	-9.80	76.20	65.80
Cows	Cwt	46.10	40.60	40.80	39.90	+0.20	-5.30	39.50	38.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	68.00	67.50	57.40	65.20	-10.10	-10.60	58.20	63.00
Calves	Cwt	103.00	94.30	92.90	98.50	-1.40	-10.10	92.50	94.90
Sheep 2/	Cwt	38.50	26.00	21.90	28.60	-4.10	-16.60	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	90.50	62.80	66.50	64.30	+3.70	-24.00	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	14.80	12.90	12.60	12.30	-0.30	-2.20	12.50	12.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1985-2002

Year Beginning July 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks June 30	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	956	80	299	1,335	1,061	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,958	105	2,939	940	81	185	1,207	960	2,167	772	2.78
2002 . 3/	772	1,749	105	2,626	950	81	175	1,206	900	2,106	520	2.75-3.35

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 2002--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Quarterly Milk Production
- Mink
- U.S. Cattle Inventory
- Cattle on Feed
- U.S. Sheep Inventory
- Wheat & Barley Varieties
- Red Meat Production
- Egg Production
- Hogs & Pigs

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Acreages
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Grain Stocks
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Hogs & Pigs

June 1, 2002 Crop Acreage Small Grain Acreage:

All wheat planted acreage in Montana is estimated to be 5.69 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and is the highest acreage planted since 1997. **Spring wheat** producers planted an estimated 3.75 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and up 6 percent from what they intended to plant on March 1, 2002. Producers intend to harvest 3.55 million acres of spring wheat this year, up 25 percent from last year's drought reduced acreage. The large abandonment of winter wheat acreage this spring has partially contributed to more acres of spring wheat being planted this year. The condition of the spring wheat crop for the week ending June 23 is significantly better than last years crop at this time as conditions were rated 0% very poor, 3% poor, 32% fair, 53% good and 12% excellent. Moisture received since the beginning of May has significantly improved crop prospects. **Winter wheat** acreage planted remained unchanged from the March 1 estimate at 1.40 million acres, up 8 percent from last year. However, due to dry planting conditions, harsh winter, and poor spring growing conditions, winter wheat producers are expecting to harvest 800,000 acres, down 200,000 acres from the previous forecast and down 70,000 acres from last year's drought reduced acreage. This would be the smallest acreage of winter wheat harvested since 1937. The percentage of winter wheat for grain harvest this year, at 57.1%, ranks as the fourth lowest percentage on record. Rainfall came too late to avoid the high acreage abandonment, however, the condition of the remaining acreage has improved significantly since earlier this spring and is now rated better than last year's crop at this time. The condition of the winter wheat crop for the week ending June 23 was rated 15% very poor, 20% poor, 31% fair, 29% good, and 5% excellent compared with 41%, 31%, 19%, 8% and 1%, respectively, a year ago. **Durum wheat** acreage, at 540,000 acres, is up 6 percent from a year ago and is the largest durum wheat planted acreage since 1956. Acreage of durum wheat intended to be harvested is estimated at 530,00 acres, up 7 percent from last year.

Montana **barley** producers planted an estimated 1.2 million acres, up 9 percent from last year, but down 4 percent from what was intended to be planted on March 1, 2002. The state's barley growers intend to harvest 950,000 acres for grain this year, 32 percent more than the previous year's harvest. Planted acreage for **oats**, at 155,000 acres, is up 25,000 acres the previous year and is 15% percent greater than intended plantings on March 1, 2002. Growers intend to harvest 85,000 acres of the oat crop for grain, 25,000 acres more than a year ago.

In the United States, **all wheat** planted area is estimated at 60.1 million acres, up 1 percent from 2001. Harvested area is expected to total 47.6 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. The 2002 **winter wheat** planted area, at 41.4 million acres, is less than 1 percent above both last year and the previous estimate. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 29.8 million acres, down 1 percent from the June 1 forecast and 5 percent below the 2001 total. This is the smallest area for grain since 1917. Acreage planted to **other spring wheat** for 2002 is estimated at 16.0 million, up 2 percent from 2001. Grain area is expected to total 15.2 million acres, up 4 percent from last year. **Durum** wheat planted area for 2002 is estimated at 2.76 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. Area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 2.69 million acres, 4 percent below last year's level.

Nationally, **barley** growers seeded 5.05 million acres for 2002, up 2 percent from the 4.97 million acres seeded a year ago. This level is an increase from the record low planted acreage of 2001. Acres for harvest, at 4.50 million, rebounded 5 percent from the 2001 level. The area planted to **oats** last fall and this spring totaled 5.09 million acres, 1 percent below the March intentions, but 15 percent above last year's final seeded acres. Acreage to be harvested for grain, at 2.63 million acres, is 4 percent above the March intentions and 38 percent more than last year's record low. The increases for planted and harvested acres are the first since 1997.

Row Crops, Hay & Oilseeds Acreage:

Montana **corn** growers planted an estimated 55,000 acres, which is down 10,000 acres from a year ago and down 10,000 acres from the March 1 intentions. Acreage intended to be harvested for grain, at 14,000 acres, is up 1,000 acres from a year ago. **Sugar beet** producers planted an estimated 57,800 acres, up 1 percent from 2001. Many acres of sugarbeets had to be replanted due to freezing temperatures this spring. An estimated 2.85 million acres of **all hay** are expected to be harvested, which is 400,000 acres more than last year's drought affected harvest, and 650,000 acres more than was intended to be cut on March 1, 2002. The sharp increase in optimism for the 2002 hay crop is a reflection of high hay prices and increased precipitation throughout the state, following more than 3 years of drought. Of the total hay expected for harvest, 1.7 million acres are expected to be **alfalfa** hay, which is up 250,000 acres from last year's figure. Producers expect to harvest 1,150,000 acres of **other hay,** which is up 150,000 acres from a year ago. Farmers planted 23,000 acres of **dry beans** in 2002, down 40 percent from last year and 23 percent below their March 1, 2002 intentions. Producers are looking to harvest 21,000 acres of dry beans this season, 9 percent less than last year's number. The relatively small decrease in harvested acreage, when compared to the reduction in seedings, can be attributed mostly to a reduction in garbanzo bean acreage. Bean prices are down and the threat of Ascochyta blight is making production more difficult. **Flaxseed** growers in Montana planted an estimated 17,000 acres of the oilseed this season, up 21 percent from last year's acreage. Producers intend to harvest 15,000 acres of flaxseed this year, 25 percent more than the previous year.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from 1st page)

In the U.S. **corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 78.9 million acres, up 4% from 2001 but down 1% from 2000. Growers expect to harvest 72.1 million acres for grain, up 5% from 2001. **Sugarbeet** area planted totaled 1.41 million acres in the 12 sugarbeet producing States, down 1% from the March intentions but up 3% from 2001. The area for harvest is estimated at 1.37 million, 10% above 2001, when harvested acreage was reduced by the payment-in-kind diversion program.

Producers expect to harvest 64.7 million acres of **all hay** in 2002, up less than 2% from 2001. This is the largest harvested acreage of all hay since 1988. **Alfalfa** and **alfalfa mixture** are estimated at 24.1 million acres, up 1% from last year. New seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, published in the Crop Production 2001 Summary, were 6% higher in 2001 compared to 2000. All **other hay** is estimated at 40.6 million acres, up 2% from last year.

U.S. **dry bean** growers planted 1.86 million acres for 2002, up 30% from last year and 6% above two years ago. High prices for the 2001 crop have encouraged growers to plant more acres this year after last year's reduced crop. Estimated plantings are 6% above the March intentions. Eleven of the 18 producing States are increasing planted acreage this year. Six States are reducing their plantings and 1 State planted the same acreage. Acres to be harvested are forecast at 1.75 million, 40% above last year and 9% above 2000. North Dakota growers planted 750,000 acres, a gain of 70% from last year.

Acreage planted to **flaxseed** in 2002 is 844,000 acres, up 44% from last year's planted area, and the largest area planted since 1979 when 922,000 acres were planted. Area for harvest, estimated at 821,000, is 42% above the harvested acres in 2001. In North Dakota growers planted 800,000 acres of flaxseed, up 45% from 2001. This is the largest flaxseed planted acreage in North Dakota since 1975.

U.S. Potato Stocks

The 15 major potato States held 51.5 million cwt. of potatoes in storage June1, 2002, down 16% from last year but 9% above 2000. Storage accounts for 13% of the 2001 fall storage States' production, the same as last year. Disappearance of 343 million cwt, is down 14% from last year and the lowest in the last 4 years. Processors in the 9 major States used 166 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 13% from a year ago.

U.S. Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.26 billion during May 2002, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.13 billion table eggs and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 2002 averaged 334 million, slightly lower than the average number of layers during May 2001. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,172 eggs, up 1% from the 2,160 eggs in May 2001.

U.S. May Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during May totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 3.2% from May 2001. April revised production, at 12.6 billion pounds, was up 3.3% from April 2001. The April revision represented an increase of 0.3% or 42 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,681 pounds for May, 49 pounds above May 2001.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 14,000 head more than May 2001, and 9,000 head more than April 2002.

Planted and Harvested Acres, June 2002, Montana and U.S.

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/
MONTANA		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,300	1,400	870	800	22.0	3/	19,140	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	510	540	495	530	24.0	3/	11,880	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,550	3,750	2,850	3,550	23.0	3/	65,550	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,360	5,690	4,215	4,880	22.9	3/	96,570	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	55.0	13.0	14.0	148.0	4/	1,924	4/
Corn for Silage	Ton	--	--	51.0	5/	22.0	5/	1,122	5/
Oats	Bu.	130	155	60	85	40.0	3/	2,400	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,100	1,200	720	950	41.0	3/	29,520	3/
Flaxseed	Bu.	14.0	17.0	12.0	15.0	15.0	5/	180	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	38.5	23.0	24.0	21.0	13.8	4/	332	4/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	31.0	4/	21.0	4/	14.0	4/	294	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	22.0	4/	20.0	4/	11.0	4/	220	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	57.4	57.8	53.5	57.5	21.5	4/	1,150	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,450	1,700	2.1	4/	3,045	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,000	1,150	1.4	4/	1,400	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,450	2,850	1.8	4/	4,445	4/
UNITED STATES		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	41,078	41,362	31,295	29,764	43.5	3/	1,361,479	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,910	2,760	2,789	2,692	30.0	3/	83,556	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,629	15,963	14,569	15,172	35.2	3/	512,608	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	59,617	60,085	48,653	47,628	40.2	3/	1,957,643	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	75,752	78,947	68,808	72,081	138.2	4/	9,506,840	4/
Corn for Silage	Ton	--	--	6,148	5/	16.6	4/	102,352	5/
Oats	Bu.	4,403	5,085	1,905	2,633	61.3	3/	116,856	3/
Barley	Bu.	4,967	5,048	4,289	4,499	58.2	3/	249,590	3/
Flaxseed	Bu.	585	844	578	821	19.8	5/	11,455	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,429.9	1,864.0	1,243.0	1,745.1	15.7	4/	19,541	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,370.8	1,408.8	1,243.6	1,370.7	20.7	4/	25,787	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,812	24,134	3.37	4/	81,628	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,699	40,575	1.93	4/	80,675	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,511	64,709	2.47	4/	162,303	4/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available July 11, 2002. 4/ Acreage forecast available August 10, 2002. 5/ Available January 10, 2003.

June 1, 2002 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on June 1, 2002 were 52.3 million bushels, up 2 percent from a year ago. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 37.0 million bushels, up 9 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 15.3 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the March - May 2002 quarter was down 36 percent from the same quarter last year to 30.6 million bushels. This compares with 41.6 million last year. Wheat stocks by class and by district are no longer available due to funding cuts by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 2002 were 6.1 million bushels, down 41 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 3.0 million bushels, down 50 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was down 28 percent from a year ago to 3.1 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were 965,000 bushels, down 1 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 900,000 bushels unchanged from a year ago. Oats stored off-farm was down 7 percent from last year to 65,000 bushels.

United States, all wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 2002 totaled 772 million bushels, down 12 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 212 million bushels, up 7 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 560 million bushels, are down 18 percent from a year ago. The indicated March - May 2002 disappearance is 438 million bushels, down 5 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on June 1, 2002 totaled 33.0 million bushels, down 27 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 20.6 million bushels, are down 29 percent from June 1, 2001. Off-farm stocks totaled 12.4 million bushels, down 23 percent from a year ago. The indicated March - May 2002 disappearance of 18.9 million bushels is down 32 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions in the United States on June 1, 2002 totaled 92.8 million bushels, down 13 percent from June 1, 2001. On-farm stocks are estimated at 23.2 million bushels, 20 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 69.6 million bushels, are 10 percent below June 2001. Indicated disappearance during the March - May 2002 quarter totaled 48.9 million bushels, down 12 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 2002 totaled 63.2 million bushels, 13 percent below the stocks stored in all positions on June 1, 2001. Of the total stocks on hand, 28.7 million bushels were stored in on-farm facilities, 11 percent less than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 34.5 million bushels, 15 percent less than last year. Indicated disappearance during the March - May 2002 quarter totaled 30.2 million bushels, 19 percent less than the same period a year ago.

June 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2002	June 1, 2002	'02/'01	June 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2002*	June 1, 2002
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	34,000	62,000	37,000	109%	197,270	338,500	211,830
Off Farms 1/	17,420	20,930	15,330	88%	678,912	871,268	560,075
TOTAL	51,420	82,930	52,330	102%	876,182	1,209,768	771,905
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	11,000	15,000	2/	NA	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	6,020	7,320	2/	NA	--	--	--
TOTAL	17,020	22,320	2/	NA	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	23,000	47,000	2/	NA	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	11,400	13,610	2/	NA	--	--	--
TOTAL	34,400	60,610	2/	NA	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	29,100	30,200	20,600
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	16,073	21,690	12,390
TOTAL	4,370	6,590	2/	NA	45,173	51,890	32,990
BARLEY							
On Farms	6,000	8,000	3,000	50%	28,850	46,000	23,210
Off Farms 1/	4,290	6,990	3,110	72%	77,409	95,748	69,631
TOTAL	10,290	14,990	6,110	59%	106,259	141,748	92,841
OATS							
On Farms	900	1,700	900	100%	32,050	40,200	28,650
Off Farms 1/	70	150	65	93%	40,677	53,157	34,537
TOTAL	970	1,850	965	99%	72,727	93,357	63,187
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,230,800	3,355,000	2,020,600
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,693,158	2,440,261	1,573,385
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,923,958	5,795,261	3,593,985

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are no longer available due to funding cuts by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

May Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 2002, up 21% from May 2001 and 4% from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,900 head, compared with 1,600 head one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,135 pounds, decreased 55 pounds from last year.

During May there were 1,500 hogs slaughtered, which is 600 more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 249 pounds, was 10 pounds greater than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was 100 more than a year ago.The average live weight was identical to the previous year at 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in May, up 4% from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in May 2001 and a new record high for May. Beef production, at 2.34 billion pounds, was 2% above the previous year and a new record high for May. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.15 million head, down 2% from May 2001. The average live weight was 1,223 pounds, up 39 pounds from May a year ago.

Veal production totaled 15.4 million pounds, 3% below May a year ago and a new record low for May. Calf slaughter totaled 77,800 head, down 1% from May 2001. The average live weight was 330 pounds, down 5 pounds from May a year ago. Pork production totaled 1.65 billion pounds, up 6% from the previous year and a new record high for May. Hog kill totaled 8.33 million head, 5% above May 2001. The average live weight was 267 pounds, up 3 pounds from May 2001. Lamb and mutton production, at 19.5 million pounds, was up 16% from May 2001. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 284,100 head, 19% above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 3 pounds from May a year ago.

May red meat production was 19.2 billion pounds, 4% above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5% from last year, veal was down 4%, pork was up 3%, and lamb and mutton production was down 1%.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.94 million head on June 1, 2002. The inventory was 3% below June 1, 2001 and slightly below June 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.23 million, 6% below 2001 and 3% below 2000. Net placements were 2.16 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 350,000, 600-699 pounds were 434,000, 700-799 pounds were 744,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 699,000. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.17 million, 1% below 2001 and slightly below 2000.

Other disappearance totaled 72,000 during May, 29% below 2001 and 37% below 2000.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2002, was 59.8 million head. This was 2% above both June 2001, and March 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 6.21 million head, was up slightly from June 1, 2001, but down slightly from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 53.6 million head, was 2% above both last year and last quarter. The March-May 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 25.9 million head, was 1% more than both 2001 and 2000.

Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.93 million head, 2% above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47% of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.81 pigs saved per litter for the March-May 2002 period, compared to 8.89 pigs last year. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.93 million sows farrow during the June-August 2002 quarter, 2% above the actual farrowing during the same period in 2001.

SPECIAL THANKS to the approximately 2,500 Montana farmers and ranchers who were interviewed and responded to June Agricultural Surveys. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Ag Prices
- Small Grain Crop Production
- Potato Acreage
- Wheat Supply & Demand
- Ag Cash Rents
- Cherry Production

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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Issue: 02-11 (0279-0394) Released June 13, 2002

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Wheat Supply & Demand
- Barley County Estimates
- Ag Prices Received

June 1, 2002 Crop Production Forecast

Montana winter wheat producers were expecting a yield of 30 bushels per acre based on June 1 conditions, up 8 bushels from last year and 2 bushels above last month's forecast. Improved moisture conditions and the abandonment of many poorer fields contributed to the increase in yield prospects. Based on the previous month's forecasted harvested acres estimate of 1.0 million acres, total production would be 30.0 million bushels, up 57 percent from last year. Harvested acreage was not updated from the previous month because additional survey information was not available. The results of the June Acreage Surveys, which are currently underway, will be released on June 28, 2002 and will update harvested acreage and provide a better indication of winter wheat abandoned since planting last fall.

The winter wheat conditions in the state improved during the month as significant moisture was received in the major growing areas. While this rain came too late for fields already abandoned, yield potential improved on the remaining acreage. Continued favorable growing conditions will be necessary to maintain yield potential. As of June 9, winter wheat conditions were rated 16 percent very poor, 33 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 1 percent excellent, which is significantly better than last year's ratings which were 47 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 6 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. However, a cool late spring has caused the winter wheat crop development to be way behind normal. As of the week ending June 9, barely 1 percent of the winter wheat crop had headed compared with the 5-year average of 33 percent and 45 percent a year ago.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.24 billion bushels, down 5 percent from the May 1 forecast and 9 percent below 2001 to the lowest level since 1978. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.0 bushels per acre, down 2.1 bushels from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 30.2 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Hard Red production is down 6 percent from a month ago to 672 million bushels. Soft Red is down 3 percent from last month, and now totals 360 million bushels. White production totals 206 million bushels, down 2 percent from last month.

Area for 2002 grain harvest in the United States is forecast at 30.2 million acres, unchanged from May 1, but down 4 percent from 2001. This is the smallest winter wheat area since 1917. As of June 2, heading had reached 82 percent in the 18 major States. Harvest progress was at 5 percent, ranging from none in most States to 35 percent in Texas.

U.S. Wheat Supply and Demand Estimates

With planting of 2002/03 crops still underway in the Northern Hemisphere and several months away in the Southern Hemisphere, early-season projections in this report are highly tentative. Today's National Agricultural Statistics Service forecasts are used for U.S. winter wheat.

Projected U.S. 2002/03 ending stocks of wheat are down 64 million bushels from last month as lower production and increased use more than offset higher forecast carry in stocks. Forecast winter wheat production is reduced 63 million bushels due to lower yields. Food use is down 5 million bushels from last month, but exports are increased 25 million bushels because of reduced competition. The projected price range for wheat for 2002/03 is up 15 cents on each end to $2.65 to $3.25 per bushel, compared with $2.78 estimated for 2001/02.

Forecast 2001/02 ending stocks of wheat are up 20 million bushels from last month. The 5-million- bushel drop in food use reflects recently released mill grind estimates by the Census Bureau. Forecast exports are down 15 million bushels due to slow late-season pace of sales and shipments.

Global 2002/03 world wheat production and ending stocks projections are down from last month. Lower foreign production is led by reductions of 2 million tons for China, 1.5 million tons for Australia, and 0.3 to 0.5 million tons each for several countries. Larger crops in the EU, Morocco, and Brazil are only partially offsetting. Although projected imports by Morocco are down from last month, the major impact from the production changes is a 1-million-ton reduction in Australia's exports. Larger U.S. and EU exports offset the reduction for Australia. The United States, China, the EU, Russia, and Ukraine account for most of the drop in projected 2002/03 global ending stocks from last month.

(See table on back page)

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2001

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
				Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	9,800	7,600	66	502,000	16	3,200	2,400	86	206,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	3,100	2,100	78	163,000	32	2,600	1,800	86	154,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Powell	2,800	1,100	75	82,000	42	2,200	800	83	66,000
Ravalli	1,300	400	88	35,000	47	1,200	400	88	35,000
Sanders	800	200	40	8,000	53	--	--	--	--
Other	2,200	600	77	46,000	--	2,300	600	77	46,000
NORTHWEST	**20,000**	**12,000**	**70**	**836,000**	--	**11,500**	**6,000**	**85**	**507,000**
Blaine	21,500	15,900	38	609,000	13	5,900	4,700	50	236,000
Chouteau	78,000	33,200	16	515,000	15	--	--	--	--
Glacier	98,000	71,400	30	2,137,000	3	16,900	12,100	55	671,000
Hill	21,500	16,400	19	314,000	23	--	--	--	--
Liberty	26,000	10,900	24	266,000	27	2,900	2,700	67	182,000
Phillips	22,500	14,700	34	500,000	17	1,800	1,100	75	82,000
Pondera	120,000	89,500	36	3,200,000	2	34,500	29,000	59	1,708,000
Teton	114,000	100,000	56	5,597,000	1	58,400	55,500	77	4,270,000
Toole	54,500	31,000	22	677,000	12	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	3,600	1,900	55	104,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**556,000**	**383,000**	**36**	**13,815,000**	--	**124,000**	**107,000**	**68**	**7,253,000**
Daniels	8,300	3,000	36	109,000	38	--	--	--	--
Dawson	22,800	13,200	44	582,000	14	1,100	600	63	38,000
Garfield	14,700	1,900	39	75,000	44	--	--	--	--
McCone	16,100	6,700	44	293,000	25	--	--	--	--
Richland	22,000	17,100	49	845,000	8	4,300	3,200	82	261,000
Roosevelt	8,300	4,400	38	167,000	31	500	--	--	--
Sheridan	15,700	12,000	34	410,000	19	900	200	75	15,000
Valley	16,100	8,700	44	380,000	20	3,600	1,500	76	114,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	600	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**124,000**	**67,000**	**43**	**2,861,000**	--	**11,000**	**5,500**	**78**	**428,000**
Broadwater	5,800	5,300	52	278,000	26	2,300	2,000	80	160,000
Cascade	46,500	34,000	36	1,227,000	7	10,900	9,000	73	654,000
Fergus	64,000	38,300	36	1,365,000	6	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	6,100	1,700	21	35,000	47	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	39,600	25,400	32	820,000	10	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	12,000	7,600	56	423,000	18	7,000	4,600	76	348,000
Meagher	13,200	9,900	32	317,000	22	3,700	2,000	60	120,000
Musselshell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	16,700	9,700	38	373,000	21	1,300	700	79	55,000
Other	8,100	3,100	42	129,000	--	6,300	2,700	60	162,000
CENTRAL	**212,000**	**135,000**	**37**	**4,967,000**	--	**31,500**	**21,000**	**71**	**1,499,000**
Beaverhead	8,100	2,000	91	182,000	30	8,100	2,000	91	182,000
Gallatin	31,500	29,000	66	1,910,000	4	12,800	12,200	81	991,000
Jefferson	1,700	400	58	23,000	49	1,100	300	70	21,000
Madison	6,700	2,600	61	159,000	34	6,000	2,000	68	136,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**48,000**	**34,000**	**67**	**2,274,000**	--	**28,000**	**16,500**	**81**	**1,330,000**
Big Horn	23,000	17,000	48	820,000	10	7,000	5,500	86	472,000
Carbon	11,100	10,100	83	837,000	9	9,400	9,000	90	807,000
Park	6,400	4,700	42	197,000	29	2,300	1,300	58	76,000
Stillwater	16,500	10,800	29	312,000	24	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	2,600	1,000	64	64,000	45	--	--	--	--
Treasure	3,100	2,200	70	154,000	35	2,100	1,700	83	141,000
Yellowstone	26,300	21,200	69	1,469,000	5	14,000	12,300	91	1,121,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	3,200	1,700	84	143,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**89,000**	**67,000**	**58**	**3,853,000**	--	**38,000**	**31,500**	**88**	**2,760,000**
Carter	10,800	2,300	46	106,000	39	--	--	--	--
Custer	7,100	3,300	49	162,000	33	2,400	1,400	69	97,000
Fallon	9,300	2,800	44	122,000	37	--	--	--	--
Powder River	6,900	3,900	36	139,000	36	--	--	--	--
Prairie	6,500	5,100	39	198,000	28	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	5,700	2,400	43	103,000	40	--	--	--	--
Wibaux	4,700	2,200	38	84,000	41	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	2,600	1,100	78	86,000
SOUTHEAST	**51,000**	**22,000**	**42**	**914,000**	--	**5,000**	**2,500**	**73**	**183,000**
MONTANA	**1,100,000**	**720,000**	**41**	**29,520,000**	--	**249,000**	**190,000**	**73**	**13,960,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Agricultural Prices Received for April, Montana Livestock Prices Fall

April full month crop prices were mixed compared with March 2002, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.04 per bushel, down $0.04 from March; spring wheat was $0.06 higher at $3.05 per bushel; and durum wheat prices dropped $0.18 to $3.75 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.07 to $2.34 per bushel. Feed barley prices increased $0.21 from the previous month to $2.04, while malt barley prices were down $0.07 to $2.92 per bushel.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay was down $3.00 to $90.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $2.00 to $82.00 per ton. The mid-May winter wheat price averaged $2.85 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.05; durum wheat was $3.60; oats was $2.25; feed barley was $2.00; and malt barley averaged $2.95.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were all drastically down compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices fell $6.10 to $77.40 per cwt, and cows were down $2.70 to $40.60. The average price for calves dropped $9.70 to $94.30 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.90 to $26.00 per cwt and lamb prices were down $6.20 to $62.80 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.20 per cwt from last month to $12.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-May averaged $77.70 per cwt.; cows averaged $41.00 per cwt.; calves averaged $93.30 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $12.80 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was $2.75, down $0.06, spring wheat was $2.92, up $0.01; durum wheat was $3.39, up $0.06; the all barley price was $2.10, down $0.08, and steer and heifer prices were $70.60, down $3.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was $2.72 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.92 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.12 per bushel, all wheat was $2.80 per bushel, malt barley was $2.58 per bushel, feed barley was $1.91 per bushel, and all barley was $2.14. Steer and heifer prices were $ 69.30 per cwt, cow prices were $40.20, calves were $98.90 per cwt., all hog prices were $34.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.505 per dozen.

The preliminary United States All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May was 98, based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (3.2 percent) from the revised April index. Higher prices for broilers, potatoes, hogs, and oranges more than offset lower prices for lettuce, cattle, milk, and cucumbers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for cantaloupe, grapes, sweet corn, and peaches more than offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, apples and asparagus. Compared with May last year, the All Farm Products Index was down 10 points (9.3 percent). Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and cucumbers more than offset higher prices for potatoes, strawberries, corn, and soybeans. The Food Commodities Index increased by 4.3 percent over last month to 97, but was 11.8 percent below last year.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	April 2001	May 2001	April 2002	May 2002
Prices Received	103	106	105	95
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	124	124	123	123
Ratio 2/	83	85	85	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		April 2001	March 2002	April 2002	April 2002	March 2002	April 2001	May 15 2002	May 15 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.00	3.08	3.04	2.75	-0.04	+0.04	2.85	2.72
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2.87	3.93	3.75	3.39	-0.18	+0.88	3.60	3.12
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.26	2.99	3.05	2.92	+0.06	-0.21	3.05	2.92
All Wheat	Bu.	3.13	3.08	3.15	2.84	+0.07	+0.02	3.06	2.80
Barley, All	Bu.	2.10	2.52	2.49	2.10	-0.03	+0.39	2.48	2.14
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.80	1.83	2.04	1.79	+0.21	+0.24	2.00	1.91
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.77	2.99	2.92	2.44	-0.07	+0.15	2.95	2.58
Oats	Bu.	1.03	2.27	2.34	1.98	+0.07	+1.31	2.25	2.02
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	94.00	92.00	93.00	106.00	+1.00	-1.00	90.00	108.00
All Other Hay	Ton	86.00	85.00	84.00	78.70	-1.00	-2.00	82.00	76.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	93.00	91.00	91.00	99.90	0	-2.00	89.00	102.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	87.20	83.50	77.40	70.60	-6.10	-9.80	77.70	69.30
Cows	Cwt	44.60	43.30	40.60	40.10	-2.70	-4.00	41.00	40.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	78.30	72.20	67.50	67.20	-4.70	-10.80	60.50	66.10
Calves	Cwt	105.00	104.00	94.30	100.00	-9.70	-10.70	93.30	98.90
Sheep 2/	Cwt	39.50	27.90	26.00	27.80	-1.90	-13.50	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	87.50	69.00	62.80	64.30	-6.20	-24.70	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.10	13.10	12.90	12.50	-0.20	-1.20	12.80	12.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1985-2002

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	956	80	299	1,335	1,061	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,958	105	2,939	940	81	200	1,221	960	2,181	758	2.78
2002 . 3/	758	1,823	105	2,685	950	80	200	1,230	900	2,130	555	2.65 - 3.25

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, June 2002--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Potato Stocks
- Milk Production
- Sweet Cherry Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Egg Production
- Red Meat Production
- Hogs & Pigs
- Grain Stocks
- Crop Acreage

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production
Egg Production
Red Meat Production
Cattle & Beef Cows Cty. Est. Avail.
Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Specialty Crops
Farm Labor
Wildlife Damage
Ag Chemical Use
Hogs & Pigs

April Milk Production Up 2.9 Percent In Major States

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.5 billion pounds, up 2.9 percent from April 2001. March revised production, at 12.8 billion pounds, was up 3.1 percent from March 2001. The March revision represented a decrease of 7 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,614 pounds for April, 43 pounds above April 2001.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 12,000 head more than April 2001, and 8,000 head more than March 2002.

U.S. April Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.08 billion during April 2002, down slightly from last year. Production included 5.99 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2002 averaged 336 million, slightly lower than the average number of layers during April 2001. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,109 eggs, slightly higher than the 2,106 eggs in April 2001.

April 2002 contained 22 weekdays, and four Saturdays, compared to 21 weekdays and four Saturdays in April 2001.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2002, totaled 335 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 335 million layers consisted of 274 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 58.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.71 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2002, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, slightly higher than a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.64 billion eggs during April 2002, down slightly from a year ago. The average number of layers during April, at 314 million, was down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Montana April 2002 Red Meat Production Up 18 Percent From the Previous Year

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 2002, up 18 percent from April 2001 and 35 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,900 head, compared with 1,600 head one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,133 pounds, decreased 29 pounds from last year.

During April there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered, which is 200 more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 242 pounds, was 3 pounds less than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.90 billion pounds in April, up 11 percent from the 3.51 billion pounds produced in April 2001 and a new record high for April.

Beef production, at 2.19 billion pounds, was 13 percent above the previous year and a new record high for April. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.95 million head, up 9 percent from April 2001. The average live weight was 1,227 pounds, up 41 pounds from April a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.1 million pounds, 6 percent above April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 82,000 head, up 10 percent from April 2001. The average live weight was 327 pounds, down 13 pounds from April a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.67 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year and a new record high for April. Hog kill totaled 8.43 million head, 8 percent above April 2001. The average live weight was 267 pounds, up 2 pounds from April a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.1 million pounds, was down 5 percent from April 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 278,300 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 2 pounds from April a year ago.

Livestock County Estimates Now Available for Cattle, Milk Cows and Beef Cattle

County estimates for the January 1, 2002 cattle and calf inventory are now available under www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ county data. District estimates for December 1, 2001 all chickens and county estimates for December 1, 2001 Hogs and Pigs and January 1, 2002 Sheep and Lambs will be available at a later date.

(Continued on the next page.)

(Continued from the 1st page)

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. The county estimates are based on livestock surveys conducted at the end of 2001 and beginning of 2002. Questionnaires were sent to a sample of farmers and ranchers throughout Montana asking for information on the livestock inventories. About 10,000 questionnaires were tabulated and summarized. Thanks to all the farmers and ranchers who participated in the survey!

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.96 million head on May 1, 2002. The inventory was 2 percent below May 1, 2001 but slightly above May 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.45 million, 6 percent below 2001 and 15 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.37 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 210,000, 600-699 pounds were 255,000, 700-799 pounds were 512,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 476,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.99 million, 10 percent above 2001 and 6 percent above 2000.

Other disappearance totaled 83,000 during April, 7 percent below 2001 and 8 percent below 2000.

Montana May 1 Potato Stocks Down 7 Percent, U.S. Stocks Down 17 Percent

Montana potato producers held 0.7 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2002, down 7 percent from the previous year. The stocks represent 23 percent of the total 2001 production, 2 percentage points more than last year's May 1 stocks as a percent of the 2000 harvest.

The 15 major potato States held 91.1 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2002, down 17 percent from last year but 5 percent above 2000. Storage accounts for 23 percent of the 2001 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago. Disappearance of 303 million cwt, is down 13 percent from last year and the lowest since 1992. Processors in the 9 major States used 148 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 13 percent from a year ago.

2001 Specialty Crops County Estimates

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service has published county estimates for 2001 oilseeds and pulse crops. This is the third year of the data series. County-level data is not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Dry bean county estimates for Montana are published for these classes: all, garbanzo, and other, which is principally pintos. Other dry bean production for 2001 was 205,000 cwt. for the state. **Prairie** county had the largest other bean production in the state with 43,000 cwt. The second and third leading counties were **Carbon** and **Dawson** with 40,000 cwt. and 22,000 cwt. produced, respectively. The south-central district produced the largest crop of other beans followed closely by the southeast district. Looking at garbanzo beans, **Daniels** county produced the most in 2001 with 29,000 cwt. The second leading county was **Roosevelt** with 28,400 cwt. No other counties for garbanzo beans were published to avoid disclosure of individual information. The northeastern district produced the most garbanzo beans in Montana.

For the 2001 lentil crop, **Sheridan** was the number one county with 87,000 cwt. produced. The number two county was **Roosevelt** with total production at 54,000 cwt., and the third largest was **Richland** county with 14,900 cwt. Northeastern district farmers produced 78 percent of the state's lentils. Dry edible peas county estimates reveal **Roosevelt** county was the largest producer in 2001 with 56,500 cwt., followed by **Richland** county at 44,500 cwt., and **Pondera** county at 19,500 cwt. Northeastern district farmers produced 70 percent of the state's dry peas. **Teton** and **Dawson** were the leading counties for Austrian winter pea production in 2001 with 5,800 cwt. and 4,000 cwt., respectively.

Sheridan was by far the largest canola producing county in 2001 with 14.8 million pounds, or 33 percent of the state's canola. The second largest county was **Daniels** with 10.1 million pounds produced, followed by **Roosevelt** county with 3.3 million pounds. The northeastern district produced 72 percent of the crop. **Richland** was once again the number one safflower producing county with 5.6 million pounds. The next leading county was **Daniels** at 5.0 million pounds, followed by **McCone's** production of 3.6 million pounds. Seventy-five percent of the state's safflower was produced in the northeast district.

Sheridan led the state in flaxseed production for 2001 at 97,000 bushels. The next county was **Valley** with 36,000 bushels, followed by **Roosevelt** county at 15,500 bushels. Eighty-nine percent of the state's flaxseed was produced in the northeast district. The south-central district accounted for 39 percent of Montana's sunflower production, but county-level data was not published to avoid disclosure of individual information. The leading mustard seed producing counties were **Sheridan** with 4.5 million pounds and **McCone** with 1.3 million pounds. Almost all of Montana's mustard seed was produced in the northeast district.

All the preceding information along with yields and planted and harvested acres by county, district, and state levels are now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They are available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2001. Thanks to those who participated!

U.S. Hired Workers Up 6 Percent, Wage Rates Up 6 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.08 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 7-13, 2002, up 6 percent from a year ago. There were 890,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 189,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 8.8 percent of the April hired work force compared with 8.9 percent in April 2001. The migrant worker percent of hired workers will be discontinued after this report.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $8.83 per hour during the April 2002 survey week, up 52 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.06 per hour, up 45 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned $8.43 per hour compared with $8.01 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 44 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, unchanged from a year ago.

U.S. Agricultural Losses Valued at $944 Million Due to Wildlife Damage

Crop and livestock losses from wildlife in the United States totaled $944 million during 2001. Field crop losses to wildlife totaled $619 million, livestock and poultry losses totaled $178 million, and losses of vegetables, fruits and nuts totaled $146 million. These losses include destruction of or damage to crops in the field and death or injury to livestock caused by wildlife.

Individuals were allowed to report more than one wildlife species causing damage, if applicable. Occurrence of wildlife species reported causing damage should not be used to derive dollar loss by species.

A random sample of U.S. producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all crop and livestock producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. About 12,000 operators were contacted during February and March by telephone interview. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Non-sampling error was minimized through rigid quality control in the data collection process and a careful review of reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

This report is released as a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., April 8-14, 2001, & April 7-13, 2002 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	8.28	8.35	7.92	8.56	8.11	8.42	8.98	9.14
Northeast II	7.95	8.20	6.60	7.01	7.60	7.78	8.42	8.83
Appalachian I	7.32	7.42	7.39	8.60	7.34	7.86	7.70	8.45
Appalachian II	6.85	6.89	7.36	7.87	7.03	7.31	7.31	7.63
Southeast	7.01	7.28	7.53	8.29	7.05	7.42	7.61	7.94
FL	7.75	7.75	7.90	7.50	7.77	7.72	8.40	8.57
Lake	8.93	9.43	8.82	8.44	8.87	9.01	9.57	9.88
Cornbelt I	8.09	8.59	8.69	8.90	8.23	8.70	8.62	9.23
Cornbelt II	8.19	7.84	8.55	9.82	8.41	8.89	8.80	9.34
Delta	6.55	7.05	7.34	7.06	6.65	7.05	7.09	7.50
Northern Plains	8.21	8.48	8.20	8.06	8.20	8.31	8.89	9.22
Southern Plains	7.10	6.92	7.71	7.78	7.33	7.31	7.86	7.95
Mountain I	7.11	7.55	7.16	7.92	7.14	7.80	7.48	8.00
Mountain II	7.37	8.06	7.58	8.58	7.44	8.26	7.99	8.95
Mountain III	6.92	7.51	6.80	8.35	6.90	7.71	7.46	8.21
Pacific	7.75	8.18	8.75	9.45	7.87	8.33	8.40	9.10
CA	7.82	8.33	9.02	10.20	7.96	8.47	8.59	9.13
HI 3/	9.06	9.40			9.03	9.43	10.67	11.14
US 4/	7.61	8.06	8.01	8.43	7.71	8.15	8.31	8.83

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

2000 Agricultural Postharvest Chemical Use for Wheat

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service contacted 75 commercial grain storage or grain processing facilities during the summer of 2001 to determine the types and amounts of chemicals applied to wheat in off-farm storage. Based on total pounds applied, **silicon dioxide** and **aluminum phosphide** were the most commonly used postharvest chemicals applied. Montana's commercial grain storage facilities operators applied 2,700 pounds of silicon dioxide to control insects in wheat. Although aluminum phosphide is commonly referred to as a fumigant, it is used to kill insects, insect larvae, and mites, and is classified as an insecticide by the EPA. Montana's facility operators applied 1,100 pounds aluminum phosphide to control insects in wheat.

Montana grain storage operators used one or more of the following strategies in determining their treatment schedules. About two-thirds relied on **visual grain inspection**; 13% on **preset calendar dates**; 13% on **bin samples** and 13% on **scheduled fumigation with other handling operations**. No operators used **insect traps** to determine schedules. Seven percent of operators based fumigation on customers requests. Fourteen percent of Montana commercial grain storage facilities operators use an **aeration controller system** to determine the optimum running time (considering humidity and temperature) for aeration fans. Seven percent of Montana operators use **temperature cables in bins** to monitor grain temperature in bins. Ten percent of operators use a **deep bin sampler** which allows one to reach deeply into a grain bin and sample grain that is normally out of reach to typical probe samplers. Sixteen percent of Montana's operators use **power probes** to sample grain. Most of Montana's operators (79%) use a **protein analyzer** to determine the protein of grain. Only about one-sixth of Montana grain storage operators use a **phosphine pellet dispenser** to apply chemicals.

U.S. April Pig Crop Up 1 Percent

The April 2002 U.S. pig crop at 8.57 million head, was 1 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 965 thousand head, 1 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter for April declined to 8.88, compared to 8.90 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on May 1, 2002, was 5.99 million head, slightly above May 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during April totaled 1.18 million head, up 1 percent from the previous year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Barley County Estimates
- Ag Prices
- Crop Production
- Winter Wheat Production
- Wheat Supply & Demand

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Meat Animals PDI
- Hogs &Pigs
- Wheat Supply & Demand
- Ag Prices

May 1 Crop Production and Hay Stocks

Based on conditions May 1, **Montana winter wheat** producers are expecting a yield of 28 bushels per acre, up 6 bushel from last year's final yield estimate. However, this is down 6 bushels from the May 1, 2001 forecast. If realized, total production of 28.0 million bushels would be up 46 percent from a year ago due to an increase in acreage and expected yield from 2001. In the fall of 2001, Montana producers seeded 1.4 million acres of winter wheat, up 100,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 1.0 million acres, up 130,000 acres from last year. Acreage expected not to be harvested for grain is currently estimated to be 400,000 acres compared with 430,000 acres last year. If drought and poor weather conditions persist, acres not harvested for grain are expected to increase above last year's unusually large abandonment. The largest amount of unharvested acres ever recorded was 1.06 million acres in 1985 when 2.46 million acres were planted. Producers in the North Central district have been the most severely impacted by the drought and poor weather conditions.

Due to weather conditions, winter wheat has been very slow to break dormancy, as 9% of the acres were rated still dormant, 42% greening, and 49% green and growing for the week ending May 5th. This compares with 1% dormant, 15% greening, 84% green and growing a year ago. Slow crop development and weather conditions have added a significant amount of uncertainty for producers regarding the number of acres that will actually be harvested for grain and expected yields. Many producer comments indicated it was too early to tell what they will do and many indicated they were waiting for the crop adjustor to come. Yields on remaining acreage will be severely impacted if significant rainfall isn't received soon and during the growing season. For the week ending May 5, the condition of the winter wheat crop was significantly worse than the previous year and the 5 year average as conditions were rated 40 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 8 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Last year the condition ratings were 12% very poor, 24% poor, 40% fair, 21% good, and 3% excellent, while the 5 year average is 5% very poor, 13% poor, 38% fair, 40% good, and 4% excellent.

Winter wheat production for the United States is forecast at 1.30 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2001. This is the lowest production since 1978. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.1 bushels per acre, 0.4 bushels less than last year. Area for 2002 grain harvest in the United States is forecast at 30.2 million acres, down 4 percent from 2001. This will be the smallest winter wheat area harvested since 1917.

The portion of the United States winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on April 28, at 36 percent, was 5 percentage points lower than last year. The Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas good to excellent ratings were only 25 percent, 34 percent, and 24 percent, respectively. Overall, condition ratings on April 28 were lower than any corresponding week since 1989. Dry weather aided winter wheat seeding across the Great Plains and Pacific Northwest last fall. Temperatures were favorable for development across most of the Nation, but emergence and growth were spotty and uneven due to topsoil moisture shortages, especially in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Montana hay producers had an estimated 845 thousand tons of hay on hand as of May 1, almost double the amount they had on hand a year ago. Last year's hay stocks were one of the lowest on record. Increased hay production from CRP and small grain acreage harvested for hay during 2001 and decreased livestock inventories contributed to the increased hay stocks. Disappearance from December 2001 to May 1, 2002 totaled 2.76 million tons, up 1 percent from last year.

Stocks of all hay stored on farms in the United States totaled 22.5 million tons on May 1, up 7 percent from the previous year. The increase in May 1 stocks was mainly the result of the 2001 hay crop increasing by 3 percent. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2001 - May 1, 2002, totaled 88.0 million tons, 4 percent higher than the disappearance of 84.5 million tons for the same period a year ago. Disappearance was up from last year despite the mild winter, due to dry spring conditions limiting pasture and extending the hay feeding period in the Southeast, Great Plains, and Rocky Mountain States.

Winter Wheat: Acreage, Yield, & Production, by Selected States & U.S. 2001 & Forecast May 1, 2002

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Colorado	2,000	1,800	33.0	30.0	66.000	54,000
Idaho	710	690	73.0	77.0	51,830	53,130
Kansas	8,200	8,000	40.0	37.0	328,000	296,000
Montana	870	1,000	22.0	28.0	19,140	28,000
Nebraska	1,600	1,600	37.0	36.0	59,200	57,600
Oklahoma	3,700	3,600	33.0	31.0	122,100	111,600
Oregon	700	750	40.0	50.0	28,000	37,500
South Dakota	370	1,050	32.0	40.0	11,840	42,000
Texas	3,200	2,500	34.0	32.0	108,800	80,000
Washington	1,750	1,700	61.0	66.0	106,750	112,200
Wyoming	120	130	24.0	25.0	2,880	3,250
US	31,295	30,174	43.5	43.1	1,361,479	1,300,726

2001 Cash Receipts for Meat Animals in Montana and the U.S.

Cash receipts from the 2001 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled $1.03 billion, up 1 percent from 2000. Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves were up 1 percent from 2000 to a new historic high. Cattle and calf cash receipts almost eclipsed the billion mark for the first time at $978 million. Increased cattle marketings and higher prices for cattle contributed to the increase in cash receipts. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.4 million head, were up 1 percent from 2000. This is the third highest marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased 4 percent from the previous year to 350,000 head. The average price received in 2000 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs rose $2.20 per cwt to $80.50 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased $3.80 per cwt to $99.20 per cwt. The average price received for cattle was the highest on record, while calf prices were the second highest on record. The total value of the cattle and calf inventory on January 1, 2002, was 2.1 billion dollars, down 5 percent from last year. Decreases in cattle and calf inventory and lower values contributed to the decline.

Cash receipts from the sales of hogs in Montana rose 17 percent from 2000 to $35.7 million dollars. Marketings of hogs and pigs rose 11 percent from the previous year to 344,000 head. The average prices received for hogs rose $3.80 from the previous year to $43.60 per cwt. The value of the hog and pig inventory on December 1, 2001 was 13.8 million dollars, up 11 percent from last year.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts were down 24 percent from the previous year to 18.5 million dollars. Decreased marketings of lambs and a dramatic drop in lamb prices contributed to the large decline cash receipts. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2001 were 79,000 and 251,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were up 26,000 head from last year while lamb marketings were down 34,000 head. The average price for lambs dropped $24.70 per cwt to $59.80 per cwt while sheep were up $2.50 per cwt from last year to $33.90 per cwt. The value of the sheep and lamb inventory was 26.8 million dollars, down 21 percent from the previous year.

In the United States, the 2001 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled $53.7 billion, up 1 percent from 2000. Gross income rose for hogs and pigs, but fell for calves and calves and sheep and lambs. Hogs and pigs increased 6 percent, while cattle and calves and sheep and lambs decreased 1 and 15 percent respectively. Total 2001 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 1 percent to $53.3 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for hogs and pigs, but decreased for both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up from 2000 levels for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep while lambs showed a decrease.

U.S. cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves decreased from $40.7 billion in 2000 to $40.4 in 2001, a 1 percent decrease. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 55.3 billion pounds in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $71.30 an increase of $2.70 from 2000. For calves, the annual average price increased $2.00 to $106.00.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $12.5 billion during 2001, up 6 percent from 2000. Marketings increased to 26.9 billion pounds in 2001, up 1 percent from 2000. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased $2.00 to $44.30 in 2001.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in the United States were $398 million, down 15 percent from 2000. Marketings declined 1 percent to 641 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from $34.30 in 2000 to $34.60 in 2001 while for lambs, the annual average price decreased $12.90 to $66.90.

U.S. March 2002 Pig Crop Up 1 Percent

The March 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 8.59 million head, was 1 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 973 thousand head, 1 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter for March declined to 8.83, compared to 8.87 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on April 1, 2002, was 6.00 million head, slightly above April 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during March totaled 1.18 million head, up 1 percent from the previous year.

U.S. Wheat Supply and Demand Estimates

The first report of USDA's assessment of U.S. Wheat supply and demand prospects and U.S. price prospects for the 2002/03 season shows prospects for a smaller crop and reduced exports. Projections are based on economic analysis, normal weather, trends, and judgment. Because planting of spring crops is still underway, these projections are highly tentative. Substantial variation may result from weather developments, economic factors, and policy changes. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecasts are used for U.S. winter wheat. For other U.S. crops, the March 28 NASS Prospective Plantings report is used for planted acreage, and methods used to project harvested acreage and yield are noted on each table.

The 2002/03 outlook for U.S. wheat is dominated by prospects for the smallest U.S. wheat exports in more than 30 years. Total production is projected down 4 percent from 2001/02 to 1,886.0 million bushels. The survey-based forecast of winter wheat production is 4 percent below a year earlier due to lower area and yields. Using planting intentions and average harvested-to-planted ratios and yields results in lower spring wheat (including durum) production. The smaller crop and the smallest carry in stocks since 1998/99 drop total 2002/03 supplies almost 7 percent below a year earlier.

Projected 2002/03 use is down around 4 percent from a year earlier. Domestic use is up slightly due to expanding food use. However, projected exports of 875 million bushels are down 100 million bushels from the 2001/02 forecast and would be the lowest since 610 million bushels in 1971/72. Reduced U.S. export prospects are due to smaller U.S. supplies, shrinking global imports, and intense competition. Although total use is declining, it will exceed production plus imports and result in a further drop in U.S. ending stocks. However, U.S. prices will receive little added support from the declining stocks due to the bleak export prospects. The projected price range for 2002/03 is $2.50 to $3.10 per bushel, compared with an estimated $2.78 for 2001/02.

Projected 2002/03 global wheat production is up sharply from a year earlier, led by gains in the EU. Expanding use is expected to absorb the larger crops, leaving global ending stocks little changed from a year earlier. Production in the major exporters (Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the EU) is projected up more than 19 million tons or almost 13 percent. In addition, India's crop is expected to rise more than 5 million tons in 2002/03, intensifying the pressure to reduce already huge government stocks via exports. The combined production of Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakstan is projected down more than 10 million tons from 2001/02 but carry in stocks are up more than 14 million tons, leaving ample supplies for export. Global imports are projected down slightly, despite an expected doubling in China's imports from the 1.5 million tons expected for 2001/02. EU imports, forecast at a world-leading 8 million tons for 2001/02, are expected to drop by half.

(Continued on the back)

Agricultural Prices Received

March full-month crop prices were mostly higher compared with February 2002, except for other hay and feed barley. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.08 per bushel, up $0.05 from February; spring wheat was $0.01 higher at $2.99 per bushel; and durum wheat prices rose $0.01 to $3.93 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.11 to $2.27 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped $0.14 from the previous month to $1.83, while malt barley prices were up $0.02 to $2.99 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay was up $1.00 to $93.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $1.00 to $84.00 per ton. The mid-April winter wheat price averaged $3.10 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.05; durum wheat was $3.85; oats was $2.25; feed barley was $1.90; and malt barley averaged $2.95.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mixed compared with the previous month, while mid-month prices were down significantly. Steer and heifer prices were down $0.30 to $83.50 per cwt, but cows were up $3.80 to $43.30. The average price for calves rose $2.00 to $104.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $3.60 to $27.90 per cwt and lamb prices were down $0.70 to $69.00 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.10 per cwt from last month to $13.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $76.10 per cwt.; cows averaged $40.00 per cwt.; calves averaged $97.70 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $13.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was $2.81, up $0.06, spring wheat was $2.91, up $0.06; durum wheat was $3.33, down $0.16; the all barley price was $2.18, down $0.03, and steer and heifer prices were $74.30, up $0.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was $2.73 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.88 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.16 per bushel, all wheat was $2.80 per bushel, malt barley was $2.54 per bushel, feed barley was $1.75 per bushel, and all barley was $2.10. Steer and heifer prices were $ 71.20 per cwt, cow prices were $40.50, calves were $102.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $30.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.519 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April was 95, based on 1990-92=100, down 10 points (9.5 percent) from the revised March index. Declining lettuce prices along with decreases for hogs, eggs, and cattle, more than offset increased prices for onions, hay, apples, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for cattle, strawberries, milk, and oranges more than offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and cotton. Compared with April last year, the All Farm Products Index was down 11 points (10.4 percent). Lower prices for broilers, milk, hogs, and cattle more than offset higher prices for potatoes, tomatoes, apples, and carrots. The food commodities index decreased by 13.0 percent over both last month and last year.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Mar. 2001	Apr. 2001	Mar. 2002	Apr. 2002
Prices Received	103	106	105	95
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	124	124	123	123
Ratio 2/	83	85	85	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Mar. 2001	Feb. 2002	Mar. 2002	Mar. 2002	Feb. 2002	Mar. 2001	Apr. 15 2002	Apr.15 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.06	3.03	3.08	2.81	+0.05	+0.02	3.10	2.73
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.92	3.93	3.33	+0.01	+0.36	3.85	3.16
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.18	2.98	2.99	2.91	+0.01	-0.19	3.05	2.88
All Wheat	Bu.	3.19	3.05	3.08	2.87	+0.03	-0.11	3.12	2.80
Barley, All	Bu.	2.27	2.73	2.52	2.18	-0.21	+0.25	2.52	2.10
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.80	1.97	1.83	1.75	-0.14	+0.03	1.90	1.75
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.81	2.97	2.99	2.60	+0.02	+0.18	2.95	2.54
Oats	Bu.	1.25	2.16	2.27	1.99	+0.11	+1.02	2.25	1.90
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	92.00	94.00	92.00	98.80	-2.00	0	93.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	84.00	90.00	85.00	73.00	-5.00	+1.00	84.00	78.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.40	-3.00	0	91.00	99.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	87.80	83.80	83.50	74.30	-0.30	-4.30	76.10	71.20
Cows	Cwt	43.80	39.50	43.30	41.60	+3.80	-0.50	40.00	40.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	79.90	75.80	72.20	70.70	-3.60	-7.70	62.70	67.80
Calves	Cwt	106.00	102.00	104.00	104.00	+2.00	-2.00	97.70	102.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	45.20	31.50	27.90	34.40	-3.60	-17.30	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	100.00	69.70	69.00	66.30	-0.70	-31.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.90	13.20	13.10	12.70	-0.10	+0.20	13.10	12.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1985-2002

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	956	80	299	1,335	1,061	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . .	876	1,958	105	2,939	945	81	200	1,226	975	2,201	738	2.78
2002 . 3/	738	1,886	105	2,729	955	80	200	1,235	875	2,110	619	2.50 - 3.10

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, May 2002--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Egg Production
Milk Production	Livestock Chem. Use
Ag Chem Use	Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed	Hogs & Pigs
Farm Labor	Cattle & Beef Cows Cty Est

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
Montana's Rank
Quarterly Milk Production
Milk PDI
Poultry PDI

Montana March 2002 Red Meat Production Down 8 Percent From the Previous Year

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2002, down 8 percent from March 2001 and 6 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, compared with 1,500 head one year ago. The average live weight, at 1,145 pounds, increased 6 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered, which is 100 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 241 pounds, was 2 pounds less than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.68 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 3.76 billion pounds produced in March 2001. Beef production, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.74 million head, down 6 percent from March 2001. The average live weight was 1,241 pounds up 42 pounds from March a year ago.

Veal production totaled 15.0 million pounds, 9 percent below a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 77,500 head, down 8 percent from last year. The average live weight was 323 pounds, unchanged from a year ago. Pork production totaled 1.58 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.98 million head, 4 percent below March 2001. The average live weight was 267 pounds up 3 pounds from March a year ago. Lamb and mutton production, at 22.3 million pounds, was down 5 percent from a year ago. Sheep slaughter totaled 324,500 head, 1 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 5 pounds from a year ago.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.58 million head on April 1, 2002. The inventory was almost one- half percent above April 1, 2001 and 3 percent above April 1, 2000. The inventory included 7.23 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.30 million head, down 4 percent from 2001.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.95 million, 6 percent above 2001 but 4 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.88 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 314,000, 600-699 pounds were 372,000, 700-799 pounds were 702,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 565,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.83 million, 5 percent below 2001 and 11 percent below 2000. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during March, 30 percent below 2001 and 33 percent below 2000.

U. S. Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.41 billion during March 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.31 billion table eggs and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type.

The total number of layers during March 2002 averaged 337 million, slightly higher than the average number of layers during March 2001. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,197 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,178 eggs in March 2001.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2002, totaled 338 million, slightly higher than a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 58.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.60 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2002, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, unchanged from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.94 billion eggs during March 2002, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March , at 316 million, was slightly higher than year earlier.

Montana April 1 Potato Stocks Down 14 Percent, U.S. Stocks Down 16 Percent

Montana potato producers held 1.9 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2002, down 14 percent from the previous year. The stocks represent 63 percent of the total 2001 production matching last year's April 1 stocks as a percent of the 2000 harvest.

Nationally, the 15 major potato States held 129 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2002, down 16 percent from last year but less than 1 percent above 2000. Storage accounts for 33 percent of the 2001 fall storage States' production, the same as a year ago. Disappearance of 265 million cwt, is down 13 percent from last year and the lowest since 1993. Processors in the 9 major States used 131 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 13 percent from a year ago.

Western States held 95.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2002, down 19 percent from last year and 1 percent below 2000. Idaho's potato stocks are down 14 percent from a year ago, while Washington is down 15 percent and Oregon is off 37 percent. Colorado's stocks are down 29 percent and California's potato holdings are down 85 percent from a year ago.

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	56,500,000	acres	2001	2	6.0
Number of farms and ranches	26,600	farms/ranches	2001	31	1.2
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	1,806	million dollars	2000	34	0.9
Crops	704	million dollars	2000	33	0.7
Livestock	1,102	million dollars	2000	29	1.1
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,450,000	head	Jan. 1, 2002	12	2.5
All Cows	1,470,000	head	Jan. 1, 2002	9	3.5
Beef Cows	1,451,000	head	Jan. 1, 2002	7	4.4
Milk Cows	19,000	head	Jan. 1, 2002	42	0.2
Cattle on Feed	70,000	head	Jan. 1, 2002	21	0.5
All Sheep and Lambs	335,000	head	Jan. 1, 2002	7	5.0
Hogs and Pigs	170,000	head	Dec. 1, 2001	26	0.3
All Chickens	480,000	birds	Dec. 1, 2001	40	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,550,000	head	2001	7	4.0
Lamb Crop	340,000	head	2001	3	7.6
Pig Crop	341,000	head	2001	26	0.3
Wool Production	2,978,000	pounds	2001	5	6.9
Egg Production	95,000,000	eggs	2001	40	0.1
Honey Production	13,872,000	pounds	2001	5	7.5
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	96,570,000	bushels	2001	6	4.9
Winter Wheat	19,140,000	bushels	2001	17	1.4
Durum Wheat	11,880,000	bushels	2001	2	14.2
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	65,550,000	bushels	2001	3	12.8
Barley	29,520,000	bushels	2001	3	11.8
Oats	2,400,000	bushels	2001	13	2.1
All Hay	4,445,000	tons	2001	15	2.8
Alfalfa Hay	3,045,000	tons	2001	12	3.8
Dry Beans, All	332,000	cwt	2001	11	1.7
Pinto Beans	200,000	cwt	2001	8	2.3
Garbanzo Beans	127,000	cwt	2001	6	7.9
Lentils	220,000	cwt	2001	4	7.6
Dry Edible Peas	294,000	cwt	2001	4	7.8
Potatoes--fall	3,040,000	cwt	2001	13	0.8
Sugar Beets	1,150,000	tons	2001	6	4.5
Flaxseed	180,000	bushels	2001	3	1.6
Corn for Grain	1,924,000	bushels	2001	41	1/
Corn for Silage	1,122,000	tons	2001	25	1.1

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production Unchanged, U.S. Milk Production Up

During the January-March 2002 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 84 million pounds of milk, unchanged from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows numbered 18,000 head, down 1,000 from last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.3 billion pounds, 2.4 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.11 million head, 38,000 head less than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from March 2001. February revised production, at 11.4 billion pounds, was up 2.3 percent from February 2001. The February revision represented a decrease of 0.5 percent or 56 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,650 pounds for March, 51 pounds above March 2001. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 2,000 head more than March 2001, and 1,000 head more than February 2002.

Milk Production and Income up in Montana for 2001

Montana's dairies produced 346 million pounds of milk in 2001, up 2 percent from 2000. There was an average of 19,000 milk cows on farms and ranches during the year, unchanged from the previous year. The average number of pounds produced per cow was 18,211 pounds, 422 pounds more than 2001.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were 50.9 million dollars, up 22 percent from 2000. Producers received an average of $15.10 per cwt, an increase of $2.30 from last year. Total marketings of milk, at 337 million pounds, were up 3 percent from a year ago. A total of 9 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 5 million pounds fed to calves, and 4 million pounds consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production decreased 1 percent in 2001 to 165 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 18,139 pounds, was 62 pounds below 2000. The annual average number of cows on farms, at 9.12 million head, was 91,000 head less than 2000.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2001, at $24.7 billion, was 20 percent above 2000. Producer returns averaged $15.05 per hundredweight, 21 percent above 2000. Marketings totaled 164 billion pounds, 1 percent below 2000. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers. An estimated 1.26 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 3 percent less than 2000. Calves were fed 86 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households.

2001 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 2001 was $3.2 million, up slightly from last year. Egg production in 2001 totaled 95 million eggs, up 13 percent from the previous year. The average price for eggs was 41 cents per dozen, down 5 cents from last year.

Nationally, the combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 2001, was $24.0 billion, up 13 percent from the $21.2 billion in 2000. Of the combined total, 70 percent was from broilers, over 18 percent from eggs, over 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced in the United States during 2001 was $16.7 billion, up 19 percent from 2000. The total number of broilers produced in 2001 was 8.39 billion, up 1 percent from 2000. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2001 was 42.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2000. The 2001 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 39.3 cents per pound, compared to 33.6 cents per pound in 2000.

The value of all U.S. egg production in 2001 was $4.44 billion, up 2 percent from the $4.35 billion in 2000. Egg production totaled 85.7 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 84.4 billion eggs produced in 2000. In 2001, all eggs averaged 62.2 cents per dozen, compared with 61.8 cents in 2000. The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2001 was $46.0 million, down 28 percent from the $63.9 million a year ago. Prices averaged 4.5 cents per pound, compared with 5.7 cents in 2000. The number of chickens sold in 2001 totaled 200 million, down 8 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

The value of turkeys produced in the United States during 2001 was $2.79 billion, down 1 percent from the $2.82 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2001 totaled 7.15 billion pounds, compared with 6.94 billion pounds in 2000. The average price received by producers during 2001 was 39.0 cents per pound, compared with 40.7 cents in 2000.

The value of U.S. sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2001 was $46.0 million, down 28 percent from the $63.9 million a year ago. Prices averaged 4.5 cents per pound, compared with 5.7 cents in 2000. The number of chickens sold in 2001 totaled 200 million, down 8 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

See table on back page.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 2000-2001 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		2000	2001	2000	2001
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	38	35	50,907	56,147
Sold	1,000 Head	222	109	218,212	200,100
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	777	392	1,111,717	1,016,747
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	0.015	0.010	0.057	0.045
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	12	4	63,925	46,027
EGGS					
Produced	Million	84	95	84,386	85,702
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	0.460	0.410	0.618	0.622
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	3,220	3,246	4,345,382	4,444,864

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death, rendered, and other losses during the 12-month period.

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Ag Prices
Crop Production
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Red Meat Production
National Ag Week
February Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Ag Chemical Use
Sheep & Lamb Losses

Red Meat Production for 2001

Montana slaughter plants produced 16.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2001, compared with 21.5 million pounds in 2000. There were 19,900 cattle slaughtered during 2001, down 23% from the previous year. The total live weight of 22.8 million pounds was down 21% from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 29 pounds to 1,149 pounds.

There were 13,700 hogs slaughtered in Montana, a decrease of 6,600 head from 2000. Total live weight at 3.3 million pounds was down 37% from the last year. The average live weight was 244 pounds per head compared with 258 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,600 head, a decrease of 1,200 head from a year earlier. The average live weight at 120 pounds was 6 pounds lighter than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2001 decreased 30% from 2000 to 427,000 pounds.

The number of Montana federally inspected slaughter plants on January 1, 2002 was 11, unchanged from 2001. There were 139 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2002, down 1 from the same date a year ago.

United States red meat production in commercial plants and on farms totaled 45.8 billion pounds in 2001, slightly lower than the record high set in 2000. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.7 billion pounds. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for over 51% of the United States commercial red meat production in 2001.

Beef production, at 26.2 billion pounds, fell 3% below the record high set last year. Veal production totaled 204 million pounds, down 9% from last year and a new record low. Pork production, at 19.2 billion pounds, was slightly below the record high set in 1999. Lamb and mutton production totaled 228 million pounds, fell 3% below a year ago and a new record low.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2001 totaled 35.4 million head, down 2% from 2000, with federal inspection comprising 98.3% of the total. The average live weight was 1,221 pounds, up 2 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.2% of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.7 percent, dairy cows 7.4 percent, other cows 8.9 percent, and bulls 1.8 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.01 million head, down 11% from a year ago with 97.4% under federal inspection. The average live weight was 320 pounds, up 4 pounds from a year earlier. Commercial hog slaughter totaled 98.0 million head, virtually unchanged from 2000 with 98.5% of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 264 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.6% of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 3.22 million head, was down less than 7% from 2000 with 95.1% comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight rose 5 pounds from 2000 to 140 pounds.

There were 881 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2002, compared with 910 last year. Of these, 723 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2001 with 15 slaughtering almost 57% of the total cattle killed. There were 699 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 12 accounting for 53% of the total. Likewise, 7 of the 310 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for over 56% of the total and 5 of the 538 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2001 comprised 70% of the total head.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 2002, down 2% from February 2001 and down 12% from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, the same number as a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,133 pounds, increased 7 pounds from last year.

During February there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered, which is 100 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 242 pounds, was 5 pounds less than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, was 100 more than in 2001. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.50 billion pounds in February, up 3% from the 3.40 billion pounds produced in February 2001. Beef production, at 1.99 billion pounds, was 6% above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 1% from February 2001. The average live weight was 1,255 pounds, up 38 pounds from February a year ago.

Veal production totaled 14 million pounds, 8% below February a year ago and a new record low for February. Calf slaughter totaled 73,000 head, down 7% from February 2001. The average live weight was 326 pounds, down 2 pounds from February a year ago. Pork production totaled 1.48 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.50 million head, 1% below February 2001. The average live weight was 267 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago. Lamb and mutton production, at 18 million pounds, was up 1% from February 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,100 head, 4% above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 5 pounds from February a year ago.

National Agriculture Week, March 17-23, is a good time to say thanks to all of Montana's agricultural producers that supply food and fiber to people in Montana, across the country and around the world. Thank you!

Montana March Potato Stocks Down 9 Percent, U.S. Up 15 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.55 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2002, down 9 percent from last year. The stocks represent 84 percent of the total 2001 production. Last year's March 1 stocks represented 80 percent of the harvest.

The 15 major potato States held 168 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2002, down 15 percent from last year and 1 percent below 2000. Storage accounts for 43 percent of the 2001 fall storage States' production, the same percentage as a year ago. Disappearance of 226 million cwt, is down 13 percent from last year and the lowest since 1993. Processors in the 9 major States used 114 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 13 percent from a year ago.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.52 million head on March 1, 2002. The inventory was down 2 percent from the 11.70 million head on March 1, 2001 but 2 percent above March 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.81 million, 14 percent above 2001 but 4 percent below 2000. Net placements were 1.74 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 260,000, 600-699 pounds were 410,000, 700-799 pounds were 662,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 473,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.80 million, 3 percent above 2001 but 12 percent below 2000. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during February, 22 percent below 2001 and 19 percent below 2000.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Down 1 Percent

Cattle on feed March 1, 2002, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.91 million, down 1 percent from the previous year but 2 percent above March 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.54 million, 16 percent above 2001 but 4 percent below 2000. Marketings during February totaled 1.53 million, 4 percent above 2001 but 12 percent below 2000. Other disappearance during February was 52,000 head, 19 percent below 2001 but 11 percent above 2000.

February Milk Production Up 2.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.4 billion pounds, up 2.8 percent from February 2001. January revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2001. The January revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,474 pounds for February, 43 pounds above February 2001.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 18,000 head less than February 2001, but 1,000 head more than January 2002.

February Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.56 billion during February 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.57 billion table eggs and 987 million hatching eggs, of which 929 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2002 averaged 337 million, slightly higher than the average number of layers during February 2001. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,946 eggs, up slightly from the 1,943 eggs in February 2001. February 2002 contained 20 weekdays, one holiday and four Saturdays, equal to February 2001.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2002, totaled 336 million, slightly lower than a year ago. The 336 million layers consisted of 277 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2002, averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.5 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.15 billion eggs during February 2002, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during February , at 316 million, was slightly higher than year earlier.

2000 Agricultural Postharvest Chemical Use Estimates for Wheat

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service contacted 75 commercial grain storage or grain processing facilities during the summer of 2001 to determine the types and amounts of chemicals applied to wheat and to determine pest management practices used in off-farm storage. On-farm postharvest applications were beyond the scope of this survey. The time frame for these applications was June 1, 2000 to May 31, 2001. Wheat storage facilities in Montana and thirteen other wheat States (CO, ID, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, OK, OR, SD, TX and WA) were surveyed.

Based on total pounds applied, **silicon dioxide** and **aluminum phosphide** were the most commonly used postharvest chemicals applied to wheat in Montana and the other states surveyed. Silicon dioxide is an insecticide. Montana's commercial grain storage facilities operators applied 2,700 pounds of silicon dioxide to control insects in wheat, which made up 2.4% of total pounds applied in the fourteen states surveyed. Although aluminum phosphide is commonly referred to as a fumigant, it is used to kill insects, insect larvae, and mites, and is classified as an insecticide by the EPA. Montana commercial grain storage facility operators applied 1,100 pounds aluminum phosphide to control insects in wheat, making up only 1% of total pounds applied in the fourteen states surveyed. Commercial grain storage operators in all States applied 115,400 pounds of aluminum phosphide treating 539.7 million bushels of wheat.
(Continued on back page)

Montana Sheep and Lamb Losses for 2001

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 66,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2001, representing a total value of more than $3.2 million. While the total number of sheep and lambs lost remained the same as last year, the total value of inventory lost was 22 percent lower than a year ago. Lower average market prices this past year resulted in a decrease of sheep and lamb values. Total inventory is 3 percent lower than the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 9.1 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born -- slightly more than the previous year.

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 19,900 head, up 1,000 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 16,800 head, up 6 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 3,100, up 100 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated $0.9 million in losses in 2001, down from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.7 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 30 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 72 percent of the predator caused losses and 22 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $0.6 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.0 million in 2001, 18 percent less than the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 58 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses was disease at 10,500 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 13,500 head, 2 percent higher than 2000.

Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 25,100 head, 1,000 head higher than a year ago.

Producers reported less sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. This resulted in a 23 percent decrease in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 5,100 head, compared with 7,000 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 2,400 sheep, 400 head less than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes declined to $0.4 million.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Losses by Cause, Montana, 2000-2001

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Predators												
Fox	–	–	–	–	1,000	900	50.7	32.3	1,000	900	50.7	32.3
Dog	600	500	54.6	40.0	700	600	35.5	21.5	1,300	1,100	90.1	61.5
Coyote	1,900	2,100	172.9	168.0	11,000	12,200	557.7	437.7	12,900	14,300	730.6	605.7
Eagle	–	100	–	8.0	1,600	1,500	81.1	53.8	1,600	1,600	81.1	61.8
Bobcat	–	–	–	–	–	100	–	3.6	–	100	–	3.6
Bear	400	200	36.4	16.0	500	300	25.4	10.8	900	500	61.8	26.8
Mountain Lion	100	100	9.1	8.0	300	300	15.2	10.8	400	400	24.3	18.8
Other Animals	–	–	–	–	100	–	5.1	–	100	–	5.1	–
Unknown Predators	–	100	–	8.0	700	900	35.5	32.3	700	1,000	35.5	40.3
Total Predators	**3,000**	**3,100**	**273.0**	**248.0**	**15,900**	**16,800**	**806.1**	**602.8**	**18,900**	**19,900**	**1,079.1**	**850.8**
Non-Predators												
All Diseases	2,200	2,200	200.2	176.0	7,700	8,300	390.4	297.8	9,900	10,500	590.6	473.8
Weather Conditions	400	1,200	36.4	96.0	6,600	7,100	334.6	254.7	7,000	8,300	371.0	350.7
Poison	1,200	1,100	109.2	88.0	700	500	35.5	17.9	1,900	1,600	144.7	105.9
Lambing Complications	1,800	1,800	163.8	144.0	5,900	5,600	299.1	200.9	7,700	7,400	462.9	344.9
On Back	1,300	1,200	118.3	96.0	–	–	–	–	1,300	1,200	118.3	96.0
Old Age	5,700	5,000	518.7	400.0					5,700	5,000	518.7	400.0
Theft	200	300	18.2	24.0	200	500	10.1	17.9	400	800	28.3	41.9
Other	400	700	36.4	56.0	3,000	3,100	152.1	111.2	3,400	3,800	188.5	167.2
Total Non-Predators	**13,200**	**13,500**	**1,201.2**	**1,080.0**	**24,100**	**25,100**	**1,221.9**	**900.6**	**37,300**	**38,600**	**2,423.1**	**1,980.6**
Unknown Causes	**2,800**	**2,400**	**254.8**	**192.0**	**7,000**	**5,100**	**354.9**	**183.0**	**9,800**	**7,500**	**609.7**	**375.0**
Total Loss	**19,000**	**19,000**	**1,729.0**	**1,520.0**	**47,000**	**47,000**	**2,382.9**	**1,686.4**	**66,000**	**66,000**	**4,111.9**	**3,206.4**

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. – Denotes less than 100 head.

2000 Agricultural Postharvest Chemical Use Estimates for Wheat (continued from page two)

Operators in all States applied 112,600 pounds of silicon dioxide treating 9.4 million bushels of wheat. The most widely used fungicide in all states surveyed was **tebuconazole**. Commercial grain storage facilities operators in all States applied 200 pounds of tebuconazole treating only 293,000 bu of wheat. Data is not available at the state level.

Montana grain storage operators used one or more of the following strategies in determining their treatment schedules. About two-thirds relied on **visual grain inspection**; 13% on **preset calendar dates**; 13% on **bin samples** and 13% on **scheduled fumigation with other handling operations**. No operators used **insect traps** to determine schedules. Seven percent of operators based fumigation on customers requests.

When considering all States almost three-fourths of the grain storage operators based treatment schedules on **visual grain inspections**. Forty-three percent of operators in all states surveyed relied on **bin samples**, 15% **scheduled fumigation with other handling activities**, 9% relied on **preset calendar dates**, 3% relied on **customers requests** and 6% relied on **insect traps** to determine treatment schedules.

Fourteen percent of Montana commercial grain storage facilities operators use an **aeration controller system** to determine the optimum running time (considering humidity and temperature) for aeration fans, while 43% of operators in all states surveyed used an aeration controller. Seven percent of Montana operators use **temperature cables in bins** to monitor grain temperature in bins compared to an average of 46% of operators in all states surveyed. Ten percent of operators use a **deep bin sampler** which allows one to reach deeply into a grain bin and sample grain that is normally out of reach to typical probe samplers. When considering all States, 10% of operators used a deep bin sampler. Sixteen percent of Montana's operators use **power probes** to sample grain, compared to 29% of operators in all States. Most of Montana's operators (79%) use a **protein analyzer** to determine the protein of grain while less than half of operators in all states (40%) use a protein analyzer. Only about one-sixth of Montana grain storage operators use a **phosphine pellet dispenser** to apply chemicals, compared to more than one-quarter of the operators in all States.

Picking up spilled grain around bins is the most common cleaning activity in Montana and all other States, with 97% of Montana operators and 98% of operators in all States reporting the activity. **Controlling vegetation** around bins was the second most common activity with 95% of Montana operators and 97% all State operators reporting the activity. **Sweeping empty bins** was the third most common cleaning activity for Montana operators and all other states with 94% of operators participating in the activity. About one-fourth of the Montana operators and half of operators in all States surveyed **applied fumigants to empty bins**.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Hogs & Pigs
Grain Stocks
Prospective Plantings

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Hogs & Pigs

2002 Planting Intentions

Montana small grain producers intend on planting more wheat than last year. Intended all wheat seedings are estimated to be 5.43 million acres, up 1% from last year. Even though seedings are expected to be up from last year, there is a lot of uncertainty regarding this spring's actual planting of small grain crops. Intended acreage may change based on the condition of the winter wheat crop this spring and precipitation received through planting. **Winter wheat** seedings remained unchanged from the December estimate at 1.40 million acres, up 8% from last year. Producers are concerned about the emergence of winter wheat planted last fall, as much of it was planted in dry soils and freeze and wind damage during the winter may cause some producers to abandon acreage. **Spring wheat** producers expect to seed 3.5 million acres in 2002, down 1% from last year, but acreage could change if a large amount of winter wheat is abandoned and replanted to spring wheat. **Durum wheat** seedings, at 530,000 acres, are expected to be up 4% from a year ago. If realized, this would be the largest durum wheat seedings since 1957 when 600,000 acres were seeded.

Montana **barley** producers intend to plant an estimated 1.25 million acres, up 14% from last year. The intended seeded acreage for **oats** is expected to be 135,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from the previous year. Growers intend to harvest 65,000 acres of the 2002 oat crop for grain, 5,000 acres more than a year ago. **Corn** growers intend to plant 65,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Farmers intend to plant an estimated 59,500 acres of **sugar beets**, up 4% from 2001. The area planted to **dry beans** is expected to be 30,000 acres, down 22% from last year. An estimated 2.2 million acres of **hay** are expected to be harvested, which is 250,000 acres less than last year. Acreage cut for hay may change significantly if drought conditions continue and CRP land is opened for haying and small grains are harvested for hay due to abandonment.

United States all wheat planted area is expected to total 59.0 million acres in 2002. This is down 1% from 2001 and the lowest level since 1972. Area planted to **durum wheat** is intended to total 2.84 million acres, down 2% from 2001. The 2002 **other spring wheat** planted acreage is estimated at 15.1 million acres, down 3% from last year. Of the total, about 14.2 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Winter wheat** planted area for the 2002 crop is 41.1 million acres, nearly identical to the previous year's acreage. This is the lowest acres seeded to winter wheat since 1971. Of the total, about 29.3 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.4 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 3.4 million acres White Winter.

Barley growers in the United States intend to seed 5.08 million acres for 2002, up 2% from the record low of 4.97 million acres seeded a year ago. Increases in 11 States were partially offset by declines in 8 States.

Acres of **oats** seeded and to be seeded for the 2002 crop year in the United States is expected to total 5.13 million acres, up 16%, or 726,000 acres, from last year's final planted acres. Growers expect to harvest 2.53 million acres for grain, 33% more than the final 2001 harvested acreage of 1.91 million. If intentions are realized, planted and harvested acres would be the highest since 1995. Planting intentions for 2002 are higher than last year's final planted acreage in 17 States.

Hay producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres of hay in 2002, up less than 1% from 2001. Increases in 21 States are expected to offset declines in 18 States. Area planted to **sugar beets** for the 2002 crop year is expected to total 1.42 million acres, 3% above the 2001 planted acres. If intentions are realized, acreage will increase in 8 of the 12 sugarbeet producing States, especially in Idaho and Minnesota, where acreage is expected to be up 14,000 and 12,000 acres, respectively.

Area planted to **dry beans** for the 2002 crop year is expected to total 1.77 million acres, up 24% from last year and less than 1% above 2000. U.S. **corn** growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2002, up 4% from 2001 but down 1% from 2000. Expected acreage is up in many areas of the United States and in virtually all areas of the Corn Belt.

Planted Acreage, 2000-2001 and Intended 2002 Montana and United States

	Montana				United States			
	2000	2001	2002	02/01	2000	2001	2002	02/01
	Thousand Acres			Pct	Thousand Acres			Pct
All Wheat	5,330.0	5,360.0	5,430.0	101	62,629.0	59,617.0	59,004.0	99
Winter Wheat	1,500.0	1,300.0	1,400.0	108	43,393.0	41,078.0	41,076.0	100
Durum Wheat	480.0	510.0	530.0	104	3,937.0	2,910.0	2,842.0	98
Other Spring Wheat	3,350.0	3,550.0	3,500.0	99	15,299.0	15,629.0	15,086.0	97
Barley	1,250.0	1,100.0	1,250.0	114	5,864.0	4,967.0	5,078.0	102
Oats	130.0	130.0	135.0	104	4,477.0	4,403.0	5,129.0	116
Corn	60.0	65.0	65.0	100	79,551.0	75,752.0	79,047.0	104
Sugar Beets	60.7	57.4	59.5	104	1,564.2	1,371.1	1,418.4	103
Dry Beans	40.5	38.5	30.0	78	1,758.2	1,429.9	1,766.5	124
All Hay Harvested	2,000.0	2,450.0	2,200.0	90	59,854.0	63,511.0	63,743.0	100

March 1, 2002 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on March 1, 2002 were 82.9 million bushels, down 11 percent from a year ago. All wheat stocks stored on the farm amounted to 62.0 million bushels, down 13 percent from a year ago. All wheat stored off-farm amounted 20.9 million bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. All spring wheat stocks, at 60.6 million bushels, were down 1 percent from last year and accounted for 73 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were down 30 percent from a year ago to 22.3 million bushels and is the lowest March 1 stocks since 1995. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 6.6 million bushels, down 8 percent from last year. All wheat disappearance for the December - February 2002 quarter was down 36 percent from the same quarter last year to 26.0 million bushels. This is compared with 40.9 million last year.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2002 were 15.0 million bushels, down 11 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 8.0 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year. Off-farm storage of barley was down 12 percent a year ago to 7.0 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.9 million bushels, down 3 percent from last year. On-farm stocks of oats were 1.7 million bushels down 6 percent from 1.8 million stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were up 36 percent from last year to 0.15 million bushels.

United States, all wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2002 totaled 1.21 billion bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 339 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 872 million bushels, are down 9 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2001 - February 2002 disappearance is 413 million bushels, down 12 percent from the same period a year earlier. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2002 totaled 51.9 million bushels, down 29 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 30.2 million bushels, are down 32 percent from March 1, 2001. Off-farm stocks totaled 21.7 million bushels, down 24 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2001 - February 2002 disappearance of 24.7 million bushels is down 22 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions in the United States on March 1, 2002 totaled 142 million bushels, down 13 percent from March 1, 2001. On-farm stocks are estimated at 46.0 million bushels, 22 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 95.7 million bushels, are 8 percent below March 2001. Indicated disappearance during the December 2001 - February 2002 quarter totaled 53.4 million bushels, down 20 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2002 totaled 92.8 million bushels, 16 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2001. Of the total stocks on hand, 39.8 million bushels were stored in on-farm facilities, 29 percent below the previous year. Off-farm stocks totaled 53.0 million bushels, 2 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during the December 2001 - February 2002 quarter totaled 21.4 million bushels, 37 percent less than the same period a year ago.

March 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 2001	Dec. 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2002	'02/'01	Mar. 1, 2001	Dec. 1, 2001*	Mar. 1, 2002
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	71,000	86,000	62,000	87%	384,750	517,890	338,500
Off Farms 1/	21,970	22,880	20,930	95%	953,648	1,105,565	872,223
TOTAL	92,970	108,880	82,930	89%	1,338,398	1,623,455	1,210,723
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	23,000	21,500	15,000	65%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	8,890	8,330	7,320	82%	--	--	--
TOTAL	31,890	29,830	22,320	70%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	48,000	64,500	47,000	98%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,080	14,550	13,610	104%	--	--	--
TOTAL	61,080	79,050	60,610	99%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	44,200	49,600	30,200
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	28,616	26,997	21,696
TOTAL	7,200	11,370	6,590	92%	72,816	76,597	51,896
BARLEY							
On Farms	9,000	17,000	8,000	89%	58,600	92,600	46,000
Off Farms 1/	7,920	6,590	6,990	88%	103,544	102,587	95,742
TOTAL	16,920	23,590	14,990	89%	162,144	195,187	141,742
OATS							
On Farms	1,800	1,900	1,700	94%	55,800	58,100	39,800
Off Farms 1/	110	90	150	136%	54,128	56,117	52,997
TOTAL	1,910	1,990	1,850	97%	109,928	114,217	92,797
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,600,000	5,275,000	3,355,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,442,999	2,989,715	2,441,473
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	6,042,999	8,264,715	5,796,473

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

February Agricultural Prices Received

February full month crop prices were lower compared with January 2002, except for oats and feed barley. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.03 per bushel, down $0.07 from January; spring wheat was $0.06 lower at $2.98 per bushel; and durum wheat prices fell $0.08 to $3.92 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.20 to $2.16 per bushel. Feed barley prices were up $0.03 from the previous month to $1.97, while malt barley prices were down $0.03 to $2.97 per bushel.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay was down $2.00 to $92.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $5.00 to $85.00 per ton. The mid-March winter wheat price averaged $3.00 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.10; durum wheat was $3.95; oats was $2.15; feed barley was $2.00; and malt barley averaged $3.05.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $0.40 to $83.80 per cwt, but cows were up $2.30 to $39.50. The average price for calves rose $1.00 to $102.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.00 to $31.50 per cwt and lamb prices were down $0.20 to $69.70 per cwt. Milk prices were down $1.10 per cwt from last month to $13.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $86.00 per cwt.; cows averaged $43.60 per cwt.; calves averaged $104.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $13.60 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was $2.75, down $0.06, spring wheat was $2.85, down $0.03; durum wheat was $3.49, unchanged; the all barley price was $2.21 up $0.11, and steer and heifer prices were $73.60, up $2.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was $2.76 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.87 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.11 per bushel, all wheat was $2.81 per bushel, malt barley was $2.67 per bushel, feed barley was $1.77 per bushel, and all barley was $2.26. Steer and heifer prices were $ 75.30 per cwt, cow prices were $42.40, calves were $104.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $36.30 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.685 per dozen.

The preliminary Prices Received by Farmers Index for All Farm Products in March was 106, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 7 points (7.1 percent) from the February index. A record price for lettuce, along with other increases for eggs, cattle, and tomatoes, more than offset decreased prices for broilers, milk, hogs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for strawberries, lettuce, milk, and tomatoes more than offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, corn, and cotton. Compared with March 2001, the Prices Received Index was up 2 points (1.9 percent). Higher prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and apples more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and tomatoes.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	February 2001	March 2001	February 2002	March 2002
Prices Received	100	104	99	106
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	124	124	122	122
Ratio 2/	81	84	81	87

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb. 2001	Jan. 2002	Feb. 2002	Feb. 2002	Jan. 2002	Feb. 2001	March 15, 2002	March 15, 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.98	3.10	3.03	2.75	-0.07	+0.05	3.00	2.76
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.67	4.00	3.92	3.49	-0.08	+0.25	3.95	3.11
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.13	3.04	2.98	2.85	-0.06	-0.15	3.10	2.87
All Wheat	Bu.	3.16	3.16	3.05	2.83	-0.11	-0.11	3.12	2.81
Barley, All	Bu.	2.48	2.62	2.73	2.21	+0.11	+0.25	2.67	2.26
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.78	1.94	1.97	1.70	+0.03	+0.19	2.00	2.56
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.83	3.00	2.97	2.56	-0.03	+0.14	3.05	2.67
Oats	Bu.	1.03	1.96	2.16	1.91	+0.20	+1.13	2.15	1.97
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	92.00	95.00	94.00	99.50	-1.00	+2.00	92.00	98.80
All Other Hay	Ton	84.00	91.00	90.00	70.80	-1.00	+6.00	85.00	73.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	91.00	94.00	94.00	90.40	0	+3.00	91.00	91.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	87.30	84.20	83.80	73.60	-0.40	-3.50	86.00	75.30
Cows	Cwt	43.50	37.20	39.50	40.60	+2.30	-4.00	43.60	42.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	78.50	75.70	75.80	69.901	+0.10	-2.70	75.00	71.60
Calves	Cwt	107.00	101.00	102.00	105.00	+1.00	-5.00	104.00	104.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	45.00	32.50	31.50	35.30	-1.00	-13.50	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt	98.00	69.90	69.70	67.40	-0.20	-28.30	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt	13.70	14.30	13.20	13.10	-1.10	-0.50	13.60	12.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. Hog Inventory

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2002, was 58.7 million head. This was 2% above March 2001, but 1% below December 1, 2001. Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was up slightly from both March 1, 2001, and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.5 million head, was 2% above last year but 1% below last quarter.

The December 2001-February 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 24.7 million head, was 3% more than 2001, and 1% more than 2000. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.83 million head, 3% above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46% of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.73 pigs saved per litter for the December 2001-February 2002 period, compared to 8.72 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.80 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2002 quarter, 1% above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2001, and slightly above 2000. Intended farrowings for June-August 2002, at 2.90 million sows, are 1% above the same period in 2001, and up slightly from 2000.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 31% of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 32% last year.

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2001 through December 2001 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, import, and export data in U.S. level balance sheets. Based on the findings of this review, adjustments of one% were made to the September 1, 2001 inventory, two% to the June-August 2001 pig crop, and one half% to the December 1, 2001 inventory.

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, in All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	Mar. 1, 2001	Dec. 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2002	Mar. 1, 2001	Dec. 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2002
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2
North Central	37.8	33.8	25.5	10.1	12.4	8.1
Northeast	29.8	46.1	32.1	1.2	2.3	1.3
Central	13.6	14.4	12.8	2.1	3.8	2.3
Southwest	1.3	2.7	2.7	0.4	1.5	0.8
South Central	4.8	5.9	4.4	2.1	2.5	1.7
Southeast	4.6	4.6	4.6	0.4	0.7	0.6
Montana	**93.0**	**108.9**	**82.9**	**16.9**	**23.6**	**15.0**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

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- Specialty Crops Cnty Estimates
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- Egg Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farms and Land in Farms
Wheat & Barley Movement
All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices
Honey

Land in Farms 2001

The number of farms and ranches in Montana declined to 26,600 during 2001, 1,000 less than a year earlier. The farms and ranches are sub-grouped by economic sales classes which give a clearer picture of where the changes occurred. There were 11,000 farms in the $1,000 to $9,999 economic sales class, up from 10,400 farms last year. Although many producers in this class left agriculture altogether, the total number of operators increased due to poor economic conditions in 2001. The next economic sales class, $10,000 to $99,999, shows 9,200 farms in 2001 compared with 10,800 in 2000 and the largest economic sales class of $100,000 or more was unchanged from 2000 with 6,400 farms.

The land in farms and ranches is estimated at 56.5 million acres, down 0.2 million acres from 2000. The economic sales breakdown of land in farm and ranches follows: $1,000 to $9,999 - 3.9 million acres compared with 4.3 million in 2000; $10,000 to $99,999 - 14.0 million acres, down from 16.4 million last year; $100,000 or more of sales - 38.6 million acres, up significantly from the 36.0 million acres in 2000. These numbers show that very small producers became less common and that the value of sales declined significantly in all groups which moved producers into lower economic sales classes. The acreage increase in the largest economic sales class reflects the consolidation of operations that were necessary to compete in today's agricultural environment. (Continued on back page)

Wheat & Barley Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June- November 2001 period, at 34.3 million bushels, was 44% lower than a year ago.

Over 83% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 28.6 million bushels, down 48% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations also dropped during this period, totaling 1.7 million bushels compared with 2.5 million a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 4.0 million bushels, unchanged from year ago.

Wheat shipped by rail, amounted to 31.2 million bushels, 91% of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 3.1 million bushels compared with 5.2 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 9% of the total, slightly higher than a year ago.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June - November 2001 period was 8.7 million bushels, down only 3% from the same period last year.

Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for eastern destinations rose from 2.0 million bushels last year to 5.0 million bushels this year. Shipments to western destinations were down from the same period last year, at 2.6 million bushels. Shipments to other and unknown destinations were down 0.9 million bushels from last year to 1.1 million bushels this year.

Barley shipped by rail amounted to 7.3 million bushels, down 0.8 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 84% of total movement, down from 90% for the same period last year.

Shipments Out-of-State	June -November 2000 1/				June -November 2001 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	*(000) Bushels*							
West 3/	476	2,108	2,584	1,025	276	1,729	2,005	857
North Central	7,827	15,833	23,660	7,239	2,579	6,007	8,586	7,130
Northeast	333	24,207	24,540	152	509	19,061	19,570	486
Central	3,038	1,218	4,256	570	295	1,024	1,319	206
South Central	3,182	1,130	4,312	2	933	531	1,464	37
Southeast	630	1,013	1,643	0	698	650	1348	0
TOTAL SHIPPED	15,486	45,509	60,995	8,988	5,290	29,002	34,292	8,716
Mode & Destination	*(000) Bushels*							
Trucked East	5	356	361	88	32	248	280	333
Trucked West	2,241	1,607	3,848	701	975	1,268	2,243	306
Trucked Other 4/	126	875	1,001	80	101	430	531	770
Total By Truck	2,372	2,838	5,210	869	1,108	1,946	3,054	1,409
Rail East	0	2,157	2,157	1,876	0	1,466	1,466	4,689
Rail West	13,114	37,542	50,656	4,316	3,996	22,327	26,323	2,282
Rail Other 4/	0	2,972	2,972	1,927	186	3,263	3,449	336
Total by Rail	13,114	42,671	55,785	8,119	4,182	27,056	31,238	7,307
TOTAL SHIPPED	15,486	45,509	60,995	8,988	5,290	29,002	34,292	8,716

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2001

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Pro-duction Bu.
					Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	23,600	23,600	23,100	61.4	1,418,000	22	11,000	10,900	73.0	796,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	11,600	11,600	10,000	48.8	488,000	34	6,900	6,600	63.8	421,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	1,000	1,000	1,000	56.0	56,000	48	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,800	2,800	2,300	29.1	67,000	46	--	--	--	--
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	1,200	1,200	1,000	48.0	48,000	49	600	500	72.0	36,000
Sanders	1,300	1,300	1,200	30.8	37,000	52	--	--	--	--
Other	1,000	1,000	1,000	69.0	69,000	--	1,600	1,600	66.9	107,000
NORTHWEST	**42,500**	**42,500**	**39,600**	**55.1**	**2,183,000**	**--**	**20,100**	**19,600**	**69.4**	**1,360,000**
Blaine	178,000	178,000	163,800	20.9	3,428,000	11	5,000	5,000	38.8	194,000
Chouteau	533,100	517,300	322,700	13.1	4,232,000	8	1,700	700	51.4	36,000
Glacier	129,300	127,800	111,200	15.6	1,740,000	19	2,300	1,600	34.4	55,000
Hill	447,500	436,400	343,300	11.2	3,862,000	10	700	400	55.0	22,000
Liberty	256,100	239,600	70,000	7.3	509,000	32	600	600	33.3	20,000
Phillips	123,700	123,400	110,400	24.9	2,754,000	12	3,000	2,900	31.4	91,000
Pondera	179,200	165,400	130,800	16.6	2,177,000	16	13,200	10,400	46.2	480,000
Teton	136,100	132,900	109,500	19.0	2,084,000	17	5,200	4,800	41.7	200,000
Toole	222,000	221,000	103,200	9.8	1,012,000	25	500	400	30.0	12,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,205,000**	**2,141,800**	**1,464,900**	**14.9**	**21,798,000**	**--**	**32,200**	**26,800**	**41.4**	**1,110,000**
Daniels	285,000	285,000	279,500	22.0	6,160,000	4	--	--	--	--
Dawson	169,600	165,800	143,600	31.1	4,463,000	6	2,300	1,500	58.0	87,000
Garfield	100,000	98,000	81,000	21.1	1,708,000	20	--	--	--	--
McCone	227,000	217,500	183,700	29.6	5,430,000	5	2,900	2,800	62.1	174,000
Richland	154,800	153,700	143,000	30.9	4,421,000	7	12,300	12,100	60.3	730,000
Roosevelt	335,500	332,300	319,600	28.2	9,005,000	1	4,400	4,100	54.9	225,000
Sheridan	345,700	345,300	339,500	24.3	8,235,000	2	2,300	1,500	49.3	74,000
Valley	302,400	301,200	284,100	28.1	7,975,000	3	8,500	7,800	48.7	380,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	200	200	45.0	9,000
NORTHEAST	**1,920,000**	**1,898,800**	**1,774,000**	**26.7**	**47,397,000**	**--**	**32,900**	**30,000**	**56.0**	**1,679,000**
Broadwater	35,800	35,500	33,000	37.5	1,236,000	24	12,600	12,300	65.1	801,000
Cascade	145,200	143,400	122,100	21.3	2,598,000	13	2,800	2,400	49.6	119,000
Fergus	178,500	173,800	139,400	28.3	3,942,000	9	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	29,100	25,500	16,000	15.2	243,000	40	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	80,600	78,000	64,000	27.6	1,767,000	18	700	400	55.0	22,000
Lewis & Clark	13,600	13,600	13,300	30.2	401,000	36	2,400	2,300	69.1	159,000
Meagher	7,000	7,000	6,800	23.1	157,000	43	500	400	52.5	21,000
Musselshell	41,500	41,100	20,100	17.8	358,000	37	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	22,800	17,500	14,800	8.9	132,000	45	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	46,900	46,900	33,200	19.5	648,000	30	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,200	900	33.3	30,000
CENTRAL	**601,000**	**582,300**	**462,700**	**24.8**	**11,482,000**	**--**	**20,200**	**18,700**	**61.6**	**1,152,000**
Beaverhead	8,900	8,900	8,700	57.4	499,000	33	4,200	4,100	96.3	395,000
Gallatin	49,900	49,700	45,800	52.2	2,393,000	14	14,800	14,500	82.0	1,189,000
Jefferson	2,500	2,500	2,300	17.4	40,000	50	--	--	--	--
Madison	10,200	10,200	9,500	48.4	460,000	35	4,800	4,600	70.2	323,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	100	100	60.0	6,000
SOUTHWEST	**71,500**	**71,300**	**66,300**	**51.2**	**3,392,000**	**--**	**23,900**	**23,300**	**82.1**	**1,913,000**
Big Horn	111,900	111,200	88,500	25.3	2,243,000	15	9,900	8,200	49.3	404,000
Carbon	7,500	7,500	6,100	25.1	153,000	44	--	--	--	--
Park	8,500	8,500	8,100	24.7	200,000	42	1,300	1,100	34.5	38,000
Stillwater	32,200	32,100	21,200	15.7	332,000	38	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	3,300	3,300	2,800	20.7	58,000	47	--	--	--	--
Treasure	5,200	5,200	5,000	44.0	220,000	41	2,200	2,200	77.3	170,000
Yellowstone	85,400	84,400	66,100	22.1	1,458,000	21	1,700	1,600	78.8	126,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	600	400	42.5	17,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**254,000**	**252,200**	**197,800**	**23.6**	**4,664,000**	**--**	**15,700**	**13,500**	**55.9**	**755,000**
Carter	44,500	44,200	30,700	27.2	836,000	28	--	--	--	--
Custer	29,600	29,600	25,200	24.8	625,000	31	800	600	60.0	36,000
Fallon	45,900	43,200	36,600	26.5	969,000	27	--	--	--	--
Powder River	21,100	20,700	12,200	23.4	285,000	39	--	--	--	--
Prairie	35,100	32,600	26,200	27.1	709,000	29	2,300	2,200	65.5	144,000
Rosebud	49,600	49,600	44,700	27.7	1,238,000	23	3,100	2,900	56.2	163,000
Wibaux	40,200	40,200	34,100	29.1	992,000	26	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	200	50.0	10,000
SOUTHEAST	**266,000**	**260,100**	**209,700**	**27.0**	**5,654,000**	**--**	**6,500**	**5,900**	**59.8**	**353,000**
MONTANA	**5,360,000**	**5,249,000**	**4,215,000**	**22.9**	**96,570,000**	**--**	**151,500**	**137,800**	**60.4**	**8,322,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat.

Agricultural Prices Received for January

January full month crop prices were generally lower compared with December 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.10 per bushel, down $0.04 from December; spring wheat was $0.09 lower at $3.04 per bushel; and durum wheat prices fell $0.03 to $4.00 per bushel. The average price received for oats fell $0.09 to $1.96 per bushel. Feed barley prices were down $0.02 from the previous month to $1.94, and malt barley prices were up $0.01 to $3.00 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay and all other hay both decreased $1.00 per ton to $94.00 and $90.00 per ton, respectively. The mid-February winter wheat price averaged $3.00 per bushel; spring wheat was $2.98; durum wheat was $3.90; oats was $1.95; feed barley was $1.90; and malt barley averaged $3.00.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $1.80 to $84.20 per cwt, but cows were up $2.40 to $37.20. The average price for calves rose $5.60 to $101.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $0.80 to $32.50 per cwt and lamb prices rose $6.20 to $69.90 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.70 per cwt from last month to $14.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $83.20 per cwt.; cows averaged $40.00 per cwt.; calves averaged $101.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $13.80 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was $2.81, up $0.02 , spring wheat was $2.88, down $0.08; durum wheat was $3.49, up $0.04; the all barley price was $2.10 down $0.06, and steer and heifer prices were $71.20, up $2.60 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $2.82 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.84 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.26 per bushel, all wheat was $2.85 per bushel, malt barley was $2.57 per bushel, feed barley was $1.76 per bushel, and all barley was $2.19. Steer and heifer prices were $ 74.10 per cwt, cow prices were $40.70, calves were $104.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $38.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.559 per dozen.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	January 2001	February 2001	January 2002	February 2002
Prices Received	96	100	95	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	125	124	122	122
Ratio 2/	77	81	78	81

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001	Jan. 2002	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2001	Jan. 2001	Feb. 15, 2002	Feb. 15, 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.02	3.14	3.10	2.81	-0.04	+0.08	3.00	2.82
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.81	4.03	4.00	3.49	-0.03	+0.19	3.90	3.26
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.05	3.13	3.04	2.88	-0.09	-0.01	2.98	2.84
All Wheat	Bu.	3.09	3.21	3.16	2.87	-0.05	+0.07	3.09	2.85
Barley, All	Bu.	2.19	2.72	2.62	2.10	-0.10	+0.43	2.60	2.19
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.76	1.96	1.94	1.66	-0.02	+0.18	1.90	1.76
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.63	2.99	3.00	2.50	+0.01	+0.37	3.00	2.57
Oats	Bu.	1.07	2.05	1.96	1.91	-0.09	+0.89	1.95	1.95
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	95.00	95.00	101.00	0.00	+5.00	94.00	99.50
All Other Hay	Ton	82.00	87.00	91.00	73.70	+4.00	+9.00	90.00	70.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	89.00	94.00	94.00	93.00	0.00	+5.00	94.00	90.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	91.00	86.00	84.20	71.20	-1.80	-6.80	83.20	74.10
Cows	Cwt	38.60	34.80	37.20	38.00	+2.40	-1.40	40.00	40.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	86.30	76.80	75.70	67.10	-1.10	-10.60	77.20	70.40
Calves	Cwt	107.00	95.40	101.00	102.00	+5.60	-6.00	101.00	104.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	39.00	33.30	32.50	36.20	-0.80	-6.50	n.a.	n.a.
Lambs 2/	Cwt	89.70	63.70	69.90	65.50	+6.20	-19.80	n.a.	n.a.
All Milk	Cwt	14.30	15.00	14.30	13.40	-0.70	0.00	13.80	13.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Land in Farms
(continued from front page)

The number of farms and ranches in the United States in 2001 is estimated at 2.16 million, down 0.7 percent from 2000. The decline in farms and ranches occurred primarily in agricultural operations with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 economic class. This is the second largest decline in farms and ranches since the 1.4% drop in 1991. Total land in farms, at 941.2 million acres, declined 0.2 percent or 1.9 million acres from last year. The average size of farm increased 2 acres from 434 acres in 2000 to 436 acres in 2001. The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class $1,000-$9,999 declined 0.6 percent to 1,166,590 in 2001. Farms and ranches with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 economic class decreased 1.2% from 2000 to 642,010 operations. The number of farms and ranches with sales over $100,000 remained unchanged at 349,180. Adverse weather, lower commodity prices, and competition for land continued to contributed to the overall reduction and consolidation of farms and ranches during 2001.

The North Central Region's loss of farms was the largest with a decline of 9,500 operations, 1.2% less than was estimated in 2000. The West Region lost 2,600 farms and ranches, 0.9% fewer than the previous year. The number of farms and ranches declined 1,600 or 0.2% in the South Region and 800 or 0.6% in the Northeast Region. The number of farms and ranches during 2001 declined in 23 States, remained unchanged in 22 States, and increased in five States.

2001 Montana and U.S. Honey Production

Honey produced in Montana by producers with five or more colonies during 2001 was 13.9 million pounds of honey, up 3.0 million pounds from the revised 2000 production. The amount of honey production and colonies includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 136,000 colonies producing honey in 2001, compared with 124,000 colonies in 2000. The honey yield per colony was 102 pounds, up 14 pounds from a year ago. While honey yields by smaller producers were affected by the drought, larger producers and producers in the state part of the year did much better resulting in higher yields. Stocks on hand on December 15, 2001 totaled 4.6 million pounds, down 0.1 million pounds from 2000. The improved honey prices resulted in lower percentage of the honey crop on hand December 15, 2001.

Prices for Montana honey increased 6 cents per pound from last year to 65 cents per pound in 2001. The increased prices and production resulted in the value of honey production in 2001 rising 40 percent from last year to 9.0 million dollars.

U.S. honey production in 2001 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 186 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2000. Honey production in 2001 was the lowest since 1989, when 181 million pounds was produced with a yield per colony of only 51.2 pounds. There were 2.51 million colonies producing honey in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000. Yield per colony averaged 74.0 pounds, down 10.1 pounds from the 84.1 pounds in 2000. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 64.8 million pounds on December 15, 2001, down 24 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Prices for the 2001 U.S. crop averaged 66.9 cents per pound, up 12 percent from 59.7 cents in 2000. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2001 were higher than the previous year for all marketing channels and all color classes except All Other Honey, Area Specialties.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses
Annual Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Red Meat Production

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Values
Alfalfa Seed Production
U.S. Cattle on Feed
Crop County Estimates Available
US & Canadian Cattle Inventory
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Hogs & Pigs
Milk Production
Ag Labor
Grazing Fee Rates
Egg Production

2001 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 2001 **all wheat** crop fell 23% from 2000 to $316.7 million. Total production was down 29%, while the season average price increased 28 cents per bushel. The 2001 season average price for all wheat was $3.30 per bushel compared with $3.02 last season.

The estimated value of Montana's **winter wheat** crop decreased 52% from last year to $61.2 million. The preliminary season average price was up 33 cents to $3.20 per bushel. **Spring wheat's** value of production was estimated at $209.8 million, down 11% from 2000. The season average price increased 17 cents to $3.20, but with 2001 production being the smallest since 1990 the overall crop value was reduced. **Durum wheat's** season average price increased 33 cents from 2000 to $3.85. The total crop value of $45.7 million was down 1% from 2000 and is the second highest durum wheat value of production on record.

Total value of production for **barley** was estimated at $79.7 million, down 12% from the previous year. The 2001 season average price, at $2.70, was up 32 cents from 2000, but significantly lower production in 2001 resulted in the lower production value.

The season average price for **all hay** increased $5.00 from last year to $90.50 per ton. The value of production was up 33% to $397.2 million. **Alfalfa hay's** 2001 season average price was estimated at $92.50, up $6.00 from last year while **other hay's** season average price increased $4.50 to $82.50.

Alfalfa Seed Production Down 36 Percent From 2000

Alfalfa seed production for 2001 was estimated at 3.30 million pounds, down 1.88 million pounds from 2000. Harvested acreage, at 9,000 acres, was down from 19,000 acres in 2000. The state average yield was estimated at 373 pounds per acre, up from 273 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 477 pounds per acre, up from 391 pounds per acre in 2000 and non-irrigated yields averaged 44 pounds per acre, down 47 pounds per acre from last year.

Producers used an average 2.1 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre on all acres harvested for alfalfa seed in 2001, compared with 1.5 gallons per acre in 2000. Leaf cutter bees were used on 84% of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 3.1 gallons per acre and 21% of the reported non-irrigated acres at the rate of 2.7 gallons per acre. Alfalfa seed growers who utilized leaf cutter bees to pollinate their crops produced an average of 52% more seed per acre than those that did not.

Proprietary varieties made up 88% of this year's production, the same as last year. Common uncertified varieties accounted for 11% of the production and common certified varieties represented 1%.

The average price received for the 2001 crop was $1.27 per pound, up 8 cents from 2000's average price.

Montana's south-central district continued to produce most of the state's alfalfa seed with 51.3% of total production and the north-central district is the second largest production area with 26.7%.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on February 1, 2002. The inventory was 3% below February 1, 2001 and slightly below February 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.17 million, 4% below 2001 and 2% below 2000. Net placements were 2.08 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 381,000, 600-699 pounds were 614,000, 700-799 pounds were 734,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 437,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.08 million, up 2% from both 2001 and 2000. Other disappearance totaled 89,000 during January, 14% above 2001 and 29% above 2000.

Alfalfa Seed: Estimates by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 2001

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	2,000	456	911,000	1,900	477	907,000	100	40	4,000
Northeast	900	278	250,000	500	466	233,000	400	43	17,000
Central	900	322	290,000	800	359	287,000	100	30	3,000
South Central	4,300	394	1,694,000	3,300	502	1,655,000	1,000	39	39,000
Southeast	900	172	155,000	200	585	117,000	700	54	38,000
Montana	**9,000**	**373**	**3,300,000**	**6,700**	**477**	**3,199,000**	**2,300**	**44**	**101,000**

Wheat, Barley, and Oat County Estimates for 2001 Now Available

County estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated crops and non-irrigated crops as well as crops that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates are estimated by practice of irrigated and non-irrigated only. These estimates are available on our website http:// www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

U.S. and Canadian January Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

This data is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on February 1, 2002.

All cattle and calves in the **U.S. and Canada combined** totaled 109.7 million head on January 1, 2002, 1 percent below a year earlier. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 47.6 million head, were 1 percent below a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2002, totaled 96.7 million head, 1 percent below the 97.3 million head on January 1, 2001 and 2 percent below the 98.2 million head two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.2 million head, were 1 percent below both the 42.6 million head on January 1, 2001 and the 42.8 million head two years ago.

All cattle and calves in **Canada** as of January 1, 2002, totaled 13.0 million head, down slightly from the 13.0 million head on January 1, 2001, but 1 percent above the 12.8 million head two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.4 million head, were 1 percent above the 5.3 million head on January 1, 2001, and 2 percent above two years ago.

January 2002 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2002, down 16 percent from January 2001 and up 1 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, down 300 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,138 pounds, increased 12 pounds from last year.

During January, there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, 300 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 252 pounds, was 1 pound less than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, was the same as January 2001. The average live weight was also unchanged from last year at 125 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.08 billion pounds in January, up 4 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in January 2001 and a new record high for January.

Beef production, at 2.33 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year and a new record for January. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, up 2 percent from January 2001. The average live weight was up 34 pounds from the previous year, at 1,260 pounds.

Veal production totaled 17 million pounds, 5 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 87,400 head, down 4 percent from January 2001. The average live weight was 1 pound below last year, at 321 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year and a new record for January. Hog kill totaled 8.66 million head, virtually unchanged from January 2001. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18 million pounds, was down 7 percent from January 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 255,900 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 3 pounds from January a year ago.

Montana February 1 Potato Stocks Down 8 Percent, U.S. Down 14 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.75 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2002, down 8 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 90 percent of the total 2001 production, compared with last year's stocks representing 86 percent of the 2000 total production.

The 15 major potato States held 202 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2002, down 14 percent from last year and 3 percent below 2000. Storage accounts for 51 percent of the 2001 fall storage States' production, the same percentage as a year ago. This year's storage holds more russets, but fewer round and whites than a year earlier. Disappearance of 192 million cwt, is down 14 percent from last year. Processors in the 9 major States used 96.5 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 15 percent from a year ago.

Western States held 144 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2002, down 16 percent from last year and 4 percent below 2000. Idaho's potato stocks are down 13 percent from a year ago, while Washington is down 10 percent and Oregon is off 30 percent. Colorado's stocks are down 27 percent and Montana's dipped 8 percent from a year ago. California's potato holdings are down 59 percent from a year ago.

January Pig Crop Up 4 Percent

The January 2002 U.S. pig crop at 8.17 million head, was 4 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 929 thousand head, 3 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter for January rose to 8.80, compared to 8.71 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on February 1, 2002, was 6.00 million head, 1 percent below February 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during January totaled 1.19 million head, up 2 percent from the previous year.

January Milk Production in 20 Major States Up 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 12.3 billion pounds, up 1.8% from January 2001. December revised production, at 12.0 billion pounds, was up 1.2% from December 2000. The December revision represented an increase of 0.3% or 34 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,585 pounds for January, 36 pounds above January 2001. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 44,000 head less than January 2001, and 10,000 head less than December 2001. 2001

The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2001 was 165.3 billion pounds, 1.3% below 2000. This was the first year of decreased milk production since 1996. Revisions to 2000 production decreased the annual total by less than 0.1%. Revised 2001 production was virtually unchanged from last month's publication. Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 18,139 pounds for 2001, 62 pounds below 2000. Average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 16% since 1992. The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2001 was 9.12 million head, down 1.0% from 2000. Average number of milk cows was revised down 4,000 head for 2000, and 5,000 head for 2001 from the previous estimate.

Hired Workers Up 7 Percent, Wage Rates Up Over 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 914,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 6-12, 2002, up 7% from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 731,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 183,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.6% of the January hired workforce compared with 9.6% last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $8.96 per hour during the January 2002 survey week, up 30 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.25 per hour, up 49 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned $8.25 per hour compared with $8.07 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at $8.25 was up 38 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 37.3 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., January 7-13, 2001 & January 6-12, 2002 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	8.42	9.58	7.45	7.80	7.86	8.69	9.06	9.46
Northeast II	7.98	8.71	7.01	6.88	7.59	7.95	8.47	8.87
Appalachian I	7.65	7.73	7.82	7.94	7.73	7.83	8.34	8.72
Appalachian II	6.57	6.72	7.26	7.18	6.84	6.93	7.18	7.29
Southeast	7.30	7.56	7.25	7.61	7.29	7.58	7.88	8.08
FL	7.65	8.15	7.90	9.05	7.67	8.26	8.29	9.02
Lake	9.12	10.22	8.26	8.26	8.57	8.94	9.53	9.91
Cornbelt I	8.58	9.03	9.06	9.22	8.88	9.15	10.10	9.75
Cornbelt II	7.86	8.62	8.61	9.41	8.49	9.26	9.05	9.74
Delta	7.56	7.90	6.62	7.21	7.15	7.61	7.73	7.95
Northern Plains	8.45	8.34	8.47	8.41	8.46	8.39	9.11	9.00
Southern Plains	7.35	7.82	7.71	7.37	7.53	7.57	7.98	8.05
Mountain I	8.06	8.02	8.22	7.74	8.19	7.81	8.63	8.34
Mountain II	7.57	8.54	7.76	8.48	7.68	8.51	8.72	9.15
Mountain III	6.71	7.57	7.35	8.48	6.91	7.85	7.72	8.42
Pacific	7.96	8.18	8.81	9.64	8.13	8.42	9.06	9.21
CA	7.79	8.25	8.68	9.69	7.95	8.39	8.78	9.15
HI	9.07	9.36	3/	3/	9.10	9.33	10.66	10.90
US 4/	7.76	8.25	8.07	8.25	7.87	8.25	8.66	8.96

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

Montana and United States Grazing Rates Increase

The average grazing fees paid by Montana producers for grazing livestock on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land rose significantly for all methods in 2001. The shortage of pasture and the effects of the prolonged drought was a big factor in the increases this year. The average amount paid for grazing livestock on an AUM (animal unit month) basis was $14.90 per month, up 80 cents from last year. Cattle producers paid $16.70 per cow-calf pair in 2001, up $1.10 from the previous year. The average per head rate was $16.00 per month, up $1.30 from last year.

In the 17 States that estimate grazing fees in the United States, the average charge on an AUM basis was $11.90 per month in 2001, up 40 cents from the previous year. Cow-calf rates averaged $13.90 per month, up 20 cents and per head rates averaged $12.40 per month, up 50 cents from 2000.

All grazing fees are for privately, owned non-irrigated grazing land. Rates charged for public land, irrigated land, and harvested cropland were excluded. The average AUM rate includes reported AUM rates plus reported cow-calf rates that were converted to an AUM basis. The cow-calf rate was converted to AUM basis using the following formula (1 AUM=cow-calf *0.833).

January Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.25 billion during January 2002, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.16 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 63.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2002 averaged 338 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during January 2001. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,143 eggs, up one percent from the 2,128 eggs in January 2001.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates
Farms & Land in Farms
Honey Production
Ag Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle & Calf Inventory
Sheep Inventory and Wool Prod.
Ag Prices Received
Chicken Inventory
Egg production
Hogs & Pigs

Cattle and Calf Inventory

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was down 4% from a year ago to 2.45 million head on January 1, 2002. Prolonged drought, poor pasture and range conditions, and continued tight feed supplies have caused producers to cut back their herds and, in many cases, to liquidate the entire herd. Inventories of beef cows that have calved, beef cow replacements, and calves weighing less than 500 lbs were all significantly reduced this year.

The inventory of beef cows that had calved on January 1, 2002 was down 5% from a year ago to 1.451 million head. This is the lowest inventory of beef cows since 1991 when there were 1.396 million beef cows on hand. The number of milk cows in the state was unchanged from a year ago at 19,000 head. There were 1.55 million calves born during 2001, down 4% from the previous year.

Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, were down 8% from the previous year to 370,000 head. Milk heifer replacements increased 3,000 head from last year to 13,000 head. The number of other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more, increased 1% from last year to 177,000 head.

The inventory of steers weighing 500 lbs or more, rebounded 17% from last year's low inventory to 245,000 head. The inventory of calves weighing less than 500 lbs, at 75,000 head, was down 17% from last year. This is the lowest inventory of calves weighing less than 500 lbs on record for January 1. Inventory of bulls, weighing 500 pounds or more, dropped 9% from last year to 100,000 head. The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter rebounded from last year's low inventory. The inventory of cattle on feed was up 17% from a year ago to 70,000 head.

There were 13,300 operations in Montana during 2001 with one or more head, down 8% from last year. The number of beef cow operations with one or more beef cows decreased 7% to 11,900, while the number of operations with one or more milk cows remain unchanged at 650.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2002, totaled 96.7 million head, 1% below the 97.3 million on January 1, 2001 and 2% below the 98.2 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.2 million, were 1% below both the 42.6 million on January 1, 2001 and the 42.8 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.1 million, were down 1% from both January 1, 2001 and January 1, 2000. Milk cows, at 9.11 million, were down 1% from both January 1, 2001 and two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2002 and the change from January 1, 2001, are as follows: All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.7 million, down slightly; Beef replacement heifers, 5.56 million, down slightly; Milk replacement heifers, 4.06 million, up slightly; Other heifers, 10.1 million, down 1%; Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, up 2%; Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.24 million, down 1%; Calves under 500 pounds, 15.8 million, down 3%; Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.9 million, down 2%.

The 2001 United States calf crop was estimated at 38.3 million head, down 1% from both 2000 and 1999. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.1 million, down 1% from both 2000 and 1999.

The number of operations in United States with cattle totaled 1.05 million during 2001, down 2% from 2000 and 4% below 1999. Beef cow operations in 2001 were down 2% from 2000 and 4% below 1999. Milk cow operations were 7% below last year and 12% below two years ago.

Sheep Inventory and Wool Production

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory set a new record low at 335,000 head on January 1, 2002, down 7% from last year. Drought, unstable prices, and predators in 2001 were key factors in the continued decline.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers decreased 30,000 head from last year to 300,000 head. Ewes one year and older were down 12% to 232,000 head. Rams one year and older, at 8,000 head, were down 1,000 head from the previous year. Replacement lambs, at 60,000 head, were up 4,000 head from a year ago. The 2001 lamb crop was 340,000 head, a decrease of 7% from the 2000 lamb crop.

There were 35,000 market sheep and lambs on hand January 1. There were 1,800 sheep and lamb operations with 1 or more head in Montana during 2001, 200 less than a year ago.

Montana wool growers produced 3.0 million pounds of wool during 2001, down 10% from 2000. The 2001 average price per pound of wool increased 8 cents to 45 cents per pound, which increased the value of all wool produced by 9% for a total value of $1.3 million dollars. The total head shorn decreased 8% from 2000 to 318,000 head. The average fleece weight decreased from 9.6 pounds in 2000 to 9.4 pounds in 2001.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2002, totaled 6.69 million head, down 4% from 2001 and 5% below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002, down 1% from 4.97 million head on January 1, 2001. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.98 million head, were 3% below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2002, totaled 1.77 million head, down 11% from January 1, 2001. Market lambs comprised 96% of the total. Twenty-five perent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17% were 65 - 84 pounds, 23% 85 - 105 pounds, 31% were over 105 pounds, and 4% were market sheep.

The 2001 lamb crop of 4.50 million head was down 3% from 2000 and established a new record low. The 2001 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2001, compared with 109 in 2000. The number of operations with sheep during 2001 totaled 65,120, down 1% from 2000 and 3% from 1999.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2001 was 43.0 million pounds, down 7% from 2000. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.69 million head, down 7% from 2000. The average price paid for wool sold in 2001 was $0.36 per pound for a total value of $15.3 million dollars, down slightly from $15.4 million dollars in 2000.

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January cattle and sheep inventory surveys.

Cattle and Calves Inventory January 1, 2000-2002

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Cattle and Calves	2,600	2,550	2,450	96%	98,198	97,277	96,704	99%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,600	1,550	1,470	95%	42,759	42,580	42,209	99%
Beef Cows	1,582	1,531	1,451	95%	33,569	33,397	33,100	99%
Milk Cows	18	19	19	100%	9,190	9,183	9,110	99%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	570	590	560	95%	19,649	19,776	19,678	100%
For beef cow replacement	380	405	370	91%	5,503	5,588	5,561	100%
For milk cow replacement	10	10	13	130%	4,000	4,057	4,060	100%
Other heifers	180	175	177	101%	10,147	10,131	10,057	99%
Steers 500 pounds and over	230	210	245	117%	16,682	16,441	16,800	102%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	105	110	100	91%	2,293	2,274	2,244	99%
Calves less than 500 pounds	95	90	75	83%	16,815	16,206	15,773	97%
Cattle on Feed	70	60	70	117%	14,003	14,201	13,860	98%

Calf Crop and Cattle Operations, 1999-2001

ITEM	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,570	1,620	1,550	96%	38,796	38,631	38,280	99%
Number cattle operations	14,100	14,400	13,300	92%	1,096,550	1,077,560	1,050,910	98%
Operations with beef cattle	12,500	12,800	11,900	93%	844,170	830,670	814,400	98%
Operations with milk cows	650	650	650	100%	111,000	105,170	97,560	93%

Sheep and Lambs Inventory January 1, 2000-2002

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01	2000	2001	2002	'02/'01
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Sheep and Lambs	370	360	335	93%	7,032	6,965	6,685	96%
Breeding sheep	340	330	300	91%	5,164	4,967	4,913	99%
One year old & older								
Ewes	274	265	232	88%	4,229	4,091	3,980	97%
Rams	9	9	8	89%	206	201	200	99%
Replacement Lambs	57	56	60	107%	730	675	734	109%
Market Sheep & Lambs	30	30	35	117%	1,868	1,998	1,772	89%
Sheep	2	2	1	50%	81	77	72	94%
Lambs	28	28	34	121%	1,788	1,922	1,700	88%

Lamb Crop and Sheep Operations, 1999-2001

Item	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	340	365	340	93%	4,733	4,622	4,495	97%
Number of sheep operations	1,900	2,000	1,800	90%	66,800	66,100	65,120	99%

Sheep and Lambs Shorn and Wool Production

Item	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00
Sheep Shorn (000) Hd.								
All Sheep and Lambs	336	347	318	92%	6,158	6,135	5,689	93%
All Wool Shorn (000 Lbs.)	3,196	3,315	2,978	90%	46,592	46,466	43,016	93%
Wool: Price & Value								
Dollars Per Pound	0.50	0.37	0.45	122%	0.38	0.33	0.36	109%
Value (000 Dollars)	1,598	1,227	1,340.0	109%	17,860	15,377	15,311	100%

Agricultural Prices Received for December

December full month crop prices were generally higher compared with November 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.14 per bushel, up $0.02 from November; spring wheat was $0.02 lower at $3.13 per bushel; and durum wheat prices rose $0.06 to $4.03 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.06 to $2.05 per bushel. Feed barley prices were up $0.01 from the previous month to $1.96, and malt barley prices were up $0.07 to $2.99 per bushel.

The mid-January price for alfalfa hay was $95.00 per ton, unchanged from the previous month, but all other hay increased $4.00 per ton to $91.00 per ton. The mid-January winter wheat price averaged $3.10 per bushel; spring wheat was $3.16; durum wheat was $3.95; oats was $2.05; feed barley was $1.92; and malt barley averaged $3.08.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were mostly higher compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $3.50 to $86.00 per cwt, but cows were up $0.90 to $34.80. The average price for calves rose $1.20 to $95.40 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $7.70 to $33.30 per cwt and lamb prices rose $12.00 to $63.70 per cwt. Milk prices were down $0.60 per cwt from last month to $15.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $85.60 per cwt.; cows averaged $35.80 per cwt.; calves averaged $102.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged $14.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for December and changes from November were as follows: winter wheat was $2.79, down $0.02; spring wheat was $2.96, up $0.05; durum wheat was $3.45, up $0.37; the all barley price was $2.16, up $0.15, and steer and heifer prices were $68.60, up $0.80 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $2.89 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.96 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.28 per bushel, all wheat was $2.94 per bushel, malt barley was $2.56 per bushel, feed barley was $1.77 per bushel, and all barley was $2.06. Steer and heifer prices were $ 70.50 per cwt, cow prices were $37.10, calves were $100.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $36.50 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.623 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January was 96, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the December Index. Price increases for tomatoes, lettuce, cattle, and hogs more than offset decreased prices for cotton, broccoli, turkeys, and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for cattle, corn, soybeans, and hogs more than offset decreased marketings of tobacco, grapes, cotton, and milk. Compared with January 2001, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Higher prices for lettuce, broilers, oranges, and potatoes offset lower prices for cattle, soybeans, rice, and onions.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	December 2000	January 2001	December 2001	January 2002
Prices Received	99	96	95	96
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	122	125	122	121
Ratio 2/	81	77	78	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Dec. 2000	Nov. 2001	Dec. 2001	Dec. 2001	Nov. 2001	Dec. 2000	Jan. 15, 2002	Jan. 15, 2002
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.99	3.12	3.14	2.79	+0.02	+0.15	3.10	2.89
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.88	3.97	4.03	3.45	+0.06	+0.15	3.95	3.28
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.14	3.15	3.13	2.96	-0.02	-0.01	3.16	2.96
All Wheat	Bu.	3.12	3.23	3.21	2.89	-0.02	+0.09	3.21	2.94
Barley, All	Bu.	2.49	2.69	2.72	2.16	+0.03	+0.23	2.78	2.06
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.69	1.95	1.96	1.74	+0.01	+0.27	1.92	1.77
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.73	2.92	2.99	2.68	+0.07	+0.26	3.08	2.56
Oats	Bu.	1.08	1.99	2.05	1.90	+0.06	+0.97	2.05	1.84
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	92.00	99.00	95.00	102.00	-4.00	+3.00	95.00	101.00
All Other Hay	Ton	83.00	87.00	87.00	73.00	0	+4.00	91.00	73.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	91.00	97.00	94.00	93.70	-3.00	+3.00	94.00	93.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	90.60	89.50	86.00	68.60	-3.50	-4.60	85.60	70.50
Cows	Cwt	35.40	33.90	34.80	36.00	+0.90	-0.60	35.80	37.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	77.40	81.30	76.80	64.60	-4.50	-0.60	73.20	66.60
Calves	Cwt	101.00	94.20	95.40	100.00	+1.20	-5.60	102.00	100.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	36.50	25.60	33.30	33.50	+7.70	-3.20	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	88.40	51.70	63.70	61.70	+12.00	-24.70	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	13.00	15.60	15.00	13.40	-0.60	+2.00	14.30	13.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

December Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.40 billion during December 2001, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.33 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2001 averaged 339 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during December 2000. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,187 eggs, slightly below the 2,193 eggs in December 2000.

December Pig Crop

The December 2001 U.S. pig crop at 8.07 million head, was 3 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 917 thousand head, 2 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter for December rose to 8.80, compared to 8.66 last year. The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on January 1, 2002, was 6.02 million head, slightly below January 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during December totaled 1.19 million head, up slightly from the previous year.

Chicken Inventory and Egg Production

There were 480,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 2001, up 4 percent from last year. The December 1, 2001 inventory included 340,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 72,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 67,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2001 was $1.44 million, up 4 percent from last year. The average value per bird, at $3.00, remained unchanged from last year.

Montana chickens produced 95 million eggs during the year, up 13 percent from last year. The state had an average of 321,000 layers in 2001, up 10 percent from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 296 eggs, up 2 percent from the previous year.

The U.S. total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2001 (excluding commercial broilers) was 441 million birds, up 1 percent from last year. Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2001 totaled a record high 85.6 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year's total of 84.4 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 72.7 billion eggs, increased 2 percent from 2000. Hatching egg production, at 12 billion eggs, decreased slightly.

Layer numbers during 2001 averaged 335 million, up 2 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2001 was 256 eggs, down slightly from the 2000 average of 257. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 2001, totaled 381 million, up 3 percent from December 1, 2000. Of the 381 million potential layers, 89 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2001 was $1.07 billion, up 1 percent from December 1, 2000. The average value decreased from $2.44 per bird on December 1, 2000, to $2.42 per bird on December 1, 2001.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Private Grazing Fee Rates	Potato Stocks
Alfalfa Seed Production	Milk Production
Crop Values	Cattle on Feed
Wheat & Barley County Est.	Farm Labor
Red Meat Production	US & Canadian Cattle
Hogs and Pigs	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grain Summary
Cattle on Feed
Annual Crop Summary
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance & Price

Small Grain Summary

Montana's 2001 winter wheat production was estimated at 19.14 million bushels, down 57% from last year's crop. This is the smallest winter wheat crop produced in the state since 1940, when just 17.46 million bushels were harvested. Producers seeded 1.3 million acres, but harvested only 870,000 acres, 480,000 acres less than were harvested in 2000. The 2001 average yield was 22.0 bushels per acre, which is 11 bushels lower than last year's average. The final yield was moved up 2 bushels from the August 1 forecast because more acres were abandoned than expected which had the effect of raising the average yield of the acres harvested. Hard red winter represented 99% of the acreage for 2000 and 98% for 2001 crop years, the balance was white wheat.

Spring wheat production in Montana was estimated at 65.55 million bushels, down 15% from 2000. The 2001 crop was the smallest since 53.9 million bushels were produced in 1990. Final seeded acreage was 3.55 million acres, 200,000 acres more than 2000 and 150,000 more than earlier forecast. Producers harvested 2.85 million acres, down 400, 000 acres from the earlier forecast and 250,000 acres less than last year. Abandonment was much higher than anticipated especially in the north central region. Yields averaged 23.0 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from 2000 because of the drought conditions that persisted for much of the growing season across the state. Hard red spring represented 99% of the acreage for 2000 and 2001 crop years, the balance was white wheat.

Montana **durum wheat** growers seeded 510,000 acres and harvested 495,000 acres in 2001. With the lack of spring precipitation in the Northeastern part of the state where a majority of the durum wheat is grown, producers saw poor yields. The average yield for Montana was 24.0 bushels per acre, 4 bushel less than 2000. Total production was estimated at 11.88 million bushels, down 9% from last year.

Barley planted acreage in Montana decreased to 1.10 million acres, 150,000 acres less than 2000. Producers harvested 720,000 acres, 230,000 acres less than were harvested for grain in 2000. Final yields averaged 41.0 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year, as well as from our previous forecast. Production was estimated at 29.5 million bushels, down 22% from last year. The 2001 production is the smallest crop since 1961 when 26.4 million bushels was realized.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 2.40 million bushels, down 8% from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 130,000 acres, equal with last year. Harvested acreage was set at 60,000 acres, up 10,000 from 2000. Yields averaged 40.0 bushels per acre, 12.0 bushels below last year.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on January 1, 2002. The inventory was 2 percent below January 1, 2001 but 1 percent above January 1, 2000. The inventory included 7.10 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.38 million head, down 7 percent from January 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.58 million, 7 percent below 2000 and 4 percent below 1999. Net placements were 1.49 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 418,000, 600-699 pounds were 475,000, 700-799 pounds were 413,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 272,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.81 million, 3 percent above 2000 but 2 percent below 1999.

Other disappearance totaled 93,000 during December, 2 percent below 2000 but 3 percent above 1999.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Down 2 Percent

Cattle on feed January 1, 2002, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.9 million, down 2 percent from the previous year but 2 percent above January 1, 2000. The inventory included 6.08 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.77 million head, down 8 percent from January 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.33 million, 8 percent below 2000 and 6 percent below 1999.

Marketings during December totaled 1.55 million, 3 percent above 2000 but 3 percent below 1999.

Other disappearance during December was 78,000 head, up 1 percent from 2000 and 4 percent above 1999.

December 2001 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 2001, down 13 percent from December 2000 and unchanged from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, down 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,138 pounds, increased 10 pounds from last year.

During December, there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered, 200 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 254 pounds, was 4 pounds less than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, was up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight decreased 1 pound from last December to 123 pounds.

2001 ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA Acreage Planted	MONTANA Acreage Harvested	MONTANA Yield Per Acre	MONTANA Total Production	MONTANA Season Avg. Price	MONTANA Value of Production	US Production
		(000)	(000)	Bu.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Winter Wheat	1998	1,400	1,250	39.0	48,750	$2.80	$136,500	1,880,733
	1999	1,050	970	38.0	36,860	$2.67	$98,416	1,696,580
	2000	1,500	1,350	33.0	44,550	$3.05	$135,878	1,566,023
	2001	1,300	870	22.0	19,140	--	--	1,361,479
Durum Wheat	1998	450	430	28.0	12,040	$3.23	$38,889	138,119
	1999	360	350	27.0	9,450	$3.45	$32,603	99,322
	2000	480	470	28.0	13,160	$3.85	$50,666	109,805
	2001	510	495	24.0	11,880	--	--	83,556
Other Spring Wheat	1998	3,800	3,600	30.0	108,000	$3.13	$338,040	528,469
	1999	4,150	4,000	27.0	108,000	$2.97	$320,760	503,108
	2000	3,350	3,100	25.0	77,500	$3.25	$251,875	556,632
	2001	3,550	2,850	23.0	65,550	--	--	512,608
All Wheat	1998	5,650	5,280	32.0	168,790	$3.03	$513,429	2,547,321
	1999	5,560	5,320	29.0	154,310	$2.93	$451,779	2,299,010
	2000	5,330	4,920	27.5	135,210	$3.25	$438,419	2,232,460
	2001	5,360	4,215	22.9	86,880	--	--	1,957,643
Barley	1998	1,350	1,200	48.0	57,600	$2.27	$130,752	352,125
	1999	1,300	1,150	50.0	57,500	$2.32	$133,400	280,292
	2000	1,250	950	40.0	38,000	$2.35	$89,300	318,728
	2001	1,100	720	41.0	29,520	--	--	249,590
Oats	1998	140	60	54.0	3,240	$1.18	$3,823	165,981
	1999	170	70	46.0	3,220	$1.05	$3,381	146,193
	2000	130	50	52.0	2,600	$1.05	$2,730	149,545
	2001	130	60	40.0	2,400	--	--	116,856
Corn for Grain 2/	1998	60	18	115.0	2,070	$1.90	$3,933	9,758,685
	1999	65	18	110.0	1,980	$1.55	$3,069	9,430,612
	2000	60	16	140.0	2,240	$1.55	$3,472	9,915,051
	2001	65	13	** 148.0	1,924	--	--	9,506,840
		(000)	(000)	Tons	(000)		(000)	(000)
Corn for Silage	1998	--	41	21.0	861	--	--	95,479
	1999	--	45	20.0	900	--	--	95,633
	2000	--	42	21.0	882	--	--	102,156
	2001	--	51	** 22.0	1,122	--	--	102,352
Sugar Beets	1998	64.0	62.4	22.6	1,410	$36.90	$52,029	32,499
	1999	61.8	61.7	23.8	1,468	$40.40	$59,307	33,420
	2000	60.7	55.2	23.9	1,319	--	--	32,541
	2001	57.4	53.5	21.5	1,150	--	--	25,754
Alfalfa Hay	1998	--	1,700	2.20	3,740	$73.00	$273,020	82,310
	1999	--	1,650	2.20	3,630	$66.00	$239,580	84,385
	2000	--	1,200	2.10	2,520	$82.00	$206,640	80,347
	2001	--	1,450	2.10	3,045	--	--	80,266
Other Hay	1998	--	800	1.60	1,280	$62.50	$80,000	69,470
	1999	--	950	1.50	1,425	$56.00	$79,800	75,322
	2000	--	800	1.30	1,040	$75.50	$78,520	71,574
	2001	--	** 1,000	1.40	1,400	--	--	76,437
All Hay 3/	1998	--	2,500	2.01	5,020	$72.00	$353,020	151,780
	1999	--	2,600	1.94	5,055	$65.00	$319,380	159,707
	2000	--	2,000	1.78	3,560	$81.00	$285,160	151,921
	2001	--	2,450	1.81	4,445	--	--	156,703
Sweet Cherries 4/	1998	--	--	--	1,890	$1,080.00	$2,040	208,410
	1999	--	--	--	690	$1,560.00	$1,076	227,760
	2000	--	--	--	1,050	$1,490.00	$1,569	214,920
	2001	--	--	--	1,700	--	--	--
		(000)	(000)	Cwt.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Fall Potatoes 5/	1998	10.6	10.6	300	3,180	$7.95	$25,281	432,737
	1999	11.0	10.9	305	3,325	$8.80	$29,260	429,847
	2000	11.5	11.3	310	3,503	$8.35	$29,250	467,504
	2001	9.6	9.5	320	3,040	--	--	400,727
All Dry Beans	1998	16.6	16.0	21.9	350	$15.60	$5,460	30,418
	1999	26.5	25.5	17.3	441	$17.90	$7,894	33,085
	2000	40.5	34.8	14.0	486	$18.70	$9,088	26,409
	2001	38.5	24.0	13.8	332	--	--	19,541
Pinto Beans	1998	12.2	12.0	22.0	264	--	--	14,511
	1999	13.9	13.2	22.4	296	--	--	10,839
	2000	14.5	** 13.8	** 24.0	** 331	--	--	10,670
	2001	11.5	* 10.0	* 20.0	* 200			8,561
Garbanzo Beans 6/	1998	4.0	* 3.8	** 22.1	* 84	--	--	418
	1999	12.1	11.8	11.3	133	--	--	735
	2000	25.3	** 20.5	* 7.3	** 150	--	--	1,308
	2001	26.5	13.5	9.4	127			1,606
Lentils 6/	1998	20.0	19.0	10.0	* 190	$10.30	$1,957	1,938
	1999	19.0	* 16.0	13.0	208	$12.60	$2,621	2,387
	2000	22.0	** 21.0	* 10.0	210	$10.50	$2,205	3,029
	2001	22.0	20.0	11.0	** 220	--	--	2,898
Dry Peas	1998	45.0	37.0	18.0	S666	$4.90	$3,263	5,934
	1999	37.0	29.0	14.0	406	$6.00	$2,436	4,773
	2000	28.0	24.0	9.7	233	$4.70	$1,095	3,499
	2001	31.0	21.0	14.0	294	--	--	3,779
Austrian Winter Peas 7/	2001	9.9	2.5	7.2	20	--	--	97

1/ All estimates for 2001 are preliminary and season average price and value of production for 2001 are not yet available.
2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/ U.S. totals are for all potatoes.
6/ Data series begun in 1998. 7/ Data series begun in 2001. -- Not Available. * Record Low ** Record High

December 2001 Red Meat Production (continued)

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.81 billion pounds in December, up 5 percent from the 3.61 billion pounds produced in December 2000. Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.78 million head, up 2 percent from December 2000. The average live weight was up 31 pounds from the previous year, at 1,255 pounds.

Veal production totaled 16 million pounds, 12 percent below December a year ago and a new record low for December. Calf slaughter totaled 84,300 head, down 8 percent from December 2000. The average live weight was 10 pounds below last year, at 309 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.67 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.42 million head, 4 percent above December 2000. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 268 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 19 million pounds, was down 8 percent from December 2000 and a new record low for December. Sheep slaughter totaled 279,100 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 2 pounds from December a year ago.

January - December red meat production was 45.6 billion pounds, 1 percent below the previous year. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Montana January Potato Stocks Down 12 Percent, U.S. Down 15 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.85 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2002, down 12 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 94 percent of the total 2001 production, compared with last year's stocks representing 93 percent of the 2000 total production.

The 15 major potato States held 233 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2002, down 15 percent from last year and 3 percent below 2000. Storage accounts for 59 percent of the 2001 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago. This year's storage holds more russets, but fewer round and long whites than a year earlier. Disappearance of 161 million cwt, is off 12 percent from last year. Processors in the 9 major States used 81.0 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 15 percent from a year ago.

Western States held 164 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2002, down 18 percent from last year and 4 percent below 2000. Idaho's potato stocks are down 15 percent from a year ago, while Washington and Montana are down 12 percent each. Oregon's stocks are off 33 percent and California's potato holdings are off 57 percent from a year ago. Colorado is down 25 percent from 2001.

Montana and U.S. Quarterly Milk Production Up

During the October-December quarter, Montana milk cows produced 87 million pounds of milk, 8 million pounds more than the same quarter a year ago, but 1 million pounds less than the previous quarter. Montana milk cow numbers, at 19,000 head were unchanged from a year ago.

The U.S. quarterly production of milk for the was 40.8 billion pounds, 0.2 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.10 million head, 113,000 head less than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 12.0 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from December 2000. November revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds, was up 0.8 percent from November 2000. The November revision represented an increase of 0.3 percent or 38 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,547 pounds for December, 28 pounds above December 2000. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 62,000 head less than December 2000, but 10,000 head more than November 2001.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1984-2001

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1984 ..	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 ..	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 ..	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 ..	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 ..	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ..	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 ..	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 ..	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 ..	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 ..	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 ..	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 ..	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 ..	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 ..	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 ..	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 ..	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 ..	950	2,232	90	3,272	956	80	298	1,334	1,061	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . 3/	876	1,958	95	2,929	950	87	225	1,258	1,000	2,258	671	2.75

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 2002--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

2001 ANNUAL OILSEED SUMMARY 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA				U.S.
		Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Production
		Planted	Harvested			
		(000)	(000)	Bu.	(000)	(000)
Flaxseed	1999	21.0	20.5	16.0	328	7,864
	2000	16.0	14.0	14.0	196	10,730
	2001	14.0	12.0	15.0	180	11,455
		(000)		Lbs.	(000)	(000)
Canola 2/	1999	60.0	58.0	1,200	69,600	1,363,680
	2000	65.0	58.0	960	55,680	1,998,310
	2001	58.0	49.5	910	45,045	1,998,515
Mustard Seed	1999	21.5	21.0	850	17,850	48,010
	2000	12.0	10.0	700	7,000	36,930
	2001	11.0	10.0	850	8,500	41,106
Safflower 2/	1999	41.0	39.0	850	33,150	404,715
	2000	42.0	39.0	770	30,030	282,545
	2001	31.0	28.0	850	23,800	241,665
Sunflower 2/	1999	7.8	7.1	858	6,095	4,341,862
	2000	5.5	4.1	741	3,039	3,544,428
	2001	2.5	2.0	370	740	3,480,696

1/ All estimates for 2001 are preliminary and season average price and value of production for 2001 are not yet available.

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- Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production
- Sheep and Lambs Inventory
- Cattle and Calves Inventory
- Egg Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Late Season Crops
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

Winter Wheat Seedings

Montana producers seeded 1.4 million acres of winter wheat this fall for the 2002 crop year, up 100,000 acres from the 2001 crop. While the acres seeded are up from the 2001 crop, acreage is down 100,000 acres from 2000 and is down 370,000 acres or 21% from the 10 year average of 1.77 million acres planted.

Winter wheat seeding progressed rapidly as dry conditions this fall were favorable for getting into fields. By the end of October, 98% of the winter wheat acres were seeded. Emergence was very slow after planting and progressed to 74% emerged by the end of October. There are reports that some winter wheat didn't come up at all or was spotty. Producers are optimistic that adequate moisture will come either during winter or this spring or else conditions will be similar to last year's crop disaster. Moisture received in the North Central and Central areas of the state since October 1 has been very poor with most all stations receiving less than 50% of normal moisture. Many stations have received 25% or less of normal precipitation.

The United States winter wheat planted area for harvest in 2002 is estimated at 41.0 million acres. This is down fractionally from 2001 and is the lowest level since 1971. Hard Red Winter wheat seeded area is about 29.3 million acres, up 1% from 2001. Significant acreage increases in Texas, Oklahoma, and Montana more than offset a large acreage decline in Kansas. Texas and Oklahoma are rebounding from lower acreages last year when dry conditions reduced seedings. This is the first time since 1990 that wheat acreage has increased in Oklahoma. Acreage continues to decline in Kansas, where seedings have not increased since 1996, and is currently at the lowest level since 1957.

Late Season Crops

Montana producers planted 65,000 acres of **corn** in 2001, up 5,000 acres from last year. Due to the lack of feed supplies in the state, producers planted more corn acres for silage this year. Acres **harvested for grain** was 13,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from last year's revised estimate. The average yield was 148.0 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from last year. Grain production declined 14% from a year ago to 1.924 million bushels due to fewer acres harvested for grain. Acres for **silage of corn** harvested rose 9,000 acres from last year to 51,000 acres. Yield averaged 22 tons per acre, up 1 ton from a year ago.

Sugar beet producers in Montana planted 57,400 acres and harvested 53,500 acres in 2001. Harvested acres is down 1,700 acres from last year's crop. There was a large number of acres unharvested this year due to acres being enrolled in the PIK program. Yields decreased 2.4 tons from last year to average 21.5 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.15 million tons, down 13% from the previous year.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.04 million cwt, down 13% from last year. Producers harvested 9,500 acres compared with 11,300 in 2000. Yields increased 10 cwt. per acre from a year ago to 320 cwt. per acre.

All hay harvested in Montana was up 450,000 acres from last year, to 2.45 million acres. All hay production was 4.45 million tons, up 25% or 890,000 tons from a year ago. Even with the increase in harvested acreage due to CRP and grain crops being cut for hay, this is the second lowest production in Montana since 1988. The 2000 harvest was the lowest since 1988. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage was 1.45 million acres, up 250,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.1 tons per acre, which is unchanged from the previous year. **Other hay** harvested acreage was 1.0 million, up 200,000 acres from 2000. The average yield was 1.4 tons per acre compared with 1.3 tons per acre last year. Montana **hay stocks** were estimated at 3.60 million tons on December 1, up 14% from last year. Montana hay producers **seeded** an estimated 120,000 acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2001, 10,000 acres less than last year. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

U.S. corn grain production is estimated at 9.51 billion bushels, down 4% from the revised 9.92 billion bushels in 2000. This is the fourth largest crop behind 1994's record production of 10.1 billion bushels followed by 2000's and 1998's production. The U.S. grain yield of 138.2 bushels per acre, the second highest yield on record, is up 0.2 bushel from November and 1.3 bushels from 2000.

U.S. **sugar beet** production is estimated at 25.8 million tons, 1% below the November 1 forecast and 21% below last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States harvested 1.24 million acres, slightly less than the November estimate and 9% below last year's 1.37 million acres. The yield is estimated at 20.7 tons per acre, equal to the November forecast, but 3.0 tons below the 2000 yield.

U.S. production of **fall potatoes** for 2001 is estimated at 401 million cwt, down 14% from 2000 and the smallest fall crop since 1993. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is down 8% from 2000. The average yield is estimated at 367 cwt per acre, a drop of 25 cwt from last year.

Growers in the U.S. seeded 3.26 million acres of **alfalfa** and **alfalfa mixtures** during 2001. This is up 6% from the 2000 seeded acreage of 3,065,000 acres. The new seedings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures will normally be harvested for dry hay for the first time in the year following the planting. **All hay** production for 2001 is estimated at 157 million tons, down 3% from the October 1 forecast but up 3% from the 2000 total. **Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures** production in 2001 totaled 80.3 million tons, down 2% from the October forecast and fractionally below the 2000 total. Harvested acreage, at 23.8 million acres, is up less than 1% from October 1 and up 3% from the previous year. Yields averaged 3.37 tons per acre, down 0.07 ton from the October 1 forecast and 0.11 ton below the 2000 yield. U.S. **all other hay** production in 2001 totaled 76.4 million tons, down 5% from the October 1 forecast but up 7% from the 2000 total. Area for harvest, at 39.7 million acres, is down 1% from the October 1 forecast but 8% above last year. Average yield, at 1.93 tons per acre, is down from 1.95 tons per acre in 2000. Stocks of **all hay** farms December 1, 2001 totaled 111 million tons, 5% above the stocks on farms December 1, 2000.

(Continued on back page)

December 1, 2001 Grain Stocks

Montana all wheat stocks on December 1, 2001 were 108.9 million bushels, down 19% from a year earlier. Stocks stored on the farm amounted to 86.0 million bushels, with 22.9 million bushels stored off-farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 79.1 million bushels, were down 14% from last year and accounted for 73% of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 29.8 million bushels, down 39% from last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 11.4 million bushels, unchanged from last year. Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 2001 were 23.6 million bushels, down 8% from a year ago. Barley stored on-farm was 17.0 million bushels and off-farm storage was 6.6 million bushels. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.0 million bushels, down 21% from last year. On-farm stocks 1.9 million bushels and off-farm stocks were 0.09 million bushels.

In the U.S., all wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2001 totaled 1.62 billion bushels, down 10% from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 518 million bushels and off-farm stocks were 1.11 billion bushels. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 2001 totaled 75.7 million bushels, down 27% from a year ago. On-farm stocks were 49.6 million bushels and off-farm stocks totaled 26.1 million bushels. U.S. barley stocks in all positions totaled 195 million bushels . On-farm stocks are estimated at 92.4 million bushels and off-farm stocks were 103 million bushels Oats stored in all U.S. positions on December 1, 2001 totaled 114 million bushels. Of the total stocks on hand, 58.1 million bushels were stored in on-farm facilities and stocks held in off-farm storage facilities totaled 56.1 million bushels.

December 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 2000	Sept. 1, 2001	Dec. 1, 2001	'01/'00	Dec. 1, 2000	Sept. 1, 2001*	Dec. 1, 2001
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	111,000	104,000	86,000	77%	623,420	696,850	517,890
Off Farms 1/	22,860	25,820	22,880	100%	1,182,705	1,458,964	1,105,485
TOTAL	133,860	129,820	108,880	81%	1,806,125	2,155,814	1,623,375
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	34,000	26,000	21,500	63%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	8,300	9,260	8,330	100%	--	--	--
TOTAL	42,300	35,260	29,830	71%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	77,000	78,000	64,500	84%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	14,560	16,560	14,550	100%	--	--	--
TOTAL	91,560	94,560	79,050	86%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	72,000	63,300	49,600
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	32,306	33,841	26,097
TOTAL	11,340	13,790	11,370	100%	104,306	97,141	75,697
BARLEY							
On Farms	19,000	25,000	17,000	89%	111,500	134,800	92,400
Off Farms 1/	6,570	6,260	6,590	100%	117,369	110,564	102,589
TOTAL	25,570	31,260	23,590	92%	228,869	245,364	194,989
OATS							
On Farms	2,400	2,500	1,900	79%	86,900	74,800	58,100
Off Farms 1/	120	83	90	75%	57,237	41,592	56,120
TOTAL	2,520	2,583	1,990	79%	144,137	116,392	114,220
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	5,550,000	753,150	5,275,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,979,634	1,145,958	2,989,257
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	8,529,634	1,899,108	8,264,257

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, in All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	Dec. 1, 2000	Sept. 1, 2001	Dec. 1, 2001	Dec. 1, 2000	Sept. 1, 2001	Dec. 1, 2001
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	3.5	2.3	1.4	1.3	1.9	0.4
North Central	50.7	38.8	33.8	14.2	16.9	12.4
Northeast	45.3	56.2	46.1	2.0	2.6	2.3
Central	19.8	16.9	14.4	3.4	4.3	3.8
Southwest	2.2	3.5	2.7	1.4	1.9	1.5
South Central	7.2	6.9	5.9	2.7	2.9	2.5
Southeast	5.2	5.2	4.6	0.6	0.8	0.7
Montana	**133.9**	**129.8**	**108.9**	**25.6**	**31.3**	**23.6**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Agricultural Prices Received for November

November full month crop prices were generally higher compared with October 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.12 per bushel, up $0.03 from October; spring wheat was $0.03 lower at $3.15 per bushel; and durum wheat prices rose $0.19 to $3.97 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.12 to $1.99 per bushel. Feed barley prices were up $0.10 from the previous month to $1.95, and malt barley prices were up $0.09 to $2.92 per bushel.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay was down $4.00 per ton from a last month to $95.00 per ton, and all other hay was unchanged at $87.00 per ton. The mid-December winter wheat price averaged $2.95 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.20, durum wheat was $4.00, oats was $1.95, feed barley was $1.95, and malt barley averaged $3.05.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were mostly lower compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $5.20 to $89.50 per cwt and cows were down $5.30 to $33.90. The average price for calves was dropped $4.80 to $94.20 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $0.50 to $25.60 per cwt, while lamb prices rose $0.10 to $51.70 per cwt. Milk prices were down $1.60 per cwt from last month to $15.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $86.80 per cwt., cows averaged $34.60 per cwt., calves averaged $94.40 per cwt., and milk prices averaged $14.40 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for November and changes from October were as follows: winter wheat was $2.81, unchanged , spring wheat was $2.91, down $0.06; durum wheat was $3.08, up $0.19; the all barley price was $2.31 up $0.01, and steer and heifer prices were $67.80, down $2.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-December winter wheat price was $2.84 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.91 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.13 per bushel, all wheat was $2.89 per bushel, malt barley was $2.56 per bushel, feed barley was $1.74 per bushel, and all barley was $2.19. Steer and heifer prices were $ 68.30 per cwt, cow prices were $35.60, calves were $100.00 per cwt., all hog prices were $33.60 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.590 per dozen

Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December was 93, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the November index. Higher prices for lettuce, corn, broccoli, and strawberries offset lower prices for milk, broilers, turkeys, and eggs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also effects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and oranges offset lower marketings of cattle, grapes, soybeans, and corn. Compared with last year the current All Farm Products Index was six points (6.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 2000 for cotton (lowest December price since 1973), cattle, eggs, and soybeans more than offset increases in milk, broilers, oranges, and lettuce. Prices Paid Index Unchanged from Last Month and Last Year The December Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 122 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from last month and December 2000. Lower prices in December for diesel fuel, nitrogen, hay and forages, complete feeds and gasoline offset higher prices for herbicides, feeder cattle, feeder pigs, feed grains, and trucks in the index.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov 2000	Oct 2001	Nov 2001	Nov 2001	Oct 2001	Nov 2000	Dec 15, 2001	Dec 15, 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.91	3.09	3.12	2.81	+0.03	+0.21	2.95	2.84
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.07	3.78	3.97	3.08	+0.19	-0.10	4.00	3.13
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.17	3.18	3.15	2.91	-0.03	-0.02	3.20	2.91
All Wheat	Bu.	3.17	3.23	3.23	2.88	0	+0.06	3.24	2.89
Barley, All	Bu.	2.37	2.57	2.69	2.31	+0.12	+0.32	2.79	2.19
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.56	1.85	1.95	1.79	+0.10	+0.39	1.95	1.74
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.72	2.83	2.92	2.64	+0.09	+0.20	3.05	2.56
Oats	Bu.	0.99	1.87	1.99	1.82	+0.12	+1.00	1.95	1.77
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	86.00	86.00	99.00	106.00	+13.00	+13.00	95.00	102.00
All Other Hay	Ton	81.00	85.00	87.00	74.10	+2.00	+6.00	87.00	73.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	85.00	78.00	97.00	97.10	+19.00	+12.00	94.00	93.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	94.30	94.70	89.50	67.80	-5.20	-4.80	86.80	68.30
Cows	Cwt	37.40	39.20	33.90	35.80	-5.30	-3.50	34.60	35.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	85.20	88.60	81.30	63.90	-7.30	-3.90	79.50	64.20
Calves	Cwt	102.00	99.00	94.20	96.40	-4.80	-7.80	94.40	100.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	31.00	26.10	25.60	26.60	-0.50	-5.40	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	78.10	51.60	51.70	54.10	+0.10	-26.40	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.70	17.20	15.60	14.40	-1.60	+1.90	14.40	13.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Pulse Crops

Montana's **dry bean** growers produced 332,000 cwt. in 2001, down 154,000 cwt. from 2000. Growers harvested 24,000 acres with a yield of 13.8 cwt. per acre compared with last year's 34,800 acres harvested with a yield of 14.0 cwt. per acre.

Pinto bean production for Montana in 2001 is set at 200,000 cwt., which is 40% below last year's figure. Harvested acreage, at 10,000, is 24% lower than the previous year. The yield was 2,000 pounds per acre, which is 400 pounds less than last year.

Montana's final production estimate for **garbanzo beans** was 127,000 cwt for 2001, which is 15% lower than last year. Harvested area was 13,500 acres, down 7,000 acres from last year. The yield was 940 pounds per acre, up from last year's estimate of 730 pounds per acre.

Dry pea production for 2001 in Montana was 294,000 cwt., up 26% from 2000. Planted and harvested acreage are estimated at 31,000 and 21,000 acres, respectively. In 2000, growers planted 28,000 acres and harvested 24,000. Average yield is set at 14.0 cwt. per acre, which is 4.3 cwt. better than last year.

Montana's 2001 production of **lentils** was 220,000 cwt., up 5% from 2000. Planted area is 22,000 acres and harvested acres are set at 20,000. The average yield was 11.0 cwt. per acre, or 100 pounds more than in 2000.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is estimated at 19.5 million cwt for 2001, down 26% from last year and 41% below two years ago. This is the lowest dry bean production since 1988, when production was 19.3 million cwt.

Production of **dry edible peas** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington is estimated at 3.78 million cwt for 2001, down 1% from the November 1 forecast but 8% above 2000.

Production of **lentils** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 2.90 million cwt for 2001, down 1% from the November 1 forecast and 4% below 2000.

Oilseeds

Montana's **flaxseed** production for 2001 was 180,000 bushels, 16,000 bushels below last year's figure. Planted and harvested acreage were 14,000 and 12,000, respectively. The average yield for 2001 was 15.0 bushels per acre, one bushel better that the previous year. Production of **mustard seed** in Montana during 2001 was 8.5 million pounds compared with 7.0 million in 2000. Acres planted are set at 11,000 and acres harvested at 10,000. Yields averaged 850 pounds per acre this year, which is 150 pounds per acre better that 2000. Montana **canola** growers planted 58,000 acres in 2001, 7000 acres less than the previous year and harvested 49,500 acres. Total production was 45.1 million pounds, which is 19% less than last year. Growers produced 23.8 million pounds of **safflower** in Montana during 2001. They planted an estimated 31,000 acres and harvested 28,000 acres. Average yields were set at 850 pounds per acre.

Montana's 2001 **all sunflower** production was set at 740,000 pounds this year, well below the 3.0 million pounds produced in 2000. Planted and harvested acreage estimates are 2,500 and 2,000 respectively. The average yield is estimated at 370 pounds per acre, compared to the 740 pounds per acre garnished last year.

U.S. production of **flaxseed** in 2001 totaled 11.5 million bushels, up 7% from the previous year. The yield is estimated at 19.8 bushels, down 1.0 bushel from the record high yield in 2000. **Safflower** production in the U.S., at 242 million pounds, is down 14% from 2000. **Mustard** seed production, at 41.1 million pounds, is 11% above the previous year. **Rapeseed** production totaled 4.05 million pounds, down 30% from 2000.

U.S. **Canola** production in 2001 reached a record high, at 2.0 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous record in 2000. The 2001 **sunflower** production totaled 3.48 billion pounds nationally, 2% below the 2000 production.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, & Price
- Annual Crop Production
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Red Meat Production

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USDA-NASS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
November Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Hog & Pig Inventory
November Egg Production

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on December 1, 2001. The inventory was slightly below December 1, 2000 but 1 percent above December 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.91 million, 5 percent below 2000 and 12 percent below 1999. Net placements were 1.83 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 655,000, 600-699 pounds were 588,000, 700-799 pounds were 381,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 284,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.80 million, 1 percent below 2000 and 1,000 head below 1999. Other disappearance totaled 80,000 during November, 24 percent below 2000 and 4 percent below 1999.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Down Slightly

Cattle on feed December 1, 2001, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.2 million, down slightly from the previous year but 2 percent above December 1, 1999. Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.58 million, 6 percent below 2000 and 13 percent below 1999. Marketings during November totaled 1.54 million, 2 percent below 2000 but 1 percent above 1999. Other disappearance during November was 68,000 head, 24 percent below 2000 but 10 percent above 1999.

November Milk Production Up 0.4 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 11.4 billion pounds, up 0.4 percent from November 2000. October revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was down 0.7 percent from October 2000. The October revision represented a decrease of 0.4 percent or 53 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,480 pounds for November, 21 pounds above November 2000. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 78,000 head less than November 2000, but 8000 head more than October 2001.

November Red Meat Production in Montana Down 19 Percent From the Previous Year

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 2001. Red meat production was down 12 percent from the previous month and 16 percent from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,600 head, which is 300 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,127 pounds, was up 10 pounds from the previous year. During November there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 300 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 251 pounds, was down 11 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, is unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from last year, to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.97 billion pounds in November, up 1 percent from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in November 2000 and a new record high for November.

Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year and a new record high for November. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.90 million head, down 1 percent from November 2000. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,255 pounds. Veal production totaled 16 million pounds, a new record low for November and 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 87,000 head, down 6 percent from November 2000. The average live weight was 12 pounds below last year, at 309 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.73 billion pounds, a new record high for November and up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.72 million head, slightly below November 2000. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20 million pounds, was down 3 percent from November 2000. Sheep slaughter totaled 287,000 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from November a year ago.

January - November red meat production was 41.8 billion pounds, 2 percent below the previous year. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

Potato Production Down 13 Percent, December 1 Stocks Down 12 Percent

Montana potato growers produced 3,040,000 cwt of potatoes in 2001, down 13 percent from the previous year. Acres planted and harvested were down 1,900 and 1,800 acres, respectively, from the 2000 crop year. There were 9,600 acres planted and 9,500 acres harvested, with an average yield of 320 cwt per acre. This yield is up 10 cwt per acre from last year.

Producers in Montana held 2,950,000 cwt in storage on December 1, 2001. This is 12 percent less than was on hand in 2000 and represents 97 percent of the total 2001 potato production in Montana.

December 1 potato stocks in the 15 storage States, at 267 million cwt, are down 14 percent from last year and 3 percent below 1999. This is the lowest December 1 stocks level since 1995. Seasonal disappearance of 127 million cwt in the 15 States is down 14 percent from last year. Processors used 64.9 million cwt so far this season, down 17 percent from last year. The December 1 fall potato production is forecast at 400 million cwt in the 22 fall States, down 14 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below 1999.

The 15 major potato States held 267 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2001, down 14 percent from last year and 7 percent below 1999. Storage accounted for 68 percent of the fall storage States 2001 production, the same percentage as last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 9 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody) and 84 percent russet; with a lower percentage of round whites and a higher percentage of russets than a year ago. Disappearance, at 127 million cwt, from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 14 percent from the same period last year and 13 percent less than two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 14.8 million cwt, is down 21 percent from last year and 25 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 185 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, a drop of 16 percent from last year and 4 percent below two years ago. The 2001 water shortage helped reduce California's potato stocks 63 percent and Oregon's 30 percent below last year. Colorado farmers stored 23 percent fewer potatoes this year than last. Idaho's potato stocks dropped 14 percent, while Washington's storage fell 10 percent from last year. Montana's seed storage decreased 12 percent.

Production of fall potatoes for 2001 is forecast at 400 million cwt, down 14 percent from last year and the smallest fall crop since 1993. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is down 8 percent from last season. The average yield is forecast at 366 cwt per acre, a drop of 26 cwt from last year.

Ten Western States produced 272 million cwt of potatoes in 2001, down 17 percent from last year. Acreage harvested, at 664,300 acres, is down 12 percent while the average yield, at 410 cwt per acre, fell 26 cwt from a year ago. The lack of irrigation water dropped California fall potato production by 70 percent and Oregon by 34 percent from last year. Fall potato production in New Mexico fell 47 percent, with a sharp drop in acreage and yield. Idaho's production is 16 percent below last year's record high crop. Washington's potato crop declined 10 percent. Fall production in Colorado fell 24 percent, while Nevada dropped 26 percent. Utah's production is down 21 percent from a year ago and Montana's production is trimmed by 13 percent.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2000-2001 1/

STATE	2000 CROP			2001 CROP		
	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 2000	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 2001	% OF PROD
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
CA	3,741	2,700	72	1,113	1,000	90
CO	27,972	20,300	73	21,357	15,600	73
ID	152,320	111,000	73	127,980	95,000	74
ME	17,920	14,100	79	16,120	12,100	75
MI	14,963	8,700	58	14,030	8,200	58
MN	21,240	14,200	67	18,425	12,000	65
MT	3,503	3,350	96	3,040	2,950	97
NE	10,127	7,500	74	8,512	4,850	57
NY	5,964	2,600	44	5,942	2,900	49
ND	26,950	18,500	69	26,400	19,500	74
OH	1,134	350	31	984	220	22
OR	30,683	25,000	81	20,190	17,500	87
PA	3,510	2,000	57	3,173	1,700	54
WA	105,000	59,000	56	94,400	53,000	56
WI	33,800	21,000	62	31,955	20,000	63
15 States	458,827	310,300	68	393,621	266,520	68

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2001 totaled 27.4 million cwt.

December 1, 2001 Hogs & Pigs Inventory up 10 Percent

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2001 was 170,000 head, 10 percent above a year ago. Breeding stock was up 6 percent from last December to 19,000 head. Market hog numbers increased to 151,000 head, up 10 percent from last year.

There were 37,500 sows farrowed in Montana during the period of December 2000 to November 2001. This was an increase of 12 percent from a year earlier. The number of pigs saved per litter increased slightly to 9.09 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 341,000 head, a 12 percent increase from last year. There were 550 farms with one or more hogs in Montana in 2001, down from 650 farms last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2001, was 58.8 million head. This was 1 percent below December 2000, and slightly below September 1, 2001. Breeding inventory, at 6.21 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2000, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.6 million head, was 1 percent below both last year and last quarter.

The September-November 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 25.0 million head, was 1 percent less than 2000, and slightly less than 1999. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, slightly above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.78 pigs saved per litter for the September - November 2001 period, compared with 8.85 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.84 million sows farrow during the December 2001-February 2002 quarter, 3 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2001, and 2 percent above 2000. Intended farrowings for March-May 2002, at 2.90 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period in 2001, and up 1 percent from 2000.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 81,130 during 2001, down 6 percent from last year and 18 percent below 1999. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 9 percent of the operations and 75 percent of the inventory. This is the sixth time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory at, 2,204, accounted for 52.5 percent of the total inventory, up from 50.5 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 30 percent last year.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 1999-2001

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1999	2000	2001	'01/00	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	155	155	170	110	59,342	59,138	58,774	99
Breeding Hogs	17	18	19	106	6,234	6,270	6,209	99
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	55	51	54	106	9,241	19,421	19,304	99
60-119 lbs.	35	34	38	112	13,107	12,933	12,750	99
120-170 lbs.	26	30	30	100	11,073	10,846	10,792	100
180 lbs. & over	22	22	29	132	9,687	9,669	9,718	101
Total	138	137	151	110	53,109	52,868	52,564	99
Sows Farrowed								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	36.0	33.5	37.5	112	11,641	11,410	11,302	99
Pig Crop								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	325	304	341	112	102,354	100,748	99,473	99
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	9.03	9.07	9.09	100	8.79	8.83	8.80	100
Operations with Hogs	600	650	550	85	98,610	86,360	81,130	94

1/ December previous year.

November Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.17 billion during November 2001, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.14 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 977 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2001 averaged 337 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during November 2000. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,128 eggs, slightly above the 2,125 eggs in November 2000. November 2001 contained 22 weekdays, two holidays and four Saturdays, equal to November 2000.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2001, totaled 338 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 279 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.61 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2001, averaged 71.2 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 71.0 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.73 billion eggs during November 2001, up 2 percent from November 2000. The average number of layers during November, at 316 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

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"The Year 2001 Will Go Down in the Record Books"

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season from all of us at Montana Agricultural Statistics Service! As 2001 comes to a close and we approach the year 2002 we should take a minute to look back on what has happened this year. Not many Americans will forget what happened on September 11, 2001. The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. impacted everyone across America. While these shocking acts took thousands of lives, they also united Americans with a newfound sense of patriotism. Montanans collected money for the victims and flew American flags showing support for our country.

This outpouring of support took place while Montana farmers and ranchers were struggling with a third year of drought. It was a heck of a year! Neighbors helped neighbors get through one more year of drought, living up to the saying that "Montana is the Last, Best Place." Drought conditions hit livestock producers hard creating shortages of feed and water, and forcing many ranchers to market livestock earlier than normal at lighter weights. In many cases, ranchers had to find additional sources of feed, haul water to livestock, cull herds heavily and in some cases liquidate herds because of feed and water shortages. Farmers had to abandon record numbers of seeded acres due to the drought. However, people who make their living from the land continue to be filled with optimism that the future will be better and the cycle of drought will be broken in 2002. Farmers and ranchers are infinitely optimistic that the snow and rain will fall and resupply the reservoirs and aquifers.

Montana Agricultural Statistics Service is also optimistic about the future of Montana agriculture because of the extraordinary people who make a living from the land. Agricultural organizations, governmental agencies, agricultural extension, Montana universities and individuals across the state are working together to make sure that agriculture continues to grow and thrive in Montana.

To everyone involved in Montana's agriculture, thank you for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of **Montana's Number One Industry--Agriculture**. We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season. We hope that 2002 will be a great year for Montana agriculture!

2001 Dry Edible Bean Production

Production for Montana's **dry edible bean** crop was estimated at 409,000 cwt, down16% from the 2000 crop. Planted acreage for 2001 was estimated at 38,500 acres, down 5% from last year's estimate. Harvested area for this year is 31,800 acres, 9% below 2000. The yield is forecast at 1,290 pounds per acre, 110 pounds less than last year. Three main factors contributing to the large decreases in production were widespread disease, continued drought, and producers grazing acres.

Pinto bean production for Montana is estimated to be 204,000 cwt, which is 38% below last year's estimate. Acres planted are estimated at 11,500 acres, down 21% from 2000. Harvested acreage, at 10,300, is 25% lower than the previous year. The yield is forecast at 1,980 pounds per acre, 420 pounds less than last year. A lack of irrigation water led to fewer acres seeded and lower yields across the state.

The largest increase in production, for the third year in a row, occurred with the **garbanzo bean** crop. Montana's third production forecast was 200,000 cwt for 2001, compared with 150,000 cwt for last year and 133,000 cwt in 1999. Planted acreage was set at 26,500 acres, up 5% from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 21,000 acres. The yield is forecast at 950 pounds per acre, up 30% from last year's estimate of 730 pounds per acre. Although yields are expected to be higher than last year, fungal blight and haying or grazing of the acres for feed will result in yields lower than in 1999.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is estimated at 19.6 million cwt for 2001, up 1% from the October 1 forecast but 26% below a year ago. This is the lowest dry bean production since 1988, when production was 19.3 million cwt. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.25 million acres, 5% below the previous estimate and 22% below a year ago. The average yield is estimated at 1,568 pounds per acre, down 75 pounds from last year.

Of the 18 dry bean States, 14 expect lower production than a year ago. Production is down 81% in Michigan and off 46% in New York from a year ago. Minnesota's farmers harvested 34% fewer beans than last year, while Wisconsin's output fell 29%, and Wyoming's production is cut by 39%. Reductions from last year also came in California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington. Dry summer weather and water shortages hurt dry bean growth in the North East, Midwest, parts of the Western Plains, and the West.

ERS Economist Says Beef Situation Unsettled

Dry weather reduced forage supplies, and uncertain domestic and international demand for beef have plagued the industry this fall. Another year of drought throughout much of the traditional grazing areas has forced adjustments in the beef sector. Poor overwintering forage prospects have resulted in large beef cow slaughter as producers in many areas are faced with inadequate grazing conditions and heavier demands on hay stocks. Producers in many of the drier areas have already fed large quantities of hay from this year's crop.

Weaker beef demand from slowing domestic and international economies continues to result in reduced cattle slaughter levels even as slaughter weights break last year's record by sizeable margins. The latest *Cattle on Feed* report indicated reduced feedlot placements, but also a much slower marketing pattern. Although slaughter weights are setting records, the industry continues to have problems getting cattle into the Choice grade. Consequently, overfinished cattle are not likely to become a major problem. However, although steer and heifers slaughter numbers are below expectations, larger marketings would likely force market prices even lower. Although boxed beef prices have been erratic since early September, varying from $120 a cwt to a recent low near $107, prices in late November had strengthened to near $115 a cwt.

Retail prices for Choice beef were 26 cents above a year earlier, and down only 10 cents from the June record of $3.48 a pound. While retail demand for beef seems to be holding up well, reduced travel and hotel-restaurant trade as well as weaker export demand are forcing more beef into the retail market at lower wholesale prices, which should support increased movement. Large supplies of market ready cattle at record weights are likely to burden the industry well into the winter quarter. Winter weather conditions again likely will play a major role in determining feedlot performance and marketings over the next six months. Stocker-feeder cattle supplies continue to be buffeted as much by uncertain forage-overwintering prospects as fed cattle prices or the cost of gain.

U.S. Livestock & Meat Imports & Exports

	1999	2000	Jan-Sept 2000	Jan-Sept. 2001
Beef & Veal Imports		**Carcass wt.,thousand lb.**		
Australia	865,595	1,025,342	735,019	907,832
New Zealand	560,957	639,130	586,086	547,161
Canada	947,238	918,310	692,191	735,361
Brazil	202,241	173,584	135,658	113,691
Argentina	156,785	130,709	108,061	72,807
Central America	62,392	70,232	46,640	48,526
Other	78,482	74,538	62,205	47,364
Total	2,873,689	3,031,844	2,365,860	2,472,743
Beef & Veal Exports				
Japan	1,101,164	1,116,855	863,668	800,042
Canada	249,463	253,693	189,541	168,301
Mexico	466,003	533,615	387,473	377,029
South Korea	307,957	398,825	312,346	208,004
Russia	97,299	37,393	35,143	6,412
Other	195,227	175,889	127,261	100,753
Total	2,417,115	2,516,271	1,915,432	1,660,541
Cattle Imports		**Head**		
Mexico	959,840	1,222,569	756,801	796,881
Canada	985,215	964,702	706,469	960,289
Over 700 lbs.	865,558	849,483	615,903	857,973
440-700 lbs.	22,081	30,089	22,714	21,359
Total	1,945,076	2,187,286	1,463,270	1,757,521
Cattle Exports				
Mexico	100,481	126,704	96,051	331,946
Canada	222,830	349,536	158,686	147,619
Total	329,319	481,242	257,812	483,770

U.S. Livestock & Meat Imports & Exports

	1999	2000	Jan-Sept. 2000	Jan-Sept 2001
Lamb Imports		**Carcass wt., thousand lb.**		
Australia	48,587	57,883	41,379	49,346
New Zealand	33,991	35,227	26,753	28,661
Total	83,052	94,563	69,256	78,738
Mutton Imports	29,463	34,342	26,239	30,948
Lamb& Mutton Exports				
Total	5,263	5,222	3,585	4,805
Pork Imports				
Canada	617,339	737,498	542,076	552,857
Denmark	132,868	147,966	116,113	89,434
Poland	23,090	23,998	17,401	17,014
Netherlands	9,895	10,749	8,214	6,619
Hungary	5,863	8,722	6,622	4,708
Other	38,060	37,977	28,056	16,590
Total	827,114	966,909	718,482	687,221
Pork Exports				
Japan	542,290	588,941	440,134	548,687
Canada	127,124	138,809	99,663	137,661
Mexico	167,299	302,696	204,338	239,867
Russia	123,034	27,643	10,565	64,617
Other	318,333	247,370	187,695	168,796
Total	1,278,080	1,305,459	942,393	1,159,629
Hog Imports		**Head**		
Canada	4,135,272	4,358,626	3,201,793	3,882,702
Under 110 lb	2,082,146	2,337,639	1,718,847	2,284,407
Total	4,135,663	4,359,355	3,201,983	3,882,702
Hog Export				
Total	177,089	69,342	62,508	23,505

SOURCE for the above information: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 28, 2001.

Agricultural Prices Received for October

October full month crop prices were higher compared with September 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.09 per bushel, up $0.13 from September; spring wheat was $0.20 higher at $3.18 per bushel; and durum wheat prices rose $0.22 to $3.78 per bushel. The average price received for oats rose $0.43 to $1.87 per bushel for oats. Feed barley prices were up $0.12 from the previous month to $1.85, while malt barley prices dropped $0.09 to $2.83 per bushel.

The mid-November price for alfalfa hay was up $13.00 per ton from a year ago to $99.00 per ton and other hay was up $6.00 per ton to $87.00 per ton. The mid-November winter wheat price averaged $2.90 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.25, durum wheat was $3.90, oats was $1.75, feed barley was $1.80, and malt barley averaged $2.95.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were up $6.70 to $91.20 per cwt and cows were down $3.50 to $39.20. The average price for calves was dropped $2.00 to $99.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $2.50 to $26.10 per cwt, while lamb prices rose $2.00 to $51.60 per cwt. Milk prices rose $1.10 per cwt from last month to $17.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November averaged $91.20 per cwt., cows averaged $35.00 per cwt., calves averaged $97.00 per cwt., and milk prices averaged $17.40 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for October and changes from September were as follows: winter wheat was $2.81, unchanged, spring wheat was $2.97, up $0.10; durum wheat was $2.98, down $0.13; the all barley price was $2.30, up $0.06, and steer and heifer prices were $70.20, down $1.90 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-November winter wheat price was $2.90 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.98 per bushel, durum wheat was $2.97 per bushel, all wheat was $2.94 per bushel, malt barley was $2.71 per bushel, feed barley was $1.83 per bushel, and all barley was $2.31. Steer and heifer prices were $ 66.60 per cwt, cow prices were $35.30, all hog prices were $34.90 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.658 cents per dozen

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November was 93, based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the October Index. Lower prices for milk, cattle, hogs, broilers, cotton, and apples more than offset higher prices for soybeans, potatoes, eggs, strawberries, and wheat. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cotton, cattle, cottonseed, and broilers more than offset lower marketings of soybeans, peanuts, and potatoes. Compared with November 2000, the current All Farm Products Index was 5 points (5.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from November 2000 for cattle, lettuce, soybeans, eggs, and rice more than offset increases in potatoes, hay, broilers, and wheat.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	October 2000	November 2000	October 2001	November 2001
Prices Received	93	98	94	93
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	121	121	123	122
Ratio 2/	77	81	76	76

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct. 2000	Sept. 2001	Oct. 2001	Oct. 2001	Sept. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 15, 2001	Nov. 15, 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.80	2.96	3.09	2.81	+0.13	+0.29	2.90	2.90
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.56	3.78	2.89	+0.22	+0.24	3.90	2.97
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.89	2.98	3.18	2.97	+0.20	+0.29	3.25	2.98
All Wheat	Bu.	2.89	3.08	3.23	2.86	+0.15	+0.34	3.26	2.94
Barley, All	Bu.	2.21	2.50	2.57	2.30	+0.07	+0.36	2.64	2.31
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.53	1.73	1.85	1.86	+0.12	+0.32	1.80	1.83
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.54	2.92	2.83	2.77	-0.09	+0.29	2.95	2.71
Oats	Bu.	1.11	1.44	1.87	1.65	+0.43	+0.76	1.75	1.59
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	86.00	97.00	86.00	108.00	-11.00	0	99.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	77.00	89.00	85.00	70.00	-4.00	+8.00	87.00	74.10
All Hay Baled	Ton	85.00	96.00	78.00	99.40	-18.00	-7.00	97.00	97.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	93.90	88.00	94.70	70.20	+6.70	+0.80	91.20	66.60
Cows	Cwt	38.10	42.70	39.20	37.50	-3.50	+1.10	35.00	35.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	88.30	82.10	88.60	66.60	+6.50	+0.30	84.50	62.80
Calves	Cwt	104.00	101.00	99.00	99.20	-2.00	-5.00	97.00	96.20
Sheep 2/	Cwt	26.70	28.60	26.10	26.20	-2.50	-0.60	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	83.00	49.60	51.60	52.90	+2.00	-31.40	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	13.60	16.10	17.20	15.70	+1.10	+3.60	17.40	14.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. Meats Supply and Use, 2000 and Projected 2001 and 2002

Item		Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption	
								Total	Per capita 2/
BEEF:				Million pounds 3/					
2000		411	26,888	3,032	30,331	2,516	525	27,290	69.4
2001 Proj.	Nov:	525	26,184	3,139	29,848	2,198	480	27,170	68.4
	Dec:	525	26,159	3,182	29,866	2,211	480	27,175	68.4
2002 Proj.	Nov:	480	25,431	3,145	29,056	2,240	385	26,431	66.0
	Dec:	480	25,481	3,245	29,206	2,160	385	26,661	66.6
PORK:									
2000		489	18,952	967	20,408	1,305	477	18,626	52.5
2001 Proj.	Nov:	477	19,026	950	20,453	1,541	475	18,437	51.5
	Dec:	477	19,151	952	20,580	1,510	500	18,570	51.8
2002 Proj.	Nov:	475	19,155	960	20,590	1,430	500	18,660	51.7
	Dec:	500	19,155	960	20,615	1,430	500	18,685	51.7
BROILERS:									
2000		796	30,209	6	31,011	5,548	798	24,665	76.9
2001 Proj.	Nov:	798	30,754	10	31,562	6,193	650	24,719	76.4
	Dec:	798	30,803	11	31,612	6,127	675	24,810	76.7
2002 Proj.	Nov:	650	31,583	8	32,241	6,350	700	25,191	77.2
	Dec:	675	31,583	8	32,266	6,350	700	25,216	77.3
TURKEYS:									
2000		254	5,333	1	5,589	458	241	4,889	17.8
2001 Proj.	Nov:	241	5,441	1	5,684	501	250	4,932	17.7
	Dec:	241	5,427	1	5,670	504	250	4,915	17.7
2002 Proj.	Nov:	250	5,625	1	5,876	495	275	5,105	18.2
	Dec:	250	5,527	1	5,778	495	275	5,007	17.9

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis. 3/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry. Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, November 11, 2001.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Red Meat Production
Hogs & Pigs Inventory

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Milk Production
Farm Labor
Wheat Supply & Demand Estimates

U.S. Cattle on Feed Virtually Unchanged

U.S. cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on November 1, 2001. The inventory was 1,000 head below November 1, 2000, but 3% above November 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.69 million, 5% below 2000 and 14% below 1999. Net placements were 2.62 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 889,000, 600-699 pounds were 755,000, 700-799 pounds were 589,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 459,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.89 million, 2% below 2000 but 3% above 1999. Other disappearance totaled 68,000 during October, 3% above 2000, but 15% below 1999.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States

Cattle on feed November 1, 2001, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.2 million, up 39,000 head from the previous year and 5% above November 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.31 million, 3% below 2000 and 12% below 1999. Marketings during October totaled 1.63 million, 1% below 2000 but 4% above 1999. Other disappearance during October was 57,000 head, 14% above 2000 but 10% below 1999.

October Red Meat Production in Montana Down 19 Percent From the Previous Year

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 2001. Red meat production was up 24% from the previous month, but down 19% from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,800 head, which is 500 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,134 pounds, was up 28 pounds from the previous year. During October there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 300 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 251 pounds, was down 10 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, is even with the previous year. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.26 billion pounds in October, up 4% from the 4.10 billion pounds produced in October 2000 and 164 million pounds above the previous record high set in 2000.

Beef production, at 2.39 billion pounds, was 2% above the previous year and 43 million pounds above the previous record high set in 2000. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.16 million head, up 1% from October 2000. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,247 pounds. Veal production totaled 18 million pounds, 2% below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 93,700 head, down 3% from October 2000. The average live weight was 5 pounds above last year, at 317 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 7% from the previous year and also 121 million pounds above the previous record high set in 2000. Hog kill totaled 9.33 million head, 5% above October 2000. The average live weight was 5 pounds above the previous year, at 267 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 20 million pounds, was up 6% from October 2000. Sheep slaughter totaled 288,500 head, 3% above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January - October red meat production was 37.9 billion pounds, 2% below the previous year. Accumulated beef production was down 4% from last year, veal was down 10%, pork was up 1% from last year, and lamb and mutton was down 3%.

October Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.33 billion during October 2001, up 3% from last year. Production included 6.24 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2001 averaged 336 million, up 2% from the total average number of layers during October 2000. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,179 eggs, slightly above the 2,173 eggs in October 2000.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2001, totaled 337 million, up 2% from a year ago. The 336 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2001, averaged 70.5 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 70.6 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.89 billion eggs during October 2001, up 3% from October 2000. The average number of layers during October, at 316 million, was up 3% from a year earlier.

October Milk Production Down 0.2 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major producing States during October totaled 11.8 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from October 2000. September revised production, at 11.4 billion pounds, was down 0.6 percent from September 2000. The September revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 15 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,526 pounds for October, 15 pounds above October 2000.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 95,000 head less than October 2000, and 1,000 head less than September 2001.

Reduced Placements, Slaughter Hold Up Beef Prices

Amid much uncertainty, the beef sector continues to make progress in reducing cattle on feed inventories. Drought in many areas forced cattle into feedlots earlier this year. Also prospects for improved winter and small grain grazing will result in increased stocker demand for a reduced number of weaned calves this fall. Placements in feedlots with more than 1,000 head of capacity in the 7-monthly reporting States were well above a year earlier in May, June, and July as worsening drought conditions forced early weaning of calves and reduced heifer retention for the breeding herd. Reduced feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots and improved grazing prospects resulted in a nearly 10-percent decline in net feedlot placements in August and a 21-percent decline in September. Consequently, the seasonal fall build up in feedlot inventories has been muted; feedlot inventories on July 1 were nearly 6 percent above a year earlier but were up only 1 percent on October 1. On-feed inventories are expected to decline to below year-earlier levels by the first of the year.

Feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots on October 1 were about unchanged from a last year's low inventory. The decline in supplies began in the mid 1990's with herd liquidation. Supplies were supported to some extent by a 13-percent third quarter decline in calf slaughter. So far this year, calf slaughter is down 13 percent from a year earlier. Calf slaughter almost certainly will decline even further in 2002 as feeder cattle supplies get even tighter, particularly if forage conditions improve supporting heifer retention and herd expansion.

Third quarter data point to increasingly tight heifer inventories in 2002. Slaughter slowed in the third quarter due to lingering effects of winter weather impact on feedlot performance in early summer and in September due to a slowdown in product movement. Although steer slaughter was down 6 percent, heifer slaughter was down only 1 percent. The number of heifers on feed on October 1 were up marginally from the large year-earlier levels and up 12 percent from 1999. Heifer slaughter will remain large this fall as dry conditions forced large numbers of heifers that had been retained for breeding 2001 were placed on feed. In addition, larger numbers of heifers that might have been bred in 2002 were also forced into feedlots. Beef cow slaughter this summer was up 14 percent from a year ago reflecting continued concern over forage supplies for over wintering programs particularly in the Great Plains and Pacific Northwest.

Although prices have declined from the severe winter tight beef scenario of this past winter and spring they have remained near to above year-earlier levels. Retail prices for Choice beef in September declined modestly from the June record for the third consecutive month. However, prices remain nearly 8 percent above a year earlier. Prices are likely to decline further as potential beef supplies and slaughter weights remain well above year-earlier levels. Fed cattle prices in October were about unchanged from a year earlier, while stocker/feeder cattle and cull prices remain well above last year's levels. Favorable grain (and thus feedlot ration cost) and improving grazing prospects amid tightening feeder cattle supplies will keep prices strong for the next several years. Increasing numbers of heifers retained from next year's calf crop to be bred in 2003, will result in sharply tighter feeder cattle supplies.

Beef Exports Down

Beef exports have declined broadly as a result of tighter U.S. supplies and higher prices, and an appreciating dollar. After ending the first quarter down 12 percent (or 7.6 percent excluding last year's food aid to Russia), year-over-year exports dropped 16 percent in the second quarter. The 7-percent weather-induced decline in first quarter U.S. beef supplies was the major driving force behind the broad decline. The reduced supplies pushed the ERS Choice beef price and the Choice steer price up 12 percent and 14 percent, respectively. Price increases passed on to importers limited U.S. beef buying, particularly as foreign economic conditions slowed, and consumers shifted to lower valued products.

In Japan and Korea, higher U.S. prices were exacerbated by a 10-15-percent increase in the value of the dollar against their currencies, which may add to the price of imported U.S. beef in those countries. Moreover, the U.S. dollar also appreciated against the Australian dollar, increasing the competitiveness of Australian beef. Total Japanese beef imports decreased about 1.5 percent in the first eight months of 2001, according to Japanese trade statistics. The Australian share of the Japanese market increased enough that U.S. exports to Japan dropped by 9 percent, as Japanese consumers switched to relatively lower priced, lower valued cuts.

In addition to broad price-induced decreases in demand for U.S. beef, overall demand for beef may be weakening in some markets. In Korea, generalized consumer fear of BSE, a slowing economy, and higher prices played a major role in reducing imports of U.S. beef by 40 percent during January-August. Downward shifts in demand for U.S. beef were evident in Canada, partly as a result of increased drought-related slaughter of Canadian cattle, with U.S. beef exports to Canada down 12 percent. In Mexico, already highly indebted consumers have also been affected by slower economic growth tied to the U.S. economy, and beef exports slowed from robust growth earlier in the year to finish the first 6 months down about 1 percent. (Continued on next page.)

Beef Exports (continued from page 2)

Slower economic growth in Japan, together with BSE concerns, point to lower demand for U.S. beef in that market. While Japanese consumer pessimism remains high after a 0.8 percent decline in second quarter GDP and concerns about BSE, U.S. prices remain relatively high and the dollar remains strong against the yen. Total Japanese beef imports in August were above August of last year, but that was before concerns about BSE emerged following discovery of a BSE infected dairy cow in September. Weakness in Japanese beef demand may affect U.S. beef, despite the potential for imports to displace domestic product. Increased import share could be more than offset by decreased demand.

(Source: USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS), Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook, October 2001.)

National Farm Worker Numbers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates Up Over 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.22 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 7-13, 2001, 2 percent fewer than a year ago. There were 959,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 262,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 12.1 percent of the October hired workforce, compared with 11.3 percent in October 2000.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $8.58 per hour during the October 2001 survey week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.01 per hour, up 27 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned $8.36 per hour compared with $7.84 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.08, was up 32 cents from last year. Number of hours worked averaged 41.5 hours per week for hired workers during the survey week compared with 41.2 hours a year ago.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates By State, 2000-01 1/ 2/

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	Dollars per Hour					
CO	7.96	8.22	7.34	7.57	7.50	7.61
ID	7.69	7.95	7.16	7.14	7.52	7.66
MT	**7.70**	**7.62**	**6.83**	**7.38**	**6.94**	**7.15**
ND	8.72	9.27	8.62	9.17	8.56	9.07
OR	8.68	9.10	7.92	8.56	7.97	8.57
SD	7.64	8.21	7.34	8.16	7.38	7.81
UT	7.99	8.51	7.16	7.22	7.36	7.88
WA	8.60	9.02	8.20	8.50	8.24	8.63
WY	6.64	7.20	6.24	6.57	6.23	6.57
US 3/	8.10	8.44	7.50	7.78	7.54	7.86

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January. 3/ Excludes AK.

Wheat Supply and Demand Estimates

U.S. 2001/02 supply and use projections for total wheat are unchanged from last month, although there are changes in projected imports, exports, and ending stocks by class of wheat. The projected price range is unchanged at $2.70 to $3.00 per bushel.

Projected global 2001/02 production, use, and ending stocks are up from last month, led by increases for Kazakstan, Australia, and Russia. Prospective Argentine production is reduced 500,000 tons because prolonged excessively wet conditions are expected to reduce harvested area. The larger crops in Kazakstan and Russia are largely reflected in higher prospective ending stocks and account for much of the rise in global ending stocks. The larger Australian crop, however, impacts global trade. Australia's 2001/02 wheat production is projected up 1.5 million tons due to an 800,000-hectare increase in area. The larger area is in response to the official estimates of crop production and livestock numbers for the 2000/01 season recently released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The estimates placed last year's Australian wheat crop at 23.8 million tons from an area of 13.0 million hectares. This is 2.6 million tons and 1 million hectares above last month's USDA estimates, which were the same as data published by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics. The larger prospective 2001/02 crop and increased carry in stocks (due to the bigger 2000/01 production) results in a 1.5-million-ton rise in projected exports, which is offset by reductions in projected exports for Argentina and the EU.

See table on back page.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1984-2001

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE							
					Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance	Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
					---Million Bushels---							$
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,232	90	3,272	957	80	297	1,334	1,061	2,396	876	2.62
2001 . 3/	876	1,958	90	2,924	960	87	200	1,247	1,025	2,272	952	2.70-3.00

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, November 2001--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Hay Production
Sugar Beet Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Hogs and Pigs
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Milk Cow County Estimates
Sheep County Estimates
Hog and Pig County Estimates
Red Meat Production

October 1, 2001 All Hay Production Forecasted to be up 9 Percent From Last Year

Forecasted **alfalfa hay** yield for Montana remains unchanged from the August forecast of 2.20 tons per acre. If realized this would be 0.1 ton per acre better than last year. Total production of alfalfa hay is estimated to be 2.64 million tons, up 5 percent from last year. The harvested acreage of 1.2 million acres for alfalfa also remained unchanged from August and last year's final estimate. **Other hay** yield was lowered from August and is now estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons per acre from August, but up 0.2 tons per acre from 2000. Other hay production is expected to be 1.28 million tons, down 6 percent from August, but up 23 percent from last year. Many producers are having to harvest their drought-affected grain crops for hay this year. Harvested acreage is unchanged from August at 850,000 acres, and up 50,000 acres from last year. **All hay** production is estimated at 3.92 million tons, up 9 percent from last year.

Montana **sugar beet** production is forecast at 1.24 million tons, unchanged from last month's forecast, but down 6 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, 21.7 tons per acre, is unchanged from last month, but is down 2.2 tons per acre from last year. Harvested acreage is forecast to be 57,500 acres, but is expected to change due to sugar beet acreage being enrolled in this year's PIK program. Sugar beet harvest is well underway with 48 percent of the beets pulled compared with the 5-year average of 29 percent.

Nationally, alfalfa hay production is forecast at 81.6 million tons, up 2 percent from both August and last year. Yields are expected to average 3.44 tons, up 0.06 ton from August, but down 0.04 ton from last year. Harvested area is 23.8 million acres, unchanged from August, but up 3 percent from 2000. The increase in yields over the August forecast is due to late rains in the southern Great Plains States, and the Pacific Northwest, which helped the final cuttings in these areas.

Other hay production for the U.S. is forecast at a record high 80.7 million tons, 3 percent above the August forecast, and 12 percent above last year's production. Yields are expected to average a record high 2.01 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton above both the August forecast and last year. Harvested area is estimated at 40.1 million acres, unchanged from the last forecast, but up 9 percent from 2000. This year's acreage will be the highest since 1958.

In the U.S. **sugar beet** production is forecast at 28.3 million tons, 1 percent above the September 1 forecast, but 13 percent below last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing states expect to harvest 1.33 million acres. This is unchanged from the September estimate, but 3 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 21.3 tons per acre, 0.2 ton above September, but 2.3 tons below 2000.

Montana July - September Quarterly Milk Production Up, U.S. Milk Production Down

During the July - September 2001 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 87 million pounds of milk, up 9 percent from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows numbered 19,000 head, up 1,000 from last year.

The United States July - September quarterly production of milk was 40.6 billion pounds, 1.3 percent below the same period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.10 million head, 128,000 head less than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during the month of September totaled 11.4 billion pounds, down 0.7 percent from September 2000. August revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was down 1.3 percent from August 2000. The August revision represented a decrease of 0.5 percent or 56 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,471 pounds for September, 7 pounds above September 2000. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 91,000 head less than September 2000, and 8,000 head less than August 2001.

September Pig Crop Down Slightly

The September 2001 **U.S.** pig crop at 8.56 million head, was slightly less than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 964 thousand head, 1 percent below last year. The average pigs per litter for September rose to 8.88, compared to 8.84 last year.

The **U.S.** inventory of sows and gilts on October 1, 2001, was 5.99 million head, 1 percent below October 1, 2000. U.S. sows and gilts bred during September totaled 1.17 million head, up 1 percent from September 2000.

October 1 Crop Production Forecast , Montana and U.S.

CROP	UNIT	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001	2000	2001 1/
		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	1,300	1,350	870	33.0	22.0	44,550	19,140
Durum Wheat	Bu.	480	510	470	495	28.0	24.0	13,160	11,880
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,350	3,550	3,100	2,850	25.0	23.0	77,500	65,550
All Wheat	Bu.	5,330	5,360	4,920	4,215	27.5	22.9	135,210	96,570
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	60	18	13	140.0	3/	2,520	3/
Oats	Bu.	130	130	50	60	52.0	40.0	2,600	2,400
Barley	Bu.	1,250	1,100	950	720	40.0	41.0	38,000	29,520
Flaxseed	Bu.	16	11	14	10	14.0	3/	196	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	40.5	30.0	34.8	29.0	14.0	13.7	486	397
Dry Peas	Cwt.	28.0	25.0	24.0	24.0	3/	3/	3/	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	22.0	15.0	21.0	14.0	3/	3/	3/	3/
Austrian Winter Peas 5/	Cwt.	--	6.0	--	5.9	--	3/	--	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	60.7	57.5	55.2	56.9	23.9	21.7	1,319	1,235
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.5	9.6	11.3	9.5	310.0	4/	3,503	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,200	1,200	2.10	2.20	2,520	2,640
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.30	1.50	1,040	1,275
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,000	2,050	1.78	1.91	3,560	3,915
UNITED STATES		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,393	41,078	35,072	31,295	44.7	43.5	1,566,023	1,361,479
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,937	2,910	3,572	2,789	30.7	30.0	109,805	83,556
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,299	15,629	14,489	14,569	38.4	35.2	556,632	512,608
All Wheat	Bu.	62,629	59,617	53,133	48,653	42.0	40.2	2,232,460	1,957,643
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	79,545	76,009	72,732	69,191	137.1	133.5	9,968,358	9,238,356
Oats	Bu.	4,477	4,403	2,329	1,905	64.2	61.3	149,545	116,856
Barley	Bu.	5,864	4,967	5,213	4,289	61.1	58.2	318,728	249,590
Flaxseed	Bu.	536	556	517	545	20.8	3/	10,730	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,756.2	1,431.9	1,606.4	1,337.3	16.5	16.4	26,440	21,902
Dry Peas	Cwt.	188.0	215.5	179.0	208.5	19.6	3/	3,499	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	217.0	215.0	214.0	212.0	14.2	3/	3,029	3/
Austrian Winter Peas	Cwt.	5.2	11.5	4.1	10.2	17.8	3/	73	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,565.2	1,368.1	1,374.3	1,330.9	23.6	21.3	32,436	28,349
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,223.0	1,107.0	1,192.2	1,089.2	392.0	4/	467,504	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,077	23,750	3.48	3.44	80,347	81,628
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,777	40,083	1.95	2.01	71,836	80,675
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,854	63,833	2.54	2.54	152,183	162,303

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available January 10, 2002.
4/ Production forecast available November 9, 2001. 5/ Not published in 2000.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on October 1, 2001. The inventory was 1% above October 1, 2000 and 8% above October 1, 1999. The inventory included 6.63 million steers and steer calves, up 1% from the previous year. This group accounted for 60% of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.45 million head, up 1% from 2000.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.14 million, 20% below 2000 and 23% below 1999. Net placements were 2.09 million. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 528,000, 600-699 pounds were 447,000, 700-799 pounds were 559,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 602,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.82 million, 9% below 2000 and 7% below 1999. Other disappearance totaled 46,000 during September, 15% below 2000 and 26% below 1999.

September Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.04 billion during September 2001, up 3% from last year. Production included 5.99 billion table eggs and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 993 million were broiler-type and 59.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2001 averaged 335 million, up 3% from the total average number of layers during September 2000. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,104 eggs, slightly above the 2,101 eggs in September 2000.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2001, totaled 336 million, up 3% from a year ago. The 336 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2001, averaged 69.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1% from the 69.5 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.59 billion eggs during September 2001, up 3% from September 2000. The average number of layers during September, at 314 million, was up 3% from a year earlier.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1999-2001 or December 1, 1998-2000 1/

COUNTY & DISTRICT	MILK COWS & HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED - January 1				ALL SHEEP & LAMBS January 1				HOGS & PIGS December 1			
	1999	2000	2001	Rank	1999	2000	2001	Rank	1998	1999	2000	Rank
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	500	48	--	--	--	--
Flathead	1,400	1,400	1,300	4	800	700	900	45	2,600	1,500	1,700	18
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	500	48	--	--	--	--
Lake	1,600	1,400	1,200	5	3,600	3,400	3,500	33	1,800	700	800	26
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	--	--	--	--	1,100	1,100	1,200	43	--	--	--	--
Powell	--	--	--	--	1,300	1,100	1,300	42	500	--	500	30
Ravalli	1,800	1,600	1,500	2	4,500	4,200	4,100	31	800	800	500	30
Sanders	--	--	--	--	--	--	500	48	--	--	--	--
Other	700	500	500	--	1,700	1,500	500	--	300	700	500	--
NORTHWEST	**5,500**	**4,900**	**4,500**	--	**13,000**	**12,000**	**13,000**	--	**6,000**	**3,700**	**4,000**	--
Blaine	--	--	--	--	7,500	--	7,800	13	4,400	--	6,000	10
Chouteau	--	--	--	--	2,000	1,800	1,700	39	2,800	--	2,000	16
Glacier	--	500	500	10	--	--	500	48	23,000	16,700	18,500	1
Hill	--	--	--	--	800	1,000	1,100	44	10,300	8,200	7,500	7
Liberty	500	500	600	8	--	--	--	--	18,000	14,800	14,000	4
Phillips	--	--	--	--	9,000	4,900	6,000	24	3,100	3,000	3,000	15
Pondera	600	600	600	8	6,600	6,400	6,800	21	17,200	16,000	16,000	2
Teton	500	500	500	10	7,800	7,400	7,200	15	14,200	14,500	13,500	5
Toole	--	--	--	--	1,600	1,600	1,600	40	10,000	8,600	10,500	6
Other	1,000	600	700	--	700	8,900	300	--	--	7,200	--	--
N. CENTRAL	**2,600**	**2,700**	**2,900**	--	**36,000**	**32,000**	**33,000**	--	**103,000**	**89,000**	**91,000**	--
Daniels	--	--	--	--	700	700	800	47	3,800	800	500	30
Dawson	--	--	--	--	6,900	6,800	7,000	18	1,300	900	1,000	24
Garfield	--	--	---	--	43,000	43,500	44,000	2	--	--	--	--
McCone	--	--	--	--	13,600	10,000	8,600	10	--	--	--	--
Richland	--	--	-	--	5,800	5,600	7,100	16	500	--	--	--
Roosevelt	--	--	--	--	4,100	3,600	4,500	27	700	500	--	--
Sheridan	--	--	--	--	2,000	1,800	1,800	38	1,300	1,200	1,000	24
Valley	--	--	--	--	3,900	4,000	4,200	29	--	--	--	--
Other	400	500	--	--	--	--	--	--	900	800	1,500	--
NORTHEAST	**400**	**500**	--	--	**80,000**	**76,000**	**78,000**	--	**8,500**	**4,200**	**4,000**	--
Broadwater	--	--	--	--	4,400	4,400	4,200	29	--	500	--	--
Cascade	700	700	700	7	10,200	10,300	8,800	9	16,300	14,500	14,700	3
Fergus	--	--	--	--	6,300	6,500	6,600	22	2,200	--	1,500	21
Golden Valley	--	--	--	--	8,800	10,400	9,400	8	2,800	--	--	--
Judith Basin	--	--	--	--	9,000	8,500	8,600	10	1,400	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	--	--	--	--	4,600	4,000	3,500	33	2,200	--	--	--
Meagher	--	--	--	--	6,000	6,100	6,000	24	6,000	--	--	--
Musselshell	--	--	--	--	10,000	9,700	8,200	12	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	4,200	4,300	3,700	32	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	--	--	--	--	20,500	18,800	15,000	5	10,300	8,100	6,200	8
Other	1,600	1,700	1,700	--	--	--	--	--	800	16,900	16,100	--
CENTRAL	**2,300**	**2,400**	2,400	--	**84,000**	**83,000**	**74,000**	--	**42,000**	**40,000**	**38,500**	--
Beaverhead	--	--	--	--	18,000	17,500	17,000	4	--	--	--	--
Gallatin	4,600	4,900	5,200	1	6,700	6,400	6,600	22	4,100	--	3,100	14
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	1,100	1,000	900	45	2,000	1,300	--	--
Madison	--	--	--	--	8,600	7,500	7,000	18	--	--	--	--
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	600	600	500	48	--	--	--	--
Other	200	200	300	--	--	--	--	--	400	4,000	1,900	--
SOUTHWEST	**4,800**	**5,100**	**5,500**	--	**35,000**	**33,000**	**32,000**	--	**6,500**	**5,300**	**5,000**	--
Big Horn	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,000	37	--	--	--	--
Carbon	--	--	--	--	7,900	7,500	7,800	13	--	--	--	--
Park	--	--	--	--	3,000	3,100	3,400	36	--	--	--	--
Stillwater	--	--	--	--	10,400	10,700	10,400	7	--	2,000	--	--
Sweetgrass	--	--	--	--	11,500	11,100	12,000	6	--	1,600	--	--
Treasure	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellowstone	1,500	1,500	1,400	3	6,300	5,800	7,100	16	--	--	500	30
Other	600	600	500	--	2,900	2,800	300	--	--	5,000	8,000	--
S. CENTRAL	**2,100**	**2,100**	**1,900**	--	**42,000**	**41,000**	**44,000**	--	**18,800**	**8,600**	**8,500**	--
Carter	--	--	--	--	53,000	55,000	45,000	1	900	700	600	27
Custer	--	--	--	--	5,800	5,900	7,000	18	600	500	600	27
Fallon	--	--	--	--	3,500	3,400	3,500	33	1,000	800	600	27
Powder River	--	--	--	--	17,800	18,300	19,500	3	--	--	--	--
Prairie	--	--	--	--	5,000	5,100	5,100	26	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	--	--	--	--	4,000	4,100	4,300	28	1,700	--	1,500	21
Wibaux	--	--	--	--	900	1,200	1,600	40	700	600	500	30
Other	300	300	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	1,600	200	--
SOUTHEAST	**300**	**300**	--	--	**90,000**	**93,000**	**86,000**	--	**5,200**	**4,200**	**4,000**	--
OTHER DISTRICTS	--	--	**1,800**	--	--	--	--	--	**190,000**	**155,000**	**155,000**	**28**
MONTANA	**18,000**	**18,000**	**19,000**	--	**380,000**	**370,000**	**360,000**	--				

1/ Counties with less than 500 head or individual operators having 60 percent or more of the head are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

September Red Meat Production in Montana Down 25 Percent From the Previous Month

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 2001. Red meat production was down 25 percent from the previous month, and down 37 percent from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,500 head, which is 800 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,116 pounds, was up 8 pounds from the previous year. During September there were 900 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 700 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 250 pounds, was down 8 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, is the same as the previous year. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from last year, to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.66 billion pounds in September, down 5 percent from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in September 2000. Beef production, at 2.12 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year, a record September tonnage. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.81 million head, down 7 percent from September 2000. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,240 pounds.

Veal production totaled 15 million pounds, 10 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 78,600 head, down 16 percent from September 2000. The average live weight was 20 pounds above last year, at 313 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.51 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.81 million head, 4 percent below September 2000. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16 million pounds, was down 6 percent from September 2000. Sheep slaughter totaled 243,300 head, 10 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 5 pounds from September a year ago.

January - September red meat production was 33.6 billion pounds, 3 percent below the previous year. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent to last year, veal was down 11percent, pork was virtually unchanged, and lamb and mutton was down 4 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	2001 Crop Year Summary
Dry Beans Production	
Dry Peas & Lentils	
Potatoes	
Sugar Beets	

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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 01-19 (0279-0394) Released: October 2, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grain Summary
Hogs and Pigs
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

Small Grain Summary

Montana's 2001 winter wheat production was estimated at 19.14 million bushels, down 57% from last year's crop. This is the smallest winter wheat crop produced in the state since 1940, when just 17.46 million bushels were reaped. Producers seeded 1.3 million acres, but harvested only 870,000 acres, 480,000 acres less than were harvested in 2000. The 2001 average yield was 22.0 bushels per acre, which is 11 bushels lower than last year's average. The final yield was moved up 2 bushels from the August 1 forecast because more acres were abandoned than expected which had the effect of raising the average yield of the acres harvested. Hard red winter represented 99% of the acreage for 2000 and 98% for 2001 crop years, the balance was white wheat.

Spring wheat production in Montana was estimated at 65.55 million bushels, down 15% from 2000. The 2001 crop was the smallest since 53.9 million bushels were produced in 1990. Final seeded acreage was 3.55 million acres, 200,000 acres more than 2000 and 150,000 more than earlier forecast. Producers harvested 2.85 million acres, down 400, 000 acres from the earlier forecast and 250,000 acres less than last year. Abandonment was much higher than anticipated especially in the north central region. Yields averaged 23.0 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from 2000 because of the drought conditions that persisted for much of the growing season across the state. Hard red spring represented 99% of the acreage for 2000 and 2001 crop years, the balance was white wheat.

Montana **durum wheat** growers seeded 510,000 acres and harvested 495,000 acres in 2001. With the lack of spring precipitation in the Northeastern part of the state where a majority of the durum wheat is grown, producers saw poor yields. The average yield for Montana was 24.0 bushels per acre, 4 bushel less than 2000. Total production was estimated at 11.88 million bushels, down 9% from last year.

Barley planted acreage in Montana decreased to 1.10 million acres, 150,000 acres less than 2000. Producers harvested 720,000 acres, 230,000 acres less than were harvested for grain in 2000. Final yields averaged 41.0 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year, as well as from our previous forecast. Production was estimated at 29.5 million bushels, down 22% from last year. The 2001 production is the smallest crop since 1961 when 26.4 million bushels was realized.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 2.40 million bushels, down 8% from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 130,000 acres, equal with last year. Harvested acreage was set at 60,000 acres, up 10,000 from 2000. Yields averaged 40.0 bushels per acre, 12.0 bushels below last year.

Nationally, the 2001 **winter wheat** production is estimated at 1.36 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1978. This is down 2% from the August forecast and 13% below the 2000 level. The U.S. yield decreased 0.3 bushel from August to 43.5 bushels per acre. This is 1.2 bushels below last year's final yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 31.3 million acres, down 1% from the last forecast. This is the smallest harvested area since 1933. Planted area is 41.1 million acres, down 1% from the last forecast. Hard red winter production totals 769 million bushels, down 9% from last year. Soft red winter production is down 15% from 2000 and totals 400 million bushels. White winter production, at 193 million bushels, registered the sharpest decline and is down 22% from last year.

Other spring wheat production in 2001 is estimated at 513 million bushels, down 1% from the last forecast and 8% below 2000. Harvested area is 14.6 million acres, up 1% from last year. The U.S. yield is 35.2 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from the last forecast but 3.2 bushels below last season.

Nationally, **durum wheat** production for 2001 totaled 83.6 million bushels, down 3% from September 1 and 24% less than last year. Grain area totals 2.79 million acres, down 6% from the last forecast and 22% below a year ago. The U.S. yield is estimated at 30.0 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from the last forecast but 0.7 bushel per acre below 2000.

Barley production is estimated at 250 million bushels, down 5% from the last forecast and down 22% from last year's estimate. This year's production is the lowest since 1953. Average yield per acre, at 58.2 bushels, is down 2.9 bushels from 2000. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.29 million acres, 18% below a year ago. U.S. **oats** production is estimated at 117 million bushels, 14% below the August 1 forecast and 22% below last year's 150 million bushels. This is the lowest production on record. The estimated yield is 61.3 bushels per acre, down 0.7 from August 1 and 2.9 bushels below 2000. Area for harvest is estimated at a record low 1.91 million acres, 13% below the August 1 estimate and 18% below last year.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2001, was 58.6 million head. This was 1% below September 2000, but 1% above June 1, 2001. Breeding inventory, at 6.16 million head, was down 1% from September 1, 2000, and down slightly from June 1, 2001. Market hog inventory, at 52.5 million head, was 1% below last year, but 1% above last quarter.

The June-August 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 25.0 million head, was 2% less than 2000, and 3% less than 1999. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 2% below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46% of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.82 pigs saved per litter for the June-August 2001 period, compared to 8.84 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

The Montana crop production and grain stocks estimates in this issue are the result of surveying approximately 1,500 Montana farmers and ranchers in September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis.

SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

September, 2001 Grain Stocks

Stocks of all wheat in Montana on September, 2001 were 129.8 million bushels, down 23% from September 1, 2000. All wheat stocks were at their lowest level since the 119.2 million bushels were in storage on September 1, 1988. All wheat stocks stored on the farm accounted for 104.0 million bushels and there were 25.8 million bushels stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 94.6 million bushels, were down 17% from last year and accounted for 73% of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 35.3 million bushels, down 36% from last year and the smallest September 1 stocks since records began in 1971. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 13.8 million bushels, down 5% from last year. All wheat disappearance for the June 2001 - August 2001 quarter was 18.2 million bushels, compared with 26.7 million for the same quarter last year. Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2001 were 31.3 million bushels, down 14% from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.8 million bushels, down 22% from last year.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 2001 totaled 2.16 billion bushels, down 8% from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 697 million bushels, down 14% from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.46 billion bushels, are down 6% from a year ago. The indicated June - August 2001 disappearance is 678 million bushels, down 18% from the same period a year earlier.

Durum wheat stocks in all positions on September 1, 2001 totaled 94.4 million bushels, down 23% from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 60.3 million bushels, are down 30% from September 1, 2000. Off-farm stocks totaled 34.1 million bushels, down 9% from a year ago. The indicated June - August 2001 disappearance of 34.3 million bushels is down 6% from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2001 are estimated at 245 million bushels, down 17% from September 2000. On-farm stocks are 135 million bushels, 11% below a year ago. Off-farm stocks are 111 million bushels, 22% below September 2000. Indicated disappearance during the June - August 2001 quarter totaled 110 million bushels, down 19% from the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on September 1, 2001 totaled 116 million bushels, 23% below the stocks on September 1, 2000. Of the total stocks on hand, 74.8 million bushels were stored on farms, 26% less than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 40.9 million bushels, 17% below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during June - August 2001 totaled 73.9 million bushels, 2% less than the same period a year ago.

Old crop corn stocks in all positions on September 1, 2001 totaled 1.90 billion bushels, up 11% from September 1, 2000 and the highest level since September 1993. Of the total stocks, 753 million bushels are stored on farms, down 5% from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 1.15 billion bushels, are up 24% from the previous year. The June - August 2001 indicated disappearance is 2.03 billion bushels, compared with 1.87 billion bushels during the same period last year.

September 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 2000	June 1, 2001	Sept. 1, 2001	'01/'00	Sept. 1, 2000	June 1, 2001*	Sept. 1, 2001
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	143,000	34,000	104,000	73%	808,390	197,270	696,850
Off Farms 1/	26,400	17,420	25,820	98%	1,544,280	678,912	1,458,613
TOTAL	169,400	51,420	129,820	77%	2,352,670	876,182	2,155,463
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	45,000	11,000	26,000	58%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,490	6,020	9,260	88%	--	--	--
TOTAL	55,490	17,020	35,260	64%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	98,000	23,000	78,000	80%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	15,910	11,400	16,560	104%	--	--	--
TOTAL	113,910	34,400	94,560	83%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	85,700	29,100	60,300
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	37,573	16,073	34,091
TOTAL	14,560	4,370	13,790	95%	123,273	45,173	94,391
BARLEY							
On Farms	33,000	6,000	25,000	76%	151,700	28,850	134,800
Off Farms 1/	8,160	4,290	6,260	77%	142,341	77,409	110,554
TOTAL	41,160	10,290	31,260	76%	294,041	106,259	245,354
OATS							
On Farms	3,100	900	2,500	81%	101,200	32,050	74,800
Off Farms 1/	220	70	83	38%	49,177	40,677	40,923
TOTAL	3,320	970	2,583	78%	150,377	72,727	115,723
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	793,000	2,230,800	753,150
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	924,549	1,693,158	1,145,557
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,717,549	3,923,958	1,898,707

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Agricultural Prices Received for August

August full month crop prices were mostly lower compared with July 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.06 per bushel, down $0.04 from July, and spring wheat was $0.14 lower at $3.02 per bushel. Durum wheat prices dropped $0.29 to $3.51 per bushel. Producers received $1.28 per bushel for oats. There was not enough movement of oats during July to establish a price. Feed barley prices were up $0.06 from the previous month to $1.70 and malt barley prices rose $0.06 cents to $3.09 per bushel.

The mid-September price for alfalfa hay was up $17.00 per ton from the previous month to $97.00 per ton and other hay was also up $17.00 per ton to $89.00 per ton. The mid-September winter wheat price averaged $2.90 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.00, durum wheat was $3.80, feed barley was $1.80, and malt barley averaged $2.95.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were mostly lower compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were up $2.00 to $89.50 per cwt and cows were down $0.40 to $45.40. The average price for calves was unchanged at $107.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $0.30 to $36.00 per cwt, while lamb prices continued to plummet as prices dropped another $8.00 to $55.00 per cwt. Milk prices rose $0.90 per cwt from last month to $16.50 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-September averaged $89.30 per cwt., cows averaged $42.50 per cwt., calves averaged $102.00 per cwt., and milk prices averaged $16.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for August and changes from July were as follows: winter wheat was $2.71, up $0.10, spring wheat was $2.84, up $0.03; durum wheat was $2.38, down $0.36; the all barley price was $2.42, up $0.42, and steer and heifer prices were $73.60, down $1.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-September winter wheat price was $2.77 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.89 per bushel, durum wheat was $2.71 per bushel, all wheat was $2.80 per bushel, and all barley was $2.21. Steer and heifer prices were $73.00 per cwt, cow prices were $41.60, all hog prices were $45.80 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.567 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 106 based on 1990-92=100, down 3 points (2.8 percent) from the August Index. Higher prices for lettuce, milk, broilers, and wheat were partially offset by lower prices for hogs, soybeans, strawberries, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, broilers, wheat, and milk were partially offset by higher marketings of soybeans, peanuts, corn, and potatoes.

Compared with September 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 9 points (9.3 percent) higher. Price increases from September 2000 for milk, corn, broilers, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for cotton, apples, tomatoes, and turkeys.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	August 2000	September 2000	August 2001	September 2001
Prices Received	96	97	109	106
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	119	120	123	124
Ratio 2/	81	81	89	85

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Aug. 2000	July 2001	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2001	July 2001	Aug. 2000	Sept. 15, 2001	Sept. 15, 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.44	3.10	3.06	2.67	-0.04	+0.62	2.90	2.77
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.20	3.80	3.51	2.74	-0.29	+0.31	3.80	2.71
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.64	3.16	3.02	2.78	-0.14	+0.38	3.00	2.89
All Wheat	Bu.	2.61	3.22	3.11	2.70	-0.11	+0.50	3.11	2.80
Barley, All	Bu.	2.39	2.55	2.91	2.08	+0.36	+0.52	2.80	2.21
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.41	1.64	1.70	1.71	+0.06	+0.29	1.80	1.79
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.96	3.03	3.09	2.43	+0.06	+0.13	2.95	2.64
Oats	Bu.	1.06	n/a	1.28	1.30	0	+0.22	1.25	1.30
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	79.00	92.00	80.00	105.00	-12.00	+1.00	97.00	106.00
All Other Hay	Ton	72.00	82.00	72.00	74.00	-10.00	0	89.00	72.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	89.00	78.00	97.70	-11.00	+1.00	96.00	98.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	82.80	87.50	89.50	73.70	+2.00	+6.70	89.30	73.00
Cows	Cwt	40.70	45.80	45.40	43.40	-0.40	+4.70	42.50	41.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	72.30	66.70	76.30	70.90	+9.60	+4.00	84.60	70.00
Calves	Cwt	110.00	107.00	107.00	106.00	0	-3.00	102.00	106.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	28.70	36.30	36.00	31.30	-0.30	+7.30	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	85.10	63.00	55.00	55.40	-8.00	-30.10	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	13.30	15.60	16.50	16.30	+.90	+3.20	16.90	16.80

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Montana Wheat and Barley Stocks In All Positions By Districts 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sept. 1, 2000	June 1, 2001	Sept. 1, 2001	Sept. 1, 2000	June 1, 2001	Sept. 1, 2001
	(000) Bushels					
Northwest	5.1	0.6	2.3	2.0	0.8	1.9
North Central	57.7	20.2	38.8	24.7	6.0	16.9
Northeast	59.8	15.3	56.2	1.7	0.7	2.6
Central	28.9	9.7	16.9	6.5	1.2	4.3
Southwest	2.8	1.2	3.5	2.0	0.5	1.9
South Central	8.6	25.2	6.9	3.2	0.9	2.9
Southeast	6.5	2.2	5.2	1.1	0.2	0.8
Montana	**169.4**	**51.4**	**129.8**	**41.2**	**10.3**	**31.3**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Montana Annual Small Grains Summary, Production by District, September 2001 1/

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	2000	2001	01/00	2000	2001	01/00	2000	2001	01/00
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	222	270	122	1,955	1,344	69	975	910	93
N Central	24,097	6,050	25	27,794	14,130	51	22,082	14,607	66
Northeast	2,402	891	37	49,183	48,062	98	2,623	3,070	117
Central	9,158	5,608	61	5,116	6,818	133	5,051	4,538	90
Southwest	971	925	95	1,764	1,428	81	2,569	2,260	88
S Central	5,490	4,150	76	1,414	1,200	85	3,998	3,025	76
Southeast	2,210	1,246	56	3,434	4,448	130	702	1,110	158
Montana	**44,550**	**19,140**	**43**	**90,660**	**77,430**	**85**	**38,000**	**29,520**	**78**

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Milk Cow County Estimates
- Sheep and Lamb County Estimates
- Hay Production
- Sugar Beet Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Red Meat Production
- Egg Production
- Hogs and Pigs

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grains Crop Production
Hogs and Pigs
Ag Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement

Montana's Spring Wheat Yield Unchanged From Last Month, Durum and Barley Down

Based on September 1 conditions, **spring wheat** production is forecast to be 74.75 million bushels, down 4 percent from last year's drought-reduced production and the smallest crop since 1990. The expected yield of 23.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last month, but down 2 bushels per acre from last year. The lack of rainfall early in the growing season significantly impacted yields in the Central portion of the state while the rainfall during June and July benefitted the spring wheat crop particularly in Eastern Montana. Hot, dry conditions during August resulted in rapid harvest progress with 89 percent of the spring wheat acreage harvested by the week ending September 9th.

Durum wheat production is forecast to be 13.25 million bushels, down 7 percent from last month, but up 1 percent from last year due to more acres harvested. The expected yield of 25.0 bushels per acre is down 2 bushels from last month and down 3 bushels from last year. Yields in the North Central portion of the state have been significantly impacted by the lack of rainfall while yield prospects in the Northeast were not as good as producers had originally thought.

As of September 1, 2001, **barley** yields are expected to average 40.0 bushels per acre in 2001, down 1 bushel from the previous month's forecast. This revised estimate is now equal to last year's average for Montana. Consequently, barley production is now forecast to be 34.0 million bushels, compared with the 38.0 million bushels produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 850,000 acres, which is 100,000 fewer than harvested in 2000. For the week ending September 9, barley acreage was 90 percent harvested.

Sugar beet production is expected to be 1.235 million tons, down 6 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 21.7 tons per acre down 2.2 tons from last year. Sugar beet harvesting has not begun yet, however, early harvesting of sugar beets was expected to begin September 17th for Holly Sugar in the Sidney area.

Nationally, **corn** production is forecast at 9.24 billion bushels, down less than one percent from last month and 7 percent from 2000. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 133.5 bushels per acre, down 0.4 bushel from August. If realized, this would be the lowest yield and production since 1997. Forecast yields are down in the northwest Corn Belt due to early-August hot, dry weather during critical reproductive and grain-filling stages.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 520 million bushels nationally, up 2 percent from last month, but down 6 percent from last season. The final forecast of U.S. average yield is 35.3 bushels per acre. This is 0.8 bushels per acre higher than a month ago. Acreage for harvest is unchanged from last month. Hard Red Spring production is up 3 percent from August at 480 million bushels, while White Spring production is down 3 percent from last month.

Durum wheat production for the U.S. is forecast at 86.5 million bushels, down 6 percent from last month and 21 percent less than 2000. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 29.1 bushels per acre, down 1.8 bushels from August. Acreage for harvest is unchanged from last month.

U.S. **barley** production for 2001 is forecast at 262 million bushels, 2 percent lower than the August forecast and 18 percent below the 2000 production. If realized, this will be the lowest production since 1953. Based on September 1 conditions, producers expect to average 57.9 bushels per acre, down 0.9 bushel from last month and 3.2 bushels below last year's yield. Area harvested, at 4.51 million acres, is unchanged from August but down 13 percent from the previous year. September yields are down for Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The largest yield decreases are in the barley-producing areas of the Pacific Northwest where drought conditions prevailed. Yields in the remaining barley producing States are unchanged from last month except in South Dakota where grower expectations are up 2 bushels.

July Pig Crop Down 1 Percent

The July 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 8.50 million head, was 1 percent less than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 955 thousand head, 2 percent below last year. The average pigs per litter for July rose to 8.91, compared to 8.85 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts totaled 6.02 million head on August 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during the month of July totaled 1.16 million head.

Wheat and Barley Movement

Montana **wheat** shipped to out-of-state destinations during the December 2000-May 2001 period, at 71.98 million bushels, was 7% lower than last year. Over 91% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 65.6 million bushels, down 4% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations dropped significantly for this period, totaling 2.8 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly to the south, received 3.5 million bushels down 24% from last year. Most of Montana's wheat is shipped by rail, totaling 67.9 million bushels, 94% of total shipments. Just over four million bushels of wheat were trucked during this period significantly below the 4.8 million during this period a year earlier. Wheat shipped by truck accounted for just over 6% of total shipments.

(Continued on back page.)

September 1, 2001 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001	2000	2001
Montana		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	1,200	1,350	950	33.0	20.0	44,550	19,000
Durum Wheat	Bu.	480	540	470	530	28.0	25.0	13,160	13,250
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,350	3,400	3,100	3,250	25.0	23.0	77,500	74,750
All Wheat	Bu.	5,330	5,140	4,920	4,730	27.5	22.6	135,210	107,000
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	60	18	13	140.0	3/	2,520	3/
Oats	Bu.	130	130	50	65	52.0	51.0	2,600	3,315
Barley	Bu.	1,250	1,100	950	850	40.0	40.0	38,000	34,000
Flaxseed	Bu.	16	11	14	10	14.0	3/	196	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	40.5	30.0	34.8	29.0	14.0	13.7	486	397
Dry Peas	Cwt.	28.0	25.0	24.0	24.0	3/	3/	3/	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	22.0	15.0	21.0	14.0	3/	3/	3/	3/
Austrian Winter Peas 5/	Cwt.	--	6.0	--	5.9	--	3/	--	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	60.7	57.5	55.2	56.9	23.9	21.7	1,319	1,235
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.5	9.6	11.3	9.5	310.0	4/	3,503	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,200	1,200	2.10	2.20	2,520	2,640
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.30	1.60	1,040	1,360
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,000	2,050	1.78	1.97	3,560	4,036
United States		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,348	41,318	35,022	31,657	44.6	43.8	1,562,733	1,385,048
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,937	3,040	3,572	2,975	30.7	29.1	109,805	86,459
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,244	15,246	14,434	14,699	38.2	35.3	550,902	519,570
All Wheat	Bu.	62,529	59,604	53,028	49,331	41.9	40.4	2,223,440	1,991,077
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	79,545	76,009	72,732	69,191	137.1	133.5	9,968,358	9,238,356
Oats	Bu.	4,477	4,404	2,324	2,186	64.2	62.0	149,195	135,445
Barley	Bu.	5,844	5,088	5,201	4,514	61.1	57.9	317,865	261,512
Flaxseed	Bu.	536	556	517	545	20.8	3/	10,730	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,756.2	1,431.9	1,606.4	1,337.3	16.5	16.4	26,440	21,902
Dry Peas	Cwt.	188.0	215.5	179.0	208.5	19.6	3/	3,499	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	217.0	215.0	214.0	212.0	14.2	3/	3,029	3/
Austrian Winter Peas	Cwt.	5.2	11.5	4.1	10.2	17.8	3/	73	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,565.2	1,368.1	1,374.3	1,330.9	23.6	21.1	32,436	28,081
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,223.0	1,107.0	1,192.2	1,089.2	392.0	4/	467,504	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,077	23,750	3.48	3.38	80,347	80,166
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,777	40,083	1.95	1.95	71,836	78,075
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,854	63,833	2.54	2.48	152,183	158,241

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available January 10, 2002. 4/ Production forecast available November 9, 2001. 5/ Not published in 2000.

Montana Production Forecast by District, September 1, 2001 1/

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	2000	2001 2/	01/00	2000	2001 2/	01/00	2000	2001 2/	01/00
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	222	203	91	1,955	2,696	138	975	1,000	103
N Central	24,097	6,472	27	27,794	22,172	80	22,082	16,900	77
Northeast	2,402	1,584	66	49,183	45,391	92	2,623	3,900	149
Central	9,158	5,928	65	5,116	7,806	153	5,051	5,000	99
Southwest	971	917	94	1,764	2,349	133	2,569	2,300	90
S Central	5,490	2,620	48	1,414	2,366	167	3,998	3,800	95
Southeast	2,210	1,276	58	3,434	5,220	152	702	1,100	157
Montana	**44,550**	**19,000**	**43**	**90,660**	**88,000**	**97**	**38,000**	**34,000**	**89**

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 2/ Preliminary.

Agricultural Prices Received for July

The July full month crop prices were mostly lower compared with June 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.10 per bushel, up $0.02 from June, but spring wheat was $0.13 lower at $3.16 per bushel. Durum wheat prices rose $0.09 to $3.80 per bushel. There was not enough movement of oats during July to establish a price. Feed barley prices were down $0.15 from the previous month to $1.64 while malt barley prices rose $0.34 cents to $3.03 per bushel.

The mid-August price for alfalfa hay was down $12.00 per ton from the previous month to $80.00 per ton and other hay was down $10.00 per ton to $72.00 per ton. The mid-August winter wheat price averaged $2.93 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.12, durum wheat was $3.70, feed barley was $1.65, malt barley averaged $2.95.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $2.70 to $87.50 per cwt and cows were down $0.40 to $45.80. The average price for calves was up $2.00 to $107.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $5.70 to $36.30 per cwt, while lamb prices continued to plummet as prices dropped another $12.00 to $63.00 per cwt. Milk prices rose $0.20 per cwt from last month to $15.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $86.70 per cwt., cows averaged $45.40 per cwt., calves averaged $110.00 per cwt., and milk prices averaged $16.00 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for July and changes from June were as follows: winter wheat was $2.61, down $0.07, spring wheat was $2.81, down $0.22; durum wheat was $2.74, down $0.63; the all barley price was $2.00, up $0.02, and steer and heifer prices were $75.00, down $1.80 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-August winter wheat price was $2.67 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.78 per bushel, durum wheat was $2.74 per bushel, all wheat was $2.70 per bushel, and all barley was $2.08. Steer and heifer prices were $73.70 per cwt, cow prices were $43.40, all hog prices were $51.70 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.576 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 109 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (1.9 percent) from the July Index. Higher prices for lettuce, strawberries, cantaloupes, and wheat were partially offset by lower prices for cattle, onions, peaches, and celery. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn were offset by lower marketings of wheat, hay, strawberries, and milk.

Compared with August 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 13 points (14 percent) higher. Price increases from August 2000 for milk, broilers, cattle, and corn were partially offset by lower prices for eggs, turkeys, tomatoes, and cotton.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	July 2000	August 2000	July 2001	August 2001
Prices Received	96	96	107	109
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	120	119	123	123
Ratio 2/	80	81	87	89

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		July 2000	June 2001	July 2001	July 2001	June 2001	July 2000	Aug. 15, 2001	Aug. 15. 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.55	3.08	3.10	2.61	+0.02	+0.55	2.93	2.67
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.18	3.71	3.80	2.74	+0.09	+0.62	3.70	2.74
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.93	3.29	3.16	2.81	-0.13	+0.23	3.12	2.78
All Wheat	Bu.	2.89	3.25	3.22	2.63	-0.03	+0.33	3.13	2.70
Barley, All	Bu.	2.79	2.04	2.55	2.00	+0.51	-0.24	2.50	2.08
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.61	1.79	1.64	1.63	-0.15	+0.03	1.65	1.71
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.18	2.69	3.03	2.26	+0.34	-0.15	2.95	2.43
Oats	Bu.	0.98	1.60	N/A	1.33	0	0	N/A	1.30
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	79.00	95.00	92.00	105.00	-3.00	+13.00	80.00	105.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	82.00	82.00	72.50	0	+11.00	72.00	74.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	79.00	93.00	89.00	96.30	-4.00	+10.00	78.00	97.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	83.80	90.20	87.50	75.00	-2.70	+3.70	86.70	73.70
Cows	Cwt	42.30	46.20	45.80	42.90	-0.40	+3.50	45.40	43.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	64.70	72.20	66.70	71.90	-5.50	+2.00	71.00	70.90
Calves	Cwt	101.00	105.00	107.00	107.00	+2.00	+6.00	110.00	106.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	35.20	30.60	36.30	32.40	+5.70	+1.10	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	88.00	75.00	63.00	65.00	-12.00	-25.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.10	15.40	15.60	16.20	+0.20	+2.50	16.00	16.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat and Barley Movement (continued)

Montana **barley** shipped to out-of-state destinations during December 2000-May 2001 was 10.967 million bushels, down 14% from the same period last year. Fifty-seven percent of barley shipped out of Montana headed for destinations other than the west coast. Shipments to western destinations were down from the same period last year, at 4.8 million bushels. Eastern destination shipments totaled 4.8 million bushels down 16% from last year. Shipments to other destinations were down from last year to 1.4 million bushels this year. Barley hauled by rail was 90% of total movement, up from 84% for the same period last year.

Montana Wheat and Barley: Shipped out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination 1/

Shipments Out-of-State	December '99-May '00 1/				December '00-May '01 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	*(000) Bushels*							
West 3/	207	3,198	3,405	2,477	819	7,958	8,777	1,245
North Central	5,879	25,372	31,251	9,170	12,796	14,430	27,226	8,949
Northeast	310	23,794	24,104	274	1,130	24,980	26,110	301
Central	3,358	3,439	6,797	717	2,834	1,453	4,287	449
South Central	6,083	3,691	9,774	56	2,874	893	3,767	23
Southeast	830	1,294	2,124	0	954	860	1,814	0
TOTAL SHIPPED	16,667	60,788	77,455	12,694	21,407	50,574	71,981	10,967
Mode & Destination	*(000) Bushels*							
Trucked East	8	377	385	425	18	308	326	163
Trucked West	2,965	3,293	6,258	1,480	1,425	1,722	3,147	943
Trucked Other 4/	182	1,116	1,298	174	140	468	608	33
Total By Truck	3,155	4,786	7,941	2,079	1,583	2,498	4,081	1,139
Rail East	350	4,052	4,402	5,258	93	2,401	2,494	4,622
Rail West	12,811	48,945	61,756	3.910	19,629	42,837	62,466	3,824
Rail Other 4/	351	3,005	3,356	1,448	102	2,838	2,940	1,382
Total by Rail	13,512	56,002	69,514	10,615	19,824	48,076	67,900	9,828
TOTAL SHIPPED	16,667	60,788	77,455	12,694	21,407	50,574	71,981	10,967

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown. This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Potato Disposition
Cattle on Feed
Malt Barley
Egg Production
Red Meat Production
Cash Receipts

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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Mushroom Sales
Ag Labor
July Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Cattle & Beef Cow County Estimates
All Hay County Estimates
Red Meat Production
U.S. and Canadian Cattle

U.S. All Mushroom Sales Down 2 Percent, Value Down 1 Percent

Sales of the 2000-01 U.S. mushroom crop were 853 million pounds, 2% below 1999-2000 and down 1% from two seasons ago. Value of sales of the U.S. mushroom crop was $863 million, down 1% from 1999-2000 and slightly below two seasons ago. The number of growers, at 264, is down 40 from last season. Average price was $1.01 per pound, up 1 cent from the previous season.

Sales of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market were a record high 687 million pounds, up 3% from the previous record high set last season. Sales of Agaricus mushrooms for processing were 152 million pounds, 18% below last season and the lowest since 1970-71 when 149 million pounds were processed. Value of sales of specialty mushrooms, at $42.7 million, was up 10% from last season.

Hired Workers Unchanged, Wage Rates Up 5 Percent From A Year Ago

There were 1.37 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 8-14, 2001, virtually the same as a year ago. There were 1.04 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 335,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.1% of the July hired workforce compared with 11.5% in July 2000.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $8.29 per hour during the July 2001 survey week, up 36 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.70 per hour, up 33 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned $7.89 per hour compared with $7.68 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate at $7.75 was up 32 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.9 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.0 hours a year ago.

July Milk Production Down 1.2 Percent In 20 Major States

Milk production in the 20 major States during July totaled 12.1 billion pounds, down 1.2% from July 2000. June revised production, at 12.1 billion pounds, was down 0.2% from June 2000. The June revision represented an increase of 0.3% or 34 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,555 pounds for July, 6 pounds below July 2000. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 72,000 head less than July 2000, but unchanged from June 2001.

U.S. Cattle On Feed Up 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.89 million head on August 1, 2001. The inventory was 7% above August 1, 2000 and 18% above August 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.99 million, 4% above 2000 and 10% above 1999. Net placements were 1.93 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 469,000, 600-699 pounds were 444,000, 700-799 pounds were 606,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 467,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.05 million, 2% below 2000 and 3% below 1999. Other disappearance totaled 59,000 during July, 34% above 2000 and 13% above 1999.

July Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.18 billion during July 2001, up 2% from last year. Production included 6.09 billion table eggs and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 66.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2001 averaged 332 million, up 2% from the total average number of layers during July 2000. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,165 eggs, slightly below the 2,169 eggs in July 2000.

July 2001 contained 22 weekdays, one holiday and four Saturdays, compared to 21 weekdays, one holiday and five Saturdays in July 2000.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2001, totaled 332 million, up 2% from a year ago. The 332 million layers consisted of 273 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.77 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2001, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 70.1 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.72 billion eggs during July 2001, up 2% from July 2000. The average number of layers during July, at 311 million, was up 2% from a year earlier.

July Red Meat Production In Montana Down 19 Percent From The Previous Month

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 2001. Red meat production was down 19 percent from the previous month, and 35 percent from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,600 head, which is 800 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,141 pounds, was up 14 pounds from the previous year. (Continued on back page.)

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1999-2001

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL CATTLE & CALVES				BEEF COWS & HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED			
	1999	2000	2001	Rank	1999	2000	2001	Rank
	Head				Head			
Deer Lodge	11,100	9,500	9,400	53	6,300	5,600	5,600	54
Flathead	17,300	15,700	15,500	50	7,700	7,600	7,400	52
Granite	24,600	24,000	23,000	41	17,000	16,600	15,800	39
Lake	55,000	55,000	53,000	22	32,300	35,300	33,700	17
Lincoln	4,400	3,800	3,600	55	2,600	2,500	2,500	55
Mineral	1,200	900	800	56	700	600	500	56
Missoula	12,700	11,700	12,000	52	7,800	8,000	8,000	51
Powell	51,000	51,000	50,000	23	31,500	30,000	30,000	24
Ravalli	37,100	34,600	33,000	32	20,400	19,500	19,100	34
Sanders	21,600	21,800	22,700	42	13,700	14,300	14,400	42
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**236,000**	**228,000**	**223,000**	--	**140,000**	**140,000**	**137,000**	--
Blaine	72,000	71,000	72,000	8	47,000	47,000	47,000	8
Chouteau	44,000	45,000	43,000	27	30,000	29,000	28,600	25
Glacier	39,000	37,000	38,000	30	26,900	24,400	24,300	30
Hill	31,900	28,700	29,000	38	19,000	19,100	18,800	36
Liberty	15,800	15,600	16,000	49	10,000	10,200	10,200	49
Phillips	78,000	78,000	81,000	5	49,000	51,000	51,000	4
Pondera	28,300	29,700	28,900	39	19,100	20,900	19,400	33
Teton	59,000	55,000	56,000	19	33,700	31,900	32,300	19
Toole	20,000	22,000	21,100	45	13,300	14,500	14,400	42
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**388,000**	**382,000**	**385,000**	--	**248,000**	**248,000**	**246,000**	--
Daniels	14,000	15,200	14,400	51	9,400	10,000	9,000	50
Dawson	43,000	43,000	43,000	27	28,000	28,400	27,900	27
Garfield	57,000	56,000	56,000	19	37,000	38,700	36,500	14
McCone	33,200	35,200	36,400	31	21,500	21,600	21,300	32
Richland	58,000	62,000	61,000	14	30,500	32,300	30,400	23
Roosevelt	28,300	29,200	30,200	35	18,600	18,300	17,500	38
Sheridan	22,500	24,400	27,000	40	15,000	15,700	15,400	41
Valley	66,000	65,000	68,000	12	42,000	43,000	44,000	9
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**322,000**	**330,000**	**336,000**	--	**202,000**	**208,000**	**202,000**	--
Broadwater	23,500	22,400	22,000	44	15,200	14,800	13,900	44
Cascade	85,000	82,000	72,000	8	53,000	55,000	50,000	5
Fergus	105,000	107,000	109,000	3	69,000	72,000	70,000	2
Golden Valley	20,900	20,300	17,200	48	12,600	12,400	10,500	48
Judith Basin	63,000	64,000	60,000	16	38,200	38,400	35,300	15
Lewis & Clark	45,000	47,000	46,000	24	24,900	26,000	26,000	29
Meagher	60,000	62,000	55,000	21	35,600	36,200	32,000	20
Musselshell	35,800	34,300	32,600	33	22,800	23,100	21,800	31
Petroleum	22,200	23,000	22,200	43	14,700	16,100	15,600	40
Wheatland	37,600	36,000	32,000	34	22,000	22,000	18,900	35
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**498,000**	**498,000**	**468,000**	--	**308,000**	**316,000**	**294,000**	--
Beaverhead	143,000	157,000	153,000	1	79,000	84,000	81,000	1
Gallatin	58,000	57,000	57,000	17	28,000	28,000	28,200	26
Jefferson	23,600	21,200	20,000	47	14,000	13,000	12,900	47
Madison	78,000	78,000	79,000	6	48,000	51,000	50,000	5
Silver Bow	9,400	8,800	9,000	54	6,000	6,000	5,900	53
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**312,000**	**322,000**	**318,000**	--	**175,000**	**182,000**	**178,000**	--
Big Horn	94,000	96,000	90,000	4	60,000	60,000	58,000	3
Carbon	62,000	60,000	61,000	14	30,900	32,600	33,900	16
Park	45,000	44,000	45,000	26	30,400	31,200	30,900	21
Stillwater	59,000	57,000	57,000	17	34,300	35,100	33,000	18
Sweetgrass	49,000	49,000	46,000	24	31,000	33,200	30,500	22
Treasure	30,000	31,000	30,000	36	14,400	13,900	13,700	45
Yellowstone	117,000	115,000	115,000	2	45,000	44,000	42,000	11
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**456,000**	**452,000**	**444,000**	--	**246,000**	**250,000**	**242,000**	--
Carter	59,000	61,000	64,000	13	38,000	42,000	42,000	11
Custer	76,000	76,000	71,000	10	42,300	41,000	39,000	13
Fallon	41,000	41,000	42,000	29	26,000	26,700	27,700	28
Powder River	72,000	73,000	69,000	11	44,000	43,000	43,000	10
Prairie	32,500	32,100	30,000	36	19,000	18,200	17,900	37
Rosebud	87,000	85,000	79,000	6	51,000	54,000	49,000	7
Wibaux	20,500	19,900	21,000	46	12,700	13,100	13,400	46
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**388,000**	**388,000**	**376,000**	--	**233,000**	**238,000**	**232,000**	--
MONTANA	**2,600,000**	**2,600,000**	**2,550,000**	--	**1,552,000**	**1,582,000**	**1,531,000**	--

ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2000

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Rank	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons
Deer Lodge	8,500	2.00	17,000	47	8,500	2.00	17,000	--	--	--
Flathead	35,000	2.04	71,500	21	11,500	3.13	36,000	23,500	1.51	35,500
Granite	33,000	1.71	56,500	28	26,500	1.85	49,000	6,500	1.15	7,500
Lake	70,000	2.11	148,000	4	53,000	2.48	131,500	17,000	0.97	16,500
Lincoln	9,000	1.39	12,500	52	3,500	2.29	8,000	5,500	0.82	4,500
Mineral	2,500	1.40	3,500	56	1,000	2.00	2,000	1,500	1.00	1,500
Missoula	22,500	1.64	37,000	38	12,500	2.20	27,500	10,000	0.95	9,500
Powell	51,500	2.06	106,000	9	40,000	2.34	93,500	11,500	1.09	12,500
Ravalli	38,000	2.99	113,500	7	36,000	3.11	112,000	2,000	0.75	1,500
Sanders	33,000	1.89	62,500	25	19,500	2.44	47,500	13,500	1.11	15,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**303,000**	**2.07**	**628,000**	**--**	**212,000**	**2.47**	**524,000**	**91,000**	**1.14**	**104,000**
Blaine	52,500	2.25	118,000	6	31,000	3.15	97,500	21,500	0.95	20,500
Chouteau	26,500	1.64	43,500	34	6,000	3.33	20,000	20,500	1.15	23,500
Glacier	30,000	1.15	34,500	39	10,000	1.85	18,500	20,000	0.80	16,000
Hill	19,000	0.79	15,000	51	2,000	2.50	5,000	17,000	0.59	10,000
Liberty	10,000	0.95	9,500	55	3,000	1.67	5,000	7,000	0.64	4,500
Phillips	62,000	1.52	94,000	15	38,500	1.92	74,000	23,500	0.85	20,000
Pondera	26,500	1.66	44,000	33	17,500	2.14	37,500	9,000	0.72	6,500
Teton	45,500	2.13	97,000	13	31,500	2.83	89,000	14,000	0.57	8,000
Toole	10,000	1.05	10,500	54	2,500	2.60	6,500	7,500	0.53	4,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
N. CENTRAL	**282,000**	**1.65**	**466,000**	**--**	**142,000**	**2.49**	**353,000**	**140,000**	**0.81**	**113,000**
Daniels	13,500	1.48	20,000	44	1,500	3.00	4,500	12,000	1.29	15,500
Dawson	35,000	1.59	55,500	29	8,000	4.06	32,500	27,000	0.85	23,000
Garfield	19,000	0.87	16,500	48	2,500	2.20	5,500	16,500	0.67	11,000
McCone	22,500	1.69	38,000	37	5,000	3.40	17,000	17,500	1.20	21,000
Richland	26,500	2.02	53,500	30	6,500	4.77	31,000	20,000	1.13	22,500
Roosevelt	43,000	2.09	90,000	16	10,500	3.67	38,500	32,500	1.58	51,500
Sheridan	28,000	1.84	51,500	31	4,500	3.89	17,500	23,500	1.45	34,000
Valley	57,500	2.37	136,000	5	22,500	3.67	82,500	35,000	1.53	53,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**245,000**	**1.88**	**461,000**	**--**	**61,000**	**3.75**	**229,000**	**184,000**	**1.26**	**232,000**
Broadwater	20,000	2.88	57,500	27	18,500	3.03	56,000	1,500	1.00	1,500
Cascade	68,500	1.45	99,500	12	20,000	2.88	57,500	48,500	0.87	42,000
Fergus	107,500	0.95	102,000	11	9,500	2.42	23,000	98,000	0.81	79,000
Golden Valley	12,500	1.56	19,500	45	6,500	2.23	14,500	6,000	0.83	5,000
Judith Basin	56,500	0.88	49,500	32	7,500	1.93	14,500	49,000	0.71	35,000
Lewis & Clark	35,000	1.97	69,000	22	26,500	2.40	63,500	8,500	0.65	5,500
Meagher	42,500	1.93	82,000	18	38,500	2.04	78,500	4,000	0.88	3,500
Musselshell	14,500	1.52	22,000	43	7,000	2.14	15,000	7,500	0.93	7,000
Petroleum	11,500	1.35	15,500	50	6,000	1.83	11,000	5,500	0.82	4,500
Wheatland	24,500	1.12	27,500	42	11,000	1.50	16,500	13,500	0.81	11,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**393,000**	**1.38**	**544,000**	**--**	**151,000**	**2.32**	**350,000**	**242,000**	**0.80**	**194,000**
Beaverhead	93,500	1.93	180,500	2	86,500	1.98	171,500	7,000	1.29	9,000
Gallatin	62,000	2.93	181,500	1	46,500	3.30	153,500	15,500	1.81	28,000
Jefferson	19,000	2.11	40,000	35	16,000	2.28	36,500	3,000	1.17	3,500
Madison	64,000	2.70	173,000	3	60,500	2.79	169,000	3,500	1.14	4,000
Silver Bow	5,500	2.18	12,000	53	4,500	2.56	11,500	1,000	0.50	500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**244,000**	**2.41**	**587,000**	**--**	**214,000**	**2.53**	**542,000**	**30,000**	**1.50**	**45,000**
Big Horn	42,500	1.69	72,000	20	12,000	3.21	38,500	30,500	1.10	33,500
Carbon	44,500	2.37	105,500	10	32,000	2.98	95,500	12,500	0.80	10,000
Park	38,000	2.12	80,500	19	31,500	2.32	73,000	6,500	1.15	7,500
Stillwater	44,500	1.34	59,500	26	14,000	2.79	39,000	30,500	0.67	20,500
Sweetgrass	25,500	1.53	39,000	36	19,500	1.82	35,500	6,000	0.58	3,500
Treasure	10,500	2.90	30,500	41	5,500	5.00	27,500	5,000	0.60	3,000
Yellowstone	35,500	3.01	107,000	8	26,500	3.74	99,000	9,000	0.89	8,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S. CENTRAL	**241,000**	**2.05**	**494,000**	**--**	**141,000**	**2.89**	**408,000**	**100,000**	**0.86**	**86,000**
Carter	74,500	0.93	69,000	22	2,500	1.80	4,500	72,000	0.90	64,500
Custer	33,500	2.52	84,500	17	16,000	4.25	68,000	17,500	0.94	16,500
Fallon	45,500	0.69	31,500	40	500	2.00	1,000	45,000	0.68	30,500
Powder River	65,500	1.02	66,500	24	8,000	2.50	20,000	57,500	0.81	46,500
Prairie	10,000	1.60	16,000	49	3,000	3.50	10,500	7,000	0.79	5,500
Rosebud	42,500	2.22	94,500	14	23,500	3.38	79,500	19,000	0.79	15,000
Wibaux	20,500	0.88	18,000	46	500	1.00	500	20,000	0.88	17,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**292,000**	**1.30**	**380,000**	**--**	**54,000**	**3.41**	**184,000**	**238,000**	**0.82**	**196,000**
MONTANA	**2,000,000**	**1.78**	**3,560,000**	**--**	**975,000**	**2.66**	**2,590,000**	**1,025,000**	**0.95**	**970,000**

Combined U.S. and Canadian July 1, 2001 Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 120.4 million head on July 1, 2001, slightly below a year earlier. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 48.7 million head, were slightly below a year ago. All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2001, totaled 105.8 million head, slightly below the 106.3 million head on July 1, 2000 and 1% below the 107.0 million head two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.0 million head, were slightly below the 43.2 million head on July 1, 2000 and 1% below the 43.3 million head two years ago.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of July 1, 2001, totaled 14.6 million head, 2% above the 14.4 million head on July 1, 2000, and 1% above the 14.5 million head two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.7 million head, were 2% above the 5.6 million head on July 1, 2000, but slightly below two years ago.

Red Meat Production (continued from front page)

During July there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 800 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 247 pounds, was down 14 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, is unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was down 30 pounds from last year, to 95 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.64 billion pounds in July, down slightly from the 3.65 billion pounds produced in July 2000. Beef production, at 2.18 billion pounds, was 1% below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, down 1% from July 2000. The average live weight was 1,216 pounds, down 4 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 16 million pounds, 14% below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 83,200 head, down 16% from July 2000. The average live weight was 311 pounds, 6 pounds above last year. Pork production totaled 1.43 billion pounds, up 2% from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.45 million head, 1% above July 2000. The average live weight was 260 pounds, 1 pound above the previous year. Lamb and mutton production, at 17 million pounds, was up 8% from July 2000. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,200 head, slightly below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 10 pounds from July a year ago.

January - July red meat production was 25.9 billion pounds, 2% below the previous year. Accumulated beef production was 4% below last year, veal production was 12% below last year, pork was up 1%, and lamb & mutton was down 5%.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Cattle Inventory
July 1 Sheep Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Hogs and Pigs
Mink Production
Red Meat Production
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Milk Production
Egg Production

Montana's July Cattle Inventory Drops 7 Percent

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was 3.5 million head on July 1, 2001, dropping 7% or 250,000 head from a year ago. This is the largest drop in inventory since the 1985 drought that caused the January 1, 1986 inventory to drop 510,000 head. The main reasons for large drop in inventory were lack of hay and shortage of pasture due to the drought that has plagued the state. Many producers have been forced to sell all or parts of their herd or have moved their cattle to other pastures in the state or out of Montana.

The beef cow inventory dropped 4% to 1.551 million head compared with 1.612 million head a year ago. Milk cow inventory rose 1,000 head from a year ago to 19,000 head. The 2001 calf crop is expected to be 1,550,000 million head, down 4% from last year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2001, totaled 105.8 million head, slightly below the 106.3 million on July 1, 2000 and 1% below the 107.0 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.0 million, were slightly below the 43.2 million on July 1, 2000 and 1% below the 43.3 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.9 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2000 and 1% below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were down 1% from July 1, 2000 but was unchanged from two years ago.

Other United States class estimates on July 1, 2001, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.4 million, down 1% from both years.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.6 million, down 2% and down 4%.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.6 million, down 3% from both years.
- Other heifers, 8.2 million, up 1% for both years.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.6 million, up 2% and up 1%.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged and down 5%.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 29.7 million, down 2% and down 3%.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 13.1 million, up 7% and up 14%.

The U.S. 2001 calf crop is expected to be 38.4 million, down 1% from 2000 and 1999. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.2 million, down 1% from both years.

U.S. All Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 2 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2001, totaled 8.30 million head, 2% below July 1, 2000. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.90 million head on July 1, 2001, 3% below July 1, 2000. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.40 million head, were 2% below last July.

Of the July 1, 2001 breeding herd, 4.07 million head were ewes one year old and older, 195,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 640,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.8% of the total U.S. sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 21.4%, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 17.2%, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4%, and Region 5 (all other states) accounted for 11.2%.

The 2001 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 4.42 million head, down 4% from the 2000 lamb crop of 4.62 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2001 totaled 3.94 million head or 89% of the yearly total. An additional 480,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2001.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 6 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.01 million head on July 1, 2001. The inventory was 6% above July 1, 2000 and 15% above July 1, 1999. The inventory included 6.50 million steers and steer calves, up 4% from the previous year. This group accounted for 59% of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.45 million head, up 7% from 2000.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.97 million, 18% above 2000 and 10% above 1999. Net placements were 1.89 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 419,000, 600-699 pounds were 442,000, 700-799 pounds were 631,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000. Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.12 million, 2% below 2000 and 1% below 1999. Other disappear-ance totaled 77,000 during June, 35% above 2000 and 22% above 1999.

U. S. June Pig Crop Up 3 Percent

The June 2001 U.S. pig crop at 8.71 million head, was 3% more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 972 thousand head, 1% above last year. The average pigs per litter for June rose to 8.96, compared to 8.83 last year. The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts totaled 6.02 million head on July 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during the month of June totaled 1.20 million head.

June Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2001. Red meat production is at the same level as it was the previous month, but down 24% from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,900 head, which is 500 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,148 pounds, was up 5 pounds from the previous year. During June there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 700 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 262 pounds, was the same as a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was 200 less than the previous year. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from last year, to 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.76 billion pounds in June, down 5% from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in June 2000. Beef production, at 2.27 billion pounds, was 4% below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.12 million head, down 4% from June 2000. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from the previous year, at 1,198 pounds.

Veal production totaled 16 million pounds, 16% below June a year ago. **Calf** slaughter totaled 77,000 head, down 19% from June 2000. The average live weight was 10 pounds above last year, at 332 pounds. **Pork** production totaled 1.46 billion pounds, down 5% from the previous year. **Hog** kill totaled 7.48 million head, 6% below June 2000. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 263 pounds. **Lamb and mutton** production, at 16 million pounds, was down 5% from June 2000. **Sheep** slaughter totaled 233,000 head, 11% below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 8 pounds from June a year ago.

January-June red meat production was 22.2 billion pounds, 3% lower than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 5% below last year, veal was down 12%, pork was equal to a year ago, and lamb & mutton was down 7%.

U.S. Mink Pelt Production

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2000 totaled 2.67 million pelts, down 5% from 1999. Wisconsin, the major mink producing state, produced 680,100 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production is as follows: Standard - 35.7%; Mahogany - 26.6%; Gunmetal - 17.3%; Ranch Wild - 5.1%; Sapphire - 5.0%. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.3%.

Mink pelts produced during the 2000 crop year were valued at $90.6 million dollars, down 4% from $94.8 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2000 crop year was $34.00, up from $33.70 in 1999.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2001 totaled 630,200, down 5% from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2001 by color class are: Standard - 39.5%; Mahogany - 22.2%; Gunmetal - 17.6%; Sapphire - 5.6%;. The remaining color classes accounted for 15.1%.

There were 351 mink farms producing pelts in 2000, down 12% from a year ago. Leading states were Utah with 90 farms, Wisconsin with 70 farms, and Minnesota with 37. There were 24 mink farms which also raised fox in 2000, down from 27 the previous year.

Montana Wheat & Barley Varieties Seeded in 2001

Neeley remained the leading variety of **winter wheat** seeded in Montana for the fourteenth consecutive year, with over 273 thousand acres, 5% less than last year. **Rampart** remained in second position in 2001, with almost 187 thousand acres seeded. **Tiber** remained in third place with just over 132 thousand acres seeded. **Morgan** replaces Vanguard this year as the number four variety in Montana, with over 118 thousand acres planted, close to 10% of the total. These top four varieties accounted for 59.2% of the winter wheat acreage seeded in 2001. In 2000, these same four varieties accounted for 52.6% of the total acreage for the state.

McNeal was the leading **spring wheat** variety planted for the forth consecutive year, accounting for over 48% of the seeded acreage, with more than 1.65 million acres planted. **Ernest** moved into second place with 349 thousand acres planted this year. Last year Ernest was the third most popular variety with nearly 342 thousand acres. **Amidon** fell to third place in ranking this year with 255 thousand acres planted. **Fortuna** took over fourth place from Westbred Rambo this year with over 185 thousand acres planted statewide. The top four varieties accounted for nearly 71.8% of the spring wheat acreage seeded in 2001. These same four varieties accounted for 71.8% in 2000 as well.

Kyle continued to be the leading **durum** variety for the fifth consecutive year. There were over 236 thousand acres planted in Montana, accounting for 43.7% of the total seeded acres. **Mountrail** moved up from fourteenth position to become the second most popular variety of durum wheat in the state. Almost 50 thousand acres were planted or 9.2% of the state's durum wheat. **Ben** took third place ranking this year with over 44 thousand acres planted or 8.2% of the state total for durum wheat. **Utopia** fell one place to become the fourth most popular variety of durum wheat. Nearly 41 thousand acres were planted or 7.6% of the state's durum wheat. These top four varieties account for 68.7% of total acres seeded to durum wheat. This is comparable to the 67.1% reported in 2000 for the same varieties.

Harrington remained the top **barley** variety planted in the state for the eighth year in a row. It was seeded on over 500 thousand acres or 45.5% of Montana's barley acreage. **B 1202** maintained the second place malting variety position for the sixth consecutive year with 60 thousand acres or 5.5% of the barley planted. **Moravian 37** moved up to rank third among malting barley varieties with a significant increase in seeded acreage to 40.7 thousand, or 3.7% of the state's acreage. **B Merit** rounds out the top four malting varieties again in 2001, with 12.4 thousand acres seeded statewide.

Haybet remained in the lead position for feed barley for the second year in a row, with almost 113 thousand acres planted this year, which accounted for 10.2% of the total barley acres seeded in Montana for 2001. This is 31.1 thousand more acres than the 81.5 thousand acres planted in 2000. **Baronesse** remains the second most popular feed barley in 2001. It represents 5.2% of the total acreage or 57.6 thousand acres for feed barley seeded in Montana for 2001. This is compared to the 77.0 thousand acres planted last year. **Gallatin** became the third place choice for feed barley this year with 34.2 thousand acres seeded or 3.1% of the barley acreage state-wide. This is compared to the 27.4 thousand acres planted in 2000. **Westford** is the fourth leading feed-type variety this year with over 30 thousand acres or 2.8% of the state-wide barley acres seeded in 2001. This is compared to the 15,400 acres planted in 2000, which accounted for 1.2% of the total barley acres planted last year.

Montana Wheat and Barley: Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1995-2001

Winter Wheat

Variety	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 1/	2001
	Percent of Seeded Acreage					
Neeley	24.6	24.3	20.0	20.8	19.2	22.8
Rampart	--	--	1.8	9.0	13.8	15.6
Tiber	16.5	13.4	14.2	17.3	11.3	11.0
Morgan	--	--	2.2	7.0	8.3	9.9
Rocky	14.6	19.1	13.4	8.2	6.9	8.8
Vanguard	--	0.8	10.3	7.0	9.4	6.5
Redwin	11.4	10.6	6.1	4.7	6.4	4.0
Bighorn	4.0	2.3	3.5	3.6	3.3	2.9
Winalta	3.5	1.9	2.9	1.7	1.1	2.5
Quantum 542	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.4	2.2	2.0
Nuwest *	--	0.1	--	0.5	0.4	1.7
Tomahawk	--	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.2
Roughrider	2.1	2.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1
Hawk	0.9	1.7	1.3	2.0	0.7	0.8
Ransom	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.7
McGuire	--	--	--	0.0	0.6	0.7
Kestrel	1.4	4.0	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.7
Norstar	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	0.8	0.6
Promotory	--	--	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.4
Centurk	3.1	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.4
Judith	3.7	3.4	4.3	1.0	2.3	0.3
Stephens*	--	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.3
Other/Unknown	11.8	11.0	12.4	10.2	9.5	5.3
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised * White wheat variety

Spring Wheat

Variety	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 1/	2001
	Percent of Seeded Acreage					
McNeal	1.3	16.2	26.5	40.4	48.8	48.6
Ernest	0.2	3.2	7.6	9.4	10.7	10.3
Amidon	28.0	24.7	17.2	14.2	10.9	7.5
Fortuna	5.9	6.3	6.5	5.0	4.9	5.5
Westbred Rambo	9.9	10.0	7.9	6.7	5.3	3.4
Conan	--	--	--	0.0	1.0	3.2
Reeder	--	--	--	--	0.1	3.1
Westbred 926	2.5	2.7	1.8	2.5	2.2	2.0
Westbred 936	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.7	3.5	1.5
Hi-Line	5.6	3.1	3.0	1.7	1.1	1.5
Lew	4.4	2.5	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.2
Grandin	8.8	8.9	6.2	3.1	3.3	1.2
Len	3.6	3.1	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.1
Stoa	6.1	4.5	3.4	1.5	0.8	0.8
Kulm	0.5	0.4	1.9	0.8	1.1	0.7
Newana	5.0	2.4	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6
Keene	--	--	--	0.0	0.3	0.6
Scholar	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.5
Sonja	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5
Pristine	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.5
Parshall	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.4
Trenton	--	--	--	0.4	0.2	0.4
Other & Unknown	16.7	10.7	10.5	8.5	2.1	4.9
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Durum Wheat

Variety	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 1/	2001
	Percent of Seeded Acreage					
Kyle	20.4	38.4	44.5	55.3	52.5	43.7
Mountrail	--	--	--	0.0	0.9	9.2
Ben	--	--	0.2	4.1	7.8	8.2
Utopia	--	--	--	1.4	5.8	7.6
Renville	9.0	8.4	6.0	4.8	5.2	6.5
AC Avonlea	--	--	--	0.0	1.4	3.7
Monroe	20.5	14.1	7.4	4.8	2.9	3.2
Ward	5.4	1.9	1.9	4.4	2.3	2.9
Vic	13.9	7.4	8.6	8.1	2.6	1.5
Sceptre	3.1	5.1	6.8	3.4	2.9	1.5
Maier	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.8
Munich	--	--	--	1.0	0.9	0.5
Stockholm	--	--	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.5
Medora	2.4	8.7	6.6	3.3	3.5	0.4
Crosby	7.8	5.1	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.3
Voss	--	1.0	4.2	--	0.0	0.2
Wacoma	--	--	--	0.3	0.1	0.2
Kamut	0.5	0.7	0.1	1.4	0.5	0.2
Other & Unknown	17.0	9.2	12.6	6.4	10.2	8.9
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Barley

Variety	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 1/	2001
	Percent of Seeded Acreage					
Harrington *	32.6	33.4	42.1	49.6	49.9	45.5
Haybet	1.4	2.1	3.0	4.5	6.5	10.2
B 1202 *	5.4	5.1	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.5
Baronesse	12.2	15.6	12.1	7.6	6.2	5.2
Moravian 37	--	--	--	0.1	1.5	3.7
Gallatin	5.7	5.8	4.6	4.0	2.2	3.1
Westford	--	--	--	0.1	1.2	2.8
Hector	10.2	8.8	6.8	4.9	3.7	2.6
Bowman	6.0	4.7	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.2
Lewis	2.4	1.5	2.1	2.3	1.5	1.5
Horsford	2.3	1.7	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.3
Piroline	3.0	3.4	2.2	1.9	1.1	1.1
B Merit *	--	--	0.3	1.2	1.6	1.1
Dolly	--	--	--	--	--	1.0
Garnet	--	--	--	--	--	1.0
Stark	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.9
B 2601 *	1.3	1.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8
Foster *	--	--	--	--	--	0.8
Robust	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.8
Valier	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.6
Menuet	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.6
Other & Unknown	15.7	14.6	14.3	10.7	11.0	7.7
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised.

* American Malting Barley Association, Inc. recommended for malting and brewing for Montana.

This report was made possible by funds provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production Up, U.S. Down

During the April-June quarter, Montana milk cows produced 87 million pounds of milk, 7 million pounds more than the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers, at 19,000 head were up 1,000 head from a year ago.

Milk production in the 20 major States during June totaled 12.0 billion pounds, down 0.5 percent from June 2000. May revised production, at 12.6 billion pounds, was down 0.9 percent from May 2000. The May revision represented a increase of 0.2 percent or 24 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,552 pounds for June, 5 pounds above June 2000. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 61,000 head less than June 2000, but 2,000 head more than May 2001.

The April-June quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.6 billion pounds, 1.3 percent below the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.12 million head, 89,000 head less than the same period last year.

U.S. Egg Production Up 3 percent in June

U.S. egg production totaled 6.97 billion during June 2001, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 5.89 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 67.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2001averaged 332 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during June 2000. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,099 eggs, slightly above the 2093 eggs in June 2000.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2001, totaled 331 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 331 million layers consisted of 272 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2001, averaged 69.9 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from the 69.7 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.53 billion eggs during June 2001, up 3 percent from June 2000. The average number of layers during June, at 311 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

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Hay Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grain and Potato Acreage
Ag Cash Rents
Ag Prices Received
Wheat Supply and Demand - ERS

July 1 Crop Production

Montana's **all wheat production** is expected to be 17% smaller than last year's drought reduce crop and the smallest crop since 1988. As of July 1, producers expect to harvest 111.86 million bushels of all wheat, down from the 135.21 million bushels harvested last year. The area for harvest is expected to be 4.73 million acres, 190,000 less than were harvested in 2000.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield, at 24.0 bushels per acre, is down 5 bushels per acre from June and 9 bushels per acre below last year as the lack of rain and heat are taking a toll on yields. Production is forecast to be 22.80 million bushels, down a whopping 49% from last year and is the smallest crop since 1985. Despite receiving significant rainfall throughout the state the first half of June, the lack of rain earlier in the growing season and since mid-June has significantly reduced yield potential. While yields have been bad throughout the state, the winter wheat crop in the North Central Montana has been hit the hardest. Winter wheat conditions in the state slid more this month as conditions for the week ending July 1st were rated 42% very poor, 38% poor, 15% fair, 4% good and only 1% excellent. For the week ending July 8th, 61% of the winter wheat crop had turned color compared with the 5 year average of 41%.

The first **spring wheat** production forecast is 74.75 million bushels, down 4% from last year's drought-reduced production and is the smallest crop since 1990. The harvested acres are expected to be 3.25 million, up 5% due to more acres being planted this year. However, the expected yield of 23.0 bushels per acre is down 2 bushels per acre from last year. Spring wheat conditions are also poor with the crop being rated for the week ending July 1st, 17% very poor, 19% poor, 29% fair, 31% good, and 4% excellent. Conditions are likely to continue to deteriorate if no significant rains are received and the hot, dry weather continues through the rest of the growing season. **Durum wheat** production is forecast to be 14.31 million bushels, up 9% from last year due to a 13% increase in harvested acreage. The expected yield of 27.0 bushels per acre would be down 1 bushel from last year.

Barley yields in Montana are expected to average 41.0 bushels per acre in 2001, 1 bushel more than last year. Barley production is forecast to be 34.85 million bushels compared to the 38.00 million produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 850,000 acres, 100,000 less than were harvested in 2000. **Oats** producers expect to harvest 3.315 million bushels of grain, 28% more than produced last year. The 2001 area for harvest is expected to be 65,000 acres compared with the 50,000 harvested for grain in 2000. The expected yield of 51.0 bushels is one bushel below last year.

Montana **potato** producers planted 9,600 acres in 2001, a decrease of 1,900 acres from last year. Growers expect to harvest 99% of the crop, or 9,500 acres. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 9, 2001. Statewide, planted acreage for **dry edible peas** is estimated to be 25,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from the previous year. Pea growers expect to harvest 24,000 acres, the same area as last year. **Austrian winter peas** growers planted an estimated 6,000 acres, with 5,900 of those expected to be harvested. This is the first year that Austrian winter pea acreage has been estimated. **Lentils** planted in the state are at 15,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 14,000 of those acres, also down 7,000 acres from 2000.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.37 billion bushels. This is up 3% from last month but down 13% from 2000. The U.S. yield is forecast at 43.2 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from last month. Increased yields from last month's forecast were seen in most of the Hard Red Wheat (HRW) States. Head counts were down slightly from last month's Objective Yield survey in the six HRW States (Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas).
(Continued on next page)

Montana Cash Rents Increase in 2001

The average cash rent for **Montana** cropland went up $0.70 from last year to $24.50 per acre. The average cash rent for irrigated cropland, at $46.00, fell $3.70 per acre from a year ago. The non-irrigated cropland average increased $.70 to $18.00 per acre. Average pasture rents decreased $.30 from 2000 to $4.50 per acre in 2001.

The **U.S.** cropland cash rent in 2001 was up $1.00 from last year at $71.00. The Lake, Corn Belt, and Northern Plains Regions which account for the majority of cash rented acreage, increased less than 2 percent from 2000. The Lake and Northern Plains Regions were up $1.00 to $73.00 and $46.50 respectively while the Corn Belt increased by $2.00 to $105.00. The Southeast Region had the largest increase of $4.00 per acre while the Pacific Region had a decrease of $1.00 per acre.

Cash rents for cropland were mixed with increases for the majority of States. Western States of Arizona, Idaho, California, Oregon, and Washington all showed irrigated cropland exceeding $110 per acre. California again had the highest cash rent for irrigated cropland at $290 per acre. The major corn producing States of Illinois , Indiana, and Iowa were mixed. Illinois and Indiana held at $119.00 and $100.00 per acre respectively while Iowa increased by $2.00 to $117.00. States in the Corn Belt and Northern Plains showed slight increases in cropland cash rents and Nebraska and Indiana remained the same at $88.00 and $100.00 respectively.

Pasture cash rent at the U.S. increased from $8.50 to $9.20. per acre. There were slight increases for the Corn Belt, Northern Plains, Appalachian, Delta and the Southern Plains. Pasture rent in Lake and the Northeast Regions declined to $22.00 and $23.00 respectively.

Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi pasture rents increased slightly while the Northern Plains held close to the 2000 level. There were slight increases of less than 4 percent in North Dakota, 2 percent in South Dakota and a decrease of less than 2 percent in Kansas. Wisconsin again had the highest pasture rent at $36, a drop of $2.00 from last year.

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
(continued from front page)

U.S. other spring wheat production is forecast at 514 million bushels, down 7% from 2000. The U.S. yield is forecast at 34.9 bushels per acre, 3.3 bushels lower than last year. The Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, Washington) production forecast is down 22% from a year ago. Durum wheat production is forecast at 94.1 million bushels, down 14% from 2000. The U.S. yield is forecast at 31.6 bushels per acre, 0.9 bushels more than last year.

Barley production in the United States for 2001 is forecast at 264 million bushels, down 17% from 2000. The first forecast for 2001 indicates producers expect to average 58.4 bushels per acre, a decrease of 2.7 bushels from last year's near record high. Area harvested, at 4.51 million acres, is 13% below the 5.20 million acres harvested in 2000, but unchanged from the previous estimate. The combination of lower expected yields and a decrease in harvested acres has reduced forecast production to its lowest level since 1953.

Planted acreage of lentils in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 215,000 acres, down 1% from last year but 18% higher than 1999. Harvested acreage is estimated at 212,000. Acreage of dry edible peas planted in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington is estimated at 215,500 acres, up 15% from last year but 20% below 1999. Planted acreage of Austrian winter peas in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon is estimated at 11,500 acres and harvested acreage is estimated at 10,200 acres.

July 1, 2001 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S. 1/

CROP	UNIT	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001	2000	2001
MONTANA		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	1,200	1,350	950	33.0	24.0	44,550	22,800
Durum Wheat	Bu.	480	540	470	530	28.0	27.0	13,160	14,310
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,350	3,400	3,100	3,250	25.0	23.0	77,500	74,750
All Wheat	Bu.	5,330	5,140	4,920	4,730	27.5	23.6	135,210	111,860
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	60	18	13	140.0	3/	2,520	3/
Oats	Bu.	130	130	50	65	52.0	51.0	2,600	3,315
Barley	Bu.	1,250	1,100	950	850	40.0	41.0	38,000	34,850
Flaxseed	Bu.	16	11	14	10	14.0	4/	196	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	40.5	30.0	34.8	29.0	14.0	3/	486	3/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	28.0	25.0	24.0	24.0	4/	4/	4/	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	22.0	15.0	21.0	14.0	4/	4/	4/	4/
Austrian Winter Peas 5/	Cwt.	--	6.0	--	5.9	--	4/	--	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	60.7	57.5	55.2	57.4	13.0	3/	1,319	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.5	9.6	11.3	9.5	310.0	5/	3,503	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,200	1,200	2.10	3/	2,520	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.30	3/	1,040	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,000	2,050	1.78	3/	3,560	3/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,348	41,318	35,022	31,657	44.6	43.2	1,562,733	1,366,192
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,937	3,040	3,572	2,975	30.7	31.6	109,805	94,079
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,244	15,246	14,434	14,699	38.2	34.9	550,902	513,583
All Wheat	Bu.	62,529	59,604	53,028	49,331	41.9	40.0	2,223,440	1,973,854
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	79,545	76,109	72,732	69,291	137.1	3/	9,968,358	3/
Oats	Bu.	4,477	4,404	2,324	2,186	64.2	60.5	149,195	132,150
Barley	Bu.	5,844	5,088	5,201	4,514	61.1	58.4	317,865	263,522
Flaxseed	Bu.	536	556	517	545	20.8	4/	10,730	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,756.2	1,426.2	1,606.4	1,333.5	16.5	3/	26,440	3/
Dry Peas	Cwt.	188.0	215.5	179.0	208.5	4/	4/	4/	4/
Lentils	Cwt.	217.0	215.0	214.0	212.0	4/	4/	4/	4/
Austrian Winter Peas 5/	Cwt.	5.2	11.5	4.1	10.2	4/	4/	4/	4/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,565.2	1,368.1	1,374.3	1,337.2	23.6	3/	32,436	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,228.0	1,107.0	1,197.2	1,089.2	393.0	5/	470,504	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,077	23,750	3.48	3/	80,347	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,777	40,083	1.95	3/	71,836	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,854	63,833	2.54	3/	152,183	3/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available August 10, 2001. 4/ Production forecast available January 10, 2002. 5/ Production forecast available November 9, 2001. 5/ Not published for 2000. -- Not published

Montana Production Forecast by District, July 1, 2001 1/

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	2000	2001	01/00	2000	2001	01/00	2000	2001	01/00
	(000) Bushels		Pct.	(000) Bushels		Pct.	(000) Bushels		Pct.
Northwest	222	207	93	1,955	2,655	136	975	980	101
N Central	24,097	9,005	37	27,794	25,988	94	22,082	18,000	82
Northeast	2,402	1,742	73	49,183	43,754	89	2,623	3,870	148
Central	9,158	6,274	69	5,116	6,924	135	5,051	5,200	103
Southwest	971	895	92	1,764	2,271	129	2,569	2,150	84
S Central	5,490	3,202	58	1,414	2,518	178	3,998	3,600	90
Southeast	2,210	1,475	67	3,434	4,950	144	702	1,050	150
Montana	**44,550**	**22,800**	**51**	**90,660**	**89,060**	**98**	**38,000**	**34,850**	**92**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Agricultural Prices Received for May

The May full month crop prices were higher, except for barley, compared with April 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.10 per bushel, up $0.10 from April, spring wheat was $0.07 higher at $3.33 per bushel. Durum wheat prices jumped $0.77 to 3.33 per bushel as less lower quality durum wheat was marketed during the month compared to the previous month. The average price for oats rose $0.54 from last month to $1.57 per bushel due to limited oat volume during the month. Feed barley prices were down $.19 from the previous month to $1.61 and malt barley slipped $0.11 cents to $2.66 per bushel.

The mid-June price for alfalfa hay was up $1.00 per ton from the previous month to $95.00 per ton but other hay was down $4.00 per ton to $82.00 per ton. The mid-June winter wheat price averaged $3.10 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.45, durum wheat was $3.80, feed barley was $1.60, malt barley averaged $2.60 and oats averaged $1.10 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mixed compared to the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $0.60 to $86.60 per cwt while cows were up $1.50 to $46.10. The average price for calves was down $2.00 to $103.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $1.00 to $38.50 per cwt, while lamb prices rose $3.00 to $90.50 per cwt. Milk prices rose $.60 per cwt from last month to $14.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $89.90 per cwt., cows averaged $44.80 per cwt., calves averaged $105.00 per cwt., and milk prices averaged $16.00 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for May and changes from April were as follows: winter wheat was $2.93, up $0.16, spring wheat was $3.15, up $0.10; durum wheat was $2.66 , up $0.14; the all barley price was $2.13, up $0.20, and steer and heifer prices were $77.40, down $2.20 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-June winter wheat price was $2.68 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.12 per bushel, durum wheat was $2.61 per bushel, all wheat was $2.76 per bushel, and all barley was $1.89. Steer and heifer prices were $77.50 per cwt, cow prices were $43.60, all hog prices were $52.10 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.558 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 107 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (0.9 percent) from the May Index. Lower prices for cantaloupes, lettuce, sweet corn, and tomatoes were partially offset by higher prices for milk, strawberries, celery, and broilers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of wheat, grapes, hay, and peaches were offset by lower marketings of strawberries, tomatoes, oranges, and cattle. Compared with June 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 9 points (9.2 percent) higher. Price increases from June 2000 for milk, broilers, cattle, and wheat were partially offset by lower prices for cantaloupes, corn, soybeans, and eggs.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	May 2000	June 2000	May 2001	June 2001
Prices Received	100	98	108	107
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	119	120	123	123
Ratio 2/	84	82	88	87

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		May 2000	Apr. 2001	May 2001	May 2001	Apr 2001	May 2000	June 15, 2001	June 15, 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.64	3.00	3.10	2.93	+0.10	+0.46	3.10	2.68
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.51	2.87	3.64	2.66	+0.77	+0.13	3.80	2.61
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.00	3.26	3.33	3.15	+0.07	+0.33	3.45	3.12
All Wheat	Bu.	2.95	3.13	3.27	2.99	+0.14	+0.32	3.36	2.76
Barley, All	Bu.	2.17	2.10	2.00	2.13	-0.10	-0.17	1.97	1.89
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.67	1.80	1.61	1.91	-0.19	-0.06	1.60	1.73
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.65	2.77	2.66	2.44	-0.11	+0.01	2.60	2.10
Oats	Bu.	1.15	1.03	1.57	1.28	+0.54	+0.42	1.10	1.25
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	64.00	94.00	94.00	113.00	0	+30.00	95.00	103.00
All Other Hay	Ton	56.00	86.00	86.00	76.60	0	+30.00	82.00	70.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	63.00	92.00	92.00	106.00	0	+29.00	93.00	95.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	84.50	87.20	86.60	77.40	-0.60	+2.10	89.90	77.50
Cows	Cwt	41.50	44.60	46.10	43.70	+1.50	+4.60	44.80	43.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	69.50	78.30	68.00	73.60	-10.30	-1.50	70.10	73.90
Calves	Cwt	102.00	105.00	103.00	111.00	-2.00	+1.00	105.00	109.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	31.90	39.50	38.50	34.10	-1.00	+6.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	96.00	87.50	90.50	79.00	+3.00	-5.50	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.30	14.10	14.70	15.40	+0.60	+2.40	16.00	16.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1984-2001

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	925	92	284	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,223	90	3,263	960	80	285	1,325	1,065	2,390	873	2.62
2001 . 3/	873	1,974	95	2,942	970	87	225	1,282	1,050	2,332	610	2.70-3.30

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 2001--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Quarterly Milk Production
- Mink
- U.S. Cattle Inventory
- Cattle on Feed
- U.S. Sheep Inventory
- Wheat & Barley Varieties
- Red Meat Production
- Egg Production
- Hogs & Pigs

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Acreages
Egg Production
Potato Stocks
Sweet Cherries
Milk Production
Grain Stocks
Red Meat Production
Hogs & Pigs
Cattle on Feed

June 1, 2001 Crop Acreage

Small Grain Acreage: **All wheat** planted acreage in Montana is estimated to be 5.14 million acres, down 4% from last year and is the lowest acreage planted since 1991. **Spring wheat** producers planted an estimated 3.4 million acres, up 1% from last year. Producers intend to harvest 3.25 million acres of spring wheat this year, up 5% from last year. The lack of moisture and continued dry conditions has caused some spring wheat acres to be already abandoned. **Winter wheat** acreage planted remained unchanged from the March 1 estimate at 1.20 million acres which is down 20% from last year due to the dry fall planting conditions. Winter wheat producers expect to harvest 950,000 acres, down 140,000 acres from the previous forecast and down 400,000 acres from last year. This would be the smallest acreage of winter wheat harvested since 1937. The lack of rainfall this spring has resulted in a significant amount of acreage being abandoned. While winter wheat conditions have improved since June 1, conditions are significantly worse than a year ago. **Durum wheat** acreage, at 540,000 acres, is up 13% from a year ago and is the largest durum wheat planted acreage since 1956. Acreage of durum wheat intended to be harvested is estimated to be 530,00 acres, up 13% from last year.

Montana **barley** producers planted an estimated 1.1 million acres, down 12% from last year. This is the lowest barley acreage planted since 1979. The state's barley growers intend to harvest 850,000 acres for grain this year, 11% less than the previous year's harvest. Planted acreage for **oats**, at 130,000 acres, remains unchanged from the previous year. Growers intend to harvest 65,000 acres of the oat crop for grain, 15,000 acres more than a year ago.

In the U.S., **all wheat** planted area is estimated at 59.6 million acres, down 5% from 2000. Harvested area is expected to total 49.3 million acres, down 7% from last year. **Winter Wheat** area harvested for grain is now expected to total 31.7 million acres, down 1% from the June 1 forecast and 10% below the 2000 total. This is the smallest area for grain since 1933. Planted area is slightly below the previous estimate and 5% below last year's acreage. The **Durum** planted area for 2001 is estimated at 3.04 million acres, down 23% from last year. Area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 2.98 million acres, 17% below last year's level. Acreage planted to other **spring wheat** for 2001 is estimated at 15.2 million, virtually unchanged from the 2000 total. Grain area is expected to total 14.7 million acres, up 2% from last year.

Nationally, **barley** growers seeded 5.09 million acres for 2001, down 13% from the 5.84 million acres seeded a year ago. This is the lowest planted acreage since records began in 1926. The area planted to **oats** in the U.S. last fall and this spring totaled 4.40 million acres, 2% below last year's final seeded acres and the lowest acreage on record. Acreage to be harvested for grain also establishes a new record low, at 2.19 million acres. Acres for harvest are 6% less than the previous record low set last year.

Row Crops, Hay, and Oilseeds: Montana **corn** growers planted 60,000 acres which is unchanged from a year ago. Acreage intended to be harvested for grain, at 13,000 acres, is down 5,000 acres from a year ago. **Sugarbeet** producers planted 57,500 acres, down 5% from 2000. An estimated 2.05 million acres of **all hay** are expected to be harvested, which is 50,000 acres more than last year's drought affected harvest, but 450,000 acres less than was intended to be cut on March 1, 2001. Of the total expected hay harvest, 1.2 million acres are expected to be **alfalfa** hay, which is unchanged from last year's figure, while producers expect to harvest 850,000 acres of **other hay**. Farmers planted 30,000 acres of **dry beans** in 2001, down 26% from last year. Producers are looking to harvest 29,000 acres of dry beans this season, 17% less than last year's number. **Flaxseed** growers in Montana planted 11,000 acres, down 31% from last year's acreage. Producers intend to harvest 10,000 acres of flaxseed this year, 29% less than the previous year.

In the United States, the planted area for **corn** for all purposes is estimated at 76.1 million acres, down 4% from last year. Growers expect to harvest 69.3 million acres for grain, down 5% from 2000. This is the lowest acreage since 1995 when excess rainfall limited plantings. **Sugarbeet** area planted totaled 1.37 million acres in the 12 sugarbeet producing States, down 13% from 2000. The area for harvest is estimated at 1.34 million, 3% lower than last year. Producers expect to harvest 63.8 million acres of **all hay** in the U.S. in 2001, up 7% from the 59.9 million acres harvested in 2000. This is the largest harvested acreage of all hay since 1988. **Alfalfa** and alfalfa mixtures are estimated at 23.8 million acres, up 3% from last year. All **other hay** is estimated at 40.1 million acres, up 9% from last year. U.S. **dry bean** growers planted 1.43 million acres for 2001, down 19% from last year and 30% below comparable states two years ago. This is the lowest dry bean acreage since 1983 when growers planted 1.18 million acres. Harvest is expected from 1.33 million acres, down 17% from last year and 29% below comparable States in 1999. Area planted to **flaxseed** in 2001 is 556,000 acres, up 4% from last year's planted area, and the largest planted area since 1986 when 720,000 acres were planted. Area for harvest, estimated at 545,000, is 5% above the harvested acreage of 2000.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates are the result of surveying approximately 2,500 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those who were interviewed and responded. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

Planted and Harvested Acres June 2001

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001	2000	2001
MONTANA		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,500	1,200	1,350	950	33.0	3/	44,550	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	480	540	470	530	28.0	3/	13,160	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,350	3,400	3,100	3,250	25.0	3/	77,500	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,330	5,140	4,920	4,730	27.5	3/	135,210	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	60	18	13	140.0	4/	2,520	4/
Oats	Bu.	130	130	50	65	52.0	3/	2,600	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,250	1,100	950	850	40.0	3/	38,000	3/
Flaxseed	Bu.	16	11	14	10	14.0	5/	196	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	40.5	30.0	34.8	29.0	14.0	4/	486	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	60.7	57.5	55.2	57.4	13.0	4/	1,319	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.5	6/	11.3	6/	310.0	7/	3,503	7/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,200	1,200	2.10	4/	2,520	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	850	1.30	4/	1,040	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,000	2,050	1.78	4/	3,560	4/
UNITED STATES	Unit	(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,348	41,318	35,022	31,657	44.6	3/	1,562,733	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,937	3,040	3,572	2,975	30.7	3/	109,805	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,244	15,246	14,434	14,699	38.2	3/	550,902	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	62,529	59,604	53,028	49,331	41.9	3/	2,223,440	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	79,545	76,109	72,732	69,291	137.1	4/	9,968,358	4/
Oats	Bu.	4,477	4,404	2,324	2,186	64.2	3/	149,195	3/
Barley	Bu.	5,844	5,088	5,201	4,514	61.1	3/	317,865	3/
Flaxseed	Bu.	536	556	517	545	20.8	5/	10,730	5/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,756.2	1,426.2	1,606.4	1,333.5	16.5	4/	26,440	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,565.2	1,368.1	1,374.3	1,337.2	23.6	4/	32,436	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,228.0	6/	1,197.2	6/	393.0	7/	470,504	7/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,077	23,750	3.48	4/	80,347	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,777	40,083	1.95	4/	71,836	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	59,854	63,833	2.54	4/	152,183	4/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available July 11, 2001. 4/ Production forecast available August 10, 2001. 5/ Production forecast available January 10, 2002. 6/ Planted and harvested acreage available July 11, 2001. 7/ Production forecast available November 9, 2001.

Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.23 billion during May 2001, up 2% from last year. Production included 6.11 billion table eggs and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 70.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 2001 averaged 335 million, up 3% from the total average number of layers during May 2000. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,160 eggs, down 1% from 2,177 eggs in May 2000.

U.S. Potato Stocks Record High

June 1, 2001 potato stocks totaled a record high 63.2 million cwt, up 34% from last year and 26% above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 14% of the fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to June 1 was a record high 399 million cwt, up 7% from last year. During May, disappearance was 48.3 million cwt, up 22% from a year ago. Shrink and loss rose to 39.8 million cwt, up 28% from last year and 29% above two years ago. This total includes potatoes diverted and destroyed by growers. Potatoes sold under a government diversion program are also included in the disappearance.

Sweet Cherry Production Forecast Up

Montana's sweet cherry growers expect to produce 1,700 tons this year, an increase of 55% from last year's 1,100 tons. Growers have had favorable crop conditions, good pollination and more acres reaching bearing age.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 235,950 tons, up 9% from 2000 and 2% above 1999. This is the highest sweet cherry forecast on record.

The Washington crop, at a record high 100,000 tons, is unchanged from the previous forecast but 5% more than last year. Production in California is forecast at 60,000 tons, the same as the previous forecast but 50% more than last year. Weather conditions in both States have been generally favorable with some localized losses due to wind and cold. Washington's larger crop is mostly due to an increase in bearing acres. The sweet cherry crop in Oregon is forecast at 40,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast.

Idaho and Utah are forecasting a decline from last year's crops. Production is down 47 and 54%, respectively, from 2000. A hard frost in Idaho during April and cold, rainy weather during pollination in Utah are the main reasons for these decreases.

U.S. May Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major States during May totaled 12.6 billion pounds, down 1.1% from May 2000. April revised production, at 12.2 billion pounds, was down 2.0 % from April 2000. The April revision represented a decrease of 0.1% or 14 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,629 pounds for May, 7 pounds below May 2000. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 55,000 head less than May 2000, but unchanged from April 2001.

June 1, 2001 Grain Stocks

Stocks of **all wheat** in Montana on June 1, 2001 were 51.4 million bushels, down 15 percent from June 1, 2000. All wheat stocks stored on the farm accounted for 34.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 17.4 million bushels stored off farm. **All spring wheat** stocks, at 34.4 million bushels, were down 21 percent from last year and accounted for 67 percent of the total wheat stocks. **Winter wheat** stocks were estimated at 17.0 million bushels, down 1 percent from last year. **Durum wheat** stocks were estimated at 4.4 million bushels, up 3 percent from last year. **All wheat disappearance** for the March 2001 - May 2001 quarter was 41.6 million bushels, compared with 47.9 million for the same quarter last year. **Barley** stocks in all positions on June 1, 2001 were 10.3 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. **Oats** stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.0 million bushels, down 33 percent from last year.

June 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001*	June 1, 2001	'01/'00	June 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001*	June 1, 2001
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	45,000	71,000	34,000	76%	226,780	384,750	197,270
Off Farms 1/	15,850	21,970	17,420	110%	722,968	953,648	675,855
TOTAL	60,850	92,970	51,420	85%	949,748	1,338,398	873,125
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	12,000	23,000	11,000	92%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	5,250	8,890	6,020	115%	--	--	--
TOTAL	17,250	31,890	17,020	99%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	33,000	48,000	23,000	70%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,600	13,080	11,400	108%	--	--	--
TOTAL	43,600	61,080	34,400	79%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	30,300	44,200	29,100
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	19,532	28,616	16,073
TOTAL	4,260	7,200	4,370	103%	49,832	72,816	45,173
BARLEY							
On Farms	6,000	9,000	6,000	100%	25,400	58,600	28,850
Off Farms 1/	6,260	7,920	4,290	69%	85,924	103,544	77,409
TOTAL	12,260	16,920	10,290	84%	111,324	162,144	106,259
OATS							
On Farms	1,200	1,800	900	75%	36,000	55,800	32,050
Off Farms 1/	240	110	70	29%	40,031	54,127	40,577
TOTAL	1,440	1,910	970	67%	76,031	109,927	72,627
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,029,800	3,600,000	2,230,800
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,556,138	2,442,999	1,693,408
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,585,938	6,042,999	3,924,208

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Montana Wheat and Barley Stocks: In All Positions By Districts 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001*	June 1, 2001	June 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001*	June 1, 2001
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.8
North Central	21.8	37.8	20.2	6.4	10.1	6.0
Northeast	19.7	29.8	15.3	0.7	1.2	0.7
Central	11.9	13.6	9.7	2.4	2.1	1.2
Southwest	0.7	1.3	1.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
South Central	2.6	4.8	2.2	1.8	2.1	0.9
Southeast	3.4	4.6	2.2	0.3	0.4	0.2
Montana	**60.9**	**93.0**	**51.4**	**12.3**	**16.9**	**10.3**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

May Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 2001. Red meat production is at the same level as it was the previous month, but down 20% from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered totaled 1,900 head, which is 500 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 2,201 pounds, was up 32 pounds from the previous year. During May there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 800 less than a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was 300 less than the previous year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in May, virtually unchanged from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in May 2000.

U.S. beef production, at 2.29 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.20 million head, up 1% from May 2000. The average live weight was down 12 pounds from the previous year, at 1,184 pounds.

Nationally, pork production totaled a May record 1.56 billion pounds, up 1% from the previous May record high occurring last year. Hog kill totaled 7.96 million head, slightly above May 2000.

U.S. lamb and mutton production, at 17 million pounds, was down 4% from May 2000 tying a record low. Sheep slaughter totaled 239,000 head, 8% below last year.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2001, was 59.1 million head. This was slightly below June 2000, but 1% above March 1, 2001.

Breeding inventory, at 6.20 million head, was down 1% from June 1, 2000, and down 1% from March 1, 2001. Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head, was slightly below last year, but 1% above last quarter.

The March-May 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was slightly less than 2000, and 3% less than 1999. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.88 million head, slightly below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46% of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.88 pigs saved per litter for the March-May 2001 period, compared to 8.86 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.92 million sows farrow during the June-August 2001 quarter, 1% above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2000, and slightly above 1999. Intended farrowings for September-November, at 2.91 million sows, are 2% above the same period in both 2000 and 1999.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.24 million head on June 1, 2001. The inventory was 2% above June 1, 2000 and 13% above June 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.37 million, 3% above 2000 and 16% above 1999. Net placements were 2.27 million. Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.20 million, 1% above 2000 and 10% above 1999. Other disappearance totaled 101,000 during May, 12% below 2000 but 2% above 1999.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Small Grain Crop Production
Potato Acreages
Wheat Supply & Demand
Ag Cash Rents

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Pest Management Practices
Winter Wheat Production
Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Wheat Supply & Demand

2000 Pest Management Practices Survey Results

The 2000 Pest Management Practices Summary is based largely on data compiled from a nationwide farmer survey conducted in February 2001. Results refer to responses from sampled producers concerning specific practices. The producers were first asked how many acres of a specific commodity they grew in 2000, followed by questions regarding the use of specific pest management practices, in a yes/no format. Pests were defined as weeds, insects, and diseases. If the respondent used a specific practice on a crop, it was assumed that the practice was used on all acres of that crop. For example, if a producer had 500 acres of wheat, and used field mapping of previous weed problems to assist in making weed management decisions, it was assumed that all 500 acres were mapped.

The data are published in two tables for each crop: percent of acres receiving the specific pest management practice and percent of farms using the specific pest management practice. These percentages are published at the U.S. and regional levels. For barley, corn, soybeans, wheat, fruits and nuts, vegetables, and all other crops, the percentages refer only to farms and planted acres. For alfalfa hay and other hay, the percentages refer to farms and harvested acres. The complete report is available from our office or in the national release located on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/rptscal.htm.

June 1, 2001 Crop Production Forecast

As of June 1, Montana winter wheat producers were expecting a yield of 29 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels from last year and 5 bushels below last month. If realized, total production would be 31.6 million bushels, down 29% from last year. Harvested acreage remains the same as last month at 1.09 million acres, down 260,000 acres from last year. Results from a major acreage survey currently underway will be released on June 29, 2001 and will provide additional insight concerning the amount of winter wheat abandoned since planting last fall.

The winter wheat condition in the state deteriorated during the last month as high winds and little rainfall were received during May. As of June 3, winter wheat condition was rated 77% poor to very poor compared with 20% last month and 55% a year ago. The lack of rain has caused the topsoil moisture rating to drop to 88% short to very short compared with 57% last month and 50% a year ago. Through the end of May, the percentage of normal rainfall received for the growing season across the state is well below normal with the highest percentage of normal, 85%, in the Western and Northeast districts. The two largest winter wheat growing districts, North Central and Central, had received 56% and 69% of normal rainfall, respectively.

The progress of the winter wheat crop is advanced compared to normal. As of the week ending June 3, 24% of the winter wheat crop had headed compared to the 5-year average of 15% and 30% a year ago. The rapid advancement is due to the hot, dry weather. While there has been some rainfall since the beginning of the month, it is too early to tell if it will continue through the critical part of the growing season and what impact it will have on yields.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 2% from the May 1 forecast and 15% below 2000 to the lowest level since 1978. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.2 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushels from the last forecast. Area for 2001 grain harvest is forecast at 32.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1, but down 8% from 2000. This is the smallest winter wheat area since 1957.

As of June 3, heading had reached 83% in the 18 major States. Harvest progress was at 3%, ranging from none in most States to 26% in Texas. Forecasted head counts from the Objective Yield surveys in the 6 Hard Red Winter States (Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas) are well below last year's final counts. Indicated average head weights are above last year's level.

WINTER WHEAT: Production Forecast by Districts--June 1, 2001 1/

District	1999	2000	2001	01/00
	1,000 Bushels			% chg.
NW	422	222	225	101
NC	13,571	24,097	15,000	62
NE	1,632	2,402	2,784	116
C	10,810	9,158	8,885	75
SW	1,413	971	904	93
SC	5,784	5,490	4,200	77
SE	3,228	2,210	1,612	73
MT	36,860	44,550	31,610	71

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

U. S. Wheat Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected 2001/02 ending stocks of wheat are down 6 million bushels from last month as a smaller crop and increased use more than offset increased carry in stocks. Forecast winter wheat production is down 20 million bushels from last month because of lower yields. Projected food use is up 10 million bushels. The projected 2001/02 price range is unchanged at $2.75 to $3.35 per bushel.

Forecast 2000/01 ending stocks of wheat are up 25 million bushels, with exports down 35 million bushels but food use up 10 million. Expected food use is higher than last month for both 2000/01 and 2001/02 because recently released mill grind estimates by the Bureau of the Census were larger than expected.

(See table on back page)

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2000

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bushels	Production Rank	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
Deer Lodge	800	500	68	34,000	49	800	500	68	34,000
Flathead	11,400	9,500	61	581,000	17	4,800	3,900	70	274,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	5,100	1,700	63	107,000	39	3,400	1,100	84	92,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	1,300	500	46	23,000	51	1,100	300	57	17,000
Powell	3,600	1,700	52	88,000	44	2,100	700	79	55,000
Ravalli	1,700	1,300	79	103,000	40	1,400	1,200	83	100,000
Sanders	900	700	47	33,000	50	--	--	--	--
Other	200	100	60	6,000	--	400	300	60	18,000
NORTHWEST	**25,000**	**16,000**	**61**	**975,000**	--	**14,000**	**8,000**	**74**	**590,000**
Blaine	27,200	19,600	50	986,000	11	9,300	7,600	66	498,000
Chouteau	96,200	71,400	27	1,937,000	5	1,700	1,300	61	79,000
Glacier	134,000	109,000	26	2,811,000	3	19,100	16,400	52	845,000
Hill	29,500	25,000	38	942,000	12	--	--	--	--
Liberty	26,200	23,600	25	589,000	16	1,800	1,700	69	118,000
Phillips	19,600	12,100	42	507,000	19	1,400	700	80	56,000
Pondera	148,000	130,000	41	5,373,000	2	48,100	46,500	59	2,721,000
Teton	122,000	112,000	59	6,603,000	1	67,500	65,800	79	5,166,000
Toole	78,300	71,300	33	2,334,000	4	2,100	2,000	76	151,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**681,000**	**574,000**	**38**	**22,082,000**	--	**151,000**	**142,000**	**68**	**9,634,000**
Daniels	8,000	2,700	41	111,000	38	--	--	--	--
Dawson	25,300	11,200	31	347,000	22	700	400	70	28,000
Garfield	13,900	5,100	39	200,000	30	--	--	--	--
McCone	15,900	5,800	25	144,000	34	--	--	--	--
Richland	22,000	16,700	44	727,000	14	4,800	3,500	85	298,000
Roosevelt	12,000	7,300	40	293,000	26	1,300	1,000	75	75,000
Sheridan	12,000	8,100	37	299,000	25	--	--	--	--
Valley	15,900	11,100	45	502,000	20	4,300	1,700	65	111,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	900	400	68	27,000
NORTHEAST	**125,000**	**68,000**	**39**	**2,623,000**	--	**12,000**	**7,000**	**77**	**539,000**
Broadwater	5,200	4,600	51	235,000	28	3,100	2,600	70	181,000
Cascade	54,200	34,600	40	1,380,000	8	12,200	10,400	66	682,000
Fergus	68,800	43,600	29	1,265,000	9	1,800	1,000	50	50,000
Golden Valley	8,400	5,300	22	117,000	37	900	400	55	22,000
Judith Basin	47,700	37,900	26	1,004,000	10	1,300	1,100	59	65,000
Lewis & Clark	10,700	7,600	40	302,000	24	5,900	4,000	53	210,000
Meagher	15,200	9,700	28	268,000	27	3,500	1,500	50	75,000
Musselshell	4,000	1,400	36	50,000	47	900	600	55	33,000
Petroleum	3,800	2,200	46	101,000	41	2,200	1,700	54	91,000
Wheatland	17,000	14,100	23	329,000	23	1,200	700	57	40,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**235,000**	**161,000**	**31**	**5,051,000**	--	**33,000**	**24,000**	**60**	**1,449,000**
Beaverhead	11,600	7,700	72	556,000	18	10,600	7,300	75	544,000
Gallatin	36,000	32,900	47	1,559,000	7	13,800	13,100	70	911,000
Jefferson	1,200	400	55	22,000	52	800	300	63	19,000
Madison	7,200	6,000	72	432,000	21	5,900	4,800	80	382,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**56,000**	**47,000**	**55**	**2,569,000**	--	**31,100**	**25,500**	**73**	**1,856,000**
Big Horn	12,800	10,700	62	664,000	15	5,900	5,800	85	491,000
Carbon	11,600	10,500	88	922,000	13	9,400	9,300	97	898,000
Park	7,500	4,600	36	164,000	31	3,600	2,300	52	119,000
Stillwater	17,000	9,600	24	229,000	29	1,600	800	66	53,000
Sweetgrass	3,000	2,000	50	100,000	43	1,500	1,200	70	84,000
Treasure	3,600	2,400	66	158,000	32	2,600	2,100	72	151,000
Yellowstone	28,500	25,200	70	1,761,000	6	17,400	16,000	99	1,576,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**84,000**	**65,000**	**62**	**3,998,000**	--	**42,000**	**37,500**	**90**	**3,372,000**
Carter	7,300	1,400	30	42,000	48	--	--	--	--
Custer	6,200	3,200	44	141,000	35	2,000	1,400	69	96,000
Fallon	10,200	3,300	25	84,000	45	--	--	--	--
Powder River	5,600	4,000	39	154,000	33	--	--	--	--
Prairie	6,400	3,500	29	101,000	41	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	4,800	1,900	67	128,000	36	2,300	1,100	89	98,000
Wibaux	3,500	1,700	31	52,000	46	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	600	500	64	32,000
SOUTHEAST	**44,000**	**19,000**	**37**	**702,000**	--	**4,900**	**3,000**	**75**	**226,000**
MONTANA	**1,250,000**	**950,000**	**40**	**38,000,000**	--	**288,000**	**247,000**	**72**	**17,666,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Agricultural Prices Received for April

April full month crop prices were mostly down compared with March 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.00 per bushel, down $0.06 from March, but spring wheat was $0.08 higher at $3.26 per bushel. Durum wheat prices fell $0.70 to $2.87 per bushel as more lower quality durum wheat was marketed during the month than normal. The average price for oats was down $0.22 from last month to $1.03 per bushel. Feed barley prices were unchanged from the previous month at $1.80 while malt barley slipped $0.04 cents to $2.77 per bushel.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay and other hay were unchanged from the previous month at $94.00 per ton and $86.00 per ton, respectively. The mid-May winter wheat price averaged $3.10 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.45, feed barley was $1.70, malt barley averaged $2.80 and oats averaged $1.00 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were mostly lower than the previous month. Steer and heifer prices were down $0.60 to $87.20 per cwt while cows were up $0.80 to $44.60. The average price for calves was down $1.00 to $105.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped $5.70 to $39.50 per cwt, and lamb prices fell $12.50 to $87.50 per cwt. Milk prices rose $1.20 per cwt from last month to $14.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-May averaged $86.60 per cwt., cows averaged $45.40 per cwt., calves averaged $103.00 per cwt., and milk prices was $14.40 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was $2.77, down $0.08, spring wheat was $3.05, up $0.07; durum wheat was $2.52 , up $0.12; the all barley price was $1.93, down $0.14, and steer and heifer prices were $79.60, down $0.90 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was $2.94 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.13 per bushel, durum wheat was $2.53 per bushel, all wheat was $2.98 per bushel, and all barley was $1.77. Steer and heifer prices were $76.20 per cwt, cow prices were $43.40, all hog prices were $51.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.553 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 108 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (1.9 percent) from the April Index. Higher prices for milk, hogs, tomatoes, and broilers were partially offset by lower prices for strawberries, cattle, eggs, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cantaloups, broilers, grapes, and peaches were partially offset by lower marketings of cattle, milk, asparagus, cotton, and hogs. Compared with May 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 8 points (8.0 percent) higher. Price increases from May 2000 for milk, broilers, cantaloups, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for corn, soybeans, broccoli, and lettuce.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	April 2000	May 2000	April 2001	May 2001
Prices Received	100	100	106	108
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	119	119	123	123
Ratio 2/	84	84	86	88

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		April 2000	March 2001	April 2001	April 2001	March 2001	April 2000	May 15, 2001	May 15, 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.70	3.06	3.00	2.77	-0.06	+0.30	3.10	2.94
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.57	2.87	2.52	-0.70	-0.82	3.30	2.53
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.95	3.18	3.26	3.05	+0.08	+0.31	3.45	3.13
All Wheat	Bu.	2.95	3.19	3.13	2.86	-0.06	+0.18	3.30	2.98
Barley, All	Bu.	2.27	2.27	2.10	1.93	-0.17	-0.17	2.04	1.77
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.68	1.80	1.80	1.83	0	+0.12	1.70	1.36
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.75	2.81	2.77	2.35	-0.04	+0.02	2.80	2.33
Oats	Bu.	1.15	1.25	1.03	1.28	-0.22	-0.12	1.00	1.29
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	65.00	92.00	94.00	100.00	+2.00	+29.00	94.00	113.00
All Other Hay	Ton	56.00	84.00	86.00	74.20	+2.00	+30.00	86.00	76.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	63.00	91.00	92.00	94.80	+1.00	+29.00	92.00	106.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	87.50	87.80	87.20	79.60	-0.60	-0.30	86.60	76.20
Cows	Cwt	42.20	43.80	44.60	43.30	+0.80	+2.40	45.40	43.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	77.10	79.90	78.30	75.60	-1.60	+1.20	68.50	72.70
Calves	Cwt	103.00	106.00	105.00	111.00	-1.00	+2.00	103.00	112.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	39.40	45.20	39.50	34.90	-5.70	+0.10	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	90.80	100.00	87.50	85.20	-12.50	-3.30	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.20	12.90	14.10	14.40	+1.20	+1.90	14.40	15.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1984-2001

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	925	92	284	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,223	90	3,263	960	84	300	1,344	1,065	2,409	854	2.63
2001 . 3/	854	1,941	95	2,890	970	85	250	1,305	1,000	2,305	585	2.75-3.35

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, June 2001--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Sweet Cherry Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Red Meat Production
Hog & Pigs
Grain Stocks
Crop Acreage

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Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Productoin
Egg Production
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Hogs & Pigs
Potato Stocks
Ag Chem Use
Farm Labor
Livestock Chem Use

April Milk Production Down 1.9 Percent In Major States

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.2 billion pounds, down 1.9 percent from April 2000. March revised production, at 12.4 billion pounds, was down 2.3 percent from March 2000. The March revision represented a decrease of 2 million pounds, virtually unchanged from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,572 pounds for April, 21 pounds below April 2000.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 45,000 head less than April 2000, and 12,000 head less than March 2001.

U.S. April Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.09 billion during April 2001, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.01 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 66.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2001 averaged 337 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during April 2000. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,106 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,130 eggs in April 2000.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2001, totaled 337 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 337 million layers consisted of 277 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.96 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2001, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 2 percent from the 70.6 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.65 billion eggs during April 2001, up 1 percent from April 2000. The average number of layers during April, at 316 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Montana April Red Meat Production Up 14 Percent From March

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April, 2001. Red meat production is up 14 percent from the previous month but down 6 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughtered totaled 1,900 head, which is 200 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,131 pounds, was up 24 pounds from the previous year.

During March there were 1,500 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 300 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 245 pounds, was 3 pounds less than a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, was the same as the previous year. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from last year to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.51 billion pounds in April, up 1 percent from the 3.46 billion pounds produced in April 2000.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.71 million head, down 2 percent from April 2000. The average live weight was down 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,186 pounds.

Veal production totaled 15 million pounds, 9 percent below April a year ago which was the previous record low of 17 million pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 74,000 head, down 8 percent from April 2000. The average live weight was 3 pounds below last year, at 340 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.53 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.83 million head, 8 percent above April 2000. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20 million pounds, was down 14 percent from April 2000 and 1 million pounds below previous low from 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 290,000 head, 16 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 4 pounds from April a year ago.

January - April red meat production was 14.6 billion pounds, 3 percent below the comparable figure a year ago. Using comparable figures from last year, beef production was 6 percent lower, veal production was 7 percent lower, pork production was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was 8 percent lower.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.17 million head on May 1, 2001. The inventory was 2 percent above May 1, 2000 and 11 percent above May 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.55 million, 9 percent below 2000 and 8 percent below 1999. Net placements were 1.46 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 334,000, 600-699 pounds were 384,000, 700-799 pounds were 494,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 339,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.82 million, 3 percent below 2000 and 7 percent below 1999.

Other disappearance totaled 89,000 during April, 1 percent below 2000 and 14 percent below 1999.

U.S. April Pig Crop Up 1 Percent

The April 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 8.52 million head, was 1 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 953 thousand head, slightly below last year. The average pigs per litter for April rose to 8.94, compared to 8.85 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts totaled 5.99 million head on May 1, 2001. Nationally, sows and gilts bred during the month of April totaled 1.17 million head.

Montana May 1 Potato Stocks Up 150 Percent, U.S. Up Record High 28 Percent

Montana potato producers held 750,000 cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2001, up 450,000 cwt. from the previous year. This is the highest level in the last ten years. The stocks represent 21 percent of the total 2000 production. Last year's May 1 stocks represented just 9 percent of the harvest.

In the U.S., May 1, 2001 potato stocks totaled a record high 111 million cwt., up 28 percent from last year and 27 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 24 percent of the fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from a year ago. This year's record high stocks exceeded the previous record set May 1, 1997 by 8 percent.

Nationally, disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 was a record high 350 million cwt. This disappearance was up 5 percent from last year and 3 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. The disappearance during April was 42.6 million cwt., up 3 percent from last year but 4 percent below the record in April 1997. Shrink and loss, to this point in the season, was 37.6 million cwt., up 29 percent from the last two years. Disappearance and loss total includes potatoes diverted and destroyed by growers under a cooperative program to reduce surpluses. Potatoes sold and disposed of under a government program are included in the disappearance.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled 170 million cwt. to May 1, up 1 percent from last year in comparable States. In April, processors used 18.7 million cwt. of potatoes, a gain of 2 percent from last year in comparable States.

Western States held 90.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2001, up 32 percent from the last year and 36 percent above two years ago. Washington's potato stocks were up 79 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's were up 25 percent. Oregon's stocks were up 11 percent and Montana's swelled 150 percent. Colorado's stocks were equal to last year but California's were down 27 percent.

2000 Agricultural Chemical Use Estimates for Sheep and Sheep Facilities

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report are based on data compiled from a survey conducted in late December 2000 through January 2001 in 22 selected States by National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). These States account for approximately 87% of the U.S. sheep inventory as published by NASS. Only those States with published sheep inventory for January 1, 2001 were used for this calculation, however State level agricultural chemical use data was not published. All data refer to the on-farm use of chemical active ingredients contained in insecticides which were applied during the 2000 calendar year. Insecticides are defined as chemical products used for the control of insects. Insecticides are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Insecticides are applied to sheep and sheep facilities to control mange, mites, lice, flies, keds, bots, and other external pests.

All Sheep: Agricultural producers applied 14,191 pounds of insecticides to sheep and lambs during 2000 in the 22 surveyed States. Fenvalerate, at 5,444 pounds, was the top active ingredient used on sheep with respect to total quantity used, followed by malathion, at 3,940 pounds, and permethrin, at 1,749 pounds. These three active ingredients accounted for 78 percent of the total pounds of active ingredients applied to sheep and lambs in the surveyed States during 2000. Of the total chemical applications made to sheep in 2000 in the 22 selected States, 46 percent were applied as a pour-on, 25 percent by injection, 11 percent by hand spray, 10 percent by power spray, and 5 percent through oral drench. Insecticide applications made to sheep through mineral or feed block and dust bags each accounted for 1 percent. All other methods accounted for the remaining 1 percent of the chemical applications.

All Sheep Facilities: In the 22 surveyed States, a total of 4,984 pounds of insecticides was applied to sheep and lamb facilities in 2000. Petroleum distillate had the highest quantity used at 3,180 pounds. Malathion had the second highest quantity used at 935 pounds, followed by permethrin at 248 pounds. These three active ingredients accounted for 88 percent of the total pounds of active ingredients applied to sheep facilities in the surveyed States during 2000.

The full report is available at www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/rptscal.htm or for more information call the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service at 1-800-835-2612

U.S. Hired Workers Down 4 Percent, Wage Rates Up 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.02 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 8-14, 2001, down 4 percent from a year ago. There were 804,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 215,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 8.9 percent of the April hired workforce compared with 8.5 percent in April 2000.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $8.31 per hour during the April 2001 survey week, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.61 per hour, up 7 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned $8.01 per hour compared with $7.58 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 16 cents from last year. Number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.4 hours a year ago.

2000 Agricultural Chemical Use Estimates for Winter and Spring Wheat and Sugar Beets

Montana winter wheat producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 82 percent of the acreage planted for the 2000 crop. A total of 74.2 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer was applied to the 1.50 million acres of winter wheat planted in Montana. Of the planted area, 77 percent received phosphate fertilizer while potash was used on 43 percent of the acres. Total application of phosphate was 34.0 million pounds and potash was 8.2 million pounds. Winter wheat producers applied 745,000 pounds of herbicides to 91 percent of the planted winter wheat acres in 2000. The most common herbicide used was 2, 4-D with 58 percent of the acreage sprayed. Glyphosate and Dicamba were the next popular herbicides used at 39 and 36 percent respectively, of the planted acreage covered.

Spring wheat producers in Montana planted 3.35 million acres of spring wheat in 2000. Ninety percent of these acres had nitrogen fertilizer applied to them. A total of 167.6 million pounds of nitrogen was applied. Phosphate was applied to 84 percent and potash to 36 percent of the planted spring wheat acreage. Total application of phosphate was 75.5 million pounds and potash was 15.6 million pounds. Producers applied 2.96 million pounds of herbicides to 92 percent of the total spring wheat acres planted in 2000. The most widely used herbicide was 2, 4-D with 63 percent of the acreage sprayed. Glyphosate was the second most common herbicide used at 42 percent. Triasulfuron was used on 39 percent of the planted acres. (Continued on next page)

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., April 9-15, 2000 & April 8-14, 2001 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	8.41	8.28	7.37	7.92	7.94	8.11	8.51	8.98
Northeast II	7.66	7.95	6.00	6.60	7.21	7.60	7.84	8.42
Appalachian I	6.85	7.32	7.59	7.39	7.06	7.34	7.44	7.70
Appalachian II	6.54	6.85	6.90	7.36	6.71	7.03	7.10	7.31
Southeast	7.06	7.01	6.97	7.53	7.03	7.05	7.36	7.61
FL	7.70	7.75	7.80	7.90	7.71	7.77	8.53	8.40
Lake	7.79	8.93	7.77	8.82	7.78	8.87	8.55	9.57
Cornbelt I	8.12	8.09	8.48	8.69	8.22	8.23	8.69	8.62
Cornbelt II	7.56	8.19	8.18	8.55	7.88	8.41	8.08	8.80
Delta	6.53	6.55	7.04	7.34	6.68	6.65	7.06	7.09
Northern Plains	7.58	8.21	7.75	8.20	7.65	8.20	7.80	8.89
Southern Plains	6.90	7.10	7.48	7.71	7.12	7.33	7.47	7.86
Mountain I	6.70	7.11	6.74	7.16	6.72	7.14	7.01	7.48
Mountain II	7.30	7.37	7.93	7.58	7.51	7.44	7.84	7.99
Mountain III	6.71	6.92	6.53	6.80	6.68	6.90	7.30	7.46
Pacific	7.92	7.75	8.55	8.75	7.99	7.87	8.51	8.40
CA	7.64	7.82	8.37	9.02	7.70	7.96	8.29	8.59
HI 3/	9.19	9.06	n/a	n/a	9.14	9.03	10.58	10.67
US 4/	7.54	7.61	7.58	8.01	7.55	7.71	8.09	8.31

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data. 4/ Excludes AK.

(Continued from 3rd page)

Sugar beet producers in Montana applied 8.9 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer to 100 percent of the 60,700 acres planted in Montana for the 2000 crop. Of the planted area, 99 percent received phosphate fertilizer while potash was used on 66 percent of the acreage. Total application of phosphate was 5.5 million pounds and potash was 1.7 million pounds. The entire planted acreage of sugar beets had some type herbicide used. Desmedipham was the most commonly applied. Eighty-nine percent of the acreage had insecticides applied with Terbufos being the most common and 61 percent of the acreage had fungicides applied. The most common fungicide used was Benomyl with 49 percent of the acreage covered.

Nationally, winter wheat producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 87 percent of the area planted for 2000 harvest in the surveyed States. Phosphate fertilizers were applied to 54 percent of the collective acreage, ranging from just 11 percent in Oregon to Illinois's 82 percent. All surveyed States treated at least a portion of the acreage with herbicides; 2,4-D was again the most prevalent in terms of area and total application.

Nitrogen fertilizer was applied to 95 percent of the spring wheat acreage in states surveyed (MN, MT, ND, SD) and ND durum producers applied 86 percent to their acreage. Phosphate coverage shows 84 percent for other spring and 66 percent for durum. The three most popular herbicides for the durum area covered were 2,4-D, Trifluralin, and Tribenuron-methyl in that order. However, MCPA and Fenoxaprop were second and third behind 2,4-D on other spring wheat fields.

Sugar beet producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 98 percent of the area planted for 2000 harvest in the surveyed States. Phosphate fertilizers were applied to 92 percent of the collective acreage, and 50 percent of planted area received potash. All surveyed States treated at least a portion of the acreage with herbicides; insecticides and fungicides.

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report refer to on-farm use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides on the targeted crops for the 2000 crop year. Farm and ranch operators were enumerated late in the growing season or after the farm operator had indicated that planned applications were completed. The data was compiled from the Agricultural Resources Management Study (ARMS) conducted in the Fall of 2000.

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Barley County Estimates
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Ag Prices
Crop Production
Winter Wheat Production
Wheat Supply & Demand

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Meat Animal PDI
- Hog & Pigs
- Wheat Supply & Demand
- Ag Prices

May 1 Crop Production and Hay Stocks

As of May 1, **Montana winter wheat** producers were expecting a yield of 34 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year. If realized, total production of 37.1 million bushels would be down 17 % from a year ago due to decreased acreage. In the fall of 2000, Montana producers seeded 1.2 million acres of winter wheat, down 300,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 1.09 million acres, 260,000 acres less than that was harvested last year. For the week ending May 7, the condition of the winter wheat crop was rated at 13 % very poor, 26 % poor, 38 % fair, 20 % good, and 3 % excellent.

United States winter wheat production is forecast at 1.34 billion bushels, down 14 % from 2000 to the lowest level since 1978. All classes of winter wheat are down from the previous year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.8 bushels per acre, 2.8 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 32.1 million acres, down 8 % from last season. The portion of the U.S. winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on April 29, at 41 %, was 20 percentage points lower than last year. The Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas good to excellent ratings were only 28 %, 25%, and 26 %, respectively. April 1 conditions were the lowest since 1989, when just 29 % was rated good and 3 % was excellent.

Montana hay producers had an estimated 427 thousand tons of hay on hand as of May 1, which is down 58 % from last year. This is the lowest May 1 hay stocks on hand since 1989, when there were 307 thousand tons of hay on hand, and the seventh lowest stocks since 1945 when records were started . Lower hay production during 2000 and increased feeding of hay due to last years drought conditions contributed to the lower hay stocks. Disappearance from December 2000 to May 1, 2001 totaled 2.74 million tons.

Stocks of all hay in the United States on farms totaled 21.1 million tons on May 1, 2001, down 27 % from May 1 of the previous year. This reduction reflects a return to near normal stock levels following last year's near record high. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2000 - May 1, 2001, totaled 82.6 million tons, 3 % higher than the 1999-2000 crop disappearance of 80.1 million tons. The increased disappearance was due to severe early winter weather in the northern Plains and Midwest, and a late spring across much of the country.

Twenty-seven of the 48 States had lower hay stocks. Most of the States reporting stock declines were located west of the Mississippi River. In these States stock levels were low due to dry conditions during the growing season which caused low production and hay land to be utilized for supplemental pasture. Also, severe winter weather extended the feeding season and increased hay usage.

WINTER WHEAT: Production Forecast by Districts–May 1, 2001 1/

District	1999	2000	2001	01/00
	1,000 Bushels			% chg.
NW	422	222	250	113
NC	13,571	24,097	18,840	78
NE	1,632	2,402	2,505	104
C	10,810	9,158	8,315	91
SW	1,413	971	1,035	107
SC	5,784	5,490	4,415	80
SE	3,228	2,210	1,700	77
MT	36,860	44,550	37,060	83

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee

Winter Wheat: Acreage, Yield, & Production, by Selected States & U.S. 2000 & Forecast May 1, 2001

State	Planted	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	1,000 Acres			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,400	2,350	2,050	29.0	34.0	68,150	69,700
ID	760	730	710	90.0	80.0	65,700	56,800
KS	9,900	9,400	8,400	37.0	34.0	347,800	285,600
MT	**1,200**	**1,350**	**1,090**	**33.0**	**34.0**	**44,550**	**37,060**
NE	1,800	1,650	1,700	36.0	36.0	59,400	61,200
OK	5,400	4,200	3,600	34.0	27.0	142,800	97,200
OR	750	730	690	62.0	54.0	45,260	37,260
SD	1,300	1,280	550	42.0	33.0	53,760	18,150
TX	5,700	2,200	2,900	30.0	30.0	66,000	87,000
WA	1,850	1,800	1,750	73.0	63.0	131,400	110,250
WY	170	170	160	24.0	29.0	4,080	4,640
US	41,336	35,022	32,088	44.6	41.8	1,562,733	1,341,381

2000 Cash Receipts for Meat Animals in Montana and the U.S.

Cash receipts from the 2000 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled $1.02 billion, up 20 percent from 1999. Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves were up 20 percent in 2000. They increased from $806 million in 1999, to $966 million, which is a historic high for Montana. Increased calf marketings and higher prices contributed to the increase in cash receipts. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs. or more, at 1.37 million head, were up slightly from 1999. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs. increased 22 percent from the previous year to 365,000 head. The average price received in 2000 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs. rose $10.60 per cwt to $78.20 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs. increased $13.10 per cwt to $103 per cwt.

Cash receipts from the sales of hogs in Montana rose 28 percent from 1999 to $30.5 million dollars. While the marketings of hogs decreased 14 percent from 1999 to 311,000 head, prices for hogs rose dramatically from the previous year as the season average price was up $9.00 to $39.80 per cwt. Sheep and lamb cash receipts rose 17 percent from 1999 to $24.2 million dollars. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2000 were 53,000 and 285,000 head, respectively. Both sheep and lamb marketings were up from 1999. The average price for lambs rose $7.70 per cwt to $84.50 per cwt and sheep were up $2.30 per cwt from 1999 to $31.40 per cwt.

The United States 2000 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs totaled $53.4 billion, up 16 percent from 1999. Gross income rose for all three species. Hogs and pigs increased the most, at 36 percent, cattle and calves increased 12 percent, and sheep and lambs increased slightly from the previous year.

In the U.S., total 2000 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 16 percent to $53.0 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 77 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 22 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for cattle and calves, but declined for both hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up from 1999 levels for all three species.

Nationally, cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased from $36.5 billion in 1999 to $40.8 in 2000, a 12 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 57.5 billion pounds in 2000, up 1 percent from last year. The U.S. annual average price per cwt. live weight for cattle was $68.60, an increase of $5.20 from 1999. For calves, the annual average price increased $16.30 to $104.00.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $11.8 billion in the U.S. during 2000, up 37 percent from 1999. Marketings decreased to 26.7 billion pounds in 2000, down 1 percent from 1999. The U.S. annual average price per cwt. live weight increased $12.00 to $42.30 in 2000.

Nationally, cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2000 were $469 million, up slightly percent from 1999. Marketings declined 5 percent to 653 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per cwt. live weight for sheep increased from $31.10 in 1999 to $34.20 in 2000 while for lambs, the annual average price increased $4.90 to $79.40.

U.S. Pig Crop Up 2 Percent

The March 2001 U.S. pig crop at 8.78 million head, was 2 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 988 thousand head, 1 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter for March rose to 8.89, compared to 8.87 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts totaled 6.00 million head on April 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during the month of March totaled 1.20 million head.

U.S. Wheat Supply and Demand Estimates

This report presents USDA's initial assessment of U.S. and world crop supply and demand prospects and U.S. price prospects for the 2001/02 season. Projections are based on economic analysis, normal weather, trends and judgement.

The 2001/02 outlook for U.S. wheat is for a smaller crop, reduced use, declining stocks, and higher prices. Total production is projected down 12 percent from 2000/01 to 1,96 1million bushels. The survey-based forecast of winter wheat production is 14 percent below last year because of lower area and yields. Using planting intentions and average harvested-to-planted ratios and yields results in lower spring wheat (including durum) production. The smaller crop and reduced carry in stocks drops total 2001/02 supplies almost 12 percent below a year earlier to the lowest level since 1996/97.

Projected 2001/02 use is down from a year earlier. Domestic use is expected to drop as feed and residual use declines in response to smaller wheat supplies and more attractive corn prices. Exports are expected to drop because of strong competition from foreign exporters. Nevertheless, use is projected to exceed production and 2001/02 ending stocks are projected down around 240 million bushels from the forecast carry in level. Given the lower ending stocks, the projected price range for 2001/02 is $2.75 to $3.35 per bushel, compared with an estimated $2.63 for 2000/01.

Projected 2001/02 global wheat production and stocks are down from a year earlier. Foreign wheat production is down slightly as smaller crops in the EU, India, Pakistan, and several other countries more than offset bigger prospective crops in Russia, Ukraine, Eastern Europe, Australia, Argentina, and a number of other countries. Global imports are projected up slightly because of relatively small increases in a number of countries, especially in Asia. Partially offsetting these gains are lower expected imports by North Africa, Brazil, and Eastern Europe because of larger crops. Exportable supplies in the major foreign exporters will be down only slightly as bigger carry in stocks for Canada and the EU and bigger crops in Argentina and Australia will largely offset the sharply lower EU crop. In addition, India is expected to continue to export in order to reduce burdensome stocks. Thus, the higher priced U.S. wheat is expected to face intense competition in a continued weak global market.

(Continued on the back)

Agricultural Prices Received for April

March full month crop prices were slightly higher for most crops compared with February 2001. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.06 per bushel, up 8 cents from February; durum wheat was $3.57 per bushel, down 10 cents; and spring wheat was 5 cents higher at $3.18 per bushel. The average price for oats was $1.15 per bushels, up 12 cents from last month. Feed barley average price was $1.80 and malt barley was $2.81 per bushel, up 2 and down 2 cents respectively.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay was $94.00 per ton, up $2.00 from last month. Other hay, at $86.00 per ton, was also up $2.00 from March's mid-month price. The mid-April winter wheat price averaged $3.00 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.25, feed barley was $1.70, malt barley averaged $2.80 and oats averaged $1.10 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mostly higher than the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $.50 to $87.80 per cwt. Cows were up $.30 to $43.80, and the average price for calves was down $1.00 to $106.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $.20 to $45.20 per cwt, and lamb prices increased $2.00 to $100.00 per cwt. Milk prices dropped $.80 per cwt from last month to $12.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $88.00 per cwt., cows averaged $43.50 per cwt., calves averaged $105.00 per cwt., and milk prices were $14.00 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was $2.85, up 11 cents; spring wheat was $2.99, unchanged, durum wheat was $2.40; the all barley price was $2.07, unchanged, and steer and heifer prices were $80.50, up $1.60 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was $2.79 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.98 per bushel, all wheat was $2.84 per bushel, and all barley was $1.96. Steer and heifer prices were $80.70 per cwt, cow prices were $42.70, all hog prices were $46.70 per cwt, and all egg prices were 66.5 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 107 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (3.9 percent) from the March Index. Higher prices for strawberries, milk, oranges, and hay were partially off set by lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, soybeans, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, milk, cucumbers, and broilers were partially offset by lower marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs.

Compared with April 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.0 percent) higher. Price increases from April 2000 for milk, strawberries, cattle, and broilers were partially offset by lower prices for lettuce, soybeans, corn, and tomatoes.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Mar. 2000	Apr. 2000	Mar. 2001	Apr. 2001
Prices Received	95	100	103	107
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	119	119	123	124
Ratio 2/	80	84	84	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Mar. 2000	Feb. 2001	Mar. 2001	Mar. 2001	Feb. 2001	Mar. 2000	Apr.15 2001	Apr.15 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.68	2.98	3.06	2.85	+0.08	+0.38	3.00	2.79
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.67	3.57	2.40	-0.10	-0.14	3.40	2.49
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.90	3.13	3.18	2.99	+0.05	+0.28	3.25	2.98
All Wheat	Bu.	2.91	3.16	3.19	2.87	+0.03	+0.28	3.19	2.84
Barley, All	Bu.	2.38	2.48	2.27	2.07	-0.21	-0.11	2.21	1.96
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.59	1.78	1.80	1.76	+0.02	+0.21	1.70	1.79
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.75	2.83	2.81	2.24	-0.02	+0.06	2.80	2.13
Oats	Bu.	1.01	1.03	1.15	1.24	+0.12	+0.14	1.10	1.29
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	65.00	92.00	92.00	93.70	0	+27.00	94.00	100.00
All Other Hay	Ton	53.00	84.00	84.00	71.30	0	+31.00	86.00	74.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	64.00	91.00	91.00	87.20	0	+27.00	92.00	94.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	85.70	87.30	87.80	80.50	+0.50	+2.10	88.00	80.70
Cows	Cwt	41.60	43.50	43.80	42.30	+0.30	+2.20	43.50	42.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	81.30	78.50	79.90	76.30	+1.40	-1.40	79.10	76.50
Calves	Cwt	105.00	107.00	106.00	112.00	-1.00	+1.00	105.00	113.00
Sheep	Cwt	40.90	45.00	45.20	43.60	+0.20	+4.30	N/A	N/A
Lambs	Cwt	86.50	98.00	100.00	84.40	+2.00	+13.50	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.30	13.70	12.90	13.90	-0.80	+0.60	14.00	14.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1984-2001

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,299	95	3,339	925	92	284	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . .	950	2,223	90	3,263	950	84	300	1,334	1,100	2,434	829	2.63
2001 . 3/	829	1,961	95	2,886	960	85	250	1,295	1,000	2,295	591	2.75-3.35

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, May 2001--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Ag Chem Use
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
Egg Production
Livestock Chem Use
Red Meat Production
Hogs & Pigs

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Montana's Rank
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
Milk PDI
Poultry PDI

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.52 million head on April 1, 2001. The inventory was 3 percent above April 1, 2000 and 11 percent above April 1, 1999. The inventory included 6.96 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.49 million head, up 3 percent from 2000.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.85 million, 9 percent below both 2000 and 1999. Net placements were 1.75 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000, 600-699 pounds were 416,000, 700-799 pounds were 618,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 488,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.93 million, 6 percent below 2000 and 3 percent below 1999.

Other disappearance totaled 98,000 during March, 5 percent below 2000 but 38 percent above 1999.

Montana's March Red Meat Production Unchanged from Last Month, Down from Last Year

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March, 2001. Red meat production is unchanged from the previous month and down 7 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughtered totaled 1,800 head, which is the same amount as a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,140 pounds, was down 3 pounds from the previous year.

During March there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 100 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 243 pounds, was 10 pounds less than a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, was 100 less than the previous year. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from last year to 133 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.78 billion pounds in March, down 7 percent from the 4.05 billion pounds produced in March 2000.

U.S. beef production, at 2.12 billion pounds, was 8 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.92 million head, down 7 percent from March 2000. The average live weight was down 6 pounds from the previous year, at 1,209 pounds.

Veal production totaled 16 million pounds nationally, 17 percent below the previous March record low set last year. Calf slaughter totaled 84,000 head, down 18 percent from March 2000. The average live weight was 3 pounds above last year, at 323 pounds.

Pork production in the U.S. totaled 1.63 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.33 million head, 6 percent below March 2000. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 264 pounds.

U.S. lamb and mutton production, at 23 million pounds, was down 3 percent from March 2000, which was also the previous March record low. Sheep slaughter totaled 326,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January - March red meat production was 11.1 billion pounds nationally, 4 percent below the comparable figure a year ago. Using comparable figures from last year, beef production was 7 percent lower, veal production was 10 percent lower, pork production was down 1 percent, and lamb and mutton production was 5 percent lower.

March Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.33 billion during March 2001, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.22 billion table eggs and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 67.0 million were egg-type.

The total number of layers during March 2001 averaged 337 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during March 2000. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,178 eggs, down slightly from 2,186 eggs in March 2000.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2001, totaled 337 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 337 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.80 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2001, averaged 70.9 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 71.2 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.87 billion eggs during March 2001, up 1 percent from March 2000. The average number of layers during March, at 315 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	VALUE	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	56,700,000	acres	2000	2	6.0
Number of farms and ranches	27,600	farms/ranches	2000	31	1.3
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	1,716	million dollars	1999	34	0.9
Crops	789	million dollars	1999	31	0.8
Livestock	928	million dollars	1999	32	1.0
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,550,000	head	Jan. 1, 2001	11	2.6
All Cows	1,550,000	head	Jan. 1, 2001	9	3.6
Beef Cows	1,531,000	head	Jan. 1, 2001	6	4.6
Milk Cows	19,000	head	Jan. 1, 2001	42	0.2
Cattle on Feed	60,000	head	Jan. 1, 2001	22	0.4
All Sheep and Lambs	360,000	head	Jan. 1, 2001	7	5.2
Hogs and Pigs	155,000	head	Dec. 1, 2000	27	0.3
All Chickens	460,000	birds	Dec. 1, 2000	40	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,620,000	head	2000	7	4.2
Lamb Crop	365,000	head	2000	3	7.9
Pig Crop	304,000	head	2000	27	0.3
Wool Production	3,315,000	pounds	2000	4	7.1
Egg Production	84,000,000	eggs	2000	42	0.1
Honey Production	12,728,000	pounds	2000	6	5.8
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	135,210,000	bushels	2000	5	6.1
Winter Wheat	44,550,000	bushels	2000	14	2.9
Durum Wheat	13,160,000	bushels	2000	2	12.0
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	77,500,000	bushels	2000	3	14.1
Barley	38,000,000	bushels	2000	3	12.0
Oats	2,600,000	bushels	2000	12	1.7
All Hay	3,560,000	tons	2000	19	2.3
Alfalfa Hay	2,520,000	tons	2000	12	3.1
Dry Beans, All	486,000	cwt	2000	10	1.8
Pinto Beans	331,000	cwt	2000	7	3.1
Garbanzo Beans	150,000	cwt	2000	3	11.4
Lentils	210,000	cwt	2000	4	6.9
Dry Edible Peas	233,000	cwt	2000	4	6.7
Potatoes--fall	3,503,000	cwt	2000	17	0.7
Sugar Beets	1,321,000	tons	2000	6	4.1
Flaxseed	196,000	bushels	2000	4	1.8
Corn for Grain	2,520,000	bushels	2000	40	1/
Corn for Silage	840,000	tons	2000	28	0.9

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

Montana April 1 Potato Stocks Up 27 Percent, U.S. Up 20 Percent To Set New Record High

Montana potato producers held 2.1 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2001, up 27 percent from the previous year. This is the highest level in the last ten years. The stocks represent 60 percent of the total 2000 production. Last year's April 1 stocks represented 50 percent of the production.

Nationally, April 1, 2001 potato stocks totaled a record high 154 million cwt, up 20 percent from last year and 17 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from a year ago. This year's record high stocks exceeded the previous record set April 1, 1997 by 4 percent.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 was a record high 308 million cwt. Disappearance was up 5 percent from the last two years and 4 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. The disappearance during March was 44.3 million cwt., up 7 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, to this point in the season, was 35.4 million cwt., up 31 percent from last year and 32 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss total includes potatoes diverted and destroyed by growers under a cooperative program to reduce surpluses.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled 151 million cwt. to April 1, up 1 percent from last year in comparable States. In March, processors used 19.9 million cwt. of potatoes, down 5 percent from last year in comparable States.

Western States held 120 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2001, up 24 percent from the last two years. Washington's potato stocks were up 61 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks increased 19 percent, and Oregon's were up 5 percent. Colorado's stocks increased 2 percent from last year and Montana's were up 27 percent. California's potato stocks were down 29 percent from a year ago.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production Up, U.S. Milk Production Down

During the January-March 2001 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 84 million pounds of milk, up 9 percent from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows numbered 19,000 head, up 1,000 from last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.3 billion pounds, 3.1 percent below the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.16 million head, 33,000 head less than the same period last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.4 billion pounds, down 2.2 percent from March 2000. February revised production, at 11.1 billion pounds, was down 5.0 percent from February 2000. However, adjusting production for leap year would put February milk production down 1.6 percent. The February revision represented a decrease of 0.7 percent or 82 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,599 pounds for March, 33 pounds below March 2000. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 18,000 head less than March 2000, and 9,000 head less than February 2001.

2000 Milk Production, Disposition, and Income

Montana's 2000 milk production, of 315 million pounds increased 4 percent from 1999. An average of 18,000 milk cows were on farms and ranches during the year, unchanged from a year ago. The rate per cow averaged 17,500 pounds, 667 pounds more than 1999.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were 38.7 million dollars, 9 percent lower than 1999. Producer returns averaged $12.80 per cwt, a decrease of $1.80 from last year. Marketings totaled 302 million pounds, up 4 percent from a year ago. A total of 13 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 8 million pounds were fed to calves, and 5 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 3 percent in 2000 to 168 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 18,204 pounds, was 432 pounds above 1999. The annual average number of milk cows on farms, at 9.21 million head, was 54,000 head more than 1999.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2000, at $20.6 billion, was 11 percent below 1999. Producer returns averaged $12.40 per hundredweight, 14 percent below 1999. Marketings totaled 166 billion pounds, 3 percent above 1999. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.31 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1 percent less than 1999. Calves were fed 84 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households.

2000 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 2000 was $3.2 million, down 4 percent from 1999. Egg production in 2000 totaled 84 million eggs, down 11 percent from the previous year. The average price for eggs was 46 cents per dozen, up 3 cents from 1999.

Montana's value of sales from chickens in 2000, excluding broilers, was $25,000. Value of sales increased 47 percent from 1999. Chickens sold for an average price of 2.5 cents per pound, up a half cent from the previous year.

The U.S. combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 2000, was $21.2 billion, down 5 percent from the $22.3 billion in 1999. Of the combined total, 66 percent was from broilers, 20 percent from eggs, 13 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

Nationally, the value of broilers produced during 2000 was $14.0 billion, down 8 percent from 1999. The total number of broilers produced in 2000 was 8.26 billion, up 1 percent from 1999. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2000 was 41.5 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 1999. The 2000 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 33.6 cents per pound, compared to 37.1 cents per pound in 1999.

U.S. value of egg production in 2000 was $4.35 billion, up 1 percent from the $4.29 billion in 1999. Egg production totaled 84.4 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 82.7 billion eggs produced in 1999. In 2000, eggs averaged 61.8 cents per dozen, compared with 62.2 cents in 1999.

The value of turkeys produced in the U.S. during 2000 was $2.84 billion, up 1 percent from the $2.81 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2000 totaled 6.99 billion pounds live weight, compared with 6.89 billion pounds in 1999. The average price received by producers during 2000 was 40.7 cents per pound, compared with 40.8 cents in 1999.

The national value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2000 was $64.7 million, down 12 percent from the $73.2 million a year ago. Prices averaged 5.8 cents per pound, compared with 7.1 cents in 1999. The number of chickens sold in 2000 totaled 218 million, up 4 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1999-2000 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		1999	2000	1999	2000
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	35	38	54,951	50,507
Sold	1,000 Head	216	222	210,173	218,371
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	864	999	1,034,072	1,116,569
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	0.020	0.025	0.071	0.058
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	17	25	73,150	64,655
EGGS					
Produced	Million	94	84	82,715	84,412
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	0.430	0.460	0.622	0.618
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	3,368	3,220	4,287,164	4,347,190

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death, rendered, and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Hogs & Pigs
Meat Animals PDI
Ag Prices
Crop Production
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices
Hogs & Pigs

Montana Intends to Seed Less Wheat; Nationally Seedings are Down

Montana **spring wheat** producers expect to seed 3.25 million acres in 2001. If these expectations hold, spring wheat seedings would be down 3 percent from 2000 and would be the smallest acreage since 1993. **Winter wheat** seedings remained unchanged from the December estimate at 1.20 million acres, down 20 percent from last year due to the dry fall planting conditions. **Durum wheat** acreage, at 470,000 acres, would be down percent from a year ago. Adding the winter wheat seeded last fall to the other spring and durum wheat intended seedings shows 4.92 million acres of **all wheat** would be planted, down 8 percent from 2000. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding this spring's planting of crops due to the current dry conditions, lack of snowfall, and predicted precipitation that the state may receive this growing season. Producers are also concerned about the availability and cost of fertilizers and electricity for irrigation.

Montana **barley** producers intend to plant an estimated 1.2 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. The intended seeded acreage for **oats** is expected to be 150,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the previous year. Growers intend to harvest 55,000 acres of the 2001 oat crop for grain, 5,000 acres less than a year ago. **Corn** growers intend to plant 55,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Farmers intend to plant an estimated 60,000 acres of **sugar beets**, down 1 percent from 2000. Sugar beet acreage may change from this intention as changes in ownership of the sugar beet factories has resulted in the contracting for this year's acreage to be behind and not completed at this point. The area planted to **dry beans** is expected to be 50,000 acres, up 23 percent from last year. An estimated 2.5 million acres of **hay** are expected to be harvested, which is 500,000 acres more than last year's drought affected harvest. This increase reflects farmers' intentions to replenish low hay stocks due to increased demand for supplemental feeding. Whether or not producers will be able to harvest all the intended acreage is dependent on weather conditions.

Nationally, growers of **other spring wheat** intend to plant 15.5 million acres this year, up 2 percent from 2000. Of the total, about 14.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The largest acreage increases are expected in Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Washington.

Growers in Montana, Oregon, and South Dakota intend to plant fewer acres than a year ago. **Winter wheat** planted area for the 2001 crop is 41.3 million acres, down 5 percent from 2000. This is the lowest acres seeded to winter wheat since 1971. Of the total, about 29.1 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.8 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 3.4 million acres White Winter. Area seeded to **Durum wheat** is expected to total 3.46 million acres, down 12 percent from 2000. Poor growing and harvest conditions during the last several seasons have contributed to the sharp decline in North Dakota.

U.S. **Barley** growers intend to seed 5.32 million acres in 2001, down 9 percent from the 5.84 million acres seeded in 2000. North Dakota, with 1.60 million acres, is down 16 percent from last year and Montana is down 4 percent from a year ago. Of the 27 barley producing States only 5 plan to increase acreage.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,900 Montana farmers and ranchers during March. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. **Special thanks** to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

Planted Acreage, 1999-2000 and Intended 2001 Montana and United States

	Montana				United States			
	1999	2000	2001	01 / 00	1999	2000	2001	01 / 00
	Thousand Acres			Pct	Thousand Acres			Pct
All Wheat	5,560.0	5,330.0	4,920.0	92	62,714.0	62,529.0	60,299.0	96
Winter Wheat	1,050.0	1,500.0	1,200.0	80	43,331.0	43,348.0	41,336.0	95
Durum Wheat	360.0	480.0	470.0	98	4,035.0	3,937.0	3,462.0	88
Other Spring Wheat	4,150.0	3,350.0	3,250.0	97	15,348.0	15,244.0	15,501.0	102
Barley	1,300.0	1,250.0	1,200.0	96	5,194.0	5,844.0	5,321.0	91
Oats	170.0	130.0	150.0	115	4,673.0	4,477.0	4,425.0	99
Corn	65.0	60.0	55.0	92	77,386.0	79,545.0	76,693.0	96
Sugar Beets	61.8	60.7	60.0	99	1,560.6	1,564.2	1,432.5	92
Dry Beans	26.5	40.5	50.0	123	2,023.0	1,756.2	1,452.9	83
All Hay Harvested	2,600.0	2,000.0	2,500.0	125	63,220.0	59,854.0	63,771	107

(Continued from front page.)

Oats acres seeded and to be seeded by U.S. farmers for the 2001 crop year is expected to total 4.43 million acres, down 52,000 acres from last year's final planted acres. Growers expect to harvest 2.2 million acres for grain, 120,000 acres less than the final 2000 harvested acreage.

Nationally, the area planted to **dry beans** for the 2001 crop year is expected to total 1.45 million acres, down 17 percent from last year and 28 percent below 1999. This is the lowest U.S. acreage since 1983, when 1.18 million acres were planted. U.S. **corn** growers intend to plant 76.7 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000 and down 1 percent from 1999.

Producers expect to harvest 63.8 million acres of **hay** in 2001, up 7 percent from the 59.9 million acres harvested in 2000. Increases are intended in 26 States across the nation. The greatest increase in acreage is planned in the Great Plains States where 2000 acreage was down due to dry conditions.

March 1, 2001 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on March 1, 2001 were 98.0 million bushels, down 10 percent from March 1, 2000. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 76.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 22.0 million bushels stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 66.1 million bushels, were down 22 percent from last year and accounted for 67 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 31.9 million bushels, up 31 percent from last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 7.2 million bushels, down 21 percent from last year. All wheat disappearance for the December 2000 - February 2001 quarter was 35.9 million bushels, compared with 53.1 million for the same quarter last year. Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2001 were 16.9 million bushels, down 23 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.91 million bushels, down 15 percent from last year.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2001 totaled 1.34 billion bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2000 - February 2001 quarter disappearance is 466 million bushels, down slightly from the same period a year earlier. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2001 totaled 72.9 million bushels, down 10 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 2000 - February 2001 quarter disappearance of 31.4 million bushels was up 10 percent from the same period a year earlier.

(Continued to 4th page)

March 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001	01/00	Mar. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	88,000	111,000	76,000	86%	424,680	623,420	389,750
Off Farms 1/	20,700	22,860	21,970	106%	991,841	1,181,666	949,824
TOTAL	108,700	133,860	97,970	90%	1,416,521	1,805,086	1,339,574
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	17,500	34,000	23,000	131%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	6,820	8,300	8,890	130%	--	--	--
TOTAL	24,320	42,300	31,890	131%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	70,500	77,000	53,000	75%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,880	14,560	13,080	94%	--	--	--
TOTAL	84,380	91,560	66,080	78%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	51,700	72,000	44,200
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	29,617	32,306	28,666
TOTAL	9,070	11,340	7,200	79%	81,317	104,306	72,866
BARLEY							
On Farms	13,000	19,000	9,000	69%	59,300	111,500	58,600
Off Farms 1/	9,050	6,570	7,920	88%	110,917	117,369	103,421
TOTAL	22,050	25,570	16,920	77%	170,217	228,869	162,021
OATS							
On Farms	2,000	2,400	1,800	90%	53,300	86,900	55,800
Off Farms 1/	250	120	110	44%	48,500	57,209	46,319
TOTAL	2,250	2,520	1,910	85%	101,800	144,109	102,119
CORN							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	3,300,000	5,550,000	3,600,000
Off Farms 1/,4/	--	--	--	--	2,301,895	2,972,178	2,437,353
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	5,601,895	8,522,178	6,037,353

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Agricultural Prices Received for March

February full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with January 2001. Montana's spring wheat average price was $3.13 per bushel, up 8 cents from January; while durum wheat was $3.67 per bushel, down 14 cents; and winter wheat was 4 cents lower at $2.98 per bushel. Feed barley average price was $1.78 and malt barley, at $2.83 per bushel, were up 2 and 20 cents, respectively.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay was $92.00 per ton and other hay, at $84.00 per ton, were both unchanged from the previous month. The mid-March winter wheat price, at $3.05 per bushel and spring wheat, at $3.30, were both higher than February's prices. Both feed barley, at $1.60, and malt barley, at $2.65, were lower than February.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mostly higher than the previous month. While steer and heifer prices fell $3.70 to $87.30 per cwt , cows were up $4.90 to $43.50 and the average price for calves was unchanged at $107.00 per cwt. Sheep prices jumped $6.00 to $45.00 per cwt, and lamb prices increased $8.30 to $98.00 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $.60 per cwt from last month to $13.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March were slightly higher than February's price, at $87.70 per cwt. and milk prices were lower at $13.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was $2.74, down 3 cents; spring wheat was $2.99, up 3 cents; the all barley price was $2.07, up 11 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $78.90, down $.40 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was $2.86 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.99 per bushel, all wheat was $2.89 per bushel, and all barley was $2.16. Steer and heifer prices were $81.10 per cwt, cow prices were $43.20, all hog prices were $45.10 per cwt, and all egg prices were 69.1 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in March was 104 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.0 percent) from the February Index. Higher prices for hogs, broilers, milk, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for apples, lettuce, strawberries, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers were partially offset by lower marketings of cattle, cotton, oranges, and corn.

Compared with March 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 8 points (8.3 percent) higher. Price increases from March 2000 for milk, cattle, broilers, and strawberries were partially offset by lower prices for soybeans, corn, apples, grapefruit, and potatoes.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Feb. 2000	Mar. 2000	Feb. 2001	Mar. 2001
Prices Received	93	96	100	104
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	119	119	124	124
Ratio 2/	78	81	81	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb. 2000	Jan. 2001	Feb. 2001	Feb. 2001	Jan. 2001	Feb. 2000	Mar.15 2001	Mar.15 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.67	3.02	2.98	2.74	-0.04	+0.31	3.05	2.86
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.84	3.81	3.67	2.60	-0.14	-0.17	3.70	2.67
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.89	3.05	3.13	2.99	+0.08	+0.24	3.30	2.99
All Wheat	Bu.	2.89	3.09	3.16	2.83	+0.07	+0.27	3.28	2.89
Barley, All	Bu.	2.33	2.19	2.48	2.07	+0.29	+0.15	2.32	2.16
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.58	1.76	1.78	1.76	+0.02	+0.20	1.60	1.87
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.71	2.63	2.83	2.21	+0.20	+0.12	2.65	2.36
Oats	Bu.	0.97	1.07	1.03	1.27	-0.04	+0.06	0.95	1.25
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	90.00	92.00	94.20	+2.00	+25.00	92.00	93.70
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	82.00	84.00	71.20	+2.00	+27.00	84.00	71.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	89.00	91.00	86.80	+2.00	+25.00	91.00	87.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	85.40	91.00	87.30	78.90	-3.70	+1.90	87.70	81.10
Cows	Cwt	36.80	38.60	43.50	42.70	+4.90	+6.70	44.10	43.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	77.10	86.30	78.50	74.80	-7.80	+1.40	81.20	77.00
Calves	Cwt	105.00	107.00	107.00	109.00	0	+2.00	107.00	111.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	39.60	39.00	45.00	43.60	+6.00	+5.40	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	80.00	89.70	98.00	80.10	+8.30	+18.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.30	14.30	13.70	13.00	-0.60	+1.40	13.10	13.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

(Continued from 2nd page)

U.S. barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2001 are estimated at 162 million bushels, down nearly 5 percent from March 2000.

Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2001 totaled 102 million bushels, slightly above the stocks on March 1, 2000. Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2001 totaled 6.04 billion bushels, up 8 percent from March 1, 2000 and the highest level since 1987.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2001, was 58.8 million head. This was 2 percent above March 2000, but 1 percent below December 1, 2000.

Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was up 1 percent from March 1, 2000, but down slightly from December 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 52.5 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 1 percent below last quarter.

The December 2000-February 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 2000, but 1 percent less than 1999. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.78 for the December 2000-February 2001 period, compared to 8.76 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the March-May 2001 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2000. Intended farrowings for June-August, at 2.92 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period in 2000, but slightly below 1999.

MONTANA WHEAT AND BARLEY STOCKS: In All Positions By Districts

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1 2000	Dec. 1 2000	Mar. 1 2001	Mar. 1 2000	Dec. 1 2000	Mar. 1 2001
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	0.9	3.5	1.2	0.4	1.3	0.6
North Central	38.4	50.7	40.1	11.3	14.2	10.1
Northeast	41.3	45.3	31.6	1.5	2.0	1.2
Central	16.3	19.8	14.0	3.9	3.4	2.1
Southwest	3.3	2.2	1.3	1.9	1.4	0.4
South Central	3.8	7.2	5.0	2.6	2.7	2.1
Southeast	4.7	5.2	4.8	0.5	0.6	0.4
Montana	**108.7**	**133.9**	**98.0**	**22.0**	**25.6**	**16.9**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Montana's Rank
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Red Meat Production
- Egg Production
- Special Crops County Est.
- Milk PDI
- Poultry PDI

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Red Meat Production
Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Egg Production
Sheep & Lamb Losses
Drought Assistance

Annual Red Meat Production for 2000

Montana slaughter plants produced 21.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2000, compared with 22.2 million pounds in 1999. There were 25,700 cattle slaughtered during 2000, up 5 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 28.8 million pounds was up 6 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 12 pounds to 1,120 pounds.

There were 20,300 hogs slaughtered in Montana, a decrease of 11,500 head from 1999. Total live weight at 5.2 million pounds was 67 percent of the 1999 weight. The average live weight was 258 pounds per head compared with 244 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 4,800 head, an increase of 1,300 head from a year earlier. The average live weight at 126 pounds was 2 pounds lighter than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2000 increased 160,000 pounds from 1999 to 606,000 pounds.

The number of Montana federally inspected slaughter plants on January 1, 2001 was 11, down 1 from 2000. There were 140 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2001, down 4 from the same date a year ago.

U.S. Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms totaled 46.3 billion pounds in 2000, slightly higher than the previous record high set in 1999. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 46.2 billion pounds.

Beef production, at 26.9 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from the previous record high set last year. Veal production totaled 225 million pounds, down 3 percent from the previous record low set last year. Pork production, at 19.0 billion pounds, was down almost 2 percent from the previous record high set last year. Lamb and mutton production totaled 236 million pounds, falling 4 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2000 totaled 36.2 million head, up less than 1 percent from 1999, with federal inspection comprising 98.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,219 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.8 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 33.2 percent, dairy cows 7.4 percent, other cows 7.8 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.13 million head, down almost 12 percent from a year ago, with 96.2 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 316 pounds, up 25 pounds from a year earlier. Commercial hog slaughter totaled 98.0 million head, down over 3 percent from 1999, with 98.4 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from last year, at 262 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter at 3.46 million head was down over 6 percent from 1999, with 95.6 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight rose 2 pounds from 1999 to 135 pounds.

There were 910 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2001, compared with 908 last year. Of these, 738 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2000, with 16 slaughtering over 59 percent of the total cattle killed. There were 721 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 12 accounting for 52 percent of the total. Likewise, 8 of the 314 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for over 59 percent of the total, and 5 of the 541 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2000 comprised over 70 percent of the total head.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February, 2001. Red meat production is down 11 percent from the previous month and down 6 percent from the previous year. Cattle slaughtered totaled 1,800 head, 100 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,127 pounds, was up 8 pounds from the previous year.

During February there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 100 less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 247 pounds, was 8 pounds less than a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, was 100 less than the previous year. The average live weight was the same as last year at 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 10 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in February 2000. Beef production, at 1.88 billion pounds, was 13 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.58 million head, down 12 percent from February 2000. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from the previous year, at 1,218 pounds.

Veal production totaled 16 million pounds, 14 percent below February a year ago and 6 percent below the record low for February set in 1999. Calf slaughter totaled 79,000 head, down 17 percent from February 2000. The average live weight was 10 pounds above last year, at 328 pounds.

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Pork production totaled 1.49 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.60 million head, 6 percent below February 2000. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 264 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17 million pounds, was down 13 percent from February 2000. Sheep slaughter totaled 245,000 head, 16 percent below the same time last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.

January - February red meat production was 7.34 billion pounds, 3 percent below the comparable figure a year ago. Using comparable figures from last year, beef and veal production were each 6 percent lower, pork production was 2 percent higher, and lamb & mutton production was 7 percent lower.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.70 million head on March 1, 2001. The inventory was up 3 percent from the 11.33 million head on March 1, 2000 and 12 percent above March 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.58 million, 16 percent below 2000 and 13 percent below 1999. Net placements were 1.50 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 336,000, 600-699 pounds were 402,000, 700-799 pounds were 517,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 325,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.75 million, 15 percent below 2000 and 5 percent below 1999. Other disappearance totaled 81,000 during February, 4 percent above 2000 and 25 percent above 1999.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 3 Percent

Cattle on feed March 1, 2001, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.01 million, up 3 percent from the previous year and 13 percent above March 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.33 million, 17 percent below 2000 and 15 percent below 1999.

Marketings during February totaled 1.48 million, 16 percent below 2000 and 5 percent below 1999. Other disappearance during February was 64,000 head, 36 percent above 2000 and 52 percent above 1999.

Montana March Potato Stocks Up 11 Percent, U.S. Up a Record 17 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2001, up 11 percent from last year. The stocks represent 86 percent of the total 2000 production. Last year's March 1 stocks represented 81 percent of the harvest.

Nationally, March 1, 2001 potato stocks totaled a record high 198 million cwt, up 17 percent from last year and 14 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 43 percent of the fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from a year ago. This year's record high stocks exceeded the previous record set March 1, 1997 by 5 percent.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to March 1 was a record high 264 million cwt. This disappearance was up 5 percent from last year and 4 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. Disappearance during February was 36.7 million cwt, down 2 percent from the record high February disappearance established last year. Shrink and loss to this point in the season was 31.5 million cwt, up 26 percent from last year and 27 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss total includes potatoes diverted and destroyed by growers under a cooperative program to reduce surpluses.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled 132 million cwt to March 1, up 2 percent from the 1999 crop and 1 percent above two years ago in comparable States. In February, processors used 18.6 million cwt of potatoes, down 8 percent from last year in comparable States.

Western States held 150 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2001, up 19 percent from last year and 20 percent above 1999. Washington's potato stocks were up 43 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks increased 15 percent, and Oregon's were up 12 percent. Colorado's stocks were up 1 percent from last year and Montana was up 11 percent. California's potato stocks were down 28 percent from a year ago.

February Milk Production in Major States Down 4.3 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.2 billion pounds, down 4.3 percent from February 2000. Most of the decline is due to an extra day of production in February 2000, because of leap year. Adjusting production for the additional day would put February 2001 milk production down 0.9 percent from last year. January revised production, at 12.1 billion pounds, was down 1.6 percent from January 2000. The January revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 11 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,440 pounds for February, 66 pounds below February 2000. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 7,000 head more than February 2000, but 10,000 head less than January 2001.

February Egg Production Down 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.52 billion during February 2001, down 2 percent from last year. Production included 5.51 billion table eggs and 1.01 billion hatching eggs, of which 947 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2001 averaged 336 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during February 2000. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,943 eggs, down 4 percent from 2,016 eggs in February 2000.

February 2001 contained 20 weekdays, 1 holidays and four Saturdays, compared to 21 weekdays, 1 holidays and 4 Saturdays in February 2000.

(Continued on back page)

Montana Sheep and Lamb Losses for 2000

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 3,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2000, representing a total value of more than $4.1 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost rose 3 percent from 1999 and the total value of inventory lost in 2000 increased 11 percent. Higher average market prices this past year resulted in the increased sheep and lamb values. The total January 1, 2000 sheep and lamb inventory is 3 percent lower than the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 8.7 percent of the January 1 inventory plus lambs born -- slightly higher than the previous year.

Predators caused an estimated $1.1 million in losses in 2000, down 1 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.5 percent of the January 1 inventory plus lambs born and 29 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 68 percent of the predator caused losses and 20 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $0.7 million. The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 18,900 head, down 1,400 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 15,900 head, down 4 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 3,000, down 800 head from a year ago.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.4 million in 2000, 10 percent more than the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 57 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses were diseases at 9,900 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 13,200 head, 10 percent higher than 1999. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 24,100 head, 700 head lower than a year ago.

Producers reported more sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. This resulted in a 42 percent increase in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 7,000 head, compared with 4,700 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 2,800 sheep, 600 more head than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes rose to $0.6 million.

Sheep and Lambs: Losses by Cause, Montana, 1999-2000

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
Predators												
Fox	–	–	–	–	1,200	1,000	55.3	50.7	1,200	1,000	55.3	50.7
Dog	300	600	26.4	54.6	300	700	13.8	35.5	600	1,300	40.2	90.1
Coyote	2,800	1,900	246.4	172.9	12,300	11,000	566.8	557.7	15,100	12,900	813.2	730.6
Eagle	100	–	8.8	–	1,600	1,600	73.7	81.1	1,700	1,600	82.5	81.1
Bobcat	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bear	200	400	17.6	36.4	200	500	9.2	25.4	400	900	26.8	61.8
Mountain Lion	200	100	17.6	9.1	200	300	9.2	15.2	400	400	26.8	24.3
Other Animals	–	–	–	–	–	100	–	5.1	–	100	–	5.1
Unknown Predators	200	–	17.6	–	700	700	32.3	35.5	900	700	49.9	35.5
Total Predators	**3,800**	**3,000**	**334.4**	**273.0**	**16,500**	**15,900**	**760.3**	**806.1**	**20,300**	**18,900**	**1,094.7**	**1,079.1**
Non-Predators												
All Diseases	**3,100**	**2,200**	**272.8**	**200.2**	**9,300**	**7,700**	**428.5**	**390.4**	**12,400**	**9,900**	**701.3**	**590.6**
Weather Conditions	1,000	400	88.0	36.4	7,600	6,600	350.2	334.6	8,600	7,000	438.2	371.0
Poison	1,000	1,200	88.0	109.2	500	700	23.0	35.5	1,500	1,900	111.0	144.7
Lambing Complications	1,300	1,800	114.4	163.8	5,600	5,900	258.0	299.1	6,900	7,700	372.4	462.9
On Back	1,000	1,300	88.0	118.3					1,000	1,300	88.0	118.3
Old Age	3,900	5,700	343.2	518.7					3,900	5,700	343.2	518.7
Theft	600	200	52.8	18.2	600	200	27.6	10.1	1,200	400	80.4	28.3
Other	100	400	8.8	36.4	1,200	3,000	55.3	152.1	1,300	3,400	64.1	188.5
Total Non-Predators	**12,000**	**13,200**	**1,056.0**	**1,201.2**	**24,800**	**24,100**	**1,142.8**	**1,221.9**	**36,800**	**37,300**	**2,198.8**	**2,423.1**
Unknown Causes	**2,200**	**2,800**	**193.6**	**254.8**	**4,700**	**7,000**	**216.6**	**354.9**	**6,900**	**9,800**	**410.2**	**609.7**
Total Loss	**18,000**	**19,000**	**1,584.0**	**1,729.0**	**46,000**	**47,000**	**2,119.7**	**2,382.9**	**64,000**	**66,000**	**3,703.7**	**4,111.9**

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. – Denotes less than 100 head.

(Continued from 2nd page)

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2001, totaled 336 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 336 million layers consisted of 276 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.78 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2001, averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 69.8 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.11 billion eggs during February 2001, down 2 percent from February 2000. The average number of layers during February, at 315 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Producers Can Find Assistance on the Web as They Brace for Drought

Montana Drought Monitoring 2001 web site http://nris.state.mt.us/Drought/ is up and running. The state of Montana has created the web site to support proactive drought management at the local level to protect the natural resources, economic base, and lifestyles of Montana citizens. All the early indications point to a more severe drought in 2001 than Montana experienced in 2000. Examples of the type of valuable information that can be found on the web site are: USDA's assistance programs, drought strategies for beef producers, natural disaster determination procedures and setting up a local drought management program in your area.

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farms & Land in Farms
Wheat & Barley Movement
All Wheat County Estimates
Honey
Ag Prices

Farm Numbers Decline Slightly

The number of farms and ranches in Montana declined to 27,600 during 2000, 400 less than a year earlier mostly because of the drop in smaller farms. The Montana 2000 & 1999 farm and ranch numbers were also sub-grouped by economic sales classes. There were 10,400 farms compared with 11,500 in 1999 in the economic sales class of $1,000 to $9,999; 10,800 farms in 2000 up from 10,700 last year in the economic sales class of $10,000 to $99,999 and 6,400 farms this year in the economic sales class of $100,000 or more compared with 5,800 in 1999. The land in farms and ranches is estimated at 56.7 million acres, down .3 million from 1999. The economic sales breakdown of land in farm and ranches follows: $1,000 to $9,999 - 4.3 million acres and 4.1 million in 1999; $10,000 to $99,999 - 16.4 million acres, down from 17.0 million last year; $100,000 or more - 36.0 million acres, slightly more than the 35.9 million acres in 1999.

The number of farms and ranches in the United States in 2000 is estimated at 2.17 million, down 0.9 percent from 1999.
(Continued on back page.)

Wheat & Barley Movement

Wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June-November 2000 period, at 73.2 million bushels, was 3% higher than the same period last year.

Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 3.2 million bushels, down 22% from the 4.1 million bushels last year. Movement to the west was 65.1 million bushel, up 3% from the 63.2 million bushels a year earlier. Other destinations, mostly to the south, received 4.9 million bushels up 27% from last year.

Rail movement amounted to 66.4 million bushels, 91% of total shipments, the same as last year.

Barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, June-November 2000, was 10.8 million bushels, down 19% from the same period last year.

Eastern destination shipments totaled 2.7 million bushels down 42% from last year. Shipments to western destinations at 5.9 million bushels down 18% from last year. Shipments to other destinations were up from last year's 1.5 million bushels to 2.2 million bushels this year.

Barley hauled by rail was 89% of total movement, up from 88% for the same period last year

Shipments Out-of-State	June - November 1999 1/				June - November 2000 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	*(000) Bushels*							
West 3/	432	2,205	2,637	2,900	436	2,701	3,137	1,296
North Central	5,924	22,267	28,191	8,779	8,190	20,330	28,520	8,597
Northeast	150	24,949	25,099	328	360	27,635	27,995	209
Central	2,581	2,540	5,121	1,247	3,826	2,004	5,830	655
South Central	5,910	2,776	8,686	106	3,752	1,781	5,533	2
Southeast	426	1,033	1,459	0	769	1,398	2,167	0
Mode & Destination	*(000) Bushels*							
Trucked East	0	299	299	316	0	418	418	146
Trucked West	2,649	2,166	4,815	1,074	2,708	2,235	4,943	921
Trucked Other 4/	146	1,082	1,228	162	165	1,221	1,386	157
Total by Truck	2,795	3,547	6,342	1,552	2,873	3,874	6,747	1,224
Rail East	18	3,806	3,824	4,451	0	2,805	2,805	2,597
Rail West	12,600	45,813	58,413	6,049	14,460	45,663	60,123	4,943
Rail Other 4/	10	2,604	2,614	1,308	0	3,507	3,507	1,995
Total Rail	12,628	52,223	64,851	11,808	14,460	51,975	66,435	9,535
Total Grain Shipped	15,423	55,770	71,193	13,360	17,333	55,849	73,182	10,759

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest agricultural statistics districts were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown. This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2000

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Pro-duction Bu.
					Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	24,000	23,900	22,700	58.5	1,329,000	24	10,700	10,300	66.4	684,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	13,000	12,500	10,100	59.6	602,000	32	7,900	7,200	75.4	543,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	600	600	600	56.7	34,000	49	--	--	--	--
Missoula	3,000	3,000	2,200	36.8	81,000	46	700	600	56.7	34,000
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	1,600	1,600	1,300	40.0	52,000	47	600	400	67.5	27,000
Sanders	1,100	1,100	1,000	38.0	38,000	48	--	--	--	--
Other	700	700	600	68.3	41,000	--	1,300	1,200	60.8	73,000
NORTHWEST	**44,000**	**43,400**	**38,500**	**56.5**	**2,177,000**	**--**	**21,200**	**19,700**	**69.1**	**1,361,000**
Blaine	183,300	183,300	162,900	29.4	4,797,000	10	4,800	4,600	62.2	286,000
Chouteau	541,600	534,400	485,500	28.4	13,803,000	1	2,600	2,400	65.4	157,000
Glacier	101,700	101,700	89,600	14.8	1,327,000	25	1,600	1,500	30.0	45,000
Hill	462,600	458,500	450,100	26.8	12,058,000	2	1,700	1,400	45.7	64,000
Liberty	237,200	237,200	232,400	21.2	4,925,000	8	--	--	--	--
Phillips	123,600	123,600	106,100	30.0	3,179,000	18	2,800	2,700	45.9	124,000
Pondera	144,500	144,500	141,500	30.9	4,378,000	12	8,400	8,100	42.1	341,000
Teton	137,000	135,300	124,600	29.6	3,691,000	17	7,800	7,600	49.1	373,000
Toole	207,500	207,500	201,600	18.5	3,733,000	15	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--		800	700	48.6	34,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,139,000**	**2,126,000**	**1,994,300**	**26.0**	**51,891,000**		**30,500**	**29,000**	**49.1**	**1,424,000**
Daniels	281,000	281,000	269,800	27.3	7,378,000	6	600	600	38.3	23,000
Dawson	169,100	169,100	153,200	25.2	3,860,000	13	2,200	1,900	66.8	127,000
Garfield	110,100	110,100	84,300	24.5	2,065,000	19	--	--	--	--
McCone	221,900	221,900	207,200	29.1	6,021,000	7	3,800	3,500	52.6	184,000
Richland	158,900	158,300	154,700	29.9	4,620,000	11	16,500	16,200	65.7	1,064,000
Roosevelt	342,500	342,400	335,600	27.4	9,184,000	4	6,300	6,100	38.4	234,000
Sheridan	338,100	338,100	335,500	29.2	9,798,000	3	3,700	3,600	56.9	205,000
Valley	302,400	301,900	287,300	30.1	8,659,000	5	9,400	8,500	44.0	374,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**1,924,000**	**1,922,800**	**1,827,600**	**28.2**	**51,585,000**	**--**	**42,500**	**40,400**	**54.7**	**2,211,000**
Broadwater	44,500	44,500	43,600	35.0	1,528,000	23	14,200	14,100	68.9	971,000
Cascade	140,600	140,200	127,400	29.6	3,775,000	14	3,100	2,800	42.9	120,000
Fergus	190,600	189,000	165,600	29.0	4,809,000	9	500	300	46.7	14,000
Golden Valley	29,300	26,800	18,300	17.9	327,000	38	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	76,700	76,700	63,600	32.4	2,058,000	20	700	700	61.4	43,000
Lewis & Clark	14,400	14,000	12,000	20.9	251,000	40	2,000	2,000	46.5	93,000
Meagher	9,400	9,300	8,400	23.0	193,000	43	800	600	43.3	26,000
Musselshell	48,900	47,200	30,000	15.6	467,000	35	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	17,500	15,300	11,100	12.5	139,000	45	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	47,100	47,100	39,900	18.2	727,000	30	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	200	200	55.0	11,000
CENTRAL	**619,000**	**610,100**	**519,900**	**27.5**	**14,274,000**	**--**	**21,500**	**20,700**	**61.7**	**1,278,000**
Beaverhead	8,500	8,500	7,900	30.1	238,000	41	4,600	4,500	42.4	191,000
Gallatin	44,500	44,500	43,400	46.3	2,011,000	22	15,100	14,500	64.2	931,000
Jefferson	900	900	900	27.8	25,000	52	--	--	--	--
Madison	11,100	11,100	10,800	42.7	461,000	36	6,500	6,400	52.7	337,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	200	200	55.0	11,000
SOUTHWEST	**65,000**	**65,000**	**63,000**	**43.4**	**2,735,000**	**--**	**26,400**	**25,600**	**57.4**	**1,470,000**
Big Horn	109,400	109,000	104,000	35.6	3,707,000	16	8,000	7,800	74.0	577,000
Carbon	7,500	7,500	6,000	27.0	162,000	44	500	500	56.0	28,000
Park	8,800	8,800	8,000	27.9	223,000	42	1,100	1,000	66.0	66,000
Stillwater	36,300	35,900	27,700	18.6	516,000	34	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	2,900	2,700	1,900	14.7	28,000	50	--	--	--	--
Treasure	5,500	5,500	5,100	50.2	256,000	39	2,300	2,200	88.2	194,000
Yellowstone	99,600	97,900	94,800	21.2	2,012,000	21	2,000	1,700	75.3	128,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	200	200	25.0	5,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**270,000**	**267,300**	**247,500**	**27.9**	**6,904,000**	**--**	**14,100**	**13,400**	**74.5**	**998,000**
Carter	47,200	47,200	41,100	24.2	996,000	27	--	--	--	--
Custer	31,200	30,900	28,600	22.3	638,000	31	1,100	700	61.4	43,000
Fallon	50,400	50,400	43,000	26.7	1,146,000	26	--	--	--	--
Powder River	20,100	20,100	14,600	30.0	438,000	37	500	500	46.0	23,000
Prairie	31,900	31,600	27,700	21.3	589,000	33	2,100	2,000	56.0	112,000
Rosebud	46,000	46,000	38,100	25.8	982,000	28	2,800	2,700	71.1	192,000
Wibaux	42,200	42,200	36,100	23.7	855,000	29	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**269,000**	**268,400**	**229,200**	**24.6**	**5,644,000**	**--**	**6,500**	**5,900**	**62.7**	**370,000**
MONTANA	**5,330,000**	**5,303,000**	**4,920,000**	**27.5**	**135,210,000**	**--**	**162,700**	**154,700**	**58.9**	**9,112,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat.

Agricultural Prices Received for February

January full month crop prices were mostly down compared with December 2000. Montana's winter wheat average price was $3.02 per bushel, up 3 cents from December; durum wheat was $3.81 per bushel, down 7 cents; and spring wheat was 9 cents lower at $3.05 per bushel. Feed barley average price was $1.76 and malt barley was $2.63 per bushel, up 7 and down 10 cents respectively.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay was $92.00 per ton, up $2.00 from last month. Other hay, at $84.00 per ton, was also up $2.00 from January's mid-month price. The mid-February winter wheat price averaged $2.90 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.20, feed barley was $1.70, and malt barley averaged $2.65.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were significantly higher than the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $.40 to $91.00 per cwt. Cows were up $3.20 to $38.60, and the average price for calves was up $6.00 to $107.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $2.50 to $39.00 per cwt, and lamb prices increased $1.30 to $89.70 per cwt. Milk prices increased $1.30 per cwt from last month to $14.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $87.70 per cwt. and milk prices were $14.80 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was $2.77, up 1 cent; spring wheat was $2.96, down 2 cents; the all barley price was $1.96, down 23 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $79.30, up $2.50 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was $2.73 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.97 per bushel, all wheat was $2.83 per bushel, and all barley was $1.98. Steer and heifer prices were $78.40 per cwt, cow prices were $41.50, all hog prices were $38.60 per cwt, and all egg prices were 68.2 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in February was 99 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.1 percent) from the January Index. Higher prices for lettuce, broilers, oranges, and hogs were partially offset by lower prices for strawberries, soybeans, corn, and tomatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and strawberries were partially offset by lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton.

Compared with February 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (6.5 percent) higher. Price increases from February 2000 for cattle, lettuce, milk, and broilers were partially offset by lower prices for soybeans, corn, grapefruit, and potatoes.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Jan. 2000	Feb. 2000	Jan. 2001	Feb. 2001
Prices Received	91	93	97	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	118	119	124	126
Ratio 2/	77	78	78	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000	Jan. 2001	Jan 2001	Dec. 2000	Jan. 2000	Feb. 15 2001	Feb. 15 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.66	2.99	3.02	2.77	+0.03	+0.36	2.90	2.73
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.73	3.88	3.81	2.94	-0.07	+0.08	3.75	3.25
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.90	3.14	3.05	2.96	-0.09	+0.15	3.20	2.97
All Wheat	Bu.	2.90	3.12	3.09	2.85	-0.03	+0.19	3.12	2.83
Barley, All	Bu.	2.32	2.49	2.19	1.96	-0.30	-0.13	2.20	1.98
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.60	1.69	1.76	1.80	+0.07	+0.16	1.70	1.71
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.75	2.73	2.63	2.14	-0.10	-0.12	2.65	2.26
Oats	Bu.	1.09	1.08	1.07	1.20	-0.01	-0.02	1.00	1.21
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	92.00	90.00	91.30	-2.00	+24.00	92.00	84.20
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	83.00	82.00	69.50	-1.00	+25.00	84.00	71.20
All Hay Baled	Ton	65.00	90.00	89.00	84.90	-1.00	+24.00	91.00	86.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	86.90	90.60	91.00	79.30	+0.40	+4.10	87.70	78.40
Cows	Cwt	35.50	35.40	38.60	39.00	+3.20	+3.10	42.40	41.50
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	76.60	77.40	86.30	74.80	+8.90	+9.70	80.90	74.70
Calves	Cwt	103.00	101.00	107.00	108.00	+6.00	+4.00	106.00	108.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	33.30	36.50	39.00	43.30	+2.50	+5.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	80.00	88.40	89.70	74.10	+1.30	+9.70	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	11.80	13.00	14.30	13.20	+1.30	+2.50	14.80	13.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Farm Numbers Decline Slightly

(continued from front page.)

The decline in farms and ranches occurred primarily in agricultural operations with less than $10,000 in sales. This is the largest decline in farms and ranches since 1991 when just over 29,000 operations were lost. Total land in farms, at 943.0 million acres, declined 0.5 percent or 4.4 million acres from last year. The average size of farm increased 2 acres from 432 acres in 1999 to 434 acres in 2000.

The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class $1,000-$9,999 declined 1.8 percent to 1,173,650 in 2000. Farms and ranches with sales in the $10,000- $99,999 economic class increased slightly from 1999 to 649,350 operations while the number of farms and ranches with sales over $100,000 rose 0.1% to 349,080. The impact of adverse weather, lower commodity prices, and competition for land contributed to the overall reduction and consolidation of farms and ranches during 2000. The number of farms and ranches during 2000 declined in 27 States, remained unchanged in 19 States, and increased in 4 States. Overall, farm and ranch acreage declined in 20 States, remained unchanged in 29 States, and increased in1 State.

Montana and U.S. Honey Production Up in 2000

Honey produced in Montana by producers with five or more colonies during 2000 was 12.7 million pounds of honey, up 4.2 million pounds from 1999. The amount of honey production and colonies includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. Drought conditions and wildfires resulted in movement of colonies around and out of the state. There were 148,000 colonies producing honey in 2000, compared with 122,000 colonies in 1999. The honey yield per colony was 86 pounds, up 16 pounds from a year ago. Stocks on hand on December 15, 2000 totaled 6.0 million pounds, up 3.9 million pounds from 1999.

Prices for Montana honey averaged 59 cents per pound in 2000 compared with 60 cents per pound in 1999. Honey prices are the lowest in the past 5 years which is causing more honey to be stored compared to previous years. The value of honey production in 2000 was 7.5 million dollars, up 47 percent from the 1999 honey crop.

U.S. Honey production in 2000 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 221 million pounds, up 8 percent from 1999. There were 2.63 million colonies producing honey in 2000, down 2 percent from 1999. Yield per colony averaged 83.9 pounds, up 7.5 pounds from the 76.4 pounds in 1999. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 86.2 million pounds on December 15, 2000, up 9 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 2000 crop averaged 59.4 cents per pound, down 1 percent from 60.1 cents in 1999. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Co-op and private prices were lower for all color classes except 'Other Honey' in 2000.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses	Egg Production
Annual Red Meat Production	Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks	
Milk Production	
Cattle on Feed	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle Inventory
Sheep Inventory & Wool Production
Ag Prices
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production
Hogs & Pigs

Cattle and Calf Inventory Down

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was down 2 percent from a year ago to 2.55 million head on January 1, 2001. Drought, poor pasture and range conditions, tight feed supplies, and higher cattle prices all contributed to this year's lower inventory.

The inventory of beef cows that had calved on January 1, 2001 were down 3 percent from year ago to 1.531 million head. The number of milk cows in the state increased 1,000 head from a year ago to 19,000 head, reversing a 20 year decline in milk cow inventories. There were 1.62 million calves born during 2000, up 3 percent from the 1999 calf crop of 1.57 million. Favorable calving conditions, higher beginning-year cow inventories, and more heifer replacements that calved during 2000 contributed to the increase in the calf crop.

Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, were up 7 percent from the previous year to 405,000 head. Milk heifer replacements were the same as the previous year at 10,000 head. The number of other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more, decreased 3 percent from last year to 175,000 head.

The inventory of steers weighing 500 lbs or more, dropped 9 percent from the previous year to 210,000 head. Calves weighing less than 500 lbs, at 90,000 head, were down 5 percent from last year's record low calf inventory of 95,000 head. Inventory of bulls weighing 500 pounds or more set a new record high at 110,000 head, up 5 percent from a year ago. The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter was down 14 percent from a year ago to 60,000 head. More custom feeding and backgrounding resulted in fewer cattle and calves on full feed.

In the **United States**, all cattle and calves on January 1, 2001, totaled 97.3 million head, 1 percent below the 98.2 million on January 1, 2000 and 2 percent below the 99.1 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.6 million, were slightly below the 42.8 million on January 1, 2000 and 1 percent below the 42.9 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.4 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2000 and January 1, 1999. Milk cows, at 9.20 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2000 and 1 percent above two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2001 and the change from January 1, 2000, are as follows; All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.8 million, up 1 percent; Beef replacement heifers, 5.59 million, up 2 percent; Milk replacement heifers, 4.05 million, up 1 percent; Other heifers, 10.1 million, down slightly; Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.4 million, down 1 percent; Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.27 million, down 1 percent; Calves under 500 pounds, 16.2 million, down 4 percent; Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.2 million, up 1 percent.

Data for beef cow and milk cow replacement heifers expected to calve in the coming year is published in this issue for the first time. This data will be published on an annual basis in the January release. Beef replacement heifers expected to calve during 2001 totaled 3.14 million, which is 57 percent of the January 1, 2001 beef replacement heifers in the inventory. Milk replacement heifers expected to calve during 2001 totaled 2.54 million, which is 63 percent of the milk heifer replacements.

The 2000 United States calf crop was estimated at 38.6 million head, down slightly from both 1999 and 1998. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.4 million, down slightly from both 1999 and 1998.

Sheep Inventory & Wool Production

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory set a new record low at 360,000 head on January 1, 2001, down 3 percent from last year. Drought, unstable prices, and predators in 2000 were key factors in the continued decline.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers decreased 10,000 head from last year to 330,000 head. Ewes one year and older were down 3 percent to 265,000 head. Rams one year and older, at 9,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year. Replacement lambs, at 56,000 head, were down 1,000 head from a year ago. The 2000 lamb crop was 365,000 head, an increase of 7 percent from the 1999 lamb crop.

There were 30,000 market sheep and lambs on hand January 1. Only 2,000 head were market sheep. Of the 28,000 total market lambs, 7 percent weighed less than 65 pounds, 22 percent weighed 65-84 pounds, 57 percent were in the 85-105 pound category, and 14 percent were over 105 pounds.

Montana wool growers produced 3.3 million pounds of wool during 2000, up 4 percent from 1999. The 2000 average price per pound of wool decreased 13 cents to 37 cents per pound, causing the value of all wool produced to decrease 23 percent for a total value of $1.2 million dollars. The total head shorn increased 3 percent in 2000 to 347,000 head. The average fleece weight increased from 9.5 pounds in 1999 to 9.6 pounds in 2000.

In the **United States**, all sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2001, totaled 6.92 million head, down 2 percent from 2000 and 4 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since 1942 when it reached a peak of 56.2 million head.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.93 million head on January 1, 2001, down 5 percent from 5.16 million head on January 1, 2000. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.06 million head, were 4 percent below last year. The 2000 lamb crop of 4.62 million head was down 2 percent from 1999 to a new record low. The 2000 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2000, compared with 110 in 1999.

(Continued on page two)

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January cattle and sheep inventory surveys. Interviewers contacted about 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers in early January.

Cattle and Calves Inventory January 1, 1999-2001

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	1999	2000	2001	'01\'00	1999	2000	2001	'01\'00
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Cattle and Calves	2,600	2,600	2,550	98%	99,115	98,198	97,309	99%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,570	1,600	1,550	97%	42,878	42,759	42,603	100%
Beef Cows	1,552	1,582	1,531	97%	33,745	33,569	33,400	99%
Milk Cows	18	18	19	106%	9,133	9,190	9,203	100%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	575	570	590	104%	19,774	19,649	19,775	101%
For beef cow replacement	340	380	405	107%	5,535	5,503	5,588	102%
For milk cow replacement	10	10	10	100%	4,069	4,000	4,047	101%
Other heifers	225	180	175	97%	10,170	10,147	10,140	100%
Steers 500 pounds and over	245	230	210	91%	16,891	16,682	16,438	99%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	100	105	110	105%	2,281	2,293	2,272	99%
Calves less than 500 pounds	110	95	90	95%	17,290	16,815	16,221	96%
Cattle on Feed	70	70	60	86%	13,219	14,003	14,199	101%

Calf Crop and Cattle Operations, 1998-2000

ITEM	1998	1999	2000	'00/'99	1998	1999	2000	'00/'99
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,520	1,570	1,620	103%	38,812	38,796	38,621	100%
Number cattle operations	14,000	14,100	14,400	102%	1,115,650	1,096,550	1,075,860	98%
Operations with beef cattle	12,700	12,500	12,800	102%	855,460	844,170	830,880	98%
Operations with milk cows	700	650	600	92%	117,180	111,000	105,250	95%

Sheep and Lambs Inventory January 1, 1999-2001

Class of Livestock	Montana				United States			
	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00	1999	2000	2001	'01/'00
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
All Sheep and Lambs	380	370	360	97%	7,215	7,032	6,915	98%
Breeding sheep	345	340	330	97%	5,299	5,164	4,927	95%
One year old & older								
Ewes	270	274	265	97%	4,322	4,229	4,061	96%
Rams	9	9	9	100%	203	206	201	98%
Replacement Lambs	66	57	56	98%	774	730	665	91%
Market Sheep & Lambs	35	30	30	100%	1,916	1,868	1,988	106%
Sheep	1	2	2	100%	83	81	77	95%
Lambs	34	28	28	100%	1,834	1,788	1,912	107%

Lamb Crop and Sheep Operations, 1998-2000

Item	1998	1999	2000	'00\'99	1998	1999	2000	'00\'99
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	355	340	365	107%	5,007	4,733	4,622	98%
Number of sheep operations	2,000	1,900	2,000	105%	68,550	66,800	66,000	99%

Sheep Inventory and 2000 Wool Production (Cont.)

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2001, totaled 1.99 million head, up 6 percent from January 1, 2000. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total.

Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 18 percent were 65-84 pounds, 24 percent were 85-105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2000 was 46.4 million pounds, down slightly from 1999. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.14 million head, down slightly from 1999. The average price paid for wool sold in 2000 was $0.33 per pound for a total value of $15.5 million dollars, down 13 percent from $17.9 million dollars in 1999.

Agricultural Prices Received for January

December full month crop prices were mixed compared with November 2000. Montana's winter wheat average price was $2.99 per bushel, up 8 cents from November; durum wheat was $3.88 per bushel, down 19 cents; and spring wheat was 3 cents lower at $3.14 per bushel. Feed barley average price was $1.69 and malt barley was $2.73 per bushel, up 13 and 1 cent respectively.

The mid-January price for alfalfa hay was $90.00 per ton, down $2.00 from last month. Other hay, at $82.00 per ton, was down $1.00 from December's mid-month price. The mid-January winter wheat price averaged $3.00 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.15, feed barley was $1.75, and malt barley averaged $2.80.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were also mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $3.70 to $90.60 per cwt. Cows were down $2.00 to $35.40, and the average price for calves was down $1.00 to $101.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $5.50 to $36.50 per cwt, and lamb prices increased $10.30 to $88.40 per cwt. Milk prices were 70 cents below last month at $13.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $91.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for December and changes from November were as follows: winter wheat was $2.76, up 6 cents; spring wheat was $2.98, up 1 cent; the all barley price was $2.19, up 7 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $76.80, up $3.00.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $2.82 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.99 per bushel, all wheat was $2.88 perbushel, and all barley was $2.09. Steer and heifer prices were $79.30 per cwt, cow prices were $38.40 percent, all hog prices were $37.10 per cwt, and all egg prices were 67.2 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in January was 96 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.0 percent) from the December Index. Lower prices for eggs, cotton, hogs, and soybeans were partially offset by higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, milk, and strawberries. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and cottonseed were partially offset by higher marketings of cattle, corn, and soybeans.

Compared with January 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (5.5 percent) higher. Price increases from January 2000 for cattle, milk, cotton, and strawberries were partially offset by lower prices for oranges, apples, potatoes, and lettuce.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Dec. 1999	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000	Jan. 2001
Prices Received	91	91	98	96
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	117	118	122	122
Ratio 2/	78	77	80	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Dec. 1999	Nov. 2000	Dec. 2000	Dec. 2000	Nov. 2000	Dec. 1999	Jan. 15 2001	Jan. 15 2001
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.63	2.91	2.99	2.76	+0.08	+0.36	3.00	2.82
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.70	4.07	3.88	3.03	-0.19	+0.18	3.85	3.09
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.00	3.17	3.14	2.98	-0.03	+0.14	3.15	2.99
All Wheat	Bu.	2.98	3.17	3.12	2.87	-0.05	+0.14	3.13	2.88
Barley, All	Bu.	2.53	2.37	2.49	2.19	+0.12	-0.04	2.62	2.09
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.56	1.56	1.69	1.70	+0.13	+0.13	1.75	1.85
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.76	2.72	2.73	2.43	+0.01	-0.03	2.80	2.32
Oats	Bu.	0.98	0.99	1.08	1.14	+0.09	+0.10	1.00	1.17
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	65.00	86.00	92.00	91.00	+6.00	+27.00	90.00	91.30
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	81.00	83.00	70.40	+2.00	+26.00	82.00	69.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	64.00	85.00	90.00	85.10	+5.00	+26.00	89.00	84.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	86.20	94.30	90.60	76.80	-3.70	+4.40	91.70	79.30
Cows	Cwt	35.00	37.40	35.40	36.50	-2.00	+0.40	36.70	38.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	69.30	85.20	77.40	71.90	-7.80	+8.10	86.20	74.60
Calves	Cwt	95.80	102.00	101.00	106.00	-1.00	+5.20	106.00	108.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	32.80	31.00	36.50	36.20	+5.50	+3.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	86.50	78.10	88.40	71.80	+10.30	+1.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.70	13.70	13.00	13.10	-0.70	+0.30	13.70	13.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Chicken Inventory

There were 460,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 2000, compared with 410,000 on hand last year. The December 1, 2000 inventory included 320,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 58,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 81,000 pullets 13 weeks old and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2000 was $1.4 million, up 14 percent from the previous December. The average value per bird, at $3.00, was up 10 cents from last year.

Montana chickens produced 84 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 2000, down 11 percent from last year. The state had an average of 291,000 layers in 2000, up slightly from last year's average of 290,000. The average production per layer on hand was 289 eggs, down 11 percent from the previous year.

The U.S. total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2000 (excluding commercial broilers) was 435 million birds, down slightly from last year. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 2000, totaled 371 million, up 1 percent from December 1, 1999. Of the 371 million potential layers, 90 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2000 was $1.06 billion, down 8 percent from December 1,1999. The average value decreased from $2.65 per bird on December 1, 1999, to $2.43 per bird on December 1, 2000.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 2000 totaled a record high 84.4 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the previous year's total of 82.7 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 71.4 billion eggs, increased 2 percent from 1999. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2000 was 257 eggs, unchanged from the 1999 average.

December Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.28 billion during December 2000, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.20 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 63.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2000 averaged 332 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during December 1999. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,192 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,214 eggs in December 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2001, totaled 332 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 332 million layers consisted of 274 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.85 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2001, averaged 70.3 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 71.0 eggs a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.81 billion eggs during December 2000, down 1 percent from December 1999. The average number of layers during December, at 311 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. December Pig Crop Up 3 Percent

The December 2000 U.S. pig crop at 8.35 million head, was 3 percent more than the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 940 thousand head, 2 percent above last year. The average pigs per litter rose to 8.89 pigs saved per litter for December, compared to 8.77 pigs last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts totaled 6.03 million head on January 1, 2001. U.S. sows and gilts bred during the month of December totaled 1.19 million head.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Private Grazing Fee Rates	US & Canadian Cattle
Alfalfa Seed Production	Milk Production
Potato Stocks; Crop Values	Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed	Red Meat Production
Hogs & Pigs	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grains Summary
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Annual Crop Summary
Quarterly Milk Production
Potato Stocks
U. S. Wheat: Supply & Demand

Small Grains Summary

Montana's 2000 winter wheat production was estimated at 44.55 million bushels, up 21 percent from 1999. The 2000 average yield was 33 bushels per acre, which is 5 bushels lower than last year's average.

Spring wheat production in Montana for 2000 was estimated at 77.5 million bushels, down 28 percent from 1999. Seeded acreage was 3.35 million acres, 800,000 acres less than 1999. Producers harvested 3.1 million acres, 900,000 acres less than a year earlier. Yields averaged 25 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from 1999, in part due to lack of precipitation in many areas of the state.

Montana's 2000 durum wheat production was estimated at 13.16 million bushels, up 39.3 percent from 1999. Harvested acreage was estimated at 470,000, up 120,000 acres from last year. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, up one bushel from 1998.

Barley planted acreage for 2000 in Montana decreased to 1.25 million acres, 50,000 acres less than 1999. Producers harvested 950,000 acres, 200,000 acres less than were harvested for grain in 1999. Yields averaged 40 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels from last year. Production was estimated at 38.0 million bushels, down sharply from last year.

Montana's oats production for 2000 is estimated at 2.6 million bushels, down 620,000 bushels from 1999. Planted acreage was estimated at 130,000 acres, 40,000 acres less than last year. Harvested acreage was set at 50,000 acres, down 20,000 from 1999. Yields averaged 52.0 bushels per acre, 6 bushels higher last year.

All wheat production in the U.S. for 2000 is estimated at 2.22 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the level published in the "Small Grains 2000 Summary," and 3 percent below the 1999 level. U.S. durum wheat production is down 5 percent from the last estimate, other spring wheat is down 2 percent, and all winter wheat is unchanged.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on January 1, 2001. The inventory was 3 percent above January 1, 2000 and 11 percent above January 1, 1999. The inventory included 7.02 million steers and steer calves, up 3 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 59 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.70 million head, up 3 percent from January 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.70 million, 3 percent above 1999 and 12 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.60 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 504,000, 600-699 pounds were 516,000, 700-799 pounds were 406,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 273,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.75 million, 5 percent below 1999 and 4 percent below 1998. December 2000 had two less slaughter days than December 1999 which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings. Other disappearance totaled 95,000 during December, 6 percent above 1999 and 12 percent above 1998.

December Red Meat Production Down

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December, 2000, down 3 percent from December 1999 and down slightly from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,100 head, the same as a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,148 pounds, was down 31 pounds from last year.

During December, there were 2,000 hogs slaughtered, 200 less that a year ago. The average live weight, at 275 pounds was 11 pounds higher than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head was up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight decreased 4 pounds from last December to 122 pounds.

The United States commercial red meat production totaled 3.62 billion pounds in December, down 6 percent from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in December 1999. Beef production, at 2.00 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 5 percent from 1999. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,224 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.58 billion pounds, down 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.09 million head, 9 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 21 million pounds, was down 12 percent from December 1999 and down 5 percent from the previous record low for December set in 1996.

January - December red meat production was 46.1 billion pounds, just below the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was down 2 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 5 percent.

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Montana Annual Crop Summary, 1997-2000 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA						US Production
		Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg. Price	Value of Production	
		Planted	Harvested					
		(000)	(000)	Bu.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Winter Wheat	1997	1,600	1,450	38.0	55,100	$3.40	$187,340	1,845,528
	1998	1,400	1,250	39.0	48,750	$2.80	$136,500	1,880,733
	1999	1,050	970	38.0	36,860	$2.95	$108,737	1,696,580
	2000	1,500	1,350	33.0	44,550	--	--	1,562,733
Durum Wheat	1997	300	290	26.0	7,540	$5.18	$39,057	87,783
	1998	450	430	28.0	12,040	$3.23	$38,889	138,119
	1999	360	350	27.0	9,450	$3.50	$33,075	99,322
	2000	480	470	28.0	13,160	--	--	109,805
Other Spring Wheat	1997	4,250	4,100	29.0	118,900	$3.58	$425,662	548,155
	1998	3,800	3,600	30.0	108,000	$3.13	$338,040	528,469
	1999	4,150	4,000	27.0	108,000	$3.25	$351,000	503,108
	2000	3,350	3,100	25.0	77,500	--	--	550,902
All Wheat	1997	6,150	5,840	31.1	181,540	$3.62	$652,059	2,481,466
	1998	5,650	5,280	32.0	168,790	$3.03	$513,429	2,547,321
	1999	5,560	5,320	29.0	154,310	$3.20	$492,812	2,299,010
	2000	5,330	4,920	27.5	135,210			2,223,440
Barley	1997	1,250	1,150	53.0	60,950	$2.83	$172,489	359,878
	1998	1,350	1,200	48.0	57,600	$2.27	$130,752	352,125
	1999	1,300	1,150	50.0	57,500	$2.15	$123,625	280,292
	2000	1,250	950	40.0	38,000	--	--	317,865
Oats	1997	140	70	55.0	3,850	$1.33	$5,121	167,246
	1998	140	60	54.0	3,240	$1.18	$3,823	165,981
	1999	170	70	46.0	3,220	$1.05	$3,381	146,193
	2000	130	50	52.0	2,600	--	--	149,195
Corn for Grain 2/	1997	60	14	135.0	1,890	$2.40	$4,536	9,206,832
	1998	60	18	115.0	2,070	$1.90	$3,933	9,758,685
	1999	65	18	110.0	1,980	$1.65	$3,267	9,430,612
	2000	60	18	140.0	2,520	--	--	9,968,358
			(000)	Tons	(000)		(000)	(000)
Corn for Silage	1997	--	45	21.0	945	--	--	97,192
	1998	--	41	21.0	861	--	--	95,479
	1999	--	45	20.0	900	--	--	95,633
	2000	--	40	21.0	840	--	--	98,538
Sugar Beets	1997	59.9	58.3	21.0	1,224	$40.50	$49,572	29,886
	1998	64.0	62.4	22.6	1,410	$36.90	$52,029	32,499
	1999	61.8	61.7	23.8	1,468	--	--	33,420
	2000	60.7	53.9	24.5	1,321	--	--	32,521
Alfalfa Hay	1997	--	1,650	2.40	3,960	$80.00	$316,800	78,535
	1998	--	1,700	2.20	3,740	$73.00	$273,020	82,310
	1999	--	1,650	2.20	3,630	$65.50	$237,765	84,385
	2000	--	1,200	2.10	2,520	--	--	80,347
Other Hay	1997	--	950	1.60	1,520	$69.00	$104,880	74,001
	1998	--	800	1.60	1,280	$62.50	$80,000	69,470
	1999	--	950	1.50	1,425	$56.00	$79,800	75,322
	2000	--	800	1.30	1,040	--	--	71,836
All Hay 3/	1997	--	2,600	2.11	5,480	$79.00	$421,680	152,536
	1998	--	2,500	2.01	5,020	$72.00	$353,020	151,780
	1999	--	2,600	1.94	5,055	$64.50	$317,565	159,707
	2000	--	2,000	1.78	3,560	--	--	152,183
Sweet Cherries 4/	1997	--	--	--	870	$954.00	$830	223,490
	1998	--	--	--	1,890	$1,080.00	$2,040	208,410
	1999	--	--	--	690	$1,560.00	$1,076	222,746
	2000	--	--	--		--	--	--
			(000)	Cwt.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Fall Potatoes	1997	10.4	10.4	320	3,328	$7.05	$23,462	423,190
	1998	10.6	10.6	300	3,180	$7.95	$25,281	432,737
	1999	11.0	10.9	305	3,325	$8.60	$28,595	429,847
	2000	11.5	11.3	310	3,503	--	--	470,504
All Dry Beans	1997	12.2	11.7	22.0	257	$19.40	$4,986	29,370
	1998	16.6	16.0	21.9	350	$15.60	$5,460	30,418
	1999	26.5	25.5	17.3	441	$19.20	$8,467	33,085
	2000	40.5	34.8	14.0	486	--	--	26,440
Pinto Beans	1998	12.2	12.0	22.0	264	--	--	14,511
	1999	13.9	13.2	22.4	296	--	--	10,839
	2000	14.5	13.8	24.0	331	--	--	10,670
Garbanzo Beans	1998	4.0	3.8	22.1	84	--	--	418
	1999	12.1	11.8	11.3	133	--	--	735
	2000	25.3	20.5	7.3	150	--	--	1,315
Lentils	1999	19.0	16.0	13.0	208	--	--	2,387
	2000	22.0	21.0	10.0	210	--	--	3,029
Dry Peas	1999	37.0	29.0	14.0	406	--	--	4,773
	2000	28.0	24.0	9.7	233	--	--	3,499

1/ All estimates for 2000 are preliminary and season average price and value of production not available.
2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/ U.S. totals are for all potatoes.
-- Not Available

Milk Production Up

During the October-December quarter, Montana milk cows produced 79 million pounds of milk, 3 million pounds more than the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers, at 19,000 head were up 1,000 head from a year ago.

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 11.9 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from production in these same States in December 1999. November revised production, at 11.4 billion pounds was up 1.1 percent from November 1999. The November revision represented a decrease of 0.5 percent or 52 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,522 pounds for December, 16 pounds below December 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.84 million head, 81,000 head more than December 1999, but 4,000 head less than November 2000.

During the October-December period, milk produced in the U.S. was 40.9 billion pounds, 1.2 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.25 million head, 80,000 head more than the same period last year

Montana January Potato Stocks Up 5 Percent, U.S. Up Record 14 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.25 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, up 5 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 93 percent of the total 2000 production, compared with last year's stocks representing 94 percent of the 1999 total production.

Nationally, January 1, 2001 potato stocks totaled a record high 273 million cwt, up 14 percent from last year and 4 percent above the previous record set in January 1997. Potatoes in storage accounted for 59 percent of the fall storage States' production, up 2 percent age points from a year ago. Stocks by type were 2 percent reds, 8 percent round whites, 4 percent long white, and 86 percent russets, with more russets but fewer reds and round whites than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1, at 189 million cwt, was record high. This disappearance was up 5 percent from last year and 4 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. December disappearance of 36.6 million cwt was also record high for the month. Shrink and loss to this point in the season was 22.5 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled a record high 97.1 million cwt to January 1, up 5 percent from the 1999 crop and 2 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season for comparable States. In December, processors claimed a record high 18.5 million cwt of potatoes, up 11 percent from a year ago and 8 percent above the previous high in December 1995 for comparable States.

Western States held 200 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2001, up 17 percent from last year and 16 percent above 1999. Washington's potato stocks were up 32 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks were up 16 percent, and Oregon's were up 12 percent. Colorado was up 2 percent and Montana gained 5 percent. California's potato stocks were down 22 percent from a year ago.

U. S. WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1984-2000

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1984 ..	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 ..	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 ..	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 ..	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 ..	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 ..	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 ..	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 ..	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 ..	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 ..	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 ..	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 ..	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 ..	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 ..	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 ..	722	2,547	103	3,373	910	81	394	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 ..	946	2,299	95	3,339	925	92	284	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48
2000 . 3/	950	2,223	95	3,268	945	84	300	1,329	1,125	2,454	814	2.55-2.75

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 2001--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

Montana Annual Oilseeds Summary, 1999-2000 1/

Crop	Year	MONTANA				U.S.
		Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Production
		Planted	Harvested			
		(000)		Bu.	(000)	(000)
Flaxseed	1999	21.0	20.5	16.0	328	7,864
	2000	16.0	14.0	14.0	196	10,730
		(000)	(000)	Lbs.	(000)	(000)
Canola	1999	60.0	58.0	1200	69,600	1,363,680
	2000	65.0	58.0	960	55,680	2,016,951
Mustard Seed	1999	21.5	21.0	850	17,850	48,010
	2000	12.0	10.0	700	7,000	36,570
Safflower	1999	41.0	39.0	850	33,150	404,715
	2000	41.5	39.0	770	30,030	282,545
Sunflower	1999	7.8	7.1	858	6,095	4,341,862
	2000	7.0	5.8	744	4,314	3,584,339

1/ All estimates for 2000 are preliminary.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Late Season Crops
Hay and Hay Stocks
Pulse Crops; Grain Stocks
Prices Received for December

Seeding Down 20 Percent

In the fall of 2000 Montana producers seeded 1.2 million acres of **winter wheat**, 300,000 acres less than the acreage seeded the previous year. During the last 10 years producers planted an average of 1.9 million acres, so the seeded acres for the 2001 crop are 37 percent below this average.

The major winter wheat production areas in Montana are the North Central, Central, South Central, and Southeast districts. Precipitation amounts since October 1 in these four districts has been mixed. The North Central and South Central districts have received mostly below normal precipitation, while the Central and Southeast have received mostly above normal amounts. However, moisture across the entire state before October 1 has been sparse for the last 1 ½ years. There has been good snowfall amounts so far this winter to protect the crop from weather's harsh elements. As of January 2, the winter wheat condition was rated at 0 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 0 percent excellent.

Nationally, winter wheat seeded area for 2001 is expected to total 41.3 million acres, down 5 percent from 2000. This is the smallest area since 1971. Class acreage breakdowns are estimated to be: Hard Red Winter, 28.9 million; Soft Red Winter, 8.9 million; and White Winter, 3.5 million.

LATE SEASON CROPS

Montana producers harvested 18,000 acres of **corn for grain** in 2000, unchanged from last year's estimate. The average yield was 140.0 bushels per acre, up 30 bushels from last year. Production rose 27 percent from 1999 to 2.52 million bushels. **Corn for silage** acreage was estimated at 40,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 1999. Yields averaged 21 tons per acre, up one ton from a year ago.

Sugarbeet producers in Montana planted 60,700 acres and harvested an estimated 53,900 acres in 2000, down 7,800 acres from a year ago. Heavy frosts and freeze damage can be blamed for the high levels of crop abandonment in the state. Yields increased 0.7 tons from last year to average 24.5 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.32 million tons, down 10 percent from the previous year.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.50 million cwt, up 5.4 percent from last year. Producers harvested 11,300 acres compared with 10,900 in 1999. Yields increased 5 cwt per acre from a year ago to 310 cwt.

U.S. **corn grain** production is estimated at 9.97 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 1999, and is the second largest crop behind 1994's record production of 10.1 billion bushels.

U.S. **sugarbeet** production is estimated at 32.5 million tons from 1.38 million acres. Harvested acres are 10 percent below last year, mainly due to PIK reductions.

Fall potato production for 2000 in the U.S. is a record high 471 million cwt, up 9 percent from comparable estimates last year, and 4 percent above the previous record in 1996. Area harvested, at 1.20 million acres, is up a comparable 2 percent from last year. The average yield is a record high 393 cwt per acre, a jump of 24 cwt from the previous record high last year and 36 cwt above two years ago for comparable States.

Hay and Hay Stocks

All hay harvested in Montana was down 600,000 acres from last year, to 2.0 million acres. All hay production was 3.56 million tons, down 29.6 percent or 1,495,000 tons from a year ago. This is the lowest production in Montana since 1988. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage was 1.2 million acres, down 450,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.1 tons per acre, which is 0.1 ton less than last year. **Other hay** harvested acreage was 800,000, down 150,000 acres from 1999. The average yield was 1.3 tons per acre compared with 1.5 tons per acre last year. Montana **hay stocks** were estimated at 3.17 million tons on December 1, down 29 percent from last year. This represents the lowest hay stocks since 1988. Montana hay growers **seeded** an estimated 130,000 acres of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** during 2000, 70,000 acres less than last year. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

In the U.S. **all hay** production for 2000 is estimated at 152 million tons, down slightly from the October 1 forecast and down 5 percent from the 1999 total.

U.S. **all hay** stocks on farms December 1, 2000 totaled 104 million tons, 5 percent below the stocks on farms December 1, 1999. Stocks decreases occurred in 23 of the 48 contiguous States.

Growers in the U.S. seeded **alfalfa** and **alfalfa mixtures** totaling 3,065,000 acres during 2000. This is down 11 percent from the 1999 seeded acreage of 3,436,000 acres.

PULSE CROPS

Montana's **dry bean** growers produced an estimated 486,000 cwt in 2000, up 45,000 cwt from 1999. Growers harvested 34,800 acres with a yield of 14.0 cwt per acre compared with last year's 25,500 acres harvested with a yield of 17.30 cwt per acre.

Pinto bean production for Montana in 2000 is estimated to be 331,000 cwt, which is 11.8 percent above last year's estimate. Harvested acreage, at 13,800, is 4.5 percent higher than the previous year. The yield is estimated at 2,400 pounds per acre, 160 pounds more than last year.

Montana's second production estimate for **garbanzo beans** was 150,000 cwt for 2000, which is 12.8 percent higher than last year. Harvested area is estimated at 20,500 acres, up 8,700 from last year. The yield is estimated at 730 pounds per acre, down from last year's estimate of 1,130 pounds per acre.

(Continued on back page)

Wheat Stocks Down 17 Percent

All wheat stocks in Montana on December 1, 2000 totaled 133.9 million bushels, down 17 percent from December 1, 1999. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 111.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 22.9 million bushels stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 91.6 million bushels, were down 25 percent from last year and accounted for 68 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 42.3 million bushels, up from 38.9 million bushels last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 11.3 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year. All wheat disappearance for the September - November quarter was 35.5 million bushels, compared with 29.0 million for the same quarter last year. Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 2000 totaled 25.6 million bushels, down 36 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.52 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on December 1, 2000 totaled 1.80 billion bushels, down 4 percent from a year ago. The indicated September - November 2000 quarter disappearance is 551 million bushels, down 2 percent from the same period in 1999. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on December 1, 2000 totaled 104 million bushels, down [illegible] percent from a year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 2000 are estimated at 229 million bushels, less than 1 percent above last year. Oats stored in all positions on December 1, 2000 totaled 144 million bushels, 8 percent above the December 1, 1999 estimate.

December 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1999	Sept. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 2000	'00/'99	Dec. 1, 1999	Sept. 1, 2000*	Dec. 1, 2000
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	139,000	143,000	111,000	80%	647,400	808,390	623,420
Off Farms 1/	22,760	26,400	22,860	100%	1,236,344	1,544,280	1,178,363
TOTAL	161,760	169,400	133,860	83%	1,883,744	2,352,670	1,801,783
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	31,500	45,000	34,000	108%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	7,440	10,490	8,300	112%	--	--	--
TOTAL	38,940	55,490	42,300	109%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	107,500	98,000	77,000	72%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	15,320	15,910	14,560	95%	--	--	--
TOTAL	122,820	113,910	91,560	75%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	74,500	85,700	72,000
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	35,449	37,573	32,346
TOTAL	12,600	14,560	11,340	90%	109,949	123,273	104,346
BARLEY							
On Farms	31,000	33,000	19,000	61%	108,000	151,700	111,500
Off Farms 1/	8,710	8,160	6,570	75%	119,721	142,341	117,380
TOTAL	39,710	41,160	25,570	64%	227,721	294,041	228,880
OATS							
On Farms	2,700	3,100	2,400	89%	79,800	101,200	86,900
Off Farms 1/	185	220	120	65%	53,872	49,177	57,369
TOTAL	2,885	3,320	2,520	87%	133,672	150,377	144,269
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	5,195,000	793,000	5,550,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,844,443	924,549	2,967,589
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	8,039,443	1,717,549	8,517,589

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, in All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	Dec. 1, 1999	Sept. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 1999	Sept. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 2000
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	1.8	5.1	3.4	1.2	2.0	1.3
North Central	59.9	57.7	49.9	22.9	24.7	14.3
Northeast	57.7	59.8	45.2	1.8	1.7	1.9
Central	23.1	28.9	21.1	6.4	6.5	3.4
Southwest	3.4	2.8	2.4	2.8	2.0	1.3
South Central	8.5	8.6	6.7	3.9	3.2	2.8
Southeast	7.4	6.5	5.2	0.7	1.1	0.6
Montana	**161.8**	**169.4**	**133.9**	**39.7**	**41.2**	**25.6**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Prices Received for December

November full month crop prices improved significantly from October 2000. Montana's winter wheat average price was $2.91 per bushel, up 11 cents from October; durum wheat was $4.07 per bushel, up 53 cents; and spring wheat was 28 cents higher at $3.17 per bushel. Feed barley average price was $1.56 and malt barley was $2.72 per bushel, up 3 and 18 cents respectively.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay was $92.00 per ton, up $6 from last month. Other hay, at $83.00 per ton, was up 2.00 from November's mid-month price. The mid-December winter wheat price averaged $2.90 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.20, feed barley was $1.70, and malt barley averaged $2.70.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased 40 cents to $94.30 per cwt. Cows were down 70 cents to $37.40, and the average price for calves was down $2.00 to $102.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $4.30 to $31.00 per cwt, and lamb prices dropped $4.90 to $78.10 per cwt. Milk prices were 10 cents above last month at $13.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $90.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for November and changes from October were as follows: winter wheat was $2.70, up 7 cents; spring wheat was $2.97, up 17 cents; the all barley price was $2.12, up 19 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $73.80, up $3.30.

The U.S. mid-December winter wheat price was $2.67 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.94 per bushel, all wheat was $2.75 per bushel, and all barley was $2.08. Steer and heifer prices were $76.20 per cwt, cow prices were $36.10, all hog prices were $40.60 per cwt, and all egg prices were 83.3 cents per dozen.

The Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in December was 98 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the November index. Higher prices for soybeans, cattle, hogs, and eggs were offset by lower prices for broilers, lettuce, turkeys, and cauliflower. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and broilers were offset by lower marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

Compared with December 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.7 percent) higher. Price increases from December 1999 for cotton, cattle, eggs, and hogs were partially offset by lower prices for broilers, apples, oranges, and lemons.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1999	Nov. 2000	Dec. 2000
Prices Received	93	91	98	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	116	117	121	121
Ratio 2/	80	78	81	81

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov. 1999	Oct. 2000	Nov. 2000	Nov. 2000	Oct. 2000	Nov. 1999	Dec.15, 2000	Dec.15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.76	2.80	2.91	2.70	+0.11	+0.15	2.90	2.67
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.74	3.54	4.07	2.97	+0.53	+0.33	4.00	2.24
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.06	2.89	3.17	2.97	+0.28	+0.11	3.20	2.94
All Wheat	Bu.	3.00	2.89	3.17	2.83	+0.28	+0.17	3.14	2.75
Barley, All	Bu.	2.28	2.21	2.37	2.12	+0.16	+0.09	2.40	2.08
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.56	1.53	1.56	1.85	+0.03	0	1.70	1.72
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.64	2.54	2.72	2.41	+0.18	+0.08	2.70	2.37
Oats	Bu.	1.02	1.11	.99	1.18	-0.12	-0.03	1.00	1.16
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	66.00	86.00	86.00	90.40	0	+20.00	92.00	91.00
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	77.00	81.00	69.60	+4.00	+23.00	83.00	70.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	65.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	0	+20.00	90.00	85.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	84.60	93.90	94.30	73.80	+0.40	+9.70	90.30	76.20
Cows	Cwt	33.50	38.10	37.40	36.60	-0.70	+3.90	34.60	36.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	75.40	88.30	85.20	69.10	-3.10	+9.80	79.20	71.20
Calves	Cwt	92.30	104.00	102.00	106.00	-2.00	+9.70	101.00	106.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	29.00	26.70	31.00	33.60	+4.30	+2.00	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	82.00	83.00	78.10	71.50	-4.90	-3.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	17.20	13.60	13.70	12.60	+0.10	-3.50	13.30	12.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows.

Dry peas production for 2000 in Montana is estimated at 233,000 cwt. Planted and harvested acreage is estimated at 28,000 and 24,000 acres, respectively. Average yield is set at 9.7 cwt per acre.

Montana's 2000 production of **lentils** is estimated at 210,000 cwt. Planted area is estimated at 22,000 acres and harvested acres are set at 21,000 acres. The average yield is estimated to be 10.0 cwt per acre.

U.S. dry edible bean production is estimated at 26.4 million cwt for 2000, virtually unchanged from the December 1 forecast but down 21 percent from 1999 for comparable States. Harvested area is estimated at 1.61 million acres, down slightly from the December 1 forecast and 15 percent below last year for comparable States.

Production of **dry edible peas** in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington is estimated at 3.50 million cwt for 2000, 1 percent above the November 1 forecast but down 28 percent from 1999. This is the lowest production since 1996 when 2.67 million cwt was produced. Area harvested, at 179,000 acres, is 2 percent above the previous forecast but 30 percent below 1999. Average yields, at 1,955 pounds per acre, decreased 8 pounds from the November 1 forecast but increased 73 pounds from 1999.

Lentil production in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 3.03 million cwt for 2000, up 2 percent from the November 1 forecast and 27 percent above 1999.

OILSEEDS

Montana's **flaxseed** production for 2000 is estimated to be 196,000 bushels. Planted and harvested acreage estimates are 16,000 and 14,000, respectively. The average yield is set at 14.0 bushels per acre. Production of **mustard seed** in Montana during 2000 is estimated at 7 million pounds. Acres planted are set at 12,000 and acres harvested are 10,000. Yields averaged 700 pounds per acre. Montana **canola** growers planted 65,000 acres in 2000. Out of those that were planted, 58,000 acres were harvested yielding 960 pounds per acre. Total production is estimated to be 55.7 million pounds. Growers produced an estimated 30.03 million pounds of **safflower** in Montana for 2000. They planted an estimated 41,500 acres and harvested 39,000 acres. Average yields were set at 770 pounds per acre.

Montana's 2000 **all sunflower** production estimate was set at 4.3 million pounds this year. Planted and harvested acreage estimates are 7,000 and 5,800, respectively. The average yield is estimated at 744 pounds per acre.

U.S. flaxseed production for 2000 totaled 10.7 million bushels, up 36 percent from the previous year.

U.S. **safflower** production, at 283 million pounds, decreased 30 percent below 1999. **Mustard** seed production, at 37 million pounds was 24 percent below the previous year. Planted acres for safflower and mustard seed were down from 1999.

Canola production in the U.S. for 2000 reached a record high, at 2.02 billion pounds, up 48 percent from 1999. The 1998 production was the previous record high.

The U.S. 2000 **sunflower** production totaled 3.59 billion pounds, 17 percent below the 1999 production and 32 percent below 1998.

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- Annual Crop Production
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Products
- Cattle on Feed
- Red Meat Producrion
- Wheat Supply, Diappearance & Prices–ERS

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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Dry Bean Production
Potato Stocks
Hogs & Pigs
Milk Production
Egg Production

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on December 1, 2000. The inventory was 2 percent above December 1, 1999 and 8 percent above December 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.01 million, 7 percent below 1999 and 2 percent below 1998. Net placements were 1.91 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 757,000, 600-699 pounds were 559,000, 700-799 pounds were 405,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 293,000. Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.83 million, 1 percent above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 105,000 during November, 27 percent above 1999 and 35 percent above 1998

Red Meat Production Up

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.9 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during November 2000, up 7 percent from last year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,100 head, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight was 1,120 pounds, 54 pounds heavier than last November.

There were 2,000 hogs slaughtered during November, 500 less than in November 1999. The average live weight was 270 pounds, up 14 pounds from a year earlier. Sheep slaughter was up 100 head from last November to 400 head.

U. S. commercial red meat production totaled 3.92 billion pounds in November, up 1 percent from the previous record high for November of 3.89 billion pounds produced in 1999. Beef production, at 2.17 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the record high for November set last year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.93 million head, down slightly from 1999. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from last year, at 1,230 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up slightly from the record high set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.76 million head, 2 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 20 million pounds, was down 6 percent from November 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 296 thousand head, 10 percent below last year.

January - November red meat production was 42.5 billion pounds, 1 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 2 percent higher than last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was down 1 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 4 percent

Dry Edible Bean Production

Production for Montana's **dry edible bean** crop was estimated at 604,000 cwt, up 37 percent from the 1999 crop. Planted acreage for 2000 was estimated at 40,000 acres, up 51 percent from last year's estimate because of a another significant increase in garbanzo beans. Harvested area for this year is 36,500 acres, up 43 percent from 1999. The yield is forecast at 1,650 pounds per acre, 80 pounds less than last year. Yield results were mixed in Montana. Some growers had excellent growing conditions and produced a favorable crop, while other areas were impacted by drought conditions or a fungal leaf blight.

Pinto bean production for Montana is estimated to be 311,000 cwt, which is 5 percent above last year's estimate. Acres planted are estimated at 14,500 acres, up 4 percent from 1999. Harvested acreage, at 13,700, is 4 percent higher than the previous year. The yield is forecast at 2,270 pounds per acre, 30 pounds more than last year.

The biggest increases, for the second year in a row, occurred with the **garbanzo bean** crop. Montana's second production forecast was 290,000 cwt for 2000, compared with 133,000 cwt for last year. Planted acreage was set at 25,000 acres which is more than double the 1999 planted acres. Harvested area is estimated at 22,500 acres. The yield is forecast at 1,290 pounds per acre, up 14 percent from last year's estimate of 1,130 pounds per acre.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is estimated at 26.4 million cwt for 2000, down 21 percent from 1999 and 13 percent below two years ago for comparable States. Harvested acres are estimated at 1.61 million acres, 15 percent below last year and down 16 percent from 1998 for comparable States. Production is down in 2000 for all estimating States except Montana, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Production for all classes except for garbanzo is below 1999. **Pinto and navy**, the two largest varieties, decreased 2 percent and 35 percent, respectively from 1999.

Potato Production Up 5 Percent, December 1 Stocks Up 4 Percent

Montana potato growers produced 3,503,000 cwt of potatoes in 2000, 5 percent more than the previous year. Area planted and harvested was up 500 and 400 acres respectively for the 2000 crop year. There were 11,500 acres planted and 11,300 acres harvested, having an average yield of 310 cwt per acre. This yield is 5 cwt higher than last year's.

Producers held 3,350,000 cwt in storage on December 1, 2000. This is 4 percent more than was on-hand the prior year. December 1 stocks represent 96 percent of the total 2000 potato production in Montana.

Production of fall potatoes is a record high 471 million cwt in the 22 fall States this year, up 9 percent from a year ago and 8 percent above 1998. December 1 stocks in the 15 storage States are also at a record high 310 million cwt, up 13 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1998. The previous record highs were in 1996 when fall production was 454 million cwt and stocks were 295 million cwt. Seasonal disappearance of 152 million cwt in the 15 States is up 5 percent from last year. Processors used 78.5 million cwt so far this season, up 5 percent from last year.

The 15 major potato States held a record high 310 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2000, up 13 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1998. Potatoes in storage accounted for 67 percent of the 2000 fall storage States production, 2 percentage points above last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 10 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody) and 83 percent russet; with fewer whites, and more reds and russets than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1, at 152 million cwt of potatoes, was up 5 percent from the same period last year and 7 percent more than two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.5 million cwt so far this year, was down 9 percent from last year and 10 percent less than two years ago. Processors used 78.5 million cwt of 2000 crop potatoes so far this season, up 5 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 223 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, a jump of 16 percent above last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Washington's storage increased 27 percent from last year, Idaho rose 15 percent, and Oregon was up 14 percent. Colorado gained 3 percent and Montana increased 5 percent. California's stocks were down 16 percent.

Production of fall potatoes for 2000 is a record high 471 million cwt, up 9 percent from comparable estimates last year, and 4 percent above the previous record in 1996. Area harvested, at 1.20 million acres, is up a comparable 2 percent from last year. The average yield is a record high 393 cwt per acre, a jump of 24 cwt from the previous record high last year and 36 cwt above two years ago for comparable States. Comparability is achieved by combining Nebraska's previous summer and fall crops and dropping Wyoming's estimates.

Record large crops were produced in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Yields were record high in 12 States. Hot weather during the summer growing months pushed size profiles and yields to high levels in many of the western States.

Ten Western States produced 333 million cwt of potatoes in 2000, up 12 percent from the last year and 13 percent above two years ago. Acreage harvested, at 760,400 acres, was up 4 percent, as the average yield jumped 32 cwt. Idaho potato farmers produced a record high 152 million cwt, up 14 percent from a year ago. Washington hit a record high 108 million cwt, with a gain of 13 percent from last year. Oregon's potato crop topped off at a record 30.7 million cwt, up 10 percent from last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 1999-2000 1/

STATE	1999 CROP			2000 CROP		
	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1999	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 2000	% of PROD
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
CA	4,005	3,200	80	3,741	2,700	72
CO	25,762	19,700	76	27,972	20,300	73
ID	133,330	96,000	72	152,320	110,500	73
ME	17,813	14,500	81	17,920	14,100	79
MI	14,963	8,800	59	14,963	8,700	58
MN	18,020	10,600	59	21,240	14,200	67
MT	3,325	3,200	96	3,503	3,350	96
NE 2/	8,904	5,300	60	10,127	6,450	64
NY	6,758	3,500	52	5,964	2,700	45
ND	26,400	17,000	64	26,950	18,500	69
OH	987	300	30	1,134	320	28
OR	28,020	22,000	79	30,683	25,000	81
PA	3,080	2,000	65	3,510	1,700	48
WA	95,200	48,000	50	108,000	61,000	56
WI	34,000	21,000	62	33,800	20,000	59
15 States	420,567	275,100	65	461,827	309,520	67

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage in 2000 totaled 29.7 million cwt.
2/ Summer estimates included with fall in 2000.

December 1 Hog and Pig Inventory

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 2000 was 155,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. Breeding stock was up 6 percent from last December to 18,000 head. Market hog numbers decreased to 137,000 head, down 1 percent from last year.

There were 33,500 sows farrowed in Montana during the period of December 1999 to November 2000. This was a decrease of 7 percent from a year earlier. The number of pigs saved per litter increased slightly to 9.07 and resulted in an annual pig crop of 304,000 head, a 6 percent decrease from last year. There were 650 farms with one or more hogs in Montana in 2000, up 8 percent from last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2000, was 59.8 million head. The inventory was 1 percent above December 1999, but slightly below September 1, 2000.

Breeding inventory, at 6.28 million head, was up 1 percent from December 1, 1999, and up slightly from September 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 53.6 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The September-November 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was 2 percent more than 1999, but 1 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.88 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average number of pigs saved per litter was 8.88 for the September-November period, compared to 8.78 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the December 2000-February 2001 quarter, 4 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2000, and 1 percent above 1999. Intended farrowings for March-May 2001, at 2.92 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period in 2000 but down 2 percent from 1999.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 85,760 during 2000, down 13 percent from last year and 25 percent below 1998. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 8 percent of the operations and 72 percent of the inventory. This is the fifth time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory at, 2,095, accounted for 50.5 percent of the total inventory, up from 46.5 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 30 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 32 percent last year.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 1998-2000

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1998	1999	2000	'00/'99	1998	1999	2000	'00/'99
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	190	155	155	100	62,206	59,342	59,848	101
Breeding Hogs	19	17	18	106	6,682	6,234	6,275	101
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	68	55	51	93	20,140	29,241	19,566	102
60-119 lbs.	43	35	34	97	13,631	13,107	13,333	102
120-170 lbs.	33	26	30	115	11,585	11,073	11,051	100
180 lbs. & over	27	22	22	100	10,168	9,687	9,624	99
Total	171	138	137	99	55,523	53,109	53,573	101
Sows Farrowed								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	38.5	36.0	33.5	93	12,061	11,641	11,462	98
Pig Crop								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	344	325	304	94	105,005	102,355	101,355	97
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	8.94	9.03	9.07	100	8.71	8.79	8.84	101
Operations with Hogs	650	600	650	108	113,830	98,610	85,760	87

1/ December previous year.

U.S. November Production Up 1.5 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 11.5 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from production in these same States in November 1999. October revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds was up 2.7 percent from October 1999. The October revision represented a decrease of 0.2 percent or 29 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,463 pounds for November, 4 pounds above November 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.85 million head, 95,000 head more than November 1999 and 1,000 head more than October 2000.

U.S. Egg Production Up For November

U.S. egg production totaled 7.03 billion during November 2000, up slightly from the 7.02 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.99 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 981 million were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2000 averaged 330 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during November 1999. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,126 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,137 eggs in November 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2000, totaled 332 million, up one percent from a year ago. The 332 million layers consisted of 275 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.59 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2000, averaged 70.9 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 71.5 eggs a year ago. Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.58 billion eggs during November, down slightly from November 1999.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Sugar Beet Production
Hay Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Milk Cow County Estimates
Sheep County Estimates
Red Meat Production

2000 Sugar Beet and Hay Production

Montana **sugar beet** production for October 2000 is forecast at 1.38 million tons, down 3 percent from last month's forecast and down 6 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, at 23.9 tons per acre, is 0.2 tons above last month and 0.1 tons per acre higher than 1999. Because of an oversupply of sugar, producers this year were given the option of entering their sugar beet acres into a PIK program. By doing this, producers would receive a payment for not harvesting their sugar beets and plowing them up. Some producers took advantage of this program and therefore, revisions were required to the harvested acres. Harvested acreage is now 57,900 acres, which is 2,100 acres less than last month and 3,800 acres less than last year. Sugar beets are 20 percent harvested as of October 1. This is on pace with last year, but 5 percentage points higher than the five-year average.

Forecasted **alfalfa hay** yield for Montana was lowered from the August forecast by 0.1 ton per acre to 1.6 tons per acre. If realized this would be 0.6 ton per acre lower than last year. Total production of alfalfa hay is estimated at 1.76 million tons, down a third from the August forecast and down nearly 52 percent from last year. This is the lowest production since 1985. Harvested acres for all types of hay were revised based on data received from a Drought Survey that was completed in September. Agricultural producers from around the state were contacted to determine how this year's drought affected their crops and livestock. Based on this information, harvested acreage was revised from August and is now estimated at 1.10 million acres, down 450,00 acres from August and down 550,000 acres from last year. **Other hay** yields were also lowered from August and is now estimated at 1.2 tons per acre, down 0.2 tons per acre from August and down 0.3 tons per acre from 1999. Total production is set at 840,000 tons, down 29 percent from August and down 41 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is lowered from August and is now 700,000 acres, down 250,000 acres from last year. **All hay** production is estimated at 2.60 million tons, down 49 percent from last year. If realized, all hay production would be the lowest total since 1961 when 2.5 million tons were produced.

U.S. **sugar beet** production is forecast at 32.3 million tons from just over 1.4 million acres. This reflects preliminary acreage and production reductions due to the government PIK program announced in July. Harvested acres are 8 percent below last year and 7 percent below the September 1 forecast. The production forecast is down 6 percent from September and 3 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 23.0 tons per acre, 1.1 tons above 1999 and 0.2 tons above the September forecast.

Nationally, production for **alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures** is forecast at 80.0 million tons, up 1 percent from August, but 5 percent below 1999. Yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.11 tons from August, but down 0.07 tons from 1999. Harvested area is 23.3 million acres, down 2 percent from August, and down 3 percent from 1999.

U.S. production of **other hay** is forecast at 72.7 million tons, 3 percent below last year's record production of 75.2 million tons. Yields are expected to average 1.90 tons per acre, slightly below the August forecast of 1.94 tons and last year's yield of 1.92 tons. Harvested area is estimated at 38.3 million acres, down less than 1 percent from the August forecast, and down 2 percent from the 39.2 million acres harvested in 1999. This year's acreage will be the second highest since 1962.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production and U.S. September Milk Production Up

During the July-September quarter, Montana milk cows produced 78 million pounds of milk, 2 million pounds more than the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers, at 18,000 head were unchanged from a year ago.

Milk production in the 20 major States during September totaled 11.5 billion pounds, up 2.8 percent from production in these same States in September 1999. The August revision represented a decrease of 0.3 percent or 32 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,467 pounds for September, 22 pounds above September 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.85 million head, 98,000 head more than September 1999 and 11,000 head more than August 2000.

During the July-September period, milk produced in the U.S. was 41.3 billion pounds, 4.0 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.25 million head, 81,000 head more than the same period last year.

October 1, 2000 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S. 1/

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1999	2000 2/	1999	2000 2/	1999	2000 2/	1999	2000 2/
MONTANA		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,050	1,500	970	1,350	38.0	33.0	36,860	44,550
Durum Wheat	Bu.	360	480	350	470	27.0	28.0	9,450	13,160
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,150	3,350	4,000	3,100	27.0	25.0	108,000	77,500
All Wheat	Bu.	5,560	5,330	5,320	4,920	29.0	27.5	154,310	135,210
Corn for Grain 3/	Bu.	65	60	18	18	110.0	5/	1,980	5/
Oats	Bu.	170	130	70	50	46.0	52.0	3,220	2,600
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,250	1,150	950	50.0	40.0	57,500	38,000
Dry Beans	Cwt.	26.5	29.0	25.5	28.0	17.3	17.0	441	476
Sugar Beets	Ton	61.8	60.7	61.7	57.9	23.8	23.9	1,468	1,384
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.0	12.0	10.9	11.8	305.0	4/	3,325	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,100	2.2	1.6	3,630	1,760
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	700	1.5	1.2	1,425	840
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	1,800	1.9	1.4	5,055	2,600
UNITED STATES	UNIT	(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,331	43,348	35,486	35,022	47.8	44.6	1,696,580	1,562,733
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4,035	3,937	3,569	3,672	27.8	31.5	99,322	115,505
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,348	15,244	14,768	14,534	34.1	38.6	503,108	561,002
All Wheat	Bu.	62,714	62,529	53,823	53,228	42.7	42.1	2,299,010	2,239,240
Corn for Grain 3/	Bu.	77,431	79,579	70,537	73,009	139.6	141.8	9,437,337	10,191,817
Oats	Bu.	4,673	4,477	2,453	2,334	59.6	64.4	146,193	150,300
Barley	Bu.	5,194	5,844	4,734	5,211	59.2	61.4	280,292	320,195
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,023.0	1,767.0	1,877.0	1,579.4	17.7	16.2	33,230	25,603
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,560.6	1,560.9	1,527.3	1,402.4	21.9	23.0	33,420	32,269
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,203.0	1,223.9	1,166.1	1,199.9	369.0	4/	429,847	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,985	23,317	3.50	3.43	83,924	79,971
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,175	38,274	1.92	1.90	75,153	72,680
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,160	61,591	2.52	2.48	159,077	152,651

1/ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2000 crop year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Planted for all purposes. 4/ Production forecast available November 9, 2000. 5/ Production forecast available January 12, 2001.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.0 million head on October 1, 2000. The inventory was 7 percent above October 1, 1999 and 13 percent above October 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.56 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.40 million head, up 9 percent from 1999. Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.69 million, 3 percent below 1999 but 1 percent above 1998. Net placements were 2.63 million. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 775,000, 600-699 pounds were 612,000, 700-799 pounds were 681,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 618,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.99 million, 2 percent above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 54,000 during September, 13 percent below 1999 and 11 percent below 1998.

September Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 6.84 billion during September 2000, down slightly from the 6.86 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.80 billion table eggs and 1.03 billion hatching eggs, of which 973 million were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2000 averaged 325 million, up 1percent from the total average number of layers during September 1999. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,101 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,128 eggs in September 1999. September 2000 contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays, compared to 22 weekdays and four Saturdays in September 1999. All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2000, totaled 326 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 326 million layers consisted of 270 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.67 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2000, averaged 69.2 eggs per 100 layers, down 2 percent from the 70.6 a year ago. Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.40 billion eggs during September, down 1 percent from September 1999. The average number of layers during September, at 305 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1998-2000 1/

COUNTY & DISTRICT	MILK COWS & HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED				ALL SHEEP & LAMBS			
	1998	1999	2000	Rank	1998	1999	2000	Rank
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	500	--	--	--
Flathead	1,500	1,400	1,400	4	800	800	700	46
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	1,500	1,600	1,400	4	4,400	3,600	3,400	34
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	--	--	--	--	1,100	1,100	1,100	42
Powell	--	--	--	--	1,500	1,300	1,100	42
Ravalli	1,700	1,800	1,600	2	4,400	4,500	4,200	29
Sanders	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	700	700	500	--	1,300	1,700	1,500	--
NORTHWEST	**5,400**	**5,500**	**4,900**	**--**	**14,000**	**13,000**	**12,000**	**--**
Blaine	--	--	--	--	7,400	7,500	--	--
Chouteau	--	--	--	--	2,300	2,000	1,800	38
Glacier	--	--	500	8	--	--	--	--
Hill	--	--	--	--	800	800	1,000	44
Liberty	--	500	500	8	--	--	--	--
Phillips	--	--	--	--	10,100	9,000	4,900	26
Pondera	600	600	600	7	7,500	6,600	6,400	19
Teton	500	500	500	8	8,400	7,800	7,400	16
Toole	--	--	--	--	1,800	1,600	1,600	40
Other	1,400	1,000	600	--	700	700	8,900	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,500**	**2,600**	**2,700**	**--**	**39,000**	**36,000**	**32,000**	**--**
Daniels	--	--	--	--	800	700	700	46
Dawson	--	--	--	--	7,000	6,900	6,800	17
Garfield	--	--	--	--	49,000	43,000	43,500	2
McCone	--	--	--	--	14,200	13,600	10,000	10
Richland	--	--	--	--	6,000	5,800	5,600	24
Roosevelt	--	--	--	--	5,500	4,100	3,600	33
Sheridan	--	--	--	--	2,300	2,000	1,800	38
Valley	--	--	--	--	4,200	3,900	4,000	31
Other	400	400	500	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**400**	**400**	**500**	**--**	**89,000**	**80,000**	**76,000**	**--**
Broadwater	--	--	--	--	4,800	4,400	4,400	27
Cascade	700	700	700	6	11,500	10,200	10,300	9
Fergus	--	--	--	--	7,000	6,300	6,500	18
Golden Valley	--	--	--	--	8,000	8,800	10,400	8
Judith Basin	--	--	--	--	9,700	9,000	8,500	12
Lewis & Clark	--	--	--	--	4,800	4,600	4,000	31
Meagher	--	--	--	--	5,600	6,000	6,100	21
Musselshell	--	--	--	--	10,700	10,000	9,700	11
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	4,600	4,200	4,300	28
Wheatland	--	--	--	--	23,300	20,500	18,800	3
Other	1,600	1,600	1,700	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**2,300**	**2,300**	**2,400**	**--**	**90,000**	**84,000**	**83,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	--	--	--	--	18,200	18,000	17,500	5
Gallatin	4,700	4,600	4,900	1	7,800	6,700	6,400	19
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	1,200	1,100	1,000	44
Madison	--	--	--	--	9,100	8,600	7,500	14
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	700	600	600	48
Other	200	200	200	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**4,900**	**4,800**	**5,100**	**--**	**37,000**	**35,000**	**33,000**	**--**
Big Horn	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carbon	--	--	--	--	8,800	7,900	7,500	14
Park	--	--	--	--	3,200	3,000	3,100	36
Stillwater	--	--	--	--	11,800	10,400	10,700	7
Sweetgrass	--	--	--	--	12,500	11,500	11,100	6
Treasure	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellowstone	1,600	1,500	1,500	3	5,700	6,300	5,800	23
Other	600	600	600	--	3,000	2,900	2,800	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**2,200**	**2,100**	**2,100**	**--**	**45,000**	**42,000**	**41,000**	**--**
Carter	--	--	--	--	59,000	53,000	55,000	1
Custer	--	--	--	--	6,600	5,800	5,900	22
Fallon	--	--	--	--	4,200	3,500	3,400	34
Powder River	--	--	--	--	20,200	17,800	18,300	4
Prairie	--	--	--	--	5,200	5,000	5,100	25
Rosebud	--	--	--	--	4,600	4,000	4,100	30
Wibaux	--	--	--	--	1,200	900	1,200	41
Other	300	300	300	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**300**	**300**	**300**	**--**	**101,000**	**90,000**	**93,000**	**--**
MONTANA	**18,000**	**18,000**	**18,000**	**--**	**415,000**	**380,000**	**370,000**	**--**

1/ Counties with less than 500 head or individual operators having 60 percent or more of the head are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

September Red Meat Production Up in Montana

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 2000, up 9 percent from September 1999, but down 14 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,100 head, up 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight was 1,110 pounds, 36 pounds heavier than last September.

There were 1,700 hogs slaughtered during September, 400 less than in September 1999. The average live weight was 267 pounds, up 13 pounds from a year earlier. Sheep slaughtered were up 100 head from last September to 500 head. The average live weight decreased 3 pounds from last September to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in September, down 2 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in September 1999. September 1999 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. September 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.28 billion pounds, equaled the previous record high for September set last year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.03 million head, down 2 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,231 pounds. Veal production totaled 17 million pounds, 18 percent below the previous record low for September set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 93 thousand head, down 22 percent from September 1999. The average live weight was 13 pounds above last year, at 293 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.12 million head, 6 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 17 million pounds, was down 10 percent from September 1999 and down 9 percent from the previous record low for September set in 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 269 thousand head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, up 3 pounds from September a year ago. January - September red meat production was 34.5 billion pounds, just above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 2 percent higher than last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was down 2 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 3 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Monthly Average Prices
Dry Beans
Potatoes
Sugar Beets
2000 Crop Year Summary

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Ag Prices
Small Grains Summary
Grain Stocks

September 2000 Small Grain Summary

Montana's 2000 winter wheat production was estimated at 44.55 million bushels, up 21% from 1999. This increase from last year is mainly attributed to an increase in acres. Producers harvested 1,350,000 acres, up 380,000 acres from the 1999 harvest. The 2000 average yield was 33.0 bushels per acre, which is five bushels lower than last year's average. The yield was lowered 2 bushels from the August 1, 2000 forecast.

Spring wheat production was estimated at 77.5 million bushels, down 28% from 1999. The 2000 crop would be the smallest since 1990 when realized production was 53.9 million bushels. The seeded acreage was 3.35 million acres, 800,000 acres less than 1999. Producers harvested 3.1 million acres, 900,000 acres less than a year earlier. Yields averaged 25.0 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from 1999 in part due to lack of precipitation in many areas of the state. Drought conditions existed for much of the growing season across the state. The only exception was the Northeast part of the state where adequate precipitation allowed for a good crop.

Montana **durum wheat** growers planted 480,000 acres and harvested or expect to harvest 470,000 acres in 2000. With good precipitation in the Northeastern part of the state where a majority of the durum wheat is grown, producers obtained good yields. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, 1 bushel more than 1999. Total production was estimated at 13.16 million bushels, up 39 percent from last year. The 2000 production is the second highest on record, below only the 18.09 million bushels achieved in 1956.

Barley planted acreage in Montana decreased to1.25 million acres, 50,000 acres less than 1999. Producers harvested 950,000 acres, 200,000 acres less than were harvested for grain in 1999. Yields averaged 40.0 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels from last year and down 2 bushels from our previous forecast. Production was estimated at 38.0 million bushels, down 34% from last year. The 2000 production is the smallest crop since 1988 when 30.0 million bushels was realized. The main reason for the decrease is attributed to drought conditions during much of the growing season.

Oat production in Montana was estimated at 2.60 million bushels, down 19 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 130,000 acres, 40,000 acres lower than last year. Harvested acreage was set at 50,000 acres, down 20,000 from 1999. Yields averaged 52.0 bushels per acre, 6 bushels above last year.

Nationally, the 2000 **winter wheat** production is estimated at 1.56 billion bushels. This is down 2 percent from the August forecast and 8 percent below 1999. The U.S. yield dropped 0.4 bushels from August to 44.6 bushels per acre, 3.2 bushels below last year's yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 35.0 million acres, down 1 percent from both last month and last year. Most of the decrease in grain area from August comes from Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Other spring wheat production in 2000 is estimated at 561 million bushels, down 5 percent from the last forecast, but 12 percent more than in 1999. Harvested area is now 14.5 million acres, down 3 percent from the last forecast and 2 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 38.6 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushels from the last forecast, but 4.5 bushels higher than in 1999.

Durum wheat production for 2000 totaled 116 million bushels, down 2 percent from September 1, but 16 percent higher than last year. Grain area now totals 3.67 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. The U.S. yield, at 31.5 bushels per acre is up 1.9 bushels from the last forecast and 3.7 bushels above last year's yield. North Dakota's durum harvest was only 89 percent complete by September 24, four points behind the 5-year average. Sprouting and other moisture related damage has lowered the quality of the remaining wheat.

U.S. **barley** production in 2000 was estimated at 320 million bushels, up 3 percent from the September forecast and 14 percent above last year's estimate. Average yield per acre, at 61.4 bushels, was up 2.2 bushels from 1999. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 5.21 million acres, 10 percent above a year ago. This year's harvested acreage is the second lowest on record, following last year's record low.

U.S. **oats** production for the 2000 crop year is estimated at 150 million bushels, 2 percent below the August forecast, but 3 percent above the 1999 production. The estimated yield, at 64.4 bushels per acre, is 2.1 bushels above the August forecast and 4.8 bushels higher than last year. Area harvested for grain in 2000 is 2.33 million acres, 5 percent below the August forecast and 1999. This continues the steady downward trend and breaks last year's record as the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record. Compared with the August forecast, reductions in acres harvested for grain due to drought in Texas, Nebraska, and South Dakota, more than offset higher yielonremainin acres.

The Montana crop production and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during September. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis.

SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accuate, reliable statistics.

Agricultural Prices Received for September

Crop prices for the full month of August 2000 were mostly lower than the July 2000 prices. Montana's winter wheat average price was $2.44 per bushel, down 11 cents from July; durum wheat was $3.20 per bushel, up 2 cents; and spring wheat was 29 cents lower at $2.64 per bushel. Feed barley average price was $1.41 and malt barley was $2.96 per bushel.

The mid-September price for alfalfa hay was $83.00 per ton, up $4.00 from last month. Other hay, at $74.00 per ton, was up $2.00 from August's mid-month price. The mid-September winter wheat price averaged $2.60 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.85, feed barley was $1.40, and malt barley averaged $3.00.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.00 to $82.80 per cwt. Cows were down $1.60 to $40.70, and the average price for calves was up $9.00 to $110.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $6.50 to $28.70 per cwt, and lamb prices decreased $2.90 to $85.10 per cwt. Milk prices increased 20 cents from last month to $13.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-September averaged $82.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for August and changes from July were as follows: winter wheat was $2.31, up 8 cents; spring wheat was $2.59, down 15 cents; the all barley price was $2.30, down 40 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $68.00, down $2.40.

The U.S. mid-September winter wheat price was $2.38 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.57 per bushel, all wheat was $2.43 per bushel, and all barley was $2.08. Steer and heifer prices were $68.70 per cwt, cow prices were $37.30, all hog prices were $41.60 per cwt, and all egg prices were 60.3 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 99 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the August index.. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, broilers, grapes, and wheat were partially offset by higher marketings of soybeans, peanuts, corn, apples and potatoes. These marketing changes kept the index from increasing more than 1 point.

The September Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 118 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is down 1 point (0.8 percent) from August but was 3 points (2.6 percent) greater than September 1999. Lower prices in September for complete feeds, feed concentrates, feeder cattle, and gasoline more than offset higher prices for diesel fuel, hay and forages, nitrogen fertilizers, and feed grains.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	August 1999	September 1999	August 2000	September 2000
Prices Received	99	96	98	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	115	115	119	118
Ratio 2/	86	83	82	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Aug. 1999	July 2000	Aug. 2000	Aug. 2000	July 2000	Aug. 1999	Sept.15, 2000	Sept.15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.56	2.55	2.44	2.31	-0.11	-0.12	2.60	2.38
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2.98	3.18	3.20	2.33	+0.02	+0.22	3.25	2.20
Spring Wheat	Bu.	2.93	2.93	2.64	2.59	-0.29	-0.29	2.85	2.57
All Wheat	Bu.	2.84	2.89	2.61	2.41	-0.28	-0.23	2.78	2.43
Barley, All	Bu.	2.46	2.79	2.39	2.30	-0.40	-0.07	2.52	2.08
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.38	1.61	1.41	1.51	-0.20	+0.03	1.40	1.59
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.96	3.18	2.96	2.77	-0.22	0	3.00	2.64
Oats	Bu.	1.12	0.98	1.06	0.94	+0.08	-0.06	1.00	1.00
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	63.00	79.00	79.00	83.90	0	+16.00	83.00	87.20
All Other Hay	Ton	53.00	71.00	72.00	68.50	+1.00	+19.00	74.00	67.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	62.00	79.00	77.00	80.50	-2.00	+15.00	80.00	82.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	74.00	83.80	82.80	68.00	-1.00	+8.80	82.20	68.70
Cows	Cwt	38.90	42.30	40.70	39.00	-1.60	+1.80	39.40	37.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	63.50	64.70	72.30	65.50	+7.60	+8.80	77.90	65.70
Calves	Cwt	88.10	101.00	110.00	106.00	+9.00	+21.90	106.00	104.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	28.60	35.20	28.70	30.70	-6.50	+0.10	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	79.60	88.00	85.10	83.60	-2.90	+5.50	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.40	13.10	13.30	12.60	+0.20	-0.10	13.70	12.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

September 1, 2000 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on September 1, 2000 totaled 169.4 million bushels, down 11 percent from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 143.0 million bushels and off farm stocks accounted for 26.4 million bushels. All **spring wheat** stocks, at 113.91 million bushels, were down 20 percent from last year and accounted for 67 percent of the total wheat stocks. **Winter wheat** stocks were estimated at 55.49 million bushels, up 16 percent from last year. **Durum wheat** stocks were estimated at 14.56 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year. All wheat disappearance for the June-August quarter was 26.66 million bushels, compared with 34.16 million for the same quarter last year.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 2000 were down 27 percent from last year and were set at 41.16 million bushels. **Oat** stocks were up 9 percent from a year ago and were estimated at 3.32 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 2000 totaled 2.37 billion bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 823 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.54 billion bushels, are down 1 percent from a year ago. The indicated June - August 2000 quarter disappearance is 823 million bushels, up 3 percent from the same period in 1999.

U.S. **durum wheat** stocks in all positions on September 1, 2000 totaled 130 million bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 91.7 million bushels, are down 5 percent from 1999. Off-farm stocks totaled 38.0 million bushels also down 5 percent from a year ago. The indicated June - August 2000 quarter disappearance of 35.7 million bushels is up 205 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on September 1, 2000 are estimated at 294 million bushels, less than 1 percent below last year. On-farm stocks are 152 million bushels, 8 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks are 142 million bushels, 9 percent above 1999. Indicated disappearance during the June - August 2000 quarter totaled 138 million bushels, up 9 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **oats** stored in all positions on September 1, 2000 totaled 151 million bushels, 2 percent above the stocks on September 1, 1999. Of the total stocks on hand, 102 million bushels were stored on farms, 5 percent more than this time last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 49.2 million bushels, 4 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during June - August 2000 totaled 75.3 million bushels, 5 percent less than the same period a year ago.

September 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1999	June 1, 2000	Sept. 1, 2000	'00/'99	Sept. 1, 1999	June 1, 2000*	Sept. 1, 2000
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	163,000	45,000	143,000	88%	888,060	226,780	822,690
Off Farms 1/	27,750	15,850	26,400	95%	1,556,983	722,968	1,542,929
TOTAL	190,750	60,850	169,400	89%	2,445,043	949,748	2,365,619
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	39,000	12,000	45,000	115%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	8,850	5,250	10,490	119%	--	--	--
TOTAL	47,850	17,250	55,490	116%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	124,000	33,000	98,000	79%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	18,900	10,600	15,910	84%	--	--	--
TOTAL	142,900	43,600	113,910	80%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	96,900	30,300	91,700
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	39,830	19,532	37,973
TOTAL	16,340	4,260	14,560	89%	136,730	49,832	129,673
BARLEY							
On Farms	48,000	6,000	33,000	69%	165,100	25,400	151,700
Off Farms 1/	8,300	6,260	8,160	98%	130,145	85,924	142,151
TOTAL	56,300	12,260	41,160	73%	295,245	111,324	293,851
OATS							
On Farms	2,800	1,200	3,100	111%	97,300	36,000	101,900
Off Farms 1/	250	240	220	88%	51,151	40,031	49,157
TOTAL	3,050	1,440	3,320	109%	148,451	76,031	151,057
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	797,000	2,029,800	793,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	989,977	1,556,138	922,195
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,786,977	3,585,938	1,715,195

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Montana Annual Small Grains Summary, Production by District 1/

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1999	2000	00/99	1999	2000	00/99	1999	2000	00/99
	(000) Bushels		Pct.	(000) Bushels		Pct.	(000) Bushels		Pct.
Northwest	422	160	38	1,959	2,072	106	1,344	1,188	88
N Central	13,571	24,150	178	46,909	29,450	63	32,681	21,238	65
Northeast	1,632	2,486	152	51,055	47,261	93	3,584	2,952	82
Central	10,810	9,020	83	7,931	5,576	70	9,664	5,652	58
Southwest	1,413	920	65	2,475	1,560	63	3,940	2,016	51
S Central	5,784	5,465	94	1,909	1,350	71	4,979	4,030	81
Southeast	3,228	2,349	73	5,212	3,391	65	1,308	924	71
Montana	**36,860**	**44,550**	**121**	**117,450**	**90,660**	**77**	**57,500**	**38,000**	**66**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, in All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	Sept. 1, 1999	June 1, 2000	Sept 1, 2000	Sept. 1, 1999	June 1, 2000	Sept. 1, 2000
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	2.0	0.8	5.1	2.1	0.4	2.0
North Central	62.6	21.8	57.7	34.1	6.4	24.7
Northeast	77.2	19.7	59.8	1.9	0.7	1.7
Central	28.9	11.9	28.9	9.5	2.4	6.5
Southwest	3.5	0.7	2.8	3.6	0.3	2.0
South Central	8.7	2.6	8.6	4.3	1.8	3.2
Southeast	7.9	3.4	6.5	0.8	0.3	1.1
Montana	**190.8**	**60.9**	**169.4**	**56.3**	**12.3**	**41.2**

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Sheep & Lambs
Crop Productions
Hay Productions
Sugar Beef Productions
Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed
MT Malt Barley Utilized for Malt
Egg Production
Milk Production
Potato Disposition
Hog & Pigs
Cash Receipts

August Red Meat Production Up in Montana

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 2000, up 5 percent from August 1999 and up 13 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,400 head, up 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight was 1,109 pounds, 24 pounds heavier than last August.

There were 2,100 hogs slaughtered during August, 600 less than in August 1999. The average live weight was 267 pounds, up 13 pounds from a year earlier. Sheep slaughtered were up 100 head from last August to 500 head. The average live weight increased 3 pounds from last August to 124 pounds.

United States commercial red meat production totaled 4.11 billion pounds in August, up 5 percent from the previous record high for August of 3.91 billion pounds produced in 1999. Beef production, at 2.44 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year and 5 percent above the previous record high for August set in 1995. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.26 million head, up 3 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, at 1,226 pounds.

Veal production totaled 17 million pounds, 11 percent below the previous record low for August set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 100 thousand head, down 16 percent from August 1999. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 289 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.64 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous record high for August set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.62 million head, 3 percent above 1999. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 258 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 18 million pounds, was down 3 percent from August 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 283 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, up 1 pounds from August a year ago.

January - August red meat production was 30.6 billion pounds, 1 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 2 percent higher than last year, veal was 1 percent lower, pork was 2 percent lower, and lamb & mutton was down 3 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.38 million head on September 1, 2000. The inventory was 9 percent above September 1, 1999 and 15 percent above September 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.44 million, slightly above 1999 and 18 percent above 1998. Net placements were 2.39 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 573,000,600-699 pounds were 504,000, 700-799 pounds were 691,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 672,000. Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 2.19 million, 7 percent above 1999 and 11 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 49,000 during August, 11 percent below 1999 and 6 percent below 1998.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 10 Percent

Cattle on feed September 1, 2000, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.98 million, up 10 percent from the previous year and 16 percent above September 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.09 million, slightly above 1999 and 18 percent above 1998. Marketings during August totaled 1.89 million, 8 percent above 1999 and 12 percent above 1998. Other disappearance during August was 36,000 head, 14 percent below 1999 and 1998.

Maltsters and Brewers Purchased 19.4 Million Bushels of the 1999 Barley Crop

Maltsters and brewers purchased 19.4 million bushels of Montana's 1999 barley crop to make malt, up 8 percent from 1998, but down nearly 19 percent from the 1997 crop year. The survey was requested and funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee. The average protein of the 1999 malting crop was 12.6 percent, which is the same average protein obtained from the 1998 crop.

Montana growers planted 1.30 million acres of barley in 1999, down 50,000 acres from 1998. Of the total, about 780,000 acres were planted to malting type varieties. If the yield of malting varieties equaled the state average yield per planted acre for all barley, then approximately 34.5 million bushels of malting type would be produced. Since only 19.4 million bushels were used for malt, the remaining 15.1 million bushels did not make the malting grade or exceeded demand for malting barley. The barley utilized for malt represented nearly 34 percent of the 1999 total barley crop compared with 31 percent in 1998 and 39 percent in 1997.

Harrington was the variety most frequently purchased by maltsters and brewers and represented 52 percent of the total purchases. Anheuser Busch varieties were the second most commonly purchased. Seventy-six percent of all malt barley purchased was grown in North Central Montana. South Central Montana growers produced nearly 13 percent of the total.
(See Back Page)

U.S. August Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.10 billion during August 2000, up 2 percent from the 6.97 billion produced in 1999. Production included 6.01 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2000 averaged 325 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during August 1999. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,181 eggs, up slightly from 2,177 eggs in August1999. August 2000 contained 23 week days and four Saturdays, compared to 22 week days and four Saturdays in August 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1,2000, totaled 325 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 325 million layers consisted of 268 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.81 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2000, averaged 70.2 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.9 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.66 billion eggs during August, up 2 percent from August 1999. The average number of layers during August, at 305 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. August Milk Production Up 4.0 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during August totaled 12.0 billion pounds, up 4.0 percent from production in these same States in August 1999. July revised production, at 12.2 billion pounds was up 5.4 percent from July 1999. The July revision represented an increase of 0.3 percent or 37 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,530 pounds for August, 43 pounds above August 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.84 million head, 89,000 head more than August 1999 and 10,000 head more than July 2000.

1999 Potato Production and Disposition

Montana's 1999 potato production was 3.33 million cwt, 5 percent above last year and just slightly below 1997. Producers harvested 10,900 acres, 300 more than a year ago and 500 acres more than two years ago. Potato yields averaged 305 cwt per acre compared with 300 cwt in 1998.

Value of production from the 1999 crop was $29.3 million, up 16 percent from 1998. The average price was $8.80 per cwt, up 85 cents from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 1999 potato crop totaled $26.1 million, which was 18 percent higher than last year's crop. Producers sold 3.0 million cwt from the 1999 crop compared with 2.8 million cwt a year ago.

Total U.S. potato production for 1999 is estimated at 478 million cwt, up 1 percent from 1998, but 4 percent below the record high in 1996. Harvested area, at 1.33 million acres, was down 4 percent from 1998 and 2 percent below 1997. The average yield of 359 cwt per acre was a record high, up 16 cwt from 1998 and 14 cwt above 1997. Seasonal production was above last year for winter, spring, and summer but fall potatoes were down slightly. Winter production jumped 37 percent, spring increased 20 percent, summer gained slightly, but fall potatoes were down 1 percent. This is the second largest total potato production on record in the United States.

Summer potato production was revised to 19.0 million cwt for 1999, up slightly from 1998 and 4 percent above 1997. Harvested area of 64,000 acres was down 6 percent from 1998, while the average yield of 296 cwt per acre for 1999 was 18 cwt above the previous year.

Fall potato production was finalized at 430 million cwt, down 1 percent from 1998 but 2 percent above 1997. This is the third largest fall potato production on record, after the 1996 and 1998 seasons. Area harvested in 1999 was estimated at 1.17 million acres, down 4 percent from 1998 and 2 percent below two years earlier. The average yield was a record high, averaging 369 cwt per acre, up 13 cwt from a year ago. Final production of fall potatoes was 1 percent below the first forecast made in November 1999.

Value of all potato production was estimated at $2.75 billion, up 4 percent from last year and 5 percent above 1997. The average price, at $5.77 per cwt gained 21 cents from a year earlier and was 13 cents above 1997.

Sales from the 1999 potato crop totaled 437 million cwt, up 1 percent from 1998 and 2 percent above 1997. Sales accounted for 91 percent of 1999 production. Non sales accounted for 41.1 million cwt of 1999 potatoes, down fractionally from 1998 and 9 percent below 1997. Over the past five years, an average of 91 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other 9 percent was either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

Processors used 274 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 1999 crop, down 3 percent from 1998 but 2 percent above 1997. Table stock sales totaled 134 million cwt, 7 percent above last year. Seed sales of 25.5 million cwt were up 2 percent. Sales for livestock feed, at 3.14 million cwt gained 1 percent from 1998 but was 13 percent below 1997.

Chip potato use totaled 52.8 million cwt, 3 percent above last year. Freezers took 163 million cwt of raw potatoes, down 3 percent, while dehydrating totaled 51.7 million cwt, a drop of 9 percent. Canning use, at 5.71 million cwt, was up 22 percent. Starch, flour and other products were made from 1.31 million cwt of potatoes, down 17 percent from last year.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 35.6 million cwt, up fractionally from last year and 10 percent above 1997. Livestock feed and home use totaled 1.29 million cwt, down 9 percent. Growers kept an additional 4.25 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 2 percent from the previous year.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2000, was 60.2 million head. This was 1 percent below September 1999, but 1 percent above June 1, 2000.

Breeding inventory, at 6.27 million head, was down 1 percent from September 1,1999, but up 1 percent from June 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 53.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year, but 1 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 25.7 million head, was 1 percent less than 1999, and 4 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, 1 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter was 8.85 pigs saved per litter for the June-August period, compared to 8.86 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the September-November 2000 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, but 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for December 2000-February 2001, at 2.89 million sows, are 3 percent above the same period in 2000 and up slightly from 1999.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 31 percent last year.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Sale of Principal Products and Government Payments, 1998 1/ 2/

County & District	Livestock & Livestock Products		Crops		Total Cash Receipts		Government Payments	All Cash Receipts
	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols.	Rank	(000) Dols	(000) Dols.
Deer Lodge	3,363	53	1,028	54	4,391	53	151	4,542
Flathead	8,469	39	19,152	22	27,621	29	1,468	29,089
Granite	7,493	44	1,548	52	9,041	50	112	9,153
Lake	20,404	19	16,384	23	36,788	21	1,584	38,372
Lincoln	2,000	55	1,521	53	3,521	54	--	3,521
Mineral	780	56	427	55	1,207	56	55	1,262
Missoula	5,201	51	2,376	48	7,577	52	269	7,846
Powell	13,802	28	2,041	49	15,843	45	363	16,206
Ravalli	17,320	23	6,576	37	23,896	34	378	24,274
Sanders	6,951	46	4,443	43	11,394	48	268	11,662
NORTHWEST	**85,783**	--	**55,496**	--	**141,279**	--	**4,648**	**145,927**
Blaine	20,442	18	32,750	8	53,192	12	13,863	67,055
Chouteau	13,155	30	71,013	1	84,168	2	34,702	118,870
Glacier	15,683	25	25,299	17	40,982	16	11,291	52,273
Hill	10,836	36	62,538	2	73,374	3	27,496	100,870
Liberty	8,324	40	32,649	9	40,973	17	12,002	52,975
Phillips	22,931	10	22,735	19	45,666	14	11,900	57,566
Pondera	13,922	27	41,313	4	55,235	10	16,678	71,913
Teton	22,564	12	41,987	3	64,551	5	16,895	81,446
Toole	8,210	41	27,317	16	35,527	23	16,228	51,755
NORTH CENTRAL	**136,067**	--	**357,601**	--	**493,668**	--	**161,055**	**654,723**
Daniels	4,610	52	20,580	20	25,190	33	11,272	36,462
Dawson	12,882	32	24,736	18	37,618	20	8,643	46,261
Garfield	21,177	16	10,644	27	31,821	26	6,571	38,392
McCone	9,727	38	20,387	21	30,114	28	11,985	42,099
Richland	17,996	22	39,923	5	57,919	9	9,487	67,406
Roosevelt	8,101	42	31,656	11	39,757	19	13,502	53,259
Sheridan	6,458	48	35,662	6	42,120	15	12,921	55,041
Valley	21,033	17	28,763	15	49,796	13	16,597	66,393
NORTHEAST	**101,984**	--	**212,351**	--	**314,335**	--	**90,978**	**405,313**
Broadwater	5,905	50	12,830	26	18,735	41	3,753	22,488
Cascade	31,335	5	29,989	14	61,324	8	10,871	72,195
Fergus	35,529	3	32,529	10	68,058	4	12,133	80,191
Golden Valley	7,595	43	4,936	42	12,531	46	3,198	15,729
Judith Basin	21,192	15	13,820	25	35,012	24	6,663	41,675
Lewis & Clark	11,585	34	7,091	35	18,676	42	1,058	19,734
Meagher	18,048	21	3,339	46	21,387	36	1,357	22,744
Musselshell	11,166	35	5,528	40	16,694	44	3,049	19,743
Petroleum	6,339	49	3,054	47	9,393	49	1,262	10,655
Wheatland	15,294	26	6,533	39	21,827	35	2,662	24,489
CENTRAL	**163,988**	--	**119,649**	--	**283,637**	--	**46,006**	**329,643**
Beaverhead	43,331	2	10,132	29	53,463	11	1,264	54,727
Gallatin	28,173	6	34,776	7	62,949	7	4,391	67,340
Jefferson	7,144	45	1,739	50	8,883	51	444	9,327
Madison	23,780	9	9,516	30	33,296	25	1,161	34,457
Silver Bow	2,812	54	254	56	3,066	55	--	3,066
SOUTHWEST	**105,240**	--	**56,417**	--	**161,657**	--	**7,260**	**168,917**
Big Horn	32,843	4	31,221	12	64,064	6	7,124	71,188
Carbon	24,278	8	15,675	24	39,953	18	2,089	42,042
Park	12,914	31	6,577	36	19,491	39	1,149	20,640
Stillwater	19,637	20	7,561	33	27,198	30	4,793	31,991
Sweetgrass	17,119	24	1,656	51	18,775	40	439	19,214
Treasure	9,886	37	7,137	34	17,023	43	919	17,942
Yellowstone	61,326	1	31,078	13	92,404	1	8,199	100,603
SOUTH CENTRAL	**178,003**	--	**100,905**	--	**278,908**	--	**24,712**	**303,620**
Carter	21,230	14	4,159	44	25,389	32	3,073	28,462
Custer	22,755	11	8,672	31	31,427	27	2,597	34,024
Fallon	13,557	29	6,576	37	20,133	38	3,832	23,965
Powder River	22,558	13	3,581	45	26,139	31	1,975	28,114
Prairie	12,818	33	7,726	32	20,544	37	4,002	24,546
Rosebud	26,589	7	10,134	28	36,723	22	4,302	41,025
Wibaux	6,546	47	5,141	41	11,687	47	3,417	15,104
SOUTHEAST	**126,053**	--	**45,989**	--	**172,042**	--	**23,198**	**195,240**
MONTANA	**897,118**	--	**948,408**	--	**1,845,526**	--	**357,904**	**2,203,430**

1/ Includes estimates of inter-farm sales and intra-state sales. 2/ Payments of less than $50,000 included in State totals.

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

Montana Barley Used to Produce Malt, 1997-99 Crops

VARIETY	CROP 1/ YEAR	DISTRICTS					STATE	
		N. Central 2/	Central	Southwest	S. Central	Southeast 3/	Bushels	Protein
ANHEUSER-BUSCH VARIETIES	1997	5,050,000	410,000		500,000		5,960,000	12.3
	1998	2,887,000	933,000		410,000		4,230,000	11
	1999	5,345,000	645,000		500,000		6,490,000	12.6
GALENA	1997	105,000			1,046,000		1,151,000	11.3
	1998	620,000			305,000		925,000	11.0
	1999	680,000					680,000	11.4
HARRINGTON	1997	11,724,000	2,635,000	111,000	200,000		14,670,000	12.6
	1998	8,095,000	2,429,000	540,000	285,000		11,349,000	12.8
	1999	8,434,000	1,020,000	173,000	500,000		10,127,000	12.9
MORAVIAN III	1997	480,000					480,000	11.8
	1998							
	1999							
MORAVIAN 22	1997							
	1998				675,000		675,000	11.1
	1999	112,400			1,425,000		1,537,400	11.3
MOREX	1997	255,000	153,000	461,000	121,000		990,000	12.5
	1998	230,000		400,000			630,000	13.2
	1999	196,000	295,700				491,700	12.7
OTHER	1997	369,000	106,000	64,000		5,000	544,000	12.1
	1998	37,500		46,000	20,000		103,500	12.6
	1999	48,100	15,700				63,800	12.1
TOTAL	1997	17,983,000	3,304,000	636,000	1,867,000	5,000	23,795,000	12.4
	1998	11,869,500	3,362,000	986,000	1,695,000		17,912,500	12.6
	1999	14,815,500	1,976,400	173,000	2,425,000		19,389,900	12.6

1/ Crop year defined as July 1 to June 30 2/ Includes Northwest 3/ Includes Northeast

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Ag Prices
Small Grains Summary
Grain Stocks
Letter to SAS Respondents

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grains Crop Production
Red Meat Production
Ag Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement

Spring Wheat Forecast Down from Last Month

Montana's September 1, 2000 **other spring wheat** production forecast is 82.35 million bushels, down 4 percent from last month. If realized, this would be 24 percent lower than last year because of a decrease in harvested acres. The average yield, at 27.0 bushels per acre, is down 1 bushel from the August 1, 2000 forecast and is unchanged from last year. Harvested acres are unchanged from last month and are forecast at 3.05 million acres. Harvest progress is ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. As of September 10, 2000, spring wheat is 94 percent harvested compared with 78 percent last year and 82 percent for the average.

Durum wheat production as of September 1, 2000 is forecast at 15.66 million bushels, down 3 percent from last month, but 66 percent above last year because of an increase in harvested acres. Yields are expected to average 29.0 bushels per acre which is down 1 bushel from last month, but 2 bushels more than last year. Harvested acreage remained unchanged from last month at 540,000 acres compared with 350,000 acres in 1999.

Winter wheat production is not forecast on September 1. However, if we added the August winter wheat production forecast with current spring wheat and durum wheat forecasts, the total wheat crop would be estimated at 145.26 million bushels, down 6 percent from 1999.

The September 1, 2000 forecast for **barley** remains unchanged from last month and is set at 44.10 million bushels, down 23 percent from last year. Yields are forecast at 42.0 bushels per acre compared with 50.0 bushels per acre for1999. Harvested acreage is unchanged from August and is forecast at 1.05 million acres which is 100,000 acres lower than 1999.

Sugar beet yield is unchanged from last month at 23.7 tons per acre. Harvested acreage also remains unchanged at 60,000 acres. Total production is forecast at 1.42 million tons, down 3 percent from last year.

Note: The small grains annual crop summary, which includes data from the September Agricultural Survey and final Objective Yield Survey, will be published on September 29.

At the U.S. level, **all wheat** production for September 1, 2000 is placed at 2.30 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down fractionally from 1999. The U.S. yield is forecast at 42.3 bushels per acre. This is up 0.7 bushels from last month. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 590 million bushels, up 7 percent from last month and 17 percent from last season. The final forecast of U.S. average yield is 39.2 bushels per acre. This is 2.4 bushels per acre higher than a month ago. There were no acreage changes. Hard red spring production is up 7 percent from August, at 535 million bushels, while white spring production is virtually unchanged from last month. As of September 3, harvest was 14 points ahead of average in the major producing States. The South Dakota harvest was complete.

U.S. **durum wheat** production for September 1, 2000 is forecast at 118 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 19 percent more than 1999. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 29.6 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushels from August 1. Area for harvest is unchanged from last month. As of September 3, forty-eight percent of the North Dakota crop was harvested, six points better than the 5-year average.

U.S. **barley** production for 2000 is forecast at 310 million bushels, less than 1 percent higher than the August forecast and 10 percent above the 1999 production. Area harvested and to be harvested is unchanged from August, at 5.24 million acres but up 10 percent from the previous year. Yields are expected to average 59.2 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from last month and equal to last year's yield.

Nationally, **sugar beet** production is forecast at 34.3 million tons from just over 1.5 million acres. The yield is forecast at 22.8 tons per acre, 0.9 tons above 1999. This production forecast does not reflect expected reductions due to the government PIK program announced in July. Acreage and production adjustments due to the program will not be known until all bids are reviewed and either accepted or rejected.

Corn production at the U.S. level is forecast at 10.4 billion bushels, unchanged from the last forecast, but up 10 percent from 1999. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 141.8 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel per acre from August, but up 8.0 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would be the largest production and yield on record. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 73.1 million acres, unchanged from August.

Red Meat Production Up

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 2000, up 4 percent from a year ago and down 1 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter, at 2,200 head, was up 200 head from last year. The average live weight of 1,128 pounds was up 64 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,600 hogs slaughtered in Montana during July, 1,000 head fewer than the previous year. Average live weight of 265 pounds was up 11 pounds from July 1999. Sheep slaughter, at 400 head, was up 100 head from last year. The average live weight of 125 pounds was down 3 pounds from a year ago

United States commercial red meat production totaled 3.64 billion pounds in July, down 4 percent from the 3.78 billion pounds produced in July 1999. Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, down 4 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,220 pounds.

Veal production totaled 18 million pounds, 2 percent below the previous record low for July set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 99 thousand head, down 11 percent from July 1999. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 305 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.41 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year

Hog kill totaled 7.36 million head, 7 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16 million pounds, was down 9 percent from the previous record low for July set last year.

Sheep slaughter totaled 243 thousand head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, down 2 pounds from July a year ago. January - July red meat production was 26.5 billion pounds, just below the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 2 percent higher than last year, veal was up 1 percent, pork was down 3 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 2 percent.

September 1, 2000 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S. 1/

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1999	2000 2/	1999	2000 2/	1999	2000 2/	1999	2000 2/
MONTANA		1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,050	1,500	970	1,350	38.0	35.0	36,860	47,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	360	550	350	540	27.0	29.0	9,450	15,660
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,150	3,200	4,000	3,050	27.0	27.0	108,000	82,350
All Wheat	Bu.	5,560	5,250	5,320	4,940	29.0	29.4	154,310	145,260
Corn for Grain 3/	Bu.	65	60	18	18	110.0	5/	1,980	5/
Oats	Bu.	170	150	70	65	46.0	40.0	3,220	2,600
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,250	1,150	1,050	50.0	42.0	57,500	44,100
Dry Beans	Cwt.	26.5	29.0	25.5	28.0	17.3	17.0	441	476
Sugar Beets	Ton	61.8	60.7	61.7	60.0	23.8	23.7	1,468	1,422
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.0	12.0	10.9	11.8	305.0	4/	3,325	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,550	2.2	1.7	3,630	2,635
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	850	1.5	1.4	1,425	1,190
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,400	1.9	1.6	5,055	3,825
UNITED STATES		1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,431	43,349	35,572	35,401	47.8	45.0	1,699,989	1,594,321
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4,035	4,050	3,569	3,986	27.8	29.6	99,322	117,862
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,348	15,547	14,768	15,058	34.1	39.2	503,132	590,069
All Wheat	Bu.	62,814	62,946	53,909	54,445	42.7	41.2	2,302,443	2,302,252
Corn for Grain 3/	Bu.	77,431	79,579	70,537	73,059	133.8	141.8	9,437,337	10,362,374
Oats	Bu.	4,670	4,472	2,453	2,452	59.6	62.3	146,218	152,745
Barley	Bu.	5,223	5,702	4,758	5,235	59.2	59.2	281,853	309,930
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,023.0	1,767.0	1,877.0	1,580.6	17.7	16.3	33,230	25,764
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,560.6	1,560.9	1,527.3	1,504.0	21.9	22.8	33,420	34,299
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,203.0	1,223.9	1,166.1	1,199.9	369.0	4/	429,847	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,985	23,767	3.50	3.32	83,924	78,796
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,175	38,424	1.92	1.94	75,153	74,459
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,160	62,191	2.52	2.46	159,077	153,255

1/ Data are the latest estimates available, either from the current report or from previous reports. Current year estimates are for the full 2000 crop year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Planted for all purposes. 4/ Production forecast available November 9, 2000. 5/ Production forecast available January 12, 2001.

Montana Production Forecast by District, September 1, 2000 1/

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	1999	2000 2/	00/99	1999	2000 2/	00/99	1999	2000 2/	00/99
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	422	350	83	1,959	2,006	102	1,344	900	67
N Central	13,571	23,150	171	46,909	31,350	67	32,681	24,650	75
Northeast	1,632	3,390	208	51,055	49,690	97	3,584	3,500	98
Central	10,810	11,090	103	7,931	7,440	94	9,664	7,100	73
Southwest	1,413	1,320	93	2,475	2,288	92	3,940	2,700	69
S Central	5,784	4,980	86	1,909	1,648	86	4,979	4,310	87
Southeast	3,228	2,970	92	5,212	3,588	69	1,308	940	72
Montana	36,860	47,250	128	117,450	98,010	83	57,500	44,100	77

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 2/ Preliminary.

Agricultural Prices Received for August

Crop prices for the full month of July 2000 were mixed compared with June 2000 prices. Montana's winter wheat average price was $2.55 per bushel, same as June's level; durum wheat was $3.18 per bushel, down 24 cents; and spring wheat was 3 cents lower at $2.93 per bushel. Feed barley average price was $1.61 and malt barley was $3.18 per bushel.

The mid-August price for alfalfa hay was $79.00 per ton, same as last month. Other hay, at $72.00 per ton, was up $1.00 from July's mid-month price. The mid-August winter wheat price averaged $2.40 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.65, feed barley was $1.40, and malt barley averaged $3.00.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $3.20 to $83.80 per cwt. Cows were up 10 cents to $42.30, and the average price for calves was up $1.00 to $101.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $6.50 to $35.20 per cwt, but lamb prices decreased $3.90 to $88.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased 80 cents from last month to $13.10 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $83.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for July and changes from June were as follows: winter wheat was $2.23, down 20 cents; spring wheat was $2.74, down 14 cents; the all barley price was $2.70, up 63 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $70.40, down $1.10.

The U.S. mid-August winter wheat price was $2.21 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.51 per bushel, all wheat was $2.30 per bushel, and all barley was $2.13. Steer and heifer prices were $67.70 per cwt, cow prices were $38.60, all hog prices were $44.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were 68.1 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 97 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the July index. Lower prices for broilers, cattle, hogs, and corn more than offset price increases for eggs, tomatoes, sweet corn, and grapes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, tobacco, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset lower marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes kept the index from falling one more point.

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 119 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was down 0.8 percent from July but 4 points (3.5 percent) above August 1999. Lower prices in August for feeder cattle, feed concentrates, feed grains, and feeder pigs more than offset higher prices for nitrogen fertilizers, diesel fuel, LP gas, and other chemicals.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	July 1999	August 1999	July 2000	August 2000
Prices Received	95	99	98	97
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	115	115	120	119
Ratio 2/	83	86	82	82

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		July 1999	June 2000	July 2000	July 2000	June 2000	July 1999	Aug 15, 2000	Aug 15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.69	2.55	2.55	2.23	0	-0.14	2.40	2.21
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2.98	3.42	3.18	2.90	-0.24	+0.20	2.95	2.54
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.13	2.96	2.93	2.74	-0.03	-0.20	2.65	2.51
All Wheat	Bu.	3.03	2.92	2.89	2.32	-0.03	-0.14	2.64	2.30
Barley, All	Bu.	2.33	1.77	2.79	2.70	+1.02	+0.46	2.78	2.13
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.48	1.64	1.61	1.71	-0.03	+0.13	1.40	1.47
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.88	2.52	3.18	3.04	+0.66	+0.30	3.00	2.58
Oats	Bu.	1.08	1.07	0.98	1.07	-0.09	-0.10	0.95	1.02
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	64.00	75.00	79.00	84.50	+4.00	+15.00	79.00	83.90
All Other Hay	Ton	55.00	65.00	71.00	66.60	+6.00	+16.00	72.00	68.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	63.00	74.00	79.00	80.20	+5.00	+16.00	77.00	80.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	73.80	87.00	83.80	70.40	-3.20	+10.00	83.10	67.70
Cows	Cwt	39.70	42.20	42.30	39.20	+0.10	+2.60	40.50	38.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	55.00	65.50	64.70	67.50	-0.80	+9.70	72.90	65.10
Calves	Cwt	86.50	100.00	101.00	106.00	+1.00	+14.50	105.00	105.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	32.90	28.70	35.20	34.20	+6.50	+2.30	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	78.10	91.90	88.00	87.00	-3.90	+9.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.80	12.30	13.10	12.70	+0.80	+0.30	13.50	12.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat and Barley Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the December 1999 - May 2000 period, at 77.1 million bushels, was 5% higher than last year. Over 88% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 67.9 million bushels, down 2% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations increased significantly for this period, totaling 4.8 million bushels. Most of Montana's wheat is shipped by rail, totaling 69.1 million bushels, 90% of total shipments. Over two million more bushels of wheat were trucked during this period than last year. Wheat shipped by truck accounted for just over 10% of total shipments.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during December 1999 - May 2000 was 12.5 million bushels, down 5% from the same period last year. Fifty-seven percent of barley shipped out of Montana headed for destinations other than the west coast. Shipments to western destinations were down from the same period last year, at 5.4 million bushels. Eastern destination shipments totaled 5.4 million bushels up 40% from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 83% of total movement, down from 84% for the same period last year.

Montana Wheat and Barley: Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination 1/

Shipments Out-of-State	December '98-May '99 1/				December '99-May '00 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	(000) Bushels							
West 3/	698	2,909	3,607	2,345	206	3,204	3,410	2,482
North Central	10,962	25,544	36,506	9,227	5,798	25,342	31,140	8,954
Northeast	323	18,667	18,990	91	310	23,576	23,886	275
Central	3,813	2,811	6,624	1,158	3,266	3,469	6,735	720
South Central	4,024	1,716	5,740	344	6,083	3,691	9,774	56
Southeast	775	1,192	1,967	8	830	1,294	2,124	0
TOTAL SHIPPED	20,595	52,839	73,434	13,173	16,493	60,576	77,069	12,487
Mode & Destination	(000) Bushels							
Trucked East	0	225	225	133	0	378	378	426
Trucked West	2,369	2,107	4,476	1,268	2,955	3,290	6,245	1,483
Trucked Other 4/	158	970	1,128	713	182	1,118	1,300	174
Total By Truck	2,527	3,302	5,829	2,114	3,137	4,786	7,923	2,083
Rail East	0	972	972	3,770	350	4,063	4,413	5,041
Rail West	18,047	46,786	64,833	5,409	12,655	48,992	61,647	3,915
Rail Other 4/	21	1,779	1,800	1,880	351	2,735	3,086	1,448
Total by Rail	18,068	49,537	67,605	11,059	13,356	55,790	69,146	10,404
TOTAL SHIPPED	20,595	52,839	73,434	13,173	16,493	60,576	77,069	12,487

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

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Potato Disposition	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Mushrooms
Egg Production
Farm Labor
All Hay County Estimates
Cattle County Estimates
Beef Cow County Estimates

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 11 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.18 million head on August 1, 2000. The inventory was 11 percent above August 1, 1999 and 13 percent above August 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.92 million, 6 percent above 1999 but 1 percent below 1998. Net placements were 1.87 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 424,000, 600-699 pounds were 366,000, 700-799 pounds were 597,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 530,000. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.08 million, 2 percent below 1999 but 1 percent above 1998. July 2000 had one less slaughter day than July 1999,which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings. Other disappearance totaled 44,000 during July, 15 percent below 1999 and 12percent below 1998.

U.S. July Milk Production Up 5.0 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during July totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 5.0 percent from production in these same States in July 1999. This increase is magnified by unusually hot temperatures during July 1999 which lowered milk production per cow. June revised production, at 12.1 billion pounds was up [illegible] percent from June 1999. The June revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 13 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,557 pounds for July, 59 pounds above July 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.83 million head, 83,000 head more than July 1999 and 24,000 head more than June 2000.

Record High Levels Continue in US for Volume and Value of Sales of All Mushrooms

Sales of the 1999-2000 U.S. mushroom crop were a record high 867 million pounds, 1 percent above 1998-99 and up 6 percent from two years ago. Value of sales of the U.S. mushroom crop was a record high $867 million, up slightly from 1998-99 and 8 percent above two years ago. The number of growers, at 304, are down 37 from last year. Average price was $1.00 per pound, down one cent from the previous season.

Sales of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market were a record high 669 million pounds, up 2 percent from last season. Sales of Agaricus mushrooms for processing were 186 million pounds, 2 percent below last season and the lowest since 1988-89 when 183 million pounds were produced. Value of sales of specialty mushrooms, at $38.8 million was up fractionally from last season and 35 percent above 1997-98

July US Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.06 billion during July 2000, up 2 percent from the 6.90 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.95 billion table eggs and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2000 averaged 326 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during July 1999.

July egg production per 100 layers was 2,167 eggs, up slightly from 2,158 eggs in July 1999. July 2000 contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays, compared to 22 weekdays and five Saturdays in July 1999. All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2000, totaled 326 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 326 million layers consisted of 267 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.77 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2000, averaged 70.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.2 a year ago. Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.63 billion eggs during July, up 2 percent from July 1999. The average number of layers during July, at 306 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Hired Workers Down 7 Percent, Wage Rates up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1.37 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2000, down 7 percent from a year ago. There were 1.08 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.1 percent of the July hired workforce compared to 12.4 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $7.89 per hour during the July 2000 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.32 per hour, up 27 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned $7.65 per hour compared with $7.22 a year earlier. The field and livestock workers combined wage rate was up 31 cents from last year.

Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains, Mountain I, and Mountain II regions. An increasingly competitive economic environment, coupled with a need to attract more skilled farm labor, continued to push hired farm wage rates higher in the above regions and nationwide.

(See table on back page)

ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1999

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Rank	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Pro-duction Tons	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Pro-duction Tons
Deer Lodge	10,000	1.90	19,000	53	9,000	2.00	18,000	1,000	1.00	1,000
Flathead	37,500	2.01	75,500	32	14,500	2.62	38,000	23,000	1.63	37,500
Granite	34,000	2.18	74,000	33	32,000	2.25	72,000	2,000	1.00	2,000
Lake	62,000	1.94	120,500	15	50,500	2.17	109,500	11,500	0.96	11,000
Lincoln	9,000	1.50	13,500	55	4,500	2.00	9,000	4,500	1.00	4,500
Mineral	3,000	2.00	6,000	56	1,000	2.50	2,500	2,000	1.75	3,500
Missoula	21,000	1.98	41,500	43	15,000	2.30	34,500	6,000	1.17	7,000
Powell	55,000	2.13	117,000	16	49,000	2.22	109,000	6,000	1.33	8,000
Ravalli	40,000	2.85	114,000	17	37,000	3.00	111,000	3,000	1.00	3,000
Sanders	33,500	1.58	53,000	38	20,500	1.93	39,500	13,000	1.04	13,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**305,000**	**2.08**	**634,000**	**--**	**233,000**	**2.33**	**543,000**	**72,000**	**1.26**	**91,000**
Blaine	69,500	2.27	157,500	9	41,500	3.06	127,000	28,000	1.09	30,500
Chouteau	43,000	1.47	63,000	36	8,500	3.24	27,500	34,500	1.03	35,500
Glacier	33,500	1.28	43,000	41	8,000	2.25	18,000	25,500	0.98	25,000
Hill	25,500	1.27	32,500	47	4,500	2.22	10,000	21,000	1.07	22,500
Liberty	14,500	1.59	23,000	51	3,500	3.29	11,500	11,000	1.05	11,500
Phillips	80,500	1.83	147,000	10	33,500	2.42	81,000	47,000	1.40	66,000
Pondera	39,000	2.08	81,000	30	24,500	2.88	70,500	14,500	0.72	10,500
Teton	59,000	2.82	166,500	7	42,000	3.56	149,500	17,000	1.00	17,000
Toole	17,500	1.29	22,500	52	4,000	3.00	12,000	13,500	0.78	10,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
N. CENTRAL	**382,000**	**1.93**	**736,000**	**--**	**170,000**	**2.98**	**507,000**	**212,000**	**1.08**	**229,000**
Daniels	32,500	1.32	43,000	41	1,500	2.00	3,000	31,000	1.29	40,000
Dawson	48,500	1.73	84,000	27	9,500	3.89	37,000	39,000	1.21	47,000
Garfield	36,500	1.45	53,000	38	5,500	2.45	13,500	31,000	1.27	39,500
McCone	38,500	1.35	52,000	40	5,000	2.60	13,000	33,500	1.16	39,000
Richland	48,500	2.11	102,500	20	11,000	3.91	43,000	37,500	1.59	59,500
Roosevelt	48,000	1.98	95,000	21	10,000	3.55	35,500	38,000	1.57	59,500
Sheridan	45,000	1.61	72,500	34	6,000	3.17	19,000	39,000	1.37	53,500
Valley	61,500	2.36	145,000	11	26,500	3.36	89,000	35,000	1.60	56,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**359,000**	**1.80**	**647,000**	**--**	**75,000**	**3.37**	**253,000**	**284,000**	**1.39**	**394,000**
Broadwater	24,500	3.43	84,000	27	22,500	3.60	81,000	2,000	1.50	3,000
Cascade	87,000	2.31	201,000	3	21,000	2.98	62,500	66,000	2.10	138,500
Fergus	147,000	1.32	194,500	4	11,000	2.73	30,000	136,000	1.21	164,500
Golden Valley	18,500	1.54	28,500	50	7,000	2.43	17,000	11,500	1.00	11,500
Judith Basin	87,000	1.06	92,500	23	7,500	2.40	18,000	79,500	0.94	74,500
Lewis & Clark	40,000	2.25	90,000	24	26,000	2.73	71,000	14,000	1.36	19,000
Meagher	50,000	2.22	111,000	18	36,000	2.44	88,000	14,000	1.64	23,000
Musselshell	24,000	1.38	33,000	46	6,500	3.08	20,000	17,500	0.74	13,000
Petroleum	19,500	1.49	29,000	49	9,500	1.89	18,000	10,000	1.10	11,000
Wheatland	38,500	2.12	81,500	29	29,000	2.57	74,500	9,500	0.74	7,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**536,000**	**1.76**	**945,000**	**--**	**176,000**	**2.73**	**480,000**	**360,000**	**1.29**	**465,000**
Beaverhead	102,500	2.50	256,000	1	96,500	2.60	251,000	6,000	0.83	5,000
Gallatin	72,500	2.83	205,500	2	49,000	3.48	170,500	23,500	1.49	35,000
Jefferson	22,000	2.50	55,000	37	18,500	2.78	51,500	3,500	1.00	3,500
Madison	75,500	2.54	192,000	5	72,000	2.63	189,000	3,500	0.86	3,000
Silver Bow	7,500	1.93	14,500	54	6,000	2.17	13,000	1,500	1.00	1,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**280,000**	**2.58**	**723,000**	**--**	**242,000**	**2.79**	**675,000**	**38,000**	**1.26**	**48,000**
Big Horn	50,500	1.75	88,500	25	10,000	3.55	35,500	40,500	1.31	53,000
Carbon	54,000	2.33	126,000	14	37,000	3.03	112,000	17,000	0.82	14,000
Park	53,500	3.01	161,000	8	43,000	3.43	147,500	10,500	1.29	13,500
Stillwater	62,000	1.27	78,500	31	16,000	2.53	40,500	46,000	0.83	38,000
Sweetgrass	40,500	1.57	63,500	35	27,500	1.91	52,500	13,000	0.85	11,000
Treasure	14,000	2.54	35,500	45	6,000	4.75	28,500	8,000	0.88	7,000
Yellowstone	60,500	2.38	144,000	12	31,500	3.86	121,500	29,000	0.78	22,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S. CENTRAL	**335,000**	**2.08**	**697,000**	**--**	**171,000**	**3.15**	**538,000**	**164,000**	**0.97**	**159,000**
Carter	103,000	1.70	175,000	6	5,500	2.00	11,000	97,500	1.68	164,000
Custer	42,000	2.04	85,500	26	14,500	3.62	52,500	27,500	1.20	33,000
Fallon	74,000	1.27	94,000	22	2,500	2.60	6,500	71,500	1.22	87,500
Powder River	93,500	1.52	142,500	13	13,000	2.35	30,500	80,500	1.39	112,000
Prairie	17,500	1.77	31,000	48	3,000	3.83	11,500	14,500	1.34	19,500
Rosebud	48,000	2.16	103,500	19	22,500	3.24	73,000	25,500	1.20	30,500
Wibaux	25,000	1.66	41,500	43	2,000	2.00	4,000	23,000	1.63	37,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**403,000**	**1.67**	**673,000**	**--**	**63,000**	**3.00**	**189,000**	**340,000**	**1.42**	**484,000**
MONTANA	**2,600,000**	**1.94**	**5,055,000**	**--**	**1,130,000**	**2.82**	**3,185,000**	**1,470,000**	**1.27**	**1,870,000**

ALL CATTLE & CALVES AND BEEF COW: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1998-2000

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL CATTLE & CALVES				BEEF COWS & HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED			
	1998	1999	2000	Rank	1998	1999	2000	Rank
Deer Lodge	10,100	11,100	9,500	53	6,200	6,300	5,600	54
Flathead	17,300	17,300	15,700	49	7,900	7,700	7,600	52
Granite	25,000	24,600	24,000	41	16,400	17,000	16,600	39
Lake	55,000	55,000	55,000	21	32,100	32,300	35,300	17
Lincoln	4,300	4,400	3,800	55	2,600	2,600	2,500	55
Mineral	1,100	1,200	900	56	600	700	600	56
Missoula	13,100	12,700	11,700	52	8,000	7,800	8,000	51
Powell	52,000	51,000	51,000	23	30,600	31,500	30,000	24
Ravalli	37,000	37,100	34,600	33	20,300	20,400	19,500	35
Sanders	21,100	21,600	21,800	45	13,300	13,700	14,300	44
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**236,000**	**236,000**	**228,000**	--	**138,000**	**140,000**	**140,000**	--
Blaine	72,000	72,000	71,000	11	47,000	47,000	47,000	8
Chouteau	46,500	44,000	45,000	26	30,400	30,000	29,000	25
Glacier	39,500	39,000	37,000	30	26,500	26,900	24,400	30
Hill	30,100	31,900	28,700	39	17,900	19,000	19,100	36
Liberty	16,000	15,800	15,600	50	10,200	10,000	10,200	49
Phillips	77,000	78,000	78,000	7	48,000	49,000	51,000	6
Pondera	27,100	28,300	29,700	37	18,200	19,100	20,900	34
Teton	62,000	59,000	55,000	21	34,000	33,700	31,900	22
Toole	19,800	20,000	22,000	44	12,800	13,300	14,500	43
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**390,000**	**388,000**	**382,000**	--	**245,000**	**248,000**	**248,000**	--
Daniels	14,500	14,000	15,200	51	9,600	9,400	10,000	50
Dawson	44,000	43,000	43,000	28	28,700	28,000	28,400	26
Garfield	54,000	57,000	56,000	20	36,000	37,000	38,700	14
McCone	34,000	33,200	35,200	32	21,200	21,500	21,600	33
Richland	56,000	58,000	62,000	14	29,400	30,500	32,300	21
Roosevelt	28,200	28,300	29,200	38	18,200	18,600	18,300	37
Sheridan	22,300	22,500	24,400	40	14,600	15,000	15,700	41
Valley	64,000	66,000	65,000	12	40,300	42,000	43,000	10
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**317,000**	**322,000**	**330,000**	--	**198,000**	**202,000**	**208,000**	--
Broadwater	24,500	23,500	22,400	43	15,000	15,200	14,800	42
Cascade	86,000	85,000	82,000	6	52,000	53,000	55,000	4
Fergus	109,000	105,000	107,000	3	70,000	69,000	72,000	2
Golden Valley	20,900	20,900	20,300	47	12,000	12,600	12,400	48
Judith Basin	64,000	63,000	64,000	13	37,300	38,200	38,400	15
Lewis & Clark	44,000	45,000	47,000	25	24,700	24,900	26,000	29
Meagher	58,000	60,000	62,000	14	34,800	35,600	36,200	16
Musselshell	34,900	35,800	34,300	34	23,200	22,800	23,100	31
Petroleum	23,300	22,200	23,000	42	13,900	14,700	16,100	40
Wheatland	35,400	37,600	36,000	31	21,100	22,000	22,000	32
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**500,000**	**498,000**	**498,000**	--	**304,000**	**308,000**	**316,000**	--
Beaverhead	138,000	143,000	157,000	1	79,000	79,000	84,000	1
Gallatin	59,000	58,000	57,000	18	29,100	28,000	28,000	27
Jefferson	21,700	23,600	21,200	46	14,000	14,000	13,000	47
Madison	77,000	78,000	78,000	7	48,000	48,000	51,000	6
Silver Bow	9,300	9,400	8,800	54	5,900	6,000	6,000	53
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**305,000**	**312,000**	**322,000**	--	**176,000**	**175,000**	**182,000**	--
Big Horn	91,000	94,000	96,000	4	59,000	60,000	60,000	3
Carbon	67,000	62,000	60,000	17	31,400	30,900	32,600	20
Park	46,000	45,000	44,000	27	30,400	30,400	31,200	23
Stillwater	57,000	59,000	57,000	18	32,800	34,300	35,100	18
Sweetgrass	51,000	49,000	49,000	24	32,100	31,000	33,200	19
Treasure	32,000	30,000	31,000	36	13,300	14,400	13,900	45
Yellowstone	118,000	117,000	115,000	2	46,000	45,000	44,000	9
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**462,000**	**456,000**	**452,000**	--	**245,000**	**246,000**	**250,000**	--
Carter	59,000	59,000	61,000	16	38,000	38,000	42,000	12
Custer	79,000	76,000	76,000	9	44,000	42,300	41,000	13
Fallon	41,500	41,000	41,000	29	25,500	26,000	26,700	28
Powder River	71,000	72,000	73,000	10	44,000	44,000	43,000	10
Prairie	33,000	32,500	32,100	35	19,200	19,000	18,200	38
Rosebud	88,000	87,000	85,000	5	53,000	51,000	54,000	5
Wibaux	18,500	20,500	19,900	48	12,300	12,700	13,100	46
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**390,000**	**388,000**	**388,000**	--	**236,000**	**233,000**	**238,000**	--
MONTANA	**2,600,000**	**2,600,000**	**2,600,000**	--	**1,542,000**	**1,552,000**	**1,582,000**	--

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., July 11-17, 1999 & July 9-15, 2000 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	7.87	8.26	6.69	7.66	7.47	8.09	7.86	8.61
Northeast II	7.17	7.67	6.45	7.22	6.98	7.58	7.34	8.04
Appalachian I	6.53	6.66	7.62	7.97	6.75	6.89	7.08	7.11
Appalachian II	6.25	6.55	6.57	6.83	6.37	6.66	6.89	6.95
Southeast	6.44	6.38	6.58	7.20	6.47	6.54	6.80	7.01
FL	7.25	7.75	7.30	7.45	7.26	7.70	8.32	8.47
Lake	7.35	7.98	7.15	7.83	7.29	7.92	7.73	8.45
Cornbelt I	7.54	7.79	7.39	8.33	7.52	7.87	8.03	8.23
Cornbelt II	7.22	7.62	8.07	8.63	7.58	8.00	7.90	8.39
Delta	6.55	6.39	6.89	6.92	6.62	6.50	6.99	6.86
Northern Plains	7.32	7.52	7.63	7.28	7.37	7.42	7.73	7.64
Southern Plains	6.23	6.56	6.40	7.55	6.26	6.85	6.60	7.38
Mountain I	6.17	6.70	6.97	7.63	6.43	7.02	6.61	7.32
Mountain II	6.47	7.21	7.09	7.23	6.73	7.22	7.26	7.96
Mountain III	6.52	6.43	6.68	7.17	6.56	6.63	7.17	7.30
Pacific	7.22	7.74	8.02	8.33	7.29	7.75	7.81	8.15
CA	7.15	7.29	8.05	8.10	7.22	7.38	7.77	7.99
HI	9.51	9.17	3/	3/	9.53	9.09	10.88	10.76
US 4/	7.05	7.32	7.22	7.65	7.08	7.39	7.58	7.89

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data.
4/ Excludes AK. .

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Wheat & Barley Movement
Crop Production
Grains & Hay

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service
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Issue: 00-15 (0279-0394) Released: August 15, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS:

August 1 Crop Production
Agricultural Prices
Farm Production Expenditures

Heat and Dry Weather Takes Toll on Montana Crop Production

Montana **winter wheat** producers expect to harvest 47.25 million bushels in 2000. The expected yield of 35.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last month, but down 3 bushels per acre from last year. If realized, total production would be up nearly 28 percent from last year due to increased harvested acreage. Hot, dry weather has reduced the yield, but many producers are harvesting a better crop than previously expected. Crop progress shows 88 percent of the winter wheat harvested by August 6 compared with 19 percent for the 5-year average. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 85.4 million bushels with an expected yield of 28.0 bushels per acre. If realized, the yield would be 2 bushels above last month's forecast and 1 bushel per acre above last year. Total production would be 21 percent below 1999 because of a decrease in harvested acres. As of August 6, spring wheat harvest was 17 percent complete compared with 2 percent for the average, and 38 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition compared with 32 percent a month ago. The **durum wheat** yield estimate was unchanged from last month at 30.0 bushels per acre. Durum production of 16.2 million bushels is 71 percent above last year's estimate due to a significant increase in harvested acres.

Barley producers are also expecting a smaller crop with anticipated yields averaging 42.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month's estimate. Total production is forecast to be 44.1 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but down nearly 23 percent from last year. As of August 6, the barley crop was rated at 22 percent in good to excellent condition compared with 41 percent the first week in July. **Oat** production is forecast at 2.6 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but down 19 percent from last year. The expected yield of 40.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last month, but down 6 bushels from last year. Harvested acreage is down 5,000 acres from 1999 to 65,000 acres.

At 1.7 tons per acre, Montana **alfalfa hay** producers are expecting the lowest yield since 1961, significantly less than last year's estimate of 2.2 tons per acre. Expected yields for **other hay**, at 1.4 tons per acre, are lower than last year. Both types of hay are expected to have less harvested acres than last year. Total production for **all hay** is forecast at 3.83 million tons compared with 5.06 million tons last year.

Montana **sugar beet** production is estimated at 1.42 million tons, down 3 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 23.7 tons per acre, down slightly from last year's average of 23.8 tons per acre. Forecasted **dry bean** yield is 1,700 pounds per acre with total production of 476,000 cwt, up 8 percent from last year due to an increase in harvested acres. If realized, this would be the second largest dry bean crop on record, exceeded only by the record production achieved in 1943.

At the U.S. level, **all wheat** production is placed at 2.26 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the July forecast but down 2 percent from 1999. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.6 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from last month. The **winter wheat** production forecast is 1.59 billion bushels. This is up slightly from last month, but down 6 percent from 1999. The U.S. yield is forecast at 45.0 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushels from last month. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 115 million bushels, down 10 percent from last month, but 16 percent above 1999. This decline is the result of reduced yield expectations in North Dakota. The U.S. yield is forecast at 28.9 bushels per acre, 3.3 bushels less than last month. There were no changes in acreage intended for harvest. **Other spring wheat** production is forecast at 554 million bushels, up 5 percent from last month and 10 percent above 1999. Acreage intended for harvest is unchanged from last month. The U.S. yield is forecast at 36.8 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than the July 1 forecast. Of the production total, 499 million is hard red spring wheat, up 6 percent from last month.

U. S. **barley** harvested acreage for 2000 was unchanged from July. Acreage expected to be harvested for grain in 2000, at 5.24 million acres, is 10 percent more than the 1999 harvested grain acreage. Production for 2000 is forecast at 308 million bushels, slightly up from July and up 9 percent from 1999. Yields are expected to average 58.8 bushels per acre, an increase of 0.1 bushels from July and 0.4 bushels from last year. Yields decreased only in Utah while increases were in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming.

Nationally, **dry bean** production is forecast at 25.8 million cwt for 2000, down 22 percent from last year and 15 percent below two years ago. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.6 million acres, down 16 percent from 1999.

U.S. **all hay** production for 2000 is forecast at 153.3 million tons, down 4 percent from 1999 but 1 percent higher than 1998. The all hay yield is forecast at 2.46 tons per acre, down from last year's yield of 2.52 tons per acre. Acreage for harvest of all hay is estimated at 62.2 million acres, 2 percent lower than 1999.

At the U.S. level, **sugar beet** production is forecast at 34.1 million tons, up 2 percent from last year and 5 percent higher than 1998. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 22.7 tons per acre, up 0.8 tons from a year ago. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.50 million acres, down 2 percent from last year's estimate of 1.53 million acres.

August 1, 2000 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1999	2000 1/	1999	2000 1/	1999	2000 1/	1999	2000 1/
MONTANA		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,050	1,500	970	1,350	38.0	35.0	36,860	47,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	360	550	350	540	27.0	30.0	9,450	16,200
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,150	3,200	4,000	3,050	27.0	28.0	108,000	85,400
All Wheat	Bu.	5,560	5,250	5,320	4,940	29.0	28.9	154,310	142,750
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65	60	18	18	110.0	4/	1,980	4/
Oats	Bu.	170	150	70	65	46.0	40.0	3,220	2,600
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,250	1,150	1,050	50.0	42.0	57,500	44,100
Dry Beans	Cwt.	26.5	29.0	25.5	28.0	17.3	17.0	441	476
Sugar Beets	Ton	61.8	60.7	61.7	60.0	23.8	23.7	1,468	1,422
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.0	12.0	10.9	11.8	305.0	3/	3,325	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,550	2.2	1.7	3,630	2,635
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	850	1.5	1.4	1,425	1,190
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,400	1.9	1.6	5,055	3,825
UNITED STATES		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,431	43,349	35,572	35,401	47.8	45.0	1,699,989	1,594,321
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4,035	4,050	3,569	3,986	27.8	28.9	99,322	115,152
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,348	15,547	14,768	15,058	34.1	36.8	503,132	553,719
All Wheat	Bu.	62,814	62,946	53,909	54,445	42.7	41.2	2,302,443	2,242,589
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	77,431	79,579	70,537	73,059	133.8	141.9	9,437,337	10,369,369
Oats	Bu.	4,670	4,472	2,453	2,452	59.6	62.3	146,218	152,745
Barley	Bu.	5,223	5,702	4,758	5,235	59.2	58.8	281,853	308,020
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,023.0	1,767.0	1,877.0	1,580.6	17.7	16.3	33,230	25,764
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,560.6	1,560.9	1,527.3	1,504.0	21.9	22.7	33,420	34,117
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,376.7	1,388.0	1,332.3	1,359.7	359.0	3/	478,109	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,985	23,767	3.50	3.32	83,924	78,796
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,175	38,424	1.92	1.94	75,153	74,459
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,160	62,191	2.52	2.46	159,077	153,255

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available November 9, 2000. 4/ Production forecast available December 12, 2000.

Other Spring Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by State & U.S., 1999 -2000

STATE	Area Harvested		Yield			Production	
	1999	2000	1999	July 1, 2000	Aug. 1, 2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
ID	640	570	79.0	80.0	78.0	50,560	44,460
MN	1,950	2,100	40.0	40.0	42.0	78,000	88,200
MT	**4,000**	**3,050**	**27.0**	**26.0**	**28.0**	**108,000**	**85,400**
ND	5,600	6,800	30.0	32.0	34.0	168,000	231,200
OR	153	125	33.0	56.0	56.0	5,049	7,000
SD	1,710	1,700	35.0	33.0	36.0	59,850	61,200
WA	620	620	44.0	49.0	49.0	27,280	30,380
Other States 1/	95	93	67.3	65.4	63.2	6,393	5,879
US	14,768	15,058	34.1	34.9	36.8	503,132	553,719

1/ Other States include CO, NV, UT, WI, and WY. Individual state level estimates will be published in the "Small Grains 2000 Summary".

Montana Production Forecast by District, August 1, 2000 Preliminary 1/

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	1999	2000 2/	00/99	1999	2000 2/	00/99	1999	2000 2/	00/99
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	422	350	83	1,959	2,026	103	1,344	810	60
N Central	13,571	23,150	171	46,909	33,300	71	32,681	25,200	77
Northeast	1,632	3,390	208	51,055	49,520	97	3,584	3,240	90
Central	10,810	11,090	103	7,931	8,390	106	9,664	7,020	73
Southwest	1,413	1,320	93	2,475	2,558	103	3,940	2,780	71
S Central	5,784	4,980	86	1,909	1,828	96	4,979	4,090	82
Southeast	3,228	2,970	92	5,212	3,978	76	1,308	960	73
Montana	36,860	47,250	128	117,450	101,600	87	57,500	44,100	77

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 2/ Preliminary.

Agricultural Prices Received for July

Crop prices for the full month of June 2000 were mostly lower compared with May 2000 prices. Montana's winter wheat average price was $2.55 per bushel, down 9 cents from May's level; durum wheat was $3.42 per bushel, also down 9 cents; spring wheat was 4 cents lower at $2.96 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.64 and malt barley was $2.52 per bushel.

The mid-July price for alfalfa hay was $79.00 per ton, up $4.00 from last month. Other hay, at $71.00 per ton, was up $6.00 from June's mid-month price. The mid-July winter wheat price averaged $2.50 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.90, feed barley was $1.60, and malt barley averaged $2.50.

Livestock prices for the full month of June were mixed compared with the previous month. Steer and heifer prices increased $2.50 to $87.00 per cwt. Cows were up 70 cents to $42.20, but the average price for calves was down $2.00 to $100.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $3.20 to $28.70 per cwt, and lamb prices decreased $4.10 to $91.90 per cwt. Milk prices were unchanged from last month at $12.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $86.50 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for June and changes from May were as follows: winter wheat was $2.43, down 1 cent; spring wheat was $2.88, down 4 cents; the all barley price was $2.07, down 12 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $71.50, down $1.70.

The U.S. mid-July winter wheat price was $2.29 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.85 per bushel, all wheat was $2.34 per bushel, and all barley was $1.87. Steer and heifer prices were $71.00 per cwt, cow prices were $39.80, all hog prices were $49.20 per cwt, and all egg prices were 57.2 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in July was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the June index. Lower prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and eggs more than offset price increases for milk, potatoes, cucumbers, and onions. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in July. Compared with July 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (3.2 percent) higher. Price increases from July 1999 for hogs, cattle, wheat, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for milk, corn, grapes, and oranges.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	June 1999	July 1999	June 2000	July 2000
Prices Received	98	95	99	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	115	115	120	120
Ratio 2/	85	83	83	82

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		June 1999	May 2000	June 2000	June 2000	May 2000	June 1999	July 15, 2000	July 15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.79	2.64	2.55	2.43	-0.09	-0.24	2.50	2.29
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.00	3.51	3.42	2.71	-0.09	+0.42	3.30	2.72
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.14	3.00	2.96	2.88	-0.04	-0.18	2.90	2.85
All Wheat	Bu.	3.05	2.95	2.92	2.50	-0.03	-0.13	2.86	2.34
Barley, All	Bu.	1.68	2.17	1.77	2.07	-0.40	+0.09	1.78	1.87
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.50	1.67	1.64	1.73	–0.03	+0.14	1.60	1.67
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.29	2.65	2.52	2.39	-0.13	+0.23	2.50	2.18
Oats	Bu.	1.18	1.15	1.07	1.24	-0.08	-0.11	1.05	1.22
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	62.00	64.00	75.00	85.70	+11.00	+13.00	79.00	84.50
All Other Hay	Ton	52.00	56.00	65.00	70.90	+9.00	+13.00	71.00	66.60
All Hay Baled	Ton	62.00	63.00	74.00	82.50	+11.00	+12.00	79.00	80.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	75.20	84.50	87.00	71.50	+2.50	+11.80	86.50	71.00
Cows	Cwt	38.70	41.50	42.20	40.00	+0.70	+3.50	42.70	39.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	52.20	69.50	65.50	68.50	-4.00	+13.30	66.40	68.00
Calves	Cwt	83.90	102.00	100.00	104.00	-2.00	+16.10	98.50	106.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	34.50	31.90	28.70	30.00	-3.20	-5.80	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	80.10	96.00	91.90	89.70	-4.10	+11.80	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.70	12.30	12.30	12.20	NC	-0.40	12.40	12.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. Farm Production Expenditures Up Slightly in 1999

U.S. farm production expenditures totaled $184.3 billion in 1999, up 0.6 percent from the revised 1998 total of $183.2 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were; livestock and poultry purchases, up 15.9 percent; farm improvements and construction, up 10.1 percent; labor, up 3.7 percent; and farm supplies and repairs, up 3.3 percent. These increases were partially offset by decreases in; tractors and self-propelled machinery, down 10.0 percent; rent, down 8.1 percent; and fertilizer, down 6.6 percent. The largest two expenditure categories were farm services which accounted for 13.9 percent of the U.S. total production expenses, and feed which accounted for 13.3 percent of the U.S. total production expenses. The farm services category includes expense items such as custom work, utilities, marketing charges, veterinary services, transportation costs, and miscellaneous business expenses.

The average expenditures per U.S. farm in 1999 were $84,209 compared to $83,810, as revised for 1998. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 1999 spent $11,746 on farm services; $11,197 on feed; $9,004 on labor; $7,678 for livestock and poultry purchases; and $7,267 on rent. Revised estimates for 1998 indicated that U.S. farms spent an average of $11,440 on farm services; $11,440 on feed; $8,694 on labor; $6,635 for livestock and poultry purchases; and $7,917 on rent.

The Farm Production Region contributing most to the total 1999 U.S. farm production expenditures was the Corn Belt with expenses of $34.4 billion, 18.6 percent of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the Corn Belt were down 1.2 percent from the 1998 level of $34.8 billion. In total expenditures, the Corn Belt was followed by the Pacific Region at $30.9 billion (1998 - $29.0 billion); Northern Plains $23.2 billion (1998 - $22.6 billion); Lake States $18.3 billion (1998 - $19.0 billion); and the Southern Plains at $15.9 billion (1998 - $15.6 billion).

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All Hay Cty Estimates
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
Red Meat Production
Mushrooms
Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

U.S. Sheep Inventory
Montana & U.S. Cattle Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Mink
Wheat & Barley Varieties
Quarterly Milk Production
Egg Production

July 1, 2000 U.S. Sheep Inventory

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2000, totaled 8.50 million head, 6 percent below July 1, 1999. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.03 million head on July 1, 2000, 6 percent below July 1999. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.47 million head, were 6 percent below last July. Of the July 1, 2000 breeding herd, 4.12 million head were ewes one year old and older, 205,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 710,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

Comparing July 1999 and July 2000 market lambs by weight groups shows lambs under 65 pounds at 2.01 million head, down from 2.12 last July 1; 65 to 84 pound lambs at 710,000 down from 730,000; 85 to 105 pound lambs at 400,000 compare with 465,000; and the lambs over 105 pounds at 280,000 up from 260,000 last July.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.9 percent of the total sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 21.2 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.8 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.3 percent, and Region 5 (all other states) accounted for 11.8 percent.

The 2000 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.53 million head, down 4 percent from the 1999 lamb crop of 4.72 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2000 totaled 4.02 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 510,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2000.

Montana's July 1, 2000 Cattle Inventory up 1 percent, U.S. Down 1 Percent

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was 3.75 million head on July 1, 2000, 1 percent above last July 1. Beef cow inventory was placed at 1,612,000 head compared with 1,572,000 on hand July 1, 1999. The 2000 calf crop is expected to be 1,620,000, 3 percent larger than the calf crop last year.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2000, totaled 106.4 million head, 1 percent below the 107.0 million on July 1, 1999 and 1 percent below the 107.7 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.2 million, were slightly below the 43.3 million on July 1, 1999 and 1 percent below the 43.6 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 34.0 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1999 and 1 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.25 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 1999 and 1 percent above two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2000, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, down 1 percent from both years.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.7 million, down 2 percent and down 6 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.7 million, unchanged and up 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.1 million, unchanged from both years.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.3 million, down 1 percent and down 2 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, down 5 percent from both years.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.3 million, down 1 percent from both years.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 12.3 million, up 7 percent and up 12 percent.

The 2000 calf crop for the U.S. is expected to be 38.9 million, up slightly from 1999 and 1998. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.6 million, up slightly from both years.

Special Note: The July 1 U.S. report now includes selected State level estimates for all cattle and calves, all cows, beef cows, milk cows, and calf crop. The eleven selected States include, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin which accounted for 60 percent of the July 1, 2000 all cattle and calf inventory. This is in addition to the U.S. level estimates that have been published in the past. Data from 1999 will reflect this change to provide the user with comparable data for 1999 and 2000. Inventories of the selected states can be found on our website or obtained by calling our office.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.39 million head on July 1, 2000. The inventory was 9 percent above July 1, 1999 and 13 percent above July 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.22 million steer sand steer calves, up 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.13 million head, up 9 percent from 1999. Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.66 million, 7 percent below1999 but 6 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.61 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347,000, 600-699 pounds were 380,000, 700-799 pounds were 498,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 439,000. Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.16 million, slightly above 1999 and 6 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 57,000 during June, 10 percent below 1999 and 21 percent below 1998.

June Red Meat Production For Montana

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.9 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2000, down 10 percent from last year, but up 6 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter, at 2,300 head was up 100 head from last year. The average live weight of 1,146 pounds was up 3 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,200 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during June, down 1,700 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 263 pounds, increased 10 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 300 head, the same as last year. The average live weight of 127 remained unchanged from a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in June, up slightly from the previous record high for June set in 1999. June 1999 and 2000 both contained 22 week days and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.37 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous record high for June set last year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.24 million head, up 1 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,205 pounds. Veal production totaled 19 million pounds, 1 percent below the previous record low for June set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 95 thousand head, down 9 percent from June 1999. The average live weight was 25 pounds above last year, at 322 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.54 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.95 million head, 4 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 17 million pounds, was down 1 percent from the previous record low for June set in 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 260 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, up 3 pounds from June a year ago.

January - June red meat production was 22.9 billion pounds, 1 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 2 percent higher than last year, veal was up 1 percent, pork was down 2 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 2 percent.

U.S. Mink Pelt Production Down 4 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 1999 totaled 2.81 million pelts, down 4 percent from 1998. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 731,700 pelts. By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 37.9 percent; Mahogany - 25.6 percent; Gunmetal - 16.3 percent; Ranch Wild - 6.1 percent; Demi-buff - 3.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.3 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1999 crop year were valued at $94.8 million dollars, up 30 percent from $72.9 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1999 crop year was $33.70, up from $24.80 in 1998.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2000 totaled 660,400, down 2 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2000 by color class are: Standard - 38.5 percent; Mahogany - 23.7 percent; Gunmetal - 17.4 percent; Sapphire - 5.0 percent; Ranch Wild - 4.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.6 percent.

There were 404 mink farms producing pelts in 1999, down 8 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 110 farms, Wisconsin with 82 farms and Minnesota with 40. There were 27 mink farms which also raised fox in 1999, down from 31 the previous year.

Montana Wheat & Barley Varieties Seeded in 2000

Neeley remained the leading variety of **winter wheat** seeded in Montana for the thirteenth consecutive year with 307,000 acres, up from 218,000 seeded last year. **Rampart** moved into second place with 195,000 acres seeded in 2000. **Tiber** dropped into third position with 176,000 acres compared with 182,000 last year. **Vanguard** replaced Rocky this year in the top four with nearly 133,000 acres, or 8.8 percent of the seeded acreage. These top four varieties accounted for 54 percent of the winter wheat acreage seeded in 2000. In 1999, these same four varieties also accounted for 54 percent of the total acreage for the state.

McNeal was the leading **spring wheat** variety seeded for the third consecutive year, accounting for 46.4 percent of the total with nearly 1.49 million acres seeded. **Amidon** remained in second place this year with 323,300 acres seeded, slightly above **Ernest** which remained in third place with 323,000 acres, compared with 390,000 seeded last year. **Westbred Rambo** held fourth place with over 163,000 acres seeded. The top four varieties represented nearly 72 percent of the spring wheat seeded in 2000. These same four varieties accounted for nearly 71 percent in 1999.

Kyle continued to be the leading **durum wheat** variety for the seventh consecutive year. There were 269,000 acres seeded in the state, accounting for 49 percent of the total seeded acres. **Utopia** moved up from tenth position to the second most popular variety of durum wheat. Nearly 46,000 acres were planted or 8.3 percent of the state's durum wheat. **Ben** moved up into third place this year from sixth position last year with 40,000 acres planted or 7.3 percent of the state total. **Renville** maintained fourth place position this year accounting for nearly 28,000 acres. These top four varieties account for 70 percent of total acres seeded to durum wheat. This is comparable to the 66 percent reported in 1999 for the same four varieties.

Montana farmers planted 1.25 million acres of **barley** in 2000, down 50,000 acres from last year. Nearly 61 percent of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association. The top variety seeded in Montana was Harrington, maintaining its position for the seventh consecutive year. **Harrington** remained the top **malting barley** variety planted in the state. It was seeded on 626,000 acres or 50 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **B 1202** maintained the second place malting variety position for the fifth consecutive year with over 67,0000 acres or 5.4 percent of the barley planted. **Morex** moved up to rank third among AMBA approved malting barley varieties with a slight increase in seeded acreage to 29,000 or 2.3 percent of the seeded acres. **B Merit** moved into the top four malting varieties in 2000 with 20,000 acres planted. **Haybet** moved into the leading position for **feed barley** with 81,000 acres seeded this year, which accounted for 6.4 percent of the total barley acres seeded. **Baronesse** dropped into second as the most popular feed barley. It captured 6.2 percent of the total acreage or 78,000 acres, compared with 98,200 acres last year. **Hector** fell from second to third place in feed barley this year with 46,000 acres seeded or 3.7 percent. **Bowman** jumped from fifth position last year to its 2000 position as the fourth leading feed-type variety with over 34,000 or 2.7 percent state-wide of the barley acres seeded in 2000. This is compared to the 35,500 acres planted in 1999, which also accounted for 2.7 percent of the total barley acres planted last year.

Montana Wheat & Barley Varieties: Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1995-2000

Variety	Winter Wheat					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 [1]	2000
Jeeley	23.6	24.6	24.3	20.0	20.8	20.5
Rampart	--	--	--	1.8	9.0	13.0
Tiber	12.4	16.5	13.4	14.2	17.3	11.7
Vanguard	--	--	0.8	10.3	7.0	8.8
Morgan	--	--	--	2.2	7.0	8.0
Rocky	16.5	14.6	19.1	13.4	8.2	6.6
Redwin	8.9	11.4	10.6	6.1	4.7	6.2
Bighorn	0.7	4.0	2.3	3.5	3.6	3.3
Judith	8.2	3.7	3.4	4.3	1.0	2.2
Quantum 542	1.8	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.4	2.2
Winalta	2.8	3.5	1.9	2.9	1.7	1.3
Roughrider	1.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	1.1	1.1
Tomahawk	--	--	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.0
Kestrel	0.4	1.4	4.0	1.3	1.4	0.9
Norstar	4.0	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	0.8
Hawk	2.4	0.9	1.7	1.3	2.0	0.7
Erhardt	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.7
McGuire	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.7
Centurk	3.1	3.1	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.5
Nuwest *	--	--	0.1	--	0.5	0.4
Weston	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4
Warrior	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.4
Other & Unknown	12.9	10.8	10.4	12.3	8.4	8.6
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Spring Wheat					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 [1]	2000
McNeal	--	1.3	16.2	26.5	40.4	46.4
Amidon	29.9	28.0	24.7	17.2	14.2	10.1
Ernest	--	0.2	3.2	7.6	9.4	10.1
Westbred Rambo	10.5	9.9	10.0	7.9	6.7	5.1
Fortuna	8.3	5.9	6.3	6.5	5.0	4.7
Westbred 936	0.3	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.7	3.5
Grandin	7.3	8.8	8.9	6.2	3.1	3.1
Westbred 926	3.0	2.5	2.7	1.8	2.5	2.3
Len	6.3	3.6	3.1	1.8	1.2	1.4
Hi-Line	4.3	5.6	3.1	3.0	1.7	1.0
Kulm	--	0.5	0.4	1.9	0.8	1.0
Conan	--	--	--	--	0.0	1.0
Lew	4.9	4.4	2.5	1.8	1.3	0.9
Newana	5.8	5.0	2.4	2.0	1.2	0.9
Stoa	3.6	6.1	4.5	3.4	1.5	0.7
Fergus	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.6
Westbred Express	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5
ID 377S *	--	--	--	0.1	2.2	0.4
Sonja	--	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Butte 86	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.3
Keene	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.2
Wildcat	--	--	--	--	0.3	0.2
Other & Unknown	15.2	15.8	9.3	9.4	5.6	5.3
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Durum Wheat					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 [1]	2000
Kyle	23.4	20.4	38.4	44.5	55.3	48.9
Utopia	--	--	--	--	1.4	8.3
Ben	--	--	--	0.2	4.1	7.3
Renville	10.0	9.0	8.4	6.0	4.8	5.1
Sceptre	3.8	3.1	5.1	6.8	3.4	3.7
Medora	6.0	2.4	8.7	6.6	3.3	3.7
Monroe	11.1	20.5	14.1	7.4	4.8	2.8
Durex	--	0.8	1.0	0.1	0.2	2.4
Vic	17.7	13.9	7.4	8.6	8.1	2.4
Ward	4.7	5.4	1.9	1.9	4.4	2.1
AC Avonlea	--	--	--	--	0.0	1.3
Coyote	--	--	--	2.3	0.4	1.2
Munich	--	--	--	--	1.0	1.0
Mountrail	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.9
Kemut	0.3	0.5	0.7	--	1.4	0.6
Crosby	3.5	7.8	5.1	0.7	0.9	0.4
Kronos	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.2
Plenty	--	--	--	--	0.0	0.2
Other & Unknown	19.5	16.2	9.2	14.9	6.5	7.5
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Barley					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 [1]	2000
Harrington [2]	24.9	32.6	33.4	42.1	49.6	50.1
Haybet	1.5	1.4	2.1	3.0	4.5	6.4
Baronesse	11.9	12.2	15.6	12.1	7.6	6.2
B 1202 [2]	6.1	5.4	5.1	4.7	5.2	5.4
Hector	13.5	10.2	8.8	6.8	4.9	3.7
Bowman	6.9	6.0	4.7	3.1	2.7	2.7
Horsford	1.2	2.3	1.7	2.1	1.7	2.4
Morex [2]	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.5	1.7	2.3
Gallatin	6.9	5.7	5.8	4.6	4.0	2.2
B Merit [2]	--	--	--	0.3	1.2	1.6
Moravian 37	--	--	--	--	0.1	1.5
Lewis	2.5	2.4	1.5	2.1	2.3	1.5
Moravian 22	--	--	--	--	1.3	1.4
Westford	--	--	--	--	0.1	1.2
Piroline	4.3	3.0	3.4	2.2	1.9	1.1
Galena	0.9	1.2	1.4	2.6	1.2	1.0
B 2601 [2]	1.8	1.3	1.8	0.8	1.0	1.0
Chinook [2]	--	0.5	0.8	1.8	1.2	1.0
Stark	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.9	0.8
Menuet	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.8
Westbred Medallion	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.7
Other & Unknown	15.7	13.3	11.2	8.4	5.1	5.0
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Revised

[2] Amercian Malting Barley Association, Inc. recommended for malting and brewing for Montana.

* White wheat variety

This report was made possible with funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. A more detailed report may be obtained from our office upon request.

Montana and U.S. June Milk Production Up

During the April - June 2000 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 79 million pounds of milk, up 2 million from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows numbered 18,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during June totaled 12.1 billion pounds, up 2.8 percent from production in these same States in June1999. The May revision represented a decrease of 0.2 percent or 28 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,546 pounds for June, 30 pounds above June 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 65,000 head more than June 1999 and 10,000 head more than May 2000.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 43.1 billion pounds, 2.6 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.21 million head, 58,000 head more than the same period last year.

June Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.80 billion during June 2000, up 1 percent from the 6.74 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.72 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2000 averaged 325 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during June 1999. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,092 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,104 eggs in June 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2000, totaled 325 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 325 million layers consisted of 266 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.72 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2000, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 69.8 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.66 billion eggs during June, up 2 percent from June 1999. The average number of layers during June, at 306 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Small Grains Production
Ag Cash Rents
Potato Acreage
Ag Prices Received
Wheat Supply & Demand

Montana's All Wheat Production Smallest Since 1988

Montana's **all wheat crop** is expected to be 7 percent smaller than last year and the smallest crop since 1988. As of July 1, producers expect to harvest 142.75 million bushels of all wheat, down from the 154.31 million harvested last season. The area for harvest is expected to be 4.94 million acres, 380,000 less than were harvested in 1999.

The forecasted **winter wheat** yield was unchanged from June as producers expect to average 35.0 bushels per acre. Production is forecast to be 47.25 million bushels, down nearly 6 percent from the June forecast because of an 80,000 acre reduction in acres for harvest now estimated at 1,350,000 acres.

The first **spring wheat** production forecast is 79.3 million bushels, nearly 27 percent smaller than that produced in 1999. The harvested acres are expected to be 3.05 million, 24 percent smaller than last year and the smallest since 1993. The expected yield of 26.0 bushels compares with 27.0 averaged last year. **Durum wheat** is forecast to be 16.2 million bushels, 71 percent larger than the 1999 crop. If this forecast is realized, 2000 production would be the second largest durum wheat crop on record, exceeded only by the record production achieved in 1956. The acreage for harvest, at 540,000, is 54 percent larger than harvested last year. The expected yield is 30.0 bushels, 3 bushels above last year.

Barley yields are expected to average 42.0 bushels per acre in 2000, 8 bushels less than last year's Montana average. Barley production is forecast to be 44.10 million bushels compared with 57.50 million produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 1.05 million acres, 100,000 fewer than harvested in 1999. **Oats** producers expect to harvest 2.6 million bushels of grain, 19 percent less than produced last year. The 2000 area for harvest is expected to be 65,000 acres compared with 70,000 harvested for grain in 1999. The expected yield of 40.0 bushels is 6 bushels below last year's average.

Nationally, **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels. This is down 2 percent from last month and down 7 percent from 1999. The U.S. yield is forecast at 44.9 bushels per acre, down 1.8 bushels from last month. Acres harvested for grain are forecast at 35.4 million, down slightly from 1999. Harvest progress in the 18 major producing States had reached 65 percent completion by July 2. This was more than 20 points ahead of both last year and the normal pace.

U.S. other spring wheat production is forecast at 526 million bushels, up 5 percent from 1999. The U.S. yield is forecast at 34.9 bushels per acre, 0.8 bushels higher than last year. Of this total, 470 million are Hard Red Spring wheat, up 5 percent from last season. Harvested area is forecast at 15.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Acreage was 62 percent headed in the six major producing States, 22 points ahead of normal. The Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, Washington) production forecast is up slightly from a year ago. Yield increases in all three States offset a decline in acreage in the region. **Durum wheat** production is forecast at 128 million bushels, up 29 percent from 1999. The U.S. yield is forecast at 32.2 bushels per acre, 4.4 bushels more than last year. Area harvested for grain in 2000 is expected to total 3.99 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. The major growing areas of North Dakota have not been affected by the flooding in the Red River Valley.

Barley production in the U.S. for 2000 is forecast at 307 million bushels, up 9 percent from 1999. The first forecast for 2000 indicates producers expect to average 58.7 bushels per acre, a decrease of 0.5 bushel from last year. Area harvested, at 5.24 million acres, is 10 percent above the 4.76 million acres harvested in 1999, unchanged from the June Acreage Report.

National **oats** production is estimated at 151.4 million bushels, 4 percent above last year's 146.2 million bushels. The estimated yield is 61.2 bushels per acre, up 1.6 bushels from 1999. If realized, this would be the third highest yield on record, behind only the record yield of 65.4 bushels per acre in 1992 and the 63.6 bushels per acre produced in 1985. Area for harvest was unchanged from the previous estimate of 2.47 million acres.

Montana Cash Rents Decrease

The average cash rent for Montana cropland went down $1.20 from last year to $23.80 per acre. The average cash rent for irrigated cropland, at $49.70, fell $4.30 per acre from a year ago. The non-irrigated cropland average decreased $.70 to $17.30 per acre. Average pasture rents decreased $.30 from 1999 to $4.80 per acre in 2000.

The average cash rent for U.S. cropland went up $2.50 from last year at $70.00 per acre. The Lake, Corn Belt, and Northern Plains, which account for the majority of cash rented cropland acreage, increased slightly from 1999. The Lake region was up $3.00 per acre while the Corn Belt increased by $2.00 and the Northern Plains was up $1.00. The Pacific region with its diverse agriculture had the largest increase of $14.00 per acre.

Cash rents for cropland were mixed with the majority of States showing increases while other States held at the same level or dropped slightly. Western States of Arizona, Idaho, California, Oregon, and Washington all showed irrigated cropland exceeding $120 per acre. California again had the highest cash rent for irrigated cropland at $300 per acre. The major corn producing States of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa had all cropland rents rise to $117, $100, and $115 per acre respectively. States in the Cornbelt and Northern Plains all showed slight increases in cropland cash rents or remained about the same.

The average pasture cash rent for the U.S. dropped from $8.90 to $ 8.50 per acre primarily due to drought conditions experienced across the Southwest. Regions most affected by the dry spell were the Southern Plains and Pacific each dropping $1.00 per acre while the Mountain region dropped $0.30. Pasture rents in the Corn Belt, Delta, and Northeast also declined from the previous year. The Southeast and Appalachian regions increased to $17.20 and $18.00.

Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana pasture rents declined by $0.90, $0.50 and $1.50 per acre while States in the Northern Plains all showed increases except for Kansas which decreased by $0.50. Wisconsin again had the highest pasture rent at $38, unchanged from last year.

July 1, 2000 Potato Planted and Harvested Acreage

Montana **potato** producers planted 12,000 acres in 2000, an increase of 1,000 acres from last year and the largest acreage planted since 1950. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 9, 2000.

Area planted to **fall potatoes** this year is estimated at 1.22 million acres, up 1 percent on a comparable basis. Harvest is expected from 1.20 million acres, a gain of 3 percent from a year ago. Comparability is achieved by adding Nebraska's summer acreage to their fall total last year and subtracting out Wyoming.

July 1, 2000 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

CROP	UNIT	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		1999	2000 1/	1999	2000 1/	1999	2000 1/	1999	2000 1/
MONTANA		(000) Acres		(000 Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,050	1,500	970	1,350	38.0	35.0	36,860	47,250
Durum Wheat	Bu.	360	550	350	540	27.0	30.0	9,450	16,200
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,150	3,200	4,000	3,050	27.0	26.0	108,000	79,300
All Wheat	Bu.	5,560	5,250	5,320	4,940	29.0	28.9	154,310	142,750
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65	60	18	18	110.0	3/	1,980	3/
Oats	Bu.	170	150	70	65	46.0	40.0	3,220	2,600
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,250	1,150	1,050	50.0	42.0	57,500	44,100
Dry Beans	Cwt.	26.5	29.0	25.5	28.0	17.3	3/	441	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	61.8	60.7	61.7	60.5	23.8	3/	1,468	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.0	12.0	10.9	11.8	305.0	4/	3,325	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,550	2.2	3/	3,630	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	850	1.5	3/	1,425	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,400	1.9	3/	5,055	3/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,431	43,349	35,572	35,401	47.8	44.9	1,699,989	1,588,376
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4,035	4,050	3,569	3,986	27.8	32.2	99,322	128,152
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,348	15,547	14,768	15,058	34.1	34.9	503,132	526,061
All Wheat	Bu.	62,814	62,946	53,909	54,445	42.7	41.2	2,302,443	2,242,589
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	77,431	79,579	70,537	73,088	133.8	3/	9,437,337	3/
Oats	Bu.	4,670	4,472	2,453	2,472	59.6	61.2	146,218	151,380
Barley	Bu.	5,223	5,702	4,758	5,235	59.2	58.7	281,853	307,275
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,023.0	1,767.0	1,877.0	1,652.5	17.7	3/	33,230	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,560.6	1,560.9	1,527.3	1,526.6	21.9	3/	33,420	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,376.7	1,388.0	1,332.3	1,359.7	359.0	4/	478,109	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,985	23,767	3.50	3/	83,924	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,175	38,414	1.92	3/	75,153	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,160	62,181	2.52	3/	159,077	3/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available August 11, 2000. 4/ Production forecast available November 9, 2000.

Montana Production Forecast by District, July 1, 2000 1/

District	Winter Wheat			All Spring Wheat			Barley		
	1999	2000 2/	00/99	1999	2000 2/	00/99	1999	2000 2/	00/99
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	422	350	83	1,959	2,256	115	1,344	965	72
N Central	13,571	22,500	166	46,909	31,100	66	32,681	25,300	77
Northeast	1,632	3,400	208	51,055	45,250	89	3,584	3,080	86
Central	10,810	11,000	102	7,931	8,500	107	9,664	7,030	73
Southwest	1,413	1,500	106	2,475	2,758	111	3,940	3,070	78
S Central	5,784	5,600	97	1,909	1,998	105	4,979	3,640	73
Southeast	3,228	2,900	90	5,212	3,638	70	1,308	1,015	78
Montana	36,860	47,250	128	117,450	95,500	81	57,500	44,100	77

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 2/ Preliminary.

Agricultural Prices Received for June

Crop prices for the full month of May 2000 were mostly lower compared with April 2000 prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.64 per bushel, down 6 cents from April's level; durum wheat was $3.51 per bushel, down 18 cents; spring wheat was 5 cents higher at $3.00 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.67 and malt barley was $2.65 per bushel.

The mid-June price for alfalfa hay was $75.00 per ton, up $11.00 from last month. Other hay, at $65.00 per ton, was up $9.00 from May's mid-month price. The mid-June winter wheat price averaged $2.65 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.00, feed barley was $1.65, and malt barley averaged $2.60.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mostly lower compared to the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased $3.00 to $84.50 per cwt. Cows were down 70 cents to $41.50 and the average price for calves was down $1.00 to $102.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $7.50 to $31.90 per cwt, but lamb prices increased $5.20 to $96.00 per cwt. Milk prices were up 10 cents from last month at $12.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $82.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for May and changes from April were as follows: winter wheat was $2.44, up 12 cents; spring wheat was $2.92, up 3 cents; the all barley price was $2.19, up 10 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $73.20, down $2.00.

The U.S. mid-June winter wheat price was $2.42 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.88 per bushel, all wheat was $2.52 per bushel, and all barley was $2.06. Steer and heifer prices were $71.30 per cwt, cow prices were $39.20, all hog prices were $47.90 per cwt, and all egg prices were 62.9 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 99 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.0 percent) from the May index. Lower prices for lettuce, corn, cattle, soybeans, and broccoli more than offset price increases for eggs, strawberries, milk, and celery. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of wheat, grapes, hay, and cantaloupes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of oranges, tomatoes, strawberries, and cattle. These marketing changes kept the index from falling one more point. Compared with June 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 2 points (2.1 percent) higher. Price increases from June 1999 for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for milk, oranges, corn, and broilers.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	May 1999	June 1999	May 2000	June 2000
Prices Received	98	97	101	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	115	115	120	120
Ratio 2/	85	84	84	83

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		May 1999	Apr 2000	May 2000	May 2000	Apr 2000	May 1999	June 15, 2000	June 15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.89	2.70	2.64	2.44	-0.06	-0.25	2.65	2.42
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2.85	3.69	3.51	2.98	-0.18	+0.66	3.40	3.23
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.05	2.95	3.00	2.92	+0.05	-0.05	3.00	2.88
All Wheat	Bu.	2.99	2.95	2.95	2.59	0	-0.04	2.96	2.52
Barley, All	Bu.	1.77	2.26	2.17	2.19	-0.09	+0.40	2.03	2.06
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.47	1.68	1.67	1.93	-0.01	+0.20	1.65	1.91
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.48	2.72	2.65	2.46	-0.07	+0.17	2.60	2.20
Oats	Bu.	1.12	1.15	1.15	1.32	0	+0.03	1.10	1.24
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	60.00	65.00	64.00	93.90	-1.00	+4.00	75.00	85.70
All Other Hay	Ton	48.00	56.00	56.00	71.30	0	+8.00	65.00	70.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	59.00	63.00	63.00	89.40	0	+4.00	74.00	82.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	71.30	87.50	84.50	73.20	-3.00	+13.20	82.10	71.30
Cows	Cwt	37.90	42.20	41.50	38.90	-0.70	+3.60	41.10	39.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	52.90	77.10	69.50	69.40	-7.60	+16.60	63.70	67.90
Calves	Cwt	81.20	103.00	102.00	107.00	-1.00	+20.80	99.00	103.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	28.40	39.40	31.90	30.50	-7.50	+3.50	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	78.20	90.80	96.00	96.40	+5.20	+17.80	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.60	12.20	12.30	12.00	+0.10	-0.30	12.70	12.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1984-2000

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	396	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,302	94	3,342	920	92	290	1,302	1,090	2,392	950	2.50
2000 . 3/	950	2,243	100	3,293	935	86	225	1,246	1,100	2,346	947	2.25-2.75

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 2000--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Quarterly Milk Production	U.S. Sheep Inventory
Mink	Wheat & Barley Varieties
U.S. Cattle Inventory	Red Meat Production
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Potato Stocks
Crop Acreage
Grain Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Egg Production
Hogs & Pigs
Sweet Cherry Production

U.S. June Potato Stocks Down 7 Percent

U.S. potato stocks for June 1, 2000 totaled 46.7 million cwt, down 7 percent from a year ago. Storage accounted for 11 percent of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago. Disappearance from the start of harvest to June 1 totaled 374 million cwt this season, up slightly from last year. May disappearance of 39.0 million cwt was up 9 percent from last year. Shrink and loss of 31.8 million cwt was up 3 percent from last year. Processing of 1999 crop potatoes this season totaled 183 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year earlier. In May, processors in the eight major States used 19.9 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 percent from last year.

Western States held 38.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage on June 1, up 1 percent from last year. Oregon's stocks were up 43 percent from a year ago, Colorado's stocks were up 28 percent, and California's storage gained 17 percent. Fewer stocks in Idaho and Washington nearly offset gains in the other 3 Western States. Stocks in Idaho were down 9 percent and Washington's stocks were off 7 percent. Stocks in the three Northwestern States totaled 34.0 million cwt and accounted for 73 percent of the remaining U. S. stocks.

Montana's Planted Wheat Acreage Smallest Since 1991

All wheat planted acreage in Montana was estimated at 5.25 million, 310,000 acres less than last year and the smallest acreage since 1991. **Spring wheat** producers planted 3.20 million acres of spring wheat this year, down 23% from last year and down 16% from what they intended to plant March 1. Montana had a relatively dry and mild winter across much of the state. Conditions this spring continued to be very dry and precipitation amounts are less than normal which in turn has caused the crop to mature earlier than normal. As of June 25, spring wheat was 59% in boot compared with 47% for the 5-year average. Twenty-eight percent of the spring wheat crop was headed compared with 13% for the 5-year average. Producers intend to harvest 3.05 million acres of spring wheat. **Durum** producers planted 550,000 acres of durum this spring, up 190,000 acres from a year ago. If conditions permit, producers will harvest 540,000 acres. **Winter wheat** seeded acreage was estimated at 1.50 million acres, up 43% from 1999. Statewide, as of June 25, winter wheat is 94% headed compared with 67% last year and 67% for the 5-year average. Winter wheat acreage for harvest has been lowered from the June 1 forecast to 1,350,000 acres.

Montana **barley** producers seeded 1.25 million acres this year, down 50,000 acres from a year ago and expect to harvest 1.05 million acres of grain. **Oat** acreage decreased 20,000 acres from last year at 150,000 acres with 65,000 acres intended to be harvested for grain. **Corn** producers seeded 60,000 acres for all purposes, down 5,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to harvest 18,000 acres for grain, unchanged from 1999. **Dry bean** planted acreage increased 2,500 acres from last year at 29,000 acres. **Sugar beet** acreage decreased 1,100 acres to 60,700. **Hay** harvested acreage is expected to decrease 8% from last year with **alfalfa** acreage decreasing to 1.55 million acres and **all other hay** decreasing to 850,000 acres.

At the **U.S.** level, the 2000 **all wheat** planted area is estimated at 62.9 million acres, up slightly from 1999. Harvested area is expected to total 54.4 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. The **winter wheat** area harvested for grain is now expected to total 35.4 million acres, up 2 percent from the June 1 forecast, but down less than 1 percent from the 1999 acreage for grain. This is the smallest area for grain since 1972. **Spring wheat** planted area is slightly above the previous estimate, but still down fractionally from 1999. Acreage planted for 2000 harvest is estimated at 15.5 million, 1 percent above the 1999 total. Grain area is expected to total 15.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. The large acreage decline in Montana was more than offset by a larger increase in North Dakota. The Montana decrease is due primarily to dry spring conditions, while North Dakota is returning to a more normal acreage level. The **durum wheat** planted area for 2000 harvest is estimated at 4.05 million acres, up slightly from last year. Area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 3.99 million acres, 12 percent above last year's level. Crop condition in the California Imperial Valley was excellent as harvest began in mid-May. Seeding progress was ahead of normal in the Northern Durum growing States.

Nationally, **barley** growers seeded 5.70 million acres for 2000, up 9 percent from the 5.22 million acres seeded a year ago. North Dakota is increasing barley by 400 thousand acres, or 30 percent, and Minnesota is increasing barley by 70 thousand acres, or 35 percent. Of the 27 States that estimate barley seeding, 12 States are increasing acreage, 8 States are reducing acreage, and 4 States are showing no change from 1999.

U.S. **corn** planted for all purposes is estimated at 79.6 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. Growers expect to harvest 73.1 million acres for grain, up 4 percent from 1999. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that 99 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview compared to an average of 96 percent for the past ten years.

Nationally, **hay** producers expect to harvest 62.2 million acres of hay in 2000, down 2 percent from the 63.2 million acres harvested the previous year. **Alfalfa** and alfalfa mixtures are estimated at 23.8 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. **All other hay** is estimated at 38.4 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. (See table on page 3)

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accuate, reliable statistics.

June 1, 2000 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on June 1, 2000 totaled 60.9 million bushels, down 14 percent from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 45.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 15.9 million bushels stored off farm. All **spring wheat** stocks, at 43.6 million bushels, were down 10 percent from last year and accounted for 72 percent of the total wheat stocks. **Winter wheat** stocks were estimated at 17.3 million bushels, down 23 percent from last year. **Durum wheat** stocks were estimated at 4.3 million bushels, down 3.5 million bushels from last year. All wheat disappearance for the March-May quarter was 47.9 million bushels, compared with 36.4 million for the same quarter last year. **Barley** stocks in all positions on June 1, 2000 were down 21 percent from last year and were set at 12.3 million bushels. **Oat** stocks were up 24 percent from a year ago and were estimated at 1.4 million bushels.

June 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000	June 1, 2000	'00/'99	June 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000	June 1, 2000
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	54,000	88,000	45,000	83%	277,710	423,180	226,780
Off Farms 1/	16,600	20,700	15,850	95%	668,208	992,115	723,293
TOTAL	70,600	108,700	60,850	86%	945,918	1,415,295	950,073
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	16,000	17,500	12,000	75%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	6,300	6,820	5,250	83%	--	--	--
TOTAL	22,300	24,320	17,250	77%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	38,000	70,500	33,000	87%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	10,300	13,880	10,600	103%	--	--	--
TOTAL	48,300	84,380	43,600	90%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	37,500	51,700	30,300
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	17,302	29,617	19,332
TOTAL	7,780	9,070	4,260	55%	54,802	81,317	49,632
BARLEY							
On Farms	11,000	13,000	6,000	55%	52,000	59,300	25,400
Off Farms 1/	4,450	9,050	6,260	141%	89,653	110,917	86,326
TOTAL	15,450	22,050	12,260	79%	141,653	170,217	111,726
OATS							
On Farms	1,000	2,000	1,200	120%	40,700	53,900	36,000
Off Farms 1/	160	250	240	150%	40,678	48,500	40,027
TOTAL	1,160	2,250	1,440	124%	81,378	102,400	76,027
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,257,000	3,300,000	2,029,800
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,359,225	2,301,958	1,557,112
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,616,225	5,601,958	3,586,912

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, in All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	June 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000	June 1, 2000	June 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000	June 1, 2000
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4
North Central	29.7	38.4	21.8	7.3	11.3	6.4
Northeast	19.9	41.3	19.7	0.7	1.5	0.7
Central	10.7	16.3	11.9	4.2	3.9	2.4
Southwest	1.2	3.3	0.7	0.7	1.9	0.3
South Central	5.1	3.8	2.6	1.5	2.6	1.8
Southeast	3.7	4.7	3.4	0.3	0.5	0.3
Montana	70.6	108.7	60.9	15.5	22.1	12.3

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.93 million head on June 1, 2000. The inventory was 9 percent above June 1, 1999 and 13 percent above June 1, 1998.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.30 million, 12 percent above 1999 and 13 percent above 1998. Net placements were 2.19 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 382,000, 600-699 pounds were 470,000, 700-799 pounds were 794,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 658,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.17 million, 9 percent above 1999 and 11 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 115,000 during May, 16 percent above 1999 and up 24 percent from 1998.

May Red Meat Production For Montana

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 2000, down 3 percent from last year, and up 11 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter, at 2,300 head was up 200 head from last year. The average live weight of 1,131 pounds was down 7 pounds from a year ago.

There were 1,200 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during May, down 1,400 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 258 pounds, increased 21 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 300 head, 100 head higher than last year. The average live weight of 129 remained unchanged from a year ago.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled 3.88 billion pounds in May, 8 percent higher than the 3.60 billion pounds produced in May 1999 and 3 percent higher than the previous record high for May set in 1996. Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year and equaled the previous record high for May set in 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.18 million head, up 6 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,196 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19.0 million pounds, 13 percent above May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 92 thousand head, up 3 percent from May 1999. The average live weight was 29 pounds above last year, at 340 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.54 billion pounds, 9 percent higher than the previous year and 1 percent higher than the previous record high for May set in 1995. Hog kill totaled 7.95 million head, 7 percent above 1999. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 263 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous record low for May set in 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 259 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, unchanged from May a year ago.

January - May red meat production was 18.9 billion pounds, 1 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was up 2 percent, pork was down 2 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 2 percent

U.S. May Milk Production Up 2.6 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during May totaled 12.8 billion pounds, up 2.6 percent from production in these same States in May 1999. April revised production, at 12.4 billion pounds was up 3.3 percent from April 1999. The April revision represented a decrease of 0.3 percent or 42 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,638 pounds for May, 28 pounds above May 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.80 million head, 63,000 head more than May 1999 and 9,000 head more than April 2000.

Planted and Harvested Acres June 2000

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
MONTANA		(000) Acres		(000 Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,050	1,500	970	1,350	38.0	3/	36,860	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	360	550	350	540	27.0	3/	9,450	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	4,150	3,200	4,000	3,050	27.0	3/	108,000	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,560	5,250	5,320	4,940	29.0	3/	154,310	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65	60	18	18	110.0	4/	1,980	4/
Oats	Bu.	170	150	70	65	46.0	3/	3,220	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,300	1,250	1,150	1,050	50.0	3/	57,500	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	26.5	29.0	25.5	28.0	17.3	4/	441	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	61.8	60.7	61.7	60.5	23.8	4/	1,468	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	11.0	6/	10.9	6/	305.0	5/	3,325	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,650	1,550	2.2	4/	3,630	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	950	850	1.5	4/	1,425	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,400	1.9	4/	5,055	4/
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	43,431	43,349	35,572	35,401	47.8	3/	1,699,989	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4,035	4,050	3,569	3,986	27.8	3/	99,322	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,348	15,547	14,768	15,058	34.1	3/	503,132	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	62,814	62,946	53,909	54,445	42.7	3/	2,302,443	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	77,431	79,579	70,537	73,088	133.8	4/	9,437,337	4/
Oats	Bu.	4,670	4,472	2,453	2,472	59.6	3/	146,218	3/
Barley	Bu.	5,223	5,702	4,758	5,235	59.2	3/	281,853	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,023.0	1,767.0	1,877.0	1,652.5	17.7	4/	33,230	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,560.6	1,560.9	1,527.3	1,526.6	21.9	4/	33,420	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,376.7	6/	1,332.3	6/	359.0	5/	478,109	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,985	23,767	3.50	4/	83,924	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	39,175	38,414	1.92	4/	75,153	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	63,160	62,181	2.52	4/	159,077	4/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available July 12, 2000. 4/ Production forecast available August 11, 2000. 5/ Production forecast available November 9, 2000. 6/ Planted and harvested acreage available July 12, 2000.

U.S. May Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.11 billion during May 2000, up 2 percent from the 6.94 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.97 billion table eggs and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 68.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 2000 averaged 327 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during May 1999. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up slightly from 2,166 eggs in May 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 2000 totaled 325 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 325 million layers consisted of 266 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.83 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 2000, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 69.8 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.66 billion eggs during May, up 2 percent from May 1999. The average number of layers during May, at 306 million, was up 1 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 2000, was 59.4 million head. This was 2 percent below June 1999, but 2 percent above March 1, 2000.

Breeding inventory, at 6.23 million head, was down 4 percent from June 1, 1999, but up slightly from March 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 53.2 million head, was 2 percent below last year, but 2 percent above last quarter.

The March-May 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 25.8 million head, was 2 percent less than 1999, and 4 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.91 million head, 3 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to 8.89 pigs saved per litter for the March-May period, compared to 8.80 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.80 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.85 million sows farrow during the June-August 2000 quarter, 2 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 7 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for September-November 2000, at 2.86 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period last year, but 4 percent below 1998.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 30 percent last year.

June 2000 Cherry Production Forecast

Montana's sweet cherry growers expect to produce 1,100 tons this year, an increase of 53 percent from last year. Growers have not had optimal crop conditions due to late frosts and cool weather during pollination, but still forecast a much better crop than 1999's which was hampered by several late freezes. The 2000 forecast production is far below 1998's production of 2,050 tons.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 224,400 tons in 2000, down 2 percent from 1999. Washington growers are expecting the largest crop in the nation at 95,000 tons, a 42 percent increase from last year. Oregon, Utah, and Idaho also anticipate larger crops than last year, but California, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania predict decreases.

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Ag Prices
Ag Cash Rents
Crop Production
Potato Acreage
Small Grains
Wheat Supply & Demand

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Wheat Supply & Demand
Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices

June 1, 2000 Winter Wheat Production Forecast

As of June 1, Montana winter wheat producers were expecting a yield of 35 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from last year and 1 bushel below last month. If realized, total production would be 50.1 million bushels, which is 36 percent more than last year. Harvested acreage remains the same as last month at 1.43 million acres, up 460,000 acres from last year condition. As of June 4, the winter wheat crop was rated 14 percent very poor, 27 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 19 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. The general lack of moisture is placing considerable stress on the crop. The June 4 winter wheat condition rating showed 22 percent rated as good to excellent while the April 30 report showed 40 percent in that category.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.62 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the May 1 forecast and 5 percent below 1999. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 46.7 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from the last forecast.

Hard Red production is down 3 percent from a month ago to 944 million bushels. White Winter is up 1 percent from last month. Soft Red is up 1 percent from the last forecast and now totals 448 million bushels.

Winter wheat harvested area for the U.S. is forecast at 34.7 million acres, unchanged from May 1, but down 2 percent from 1999. Heading has reached 93 percent in the 18 major States. Harvest progress was 8 percent, ranging from none in most states to 27 percent in Oklahoma and Texas.

Forecasted head counts from the Objective Yield surveys in the 6 Hard Red Winter States (Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas) are slightly below last year's final counts. Average head weights are well below last year's level. Winter wheat conditions in Kansas have dropped during May, leading to reduced yield potential. Temperatures in the 25-30 degree range hit the Eastern Plains of Colorado on May 13. Most damage was in the east central area of Colorado where the wheat was flowering. Crop progress is 2 weeks ahead of normal in Nebraska. Moisture supplies are adequate in most areas of Oklahoma. Lingering effects of the drought have had a significant impact on most of the major wheat producing areas of Texas.

Production of Durum wheat in Arizona and California is forecast at 14.8 million bushels. This is unchanged from May 1, but down 9 percent from 1999. Arizona harvest was nearly 20 percent complete by June 1. Harvest in the California Imperial Valley began in earnest in early May. San Joaquin Valley harvest was underway on a few fields by mid-May.

WINTER WHEAT: Production by Districts--1998, 1999 & Forecast June 1, 2000

District	1998	1999	2000	00/99
	1,000 Bushels			% chg.
NW	635	422	479	114
NC	21,093	13,571	23,659	174
NE	1,847	1,632	2,208	135
C	13,225	10,810	11,752	109
SW	1,670	1,413	1,620	115
SC	8,345	5,784	6,850	118
SE	1,935	3,228	3,482	108
MT	48,750	36,860	50,050	136

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee

Wheat Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected U.S. 2000/01 ending stocks of wheat are down 28 million bushels from last month as a smaller supply more than offsets reduced use. Forecast winter wheat production is 27 million bushels below last month because of reduced yields. Forecast beginning stocks are off 21 million bushels, but projected imports are up 5 million bushels. Total use is down 15 million bushels, with feed and residual use off 25 million bushels but food use up 10 million bushels.

The projected price range for 2000/01 is unchanged at $2.40 to $2.90 per bushel. Forecast 1999/2000 ending stocks are down from last month because of increases of 10 million bushels in food use and 15 million bushels in exports. Imports are up 4 million bushels.

Projected global 2000/01 wheat production is 4.6 million tons below last month as reductions for China, Eastern Europe, the United States, and Ukraine more than offset a higher Pakistan crop. Given the larger crop, projected imports for Pakistan are reduced 2 million tons. These lower imports are partially offset by higher expected purchases by China and Eastern Europe. The smaller East European crops also are expected to reduce exports and ending stocks. China and the United States account for most of the remaining reduction in projected 2000/0 1ending stocks. Supplies in the major foreign exporters are little changed from last month and remain relatively large.

(See table on back page.)

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1999 1/

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
				Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	700	600	80	48,000	53	700	600	80	48,000
Flathead	12,200	11,300	65	729,000	26	4,100	3,800	76	290,000
Granite	1,100	700	80	56,000	52	1,100	700	80	56,000
Lake	5,300	2,900	64	186,000	42	--	--	--	--
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	1,300	1,100	57	63,000	50	--	--	--	--
Powell	3,900	2,400	58	140,000	45	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	2,200	1,400	71	99,000	48	--	--	--	--
Sanders	1,200	500	40	20,000	51	--	--	--	--
Other	100	100	30	3,000	--	10,100	5,600	76	425,000
NORTHWEST	**28,000**	**21,000**	**64**	**1,344,000**	--	**16,000**	**10,700**	**77**	**819,000**
Blaine	28,000	19,600	65	1,275,000	12	10,600	5,000	69	347,000
Chouteau	105,000	98,700	34	3,383,000	4	1,600	700	77	54,000
Glacier	121,000	116,200	44	5,155,000	3	13,900	13,300	66	884,000
Hill	34,000	32,300	41	1,334,000	11	700	500	66	33,000
Liberty	40,000	38,800	39	1,506,000	10	2,600	2,500	75	188,000
Phillips	15,000	13,900	43	595,000	22	1,200	1,100	60	66,000
Pondera	149,000	144,500	54	7,821,000	1	42,600	42,400	75	3,200,000
Teton	126,000	122,800	63	7,759,000	2	59,800	59,500	84	5,027,000
Toole	72,000	70,200	55	3,853,000	6	1,000	800	79	63,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**690,000**	**657,000**	**50**	**32,681,000**	--	**134,000**	**125,800**	**78**	**9,862,000**
Daniels	8,000	5,600	37	207,000	35	--	--	--	--
Dawson	21,600	15,600	48	744,000	14	600	300	80	24,000
Garfield	16,800	7,300	45	326,000	18	--	--	--	--
McCone	14,900	9,900	45	443,000	23	--	--	--	--
Richland	17,800	12,800	48	612,000	17	2,300	1,400	80	112,000
Roosevelt	9,900	8,300	40	335,000	28	700	400	80	32,000
Sheridan	10,100	7,600	45	341,000	27	--	--	--	--
Valley	19,900	12,900	45	576,000	15	3,600	1,800	65	117,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	800	300	70	21,000
NORTHEAST	**119,000**	**80,000**	**45**	**3,584,000**	--	**8,000**	**4,200**	**73**	**306,000**
Broadwater	5,500	5,300	66	349,000	40	2,800	2,700	84	228,000
Cascade	63,400	57,700	49	2,819,000	7	15,400	14,100	79	1,120,000
Fergus	76,300	62,200	37	2,295,000	5	900	500	70	35,000
Golden Valley	6,400	3,200	41	132,000	39	700	600	85	51,000
Judith Basin	53,200	49,300	38	1,865,000	8	1,000	900	66	59,000
Lewis & Clark	13,000	8,800	53	466,000	24	5,900	5,000	68	342,000
Meagher	16,400	15,500	47	726,000	20	3,800	3,500	64	225,000
Musselshell	7,800	5,700	38	219,000	36	1,300	700	66	46,000
Petroleum	4,500	3,900	56	218,000	43	2,000	1,900	80	152,000
Wheatland	19,500	16,400	35	575,000	16	1,200	700	70	49,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**266,000**	**228,000**	**42**	**9,664,000**	--	**35,000**	**30,600**	**75**	**2,307,000**
Beaverhead	9,200	8,300	99	821,000	31	8,600	8,000	100	803,000
Gallatin	42,500	41,200	60	2,465,000	9	13,200	12,700	81	1,034,000
Jefferson	2,100	1,800	56	100,000	49	--	--	--	--
Madison	8,700	7,400	72	533,000	32	--	--	--	--
Silver Bow	500	300	70	21,000	54	500	300	70	21,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	8,200	6,800	78	530,000
SOUTHWEST	**63,000**	**59,000**	**67**	**3,940,000**	--	**30,500**	**27,800**	**86**	**2,388,000**
Big Horn	16,600	14,200	64	908,000	19	6,200	6,000	96	578,000
Carbon	12,500	12,200	82	1,000,000	25	9,700	9,600	98	945,000
Park	9,400	8,000	57	455,000	29	4,600	3,800	77	294,000
Stillwater	15,300	13,300	39	514,000	21	2,200	2,100	80	169,000
Sweetgrass	3,900	3,100	71	219,000	45	--	--	--	--
Treasure	3,200	2,600	81	211,000	47	--	--	--	--
Yellowstone	23,100	21,600	77	1,672,000	13	13,300	13,100	106	1,395,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	4,100	94	386,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**84,000**	**75,000**	**66**	**4,979,000**	--	**41,000**	**38,700**	**97**	**3,767,000**
Carter	9,300	4,500	36	163,000	30	--	--	--	--
Custer	4,300	2,200	50	110,000	44	700	500	80	40,000
Fallon	8,400	4,300	33	144,000	34	--	--	--	--
Powder River	7,000	5,300	42	221,000	38	--	--	--	--
Prairie	8,500	7,800	49	381,000	33	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	7,100	2,900	65	188,000	37	2,200	1,300	88	115,000
Wibaux	5,400	3,000	34	101,000	41	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	600	400	70	28,000
SOUTHEAST	**50,000**	**30,000**	**44**	**1,308,000**	--	**3,500**	**2,200**	**83**	**183,000**
MONTANA	**1,300,000**	**1,150,000**	**50**	**57,500,000**	--	**268,000**	**240,000**	**82**	**19,632,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Agricultural Prices Received for May

Crop prices for the full month of April 2000 were mostly higher compared with March 2000 prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.70 per bushel, up 2 cents from March's level; durum wheat was $3.69 per bushel, down 2 cents; spring wheat was 5 cents higher at $2.95 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.68 and malt barley was $2.72 per bushel.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay was $64.00 per ton, down $1.00 from last month. Other hay, at $56.00 per ton, was unchanged from April's price. The mid-May winter wheat price averaged $2.75 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.00, feed barley was $1.70, and malt barley averaged $2.70.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were mixed. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.80 to $87.50 per cwt. Cows were up 60 cents to $42.20 and the average price for calves was down $2.00 to $103.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.50 to $39.40 per cwt, and lamb prices increased $4.30 to $90.80 per cwt. Milk prices were down 10 cents from last month at $12.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-May averaged $84.50 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was $2.32, down 6 cents; spring wheat was $2.89, up 4 cents; the all barley price was $2.09, down 14 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $75.20, up $1.80.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was $2.39 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.91 per bushel, all wheat was $2.56 per bushel, and all barley was $2.12. Steer and heifer prices were $73.20 per cwt, cow prices were $39.00, all hog prices were $48.80 per cwt, and all egg prices were 52.0 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 102 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.0 percent) from the April index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, broilers, and peaches more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, milk, cotton, and asparagus. These marketing changes accounted for all of the May index increase. Higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, hogs, and hay offset price decreases for strawberries, eggs, cattle, and tomatoes. Compared with May 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (4.1 percent) higher. Price increases from May 1999 for cattle, lettuce, hogs, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for oranges, milk, cantaloupes, and strawberries.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	April 1999	May 1999	April 2000	May 2000
Prices Received	96	98	100	102
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	115	115	119	119
Ratio 2/	83	85	84	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Apr. 1999	Mar. 2000	Apr. 2000	Apr. 2000	Mar. 2000	Apr. 1999	May 15, 2000	May 15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.93	2.68	2.70	2.32	+0.02	-0.23	2.75	2.39
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2.81	3.71	3.69	2.89	-0.02	+0.88	3.65	2.82
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.13	2.90	2.95	2.89	+0.05	-0.18	3.00	2.91
All Wheat	Bu.	3.04	2.91	2.95	2.57	+0.04	-0.09	3.00	2.56
Barley, All	Bu.	1.79	2.38	2.26	2.09	-0.12	+0.47	2.25	2.12
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.40	1.59	1.68	1.68	+0.09	+0.28	1.70	1.95
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.49	2.75	2.72	2.38	-0.03	+0.23	2.70	2.37
Oats	Bu.	1.11	1.01	1.15	1.35	+0.14	+0.04	1.10	1.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	61.00	65.00	65.00	84.50	NC	+4.00	64.00	93.90
All Other Hay	Ton	52.00	53.00	56.00	67.40	+3.00	+4.00	56.00	71.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	61.00	64.00	63.00	80.70	-1.00	+2.00	63.00	89.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	72.40	85.70	87.50	75.20	+1.80	+15.10	84.50	73.20
Cows	Cwt	37.10	41.60	42.20	39.80	+0.60	+5.10	41.40	39.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	65.30	81.30	77.10	71.30	-4.20	+11.80	69.40	69.40
Calves	Cwt	84.70	105.00	103.00	111.00	-2.00	+18.30	100.00	109.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	27.80	40.90	39.40	35.00	-1.50	+11.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	69.20	86.50	90.80	82.60	+4.30	+21.60	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	12.60	12.30	12.20	11.90	-0.10	-0.40	12.40	12.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1984-2000

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	396	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . .	946	2,302	94	3,342	920	90	325	1,335	1,090	2,425	917	2.50
2000 . 3/	917	2,212	100	3,229	935	85	275	1,295	1,125	2,420	809	2.40-2.90

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, JUNE 2000--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

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Potato Stocks	Red Meat Production
Milk Production	Hogs & Pigs
Cattle on Feed	Grain Stocks
Sweet Cherry Production	Crops Acreage
Egg Production	Letter to JAS Respondents

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production
Red Meat Production
Livestock Chem Use
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Farm Labor

April Milk Production Up 3.7 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent from production in these same States in April 1999. March revised production, at 12.7 billion pounds was up 3.7 percent from March 1999. The March revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 15 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,598 pounds for April, 44 pounds above April 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 66,000 head more than April 1999 and 12,000 head more than March 2000.

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production Down for April

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April, down 11 percent from April 1999. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,113 pounds was down 8 pounds from a year ago.

During April, there were 1,200 head of hogs slaughtered, 1,400 less than last year. The average live weight increased 20 pounds to 245 pounds. Sheep slaughter, at 300 head was 100 head more than last year. The average live weight remained unchanged at 130 pounds.

United States commercial red meat production totaled 3.46 billion pounds in April, down 9 percent from the 3.82 billion pounds produced in April 1999. Beef production, at 2.03 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.78 million head, down 6 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,202 pounds.

Veal production totaled 17.0 million pounds, 6 percent below the previous record low for April set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 81 thousand head, down 17 percent from April 1999. The average live weight was 40 pounds above last year, at 343 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.39 billion pounds, down 14 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.21 million head, 15 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was up 12 percent from April 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 345 thousand head, 12 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, unchanged from April a year ago.

January - April red meat production was 15.1 billion pounds, 1 percent lower than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year, veal was 1 percent lower, pork was 4 percent lower, and lamb & mutton was down 1 percent.

1999 Agricultural Chemical Use Estimates for Cattle and Cattle Facilities

U.S. cattle producers applied 2.16 million pounds of insecticides to beef and dairy cattle in 1999. Applications made to beef cattle accounted for 72 percent of the total while insecticide use on dairy cattle accounted for 28 percent.

Xylene was the top active ingredient in total quantity used at 459,700 pounds followed by tetrachlorvinphos at 287,300 pounds and piperonyl butoxide at 154,300 pounds. These three active ingredients accounted for 42 percent of the U.S. total.

Of the total chemical applications made to cattle in 1999, the method of application was 37 percent by spray, 28 percent by pour-on, 9 percent by rubbing device, 9 percent by dust and 7 percent by injectable shot. All other methods (dip, mineral block, pill, ear tags, and other) accounted for the remaining 10 percent of applications.

A total of 1.55 million pounds of insecticides was applied to beef cattle in 1999. The top active ingredients in total pounds used on beef cattle were xylene, at 452,400 pounds, tetrachlorvinphos at 219,300 pounds, malathion at 140,900 pounds and famphur at 129,200 pounds.

(Continued on back)

Montana May Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent, U.S. Down 3 Percent

Montana potato producers held 300,000 cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, down 3 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 9 percent of the 1999 total production, compared with last year's stocks which also represented 9 percent of the 1998 total production.

Nationally, May 1, 2000 potato stocks totaled 85.7 million cwt, down 3 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 20 percent of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago.

U.S. disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 totaled 335 million cwt this season, down slightly from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. April disappearance of 41.9 million cwt was down 3 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss of 29.9 million cwt was up 2 percent from last year and 17 percent above two years ago.

Processing of 1999 crop potatoes this season totaled 163 million cwt, down 3 percent from the 1998 crop but 5 percent above the 1997 crop. In April, processors in the eight major States used 17.3 million cwt of potatoes, down 6 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 68.8 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2000, up 4 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1998. Oregon's stocks were up 36 percent from a year ago, Washington was equal to last year, and Idaho's stocks were down 3 percent. Stocks in these three Northwest States were up 3 percent from last year and accounted for 70 percent of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 12 percent and California's storage was up 22 percent from last year. Montana's stocks, mostly seed, were up 3 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.91 million head on May 1, 2000. The inventory was 9 percent above May 1, 1999 and 12 percent above May 1, 1998.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.69 million, slightly below 1999 but 6 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.60 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 299,000, 600-699 pounds were 307,000, 700-799 pounds were 568,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 511,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.87 million, 4 percent below 1999 and 1 percent below 1998. April 2000 had two fewer weekdays than April 1999, which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings.

Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during April, 13 percent below 1999 and 2 percent below 1998.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 9 Percent

Cattle on feed May 1, 2000, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.36 million, up 9 percent from the previous year and 13 percent above May 1, 1998.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.45 million, slightly above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998.

Marketings during April totaled 1.59 million, 5 percent below 1999 and down 1 percent from 1998. April 2000 had two fewer weekdays than April 1999, which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings.

Other disappearance during April was 71,000 head, 9 percent below 1999 but 16 percent above 1998.

April Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.01 billion during April 2000, up 3 percent from the 6.78 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.91 billion table eggs and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 67.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2000 averaged 329 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during April 1999. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,130 eggs, up 1 percent from 2,110 eggs in April 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2000 totaled 328 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 328 million layers consisted of 267 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 58.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.94 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2000, averaged 70.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 70.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.57 billion eggs during April, up 3 percent from April 1999. The average number of layers during April, at 309 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Hired Workers up 2 Percent, Wage Rates up 4 Percent from a Year Ago

There were 1.05 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 9-15, 2000, up 2 percent from a year ago. There were 830,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 217,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 8.8 percent of the April hired workforce compared with 8.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $8.12 per hour during the April 2000 survey week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.58 per hour, up 35 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned $7.56 per hour compared with $7.39 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate was up 31 cents from last year.

Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin) and Appalachian II regions. The higher wages were generally attributable to fewer seasonal workers reported on the payroll during the survey week in the Pacific and Appalachian II regions.

Regions showing declines in the hired farm worker wage rates were Mountain III, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Hawaii. Slight declines of hired wage rates in these regions generally occurred due to an increase in field worker hours reported in each region.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., April 11-17, 1999 & April 9-15, 2000 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	8.18	8.41	7.34	7.37	7.92	7.94	8.34	8.51
Northeast II	7.73	7.66	6.05	6.00	7.20	7.21	7.73	7.84
Appalachian I	7.17	6.85	7.02	7.59	7.14	7.06	7.50	7.44
Appalachian II	6.17	6.51	6.63	6.90	6.39	6.70	6.72	7.09
Southeast	6.61	7.06	7.59	6.97	6.85	7.03	7.12	7.36
FL	7.40	7.70	6.90	7.80	7.37	7.71	8.18	8.54
Lake	7.95	7.79	7.03	7.77	7.54	7.78	8.09	8.55
Cornbelt I	7.71	8.12	7.47	8.48	7.66	8.22	8.35	8.69
Cornbelt II	7.02	7.56	8.54	8.18	8.07	7.88	8.27	8.08
Delta	6.41	6.53	7.28	7.04	6.59	6.68	6.81	7.06
Northern Plains	7.82	7.58	7.00	7.75	7.41	7.65	7.66	7.80
Southern Plains	6.41	6.90	6.66	7.48	6.51	7.12	7.18	7.47
Mountain I	6.54	6.70	6.53	6.74	6.54	6.72	6.71	7.01
Mountain II	7.51	7.30	7.67	7.93	7.61	7.51	8.06	7.84
Mountain III	6.77	6.71	7.58	6.53	6.96	6.68	7.65	7.30
Pacific	7.25	7.92	9.98	8.55	7.49	7.99	8.02	8.51
CA	7.20	7.75	8.29	8.15	7.31	7.78	8.00	8.38
HI	9.45	9.19	3/	3/	9.38	9.14	10.81	10.58
US 4/	7.23	7.58	7.39	7.56	7.27	7.58	7.83	8.12

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data.
4/ Excludes AK. .

1999 Agricultural Chemical Use Estimates (continued from front page)

Of the total chemical applications made to beef cattle in 1999, the method of application was 39 percent by pour-on, 18 percent by spray, and 11 percent by injectable shot. All other methods (dip, dust, mineral block, rubbing device, pill, ear tags, and other) accounted for the remaining 32 percent of applications.

A total of 606,400 pounds of insecticides was applied to dairy cattle in 1999. Piperonyl butoxide was the predominant active ingredient in total quantity used on dairy cattle at 101,700 pounds. Dichlorvos had the second highest quantity used at 96,200 pounds followed by cyfluthrin with 92,200 pounds.

Of the total chemical applications made to dairy cattle in 1999, the method of application was 65 percent by spray, 13 percent by pour-on, and 10 percent by both rubbing device and dust. All other methods (dip, mineral block, injectable shots, pill, ear tags, and other) accounted for the remaining 2 percent of applications.

A total of 354,400 pounds of insecticides was applied to cattle facilities in 1999. Tetrachlorvinphos had the highest quantity used at 125,200 pounds. Dimethoate had the second highest quantity used at 98,700 pounds followed by diazinon with 39,300 pounds.

A total of 148,400 pounds of insecticides was used to treat beef cattle facilities in 1999. Diazinon was the predominant active ingredient in treating beef cattle facilities with 39,300 pounds used. Malathion had the second highest quantity used at 15,100 pounds followed by dichlorvos with 14,600 pounds.

A total of 206,000 pounds of insecticides was applied to milk cattle facilities in 1999. Dimethoate accounted for 48 percent of the total at 98,700 pounds. Piperonyl butoxide accounted for 29,500 pounds or 14 percent of the total.

The 1999 agricultural chemical usage numbers are published by regions. Montana is included with Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Our region applied 328,000 pounds of insecticides to beef and dairy cattle in 1999. Applications made to beef cattle accounted for 99 percent of the total. A total of 70,800 pounds of insecticides was applied to cattle facilities in our region in 1999. Ninety five percent of these applications were to beef cattle facilities.

A complete listing of insecticides and amounts used by region is contained in the national agricultural chemical usage release and can be viewed at http:www/nass.usda.gov/.

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Crop Production
Winter Wheat Production
Wheat Supply & Demand

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production & Hay Stocks
Milk PDI
Meat Animals PDI
Poultry PDI
Ag Prices

May 1 Crop Production and Hay Stocks

As of May 1, **Montana winter wheat** producers were expecting a yield of 36 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last year. If realized, total production of 51.5 million bushels would be 40% more than a year ago due to an increase in acreage. In the fall of 1999, Montana producers seeded 1.5 million acres of winter wheat which is 450,000 acres more than the small acreage seeded the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 1.43 million acres, 460,000 acres more than what was harvested last year. The condition of the winter wheat crop was rated at 3% very poor, 11% poor, 43% fair, 39% good, and 4% excellent for the week ending May 7.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.65 billion bushels, down 3% from 1999. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 47.5 bushels per acre, 0.3 bushels less than last year's record. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record. Record yields are forecast in Ohio and North Carolina. Grain area totals 34.7 million acres, down 2% from last season. Dry conditions in Texas have led to abnormally high abandonment.

Montana hay producers had an estimated 1.01 million tons of hay on hand as of May 1, which is 8% less than the same time last year. Disappearance from December 1999 to May 1, 2000 totaled 3.44 million tons.

U.S. stocks of **all hay** on farms totaled 28.8 million tons on May 1, 2000, up 16% from May 1 of the previous year. This is the highest May stocks since 1987. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 1999 - May 1, 2000, totaled 80.1 million tons, 8% lower than the 1998 crop disappearance of 87.2 million tons for the same period. Stocks of hay on May 1, 2000 were higher compared to last year in 20 of the 48 estimating States. Mild winter conditions across the Upper Midwest and Plains, following favorable production in 1999, led to increased May stocks, especially in the Great Lakes area. Michigan and Wisconsin each reported the highest May stocks since 1980. The increased stocks in these States offset the decreased stocks in States along the Ohio Valley which were affected by last year's drought.

Winter Wheat: Production Forecast by Districts May 1, 2000

District	1997	1998	1999	2000	% chg. 00/99
	1,000 bushels				Pct.
Northwest	872	635	422	495	117
North Central	26,104	21,093	13,571	24,450	180
Northeast	2,024	1,847	1,632	2,340	143
Central	14,001	13,225	10,810	12,199	113
Southwest	1,659	1,670	1,413	1,460	103
South Central	8,325	8,345	5,784	6,600	114
Southeast	2,115	1,935	3,228	3,936	122
Montana	55,100	48,750	36,860	51,480	140

1/ District date funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Winter Wheat: Acreage, Yield, & Production, by Selected States & U.S. 1999 & Forecast May 1, 2000

State	Planted	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Acres			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,550	2,400	2,350	43.0	42.0	103,200	98,700
ID	780	710	730	76.0	78.0	53,960	56,940
KS	9,800	9,200	9,200	47.0	44.0	432,400	404,800
MT	**1,500**	**970**	**1,430**	**38.0**	**36.0**	**36,860**	**51,480**
NE	1,850	1,800	1,750	48.0	43.0	86,400	75,250
OK	6,100	4,300	4,100	35.0	38.0	150,500	155,800
OR	750	630	740	47.0	64.0	29,610	47,360
SD	1,350	1,260	1,280	47.0	44.0	59,220	56,320
TX	6,000	3,400	2,200	36.0	32.0	122,400	70,400
WA	1,850	1,670	1,750	58.0	67.0	96,860	117,250
WY	190	185	175	33.0	31.0	6,105	5,425
US	43,245	35,572	34,709	47.8	47.5	1,699,989	1,648,805

1999 Milk Production, Disposition, and Income

Montana's 1999 milk production, of 303 million pounds, increased 4 percent from 1998. An average of 18,000 milk cows were on farms and ranches during the year, unchanged from a year ago. The rate per cow averaged 16,833 pounds, 666 pounds more than 1998.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were 42.3 million dollars, slightly more than 1998. Producer returns averaged $14.60 per cwt, a decrease of 40 cents from last year. Marketings totaled 290 million pounds, up 4 percent from a year ago. A total of 13 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 8 million pounds were fed to calves, and 5 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 3 percent in 1999 to 163 billion pounds. The rate per cow at 17,771 pounds, was 582 pounds above 1998. The annual average number of cows on farms at 9.16 million head, was 2,000 more than 1998.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1999 at $23.2 billion dollars, was 4 percent below 1998. Producer returns averaged $14.38 per hundredweight, 7 percent below 1998. Marketings totaled 161 billion pounds, 3 percent above 1998. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.37 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 3 percent less than 1998. Calves were fed 83 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households.

1999 Cash Receipts From Meat Animals Up in Montana and U.S.

Cash receipts from the 1999 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled $851 million, up 6 percent from 1998. Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves were up 7 percent from the previous year, while sheep cash receipts were off 3 percent and hog cash receipts were down 10 percent. Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves rose 7 percent from 1998 to $806 million. Increased cattle marketings and prices contributed to the increase in cash receipts. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.34 million head, were down slightly from 1998 due to increased marketings of calves less than 500 lbs. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased 15 percent from the previous year to 300,000 head. The average price received in 1999 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs rose $5.60 per cwt to $67.60 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased $11.30 per cwt to $89.90 per cwt.

Cash receipts from the sales of hogs in Montana dropped 10 percent from 1998 to $24.1 million dollars. While the marketings of hogs increased 12 percent from 1998 to 366,000 head, prices for hogs dropped dramatically from the previous year as the season average price fell $9.30 to $30.80 per cwt. Sheep and lamb cash receipts decreased 3 percent from 1998 to $20.7 million dollars. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 1999 were 47,000 and 266,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were down substantially from 1998 as breeding sheep inventories on January 1, 2000 were down 1 percent from the previous year. Lamb marketings were up slightly from 1998. The average price for lamb prices rose $3.20 per cwt to $76.80 per cwt and sheep were only off $.10 per cwt from 1998 to $29.10 per cwt.

In the United States, the 1999 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled $46.0 billion, up 5 percent from 1998. Gross income rose for cattle and calves, but fell for hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 9 percent, while hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs decreased 9 and 3 percent respectively.

Total 1999 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 5 percent to $45.6 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 80 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 19 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for cattle and calves, but declined for both hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up from 1998 levels for cattle and calves and sheep and lambs, while hogs and pigs dropped.

U.S. cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased from $33.4 billion in 1998 to $36.5 in 1999, a 9 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 56.7 billion pounds in 1999, up 3 percent from last year. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $63.40, an increase of $3.80 from 1998. For calves, the annual average price increased $8.90 to $87.70.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $8.6 billion during 1999, down 9 percent from 1998. Marketings increased to 27.0 billion pounds in 1999, up 2 percent from 1998. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight decreased $4.10 to $30.30 in 1999.

U.S. sheep and lamb cash receipts in 1999 were $469 million, down 3 percent from 1998. Marketings declined 7 percent to 689 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for lambs increased from $30.60 in 1998 to $31.10 in 1999 while for sheep, the annual average price increased $2.20 to $74.50.

1999 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 1999 was $3.4 million, down 13 percent from 1998. Egg production in 1999 totaled 94 million eggs, up 12 percent from the previous year. The average price for eggs was 43 cents per dozen, a decrease of 12 cents from 1998.

Montana's value of sales from chickens in 1999, excluding broilers, was $17,000. Value of sales increased 13 percent from 1998. Chickens sold for an average price of 2 cents per pound, unchanged from the previous year.

The U.S. combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1999, was $22.4 billion, up slightly from the $22.3 billion in 1998. Of the combined total, 68 percent was from broilers, 19 percent from eggs, 13 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced in the U.S. during 1999 was $15.1 billion, down slightly from 1998. The total number of broilers produced in 1999 was 8.15 billion, up 3 percent from 1998. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 1999 was 40.8 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 1998. The 1999 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 37.1 cents per pound, compared to 39.3 cents per pound in 1998.

Value of egg production in 1999 was $4.32 billion, down 3 percent from the $4.44 billion in 1998. Egg production totaled 82.7 billion eggs, up 4 percent from the 79.8 billion eggs produced in 1998. In 1999, eggs averaged 62.7 cents per dozen, compared with 66.8 cents in 1998.

The value of turkeys produced during 1999 was $2.84 billion, up 6 percent from the $2.68 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1999 totaled 6.95 billion pounds live weight, compared with 7.05 billion pounds in 1998. The average price received by producers during 1999 was 40.8 cents per pound, compared with 38.0 cents in 1998.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 1999 was $67.7 million, down 10 percent from the $75.5 million a year ago. Prices averaged 7.0 cents per pound, compared with 8.1 cents in 1998. The number of chickens sold in 1999 totaled 205 million, up 6 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

(See table on back page.)

Agricultural Prices Received for March

Crop prices for the full month of March 2000 were mostly higher compared with February 2000 prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.68 per bushel, up 1 cent from February's level; durum wheat was $3.71 per bushel, down 13 cents; spring wheat was 1 cent higher at $2.90 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.59 and malt barley was $2.75 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay was $65.00 per ton, unchanged from last month. Other hay, at $56.00 per ton, was up $3.00 from March's mid-month price. The mid-April winter wheat price averaged $2.60 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.90, feed barley was $1.60, and malt barley averaged $2.80.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mostly higher. Steer and heifer prices increased 30 cents to $85.70 per cwt. Cows were up $4.80 to $41.60 and the average price for calves was unchanged at $105.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $1.30 to $40.90 per cwt, and lamb prices were up $6.50 to $86.50 per cwt. Milk prices were unchanged from last month at $12.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $86.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was $2.38, down 1 cent; spring wheat was $2.85, up 3 cents; the all barley price was $2.23, up 10 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $73.40, up $2.20.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was $2.29 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.73 per bushel, all wheat was $2.55 per bushel, and all barley was $2.13. Steer and heifer prices were $73.80 per cwt, cow prices were $39.60, all hog prices were $46.90 per cwt, and all egg prices were 65.5 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 99 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.2 percent) from the March index. Higher prices for hogs, broilers, eggs, and strawberries more than offset price decreases for cotton, corn, grapefruit, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, strawberries, milk, and oranges more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs. These marketing changes accounted for one point of the April index increase. Compared with April 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (3.1 percent) higher. Price increases from April 1999 for hogs, cattle, tomatoes, and calves more than offset price decreases for lettuce, milk, oranges, and carrots

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	March 1999	April 1999	March 2000	April 2000
Prices Received	97	96	95	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	115	115	119	119
Ratio 2/	84	83	80	83

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Mar. 1999	Feb. 2000	Mar. 2000	Mar. 2000	Feb. 2000	Mar. 1999	Apr.15 2000	Apr.15 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.80	2.67	2.68	2.38	+0.01	-0.12	2.60	2.29
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2.88	3.84	3.71	2.62	-0.13	+0.83	3.60	2.73
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.15	2.89	2.90	2.85	+0.01	-0.25	2.90	2.88
All Wheat	Bu.	3.04	2.89	2.91	2.59	+0.02	-0.13	2.86	2.55
Barley, All	Bu.	2.27	2.33	2.38	2.23	+0.05	+0.11	2.38	2.13
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.39	1.58	1.59	1.78	+0.01	+0.20	1.60	1.78
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.72	2.71	2.75	2.53	+0.04	+0.03	2.80	2.52
Oats	Bu.	1.04	0.97	1.01	1.28	+0.04	-0.03	1.00	1.24
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	60.00	67.00	65.00	78.00	-2.00	+5.00	65.00	84.50
All Other Hay	Ton	52.00	57.00	53.00	66.70	-4.00	+1.00	56.00	67.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	59.00	66.00	64.00	74.80	-2.00	+5.00	63.00	80.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	73.70	85.40	85.70	73.40	+0.30	+12.00	86.10	73.80
Cows	Cwt	37.70	36.80	41.60	39.00	+4.80	+3.90	41.00	39.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	68.30	77.10	81.30	69.80	+4.20	+13.00	76.20	70.10
Calves	Cwt	85.00	105.00	105.00	109.00	0	+20.00	103.00	110.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	31.90	39.60	40.90	38.80	+1.30	+9.00	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	69.90	80.00	86.50	80.20	+6.50	+16.60	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	16.60	12.30	12.30	11.90	0	-4.30	12.50	11.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1998-1999 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		1998	1999	1998	1999
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	38	35	53,428	54,701
Sold	1,000 Head	192	216	193,768	204,620
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	768	864	934,568	973,407
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	0.020	0.020	0.081	0.070
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	15	17	75,542	67,724
EGGS					
Produced	Million	84	94	79,754	82,711
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	0.550	0.430	0.668	0.627
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	3,850	3,368	4,439,446	4,322,589

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death, rendered, and other losses during the 12-month period.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Livestock Chem Use
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
Red Meat Production
Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1999 Specialty Crops County Estimates
Red Meat Production
Montana's Rank
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production
Egg Production
Potato Stocks

1999 Specialty Crops County Estimates

For the first time ever, we have estimated the oilseed and pulse crops by county for the state. The state-level estimates have been forecast in the past, but they were included in an "other" category and not published separately for Montana. However, there was a demand for these estimates and funding was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Carbon was the largest **pinto bean** producing county in the state for 1999 with 56,500 cwt produced. The second and third leading counties were Yellowstone and Prairie with 46,100 cwt and 44,000 cwt produced, respectively. Looking at garbanzo beans indicates that Roosevelt county produced the most in 1999 with total production of 30,600 cwt. The second leading county was Daniels at 18,500 cwt and the next in line was Chouteau county at 15,100 cwt.

For the 1999 **lentil** crop, Sheridan was the number one county with [illegible],300 cwt produced. The number two county was Hill with total production at 23,500 cwt, and the third largest was Roosevelt county with 22,200 cwt. The first **dry edible pea** county estimates indicated that Hill county was the largest producer in 1999 with 92,600 cwt, followed by Big Horn county at 73,600 cwt and Chouteau county at 68,600 cwt.

For the 1999 **canola** crop, Pondera was by far the largest producing county at 15.16 million pounds. The second leading county was Teton with 6.29 million pounds produced and was closely followed by Sheridan county at 6.26 million pounds. The same trend held true for **safflower** production as Richland was clearly the number one county with 11.1 million pounds produced. The next leading county was McCone at 4.9 million pounds, followed by Roosevelt's production of 3.2 million pounds.

The leading mustard seed producing counties were all in the same general area of the Northeastern part of the state. The number one county was Sheridan with 8.0 million pounds produced, followed by Valley and McCone at 3.4 and 1.7 million pounds, respectively. Sheridan was also the leading county for **flaxseed** production in Montana for 1999 at 99,000 cwt. The next leading county was Valley with 44,000 cwt and was closely followed by Daniels county at 42,000 cwt. Blaine county led **sunflower** production in the state with 1.64 million pounds. The second leading county was Judith Basin at 1.08 million pounds and was closely followed by Richland county's production of 1.03 million pounds.

All of the previous information as well as planted acres, harvested acres, and yields by county, district, and state levels will be available this week from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They will be available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey conducted during the fall of 1999. Questionnaires were sent to a sample of farmers and ranchers throughout Montana asking for information on the 1999 acreage and production of their crops. Thanks to those who participated!

Montana Red Meat Down While U.S. Red Meat Production Sets Record High for March

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March, compared to 1.8 million pounds last March and 1% lower than last month. There were 1,800 head of cattle slaughtered, 100 head less than a year ago. The average live weight of cattle slaughtered increased 18 pounds to 1,149 pounds.

Hog kill in March totaled 1,300 head, 1,800 head less than March 1999. The average live weight increased 22 pounds to 250 pounds. There were 200 head of sheep slaughtered in March, the same as a year ago at this time. The average live weight of sheep slaughtered dropped a pound to 129 pounds.

(Continued on third page)

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agricultural

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	57,000,000	acres	1999	2	6.0
Number of farms and ranches	28,000	farms/ranches	1999	31	1.3
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	1,799	million dollars	1998	34	0.9
Crops	934	million dollars	1998	31	0.9
Livestock	865	million dollars	1998	32	0.9
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,600,000	head	Jan. 1, 2000	11	2.7
All Cows	1,600,000	head	Jan. 1, 2000	7	3.7
Beef Cows	1,582,000	head	Jan. 1, 2000	6	4.7
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 2000	43	0.2
Cattle on Feed	70,000	head	Jan. 1, 2000	22	0.5
All Sheep and Lambs	370,000	head	Jan. 1, 2000	7	5.3
Hogs and Pigs	150,000	head	Dec. 1, 1999	28	0.3
All Chickens	410,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1999	41	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,570,000	head	1999	6	4.1
Lamb Crop	340,000	head	1999	3	7.2
Pig Crop	325,000	head	1999	27	0.3
Wool Production	3,196,000	pounds	1999	5	6.9
Egg Production	94,000,000	eggs	1999	41	0.1
Honey Production	8,540,000	pounds	1999	7	4.2
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	154,310,000	bushels	1999	3	6.7
Winter Wheat	36,860,000	bushels	1999	12	2.2
Durum Wheat	9,450,000	bushels	1999	2	9.5
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	108,000,000	bushels	1999	2	21.5
Barley	57,500,000	bushels	1999	2	20.4
Oats	3,220,000	bushels	1999	14	2.2
All Hay	5,055,000	tons	1999	12	3.2
Alfalfa Hay	3,630,000	tons	1999	9	4.3
Dry Beans	441,000	cwt	1999	11	1.3
Potatoes--fall	3,325,000	cwt	1999	17	0.7
Sugar Beets	1,468,000	tons	1999	6	4.4
Corn for Grain	1,980,000	bushels	1999	40	1/
Corn for Silage	900,000	tons	1999	25	0.9

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

Montana Red Meat Production

(Continued from front page)

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.04 billion pounds in March, up 1% from the previous record high of 4.02 billion pounds produced in March 1999. Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was 3% above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, up 3% from 1999. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,215 pounds.

Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 2% below the previous record low for March set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 103 thousand head, down 12% from March 1999. The average live weight was 33 pounds above last year, at 320 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 2% from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.81 million head, 3% below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 17% from March 1999 and down 8% from the previous record low for March set in 1997 and 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 344 thousand head, 19% below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January - March red meat production was 11.6 billion pounds, 2% higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 4% higher than last year, veal was 1% higher, pork was 1% lower, and lamb & mutton was down 6%.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 8 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.19 million head on April 1, 2000. The inventory was 8 percent above April 1, 1999 and 11 percent above April 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.79 million steers and steer calves, up 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.35 million head, up 7 percent from 1999.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.02 million, 1 percent below 1999 but 18 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.92 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 331,000, 600-699 pounds were 406,000, 700-799 pounds were 715,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 564,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 2.05 million, 3 percent above 1999 and 10 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 101,000 during March, 42 percent above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998.

Montana and U.S. Quarterly Milk Production Up

During the January - March 2000 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 77 million pounds of milk, up 3 million from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows numbered 18,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.7 billion pounds, up 3.8 percent from production in these same States in March 1999. February revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 8.2 percent from February 1999. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be up 4.5 percent on a per day basis. The February revision represented a slight decrease of 1 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,634 pounds for March, 49 pounds above March 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 57,000 head more than March 1999 and 4,000 head more than February 2000.

The January - March quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.6 billion pounds, 5.1 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.19 million head, 58,000 head more than the same period last year.

U.S. March Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.22 billion during March 2000, up 2 percent from the 7.05 billion produced in 1999. Production included 6.10 billion table eggs and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 67.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2000 averaged 331 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during March 1999. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,182 eggs, down slightly from 2,185 eggs in March 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2000 totaled 331 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 331 million layers consisted of 271 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2000, averaged 70.9 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 71.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.79 billion eggs during March, up 2 percent from March 1999. The average number of layers during March, at 311 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Montana March Potato Stocks Down 5 Percent, U.S. Down 3 Percent

Montana potato producers held 1.65 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 5 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 50 percent of the 1999 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 55 percent of the 1998 total production.

Nationally, April 1, 2000 potato stocks totaled 128 million cwt, down 3 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 30 percent of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago.

U.S. disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 totaled 293 million cwt this season, up slightly from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. March disappearance of 42.5 million cwt was slightly above last year and 2 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss of 27.9 million cwt was up 2 percent from last year and 10 percent above two years ago.

Processing of 1999 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 146 million cwt, down 2 percent from the 1998 crop but 6 percent above the 1997 crop. In March, processors in the eight major States used 20.5 million cwt of potatoes, down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above 1998.

Western States held 97.2 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2000, up 1 percent from last year but 4 percent below 1998. Oregon's stocks were up 29 percent from a year ago, but were offset by a 5 percent decline in Washington and a 4 percent drop in Idaho. Stocks in the three Northwest States were the same as last year and accounted for 66 percent of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 9 percent and California's potato stocks were up 17 percent from last year. Montana's stocks, mostly seed, were off 5 percent

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk PDI	Crop Production
Meat Animals	Hay Stocks
Poultry PDI	Winter Wheat Production
Ag Prices	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
Thank You To March Respondents
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices

Montana Intends to Seed More Wheat; Nationally Seedings are Down

Montana **spring wheat** producers expect to seed 3.7 million acres in 2000, and if these expectations hold, seedings would be down 11 percent from 1999, and would be the lowest acreage since 1994. **Winter wheat** seedings remained unchanged from the December estimate at 1.50 million acres, up 450,000 from last year. **Durum wheat** acreage, at 530,000 acres, is up from 360,000 acres planted in 1999, up 47 percent from last year. Adding the winter wheat seeded last fall to other spring and durum wheat intended seedings shows 5.73 million acres of **all wheat**, up nearly 3 percent from last year's acreage.

Montana **barley** producers intend to plant an estimated 1.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last year. The intended seeded acreage for **oats** is expected to be 130,000 acres, down 40,000 acres from 1999, and growers intend to harvest 60,000 acres of this crop for grain, 10,000 acres less than last year. **Corn** growers intend to plant 75,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from last year. Farmers intend to plant an estimated 61,000 acres of **sugar beets**, down 800 acres from 1999. The area planted to **dry beans** is expected to total 29,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year. An estimated 2.5 million acres of **hay** are expected to be harvested, which is 100,000 acres less than 1999's harvested acreage.

Nationally, **other spring wheat** growers intend to plant 14.8 million acres this year, down 4 percent from 1999. This would be the smallest area since 1988. About 13.8 million acres of the total are Hard Red Spring wheat. Large acreage reductions are expected in Montana and South Dakota, while Minnesota and North Dakota growers intend to plant more acres than last year. **Winter wheat** planted area for harvest in 2000 is 43.2 million acres, down less than 1 percent from 1999 but 1 percent above the previously published level. Most of the increase from the "Winter Wheat Seedings" report occurred in Texas and several Southeastern states where planting continued after December 1. Of the total, about 30.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 9.3 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 3.5 million acres White winter.

Area seeded to **durum wheat** is expected to total 3.61 million acres, down 11 percent from 1999. Due to strong durum prices, Montana growers intend to plant their largest total since 1957. This is more than offset by an expected 16 percent decrease in North Dakota, the largest durum producing state. Seeding in the San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys of California progressed rapidly during January and February.

U.S. **barley** growers intend to seed 5.73 million acres for 2000, up 10 percent from the 5.22 million acres seeded a year ago. Montana is decreasing barley acreage by 100,000 acres, or 8 percent. North Dakota and Minnesota are increasing acres by 41 and 35 percent, respectively. Of the 27 States that estimate barley seeding, eight States are reducing acreage, 12 States are increasing acreage, and four States are showing no change from 1999. Three States have been added this year and have no history.

Oats seeded and to be seeded by U.S. farmers for the 2000 crop year is expected to total 4.35 million acres, down 320,000 acres from last year's final planted acres. Growers expect to harvest 2.47 million acres for grain, 1 percent above the final 1999 harvested acreage. (Coninued on back page.)

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 1,500 Montana farmers and ranchers during March. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. **Special thanks** to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

Planted Acreage, 1998-1999 and Intended 2000 Montana and United States

	Montana				United States			
	1998	1999	2000	00/99	1998	1999	2000	00/99
	Thousand Acres			Pct	Thousand Acres			Pct
All Wheat	5,650.0	5,560.0	5,730.0	103	65,821.0	62,814.0	61,664.0	98
Winter Wheat	1,400.0	1,050.0	1,500.0	143	46,449.0	43,431.0	43,245.0	100
Durum Wheat	450.0	360.0	530.0	147	3,805.0	4,035.0	3,610.0	89
Other Spring Wheat	3,800.0	4,150.0	3,700.0	89	15,567.0	15,348.0	14,809.0	96
Barley	1,350.0	1,300.0	1,200.0	92	6,337.0	5,223.0	5,733.0	110
Oats	140.0	170.0	130.0	76	4,892.0	4,670.0	4,351.0	93
Corn	60.0	65.0	75.0	115	80,165.0	77,431.0	77,881.0	101
Sugar Beets	64.0	61.8	61.0	99	1,497.8	1,562.7	1,577.5	101
Dry Beans	16.6	26.5	29	109	2,014.1	2,023.0	1,836.7	91
All Hay Harvested	2,500.0	2,600.0	2,500.0	96	60,076.0	63,160.0	63,052.0	100

March 1, 2000 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on March 1, 2000 totaled 108.7 million bushels, up 2 percent from March 1, 1999. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 88.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 20.7 million bushels stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 84.4 million bushels, were up 18 percent from last year and accounted for 78 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 24.3 million bushels, down from 35.8 million bushels last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 9.1 million bushels, up 10 percent from last year. All wheat disappearance for the December 1999 - February 2000 quarter was 53.1 million bushels, compared with 53.5 million for the same quarter last year. Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 22.05 million bushels, down 15 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.25 million bushels, up 20 percent from last year.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 1.41 billion bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 423 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 989 million bushels, are up 1 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 1999 - February 2000 quarter disappearance is 473 million bushels, up 6 percent from the same period in 1999. Durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 81.4 million bushels, down 8 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks at 51.7 million bushels, are down 11 percent from 1999. Off-farm stocks totaled 29.7 million bushels, down 2 percent from a year ago. The indicated December 1999 - February 2000 quarter disappearance of 28.6 million bushels is up 43 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2000 are estimated at 170.2 million bushels, 15 percent below last year. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 59.3 million bushels are stored on farms, 32 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 110.9 million bushels, are only 2 percent below 1999. Indicated disappearance during the December 1999 - February 2000 quarter totaled 71 million bushels, 8 percent lower than the same period a year earlier. Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 101 million bushels, 10 percent below the stocks on March 1, 1999. Of the total stocks on hand, 52.9 million bushels were stored on farm, 14 percent above this time last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 48.5 million bushels, 5 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during the December 1999-February 2000 quarter totaled 34.5 million bushels, 12 percent more than the same period a year ago.

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 5.61 billion bushels, down 2 percent from March 1, 1999. Of the total stocks, 3.30 billion bushels were stored on farms, down 8 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 2.31 billion bushels, were up 9 percent from a year ago. The December 1999 - February 2000 quarter indicated disappearance is 2.42 billion bushels, 3 percent above the disappearance of 2.36 billion bushels during the same period a year earlier.

March 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000	'00/'99	Mar. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	86,000	139,000	88,000	102%	471,220	648,800	423,180
Off Farms 1/	21,000	22,760	20,700	99%	979,191	1,236,811	989,201
TOTAL	107,000	161,760	108,700	102%	1,450,411	1,885,611	1,412,381
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	27,000	31,500	17,500	65%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	8,750	7,440	6,820	78%	--	--	--
TOTAL	35,750	38,940	24,320	68%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	59,000	107,500	70,500	119%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	12,250	15,320	13,880	113%	--	--	--
TOTAL	71,250	122,820	84,380	118%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	58,200	74,500	51,700
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	30,372	35,449	29,680
TOTAL	8,250	12,600	9,070	110%	88,572	109,949	81,380
BARLEY							
On Farms	19,000	32,000	13,000	68%	86,900	109,500	59,300
Off Farms 1/	6,900	8,710	9,050	131%	113,808	119,721	110,883
TOTAL	25,900	40,710	22,050	85%	200,708	229,221	170,183
OATS							
On Farms	1,700	2,700	2,000	118%	61,700	82,100	52,900
Off Farms 1/	180	185	250	139%	50,850	53,872	48,523
TOTAL	1,880	2,885	2,250	120%	112,550	135,972	101,423
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,570,000	5,180,000	3,300,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,128,428	2,844,701	2,305,529
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	5,698,428	8,024,701	5,605,529

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Agricultural Prices Received for February

Crop prices for the full month of February 2000 were mixed compared with January 2000 prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.67 per bushel, up 4 cents from January's level; durum wheat was $3.84 per bushel, up 11 cents; spring wheat was 1 cent lower at $2.89 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.58 and malt barley was $2.71 per bushel.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay was $65.00 per ton, down $2.00 from last month. Other hay, at $53.00 per ton, was down $4.00 from February's mid-month price. The mid-March winter wheat price averaged $2.60 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.90, feed barley was $1.60, and malt barley averaged $2.70.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mostly higher. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.50 to $85.40 per cwt. Cows were up $1.30 to $36.80 and the average price for calves was up $2.00 to $105.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $6.30 to $39.60 per cwt, and lamb prices were unchanged at $80.00 per cwt. Milk prices were up 50 cents from last month at $12.30 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $85.60 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was $2.37, up 5 cents; spring wheat was $2.82, up 2 cents; the all barley price was $2.13, up 8 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $71.20, down 40 cents.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was $2.37 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.85 per bushel, all wheat was $2.57 per bushel, and all barley was $2.14. Steer and heifer prices were $72.80 per cwt, cow prices were $38.60, all hog prices were $41.30 per cwt, and all egg prices were 57.4 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 96 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.3 percent) from the February index. Higher prices for cattle, lettuce, broilers, and broccoli more than offset price decreases for eggs, strawberries, celery, and apples. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, strawberries, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges. These marketing changes accounted for one point of the March index increase. Compared with March 1999, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Price decreases from March 1999 for milk, oranges, eggs, and rice offset price increases for hogs, cattle, calves, and lettuce.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	February 1999	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000
Prices Received	96	96	92	96
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	115	115	119	120
Ratio 2/	83	83	77	80

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Feb 2000	Jan 2000	Feb 1999	Mar 15, 2000	Mar 15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.91	2.63	2.67	2.37	+0.04	-0.24	2.60	2.37
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.11	3.73	3.84	2.89	+0.11	+0.73	3.70	2.84
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.26	2.90	2.89	2.82	-0.01	-0.37	2.90	2.85
All Wheat	Bu.	3.07	2.87	2.89	2.54	+0.02	-0.18	2.87	2.57
Barley, All	Bu.	2.26	2.29	2.33	2.13	+0.04	+0.07	2.32	2.14
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.44	1.60	1.58	1.68	-0.02	+0.14	1.60	1.72
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.80	2.74	2.71	2.42	-0.03	-0.09	2.70	2.45
Oats	Bu.	1.06	1.09	0.97	1.27	-0.12	-0.09	1.00	1.28
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	64.00	66.00	67.00	77.40	+1.00	+3.00	65.00	78.00
All Other Hay	Ton	57.00	57.00	57.00	66.70	0	0	53.00	66.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	63.00	65.00	66.00	72.60	+1.00	+3.00	64.00	74.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	76.40	86.90	85.40	71.20	-1.50	+9.00	85.60	72.80
Cows	Cwt	36.20	35.50	36.80	37.10	+1.30	+0.60	40.50	38.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	68.80	76.50	77.10	67.60	+0.50	+8.30	79.70	69.30
Calves	Cwt	85.70	103.00	105.00	105.00	+2.00	+19.30	104.00	107.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	31.10	33.30	39.60	39.50	+6.30	+8.50	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	69.10	80.00	80.00	72.00	0	+10.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	17.50	11.80	12.30	11.80	+0.50	-5.20	12.40	11.80

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996

Prospective Plantings (continued)

If farmers' intentions are realized, this would be the lowest planted acres recorded since 1866, breaking the previous record low of 4.64 million acres set in 1996. Acres intended to be harvested for grain would be the second lowest on record, slightly above last year's record low 2.45 million acres.

Dry bean growers intend to plant 1.84 million acres of dry beans in 2000, down 9 percent from both last year and two years ago. **Corn** growers nationally intend to plant 77.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2000, up 1 percent from 1999, but down 3 percent from 1998. Expected acreage is down in Nebraska, the Great Lakes region, and mid-Atlantic States due mostly to dry conditions. Intended acreage is up in the central Corn Belt, Northern Plains, Southeast, and West. The area planted to **sugar beets** is expected to total 1.58 million acres, 1 percent above the 1999 crop year. If growers' intentions are realized, planted acres will increase in 6 of the 12 sugar beet producing States.

Hay producers expect to harvest 63.1 million acres of hay in 2000, down less than 1 percent from the 63.2 million acres harvested the previous year. Acreage reductions are expected in 15 states, while growers in 9 states intend to harvest the same number of acres as 1999. The States with increased expectations are mostly in the East where last year's dry conditions reduced hay stocks. In New York the acres of all hay harvested is expected to increase by 300,000 acres, or 20 percent. South Carolina is expecting a 30,000 acre increase, or 10 percent. All other States are within less than 10 percent of 1999 harvested acres.

Montana Wheat and Barley Stocks: In All Positions By Districts 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 2000
Northwest	1.4	1.8	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.4
North Central	41.7	59.9	38.4	13.5	23.9	11.3
Northeast	35.1	57.7	41.3	1.8	1.8	1.5
Central	16.8	23.1	16.3	5.5	6.4	3.9
Southwest	1.5	3.4	3.3	0.8	2.8	1.9
South Central	6.7	8.5	3.8	2.8	3.9	2.6
Southeast	3.8	7.4	4.7	0.7	0.7	0.5
STATE	107.0	161.8	108.7	25.9	40.7	22.1

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Monatana's Rank
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Special Crops County Estimates
- Red Meat Production
- Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farms and Land in Farms
Honey Production
Wheat & Barley Movement
All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received

Farm Numbers Continue Gradual Upward Trend

The number of farms and ranches in Montana increased to 28,000 during 1999, 500 more than a year earlier mostly because of the rise in numbers of smaller farms. The Montana 1999 and 1998 farm and ranch numbers were sub-grouped by economic sales classes for the first time. There were 11,500 farms compared with 12,000 in 1998 in the economic sales class of $1,000 - $9,999; 10,700 farms in 1999 up from 10,000 last year in the economic sales class of $10,000 - $99,999 and 5,800 farms this year in the economic sales class of $100,000 or more compared with 5,500 in 1998. The land in farms and ranches is estimated at 57.0 million acres, down .5 million from 1998. The economic sales breakdown of land in farm and ranches follows: $1,000 - $9,999, 4.1 million acres and 4.0 million in 1998; $10,000 - $99,999, 17.0 million acres, up from 16.9 million last year; $100,000 or more - 35.9 million acres, down from 36.6 million acres in 1998.

U.S. 1999 farm numbers are estimated at 2.19 million, up fractionally from 1998. The increase in farm numbers can be attributed to the continued rise in the number of small farms. Total land in farms, at 947.3 million acres, was down 0.7% or 6.2 million acres from last year. This decline in land in farms continues the historical trend of less land in farms. The average farm size decreased 3 acres from 1998 to 432 acres. The U.S. number of farms in the $1,000-$9,999 economic sales class increased 15,690 to 1,196,640 in 1999. Those with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 economic sales class decreased 3,760 from 1998 to 648,550 farms. The $100,000 and over sales class dropped 9,220 farms from 1998 to 348,880 in 1999. The drop in this class is attributed to low commodity prices during 1999. The South Region showed the largest increase in number of farms, up 2,300 or 0.2 percent. The North Central Region was the only region to decline in farm numbers during 1999. This region was down 500 farms or less than 0.1% from 1998. Farm numbers during 1999 increased in 13 states, declined in 13 states, and remained unchanged in 24 states. States with an increase of 1,000 farms were Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, NewYork, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia. States with a decrease of 1,000 farms were Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, and Pennsylvania. Farm and ranch land declined in a total of 26 states while the remaining 24 were unchanged. Texas continues to lead the Nation with 130.5 million acres of land in farms and ranches, down 1 million acres from the previous year.

Montana and United States Honey Production Down

Montana's honey producers with five or more colonies produced 8.54 million pounds of honey in 1999, down 39% from 1998. A substantial drop in honey yields caused the large decrease in production. Honey yields were off 52 pounds per colony from 1998 to average 70 pounds per colony. There were 122,000 colonies producing honey in 1999. Stocks of honey on hand on December 15, 1999 totaled 2.1 million pounds, down 61% from 1998.

Prices for Montana honey averaged 60 cents per pound in 1999, down 4 cents per pound from 1998. The value of honey production in 1999 was 5.1 million dollars, down 43% from the 1998 honey crop of 9.0 million dollars. Montana ranked sixth in the Nation in the number of honey producing colonies and seventh in honey production and value of production in 1999.

U.S. 1999 honey production from producers with five or more colonies totaled 205 million pounds, down 7% from 1998. There were 2.69 million colonies producing honey in 1999, up 2% from 1998. Yield per colony averaged 76.3 pounds, down 7.4 pounds from the 83.7 pounds in 1998. Colonies which produced in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may, therefore, be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 79.4 million pounds on December 15, 1999, down 2% from a year earlier.

U.S. 1999 crop prices averaged 59.9 cents per pound, down 8% from 65.5 cents in 1998. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the State level, prices reflect the portions of honey sold retail, coop and private. Coop and Private prices were lower for all color classes in 1999.

Wheat and Barley Movement

Wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June-November 1999 period, at 71.4 million bushels, was 8% higher than the same period last year. Shipments to eastern destinations totaled 4.1 million bushels, up 146% from the 1.7 million bushels last year. Movement to the west was 63.4 million bushel, up 2% from the 62.1 million bushels a year earlier. Other destinations, mostly to the south, received 3.9 million bushels up 77% from last year. Rail movement amounted to 65.1 million bushels, 91% of total shipments, compared with 92% last year.

Barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, June-November 1999, was 13.4 million bushels, up 38% from the same period last year. Eastern destination shipments totaled 4.8 million bushels up 101% from last year. Shipments to western destinations at 7.1 million bushels up 16% from last year. Shipments to other destinations were up from last year's 1.2 million bushels to 1.5 million bushels this year. Barley hauled by rail was 89% of total movement up from 85% for the same period last year.

See table on back page.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1999

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Pro-duction Bu.
					Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	24,200	24,100	23,700	57.2	1,356,000	27	11,500	11,200	66.0	739,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	15,900	15,900	14,900	44.6	664,000	38	9,400	9,000	55.9	503,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	1,000	1,000	1,000	53.0	53,000	51	--	--	--	--
Missoula	3,200	3,100	2,800	45.7	128,000	46	1,000	900	60.0	54,000
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	1,700	1,700	1,700	48.8	83,000	47	500	500	80.0	40,000
Sanders	1,900	1,900	1,700	34.7	59,000	49	500	500	60.0	30,000
Other	700	700	700	54.3	38,000	--	900	900	57.8	52,000
NORTHWEST	**48,600**	**48,400**	**46,500**	**51.2**	**2,381,000**	**--**	**23,800**	**23,000**	**61.7**	**1,418,000**
Blaine	196,900	196,200	191,700	33.3	6,386,000	7	6,000	5,900	60.3	356,000
Chouteau	591,200	576,700	560,800	29.7	16,642,000	1	3,200	3,200	60.0	192,000
Glacier	103,800	103,500	100,100	24.8	2,481,000	22	2,700	2,700	55.6	150,000
Hill	505,700	502,200	485,200	27.4	13,295,000	2	--	--	--	--
Liberty	252,500	249,500	241,100	19.7	4,760,000	14	900	900	52.2	47,000
Phillips	134,100	134,100	125,700	31.3	3,931,000	17	3,200	3,200	56.6	181,000
Pondera	152,300	149,500	142,300	28.8	4,095,000	15	11,500	10,800	55.7	602,000
Teton	144,500	141,500	136,200	29.7	4,050,000	16	7,700	7,600	65.0	494,000
Toole	212,700	212,700	207,500	23.3	4,840,000	13	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	800	700	58.6	41,000
NORTH CENTRAL	**2,293,700**	**2,265,900**	**2,190,600**	**27.6**	**60,480,000**	**--**	**36,000**	**35,000**	**58.9**	**2,063,000**
Daniels	268,000	268,000	261,500	26.1	6,837,000	6	3,000	3,000	60.0	180,000
Dawson	171,600	171,600	166,400	30.7	5,105,000	10	2,400	2,300	71.7	165,000
Garfield	117,300	117,000	110,000	28.3	3,111,000	19	--	--	--	--
McCone	220,000	219,500	215,300	29.7	6,385,000	8	2,700	2,600	54.2	141,000
Richland	175,400	175,200	166,600	29.9	4,982,000	12	16,000	15,600	62.4	973,000
Roosevelt	351,400	351,400	335,200	27.5	9,209,000	4	4,300	4,100	48.8	200,000
Sheridan	329,500	329,500	324,300	29.2	9,461,000	3	--	--	--	--
Valley	306,600	306,600	292,100	26.0	7,597,000	5	13,700	13,200	40.6	536,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,400	1,400	66.4	93,000
NORTHEAST	**1,939,800**	**1,938,800**	**1,871,400**	**28.2**	**52,687,000**	**--**	**43,500**	**42,200**	**54.2**	**2,288,000**
Broadwater	45,300	45,300	44,400	45.1	2,004,000	24	18,800	18,500	76.2	1,410,000
Cascade	149,600	147,900	143,900	35.4	5,101,000	11	3,600	3,200	55.0	176,000
Fergus	195,800	194,400	185,600	29.8	5,526,000	9	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	41,500	40,700	39,500	23.6	934,000	31	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	75,600	75,200	72,300	30.4	2,200,000	23	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	14,100	14,100	13,900	28.2	392,000	41	3,000	3,000	56.7	170,000
Meagher	8,800	8,800	8,500	35.1	298,000	43	900	900	61.1	55,000
Musselshell	34,300	34,100	32,000	26.1	834,000	35	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	20,000	20,000	19,600	29.1	571,000	39	800	800	40.0	32,000
Wheatland	49,500	49,500	44,600	19.8	881,000	32	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,200	1,200	53.3	64,000
CENTRAL	**634,500**	**630,000**	**604,300**	**31.0**	**18,741,000**	**--**	**28,300**	**27,600**	**69.1**	**1,907,000**
Beaverhead	12,300	12,300	12,100	69.1	836,000	34	7,800	7,800	83.2	649,000
Gallatin	46,100	46,100	44,700	57.3	2,561,000	20	15,500	15,400	80.7	1,243,000
Jefferson	2,100	2,100	2,100	27.1	57,000	50	--	--	--	--
Madison	9,100	9,100	9,000	48.2	434,000	40	5,000	4,900	65.3	320,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	200	200	55.0	11,000
SOUTHWEST	**69,600**	**69,600**	**67,900**	**57.3**	**3,888,000**	**--**	**28,500**	**28,300**	**78.6**	**2,223,000**
Big Horn	111,900	111,500	108,600	31.4	3,411,000	18	8,900	8,700	70.9	617,000
Carbon	9,600	9,600	9,200	34.7	319,000	42	900	900	71.1	64,000
Park	7,400	7,400	7,200	31.5	227,000	45	1,000	1,000	66.0	66,000
Stillwater	43,000	42,800	38,500	22.0	847,000	33	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	3,300	3,300	3,000	23.3	70,000	48	--	--	--	--
Treasure	5,100	5,100	5,100	56.9	290,000	44	2,400	2,400	84.6	203,000
Yellowstone	98,200	97,500	89,500	28.3	2,529,000	21	2,800	2,700	67.8	183,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	500	500	60.0	30,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	**278,500**	**277,200**	**261,100**	**29.5**	**7,693,000**	**--**	**16,500**	**16,200**	**71.8**	**1,163,000**
Carter	52,000	52,000	45,100	28.6	1,290,000	28	--	--	--	--
Custer	29,600	29,600	27,900	29.3	818,000	36	--	--	--	--
Fallon	54,500	54,500	52,600	29.2	1,538,000	26	--	--	--	--
Powder River	26,900	26,800	25,000	30.1	753,000	37	--	--	--	--
Prairie	33,200	32,900	32,100	32.8	1,054,000	30	2,300	2,300	83.9	193,000
Rosebud	56,600	56,600	54,100	35.6	1,925,000	25	2,700	2,400	67.9	163,000
Wibaux	42,500	42,500	41,400	25.7	1,062,000	29	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	900	900	70.0	63,000
SOUTHEAST	**295,300**	**294,900**	**278,200**	**30.3**	**8,440,000**	**--**	**5,900**	**5,600**	**74.8**	**419,000**
MONTANA	**5,560,000**	**5,524,800**	**5,320,000**	**29.0**	**154,310,000**	**--**	**182,500**	**177,900**	**64.5**	**11,481,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat.

Agricultural Prices Received for January

Crop prices for the full month of January 2000 were mixed compared with December 1999 prices, according to Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.63 per bushel, unchanged from December's level; durum wheat was $3.73 per bushel, up 3 cents; spring wheat was 10 cents lower at $2.90 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.60 and malt barley was $2.74 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay was $67.00 per ton, up $1.00 from last month. Other hay, at $57.00 per ton, was unchanged from January's mid-month price. The mid-February winter wheat price averaged $2.60 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.90, feed barley was $1.50, and malt barley averaged $2.70.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mostly higher. Steer and heifer prices increased 70 cents to $86.90 per cwt. Cows were up 50 cents to $35.50 and the average price for calves was up $7.20 to $103.00 per cwt. Sheep prices increased 50 cents to $33.30 per cwt, and lamb prices decreased $6.50 to $80.00 per cwt. Milk prices were down 90 cents from last month at $11.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $86.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was $2.32, up 5 cents; spring wheat was $2.80, down 7 cents; the all barley price was $2.05, down 19 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $71.60, up 80 cents.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was $2.42 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.81 per bushel, all wheat was $2.58 per bushel, and all barley was $2.14. Steer and heifer prices were $70.80 per cwt, cow prices were $37.00, all hog prices were $39.60 per cwt, and all egg prices were 68.6 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 92 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.2 percent) from the January index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs more than offset the relatively lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton. These marketing changes accounted for most of the February index increase. Higher prices for hogs, eggs, corn, and soybeans offset price decreases for lettuce, broilers, milk, and apples.

Compared with February 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (4.2 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1999 for milk, lettuce, oranges, and cotton more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, calves, and apples.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000	Feb. 2000
Prices Received	97	96	90	92
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	115	115	118	119
Ratio 2/	84	83	76	77

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 1999	Dec. 1999	Jan. 2000	Jan. 2000	Dec. 1999	Jan. 1998	Feb. 15, 2000	Feb. 15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.87	2.63	2.63	2.32	n/c	-0.24	2.60	2.42
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.13	3.70	3.73	2.89	+0.03	+0.60	3.60	2.98
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.25	3.00	2.90	2.80	-0.10	-0.35	2.90	2.81
All Wheat	Bu.	3.13	2.98	2.87	2.50	-0.11	-0.26	2.85	2.58
Barley, All	Bu.	2.26	2.45	2.29	2.05	-0.16	+0.03	2.34	2.14
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.51	1.56	1.60	1.64	+0.04	+0.09	1.50	1.73
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.78	2.70	2.74	2.41	+0.04	-0.04	2.70	2.48
Oats	Bu.	1.24	0.98	1.09	1.20	+0.11	-0.15	1.10	1.27
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	65.00	66.00	74.10	+1.00	-4.00	67.00	77.40
All Other Hay	Ton	58.00	57.00	57.00	65.90	n/c	-1.00	57.00	66.70
All Hay Baled	Ton	69.00	64.00	65.00	71.80	+1.00	-4.00	66.00	72.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	74.50	86.20	86.90	71.60	+0.70	+12.40	86.10	70.80
Cows	Cwt	33.90	35.00	35.50	35.90	+0.50	+1.60	36.00	37.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	65.20	69.30	76.60	67.80	+7.30	+11.40	77.60	67.50
Calves	Cwt	83.90	95.80	103.00	102.00	+7.20	+19.10	104.00	105.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	29.40	32.80	33.30	36.80	+0.50	+3.90	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	73.10	86.50	80.00	70.90	-6.50	+6.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	16.60	12.70	11.80	12.00	-0.90	-4.80	12.60	11.80

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Montana Wheat and Barley: Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination 1/

Shipments Out-of-State	June - November 1998[1]				June - November 1999[1]			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	(000) Bushels							
West 3/	825	3,041	3,866	2,232	426	2,219	2,645	2,907
North Central	9,331	21,150	30,481	5,829	5,949	22,395	28,344	8,820
Northeast	330	17,766	18,096	161	150	24,950	25,100	328
Central	4,134	2,707	6,841	1,151	2,581	2,540	5,121	1,247
South Central	3,279	2,020	5,299	281	6,018	2,799	8,817	58
Southeast	231	1,123	1,354	10	423	1,028	1,451	0
Total Shipped	18,130	47,807	65,937	9,664	15,547	55,931	71,478	13,360
Mode & Destination	(000) Bushels							
Trucked East	1	386	387	59	0	300	300	317
Trucked West	1,514	2,790	4,304	880	2,664	2,150	4,814	1,027
Trucked Other[4]	126	538	664	538	149	1,100	1,249	162
Total by Truck	1,641	3,714	5,355	1,477	2,813	3,550	6,363	1,506
Rail East	0	1,288	1,288	2,323	18	3,810	3,828	4,485
Rail West	16,470	41,305	57,775	5,226	12,706	45,962	58,668	6,059
Rail Other[4]	19	1,500	1,519	638	10	2,609	2,619	1,310
Total Rail	16,489	44,093	60,582	8,187	12,734	52,381	65,115	11,854
Total Grain Shipped	18,130	47,807	65,937	9,664	15,547	55,931	71,478	13,360

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest agricultural statistics districts were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Sheep & Lamb Losses
- Annual Slaughter
- Potato Stocks
- Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Egg Production
- Ag Land Values
- Red Meat Production
- Hogs and Pigs

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Red Meat Production
February Red Meat Production
Ag Land Values
Potato Stocks
Egg Production
Cattle On Feed
Milk Production
Sheep And Lamb Losses
Hogs And Pigs

1999 Montana Red Meat Production Up and U.S. Sets Record Highs

Montana slaughter plants produced 22.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 1999, compared with 19.4 million pounds in 1998. There were 24,500 cattle slaughtered during 1999, up 12% from the previous year. The total live weight of 27.2 million pounds was up 10% from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 20 pounds to 1,108 pounds.

There were 31,800 hogs slaughtered in Montana, an increase of 3,700 head from 1998. Total live weight of 7.8 million pounds was up 28% from 1998. The average live weight was 244 pounds per head compared with 218 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,500 head, an increase of 300 head from a year earlier. The average live weight of 128 pounds was 2 pounds lighter than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1999 increased 35,000 pounds from 1998 to 446,000 pounds.

On January 1, 2000 there were 12 Montana federally inspected slaughter plants, down 1 from 1999. There were 144 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2000, up 11 from the same date a year ago.

United States red meat production in commercial plants and on farms totaled 46.3 billion pounds in 1999. This was 2% higher than the previous record high set in 1998. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 46.1 billion pounds. Beef production, at 26.5 billion pounds, was up 3% from a year earlier and 2% higher than the previous record high set in 1976. Veal production totaled 233 million pounds, down 11% from the previous record low set last year. Pork production, at 19.3 billion pounds, eclipsed the previous record high set a year earlier by 2%. Lamb and mutton production totaled 247 million pounds, falling 2% below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1999 totaled 36.1 million head, up 2% from 1998, with federal inspection comprising 98.2% of the total. The average live weight was 1,210 pounds, up 7 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.6% of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.8%, dairy cows 7.3%, other cows 8.5%, and bulls 1.8%. Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.28 million head, down 12% from a year ago with 97.6% under federal inspection. The average live weight was 291 pounds, up 6 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 101.5 million head, up 1% from 1998 with 98.2% of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from last year, at 259 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.3% of the total federally inspected slaughter. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 3.70 million head, was down 3% from 1998 with 96.1% comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight rose 1 pound from 1998 to 133 pounds.

There were 909 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2000, compared with 931 last year. Of these, 759 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 1999 with 15 slaughtering over 55% of the total cattle killed. There were 728 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 12 accounting for over 50% of the total. Likewise, 9 of the 327 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for over 55% of the total and 2 of the 561 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 1999 comprised nearly 40% of the total head.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February, 2000, down 18% from February 1999 and down 13% from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,800 head, 100 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,126 pounds, was up 8 pounds from last year.

During February, there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered, 1,700 less that a year ago. The average live weight, at 252 pounds was 23 pounds higher than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head was the same as the previous year. The average live weight increased a pound from last February to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in February, up 7% from the previous record high for February of 3.54 billion pounds produced in 1999. Beef production, at 2.17 billion pounds, was 9% above the previous year and 6% higher than the previous record high for February set in 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, up 8% from 1999. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 18.0 million pounds, 6% above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 95 thousand head, down 5% from February 1999. The average live weight was 32 pounds above last year, at 318 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.55 billion pounds, up 4% from the previous record high for February set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.07 million head, 2% above 1999. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 261 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was equal to the previous record low for February set a year ago. Sheep slaughter totaled 293 thousand head, 2% below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January - February red meat production was 7.5 billion pounds, 2% higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 4% higher than last year, veal was 2% higher, pork was unchanged, and lamb & mutton was up 3%.

Montana and U.S. Farm Real Estate Values Up

The average value of farm real estate in Montana on January 1, 2000 was $300 per acre, up $4.00 from 1999. The average value of cropland dropped $3.00 to $458 per acre, compared with a year ago. The average value of irrigated cropland came in at $1,320, $10.00 more than a year ago while non-irrigated cropland fell $5.00 per acre to $335 per acre on January 1, 2000. Pasture average value per acre increased $5.00 to $205 per acre. Montana farm real estate values have been steadily increasing over the past five years.

U.S. farm real estate values, including all land and buildings, averaged $1,050 per acre on January 1, 2000, up 2.9% from January 1, 1999. The $30 per acre increase in farm real estate value during 1999 continued the climb that began in 1987. However, the 2.9% increase is the smallest percentage gain since 1992. The overall increase was slowed by cropland values which rose only 2.1% during 1999. Cropland values had been increasing recently by more than 5% a year.

The average value of cropland in the U.S. rose 2.1% to a value of $1,440 per acre. The largest percentage increases, at 7.6% and 7.5%, were in the Southeast and Lake Regions, respectively. While in the Corn Belt, cropland values began to show the impact of low commodity prices by decreasing 1.0%. Cropland values were highest in the Pacific region at $3,460 per acre and lowest in the Northern Plains at $668 per acre. Cropland values varied widely across States.

Pasture average value per acre for the U.S. increased 2.8%, to $517 per acre. The Mountain and Southern Plains accounting for half of the pastureland in the U.S. both showed increases close to 2%. Pasture values were highest in the Northeast Region, at $2,090 per acre, and lowest in the Northern Plains Region at $230 per acre.

Montana March Potato Stocks Up 2 Percent, U.S. Down 2 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.70 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, up 2% from a year ago. The stocks represent 81% of the 1999 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 83% of the 1998 total production.

Nationally, March 1, 2000 potato stocks totaled 170 million cwt, down 2% from a year ago and 3% below two years ago. Storage accounted for 40% of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago.

U.S. disappearance from the start of harvest to March 1 totaled 251 million cwt this season, up slightly from last year and 5% above two years ago. February disappearance of 35.7 million cwt was 1% below last year and down 3% from two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss of 25.7 million cwt was up 1% from last year and 20% above two years ago.

Processing of 1999 potato crop so far this season totaled 126 million cwt, down 2% from the 1998 crop but 6% above the 1997 crop. In February, processors used 19.6 million cwt of potatoes, up 1% from the last two years.

Western States held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2000, up 1% from last year but 2% below 1998. Oregon's stocks were up 22% from a year ago, but were mostly offset by a 5% decline in Washington and a 2% dip in Idaho. Stocks in the three Northwest States were up less than 1% from last year and accounted for 64% of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 8% and Montana's were up 2%. California's potato stocks were up 13% from last year.

U.S. February Egg Production Up 6 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.66 billion during February 2000, up 6% from the 6.28 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.63 billion table eggs and 1.03 billion hatching eggs, of which 969 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2000 averaged 330 million, up 2% from the total average number of layers during February 1999. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,019 eggs, up 4% from 1,946 eggs in February 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2000, totaled 331 million, up 2% from a year ago. The 331 million layers consisted of 271 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.71 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2000, averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 69.6 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.26 billion eggs during February, up 5% from February 1999. The average number of layers during February, at 310 million, was up 2% from a year earlier.

U.S. Cattle On Feed Up 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States with feedlot capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.33 million head on March 1, 2000. The inventory was up 9% from the 10.42 million head on March 1, 1999 and 9% above March 1, 1998.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.88 million, 4% above 1999 and 26% above 1998. Net placements were 1.80 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 351,000, 600-699 pounds were 476,000, 700-799 pounds were 596,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 457,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 2.05 million, 12% above 1999 and 11% above 1998.

Other disappearance totaled 78,000 during February, 20% above 1999 and 13% above 1998.

U.S. February Milk Production Up 8.2 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.7 billion pounds, up 8.2% from production in these same States in February 1999. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be up 4.5% on a per day basis. January revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds was up 4.9 % from January 1999. The January revision represented an increase of 0.2% or 24 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,505 pounds for February, 101 pounds above February 1999 without adjusting for the extra day. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 72,000 head more than February 1999 and 3,000 head more than January 2000.

1999 Montana Sheep and Lamb Losses

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 64,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 1999, representing a total value of more than $3.7 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost dropped 4 percent from 1998 but the total value of inventory lost in 1999 increased 1 percent. Decreased losses are partially due to total sheep and lamb inventory dropping 8 percent from the previous year. Higher average market prices this past year resulted in the increased value of sheep and lambs losses. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 8.6 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born -- slightly more than the previous year.

Predators caused an estimated $1.1 million in losses in 1999, down slightly from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.7 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 32 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 74 percent of the predator caused losses and 24 percent of all death losses in the state. The number of sheep and lambs lost to coyotes was 15,100 head, up 200 head from 1998. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $0.8 million. The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 20,300 head, down 1,500 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 16,500 head, down 7 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 3,800, down 300 head from a year ago.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.2 million in 1999, slightly less than the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 58 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses were diseases at 12,400 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 12,000 head, 13 percent lower than 1998. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 24,800 head, 100 head lower than a year ago.

More producers reported sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes. There was a 6 percent increase in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes from the previous year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 4,700 head, 300 head higher than 1998. Unknown causes claimed 2,200 sheep, 100 more head than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes rose to $0.4 million.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Losses by Cause, Montana, 1998-1999

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Predators												
Fox	100	–	7.9	–	1,900	1,200	83.9	55.3	2,000	1,200	91.8	55.3
Dog	500	300	39.5	26.4	700	300	30.9	13.8	1,200	600	70.4	40.2
Coyote	2,900	2,800	229.1	246.4	12,000	12,300	529.9	566.8	14,900	15,100	759.0	813.2
Eagle	100	100	7.9	8.8	1,900	1,600	83.9	73.7	2,000	1,700	91.8	82.5
Bobcat	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bear	100	200	7.9	17.6	200	200	8.8	9.2	300	400	16.7	26.8
Mountain Lion	400	200	31.6	17.6	200	200	8.8	9.2	600	400	40.4	26.8
Other Animals	–	–	–	–	100	–	4.4	–	100	–	4.4	–
Unknown Predators	–	200	–	17.6	700	700	30.9	32.3	700	900	30.9	49.9
Total Predators	**4,100**	**3,800**	**323.9**	**334.4**	**17,700**	**16,500**	**781.6**	**760.3**	**21,800**	**20,300**	**1,105.5**	**1,094.7**
Non-Predators												
Digestive	4/	700	4/	61.6	4/	2,700	4/	124.4	4/	3,400	4/	186.0
Respiratory	4/	800	4/	70.4	4/	4,200	4/	193.5	4/	5,000	4/	263.9
Metabolic	4/	700	4/	61.6	4/	800	4/	36.9	4/	1,500	4/	98.5
Other Diseases	4/	900	4/	79.2	4/	1,600	4/	73.7	4/	2,500	4/	152.9
Total All Diseases	**3,000**	**3,100**	**237.0**	**272.8**	**6,300**	**9,300**	**278.2**	**428.5**	**9,300**	**12,400**	**515.2**	**701.3**
Weather Conditions	2,000	1,000	158.0	88.0	8,000	7,600	353.3	350.2	10,000	8,600	511.3	438.2
Poison	1,000	1,000	79.0	88.0	800	500	35.3	23.0	1,800	1,500	114.3	111.0
Lambing Complications	1,400	1,300	110.6	114.4	8,000	5,600	353.3	258.0	9,400	6,900	463.9	372.4
On Back	1,000	1,000	79.0	88.0	–	–	–	–	1,000	1,000	79.0	88.0
Old Age	4,900	3,900	387.1	343.2					4,900	3,900	387.1	343.2
Theft	300	600	23.7	52.8	400	600	17.7	27.6	700	1,200	41.4	80.4
Other	200	100	15.8	8.8	1,400	1,200	61.8	55.3	1,600	1,300	77.6	64.1
Total Non-Predators	**13,800**	**12,000**	**1,090.2**	**1,056.0**	**24,900**	**24,800**	**1,099.6**	**1,142.8**	**38,700**	**36,800**	**2,189.8**	**2,198.8**
Unknown Causes	**2,100**	**2,200**	**165.9**	**193.6**	**4,400**	**4,700**	**194.3**	**216.6**	**6,500**	**6,900**	**360.2**	**410.2**
Total Loss	**20,000**	**18,000**	**1,580.0**	**1,584.0**	**47,000**	**46,000**	**2,075.5**	**2,119.7**	**67,000**	**64,000**	**3,655.5**	**3,703.7**

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 4/ Not available. – Denotes less than 100 head.

U.S. March 1 Hog Inventory Down 3 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2000, was 58.1 million head, down 3 percent from March 1999, and 2 percent below December 1, 1999.

Breeding inventory, at 6.22 million head, was down 5 percent from March 1, 1999, and down slightly from December 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 51.9 million head, was 3 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter.

The December1999-February 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 24.8 million head, was 2 percent less than 1999, and 3 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to 8.79 pigs saved per litter for the December-February period, compared to 8.73 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the March-May 2000 quarter, 4 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 7 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for June-August 2000, at 2.85 million sows, are 2 percent below the same period last year and 7 percent below 1998.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 31 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 30 percent last year.

The year-to-year relationships for December-February pig crop and sows farrowing was affected by an extra day in February 2000 due to leap year. This extra day increased the percent change from the previous year. For example, adjusting the pig crop to an average daily basis for the United States would indicate a December-February pig crop 3 percent below 1999.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Grain Stocks
Prospective Plantings

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1999 Crop Values
US and Canadian Cattle Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Alfalfa Seed Production
Private Grazing Fee Rates
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Farm Labor
Egg Production
Red Meat Production

1999 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 1999 all wheat crop fell 4% from 1998 to $492.8 million. Total production was down ten%, but the season average price increased 17 cents per bushel. The 1999 season average price for all wheat was $3.20 per bushel compared with $3.03 last season.

The estimated value of Montana's winter wheat crop fell 20% from the last year to $108.7 million. The preliminary season average price was up 15 cents to $2.95, but with 1999 production being the smallest since 1985 the overall crop value was reduced. Spring wheat's value of production was estimated at $351.0 million, up 4% from 1998. The season average price increased 12 cents to $3.25. Production for each of the last two years was 108.0 million bushels. Durum wheat's season average price increased 27 cents from 1998 to $3.50, but the total crop value of $33.1 million was down 15% from 1998 because production decreased 22% in 1999.

Total value of production for barley was estimated at $123.6 million, down 5% from the previous year. The 1999 season average price, at $2.15, was down 12 cents from 1998. Lower production in 1999 and lower average price resulted in the lower production value.

The season average price for all hay decreased $7.50 from last year to $64.50 per ton. Slightly higher production and the lower price reduced the value of production 10% to $317.6 million. Alfalfa hay's 1999 season average price was estimated at $65.50, down $7.50 from last year while other hay's season average price decreased $6.50 to $56.00.

Canadian & US January Cattle Inventory Down 1%

This release is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U. S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U. S. inventory numbers were previously released on January 28, 2000.

All cattle and calves in the **U. S. and Canada combined** totaled 110.7 million head on January 1, 2000, 1% below a year earlier. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 48.0 million head, were slightly below the 48.2 million head on January 1, 1999. The combined calf crop was 43.9 million, down slightly from 44.1 a year earlier.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2000, totaled 98.0 million head, 1% below the 99.1 million head on January 1, 1999 and 2% below the 99.7 million head two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.7 million head, were slightly below the 42.9 million head on January 1, 1999 and 1% below the 43.1 million head two years ago. The U.S. calf crop was 38.7 compared with 38.8 in 1998.

All cattle and calves in **Canada** as of January 1, 2000, totaled 12.7 million head, 2% below the 12.9 million head on January 1, 1999 and 4% below the 13.2 million head two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.3 million head, were 1% below the 5.4 million head on January 1, 1999 and 3% below the 5.5 million head two years ago. The Canadian calf crop was 5.1 compared with 5.2 last year.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 10%

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.58 million head on February 1, 2000. The inventory was 10% above February 1, 1999 and 7% above February 1, 1998.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.23 million, 15% above 1999 and 29% above 1998. Net placements were 2.16 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 494,000, 600-699 pounds were 696,000, 700-799 pounds were 654,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 382,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.05 million, 1% above 1999 and 3% above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during January, 1% below 1999 and 30% below 1998.

Alfalfa Seed Production for 1999

Alfalfa seed production for 1999 was estimated at 5.30 million pounds, up from the 4.95 million pounds produced in 1998. Harvested acreage at 20,000 acres was up from 18,000 acres in 1998. The state average yield was estimated at 265 pounds per acre, down from 275 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 404 pounds per acre, up from 375 pounds per acre in 1998 and non-irrigated yields averaged 95 pounds per acre, down 15 pounds per acre from last year.

Producers used an average of 1.1 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre on all acres harvested for alfalfa seed in 1999, compared with 1.3 gallons per acre in 1998. Leaf cutter bees were used on 71% of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 2.5 gallons per acre and 13% of the reported non-irrigated acres at the rate of 1.8 gallons per acre.

Proprietary varieties made up 85% of this year's production, up 25 points from 1998. Common uncertified varieties accounted for 15% of the production and common certified varieties represented less than 1%.

The average price received for the 1999 crop was $1.20 per pound, up 3 cents from 1998's average price.

See table on next page.

Alfalfa Seed: Estimates by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 1999 1/

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
West*	600	90	54,000	200	170	34,000	400	50	20,000
North Central	2,700	237	639,000	1,400	411	575,000	1,300	49	64,000
Northeast	1,900	227	431,000	1,200	300	360,000	700	101	71,000
Central	1,100	243	267,000	800	315	252,000	300	50	15,000
South Central	7,400	413	3,059,000	5,400	532	2,874,000	2,000	93	185,000
Southeast	6,300	135	850,000	2,000	175	350,000	4,300	116	500,000
Montana	20,000	265	5,300,000	11,000	404	4,445,000	9,000	95	855,000

1/ Funded by the Alfalfa Seed Committee in cooperation with the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Montana Privately-Owned Grazing Rates Increased

The average grazing fees paid by Montana producers for grazing livestock on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land were up for all methods in 1999. The average amount paid for grazing livestock on an AUM (animal unit month) basis was up 60 cents from 1998 to $13.20 per month. Cattle producers paid $15.00 per cow-calf pair in 1999, up 70 cents from the previous year. The average per head rate was $14.00 per month in 1999, up 70 cents from last year.

In the 17 States that estimate grazing fees in the United States, the average charge on an AUM basis was $11.10 per month in 1999, down 30 cents from the previous year. Cow-calf rates averaged $12.80 per month, down 20 cents and per head rates averaged $11.50 per month, down 10 cents from 1998.

All grazing fees are for privately, owned non-irrigated grazing land. Rates charged for public land, irrigated land, and harvested cropland were excluded. The average AUM rate also includes reported AUM rates plus reported cow-calf rates that were converted to an AUM basis. The cow-calf rate was converted to AUM basis using the following formula: (1 AUM=cow-calf *0.833).

Montana February Potato Stocks up 5%, U.S. down 2%

Montana potato producers held 3.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, up 5% from a year ago. The stocks represent 90% of the 1999 total production, the same percentage as last year's stocks.

The 15 major potato states held 206 million cwt, down 2% from a year ago and 3% below two years ago. Storage accounted for 49% of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago. Stocks by type were 1% reds, 10% round whites, 3% long white (Shepodys), and 86% russets, with more russets but fewer reds than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 states from the start of harvest to February 1 totaled 215 million cwt this season, up 1% from last year and 7% above two years ago. January disappearance of 32.4 million cwt was 12% below last year and down 5% from two years ago. Shrink and loss of 23.4 million cwt was down 1% from last year but 21% above two years ago.

Processing of 1999 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 106 million cwt, down 3% from the 1998 crop but 7% above the 1997 crop. In January, processors used 15.6 million cwt of potatoes, down 17% from last year but 1% above two years ago.

Western States held 150 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2000, up 1% from last year but 2% below 1998 Oregon's stocks were up 18% from a year ago, but were mostly offset by a 4% decline in Washington and a 1% dip in Idaho. Colorado's stocks were up 6% and Montana's were up 5%. California's potato stocks were up 10%.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on February 1, 1999-2000 1/

STATE	1998 CROP			1999 CROP		
	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1999	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 2000 1/	% of PROD
	1,000 Cwt.		Pct.	1,000 Cwt.		Pct.
CA	3,708	2,000	54	4,005	2,200	55
CO	25,360	14,200	56	25,762	15,100	59
ID	138,000	77,500	56	133,330	76,500	57
ME	18,060	10,500	58	17,813	11,300	63
MI	14,648	5,400	37	14,963	5,800	39
MN	21,170	10,500	50	18,020	7,100	39
MT	**3,180**	**2,850**	**90**	**3,325**	**3,000**	**90**
NE	8,175	2,900	35	8,904	3,250	37
NY	7,290	1,500	21	6,758	1,500	22
ND	28,670	15,000	52	26,400	10,500	40
OH	1,200	90	8	987	80	8
OR	26,229	15,800	60	28,020	18,600	66
PA	3,360	900	27	3,080	850	28
WA	93,225	36,500	39	95,200	35,000	37
WI	30,895	14,000	45	34,000	15,000	44
15 States	423,170	209,640	50	420,567	205,780	49

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage in 1999 totaled 29.5 million cwt.

1999 Milk Cows, Farms and Production for Montana, U.S.

The inventory of milk cows on Montana farms averaged 18,000 head in 1999, unchanged from a year ago. The average milk production per cow as 16,833 pounds, up 4 percent from last year. A total of 303 million pounds of milk was produced in 1999, 12 million pounds more then 1998. There were 650 Montana operations with one or more milk cows in 1999, 50 fewer than a year ago.

U.S. milk cows totaled 9.16 million head, down slightly from 1998. The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 1999 was 162.7 billion pounds, 3.4 percent above 1998. This was the third consecutive year of increased milk production and a new record high. Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 17,771 pounds for 1999, 582 pounds above 1998. Average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 20 percent since 1990. There were 111,220 operations with milk cows in the U.S. during 1999, a 5 percent decrease from the previous year.

U.S. January Milk Production Up 4.7 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 4.7 percent from production in these same States in January 1999. December revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds was up 4.0 percent from December 1998.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,576 pounds for January, 58 pounds above January 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 69,000 head more than January 1999 and 6,000 head more than December 1999.

January Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.15 billion during January 2000, up 2 percent from the 6.98 billion produced in 1999. Production included 6.06 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2000 averaged 329 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during January 1999. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up 1 percent from 2,165 eggs in January 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2000 totaled 329 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 329 million layers consisted of 270 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2000, averaged 69.0 eggs per 100 layers, down slighlty from the 69.1 a year ago.

Hired Workers down 3 Percent, Wage Rates up 2 Percent from a Year Ago

There were 836,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 9-15, 2000, down 3 percent from a year ago. There were 666,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 170,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.3 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 6.0 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $8.12 per hour during the January 2000 survey week, up 18 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.32 per hour, up 9 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned $7.64 per hour compared with $7.31 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 18 cents from last year.

Hired farm worker wage rates were above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast I and Corn Belt I regions. The higher wages were generally attributable to higher paid workers retained on the payroll during the winter months in these regions.

Regions showing declines in the hired farm worker wage rates were Mountain II , Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Hawaii. Slight declines in the hired wage rates resulted from additional seasonal workers added to the payrolls in Mountain II; fewer higher paid, full-time workers reported in Appalachian I; and seasonal workers still stripping tobacco in Appalachian II.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., January 10-16, 1999 & January 9-15, 2000 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	8.08	8.12	6.61	7.22	7.20	7.54	7.75	8.51
Northeast II	7.79	7.84	6.13	6.66	6.99	7.42	8.01	8.33
Appalachian I	7.14	7.00	7.47	7.27	7.25	7.12	7.76	7.55
Appalachian II	5.60	6.22	7.39	6.93	6.39	6.44	6.89	6.76
Southeast	6.84	6.93	6.84	6.68	6.84	6.86	7.18	7.41
FL	7.35	7.40	7.00	7.50	7.32	7.41	8.31	8.28
Lake	8.43	8.72	7.33	7.96	7.59	8.11	8.48	8.83
Cornbelt I	8.01	8.51	7.82	8.45	7.89	8.48	8.46	9.32
Cornbelt II	7.36	7.31	7.35	7.87	7.35	7.80	7.86	8.13
Delta	6.99	7.04	6.35	6.52	6.68	6.83	7.20	7.35
Northern Plains	7.83	8.12	7.56	7.90	7.62	7.98	8.10	8.34
Southern Plains	6.49	7.06	6.58	7.10	6.53	7.08	6.93	7.52
Mountain I	7.36	7.55	7.35	7.67	7.35	7.64	7.80	8.19
Mountain II	7.29	7.46	7.36	7.60	7.33	7.56	*8.27	8.09
Mountain III	6.66	6.51	7.06	6.83	6.75	6.57	7.18	7.22
Pacific	7.80	7.79	8.93	8.46	7.96	7.91	8.70	8.78
CA	7.13	7.15	8.40	8.40	7.26	7.28	7.97	8.00
HI 3/	9.38	8.96			9.35	8.90	10.80	10.40
US 4/	7.23	7.32	7.31	7.64	7.25	7.43	7.94	8.12

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data.
4/ Excludes AK. * Revised.

Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2000, down 16 percent from last year, and 13 percent below than last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,900 head was 200 head less than a year ago. The average live weight of 1,128 pounds increased 13 pounds from last year.

There were 2,000 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during January, down 1,600 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 256 pounds, was up 19 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughtered amounted to 300 head, compared with 200 slaughtered last January. The average live weight of 128 pounds was one pounds heavier than last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.78 billion pounds in January 2000, down 1 percent from the 3.83 billion pounds produced last January. January 1999 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. January 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays (including one holiday). Beef production, at 2.18 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, down 1 percent from1999. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,229 pounds. Veal production totaled 17.0 million pounds, 2 percent below January a year ago and equal to the previous record low for January set in 1998. Calf slaughter totaled 93 thousand head, down 12 percent from January1999. The average live weight was 33 pounds above last year, at 311 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.14 million head, 5 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 19.0 million pounds, was up 7 percent from January 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 282 thousand head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 3 pounds from January a year ago.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates
Farms and Land in Farms
Honey Production
Ag Prices Received
Wheat and Barley Movement

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Jan. 1 Cattle & Calves Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Jan. 1 Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Ag prices Received
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production

Montana Jan. 1 Cattle & Calf Inventory Unchanged, US Down

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was 2.6 million head on January 1, 2000, unchanged from a year ago. While the total inventory was unchanged, the mix of cattle and calves in the inventory changed from 1999. The number of other heifers, steers and calves declined, while the number of beef cows, beef cow replacements, and bulls were up from last year.

The number of beef cows that had calved, at 1.582 million head, was up 2% from revised January 1, 1999 figure of 1.552 million head. The number of milk cows in the state remained steady at 18,000 head. Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, were up 12% from the previous year to 380,000 head. Milk heifer replacements were the same as the previous year at 10,000 head. The number of other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more, decreased 20% from last year to 180,000 head. The large decrease in other heifers is attributed to more heifers being marketed during the year and more being retained as beef replacements. Since the number of beef heifer replacements includes beef heifers to calve in 2000 and 2001, producers decisions regarding how many beef heifers will actually be retained and be bred to calve in 2001 may change depending on market conditions during the upcoming year.

The number of steers weighing 500 lbs or more, dropped 6% from 1999 to 230,000 head. Calves weighing less than 500 lbs, at 95,000 head, were down 14% from last year's record low calf inventory of 110,000 head. Improved prices resulted in more steers, heifers, and calves being marketed during the year. Bulls weighing 500 pounds or more increased 5% to 105,000 head. The number of bulls in inventory ties the previous record high inventory set in 1974. The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter were unchanged from 1999 at 70,000 head.

During 1999, 1.570 million calves were born in Montana, up 3% from the revised 1998 calf crop of 1.520 million. The increased number of cows in inventory and favorable weather conditions during calving resulted in the higher calf crop.

The number of Montana operations with one or more head of cattle in the state dropped 500 operations in 1999 to 13,500. The decrease is a result of fewer operations with less than 500 head. The number of beef cow operations with one or more beef cows declined from 1998 to 12,300, while the number of operations with one or more milk cows declined to 650.

In the **U.S.**, the number of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2000, totaled 98.0 million head, 1% below the 99.1 million on January 1, 1999 and 2% below the 99.7 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.7 million, were slightly below the 42.9 million on January 1, 1999 and 1% below the 43.1 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.5 million, were down 1% from both January 1, 1999 and two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.19 million, were up 1% from January 1, 1999 but slightly below two years ago.

Other U.S. class estimates on January 1, 2000, and changes from January 1, 1999 and 1998, respectively, are as follows:
-- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.5 million, down 1% and down 1%.
-- Beef replacement heifers, 5.53 million, down slightly and down 4%.
-- Milk replacement heifers, 3.95 million, down 3% and down 1%.
-- Other heifers, 10.0 million, down 1% and slightly below two years ago.
-- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.7 million, down 1% and down 3%.
-- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.29 million, up 1% and up 1 %.
-- Calves under 500 pounds, 16.8 million, down 3% and down 3%.
-- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 14.0 million, up 6% and up 3%.

The 1999 U.S. calf crop was estimated at 38.7 million head, down slightly from 1998 and down 1% from 1997. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.5 million, the same as 1998 but down slightly from 1997.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 1,095,960 during 1999, down 2% from 1998 and 5% below 1997. Beef cow operations in 1999 were down 1% from 1998 and 3% below 1997. Milk cow operations were 5% below last year and 10% below two years ago.

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January cattle and sheep inventory surveys. Interviewers contacted about 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers in early January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 7%

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the U.S. for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.46 million head on January 1, 2000. The inventory was 7% above January 1, 1999 and 3% above January 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.83 million steers and steer calves, up 6% from the previous year. This group accounted for 60% of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.56 million head, up 10% from January 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.65 million, 9% above 1998 and 6% above 1997. Net placements were 1.56 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 465,000, 600-699 pounds were 498,000, 700-799 pounds were 422,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 261,000. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.84 million, 1% above 1998 and 5% above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during December, 6% above both 1998 and 1997.

Cattle and Calves Inventory January 1, 1998-2000

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1998	1999	2000	'00/'99	UNITED STATES 1998	1999	2000	'00/'99
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,600	2,600	2,600	100%	99,744	99,115	98,048	99%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,560	1,570	1,600	102%	43,084	42,878	42,734	100%
Beef Cows	1,542	1,552	1,582	102%	33,885	33,745	33,546	99%
Milk Cows	18	18	18	100%	9,199	9,133	9,188	101%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	568	575	570	99%	19,800	19,774	19,528	99%
For beef cow replacement	350	340	380	112%	5,764	5,535	5,530	100%
For milk cow replacement	8	10	10	100%	3,986	4,069	3,954	97%
Other heifers	210	225	180	80%	10,051	10,170	10,045	99%
Steers 500 pounds and over	255	245	230	94%	17,189	16,891	16,652	99%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	97	100	105	105%	2,270	2,281	2,294	101%
Calves less than 500 pounds	120	110	95	86%	17,401	17,290	16,840	97%
Cattle on Feed	80	70	70	100%	13,608	13,219	13,983	106%

Calf Crop and Cattle Operations, 1997-99

ITEM	1997	1998	1999	'99/'98	1997	1998	1999	'99/'98
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,510	1,520	1,570	103%	38,961	38,812	38,710	100%
Number cattle operations 1/	13,600	14,000	13,500	96%	1,148,050	1,115,650	1,095,960	98%
Operations with beef cattle 1/	11,800	12,700	12,300	97%	872,840	855,460	843,230	99%
Operations with milk cows 1/	750	700	650	93%	123,700	117,180	111,220	95%

1/ Actual number.

Sheep and Lambs Inventory January 1, 1998-2000

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1998	1999	2000	'00/'99	UNITED STATES 1998	1999	2000	'00/'99
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	415	380	370	97%	7,825	7,215	7,026	97%
Breeding sheep	385	345	340	99%	5,611	5,299	5,163	97%
One year old & older								
Ewes	315	270	274	102%	4,570	4,322	4,228	98%
Rams 1/	10	9	9	100%	203	203	206	101%
Replacement Lambs	60	66	57	86%	839	774	730	94%
Market Sheep & Lambs	30	35	30	86%	2,214	1,916	1,863	97%
Sheep	1	1	2	200%	91	83	80	96%
Lambs	29	34	28	82%	2,123	1,834	1,783	97%

Lamb Crop and Sheep Operations, 1997-99

ITEM	1997	1998	1999	'99/'98	1997	1998	1999	'99/'98
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	380	355	340	96%	5,356	5,007	4,719	94%
Number of sheep operations 1/	2,100	2,000	1,900	95%	72,680	68,550	66,800	97%

1/ Actual number.

January 1, 2000 Sheep Inventory

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory set a new record low at 370,000 head on January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from last year. While the sheep and lamb inventory decreased, breeding ewe numbers increased over last year and the number of replacement lambs on hand January 1 decreased. Unstable prices and predators in 1999 were key factors in the continued decline.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers decreased 5,000 head from last year to 340,000 head. Ewes one year and older were up 1 percent to 274,000 head. Rams one year and older at 9,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year. Replacement lambs at 57,000 head were down 9,000 head from a year ago. The 1999 lamb crop was 340,000 head, a drop of 4 percent from the 1998 lamb crop.

There were 30,000 market sheep and lambs on hand January 1. Only 2,000 head were market sheep. Of the 28,000 total market lambs, 7 percent weighed less than 65 pounds, 15 percent weighed 65-84 pounds, 52 percent were in the 85-105 pound category, and 26 percent were over 105 pounds. There were 1,900 sheep and lamb operations in Montana during 1999, 100 less than a year ago.

In the United States, all sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2000, totaled 7.03 million head, down 3 percent from 1999 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has declined since 1942 when it reached a peak of 56.2 million head.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.16 million head on January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from 5.30 million head on January 1, 1999. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.23 million head, were 2 percent below last year. The 1999 lamb crop of 4.72 million head was down 6 percent from 1998 to a new record low. The 1999 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1999, compared with 110 in 1998.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2000, totaled 1.86 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 1999. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 26 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep. The number of U.S. operations with sheep during 1999 totaled 66,800, down 3 percent from 1998 and 8 percent from 1997.

Agricultural Prices Received for December

Crop prices for the full month of December 1999 were mostly lower compared with November 1999 prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.63 per bushel, down 13 cents from November's level; durum wheat was $3.70 per bushel, down 4 cents; spring wheat was 6 cents lower at $3.00 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.56 and malt barley was $2.70 per bushel.

The mid-January price for alfalfa hay was $66.00 per ton, up $1.00 from last month. Other hay, at $57.00 per ton, was unchanged from December's mid-month price. The mid-January winter wheat price averaged $2.70 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.90, feed barley was $1.55, and malt barley averaged $2.70.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were mostly higher. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.60 to $86.20 per cwt. Cows were up $1.50 to $35.00 and the average price for calves was up $3.50 to95.80 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $3.80 to $32.80 per cwt, and lamb prices increased $4.50 to $86.50 per cwt. Milk prices were down $4.50 from last month at $12.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $87.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for December and changes from November were as follows: winter wheat was $2.27, down 15 cents; spring wheat was $2.87, down 8 cents; the all barley price was $2.24, up 9 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $70.80, down 10 cents.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $2.35 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.82 per bushel, all wheat was $2.52 per bushel, and all barley was $2.19. Steer and heifer prices were $70.70 per cwt, cow prices were $35.20, all hog prices were $36.30 per cwt, and all egg prices were 58.0 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 90 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from the December index. Lower prices for broilers, milk, turkeys, and tomatoes more than offset price increases for corn, lettuce, soybeans, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively higher marketings of corn, soybeans, cattle, and rice. These marketing changes account for one point of the January index decrease.

Compared with January 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.2 percent) lower. Price decreases from January 1999 for milk, soybeans, cotton, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, lettuce, and apples.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Dec. 1998	Jan. 2000	Dec. 1999	Jan. 2000
Prices Received	98	97	92	90
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	114	115	118	118
Ratio 2/	86	84	78	76

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Dec. 1998	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1999	Dec. 1999	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1998	Jan. 15, 2000	Jan. 15, 2000
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.94	2.76	2.63	2.27	-0.13	-0.31	2.70	2.35
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.15	3.74	3.70	2.96	-0.04	+0.55	3.50	3.00
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.23	3.06	3.00	2.87	-0.06	-0.23	2.90	2.82
All Wheat	Bu.	3.14	3.00	2.98	2.52	-0.02	-0.16	2.90	2.52
Barley, All	Bu.	2.54	2.28	2.45	2.24	+0.17	-0.09	2.36	2.19
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.49	1.56	1.56	1.64	nc	+0.07	1.55	1.76
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.91	2.64	2.70	2.53	+0.06	-0.21	2.70	2.57
Oats	Bu.	1.15	1.02	0.98	1.17	-0.04	-0.17	1.00	1.18
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	70.00	66.00	65.00	73.20	-1.00	-5.00	66.00	74.10
All Other Hay	Ton	61.00	58.00	57.00	65.90	-1.00	-4.00	57.00	65.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	65.00	64.00	71.10	-1.00	-6.00	65.00	71.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	71.40	84.60	86.20	70.80	+1.60	+14.80	87.10	70.70
Cows	Cwt	30.60	33.50	35.00	35.10	+1.50	+4.40	35.00	35.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	57.50	75.40	69.30	66.60	-6.10	+11.80	76.20	66.60
Calves	Cwt	77.70	92.30	95.80	98.60	+3.50	+18.10	100.00	102.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	32.70	29.00	32.80	33.40	+3.80	+0.10	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	71.60	82.00	86.50	77.60	+4.50	+14.90	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	17.60	17.20	12.70	12.20	-4.50	-4.90	11.80	11.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

1999 Wool Production

Montana wool growers produced 3.2 million pounds of wool during 1999, down 7 percent from 1998. The 1999 average price per pound of wool decreased 28 cents to 50 cents per pound, causing the value of all wool produced to decrease 40 percent for a total value of $1.6 million dollars. The total head shorn decreased 8 percent from 1999 to 336,000 head. The average fleece weight increased from 9.3 pounds in 1998 to 9.5 pounds in 1999.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1999 was 46.5 million pounds, down 5 percent from 1998. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.15 million head, a decrease of 4 percent from 1998. The average price paid for wool sold in 1999 was $0.38 per pound, compared to $0.60 in 1999. The total wool value of $17.9 million dollars was down 39 percent from $29.4 million dollars in 1998.

Chicken Inventory and Egg Production Up

There were 410,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 1999, compared with 380,000 on hand last year. The December 1, 1999 inventory included 290,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 44,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 75,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1999 was $1.2 million, up 8% from the previous December. The average value per bird, at $2.90, remained unchanged from last year.

Montana chickens produced 94 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 1999, up 12% from last year. The state had an average of 290,000 layers in 1999, unchanged from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 324 eggs, up 12% from the previous year.

The U.S. total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 1999 (excluding commercial broilers) was 436 million birds, up 3% from last year. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 1999, totaled 368 million, up 2% from December 1, 1998. Of the 368 million potential layers, 90% were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1999 totaled a record high 82.7 billion eggs, up 4% from the previous year's total of 79.7 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 69.8 billion eggs, increased 4% from 1998. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, increased 4%. U.S. layer numbers during 1999 averaged 322 million, up 3% from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1999 was 257 eggs, compared with the 1998 average of 255 eggs per layer.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1999 was $1.15 billion, up 1% from December 1,1998. The average value decreased from $2.69 per bird on December 1, 1998, to $2.65 per bird on December 1, 1999.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Crop Summary
Quarterly Milk Production
Wheat Supply, Disappearance and Price–ERS
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed

Small Grains

Montana's 1999 **winter wheat** production was estimated at 36.86 million bushels, down 24% from 1998 and the lowest production since the severe drought of 1985. Producers harvested 970,000 acres, down 280,000 acres from 1998. The 1999 average yield was 38 bushels per acre, which is one bushel lower than last year's average.

Nationally, the 1999 winter wheat crop production was estimated at 1.70 billion bushels, down 10% from 1998. The U.S. yield is estimated at 47.8 bushels per acre; a new record high average, nearly a bushel better than last year's former record. Acreage for grain was estimated at 35.6 million acres, down 11% from last year. This is the smallest harvested area since 1972.

Montana's 1999 **spring wheat** production was estimated at 108 million bushels, unchanged from 1998. The 1999 and 1998 productions are tied for the third largest crop on record behind only 1995 and 1997 productions. The seeded acreage was 4.15 million acres, 350,000 acres greater than 1998. Producers harvested 4.0 million acres, 400,000 acres more than a year earlier. Yields averaged 27 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from 1998, in part due to lack of precipitation in many areas of the state.

U.S. spring wheat production in 1999 was estimated at 503 million bushels, 5% less than 1998. Harvested area was 14.8 million acres, down 3% from last year. The U.S. yield was 34.1 bushels per acre, nearly a bushel less than last season.

Montana's **durum wheat** production for 1999 was estimated at 9.45 million bushels, down 22% from 1998. Harvested acreage was estimated at 350,000, down 80,000 acres from last year. The average yield was 27.0 bushels per acre, down one bushel from 1998. The planted and harvested acreage was lowered by 40,000 acres from the September small grains summary.

U.S. durum wheat production for 1999 totaled 99.3 million bushels, down 28% from last year. Grain area now totals 3.57 million acres, 4% less than a year ago. The U.S. yield was forecast at 27.8 bushels per acre, 9.2 bushels per acre below 1998.

Montana's **barley** planted acreage for 1999 has decreased to 1.3 million acres, 50,000 acres less than 1998. Producers harvested 1.15 million acres, also 50,000 acres less than were harvested for grain in 1998. Yields averaged 50 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last year. Production was estimated at 57.5 million bushels, nearly unchanged from last year.

U.S. barley production for 1999 is estimated at 282 million bushels, down 20% from the previous crop year. Average yield per acre, at 59.2, was down 0.9 bushels from 1998. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 4.76 million acres, 19% less than 1998.

Montana's **oats** production for 1999 is estimated at 3.22 million bushels, nearly unchanged from 1998. Planted acreage was estimated at 170,000 acres, 30,000 acres higher than last year. Harvested acreage was set at 70,000 acres, up 10,000 from 1998. Yields averaged 46.0 bushels per acre, 8 bushels below last year.

U.S. oats production for the 1999 crop year is estimated at 146.2 million bushels, 12% smaller than the 1998 production. This is the lowest production since records were first kept in 1866. The estimated yield, at 59.6 bushels per acre, is below last year's 60.2 bushel yield. Area harvested and to be harvested for grain in 1999 is 2.45 million acres, 11% below 1998. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production and U.S. December Milk Production Up

During the October-December quarter, Montana milk cows produced 76 million pounds of milk, 3 million pounds more than the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers, at 18,000 head were unchanged from a year ago.

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 11.9 billion pounds, up 3.8% from production in these same States in December 1998. November revised production, at 11.3 billion pounds, was up 4.5% from November 1998. The November revision represented an increase of 0.1% or 11 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,536 pounds for December, 47 pounds above December 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 52,000 head more than December 1998 and 2,000 head more than November 1999.

During the October-December period, milk produced in the U.S. was 40.4 billion pounds, 3.8% above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.18 million head, 41,000 head more than the same period last year.

Montana Annual Crop Summary, 1996-99 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Market Year Avg. Price	Value of Production	U.S. Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		(000)	(000)	Bu.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Winter Wheat	1996	2,150	1,980	31.0	61,380	$4.24	$260,251	1,469,618
	1997	1,600	1,450	38.0	55,100	$3.40	$187,340	1,845,528
	1998	1,400	1,250	39.0	48,750	$2.80	$136,500	1,880,733
	1999	1,050	970	38.0	36,860			1,699,989
Durum Wheat	1996	290	280	25.0	7,000	$4.65	$32,550	116,090
	1997	300	290	26.0	7,540	$5.18	$39,057	87,783
	1998	450	430	28.0	12,040	$3.23	$38,889	138,119
	1999	360	350	27.0	9,450			99,322
Other Spring Wheat	1996	4,200	**4,100	26.0	106,600	$4.22	$449,852	691,680
	1997	**4,250	4,100	29.0	118,900	$3.58	$425,662	548,155
	1998	3,800	3,600	30.0	108,000	$3.13	$338,040	528,469
	1999	4,150	4,000	27.0	108,000			503,132
All Wheat	1996	**6,640	**6,360	27.5	174,980	$4.24	$742,653	2,277,388
	1997	6,150	5,840	31.1	181,540	$3.62	$652,059	2,481,466
	1998	5,650	5,280	32.0	168,790	$3.03	$511,434	2,547,321
	1999	5,560	5,320	29.0	154,310			2,302,443
Barley	1996	1,250	1,150	43.0	49,450	**$3.07	$151,812	392,433
	1997	1,250	1,150	53.0	60,950	$2.83	$172,489	359,878
	1998	1,350	1,200	48.0	57,600	$2.27	$130,752	352,125
	1999	1,300	1,150	50.0	57,500			281,853
Oats	1996	*110	50	40.0	2,000	$1.91	$3,820	153,245
	1997	140	70	55.0	3,850	$1.33	$5,121	167,246
	1998	140	60	54.0	3,240	$1.18	$3,823	165,981
	1999	170	70	46.0	3,220			146,218
Corn for Grain 2/	1996	*55	15	**137.0	2,055	$2.60	$5,343	9,232,557
	1997	60	14	135.0	1,890	$2.40	$4,536	9,206,832
	1998	60	18	115.0	2,070	$1.50	$3,105	9,758,685
	1999	65	18	110.0	1,980			9,437,337
		(000)	(000)	Tons	(000)		(000)	(000)
Corn for Silage	1996	--	39	**21.0	819	--	--	86,581
	1997	--	45	21.0	945	--	--	97,192
	1998	--	41	21.0	861	--	--	95,479
	1999	--	45	20.0	900	--		96,169
Sugar Beets	1996	57.7	57.5	22.6	1,300	$48.10	$62,530	26,680
	1997	59.9	58.3	21.0	1,224	$40.50	$49,572	29,886
	1998	64.0	62.4	22.6	1,410			32,499
	1999	61.8	61.7	23.8	**1,468			33,319
Alfalfa Hay	1996	--	**1,700	2.10	3,570	$81.00	$289,170	79,139
	1997	--	1,650	2.40	3,960	$80.00	$316,800	78,535
	1998	--	1,700	2.20	3,740	$73.00	$273,020	82,310
	1999	--	1,650	2.20	3,630			83,924
Other Hay	1996	--	900	1.50	1,350	$67.00	$90,450	70,640
	1997	--	950	1.60	1,520	$69.00	$104,880	74,001
	1998	--	800	1.60	1,280	$62.50	$80,000	69,470
	1999	--	950	1.50	1,425			75,153
All Hay 3/	1996	--	**2,600	1.89	4,920	$80.00	$379,620	149,779
	1997	--	2,600	2.11	**5,480	$79.00	**$421,680	152,536
	1998	--	2,500	2.01	5,020	$72.00	$361,440	151,780
	1999	--	2,600	1.94	5,055			159,077
Sweet Cherries 4/	1996	--	--	--	630	$1,420.00	$893	151,700
	1997	--	--	--	870	$954.00	$830	223,490
	1998	--	--	--	1,890	$1,080.00	$2,041	208,410
	1999	--	--	--	690	1,560	1,076	224,670
		(000)	(000)	Cwt.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Fall Potatoes	1996	10.4	10.2	315	3,213	$6.60	$21,206	499,254
	1997	10.4	10.4	**320	**3,328	$7.05	$23,462	467,091
	1998	10.6	10.6	300	3,180	$7.95	$25,281	475,771
	1999	11.0	10.9	305	3,325			478,398
All Dry Beans	1996	10.5	10.3	**22.8	235	$24.50	$5,758	27,912
	1997	12.2	11.7	22.0	257	$19.40	$4,986	29,370
	1998	16.6	16.0	21.9	266	$16.40	$4,362	30,418
	1999	26.5	25.5	17.3	441			33,230
Pinto Beans	1998	12.2	12.0	22.0	264		--	14,511
	1999	13.9	13.2	22.4	296		--	10,839
Garbanzo Beans	1998	4.0	3.8	22.1	84		--	418
	1999	12.1	11.8	11.3	133		--	740
Lentils	1999	19.0	16.0	13.0	208			2,387
Dry Peas	1999	50.0	39.0	17.0	663			5,030

1/ All estimates for 1999 are preliminary and season average price and value of production not available. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/ U.S. totals are for all potatoes. * Record low. **Record high.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1984-1999

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999 . 3/	946	2,302	100	3,348	910	91	300	1,301	1,075	2,376	972	2.50-2.60

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 2000--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production Down

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 1999, down 24 percent from last year, but 3 percent higher than last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,700 head was 400 head less than a year ago. The average live weight of 1,180 pounds increased 42 pounds from last year.

There were 1,800 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during December, down 1,400 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 252 pounds, was up 23 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughtered amounted to 200 head, half of the number slaughtered last December. The average live weight of 122 pounds was four pounds lighter than last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, down 2 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in December 1998. Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year and slightly above the previous record high for December set in 1976. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.88 million head, down 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 21.0 million pounds, 6 percent below the previous record low for December set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 113 thousand head, down 13 percent from December 1998. The average live weight was 25 pounds above last year, at 303 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.89 million head, 6 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 261 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was up 1 percent from December 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 356 thousand head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January - December red meat production was 46.1 billion pounds, 2 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 2 percent and lamb & mutton was down 2 percent.

Montana January Potato Stocks up 5 Percent, U.S. down 3 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.12 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, up 5 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 94 percent of the 1999 total production, compared with last year's stocks which also represented 94 percent of the 1998 total production.

The 15 major potato States held 238 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from the last two years. Storage accounted for 57 percent of 1999 fall production, one percentage point below last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 11 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody) and 83 percent russet; with more russets, and fewer whites than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 States from the start of harvest to January 1, 2000 was a record high 182 million cwt, up 3 percent from the same period last year and slightly above the previous record high in 1996. December's disappearance set a new record 36.2 million cwt, 4 percent more than a year ago. Shrink and loss jumped to 21.1 million cwt this season, down 3 percent from 1998, but 22 percent above two years ago. December losses, at 3.89 million cwt, reflect heavy clean-up in the north-central States.

Processors used 90.3 million cwt of 1999 crop potatoes so far this season, up fractionally from a year ago and 8 percent above two years ago. December usage was 15.7 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year's record high, but 3 percent above 1997.

Western States held 170 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2000, down 1 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below two years ago. Colorado and Montana were up 5 percent each and Oregon stored 17 percent more potatoes this year than last. Idaho's stocks were off 3 percent and Washington's were down 6 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.46 million head on January 1, 2000. The inventory was 7 percent above January 1, 1999 and 3 percent above January 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.83 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.56 million head, up 10 percent from January 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.65 million, 9 percent above 1998 and 6 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.56 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 465,000, 600-699 pounds were 498,000, 700-799 pounds were 422,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 261,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.84 million, 1 percent above 1998 and 5 percent above 1997.

Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during December, 6 percent above both 1998 and 1997.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 8 Percent

Cattle on feed January 1, 2000, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.73 million, up 8 percent from the previous year and 3 percent above January 1, 1998. The inventory included 5.76 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 59 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.93 million head, up 11 percent from January 1, 1999.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.41 million, 13 percent above 1998 and 8 percent above 1997.

Marketings during December totaled 1.60 million, 2 percent above 1998 and 7 percent above 1997.

Other disappearance during December was 75,000 head, up 9 percent from 1998 and 10 percent above 1997.

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Chicken Inventory and Egg Production
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Late Season Crops
Pulse Crops
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Oilseed Crops

Winter Wheat Seeding for Harvest in 2000

In the fall of 1999 Montana producers seeded 1.5 million acres of winter wheat, 450,000 acres more than the small acreage seeded the previous year. During the last 10 years producers planted an average of about 2.0 million acres, so the acreage for harvest in 2000 is 25 percent below this average.

Precipitation has been below normal since October 1999 in nearly all of the winter wheat production areas of the state. A lack of snow cover is also a concern to producers. As of January 3, the winter wheat condition was rated at 11 percent poor, 57 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

Nationally, winter wheat seeded area for 2000 is expected to total 42.9 million acres, down 1 percent from 1999. This is the smallest seeded area since 1972. Approximate class breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 30.3 million; Soft Red Winter, 9.2 million; White Winter, 3.4 million.

Most HRW states have planted less wheat. Montana and South Dakota are notable exceptions; New Mexico and North Dakota also have increased. Dry conditions have plagued growers from Texas to Nebraska. Extreme dryness has covered much of Texas since August, particularly in the eastern half of the State. Considerable acreage was either dry planted or not planted at all. Lack of moisture stressed wheat across Oklahoma, especially in the southern half of the State.

Late Season Crops

Montana producers harvested 18,000 acres of **corn for grain** in 1999, unchanged from last year's estimate. The average yield was 110.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year. Production decreased 4 percent from 1998 to 1.98 million bushels. **Corn for silage** acreage was estimated at 45,000 acres, up 4,000 acres from 1998. Yields averaged 20 tons per acre, down one ton from a year ago.

Nationally, corn for grain production was estimated at 9.44 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the 1998 crop and down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast. The 1999 production ranks as the fourth highest production on record behind the 1994, 1998, and 1992 respective crop years. The U. S. yield of 133.8 bushels per acre, was down 0.6 bushel from last year. Corn silage production was estimated at 96.2 million tons, 1 percent higher than 1998. Yield declined to 15.9 tons per acre, down 0.2 ton from 1998.

Sugar beet producers in Montana harvested an estimated 61,700 acres in 1999, down 700 acres from a year ago. Yields increased 1.2 tons from last year to average 23.8 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.47 million tons, up 4 percent from the previous year, setting a new production record.

U.S. production for sugar beets is estimated at a record high 33.3 million tons, 2 percent above the previous record established in 1998. Growers in the 12 sugar beet producing States planted 1,562,700 acres, 4 percent more than 1998, and harvested 1,527,100 acres, 5 percent more than last year and the highest since 1,540,500 acres were harvested in 1969. The estimated yield is 21.8 tons per acre, 3 percent below the 1998 yield of 22.5 tons.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.33 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,900 acres compared with 10,600 in 1998. Yields increased 5 cwt per acre from a year ago to 305 cwt.

Total U.S. 1999 potato production from all four seasons is estimated at 478 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from 1998 but 2 percent above 1997. Harvested area, at 1.33 million acres, was down 4 percent from 1998. Average yield of 359 cwt per acre was up 16 cwt from the previous year.

All hay harvested in Montana was up 100,000 acres from last year at 2.6 million acres. All hay production was 5.055 million tons, up 1 percent or 35,000 tons from a year ago. **Alfalfa hay** harvested acreage was 1.65 million acres, down 50,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.2 tons per acre, which is unchanged from last year. **Other hay** harvested acreage was 950,000, up 150,000 acres from 1998. The average yield was 1.5 tons per acre compared with 1.6 tons per acre last year.

U.S. all hay production for 1999 was estimated at 159 million tons, down slightly from the October 1 forecast but up 5 percent from the 1998 total. Acreage harvested, at 63.2 million acres, is up slightly from the October forecast and up 5 percent from 1998. The average yield, at 2.52 tons per acre, was down 0.08 tons from the October forecast and down slightly from the previous year.

Montana **hay stocks** were estimated at 4.45 million tons on December 1, down 3 percent from last year. Montana hay growers seeded an estimated 200,000 acres of alfalfa during 1999, 70,000 acres more than last year. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings. At the U.S. level 3.44 million acres of alfalfa was newly seeded in 1999.

Pulse Crops

Montana's **dry bean** growers produced an estimated 441,000 cwt in 1999, up 91,000 cwt from 1998. Growers harvested 25,500 acres with a yield of 17.3 cwt per acre compared with last year's 16,000 acres harvested with a yield of 21.9 cwt per acre.

U.S. production of dry edible beans is estimated at 33.2 million cwt for 1999, 9 percent above 1998 and 13 percent above two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.88 million acres, down 2 percent from 1998 but 7 percent above 1997. Average yield, at 1,770 pounds per acre, increased 184 pounds from 1998.

Pinto bean production for Montana in 1999 is estimated to be 296,000 cwt, which is 12 percent above last year's estimate. Harvested acreage, at 13,200, is 10 percent higher than the previous year. The yield is estimated at 2,240 pounds per acre, 40 pounds more than last year.

U.S. production of pinto beans in 1999 is estimated at 10.8 million cwt, which is 25 percent below 1998 and 1 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 644,900 acres, down 30 percent from 1998 and 9 percent below 1997. Average yield, at 1,681 pounds per acre, increased 109 pounds from 1998.

Montana's second production estimate for **garbanzo beans** was 133,000 cwt for 1999, which is 58 percent higher than last year. Harvested area is estimated at 11,800 acres, up 8,000 from last year. The yield is estimated at 1,130 pounds per acre, down from last year's estimate of 2,210 pounds per acre.

U.S production of garbanzo beans in 1999 is estimated 740,000 cwt, which is 77 percent higher than last year.

Continued on back page.

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December 1, 1999 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on December 1, 1999 totaled 161.8 mil. bu., up 1 percent from December 1, 1998. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 139.0 mil. bu. of the total with the remaining 22.8 mil. bu. stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 122.8 mil. bu., were up 13 percent from last year and accounted for 76 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 38.9 mil. bu., down from 52.2 mil. bu. last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 12.6 mil. bu., up 34 percent from last year. All wheat disappearance for the September - November quarter was 29.0 mil. bu., compared with 41.2 million for the same quarter last year. Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 1999 totaled 40.7 mil. bu., up 2 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.89 mil. bu., up 6 percent from last year.

September 1, 1999 all wheat stocks were revised to190.8 mil. bu., down 2.1 mil. bu. from the previous estimate. All spring wheat on-farm stocks were reduced by 2.0 mil. bu. to 124.0 million and off-farm stocks were reduced 100,000 bushels to 18.9 mil. bu.. Barley stocks were also revised to 56.3 mil. bu., 300,000 above the previous estimate. Oats stocks were revised to 3.05 mil. bu., down 25,000 from the previous estimate.

December 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999	'99/'98	Dec. 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	135,000	163,000	139,000	103%	680,200	888,060	648,800
Off Farms 1/	25,500	27,750	22,760	89%	1,215,481	1,556,983	1,230,184
TOTAL	160,500	190,750	161,760	101%	1,895,681	2,445,043	1,878,984
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	43,000	39,000	31,500	73%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	9,200	8,850	7,440	81%	--	--	--
TOTAL	52,200	47,850	38,940	75%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	92,000	124,000	107,500	117%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	16,300	18,900	15,320	94%	--	--	--
TOTAL	108,300	142,900	122,820	113%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	75,300	96,900	74,000
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	33,300	39,830	34,449
TOTAL	9,400	16,340	12,600	134%	108,600	136,730	108,449
BARLEY							
On Farms	33,000	48,000	32,000	97%	149,000	165,100	108,600
Off Farms 1/	7,100	8,300	8,710	123%	121,535	130,145	119,996
TOTAL	40,100	56,300	40,710	102%	270,535	295,245	228,596
OATS							
On Farms	2,600	2,800	2,700	104%	81,500	97,300	82,100
Off Farms 1/	120	250	185	154%	61,835	51,151	53,973
TOTAL	2,720	3,050	2,885	106%	143,335	148,451	136,073
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	5,320,000	797,000	5,180,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,731,846	989,977	2,839,860
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	8,051,846	1,786,977	8,019,860

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, in All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	Dec. 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1999	Dec. 1, 1999
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.5	2.1	1.2
North Central	71.5	62.6	59.9	22.0	34.1	23.9
Northeast	46.9	77.2	57.7	3.2	1.9	1.8
Central	24.4	28.9	23.1	6.8	9.5	6.4
Southwest	2.8	3.5	3.4	1.6	3.6	2.8
South Central	7.3	8.7	8.5	3.0	4.3	3.9
Southeast	5.5	7.9	7.4	1.0	0.8	0.7
Montana	160.5	190.8	161.8	40.1	56.3	40.7

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Agricultural Prices Received for November

Crop prices for the full month of November 1999 were mostly higher compared with October 1999 prices, according to Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.76 per bushel, down 6 cents from October's level; durum wheat was $3.74 per bushel, up 62 cents; spring wheat was 11 cents higher at $3.06 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.56 and malt barley was $2.64 per bushel.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay was $65.00 per ton, down $1.00 from last month. Other hay, at $57.00 per ton, was $1.00 lower than November's mid-month price. The mid-December winter wheat price averaged $2.70 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.90, feed barley was $1.50, and malt barley averaged $2.70.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were also mostly higher. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.90 to $84.60 per cwt. Cows were down 40 cents to $33.50 but the average price for calves was up $1.90 to $92.30 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $4.80 to $29.00 per cwt, and lamb prices increased $7.40 cents to $82.00 per cwt. Milk prices were up 70 cents from last month at $17.20 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $86.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for November and changes from October were as follows: winter wheat was $2.42, down 5 cents; spring wheat was $2.95, up 15 cents; the all barley price was $2.15, up 19 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $70.90, up 80 cents.

The U.S. mid-December winter wheat price was $2.18 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.82 per bushel, all wheat was $2.43 per bushel, and all barley was $2.14. Steer and heifer prices were $70.80 per cwt, cow prices were $34.70, all hog prices were $35.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were 61.3 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 91 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from the November index. Lower prices for milk, soybeans, wheat, and oranges more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, calves, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, grapes, soybeans, and corn more than offset the relatively higher marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes account for about one-half point of the December index decrease.

Compared with December 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1998 for milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and apples.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1999
Prices Received	99	98	93	91
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	114	114	117	117
Ratio 2/	87	86	79	78

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov. 1998	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1999	Nov. 1999	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1998	Dec. 15, 1999	Dec. 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.90	2.82	2.76	2.42	-0.06	-0.14	2.70	2.18
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.29	3.12	3.74	2.62	+0.62	+0.45	3.50	2.75
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.25	2.95	3.06	2.95	+0.11	-0.19	2.90	2.82
All Wheat	Bu.	3.15	2.94	3.00	2.66	+0.06	-0.15	2.87	2.43
Barley, All	Bu.	2.44	2.14	2.28	2.15	+0.14	-0.16	2.28	2.14
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.36	1.49	1.56	1.63	+0.07	+0.20	1.50	1.63
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.99	2.54	2.64	2.46	+0.10	-0.35	2.70	2.53
Oats	Bu.	1.37	0.95	1.02	1.11	+0.07	-0.35	1.00	1.13
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	67.00	66.00	77.30	-1.00	-8.00	65.00	73.20
All Other Hay	Ton	64.00	55.00	58.00	64.80	+3.00	-6.00	57.00	65.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	66.00	65.00	74.00	-1.00	-8.00	64.00	71.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	71.00	82.70	84.60	70.90	+1.90	+13.60	86.10	70.80
Cows	Cwt	30.10	33.90	33.50	33.60	-0.40	+3.40	34.60	34.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	60.40	71.50	75.40	66.20	+3.90	+15.00	74.30	66.40
Calves	Cwt	76.40	90.40	92.30	93.00	+1.90	+15.90	95.20	97.80
Sheep 2/	Cwt	25.50	24.20	29.00	30.20	+4.80	+3.50	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	68.60	74.60	82.00	76.30	+7.40	+13.40	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	17.00	16.50	17.20	14.30	+0.70	+0.20	13.50	12.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Pulse Crops (Continued)

Harvested area is estimated at 55,800 acres, which is almost double last year's acres. Average yield, at 1,326 pounds per acre, decreased 167 pounds from 1998

Dry peas production for 1999 in Montana is estimated at 663,000 cwt. Planted and harvested acreage is estimated at 50,000 and 39,000 acres, respectively. Average yield is set at 17.0 cwt per acre.

Production of dry peas in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington in 1999 is estimated at 5.03 million cwt, down 15 percent from 1998 and down 13 percent from two years ago. Harvested acres were equal to or less than 1998 harvested acres for every state except Washington, which increased 2,000.

Montana's 1999 production of **lentils** is estimated at 208,000 cwt. Planted area is estimated at 19,000 acres and harvested acres are set at 16,000 acres. The average yield is estimated to be 13.0 cwt per acre.

Production of lentils in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington for 1999 is estimated at 2.39 million cwt, up 23 percent from the 1998 crop but down 1 percent from two years ago. Planted and harvested acreage are above last year in both Idaho and Washington. Harvested area is estimated at 174,500 acres, 16,000 acres more than 1998, but 8,500 below two years ago. Average yield per acre, at 1,368 pounds, is 145 pounds above last year and 53 pounds above 1997.

Oilseeds

Montana's **flaxseed** production for 1999 is estimated to be 328,000 bushels. Planted and harvested acreage estimates are 21,000 and 20,500, respectively. The average yield is set at 16.0 bushels per acre.

Production of **mustard seed** in Montana during 1999 is estimated at 17.85 million pounds. Farmers planted 21,500 acres and harvested 21,000 acres. Yields averaged 850 pounds per acre.

U.S. mustard seed production, at 48 million pounds was 41 percent below the previous year. Mustard seed harvested area is estimated at 58,800 acres with an average yield of 816 pounds per acre, 39 pounds below 1998.

Montana **canola** growers planted 60,000 acres in 1999 and havested 58,000 acres with average yields of 1,200 pounds per acre. Total production is estimated at 69.6 million pounds.

U.S. canola production in 1999, at 1.36 billion pounds, down 12 percent from 1998. Nationally, harvested acres for canola, at 1.04 million acres, decreased 3 percent from 1998 but is still the second largest acreage on record behind 1998. Harvested yields for canola averaged 1,306 pounds and were 142 pounds below the 1998 yield.

Growers produced an estimated 33.15 million pounds of **safflower** in Montana for 1999, planting 41,000 acres and harvested 39,000 acres with an average yield of 850 pounds per acre.

U.S. safflower production, at 405 million pounds, decreased 2 percent below 1998. Safflower growers across the country planted an estimated 275,000 acres, a decrease of 9 percent from 1998. Safflower harvested area is estimated at 262,000 acres, down 8 percent. The yield for safflower, at 1,545 pounds per acre, was 99 pounds above the previous year.

Montana's 1999 **all sunflower** production estimate was set at 6.1 million pounds this year. Planted and harvested acreage estimates are 7,800 and 7,100, respectively. The average yield is estimated at 858 pounds per acre.

Nationally, 1999 sunflower production totaled 4.34 billion pounds, 18 percent below the 1998 production but 18 percent above 1997. The estimated yield per acre at 1,262 pounds, decreased 248 pounds from the record yield set in 1998. Planted area at 3.55 million acres was down fractionally from 1998 but 23 percent above the 1997 acreage. Harvested acres at 3.44 million acres decreased 1 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Annual Crop Production
- Potato Stocks
- Quarterly Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Slaughter
- Wheat: Supply, Price and Disappearance
- Small Grain Production

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Issue: 99-24 (0279-0394) Released: December 29, 1999

HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Egg Production
December 1 Potato Stocks
December 1 Hog & Pig Inventory
Ag Economic Surveys

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 6 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.75 million head on December 1, 1999. The inventory was 6 percent above December 1, 1998 and 3 percent above December 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.17 million, 5 percent above 1998 but 2 percent below 1997. Net placements were 2.09 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 766,000, 600-699 pounds were 657,000, 700-799 pounds were 416,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 331,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.80 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 7 percent above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 83,000 during November, 6 percent above 1998 but 2 percent below 1997.

November Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight of red meat during November, down 21 percent from November 1998, and down 7 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, 300 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,077 pounds, was down 49 pounds from last year.

During November, there were 2,200 hogs slaughtered, 900 head less than a year ago. The average live weight, at 251 pounds, was up 22 pounds from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 200 head, was 100 head lower than a year ago. The average live weight decreased 1 pound from last year to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.89 billion pounds in November, up 4 percent from the previous record high for November set in 1995 and up 5 percent from the 3.72 billion pounds produced in November 1998. Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous record high for November set in 1995 and 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, up 6 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,216 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19 million pounds, 2 percent below the previous record low for November set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 104 thousand head, down 7 percent from November 1998. The average live weight was 15 pounds above last year, at 300 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous record high for November set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.90 million head, 1 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 1 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 22 million pounds, was up 12 percent from November 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 329 thousand head, 10 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 2 pounds from November a year ago.

January - November red meat production was 42.3 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 2 percent and lamb & mutton was down 3 percent.

November Milk Production Up 4.4 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 11.3 billion pounds, up 4.4 percent from production in these same States in November 1998. October revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds was up 4.0 percent from October 1998. The October revision represented a decrease of 0.3 percent or 29 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,458 pounds for November, 51 pounds or 3.6 percent above November 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 58,000 head more than November 1998 and 7,000 head more than October 1999.

November Egg Production Up 4 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.02 billion during November 1999, up 4 percent from the 6.72 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.96 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 997 million were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1999 averaged 328 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during November 1998. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,139 eggs, up 1 percent from 2,109 eggs in November 1998.

PLEASE RETURN

Montana Potato Production Up 5 Percent, December 1 Stocks Up 6 Percent

Montana potato growers produced 3,325,000 cwt of potatoes in 1999, 5 percent more than last year. The 1999 acreage was up 400 acres from last year and the average yield was 5 cwt more. There were 10,900 acres harvested with an average yield of 305 cwt per acre compared with 10,600 acres and an average yield of 300 cwt in 1998.

Producers held 3,220,000 cwt in storage on December 1, 6 percent more than stocks on hand a year earlier. December 1 stocks represented 97 percent of the 1999 production, 1 percent more than last year.

The 15 major potato States held 275 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1999, down 2 percent from last year and 1 percent below 1997. Storage accounted for 65 percent of 1999 fall production, 1 percentage point below last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 12 percent round white, 5 percent long white (Shepody) and 81 percent russet; with fewer russets, and more round whites than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1, at 146 million cwt of potatoes, was up 2 percent from the same period last year and 8 percent more than two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 17.2 million cwt so far this year, was down 13 percent from losses in 1998, but up 12 percent from two years ago.

Processors used 74.6 million cwt of 1999 crop potatoes so far this season, up 1 percent from a year ago and 9 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 193 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, fractionally below a year ago and 1 percent below two years ago. California and Oregon stored 14 percent more potatoes this year than last. Colorado gained 3 percent and Montana increased 6 percent. Idaho's stocks fell 4 percent and Washington's were off 2 percent.

Total U.S. production of fall potatoes for 1999 is forecast at 429 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year but up 1 percent from 1997. Area harvested, at 1.17 million acres, is down 4 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. The average yield is 368 cwt per acre, a jump of 12 cwt from last year and 11 cwt above two years ago. Since the November forecast, additional acres have been lost in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota from heavy rains before and during harvest. The Idaho acreage was trimmed 1 percent. Summer drought hurt potatoes in New York and Pennsylvania and caused scattered damage in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. On the other hand, record large potato crops were recorded in Nebraska, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Ten Western States produced 295 million cwt in 1999, down slightly from last year but fractionally above two years ago. Acreage harvested, at 730,900 acres, decreased 2 percent from last year, and the average yield of 404 cwt per acre was up 6 cwt. Production in Idaho decreased 3 percent from last year and 5 percent from two years ago. Washington gained 2 percent and Oregon 7 percent. Colorado was up 2 percent and California increased 8 percent. Montana was up 5 percent and Nevada gained 2 percent from a year ago. Production in Utah dropped 20 percent and New Mexico slid 6 percent.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on December 1, 1998-99 1/

STATE	1998 CROP			1999 CROP		
	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1998	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Dec. 1, 1999	% of PROD
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
CA	3,708	2,800	76	4,005	3,200	80
CO	25,360	19,000	75	25,762	19,500	76
ID	138,000	99,500	72	133,330	96,000	72
ME	18,060	14,100	78	17,813	14,500	81
MI	14,648	9,100	62	14,963	8,800	59
MN	21,170	13,500	64	18,020	10,000	55
MT	**3,180**	**3,050**	**96**	**3,325**	**3,220**	**97**
NE	8,175	4,700	57	8,904	5,300	60
NY	7,290	3,400	47	6,758	3,700	55
ND	28,670	20,500	72	26,400	16,500	63
OH	1,200	260	22	987	250	25
OR	26,229	20,000	76	28,020	22,800	81
PA	3,360	2,000	60	3,080	1,600	52
WA	93,225	49,000	53	95,200	48,000	50
WI	30,895	20,000	65	34,000	21,500	63
15 States	423,170	280,910	66	420,567	274,870	65

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage in 1999 totaled 29.5 million cwt.

December 1 Hog and Pig Inventory Down

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Montana on December 1, 1999 was 150,000 head, a 21 percent decrease from a year ago. Breeding stock was down 11 percent from last December to 17,000 head. Market hog numbers decreased to 133,000 head, down 22 percent from last year.

From December 1998 to November 1999, 36,000 sows farrowed in Montana. This was a decrease of 6 percent from a year earlier. The number of pigs saved per litter increased by 1 percent to 9.03 and resulted in a pig crop of 325,000 head, a 6 percent decrease from last year. There were 600 farms with one or more hogs in Montana in 1999, down 8 percent from last year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1999, was 59.4 million head. This was 4 percent below December 1998, and 2 percent below September 1, 1999.

Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was down 7 percent from December 1, 1998, and down 1 percent from September 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 53.2 million head, was 4 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 1999 U.S. pig crop, at 25.2 million head, was 3 percent less than 1998, and 1 percent less than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, 4 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.78 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.66 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 1999-February 2000 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for March-May 2000, at 2.83 million sows, are 5 percent below the same period last year and 8 percent below 1998.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 98,460 during 1999, down 14 percent from last year and 19 percent below 1997. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 7 percent of the operations and 69 percent of the inventory. This is the fourth time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory at 2,005 accounted for 46.5 percent of the total inventory, up from 42 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory up from 23 percent last year.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory December 1, 1997-99

	MONTANA				UNITED STATES			
	1997	1998	1999	'99/'98	1997	1998	1999	'99/'98
	1,000 Head			Pct.	1,000 Head			Pct.
All Hogs & Pigs	180	190	150	79	61,158	62,206	59,407	96
Breeding Hogs	20	19	17	89	6,957	6,682	6,244	93
Market Hogs & Pigs								
Under 60 lbs.	58	68	51	75	20,237	20,140	19,298	96
60-119 lbs.	43	43	34	79	13,319	13,631	13,106	96
120-170 lbs.	33	33	26	79	11,188	11,585	11,073	96
180 lbs. & over	26	27	22	81	9,457	10,168	9,687	95
Total	160	171	133	78	54,200	55,523	53,164	96
Sows Farrowed								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	36	38.5	36.0	94	11,479	12,061	11,666	97
Pig Crop								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	320	344	325	94	99,584	105,005	102,569	98
Pigs per Litter: (Actual number)								
Dec.-Nov. 1/	8.89	8.94	9.03	101	8.68	8.71	8.79	101
Operations with Hogs	650	650	600	92	122,160	113,830	98,460	86

1/ December previous year.

Ag Economic Surveys Will Measure Farm Financial Health

Montana farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to "let their voice be heard" by participating in the 1999 agricultural economic surveys. These surveys, titled the 1999 Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey and the 1999 Agricultural Resource Management Study, provide vital statistics about the economic condition of production agriculture. Most importantly, they are used by members of the agricultural community and their legislators when making important decisions that impact the future of America's farmers and ranchers.

Agricultural producers chosen to participate in these surveys will represent from 50 to 100 fellow producers, and will, therefore, make an important contribution to the overall welfare of America's farmers and ranchers. These are the only surveys which objectively measure the current financial health of our farms and ranches. Farmers/ranchers selected can expect a survey in the mail or a personal visit by an interviewer in early to mid-February.

Seven Reasons to Respond to the 1999 Agricultural Economic Surveys

1. Lower prices combined with higher costs, land values, and rents place economic strain on farmers...but how much?

2. Farmers and their organizations need reliable, objective, accurate data showing the current economic conditions on farms in order to have a strong voice with policymakers and financial organizations.

3. Survey results help determine disaster relief and direct payment funding.

4. Without these data, credit providers have very limited information and tend to take the most conservative financial positions.

5. Data provide basis for *Small Farm Report* to Congress, and are used to make estimates of farm self-employment and total family income. This shows the gap between the income needed by farm families and what they currently earn by farming.

6. These data provide the foundation to support USDA's farm business and household financial analyses including risk management, technology adoption, farmer information sources, vulnerability, and debt repayment ability.

7. Surveys results provide financial benchmark for the Farm Services Agency and other organizations. Federal programs, legislation, and impact studies would struggle under great uncertainty without these economic data.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Hay Stocks
Winter Wheat Seedings
Grain Stocks

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"Best Wishes for the New Millennium"

Best Wishes from all of us at Montana Agricultural Statistics Service! As 1999 comes to a close and we approach the year 2000 we should take a minute to look back on what has happened this year. Poor prices and low moisture conditions last fall caused Montana winter wheat producers to seed the smallest winter wheat crop since 1937. Only 1.05 million acres of winter wheat were planted and 970 thousand acres were harvested.

Montana's spring wheat producers seeded the third largest crop on record behind only 1995 and 1997. Spring wheat production for 1999 was estimated at 108 million bushels, unchanged from 1998. Precipitation was good until July when dry weather prevailed through most of the summer. The dry summer conditions reduced yields 3 bushels from 1998, farmers averaged 27 bushels per acre.

Montana durum wheat growers planted 400,000 acres and harvested 390,000 acres, both significantly lower than last year. The average yield of 27.0 bushels per acre was unchanged from last year. Total production was estimated at 10.53 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year.

The winter of 1998-1999 was very open for livestock producers. Temperatures were above normal and ranchers had excellent conditions for calving. Losses were minimal because of the warm, open winter.

As we look to the New Millennium, Montana Agricultural Statistics Service will publish county estimates for oilseed crops, peas, lentils, and chickpeas for the first time. This information was requested by producers and funded by the Montana Department of Agriculture. We continue to look for ways we can provide service to agriculture.

To everyone involved in Montana's agriculture, thanks for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of **Montana's Number One Industry--Agriculture**. We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season. We hope the new millennium will be a great year for Montana agriculture!

PLEASE RETURN

Beef Prices Surge According to ERS Economist

Rising beef supplies and sharply higher prices are a welcome end to a decade of frustration for the U.S. beef industry reports an ERS economist. But more importantly what does this situation suggest for the next couple of years as beef supplies decline following unprecedented heifer slaughter. The return of dry conditions and poor winter grazing prospects throughout the south has reduced incentives to hold back heifers for the 2000 breeding season. Inspite of sharply higher cattle prices the industry is not comfortable with expansion ideas. Grain prices remain low and hay production was record large in 1999, although supplies will be very tight this winter throughout the south particularly with the prospect of poor small grain pasture.

Beef prices have been very strong in second half 1999 in spite of record beef production and large supplies of competing meats. Prices have also been favorable for relatively large supplies of pork and poultry. Strongest prices have been for beef grading Choice and higher, the type of beef sold in the hotel-restaurant and export markets. The Choice-Select box beef price spread is typically wide in the fall and narrow during the late winter-early spring, but the spread this fall has been unprecedented. The spread has widened from $1.50 a cwt in March when the proportion of beef grading Choice is the highest to $14-$16 in late summer-early fall when the proportion grading Choice is typically low. Although total beef supplies have been large, supplies of Choice and higher beef have been unusually strong as U.S. and world economies continue to strengthen. Demand for Select grade beef, the type increasingly sold in retail stores has been less impressive.

Total U.S. beef consumption is expected to rise nearly 2 percent this year, while beef exports are likely to rise 7 percent. Economic growth continues strong in the U.S. and world growth has returned, particularly in Asia. While beef prices are clearly higher, the reasons with larger supplies aside from the income effect are less clear. Supplies of higher quality beef have below market needs, but seasonally supplies of higher quality beef should be increasing, prices alone are encouraging feeding to Choice. Many hotels and restaurants have booked quality beef ahead to insure supplies. Tastes and preferences change relatively slowly and clearly supplies of competing meats remain large at very competitive prices.

Slaughter Mix Shift Continues

The slaughter mix will begin to shift toward an even larger proportion of steers in the mix over the next couple of years. Cow slaughter continues to decline, a trend unlikely to change until more heifers are added to the breeding herd. Heifer slaughter is near record large this year, with at least one quarter being record large. Cattle are already being placed on feed at lighter weights, a function of tightening feeder cattle supplies, poor fall and winter grazing prospects and low feed costs. While steer and heifer slaughter weights will decline over the next couple of years due to lighter placement weights, a larger proportion of steers in the slaughter mix and a likely continued though moderating premium on Choice beef with hold average slaughter weights near this year's expected 729 pound commercial dressed weight average.

Feeder Cattle Supplies

Supplies of feeder cattle outside feedlots on October 1 were down over 3 percent from a year earlier and the lowest supply since the early 1990s. Poor fall grazing conditions, good feedlot returns, and low feeding costs have resulted in a much larger proportion of the remaining feeder cattle supplies being placed on feed this fall, but will result in an even quicker draw down of supplies for 2000. Calf slaughter is down about 12 percent for the year and if not this year almost certainly next year will decline below the 1.2 million head low set in 1993. With a reduced cow herd and fewer heifers being retained for herd replacement the 2000 calf crop will mark the fifth consecutive decline. If more heifers begin to be retained for herd replacement in 2000 the feeder cattle supply will drop even more sharply.

U.S. Livestock & Meat Imports & Exports

	1997	1998	Jan-Sept 1998	Jan-Sept. 1999
Beef & Veal Imports		**Carcass wt.,thousand lb.**		
Australia	639,426	855,260	632,208	637,727
New Zealand	576,697	593,101	520,263	475,576
Canada	712,077	823,073	603,486	701,923
Brazil	94,766	135,055	99,073	150,940
Argentina	146,658	124,191	78,513	116,405
Central America	92,163	51,753	37,967	43,211
Uruguay	68,178	50,237	33,801	46,978
Mexico	8,989	9,142	6,548	7,731
Other	5,271	1,294	704	1,312
Total	2,344,225	2,643,105	2,012,562	2,181,803
Beef & Veal Exports				
Japan	1,053,553	1,118,488	857,505	830,814
Canada	282,725	261,211	190,618	178,471
Mexico	312,583	418,855	298,479	331,547
Korea, Rep.	261,673	153,808	88,000	224,574
Caribbean	12,842	21,089	14,869	22,221
Russia	77,150	52,464	46,888	3,626
Other	135,154	144,727	103,308	122,471
Total	2,135,680	2,170,642	1,599,667	1,713,723
Cattle Imports		**Head**		
Mexico	669,409	720,439	385,679	511,322
Canada	1,376,814	1,313,476	1,029,252	775,918
Over 700 lbs.	1,200,642	1,183,457	925,719	682,851
440-700 lbs.	107,650	47,558	41,253	17,577
Total	2,046,352	2,034,009	1,415,016	1,287,240
Cattle Exports				
Mexico	235,121	160,474	129,501	72,534
Canada	41,189	116,762	51,436	80,185
Total	282,344	285,209	186,428	158,074

U.S. Livestock & Meat Imports & Exports

	1997	1998	Jan-Sept. 1998	Jan-Sept 1999
Lamb Imports		**Carcass wt., thousand lb.**		
Australia	32,969	42,438	28,916	36,794
New Zealand	26,417	34,799	25,738	26,422
Total	60,428	77,813	55,087	63,489
Mutton Imports	22,607	34,510	27,088	18,133
Pork Imports				
Canada	435,180	491,226	337,890	438,972
Denmark	123,839	135,513	97,203	102,080
Poland	15,002	19,801	13,708	16,595
Netherlands	8,118	9,972	6,707	6,773
Hungary	8,702	10,607	7,613	4,489
Other	43,217	38,274	27,629	27,739
Total	634,059	705,392	490,750	596,649
Pork Exports				
Japan	461,947	496,470	370,658	406,396
Canada	125,325	126,375	99,952	93,119
Mexico	86,988	145,363	99,411	110,329
Russia	173,598	175,399	163,233	3,704
Korean, Rep.	34,886	27,755	21,018	39,901
Hong Kong	55,067	62,116	46,913	36,112
Caribbean	12,200	21,784	14,259	15,575
Other	93,605	174,862	117,216	151,069
Total	1,043,615	1,230,124	932,661	856,204
Hog Imports		**Head**		
Canada	3,178,260	4,122,364	3,108,539	3,049,125
Under 110 lb	987,287	1,466,077	1,046,591	1,542,146
Total	3,178,260	4,122,364	3,108,539	3,049,125
Hog Exports				
Total	54,647	229,454	110,264	159,891

SOURCE for the above information: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 23, 1999.

Agricultural Prices Received for October

Crop prices for the full month of October 1999 were mixed compared with September 1999 prices, according to Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.82 per bushel, up 8 cents from September's level; durum wheat was $3.12 per bushel, up 20 cents; but spring wheat was 9 cents lower at $2.95 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.49 and malt barley was $2.54 per bushel.

The mid-November price for alfalfa hay was $66.00 per ton, down $1.00 from last month. Other hay, at $58.00 per ton, was $3.00 higher than October's mid-month price. The mid-November winter wheat price averaged $2.80 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.10, feed barley was $1.50, and malt barley averaged $2.55.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were also mixed. Steer and heifer prices increased $7.90 to $82.70 per cwt. Cows were down $2.90 to $33.90 and the average price for calves was unchanged at $90.40 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $4.00 to $24.20 per cwt, but lamb prices increased 70 cents to $74.60 per cwt. Milk prices were up $1.50 from last month at $16.50 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November averaged $83.00 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for October and changes from September were as follows: winter wheat was $2.47, up 1 cent; spring wheat was $2.80, down 6 cents; the all barley price was $1.96, down 7 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $70.10, up $3.00.

The U.S. mid-November winter wheat price was $2.36 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.87 per bushel, all wheat was $2.54 per bushel, and all barley was $2.13. Steer and heifer prices were $70.80 per cwt, cow prices were $33.00, all hog prices were $32.90 per cwt, and all egg prices were 64.3 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 93 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.2 percent) from the October index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, milk, cotton, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively lower marketings of potatoes, soybeans, peanuts, and lettuce. These marketing changes account for most of the November index increase. Higher prices for broilers, eggs, potatoes, and corn slightly offset price decreases for milk, soybeans, oranges, hogs, and lettuce.

Compared with November 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (6.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from November 1998 for milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, apples, and calves.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1999	Nov. 1999
Prices Received	99	99	91	93
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	114	114	117	117
Ratio 2/	87	87	78	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct. 1998	Sept. 1999	Oct. 1999	Oct. 1999	Sept. 1999	Oct. 1998	Nov. 15, 1999	Nov. 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.78	2.74	2.82	2.47	+0.08	+0.04	2.80	2.36
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.23	2.92	3.12	2.17	+0.20	-0.11	3.30	2.43
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.09	3.04	2.95	2.80	-0.09	-0.14	3.10	2.87
All Wheat	Bu.	3.00	2.99	2.94	2.58	-0.05	-0.06	3.06	2.54
Barley, All	Bu.	2.30	2.08	2.14	1.96	+0.06	-0.16	2.13	2.13
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.28	1.43	1.49	1.61	+0.06	+0.21	1.50	1.63
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.78	2.53	2.54	2.39	+0.01	-0.24	2.55	2.49
Oats	Bu.	1.23	1.15	0.95	1.07	-0.20	-0.28	0.95	1.08
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	68.00	67.00	76.00	-1.00	-7.00	66.00	77.30
All Other Hay	Ton	62.00	58.00	55.00	64.70	-3.00	-7.00	58.00	64.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	68.00	66.00	73.70	-2.00	-7.00	65.00	74.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	69.30	74.80	82.70	70.10	+7.90	+13.40	83.00	70.80
Cows	Cwt	31.40	36.80	33.90	33.80	-2.90	+2.50	33.70	33.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	61.30	68.00	71.50	66.20	+3.50	+10.20	75.10	66.20
Calves	Cwt	75.80	90.40	90.40	91.90	N/C	+14.60	92.50	91.60
Sheep 2/	Cwt	24.80	28.20	24.20	26.40	-4.00	-0.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	67.00	73.90	74.60	72.60	+0.70	+7.60	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	16.70	15.00	16.50	15.00	+1.50	-0.20	17.10	14.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. Meats Supply and Use, 1998 and Projected 1999 and 2000

Item		Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption	
								Total	Per capita
BEEF:				Million pounds 3/					
1998		465	25,760	2,642	28,867	2,171	393	26,303	68.1
1999 Proj.	Oct:	393	26,330	2,805	29,528	2,361	370	26,797	68.7
	Nov:	393	26,346	2,820	29,559	2,376	370	26,813	68.8
2000 Proj.	Oct:	370	24,981	3,015	28,366	2,265	365	25,736	65.4
	Nov:	370	24,981	3,015	28,366	2,310	365	25,691	65.3
PORK:									
1998		408	19,011	704	20,123	1,229	586	18,308	52.6
1999 Proj.	Oct:	586	19,216	826	20,628	1,261	550	18,817	53.5
	Nov:	586	19,398	826	20,810	1,291	550	18,969	53.9
2000 Proj.	Oct:	550	18,655	800	20,005	1,200	500	18,305	51.6
	Nov:	550	18,655	800	20,005	1,200	500	18,305	51.6
BROILERS:									
1998		607	27,612	5	28,225	4,673	711	22,841	72.6
1999 Proj.	Oct:	711	29,466	4	30,181	4,606	850	24,724	77.8
	Nov:	711	29,500	4	30,215	4,606	950	24,659	77.6
2000 Proj.	Oct:	850	30,957	4	31,811	4,675	890	26,246	81.9
	Nov:	950	30,957	4	31,911	4,675	990	26,246	81.9
TURKEYS:									
1998		415	5,215	0	5,630	446	304	4,880	18.1
1999 Proj.	Oct:	304	5,216	0	5,520	378	250	4,893	17.9
	Nov:	304	5,237	0	5,542	378	250	4,914	18.0
2000 Proj.	Oct:	250	5,332	0	5,582	390	300	4,892	17.8
	Nov:	250	5,332	0	5,582	390	300	4,892	17.8

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis. 3/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry. Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, November 10, 1999.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production
Slaughter
Hog & Pig Inventory

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Milk Production
Hogs & Pigs County Estimates
Farm Labor
Farm & Ranch Irrigation Survey
Egg Production

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 6%

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.46 million head on November 1, 1999. The inventory was 6 percent above November 1, 1998 and 4 percent above November 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 3.09 million, 9 percent above 1998 and up 6 percent from 1997. Net placements were 3.01 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 1.02 million, 600-699 pounds were 797,000, 700-799 pounds were 687,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 588,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.83 million, 3 percent above 1998 and 1 percent above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 80,000 during October, 54 percent above 1998 but 12 percent below 1997.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 6%

Cattle on feed November 1, 1999, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.77 million, up 6 percent from the previous year and 4 percent above November 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.61 million, 9 percent above 1998 and 6 percent above 1997. Marketings during October totaled 1.56 million, 1 percent above both 1998 and 1997.

Other disappearance during October was 63,000 head, 40 percent above 1998 but 18 percent below 1997.

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production for October

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during October 1999, down 22 percent from October 1998 and 24 percent below the previous month. Cattle slaughtered totaled 1,900 head, down 400 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,085 pounds, was down 47 pounds from last year.

During October, there were 1,900 hogs slaughtered, 700 less than last year. The average live weight, at 248 pounds, was up 20 pounds from last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 300 head, was 100 head less than a year ago. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds from last year to 127 pounds.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled 4.00 billion pounds in October, down 1 percent from the 4.03 billion pounds produced in October 1998. January - October red meat production was 38.4 billion pounds, 2 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 4 percent.

Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.09 million head, up 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was down 1 pounds from the previous year, at 1,213 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19 million pounds, 12 percent below the previous record low for October set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 105 thousand head, down 16 percent from October 1998. The average live weight was 16 pounds above last year, at 298 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 4 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20 million pounds, was down 4 percent from the previous record low for October set last year. Sheep slaughter totaled 305 thousand head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

October Milk Production Up 4.3% in Major States

Milk production in the 20 major States during October totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from production in these same States in October 1998. September revised production, at 11.2 billion pounds was up 4.9 percent from September 1998. The September revision represented a decrease of 0.3 percent or 37 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,496 pounds for October, 50 pounds above October 1998.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 57,000 head more than October 1998 but 1,000 head less than September 1999. October is the first month that the dairy cow herd has not expanded from the previous month in the 20 major States since February of this year. The total increase from February to September was 51,000 head of cows.

PLEASE RETURN

HOGS and PIGS: Inventory by Counties, December 1, 1992-98 1/

COUNTY & DISTRICT	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Rank
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	7,800	6,400	9,800	6,900	3,400	2,300	2,600	17
Granite	--	--	600	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	3,600	3,000	4,300	2,300	1,800	2,100	1,800	23
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	500	35
Ravalli	1,600	1,300	900	600	--	600	800	30
Sanders	500	500	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,400	600	300	--
NORTHWEST	**15,500**	**12,700**	**17,100**	**11,400**	**6,600**	**5,600**	**6,000**	**--**
Blaine	5,000	4,800	6,200	5,700	5,000	4,700	4,400	11
Chouteau	9,300	6,900	7,200	4,500	2,300	3,200	2,800	15
Glacier	13,300	11,000	13,900	14,200	14,800	21,400	23,000	1
Hill	13,000	11,400	14,800	12,100	9,700	9,900	10,300	7
Liberty	13,000	12,300	16,400	15,700	13,500	17,600	18,000	2
Phillips	6,700	5,300	6,300	4,200	4,100	3,900	3,100	14
Pondera	11,200	9,000	12,000	11,800	11,500	17,500	17,200	3
Teton	11,600	12,700	13,600	11,900	13,000	14,500	14,200	5
Toole	11,200	13,100	13,900	11,900	6,100	12,300	10,000	9
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**94,300**	**86,500**	**104,300**	**92,000**	**80,000**	**105,000**	**103,000**	**--**
Daniels	4,700	5,000	6,200	4,500	4,300	4,900	3,800	13
Dawson	2,000	1,900	1,600	1,200	1,000	1,100	1,300	26
Garfield	500	500	500	--	--	--	--	--
McCone	1,700	1,200	800	--	--	--	--	--
Richland	3,600	2,700	2,800	2,000	1,000	--	500	35
Roosevelt	3,000	2,000	2,000	1,500	900	900	700	31
Sheridan	3,800	3,000	2,700	2,100	1,400	1,500	1,300	26
Valley	2,000	1,600	1,300	1,100	700	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	900	700	1,200	900	--
NORTHEAST	**21,300**	**17,900**	**17,900**	**13,300**	**10,000**	**9,600**	**8,500**	**--**
Broadwater	2,000	1,600	1,300	1,100	900	700	--	--
Cascade	15,300	11,900	15,500	13,100	14,700	17,200	16,300	4
Fergus	6,400	4,400	5,700	5,100	2,500	2,300	2,200	19
Golden Valley	1,700	1,400	2,000	6,100	4,400	2,100	2,800	15
Judith Basin	--	--	--	--	700	1,200	1,400	25
Lewis & Clark	1,500	2,000	1,900	--	2,900	3,000	2,200	19
Meagher	6,900	4,300	5,000	--	4,800	6,000	6,000	10
Musselshell	1,400	1,500	1,200	800	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	9,500	10,100	10,200	10,700	8,600	8,300	10,300	7
Other	1,100	900	1,400	7,000	500	200	800	--
CENTRAL	**45,800**	**38,100**	**44,200**	**43,900**	**40,000**	**41,000**	**42,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gallatin	3,600	2,600	2,700	2,400	2,500	4,000	4,100	12
Jefferson	1,000	600	1,200	900	500	2,000	2,000	21
Madison	2,000	1,500	1,400	1,200	500	--	--	--
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	500	500	500	200	100	200	400	--
SOUTHWEST	**7,100**	**5,200**	**5,800**	**4,700**	**3,600**	**6,200**	**6,500**	**--**
Big Horn	--	2,900	1,200	700	600	3,000	--	--
Carbon	--	700	500	--	--	--	--	--
Park	--	600	600	--	--	--	--	--
Stillwater	6,500	5,400	7,000	5,000	2,800	2,000	--	--
Sweetgrass	3,500	2,600	3,500	2,300	2,100	2,000	--	--
Treasure	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellowstone	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	12,400	600	600	1,100	500	600	18,800	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**22,400**	**12,800**	**13,400**	**9,100**	**6,000**	**7,600**	**18,800**	**--**
Carter	1,000	800	700	900	500	900	900	29
Custer	1,200	900	1,000	600	--	500	600	33
Fallon	2,900	2,300	1,800	1,100	900	900	1,000	28
Powder River	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prairie	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	1,700	1,400	2,000	--	1,100	1,700	1,700	24
Wibaux	600	500	800	700	--	800	700	31
Other	1,200	900	1,000	2,300	1,300	200	300	--
SOUTHEAST	**8,600**	**6,800**	**7,300**	**5,600**	**3,800**	**5,000**	**5,200**	**--**
MONTANA	**215,000**	**180,000**	**210,000**	**180,000**	**150,000**	**180,000**	**190,000**	

1/ Counties with less than 500 head or individual operators having 60 percent or more of the head are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Montana Wage Rates Up 8%, U.S. Up 4% From A Year Ago

The average wage received by all hired agricultural workers in Montana during 1999 was $6.95 per hour compared with the $6.42 per hour received in 1998. Field workers increased their wages by $.09 per hour from last year to earn $6.52 per hour. Field and livestock workers combined wages increased $.36 per hour from a year ago to $6.56 per hour.

There were 1.29 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 10-16, 1999, up 3 percent from a year ago. Farm operators directly hired 989,000 workers. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 296,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 12.0 percent of the October hired workforce compared to 11.0 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $7.83 per hour during the October 1999 survey week, up 23 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.31 per hour, up 16 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned $7.43 per hour compared with $7.28 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 16 cents from last year.

The 1999 U.S. hired worker annual average wage rate was $7.77, up 4 percent from the 1998 annual average wage rate of $7.47. The Field and Livestock worker combined annual average wage rate was $7.22, up 3 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $6.98.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates By Selected States and United States, 1998-99 1/ 2/

	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Dollars per Hour					
CO	7.39	7.65	6.50	6.94	6.78	7.01
ID	6.98	7.19	6.62	6.79	6.80	7.01
MT	**6.42**	**6.95**	**6.43**	**6.52**	**6.20**	**6.56**
ND	7.85	7.80	7.70	7.81	7.67	7.77
OR	8.08	8.32	7.29	7.73	7.29	7.74
SD	6.57	7.33	6.31	7.14	6.06	6.87
UT	7.07	7.66	6.22	6.59	6.73	7.12
WA	7.76	8.01	7.13	7.43	7.37	7.57
WY	6.25	6.43	5.91	5.85	5.75	6.13
US 3/	7.47	7.77	6.97	7.19	6.98	7.22

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January. 3/ Excludes AK.

Irrigation Equipment and Facilities Now a $1 Billion Industry

America's farmers used more water to irrigate their crops in 1998 than in 1994, and spent over a billion dollars on irrigation equipment, facilities, and land improvements that same year–a 25 percent increase from 1994–according to a new report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The *1998 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey* provides a snapshot of irrigation practices in the agricultural industry during 1998, and shows interesting trends since the last survey conducted in 1994. Although previous surveys provided data for 18 water resource areas and 27 States, the 1998 results offer data for every State and 20 water resource areas. This new irrigation survey also includes first-time statistics on expenditures for computers for irrigation, water management and water distribution software.

The survey confirmed that corn continues to be the dominant irrigated crop, accounting for nearly one-fourth of irrigated land. Other top irrigated crops following corn were alfalfa hay, cotton, soybeans, and orchard land. Together, the five top crops accounted for 57 percent of all irrigated land. The value of irrigated crops as a percent of all crops rose dramatically over the past 15 years according to the 1997 Census of Agriculture, the basis for the 1998 irrigation survey. During that same time period, irrigated cropland acreage remained steady, indicating the positive effect of irrigation to increase productivity.

Initially, it may appear that the reported rise from 1.7 to 1.8 acre-feet of water applied per acre indicates a decline in irrigation efficiency from 1994 to 1998. However, most of this dramatic increase may be attributed to heavy snowfalls in the West during 1997, causing increased streamflow and subsequent use of this plentiful, "free" water through gravity irrigation. When the amount of water used for gravity irrigation in California, Arizona, and Nevada–the three states effected by the 1997 deluge of snow and which account for nearly 20 percent of the total irrigated acres in the Nation–is extracted from the United States total, a continued trend toward efficiency and less water use emerges.

Demonstrating their continued support of efficiency, farmers continued to favor more precise water distribution methods. Sprinkler use showed a 7 percent increase from 1994 to 1998. Drip/trickle acreage rose 20 percent, although it is only used on 4 percent of irrigated land. Conversely, the percentage of acres irrigated by gravity-flow continued a decline apparent since the second Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey was conducted in 1984. Over half of the 50 million acres irrigated in 1998 were reported to have had improvements made to reduce energy use or conserve water. These improvements resulted in reduced water requirements on 19.2 million irrigated acres and decreased energy costs on 16.7 million irrigated acres.

The major irrigation source of water is wells, which account for 45 percent of all irrigation water and is used on 60 percent of irrigated land. Over 60 percent of farms using wells in 1998 used one or two wells. There is a notable difference in the average amount of water applied per acre depending on the source. Land irrigated with water from wells averaged only 1.4 acre-feet applied per acre, while land irrigated with water from off-farm water suppliers averaged 2.6 acre-feet.

(Continued on back page.)

Irrigation (Continued)

Although energy continues to be a top expense, average energy costs fell from $33.68 per irrigated acre in 1994 to $31.92 in 1998. Of the 49,000 farms that spent $643 million on irrigation machinery and equipment purchases in 1998, about three-quarters of the farms used the expenditure for equipment replacement, a fifth on expansion, and less than 5 percent on water conservation equipment.

The 1998 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey results are used by equipment manufacturers, dealers, extension agents, government agencies, farmer associations, water and utility companies, and others to benchmark current practices, determine the most effective measures to ensure efficient irrigation, and predict the pathway of the future. To discover the wealth of irrigation and other agricultural data available from NASS resources, including hundreds of commodity production and price reports, or to review a full catalog of NASS products/services, visit the NASS Home Page at www.usda.gov/nass/. The 1998 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey, 1997 Census of Agriculture reports, State and County Profiles, Highlights, and a slide show presenting *Quick Facts* are accessible by clicking "Census of Agriculture." For other information, call 1-800-835-2612 or e-mail us at nass-mt@nass.usda.gov.

October Egg Production Up 5 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.13 billion during October 1999, up 5 percent from the 6.79 billion produced in 1998. Production included 6.03 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 63.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 1999 averaged 327 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during October 1998. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,192 eggs, up 2 percent from 2,157 eggs in October 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 1999, totaled 327 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 327 million layers consisted of 268 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 1999, averaged 70.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.6 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.69 billion eggs during October, up 4 percent from October 1998. The average number of layers during October, at 306 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

U.S. Livestock Import and Exports- ERS
U.S. Meat Supply and Use - ERS
Ag Prices Received

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Survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA-NASS

Issue: 99-21 (0279-0394) Released: November 12, 1999

HIGHLIGHTS:

Crop Production Highlights
1999 Crop Year Summary
Ag Prices Received

First November 1 Crop Forecast to include Dry Peas & Lentils

The first forecast of Montana **dry edible pea** production was 663,000 cwt. Montana's dry edible pea estimates were not published last year so comparisons could not be made. Planted acreage for 1999 was estimated at 50,000 acres, and 39,000 acres were harvested. The yield forecast is 1,700 pounds per acre.

Production of dry edible peas in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington in 1999 is estimated at 5.03 million cwt, down 15 percent from 1998 and down 13 percent from two years ago. Overall, planted area in the U. S. reached 281,600 acres, 41,800 acres fewer than a year ago. Harvested acres stood at 263,600 acres compared with 309,100 acres last year. Average yields fell 12 pounds to 1,908 pounds per acre.

Montana's first **lentil** production forecast was 208,000 hundredweight for 1999. Planted acreage was set at 19,000 acres, and 16,000 acres were harvested. The yield is forecast at 1,300 pounds per acre.

Production of lentils in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 2.39 million cwt, up 23 percent from the 1998 crop. Planted and harvested acreage are above last year in both Idaho and Washington. Harvested area is estimated at 174,500 acres, 16,000 acres more than in 1998. Average yield per acre, at 1,368 pounds, is 145 pounds above last year.

Montana **sugar beet** production was forecast at 1.473 million tons on November 1, 1999 up 1 percent from last month's forecast and up 4 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, of 23.8 tons per acre, is up 0.3 tons per acre from last month and is 1.2 tons per acre higher than last year. Harvested acreage is up 100 acres from last month at 61,900 acres, but this is 500 acres less than 1998. As of November 1, ninety-nine percent of the crop had been harvested which is 7 points higher than the five-year average.

U.S. sugar beet production is forecast at a record high 33.4 million tons, 2 percent above the previous record in 1998. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States expect to harvest 1,525,200 acres, 5 percent more than last year and the highest since 1,540,500 acres were harvested in 1969. The yield is forecast at 21.9 tons per acre, below the 1998 yield of 22.5 tons.

Montana **fall potato** production is forecast at 3.216 million hundredweight, up 1 percent from last year. Harvested acres are estimated at 10,900 acres, up 300 acres from last year. The yield is forecast at 295 cwt per acre, 5 cwt per acre lower than last year. As of November 1, ninety five percent of the crop has been harvested which is 1 point above the five-year average.

Nationally, fall potato production for 1999 is forecast at 436 million cwt, up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 1997. Area harvested, at 1.18 million acres, is down 3 percent from last year and down less than 1 percent from two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 369 cwt per acre, a jump of 13 cwt from last year and 12 cwt above two years ago.

See table on next page.

Revised Small Grains Estimate from Producer Re-interviews

Montana and North Dakota producers with unharvested small grains during the September Agricultural Survey were re-interviewed to update the harvested acreage and yield. Montana's **durum wheat** yield was reduced by 1 bushel per acre from September and is now estimated at 27 bushels per acre. Durum wheat production, at 10.53 million bushels, is down nearly 4 percent from September 1999 and nearly 13 percent from the previous year. Planted and harvested acres remained unchanged from September for all small grains. **Winter wheat** and **spring wheat** production estimates also are unchanged from September. **Oats** yield is reduced by 3 bushels per acre to 46 bushels and production decreased 6 percent from September to 3.22 million bushels.

Nationally, **durum wheat** was the only wheat revised and production is set at 100.4 million bushels, down nearly 9 percent from the September estimate. Yield declined 0.7 bushels per acre and harvested acreage was reduced by 250,000 acres. **Oats** production declined 1 percent from September and is set at 146.5 million bushels.

Montana's on farm **oats stocks** were reduced 200,000 bushels from September to 2.8 million bushels. Montana's on farm **wheat stocks** remained unchanged from September.

Nationally, on farm **oats stocks** were reduced by 1.2 million bushels from the September estimate to 96.3 million bushels. **Barley** on farm stocks were reduced by 2.0 million bushels to 165.1 million bushels. On farm **durum** wheat stocks were reduced by 9.0 million bushels to 98.4 million bushels and **all wheat** was reduced by 10.0 million bushels to 893.1 million bushels. Revisions were made to on farm stocks only.

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Crop Production Forecast, November 1, 1999

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/
MONTANA		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	1,050	1,250	970	39.0	38.0	48,750	36,860
Durum Wheat	Bu.	450	400	430	390	28.0	27.0	12,040	10,53[illegible]
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,800	4,150	3,600	4,000	30.0	27.0	108,000	108,000
All Wheat	Bu.	5,650	5,600	5,280	5,360	32.0	29.0	168,790	155,390
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	65	18	19	115.0	135.0	2,070	2,565
Oats	Bu.	140	170	60	70	54.0	46.0	3,240	3,220
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,300	1,200	1,150	48.0	50.0	57,600	57,500
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.6	16.0	12.2	15.5	21.8	21.8	266	338
Sugar Beets	Ton	64.0	61.9	62.4	61.9	22.6	23.8	1,410	1,473
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.6	11.0	10.6	10.9	300.0	295	3,180	3,216
Dry Edible Peas	Cwt.	3/	50.0	3/	39.0	3/	17.0	3/	663
Lentils	Cwt.	3/	19.0	3/	16.0	3/	13.0	3/	208
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.20	2.30	3,740	4,025
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	900	1.60	1.50	1,280	1,350
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,650	2.01	2.03	5,020	5,375
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	46,449	43,425	40,126	35,542	46.9	47.8	1,880,733	1,698,369
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,805	4,075	3,728	3,609	37.0	27.8	138,119	100,402
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,567	15,498	15,148	14,918	34.9	34.1	528,469	509,180
All Wheat	Bu.	65,821	62,988	59,002	54,069	43.2	42.7	2,547,321	2,307,951
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,187	77,611	72,604	70,925	134.4	134.5	9,761,085	9,537,137
Oats	Bu.	4,892	4,670	2,755	2,455	60.2	59.7	165,981	146,506
Barley	Bu.	6,337	5,223	5,864	4,758	60.0	59.2	352,125	281,853
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,010.1	1,992.6	1,913.9	1,903.0	16.1	16.7	30,828	31,755
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,498.8	1,560.6	1,451.7	1,525.2	22.5	21.9	32,606	33,393
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,235.1	1,207.9	1,214.0	1,180.7	356.0	369.0	432,737	435,601
Dry Edible Peas	Cwt.	323.4	281.6	309.1	263.6	19.2	19.0	5,934	5,030.0
Lentils	Cwt.	162.0	182.0	158.5	174.5	12.2	13.6	1,938	2,387.0
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,642	23,968	3.47	3.57	82,010	85,487
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,374	38,083	1.91	1.99	69,328	75,898
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,016	62,051	2.52	2.60	151,338	161,38[illegible]

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ No state estimate in 1998.

1999 Crop Year Summary

Poor prices and low moisture conditions last fall caused Montana winter wheat producers to seed the smallest winter wheat crop since 1937. Winter wheat seeding totaled 1.05 million acres down 25 percent from the previous year's 1.4 million. November precipitation was above normal for all of the northern part of the state and scattered locations across the state. The moisture was welcome and topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions improved dramatically during the month. The first 2 ½ weeks of December was dry and mild and producers were able to do some late field work. Precipitation was heavier during the last half of the month. For the entire month of December precipitation was above normal for most of the Northwest and normal to below normal for the rest of the state.

January was mild and dry. There were two periods of cold weather but unreasonably mild temperatures for the rest of the month. There was a beneficial snow storm during the later part of the month but during most of the month the winter wheat did not have adequate snow cover.

February was significantly warmer and drier than normal. Storm tracks continued north or south of the state as a strong westerly upper air flow kept arctic air out of the area. Winter wheat snow cover was rated 96 percent poor to very poor. March was also significantly warmer and drier than normal. Even though there was not much protective snow cover the winter wheat condition was rated mostly good. During the first half of April most locations had below normal precipitation. Precipitation increased in the last half of the month and the North Central and Central districts reported above normal precipitation for the entire month. The planting of all crops was ahead the five-year average except for potatoes and dry beans. Spring wheat was 54 percent seeded as of May 2 verses the five-year average of 44 percent.

The second week in May there was enough precipitation in most locations to slow fieldwork considerably. Planting fell behind the 5-year average for row crops. The crop conditions at the end of May were reported mostly good.

Crop conditions improved during June for most crops. As of June 28 the winter wheat crop was rated at 99 percent good to excellent while the crop was only 75 percent headed on this date compared with 76 percent for the average. Spring wheat and oats conditions were similar while barley was rated at 51 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Crop progress was behind the 5-year average except for hay harvested.

July temperatures were above normal and soil moisture conditions deteriorated. By August 1 only 12 percent of the topsoil moisture was rated adequate and none was rated surplus. Winter wheat conditions and yield expectations declined. By the first of August, 31 percent of the winter wheat crop was harvested compared with 22 percent for the five-year average. Progress of hay harvested was still ahead of normal at the end of the month.

Most of the state received little precipitation during August. Harvest progress was behind normal for all crops except winter wheat, corn silage, and dry beans. By the end of the month about 91 percent of the winter wheat, 52 percent of the spring wheat, 50 percent of the barley and 58 percent of the oats were harveste[illegible] The second cutting of alfalfa was 67 percent complete by August 29 compared with 73 percent for the average. Other hay was 92 percent harvested compared with the average of 96 percent. (Continued on back page.)

Agricultural Prices Received for September

Crop prices for the full month of September 1999 were mostly higher compared with August 1999 prices, according to Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.74 per bushel, up 14 cents from August's level; durum wheat was $2.92 per bushel, unchanged; and spring wheat was 14 cents higher at $3.04 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.43 and malt barley was $2.53 per bushel.

The mid-October price for alfalfa hay was $67.00 per ton, down $1.00 from last month. Other hay, at $55.00 per ton, was $3.00 lower than September's price. The mid-October winter wheat price averaged $2.70 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.95, feed barley was $1.50, and malt barley averaged $2.60.

Livestock prices for the full month of September were mixed. Steer and heifer prices increased 80 cents to $74.80 per cwt. Cows were down $2.10 to $36.80 and the average price for calves increased $2.30 to $90.40 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased 40 cents to $28.20 per cwt and lamb prices decreased $5.70 to $73.90 per cwt. Milk prices were up $1.60 cents from last month at $15.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-October averaged $81.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for September and changes from August were as follows: winter wheat was $2.46, up 12 cents; spring wheat was $2.86, up 1 cent; the all barley price was $2.03, down 34 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $67.10, up 90 cents.

The U.S. mid-October winter wheat price was $2.33 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.78 per bushel, all wheat was $2.49 per bushel, and all barley was $2.00. Steer and heifer prices were $70.10 per cwt, cow prices were $34.50, all hog prices were $34.10 per cwt, and all egg prices were 50.1 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in October was 92 based on 1990-92=100, down 5 points (5.2 percent) from the September index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of milk, wheat, tobacco, and grapes more than offset the relatively higher marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton lint and cottonseed. These marketing changes decreased the index four points. Price decreases from September account for one point of the decline. Lower prices for broilers, corn, milk, and eggs more than offset price increases for cattle, tobacco, oranges, and cucumbers.

Compared with October 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.1 percent) lower. Price decreases from October 1998 for soybeans, broilers, milk, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, calves, hogs, and oranges.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	September 1998	October 1998	September 1999	October 1999
Prices Received	99	99	97	92
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	113	114	116	116
Ratio 2/	88	87	84	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

BASE MONTH: September 1999	Monthly Average MONTANA			U.S.	Change From		Mid-Month Average	
					Prev Mo.	Prev. Yr.	Montana	U.S.
	September 1998	August 1999	September 1999	September 1999	August 1999	September 1998	Oct 15 1999	Oct 15 1999
Winter Wheat	2.37	2.60	2.74	2.46	+0.14	+0.37	2.70	2.33
Durum Wheat	3.49	2.92	2.92	2.30	N/A	-0.57	3.25	2.57
Spring Wheat	2.73	2.90	3.04	2.86	+0.14	+0.31	2.95	2.78
Wheat, All	2.69	2.82	2.99	2.57	+0.17	+0.30	2.93	2.49
Barley	2.25	2.49	2.08	2.03	-0.41	-0.17	2.16	2.00
Feed Barley	1.26	1.38	1.43	1.64	+0.05	+0.17	1.50	1.69
Malt Barley	2.84	2.96	2.53	2.41	-0.43	-0.31	2.60	2.49
Oats	1.28	1.05	1.15	1.08	+0.10	-0.13	1.10	1.08
Alfalfa Hay	74.00	63.00	68.00	77.30	+5.00	-6.00	67.00	76.00
All Other Hay	65.00	53.00	58.00	63.70	+5.00	-7.00	55.00	64.70
All Hay Baled	74.00	62.00	68.00	74.50	+6.00	-6.00	66.00	73.70
Steer & Heifers	64.70	74.00	74.80	67.10	+0.80	+10.10	81.20	70.10
Cows	32.90	38.90	36.80	34.60	-2.10	+3.90	35.70	34.50
Beef Cattle 1/	59.90	63.50	63.80	63.80	+0.30	+3.90	72.60	66.10
Calves	76.80	88.10	90.90	90.90	+2.80	+14.10	90.30	92.00
Sheep 2/	25.40	28.60	29.20	29.20	+0.60	+3.80	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	69.00	79.60	73.90	75.30	-5.70	+4.90	N/A	N/A
All Milk	16.30	13.40	15.20	15.90	+1.80	-1.10	15.00	15.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

1999 Crop Year Summary (Cont.)

In September, Montana's 1999 winter wheat production was estimated at 36.86 million bushels, down 24% from 1998 and the lowest production since the severe drought of 1985. The lower production in 1999 was the result of the lowest harvested acres since 1938. Producers harvested 970,000 acres, down 280,000 acres from the 1998 harvest. The 1999 average yield was 38 bushels per acre, which is one bushel lower than last year's average.

Spring wheat production was estimated at 108 million bushels, unchanged from 1998. The 1999 and 1998 productions are tied for the third largest crop on record behind only 1995 and 1997. Precipitation was good until July when dry weather prevailed through most of the summer. The seeded acreage was 4.15 million acres, 350,000 acres greater than 1998. The spring wheat crop was only 91 percent harvested as of September 26. Producers harvested or intended to harvest 4.0 million acres. Yields averaged 27 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from 1998.

Durum wheat growers planted 400,000 acres and harvested or expect to harvest 390,000 acres in 1999. With above normal precipitation in the Northeastern part of the state, planting was delayed and durum wheat harvest was later than usual. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from 1998. Total production was estimated at 10.92 million bushels, down 9 percent from last year. In November the producers reporting unharvested durum wheat in September were re-interviewed to determine final harvested acreage and yield. This survey resulted in a 1 bushel reduction in the estimated durum wheat yield. Harvested acreage did not change in November.

Barley planted acreage decreased to 1.3 million acres, 50,000 acres less than 1998. Producers harvested 1.15 million acres, which was also 50,000 acres less than were harvested for grain in 1998. The yield averaged 50 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last year. Production was estimated at 57.5 million bushels, nearly unchanged from last year.

Oat production was estimated at 3.43 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 170,000 acres, 30,000 acres higher than last year. Harvested acreage was set at 70,000 acres, up 10,000 from 1998. Yield averaged 49 bushels per acre, five bushels below last year. The re-interview survey in November resulted in a 3 bushel reduction in oat yield to 46 bushels per acre. There was no revision to harvested acreage.

On November 1, next year's winter wheat crop condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Topsoil and subsoil moisture was rated at mostly short with none rated surplus.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Slaughter
Farm Labor
Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Sugar Beet Production
Hay Production
Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle County Estimates
Sheep County Estimates
Red Meat Production

October 1, 1999 Sugar Beet and Hay Production

Montana sugar beet production for October 1999 is forecast at 1.45 million tons, unchanged from last month's forecast but up 3 percent from last year. Forecasted yield, at 23.5 tons per acre, is unchanged from last month but is 0.9 tons per acre higher than 1998. Harvested acreage remains unchanged from last month at 61,800 acres but this is 600 acres less than last year. Sugar beets are 22 percent harvested as of October 3. This is 8 percentage points higher than last year and 6 percentage points higher than the five-year average.

U.S. sugar beet production is forecast at a record high 34.0 million tons, 4 percent above the previous record in 1998. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing states expect to harvest 1,525,400 acres, 5 percent more than last year and the highest since 1,540,500 acres were harvested in 1969. The yield is forecast at 22.3 tons per acre, slightly below the 1998 yield of 22.5 tons.

Forecasted **alfalfa hay** yield for Montana was increased from the August forecast by 0.1 ton per acre to 2.3 tons per acre. If realized this would be 0.1 ton higher than last year. Total production of alfalfa hay is estimated at 4.03 million tons, up nearly 8 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1.75 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last year. Other hay yields remain unchanged from August at 1.5 tons per acre but down 0.1 ton from 1998. Total production is set a 1.35 million tons, up 5 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is unchanged from August at 900,000 acres, up 100,000 acres from last year. All hay production is estimated at 5.38 million tons, up 7 percent from last year.

Nationally, all hay production is forecast at a record high 161 million tons, up slightly from the August forecast but 7 percent higher than 1998. The all hay yield is forecast at a record high 2.60 tons per acre, up 0.08 tons per acre from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested for all hay is unchanged from August, at 62.1 million acres, but up 3 percent from the previous year.

U.S. production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is forecast at 85.5 million tons, 4 percent above 1998 and 9 percent above 1997. Yields are expected to average a record high 3.57 tons per acre, up 0.10 tons from both last year and August. Area harvested and to be harvested is unchanged from August, at 24.0 million acres, up 1 percent from 1998.

U.S. all other hay production is forecast at a record high 75.9 million tons, up 9 percent from 1998 and 3 percent above 1997. Yields are expected to average 1.99 tons per acre, down 0.05 tons from August but up 0.08 tons from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested is unchanged from August at 38.1 million acres, 5 percent above last year's total. (See table on next page.)

Montana and U.S. July-September Milk Production Up

Montana milk cows produced 76 million pounds of milk during the period of July-September 1999, compared with 72 million the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow inventory remained unchanged from a year ago at 18,000 head.

During the July-September period, the **U.S.** produced 39.8 billion pounds, 3.3 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.17 million head, 17,000 head more than the same period last year.

September Egg Production Up 6 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.85 billion during September 1999, up 6 percent from the 6.48 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.79 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 999 million were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 1999 averaged 322 million, up 4 percent from the total average number of layers during September 1998. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,126 eggs, up 2 percent from 2,082 eggs in September 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 1999, totaled 323 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 323 million layers consisted of 265 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.72 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 1999, averaged 70.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.3 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.44 billion eggs during September, up 5 percent from September 1998. The average number of layers during September, at 303 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

PLEASE RETURN

Crop Production Forecast October 1, 1999

CROP	UNIT	PLANTED		HARVESTED		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
		1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/			1998	1999 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres		1998	1999 1/	(000) Units	
MONTANA									
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	1,050	1,250	970	39.0	38.0	48,750	36,860
Durum Wheat	Bu.	450	400	430	390	28.0	28.0	12,040	10,920
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,800	4,150	3,600	4,000	30.0	27.0	108,000	108,000
All Wheat	Bu.	5,650	5,600	5,280	5,360	32.0	29.1	168,790	155,780
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	65	18	19	115.0	135.0	2,070	2,565
Oats	Bu.	140	170	60	70	54.0	49.0	3,240	3,430
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,300	1,200	1,150	48.0	50.0	57,600	57,500
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.6	16.0	12.2	15.5	21.8	21.8	266	338
Sugar Beets	Ton	64.0	61.9	62.4	61.8	22.6	23.5	1,410	1,452
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.6	11.0	10.6	11.0	300.0	3/	3,180	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.20	2.30	3,740	4,025
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	900	1.60	1.50	1,280	1,350
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,650	2.01	2.03	5,020	5,375
UNITED STATES									
Winter Wheat	Bu.	46,449	43,425	40,126	35,542	46.9	47.8	1,880,733	1,698,369
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,805	4,075	3,728	3,859	37.0	28.5	138,119	110,042
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,567	15,498	15,148	14,918	34.9	34.1	528,469	509,180
All Wheat	Bu.	65,821	62,988	59,002	54,319	43.2	42.7	2,547,321	2,317,591
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,187	77,611	72,604	70,925	134.4	133.5	9,761,085	9,466,977
Oats	Bu.	4,892	4,670	2,755	2,465	60.2	60.0	165,981	147,906
Barley	Bu.	6,337	5,223	5,864	4,778	60.0	59.5	352,125	284,073
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,010.1	1,992.6	1,913.9	1,903.0	16.1	16.7	30,828	31,755
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,498.8	1,560.6	1,451.7	1,525.4	22.5	22.3	32,606	34,009
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,235.1	1,216.4	1,214.0	1,200.3	343.0	3/	475,771	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,642	23,968	3.47	3.57	82,010	85,487
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,374	38,083	1.91	1.99	69,328	75,898
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,016	62,051	2.52	2.60	151,338	161,385

1/Preliminary. 2/Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available November 10, 1999.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.27 million head on October 1, 1999. The inventory was 5 percent above October 1, 1998 and 3 percent above October 1, 1997. The inventory included 6.21 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.02 million head, up 6 percent from 1998.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.76 million, 4 percent above 1998 and 2 percent above 1997. Net placements were 2.70 million. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 629,000, 600-699 pounds were 557,000, 700-799 pounds were 758,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 815,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.96 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 8 percent above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 62,000 during September, 2 percent above 1998 and 17 percent above 1997.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 5 Percent

Cattle on feed October 1, 1999, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.78 million, up 5 percent from the previous year and 3 percent above October 1, 1997. The inventory included 5.28 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.48 million head, up 6 percent from 1998. Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.35 million, 4 percent above 1998 and 3 percent above 1997.

Marketings during September totaled 1.68 million, 7 percent above 1998 and 10 percent above 1997. Other disappearanc during September was 55,000 head, 8 percent above 1998 and 31 percent above 1997.

LIVESTOCK: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 1998-1999

County & District	All Cattle & Calves			Beef Cows & Heifers That Have Calved			All Sheep & Lambs		
	1998	1999	Rank	1998	1999	Rank	1998	1999	Rank
Deer Lodge	10,100	11,100	53	6,200	6,300	53	500	--	--
Flathead	17,300	17,300	49	7,900	7,600	52	800	800	45
Granite	25,000	24,600	40	16,400	16,700	39	--	--	--
Lake	55,000	55,000	22	32,100	32,000	19	4,400	3,600	34
Lincoln	4,300	4,400	55	2,600	2,600	55	--	--	--
Mineral	1,100	1,200	56	600	700	56	--	--	--
Missoula	13,100	12,700	52	8,000	7,700	51	1,100	1,100	42
Powell	52,000	51,000	23	30,600	30,800	21	1,500	1,300	41
Ravalli	37,000	37,100	32	20,300	20,100	34	4,400	4,500	28
Sanders	21,100	21,600	45	13,300	13,500	45	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,300	1,700	--
NORTHWEST	**236,000**	**236,000**	**--**	**138,000**	**138,000**	**--**	**14,000**	**13,000**	**--**
Blaine	72,000	72,000	10	47,000	48,000	6	7,400	7,500	17
Chouteau	46,500	44,000	27	30,400	29,300	25	2,300	2,000	38
Glacier	39,500	39,000	30	26,500	26,900	28	--	--	--
Hill	30,100	31,900	36	17,900	19,200	35	800	800	45
Liberty	16,000	15,800	50	10,200	9,900	49	--	--	--
Phillips	77,000	78,000	7	48,000	48,000	6	10,100	9,000	11
Pondera	27,100	28,300	38	18,200	19,100	36	7,500	6,600	20
Teton	62,000	59,000	16	34,000	33,300	18	8,400	7,800	16
Toole	19,800	20,000	48	12,800	13,300	46	1,800	1,600	40
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	700	700	--
NORTH CENTRAL	**390,000**	**388,000**	**--**	**245,000**	**247,000**	**--**	**39,000**	**36,000**	**--**
Daniels	14,500	14,000	51	9,600	9,300	50	800	700	47
Dawson	44,000	43,000	28	28,700	27,600	26	7,000	6,900	18
Garfield	54,000	57,000	21	36,000	35,500	15	49,000	43,000	2
McCone	34,000	33,200	34	21,200	21,600	33	14,200	13,600	6
Richland	56,000	58,000	19	29,400	30,400	23	6,000	5,800	24
Roosevelt	28,200	28,300	38	18,200	18,600	38	5,500	4,100	31
Sheridan	22,300	22,500	43	14,600	15,000	41	2,300	2,000	38
Valley	64,000	66,000	12	40,300	42,000	11	4,200	3,900	33
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**317,000**	**322,000**	**--**	**198,000**	**200,000**	**--**	**89,000**	**80,000**	**--**
Broadwater	24,500	23,500	42	15,000	15,500	40	4,800	4,400	29
Cascade	86,000	85,000	6	52,000	53,000	4	11,500	10,200	9
Fergus	109,000	105,000	3	70,000	68,000	2	7,000	6,300	21
Golden Valley	20,900	20,900	46	12,000	12,200	48	8,000	8,800	13
Judith Basin	64,000	63,000	13	37,300	37,700	13	9,700	9,000	11
Lewis & Clark	44,000	45,000	25	24,700	24,400	30	4,800	4,600	27
Meagher	58,000	60,000	15	34,800	34,000	17	5,600	6,000	23
Musselshell	34,900	35,800	33	23,200	22,800	31	10,700	10,000	10
Petroleum	23,300	22,200	44	13,900	14,400	43	4,600	4,200	30
Wheatland	35,400	37,600	31	21,100	22,000	32	23,300	20,500	3
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**500,000**	**498,000**	**--**	**304,000**	**304,000**	**--**	**90,000**	**84,000**	**--**
Beaverhead	138,000	143,000	1	79,000	76,000	1	18,200	18,000	4
Gallatin	59,000	58,000	19	29,100	27,000	27	7,800	6,700	19
Jefferson	21,700	23,600	41	14,000	14,200	44	1,200	1,100	42
Madison	77,000	78,000	7	48,000	47,000	8	9,100	8,600	14
Silver Bow	9,300	9,400	54	5,900	5,800	54	700	600	48
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**305,000**	**312,000**	**--**	**176,000**	**170,000**	**--**	**37,000**	**35,000**	**--**
Big Horn	91,000	94,000	4	59,000	59,000	3	--	--	--
Carbon	67,000	62,000	14	31,400	30,400	23	8,800	7,900	15
Park	46,000	45,000	25	30,400	30,500	22	3,200	3,000	36
Stillwater	57,000	59,000	16	32,800	34,600	16	11,800	10,400	8
Sweetgrass	51,000	49,000	24	32,100	31,000	20	12,500	11,500	7
Treasure	32,000	30,000	37	13,300	14,500	42	--	--	--
Yellowstone	118,000	117,000	2	46,000	45,000	9	5,700	6,300	21
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,000	2,900	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	**462,000**	**456,000**	**--**	**245,000**	**245,000**	**--**	**45,000**	**42,000**	**--**
Carter	59,000	59,000	16	38,000	37,600	14	59,000	53,000	1
Custer	79,000	76,000	9	44,000	40,000	12	6,600	5,800	24
Fallon	41,500	41,000	29	25,500	24,700	29	4,200	3,500	35
Powder River	71,000	72,000	10	44,000	43,500	10	20,200	17,800	5
Prairie	33,000	32,500	35	19,200	18,800	37	5,200	5,000	26
Rosebud	88,000	87,000	5	53,000	51,000	5	4,600	4,000	32
Wibaux	18,500	20,500	47	12,300	12,400	47	1,200	900	44
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**390,000**	**388,000**	**--**	**236,000**	**228,000**	**--**	**101,000**	**90,000**	**--**
MONTANA	**2,600,000**	**2,600,000**	**–**	**1,542,000**	**1,532,000**	**–**	**415,000**	**380,000**	**–**

Montana and U.S. Slaughter Up From a Year Ago

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 1999, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Red meat production is down 12 percent from last month, but up 21 percent from a year ago. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,300 head, up 400 head from a year ago. The average live weight was 1,100 pounds, down 30 pounds from last September.

The number of hogs slaughtered during the month was 2,800, same as a year ago. The average live weight was 247 pounds, up 20 pounds from last year. A total of 400 sheep slaughtered during the month, the same as September 1998. The average live weight was also the same as a year ago at 129 pounds.

United States commercial red meat production totaled 3.93 billion pounds in September, up 3 percent from September's previous record high of 3.83 billion pounds produced in 1998. Beef production, at 2.28 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year and just above the previous record high for September set in 1976. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.10 million head, up 4 percent from 1998. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 1,210 pounds.

U.S. veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 7 percent below the previous record low for September set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 121 thousand head, down 11 percent from September 1998. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 281 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.62 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous record high for September set last year.

Hog kill totaled 8.64 million head, 1 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 255 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.0 million pounds, was up 2 percent from September 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 307 thousand head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 127 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

January - September red meat production was 34.4 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 4 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Monthly Average Prices
Dry Bean Production
Potato Production
Sugar Beet Production
1999 Crop Year Summary

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1999 Small Grains Summary
September 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

Montana's 1999 winter wheat production was estimated at 36.86 million bushels, down 24% from 1998 and the lowest production since the severe drought of 1985. The lower production in 1999 was the result of the lowest harvested acres since 1938. Producers harvested 970,000 acres, down 280,000 acres from the 1998 harvest. The 1999 average yield was 38 bushels per acre, which is 1 bushel lower than last year's average. The yield was lowered 1 bushel from the September 1, 1999 forecast.

Spring wheat production was estimated at 108 million bushels, unchanged from 1998. The 1999 and 1998 productions are tied for the third largest crop on record behind only 1995 and 1997 productions. The Northeastern and some of the North Central sections of the state received more precipitation than the rest of the state. In these areas the spring wheat plantings were delayed. Precipitation was good until July when dry weather prevailed through most of the summer. The seeded acreage was 4.15 million acres, 350,000 acres greater than 1998. The spring wheat crop is only 91 percent harvested as of September 26. Producers harvested or intended to harvest 4.0 million acres, 400,000 acres more than a year earlier. Yields averaged 27 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from 1998 in part due to lack of precipitation in many areas of the state.

Montana **durum wheat** growers planted 400,000 acres and harvested or expect to harvest 390,000 acres in 1999. With good precipitation in the Northeastern part of the state, producers obtained good yields. The abundant moisture in the Northeastern part of the state delayed planting and durum wheat harvest was later than usual. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from 1998. Total production was estimated at 10.92 million bushels, down 9 percent from last year.

Barley planted acreage in Montana decreased to 1.3 million acres, 50,000 acres less than 1998. Producers harvested 1.15 million acres, also 50,000 acres less than were harvested for grain in 1998. Yields averaged 50 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last year and up 4 bushels from the previous forecast. Production was estimated at 57.5 million bushels, nearly unchanged from last year.

Oat production was estimated at 3.43 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. Planted acreage was estimated at 170,000 acres, 30,000 acres higher than last year. Harvested acreage was set at 70,000 acres, up 10,000 from 1998. Yields averaged 49 bushels per acre, 5 bushels above last year.

Nationally, the 1999 **winter wheat** crop production was estimated at 1.70 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from the August forecast, but 10 percent below the 1998 level. The U.S. yield increased 0.4 bushels from August to 47.8 bushels per acre; a new record high average, nearly a bushel better than last year's former record. Acreage for grain was estimated at 35.5 million acres, down less than 1 percent from last forecast. This is the smallest harvested area since 1972. Planted area is 43.4 million acres, unchanged from the last forecast.

Other spring wheat production in 1999 was estimated at 509 million bushels, up fractionally from the last forecast, but 4 percent less than in 1998. Harvested area is now 14.9 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. The U.S. yield was 34.1 bushels per acre, up slightly from the last forecast, but nearly a bushel less than last season.

Durum wheat production for 1999 totaled 110 million bushels, down slightly from September 1 and 20 percent less than last year. Grain area now totals 3.86 million acres, down 1 percent from the last forecast, but still 4 percent more than a year ago. The U.S. yield was forecast at 28.5 bushels per acre, up three-tenths from the last forecast, but 8.5 bushels per acre below 1998. North Dakota's durum harvest was only 69 percent complete as of September 26 well behind the average 91 percent. Quality of the remaining wheat has been compromised by sprouting and related moisture damage.

U.S. **barley** production in 1999 is estimated at 284 million bushels, 1 percent above the last forecast, but down 19 percent from last year's estimate. This is the lowest production since 1953. Average yield per acre, at 59.5 bushels, up 1 bushel from the previous forecast, but down 0.5 bushels from 1998. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.78 million acres, down 1 percent from the last forecast and 19 percent less than a year ago. This is the lowest acreage since 1900.

U.S. **oats** production for the 1999 crop year is forecast at 147.9 million bushels, 11 percent smaller than the 1998 production. This is the lowest production since records were first kept in 1866. The forecasted yield, at 60.0 bushels per acre, is slightly below last year's 60.2 bushel yield. Area harvested and to be harvested for grain in 1999 is 2.47 million acres, 11 percent below 1998. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record.

September , 1999 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on September 1, 1999 totaled 192.85 million bushels, down 4 percent from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 165.0 million bushels and off farm stocks accounted for 27.85 million bushels. All **spring wheat** stocks, at 145.0 million bushels, were up 8 percent from last year and accounted for 75 percent of the total wheat stocks. **Winter wheat** stocks were estimated at 47.85 million bushels, down 29 percent from last year. **Durum wheat** stocks were estimated at 17.86 million bushels, up 7.11 million bushels a 66% increase from last year. All wheat disappearance for the March-May quarter was 33.53 million bushels, compared with 34.09 million for the same quarter last year.

Barley stocks in all positions on September 1, 1999 were up 10 percent from last year and were set at 56.0 million bushels. **Oat** stocks were down 3 percent from a year ago and were estimated at 3.08 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions September 1, 1999 totaled 2.46 billion bushels, up 3 percent from a year ago and the highest September 1 level since the 1987-88 marketing year. On farm stocks are 903 million bushels, up 2 percent from last year. More than 20 percent of the stocks on farms were standing in fields at the time of data collection; North Dakota and Montana had the majority of the unharvested production. Off-farm stocks, at 1.56 billion bushels, are up 4 percent. Wheat disappearance for the first quarter of the marketing year is 825 million bushels, down 10 percent from the same period in 1998.

U.S. **durum wheat** stored in all positions September 1, 1999 totaled 147 million bushels, up 17 percent from a year ago to the highest September 1 level since 1986. Farm stocks are 107 million bushels, up 22 percent from last year. More than 60 percent of the stocks on farms were standing in fields at the time of data collection, mostly in North Dakota. Off-farm stocks, at 39.9 million bushels, are up 5 percent from last September. Durum disappearance for the first quarter of the marketing year is 24.5 million bushels, down 5 percent from the same period in 1998.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on September 1, 1999 are estimated at 297 million bushels, 9 percent below last year. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 167 million bushels are stored on farms, 14 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 130 million bushels, are only 2 percent below 1998. Indicated disappearance during the June - August 1999 quarter totaled 135 million bushels, 11 percent lower than the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **oats** stored in all positions on September 1, 1999 totaled 148 million bushels, 8 percent below the stocks on September 1, 1999. Of the total stocks on hand, 97.5 million bushels were stored on farms, 12 percent below this time last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 51.0 million bushels, 1 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during June - August 1999 totaled 102 million bushels, 24 percent more than the same period a year ago.

SEPTEMBER 1 GRAIN STOCKS

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Sept. 1, 1998	June 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1999	'99/'98	Sept. 1, 1998	June 1, 1998	Sept. 1, 1999
	(000) Bushels			Percent	(000) Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	171,000	54,000	165,000	96%	885,720	277,710	903,060
Off Farms 1/	30,700	16,600	27,850	91%	1,499,770	668,208	1,556,196
TOTAL	201,700	70,600	192,850	96%	2,385,490	945,918	2,459,256
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	54,000	16,000	39,000	72%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	13,500	6,300	8,850	66%	--	--	--
TOTAL	67,500	22,300	47,850	71%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	117,000	38,000	126,000	108%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	17,200	10,300	19,000	110%	--	--	--
TOTAL	134,200	48,300	145,000	108%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	88,000	37,500	107,400
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	37,908	17,302	39,850
TOTAL	10,750	7,780	17,860	166%	125,908	54,802	147,250
BARLEY							
On Farms	43,000	11,000	48,000	112%	193,500	52,000	167,100
Off Farms 1/	7,800	4,450	8,000	103%	132,652	89,653	129,845
TOTAL	50,800	15,450	56,000	110%	326,152	141,653	296,945
OATS							
On Farms	3,000	1,000	3,000	100%	110,300	40,700	97,500
Off Farms 1/	180	160	75	42%	51,515	40,678	50,982
TOTAL	3,180	1,160	3,075	97%	161,815	81,378	148,482
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	640,000	2,257,000	807,000
Off Farms 1/	15	--	--	--	667,803	1,359,225	989,367
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	1,307,803	3,616,225	1,796,367

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Agricultural Prices Received for August

Crop prices for the full month of August 1999 were mostly lower compared with July 1999 prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.60 per bushel, down 9 cents from July's level; durum wheat was $2.92 per bushel, down 6 cents; and spring wheat was 23 cents lower at $2.90 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.38 and malt barley was $2.96 per bushel.

The mid-September price for alfalfa hay was $68.00 per ton, up $5.00 from last month. Other hay, at $58.00 per ton, was also $5.00 higher than August's price. The mid-September winter wheat price averaged $2.70 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.90; feed barley price was $1.40; and malt barley averaged $2.90.

Livestock prices for the full month of August were mixed. Steer and heifer prices increased 20 cents to $74.00 per cwt. Cows were down 80 cents to $38.90 and the average price for calves increased $1.60 to $88.10 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $4.30 to $28.60 per cwt. and lamb prices increased $1.50 to $79.60 per cwt. Milk prices were up 60 cents from last month at $13.40 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-September averaged $74.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for August and changes from July were as follows: winter wheat was $2.34, up 21 cents; spring wheat was $2.85, down 8 cents; the all barley price was $2.37, up 33 cents, again last month there was an increase in malt barley sales as a percent of the total barley sold; and steer and heifer prices were $66.20, up $1.00.

The U.S. mid-September winter wheat price was $2.41 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.82 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.56 per bushel, all barley was $2.14. Steer and heifer prices were $66.90 per cwt, cow prices were $34.90, all hog prices were $32.30 per cwt, and all egg prices were 56.7 cents per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 97 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the August index. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell affect the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, broilers, wheat, and grapes more than offset the relatively higher marketings of soybeans, peanuts, corn, and potatoes. The marketing changes would have decreased the index two points but were partially offset by the price increases. Price increases from August for milk, lettuce, tomatoes, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for hogs, grapes, potatoes, and onions.

Compared with September 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 2 points (2.0 percent) lower. Price decreases from September 1998 for broilers, soybeans, milk, and cotton more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, calves, and wheat.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	August 1998	September 1998	August 1999	September 1999
Prices Received	101	99	98	97
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rages 1/	116	115	117	117
Ratio 2/	87	86	84	83

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

BASE MONTH: August 1999	Monthly Average MONTANA			U.S.	Change From		Mid-Month Average	
					Prev Mo.	Prev. Yr.	Montana	U.S.
	August 1998	July 1999	August 1999	August 1999	July 1999	August 1998	Sept 15 1999	Sept 15 1999
Winter Wheat	2.51	2.69	2.60	2.34	-0.09	+0.09	2.70	2.41
Durum Wheat	4.17	2.98	2.92	2.74	-0.06	-1.25	3.00	2.69
Spring Wheat	2.92	3.13	2.90	2.85	-0.23	-0.02	2.90	2.82
Wheat, All	2.80	3.03	2.82	2.52	-0.21	+0.02	2.85	2.56
Barley	2.44	2.33	2.49	2.37	+0.16	+0.05	2.45	2.14
Feed Barley	1.35	1.48	1.38	1.51	-0.10	+0.03	1.40	1.68
Malt Barley	2.88	2.88	2.96	2.65	+0.08	+0.08	2.90	2.61
Oats	1.39	1.08	1.05	0.97	-0.03	-0.34	1.00	1.03
Alfalfa Hay	77.00	64.00	63.00	81.50	-1.00	-14.00	68.00	77.30
All Other Hay	67.00	55.00	53.00	62.80	-2.00	-14.00	58.00	63.70
All Hay Baled	76.00	63.00	62.00	77.40	-1.00	-14.00	68.00	74.50
Steer & Heifers	65.60	73.80	74.00	66.20	+0.20	+8.40	74.70	66.90
Cows	37.20	39.70	38.90	36.30	-0.80	+1.70	37.30	34.90
Beef Cattle 1/	58.50	55.00	63.50	63.50	+8.50	+5.00	68.30	63.80
Calves	76.60	86.50	88.10	89.60	+1.60	+11.50	88.00	91.20
Sheep 2/	28.50	32.90	28.60	29.20	-4.30	+0.10	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	79.40	78.10	79.60	68.90	+1.50	+0.20	N/A	N/A
All Milk	14.50	12.80	13.40	15.00	+0.60	-1.10	15.20	15.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Montana Annual Small Grain Summary, Production by District 1/

DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1998	1999	'99/'98	1998	1999	'99/'98	1998	1999	'99/'98
	(000) Bushels		Percent	(000) Bushels		Percent	(000) Bushels		Percent
Northwest	635	370	58	1,900	1,800	95	1,850	1,260	68
North Central	21,093	14,270	68	53,070	47,370	89	30,816	31,901	104
Northeast	1,847	1,590	86	44,817	50,236	112	3,505	4,000	114
Central	13,225	10,960	83	9,194	9,380	102	11,375	9,804	86
Southwest	1,670	1,230	74	2,185	1,962	90	4,226	3,705	88
South Central	8,345	5,590	67	2,266	2,218	98	4,519	5,330	118
Southeast	1,935	2,850	147	6,608	5,955	90	1,309	1,500	115
MONTANA	48,750	36,860	76	120,040	118,920	99	57,600	57,500	100

1/ District estimates of production funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, In All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Sept. 1, 1998	June 1, 1999	Sept. 1, 1999	Sept. 1, 1998	June 1, 1999	Sept. 1, 1999
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	2.5	0.3	2.0	2.3	0.8	2.1
North Central	89.7	29.7	63.3	27.3	7.3	33.8
Northeast	57.2	19.9	78.3	4.1	0.7	1.9
Central	29.6	10.7	29.2	8.0	4.2	9.5
Southwest	5.0	1.2	3.5	4.4	0.7	3.6
South Central	11.6	5.1	8.7	3.4	1.5	4.3
Southeast	6.1	3.7	7.9	1.3	0.3	0.8
Montana	201.7	70.6	192.9	50.8	15.5	56.0

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle & Beef Cows County Estimates
Breeding Sheep & Lambs
Slaughter
Crop Production
Quarterly Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Egg Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Red Meat Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Milk Production
- Egg Production
- Hogs & Pigs Inventory
- Potato Disposition
- Cash Receipts

August Red Meat Production Up

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during August 1999, up 24 percent from August 1998 and up 14 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,600 head, up 500 head from a year ago. The average live weight was 1,107 pounds, 12 pounds lighter than last August.

There were 3,400 hogs slaughtered during August, 500 more than in August 1998. The average live weight was 247 pounds, up 21 pounds from a year earlier. Sheep slaughtered were up 100 head from last August to 500 head. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds from last August to 127 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in August, up 4 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in August 1998 and up 1 percent from the previous record high for August set in 1995. Beef production, at 2.31 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.15 million head, up 4 percent from 1998. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,206 pounds. Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, slightly above August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 119 thousand head, down 5 percent from August 1998. The average live weight was 16 pounds above last year, at 282 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.56 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous record high for August set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.41 million head, 3 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 254 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.0 million pounds, was up 10 percent from August 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 296 thousand head, 8 percent above last year. The average live weight was 127 pounds, up 4 pounds from August a year ago.

January - August red meat production was 30.4 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 5 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.53 million head on September 1, 1999. The inventory was 5 percent above September 1, 1998 and 4 percent above September 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.41 million, 17 percent above 1998 but 1 percent below 1997. Net placements were 2.36 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 492,000, 600-699 pounds were 480,000, 700-799 pounds were 731,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 710,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 2.03 million, 4 percent above 1998 but slightly below 1997. Other disappearance totaled 55,000 during August, 6 percent above 1998 and 22 percent above 1997.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 5 Percent

Cattle on feed September 1, 1999, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.18 million, up 5 percent from the previous year and 4 percent above September 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.07 million, 17 percent above 1998 but 2 percent below 1997. Marketings during August totaled 1.73 million, 3 percent above 1998 but 1 percent below 1997. Other disappearance during August was 42,000 head, the same as 1998 and 1997.

August Egg Production Up 4 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.96 billion during August 1999, up 4 percent from the 6.69 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.87 billion table eggs and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 1999 averaged 320 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during August 1998. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,175 eggs, up fractionally from 2,165 eggs in August 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 1999, totaled 321 million, up 4 percent from a year ago. The 321 million layers consisted of 263 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 1999, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from the 69.3 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.54 billion eggs during August, up 4 percent from August 1998. The average number of layers during August, at 301 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. August Milk Production Up 3.6 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during August totaled 11.5 billion pounds, up 3.6 percent from production in these same States in August 1998. July revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds was up 2.4 percent from July 1998.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,488 pounds for August, 45 pounds above August 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 33,000 head more than August 1998 and 3,000 head more than July 1999.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 4 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1999, was 60.7 million head. This was 4 percent below September 1998, but slightly above June 1, 1999.

Breeding inventory, at 6.29 million head, was down 8 percent from September 1, 1998, and down 3 percent from June 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 54.4 million head, was 4 percent below last year, but 1 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 1999 U.S. pig crop, at 25.9 million head, was 3 percent less than 1998, but 1 percent more than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.93 million head, 4 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.86 pigs saved per litter for the June-August period, compared to 8.72 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.80 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.85 million sows farrow during the September-November 1999 quarter, 5 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998, and 3 percent below 1997. Intended farrowings for December 1999-February 2000, at 2.81 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period last year and 4 percent below 1998.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 31 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

1998 Potato Production and Disposition

Montana's 1998 potato production totaled 3.18 million cwt, 4 percent below last year and 1 percent below 1996. Producers harvested 10,600 acres, 200 more than a year ago and 400 acres more than two years ago. Potato yields averaged 300 cwt per acre compared with 320 cwt in 1997.

Value of production from the 1998 crop was $25.3 million, up 8 percent from 1997. The average price was $7.95 per cwt, up 90 cents from the previous year's crop. Sales of Montana's 1998 potato crop totaled $22.0 million, which is 5 percent higher than last year's crop. Producers sold 2.8 million cwt from the 1998 crop compared with 3.0 million cwt a year ago.

Total U.S. potato production for 1998 is estimated at 476 million cwt, up 2 percent from 1997 but 5 percent below the record high in 1996. Harvested area, at 1.39 million acres, was up 3 percent from 1997 but 3 percent below 1996. The average yield of 343 cwt per acre was down 2 cwt from 1997 and 7 cwt below 1996. Seasonal production was below last year for winter and spring, while summer and fall potatoes were above the previous year. Winter production fell 13 percent, spring decreased 5 percent, summer increased 4 percent, and fall potatoes gained 2 percent. This is the second largest potato production on record in the United States.

Summer potato production was revised to 18.9 million cwt for 1998, up 4 percent from 1997 but 1 percent below 1996. Harvested area of 68,100 acres gained 5 percent from 1997, while the average yield of 278 cwt per acre was down 2 cwt from a year earlier.

Fall potatoes were finalized at 433 million cwt, up 2 percent from 1997 but 5 percent below the 1996 record. This is the second largest fall potato production in the United States. Area harvested in 1998 was estimated at 1.21 million acres, up 2 percent from 1997 but 3 percent below two years ago. The average yield, at 356 cwt per acre, was down 1 cwt from 1996. Final production of fall potatoes was 1 percent above the first forecast made in November 1998.

Value of all potato production was estimated at $2.63 billion, up fractionally from last year and 9 percent above 1996. The average price, at $5.56 per cwt lost 8 cents from a year earlier but was 65 cents above 1996.

Sales from the 1998 potato crop totaled 435 million cwt, up 1 percent from 1997 but 4 percent below 1996. Sales accounted for 90.8 percent of 1998 production. Non sales accounted for 41.2 million cwt of 1998 potatoes, up 9 percent from 1997 but 14 percent below 1996. Over the past five years, an average of 90.7 percent of the potatoes produced have been sold. The other 9.3 percent was either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used for seed, home use, and livestock feed on farms where grown.

Processors used 282 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 1998 crop, up 5 percent from 1997 but less than 1 percent below 1996. Table stock sales totaled 124 million cwt, 5 percent below last year. Seed sales of 25.1 million cwt were down 3 percent. Sales for livestock feed, at 3.11 million cwt, down 14 percent from 1997 and 74 percent below the 1996 diversion-enhanced program.

Chip potato use totaled 50.5 million cwt, 5 percent above last year. Freezers took 169 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 3 percent, while dehydrating jumped 15 percent to a record high 55.5 million cwt. Canning use, at 5.04 million cwt, was down 8 percent. Starch, flour and other products were made from 1.63 million cwt of potatoes, up 25 percent from last year.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 35.5 million cwt, up 10 percent from last year but 14 percent less than 1996. Livestock feed and home use totaled 1.36 million cwt, up 4 percent. Growers kept an additional 4.41 million cwt for seed on their own farms, a gain of 6 percent from the previous year.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Sale of Principal Products and Government Payments, 1997 1/ 2/

County & District	Livestock & Livestock Products		Crops		Total Cash Receipts		Government Payments	All Cash Receipts
	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols	Rank	(000) Dols.	(000) Dols.
Deer Lodge	2,952	54	2,280	50	5,232	53	112	5,344
Flathead	10,492	39	16,414	22	26,906	30	784	27,690
Granite	8,947	45	893	53	9,840	50	--	9,840
Lake	24,439	17	14,130	24	38,569	22	912	39,481
Lincoln	1,685	55	578	54	2,263	55	--	2,263
Mineral	694	56	362	55	1,056	56	--	1,056
Missoula	6,702	50	1,958	52	8,660	51	120	8,780
Powell	17,415	27	2,572	47	19,987	42	157	20,144
Ravalli	19,434	21	5,017	39	24,451	33	321	24,772
Sanders	7,893	48	4,223	41	12,116	47	222	12,338
NORTHWEST	**100,653**	**--**	**48,427**	**--**	**149,080**	**--**	**2,628**	**151,708**
Blaine	30,877	9	19,595	17	50,472	14	9,223	59,695
Chouteau	16,070	29	102,252	1	118,322	1	20,373	138,695
Glacier	19,220	22	25,117	15	44,337	19	6,744	51,081
Hill	12,213	36	68,391	2	80,604	5	16,822	97,426
Liberty	9,256	43	38,851	5	48,107	17	8,297	56,404
Phillips	29,493	12	18,737	19	48,230	16	7,821	56,051
Pondera	13,699	34	49,899	4	63,598	9	8,537	72,135
Teton	46,270	5	59,605	3	105,875	2	9,365	115,240
Toole	9,562	42	36,011	6	45,573	18	10,808	56,381
NORTH CENTRAL	**186,660**	**--**	**418,458**	**--**	**605,118**	**--**	**97,990**	**703,108**
Daniels	6,567	51	17,771	21	24,338	34	8,116	32,454
Dawson	18,619	23	18,863	18	37,482	23	5,657	43,139
Garfield	18,150	24	8,550	32	26,700	31	4,352	31,052
McCone	14,765	33	15,629	23	30,394	27	7,675	38,069
Richland	24,559	16	32,216	10	56,775	12	6,127	62,902
Roosevelt	10,021	40	27,123	13	37,144	24	9,360	46,504
Sheridan	8,048	47	20,106	16	28,154	28	9,702	37,856
Valley	14,997	31	27,792	12	42,789	20	12,196	54,985
NORTHEAST	**115,726**	**--**	**168,050**	**--**	**283,776**	**--**	**63,185**	**346,961**
Broadwater	8,223	46	11,836	27	20,059	41	2,572	22,631
Cascade	42,510	6	33,309	8	75,819	6	7,047	82,866
Fergus	40,320	8	26,436	14	66,756	7	7,146	73,902
Golden Valley	7,656	49	2,394	49	10,050	49	2,283	12,333
Judith Basin	27,215	13	11,955	26	39,170	21	3,252	42,422
Lewis & Clark	17,782	26	5,714	38	23,496	37	719	24,215
Meagher	15,707	30	5,994	37	21,701	40	807	22,508
Musselshell	10,542	38	6,340	36	16,882	45	2,115	18,997
Petroleum	9,730	41	2,408	48	12,138	46	1,001	13,139
Wheatland	16,188	28	8,133	34	24,321	35	1,912	26,233
CENTRAL	**195,873**	**--**	**114,519**	**--**	**310,392**	**--**	**28,854**	**339,246**
Beaverhead	52,166	4	13,233	25	65,399	8	865	66,264
Gallatin	30,564	10	32,516	9	63,080	10	2,425	65,505
Jefferson	9,162	44	2,799	46	11,961	48	440	12,401
Madison	25,156	15	11,491	29	36,647	26	835	37,482
Silver Bow	3,186	53	101	56	3,287	54	–	3,287
SOUTHWEST	**120,234**	**--**	**60,140**	**--**	**180,374**	**--**	**4,565**	**184,939**
Big Horn	65,075	1	28,728	11	93,803	4	4,349	98,152
Carbon	29,738	11	18,502	20	48,240	15	1,349	49,589
Park	18,081	25	4,809	40	22,890	38	1,071	23,961
Stillwater	25,937	14	10,872	30	36,809	25	3,502	40,311
Sweetgrass	20,328	20	1,969	51	22,297	39	365	22,662
Treasure	14,816	32	9,248	31	24,064	36	587	24,651
Yellowstone	64,530	2	34,809	7	99,339	3	5,111	104,450
SOUTH CENTRAL	**238,505**	**--**	**108,937**	**--**	**347,442**	**--**	**16,334**	**363,776**
Carter	22,782	19	3,395	44	26,177	32	2,864	29,041
Custer	54,444	3	8,166	33	62,610	11	2,131	64,741
Fallon	13,456	35	4,129	42	17,585	44	3,078	20,663
Powder River	23,856	18	3,481	43	27,337	29	1,774	29,111
Prairie	11,905	37	7,749	35	19,654	43	2,087	21,741
Rosebud	40,943	7	11,568	28	52,511	13	2,993	55,504
Wibaux	5,170	52	3,336	45	8,506	52	2,354	10,860
SOUTHEAST	**172,556**	**--**	**41,824**	**--**	**214,380**	**--**	**17,281**	**231,661**
MONTANA	**1,130,207**	**--**	**960,355**	**--**	**2,090,562**	**--**	**230,837**	**2,321,399**

1/ Includes estimates of inter-farm sales and intra-state sales resulting in larger total cash receipts than shown in USDA estimates on other pages.
2/ Payments of less than $50,000 included in State totals.

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

CASH RECEIPTS: From Marketings by Commodities, Montana, 1994-1998 1/

ITEM	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	Thousand Dollars				
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS					
Cattle and calves	728,590	667,838	655,770	831,030	744,544
Dairy products	40,478	40,299	44,688	37,488	42,000
Sheep and lambs	24,232	25,682	28,797	29,744	21,434
Wool	4,379	5,428	3,901	3,668	2,670
Hogs and pigs	31,119	36,074	37,900	34,010	25,840
Eggs	4,538	4,988	5,940	4,180	3,850
Honey	6,497	6,106	6,178	9,502	8,779
All other livestock 1/	13,627	12,275	14,588	15,034	15,600
TOTAL	**853,460**	**798,690**	**797,762**	**964,656**	**864,717**
CROPS					
Wheat	705,597	726,894	809,520	680,091	571,327
Barley	121,117	141,945	147,530	140,429	123,992
Sugar beets	54,763	47,601	62,530	49,572	57,105
Hay	77,568	86,372	100,235	106,713	95,094
Potatoes	21,382	20,069	24,572	18,960	20,489
Oil crops	8,452	10,032	7,458	11,194	13,010
Oats	3,819	3,092	3,965	2,011	2,222
Dry beans	4,013	3,531	4,283	5,278	4,481
Corn	5,192	5,319	4,980	4,628	4,601
Cherries	770	916	893	830	2,040
All other crops 2/	31,613	34,409	38,033	38,716	39,911
TOTAL	**1,034,286**	**1,080,180**	**1,203,999**	**1,058,422**	**934,272**
ALL COMMODITIES	**1,887,746**	**1,878,870**	**2,001,761**	**2,023,078**	**1,798,989**

1/All other livestock, horses/mules, poultry and products including, bees, beeswax, chickens, turkeys & turkey eggs, rabbits and mink
2/ All other field crops; fruits; vegetables; seeds; greenhouse and nursury products,

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received

Small Grains Summary

Grain Stocks

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HIGHLIGHTS:

September 1 Crop Production Forecast
Ag Prices Received
Wheat and Barley Movement

Spring Wheat Forecast Down from Last Month

Montana's September 1, 1999 other spring wheat production forecast is 109.35 million bushels, down 4 percent from last month. If realized, this would be 1 percent higher than last year because of an increase in harvested acres. The average yield, at 27 bushels per acre, was down 1 bushel from the August 1, 1999 forecast and is 3 bushels per acre lower than last year. Harvested acres are unchanged from last month and are forecast at 4.05 million acres. Harvest progress is behind last year and the 5-year average. As of September 5, 1999, spring wheat is 69 percent harvested compared with 94 percent last year and 77 percent for the average.

Durum wheat production as of September 1, 1999 is unchanged from last month's forecast of 10.92 million bushels, down 9 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 28 bushels per acre which is the same as last month and last year. Harvested acreage remained unchanged from last month at 390,000 acres compared with 430,000 acres in 1998.

Winter wheat production is not forecast on September 1,however, if we added the August winter wheat production forecast with current spring wheat and durum forecasts the total wheat crop would be estimated at 158.10 million bushels, down 6 percent from 1998.

The September 1, 1999 forecast for barley remains unchanged from last month and is set at 52.90 million bushels, down 8 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 46 bushels per acre compared with 48 bushels per acre for 1998. Harvested acreage is unchanged from August and is forecast at 1.15 million acres which is 50,000 acres lower than 1998.

Sugar beet yield is down 0.5 tons per acre from last month, at 23.5 tons per acre, but harvested acreage remains unchanged at 61,800 acres. Total production is forecast at 1.45 million tons, up 3 percent from last year.

At the U.S. level, all wheat production for September 1, 1999 is placed at 2.31 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the August forecast and down 10 percent from 1998. The U.S. yield is forecast at 42.3 bushels per acre. This is down 0.3 bushels from last month. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 508 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month and down 4 percent from last season. The final forecast of U.S. average yield is 33.9 bushels per acre, 0.3 bushels per acre lower than a month ago. Hard red spring production is down 1 percent from August to 455 million bushels because yields declined in Montana and South Dakota. Heat was the factor in both states. The South Dakota harvest is finished. Better Idaho yields have white spring production up 1 percent to 52.5 million bushels.

U.S. durum wheat production for September 1, 1999 is forecast at 110 million bushels, down 3 percent from last month and 22 percent less than 1998. The U.S. yield is now forecast at 28.3 bushels per acre, down 0.9 bushels from August 1. North Dakota's crop is maturing slowly; only 19 percent was combined as of August 29.

U.S. barley production for 1999 is forecast at 283 million bushels, less than 1 percent higher than the August forecast but 20 percent below the 1998 production. Area harvested and to be harvested is unchanged from August, at 4.83 million acres, down 18 percent from the previous year. Yields are expected to average 58.5 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels from last month but 1.6 bushels below last year's yield.

Sugar beet production is forecast at record high 33.6 million tons, 3 percent above the previous record in 1998. Growers in the 12 sugar beet producing states expect to harvest 1,525,500 acres, 5 percent more than last year and the highest since 1,540,500 acres were harvested in 1969. The yield is forecast at 22.0 tons per acre, 0.5 ton below 1998.

Corn production is forecast at 9.38 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the last forecast and down 4 percent from 1998. Based on September 1, 1999 conditions, yields are expected to average 132.2 bushels per acre, down 2.5 bushels per acre from August and 2.2 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would be the fourth largest production and third highest yield on record. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 71.0 million acres, unchanged from August.

NASS PROGRAM CHANGES: The National Agricultural Statistics Service has completed a preliminary review of it's statistical program to make sure it best meets the needs of data users in the future. These changes are documented at the following web site: http://www.usda.gov/nass/events/events.htm

This site can be reached through the NASS home page by clicking on "Coming Events and News" under AGENCY INFORMATION. The proposed program changes are the first subject.

Crop Production Forecast September 1, 1999

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/
Montana		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	1,050	1,250	970	39.0	39.0	48,750	37,830
Durum Wheat	Bu.	450	400	430	390	28.0	28.0	12,040	10,920
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,800	4,150	3,600	4,050	30.0	27.0	108,000	109,350
All Wheat	Bu.	5,650	5,600	5,280	5,410	32.0	29.2	168,790	158,100
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	65	18	19	115.0	135.0	2,070	2,565
Oats	Bu.	140	160	60	80	54.0	56.0	3,240	4,480
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,250	1,200	1,150	48.0	46.0	57,600	52,900
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.6	16.0	12.2	15.5	21.8	21.8	266	338
Sugar Beets	Ton	64.0	61.9	62.4	61.8	22.6	23.5	1,410	1,452
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.6	11.0	10.6	11.0	300.0	3/	3,180	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.20	2.20	3,740	3,850
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	900	1.60	1.50	1,280	1,350
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,650	2.01	1.96	5,020	5,200
United States		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	46,449	43,419	40,126	35,609	46.9	47.4	1,880,605	1,688,582
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,805	4,015	3,728	3,898	37.8	28.3	141,069	110,362
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,617	15,299	15,148	14,960	34.9	33.9	528,709	507,727
All Wheat	Bu.	65,871	62,733	59,002	54,467	43.2	42.3	2,550,383	2,306,671
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,187	77,611	72,604	70,955	134.4	132.2	9,761,085	9,380,947
Oats	Bu.	4,902	4,698	2,765	2,631	60.4	61.6	167,122	162,096
Barley	Bu.	6,340	5,167	5,867	4,834	60.1	58.5	352,445	282,585
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,010.1	1,992.6	1,913.9	1,903.0	16.1	16.6	30,828	31,506
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,498.8	1,560.6	1,451.7	1,525.5	22.5	22.0	32,606	33,629
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,416.6	1,391.0	1,387.7	1,368.2	343.0	3/	477,381	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,642	23,968	3.47	3.47	82,010	83,160
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,374	38,083	1.91	2.04	69,328	77,609
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,016	62,051	2.52	2.59	151,338	160,769

1/Preliminary. 2/Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available November 10, 1999.

ALL WHEAT: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, Selected States & U.S., 1998 & Forecasted September 1, 1999

STATE	Area Harvested		Yield			Production	
	1998	1999	1998	Aug. 1, 1999	Sept. 1, 1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO 1/	2,610	2,452	39.7	42.6	42.6	103,710	104,440
ID	1,280	1,350	80.0	74.5	75.4	102,410	101,820
KS 1/	10,100	9,200	49.0	46.0	46.0	494,900	423,200
MN	1,982	2,218	40.6	39.7	39.7	80,444	87,994
MT	**5,280**	**5,410**	**32.0**	**30.0**	**29.2**	**168,790**	**158,100**
NE 1/	1,800	1,850	46.0	48.0	48.0	82,800	88,800
ND	9,610	8,948	32.3	28.6	28.2	310,650	252,180
OK 1/	5,100	4,300	39.0	35.0	35.0	198,900	150,500
OR 1/	885	783	65.0	48.0	48.0	57,490	37,602
SD	3,294	2,949	36.7	39.6	39.0	120,884	115,035
TX 1/	3,900	3,400	35.0	36.0	36.0	136,500	122,400
WA	2,565	2,290	61.4	53.7	53.7	157,425	122,900
WY 1/	210	189	32.3	34.1	34.1	6,790	6,450
US	**59,002**	**54,467**	**43.2**	**42.5**	**42.3**	**2,550,383**	**2,306,671**

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

Montana Production Forecast by District, September 1, 1999 1/

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1998	1999	99/98	1998	1999	99/98	1998	1999	99/98
	1,000 Bushels		Pct.	1,000 Bushels		Pct.	1,000 Bushels		Pct.
Northwest	635	390	61	1,900	1,630	86	1,850	1,647	89
N Central	21,093	15,204	72	53,070	51,077	96	30,816	28,965	94
Northeast	1,847	1,776	96	44,817	48,976	109	3,505	3,480	99
Central	13,225	11,760	89	9,194	7,417	81	11,375	9,480	83
Southwest	1,670	816	49	2,185	2,491	114	4,226	3,168	75
S Central	8,345	5,960	71	2,266	2,537	112	4,519	5,000	111
Southeast	1,935	1,924	99	6,608	6,142	93	1,309	1,160	89
Montana	**48,750**	**37,830**	**78**	**120,040**	**120,270**	**100**	**57,600**	**52,900**	**92**

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Ag Prices Received for July

Crop prices for the full month of July were lower compared with June prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.69 per bushel, down 12 cents from June's level; durum wheat was $2.98 per bushel, down 2 cents; and spring wheat was 2 cents lower at $3.13 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.48 and malt barley was $2.88 per bushel.

The mid-August price for alfalfa hay was $63.00 per ton, down $1.00 from last month. Other hay, at $53.00 per ton, was $2.00 lower than July's price. The mid-August winter wheat price averaged $2.65 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.00; feed barley price was $1.40; and malt barley averaged $2.90.

Livestock prices for the full month of July were mixed. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.40 to $73.80 per cwt. Cows were up $1.00 to $39.70 and the average price for calves increased $2.60 to $86.50 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.60 to $32.90 per cwt. and lamb prices decreased $2.00 to $78.10 per cwt. Milk prices were up 10 cents from last month at $12.80 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged $74.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for July and changes from June were as follows: winter wheat was $2.13 down 19 cents; spring wheat was $2.93, down 8 cents; the all barley price was $2.04, up 34 cents, mainly due to the increase in malt barley sales as a percent of the total barley sold; and steer and heifer prices were $65.20, down $1.50.

The U.S. mid-August winter wheat price was $2.30 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.85 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.43 per bushel, all barley was $2.13. Steer and heifer prices were $65.60 per cwt, cow prices were $37.00, all hog prices were $36.40 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.59 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 98 based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (3.2 percent) from the preliminary July index. Price increases from July for milk, hogs, wheat, and corn more than offset price decreases for broilers, potatoes, oranges, and tomatoes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset the relatively lower marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes contributed less than one point to the overall increase in the index.

Compared with August 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (3.0 percent) lower. Price decreases from August 1998 for broilers, soybeans, milk, and lettuce more than offset price increases for cattle, peaches, calves, and turkeys.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	July 1998	Aug. 1998	July 1999	Aug. 1999
Prices Received	102	101	95	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	116	116	116	116
Ratio 2/	88	87	82	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average MONTANA July 1998	Monthly Average MONTANA June 1999	Monthly Average MONTANA July 1999	Monthly Average U.S. July 1999	Change From Previous Month June 1999	Change From Previous Year July 1998	Mid-Month Average Montana Aug. 15, 1999	Mid-Month Average U.S. Aug. 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.94	2.81	2.69	2.13	-0.12	-0.25	2.65	2.30
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.09	3.00	2.98	2.89	-0.02	-1.11	3.00	2.83
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.32	3.15	3.13	2.93	-0.02	-0.19	3.00	2.85
All Wheat	Bu.	3.27	3.07	3.03	2.23	-0.04	-0.24	2.93	2.43
Barley, All	Bu.	2.69	1.65	2.33	2.04	+0.68	-0.36	2.45	2.13
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.68	1.54	1.48	1.48	-0.06	-0.20	1.40	1.58
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.15	2.20	2.88	2.50	+0.68	-0.27	2.90	2.63
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.18	1.08	1.08	-0.10	N/A	1.05	1.07
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	80.00	62.00	64.00	82.00	+2.00	-16.00	63.00	81.50
All Other Hay	Ton	68.00	52.00	55.00	65.30	+3.00	-13.00	53.00	62.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	79.00	62.00	63.00	78.40	+1.00	-16.00	62.00	77.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	69.40	75.20	73.80	65.20	-1.40	+4.40	74.30	65.60
Cows	Cwt	37.60	38.70	39.70	37.70	+1.00	+2.10	39.90	37.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	48.40	52.20	55.00	62.60	+2.80	+6.60	64.00	62.90
Calves	Cwt	74.80	83.90	86.50	89.20	+2.60	+11.70	85.00	89.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	29.90	34.50	32.90	32.00	-1.60	+3.00	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	80.80	80.10	78.10	77.00	-2.00	-2.70	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.00	12.70	12.80	13.70	+0.10	-0.20	13.30	14.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Montana Wheat & Barley Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the December 1998-May 1999 period, at 96.8 million bushels, was 1% higher than last year. Over 90% of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 87.6 million bushels, up 1% from a year earlier. Movements to eastern destinations increased 8% for this period, totaling 4.6 million bushels. Other destinations, mostly to the south, received 4.5 million bushels up 25% from last year.

Most of Montana's wheat is shipped by rail, totaling 89.4 million bushels, 92% of total shipments. Over one million more bushels of wheat were trucked during this period than last year. Wheat shipped by truck accounted for just under 8% of total shipments.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during December 1998-May 1999 was 17.3 million bushels, up 10% from the same period last year. Forty-three percent of barley shipped out of Montana headed for destinations other than the west coast. Shipments to western destinations were down from the same period last year, at 9.9 million bushels. Eastern destination shipments totaled 5.1 million bushels up 18% from last year. Shipments to other destinations were up significantly from last year to 2.2 million bushels this year. Barley hauled by rail was 88% of total movement up from 87% for the same period last year.

Montana Wheat and Barley: Shipped Out of State by District of Origin, Mode and Destination 1/

Shipments Out-of-State	December '97-May '98 1/				December '98-May '99 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	(000) Bushels							
West 3/	769	2,668	3,437	4,504	856	3,747	4,603	3,802
North Central	18,368	27,019	45,387	9,312	12,378	30,417	42,795	10,571
Northeast	1,866	26,070	27,936	55	431	28,367	28,798	142
Central	4,966	4,166	9,132	1,835	4,918	4,669	9,587	2,338
South Central	4,675	2,020	6,695	31	5,166	3,065	8,231	444
Southeast	1,284	2,025	3,309	21	534	2,276	2,810	44
TOTAL SHIPPED	31,928	63,968	95,896	15,758	24,283	72,541	96,824	17,341
Mode & Destination	(000) Bushels							
Trucked East	24	295	319	34	0	740	740	125
Trucked West	2,907	2,359	5,266	1,861	2,103	3,467	5,570	1,535
Trucked Other 4/	79	508	587	173	117	963	1,080	435
Total By Truck	3,010	3,162	6,172	2,068	2,220	5,170	7,390	2,095
Rail East	1,038	2,957	3,995	4,342	0	3,908	3,908	5,048
Rail West	26,898	55,783	82,681	8,813	22,031	60,027	82,058	8,385
Rail Other 4/	982	2,066	3,048	535	32	3,436	3,468	1,813
Total by Rail	28,918	60,806	89,724	13,690	22,063	67,371	89,434	15,246
TOTAL SHIPPED	31,928	63,968	95,896	15,758	24,283	72,541	96,824	17,341

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/ Northwest and Southwest were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown. This report is made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Malting Barley
Egg Production
Potato Disposition
Red Meat Production
Hogs and Pigs
Cash Receipts

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Milk Production
Red Meat Production
All Hay County Estimates
Egg Production
Farm Labor
Farms With Internet Access

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.20 million head on August 1, 1999. The inventory was 2 percent above August 1, 1998 and 5 percent above August 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.81 million, 6 percent below 1998 and 9 percent below 1997. **Net placements** were 1.76 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 333,000, 600-699 pounds were 400,000, 700-799 pounds were 578,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 501,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 2.12 million, 3 percent above 1998 but slightly below 1997. **Other disappearance** totaled 52,000 during July, 4 percent above 1998 but 9 percent below 1997.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 2 Percent

Cattle on feed August 1, 1999, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 7.88 million, up 2 percent from the previous year and 5 percent above August 1, 1997. **Placements** in feedlots during July totaled 1.57 million, 7 percent below 1998 and 11 percent below 1997. **Marketings** during July totaled 1.82 million, 3 percent above 1998 but 2 percent below 1997. **Other disappearance** during July was 43,000 head, 5 percent above 1998 and 2 percent above 1997.

U.S. July Milk Production Up 2.3 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during July totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from production in these same States in July 1998. July milk production was down 1.2 percent from June 1999, compared to a decrease of 0.7 percent for the same period in 1998. June revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds was up 2.8 percent from June 1998.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,496 pounds for July, 28 pounds above July 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 27,000 head more than July 1998 and 6,000 head more than June 1999.

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production Up for July

Montana slaughter plants produced 2.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 1999, up 23 percent from a year ago and up 11 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter, at 2,300 head, was up 300 head from last year. The average live weight of 1,118 pounds was down 5 pounds from a year ago.

There were 2,900 hogs slaughtered in Montana during July, 500 head more than the previous year. Average live weight of 244 pounds was up 39 pounds from July 1998. Sheep slaughter, at 300 head, was unchanged from last year. The average live weight of 131 pounds was down 6 pounds from a year ago.

U.S. commercial red meat production totaled 3.78 billion pounds in July, equaling the previous record high for July set in 1998. Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year and equaled the previous record high for July set in 1997. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.08 million head, up 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 1,206 pounds. Veal production totaled 19.0 million pounds, 11 percent below the previous record low for July set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 111 thousand head, down 17 percent from July 1998. The average live weight was 19 pounds above last year, at 280 pounds.

U.S. pork production totaled 1.49 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.91 million head, 4 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 256 pounds.

U.S. lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from the previous record low set for July set in 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 265 thousand head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 4 pounds from July a year ago.

January - July red meat production for the U.S. was 26.5 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 14 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 7 percent.

PLEASE RETURN

ALL HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 1998

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Production Rank	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Tons	Production Tons
Deer Lodge	11,500	2.30	26,500	49	10,500	2.43	25,500	1,000	1.00	1,000
Flathead	30,000	2.83	85,000	25	11,000	3.64	40,000	19,000	2.37	45,000
Granite	30,000	2.73	82,000	28	28,500	2.79	79,500	1,500	1.67	2,500
Lake	62,000	2.66	165,000	7	47,500	2.97	141,000	14,500	1.66	24,000
Lincoln	10,000	2.20	22,000	51	5,500	2.91	16,000	4,500	1.33	6,000
Mineral	3,000	2.33	7,000	56	1,000	2.50	2,500	2,000	2.25	4,500
Missoula	19,500	2.49	48,500	40	13,500	2.89	39,000	6,000	1.58	9,500
Powell	51,500	2.02	104,000	18	45,000	2.10	94,500	6,500	1.46	9,500
Ravalli	38,000	3.08	117,000	17	34,000	3.25	110,500	4,000	1.63	6,500
Sanders	30,500	2.07	63,000	35	16,500	2.52	41,500	14,000	1.54	21,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHWEST	**286,000**	**2.52**	**720,000**	**--**	**213,000**	**2.77**	**590,000**	**73,000**	**1.78**	**130,000**
Blaine	70,000	1.84	128,500	11	38,000	2.55	97,000	32,000	0.98	31,500
Chouteau	44,500	1.54	68,500	33	6,500	2.92	19,000	38,000	1.30	49,500
Glacier	33,500	1.64	55,000	38	9,000	2.44	22,000	24,500	1.35	33,000
Hill	23,500	1.15	27,000	48	3,000	2.33	7,000	20,500	0.98	20,000
Liberty	13,500	1.41	19,000	55	4,000	2.63	10,500	9,500	0.89	8,500
Phillips	77,500	1.91	148,000	8	33,500	2.84	95,000	44,000	1.20	53,000
Pondera	34,000	2.44	83,000	27	19,000	3.21	61,000	15,000	1.47	22,000
Teton	66,000	3.24	214,000	5	44,500	4.18	186,000	21,500	1.30	28,000
Toole	18,500	1.51	28,000	47	3,500	3.29	11,500	15,000	1.10	16,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
N. CENTRAL	**381,000**	**2.02**	**771,000**	**--**	**161,000**	**3.16**	**509,000**	**220,000**	**1.19**	**262,000**
Daniels	23,000	0.93	21,500	52	1,500	2.00	3,000	21,500	0.86	18,500
Dawson	46,000	1.68	77,500	30	8,500	3.76	32,000	37,500	1.21	45,500
Garfield	33,500	0.96	32,000	45	4,000	2.50	10,000	29,500	0.75	22,000
McCone	33,000	1.18	39,000	42	5,500	3.09	17,000	27,500	0.80	22,000
Richland	43,500	1.75	76,000	31	7,500	3.80	28,500	36,000	1.32	47,500
Roosevelt	42,000	1.40	59,000	37	6,500	3.46	22,500	35,500	1.03	36,500
Sheridan	29,500	1.42	42,000	41	4,500	3.44	15,500	25,000	1.06	26,500
Valley	56,500	2.25	127,000	13	27,000	3.72	100,500	29,500	0.90	26,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NORTHEAST	**307,000**	**1.54**	**474,000**	**--**	**65,000**	**3.52**	**229,000**	**242,000**	**1.01**	**245,000**
Broadwater	25,500	3.26	83,200	26	23,000	3.43	79,000	2,500	1.68	4,200
Cascade	90,000	1.84	165,500	6	24,500	3.24	79,500	65,500	1.31	86,000
Fergus	145,000	1.52	220,500	3	14,500	3.03	44,000	130,500	1.35	176,500
Golden Valley	21,500	1.47	31,500	46	7,500	2.40	18,000	14,000	0.96	13,500
Judith Basin	80,000	1.60	127,800	12	8,000	3.25	26,000	72,000	1.41	101,800
Lewis & Clark	44,000	2.26	99,500	20	30,500	2.75	84,000	13,500	1.15	15,500
Meagher	46,000	2.55	117,500	16	40,000	2.69	107,500	6,000	1.67	10,000
Musselshell	26,000	1.92	50,000	39	9,500	3.63	34,500	16,500	0.94	15,500
Petroleum	20,000	1.83	36,500	43	10,000	2.50	25,000	10,000	1.15	11,500
Wheatland	40,000	2.28	91,000	21	27,500	2.53	69,500	12,500	1.72	21,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CENTRAL	**538,000**	**1.90**	**1,023,000**	**--**	**195,000**	**2.91**	**567,000**	**343,000**	**1.33**	**456,000**
Beaverhead	119,000	2.67	317,700	1	113,500	2.73	310,000	5,500	1.40	7,700
Gallatin	74,000	3.26	241,000	2	49,500	3.70	183,000	24,500	2.37	58,000
Jefferson	23,000	2.76	63,500	34	19,000	2.97	56,500	4,000	1.75	7,000
Madison	76,000	2.84	216,100	4	71,500	2.92	208,500	4,500	1.69	7,600
Silver Bow	8,000	2.46	19,700	54	6,500	2.77	18,000	1,500	1.13	1,700
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**300,000**	**2.86**	**858,000**	**--**	**260,000**	**2.98**	**776,000**	**40,000**	**2.05**	**82,000**
Big Horn	57,000	1.75	100,000	19	14,000	3.68	51,500	43,000	1.13	48,500
Carbon	60,000	2.28	136,500	9	39,500	2.91	115,000	20,500	1.05	21,500
Park	56,000	2.31	129,500	10	41,500	2.67	111,000	14,500	1.28	18,500
Stillwater	58,000	1.54	89,500	23	14,500	3.28	47,500	43,500	0.97	42,000
Sweetgrass	45,500	1.60	73,000	32	26,500	2.11	56,000	19,000	0.89	17,000
Treasure	14,500	2.48	36,000	44	6,000	4.50	27,000	8,500	1.06	9,000
Yellowstone	51,000	2.42	123,500	15	26,000	3.69	96,000	25,000	1.10	27,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S. CENTRAL	**342,000**	**2.01**	**688,000**	**--**	**168,000**	**3.00**	**504,000**	**174,000**	**1.06**	**184,000**
Carter	80,000	0.98	78,000	29	3,000	1.83	5,500	77,000	0.94	72,500
Custer	46,000	1.96	90,000	22	19,500	3.51	68,500	26,500	0.81	21,500
Fallon	61,000	1.00	61,000	36	2,000	2.00	4,000	59,000	0.97	57,000
Powder River	75,000	1.19	89,000	24	13,500	2.59	35,000	61,500	0.88	54,000
Prairie	13,500	1.67	22,500	50	3,500	3.29	11,500	10,000	1.10	11,000
Rosebud	49,000	2.53	124,000	14	26,000	3.83	99,500	23,000	1.07	24,500
Wibaux	21,500	1.00	21,500	52	500	2.00	1,000	21,000	0.98	20,500
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**346,000**	**1.40**	**486,000**	**--**	**68,000**	**3.31**	**225,000**	**278,000**	**0.94**	**261,000**
MONTANA	**2,500,000**	**2.01**	**5,020,000**	**--**	**1,130,000**	**3.01**	**3,400,000**	**1,370,000**	**1.18**	**1,620,000**

U.S. All Hired Workers up 1 Percent, Wages up 5 Percent from Last July

There were 1.46 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 11-17, 1999, up 1 percent from a year ago. There were 1.14 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 319,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 12.5 percent of the July hired workforce compared to 13.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $7.58 per hour during the July 1999 survey week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field Workers received an average of $7.05 per hour, up 27 cents from last July. Livestock Workers earned $7.15 per hour compared with $6.91 a year earlier.

Hired farm worker wage rates in all regions were above a year ago. The largest increases occurred in the Southeast, Lake, and Northern Plains (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas) regions. An increasingly competitive economic environment, coupled with a need to attract more skilled farm labor, continued to push hired farm wage rates higher in the above regions and nationwide.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., July 12-18, 1998 & July 11-17, 1999 1/

U.S. AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	FIELD		LIVESTOCK		FIELD & LIVESTOCK			
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	7.27	7.87	6.80	6.69	7.12	7.47	7.59	7.86
Northeast II	6.95	7.17	6.20	6.45	6.75	6.98	7.22	7.34
Appalachian I	6.24	6.53	7.12	7.62	6.34	6.75	6.70	7.08
Appalachian II	6.07	6.25	6.54	6.57	6.24	6.37	6.59	6.89
Southeast	6.02	6.44	5.82	6.59	5.99	6.47	6.22	6.83
FL	7.25	7.25	6.90	7.30	7.21	7.26	8.08	8.31
Lake	6.95	7.35	6.41	7.15	6.77	7.29	7.01	7.73
Cornbelt I	7.45	7.54	7.52	7.39	7.47	7.52	7.84	8.03
Cornbelt II	6.61	7.22	7.62	8.07	7.02	7.58	7.52	7.90
Delta	6.20	6.55	6.83	6.89	6.36	6.62	6.75	6.99
Northern Plains	6.73	7.32	6.51	7.63	6.69	7.37	7.08	7.73
Southern Plains	5.98	6.23	5.98	6.40	5.98	6.26	6.32	6.60
Mountain I	6.05	6.17	6.47	6.97	6.13	6.43	*6.30	6.61
Mountain II	6.13	6.47	7.08	7.09	6.39	6.73	6.95	7.26
Mountain III	6.11	6.52	6.74	6.68	6.22	6.56	6.65	7.17
Pacific	6.77	7.22	8.70	8.02	6.91	7.29	7.27	7.81
CA	7.10	7.15	8.05	7.59	7.19	7.19	7.72	7.77
HI	8.82	9.51			8.91	9.53	10.30	10.88
US 4/	6.78	7.05	6.91	7.15	6.80	7.07	*7.25	7.58

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data.
4/ Excludes AK. *Revised.

July Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.91 billion during July 1999, up 3 percent from the 6.72 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.80 billion table eggs and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 67.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 1999 averaged 320 million, up 4 percent from the total average number of layers during July 1998. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,159 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,175 eggs in July 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 1999, totaled 319 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 319 million layers consisted of 260 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.80 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 1999, averaged 69.2 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 70.2 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.50 billion eggs during July, up 2 percent from July 1998. The average number of layers during July, at 301 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Montana and U.S. Farms with Internet Access More Than Doubles

A total of 38 percent of Montana farms and ranches now have Internet access, compared with 15 percent with Internet access in 1997, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. A total of 65 percent of farms and ranches had access to a computer in 1999, compared with 54 percent two years ago. Fifty-two percent of all Montana farms and ranches own or lease a computer, up from 41 percent in 1997. Farms and ranches using computers for their agricultural business increased from 33 percent in 1997 to 36 percent in 1999.

Farm computer usage numbers are also published by regions. Montana is included with Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. In 1999, 64 percent of the farms and ranches in this region have access to a computer, 55 percent own or lease a computer; 37 percent are using a computer for their agricultural business; and 41 percent have Internet access. Computer access for crop farms in the region increased 2 percent to 62 percent. The percentage of crop farms having Internet access almost doubled to 44 percent. The percentage of livestock producers in the region that had access to computers increased to 66 percent, compared with 47 percent two years ago. Thirty seven percent of the livestock producers in the region have Internet access, compared with 16 percent in 1997.

A total of 29 percent of U.S. farms and ranches now have Internet access, compared with 13 percent with Internet access in 1997. A total of 47 percent of farms and ranches had access to a computer in 1999, compared with 38 percent two years ago. Forty percent of all U.S. farms and ranches own or lease a computer, up from 31 percent in 1997. Farms and ranches using computers for their agricultural business increased from 20 percent in 1997 to 24 percent in 1999.

In 1999, 77 percent of U.S. farms and ranches with sales of $250,000 or more have access to a computer; 72 percent own or lease a computer; 65 percent are using a computer for their agricultural business; and 52 percent have Internet access. For farms and ranches with sales of $249,999 or less; 45 percent have access to a computer; 37 percent own or lease a computer; 21 percent use a computer for their agricultural business; and 27 percent have Internet access.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
Wheat & Barley
Movement
Monthly Crop Production

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survey results summary issued twice monthly by the
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HIGHLIGHTS:

August 1 Crop Production Forecast
Ag Prices Received
Farm Production Expenses

Heat and Dry Weather Takes Toll on Small Grains

Montana producers expect to harvest 37.83 million bushels of winter wheat. The expected yield of 39 bushels per acre is down 3 bushels from last month, but equals last year's average. If realized, total production would be down over 22 percent from last year due to reduced harvested acreage. Hot, dry weather has reduced the yield. Crop progress shows 56 percent of the winter wheat harvested by August 8 compared with 43 percent for the 5-year average. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 113.40 million bushels with a yield of 28 bushels per acre. If realized, the yield would be 4 bushels below last month's forecast and 2 bushels per acre below last year. Total production would be 5 percent above 1998 because of an increase in harvested acres. As of August 8, harvest was 10 percent complete compared with 6 percent for the average, and 49 percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition compared with 71 percent a month ago. The durum wheat yield estimate decreased 2 bushels from last month to 28 bushels per acre. Durum production of 10.92 million bushels is 9 percent below last year.

Barley producers are also expecting a smaller crop with anticipated yields averaging 46 bushels per acre, down 7 bushels from last month. Total production is forecast to be 52.9 million bushels, down 13 percent from last month and down 8 percent from last year. As of August 8, the barley crop was rated at 27 percent in good to excellent condition compared with 64 percent the first week in July. Oat production is forecast at 4.48 million bushels, down 7 percent from last month, but up 38 percent from last year due to the increase in harvested acres. The yield is down 4 bushels per acre from last month, but up 2 bushels from last year. Harvested acreage is up 20,000 acres from 1998 to 80,000 acres.

At 2.2 tons per acre, Montana hay producers are expecting the same alfalfa yields as last year, while expected yields for other hay at 1.5 tons per acre are lower than last year. Both types of hay are expected to have higher harvested acres than last year. Total production is forecast at 5.20 million tons compared with 5.02 million tons last year.

Montana corn production is estimated at 2.56 million bushels, up 24 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 135 bushels per acre, up 20 bushels from last year. Forecasted dry bean yield is 2,180 pounds per acre with total production of 338,000 cwt, up 27 percent from last year due to an increase in harvested acres. If realized, this would be the largest dry bean production since 1943. Sugar beet production is forecast at 1.48 million tons, up 5 percent from last year.

At the U.S. level, all wheat production is placed at 2.31 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the July forecast and down 9 percent from 1998. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.5 bushels per acre, down 0.2 bushels from last month. The final winter wheat production forecast is 1.69 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month, but down 10 percent from 1998. The U.S. yield is forecast at 47.4 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from last month to a new record high. Durum wheat production is forecast at 114 million bushels, down 14 percent from last month and 19 percent from 1998. Lower yields and a 150,000 acre drop in North Dakota harvested area caused the decline. The U.S. yield is forecast at 29.2 bushels per acre, 3.5 bushels less than last month. Other spring wheat production is forecast at 512 million bushels, down 3 percent from both last month and 1998. There were no changes in acreage intended for harvest. The U.S. yield is forecast at 34.2 bushels per acre, 0.7 bushels less than July 1. Of the production total, 460 million bushels are hard red spring wheat, down 3 percent from last month.

U. S. barley acreage for planted and harvested for 1999 were lowered 70,000 and 59,000 acres, respectively, from June. Barley planted for all purposes is estimated at 5.17 million acres, down 1 percent from June and 19 percent below 1998. Acreage expected to be harvested for grain in 1999, at 4.83 million acres, is 18 percent lower than the 1998 harvested grain acreage. Production for 1999 is forecast at 281 million bushels, down 5 percent from July and down 20 percent from 1998. Yields are expected to average 58.2 bushels per acre, a decrease of 2.1 bushels from July and 1.9 bushels from last year. Yields were decreased in Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota and Montana while increases were in Oregon, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

Dry bean production is forecast at 31.5 million cwt for 1999, up 2 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent above two years ago. This is the highest production since 1991's 33.8 million cwt.

All hay production for 1999 is forecast at a record high 160.8 million tons, up 6 percent from 1998 and 5 percent higher than 1997. The all hay yield is forecast at 2.59 tons per acre (also a record), up 3 percent from last year. Acreage for harvest of all hay is estimated at 62.1 million acres, 3 percent higher than 1998. This is an increase of 100,000 acres from the June estimate as a result of an increase in the other hay estimate in North Dakota.

Corn production is forecast at 9.56 billion bushels, down 2 percent from last year but up 4 percent from 1997. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 134.7 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would be the third largest production and second highest yield on record. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 71.0 million acres, down 84,000 acres from June.

PLEASE RETURN

Ag Prices Received for June

Crop prices for the full month of June were mixed compared with May prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.81 per bushel, down 8 cents from May's level; durum wheat was $3.00 per bushel, up 15 cents; and spring wheat was 10 cents higher at $3.15 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.54 and malt barley was $2.20 per bushel.

The mid-July price for alfalfa hay was $64.00 per ton, up $2.00 from last month. Other hay, at $55.00 per ton, was $3.00 higher than June's price. The mid-July winter wheat price averaged $2.70 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.10; feed barley price was $1.45; and malt barley averaged $2.30.

Livestock prices for the full month of June were mostly higher. Steer and heifer prices increased $3.90 to $75.20 per cwt. Cows were up 80 cents to $38.70 and the average price for calves increased $2.70 to $83.90 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $6.10 to $34.50 per cwt. and lamb prices increased $1.90 to $80.10 per cwt. Milk prices were up 10 cents from last month at $12.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-July averaged $72.90 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for June and changes from May were as follows: winter wheat was $2.32, down 4 cents; spring wheat was $3.01, up 8 cents; the all barley price was $1.70, down 11 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $66.70, up $1.50.

The U.S. mid-July winter wheat price was $2.07 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.93 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.15 per bushel, all barley was $1.73. Steer and heifer prices were $64.60 per cwt, cow prices were $38.20, all hog prices were $31.20 per cwt, and all egg prices were $0.57 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in July was 94 based on 1990-92=100, down 4 points (4.1 percent) from June. Price decreases from June for cattle, wheat, hogs, and corn more than offset price increases for milk, potatoes, oranges, and asparagus. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of milk, cantaloupes, potatoes, and oranges more than offset the relatively higher marketings of wheat, tomatoes, grapes, and grain sorghum.

Compared with July 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 8 points (7.8 percent) lower. Price decreases from July 1998 for wheat, corn, soybeans, and broilers more than offset price increases for cattle, turkeys, potatoes, and oranges.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	June 1998	July 1998	June 1999	July 1999
Prices Received	102	102	98	94
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	116	117	116
Ratio 2/	87	88	84	81

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		June 1998	May 1999	June 1999	June 1999	May 1999	June 1998	July 15, 1999	July 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	2.81	2.89	2.81	2.32	-0.08	N/C	2.70	2.07
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.30	2.85	3.00	2.93	+0.15	-1.30	2.95	2.87
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.41	3.05	3.15	3.01	+0.10	-0.26	3.10	2.93
All Wheat	Bu.	3.34	2.99	3.07	2.50	+0.08	-0.27	3.01	2.15
Barley, All	Bu.	2.20	1.77	1.65	1.70	-0.12	-0.55	1.62	1.73
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.06	1.47	1.54	1.55	+0.07	-0.52	1.45	1.53
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.75	2.46	2.20	1.99	-0.26	-0.55	2.30	2.11
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.12	1.18	1.22	+0.06	N/A	1.10	1.10
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	76.00	60.00	62.00	85.00	+2.00	-14.00	64.00	82.00
All Other Hay	Ton	68.00	48.00	52.00	68.50	+4.00	-16.00	55.00	65.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	76.00	58.00	62.00	81.70	+4.00	-14.00	63.00	78.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	71.50	71.30	75.20	66.70	+3.90	+3.70	72.90	64.60
Cows	Cwt	37.10	37.90	38.70	36.70	+0.80	+1.60	39.60	38.20
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	47.40	52.90	52.20	63.70	-0.70	+4.80	54.60	62.10
Calves	Cwt	79.70	81.20	83.90	89.00	+2.70	+4.20	84.80	88.50
Sheep 2/	Cwt	26.60	28.40	34.50	28.90	+6.10	+7.90	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	89.70	78.20	80.10	81.30	+1.90	-9.60	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.40	12.60	12.70	13.10	+0.10	-0.70	13.00	13.60

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

August 1, 1999 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/
MONTANA		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	1,050	1,250	970	39.0	39.0	48,750	37,830
Durum Wheat	Bu.	450	400	430	390	28.0	28.0	12,040	10,920
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,800	4,150	3,600	4,050	30.0	28.0	108,000	113,400
All Wheat	Bu.	5,650	5,600	5,280	5,410	32.0	30.0	168,790	162,150
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	65	18	19	115.0	135.0	2,070	2,565
Oats	Bu.	140	160	60	80	54.0	56.0	3,240	4,480
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,250	1,200	1,150	48.0	46.0	57,600	52,900
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.6	16.0	12.2	15.5	21.8	21.8	266	338
Sugar Beets	Ton	64.0	61.9	62.4	61.8	22.6	24.0	1,410	1,483
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.6	11.0	10.6	11.0	300.0	3/	3,180	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.20	2.20	3,740	3,850
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	900	1.60	1.50	1,280	1,350
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,650	2.01	1.96	5,020	5,200
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	46,449	43,419	40,126	35,609	46.9	47.4	1,880,605	1,688,582
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,805	4,015	3,728	3,898	37.8	29.2	141,069	113,779
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,617	15,299	15,148	14,960	34.9	34.2	528,709	512,147
All Wheat	Bu.	65,871	62,733	59,002	54,467	43.2	42.5	2,550,383	2,314,508
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,187	77,611	72,604	70,955	134.4	134.7	9,761,085	9,560,919
Oats	Bu.	4,902	4,698	2,765	2,631	60.4	61.6	167,122	162,096
Barley	Bu.	6,340	5,167	5,867	4,834	60.1	58.2	352,445	281,365
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,010.1	1,992.6	1,913.9	1,903.0	16.1	16.6	30,828	31,506
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,498.8	1,560.6	1,451.7	1,525.9	22.5	21.4	32,606	32,679
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,422.7	1,391.2	1,393.7	1,370.6	343.0	3/	477,381	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,642	23,968	3.47	3.47	82,010	83,160
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,374	38,083	1.91	2.04	69,328	77,609
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,016	62,051	2.52	2.59	151,338	160,769

1/Preliminary. 2/Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available November 10, 1999.

All Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, Selected States & U.S., 1998 & Aug. 1, 1999 Forecast

STATE	AREA HARVESTED		YIELD			PRODUCTION	
	1998	1999	1998	July 1, 1999	Aug. 1, 1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Acres		Bushels			1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,610	2,452	39.7	39.7	42.6	103,710	104,440
ID	1,280	1,350	80.0	75.5	74.5	102,410	100,540
KS	10,100	9,200	49.0	46.0	46.0	494,900	423,200
MN	1,982	2,218	40.6	36.8	39.7	80,444	87,994
MT	**5,280**	**5,410**	**32.0**	**33.6**	**30.0**	**168,790**	**162,150**
NE	1,800	1,850	46.0	48.0	48.0	82,800	88,800
ND	9,610	8,948	32.3	30.6	28.6	310,650	255,480
OK	5,100	4,300	39.0	34.0	35.0	198,900	150,500
OR	85	783	65.0	49.6	48.0	57,490	37,602
SD	3,294	2,949	36.7	38.8	39.6	120,884	116,802
TX	3,900	3,400	35.0	36.0	36.0	136,500	122,400
WA	2,565	2,290	61.4	55.1	53.7	157,425	122,900
WY 1/	210	189	32.3	34.1	34.1	6,790	6,450
US	59,002	54,467	43.2	42.7	42.5	2,550,383	2,314,508

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, AUGUST 1, 1999 1/

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1998	1999	99/98	1998	1999	99/98	1998	1999	99/98
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	635	390	61	1,900	1,802	95	1,850	1,647	89
N Central	21,093	15,204	72	53,070	53,964	102	30,816	29,612	96
Northeast	1,847	1,776	96	44,817	49,577	111	3,505	3,654	104
Central	13,225	11,760	89	9,194	7,417	81	11,375	8,769	77
Southwest	1,670	816	49	2,185	2,491	114	4,226	3,168	75
South Central	8,345	5,960	71	2,266	2,927	129	4,519	4,835	107
Southeast	1,935	1,924	99	6,608	6,142	93	1,309	1,215	93
Montana	48,750	37,830	78	120,040	124,320	104	57,600	52,900	92

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

U.S. Production Expenditures Up Slightly in 1998

U.S. farm production expenditures totaled $183.6 billion in 1998, up 0.2 percent from the revised 1997 total of $183.2 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were; trucks and autos, up 15.8 percent; tractors and self propelled farm machinery, up 11.1 percent; seeds and plants, up 7.5 percent; and farm improvements and construction, up 5.7 percent. These increases were partially offset by decreases in; fuels, down 10.0 percent; rent, down 6.3 percent; and feed, down 4.9 percent. The largest two expenditure categories were feed and farm services; each accounted for 13.6 percent of U.S. total production expenses. The farm services category includes expense items such as custom work, utilities, marketing charges, veterinary services, transportation costs, and miscellaneous business expenses.

Average expenditures per U.S. farm in 1998 were $83,987 compared to $83,856, as revised for 1997. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 1998 spent $11,439 on feed; $11,439 on farm services; $7,916 on rent; $8,694 on labor; and $6,498 on livestock and poultry purchases. Revised estimates for 1997 indicated that U.S. farms spent an average of $12,040 on feed; $11,307 on farm services; $8,455 on rent; $8,377 on labor; and $6,500 for livestock and poultry purchases.

The Farm Production Region contributing most to total 1998 U.S. farm production expenditures was the Corn Belt with expenses of $34.8 billion, 19 percent of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the Corn Belt were up 2.7 percent from the 1997 level of $33.9 billion. In total expenditures, the Corn Belt was followed by the Pacific Region at $29.1 billion (1997 - $29.9 billion); Northern Plains $22.6 billion (1997 - $22.6 billion); Lake States $19.1 billion (1997 - $19.3 billion); and the Southern Plains at $15.6 billion (1997 - $16.0 billion).

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Hay County Estimates
Egg Production
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
Red Meat Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Cattle & Calf Inventory
July 1 Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Mink Production
1999 Wheat & Barley Varieties
Egg Production
Milk Production

United States July 1 Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1999, totaled 106.8 million head, 1 percent below the 107.7 million on July 1, 1998 and 2 percent below the 109.2 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 32 million, were 1 percent below the 43.6 million on July 1, 1998 and 2 percent below the 44.1 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 34.1 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1998 and 2 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1998 and 2 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1999, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.8 million, down 4 percent and down 9 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.7 million, up 3 percent and up 3 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.1 million, no change and down 1 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.4 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, down 5 percent and down 9 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 30.5 million, down slightly and down 1 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.4 million, up 4 percent and up 5 percent.

The 1999 calf crop is expected to be 38.3 million, down 1 percent from 1998 and down 2 percent from 1997. This would be the smallest calf crop since 1952. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.2 million, down 1 percent from 1998 and 1997.

July U.S. All Sheep and Lamb Inventory Totals 9.00 Million Head

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 1999, totaled 9.00 million head, 4 percent below July 1, 1998. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.35 million head on July 1, 1999, 4 percent below July 1998. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.65 million head, were 5 percent below last July. Of the July 1, 1999 breeding herd, 4.38 million head were ewes one year old and older, 215,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 755,000 head were replacement lambs.

Market sheep and lambs, at 3.575 million head, were 4 percent below last July. Of the total market lambs, 59.3 percent were under 65 pounds, 20.4 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 13.0 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remainder, 7.3 percent, were over 105 pounds on July 1.

The 1999 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.75 million head, down 2 percent from the 1998 lamb crop of 4.87 million head. Lambs born during January through June 1999 totaled 4.21 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 540,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 1999.

The July 1 sheep and lamb numbers are published by regions. Montana is included with Colorado, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The total number of sheep and lambs in the region was 3.0 million head, down 3 percent from a year ago. This region accounted for 33.9 percent of the total U.S. sheep and lambs.

The region's breeding sheep and lambs inventory was 1.7 million head, down 3 percent from last year. Of the total breeding sheep and lambs, 1.4 million head were ewes one year and older, 50,000 head were rams one year and older, and 230,000 head were replacement lambs.

All market sheep and lambs for the region totaled 1.4 million head, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of the total market lambs, 71.5 percent were under 65 pounds, 12.8 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 7.7 percent were 85 to 105 pounds, and the remaining 8.0 percent were over 105 pounds.

Lambs born during January and June 1999 in the region reached 1.5 million head. An additional 20,000 are expected to be born during the period July through December 1999.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.56 million head on July 1, 1999. The inventory was 4 percent above July 1, 1998 and 7 percent above July 1, 1997. The inventory included 5.73 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.78 million head, up 3 percent from 1998.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.78 million, 14 percent above 1998 and 24 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.72 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 295,000, 600-699 pounds were 372,000, 700-799 pounds were 629,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 488,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.14 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 1997. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during June, 12 percent below 1998 but 5 percent above 1997.

PLEASE RETURN

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production Up for June

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.9 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 1999, up 11 percent from both last month and last year. Cattle slaughter, at 2,000 head, was 100 lower than last year. The average live weight of 1,142 was 23 pounds higher than last year.

There were 3,000 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during June, up 700 head from a year ago. The average live weight of 241 pounds, increased 41 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 200 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight of 128 pounds was down 5 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in June, up 6 percent from the 3.73 billion pounds produced in June 1998 and up 4 percent from the previous record high for June set in 1995. Beef production, at 2.32 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year and 2 percent higher than the previous record high for June set in 1995. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.21 million head, up 3 percent from 1998. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year at 1,195 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19.0 million pounds, 6 percent below the previous record low for June set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 105 thousand head, down 11 percent from June 1998. The average live weight was 14 pounds above last year at 297 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.58 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year and 8 percent higher than the previous record high for June set in 1995. Hog kill totaled 8.32 million head, 8 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was 11 percent below the previous year and 6 percent below the previous record low for June set in 1996. Sheep slaughter totaled 270 thousand head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, down 4 pounds from June a year ago.

January - June red meat production was 22.8 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 14 percent, pork was up 4 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 7 percent.

Pelt Production Down 2 Percent

Mink pelt production for 1998 in the United States totaled 2.94 million pelts, down 2 percent from 1997. Wisconsin, the major mink producing State, produced 800,500 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production follows: Standard - 40.6 percent; Mahogany - 24.8 percent; Gunmetal - 15.3 percent; Ranch Wild - 6.0 percent; Demi-buff - 3.9 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 9.4 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 1998 crop year were valued at $72.9 million dollars, down 26 percent from $99.1 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1998 crop year was $24.80, down from $33.10 in 1997.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 1999 totaled 659,900, down 10 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 1999 by color class are: Standard - 39.4 percent; Mahogany - 22.5 percent; Gunmetal - 16.8 percent; Ranch Wild - 6.0 percent; Sapphire - 5.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 9.5 percent.

There were 439 mink farms producing pelts in 1998, down 3 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 115 farms, Wisconsin with 94 farms and Minnesota with 44. There were 31 mink farms which also raised fox in 1998, the same as the previous year.

Montana Wheat and Barley Varieties 1999

Neeley remained the leading variety of **winter wheat** seeded in Montana for the twelfth consecutive year, with over 210 thousand acres planted in the state. **Tiber** moved into the second place position with over 175 thousand acres of winter wheat planted in the state. **Rampart** leaped into third place position with almost quadrupled seeded acres of over 101 thousand. **Rocky** fell back into fourth place this year with a decrease of almost 50% to 95 thousand acres. These top four varieties accounted for 55 percent of the winter wheat acreage seeded in 1999. These same four varieties accounted for 49 percent in 1998.

McNeal was the leading **spring wheat** variety planted for the second consecutive year, accounting for almost 40 percent of the seeded acreage with nearly 1.65 million acres planted. **Amidon** remained in second place this year with over 581 thousand acres planted. **Ernest** moved up to third place due to a significant increase in planted acres, accounting for 403 thousand acres planted this year. **Westbred Rambo** moved down to fourth place this year with 291 thousand acres planted in the state. The top four varieties accounted for over 70 percent of the spring wheat acreage seeded in 1999. These same four varieties accounted for 59 percent in 1998.

Kyle continued to be the leading **durum** variety for the sixth consecutive year. Over 214 thousand acres of Kyle were planted in the state, accounting for 54 percent of the total seeded acres. **Vic** continues to move up in ranking from its third place position last year. Vic accounts for almost 31 thousand planted acres or 8 percent. **Sceptre** moved down from second place last year to it's third place position accounting for 18.5 thousand planted acres. **Renville** moved into the fourth place position this year accounting for over 18 thousand planted acres. These top four varieties account for 71 percent of total acres seeded to durum wheat. This is comparable to the 66 percent reported in 1998 for the same four varieties.

Montana farmers planted 1.25 million acres of **barley** in 1999, down 100 thousand acres from last year. Over 59 percent of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association. **Harrington,** a malting-type variety, remained the top variety planted in the state for the sixth consecutive year. It was seeded on nearly 625 thousand acres or 50 percent of Montana barley acreage. **B 1202** maintained the second place position for the fifth consecutive year with about 65 thousand acres, or 5.2 percent of the barley planted. **Morex** moved up to rank third among AMBA approved malting barley varieties with a slight increase in seeded acreage to about 21 thousand acres, or 1.7 percent of the seeded acres. **Chinook** moved down to fourth place among AMBA approved malting barley varieties, dropping almost 10 thousand acres from a year ago to 15.6 thousand acres. **Baronesse** remained the leading **feed-type** barley for the fourth consecutive year and the number two variety overall. Over 94 thousand acres of Baronesse were planted this year, down significantly from the 163 thousand acres seeded in 1998. **Hector** also maintained its position as second most popular feed-type barley despite a reduction in seeded acreage for the past two years. In 1999, nearly 61 thousand acres of Hector were planted. **Haybet** moved into the third place position with almost 55 thousand acres seeded and 4.4 percent of the barley acreage. **Gallatin** moved down to fourth place in 1999. It accounts for over 4 percent of total seeded acreage with 51 thousand acres of the variety planted in the state.

Montana Wheat & Barley Varieties: Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1994-1999

Variety	Winter Wheat					
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1/	1999
Neeley	23.3	23.6	24.6	24.3	20.0	20.1
Tiber	16.2	12.4	16.5	13.4	14.2	16.7
Rampart	--	--	--	--	1.8	9.6
Rocky	13.3	16.5	14.6	19.1	13.4	9.0
Morgan	--	--	--	--	2.2	7.6
Vanguard	--	--	--	0.8	10.3	7.5
Redwin	10.0	8.9	11.4	10.6	6.1	4.3
Bighorn	1.3	0.7	4.0	2.3	3.5	3.8
Hawk	0.9	2.4	0.9	1.7	1.3	2.0
Winalta	4.4	2.8	3.5	1.9	2.9	1.7
Norstar	2.0	4.0	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6
Quantum 542	1.1	1.8	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.4
Kestrel	0.1	0.4	1.4	4.0	1.3	1.4
Roughrider	1.8	1.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	1.3
Judith	10.2	8.2	3.7	3.4	4.3	1.0
Warrior	1.7	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.0
Centurk	2.6	3.1	3.1	1.5	0.9	0.9
Tomahawk	--	--	--	0.1	0.2	0.6
Weston	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
Nuwest W	--	--	--	0.1	--	0.5
Vona	--	--	--	0.1	0.1	0.4
Sierra	--	--	--	0.7	0.1	0.4
Other & Unknown	10.0	12.9	10.8	9.7	12.2	6.6
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Spring Wheat					
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1/	1999
McNeal	--	--	1.3	16.2	26.5	39.7
Amidon	27.9	29.9	28.0	24.7	17.2	14.0
Ernest	--	--	0.2	3.2	7.6	9.7
Westbred Rambo	11.9	10.5	9.9	10.0	7.9	7.0
Fortuna	8.0	8.3	5.9	6.3	6.5	5.2
Grandin	8.5	7.3	8.8	8.9	6.2	3.1
Westbred 926	2.0	3.0	2.5	2.7	1.8	2.3
ID 377S W	--	--	--	--	0.1	2.2
Hi-Line	2.4	4.3	5.6	3.1	3.0	1.7
Westbred 936	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.7
Stoa	5.7	3.6	6.1	4.5	3.4	1.5
Lew	7.2	4.9	4.4	2.5	1.8	1.4
Newana	6.9	5.8	5.0	2.4	2.0	1.2
Len	6.3	6.3	3.6	3.1	1.8	1.1
Kulm	--	--	0.5	0.4	1.9	0.8
Westbred Express	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4
Fergus	--	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.4
Trenton	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Sonja	--	--	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4
Wildcat	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Olaf	2.2	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.3
Gus	0.1	0.6	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.2
Other & Unknown	10.4	13.5	14.0	8.1	8.8	5.0
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Durum Wheat					
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1/	1999
Kyle	23.6	23.4	20.4	38.4	38.2	53.7
Vic	9.3	17.7	13.9	7.4	7.2	7.7
Sceptre	--	3.8	3.1	5.1	12.4	4.6
Renville	7.4	10.0	9.0	8.4	5.8	4.6
Monroe	22.5	11.1	20.5	14.1	6.6	4.5
Ben	--	--	--	--	0.2	4.3
Ward	4.6	4.7	5.4	1.9	1.6	4.3
Medora	3.4	6.0	2.4	8.7	5.5	3.3
Kemut	1.1	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.1	1.5
Utopia	--	--	--	--	--	1.3
Munich	--	--	--	--	--	1.0
Crosby	6.4	3.5	7.8	5.1	0.6	0.8
Westbred Laker	14.5	3.8	3.1	2.7	3.2	0.6
Coyote	--	--	--	--	2.1	0.4
Stockholm	--	--	--	--	0.4	0.4
Durex	--	--	0.8	1.0	0.2	0.3
Wacoma	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Lloyd	--	--	--	--	--	0.1
Other & Unknown	7.2	15.7	13.1	6.5	15.9	6.3
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Variety	Barley					
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 1/	1999
Harrington M	28.0	24.9	32.6	33.4	42.1	50.0
Baronesse	7.2	11.9	12.2	15.6	12.1	7.5
B 1202 M	3.7	6.1	5.4	5.1	4.7	5.2
Hector	14.7	13.5	10.2	8.8	6.8	4.9
Haybet	0.7	1.5	1.4	2.1	3.0	4.4
Gallatin	8.8	6.9	5.7	5.8	4.6	4.1
Bowman	5.8	6.9	6.0	4.7	3.1	2.6
Lewis	5.2	2.5	2.4	1.5	2.1	2.2
Stark	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.8
Piroline	5.6	4.3	3.0	3.4	2.2	1.8
Morex M	2.0	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.5	1.7
Horsford	1.3	1.2	2.3	1.7	2.1	1.6
Moravian 22	--	--	--	--	--	1.4
Chinook M	--	--	0.5	0.8	1.8	1.2
Galena	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.4	2.6	1.2
B Merit	--	--	--	--	0.3	1.2
B 2601	1.1	1.8	1.3	1.8	0.8	1.0
Menuet	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.8
Clark	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.1	0.6
Logan	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Moravian III	0.8	1.0	1.8	0.9	0.3	0.1
Other & Unknown	10.9	13.2	9.9	9.2	7.0	4.4
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. W White wheat variety. M American Malting Barley Association, Inc. recommended for malting and brewing for Montana, 1999.

This report was made possible with funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. A more detailed report may be obtained from our office upon request.

Montana and U.S. April-June Milk Production Up

Montana milk cows produced 77 million pounds of milk during the period of April-June 1999, compared with 74 million pounds the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows inventory remained unchanged from a year ago at 18,000 head.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.0 billion pounds, 3.0 percent above the April-June period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the April-June quarter was 9.15 million head, 20,000 head less than the same period last year.

June Egg Production Up 4 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.72 billion during June 1999, up 4 percent from the 6.46 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.63 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 67.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 1999 averaged 320 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during June 1998. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,104 eggs, up 1 percent from 2,088 eggs in June 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 1999, totaled 320 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 320 million layers consisted of 259 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.81 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 1999, averaged 70.1 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from the 70.0 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.35 billion eggs during June, up 4 percent from June 1998. The average number of layers during June, at 302 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Farm Production Expenses
Ag Prices Received
Small Grain Production
Hay Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Crop Production Forecast
Cash Rents
Potato Acreages
Ag Prices Received
U.S. Wheat Supply, Disappearance, and Price

Montana's All Wheat Production Up 8 Percent

Montana's **all wheat crop** is expected to be 8 percent larger than last year, but nearly the same size as the 1997 crop. As of July 1, producers expect to harvest 182.04 million bushels of all wheat, up from the 168.79 million harvested last season. The area for harvest is expected to be 5.41 million acres, 130,000 more than were harvested in 1998. Conditions have been generally favorable for wheat production so far this year. Many areas of the state have benefitted from timely moisture, however some communities remain dry as of July 1.

The forecast for **winter wheat** improved during June as producers now expect to average 42.0 bushels per acre, up two bushels from the June forecast. Generally favorable June weather conditions improved prospects for the crop. Production is forecast to be 40.74 million bushels, up only slightly from the June forecast because of a reduction in harvested acres now estimated at 970,000 acres. The July forecast for winter wheat production is the smallest since 1988.

The first **spring wheat** production forecast is 129.6 million bushels, 20 percent larger than produced in 1998. The harvested acres are expected to be 4.05 million, 13 percent larger than last year. The expected yield of 32.0 bushels compares with 30.0 averaged last year. If this forecast is realized, 1999 production would be the second largest crop, exceeded only by the record 1995 spring wheat production. Montana's spring crop is in good to excellent condition, but lags average development. **Durum wheat** is forecast to be 11.7 million bushels, 3 percent smaller than the 1998 crop. The acreage for harvest, at 390,000, is 9 percent smaller than harvested last year. The expected yield is 30.0 bushels, 2 bushels better than last year.

Barley yields are estimated to average 53.0 bushels per acre in 1999, 5 bushels better than last year's Montana average. Barley production is forecast to be 60.95 million bushels compared with 57.60 million produced last year. Growers expect to harvest 1.15 million acres, 50,000 fewer than harvested in 1998. **Oats** producers expect to harvest 4.8 million bushels of grain, nearly 50 percent more than produced last year. The 1999 area for harvest is expected to be 80,000 acres compared with 60,000 harvested for grain in 1998. The expected yield of 60.0 bushels is 6 bushels above last year's average.

Nationally, **winter wheat** acres for harvest are forecast at 35.6 million, down 11 percent from 1998. Harvest progress in the 19 major producing states had reached 45 percent completion by July 4. This trailed well behind last year's rapid harvest and lagged normal by eight points. Forecasted head counts from the Objective Yield surveys in the six HRW states (Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas) are up slightly from last month, and weight per head is up a collective 15 percent and is near last year's record. **Other spring wheat** harvested area is forecast at 15.0 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Minnesota's crop is in mostly fair-to-good condition while the Dakota's spring wheat crops are rated as mostly good. Scab has been reported in eastern North Dakota districts. **Durum wheat** area for 1999 grain harvest is expected to total 4.05 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. Modest yield increases are expected in Minnesota and South Dakota Durum. North Dakota's late planted crop trails average development by several days.

Barley production for 1999 is forecast at 295 million bushels, down16 percent from a year ago and down 18 percent from 1997. The first forecast for 1999 indicates that producers expect yields to average 60.3 bushels per acre, a slight increase from last year. Area harvested and to be harvested, at 4.89 million acres, is 17 percent below the 5.87 million acres harvested the previous year.

Oats production is estimated at 161.3 million bushels, 4 percent below last year's 167.1 million bushels. If realized, production would be the third lowest on record. The estimated yield is 61.1 bushels per acre, up 0.7 bushel from 1998. This would be the third highest yield on record. Area for harvest was unchanged from the previous estimate of 2.64 million acres.

Montana Cash Rents Increase

The average cash rent for Montana cropland went up $2.40 from last year to $24.00 per acre. The average cash rent for irrigated cropland, at $55.90, increased $4.40 per acre from 1998. The non-irrigated cropland average rose $2.00 to $19.00 per acre. Average pasture rents increased $.50 from 1998 to $5.00 per acre in 1999.

The average cash rent for U.S. cropland went up $0.50 from last year to $67.00 per acre. The Lake, Corn Belt and Northern Plains which account for the majority of cash rented cropland acreage, showed little change from 1998. The Lake region fell $0.50 while the Corn Belt increased by $1.00 and the Northern Plains was unchanged from the previous year.

The majority of States showed increases in rental rates while other States held at the same level or dropped slightly. California again had the highest cash rent for irrigated cropland at $260 per acre. Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa had cropland rents at $111, $99, and $113 per acre, respectively. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, California, Oregon, and Washington all showed irrigated cropland exceeding $100 per acre. States in the Corn Belt and Northern Plains all remained at the same level or showed slight increases except for Kansas and Nebraska which showed slight decreases.

The average pasture cash rent for the U.S. increased 1.1 percent from $8.80 to $8.90 per acre. Regionally, the Northern Plains, Southern Plains, and Mountain regions all were up from $0.30 to $0.40 per acre. The Northeast and Lake regions showed the largest pasture rents at $29.00 and $26.70 per acre, respectively.

States in the Northern Plains all showed increases in pasture cash rent of $0.10 to $0.40 while Wisconsin and Pennsylvania had the highest rates at $38 and $36 per acre. Colorado, Idaho, and New Mexico all had pasture rental rates below $5 per acre.

PLEASE RETURN

July 1, 1999 Potato Planted and Harvested Acreage

Montana potato producers planted 11,000 acres in 1999, an increase of 400 acres from last year and the largest acreage planted since 1950. The first forecast of potato production will be on November 10, 1999.

Area planted in the **U.S.** to **fall potatoes** in 1999 is estimated at 1.22 million acres, down 2 percent from last year but 1 percent above 1997. Harvest is expected from 1.20 million acres, down 2 percent from a year ago but 1 percent above two years ago. Planting and early development has been slow in much of the western and north-central States.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES JULY 1, 1999

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/
MONTANA		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	1,050	1,250	970	39.0	42.0	48,750	40,740
Durum Wheat	Bu.	450	400	430	390	28.0	30.0	12,040	11,700
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,800	4,150	3,600	4,050	30.0	32.0	108,000	129,600
All Wheat	Bu.	5,650	5,600	5,280	5,410	32.0	33.6	168,790	182,040
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	65	18	19	115.0	3/	2,070	3/
Oats	Bu.	140	160	60	80	54.0	60.0	3,240	4,800
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,250	1,200	1,150	48.0	53.0	57,600	60,950
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.6	16.0	12.2	15.5	21.8	3/	266	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	64.0	61.9	62.4	61.3	22.6	3/	1,410	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.6	11.0	10.6	11.0	300.0	4/	3,180	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.2	3/	3,740	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	900	1.6	3/	1,280	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,650	2.0	3/	5,020	3/
UNITED STATES		000 Acres		000 Acres				000 Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	46,449	43,419	40,126	35,609	46.9	47.0	1,880,605	1,673,222
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,805	4,165	3,728	4,048	37.8	32.7	141,069	132,259
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,617	15,299	15,148	14,960	34.9	35.3	528,709	527,497
All Wheat	Bu.	65,871	62,883	59,002	54,617	43.2	42.7	2,550,383	2,332,978
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,187	77,611	72,604	71,039	134.4	3/	9,761,085	3/
Oats	Bu.	4,902	4,658	2,765	2,641	60.4	61.1	167,122	161,251
Barley	Bu.	6,340	5,237	5,867	4,894	60.1	60.3	352,445	294,869
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,010.1	2,022.8	1,913.9	1,941.3	16.1	3/	30,828	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,498.8	1,560.2	1,451.7	1,529.0	22.5	3/	32,606	3/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,422.7	1,391.2	1,393.7	1,370.6	343.0	4/	477,381	4/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,642	23,968	3.47	3/	82,010	3/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,374	37,983	1.91	3/	69,328	3/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,016	61,951	2.52	3/	151,338	3/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available August 12, 1999. 4/ Production forecast available November 10, 1999.

MONTANA PRODUCTION FORECAST BY DISTRICT, JULY 1, 1999 1/

District	WINTER WHEAT			ALL SPRING WHEAT			BARLEY		
	1998	1999	99/98	1998	1999	99/98	1998	1999	99/98
	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.	1,000 bushels		Pct.
Northwest	635	430	68	1,900	1,972	104	1,850	1,863	101
N Central	21,093	16,882	80	53,070	65,120	125	30,816	34,290	111
Northeast	1,847	1,887	102	44,817	51,275	123	3,505	3,741	107
Central	13,225	12,320	93	9,194	9,587	109	11,375	11,084	97
Southwest	1,670	912	55	2,185	2,618	120	4,226	3,648	86
S Central	8,345	6,384	77	2,266	3,316	147	4,519	5,082	112
Southeast	1,935	1,925	99	6,608	7,412	117	1,309	1,242	95
Montana	48,750	40,740	84	120,040	141,300	123	57,600	60,950	106

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Agricultural Prices Received for May

Crop prices for the full month of May were mostly lower than April prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.89 per bushel, down 3 cents from April's level; durum wheat was $2.85 per bushel, up 5 cents; and spring wheat was 7 cents lower at $3.05 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.47 and malt barley was $2.46 per bushel.

The mid-June price for alfalfa hay was $62.00 per ton, up $2.00 from last month. Other hay, at $52.00, was $4.00 per ton higher than May's price. The mid-month winter wheat price averaged $2.80 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.10; feed barley price was $1.50; and malt barley averaged $2.40.

Livestock prices for the full month of May were mixed. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.10 to $71.30 per cwt. Cows were up 80 cents to $37.90 and the average price for calves decreased $3.50 to $81.20 per cwt. Sheep prices increased 60 cents to $28.40 per cwt. and lamb prices increased $9.00 to $78.20 per cwt. Milk prices were unchanged from last month at $12.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-June averaged $72.60 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for May and changes from April were as follows: winter wheat was $2.36, down 12 cents; spring wheat was $2.93, down 2 cents; the all barley price was $1.81, up 4 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $65.20, down 80 cents.

The U.S. mid-June winter wheat price was $2.37 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.01 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.48 per bushel, all barley was $1.78. Steer and heifer prices were $66.80 per cwt, cow prices were $36.10, all hog prices were $33.80 per cwt, and market egg prices were 55.3 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from May. The decrease was mostly due to the seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell. The normal decrease in marketings of oranges, tomatoes, strawberries, and cattle more than offset the relatively higher marketings of wheat, grapes, hay, and cantaloupes. The change in marketings was accompanied by a slight decrease in overall prices. Price decreases from May for cantaloupes, hogs, peaches, and hay more than offset price increases for oranges, milk, cattle, and celery.

Compared with June 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (3.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from June 1998 for hogs, corn, soybeans, and milk more than offset price increases for cattle, carrots, tomatoes, and turkeys.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	May 1998	June 1998	May 1999	June 1999
Prices Received	103	102	99	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	116	116
Ratio 2/	88	87	85	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		May 1998	Apr. 1999	May 1999	May 1999	Apr. 1999	May 1998	June 15, 1999	June 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.06	2.92	2.89	2.36	-0.03	-0.17	2.80	2.37
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.77	2.80	2.85	2.84	+0.05	-1.92	3.00	2.91
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.12	3.05	2.93	-0.07	-0.50	3.10	3.01
All Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.03	2.99	2.53	-0.04	-0.45	3.02	2.48
Barley, All	Bu.	2.26	1.78	1.77	1.81	-0.01	-0.49	1.68	1.78
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.92	1.42	1.47	1.61	+0.05	-0.45	1.50	1.65
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.77	2.38	2.46	2.15	+0.08	-0.31	2.40	2.01
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.11	1.12	1.31	+0.01	N/A	1.10	1.30
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	61.00	60.00	95.70	-1.00	-11.00	62.00	85.00
All Other Hay	Ton	61.00	52.00	48.00	69.40	-4.00	-13.00	52.00	68.50
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	61.00	58.00	91.60	-3.00	-12.00	62.00	81.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	75.90	72.40	71.30	65.20	-1.10	-4.60	72.60	66.80
Cows	Cwt	37.20	37.10	37.90	36.40	+0.80	+0.70	38.10	36.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	54.60	65.30	52.90	62.10	-12.40	-1.70	50.20	63.60
Calves	Cwt	87.00	84.70	81.20	87.60	-3.50	-5.80	82.10	88.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	26.70	27.80	28.40	31.50	+0.60	+1.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	71.00	69.20	78.20	82.80	+9.00	+7.20	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	13.80	12.60	12.60	12.80	NC	-1.20	12.30	13.20

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1982-1999

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1982 . .	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,285	92	2,753	891	103	314	1,308	1,001	2,310	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	917	93	248	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,550	100	3,373	915	81	382	1,378	1,050	2,428	945	2.65
1999 . 3/	945	2,333	100	3,378	925	90	300	1,315	1,150	2,465	913	2.45-2.95

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, July 1999--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Egg Production
U.S. Cattle Inventory	Wheat & Barley Varieties
Cattle on Feed	Mink
U.S. Sheep Inventory	Slaughter

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HIGHLIGHTS:

June Planted Acreages
June 1 Grain Stocks
Potato Stocks
May Red Meat Production
Milk Production
U.S. Cattle on Feed
U.S. Hogs & Pigs
U.S. Egg Production
Sweet Cherry Production

Montana's Planted Wheat Acreage Smallest Since 1994

All wheat planted acreage in Montana was estimated at 5.60 million, 50,000 acres less than last year and the smallest acreage since 1994. **Spring wheat** producers planted 4.15 million acres of spring wheat this year, up 9% from last year but down 1% from what they intended to plant March 1. While excess moisture delayed seeding in some areas of the state, most of the state has benefitted from the good to excellent moisture ratings this spring. At the end of June spring wheat was 42% in boot compared with 60% for the 5-year average. Fifteen percent of the spring wheat crop was headed compared with 20% for the 5-year average. Producers intend to harvest 4.05 million acres of spring wheat. **Durum** producers planted 400,000 acres of durum this spring, down 11% from a year ago. If conditions permit, producers will harvest 390,000 acres. **Winter wheat** seeded acreage was estimated at 1.05 million acres, down 25% from 1998 and the smallest planted acreage of winter wheat since 1937. Statewide, at the end of June, winter wheat is 75% headed compared with 92% last year and 76% for the 5-year average. Winter wheat acreage for harvest has been revised down to 970,000 acres.

Montana **barley** producers seeded 1.25 million acres this year, down100,000 acres from a year ago. Harvested barley acreage was estimated at 1.2 million acres. **Oat** acreage increased 20,000 acres from last year at 160,000 acres with 80,000 acres intended to be harvested for grain. **Corn** producers seeded 65,000 acres for all purposes, up 5,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to harvest 19,000 acres for grain, up 1,000 acres from 1998. **Dry bean** planted acreage increased 3,400 acres from last year to 16,000 acres. **Sugar beet** acreage decreased 2,100 acres to 61,900. **Hay** harvested acreage is expected to increase 6% from last year with **alfalfa** acreage increasing to 1.75 million acres and **all other hay** increasing to 900,000 acres. Good moisture supplies this spring caused most of the increase in other hay acreage.

At the **U.S.** level, the 1999 **all wheat** planted area is estimated at 62.9 million acres. The planted total is down 5% from 1998 while the harvested area is down 7%. This is the lowest planted acreage since 1973 and the lowest grain area since 1988. The **winter wheat** harvested acreage is now expected to total 35.6 million, down 1% from the June 1 forecast and 11% less than the 1998 acreage for grain. This will be the smallest area for grain since 1972. Planted area is still 43.4 million acres, down 7% from last year. **Spring wheat** acreage planted this year is placed at 15.3 million, down 2% from 1998. Grain area is expected to total 15.0 million acres, down 1% from last year. These are the smallest areas since the 1988 drought. Hard red spring wheat accounts for about 14.0 million of the acreage for grain. Planting progress in the five largest producing states had reached 85% completion as of May 30, trailing well behind the 5-year average largely due to a wet May. The **durum** planted area for 1999 harvest is estimated at 4.17 million acres and acres cut for grain are expected to total 4.05 million. Both acreages are up 9% from 1998 to the highest levels since 1982. Above normal precipitation delayed durum seeding in Montana and kept planting progress well behind average in North Dakota; seeding was 85% complete as of June 13.

Nationally, **barley** growers seeded 5.24 million acres for 1999, down 17% from the 6.34 million acres seeded a year ago and the smallest acreage since records were first kept in 1926. Barley growers in North Dakota and Minnesota are decreasing seedings by 580,000 and 240,000 acres, respectively.

Corn planted for all purposes in the U.S. is estimated at 77.6 million acres, down 3% from last year. Growers expect to harvest 71.0 million acres for grain, down 2% from 1998.

Nationally, **hay** producers expect to harvest 62.0 million acres of hay in 1999, up 3% from the 60.0 million acres harvested the previous year. **Alfalfa** and alfalfa mixtures are expected to total 24.0 million acres, up 1% from 1998. **All other hay** is estimated at 38.0 million acres, up 4% from last year.

New Potato Release Shows June Stocks at 12% of Production

The first June Potato Stocks Report issued by National Agricultural Statistics Service shows the 15 major fall potato States held 51.4 million cwt of potatoes on June 1, 1999. This storage level accounted for 12 percent of 1998 fall production, compared with 21 percent in storage on May 1. Disappearance totaled 374 million cwt from the start of harvest to June 1. Processor usage in the eight major States totaled 187 million cwt for the season, with 18.9 million cwt of potatoes used in May. The June stocks report was added to the previous monthly stocks program of December through May at the request of the Potato Industry. Historical comparisons are not available.

Western States held 40.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on June 1, 1999. Idaho's stocks totaled 25.5 million cwt, covering 18 percent of their production and accounting for 63 percent of the Western States' remaining stocks. Washington's stocks were 7.5 million cwt or 8 percent of their fall production. Oregon, at 4.2 million cwt, held 16 percent of their production. Montana storages were essentially empty on June 1.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 3,000 Montana farmers and ranchers during June. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

PLEASE RETURN

June 1, 1999 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on June 1, 1999 totaled 70.6 million bushels, up 5 percent from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 54.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 16.6 million bushels stored off farm. All **spring wheat** stocks, at 48.3 million bushels, were up 12 percent from last year and accounted for 68 percent of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 22.3 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year. **Durum wheat** stocks were estimated at 7.8 million bushels, up 5.1 million bushels from last year. All wheat disappearance for the March-May quarter was 36.4 million bushels, compared with 37.0 million for the same quarter last year. **Barley** stocks in all positions on June 1, 1999 were up 72 percent from last year and were set at 15.5 million bushels. Oat stocks were up 47 percent from a year ago and were estimated at 1.2 million bushels.

June 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	June 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999*	June. 1, 1999	'99/'98	June 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999*	June 1, 1999
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	53,000	86,000	54,000	102%	224,210	471,220	277,710
Off Farms 1/	14,000	21,000	16,600	119%	498,268	979,191	667,233
TOTAL	67,000	107,000	70,600	105%	722,478	1,450,411	944,943
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	19,000	27,000	16,000	84%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	5,000	8,750	6,300	126%	--	--	--
TOTAL	24,000	35,750	22,300	93%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	34,000	59,000	38,000	112%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	9,000	12,250	10,300	114%	--	--	--
TOTAL	43,000	71,250	48,300	112%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	13,380	58,200	37,500
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	12,448	30,372	17,302
TOTAL	2,700	8,250	7,780	288%	25,828	88,572	54,802
BARLEY							
On Farms	5,000	19,000	11,000	220%	43,700	86,900	52,000
Off Farms 1/	4,000	6,900	4,450	111%	75,533	113,808	88,848
TOTAL	9,000	25,900	15,450	172%	119,233	200,708	140,848
OATS							
On Farms	700	1,700	1,000	143%	34,500	61,700	40,700
Off Farms 1/	90	180	160	178%	39,498	50,850	40,686
TOTAL	790	1,880	1,160	147%	73,998	112,550	81,386
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	1,830,000	3,570,000	2,257,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,209,757	2,128,428	1,358,960
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	3,039,757	5,698,428	3,615,960

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	June 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999*	June 1, 1999	June 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999*	June 1, 1998
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	0.5	1.4	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.8
N. Central	30.1	41.7	29.7	3.9	13.5	7.3
Northeast	18.7	35.1	19.9	0.6	1.8	0.7
Central	9.2	16.8	10.7	1.7	5.5	4.2
Southwest	1.5	1.5	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.7
S. Central	4.3	6.7	5.1	1.6	2.8	1.5
Southeast	2.7	3.8	3.7	0.2	0.7	0.3
MONTANA	67.0	107.0	70.6	9.0	25.9	15.5

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

PLANTED AND HARVESTED ACRES JUNE 1, 1999

CROP	UNIT	ACRES PLANTED		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION	
		1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/	1998	1999 1/
MONTANA		---000 Acres---		---000 Acres---				---000 Units---	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,400	1,050	1,250	970	39.0	3/	48,750	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	450	400	430	390	28.0	3/	12,040	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,800	4,150	3,600	4,050	30.0	3/	108,000	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	5,650	5,600	5,280	5,410	32.0	3/	168,790	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	60	65	18	19	115.0	4/	2,070	4/
Oats	Bu.	140	160	60	80	54.0	3/	3,240	3/
Barley	Bu.	1,350	1,250	1,200	1,150	48.0	3/	57,600	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	12.6	16.0	12.2	15.5	21.8	4/	266	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	64.0	61.9	62.4	61.3	22.6	4/	1,410	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.6	6/	10.6	6/	300.0	5/	3,180	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,700	1,750	2.2	4/	3,740	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	800	900	1.6	4/	1,280	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,500	2,650	2.0	4/	5,020	4/
UNITED STATES		--000 Acres--		--000 Acres--				--000 Units--	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	46,449	43,419	40,126	35,649	46.9	3/	1,880,605	3/
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3,805	4,165	3,728	4,048	37.8	3/	141,069	3/
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,617	15,299	15,148	14,960	34.9	3/	528,709	3/
All Wheat	Bu.	65,871	62,883	59,002	54,657	43.2	3/	2,550,383	3/
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	80,187	77,611	72,604	71,039	134.4	4/	9,761,085	4/
Oats	Bu.	4,902	4,658	2,765	2,641	60.4	3/	167,122	3/
Barley	Bu.	6,340	5,237	5,867	4,893	60.1	3/	352,445	3/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	2,010.1	2,022.8	1,913.9	1,941.3	16.1	4/	30,828	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,498.8	1,560.2	1,451.7	1,529.0	22.5	4/	32,660	4/
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,423.4	6/	1,394.4	6/	343.0	5/	477,754	5/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,642	23,968	3.47	4/	82,010	4/
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	36,374	37,983	1.91	4/	69,328	4/
All Hay	Ton	--	--	60,016	61,951	2.52	4/	151,338	4/

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Production forecast available July 12, 1999. 4/ Production forecast available August 12, 1999. 5/ Production forecast available November 10, 1999. 6/ Planted and harvested acreage available July 12, 1999.

May Red Meat Production Up For Montana

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.7 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during May 1999, up 15% from last year, and up 6% from last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,800 head, was unchanged from last year. The average live weight of 1,137 pounds was up 28 pounds from a year ago.

There were 2,700 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during May, up 900 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 235 pounds, increased 27 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 200 head, unchanged from last year. The average live weight of 130 pounds was down a pound.

U.S. commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.60 billion pounds in May, up 1% from the 3.58 billion pounds produced in May 1998. Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 1% above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, up 1% from 1998. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 1,188 pounds.

Veal production totaled 17.0 million pounds, 10% below the previous record low for May set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 89 thousand head, down 12% from May 1998. The average live weight was 9 pounds above last year, at 311 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.42 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.44 million head, 2% below 1998. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 7% from the previous record low for May set in 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 270 thousand head, 4% below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 4 pounds from May a year ago.

January-May red meat production was 18.8 billion pounds, 3% higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3% higher than last year, veal was down 16%, pork was up 3%, and lamb & mutton was down 6%.

U.S. May Milk Production Up 3.5%

Milk production in the 20 major States during May totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 3.5% from production in these same States in May 1998. April revised production, at 12.0 billion pounds, was up 3.5% from April 1998. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,610 pounds for May, 54 pounds above May 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 3,000 head more than May 1998, and 8,000 head more than April 1999.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3%

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.98 million head on June 1, 1999. The inventory was 3% above June 1, 1998 and 4% above June 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.04 million, slightly above 1998 and 9% above 1997. Net placements were 1.94 million. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 290,000, 600-699 pounds were 425,000, 700-799 pounds were 717,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 607,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.99 million, 1% above 1998 but 4% below 1997. Other disappearance totaled 99,000 during May, 6% above 1998 but 15% below 1997.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 3%

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on June 1, 1999, was 60.5 million head. This was 3 percent below June 1998, but 1 percent above March 1, 1999.

Breeding inventory, at 6.52 million head, was down 6 percent from June 1, 1998, but virtually unchanged from March 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 54.0 million head, was 2 percent below last year, but 1 percent above last quarter.

The March-May 1999 U.S. pig crop, at 26.3 million head, was 3 percent less than 1998, but 4 percent more than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, 3 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.80 pigs saved per litter for the March-May period, compared to 8.75 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.80 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.94 million sows farrow during the June-August 1999 quarter, 4 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998, but virtually unchanged from 1997. Intended farrowings for September-November 1999, at 2.87 million sows, are 4 percent below the same period last year and 2 percent below 1997.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 30 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

May Egg Production Up 4%

U.S. egg production totaled 6.92 billion during May 1999, up 4 percent from the 6.67 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.81 billion table eggs and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 69.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 1999 averaged 320 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during May 1998. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,164 eggs, up 1 percent from 2,153 eggs in May 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on June 1, 1999, totaled 320 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 320 million layers consisted of 260 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.87 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 1999, averaged 70.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.1 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.54 billion eggs during May, up 4 percent from May 1998. The average number of layers during May, at 302 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

June 1, 1999 Cherry Production Forecast

Montana sweet cherry producers expect 1999 total production to be 1,300 tons, down 37 percent from 1998. Most growers attributed the decrease to late frosts in the spring and cool weather during pollination. This cool weather made it difficult for bees to effectively pollinate the trees. The frosts weren't hard enough to kill the trees the way they did in 1989, but will significantly affect this year's production.

U.S. sweet cherry production is forecast at 217,000 tons, up 3 percent from 1998 but 4 percent below 1997. California expects to produce a much larger crop while Oregon, Washington and Michigan expect declines.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Milk Production	Hogs & Pigs
Cattle on Feed	Sweet Cherry Production
Slaughter	Grain Stocks
Egg Production	Crop Acreages
Potato Stocks	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
Wheat Supply and Demand Estimates
1998 Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received

New NASS Logo

The new National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) logo (shown in the upper left corner) was released for use on June 1, 1999. It more fully represents agriculture and statistics than the previous logo. Agriculture is represented by a visual of a field, barn, and a silo. Statistics is represented by bars against a statistical grid. Look for it on all our future publications and surveys.

June 1, 1999 Crop Production Forecast

As of June 1, Montana winter wheat producers were expecting a yield of 40 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year and unchanged from last month. If realized, total production would be 40.0 million bushels and 18 percent less than last year. Harvested acreage remains the same as last month at 1.0 million acres, down 250,000 acres from last year and the smallest harvested acreage since 1939. As of June 6, the winter wheat crop was rated 4 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 55 percent good and 14 percent excellent.

At the U.S. level, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.61 billion bushels, down fractionally from last month and down 14 percent from 1998. Based on conditions around June 1, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.7 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushels from the last forecast. Grain area totals 36.0 million acres, down 1 percent from May 1.

Hard Red is down 1 percent from a month ago to 981 million bushels. White Winter is down 2 percent from last month. Soft White is up 2 percent from the last forecast and now totals 419 million bushels.

Winter Wheat: Production Forecast by Districts - June 1, 1999

District	1997	1998	1999	'99/'98
	1000 bushels			% chg.
Northwest	872	635	460	72
North Central	26,104	21,093	18,500	88
Northeast	2,024	1,847	1,600	87
Central	14,001	13,225	12,050	91
Southwest	1,659	1,670	800	48
South Central	8,325	8,345	4,700	56
Southwest	2,115	1,935	1,890	98
MONTANA	55,100	48,750	40,000	82

Wheat Supply and Demand Estimates

Projected U.S. 1999/2000 ending wheat stocks are down slightly from last month due to a reduction of 3 million bushels in forecast winter wheat production. The projected price range is unchanged at $2.60 to $3.10 per bushel.

Projected global 1999/2000 wheat production is down slightly from last month, as smaller prospective crops in Canada, Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia more than offset larger crops in the EU and Pakistan. Prolonged wet conditions have cut planting prospects in Canada, while unusually cold weather in May reduced prospective production in Ukraine and Russia. The EU crop is up from last month because of favorable growing conditions in France and larger area in Germany. Preliminary harvest results indicate Pakistan's yields are higher than expected earlier.

Global 1999/2000 imports are little changed from last month, as higher Brazilian imports are offsetting lower imports by Pakistan. Export prospects are down for Canada and Turkey because of reduced production, but larger prospective exports for Argentina and Ukraine are offsetting.

Source: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, June 11, 1999

See table on back page.

PLEASE RETURN

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1998

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
				Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	1,200	800	70	56,000	52	1,200	800	70	56,000
Flathead	13,700	13,400	72	959,000	15	5,100	5,000	70	350,000
Granite	1,900	1,200	93	112,000	49	--	--	--	0
Lake	5,900	3,300	71	234,000	34	--	--	--	0
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Missoula	1,800	1,600	63	101,000	51	--	--	--	0
Powell	5,100	2,800	68	191,000	40	--	--	--	0
Ravalli	2,000	1,900	77	146,000	45	--	--	--	0
Sanders	1,200	800	45	36,000	53	--	--	--	0
Other	200	200	75	15,000	--	14,200	8,900	80	709,000
NORTHWEST	**33,000**	**26,000**	**71**	**1,850,000**	**--**	**20,500**	**14,700**	**76**	**1,115,000**
Blaine	27,000	24,000	52	1,244,000	12	9,000	8,000	52	415,000
Chouteau	127,000	114,200	36	4,108,000	4	800	400	45	18,000
Glacier	121,000	115,200	45	5,202,000	3	17,100	15,600	55	865,000
Hill	35,000	31,000	43	1,325,000	11	1,800	1,500	60	90,000
Liberty	29,000	27,300	37	1,009,000	14	2,600	2,300	72	166,000
Phillips	26,000	22,000	53	1,162,000	13	1,800	1,500	58	87,000
Pondera	140,000	134,000	53	7,038,000	1	42,200	41,700	65	2,720,000
Teton	121,000	116,600	56	6,533,000	2	59,000	57,800	64	3,684,000
Toole	71,000	68,700	47	3,195,000	6	1,200	1,100	76	84,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
N. CENTRAL	**697,000**	**653,000**	**47**	**30,816,000**	**--**	**135,500**	**129,900**	**63**	**8,129,000**
Daniels	5,800	3,500	32	113,000	48	--	--	--	0
Dawson	26,600	21,800	42	914,000	16	900	800	89	71,000
Garfield	12,600	7,500	44	329,000	31	--	--	--	0
McCone	17,800	13,100	36	469,000	25	600	500	66	33,000
Richland	19,000	13,300	46	616,000	22	2,100	1,400	90	126,000
Roosevelt	10,400	7,100	38	268,000	32	900	--	--	0
Sheridan	7,800	7,000	29	203,000	38	--	--	--	0
Valley	21,000	16,700	36	593,000	23	2,500	1,100	59	65,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	500	300	67	20,000
NORTHEAST	**121,000**	**90,000**	**39**	**3,505,000**	**--**	**7,500**	**4,100**	**77**	**315,000**
Broadwater	6,500	6,100	56	340,000	30	4,200	4,000	61	244,000
Cascade	69,800	63,500	42	2,667,000	8	13,000	11,900	58	688,000
Fergus	90,000	80,900	42	3,365,000	5	900	500	56	28,000
Golden Valley	6,800	5,600	43	239,000	33	800	700	77	54,000
Judith Basin	63,000	59,700	42	2,503,000	9	2,100	1,800	65	117,000
Lewis & Clark	10,800	8,000	48	380,000	28	5,700	4,300	55	235,000
Meagher	17,400	13,000	49	638,000	21	4,500	2,800	64	179,000
Musselshell	6,800	5,600	37	206,000	37	1,300	700	50	35,000
Petroleum	5,900	3,400	44	151,000	43	2,300	1,400	53	74,000
Wheatland	24,000	19,200	46	886,000	19	1,200	900	53	48,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
CENTRAL	**301,000**	**265,000**	**43**	**11,375,000**	**--**	**36,000**	**29,000**	**59**	**1,702,000**
Beaverhead	11,600	8,700	81	708,000	20	10,900	8,300	82	679,000
Gallatin	43,100	41,000	67	2,750,000	7	15,900	15,300	74	1,135,000
Jefferson	3,000	2,500	64	160,000	42	--	--	--	0
Madison	9,700	8,500	69	587,000	24	--	--	--	0
Silver Bow	600	300	70	21,000	54	600	300	70	21,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	9,600	8,300	74	613,000
SOUTHWEST	**68,000**	**61,000**	**69**	**4,226,000**	**--**	**37,000**	**32,200**	**76**	**2,448,000**
Big Horn	17,000	14,400	63	904,000	17	7,500	7,400	78	579,000
Carbon	11,600	10,900	82	893,000	18	--	--	--	0
Park	10,100	8,600	50	428,000	27	4,100	3,400	67	227,000
Stillwater	15,700	12,700	37	464,000	26	1,300	1,100	96	106,000
Sweetgrass	4,400	2,700	46	125,000	46	1,700	900	70	63,000
Treasure	3,200	2,900	73	211,000	35	--	--	--	0
Yellowstone	24,000	21,800	69	1,494,000	10	14,000	12,500	94	1,172,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	12,400	11,700	89	1,038,000
S. CENTRAL	**86,000**	**74,000**	**61**	**4,519,000**	**--**	**41,000**	**37,000**	**86**	**3,185,000**
Carter	8,200	4,600	43	200,000	39	--	--	--	0
Custer	4,300	3,600	49	178,000	41	900	800	75	60,000
Fallon	8,400	5,200	29	149,000	44	--	--	--	0
Powder River	4,500	3,500	32	111,000	50	--	--	--	0
Prairie	7,600	6,900	49	341,000	29	--	--	--	0
Rosebud	6,100	3,900	53	207,000	36	1,800	1,600	78	124,000
Wibaux	4,900	3,300	37	123,000	47	--	--	--	0
Other	--	--	--	--	--	800	700	59	41,000
SOUTHEAST	**44,000**	**31,000**	**42**	**1,309,000**	**--**	**3,500**	**3,100**	**73**	**225,000**
MONTANA	**1,350,000**	**1,200,000**	**48**	**57,600,000**	**--**	**281,000**	**250,000**	**68**	**17,119,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Ag Prices Received for April

Crop prices for the full month of April were mostly lower than March prices. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.92 per bushel, up 12 cents from March's level; durum wheat was $2.80 per bushel, down 8 cents; and spring wheat was 3 cents lower at $3.12 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.42 and malt barley was $2.38 per bushel.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay was $60.00 per ton, down $1.00 from last month. Other hay, at $48.00, was $4.00 per ton lower than April's price. The mid-month winter wheat price averaged $2.80 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.10; feed barley price was $1.35; and malt barley averaged $2.35.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were lower. Steer and heifer prices decreased $1.30 to $72.40 per cwt. Cows were down 60 cents to $37.10 and the average price for calves decreased 30 cents to $84.70 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $4.10 to $27.80 per cwt. and lamb prices decreased 70 cents to $69.20 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $4.00 from last month to $12.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-May averaged $72.80 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was $2.48, down 5 cents; spring wheat was $2.95, down 6 cents; the all barley price was $1.77, down 15 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $66.00, up 50 cents.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was $2.42 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.94 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.58 per bushel, all barley was $1.78. Steer and heifer prices were $64.50 per cwt, cow prices were $36.30, all hog prices were $37.00 per cwt, and market egg prices were 35.0 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 99 based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (3.1 percent) from April. The index increase was due to the seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell. The normal increase in marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, peaches, and sweet corn in May more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, milk, cotton, and oranges. The change in marketings was accompanied by a slight increase in overall prices. Price increases from April for hogs, broilers, oranges, and hay more than offset price decreases for lettuce, strawberries, cattle, and eggs.

Compared with May 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (3.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from May 1998 for soybeans, corn, hogs, and wheat more than offset price increases for peaches, carrots, cucumbers, and turkeys.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	Apr. 1998	May 1998	Apr. 1999	May 1999
Prices Received	104	103	96	99
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	118	117	116	117
Ratio 2/	88	88	83	85

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		April 1998	March 1999	April 1999	April 1999	March 1999	April 1998	May 15, 1999	May 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.28	2.80	2.92	2.48	+0.12	-0.36	2.80	2.42
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.87	2.88	2.80	2.80	-0.08	-2.07	2.90	2.77
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.55	3.15	3.12	2.95	-0.03	-0.43	3.10	2.94
All Wheat	Bu.	3.53	3.04	3.03	2.62	-0.01	-0.50	2.98	2.58
Barley, All	Bu.	2.51	1.93	1.78	1.77	-0.15	-0.73	1.75	1.78
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.02	1.39	1.42	1.55	+0.03	-0.60	1.35	1.66
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.74	2.39	2.38	2.09	-0.01	-0.36	2.35	2.02
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.04	1.11	1.18	+0.07	N/C	1.10	1.21
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	60.00	61.00	85.60	+1.00	-10.00	60.00	95.70
All Other Hay	Ton	60.00	52.00	52.00	65.80	N/C	-8.00	48.00	69.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	59.00	61.00	81.90	+2.00	-9.00	58.00	91.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	79.00	73.70	72.40	66.00	-1.30	-6.60	72.80	64.50
Cows	Cwt	39.90	37.70	37.10	35.10	-0.60	-2.80	37.20	36.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	72.00	68.30	65.30	62.70	-3.00	-6.70	55.00	61.40
Calves	Cwt	88.90	85.00	84.70	88.20	-0.30	-4.20	81.90	87.20
Sheep 2/	Cwt	35.10	31.90	27.80	31.80	-4.10	-7.30	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	70.30	69.90	69.20	67.40	-0.70	-1.10	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.50	16.60	12.60	12.60	-4.00	-1.90	13.10	12.90

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

WHEAT: SUPPLY, DISAPPEARANCE, AND PRICE, UNITED STATES, 1982-1999

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1982 . .	1,159	2,765	8	3,932	616	97	195	908	1,509	2,417	1,515	3.45
1983 . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,285	92	2,753	891	103	314	1,308	1,001	2,310	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	917	93	248	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998 . .	722	2,550	98	3,371	915	87	350	1,352	1,050	2,402	969	2.65
1999 . 3/	969	2,242	95	3,305	925	90	275	1,290	1,150	2,440	865	2.60-3.10

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, June 1999--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Milk Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Slaughter
- Egg Production
- Potato Stocks
- Hogs & Pigs
- Sweet Cherry Production
- Grain Stocks
- Crop Acreages

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Milk Production, Disposition, and Income
Milk Production — Farm Labor
Red Meat Production — Potato Stocks
Cattle on Feed — Egg Production
Agricultural Chemical Use

1998 Milk Production, Disposition, and Income

Montana's 1998 milk production, of 291 million pounds, decreased 3 percent from 1997. An average of 18,000 milk cows were on farms and ranches during the year, 1,000 less than a year ago. The rate per cow averaged 16,167 pounds, 641 pounds more than 1997.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were 42 million dollars, 6 percent less than 1997. Producer returns averaged $15.00 per cwt, an increase of $1.80 from last year. Marketings totaled 280 million pounds, down 1 percent from a year ago. A total of 11 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches where produced, 7 million pounds were fed to calves, and 4 million were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 1 percent in 1998 to 157 billion pounds. The rate per cow at 17,192 pounds, was 321 pounds above 1997. The annual average number of cows on farms at 9.16 million head, was 94,000 less than 1997.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1998 at $24.3 billion dollars, was 16 percent above 1997. Producer returns averaged $15.57 per hundredweight, 15 percent above 1997. Marketings totaled 156 billion pounds, 1 percent above 1997. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.36 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1 percent less than 1997. Calves were fed 83 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households.

U.S. April Milk Production Up 3.4 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.0 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent from production in these same States in April 1998. March revised production, at 12.2 billion pounds was up 4.6 percent from March 1998. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,553 pounds for April, 52 pounds above April 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 1,000 head less than April 1998, but 4,000 head more than March 1999.

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production Up for April

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.6 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April, up 12 percent from April 1998. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,128 pounds was up 2 pounds from a year ago.

During April, there were 2,700 head of hogs slaughtered, 800 more than last year. The average live weight increased 18 pounds to 232 pounds. Sheep slaughter, at 200 head was 100 head more than last year. The average live weight decreased 1 pound to 130 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.82 billion pounds in April, up 3 percent from April's previous record high of 3.70 billion pounds produced in 1998. Beef production totaled 2.16 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the previous year and just above the previous record high for April set in 1996. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.97 million head, up 2 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 12 pounds from the previous year, at 1,201 pounds.

Veal production, at 18.0 million pounds, was 11 percent below the previous record low for April set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 97 thousand head, down 12 percent from April 1998. The average live weight was 4 pounds above last year, at 303 pounds.

Pork production, at 1.63 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from the previous record high for April set in 1998. Hog kill totaled 8.53 million head, 2 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 260 pounds.

Lamb & mutton production totaled 21.0 million pounds, down 18 percent from a year ago and down 5 percent from the previous record low for April set in 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 310 thousand head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 3 pounds from April a year ago.

January - April red meat production was 15.2 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 17 percent, pork was up 4 percent, and lamb & mutton was down 6 percent.

April Egg Production Up 3% Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.77 billion during April 1999, up 3 percent from the 6.60 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.69 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 67.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 1999 averaged 321 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during April 1998. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,109 eggs, down fractionally from 2,117 eggs in April 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1999, totaled 320 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 320 million layers consisted of 261 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.77 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1999, averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 69.6 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.40 billion eggs during April, up 2 percent from April 1998. The average number of layers during April, at 303 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

LEASE RETURN

1998 Cash Receipts From Meat Animals Down 12 Percent in Montana and U.S.

Cash receipts from the 1998 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled $792 million, down 12 percent from 1997. Decreased prices for cattle, hogs and sheep and decreased cattle marketings contributed to the lower cash receipts. Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves dropped 10 percent from 1997 to $745 million. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.33 million head, were down 9 percent from 1997, while marketings of calves less than 500 lbs increased 4 percent to 260,000 head. The average price received in 1998 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs dropped $2.50 per cwt to $62.00 per cwt. Season average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs were off $6.10 per cwt to $78.60 per cwt.

Cash receipts from the sales of hogs in Montana dropped 24 percent from 1997 to $25.8 million dollars. While the marketings of hogs increased from 288,000 in 1997 to 326,000 head in 1998, prices for hogs dropped dramatically as the season average price was $40.10 per cwt, down $15.20 per cwt. Sheep and lamb cash receipts decreased 28 percent from 1997 to $21.4 million dollars. Marketings of sheep and lambs were 91,000 and 262,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were up from 1997 but lamb marketings were down from 1997 as sheep and lamb inventories continue to decline in the state. The average price for lamb prices fell $24.20 per cwt to $73.60 per cwt and sheep dropped $8.20 per cwt from 1997 to $29.20 per cwt.

The total 1998 cash receipts in the United States from marketings of meat animals fell 12 percent to $43.6 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 77 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 22 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for cattle and calves and hogs and pigs, but declined for sheep and lambs. Average prices fell from 1997 levels for all three species.

Cash receipts from marketings of U.S. cattle and calves decreased from $36.0 billion in 1997 to $33.7 in 1998, a 6 percent decrease. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 55.8 billion pounds in 1998, down 2 percent from last year. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $59.60, a decrease of $3.50 from the $63.10 in 1997. For calves, the annual average price decreased $0.10 to $78.80.

Cash receipts from U.S. hogs and pigs totaled $9.4 billion during 1998, down 28 percent from 1997. Marketings increased to 26.5 billion pounds in 1998, up 10 percent from 1997. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight fell from $52.90 in 1997 to $34.40 in 1998.

Cash receipts from marketings of U.S. sheep and lambs in 1998 were $483 million, down 24 percent from 1997. Marketings declined 5 percent to 742 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for lambs decreased from $90.30 in 1997 to $72.30 in 1998 while for sheep, the annual average price decreased $7.30 to $30.60.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.02 million head on May 1, 1999. The inventory was 3 percent above May 1, 1998 and 1 percent above May 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.67 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 8 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.57 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 283,000, 600-699 pounds were 389,000, 700-799 pounds were 567,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 431,000. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.93 million, 3 percent above 1998 and 1 percent above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 104,000 during April, 13 percent above 1998 and 6 percent above 1997.

Montana May Potato Storages nearly empty, U.S. down 6 Percent

Montana potato producers held 270,000 cwt. of potatoes in storage on May 1, nearly twice last year's storage level, but about the same quantity normally held. The stocks represent 8 percent of the 1998 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 5 percent of the 1997 total production.

Nationally, May 1, 1999 potato stocks totaled 87.6 million cwt, down 6 percent from a year ago and 15 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 21 percent of 1998 fall production, 1 percent less than a year ago.

U.S. disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 totaled 337 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high two years ago. April disappearance totaled 43.3 million cwt, 5 percent above last year but down 3 percent from April 1997. Shrink and loss to date is estimated at 30.1 million cwt, up 18 percent from last year.

Processing of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 168 million cwt, up 8 percent from the 1997 crop and equal to the 1996 crop. April processing used a record 19.2 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 9 percent from last year and 3 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 68.1 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 1999, down 7 percent from last year and 15 percent below May 1997. Idaho's stocks were down 6 percent and account for 57 percent of the Western States' total. California's stocks were down 25 percent and Colorado dropped 17 percent. Washington's stocks were down 9 percent but Oregon stored 8 percent more than a year ago.

1998 Agricultural Chemical Use Estimates for Winter and Spring Wheat

Montana winter wheat producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 90 percent of the acreage planted for the 1998 crop, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. A total of 67.9 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer was applied to the 1.40 million acres of winter wheat planted in Montana . Of the planted area, 88 percent received phosphate fertilizer while potash was used on 31 percent of the acres. Total application of phosphate was 30.7 million pounds and potash was 5.1 million pounds.

Continued on back page.

Hired Workers down 1 Percent, Wage Rates up 5 Percent from a Year Ago

There were 998,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 1-17,1999, down 1 percent from a year ago. There were 844,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 154,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 8.7 percent of the April hired workforce compared to 6.6 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $7.84 per hour during the April 1999 survey week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.23 per hour, up 23 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned $7.36 per hour compared with $6.99 a year earlier.

Hired farm worker wage rates in all regions were above a year ago. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast I (New England and New York), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The higher wage rates in these regions were primarily attributable to offering higher wages to attract workers in an increasingly competitive economic environment.

Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., April 12-18, 1998 & April 11-17, 1999 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Dollars per Hour							
Northeast I	8.01	8.18	6.09	7.34	7.29	7.92	7.55	8.34
Northeast II	7.05	7.73	6.29	6.05	6.88	7.20	7.44	7.73
Appalachian I	6.51	7.17	6.96	7.02	6.65	7.14	7.02	7.50
Appalachian II	6.47	6.17	6.09	6.63	6.35	6.39	6.53	6.72
Southeast	6.20	6.61	6.26	7.52	6.21	6.79	6.48	7.09
FL	6.75	7.40	7.20	6.90	6.78	7.37	7.57	8.18
Lake	7.39	7.95	7.43	7.03	7.41	7.54	8.06	8.09
Cornbelt I	7.39	7.71	8.13	7.47	7.62	7.66	8.14	8.35
Cornbelt II	7.49	7.02	7.23	8.54	7.37	8.07	7.64	8.27
Delta	5.87	6.41	6.74	7.28	6.04	6.59	6.30	6.81
Northern Plains	7.55	7.82	6.62	7.00	7.15	7.41	7.63	7.66
Southern Plains	6.20	6.41	6.29	6.66	6.25	6.51	6.72	7.18
Mountain I	6.51	6.54	5.92	6.53	6.21	6.54	6.46	6.71
Mountain II	6.80	7.58	7.14	7.67	6.97	7.63	7.43	8.08
Mountain III	6.32	6.77	6.52	7.58	6.36	6.96	7.02	7.65
Pacific	7.00	7.25	8.49	9.98	7.21	7.49	7.89	8.02
CA	7.30	7.22	8.08	8.34	7.39	7.32	7.87	8.06
HI 3/	9.06	9.45			8.95	9.38	10.43	10.93
US 4/	7.00	7.23	6.99	7.36	7.00	7.26	7.49	7.84

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data.
4/ Excludes AK. * Revised.

The June Agricultural Survey is Underway

You may be part of a sample of Montana producers that will be asked by interviewers to participate in the survey between May 24 and June 11. **Please say yes!** This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 1999.

The information gathered is widely used. Producers rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Industry analysts, extension agents and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers. We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses. Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data. Montana Agricultural Statistics Service works with all farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep Montana's and the Nation's agriculture informed.

1998 Agricultural Chemical Use

(continued from page 2)

Montana winter wheat producers applied 889,000 pounds of herbicides to 89 percent of the planted winter wheat acres in 1998. The most common herbicide used was 2, 4-D with 66 percent of the acreage sprayed. Dicamba and Glyphosate were the next popular herbicides used at 37 and 29 percent, respectively, of the planted acreage covered.

Montana spring wheat producers planted 3.8 million acres of spring wheat in 1998. Sixty-one percent of these acres had nitrogen fertilizer applied to them. A total of 129.6 million pounds of nitrogen was applied. Phosphate was applied to 55 percent and potash to 22 percent of the planted spring wheat acreage. Total application of phosphate was 64.5 million pounds and potash was 10.3 million pounds.

Montana spring wheat producers applied 1.8 million pounds of herbicides to 81 percent of the total spring wheat acres planted in 1998. The most widely used herbicide was 2, 4-D with 57 percent of the acreage sprayed. Dicamba was the second most common herbicide used on 21 percent. Glyphosate was used on 17 percent of the planted acres.

Winter wheat producers applied nitrogen fertilizer to 89 percent of the area planted for 1998 harvest in the surveyed States. Phosphate fertilizers were applied to 63 percent of the collective acreage, ranging from just 9 percent in Oregon to Ohio's 93 percent. All surveyed States treated at least a portion of the acreage with herbicides; 2,4-D was again the most prevalent in terms of area and total application.

Nitrogen fertilizer was applied to 94 percent of all spring wheat acreage in the surveyed Durum states and 87 percent in the other spring states. Phosphate coverage was similar in both crops, at 76 percent and 77 percent for Durum and other spring plantings, respectively. The three most popular herbicides in terms of Durum area covered were 2,4-D, dicamba, and tribenuron-methyl in that order. However, MCPA and fenoxaprop were second and third behind 2,4-D on other spring fields.

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report refer to on-farm use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides on the targeted crops for the 1998 crop year. Farm and ranch operators were enumerated late in the growing season or after the farm operator had indicated that planned applications were completed. The data was compiled from two surveys conducted in the Fall of 1998: The Agricultural Resources Management Study (ARMS) and the Fall Area Survey (FAS).

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sweet Cherry Production	Milk Production
Red Meat Production	Potato Stocks
Hogs & Pigs	Cattle on Feed
Grain Stocks	Egg Production
Crop Acreage	

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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REPORTER

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Winter Wheat Production
- Hay Stocks
- Poultry Production & Value
- Ag Prices Received

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May 1 Crop Production and Hay Stocks

As of May 1, **Montana winter wheat** producers were expecting a yield of 40 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year. If realized, total production of 40.0 million bushels would be 18 percent less than a year ago due to a decrease in acreage. Dry conditions and low grain prices last fall led producers to plant 1.05 million acres, the smallest winter wheat crop since 1937. Producers expect to harvest 1.0 million acres which would be the smallest harvested acreage since 1939. The condition of the winter wheat crop was rated at 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 4 percent excellent for the week ending May 9.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.61 billion bushels, down 14 percent from 1998. Based on conditions around May 1, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.4 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels less than last year's record high. Grain area totals 36.3 million acres, down 9 percent from last season. All classes of winter wheat are down from the previous estimate with soft red winter wheat showing the smallest percentage drop.

Winter Wheat: Production Forecast by Districts--May 1,1999 1/

District	1997	1998	1999	% chg. 99/98
		1,000 bushels		
NW	720	550	505	92
NC	27,290	20,900	18,800	90
NE	2,390	2,700	1,715	64
C	13,680	11,200	11,600	104
SW	1,530	1,800	880	49
SC	8,790	5,600	4,700	84
SE	2,150	1,450	1,800	124
MT	56,550	44,200	40,000	90

1/ District data funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

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Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, & Production, by Selected States & United States, 1998 & Forecasted May 1, 1999

State	Planted	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Acres			Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	2,600	2,550	2,400	39.0	38.0	99,450	91,200
ID	760	770	710	82.0	77.0	63,140	54,670
KS	10,000	10,100	9,500	49.0	43.0	494,900	408,500
MT	**1,050**	**1,250**	**1,000**	**39.0**	**40.0**	**48,750**	**40,000**
NE	2,000	1,800	1,900	46.0	40.0	82,800	76,000
OK	6,400	5,100	4,500	39.0	34.0	198,900	153,000
OR	710	790	640	67.0	59.0	52,930	37,760
SD	1,300	1,420	1,260	43.0	42.0	61,060	52,920
TX	6,200	3,900	3,400	35.0	31.0	136,500	105,400
UT	150	150	145	50.0	50.0	7,500	7,250
WA	1,900	2,100	1,800	65.0	64.0	136,500	115,200
WY	180	200	170	32.0	33.0	6,400	5,610
US	43,399	40,126	36,343	46.9	44.4	1,880,605	1,614,799

May 1 Hay Stocks

Montana hay producers had an estimated 1.10 million tons of hay on hand as of May 1, 4 percent less than the same time last year. Disappearance from December 1998 to May 1, 1999 totaled 3.46 million tons.

U.S. stocks of **all hay** on farms totaled 24.8 million tons on May 1, 1999, up 14 percent from May 1 of the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 1998 - May 1, 1999, totaled 87.0 million tons, 7.2 percent higher than the 1997 crop disappearance of 81.2 million tons for the same period. Stocks of hay on May 1, 1999, were higher compared with last year in 33 of the 48 estimating states. Mild winter conditions, combined with good hay production, led to stocks increases across much of the nation. Florida and the Southern Plains were adversely affected by drought conditions and showed sharp decreases in hay stocks.

1998 Poultry Production and Value

Montana's value of egg production in 1998 was $3.9 million, down 8 percent from 1997. Egg production in 1998 totaled 84 million eggs, down 4 million from the previous year. The average price for eggs was 55 cents per dozen, a decrease of 2 cents from 1997.

Montana's value of sales from chickens in 1998, excluding broilers, was $15,000. Value of sales decreased 42 percent from 1997 due to a large drop in the number of pounds sold, from 1.3 million in 1997 to 768,000 in 1998. Chickens sold for an average price of 2 cents per pound, unchanged from the previous year.

The U.S. combined value of production from broilers, eggs, and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 1998, was $22.2 billion, up 3 percent from the $21.7 billion in 1997. Of the combined total, 68 percent was from broilers, 20 percent from eggs, 12 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of broilers produced in the U.S. during 1998 was $15.1 billion, up 7 percent from the $14.2 billion in 1997. The total number of broilers produced in 1998 was 7.93 billion, up 2 percent from 1997. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 1998 was 38.6 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 1997. The 1998 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 39.3 cents per pound, compared to 37.7 cents per pound in 1997.

Value of egg production in 1998 was $4.35 billion, down 4 percent from the $4.54 billion in 1997. Egg production totaled 79.7 billion eggs, up 3 percent from the 77.5 billion eggs produced in 1997. In 1998, eggs averaged 65.5 cents per dozen, compared with 70.3 cents in 1997.

The value of turkeys produced during 1998 was $2.66 billion, down 8 percent from the $2.88 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1998 totaled 7.00 billion pounds live weight, compared with 7.23 billion pounds in 1997. The average price received by producers during 1998 was 38.0 cents per pound, compared with 39.9 cents in 1997.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 1998 was $75.5 million, up 6 percent from the $71.5 million a year ago. Prices averaged 8.0 cents per pound, compared with 7.7 cents in 1997. The number of chickens sold in 1998 totaled 194 million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

CHICKENS & EGGS: Production, Sales, and Value, 1997-1998 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		1997	1998	1997	1998
CHICKENS					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	39	38	49,256	53,428
Sold	1,000 Head	319	192	190,986	193,768
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs.	1,276	768	925,499	934,568
Average Price	Cents/Lb.	0.020	0.020	0.077	0.080
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols.	26	15	71,461	75,542
EGGS					
Produced	Million	88	84	77,532	79,717
Average Price	Cents/Doz.	0.570	0.550	0.703	0.655
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols.	4,180	3,850	4,539,929	4,349,521

1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers.
2/ Includes death, rendered, and other losses during the 12-month period.

Ag Prices Received for March

Crop prices for the full month of March declined from February. Montana winter wheat average price was $2.80 per bushel, down 12 cents from February's level; durum wheat was $2.88 per bushel, down 25 cents; and spring wheat was 11 cents lower at $3.15 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.39 and malt barley was $2.39 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay was $61.00 per ton, up $1.00 from last month, but the other hay price of $52.00 was unchanged from March. The mid-month winter wheat price averaged $2.80 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.10, feed barley price was $1.40, and malt barley averaged $2.30.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mixed. Steer and heifer prices decreased $2.70 to $73.70 per cwt. Cows were up $1.50 to $37.70 and the average price for calves decreased 70 cents to $85.00 per cwt. Sheep and lamb prices both increased 80 cents to $31.90 and $69.90 per cwt, respectively. Milk prices decreased 90 cents from last month to $16.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-April averaged $73.20 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was $2.53, down 3 cents; spring wheat was $3.01, down 9 cents; the all barley price was $1.92, up 8 cents; and steer and heifer prices were $65.50, up $1.90. The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was $2.51 per bushel, spring wheat was $2.78 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.71 per bushel, all barley was $1.80. Steer and heifer prices were $65.30 per cwt, cow prices were $35.10, all hog prices were $30.50 per cwt, and market egg prices were 43.2 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 98 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from March. The increase is due to the seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell. The normal increase in marketings of strawberries, cattle, oranges, and milk more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and hogs. The change in marketings also more than offset a decline in overall prices. Price decreases from March for milk, eggs, broilers, and corn more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, onions, and carrots.

Compared with April 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (5.8 percent) lower. Price decreases from April 1998 for hogs, milk, corn and soybeans more than offset price increases for strawberries, carrots, lettuce, and grapefruit.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	Mar. 1998	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1999	Apr. 1999
Prices Received	102	104	97	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	118	118	116	116
Ratio 2/	86	88	84	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Mar. 1998	Feb. 1999	Mar. 1999	Mar. 1999	Feb. 1999	Mar. 1998	Apr. 15, 1999	Apr. 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.17	2.92	2.80	2.53	-0.12	-0.37	2.80	2.51
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.93	3.13	2.88	2.81	-0.25	-2.05	2.90	2.78
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.52	3.26	3.15	3.01	-0.11	-0.37	3.10	2.99
All Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.08	3.04	2.65	-0.04	-0.42	3.01	2.71
Barley, All	Bu.	2.90	2.05	1.93	1.92	-0.12	-0.97	1.85	1.80
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.04	1.46	1.39	1.48	-0.07	-0.65	1.40	1.48
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.07	2.58	2.39	2.31	-0.19	-0.68	2.30	2.14
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.06	1.04	1.21	-0.02	N/A	1.10	1.20
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	71.00	64.00	60.00	82.40	-4.00	-11.00	61.00	85.60
All Other Hay	Ton	63.00	57.00	52.00	67.40	-5.00	-11.00	52.00	65.80
All Hay Baled	Ton	70.00	63.00	59.00	78.50	-4.00	-11.00	61.00	81.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	78.20	76.40	73.70	65.50	-2.70	-4.50	73.20	65.30
Cows	Cwt	38.10	36.20	37.70	35.20	+1.50	-0.40	37.50	35.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	69.80	68.80	68.30	62.40	-0.50	-1.50	66.10	62.10
Calves	Cwt	89.00	85.70	85.00	87.30	-0.70	-4.00	85.10	88.40
Sheep 2/	Cwt	41.90	31.10	31.90	32.70	+0.80	-10.00	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	70.90	69.10	69.90	67.40	+0.80	-1.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.50	17.50	16.60	15.00	-0.90	+2.10	14.50	13.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

featuring...Sheridan County

Sheridan County, lying in the extreme northeastern portion of Montana, claims 1,073,056 acres. Sheridan County is a prairie county and three-fourths of the land is tillable. The soil is of glacier origin providing a rich base for small grain production

In 1996, Sheridan County was ranked 24th in the state for all cash receipts from farming with $35,690,000. Livestock receipts totaled $6,148,000 and ranked 49th. Crops generated $29,563,000 and a ranking of 17th. Government payments accounted for the remaining $10,002,000.

Sheridan County ranks first in the State in durum wheat production and 18th in other spring wheat production for 1998. Hay is also grown in the county. The county livestock inventory for January 1, 1998 showed cattle and calves at 22,600 head, with 15,200 beef cows and heifers that have calved, and sheep and lamb inventory at 2,000 head. December 1, 1997 hogs and pigs inventory totaled 1,500 head.

Sheridan County, Montana 1/

Land Area	Acres	1,073,056	Total Cropland	Acres	677,445
Land in Farms	Acres	1,001,193	Harvested Cropland	Acres	342,588
Number of Farms		581	Irrigated Land	Acres	6,164
Average size Farms	Acres	1,723			
CROPS--Harvested			**LIVESTOCK**		
All Hay	Acres	36,282	All Cattle & Calves	No. Head	22,528
All Wheat for grain	Acres	299,692	Sheep & Lambs	No. Head	2,272
Barley for grain	Acres	7,374	Hogs & Pigs	No. Head	1,483
Oats for grain	Acres	1,897			

1/ Data from the 1997 Census of Agriculture.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

- Potato Stocks
- Milk Production
- Ag Chemical Use
- Milk Production, Disposition & Income
- Egg Production
- Cattle on Feed
- Farm Labor
- Meat Animals Production, Disposition & Income
- Red Meat Production

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Ag Land Values
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Montana's Rank
Potato Stocks
Quarterly Milk Production
1998 Milk Production
Egg Production

Montana Land Values Increase

The average value of farm real estate in Montana on January 1, 1998 was $294 per acre, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. [illegible]e average value of farm real estate increased $3.00 per acre from 1997. From 1994 to 1998, the value of farm real estate has grown from $254 to $294 per acre, an increase of 16 percent.

At the U.S. level, the average value of farm real estate on January 1, 1998 was $974 per acre. The average value of farm real estate decreased $48 per acre from 1997. The value of farm real estate at the national level increased by 22 percent from 1994 to 1998. The Northeast region maintained the highest values in the nation while the Cornbelt, Lake, and Appalachian, regions showed the strongest percent gains. All regions showed percent increases of more than 16 percent except for the Northeast, which had the least gain at 6 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.38 million head on April 1, 1999. The inventory was 3 percent above April 1, 1998 but slightly below April 1, 1997. The inventory included 6.28 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.05 million head, up 4 percent from 1998.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.02 million, 18 percent above 1998 and 3 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.95 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 357,000, 600-699 pounds were 468,000, 700-799 pounds were 739,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 457,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.98 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 12 percent above 1997.

Other disappearance totaled 71,000 during March, 24 percent below 1998 and 17 percent below 1997.

Cattle on Feed in Historic 7 States Up 3 Percent

Cattle on feed April 1, 1999, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.89 million, up 3 percent from the previous year but slightly below April 1, 1997. The inventory included 5.33 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.53 million head, up 6 percent from 1998.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.73 million, 22 percent above 1998 and 2 percent above 1997.

Marketings during March totaled 1.66 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 11 percent above 1997.

Other disappearance during March was 52,000 head, 25 percent below 1998 and 16 percent below 1997.

Montana Red Meat Up and U.S. Red Meat Production Sets Record High for March

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March, compared to 1.1 million pounds last March and 5 percent higher than last month. There were 1,400 head of cattle slaughtered, 200 head more than a year ago. The average live weight of cattle slaughtered decreased 31 pounds to 1,125 pounds.

Hog kill in March totaled 2,200 head, 300 head more than March 1998. The average live weight increased 18 pounds to 227 pounds. There were 100 head of sheep slaughtered in March, the same as a year ago at this time. The average live weight of sheep slaughtered remained the same at 131 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in March, up 8 percent from the 3.73 billion pounds produced in March 1998 and up 7 percent from the previous record high for March set in 1995. Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,216 pounds.

Continued on page 3.

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Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	VALUE	UNIT	PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	57,500,000	acres	1998	2	6.0
Number of farms and ranches	27,500	farms/ranches	1998	31	1.3
Income from cash receipts, excluding Gov't payments:					
Total	2,063	million dollars	1997	33	1.0
Crops	1,072	million dollars	1997	30	1.0
Livestock	991	million dollars	1997	30	1.0
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,600,000	head	Jan. 1, 1999	11	2.6
All Cows	1,550,000	head	Jan. 1, 1999	9	3.6
Beef Cows	1,532,000	head	Jan. 1, 1999	6	4.6
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 1999	43	0.2
Cattle on Feed	70,000	head	Jan. 1, 1999	23	0.5
All Sheep and Lambs	380,000	head	Jan. 1, 1999	7	5.3
Hogs and Pigs	190,000	head	Dec. 1, 1998	27	0.3
All Chickens	380,000	birds	Dec. 1, 1998	42	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,500,000	head	1998	7	3.9
Lamb Crop	355,000	head	1998	3	7.1
Pig Crop	344,000	head	1998	27	0.3
Wool Production	3,423,000	pounds	1998	4	7.0
Egg Production	84,000,000	eggs	1998	42	0.1
Honey Production	14,030,000	pounds	1998	5	6.4
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	168,790,000	bushels	1998	4	6.6
Winter Wheat	48,750,000	bushels	1998	12	2.6
Durum Wheat	12,040,000	bushels	1998	4	8.5
Spring Wheat Other Than Durum	108,000,000	bushels	1998	2	20.4
Barley	57,600,000	bushels	1998	3	16.3
Oats	3,240,000	bushels	1998	14	1.9
All Hay	5,020,000	tons	1998	12	3.3
Alfalfa Hay	3,740,000	tons	1998	9	4.6
Dry Beans	266,000	cwt	1998	12	0.9
Potatoes--fall	3,180,000	cwt	1998	18	0.7
Sugar Beets	1,410,000	tons	1998	6	4.3
Corn for Grain	1,890,000	bushels	1998	41	1/
Corn for Silage	861,000	tons	1998	25	0.9

1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.

Montana Red Meat Up and U.S. Red Meat Production Sets Record High for March

(continued from page 1.)

Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 12 percent below the previous record low for March set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 117 thousand head, down 8 percent from March 1998. The average live weight was 9 pounds below last year, at 286 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.74 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year and 6 percent higher than the previous record high for March set in 1995. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 8 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 29.0 million pounds, was up 10 percent from March 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 423 thousand head, 10 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

January - March red meat production was 11.4 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 19 percent, pork up 4 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 2 percent.

Montana March Potato Stocks Up 154 Percent, U.S. Down 2 Percent

Montana potato producers held 1.78 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, more than double last year's storage but about the same as normal. The stocks represent 56 percent of the 1998 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 21 percent of the 1997 total production.

Nationally, April 1, 1999 potato stocks totaled 131 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year ago and 11 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 31 percent of 1998 fall production, 1 percent less than a year ago.

U.S. disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 totaled 294 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high two years ago. March disappearance totaled a record high 43.2 million cwt, 4 percent above the last two years. Shrink and loss to date is estimated at 27.7 million cwt, up 18 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 149 million cwt, up 8 percent from the 1997 crop but less than 1 percent below the 1996 crop. March processing used a record 20.4 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 3 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 97.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1999, down 3 percent from last year and 10 percent below April 1997. Idaho's stocks were down 4 percent and account for 55 percent of the Western States' total. California's stocks were down 20 percent and Colorado dropped 13 percent. Washington's stocks were down 4 percent but Oregon stored 7 percent more than a year ago.

Montana and U.S. Quarterly Milk Production Up

During the January-March 1999 quarter, Montana milk cows produced 74 million pounds of milk, up 2 million from the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cows numbered 18,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.1 billion pounds, up 4.0 percent from production in these same States in March 1998. February revised production, at 10.8 billion pounds was up 4.0 percent from February 1998.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,577 pounds for March, 62 pounds above March 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.70 million head, 5,000 head less than March 1998, but 2,000 head more than February 1999.

The January-March quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 40.5 billion pounds, 3.3 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.13 million head, 42,000 head less than the same period last year.

1998 Manufactured Dairy Products

Montana dairy plants produced 159,000 gallons of low-fat, hard ice cream during 1998, 13 percent less than the 1997 production. Low-fat, soft ice cream production totaled 1.3 million gallons, up slightly from last year's production. Low-fat ice cream mix production totaled 798,000 gallons, 5 percent more than last year.

Nationally, total cheese production, excluding cottage cheeses, was 7.50 billion pounds, 2 percent above the 1997 production. Wisconsin was the leading State with 28 percent of the production. American type cheese production, was 3.33 billion pounds, 1 percent above 1997 and accounted for 44 percent of total cheese in 1998.

Italian varieties, with 3.00 billion pounds produced was 4 percent above the 1997 production. Mozzarella accounted for 79 percent of the Italian production followed by Ricotta with 8 percent and Provolone with 7 percent. Wisconsin was the leading State in Italian cheese production with 29 percent of the production.

Production of butter in the United States during 1998 totaled 1.08 billion pounds, 6 percent less than 1997. Wisconsin accounted for 28 percent of the production, followed by California with 21 percent and Pennsylvania with 8 percent. Ice Cream Production increased in 1998. Regular ice cream production totaled 937 million gallons, up 3 percent from 1997. Low-fat ice cream, at 409 million gallons, was up 6 percent.

Nonfat dry milk for human food production, at 1.14 billion pounds, was down 7 percent from 1997. Dry whole milk, at 143 million pounds, was up 17 percent.

March Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.05 billion during March 1999, up 3 percent from the 6.87 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.94 billion table eggs and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 70.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 1999 averaged 323 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during March 1998. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,183 eggs, down slightly from 2,187 eggs in March 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 1999, totaled 323 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 323 million layers consisted of 262 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 57.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.94 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 1999, averaged 71.1 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 71.3 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.66 billion eggs during March, up 2 percent from March 1998. The average number of layers during March, at 305 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Winter Wheat Production
Poultry PDI	
Hay Stocka	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Prospective Plantings
Ag Prices Received
Grain Stocks
Hogs & Pigs

March 1999 Prospective Plantings

Montana **spring wheat** producers expect to seed 4.2 million acres in 1999, and if these expectations hold, seedings would be up 11 percent from last year, and would be the third highest seeding on record. Low prices and lack of fall moisture prompted producers to reduce winter wheat seeding last fall, but increased the number of acres to be seeded in the spring. **Winter wheat** seedings remained unchanged from the December estimate at 1.05 million acres, down 350,000 from last year and the smallest acreage since 1941. Lower prices are expected to reduce **durum wheat** acreage to 380,000 acres, down 16 percent from last year's 450,000 acres seeded. The 1998 seeded acreage for durum was the largest acreage seeded since 1981. Adding the winter wheat seeded last fall to the other spring and durum wheat intended seedings shows 5.63 million acres of **all wheat**, down less than 1 percent from last year's acreage, and 8 percent below 1997.

Barley intentions are estimated at 1.2 million acres, down 11 percent from last year. The intended **oats** acreage is 150,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from 1998, and growers expect to harvest half of this crop for grain, 25 percent more than last year. **Corn** intentions are estimated at 60,000 acres, unchanged from last year. **Sugar beet** acreage is estimated at 64,000 acres, unchanged from 1998. **Dry bean** intentions are up 5 percent at 13,200 acres. An estimated 2.5 million acres of **hay** are expected to be harvested, which equals 1998's harvested acreage.

Nationally, **other spring wheat** growers intend to plant 15.4 million acres this year, down 2 percent from 1998. This would be the smallest area since 1988. About 14.5 million acres of the total are Hard Red Spring wheat, also down 2 percent. Spring wheat prices are the lowest in several years. Despite current prices most states are increasing area planted from a year ago. However, the announced CRC Durum program, along with using alternative crops to break disease chains, has reduced North Dakota's intended area dramatically, causing the U.S. decline. **Winter wheat** planted area for harvest in 1999 remains at 43.4 million acres. This is down 7 percent from 1998. Class acreages are also unchanged from the seedings report. Some minor, offsetting Soft Red area changes did occur after mid-December. Area seeded to **durum wheat** is expected to reach 4.27 million acres this year, up 12 percent from 1998 and the largest total since 1982. The CRC announced for Durum has spurred planting intentions in the Dakotas despite low prices. The South Dakota acreage is the largest in ten years. Seeding in the Imperial Valley of California progressed normally through February.

U. S. **barley** growers intend to seed 5.27 million acres for 1999, down 17 percent from the 6.34 million acres seeded a year ago. Barley growers in North Dakota and Minnesota are decreasing seedings by 500,000 and 190,000 acres, respectively. Of the 27 States that estimate barley acreage, 17 States are seeding fewer acres, six States are showing no change, and four States are increasing acres. **Oats** seeded and to be seeded by U.S. farmers for the 1999 crop year are expected to total 4.73 million acres, down 200,000 acres from last years final planted acres. Growers expect to harvest 2.69 million acres for grain in 1999, down 3 percent from 1998. If intentions are realized, this would be the second lowest planted acres recorded since 1866, exceeding only the 1996 acreage of 4.64 million acres. Acres intended to be harvested for grain would also be the second lowest on record, above the 2.66 million acres harvested in 1996.

Dry Bean producers intend to plant 2.05 million acres of dry beans in 1999, up 2 percent from last year and up 9 percent from two years ago. **Corn** growers nationally, intend to plant 78.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1999, down 2 percent from both last year and 1997. If these intentions materialize, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 1995. Expected acreages are down in the upper Midwest, Southwest, Texas, and Southeast due to a shift to other crops. Intended acreage is up slightly in the central Corn Belt due in part to land coming back into production after flooding in 1998. The area planted to **sugar beets** is expected to total 1.55 million acres in the 12 producing states. If grower's intentions are realized, planted acreage will be 3.3 percent above last year. Relatively lower prices for alternative crops was cited for the increase in acres. Continued on page two.

PLANTED ACREAGE, 1997-1998 and INTENDED 1999 MONTANA and UNITED STATES

	Montana				U. S.			
	1997	1998	1999	99/98	1997	1998	1999	99/98
	Thousand Acres			Pct	Thousand Acres			Pct
All Wheat	6,150.0	5,650.0	5,630.0	100	70,412.0	65,871.0	63,029.0	96
Winter Wheat	1,600.0	1,400.0	1,050.0	75	47,985.0	46,449.0	43,399.0	93
Durum Wheat	300.0	450.0	380.0	84	3,310.0	3,805.0	4,270.0	112
Other Spring Wheat	4,250.0	3,800.0	4,200.0	111	19,117.0	15,617.0	15,360.0	98
Barley	1,250.0	1,350.0	1,200.0	89	6,706.0	6,340.0	5,274.0	83
Oats	140.0	140.0	150.0	107	5,068.0	4,902.0	4,732.0	97
Corn	60.0	60.0	60.0	100	79,537.0	80,187.0	78,219.0	98
Sugar Beets	59.9	64.0	64.0	100	1,459.3	1,497.9	1,547.7	103
Dry Beans	12.2	12.6	13.2	105	1,869.8	2,010.1	2,045.5	102
All Hay Harvested	2,600.0	2,500.0	2,500.0	100	61,084.0	60,016.0	60,093.0	100

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Prospective Plantings (Continued)

Hay producers expect to harvest 60.1 million acres of hay in 1999, compared to 60.0 million acres in 1998. Acreage declines in 24 States were more than offset by the increases in 14 States. With recent rains in many areas, Texas, up 14 percent, may return to a more normal crop year. In ten states no change in hay acreage is expected.

March 1, 1999 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on March 1, 1999 were estimated at 105.2 million bushels, up 1.2 million bushels from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 86.0 million bushels and the remaining 19.2 million bushels were stored off farm. All **spring wheat** stocks, at 70.7 million bushels, were down 4% from last year and represent 67% of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 34.5 million bushels, up from 30.4 million bushels last year. **Durum wheat** stocks were estimated at 8.28 million bushels, more than doubling the stocks held March 1, 1998. All wheat disappearance for the December - February quarter was 55.3 million bushels, compared with 45.3 million for the same quarter last year. **Barley** stocks in all positions on March 1, 1999 totaled 25.6 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. The barley disappearance for the December - February quarter was 14.5 million bushels, compared with 14.7 million for the same quarter last year. **Oats** stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.9 million bushels, up 9% from last year.

Nationally, **all wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 1999 totaled 1.44 billion bushels, up 24 percent from a year ago to the biggest March number since 1988. Farm stocks were 470 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 975 million bushels, were up 27 percent. Disappearance for the quarter ending March 1 was 451 million bushels, down slightly from the same period in 1998. **Durum wheat** stocks in all positions on March 1, 1999 total 88.2 million bushels, more than double last March 1. Like all wheat, this is the biggest March inventory since 1988. On-farm stocks are 58.2 million bushels, up 165 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks total 30.0 million bushels, up 47 percent. The indicated third quarter disappearance of 20.8 million bushels is down 16 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. **barley** stocks in all positions on March 1, 1999 totaled 200 million bushels, up 11 percent from a year ago. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 86.9 million bushels were stored on farms, 6 percent above a year ago. March 1, 1999 off-farm stocks, at 114 million bushels, were 15 percent above last year. Indicated disappearance during the December-February quarter totaled 70 million bushels, 10 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions for the U.S. on March 1, 1999 totaled 109 million bushels, 2 percent below a year ago. Of the total stocks on hand, 62 million bushels were stored on farm, 5 percent above this time last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 48 million bushels, 9 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during the December-February quarter totaled 34 million bushels, 3 percent more than the same period a year ago.

Nationally, **corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 1999, totaled 5.70 billion bushels, up 15 percent from March 1, 1998. Of the total stocks, 3.57 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 20 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 2.13 billion bushels, were up 8 percent from a year ago. The December 1998-February 1999 indicated disappearance is 2.36 billion bushels, 2 percent above the disappearance of 2.31 billion bushels during the same period a year earlier. See district table on back.

March 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 1998	Dec. 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999	'99/'98	Mar. 1, 1998	Dec. 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	85,000	135,000	86,000	101%	399,920	680,200	470,220
Off Farms 1/	19,000	25,500	19,200	101%	766,644	1,215,618	974,594
TOTAL	104,000	160,500	105,200	101%	1,166,564	1,895,818	1,444,814
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	24,000	43,000	27,000	112%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	6,400	9,200	7,500	117%	--	--	--
TOTAL	30,400	52,200	34,500	113%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	61,000	92,000	59,000	97%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	12,600	16,300	11,700	93%	--	--	--
TOTAL	73,600	108,300	70,700	96%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	22,000	75,300	58,200
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	20,473	33,719	30,005
TOTAL	3,950	9,400	8,280	210%	42,473	109,019	88,205
BARLEY							
On Farms	14,000	33,000	19,000	136%	81,900	149,000	86,900
Off Farms 1/	7,600	7,100	6,600	87%	98,299	121,523	113,526
TOTAL	21,600	40,100	25,600	119%	180,199	270,523	200,426
OATS							
On Farms	1,600	2,600	1,700	106%	58,800	81,500	61,700
Off Farms 1/	150	120	200	133%	52,418	61,850	47,588
TOTAL	1,750	2,720	1,900	109%	111,218	143,350	109,288
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	2,975,000	5,320,000	3,570,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	1,964,898	2,731,924	2,125,546
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	4,939,898	8,051,924	5,695,546

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Ag Prices Received for February

Crop prices for the full month of February showed some improvement. The Montana winter wheat average price was $2.92 per bushel, up 24 cents from January's level; durum wheat was $3.13 per bushel, down 4 cents; and spring wheat was 5 cents higher at $3.26 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.46 and malt barley was $2.58 per bushel.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay was $60.00 per ton, down $4.00 from last month, and the other hay price of $52.00 decreased $5.00 from February. The mid-month winter wheat price averaged $2.90 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.30, feed barley price was $1.30, and malt barley averaged $2.50.

Livestock prices for the full month of February are mostly higher. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.90 to $76.40 per cwt. Cows were up $2.30 to $36.20 and the average price for calves increased $1.80 to $85.70 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $1.70 to $31.10 per cwt, but lambs dropped $4.00 to $69.10 per cwt. Milk prices increased $0.90 from last month to $17.50 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March averaged $73.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was $2.56, down 11 cents; spring wheat was $3.10, up 3 cents; the all barley price was unchanged at $1.84, and steer and heifer prices were $63.60, up $1.40.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was $2.56 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.10 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.74 per bushel, all barley was $1.86. Steer and heifer prices were $65.50 per cwt, cow prices were $34.70, all hog prices were $26.50 per cwt, and market egg prices were 53.1 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 97 based on1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from February. This is a usual February to March increase due to the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, milk, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, oranges, and corn. Price decreases from February for milk, soybeans, broilers, and hogs more than offset price increases for cattle, lettuce, oranges, and eggs.

Compared with March 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from March 1998 for soybeans, corn, hogs, and wheat more than offset price increases for milk, lettuce, strawberries, and carrots.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	Feb. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1999	Mar. 1999
Prices Received	101	102	96	97
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	116	115	115
Ratio 2/	86	88	83	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1999	Feb. 1999	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1998	Mar. 15, 1999	Mar. 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.26	2.68	2.92	2.56	+0.24	-0.34	2.90	2.56
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5.08	3.17	3.13	2.84	-0.04	-1.95	3.00	2.86
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.41	3.21	3.26	3.10	+0.05	-0.15	3.30	3.10
All Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.09	3.08	2.74	-0.01	-0.36	3.08	2.74
Barley, All	Bu.	2.73	2.29	2.05	1.84	-0.24	-0.68	1.90	1.86
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.14	1.51	1.46	1.58	-0.05	-0.68	1.30	1.52
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.11	2.92	2.58	2.17	-0.34	-0.53	2.50	2.19
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.42	1.06	1.20	-0.36	N/A	1.10	1.20
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	70.00	64.00	82.00	-6.00	-10.00	60.00	82.40
All Other Hay	Ton	66.00	58.00	57.00	70.40	-1.00	-9.00	52.00	67.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	73.00	69.00	63.00	79.00	-6.00	-10.00	59.00	78.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	79.80	74.50	76.40	63.60	+1.90	-3.40	73.30	65.50
Cows	Cwt	37.30	33.90	36.20	34.70	+2.30	-1.10	37.10	34.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	66.60	65.20	68.80	60.60	+3.60	+2.20	67.90	62.10
Calves	Cwt	89.60	83.90	85.70	86.90	+1.80	-3.90	84.40	86.50
Sheep 2/	Cwt	39.90	29.40	31.10	30.20	+1.70	-8.80	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	77.10	73.10	69.10	67.20	-4.00	-8.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.40	16.60	17.50	15.50	+0.90	+3.10	16.60	15.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1999, was 59.9 million head. This was 1 percent below March 1998, and 4 percent below December 1, 1998.

Breeding inventory, at 6.53 million head, was down 6 percent from March 1, 1998 and down 2 percent from December 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 53.3 million head, was slightly above last year, but 4 percent below last quarter.

The December 1998-February 1999 U.S. pig crop, at 25.3 million head, was 1 percent less than 1998, but 9 percent more than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, 1 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.73 pigs saved per litter for the December-February period, compared to 8.70 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the March-May 1999 quarter, 7 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998 and 1 percent below 1997. Intended farrowings for June-August 1999, at 2.84 million sows, are 7 percent below the same period last year and 4 percent below 1997.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 30 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

Montana Wheat & Barley Stocks, In All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	ALL WHEAT			BARLEY		
	Mar. 1, 1998	Dec. 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999	Mar. 1, 1998	Dec. 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1999
Northwest	1.6	2.1	1.4	1.2	2.5	0.8
North Central	43.3	71.5	41.1	8.9	22.0	13.3
Northeast	29.6	46.9	34.9	1.4	3.2	1.8
Central	18.0	24.4	16.6	5.5	6.8	5.4
Southwest	2.3	2.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.8
South Central	4.7	7.3	5.9	2.4	3.0	2.8
Southeast	4.5	5.5	3.8	0.6	1.0	0.7
STATE	104.0	160.5	105.2	21.6	40.1	25.6

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

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Montana's Rank	Ag Land Values
Potato Stocks	Cattle on Feed
Quarterly Milk Production	Egg Production
Red Meat Production	

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1998 Red Meat Production
February Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Egg Production
Cattle on Feed
Wool & Mohair Production

1998 Montana Red Meat Production Up and U.S. Sets Record Highs

Montana slaughter plants produced 19.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 1998, compared with 15.3 million pounds in 1997. There were 21,900 cattle slaughtered during 1998, up 22 percent from the previous year. The total live weight of 24.7 million pounds was up 22 percent from a year earlier. The average live weight was up 2 pounds to 1,128 pounds.

There were 28,100 hogs slaughtered in Montana, an increase of 8,000 head from 1997. Total live weight of 6.1 million pounds was up 39 percent from 1997. The average live weight was 218 pounds per head compared with 220 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,200 head, an increase of 400 head from a year earlier. The average live weight of 130 pounds was 6 pounds higher than the previous year. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 1998 increased 65,000 pounds from 1997 to 411,000 pounds.

The number of Montana federally inspected slaughter plants on January 1, 1999 was 13, down 1 from 1998. There were 133 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 1999, up 4 from the same date a year ago.

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the United States totaled 45.3 billion pounds in 1998. This was 4 percent higher than both last year's production and the previous record high set in 1995. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.1 billion pounds. Beef production, at 25.8 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from a year earlier. Veal production totaled 261 million pounds, down 22 percent from last year's figure and down 9 percent from the previous record low set in 1993. Pork production rose 10 percent to 19.0 billion pounds, eclipsing the previous record high set in 1995 by 7 percent. Lamb and mutton production totaled 252 million pounds, 3 percent below the previous record low set in 1997.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1998 totaled 35.5 million head, down 2 percent from 1997, with federal inspection comprising 98.1 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,203 pounds, up 30 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.2 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.3 percent, dairy cows 7.5 percent, other cows 9.3 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent. Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.46 million head, down 7 percent from a year ago with 97.6 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 285 pounds, down 53 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 101.0 million head, up 10 percent from 1997 with 98.3 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from a year earlier at 256 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.0 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 3.80 million head, was down 3 percent from 1997 with 96.5 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight fell 1 pound from 1997 to 132 pounds.

There were 930 slaughtering plants under federal inspection in 1998, compared with 966 last year. Of these, 795 slaughtered at least one head of cattle with 14 slaughtering over 50 percent of the total cattle killed. There were 757 plants that slaughtered hogs, with 11 accounting for 48 percent of the total. Likewise, 10 of the 339 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 55 percent of the total and 2 of the 556 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 1998 comprised 40 percent of the total head.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 1999, up 14 percent from February 1998, but down 15 percent from the previous month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,114 pounds, was down 24 pounds from last year.

During February, there were 2,100 hogs slaughtered, 500 head more than a year ago. The average live weight, at 228 pounds was 21 pounds higher than last year. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 100 head was the same as the previous year. The average live weight decreased 3 pounds from last February to 132 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.54 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.48 billion pounds produced in February 1998 and slightly higher than the previous record high for February set in 1996. Beef production, at 2.00 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. (Continued on next page.)

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February Red Meat Production (continued from front)

Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,221 pounds.

Veal production totaled 17.0 million pounds, 19 percent below the previous record low for February set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 100 thousand head, down 12 percent from February 1998. The average live weight was 22 pounds below last year, at 286 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.50 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous record high for February set last year. Hog kill totaled 7.90 million head, 3 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was down 4 percent from the previous record low for February set in 1979, 1997, and 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 299 thousand head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 2 pounds from February a year ago.

January - February red meat production was 7.4 billion pounds, 1 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year, veal was down 23 percent, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 9 percent.

Montana March Potato Stocks up 13 Percent, U.S. down 1 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.65 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on March 1, up 13 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 83 percent of the 1998 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 71 percent of the 1997 total production.

Nationally, March 1, 1999 potato stocks totaled 174 million cwt, down 1 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 41 percent of 1998 fall production, down 2 percentage points from a year ago.

U.S. disappearance from the start of harvest to March 1 totaled 251 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high two years ago. February disappearance totaled a record high 37.0 million cwt, 1 percent above last year and up slightly from two years ago. Shrink and loss to date of 25.2 million cwt was up 17 percent from last year but 3 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 129 million cwt, up 9 percent from the 1997 crop but 2 percent below the 1996 crop. February processing used a record 20.6 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 6 percent from last year and 2 percent above the previous record two years ago.

Western States held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1999, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent below March 1997. Idaho's stocks were down 3 percent and accounted for 54 percent of the Western total. California's stocks were down 11 percent and Colorado dropped 8 percent. Washington and Oregon potato stocks were equal to last year. Montana's storage was up 13 percent.

U.S. February Milk Production Up 4.3 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 10.8 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from production in these same States in February 1998. January revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds was up 3.5 percent from January 1998.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,407 pounds for February, 60 pounds above February 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.70 million head, 16,000 head less than February 1998 and 4,000 head less than January 1999.

U.S. February Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.29 billion during February 1999, up 3 percent from the 6.11 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.30 billion table eggs and 987 million hatching eggs, of which 927 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 1999 averaged 323 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during February 1998. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,947 eggs, down fractionally from 1,950 eggs in February 1998.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 1999, totaled 324 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 324 million layers consisted of 264 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 1999, averaged 69.7 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from the 69.6 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 5.95 billion eggs during February, up 3 percent from February 1998. The average number of layers during February, at 305 million, was up 3 percent from a year earlier.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.40 million head on March 1, 1999. The inventory was up slightly from the 10.38 million head on March 1, 1998 and 1 percent above March 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.79 million, 20 percent above 1998 but 1 percent below 1997. Net placements were 1.72 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 333,000, 600-699 pounds were 492,000, 700-799 pounds were 596,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 367,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.82 million, 1 percent below 1998 but 1 percent above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 65,000 during February, 6 percent below 1998 but 7 percent above 1997.

1998 Montana Sheep and Lamb Losses

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 67,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 1998, representing a total value of more than $3.6 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost dropped 21 percent from 1997 and the total value of inventory lost in 1998 fell 39 percent. Extremely low market prices this past year resulted in a significant decrease in the value of sheep and lambs. The reduction in sheep and lamb losses is partly due to less severe weather in 1998 and lower sheep and lamb inventories which were 4 percent lower than the previous year. With sheep numbers declining there is a natural decline in sheep and lamb losses. The percentage of total sheep and lambs lost due to weather in 1998 is 62 percent less than 1997. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 8.4 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born -- slightly less than the previous year.

Predators caused an estimated $1.1 million in losses in 1998, down from $1.8 million the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.7 percent of the January 1, 1998 inventory plus the lambs born in 1998 and 33 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 68 percent of the predator caused losses and 22 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was $759,000. The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 21,800 head, down 5,200 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 17,700 head, down 21 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 4,100, down 500 head from a year ago.

The total value of non-predatory losses was $2.2 million in 1998, compared with $3.6 million the previous year. Non-predatory losses accounted for 58 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses were weather conditions at 10,000 head.

Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 13,800 head, 22 percent lower than 1997. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 24,900 head, 20 percent lower than a year ago.

Fewer producers reported sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes. This resulted in a 27 percent decrease in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 4,400 head, 1,900 head lower than 1997. Unknown causes claimed 2,100 sheep, 500 less head than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes decreased $266,900 to $360,200.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Losses by Cause, Montana, 1997-1998

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
Predators												
Fox	–	100	–	7.9	2,200	1,900	129.1	83.9	2,200	2,000	129.1	91.8
Dog	400	500	39.6	39.5	600	700	35.2	30.9	1,000	1,200	74.8	70.4
Coyote	3,500	2,900	346.5	229.1	16,400	12,000	962.4	529.9	19,900	14,900	1,308.9	759.0
Eagle	100	100	9.9	7.9	2,300	1,900	135.0	83.9	2,400	2,000	144.9	91.8
Bobcat	–	–	–	–	100	–	5.9	–	100	–	5.9	–
Bear	200	100	19.8	7.9	200	200	11.7	8.8	400	300	31.5	16.7
Mountain Lion	300	400	29.7	31.6	200	200	11.7	8.8	500	600	41.4	40.4
Other Animals	–	–	–	–	–	100	–	4.4	–	100	–	4.4
Unknown Predators	100	–	9.9	–	400	700	23.5	30.9	500	700	33.4	30.9
Total Predators	**4,600**	**4,100**	**455.4**	**323.9**	**22,400**	**17,700**	**1,314.4**	**781.6**	**27,000**	**21,800**	**1,769.8**	**1,105.5**
Non-Predators												
All Diseases	3,000	3,000	297.0	237.0	4,800	6,300	281.7	278.2	7,800	9,300	578.7	515.2
Weather Conditions	7,100	2,000	702.9	158.0	19,100	8,000	1,120.8	353.3	26,200	10,000	1,823.7	511.3
Poison	900	1,000	89.1	79.0	600	800	35.2	35.3	1,500	1,800	124.3	114.3
Lambing Complications	900	1,400	89.1	110.6	5,600	8,000	328.6	353.3	6,500	9,400	417.7	463.9
On Back	800	1,000	79.2	79.0	–	–	–	–	800	1,000	79.2	79.0
Old Age	4,100	4,900	405.9	387.1					4,100	4,900	405.9	387.1
Theft	800	300	79.2	23.7	500	400	29.3	17.7	1,300	700	108.5	41.4
Other	200	200	19.8	15.8	700	1,400	41.1	61.8	900	1,600	60.9	77.6
Total Non-Predators	**17,800**	**13,800**	**1,762.2**	**1,090.2**	**31,300**	**24,900**	**1,836.7**	**1,099.6**	**49,100**	**38,700**	**3,598.9**	**2,189.8**
Unknown Causes	**2,600**	**2,100**	**257.4**	**165.9**	**6,300**	**4,400**	**369.7**	**194.3**	**8,900**	**6,500**	**627.1**	**360.2**
Total Loss	**25,000**	**20,000**	**2,475.0**	**1,580.0**	**60,000**	**47,000**	**3,520.8**	**2,075.5**	**85,000**	**67,000**	**5,995.8**	**3,655.5**

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. – Denotes less than 100 head.

1998 Montana and U.S. Wool Production Down

Montana wool growers produced 3.4 million pounds of wool during 1998, down 6 percent from 1997. The 1998 average price per pound of wool decreased 23 cents to 78 cents per pound, causing the value of all wool produced to decrease 27 percent from the previous year to $2.7 million. The total head shorn decreased 5 percent to 367,000 head. The average fleece weight dropped from 9.4 pounds in 1997 to 9.3 pounds in 1998.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1998 was 49.2 million pounds, down 8 percent from 1997. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.43 million head, a decrease of 8 percent from 1997. The average price paid for wool sold in 1998 was $0.60 per pound for a total value of $29.4 million dollars, down 35 percent from $44.9 million dollars in 1997.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Farms and Land in Farms
Wheat & Barley Movement
All Wheat County Estimates
Honey Production

Farms and Land in Farms for 1998

Montana's number of farms for 1998 was estimated at 27,500, up 500 from the 1997 revised estimate of 27,000 and land in farms is estimated at 57.5 million acres. The average size of farm is 2,091 acres.

The number of farms in the United States in 1998 is estimated at 2.19 million, up fractionally from 1997. Total land in farms is 953.8 million acres, down 2.2 million acres from last year. The decline in land in farms continues to follow historical 997 nds. The average farm size decreased 1 acre from 1997 to 435 acres.

The West Region showed the largest increase in number of farms, up 4,500 farms or 1.5 percent. The largest decrease was in the North Central Region with a loss of 3,500 farms or 0.4 percent.

Eleven States increased in farm numbers while 10 States decreased from a year ago. California showed the largest increase with 2,000 farms while Texas, Georgia, Washington, and Ohio showed increases of 1,000 farms from last year. Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Kentucky, Iowa, and North Carolina had decreases of 1,000 farms each.

Continued on back page.

Wheat and Barley Movement

Wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during the June-November 1998 period, at 67.8 million bushels, was 21% higher than the same period last year.

Shipments of all wheat to eastern destinations totaled 1.7 million bushels, down 57% from the 3.9 million bushels last year. Movement to the west was 63.8 million bushels compared with 51.1 million from a year earlier. Other destinations, mostly to the south, received 2.3 million bushels up 90% from last year.

Rail movement amounted to 62.3 million bushels, 92% of total shipments, compared with 93% last year.

Barley shipped to out-of-state destinations, June-November 1998, was 9.9 million bushels, down 15% from the same period last year.

Eastern destination shipments totaled 2.5 million bushels up 11% from last year. Shipments to western destinations at 6.2 million bushels were down 25% from last years 8.3 million bushels. Shipments to other destinations were up from last year's 1.1 million bushels to 1.2 million bushels this year.

Barley hauled by rail was 85% of total movement down from 90% for the same period last year.

Shipments Out-of-State	June - November 1997 1/				June - November 1998 1/			
	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat 2/	All Wheat	Barley
District of Origin	*(000) Bushels*							
West 3/	356	1,442	1,798	2,947	829	2,987	3,816	2,252
North Central	6,800	17,935	24,735	6,540	9,260	21,709	30,969	5,968
Northeast	938	15,901	16,839	47	339	17,924	18,263	163
Central	2,590	3,403	5,993	2,007	4,131	2,683	6,814	1,151
South Central	3,163	2,093	5,256	33	4,302	2,242	6,544	352
Southeast	490	1,106	1,596	24	231	1,123	1,354	10
Total Shipped	14,337	41,880	56,217	11,598	19,092	48,668	67,760	9,896
Mode & Destination	*(000) Bushels*							
Trucked East	5	247	252	63	1	390	391	60
Trucked West	1,558	1,551	3,109	1,101	1,584	2,700	4,284	830
Trucked Other[4]	32	325	357	10	148	588	735	550
Total by Truck	1,595	2,123	3,718	1,174	1,733	3,678	5,410	1,440
Rail East	590	3,091	3,682	2,152	0	1,296	1,296	2,391
Rail West	12,056	35,919	47,974	7,204	17,340	42,168	59,510	5,420
Rail Other 4/	96	747	843	1,068	19	1,526	1,545	645
Total Rail	12,742	39,757	52,499	10,424	17,359	44,990	62,350	8,456
Total Grain Shipped	14,337	41,880	56,217	11,598	19,092	48,668	67,760	9,896

1/ This report is based on data reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers. The reported data were expanded to represent 100% coverage of elevator capacity. 2/ Includes durum. 3/Northwest and Southwest agricultural statistics districts were combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. 4/ Other and unknown.

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ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 1998 1/

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Pro-duction Bu.
					Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	600	600	500	66.0	33,000	53	--	--	--	--
Flathead	18,600	18,600	17,600	69.5	1,224,000	30	8,000	7,700	72.1	555,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	18,600	18,400	16,400	52.9	867,000	36	10,600	10,300	65.0	670,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	1,100	1,100	1,100	60.0	66,000	51	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,500	2,500	2,300	52.2	120,000	47	--	--	--	--
Powell	800	800	800	62.5	50,000	52	800	800	62.5	50,000
Ravalli	1,500	1,500	1,500	62.7	94,000	48	--	--	--	--
Sanders	2,300	2,300	2,000	40.5	81,000	49	600	600	63.3	38,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,400	2,400	69.6	167,000
NORTHWEST	**46,000**	**45,800**	**42,200**	**60.1**	**2,535,000**	**--**	**22,400**	**21,800**	**67.9**	**1,480,000**
Blaine	212,400	212,100	205,700	37.4	7,695,000	5	6,500	6,200	51.9	322,000
Chouteau	560,500	555,500	519,500	33.1	17,185,000	1	3,100	3,100	54.8	170,000
Glacier	110,000	110,000	106,200	34.4	3,650,000	19	2,900	2,900	50.3	146,000
Hill	515,200	509,800	479,600	32.1	15,418,000	2	--	--	--	--
Liberty	268,300	267,100	252,900	28.1	7,101,000	7	1,000	800	60.0	48,000
Phillips	164,300	162,700	154,600	38.9	6,021,000	9	3,100	3,100	50.0	155,000
Pondera	166,000	162,000	148,400	39.9	5,916,000	11	12,700	12,500	59.2	740,000
Teton	157,000	154,100	142,800	42.0	5,994,000	10	8,900	8,800	48.0	422,000
Toole	220,800	220,200	200,300	25.9	5,183,000	16	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	400	400	55.0	22,000
N. CENTRAL	**2,374,500**	**2,353,500**	**2,210,000**	**33.6**	**74,163,000**	**--**	**38,600**	**37,800**	**53.6**	**2,025,000**
Daniels	263,500	263,500	258,300	21.3	5,511,000	13	2,400	2,400	58.8	141,000
Dawson	168,700	168,600	158,600	30.7	4,874,000	18	2,800	2,600	69.2	180,000
Garfield	105,700	105,300	97,200	29.5	2,865,000	21	--	--	--	--
McCone	214,500	214,500	206,700	25.8	5,330,000	14	3,400	3,300	65.2	215,000
Richland	173,100	173,100	166,300	30.6	5,085,000	17	16,100	15,600	59.9	935,000
Roosevelt	345,000	345,000	303,300	26.0	7,875,000	4	4,600	4,200	41.0	172,000
Sheridan	314,200	314,200	304,600	25.9	7,890,000	3	--	--	--	--
Valley	306,700	305,900	295,300	24.5	7,234,000	6	12,500	11,900	50.9	606,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,900	1,900	51.6	98,000
NORTHEAST	**1,891,400**	**1,890,100**	**1,790,300**	**26.1**	**46,664,000**	**--**	**43,700**	**41,900**	**56.0**	**2,347,000**
Broadwater	42,800	42,800	42,000	45.2	1,900,000	24	15,200	15,000	71.0	1,065,000
Cascade	147,300	146,300	130,300	42.3	5,514,000	12	4,000	3,900	54.1	211,000
Fergus	189,300	188,100	176,200	38.6	6,805,000	8	700	700	64.3	45,000
Golden Valley	41,200	40,400	38,400	30.5	1,173,000	32	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	74,800	73,600	71,200	37.2	2,647,000	22	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	11,800	11,800	11,400	40.0	456,000	41	3,400	3,300	48.5	160,000
Meagher	9,400	9,400	8,300	45.9	381,000	42	800	800	65.0	52,000
Musselshell	43,100	42,700	40,100	31.6	1,269,000	29	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	17,500	17,500	16,300	39.0	635,000	38	900	800	50.0	40,000
Wheatland	51,300	51,300	45,300	36.2	1,639,000	27	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	900	900	55.6	50,000
CENTRAL	**628,500**	**623,900**	**579,500**	**38.7**	**22,419,000**	**--**	**25,900**	**25,400**	**63.9**	**1,623,000**
Beaverhead	9,400	9,400	9,300	66.3	617,000	39	5,400	5,300	81.5	432,000
Gallatin	47,400	46,900	45,500	58.1	2,644,000	23	13,500	13,200	72.0	951,000
Jefferson	1,800	1,800	1,800	38.3	69,000	50	--	--	--	--
Madison	10,600	10,600	10,400	50.5	525,000	40	5,300	5,200	65.8	342,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHWEST	**69,200**	**68,700**	**67,000**	**57.5**	**3,855,000**	**--**	**24,200**	**23,700**	**72.8**	**1,725,000**
Big Horn	148,000	145,700	137,400	38.6	5,308,000	15	13,200	13,000	63.3	823,000
Carbon	11,400	11,200	9,300	38.6	359,000	44	800	800	66.3	53,000
Park	8,300	8,300	7,900	42.2	333,000	45	1,400	1,400	63.6	89,000
Stillwater	43,600	43,300	41,200	29.6	1,221,000	31	500	500	56.0	28,000
Sweetgrass	4,100	4,100	3,900	32.6	127,000	46	500	500	60.0	30,000
Treasure	6,500	6,500	6,200	59.7	370,000	43	2,800	2,700	78.9	213,000
Yellowstone	98,500	96,000	87,600	33.0	2,893,000	20	3,800	3,500	81.1	284,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
S. CENTRAL	**320,400**	**315,100**	**293,500**	**36.2**	**10,611,000**	**--**	**23,000**	**22,400**	**67.9**	**1,520,000**
Carter	54,800	54,000	45,800	19.1	876,000	35	--	--	--	--
Custer	35,500	35,400	33,800	28.6	967,000	34	1,200	900	65.6	59,000
Fallon	56,300	55,800	51,400	32.8	1,684,000	26	--	--	--	--
Powder River	29,000	28,900	25,500	26.9	687,000	37	500	300	46.7	14,000
Prairie	36,400	36,400	35,700	32.5	1,162,000	33	2,800	2,800	55.0	154,000
Rosebud	66,200	65,600	64,500	29.2	1,881,000	25	2,700	2,700	40.0	108,000
Wibaux	41,800	41,800	40,800	31.5	1,286,000	28	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	**320,000**	**317,900**	**297,500**	**28.7**	**8,543,000**	**--**	**7,200**	**6,700**	**50.0**	**335,000**
MONTANA	**5,650,000**	**5,615,000**	**5,280,000**	**32.0**	**168,790,000**	**--**	**185,000**	**179,700**	**61.5**	**11,055,000**

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.
2/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat.

Ag Prices Received for January

The Montana winter wheat average price was $2.68 per bushel, durum wheat was $3.17 per bushel, and spring wheat was $3.21 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.51, and malt barley was $2.92 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay was $64.00 per ton, down $6.00 from last month, and the other hay price of $57.00 decreased $1.00 from January. The mid-month winter wheat price averaged $2.70 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.30, feed barley price was $1.40, and malt barley $2.90.

Livestock prices for the full month of January mostly higher. Steer and heifer prices increased $3.10 to $74.50 per cwt. Cows were up $3.30 to $33.90 and the average price for calves increased $6.20 to $83.90 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $3.30 to $29.40 per cwt and lambs increased $1.50 to $73.10 per cwt. Milk prices decreased $1.00 from last month to $16.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged $76.80 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was $2.67, unchanged, spring wheat was $3.07, down 19 cents, the all barley price was $1.84, down 16 cents, steer and heifer prices were $62.20, up $1.90.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was $2.52 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.07 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.72 per bushel, all barley was $1.94, steer and heifer prices were $63.20 per cwt, cow prices were $34.60, all hog prices were $28.10 per cwt, and market egg prices were 50.1 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 96 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from January. Price decreases from January for milk, soybeans, tomatoes, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, oranges, and potatoes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs more than offset the relatively lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton. These seasonal marketing changes limited the decline in the overall index.

Compared with February 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (5.0 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1998 for corn, soybeans, hogs, and wheat more than offset price increases for milk, oranges, broilers, and almonds.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	Jan. 1998	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1999
Prices Received	103	101	97	96
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	115	115
Ratio 2/	88	86	84	83

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

997)

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Base Month: January 1999 Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 1998	Dec. 1998	Jan. 1999	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1998	Jan. 1998	Feb. 15, 1999	Feb. 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.35	3.18	2.68	2.67	-0.50	-0.67	2.70	2.52
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5.31	4.36	3.17	3.21	-1.19	-2.14	3.20	3.11
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.50	3.62	3.21	3.07	-0.41	-0.29	3.30	3.07
All Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.51	3.09	2.80	-0.42	-0.50	3.16	2.72
Barley, All	Bu.	2.79	2.43	2.29	1.84	-0.14	-0.50	2.30	1.94
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.13	1.49	1.51	1.55	+0.02	-0.62	1.40	1.53
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.06	2.82	2.92	2.20	+0.10	-0.14	2.90	2.31
Oats	Bu.	N/A	1.14	1.42	1.21	+0.28	N/A	N/A	1.16
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	70.00	70.00	81.40	n/c	-8.00	64.00	82.00
All Other Hay	Ton	66.00	61.00	58.00	71.00	-3.00	-8.00	57.00	70.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	69.00	69.00	78.80	n/c	-8.00	63.00	79.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	81.50	71.40	74.50	62.20	+3.10	-7.00	76.80	63.20
Cows	Cwt	35.30	30.60	33.90	33.40	+3.30	-1.40	35.60	34.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	66.30	57.50	65.20	59.00	+7.70	-1.10	68.60	60.20
Calves	Cwt	91.10	77.70	83.90	83.20	+6.20	-7.20	85.30	87.30
Sheep 2/	Cwt	39.00	32.70	29.40	32.40	-3.30	-9.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	87.80	71.60	73.10	68.20	+1.50	-14.70	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.30	17.60	16.60	17.40	-1.00	+2.30	16.40	16.00

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

PLEASE RETURN

Farms & Land in Farms

continued from front page.

Texas remained the State with the most farms at 226,000, up 1,000 from a year earlier. Missouri was second with 110,000 farms, the same as last year, followed by Iowa with 97,000 farms, down 1,000 from 1997.

Texas continued to lead the nation in land in farms and ranches with 131.5 million acres, unchanged from 1997. There were 13 States with decreases of 100,000 acres or more in agricultural land from a year ago.

The U.S. number of farms in the economic sales class between $1,000-$9,999 increased 1,150 farms during 1998 to 1,192,200. Those with sales in the $10,000-$99,999 class decreased 3,760 farms from 1997 to 642,200 in 1998. The $100,000 and over sales class increased 3,610 farms from 1997 to 357,110 farms in 1998. These changes in the sales class mix of farms continues the trend of losing farms in the $10,000-$99,999 sales class, while gaining farms in both the $1,000-$9,999 and the $100,000 and over sales classes.

1998 Honey Production

Montana's honey producers with five or more colonies produced 14.0 million pounds of honey in 1998, up 9 percent from the previous year. There were 115,000 colonies producing honey in 1998, compared with 107,000 colonies in 1997. The yield of honey per colony was 122 pounds per colony, a slight increase from the previous year's yield of 120 pounds per colony. Stocks on hand on December 15, 1998 totaled 5.5 million pounds, up 29 percent from 1997.

Prices for Montana honey averaged 64 cents per pound in 1998 compared with 74 cents per pound in 1997. The value of honey production in 1998 was 9.0 million dollars, down 6 percent from the 1997 honey crop.

Montana had the second highest yield per colony in the nation in 1998. Montana also ranked fifth in the nation in honey production and value of production, and seventh in the number of honey producing colonies.

The Nation's honey production in 1998 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 220 million pounds, up 12 percent from 1997. There were 2.63 million colonies producing honey in 1998, up slightly from 1997. Yield per colony averaged 83.7 pounds, up 9.0 pounds from the 74.7 pounds in 1997. Colonies which produced in more than one state were counted in each state and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 80.8 million pounds on December 15, 1998, up 14 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 1998 crop averaged 65.5 cents per pound, down 13 percent from 75.2 cents in 1997. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the state level, prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private marketing channels. Co-op and private prices were lower for all color classes in 1998.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Sheep & Lamb Losses	Milk Production
1998 Red Meat Production	Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production	Egg Production
Potato Stocks	Wool & Mohair Production

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HIGHLIGHTS:

1998 Crop Values
Cattle on Feed
Alfalfa Seed Production
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Farm Labor
Egg Production
Grazing Fee Rates

1998 Crop Values Fall

The value of Montana's 1998 all wheat crop fell more than 15 percent from 1997 to $554.3 million. Total production was down seven percent and the season average price dropped 27 cents per bushel. The 1998 season average price for all wheat was $3.35 per bushel compared with the 1997 price of $3.62.

The estimated value of Montana's winter wheat crop fell 26 percent from the previous year to $138.9 million. The lowest production since 1988 and a lower season average price resulted in the large decrease. Spring wheat's value of production, estimated at $367.2 million, was down 14 percent from 1997. The season average price fell 18 cents to $3.40 and the lower production reduced the total value of the crop. Durum wheat's season average price decreased $1.18 from 1997 to $4.00, but the total 1998 value of production, at $48.2 million bushels was up 23 percent from 1997. The 60 percent increase in production offset the lower price to increase the value of production.

Total value of production for barley was estimated at $129.6 million, down 25 percent from the previous year. The 1998 season average price, at $2.25, was down 58 cents from 1997. Lower production in 1998 and lower average price resulted in the lower production value.

The season average price for all hay decreased $5.50 from last year to $73.50 per ton. Lower production and price reduced the value of production 14 percent to $360.6 million. Alfalfa hay's 1998 season average price was estimated at $74.50, down $5.50 from last year while other hay's season average price decreased $5.00 to $64.00.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.50 million head on February 1, 1999. The inventory was 3 percent below February 1, 1998 but 2 percent above February 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.92 million, 11 percent above 1998 and 2 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.85 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 379,000, 600-699 pounds were 623,000, 700-799 pounds were 599,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 322,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.02 million, 2 percent above 1998 and slightly above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 70,000 during January, 29 percent below 1998 and 24 percent below 1997.

1998 Alfalfa Seed Production

Alfalfa seed production for 1998 was estimated at 4.95 million pounds, up significantly from the 3.54 millions pounds produced in 1997. Harvested acres increased to 18,000, up from the revised 13,500 acres harvested in 1997. The acreage harvested during 1997 was revised upward after review of the Census of Agriculture information, but the production level was not changed. The state average yield was estimated at 275 pounds per acre, up from 262 pounds a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 375 pounds per acre and non-irrigated yields averaged 110 pounds per acre.

Producers used an average of 1.3 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre on all acres harvested for alfalfa seed in 1998, compared with 1.5 gallons per acre in 1997. The 1997 number was reduced because of revisions to harvested acres.

Proprietary varieties made up 60 percent of this year's production, down 12 points from 1997. Common uncertified varieties accounted for 40 percent of the production and common certified varieties represented less than 1 percent.

The average price received for the 1998 crop was $1.17 per pound, down 8 cents from 1997's average price.

Alfalfa Seed: Estimates by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 1998

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
West	100	280	28,000	100	280	28,000	0	0	0
North Central	1,600	388	621,000	1,300	438	570,000	300	170	51,000
Northeast	1,400	230	322,000	1,000	294	294,000	400	70	28,000
Central	900	260	234,000	700	314	220,000	200	70	14,000
South Central	8,800	306	2,690,000	5,600	423	2,370,000	3,200	100	320,000
Southeast	5,200	203	1,055,000	2,500	288	720,000	2,700	124	335,000
Montana	18,000	275	4,950,000	11,200	375	4,202,000	6,800	110	748,000

PLEASE RETURN

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.5 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 1999, up 18 percent from last year and 9 percent lower than last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,600 head, was 100 head more than last year. The average live weight of 1,112 pounds decreased 25 pounds from a year ago.

There were 2,700 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during January, up 1,100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 230 pounds, was up 22 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 200 head, 100 head more than a year ago. The average live weight of 127 pounds was one pound heavier than last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.83 billion pounds in January, down slightly from the 3.84 billion pounds produced in January 1998. Beef production, at 2.17 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, down 3 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,220 pounds.

Veal production totaled 17.0 million pounds, 26 percent below January a year ago and 23 percent below the previous record low for January set in 1993. Calf slaughter totaled 105 thousand head, down 18 percent from January 1998. The average live weight was 26 pounds below last year, at 279 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.55 million head, slightly below 1998. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production totaled 18.0 million pounds, down 14 percent from January 1998 and 10 percent below the previous record low for January set in 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 268 thousand head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, down 2 pounds from January a year ago.

Montana February Potato Stocks Down 3 Percent, U.S. Down 1 Percent

Montana potato producers held 2.89 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, down 3 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 91 percent of the 1998 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 90 percent of the 1997 total production.

Nationally, February 1, 1999 potato stocks totaled 211 million cwt, down 1 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 50 percent of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago. Stocks by type were 2 percent reds, 10 percent round whites, 3 percent long white, and 85 percent russets, with more russets and round whites but fewer long whites than a year ago.

U.S. disappearance from the start of harvest to February 1 totaled 214 million cwt this season, up 6 percent from last year but 2 percent below the record high two years ago. January disappearance of 35.1 million cwt was 3 percent above last year but down slightly from two years ago. Shrink and loss of 22.5 million cwt was up 16 percent from last year but 3 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 108.1 million cwt, up 9 percent from the 1997 crop but 2 percent below the 1996 crop. In January, processors claimed a record 19.0 million cwt of potatoes, up 23 percent from last year and 14 percent above two years ago. The two month total (December and January) was up 14 percent from a year earlier.

Western States held 150.2 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1999, down 2 percent from last year and 7 percent below 1997. Idaho's stocks were down 2 percent from a year ago, and Oregon's were off 1 percent. Colorado and California were down 5 percent each and Montana's storage was down 3 percent. Washington's stocks were the same as last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on February 1, 1998-99

STATE	CROP OF 1997			CROP OF 1998		
	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1998	% of PROD	PROD	STOCKS Feb. 1, 1999	% of PROD
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
CA	4,200	2,100	50	3,708	2,000	54
CO	24,993	14,700	59	25,360	14,000	55
ID	140,314	81,000	58	139,650	79,000	57
ME	19,080	12,100	63	18,060	10,500	58
MI	14,250	5,500	39	14,725	5,400	37
MN	20,440	10,500	51	21,170	10,500	50
MT	**3,328**	**2,980**	**90**	**3,180**	**2,890**	**91**
NE	7,761	3,300	43	8,175	4,240	52
NY	7,150	1,500	21	7,290	1,600	22
ND	22,000	11,900	54	28,670	14,000	49
OH	1,170	82	7	1,200	70	6
OR	27,319	16,000	59	26,229	15,800	60
PA	3,173	1,200	38	3,360	800	24
WA	88,160	36,500	41	93,225	36,500	39
WI	30,175	13,200	44	30,895	13,800	45
15 States	413,513	212,562	51	424,897	211,100	50

1998 Milk Cows, Farms And Production For Montana And U.S.

The inventory of milk cows on Montana farms averaged 18,000 head in 1998, down 1,000 head from a year ago. The average milk production per cow was 16,167 pounds, up 4 percent from last year. A total of 291 million pounds of milk was produced in 1998, 4 million pounds less then 1997. There were 700 Montana operations with one or more milk cows in 1998, 50 fewer than a year ago.

U.S. milk cows totaled 9.2 million head, down slightly from a year ago. The average milk produced per cow was 17,192 pounds, up 2 percent from last year. U.S. milk production was 157.4 billion pounds in 1998, 1.3 billion pounds more than 1997. There were 116,430 operations with milk cows in the U.S. during1998, a 6 percent decrease from the previous year.

Hired Workers Up 5 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From A Year Ago

There were 844,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 10-16, 1999, up 5 percent from a year ago. There were 689,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 155,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 5.7 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 7.3 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $7.90 per hour during the January 1999 survey week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $7.21 per hour, up 22 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned $7.31 per hour compared with $6.97 a year earlier.

Hired farm worker wage rates in most regions were above a year ago. The largest increases occurred in the Appalachian I, Corn Belt II, and Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah) regions. The higher wage rates in the Appalachian I and Mountain II regions were generally attributable to more maintenance and machinery work done on farms this year.

Regions showing the largest declines in hired worker wage rates from last year were Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Pacific. Milder temperatures in these regions allowed farmers to hire more seasonal workers in advance of regular springtime fieldwork.

WAGE RATES FOR HIRED WORKERS, BY REGION & U.S., January 11-17, 1998 & January 10-16, 1999 1/

U.S. AND REGION 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	FIELD		LIVESTOCK		FIELD & LIVESTOCK			
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	DOLLARS PER HOUR							
Northeast I	8.60	8.08	6.22	6.61	6.96	7.20	7.54	7.75
Northeast II	7.45	7.79	6.08	6.13	6.80	6.99	7.51	8.01
Appalachian I	6.50	7.14	6.66	7.47	6.57	7.25	6.97	7.76
Appalachian II	6.44	5.60	5.71	7.39	6.10	6.39	6.33	6.89
Southeast	7.13	6.84	6.09	6.84	6.70	6.84	7.21	7.18
FL	7.45	7.35	8.00	7.00	7.49	7.32	8.22	8.25
Lake	7.74	8.43	7.16	7.33	7.35	7.59	8.32	8.48
Cornbelt I	7.51	8.01	7.62	7.82	7.57	7.89	8.31	8.46
Cornbelt II	6.82	7.36	6.43	7.35	6.50	7.35	7.08	7.86
Delta	6.94	6.99	6.30	6.35	6.70	6.68	7.21	7.20
Northern Plains	8.34	7.83	7.38	7.56	7.65	7.62	8.22	8.10
Southern Plains	6.59	6.49	6.65	6.58	6.61	6.53	7.04	6.93
Mountain I	**6.53**	**7.36**	**6.80**	**7.35**	**6.74**	**7.35**	**7.26**	**7.80**
Mountain II	7.22	7.29	6.89	7.36	7.00	7.33	7.65	8.41
Mountain III	6.63	6.66	6.61	7.06	6.63	6.75	7.34	7.18
Pacific	7.67	7.80	8.16	8.93	7.81	7.96	8.86	8.70
CA	6.62	7.08	8.36	8.40	6.85	7.22	7.38	7.88
HI	8.88	9.38	3/	3/	8.84	9.35	10.24	10.80
US 4/	6.99	7.21	6.97	7.31	6.98	7.24	7.61	7.90

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient Data. 4/ Excludes AK.

December Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.01 billion during December 1998, up 2 percent from the 6.84 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.93 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 1998 averaged 320 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during December 1997. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,190 eggs, down slightly from 2,193 eggs in December 1997.

Montana And United States Grazing Fees Up In 1998

The average grazing fees paid by Montana producers for grazing livestock on privately owned, non-irrigated grazing land were up for all methods in 1998. The average amount paid for grazing livestock on an AUM (animal unit month) basis was up 30 cents from 1997 to $12.60 per month. Cattle producers paid $14.30 per cow-calf pair in 1998, up 40 cents from the previous year. The average per head rate was $13.30 per month in 1998, up 10 cents from last year.

In the 17 States that estimate grazing fees in the United States, the average charge on an AUM basis was $11.40 per month in 1998, up 40 cents from the previous year. Cow-calf rates averaged $13.00 per month, up 30 cents and per head rates averaged $11.60 per month, up 80 cents from 1997.

All grazing fees are for privately, owned non-irrigated grazing land. Rates charged for public land, irrigated land, and harvested cropland were excluded. The average AUM rate also includes reported AUM rates plus reported cow-calf rates that were converted to an AUM basis. The cow-calf rate was converted to AUM basis using the following formula (1 AUM=cow-calf *0.833).

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates	Honey Production
Ag Prices Received	Farms & Land in Farms
	Wheat & Barley Movement

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
CURTIS E. LUND, DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WENDY BRUSKI, EDITOR

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Jan. 1 Cattle & Calves Inventory
Cattle on Feed
Jan. 1 Sheep & Lamb Inventory
Ag Prices Received
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production

Montana January 1, 1999 Cattle and Calf Inventory Unchanged, US Down

Montana's cattle and calf inventory was 2.6 million head on January 1, 1999, unchanged from a year ago. While the total inventory was unchanged, the inventory of beef cows and beef cow replacements declined and other heifers, milk cow replacements, and bulls increased from last year.

The number of beef cows that had calved, at 1.532 million head, was down 1% from January 1, 1998. The number of milk cows in the state remained steady at 18,000 head. Beef heifer replacements, weighing 500 pounds or more, were down 3% from the previous year to 340,000 head. However, milk heifer replacements rose 25% from the previous year to 10,000 head and other heifers weighing 500 lbs or more, increased 7% from last year to 225,000 head. The decrease in beef heifer replacements can be attributed to the poor cattle prices received during the year. The increase in other heifers is partly due to many producers being undecided about whether to breed this years heifers or background and/or finish them.

Calves weighing less than 500 lbs, at 120,000 head, were unchanged from last year's record low calf inventory. Bulls weighing 500 pounds or more increased 3% to 100,000 head. During the past 10 years, bull inventories have continued to trend upward from the 78,000 bulls on hand in 1989. The number of cattle and calves on full feed that will be sent directly to slaughter were down 12% from 1998 to 70,000 head. Reduced cattle prices during the year and changes in ownership and contracts for some feedlots resulted in fewer or no cattle being fed compared with a year ago.

During 1998, 1.50 million calves were born in Montana, down 1% from 1997. Calving conditions were much improved over the last two years. The number of operations during 1998 with one or more head of cattle in the state rose 400 operations from 1997 to 14,000. The increase is a result of more operations with 1-49 head and 50-99 head. The number of beef cow operations rose from 1997 to 12,700, while the number of operations with one or more milk cows declined to 700.

In the United States, all cattle and calves on January 1, 1999, totaled 98.5 million head, 1% below the 99.7 million on January 1, 1998 and 3% below the 101.7 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.6 million, were 1% below the 43.1 million on January 1, 1998 and 3% below the 43.8 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.5 million, were down 1% from January 1, 1998 and 3% below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.14 million, were down 1% from January 1, 1998 and 2% below two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1999, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

-All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down 1% and down 3 %.

-Beef replacement heifers, 5.55 million, down 4% and down 8%.

-Milk replacement heifers, 4.06 million, up 2% and slightly above two years ago .

-Other heifers, 9.99 million, down 1% and down 2%.

-Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, down 2% and down 3%.

-Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.28 million, slightly above and down 3%.

-Calves under 500 pounds, 17.2 million, down 1% and down 4%.

-All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 13.2 million, down 3 % and slightly above two years ago.

The 1998 U.S. calf crop was estimated at 38.6 million head, down 1% from 1997 and down 3% from 1996. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.4 million, down 1% from 1997 and down 3% from 1996.

The number of operations with cattle in the United States totaled 1,115,650 during 1998, down 3% from 1997 and 5% below 1996. Operations with beef cows totaled 855,860 operations in 1998, down 2% from 1997 and 3% below 1996. Milk cow operations, at 123,700, were 6% below last year and 11% below two years ago.

SPECIAL THANKS to all livestock producers responding to our January cattle and sheep inventory surveys. Field and telephone interviewers contacted about 2,000 Montana farmers and ranchers in early January. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics for a more efficient production and marketing system.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 5%

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the U.S. for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.63 million head on January 1, 1999. The inventory was 5% below January 1, 1998 but 1% above January 1, 1997. The inventory included 6.44 million steers and steer calves, down 5% from the previous year. This group accounted for 61% of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.14 million head, down 4% from 1998.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.50 million, 4% below 1997 and 12% below 1996. Net placements were 1.41 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 396,000, 600-699 pounds were 492,000, 700-799 pounds were 362,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 246,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.81 million, 4% above 1997 and 8% above 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 85,000 during December, the same as 1997 but 1% below 1996.

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Agricultural Prices Received for December

The Montana winter wheat average price increased 9 cents from November 1998 to $3.18 per bushel, durum wheat increased 60 cents to $4.36 per bushel, and spring wheat increased 17 cents to $3.62 per bushel. Feed barley was up 13 cents per bushel to $1.49, and malt barley was down 10 cents to $2.82 per bushel.

The mid-January price for alfalfa hay was $70.00 per ton, the same as last month, and the other hay price of $58.00 decreased $3.00 from December. The mid-month winter wheat price averaged $3.10 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.50, feed barley price was $1.45, and malt barley $2.80.

Livestock prices for the full month of December were mixed. Steer and heifer prices increased 40 cents to $71.40 per cwt. Cows were up 50 cents to $30.60 and the average price for calves increased $1.30 to $77.70 per cwt. Sheep prices increased $7.20 to $32.70 per cwt and lambs increased $3.00 to $71.60 per cwt. Milk prices increased 60 cents from last month to $17.60 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-January averaged $73.50 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for December and changes from November were as follows: winter wheat was $2.67, down 11 cents, spring wheat was $3.26, unchanged, the all barley price was $2.00, down 2 cents, steer and heifer prices were $60.30, down $2.00.

The U.S. mid-January winter wheat price was $2.71 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.20 per bushel, all wheat price was $2.86 per bushel, all barley was $1.99, steer and heifer prices were $62.40 per cwt, cow prices were $33.10, all hog prices were $25.70 per cwt, and market egg prices were 58.2 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from December. Price increases from December for hogs, tomatoes, cattle, and oranges more than offset price decreases for turkeys, milk, lettuce, and broilers. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of cotton, milk, tobacco, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively higher marketings of corn, soybeans, cattle, and rice. These seasonal marketing changes more than offset an increase in prices and accounted for the one point decline in the overall index.

Compared with January 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from January 1998 for corn, soybeans, hogs, and cattle more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, oranges, and tomatoes.

UNITED STATES INDEX SUMMARY

INDEX 1990-92=100	Dec. 1997	Jan. 1998	Dec. 1998	Jan. 1999
Prices Received	105	103	99	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	113	114
Ratio 2/	90	88	88	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MONTANA AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED

Base Month: December 1998 Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1997	Jan. 15, 1999	Jan. 15, 1999
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.09	3.18	2.67	+0.09	-0.41	3.10	2.71
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5.57	3.76	4.36	3.14	+0.60	-1.21	4.00	3.02
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.75	3.45	3.62	3.26	+0.17	-0.13	3.50	3.20
All Wheat	Bu.	3.84	3.35	3.51	2.87	+0.16	-0.33	3.40	2.86
Barley, All	Bu.	2.88	2.29	2.43	2.00	+0.14	-0.45	2.40	1.99
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.01	1.36	1.49	1.54	+0.13	-0.52	1.45	1.56
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.14	2.92	2.82	2.33	-0.10	-0.32	2.80	2.32
Oats	Bu.	N.A.	1.37	1.14	1.17	-0.23	N.A.	N.A.	1.14
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	82.00	74.00	70.00	81.40	-4.00	-12.00	70.00	81.40
All Other Hay	Ton	70.00	64.00	61.00	69.40	-3.00	-9.00	58.00	71.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	81.00	73.00	69.00	78.40	-4.00	-12.00	69.00	78.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	80.60	71.00	71.40	60.30	+0.40	-9.20	73.50	62.40
Cows	Cwt	32.80	30.10	30.60	30.80	+0.50	-2.20	34.40	33.10
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	59.10	60.40	57.50	56.80	-2.90	-1.60	63.30	59.00
Calves	Cwt	88.20	76.40	77.70	80.20	+1.30	-10.50	81.80	81.90
Sheep 2/	Cwt	40.50	25.50	32.70	30.30	+7.20	-7.80	N.A.	N.A.
Lambs 2/	Cwt	95.80	68.60	71.60	64.50	+3.00	-24.20	N.A.	N.A.
All Milk	Cwt	14.50	17.00	17.60	18.00	+0.60	+3.10	17.80	17.70

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Cattle and Calves Inventory January 1, 1997-99

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1997	1998	1999	'99/'98	UNITED STATES 1997	1998	1999	'99/'98
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
ALL CATTLE and CALVES	2,700	2,600	2,600	100%	101,656	99,744	98,522	99%
Cows & Heifers that have calved	1,590	1,560	1,550	99%	43,776	43,084	42,615	99%
Beef Cows	1,570	1,542	1,532	99%	34,458	33,885	33,472	99%
Milk Cows	20	18	18	100%	9,318	9,199	9,143	99%
Heifers 500 pounds and over	567	568	575	101%	20,312	19,800	19,604	99%
For beef cow replacement	350	350	340	97%	6,042	5,764	5,550	96%
For milk cow replacement	7	8	10	125%	4,058	3,986	4,060	102%
Other heifers	210	210	225	107%	10,212	10,051	9,994	99%
Steers 500 pounds and over	285	255	255	100%	17,392	17,189	16,836	98%
Bulls 500 pounds and over	98	97	100	103%	2,350	2,270	2,276	100%
Calves less than 500 pounds	160	120	120	100%	17,826	17,401	17,190	99%
Cattle on Feed	85	80	70	88%	13,181	13,608	13,214	97%

Calf Crop and Cattle Operations, 1996-98

ITEM	1996	1997	1998	'98/'97	1996	1997	1998	'98/'97
Calves born during year (1,000 hd.)	1,540	1,510	1,500	99%	39,823	38,961	38,582	99%
Number cattle operations 1/	13,200	13,600	14,000	103%	1,176,700	1,148,050	1,115,650	97%
Operations with beef cattle 1/	11,700	11,800	12,700	108%	885,980	872,840	855,860	98%
Operations with milk cows 1/	800	750	700	93%	130,980	123,700	116,430	94%

1/ Actual number.

Sheep and Lambs Inventory January 1, 1997-99

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	MONTANA 1997	1998	1999	'99/'98	UNITED STATES 1997	1998	1999	'99/'98
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
ALL SHEEP and LAMBS	432	415	380	92%	8,024	7,825	7,238	92%
Breeding sheep	400	385	345	90%	5,919	5,611	5,314	95%
One year old & older								
Ewes	330	315	270	86%	4,912	4,570	4,338	95%
Rams	11	10	9	90%	220	203	202	99%
Market Sheep & Lambs	32	30	35	117%	2,105	2,214	1,923	87%
Sheep	2	1	1	100%	85	91	83	91%
Lambs	30	29	34	117%	2,020	2,123	1,841	87%
Replacement Lambs	59	60	66	110%	787	839	774	92%

Lamb Crop and Sheep Operations, 1996-98

ITEM	1996	1997	1998	'98/'97	1996	1997	1998	'98/'97
Lamb crop (1,000 head)	390	380	355	93%	5,361	5,356	5,013	94%
Number of sheep operations 1/	2,200	2,100	2,000	95%	76,600	72,680	68,810	95%

1/ Actual number.

January 1, 1999 Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down

Montana's sheep and lamb inventory set a new record low at 380,000 head, down 8% from last year. Low prices, predators, and an overall depressed market in 1998 were key factors in the continued decline.

Breeding sheep and lamb numbers decreased 40,000 head from last year to 345,000 head. Ewes one year and older were down 14% to 270,000 head. Rams one year and older at 9,000 head, were 10% less than the previous year. Replacement lambs at 66,000 head were up 6,000 head from a year ago. The 1998 lamb crop was 355,000 head, a drop of 7% from January 1, 1997.

There were 35,000 market sheep and lambs on hand January 1 – all but 1,000 head were market lambs. Of the total market lambs, 6% weighed less than 65 pounds, 18% weighed 65-84 pounds, 58% were in the 85-105 pound category, and 18% were over 105 pounds. There were 2,000 sheep and lamb operations in Montana during 1998, 100 less than a year ago.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1999, totaled 7.24 million head, down 8% from 1998 and 10% below two years ago. Inventory has declined since 1942 when it reached a peak of 56.2 million head.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.31 million head on January 1, 1999, down 5% from January 1, 1998's 5.61 million head. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.34 million head, were 5% below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1999, totaled 1.92 million head, down 13% from January 1, 1998. Market lambs comprised 96% of the total. Twenty-six% were lambs under 65 pounds, 17% were 65 - 84 pounds, 27% 85 - 105 pounds, 26% were over 105 pounds, and 4% were market sheep.

The 1998 lamb crop of 5.01 million head was down 6% from 1997. This compares with the previous record low of 5.36 million head set a year ago. The 1998 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1998, compared with 109 in 1997.

The number of operations with sheep during 1998 totaled 68,810, down 5% from 1997 and 10% from 1996.

December U.S. Egg Production Up 2%

U.S. egg production totaled 7.01 billion during December 1998, up 2% from the 6.84 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.93 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 1998 averaged 320 million, up 3% from the total average number of layers during December 1997.

Continued on back page

Montana Egg Production Down Five Percent

Montana chickens produced 84 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 1998, down 5% from last year. The state had an average of 290,000 layers in 1998, compared to 294,000 the previous year. The average production per layer on hand was 290 eggs, down 3% from a year ago.

There were 380,000 total chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 1998, compared with 405,000 on hand last year. The December 1, 1998 inventory included 290,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 24,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks old, and 65,000 pullets 13 weeks and under. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1998, was $1.10 million, down 15% from the previous December. The average value per bird was down 9% from last year, from $3.20 to $2.90.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1998 totaled 79.7 billion eggs, up 3% from the previous year's total of 77.5 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 67.3 billion eggs, increased 3% from 1997. Hatching egg production, at 12.4 billion eggs, increased 3%. U.S. layer numbers during 1998 averaged 312 million, up 3% from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1998 was 256 eggs, compared with the 1997 average of 255 eggs per layer.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 1998 (excluding commercial broilers) was 424 million birds, up 3% from last year. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 1998, totaled 360 million, up 4% from December 1, 1997. Of the 360 million potential layers, 89% were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 1998 was $1.14 billion, up 2% from December 1,1997. The average value decreased from $2.72 per bird on December 1, 1997 to $2.69 per bird on December 1, 1998.

December U.S. Egg Production ...continued from page 2

December egg production per 100 layers was 2,190 eggs, down slightly from 2,193 eggs in December 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 1999, totaled 319 million, up 2% from a year ago. The 319 million layers consisted of 261 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.70 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 1999, averaged 70.3 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 70.4 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production states produced 6.61 billion eggs during December, up 2% from December 1998. The average number of layers during December, at 302 million, was up 2% from a year earlier.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Alfalfa Seed Production	Milk Production
Potato Stocks	Cattle on Feed
Crop Values	Slaughter
Egg Production	Farm Labor

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Crop Production
Sweet Cherry Production
Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks
Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, & Price - ERS
Quarterly Milk Production

Annual Crop Production -- 1998

Dry conditions during the fall of 1997 led winter wheat producers to plant the smallest acreage since 1941. Montana's 1998 winter wheat production was estimated at 48.75 million bushels, down 12% from 1997 and the lowest production since the severe drought of 1988. The 1998 average yield was 39 bushels per ac[illegible] which was 1 bushel more than last year's average and was fourth highest on record.

Poor prices and low moisture conditions in the fall of 1998 caused Montana winter wheat producers to seed the smallest winter wheat crop since 1937. Winter wheat seeding for 1999 harvest totaled 1.05 million acres, down 25 percent from last year's 1.4 million acres. Current moisture conditions are generally good, but the lack of snow cover is a concern to producers.

Spring wheat production was estimated at 108 million bushels, down 9% from last year, but the third largest crop on record only behind 1995 and 1997 production. The seeded acreage was 3.8 million acres, 450,000 acres less than 1997 and the smallest acreage seeded since 1994. Yields averaged 30 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from 1997, but 1.4 bushels below the last five-year average which includes the exceptional yields produced in 1993 and 1995 in North Central Montana.

[illegible]ontana durum wheat growers planted 450,000 acres and harvested 430,000 acres, both significantly higher than last year and the largest planted acreage since 1981. The average yield was 28.0 bushels per acre, 2 bushels more than last year. Total production was estimated at 12.04 million bushels, up nearly 60 percent from last year and the largest durum production since 1956.

Barley planted acreage in Montana was estimated at 1.35 million acres, up 100,000 acres from 1997. Harvested acreage was estimated at 1.2 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last year. Average yields were set at 48 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year. Total production was estimated at 57.6 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year.

Oat production was estimated at 3.24 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year. Planted acres, at 140,000, were unchanged from last year while harvested acres were down 10,000 acres and estimated at 60,000 acres. Yields averaged 54 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year.

Montana producers harvested 18,000 acres of corn for grain in 1998, up 4,000 acres from last year. The average yield was 115.0 bushels per acre, down 20 bushels from last year. Production increased 10 percent from 1997 to 2.07 million bushels. Corn for silage acreage was estimated at 41,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from 1997. Yields averaged 21 tons per acre, the same as a year ago.

Sugar beet producers in Montana harvested an estimated 62,400 acres this year, up 4,100 acres from a year ago. Yields increased 1.6 tons from last year to average 22.6 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.41 million tons, up 15 percent from the previous year, setting a new production record.

Montana dry bean growers produced an estimated 266,000 cwt in 1998, up 9,000 cwt from 1997 and the highest production since 1947. Growers harvested 12,200 acres with a yield of 21.8 cwt per acre compared with last year's 11,700 acres harvested with a yield of 22.0 cwt per acre.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.18 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,600 acres compared with 10,400 in 1997. Yields decreased 20 cwt per acre from a year ago to 300 cwt.

All hay harvested in Montana was down 100,000 acres from last year at 2.5 million acres. All hay production was 5.02 million tons down 8 percent or 460,000 tons from a year ago. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage was 1.70 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.2 tons per acre compared with 2.4 tons per acre in 1997. Other hay harvested acreage was 800,000 and the average yield was 1.6 tons per acre, the same as last year. Montana hay stocks were estimated at 4.57 million tons on December 1, down 9 percent from last year. Montana hay growers seeded an estimated 130,000 acres of alfalfa during 1998, 20,000 acres less than last year. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

1998 Sweet Cherry Production

Montana production of sweet cherries in 1998 was estimated at 2,050 tons, up 950 tons from last year's crop. This year's crop was larger than previous years and some trees that were replanted after the 1989 freeze are coming into production. Utilized production totaled 1,890 tons. The average price was $1,080 per ton, up $126 from a year ago.

U.S. sweet cherry production in 1998 was estimated at 209,700 tons, down 7 percent from 1997. Utilized production totaled 206,610 tons. The U.S. average price was $1,090 per ton, down $160 from a year ago.

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Montana Annual Crop Summary, 1995-98 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Season Avg Price	Value of Production	US Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		Thousands		Bushels	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Winter Wheat	1995	1,500	1,370	40.0	54,800	$**4.62	$253,176	1,545,303
	1996	2,150	1,980	31.0	61,380	4.24	260,251	1,469,618
	1997	1,600	1,450	38.0	55,100	3.40	187,340	1,845,528
	1998	1,400	1,250	39.0	48,750			1,880,605
Durum Wheat	1995	270	265	30.0	7,950	$5.09	$40,466	102,280
	1996	290	280	25.0	7,000	4.65	32,550	116,090
	1997	300	290	26.0	7,540	5.18	39,057	87,783
	1998	450	430	28.0	12,040			141,069
Other Spring Wheat	1995	3,950	3,800	35.0	**133,000	$**4.59	$**610,470	535,125
	1996	4,200	4,100	26.0	106,600	4.22	449,852	691,680
	1997	**4,250	**4,100	29.0	118,900	3.58	425,662	548,155
	1998	3,800	3,600	30.0	108,000			528,709
All Wheat	1995	5,720	5,435	36.0	195,750	$**4.63	$**904,112	2,182,708
	1996	**6,640	**6,360	27.5	174,980	4.24	742,657	2,277,388
	1997	6,150	5,840	31.1	181,540	3.59	652,059	2,481,466
	1998	5,650	5,280	32.0	168,790			2,550,383
Barley	1995	1,300	1,200	52.0	62,400	$3.00	$187,200	359,376
	1996	1,250	1,150	43.0	49,450	**3.07	158,412	392,433
	1997	1,250	1,150	53.0	60,950	2.83	172,489	359,878
	1998	1,350	1,200	48.0	57,600			352,445
Oats	1995	145	80	59.0	4,720	$1.75	$8,260	161,094
	1996	*110	50	40.0	2,000	1.91	3,820	153,245
	1997	140	70	55.0	3,850	1.33	5,121	167,246
	1998	140	60	54.0	3,240			167,122
Corn for Grain 2/	1995	55	16	120.0	1,920	$3.00	$5,760	7,400,051
	1996	*55	15	**137.0	2,055	2.60	5,343	9,232,557
	1997	60	14	135.0	1,890	2.40	4,536	9,206,832
	1998	60	18	115.0	2,070			9,761,085
		Thousands		Tons	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Corn for Silage	1995	--	38	20.0	760	--	--	78,181
	1996	--	39	21.0	819	--	--	86,581
	1997	--	45	21.0	945	--	--	97,192
	1998	--	41	**21.0	861	--	--	94,525
Sugar Beets	1995	55.7	55.5	21.5	1,193	$39.90	$47,601	28,065
	1996	57.7	57.5	22.6	1,300	48.10	62,530	26,680
	1997	59.9	58.3	21.0	1,224	–	–	29,886
	1998	64.0	62.4	22.6	1,410			32,660
Alfalfa Hay	1995	--	1,600	2.50	**4,000	$67.50	$270,000	84,138
	1996	--	1,700	2.10	3,570	81.00	289,170	79,139
	1997	--	1,650	2.40	3,960	80.00	316,800	78,535
	1998	--	**1,700	2.20	3,740			82,010
Other Hay	1995	--	800	**1.70	1,360	$56.50	$76,840	70,101
	1996	--	900	1.50	1,350	67.00	90,450	70,640
	1997	--	950	1.60	1,520	69.00	104,880	74,001
	1998	--	800	1.60	1,280			69,328
All Hay 3/	1995	--	2,400	**2.23	5,360	$66.00	$346,840	154,239
	1996	--	2,600	1.89	4,920	80.00	379,620	149,779
	1997	--	**2,600	2.11	**5,480	77.00	**421,680	152,536
	1998	--	2,500	2.01	5,020			151,338
Sweet Cherries 4/	1995	--	--	--	760	$1,210.00	$916	152,880
	1996	--	--	--	630	1,420.00	893	151,700
	1997	--	--	--	870	954.00	830	223,490
	1998	--	--	--	1,890	1,080.00	2,040	206,610
		Thousands		Cwt.	Thousands		Thousands	Thousands
Fall Potatoes	1995	9.8	9.8	300.0	2,940	$9.35	$27,489	445,099
	1996	10.4	10.2	315.0	3,213	6.60	21,206	499,254
	1997	10.4	10.4	**320.0	**3,328	7.05	23,462	467,091
	1998	10.6	10.6	300.0	3,180			477,754
Dry Beans	1995	11.0	10.8	19.0	205	$16.10	$3,301	30,689
	1996	10.5	10.3	**22.8	235	24.50	5,758	27,912
	1997	12.2	11.7	22.0	257	19.40	4,986	29,370
	1998	12.6	12.2	21.8	266			30,828

1/ All estimates for 1998 are preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes 3/ Price of baled hay 4/ Utilized production in actual tons
*Record low **Record high Please note: Prices data are not yet available for 1998.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1983-1998

Year Beginning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price
	Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disappearance		
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total				
	---Million Bushels---											$
1983 . .	1,515	2,420	4	3,939	643	100	371	1,114	1,426	2,540	1,399	3.51
1984 . .	1,399	2,595	9	4,003	651	98	407	1,156	1,421	2,578	1,425	3.39
1985 . .	1,425	2,424	16	3,866	674	93	284	1,052	909	1,961	1,905	3.08
1986 . .	1,905	2,091	21	4,017	712	84	401	1,197	999	2,196	1,821	2.42
1987 . .	1,821	2,108	16	3,945	721	85	280	1,086	1,598	2,684	1,261	2.57
1988 . .	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72
1989 . .	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72
1990 . .	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61
1991 . .	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00
1992 . .	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24
1993 . .	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26
1994 . .	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45
1995 . .	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55
1996 . .	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997 . .	444	2,481	95	3,020	917	93	248	1,257	1,040	2,297	722	3.38
1998 . 3/	722	2,550	90	3,363	925	88	350	1,363	1,100	2,463	900	2.65-2.75

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, January 1999--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

Montana and U.S. Red Meat Production Up

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during December 1998, up 12 percent from last year and 6 percent higher than last month. Cattle slaughter, at 1,600 head, was unchanged from last year. The average live weight of 1,137 pounds increased 14 pounds from a year ago.

There were 2,300 head of hogs slaughtered in Montana during December, up 500 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 230 pounds, was up 18 pounds from last year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 300 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight of 119 pounds was three pounds lighter than last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in December, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in December 1997 and up 6 percent from the previous record high for December set in 1994. Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.90 million head, up 1 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,214 pounds.

Veal production totaled 22.0 million pounds, 17 percent below a year ago and 8 percent below the previous record low for December set in 1973 and 1993. Calf slaughter totaled 130 thousand head, down 10 percent from December 1997. The average live weight was 22 pounds below last year, at 279 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year and 10 percent higher than the previous record high for December set in 1994. Hog kill totaled 9.43 million head, 9 percent above 1997. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 260 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 23 million pounds, was up 1 percent from December 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 355 thousand head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 4 pounds from December a year ago.

January - December red meat production was 45.1 billion pounds, 4 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year, veal was down 22 percent, pork was up 10 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

Montana January Potato Stocks down 3 Percent, U.S. down Only Slightly

Montana potato producers held 2.98 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, down 3 percent from a year ago. The stocks represent 94 percent of the 1998 total production, compared with last year's stocks representing 93 percent of the 1997 total production.

January 1, 1999 U.S. potato stocks totaled 246 million cwt, down slightly from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 58 percent of fall production, down 2 percent from a year ago. Stocks by type were 2 percent reds, 10 percent round whites, 4 percent long white, and 84 percent russets, with more russets but fewer long whites than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1 totaled 179 million cwt. this season, up 7 percent from last year but 2 percent below the record high two years ago. December disappearance of 36.1 million cwt was record high for the month. Shrink and loss of 20.0 million cwt was up 12 percent from last year but 4 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 91.3 million cwt, up 9 percent from the 1997 crop but 3 percent below the 1996 crop. In December, processors claimed 18.1 cwt of potatoes, up 19 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago.

Western States held 173 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1999, down 1 percent from last year and 5 percent below 1997. Idaho stocks were down 1 percent from a year ago, while Oregon was off 8 percent. Colorado and Montana were down 4 and 3 percent. Washington was up 5 percent and California gained 4 percent from a year ago.

Montana Quarterly Milk Production and U.S. December Milk Production Up

During the October-December quarter, Montana milk cows produced 73 million pounds of milk, 3 million pounds more than the same quarter a year ago. Montana milk cow numbers, at 18,000 head were unchanged from a year ago.

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 11.4 billion pounds, up 3.0 percent from production in these same States in December 1997. November revised production, at 10.9 billion pounds was up 2.7 percent from November 1997.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,478 pounds for December, 40 pounds above December 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 12,000 head more than December 1997 but 1,000 head less than November 1998.

During the October - December period, milk produced in the U.S. was 39.1 billion pounds, 2.4 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.19 million head, 12,000 head less than the same period last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Cattle on Feed	Sheep & Lambs Inventory
Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production	Ag Prices Received
Egg Production	Cattle Inventory

PEGGY STRINGER, STATE STATISTICIAN
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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Seedings
Late Season Crops
Hay Stocks
Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received

Winter Wheat Seedings for Harvest in 1999 Smallest Since 1937

Poor prices and low moisture conditions last fall caused Montana winter wheat producers to seed the smallest winter wheat crop since 1937. Winter wheat seeding totaled 1.05 million acres, down 25 percent from last year's 1.4 million acres. Current moisture conditions are generally good, but the lack of snow cover is a concern to producers.

Nationally, winter wheat seeded area for 1999 is expected to total 43.4 million acres, down 7 percent from 1998. This is the smallest area since 1972. Class breakdowns approximate: Hard Red Winter, 30.9 million; Soft Red Winter, 9.0 million; White Winter, 3.5 million.

Hard Red Winter (HRW) wheat seeded area is about 30.9 million acres, down 5 percent from 1998. Most HRW states have planted less wheat. Nebraska and Texas are notable exceptions; Minnesota and New Mexico also have increased. In the rest of the Great Plains up into Montana, the declines total more than 1.6 million acres.

Arizona and California durum wheat seeded area for 1999 harvest is placed at 190,000 acres. This total is down 42 percent from their final 1998 planting. Seeding had made good progress in California's San Joaquin Valley during October into early November. Seeding in the Imperial Valley started in late November delayed by late vegetable harvests.

1998 Late Season Crops

Montana producers harvested 18,000 acres of corn for grain in 1998, up 4,000 acres from last year. The average yield was 115.0 bushels per acre, down 20 bushels from last year. Production increased 10 percent from 1997 to 2.07 million bushels. Corn for silage acreage was estimated at 41,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from 1997. Yields averaged 21 tons per acre, the same as a year ago.

Nationally, corn for grain production was estimated at 9.76 billion bushels, up 6 percent from the 1997 crop, but down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast. The 1998 production ranks second behind the 10.1 billion bushels produced in 1994. The U. S. yield of 134.4 bushels per acre was up 7.7 bushels from a year earlier.

Sugar beet producers in Montana harvested an estimated 62,400 acres this year, up 4,100 acres from a year ago. Yields increased 1.6 tons from last year to average 22.6 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.4 million tons, up 15 percent from the previous year, setting a new production record.

U.S. sugar beet production is estimated at 32.7 million tons, 9 percent above the 1997 final production estimate, and 1 percent above the November 1 forecast. This is the largest production on record, 3 percent above the previous record of 31.9 million tons set in 1994. Harvested acres in the 12 sugar beet producing states is estimated at 1.45 million acres, 2 percent above 1997, but 4,600 acres below the November 1 forecast. Yield is estimated at a record 22.5 tons per acre, 0.2 ton above November 1 and 0.1 ton above the previous record set in 1981 and tied in 1987.

Montana dry bean growers produced an estimated 266,000 cwt in 1998, up 9,000 cwt from 1997 and the highest production since 1947. Growers harvested 12,200 acres with a yield of 21.8 cwt per acre compared with last year's 11,700 acres harvested with a yield of 22.0 cwt per acre.

U.S. production of dry edible beans is estimated at 30.8 million cwt for 1998, 5 percent above 1997 and 9 percent above two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.91 million acres, up 9 percent from both 1997 and 1996. The average yield, at 1,611 pounds per acre, dropped 59 pounds from 1997.

Fall potato production in Montana totaled 3.18 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year. Producers harvested 10,600 acres compared with 10,400 in 1997. Yields decreased 20 cwt per acre from a year ago to 300 cwt.

Total U.S. 1998 potato production from all four seasons is estimated at 478 million cwt, up 2 percent from 1997 but 4 percent below 1996. Harvested area, at 1.39 million acres, was up 3 percent from 1997. Average yield of 343 cwt per acre was down 2 cwt from the previous year.

All hay harvested in Montana was down 100,000 acres from last year at 2.5 million acres. All hay production was 5.02 million tons down 8 percent or 460,000 tons from a year ago. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage was 1.70 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.2 tons per acre compared with 2.4 tons per acre in 1997. Other hay harvested acreage was 800,000 and the average yield was 1.6 tons per acre, the same as last year.

U.S. all hay production for 1998 was estimated at 151 million tons, down sightly from the October 1 forecast and 1 percent below the 1997 total. Acreage harvested, at 60.0 million acres, is essentially unchanged from the October forecast and 2 percent below 1997. The average yield, at 2.52 tons per acre, was 1 percent below the October forecast and 1 percent above the previous year. Continued on back.

The Montana crop acreage and grain stocks estimates in this issue of the Reporter are the result of surveying approximately 2,500 Montana farmers and ranchers during December. Names were selected on a statistical probability basis. **Special thanks** to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey. Only by your voluntary cooperation can those involved in agriculture be served with accurate, reliable statistics.

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December 1, 1998 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on December 1, 1998 totaled 160.5 million bushels, up 8% from the same quarter last year. Stocks stored on the farm accounted for 135.0 million bushels of the total with the remaining 25.5 million bushels stored off farm. All spring wheat stocks, at 108.3 million bushels, was up 7% from last year and accounted for 67% of the total wheat stocks. Winter wheat stocks were estimated at 52.2 million bushels, up from 48.4 million bushels last year. Durum wheat stocks were estimated at 9.4 million bushels, up 68% from last year. All wheat disappearance for the September - November quarter was 41.2 million bushels, compared with 40.1 million for the same quarter last year. Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 1998 totaled 40.1 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Oats stocks in all positions were estimated at 2.72 million bushels, down 22% from last year.

September 1, 1998 all wheat stocks were revised to 201.7 million bushels, up 1.7 million bushels from the previous estimate. The revisions were in off farm stocks with winter wheat up 1.9 million bushels to 13.5 million bushels and all spring wheat down 200,000 bushels to 17.2 million bushels. Barley stocks were also revised to 50.8 million bushels, 500,000 bushels above the previous estimate. Oats stocks were revised down by 10,000 bushels to 3.18 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat in all storage positions on December 1, 1998 totaled 1.89 billion bushels, up 17 percent from a year ago to the biggest December inventory since 1990. Farm stocks are 680 million bushels and off-farm stocks equal 1.21 billion bushels. The farm number is up 13 percent, while the off-farm stocks are up 19 percent. The indicated second quarter disappearance of 494 million bushels is up 8 percent from the same period in 1997. Durum wheat stocks in all positions December 1, 1998 totaled 109 million bushels, up 62 percent from a year ago. Like all wheat, this is the biggest December inventory since 1990. Farm stocks, at 75.3 million bushels, are more than double those of 1997. Off-farm stocks are 34.0 million bushels, up12 percent. The indicated second quarter disappearance of 16.6 million bushels was down 19 percent from the same period a year earlier. Barley stocks in all positions on December 1, 1998 totaled 262 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 141 million bushels were stored on farms, 5 percent above a year ago. December 1, 1998 off-farm stocks, at 122 million bushels, were 11 percent above last year. Indicated disappearance during the September-November quarter totaled 63.7 million bushels, 23 percent below the same period a year earlier.

See the District table on the back page.

December 1 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Dec. 1, 1997	Sept. 1, 1998*	Dec. 1, 1998	'98/'97	Dec. 1, 1997	Sept. 1, 1998*	Dec 1, 1998
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	126,000	171,000	135,000	107%	604,000	885,720	680,200
Off Farms 1/	23,300	30,700	25,500	109%	1,015,242	1,499,770	1,211,746
TOTAL	149,300	201,700	160,500	108%	1,619,242	2,385,490	1,891,946
WINTER WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	40,000	54,000	43,000	108%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	8,400	13,500	9,200	110%	--	--	--
TOTAL	48,400	67,500	52,200	108%	--	--	--
ALL SPRING WHEAT 2/							
On Farms	86,000	117,000	92,000	107%	--	--	--
Off Farms 1/	14,900	17,200	16,300	109%	--	--	--
TOTAL	100,900	134,200	108,300	107%	--	--	--
DURUM WHEAT 3/							
On Farms 4/	--	--	--	--	37,000	88,000	75,300
Off Farms 1/, 4/	--	--	--	--	30,280	37,908	34,019
TOTAL	5,600	10,750	9,400	168%	67,280	125,908	109,319
BARLEY							
On Farms	29,000	43,000	33,000	114%	134,500	193,500	140,900
Off Farms 1/	7,300	7,800	7,100	97%	109,561	132,652	121,523
TOTAL	36,300	50,800	40,100	110%	244,061	326,152	262,423
OATS							
On Farms	3,200	3,000	2,600	81%	83,200	110,300	81,500
Off Farms 1/	270	180	120	44%	61,051	51,515	61,841
TOTAL	3,470	3,180	2,720	78%	144,251	161,815	143,341
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	4,822,000	640,000	5,320,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	2,424,756	667,803	2,730,220
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	7,246,756	1,307,803	8,050,220

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Montana stocks for winter wheat and all spring wheat are made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. 3/ Included in all spring wheat and all wheat. 4/ Not included in order to avoid disclosing individual operations. * Revised.

Agricultural Prices Received for November

The Montana winter wheat average price increased 6 cents from October 1998 to $3.09 per bushel, but durum wheat decreased 26 cents to $3.76 per bushel, and spring wheat decreased 5 cents to $3.45 per bushel. Feed barley was up 5 cents per bushel to $1.36, and malt barley rose 28 cents to $2.92 per bushel.

The mid-December price for alfalfa hay was $70.00 per ton, down $4.00 from last month, and the other hay price of $61.00 decreased $1.00 from November. The mid-month winter wheat price averaged $2.90 per bushel, spring wheat was $3.50, feed barley price was $1.35, and malt barley $2.80.

Livestock prices for the full month of November were mixed. Steer and heifer prices increased $1.70 to $71.00 per cwt. Cows were down $1.30 to $30.10, but the average price for calves increased 60 cents to $76.40 per cwt. Sheep prices increased 70 cents to $25.50 per cwt and lambs increased $1.60 to $68.60 per cwt. Milk prices increased 30 cents from last month to $17.00 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-December averaged $72.00 per cwt.

The U.S. average price for all wheat was $2.97 per bushel for the entire month of November, up 18 cents from October. The all arley price was $2.02, up 16 cents from the previous month. Steer and heifer prices for the U.S. were up 90 cents to $62.30 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-December all wheat price was $2.90 and all barley was $1.96 per bushel; steer and heifer prices were $59.40, ow prices were $29.70, and all hog prices were $14.70 per cwt; market egg prices were 63 cents per dozen.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 2 points (2.0 percent) from November. Price decreases from November for cattle, hogs, broilers, and soybeans more than offset price increases for eggs, milk, tomatoes, and corn. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level, however, these changes were essentially offsetting in December.

Compared with December 1997, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (6.7 percent) lower. Price decreases from December 1997 for hogs, cattle, corn, and soybeans more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, oranges, and tomatoes.

United States Index Summary

INDEX 1990-92=100	Nov. 1997	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998	Dec. 1998
Prices Received	107	105	100	98
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	117	117	114	114
Ratio 2/	91	90	88	86

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly beginning January 1996. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Base Month: November 1998 Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Avg.	
		MONTANA			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Nov. 1997	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1998	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1997	Dec. 15, 1998	Dec. 15, 1998
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.43	3.03	3.09	2.78	+0.06	-0.34	2.90	2.73
Durum Wheat	Bu.	5.65	4.02	3.76	3.17	-0.26	-1.89	3.70	3.05
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.57	3.50	3.45	3.26	-0.05	-0.12	3.50	3.20
All Wheat	Bu.	3.68	3.40	3.35	2.97	-0.05	-0.33	3.33	2.90
Barley, All	Bu.	3.01	2.00	2.29	2.02	+0.29	-0.72	2.22	1.96
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.29	1.31	1.36	1.47	+0.05	-0.93	1.35	1.51
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.19	2.64	2.92	2.44	+0.28	-0.27	2.80	2.33
Oats	Bu.	1.21	1.23	1.37	1.10	+0.14	+0.16	1.30	1.07
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	81.00	74.00	74.00	85.00	N/C	-7.00	70.00	81.40
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	62.00	64.00	69.30	+2.00	-7.00	61.00	69.40
All Hay Baled	Ton	80.00	73.00	73.00	81.40	N/C	-7.00	69.00	78.40
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	81.90	69.30	71.00	62.30	+1.70	-10.90	72.00	59.40
Cows	Cwt	32.10	31.40	30.10	29.70	-1.30	-2.00	30.30	29.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	67.00	61.30	60.40	58.10	-0.90	-6.60	57.80	55.80
Calves	Cwt	85.30	75.80	76.40	77.50	+0.60	-8.90	78.30	79.50
Sheep 2/	Cwt	37.20	24.80	25.50	26.80	+0.70	-11.70	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	93.20	67.00	68.60	62.20	+1.60	-24.60	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.20	16.70	17.00	17.90	+0.30	+2.80	16.80	18.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Late Season Crops (Continued from front page)

Production of dry peas in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington in 1998 is estimated at 5.93 million cwt, 3 percent more than 1997's production and more than double the 1996 crop. Growers in Montana and North Dakota continue to seed more dry peas while dry pea acres in Idaho and Washington were both below 1997.

Production of lentils in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington is estimated at 1.94 million cwt, down 19 percent from the 1997 crop. Harvested area is estimated at 158,500 acres, 24,500 acres less than 1997. Average yield per acre is 1,223 pounds, 92 pounds below last year

Montana and U.S. Hay Stocks

Montana hay stocks were estimated at 4.57 million tons on December 1, down 9 percent from last year. Montana hay growers seeded an estimated 130,000 acres of alfalfa during 1998, 20,000 acres less than last year. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings. At the U.S. level 3.55 million acres of alfalfa was newly seeded in 1998.

MONTANA WHEAT & BARLEY STOCKS, In All Positions by Districts 1/

DISTRICT	All Wheat			Barley		
	Dec. 1, 1997	Sept 1, 1998*	Dec. 1, 1998	Dec. 1, 1997	Sept 1, 1998*	Dec. 1, 1998
	Million Bushels					
Northwest	1.0	2.5	2.1	1.2	2.3	2.5
North Central	69.3	89.7	71.5	16.5	27.3	22.0
Northeast	38.6	57.2	46.9	2.8	4.1	3.2
Central	24.3	29.6	24.4	7.8	8.0	6.8
Southwest	4.2	5.0	2.8	2.9	4.4	1.6
South Central	5.3	11.6	7.3	4.5	3.4	3.0
Southeast	6.6	6.1	5.5	0.6	1.3	1.0
Montana	149.3	201.7	160.5	36.3	50.8	40.1

1/ District estimates of stocks funded by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee. *Revised.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Annual Crop Production	Slaughter
Potato Stocks	Wheat: Supply,
Quarterly Milk Production	Disappearance & Price

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